Facilitating dialogue and strengthening transboundary cooperation with legislators to improve marine governance

Part I: Project Information

GEF ID
10426

Project Type
MSP

Type of Trust Fund
GET

CBIT/NGI
- ☐ CBIT
- ☐ NGI

Project Title
Facilitating dialogue and strengthening transboundary cooperation with legislators to improve marine governance

Countries
Global

Agency(ies)
UNEP

Other Executing Partner(s):
Conservation Council of Nations (CCN)

Executing Partner Type
Others

GEF Focal Area
International Waters

Taxonomy
Seagrasses, Biomes, Mangrove, Nutrient pollution from Wastewater, Nutrient pollution from all sectors except wastewater, Pollution, International Waters, Transboundary Diagnostic Analysis, Focal Areas, Coastal, Strategic Action Plan Implementation, Marine Protected Area, Coral Reefs, Acquaculture, Large Marine Ecosystems, Sustainable Development Goals, Influencing models, Strengthen institutional capacity and decision-making, Convene multi-stakeholder alliances, Transform policy and regulatory environments, Stakeholders, Communications, Awareness Raising, Education, Civil Society, Academia, Community Based Organization, Non-Governmental Organization, Private Sector, Large corporations, Capital providers, Individuals/Entrepreneurs, SMEs, Type of Engagement, Partnership, Participation, Information Dissemination, Consultation, Gender Equality, Gender results areas, Capacity Development, Participation and leadership, Capacity, Knowledge and Research, Enabling Activities, Learning, United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, Climate Change, Knowledge Generation, Knowledge Exchange

Rio Markers
Climate Change Mitigation
Climate Change Mitigation 0

Climate Change Adaptation
Climate Change Adaptation 0

Submission Date
11/1/2019

Expected Implementation Start
12/31/2019

Expected Completion Date

8/31/2021

Duration

24In Months

Agency Fee($)

189,944

A. FOCAL/NON-FOCAL AREA ELEMENTS

Objectives/Programs	Focal Area Outcomes	Trust Fund	GEF Amount($)	Co-Fin Amount($)
IW-1-1	IW-1-1 Strengthen blue economy opportunities through sustainable healthy coastal and marine ecosystems	GET	1,000,000	1,000,000
IW-1-3	IW-1-3 Strengthen blue economy opportunities by addressing pollution reduction in marine environments	GET	999,415	1,000,000
		Total Project Cost($)	**1,999,415**	**2,000,000**

B. Project description summary

Project Objective

Leverage and build upon existing parliamentary caucus architecture to raise awareness about blue economy opportunities and Large Marine Ecosystems Strategic Action Programs and elevate marine issues amongst legislators in order to facilitate regional cooperation.

Project Component	Financing Type	Expected Outcomes	Expected Outputs	Trust Fund	GEF Project Financing($)	Confirmed Co-Financing($)

Project Component	Financing Type	Expected Outcomes	Expected Outputs	Trust Fund	GEF Project Financing($)	Confirmed Co-Financing($)
Component 1 Facilitating targeted dialogues with legislators and national leaders in Southeast Asia, the wider Caribbean and East Africa in order to promote effective blue economy development and legal frameworks targeting the regulation of marine pollution.	Technical Assistance	**Outcome 1.1** Parliamentary caucuses serving as a platform to build political will and enhance knowledge amongst legislators about the best practices and successful blue economic models leading to **harmonized regional action** on blue economy and marine pollution regulations in Southeast Asia, the wider Caribbean and East Africa.	**Output 1.1.1** Existing parliamentary caucuses strengthened through stakeholder briefings, strategic planning discussions, and regional exchanges, as well as caucus membership recruitment efforts and caucus growth in Colombia, Mexico, Kenya, Mozambique, and Tanzania in order to raise awareness amongst legislators and elevate marine governance issues (blue economy and marine pollution). **Output 1.1.2** New Parliamentary caucuses developed in Indonesia and Thailand with accompanying caucus membership lists and caucus strategic plans. **Output 1.1.3** Capacity building programs (at least 12) on blue economy and regulation on marine pollution carried out in the various targeted regions to enhance knowledge and improve coordination amongst legislators	GET	1,416,450	1,000,000

Project Component	Financing Type	Expected Outcomes	Expected Outputs	Trust Fund	GEF Project Financing($)	Confirmed Co-Financing($)
Component 2 Knowledge management, sharing, and communications	Technical Assistance	**Outcome 2.1** Enhanced visibility and awareness of best practices on legal frameworks for blue economy and regulation of marine pollution in legislator networks in Southeast Asia, the wider Caribbean, and East Africa.	**Output 2.1.1** Parliamentary caucus strategic plans, model legislation and regulations on marine pollution, and sectors that facilitate blue economic development (fisheries, maritime transport, coastal tourism, waste management, renewable energy) made available to countries through meetings as well as digital communications. **Output 2.1.2** Knowledge products / visual briefing presentations (e.g., PowerPoint presentations, briefing packets, etc.) made available to legislators by the private sector and non-governmental organizations, regional LME SAP implementation projects and other regional transboundary processes/bodies to make the business case on marine governance from various perspectives. **Output 2.1.3**	GET	403,731	820,766

Project Component	Financing Type	Expected Outcomes	Expected Outputs	Trust Fund	GEF Project Financing($)	Confirmed Co-Financing($)
				Sub Total ($)	**1,820,181**	**1,820,766**
Project Management Cost (PMC)						
				GET	179,234	179,234
				Sub Total($)	**179,234**	**179,234**
				Total Project Cost($)	**1,999,415**	**2,000,000**

C. 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($)
Others	Conservation Council of Nations	In-kind	Recurrent expenditures	1,215,000
Others	Conservation Council of Nations	Grant	Investment mobilized	335,000
Others	ICCF Conservation Council	Grant	Investment mobilized	450,000
			Total Co-Financing($)	**2,000,000**

Describe how any "Investment Mobilized" was identified

SEE LETTERS OF COFINANCING.

D. 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($)	Fee($)
UNEP	GET	Global	International Waters	NA	1,999,415	189,944
				Total Grant Resources($)	**1,999,415**	**189,944**

E. Non Grant Instrument

NON-GRANT INSTRUMENT at CEO Endorsement

Includes Non grant instruments? **No**

Includes reflow to GEF? **No**

F. Project Preparation Grant (PPG)

PPG Required

☐

PPG Amount ($)

PPG Agency Fee ($)

Agency	Trust Fund	Country	Focal Area	Programming of Funds	Amount($)	Fee($)
				Total Project Costs($)	**0**	**0**

Core Indicators

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)
0	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)

	Number (Expected at PIF)	Number (Expected at CEO Endorsement)	Number (Achieved at MTR)	Number (Achieved at TE)
Shared water Ecosystem				
Count	**0**	**0**	**0**	**0**

Indicator 7.1 Level of Transboundary Diagonostic 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)

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)

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)

Indicator 7.4 Level of engagement in IWLEARN throgh 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)
Select SWE		2		

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		52		
Male		195		
Total	0	247	0	0

Part II. Project Justification

1a. Project Description

1) the global environmental and/or adaptation problems, root causes and barriers that need to be addressed (systems description):

The oceans cover 75% of the earth's surface and are essential for the earth's weather patterns, temperature regulation, and air quality. The ocean and its ecosystems support the global economy, millions of jobs, vital food resources, the global tourism industry, global health services, and many more. The oceans have only recently started to gain recognition for the goods and services they provide to local communities and the world as a whole. As a result, the concept of the "blue economy" has emerged and been increasingly adopted to highlight the close linkages between the sustainable use of ocean resources and the wellbeing of the people.

The blue economy "seeks to promote economic growth, social inclusion and the preservation or improvement of livelihoods while at the same time ensuring environmental sustainability of the oceans and coastal areas."[1][1] The core of this concept covers a wide range of established and emerging industries and sectors that are interlinked by oceans, and how they can function while preserving the health of the ocean ecosystem. These industries and sectors, which range from fisheries, maritime transport and tourism, to offshore renewable energy, aquaculture, seabed extractive activities, and marine biotechnology and bioprospecting, represent the diverse components of the blue economy, and their inclusion is dependent on reducing the degradation of important coastal and marine ecosystems.

For the blue economy to function optimally, collaboration and commitment to the health and integrity of the region's marine and coastal ecosystems is needed across nation-states. Blue economy discussions and policy strategies must include synergetic efforts that challenge the degradation of ocean resources and encourage better stewardship, and invest in human capital for employment and to enhance capacity building. Successfully managing and expanding blue economies involves the development of ocean-based resources within the established and emerging sectors while simultaneously ensuring coastal and marine ecosystems are preserved on a policy level.

The United Nations 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development sets healthy oceans at the core of the global sustainable development agenda and sets targets for addressing some of the most pressing marine issues, including overexploitation of natural resources, climate change, and pollution.[2][2] Now that Sustainable Development Goals have been adopted, nations must find ways to implement these goals at a national level and incorporate them into regional strategies in order to sustainably harness the enormous potential of marine resources for poverty reduction, food security, and improved livelihoods. There is an overall lack of effective marine management and enforcement in many coastal nations that rely heavily on their marine resources to support local livelihoods, food security, shoreline protection, tourism, etc. Marine protected areas (MPAs) and fisheries management and enforcement bodies are underfunded and have inadequate data collection and management plans, let alone the capacity to enforce them, contributing to overfishing and a marine pollution crisis. Rising demand for resources, technological advances, lack of viable alternative livelihoods, and overcapacity are also contributing to declines in ocean health and resources.

Adding to the difficulty of successfully managing ocean resources, the management of the ocean does not fall under one jurisdiction as it touches many different coastlines and has vast areas outside of any one country's exclusive economic zone. Many fish species that are important both economically and as a protein source are dwindling due to lack of management plans and enforcement. Valuable and vulnerable large marine ecosystems (LMEs), including many current MPAs, have fallen victim to the lack of capacity for adequate management and enforcement.

The mismanagement of marine resources not only will have negative impacts on the marine environment, but is already causing international conflict, for example in Asia as countries like China expand their search for seafood outside of their national jurisdiction. It will also have enormous impacts on the millions of people depending on the

fishing and tourism industry for their jobs and livelihoods. A substantial portion of the global population depends on oceans for food; however, marine debris and other oceans issues threaten the integrity of marine food chains. The recent Sustainable Blue Economy Conference in Nairobi outlined marine challenges that negatively impact communities, including health hazards from degradation of marine ecosystems, reduced resilience caused by removal of natural barriers that provide protection from storm surge and coastal erosion, etc.[3][3]

In terms of opportunities, oceans provide a means of transport for an estimated 80% of global trade[4][4] and are an essential source of jobs for coastal communities. One of the key challenges to sustainable development is a limited resource base; however, the blue economy offers developing coastal nations the opportunity to overcome this obstacle and achieve sustained economic growth.

Oceans and coastlines provide critically important resources for many of the world's most vulnerable people. Consequently, many communities living along the coasts have long traditions of interacting with these resources and have accrued vast knowledge on their sustainable utilization. Aquatic resources are fundamental to not only supporting livelihoods, but also to preserving culture and building social wellbeing. Harnessing the full potential of the blue economy requires the inclusion and active participation of all societal groups.[5][5]

To address marine challenges and capitalize on blue economy opportunities, it is essential to create transboundary marine governance schemes that ensure cooperation at all levels of government and across a wide range of sectors. Through its International Waters program, the GEF is working to develop transboundary Strategic Action Programmes (SAPs) through which countries work together toward long-term sustainability of shared LMEs. Priorities include Strengthening National Blue Economy Opportunities, Improving Management in the Areas Beyond National Jurisdiction, and Enhancing Water Security in Freshwater Ecosystems.[6][6] Strategic Action Programs (SAPs) to be supported through the project include the West Indian Ocean (WIO) SAP, ASCLME SAP, The Caribbean and North Brazil Shelf Large Marine Ecosystem (CLME+) SAP, the South China Sea (SCS) and Gulf of Thailand SAP, and the SAP for the Gulf of Mexico Large Marine Ecosystem (GOMLME).

Through its Regional Seas Program, UNEP is addressing the accelerating degradation of the world's oceans and coastal areas through a "shared seas" approach, which engages neighboring countries in comprehensive and specific actions to protect their common marine environment. More than 143 countries have joined 18 Regional Seas Conventions and Action Plans for the sustainable management and use of the marine and coastal environment. Typically, each Action Plan is underpinned by a strong legal framework in the form of a regional Convention and associated Protocols on specific problems.[7][7] Priority focal areas of the Programme include addressing land-based pollution, protecting coral reefs, promoting marine protected areas, and fighting for clean seas (tackling marine debris).[8][8]

The UN Environment Programme coordinates the Global Programme of Action (GPA) -- a voluntary, action-oriented, intergovernmental program designed to prevent the degradation of the marine environment from land-based activities. It is the only global intergovernmental mechanism that explicitly addresses the linkages between freshwater, coastal, and marine environments. More than 109 governments and the European Commission have so far declared "their commitment to protect and preserve the marine environment from the impacts of land-based activities", through the Washington Declaration. Through the Manila Declaration (2012), countries agreed to tackle nutrient pollution, marine litter and wastewater through three different partnership platforms under the GPA: the Global Partnership on Nutrient Management (GPNM), the Global Partnership on Marine Litter (GPML), and the Global Wastewater Initiative (GW2I).[9]

High-Level Panel on Sustainable Ocean Economy is a coalition of political leaders which was launched in 2018 by the Prime Minister of Norway and the President of Palau. The objective of this panel is to bring together world

leaders who seek to ensure that economic production and ocean protection work hand in hand. It is an initiative of standing heads of government committed to catalyzing bold, pragmatic solutions for Ocean health and wealth that support the Sustainable Development Goals and build a better future for people and the planet. Members of the Panel are the Head of Government of Australia, Canada, Chile, Fiji, Ghana, Indonesia, Jamaica, Japan, Kenya, Mexico, Namibia, Norway, Palau, and Portugal, as well as the UN Special Envoy for the Ocean. The Panel seeks to shape the global debate on the conservation and sustainable use of the ocean and introduce a new narrative on what a "Sustainable Ocean Economy" is and how to achieve it.

The ICCF Group and its Conservation Council of Nations (CCN) program are experienced leaders in building political will and capacity for conservation around the world and are ideally situated to engage international policymakers with whom we have solid relationships on these issues. We work through a highly successful “caucus” model, first pioneered in the United States Congress, which motivates, educates, and assists policymakers to develop sound conservation policies.

The Oceans Caucus Foundation (OCF), a program of the International Conservation Caucus Foundation (ICCF), has been working with the U.S. Congress to help keep marine management on the agendas of policymakers. The Oceans Caucus has spearheaded U.S. passage of four international fishing treaties, including the Port State Measures Agreement (PSMA), to help prevent illegal fish products from entering the U.S. market, as well as the implementing legislation for PSMA. It recently led successful efforts to pass the Save Our Seas Act, which reauthorizes essential programs like the marine debris program within NOAA to help combat marine pollution.

With support from the Global Environment Facility and UNEP, CCN has expanded the conservation caucus model to 13 countries globally. Projects have included “Partnering for Natural Resource Management – Conservation Council of Nations” (2011), "Engaging policy makers and the judiciary to address poaching and illegal wildlife trade in Africa” (2015), and “Generating enhanced political will for natural resource management and conservation” (Latin America; 2017). A new project, “Advancing conservation in four countries of the Eastern Caribbean,” is in the final stages of GEF review and is expected to begin implementation in the fall of 2019. Global caucuses supported by The ICCF Group/CCN have accomplished significant policy and legislative successes, from forestry to wildlife to resource extraction to marine debris, described in greater detail below. This project will continue to implement this highly successful model, with a focus on International Waters, building on momentum from previous projects and on existing relationships and infrastructure. Priorities will align with national and LME priorities and will include strengthening the blue economy and reducing marine pollution.

The first oceans caucus outside of the U.S. was launched by CCN in Colombia in 2017, as a supplement operating in parallel with their existing conservation caucus. This came about from local interest and demand for enhanced ocean focus, triggered as a result of a Colombian delegation attending ICCF’s Inauguration Gala, where Senator Sheldon Whitehouse spoke about some of the work of the U.S. Senate Oceans Caucus. The Colombia Oceans Caucus introduced recently passed plastic bag legislation in an effort to reduce marine pollution as well as worked with Colombia’s National Park Service to discuss ways to improve the management of one of Colombia’s marine parks, Rosario National Reef.

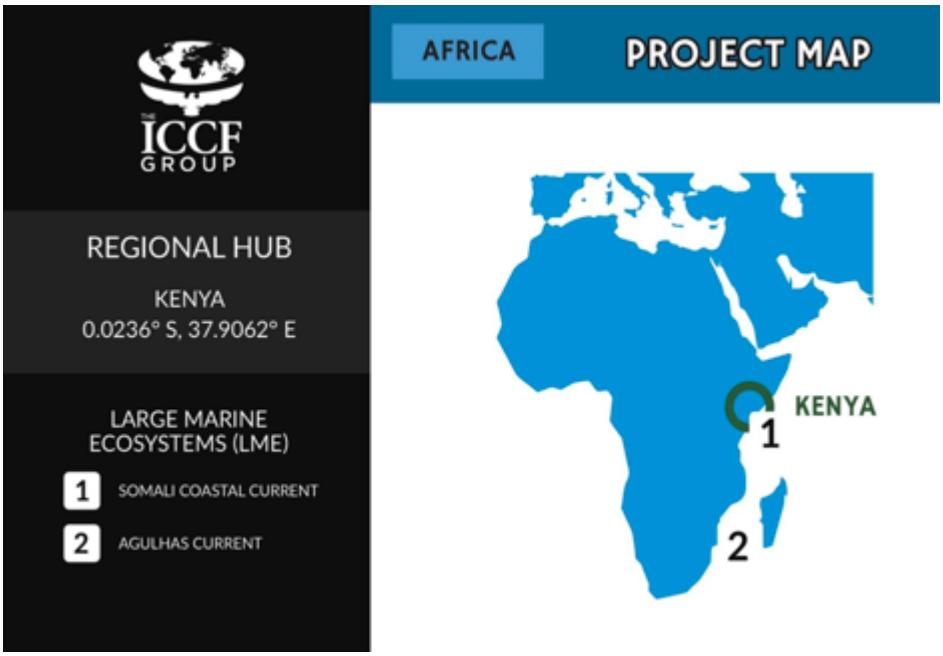
In Africa, parliamentary conservation caucuses supported by The ICCF Group/CCN signed the Arusha Declaration in 2014, which contained language for regional prioritization by Tanzania, Kenya, and Mozambique of collaboration toward fighting IUU fishing and improving fisheries management. The ICCF Group is expanding efforts to include Thailand and Indonesia, where there is work to be done to address a wide range of marine issues, particularly in follow-up to the June 2019 ASEAN Thailand Conference on Advancing Partnerships for Sustainability, which produced the Bangkok Declaration on Combating Marine Debris in the ASEAN Region.[10][9] .

The countries in which The ICCF Group works all have their own unique cultures and specific marine management issues (described in section 2 below); however, many of these issues stem from the lack of capacity to invest in marine management and enforcement. Political will is needed to make marine conservation and management a priority on the national agendas. The ICCF Group plays a critical role in supporting policy-makers with information, stakeholder access, and platforms to discuss issues that have been identified by legislators as priorities. Recognizing

that legislative bodies differ from other governmental structure, targeting and supporting the identified conservation priorities of legislators catalyzes action for conservation at one of the most influential levels of government.

2) the baseline scenario and any associated baseline projects:

Eastern Africa:



LMEs along Africa's eastern coastline that will be affected by this project include Agulhas Current and Somali Coastal Current LMEs. This project will coordinate with, learn from, and, as appropriate, support the objectives of, relevant GEF-financed projects working in the region such as RAFIP, WIO-SAP, and WIO LME SAPPHIRE, as well as the strategic directions of the Regional Seas Programme. In addition, a number of CCN partners with whom we will engage are working in the region, including Conservation International, UNEP, WWF, USAID, WCS, World Bank, UNDP, and others. Other donors and organizations with projects in the region that may be consulted include African Development Bank, The Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD), PROBLUE, Pew Charitable Trusts, Institute for Ocean Conservation Science, Ocean Conservancy, and many others. In addition, the project will work in support of the High-Level Panel on Sustainable Ocean Economy, especially in regards to hub-country Kenya in East Africa; engagement with this well-established and active caucus and the region on oceans issues can provide a platform for High-Level Panelist Kenyan President Uhuru Kenyatta to "catalyze bold, pragmatic solutions for Ocean health and wealth that support the Sustainable Development Goals and build a better future for people and the planet."

Agulhas Current:

The Agulhas Current, which is important for global ocean circulation, is located off the coast of Mozambique, extending south off the coast of South Africa and stretching north to include a small portion of the coast off of southern Tanzania. It surrounds Madagascar on all sides. It covers an area of 2,632,308 km2 with a perimeter of 17,703 km. It includes 7 MPAs and 4 MMAs, covering 23,967 km2 (2014). Fisheries within the LME yield 340,776 tons/year catch (2010), worth US$650 mil/year (2010).

Key challenges within the LME include:

- Pollution (inadequate waste treatment, oil spills, chemical runoff)
- Foreign vessels taking advantage of weak coast guards and navies of Mozambique, Tanzania, Madagascar, and South Africa
- Poverty among coastal communities

- Lack of real implementation of marine parks and reserves that are designated on paper (and accompanying tension for politicians that are reluctant to tell coastal communities in poverty not to extract needed resources from protected areas)
- Lack of options for policymakers to safeguard their coastlines and deter foreign ships from fishing
- Lack of enough resources appropriated at national levels for management of marine parks and reserves.

The countries bordering the Agulhas Current LME (Mozambique, Tanzania, Madagascar, and South Africa) are developing countries. Like the Somali Coastal Current LME, the Agulhas Current LME shows "high percentages of rural coastal population, high numbers of collapsed and overexploited fish stocks, as well as high proportions of catch from bottom impacting gear. Based on a combined measure of the Human Development Index and the averaged indicators for fish & fisheries and pollution & ecosystem health modules, the overall risk factor is very high.".

Key management bodies include the Indian Ocean Tuna Commission and the South West Indian Ocean Fisheries Commission. Management frameworks include the Nairobi Convention, the Protocol for the Protection of the Marine and Coastal Environment of the Western Indian Ocean from Land Based Sources and Activities (LBSA Protocol), and the Amended Convention for the Protection, Management and Development of the Marine and Coastal Environment of the Western Indian Ocean

Somali Coastal Current:

The Somali Coastal Current is located off the coasts of Somalia, Kenya, and Tanzania. It covers an area of 842,622 km2 with a perimeter of 6,425 km. The portion of the LME comprised of Kenyan waters contains 11 MPAs and 14 MMAs. In 2010, the total fisheries catch was 41,521 tons/year, with a catch value of US$87.6 million. The LME has a large number of subsistence and artisanal fisheries, all confined to its inshore areas. Distant-water fishing fleets from Europe and East Asia comprise most of the oceanic fisheries within the LME. Landing statistics are of poor quality, with the majority classified as "unidentified marine fish."[9]

Key challenges within the LME include:

- Bycatch:
- The ratio of prawns to by-catch is 1:7 for trawlers
- Bycatch of endangered species is also an issue
- Discards, which create transboundary issues when species are discarded that might have been of value elsewhere. Since offshore fishing in the Somali Coastal Current is dominated by foreign vessels, they often discard a high amount of edible by-catch.
- Pollution
- IUU fishing
- Foreign vessels taking advantage of weak coast guards and navies of Somalia/Kenya, Tanzania
- Piracy (though effects can be positive for ocean health)
- Poverty among coastal communities
- Lack of real implementation of marine parks and reserves that are designated on paper (and accompanying tension for politicians that are reluctant to tell coastal communities in poverty not to extract needed resources from protected areas)
- Lack of options for policymakers to safeguard their coastlines and deter foreign ships from fishing
- Lack of sufficient resources appropriated for management of marine parks and reserves[11].

The countries whose coasts adjoin this LME (Kenya, Tanzania, and Somalia) are all developing countries. This LME is characterized by high percentages of rural coastal populations, high numbers of collapsed and overexploited fish stocks, and high proportions of catch from bottom-impacting gear. One Shared Oceans states that "Based on a

combined measure of the Human Development Index and the averaged indicators for fish & fisheries and pollution & ecosystem health modules, the overall risk factor is very high."[12]

Key management bodies include the Indian Ocean Tuna Commission and the South West Indian Ocean Fisheries Commission[13]. Management frameworks include the Nairobi Convention, the Protocol for the Protection of the Marine and Coastal Environment of the Western Indian Ocean from Land Based Sources and Activities (LBSA Protocol), and the Amended Convention for the Protection, Management and Development of the Marine and Coastal Environment of the Western Indian Ocean[14].

The Western Indian Ocean Region has a number of regional institutions with legal competence in various aspects of marine management. The region's fishery body is the Southwest Indian Ocean Fisheries Commission (SWIOFC), established in 2004 by the UN Food and Agriculture Organization. The main objective of the SWIOFC is to promote the sustainable utilisation of the living marine resources of the Southwest Indian Ocean region. Other fisheries bodies include the Indian Ocean Tuna Commission (IOTC) and the Southern Indian Oceans Fisheries Agreement (SIOFA). The Western Indian Ocean Marine Science Association (WIOMSA), which has a membership of conservation professionals across the region, was formed along the regional political and economic setting (i.e. East African Community, and Southern African Development Community and the Small Islands Developing States; Western Indian Ocean Marine Science Association 2017). Many regional integration and cooperation bodies exist, adding additional institutional requirements and interactions, for example SADC, COMESA, COI, IGAD and the East African Community. Furthermore, countries within the region are party to a significant number of global treaties, conventions and agreements relating to environment, fisheries, marine shipping and pollution, wildlife and heritage, etc.[15]

The UNDP (United Nations Development Programme) -GEF initiative, the Agulhas and Somali Current Large Marine Ecosystems Project (ASCLME) had as its main objective to enhance and to facilitate the governments in the region to implement multilateral and bilateral agreements on the conservation of marine biodiversity (Vousden et al. 2008).[16] Under the ASCLME program, a Strategic Action Programme (SAP) for Sustainable Management of the Western Indian Ocean LMEs was developed to "build a partnership to promote the sustainable management and shared governance of WIO ecosystems for present and future generations." The four main areas of concern identified by the SAP were: 1. Water Quality Degradation; 2. Habitat and Community Modification; 3. Declines in Living Marine Resources; and 4. Environmental Variability and Extreme Events. The SAP noted that, for SAP management to be effective at the regional level, it must be anchored at the national level. The SAPPHIRE project, mentioned above, was developed to implement the objectives of the ASCLME SAP. [17]

The Implementation of the Strategic Action Programme for the protection of the Western Indian Ocean from land-based sources and activities project (WIO-SAP) is intended 'to reduce impacts from land-based sources and activities and sustainably manage critical coastal-riverine ecosystems through the implementation of the WIO-SAP priorities with the support of partnerships at national and regional levels'. The project builds on the WIO-LaB Strategic Action Programme for the protection of the WIO Region from land-based sources and activities developed under the UNEP-GEF WIO-LaB project which identified key actions that need to be undertaken in the region in order to reverse the degradation of the coastal and marine ecosystems.

The objective of the WIO-LaB SAP is consistent with the objective of the Contracting Parties to the Nairobi Convention, which is "…to prevent, reduce and combat pollution of the Convention area and to ensure sound environmental management of natural resources using ...the best practicable means at their disposal and in accordance with their capabilities." The WIO-LaB SAP has a similar objective, which is: "People of the region prosper from a healthy Western Indian Ocean, with reduced impacts from land-based sources and activities through implementation of national and regional levels activities including through partnerships and greater integration of river basin and coastal and marine resource management."[18]

This geographical region falls under the UNEPs Regional Seas Programme-Eastern Africa and the Nairobi Convention. Countries that are contracting parties to the Nairobi Convention and in which CCN supports parliamentary conservation caucuses include Kenya and Mozambique. Due to CCN's long-term, well-developed working relationships with Kenyan parliamentarians and other policymakers, Kenya will serve as the hub for CCN's Eastern Africa project activities.

Nairobi Convention/Regional Seas:

A number of countries in the Eastern Africa region are parties to the Nairobi Convention for the Protection, Management and Development of the Marine and Coastal Environment of the Eastern African Region. The Nairobi Convention area extends from Somalia in the North to the Republic of South Africa in the South, covering 10 States. The Contracting Parties are Comoros, France, Kenya, Madagascar, Mauritius, Mozambique, Seychelles, Somalia, Tanzania and the Republic of South Africa. Of these countries, CCN supports caucuses in Kenya, Mozambique, and Tanzania.

The Nairobi Convention provides a mechanism for regional cooperation, coordination, and collaborative actions in Eastern and Southern Africa. It provides a regional legal framework and coordinates the efforts of the member states to plan and develop programmes that strengthen their capacity to protect, manage, and develop their coastal and marine environment sustainably. It also provides a forum for inter-governmental discussions on regional environmental challenges and the strategies needed to address them; and promotes sharing of information and experiences in the WIO region and with the rest of the world.

The Regional Seas Program has identified a number of challenges in the Eastern Africa region, including increasing pressure from unsustainable consumption and production patterns, ineffective management practices in most countries in sub-Saharan Africa, densely populated and rapidly industrializing coastal urban hotspots affected by unplanned and unregulated land use patterns worsened by poor regulatory regimes, and interest in exploring and exploiting potential oil and gas reserves, which could further exacerbate the destruction of critical habitats (coral reefs, mangroves, beaches, and sea grass meadows).[19]

Regional Core Country: Kenya:

Kenya's coastal waters are threatened by a number of factors, including:

- Growth in commercial fisheries
- Increased use of destructive fishing gear such as ring nets
- Climate change, leading to declining habitats such as coral reefs and mangroves
- Population growth along coastlines

These factors also pose threats to economic sectors such as tourism, which in Kenya accounts for 90 percent of income dependent on the sea, and livelihoods[20]. Kenya manages just 1 percent of its ocean territory in protected areas, mostly in marine reserves, which allow fishing[21].

The key Kenyan laws and regulations that govern the country's coastal waters, which comprise a portion of the LME, include:

- Fisheries Management and Development Act 2016
- Wildlife Conservation and Management Act 2013
- In planning - Maritime Policy (along with Vision 2030)
- National Oceans and Fisheries Policy 2008 (deals with living resources)
- Continental Shelf Act & Territorial Waters Act (both deal with boundaries of Kenyan waters)

Kenya is also a party to the following conventions: Convention on Fishing & Conservation of the Living Resources of the High Seas (Geneva 1958), The African Convention for the Conservation of Nature & Natural Resources (Algiers 1968), Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna & Flora (Washington, 1973), Lusaka Agreement on Cooperative Enforcement Operations Directed at Illegal Trade in Wild Fauna & Flora (1994), Agreement on Technical Barriers to Trade (1994), Convention on the Continental Shelf (Geneva 1958), Convention of the High Seas (Geneva 1958), The Ramsar Convention on Wetlands of International Importance (Ramsar, Iran 1971), United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (1982), Convention for the Protection, Management and Development of the Marine and Coastal Environment of the Eastern African Region (Nairobi 1985; amended 2010), Convention on Biological Biodiversity (1992), and the International Convention for the Prevention

of Pollution from Ships (MARPOL 1993).[22] Kenya ratified the Port State Measures Agreement in August 2017, but the agreement has not yet been accepted or approved.[23]

Barriers to progress in managing Kenya's marine areas and resources include:

- Pollution - Inadequate regulation and enforcement for both commercial and community/artisanal pollution
- Lack of resources to prevent foreign vessels fishing in Kenyan and Somali Coastal Current waters
- Lack of alternative livelihoods for communities
- Lack of real implementation of marine parks and reserves that are designated on paper - lack of Kenya Wildlife Service (KWS) appropriated funding, incompetent management
- Tension for politicians that are reluctant to tell coastal communities in poverty not to extract needed resources from protected areas

Specific needs to improve Kenya's management of marine resources include:

- Improved coordination between all government entities that affect LME through networking and information sharing stemming from Parliamentary Conservation Caucus - Kenya (PCC-K) marine forums
- Potentially improved resource allocation to KWS stemming from national-level awareness of importance of managing marine parks and reserves
- Improved alignment of NGOs and private sector implementing piecemeal projects involving the Kenyan coast and waters
- Potential designation of further marine parks
- Review of the benefits of allowing fishing within marine reserves
- Improved environmental safeguards through discussions of infrastructure and extractives projects with those regulating marine areas and environment
- Creative solutions derived for alternative livelihoods for coastal communities causing strain to marine life
- Increased regulation of industry regarding chemical runoffs in coastal areas
- Potential solutions and technology use to monitor foreign vessels in Kenyan waters, and other methods to prevent IUU fishing by foreign vessels
- Improved coordination with Somalia and Tanzania on transboundary areas within Somali Coastal Current
- Increased awareness of policymakers of importance of coastal waters for tourism and economy/GDP - heightened elevation of blue economy strategies and the value of Kenyan oceans for development, not just conservation

All of the above will benefit Kenya and Kenyan waters, and therefore significantly benefit the Somali Coastal Current LME.

Kenyan policymakers recently outlined the following commitments at the first-ever Sustainable Blue Economy Conference in Nairobi (Nov. 26-28, 2018):

- Confront the challenge of waste management and plastic pollution
- Ensure responsible and sustainable fishing to conserve the endangered species and high value fish stocks
- Accelerate the development of our fisheries, by increasing aquaculture, fish processing and storage capacities and related blue economy industries
- Aggressively combat illegal, unregulated and unreported fishing, and take measures to enhance security and safety of our collective waters[24]

Areas in which this project might engage and support Kenyan policymakers include:

- Resource allocation to KWS for marine parks and reserves
- Regulation of industry regarding chemical runoffs in coastal areas
- Coordinating with Somalia and Tanzania on transboundary areas within Somali Coastal Current
- Importance of coastal waters for tourism and economy/GDP

- Major infrastructure projects and accompanying damaging environmental effects of coal plants in coastal areas, etc. (Politicians tend to prioritize development over conservation; however, this may not necessarily be either/or.)

In 2012, with support from the Global Environment Facility, CCN supported the development of a multi-party parliamentary conservation caucus in the Kenyan parliament. The Parliamentary Conservation Caucus - Kenya (PCC-K) has 55 members. The PCC-K has had a number of conservation successes, including critical amendments to the Wildlife Conservation and Management Act; harmonization of wildlife, water, forestry, and fisheries laws; and support for the Water Security Bill. This project will enable CCN to strengthen the PCC-K numerically, increase the number of educational programs for policymakers on issues of marine biodiversity conservation, elevate marine issues on the caucus' conservation agenda, and strengthen stakeholder engagement on these issues.

Other: Mozambique:

An estimated 334,000 people in Mozambique rely on small-scale fisheries for their livelihoods, and fish provide almost 40% of dietary animal protein[25]. Mozambique's marine waters are rich in coral reef and tropical marine biodiversity and are home to multibillion-dollar fisheries. They also support heavy global tanker traffic, hold vast reserves of natural gas that may be exploited in the near future, and make Mozambique an increasingly popular destination for coastal tourism and diving[26].

Key challenges/barriers for the government of Mozambique include the following:

- Even with appropriate legal frameworks for management of marine reserves and other issues and sectors, there is very little funding, capacity, and implementation and enforcement ability to accomplish anything.
- Environmental preparation and planning needs to be conducted for the forthcoming offshore natural gas development boom in Mozambique; the primary concern among policymakers, however, is over speeding up development and sorting out revenue sharing, rather than a slower, thorough approach considering the environmental impacts.
- Pollution: inadequate regulation and enforcement for both commercial and community/artisanal pollution
- IUU fishing, bycatch, and discards
- Lack of resources to prevent foreign vessels fishing in Mozambican waters
- Poverty among coastal communities/lack of alternative livelihoods for communities
- Lack of real implementation of marine parks and reserves that are designated on paper; lack of ANAC-appropriated funding
- Tension for politicians, who are reluctant to tell coastal communities in poverty not to extract needed resources from protected areas[27].

Needs include:

- Improved coordination between all government entities that affect LME through networking and information sharing stemming from Mozambique Parliamentary Forum on Conservation (MPFC) marine forums
- Potentially improved resource allocation to ANAC stemming from national-level awareness of importance of managing marine parks and reserves
- Improved alignment of NGOs and private sector implementing piecemeal projects involving the Mozambican coast and waters
- Potential designation of further marine parks and reserves within Agulhas Current
- Improved environmental safeguards through discussions of infrastructure and extractives projects with those regulating marine areas and environment
- Creative solutions derived for alternative livelihoods for coastal communities causing strain to marine life
- Increased regulation of industry regarding chemical runoffs in coastal areas
- Potential solutions and technology use to monitor foreign vessels in Mozambican waters, and other methods to prevent IUU fishing by foreign vessels
- Improved coordination with Tanzania, South Africa, and Madagascar on transboundary areas within Agulhas Current

- Increased awareness of policymakers of the importance of coastal waters for tourism and economy/GDP - heightened elevation of blue economy strategies and the value of Mozambican oceans for development, not just conservation

All of the above will benefit Mozambique and Mozambican waters, and therefore significantly benefit the Agulhas Current LME.

Mozambican national laws and regulations affecting the Agulhas Current LME include[28]:

- Fishing Act (1990) (enacted prior to adoption of the UN Law of the Sea Convention; there are some aspects that are not in conformity with the LOS Convention, meaning that the law needs to be revised.)
- Law of the Sea (1996)
- Environment Act (1997)

Mozambique is also implementing the following global fisheries mandates and initiatives to control IUU fishing:

- Implementation of a national program of monitoring and control of fishing activities (MCS), in some cases with South African collaboration;
- Nationwide implementation (2004) of a vessel monitoring system (VMS);
- Establishment of co-management regimes for artisanal fisheries as way to manage this activity;
- Legislation regarding the use of TEDs in industrial trawlers to prevent the accidental capture of endangered species like turtles;
- Expressed intention to sign the UN Fish Stocks Agreement and to implement other FAO initiatives;
- Some projects and initiatives under the Jakarta mandate (reef fish swapping aggregation);
- Regional projects (with some SADC countries) to identify fisheries types and an assessment of their overall role and status.

Mozambique ratified the Port State Measures Agreement in August 2014, but the agreement has not been accepted or approved.[29]Mozambique recently (May 2019) hosted the "Growing Blue" Conference focused on the Blue Economy. President Nyusi spoke at the conference, identifying marine debris as a priority for his government.

Mozambique participates in several regional fisheries bodies to promote the sustainable use of fishing resources, for example:

- Southwest Indian Ocean Fishery Commission (SWIOFC);
- South Indian Ocean Fishing Agreement (SIOFA);
- Regional initiatives (SADC), in systems of information (on fisheries);
- Project for Development and Management of Fisheries in the Southwest Indian Ocean (SWIOP).
- At the moment, no legal mechanism exists to implement internationally adopted measures[30].

Areas in which this project can engage and support Mozambican policymakers include:

- Resource allocation for marine parks and reserves
- Regulation of industry and agriculture regarding chemical runoffs in coastal areas
- Technology use to monitor foreign vessels in Mozambican waters, and other methods to prevent IUU fishing by foreign vessels
- Coordinating with South Africa, Tanzania, and Madagascar on transboundary areas within Agulhas Current LME
- Importance of coastal waters for tourism and economy/GDP.

In 2016, with support from the Global Environment Facility, CCN supported the development of a multi-party parliamentary conservation caucus in the Mozambican parliament. The Mozambique Parliamentary Forum on Conservation (MPFC) has 28 members. With caucus leadership, Mozambique developed and passed key amendments to the Conservation Law of 2014 and signed a bilateral agreement with Tanzania on the Coordinated

Conservation and Management of the Niassa-Selous Ecosystem. In recent months, CCN has been working with caucus members, the Ministry of the Sea, Inland Waters and Fisheries (MIMAIP), and the Deputy Attorney General of Mozambique to discuss marine conservation challenges, efforts, and opportunities in Mozambique; the MIMAIP has expressed concern regarding harm to marine species due to increased populations, coastal resettlements, industrialization, illegal fishing, and pollution.

This project will enable CCN to expand the Mozambican caucus numerically, increase the number of educational programs for policymakers on issues of marine biodiversity conservation, elevate marine issues on the caucus' conservation agenda, and strengthen stakeholder engagement on these issues.

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[26] https://cordioea.net/nmc/
[27] http://wwf.panda.org/wwf_offices/mozambique/environmental_problems_in_mozambique/

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[29] http://www.fao.org/fileadmin/user_upload/legal/docs/037s-e.pdf

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Southeast Asian LMEs:

The Gulf of Thailand and the Indonesian Sea are the primary LMEs located in Southeast Asia that will be affected by this project. This project will coordinate with, learn from, and, as appropriate, support the objectives of relevant GEF-financed projects working in this LME as well as the strategic directions of the Regional Seas Programme (see 6. Institutional Arrangement and Coordination below for details). In addition, a number of CCN partners with whom we will engage are working in the region, including Conservation International, UNEP, WWF, ADB, USAID, WCS, World Bank, UNDP, and others. In addition, the project will work in support of the High Level Panel on Sustainable Ocean Economy, especially in regards to hub-country Indonesia in Southeast Asia; engagement with the new caucus and the region on oceans issues can provide a platform for High Level Panelist Indonesian President Joko Widodo to "catalyze bold, pragmatic solutions for Ocean health and wealth that support the Sustainable Development Goals and build a better future for people and the planet."

Gulf of Thailand LME:

The Gulf of Thailand is located off Thailand's east coast, also bordering Cambodia, Malaysia, and Vietnam. It covers an area of 386,063 km2, with a perimeter of 4,009 km. MPA coverage within the LME was 1,927 km2 in 2014. Fisheries within the LME yield 617,568 tons/year catch (2010), worth US$854,582,106/year (2010) .

Key challenges within the LME include:

- Pollution (plastic debris, nutrient runoff, etc.)
- Overfishing and destructive fishing
- Commercial shipping
- Invasive species

The Gulf of Thailand LME scores below average on the Ocean Health Index compared to other LMEs, indicating that the LME is well below its optimal level of ocean health. The LME falls into the medium Human Development Index category and the very-high-risk Climate Threat Index category .

The two transboundary arrangements for fisheries (APFIC and WCPFC) in the area cover high seas highly migratory tuna and tuna-like fisheries and the fisheries within national jurisdiction. The two Basin Management Institutions are Partnerships in Environmental Management for the Seas of East Asia (PEMSEA) and Southeast Asian Fisheries Development Centre (SEAFDEC) .

Indonesian Sea LME:

The Indonesian Sea LME is located at the junction of the Pacific and Indian Oceans and is bordered by Indonesia and East Timor. It has an area of 2,300,000 km2, of which 1.49% is protected, and contains 9.98% and 0.75% of the world's coral reefs and sea mounts. The LME has a large diversity of coastal habitats, including mangroves, coral reefs, and seagrass beds. The Indonesian Sea LME is considered a Class I ecosystem with high productivity. More than 500 species of reef-building corals, 2,500 species of marine fish, 47 species of mangroves, and 13 species of seagrasses can be found in the region.

The mangroves are estimated to range from 24,000km2 to 42,500 km2 (representing two thirds of the area of mangroves in Southeast Asia), the coral reefs range from 50,000km2 to 90,000km2, and the seagrass beds are estimated to cover 30,000km2.

Key challenges within the LME include:

- Coastal pollution from domestic, agricultural, and industrial waste
- Human impacts such as overfishing, destructive fishing, and sedimentation
- Vulnerability to climate change
- 80% of the reefs are at high risk to further damage from human activities

The Indonesian Sea LME scores below average on the Ocean Health Index compared to other LMEs, indicating that it is well below its optimal level of ocean health. It scores low on mariculture, coastal protection, carbon storage, coastal livelihoods, tourism & recreation, and iconic species goals. This LME exhibits high pollution from plastic debris, with the sources of high plastic concentration resulting from shipping density, coastal population density, and the level of urbanization within major watersheds, with enhanced run-off. With an above average cumulative human impact, key stressors include commercial shipping, ocean-based pollution, pelagic low-bycatch commercial fishing, and all three types of demersal commercial fishing (demersal destructive, non-destructive low-bycatch, and non-destructive high-bycatch).

Of the three transboundary arrangements for fisheries in this LME, WCPFC and IOTC each cover high seas highly migratory tuna and tuna-like fisheries, and APFIC covers the fisheries within national jurisdiction. There does not appear to be any formal connection between the three arrangements. COBSEA covers both pollution and biodiversity with linkages to PEMSEA. IOSEA is the specific biodiversity arrangement for turtles. No integrating mechanisms

for the LME were found. There may be interaction amongst the arrangements through participation in each other's meetings, but this appears to be informal.

The GEF's and UNEP Implementing the Strategic Action Programme for the South China Sea created a Strategic Action Programme (SAP) which will improve the marine and coastal environment of the South China Sea (SCS) through implementation of the National Action Plans in support of the SAP, and strengthen regional co-ordination for SCS SAP implementation.

Another GEF- UNEP project of relevance is the Establishment and Operation of a Regional System of Fisheries Refugia in the South China Sea and Gulf of Thailand (2015-2019) - the project aims to operate and expand the network of fisheries refugia in the South China Sea and Gulf of Thailand for the improved management of fisheries and critical marine habitats linkages in order to achieve the medium and longer-term goals of the fisheries component of the Strategic Action Programme for the South China Sea .

This geographical region falls under the UNEPs Regional Seas Programme-East Asian Seas and the East Asian Seas Action Plan, steered by the Coordinating Body on the Seas of East Asia (COBSEA). The COBSEA Secretariat is the lead UN agency for marine environmental matters in East Asia, responsible for coordinating the activities of governments, NGOs, UN and donor agencies, and individuals in caring for the region's marine environment. Countries that participate in COBSEA and in which CCN is engaged include Indonesia and Thailand. Indonesia will serve as the hub for CCN's East Asian Seas project activities. (Note: Among the Regional Seas Programmes, East Asia is unique in that there is no regional convention; instead the programme promotes compliance with existing environmental treaties and is based on member country goodwill.)

Regional Core Country - Indonesia:

Indonesia is composed of tens of thousands of islands and groups of islands, spread out along and around the equator and located between two continents (Asia and Australia) and two oceans (Pacific and Indian). Indonesia possesses rich biodiversity that sustains hundreds of ethnic groups within the country's territory—each with its own traditional knowledge relating to the utilization and management of biodiversity. Indonesia's lands cover 1,919,440 km2 while the country's waters extend over 3,257,483 km2, with 99,093 km of coastline.

Coral reefs in Indonesia cover 51,000 km2, which is 51 percent of the total coral reefs in Southeast Asia. However, only 6.5 percent of coral reefs in Indonesia are still in very good condition, while 22.5 percent are in good condition, and the remainder are categorized to be in medium, somewhat bad, and bad states. Indonesia has high coral reef diversity, with around 590 hard coral species, 210 soft coral species, and 350 gorgonian species recorded.

Challenges to marine biodiversity in Indonesia include:

- Over-exploitation of natural resources and irresponsible utilization of biodiversity
- Irresponsible trade of biodiversity
- Rapid population growth, leading to land conversion which causes environmental degradation and increases susceptibility to natural disasters and climate change
- Utilization patterns that "erode" community activities that are based on local wisdoms
- Biopiracy and lack of regulations on bioprospecting
- High demand for goods and services related to or derived from biological products
- Weak policies, which allow the occurrence of biological encroachment or biopiracy, namely the encroachment of biological resources and knowledge on biological resources without the consent of the community or developing country after the parties have obtained adequate information
- Conflicts among biodiversity stakeholders

- Poor implementation of laws/regulations

Indonesia's Ministry of Marine Affairs and Fisheries and regional governments have primary responsibility for the management of conservation areas. The Ministry of Marine Affairs and Fisheries performs the duties and functions to formulate, adopt, and implement policies pertaining to fisheries, aquaculture, processing and marketing of fishery products, management of marine areas, coastal and small islands, marine resources and fisheries surveillance, research development of marine and fisheries, human resource development of marine and fisheries, fish quarantine, as well as quality control and safety of fishery products. The Ministry also oversees the protection and preservation of biodiversity in the conservation areas of marine waters, coasts, and small islands as well as the conservation of fish species and genetic resources.

The Directorate for Regional Conservation and Fish Types and the Directorate General of Marine, Coast, and Small Islands hold the duties and functions related to the management and development of the ecosystem, species, and genetic levels, including encouraging the strengthening of functions of the Conservation of Fish Resources management authority.

Key policy and legislation related to marine biodiversity in Indonesia include:

- Law Number 5 Of 1990 on the Preservation of Biological Resources and Its Ecosystems, which regulates conservation of ecosystem and species in protected areas
- The Durban Accord and Action Plan (2003) as a result of the Fifth World Conference on National Parks, which serves as an umbrella for protected area management that integrates conservation goals with sustainable development in an equitable manner and systematizes the concept of governance of protected areas
- Government Regulation Number 60 of 2007 on Conservation of Fish Resources, which is generated from Law Number 31 Of 2004 junto Law Number 45 Of 2009 on Fisheries, and has mandated the government (Ministry of Marine Affairs and Fisheries) and regional governments to undertake the conservation efforts for fish resources that includes the conservation of ecosystems, species and fish genetics
- Law Number 27 of 2007 as amended by Law Number 1 Of 2014 on Management of Coastal Areas and Small Islands, which regulates the management of coastal areas and small islands covering planning, utilization, supervision and control by the principles of environmental management and utilization using environmentally friendly technology
- Law Number 32 of 2009 on Environmental Protection and Management

The Indonesian government has issued various regulations on the management and utilization of biodiversity, both pertaining to the management and preservation of ecosystems, type and results of cultivation (fishing, food, livestock and animal health, cultivation of plant system), as well as safeguard measures (spatial planning, quarantine, and protection).

In addition, Indonesia also participates in several international conventions such as:

- Agreement for the Establishment of the Asia-Pacific Fishery Commission
- Convention on Biological Diversity
- CITES
- Commission for the Conservation of Southern Bluefin Tuna
- Convention on Fishing and Conservation of the Living Resources of the High Seas
- Convention on the High Seas

- Agreement on Port State Measures to Prevent, Deter and Eliminate Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated Fishing (ratified June 2016, but not yet accepted or approved)
- Agreement for the Establishment of the Indian Ocean Tuna Commission
- United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea
- Memorandum of Understanding on the Conservation and Management of Marine Turtles and their Habitats of the Indian Ocean and South-East Asia
- Nagoya Protocol
- Network of Aquaculture Centres in Asia-Pacific
- Ramsar Convention
- Straddling Fish Stocks Agreement

Indonesia has identified marine debris as a priority and is working toward implementation of its recently developed National Marine Debris Action Plan.

CCN does not have a parliamentary caucus in Indonesia at this time; however, CCN is developing a partnership with the Walton Family Foundation to engage policymakers in Indonesia on marine issues.

This project will enable CCN to build a strong base of Indonesian policymakers engaged in addressing marine issues, host educational programs for policymakers on issues of marine biodiversity conservation, elevate marine issues on policymakers' agendas, and develop stakeholder engagement on these issues.

Other: Thailand:

Thailand has a wealth of biodiversity, including a vast array of animal and plant species and great genetic and ecosystem diversity. Thailand is home to more than 14,000 species of plants (4% of globally identified plants), 4,000 species of vertebrates (8% of all vertebrates in the world), 80,000 species of invertebrates (6 % of all invertebrates in the world), and 2,000 species of fish (10% of globally identified fish). It boasts 11,900 marine invertebrate species, 2,000 marine mollusc species, 294 mammal species, 160+ amphibian species, and 570 species of freshwater fish. Approximately 20% of Thailand's total area is under protected area status, including more than 200 national parks and wildlife sanctuaries.

At just under 3,000km long, Thailand's coastline comprises a variety of ecosystems, from beaches and coral reefs to highly productive mangrove forests and seagrasses that serve as protective barriers and exceptional carbon sinks. These marine ecosystems host an abundance of natural resources and attract a large number of tourists, playing a key role in Thailand's economic growth. Thailand is one of the world's largest producers and exporters of fish, seafood, and fishery products and is a major player in the global tuna and shrimp markets. There is a huge local demand for seafood, and Thailand draws heavily from its marine resources.

Thailand's biodiversity has long been threatened by:

- Unsustainable exploitation of natural resources, due in part to a lack of utilization planning
- Habitat loss from urbanization, agricultural expansion, illegal timber harvesting, and development projects
- Destructive fishing practices
- Wetland fill
- Invasive alien species

- Pollution
- Poaching

In Thailand, 11.9% of vertebrates are threatened. Species that are now extinct in Thailand include Giant Ibis (Pseudibis gigantea), Large Grass-warbler (Graminicola striatus), Siamese Tiger Perch (Datnioides pulcher), and Silver Shark (Balantiocheilos cf. melanopterus). Kouprey (Bos sauveli), Eld's Deer (Cervus eldii), Rhinoceros (Rhinoceros sondaicus), Sumatran Rhinoceros (Dicerorhinus sumatrensis), Sarus Crane (Grus antigone), White-Shouldered Ibis (Pseudibis davisoni), and False Gavial (Tomistoma schlegelii) are extinct in the wild. In addition, a large number of native cultivated plants no longer exist in Thailand as a result of natural disasters, urbanization, industrialization, dam construction, and farmers' failure to preserve unutilized crop wild relatives.

Biodiversity challenges include:

•Lack of awareness, knowledge, and understanding on the importance and benefits arising from biodiversity including methods for conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity. Many people, including policymakers, lack knowledge, understanding, and attention to biodiversity loss or urgency in biodiversity conservation.

•Lack of research personnel and financial support for taxonomic works in Thailand. Budget support for research and development on biodiversity is limited and discontinuous, and biodiversity research has not been conducted in response to national biodiversity policies and measures. Additionally, agencies undertaking biodiversity research are scattered among various ministries or owned by private sector entities, resulting in lack of integrity in management.

•Lack of access to genetic resources, biological resources, and traditional knowledge and the sharing of benefits arising from their utilization. Existing regulations pertaining to access and benefit sharing do not cover all relevant sectors, especially those of research and development on biological resources and traditional knowledge. In addition, local communities relying on biodiversity lack knowledge and awareness of their roles in biodiversity conservation. Thailand also lacks skilled personnel for benefit sharing negotiation, promotion of systematic commercialization of biodiversity research and development, and mechanisms leading to conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity.

•Fragmented governance; with its extensive coastlines, hundreds of islands, and decentralized national government, Thailand delegates its environmental governance responsibilities to sub-national government authorities.

In addition, Thailand faces a number of difficulties in implementation of the National Policies, Measures and Plans on Conservation and Sustainable Utilization of Biodiversity:

- Targets are broadly defined, and indicators do not identify principal responsible agencies;
- National Policies are not legally binding, and some agencies are unaware of the National Policies document or of their responsibilities according to the action plans of the National Policies.
- The National Policies have not been integrated into local level plans and are rarely implemented at the local level.

Thailand is party to a number of international agreements related to biodiversity, including:

- The Convention on Biological Diversity, to which Thailand became a party on 29 January 2004
- The Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES), to which Thailand became a party on 21 January 1983
- The Ramsar Convention on Wetlands, to which Thailand became a party on 13 September 1998
- The Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety, to which Thailand became a party on 8 February 2006
- The International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture (ITPGR), which Thailand has signed (4 November 2003) but not ratified

- The Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals (CMS), which Thailand has signed (1 August 2004) but not ratified
- The Nagoya Protocol on Access to Genetic Resources and the Fair and Equitable Sharing of Benefits Arising from their Utilization, which Thailand signed on 31 January 2012 (and is currently in the process of becoming a Party to the Protocol)
- The Nagoya – Kuala Lumpur Supplementary Protocol on Liability and Redress to the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety, which Thailand signed on 6 March 2012 (and is currently on the process of becoming a Party to the Protocol)
- The Port State Measures Agreement (Accession May 2016).

Thailand's biodiversity is protected by various national laws, the most important ones being the National Park Act (1961), National Conserved Forest Act (1964), Wildlife Conservation and Protection Act (1992), Export and Import to the Kingdom Act (1979), National Environment Enhancement and Conservation Act (1992), Marine and Coastal Resource Management Act (2015), and Plant Species Protection Act (1999). The Thai Constitution, 2007, Article 85 provides plans for systematic management of water resources and other natural resources for the benefit of the public and requires public participation in the balanced conservation, maintenance, and utilization of natural resources and biodiversity.

Thailand – as chair of ASEAN 2019 – drafted the Bangkok Declaration on Combating Marine Debris in the ASEAN Region, which was adopted on June 22, 2019, calling for timely implementation of the ASEAN Framework of Action on Marine Debris of the Special ASEAN Ministerial Meeting on Marine Debris held on 5 March 2019 in Bangkok. The government is also exploring options for Extended Producer Responsibility and Public-Private Partnerships (PPP).

CCN's International Conservation Corps program has been working in Thailand for several years, providing expertise on national parks and protected areas. Most recently, the program has supported the AMATA Foundation and Thailand's national park system to improve the management and operations of Khao Yai National Park towards the goal of utilizing the park as a regional learning platform, as well as to launch the new Thailand-U.S. Friendship Trail marking 200 years of U.S.-Thai friendship and cooperation.

Wider Caribbean LMEs:

LMEs in the Wider Caribbean region that will be affected by this project include Gulf of Mexico, and Caribbean Sea. This project will coordinate with, learn from, and, as appropriate, support relevant GEF-financed projects working in these LMEs (see *6. Institutional Arrangement and* Coordination *below for details)*. In addition, a number of CCN partners with whom we will engage are working in the LMEs, including Conservation International, Parques Nacionales Naturales de Colombia, UNEP, WWF, USAID, WCS, Walton Family Foundation, and Waitt Foundation. Additionally, the project will work in support of the High Level Panel on Sustainable Ocean Economy, especially in regards to hub-country Mexico in Latin America and the Caribbean; engagement with this well-established and active caucus and the region on oceans issues can provide a platform for High Level Panelist Mexican President Andrés Manuel López Obrador to "catalyze bold, pragmatic solutions for Ocean health and wealth that support the Sustainable Development Goals and build a better future for people and the planet."

Gulf of Mexico LME:

The Gulf of Mexico LME covers an area of 1,530,387 km2 and is located east of Mexico, northeast of Cuba, and south of the United States, in the southeastern corner of North America Fisheries in the LME are described as “multispecies, multigear and multifleet in character and include artisanal, commercial and recreational fishing.” Annual catch in the LME is 742,607 tons/yr (2010), with a value of US$1,413,857,383. It is estimated that about 60 percent of commercially exploited stocks in the LME are collapsed and overexploited, with overexploited stocks comprising nearly 70% of reported landings. The Gulf of Mexico LME experienced a 4.259 percent growth in MPA coverage from 1983 to 2014, placing it within the medium category of MPA change. Nearly 40 percent of waters in the GOM are in some form of protected area; however, only 0.5 percent of Gulf waters are “no take” MPAs.

This LME is estimated to have relatively high levels of floating micro- and macro-plastic. Coral reefs make up 0.09 percent of the LME area, with 2 percent under very high threat and 6 percent under high threat. By 2030, 7 percent of coral reefs in this LME are predicted to be under very high to critical threat levels. It has an above average cumulative human impact rating, with stressors that include ocean acidification, UV radiation, sea surface temperature, commercial shipping, sea level rise, ocean-based pollution, and destructive commercial fishing. The Gulf of Mexico LME scores above average on the Ocean Health Index compared to other LMEs but still relatively low. This indicates that the LME is well below the optimal level of ocean health, although it is doing well in some aspects. It falls in risk category 3 of the five risk categories, which is an average level of risk.

The coastal area of the LME includes the southern coast of the U.S. and the eastern shoreline of Mexico. It falls into the large population size category. The indigent population makes up 31% of the LME's coastal residents. The LME's current Human Development Index (HDI) score places it in the highest HDI and lowest risk category.

Dialogue and collaboration between government and many key stakeholders within the LME is limited (private sector, local communities, etc.), impeding efforts to implement an ecosystem-based management approach. It is essential to involve these stakeholders in efforts to reduce depletion of fish stocks and reduce pollution of the marine environment.

In terms of governance, existing transboundary agreements include the Cartagena Convention adopted in 1983 and its protocols (1990 and 1999), Organizacion Latinoamericana de Desarrolo Pesquero (OLDESPECA),Western Central Atlantic Fishery Commission (WECAFC), and the International Commission for the Conservation of Atlantic Tunas (ICCAT).[9] Additionally Mexico (through SEMARNAT) and the U.S. (through NOAA), with GEF support, have signed a Memorandum of Understanding through which they adopted a Strategic Action Program establishing lines of action to promote bilateral cooperation in conservation and sustainable development of the Gulf of Mexico LME.

Caribbean Sea LME:

The Caribbean Sea LME (CLME) has a total area 3,284,794 km2 and a perimeter of 19,063 km. It is bounded to the south and west by the North Brazil Shelf LME and the coasts of northern South America and Central America, to the north by the southeastern limits of the Gulf of Mexico LME and of the United States of America, and to the east by the Antilles chain of islands,[11]. Bordering countries include: Anguilla, Antigua and Barbuda, Aruba, Bahamas, Barbados, Belize, British Virgin Islands, Cayman Islands, Colombia, Commonwealth of Dominica, Costa Rica, Cuba, Dominican Republic, Grenada, Guadeloupe, Guatemala, Haiti, Honduras, Jamaica, France (Martinique), Mexico, Montserrat, Netherland Antilles, Nicaragua, Panama, Puerto Rico, Saint Kitts and Nevis, Saint Lucia, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Trinidad and Tobago, Turks and Caicos Islands, United States Virgin Islands, and Venezuela. In 2010, fisheries catch total was measured at 244,230 tons/yr, with a value of US$602,142,736/yr[12]. The CLME contains 7.09 percent of the world's coral reefs.[13] The Caribbean Sea LME experienced an increase in MPA coverage from 6,463 km2 prior to 1983 to 143,096 km2 by 2014. This represents an increase of 2,114 percent, within the medium category of MPA change.**[14]**

The three primary challenges to biodiversity conservation in the CLME include:

• Unsustainable fisheries: Most fisheries are fully or over-exploited and sustainable management practices could be more broadly implemented

• Habitat degradation severely impacts the region's tourism potential and the sustainability of its fisheries. A 2011 threat index (overfishing/destructive fishing, watershed-based and marine-based pollution and damage) indicates that 13 percent of coral reefs in the LME are under very high threat and 18 percent are under high threat.

• Pollution: Severe impacts on tourism and fisheries[15]. Modelled estimates of floating plastic, both micro-plastic and macro-plastic, indicate relatively high levels of plastic concentration[16].

The CLME is estimated to experience an above average overall level of cumulative human impact. Key stressors include ocean acidification, UV radiation, sea surface temperature, commercial shipping, and ocean-based pollution, among others. The CMLE scored far below average on the Ocean Health Index, with a rating of risk category 5 (highest risk)[17]. The CLME exhibits low to medium levels of economic development and medium levels of collapsed and overexploited fish stocks. Based on a combined measure of the Human Development Index and the averaged indicators for fish & fisheries and pollution & ecosystem health modules, the overall risk factor is high[18].

The GEF – UNEP Gulf of Mexico project *"Implementation of the Strategic Action Program of the Gulf of Mexico Large Marine Ecosystem"* is aiming to enhance national and regional efforts to move towards sustainable integrated management of the environment and resources of the Gulf of Mexico LME. The first step in this process will be strengthening of a mechanism for regional cooperation; review of the existing knowledge of the status and threats to the GOMLME and development of an SAP of legal, policy and institutional reforms and investments, to address both these threats to ecosystem sustainability and the gaps in knowledge essential to the sustainable management of the ecosystem[19].

The GEF – UNDP CLME (Caribbean Large Marine Ecosystem) Project created a Strategic Action Programme (SAP), which provides a comprehensive roadmap towards sustainable living marine resources management through strengthened and consolidated regional cooperation. The first three strategies of the program focus on the strengthening of --regional-level-- governance and policy mechanisms with strategies four through six focusing on the implementation of the ecosystem approach to the management of the CLME+ s three ecosystem types and their associated living marine resources.

Additional GEF programs support the CLME project, including Catalyzing Implementation of the SAP for the Sustainable Management of Shared Living Marine Resources in the CLME+, which facilitates ecosystem based management and Ecosystem Approach to Fisheries in the CLME+ for the sustainable and climate resilient provision of goods and services from shared living marine resources, in line with the endorsed CLME+ SAP.

The GEF-UNEPs Integrating Water, Land and Ecosystems Management project (IWECO) is a five-year multi-focal area regional project that aims to (1) Develop and Implement Integrated Targeted Innovative, climate-change resilient approaches in sustainable land management (SLM), integrated water resources management (IWRM) and maintenance of ecosystem services; (2) Strengthen the SLM, IWRM and ecosystems Monitoring, and Indicators framework; (3) Strengthen the Policy, legislative and institutional reforms and capacity building for SLM, IWRM and ecosystem services management taking into consideration climate change resilience building and (4) Enhance knowledge exchange, best practices, replication and stakeholder involvement.

CReW+ (An Integrated Approach to Water and Wastewater Management Using Innovative Solutions and Promoting Financing Mechanisms in the Wider Caribbean Region) is a GEF-UNEP-IADB project that seeks to implement innovative technical small-scale solutions for Wastewater Management in the Wider Caribbean Regionusing an integrated water and wastewater management approach and through building on sustainable financing mechanisms piloted through the Caribbean Regional Fund for Wastewater Management.

This geographical region falls under the UNEP Regional Seas Programme-Wider Caribbean and the Convention for the Protection and Development of the Marine Environment of the Wider Caribbean Region (Cartagena Convention), which is facilitated by the Regional Coordinating Unit (CAR/RCU). The Convention covers several aspects of marine pollution, including measures to prevent, reduce, and control pollution from ships, pollution caused by dumping, pollution from sea-bed activities, airborne pollution, and pollution from land-based sources and activities.

Key protocols under the Cartagena Convention include The Protocol Concerning Co-operation in Combating Oil Spills in the Wider Caribbean Region, The Protocol Concerning Specially Protected Areas and Wildlife (SPAW) in the Wider Caribbean Region, and The Protocol Concerning Pollution from Land-Based Sources and Activities. Countries that participate in the Cartagena Convention and in which CCN supports parliamentary conservation caucuses include Colombia and Mexico. Due to CCN's long-term, well-developed working relationships with Colombian parliamentarians and other policymakers, Colombia will serve as the hub for CCN's Wider Caribbean project activities.

Relevant management institutions within the CLME include the Central American Commission on Environment and Development (CCAD), the Caribbean Public Health Agency (CARPHA), and the Caribbean Regional Fisheries Mechanism (CRFM)[20].

Regional Core Country: Colombia:

Colombia is a mega-diverse country and is ranked among the 14 countries in the world with the highest biodiversity index. Two of its five ecoregions are represented by marine-coastal territory: The Pacific Ocean and the Caribbean Sea, regions that represent half of the national territory and constitute a biodiversity hotspot.[21] Colombia's maritime territory (territorial sea, contiguous zone, EEZ) covers 928,660 km2. The length of the coastline totals 3,189 km (1,600 km in the Caribbean and 1,589 km in the Pacific).

The Colombian territory presents all types of marine-coastal ecosystems characteristic of the tropics, such as coastal lagoons, mangroves, estuaries, seagrass beds, coral areas, pelagic environments, beaches, rocky coasts, and muddy sandy bottoms[22]. Among the country's most representative marine ecosystems are the coral reefs, with an area of

1091 km2 (Díaz et al., 2000)[23], which represent 0.4% of these ecosystems worldwide. A small fraction of these are found in the Pacific Basin, while the Caribbean Sea has 21 coral areas widely distributed, with the Seaflower Biosphere Reserve being the highest concentration area with 77% of the country's coral reefs (Murillo, 2005)[24]. At present, these ecosystems present a growing decline in their populations, due to diseases, extreme climatic events, overexploitation of hydrobiological resources, whitening, and decrease in the capacity of calcification due to effects such as climate change and ocean acidification. most effects of an anthropogenic nature (INVEMAR, 2010)[25].

Colombia's fisheries are monitored by the Colombian Fisheries Statistics Service (SEPEC), which is the main tool of the National Aquaculture and Fisheries Authority (AUNAP) to generate national fishery statistics and a set of fishery, biological, and economic indicators that contribute to the management of fishery resources in the marine and continental waters of Colombia. According to the SEPEC report of 2017, the total registered landings (volume or census approach) and / or estimates (capture and effort or sample approach) during the evaluated period (March-December 2017) at the monitored landing sites reached 35,494.7 tons, of which 70.5% corresponded to industrial fishing. Given the distribution and quantity of monitored landing sites, the largest artisanal landings were registered in the Pacific and Caribbean coasts (34.8% and 22.4%, respectively[26].

According to the Report of the State of the Environments and Marine and Coastal Resources of Colombia 2017, the Colombian coastal zone constitutes the main axis of economic development of the country, especially for the realization of activities related to maritime transport, foreign trade, tourism, fishing, and the mining-energy sector (Ramos and Guerrero, 2010). The coastal departments contributed approximately 40.8% to the country's GDP for 2016, projected for that same period at 862,675 million (DANE - National Administrative Department of Statistics, 2017). In Colombia, nine maritime port areas have been delimited in the departments of La Guajira, Magdalena, Atlántico, Bolívar, Sucre, Antioquia, San Andrés, Providencia and Santa Catalina, Valle del Cauca and Nariño (MinTransporte, 2008). In 2016, it mobilized 99% of the foreign trade load, reaching 3.4 million containers per year (Superintendency of Ports and Transportation, 2017)[27].

Key biodiversity challenges in Colombia include:

•Threats to Marine Species: According to the Red Book of Marine Invertebrates of Colombia and the two versions of the Red Book of Marine Fishes of Colombia, 97 species are threatened: 10 Critically Endangered, 15 Endangered, and 72 Vulnerable. Invertebrates include soft and hard corals (1 CR, 1 EN, and 3 VU), mollusks (16 VU), and crustaceans (7 VU). The main threat to these organisms is their overexploitation, combined with incidental capture in the trawl fisheries. Modification of the marine ecosystems is responsible for the apparent decline of 42.9% of the invertebrates examined. Finally, marine pollution and climate change represent important threats for these species[28].

•Marine contamination: According to the diagnosis and evaluation of the quality of the marine and coastal waters of the Colombian Caribbean and Pacific, the marine pollution of the country is closely related to the increase in populations living in the coastal zones. Terrestrial sources are the main contributors of pollutants to the sea[29].

•Lack of maritime culture: Many inhabitants of the country do not have a close relationship with the marine environment or find themselves in direct contact that links them to the maritime environment. National identity and territorial sovereignty must extend not only to terrestrial space, but also to maritime space, the latter being an integral part of the country[30].

•Changes in ocean temperatures and related coral whitening: The reefs of the Colombian Caribbean have presented two whitening events in the last decade (2005 and 2010), but this bleaching has not been the same for the different reef areas. In 2005, 80% of corals in the Los Corales del Rosario and San Bernardo National Natural Parks suffered whitening, while in the Tayrona National Park only between 1% and 5% of the corals were bleached. On the contrary, in 2010 the most affected area was that of PNN Tayrona, where 70% of the corals were bleached.[31]

The following needs have also been identified:

• Education on the subject of seas and coasts: Education plays a fundamental role in advancing the sustainable development and exploitation potential of Colombia's marine territory to meet the needs and challenges of the country in the 21st Century[32].

• Foreign policy that strengthens marine-coastal matters including international cooperation in transnational crimes.

•Integral maritime security for “the protection of human life at sea, the promotion of maritime activities, the strengthening of the merchant marine, the scientific and technological development of the Nation and the exercise of authority in the maritime and coastal territory.” (General Maritime Directorate, 2016)[33]

•Marine governance (coastal/marine spatial planning / legal interpretations / data management / resources): According to the Política Nacional del Océano y de los Espacios Costeros (PNOEC), "The country requires coordinated action by the institutions to develop and materialize governance in coastal marine territory management; especially in aspects such as coastal erosion, adaptation to climate change or extreme events, mining exploitation, fisheries, marine spatial planning, coastal management, among others, that reinforce the institutional framework and give clarity to the roles that must be fulfilled the different actors that converge in the coastal zone."[34].

•Management by competent regional and local environmental entities to guide restoration strategies in marine and coastal ecosystems[35].

•Articulation and coordination among stakeholders (executive, legislative, civil society, private sector, research, national security, and communities).

•Maritime spatial planning.

Colombia is taking a number of actions to strengthen the National System of Protected Areas (SINAP). In consideration of the promulgation of Law 99 of 1993, Law 165 of 1994, and the 2000 Policy National Environmental Program for the Sustainable Development of the Oceanic Spaces and Coastal and Insular Areas of Colombia (PNAOCI), and to meet the Aichi goal of increasing by 10% global protected marine areas by 2020, Colombia has decided to “consolidate the Thematic Subsystem of Marine Protected Areas (SAMP) to ensure the conservation of marine and coastal in situ biodiversity, articulating management actions to regional planning processes in protected areas in order to make it viable and operational”[36].

National laws and regulations relevant to marine issues in Colombia include:

• Law 12/1992: By means of which the Protocol for the Conservation and Administration of Protected Marine and Coastal Areas of the Southeast Pacific, signed in Paipa, Colombia, is approved on September 21, 1989[37].

•Caribbean RAP Law: By which the Administrative and Planning Region of the Colombian Caribbean is created, approved in 2018, and which allows the region to request additional resources from the nation to execute projects of different types for the development of the Colombian Caribbean region[38].

• Pacific RAP Law: By which the Administrative Region of Pacific Planning is created. With it, investment in the Colombian Pacific region and its regional development will be promoted[39].

• Law 1851/2017: By means of which measures are established against illegal fishing and the crime of illegal fishing activity in the Colombian maritime territory[40].

• National Policy of the Ocean and the Coastal Spaces (PNOEC): By means of which the general guidelines of Colombian coastal and maritime management are established.

According to the Foreign Ministry of Colombia, the country has agreements and treaties on maritime issues with Costa Rica, Ecuador, the United States, Haiti, Honduras, Jamaica, Nicaragua, Panama, and the Dominican Republic[41]. With respect to the Caribbean LME, the Fernández-Facio Treaty was signed by Costa Rica in 1977, and ratified by Colombia; however, there is no evidence that Costa Rica has carried out the ratification process in that country. Therefore, at this time it is not considered to be in force[42]. With Haiti, on maritime delimitation, the Lievano-Brutus Treaty was signed in 1985[43]. With Honduras, the Ramírez-López Treaty was signed in 1986 on issues of maritime delimitation[44]. The Sanín-Robertson Treaty was signed with Jamaica in 1993, where the maritime border with this country is delimited, entering into force in 1994[45]. Between 1929 and 1930, the limitation treaty Esguerra-Bárcenas was signed, where, in addition to delimitation, it dealt with other maritime matters between the Republic of Colombia and the Republic of Nicaragua[46]. It should be noted that in November 2012, through a ruling by the International Court of Justice in The Hague, a percentage of the land of approximately 582 km was granted to Nicaragua, a dispute that began in the year 1980 when Nicaragua declared invalid the aforementioned delimitation treaty. In 1976, the Liévano-Boyd Treaty between Colombia and Panama was signed regarding maritime delimitations[47]. With the Dominican Republic, Colombia signed the Liévano Jiménez Treaty in 1978, where marine and submarine borders are delimited[48]. The Lloreda-Gutiérrez Treaty with Costa Rica was signed in 1984, ratified by the two nations and in force until now[49]. With Ecuador, the Liévano-Lucio Agreement was signed in 1965, with which the maritime boundaries between the two countries are defined[50]. Finally, with

Panama, the aforementioned Liévano-Boyd Treaty covers maritime delimitations in both the Caribbean LME and the Pacific LME.

Among the International Agreements that have been signed by Colombia with respect to the Caribbean LME are the Relatives to the Greater Caribbean[51]. There are three agreements, namely:

• Convention for the Protection and Development of the Marine Environment in the Wider Caribbean Region and Protocol for Cooperation to Combat Oil Spills in the Wider Caribbean Region (1983): This Agreement includes all the countries that make up the LME, with a total of thirty member-countries[52].

•Protocol Concerning the Specially Protected Areas of Wildlife and Wildlife of the Convention for the Protection and Development of the Marine Environment of the Wider Caribbean Region (1990): This Protocol refers to the struggle to which the countries that adopt it commit themselves, against pollution from different issuers such as: Ships, dumping, activities on the seabed, among others; it also covers marine protected areas and the commitment of signatories to the protection of species, multilateral cooperation and environmental impact assessment. All the LME Caribbean countries are part of this[53].

•Protocol Concerning Pollution from Land-based Sources and Activities of the Convention for the Protection and Development of the Marine Environment of the Wider Caribbean Region (1999)[54].There are also agreements within the framework of the Association of Caribbean States[55], created in Cartagena, Colombia, on July 24, 1994:

•Memorandum of Understanding for the establishment of the Sustainable Zone of the Caribbean, 1999[56].

•Agreement between the Member States and Associate Members of the Association of Caribbean Member States for Regional Cooperation in Natural Disasters (1999)[57].

• Agreement for the Establishment of the Sustainable Tourism Zone of the Caribbean (2001)[58].

The aforementioned have been signed by more than thirty countries, including all members of the Caribbean LME.

Benefits of this project for Colombia will include:

• Contribute to the coordination of stakeholders from and between Congress, the Executive, civil society, the private sector, research, national security, and communities

• Generate multi-sector dialogue scenarios that allow for discussion of the challenges and opportunities of environmental issues in the LME and their interrelations with the social and economic environment

• Contribute to consolidate the country as a bioceanic power through the integral sustainable development of the oceans

•Governance and integral planning of the oceans: Taking advantage of the oceans in a comprehensive and sustainable way implies strengthening governance and institutionality for the integral management of the oceans, harmonizing the instruments of planning and territorial and marine planning. To this end, it is necessary to (i) define a Bi-Oceanic System, composed of national and territorial entities, and (ii) implement strategies for the conservation and restoration of marine ecosystems.

•Knowledge and social appropriation of the oceans: increase knowledge, research, innovation, and social appropriation for the integral development of oceanic, coastal, and insular spaces. To this end, it is necessary to (i) promote interdisciplinary and inter-institutional scientific expeditions to deepen knowledge of the oceans and (ii) promote research on TC & I applied to knowledge and ocean development and marine systems.

• Connectivity and maritime productivity: To overcome the incipient degree of development of activities related to the oceans, it is necessary to optimize connectivity, infrastructure, and logistics between sea and land, and promote the development and growth of maritime activities. To achieve this, it is required: (i) to increase the infrastructure and logistic connectivity between the territory and the coastal, marine, and island areas; (ii) improve fishing and aquaculture competitiveness and promote offshore activities and the development of alternative energies in the oceans; and (iii) promote the coastal shipping and its articulation with the fluvial.

In 2013, with support from the Global Environment Facility, CCN supported the development of a multi-party parliamentary conservation caucus in Colombia. The Colombian Conservation Caucus (CCC) has 19 members in the Senate and 24 members in the House of Representatives. This caucus has achieved a number of policy and legislative successes, including approval of the 2013 Minamata Convention on Mercury, passage of a law for the protection of the paramos (Andean highlands), strengthening of the Police Code to fight the use of mercury in illegal gold mining, introduction of legislation to combat illegal mining and, separately, to address climate change, and raising awareness

of the importance of approving P / L 179 2017 Senate (to approve the "Agreement for the Establishment of the Global Institute for Green Growth", signed in Rio de Janeiro, on June 20, 2012).

In May 2017, CCN supported the establishment of the multi-party Colombian Oceans Caucus (COC); the caucus is similar in structure to the CCC but has a focus on marine management and biodiversity issues such as fisheries management, ocean governance, illegal fishing, ecotourism, pollution, etc. The COC is comprised of 13 members in the Senate and 12 members in the House of Representatives. One achievement of the COC has been legislative action to reduce marine debris (analysis of: P / L 110 2017 Chamber: By means of which the entry, use and circulation of bags and other plastic materials in the Archipelago Department of San Andrés, Providencia and Santa Catalina is prohibited. P / L 045 2016 Chamber: "through which measures are issued for the mitigation of the environmental impact produced by the use of plastic bags and other environmental provisions are dictated.").

This project will enable CCN to increase the number of educational programs for policymakers on issues of marine biodiversity conservation, strengthen stakeholder engagement on these issues, and promote regional collaboration.

Other: Mexico:

Mexico is one of the megadiverse countries in the world with greater oceanic extension (~ 65%) than terrestrial (35%). Mexico's territorial waters are distributed in the Pacific Ocean region (including the Gulf of California and Tehuantepec) and in the Atlantic Ocean (with the Gulf of Mexico and the Caribbean Sea). This gives rise to a wide variety of ecosystems and species, as well as ecological processes[59]. Mexico's rich marine biodiversity includes whales, dolphins, sharks, marine turtles, and tropical fish. The Mesoamerican Reef, the second largest coral reef system in the world after the Great Barrier Reef in Australia, stretches for hundreds of kilometres along Mexico's Yucatan Peninsula.[60]

The mainland coastlines of Mexico have an area of 11,122 km, of which 7,828 km belong to the Pacific Ocean and 3,294 km to the Gulf of Mexico and the Caribbean Sea (INEGI 2002). In 2016, the World Bank reported that MPAs account for 2.25 percent of Mexico's total surface area.[61] MPAs comprise 19 percent of Mexico's territorial waters, up from just 1.6 percent in 1990[62].

In November 2018, Mexico's President designated North America's largest marine reserve; uniquely rich in biodiversity, including sharks, sea turtles, rays, and fish found nowhere else on Earth, the protected area covers nearly 150,000 km2. The new Revillagigedo Archipelago National Park is located in a region of the Pacific Ocean that surrounds four uninhabited volcanic islands on the southern tip of the Baja California peninsula.[63] The president noted that this is the first time in Mexican history that a new marine protected area had resources dedicated to its protection at its creation – in this case $165 million from the Mexican government[64].

The current Mexican environmental policy framework includes domestic legislation (laws, regulations, norms, and codes), international treaties and agreements, and bilateral cooperation agreements. National laws affecting Mexico's marine biodiversity include:

- The Federal Fisheries Law (and subsequent Fisheries Regulation)
- General Law of Ecological Balance and Environmental Protection
- General Law for the Prevention and Integral Management of Waste
- General Law of Sustainable Fisheries and Aquaculture
- Law of [Waste] Dumping in the Mexican Marine Zones
- Law of National Waters
- National Environmental Policy for the Sustainable Development of Oceans and Coasts (NEPSDOC)

Responsibility for the management of coastal areas and the ocean lies with federal, state, and municipal agencies. Key agencies and institutions that directly influence or oversee Mexico's marine biodiversity include:

- Secretary of the Environment and Natural Resources (SEMARNAT)
- National Commission of Natural Protected Areas (CONANP)
- National Commission of Aquaculture and Fisheries (CONAPESCA)

- Secretary of Tourism (SECTUR)
- Secretary of the Interior (SEGOB)
- Secretary of Mariana (SEMAR)
- Federal Attorney for Environmental Protection (PROFEPA)
- National Water Commission (CONAGUA)
- Mexican Institute of Water Technology (IMTA)
- National Institute of Ecology (INE)
- Secretary of Agriculture, Livestock Production, Rural Development, Fisheries and Food (SAGARPA)

• Inter-ministerial Commission for the Integrated Management of Oceans and Coasts (CIMIOC)[65]

Challenges faced in terms of protecting Mexico's marine biodiversity include:

•Limited ability to inspect and monitor that the productive sectors responsible for pollution comply with regulations. It is necessary to ensure compliance with the law in the treatment and discharge of domestic and industrial wastewater, in the use of agrochemicals, and in pollution caused by the exploration and exploitation of energy resources, as well as by national and international maritime transport.

•The growth of the population, agricultural and livestock activities, and the construction of tourist and urban complexes have created negative impacts on the coastal areas of the country and its ecosystems, eliminating all or part of the flora and fauna, and modifying or eliminating natural barriers like coastal dunes. The lack of planning and good integrated management both on the coasts and in the upper basins, deforestation, the change of land use for urban development, mining, and the extraction of materials for construction are some of the causes of the degradation of the coasts, and coastal and marine biodiversity, in recent decades.

•There is a need for information on the health of the oceans and scientific research to guide decision-making, as well as to develop fundamental technological instruments for the conservation and sustainable use of seas and coasts[66].

This project has the potential to provide benefits to Mexico in the following areas:

• Mexico is one of the most diverse mega-diverse countries in the world, its coastline reaches 11,122 km exclusively on the mainland and does not include island coasts. This gives the country a great responsibility when it comes to the conservation of its oceans, however, the financial, technical and human resources it has are limited. In this sense, the proposed project is a great opportunity to generate additional funding and capabilities to support the country to achieve the international and national goals it has adopted in the area of conservation and sustainable development of the five large marine ecosystems of which it forms part.

•The project will support the creation of political leadership to position the oceans as a national priority and encourage the revision of legislation and policies on the matter to promote their strengthening. In addition, it will allow the consolidation of regional initiatives that will be of great help to comply with the country's goals, especially addressing cross-border issues.

•According to the priorities that the new government has expressed regarding oceans, this project can also contribute to the following goals: Install innovative financing mechanisms that favor nature; Develop the coastal area in a strictly sustainable way; Promote the conservation of Mexican island areas; Include the Mexican islands in the Global Alliance of Islands in order to collaborate with other international initiatives; Articulate the conservation policy associated with protected natural areas with the policy of coastal reserves; Reduce pollution of the oceans.

According to the Initial Document of the National Strategy for the Start-up of the 2030 Agenda, some challenges on which the project might contribute are

•• Strengthen the institutional and operational capacity for the implementation of strategies, actions and mechanisms that allow fostering the sustainable production of the fishing sector.

•Develop the Regulation of the General Law of Sustainable Fisheries and Aquaculture and update the regulatory framework that promotes fisheries sustainability. It is necessary to address the legislative gaps in the matter, as well as to promote coherence among the various applicable federal systems and seek their harmonization with state and local provisions.

•Regulate extractive, processing and maritime transport activities, so that they can be developed with the greatest safety and cleanliness. Establish goals, strategies, special programs, incentives and regulations for the reduction of marine pollution by land-based sources, particularly for the problem of contamination by plastics.

•Improve information systems on marine pollution. Implement a permanent monitoring system in the marine-coastal areas of the country.

•Increase protection and surveillance capabilities. Strengthen the coverage of action in matters of inspection and surveillance, mainly in those sites with high non-observance of environmental regulations, as well as in areas considered as priority because of their high environmental value.

•Combat environmental crime by strengthening prevention, investigation, surveillance, inspection and sanction systems. Intensify the activities of Monitoring, Control and Surveillance (MCS) of fishing. Expand the resources and budgets to increase the coverage of action and presence of the Federal Attorney for Environmental Protection, as well as to strengthen the infrastructure and equipment in order to carry out inspection and surveillance actions.

•Strengthen international cooperation: Establish alliances with international organizations and adopt and implement agreements, commitments, technical assistance and international instruments for the prevention and control of coastal, marine and atmospheric pollution caused by fishing activities, maritime transport and extraction of oil, gas and land sources.

•Promote and consolidate the integrated management of coastal and marine areas. Formulate and implement coastal and marine spatial planning instruments, with an integrated management approach of ecological connectivity, climate change and biodiversity, based on ocean health information

•Strengthen and expand fisheries and aquaculture management programs. Promote their inclusion in the priority terrestrial marine and aquatic areas for the conservation of biodiversity, established non-fishing areas and fishing refuges linked to economic and market instruments.

•Articulate the legal framework and encourage inter-institutional coordination.

•Promote research in science and technology, and its dissemination for the sustainable use of seas and coasts.

Additionally, following the recommendations of the SEMARNAT 2018 report of accountability, this project can also contribute to the updating and adoption of the Policy of Seas and Coasts of Mexico, for whose consolidation it is required: 1) to improve the normative framework of the seas and coasts of the country, through a general law or other mechanisms that allow to integrate and harmonize the multiplicity of attributions and competencies for the conservation and sustainable use of said spaces; 2) processes of planning, implementation and monitoring of comprehensive plans based on international guidelines, integrated coastal management and marine spatial planning (tourism, maritime transport, fisheries, energy, conservation, etc.); 3) information, knowledge, awareness, education and participation in marine and coastal issues; 4) development of energy with alternative marine technologies (e.g., wind, tidal); and 5) application of the concepts of blue economy and circular economy.

In 2016, with support from the Global Environment Facility, CCN supported the development of a multi-party parliamentary conservation caucus in Mexico. The Mexican Conservation Parliamentary Group (GPCM) has 5 members in the Senate and 17 members in the House of Representatives. This caucus is responsible for the passage of the General Law of Sustainable Forestry 2018. Areas of caucus focus to date have included sustainable forestry, protected area management, and biodiversity. This project will enable CCN to expand the Mexican caucus numerically, increase the number of educational programs for policymakers on issues of marine biodiversity conservation, elevate marine issues on the caucus' conservation agenda, and strengthen stakeholder engagement on these issues.

National Level:

While an LME approach to marine governance helps to ensure coordinated management of LMEs, national-level governance also plays an important supplemental and complementary role. It is important to consider national challenges and priorities in order to develop regional strategies and implementation.

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[26] http://sepec.aunap.gov.co/Archivos/Estadisticas_de_desembarco_y_esfuerzo_Conv.-150-2017.pdf (Paginas 16 - 32 / 52 -72)
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3) the proposed alternative scenario with a description of outcomes and components of the project:

Project Overview:

CCN will create the enabling environment to effectively address marine biodiversity challenges in targeted LMEs through new and enhanced laws, regulations, and policies and transboundary cooperation. These improvements will

generate environmental benefits extending to the greater good of the economy, progress, and many other realms and will help to safeguard globally significant biodiversity.

Common threats to biodiversity in the target LMEs are overfishing, destructive fishing practices, and pollution/marine debris. All are essentially resource management issues which impact both the citizens of each country targeted by this project and the natural environment. By building awareness and capacity among policymakers, one of the goals of this project is to raise awareness of the impacts of these issues on the blue economy and provide experts to advise on international best practices to help confront these conservation challenges.

The awareness and capacity built through briefings, events, and regional interactions created as part of the outputs in this program are designed to significantly raise levels of knowledge and engagement about key issues, including not only direct threats to biodiversity but also the need to mainstream marine conservation with other issues including employment, public access, local land rights especially of indigenous peoples, and effects of changes upon women. They will also greatly increase understanding of topics of importance to the GEF and UNEP programmes, such as sustainable blue economy, including nutrient pollution, healthy ocean ecosystems, sustainable fisheries and ocean governance practices. These increases will occur among political elites who have actual ability to affect these trends for the better.

Project Objective:

Leverage and build upon existing parliamentary caucus architecture to raise awareness about blue economy opportunities and Large Marine Ecosystems Strategic Action Programs and elevate marine issues amongst legislators in order to facilitate regional cooperation.

Components – Outcomes – Outputs

Component 1: Facilitating targeted dialogues with legislators and national leaders in Southeast Asia, the wider Caribbean and East Africa in order to promote effective blue economy development and legal frameworks targeting the regulation of marine pollution.

This component will create the "architecture" needed for policy change, specifically the required mechanisms, relationships, and willingness among policymakers to take steps toward conservation of key marine biodiversity resources. It will support policymakers in the development of policy, legislation, and/or regulations to address marine management challenges as they relate to LMEs. The intended outcome is to build increased capacity and willingness among policymakers to assess and address marine biodiversity challenges at high levels of government.

Outcomes: The planned *outcomes* for Component 1 are:

1.1. Parliamentary caucuses serving as a platform to build political will and enhance knowledge amongst legislators about the best practices and successful blue economic models leading to **harmonized regional action** on blue economy and marine pollution regulations in Southeast Asia, the wider Caribbean and East Africa.

1.2. **Enhanced cooperation amongst** legislative members, the private sector and non-governmental institutions to improve the state of the marine affairs (i.e., legislators take leadership to propose and adopt new legislation in the areas of marine pollution and/or the development of blue economies and marine sectors).

Outputs: Planned *outputs* include:

1.1.1 Existing parliamentary caucuses strengthened through stakeholder briefings, strategic planning discussions, and regional exchanges, as well as caucus membership recruitment efforts and caucus membership growth in Colombia, Mexico, Kenya, Mozambique, and Tanzania in order to raise awareness amongst legislators and elevate marine governance issues (blue economy and marine pollution).

CCN will recruit new members to the existing conservation caucuses in these countries. By the end of this project, membership numbers will be increased by 20 percent.

CCN will meet with caucus leaders and engage them in discussion regarding marine policy priorities. CCN will conduct educational briefings on marine policy issues, with input and expertise provided by key stakeholders, to increase policymaker awareness and commitment to addressing blue economy, marine debris, and related issues.

1.1.2 New parliamentary caucuses developed in Indonesia and Thailand with accompanying caucus membership lists and caucus strategic plans.

CCN will identify conservation champions within the legislative bodies in Indonesia and Thailand and will engage them in discussions regarding caucus formation. CCN will then work with these champions to recruit members from the parliament to form a caucus focusing on marine issues, following the model used by CCN to form caucuses under other grants. This will take several forms, including personal engagement, printed materials, and/or recruitment events. Membership lists will be developed. CCN will work with caucus leaders to identify priorities and develop strategic plans. The initial target membership level for the new caucuses in Thailand and Indonesia will be 20 Members of Parliament in each caucus.

1.1.3 Four parliamentary briefing programs to build capacity per region (12 total) in the focal countries (Colombia, Kenya, Indonesia) with legislators from the wider regions in order to expose legislators to expertise and advice from stakeholders through dialogues, briefings, and field visits to inform policy decision making.

CCN will identify partners, stakeholders, and other interested parties who have the capacity and interest to share expertise with caucus members. CCN will then work with them to develop briefing materials and talking points and will organize and host informative briefings for caucus members. Twelve total capacity-building programs will be hosted that will inject scientific knowledge into policy formulation - linking marine management to sustainable development, food security, poverty alleviation, etc. in the target regions.

1.2.1 Strategic partnerships featuring stakeholder briefings and/or conservation council membership agreements amongst key private-sector actors, non-governmental partners, regional LME SAP implementation projects and other transboundary processes/bodies developed to support the cooperation of the parliamentary caucuses regionally.

CCN will identify partners, stakeholders, and other interested parties who are have the capacity and interest to share expertise with caucus members. CCN will provide opportunities, through its briefings and events, as well as stakeholder engagements and meetings, for individuals from corporations, NGOs, institutions, and parliaments of participating nations to share knowledge and expertise and develop relationships and networks.

1.2.2 Legislation, regulations and/or regional accords passed (2 from total of 3 regions) and 2 national action plans and/or strategic agendas/road maps per region, enabling blue economy sectors to grow sustainably (fisheries, maritime transport, coastal tourism, waste management, renewable energy).

CCN will work closely with policymakers to build knowledge and capacity and will promote engagement between policymakers and subject-matter experts to empower caucus members to identify legislation, regulations, and/or regional accords to be developed or amended. Actions will be taken by parliamentary caucus leadership in pursuit of new and enhanced legislation, regulations, and/or regional accords in the target regions.

CCN will support caucus leaders in taking national-level actions in accordance with addressing regional challenges. Changes to laws, regulations, and/or policies related to marine management, and/or regional accords, will be made in 2 out of the 3 priority project regions. In addition, CCN will work with policymakers "to develop 2 national action plans and/or strategic agendas/road maps per region (that will be informed by the ministerial endorsed SAPs) focused on enabling sustainable growth of blue economy sectors such as fisheries, maritime transport, coastal tourism, waste management, and/or renewable energy.

While the project is global in scope, with targeted efforts in three key regions, the caucus model will be implemented at a national scale and will promote country ownership. In line with the GEF's International Waters strategy, it will also raise awareness on a regional/national scale about the implications of developing blue economy within LMEs

that are dependent on each other. Through disseminations/exchange of knowledge the proposed project also aims to produce examples that can be replicated in other regions, therefore giving it a more global scope.

Component 2. Knowledge management, sharing, and communications

This component will measure and evaluate progress throughout the project and share information.

Outcomes: The planned *outcome* for Component 2 is:

2.1. Enhanced visibility and dissemination of best practices on legal frameworks for blue economy and regulation of marine pollution in legislator networks in Southeast Asia, the wider Caribbean, and East Africa.

Outputs: Planned *outputs* include:

2.1.1 Parliamentary caucus strategic plans, model legislation and regulations on marine pollution, and sectors that facilitate blue economic development (fisheries, maritime transport, coastal tourism, waste management, renewable energy) made available to countries through meetings as well as digital communications.

CCN will ensure that all knowledge products developed during the course of the project are shared between countries through a variety of media, including through educational briefings/summits and digital communications (web updates, electronic newsletters, etc.). This disseminations/exchange of knowledge will produce examples that can be replicated in other regions, thereby giving the project greater global reach.

2.1.2 Knowledge products / visual briefing presentations (e.g., PowerPoint presentations, briefing packets, etc.) made available to legislators by the private sector and non-governmental organizations, regional LME SAP implementation projects and other regional transboundary processes/bodies to make the business case on marine governance from various perspectives.

CCN, through knowledge products / visual briefing presentations developed for its policymaker briefing and event series, will ensure that knowledge on marine governance is shared with legislators by subject-matter experts from the private sector, NGOs, regional LME SAP implementation projects and other regional transboundary processes/bodies.

2.1.3 Regional targeted visual materials and public awareness campaigns (one in each region) promoting blue economy best practice policies, investments, and programs developed and disseminated through legislator networks and through existing global information and knowledge sharing platforms (e.g.,. GEF IW:LEARN).

Throughout the project, CCN will generate regional targeted knowledge products as appropriate and will share these products with policymakers and stakeholders either in print or electronically. CCN will also make key knowledge products available to the public through internationalconservation.org. At the end of the project, CCN project staff will assemble all knowledge products generated throughout the course of the project and coordinate with GEF representatives to ensure that these projects may be made available to the public through the IW:LEARN system.

4) alignment with GEF focal area and/or impact program strategies:

The proposed project will deliver impacts in all five modules of the LME Approach: socioeconomics, productivity, governance, pollution & ecosystem health. The project is well aligned with the GEF International Waters focal area objectives;

- Objective 1: Strengthening Blue Economy Opportunities;
  - *1.1 Sustaining Healthy Coastal and Marine Ecosystems*
  - *1.3 Addressing pollution reduction in marine environment*

By building political will and capacity of policymakers to develop improved policy and legislation to address the targeted LMEs' conservation challenges, this project will support greater national-level and regional ability to manage marine resources and the marine environment and, if possible, increased financial support for marine management. It will provide a forum for exploration of possibilities for transboundary coordination.

5) incremental/additional cost reasoning and expected contributions from the baseline, the GEFTF, LDCF, SCCF, and co-financing:

The baseline contribution is to strengthen the capacity and commitment of policymakers, including respected and powerful legislative Members, to raise the profile of marine conservation as an important policy/legislative issue through engagement with the respective Executive Branches, private partners, and the general public. Those activities will progressively increase support for protection of marine biodiversity and natural resources at the national and transboundary levels, while also improving the efficiency by which available funds serve their marine conservation goals.

The project will provide a more informed view within the governance structure of how to sustainably manage the human-biodiversity interface, through a strengthened neutral arena for dialogue on conservation issues which transcend political barriers. By targeting specific areas of globally significant marine biodiversity, the proposed project will deliver multiple conservation outcomes, mainstreaming biodiversity and sustainable development with positive economic benefits. Complementing these efforts will be a broader understanding and integration of marine biodiversity and ecosystem valuation into policymaking.

6) global environmental benefits (GEFTF) and/or adaptation benefits (LDCF/SCCF):

A perennial problem in the target regions, and more generally in developing countries, has been the lack of political will to seriously consider the valuation of biodiversity and ecosystem services in the making of policy. This has led to over-reliance on help from foreign sources including ODA and international NGOs. This lack translates not only into inadequate financial support but also to an inability by governments to respond effectively to a broad range of policy threats to the integrity of their marine areas and the LMEs, including unsustainable commercial fishing and negative impacts of other anthropogenic factors. Bolstering national and regional level awareness and collaboration amongst policy-makers on the priorities and targets already established in regional Strategic Action Programs would be one potential option for the caucuses. The SAPs under focus would include the Strategic Action Program for the Protection of the Western Indian Ocean from Land-based Sources and Activities; the Western Indian Ocean Large Marine Ecosystems Strategic Action Program Policy Harmonization and Institutional Reforms (SAPPHIRE); the South China Seas SAP, and the Caribbean and North Brazil Shelf Large Marine Ecosystems (CLME+) SAP. By building on awareness and providing support towards the targets outlined in these SAPs, the project contributes to the global environmental benefits provided by these critical ecosystems as outlined in the associated Transboundary Diagnostic Analyses (TDA).

Transboundary Diagnostic Analyses of major LMEs show that root and underlying causes threatening the health of these critical ecosystems include weak governance and lack of effective institutional frameworks at the national and regional levels for collective management of natural resources, and limited human and financial resources in the Caribbean+ and South China Seas LMEs, contributing to global environmental degradation that begins at the national level and increases in scale and scope in its effects on international waters. For this reason, Strategic Action Programs incorporate governance and regional coordination efforts into their targets, such as strengthening governance and awareness in the West Indian Oceans, fostering collaboration and cooperation between regional entities with an interest in the LME in the South China Seas, and the strengthening of regional level governance and policy mechanisms in the Caribbean+. The awareness and capacity built through briefings, events, and regional interactions created as part of the outputs in this program are designed to significantly raise levels of knowledge and engagement about key issues, including not only direct threats to marine biodiversity but also about the need to mainstream conservation in seascapes with other issues including employment, public access, indigenous rights, and effects of changes upon women directly addressing the threats to these LMEs outlined in TDAs and the goals of the associated SAPs. These increases will occur among political elites who have actual ability to affect these trends for the better.

By building political will and capacity of policymakers to develop improved policy and legislation to address the targeted LMEs' conservation challenges, this project will support greater national-level ability to manage marine resources and the marine environment and, if possible, increased financial support for marine management. It will then magnify the potential positive effects of this national level progress by providing a forum for exploration of possibilities for transboundary coordination and cooperation to enhance the environmental benefits. This work will also have impacts on a number of the SDG 14 targets (as discussed above in section *4) alignment with GEF focal area and/or impact program strategies*). Such global environmental benefits could include the protection, restoration and sustainable management of critical coastal habitats and advancing water quality towards international standards in the Agulhas and Somali Current LMEs, land-based pollution and habitat loss in the South China Sea LME, and the strengthening of regional level governance and policy mechanisms as well as broader coordination and integration of ocean policies in the CLME+ LME.

The proposed project will deliver GEBs through enhanced awareness and capacity, which will promulgate national-level interventions (policy instruments, fiscal reforms, PSMA status) that link marine biodiversity valuation, development planning that integrates sustainable consideration of ecosystem services, and transboundary coordination among countries with shared LMEs. GEBs will be targeted to have a positive impact on areas of high global biodiversity value, e.g., protected areas and to support transition to a blue economy.

7) innovativeness, sustainability and potential for scaling up:

Intended legislative/policy reforms will include measures leading to sustainable economic development and, through protection of resources and habitats, sustainable revenue streams and incomes. Institutional capacity is augmented through engagement and utilization of conservation caucuses as an instrument for informed dialogue, discussion, and change. The conservation caucus model in and of itself is a recent innovation in the countries of intervention, and through their engagement this project will further engender innovative change.

The caucus model is also innovative in that it allows for targeted and fast-paced legislative action to address priority issues. Several CCN-supported caucuses have passed significant new legislation during the relatively short project timeframes; for example, members of the Peru Conservation Caucus, established in April 2017, recently introduced several pieces of legislation addressing single-use plastic bags, and on December 5, 2018, the Congress approved a bill to regulate the manufacturing, importing, distribution, and consumption of single-use use plastics such as bags, straws, and polystyrene, among others, in order to protect both the environment and human health. The Colombian Oceans Caucus, also established in 2017, recently supported passage of legislation on single-use plastics as well as worked with Colombia's National Park Service to discuss ways to improve the management of one of Colombia's marine parks, Rosario National Reef.

The caucus model has demonstrated by its worldwide spread that it is completely scalable, and the identification and development of conservation champions within key policymaking bodies will ensure that momentum is maintained after project conclusion, as has occurred in other GEF-supported CCN caucus building initiatives. The successful implementation of the caucus strategy to advance marine conservation in these target countries and LMEs will serve as a model for replication by other countries and for further engagement by international/sub-regional bodies such as the Andean Parliament, ASEAN, the Pacific Alliance, and the OAS. Additional sustainability will be achieved by working through binding conventions and implementing bodies already in place in each region.

After project completion, the partnerships built as a result of this project will provide resources (expertise and perhaps funding) necessary for the caucus to continue to function. In addition, policymakers will be motivated to continue their work as a result of the positive reinforcement they have received for their efforts during the project in terms of accolades, media coverage, increased visibility within their legislative bodies and constituencies, international recognition, etc. Caucus leaders will have gained an understanding of the workings of the caucus model and will be able to continue to work within and apply this model going forward. CCN, in its global work, will also continue to engage with caucus leaders and invite them to participate in future CCN events, workshops, etc. One example is the CCN-sponsored Mount Vernon International Conservation Caucus Summit 2018, which hosted delegations from ten countries in which CCN had supported caucus establishment. In several of these countries, CCN's caucus building work had been completed; however, the caucuses continue to function, and caucus leaders eagerly participated in the international summit, which focused on Driving Conservation Governance.

In CCN's previous projects to establish legislative conservation caucuses, CCN expressed its firm commitment to continue its work in supporting existing caucuses and has succeeded in leveraging additional financial support to sustain the most active caucuses, notably Colombia and Kenya. The independent evaluation of the first project noted as "Likely" the sustainability of the established caucuses. CCN is committed to continuing this work with or without additional GEF funding. CCN has been successful in mobilizing financial support from the private sector; these funds will be used to support core costs and an agenda of educational programs. Furthermore, governments are providing in-kind co-financing by their participation across all the components of previous caucus efforts. Previously, in some caucuses, there was a high turnover after national elections, for example in Kenya. However, the Kenya model demonstrated a situation where the functions and benefits of a strong secretariat are evident: to cultivate strong and deep caucus leadership, work with caucus leaders to plan for succession, conduct ongoing recruitment of new members, and provide continuity in programming. The Kenyan caucus continues to be successful in mobilizing additional financing from the private sector and grant-making organizations.

Based on CCN's stakeholder surveys and observations during the previous projects, we know that, for new legislative conservation caucuses to become sustainable financially and institutionally, support must be built from a large stakeholder group including from the corporate, government, and civil society sectors. This approach has two benefits for sustainability: it builds stakeholder support and interest that helps keep legislators engaged and accountable, and it creates a base of financial support for a secretariat for the legislative conservation caucus. In each country/region, the project will cultivate a constituent/stakeholder group as a key part of the caucus-building process.

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1b. Project Map and Coordinates

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

1c. Child Project?

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

N/A

2. Stakeholders

Please provide the Stakeholder Engagement Plan or equivalent assessment.

The scope of this project requires collaboration with a large variety of stakeholders from both public and private spheres, to include government, nonprofit, multilateral, and industry representatives from around the globe and from both the national and regional spheres.

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

Government Stakeholders

Governmental participation is crucial to the success of the project. Focal countries within target regions have been chosen based on existing and dedicated conservation caucuses, and therefore parliamentary members of these caucuses in Kenya, Colombia, Mexico, and Indonesia will be instrumental to legislative engagement in the project. Beyond these focal countries, legislators and parliamentarians from all regional nations will be identified for involvement in specific events, such as briefings and summits, based on constituency base, history of conservation/marine activism, and membership in other relevant commissions or committees. These legislators and parliamentarians will attend events and represent their individual nations in voicing marine management challenges and their national interests in seeking policy solutions. The exchange between lawmakers from the region will enrich the dialogue about marine conservation issues and hopefully advance marine issues to prominent places on national agendas, as well as regional agendas.

While legislators create legal frameworks, executive ministries and agencies are often the ones that implement them, and will also be important partners in the assessing and evaluation of existing policy, as well as the formation of new policy and regional frameworks. Relevant ministries from each nation will be identified based on jurisdictional authority over national marine issues, and ministry representatives will be invited to participate in briefings, conferences, and stakeholder forums to provide additional agency perspective on current marine management challenges and potential for new legislation and regional cooperation. Multiple ministries from one country may have a stake in marine management, including those responsible for marine affairs, environmental affairs, international affairs, and tourism, to name a few.

Regional governance structures for marine management will also be engaged, including relevant RFMOs (Regional Fisheries Management Organizations), the African Union (AU), Organization of American States (OAS), and the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN). These organizations are important partners due to their experience convening member states, their understanding of national agendas, and their influence over regional agendas. They will be important consultants and event-hosting partners throughout the project, as well as possible platforms through which to convene and discuss relevant marine management challenges and potential regional solutions.

NGO Stakeholders

Non-governmental organizations, including non-profits, civil society organizations (CSOs), and multilateral organizations, are important stakeholders because of their expertise in the specific conservation issues, and their outside perspective on governance at both the national and regional scale. For example, the International Pole and Line Foundation (IPLF) has in-depth knowledge of IOTC (Indian Ocean Tuna Commission) relations spanning continents, including coastal state interests and distant state involvement. Other organizations have more insight into

community-level challenges and interests, such as MozBio, which works on conservation management with individual communities in Mozambique. CSOs are another important source of information about marine management challenges and policy gaps, especially fishers' associations and unions. A huge variety of NGOs will be engaged in various capacities, including as participants in relevant events, experts and consultants for policy gaps and potential solutions, and as potential co-hosts of briefings and summits.

Private-Sector Stakeholders

Numerous private entities have a stake in managing ocean resources; their revenues and the vitality of their companies rely upon long-term health of marine resources. These private stakeholders include shipping companies operating in international waters, seafood product and packaging enterprises sourcing from a vast range of oceans, and equipment producers, especially technology companies that produce vessel-based software and apps for monitoring and regulating of the fisheries sector. Private-sector entities from each of these three industries and beyond will be important to engage in caucus activities because of their role in the economy, supply chain structure, and as the integral link between consumers and on-the-ocean activities. They can be important consultants and panelists on the latest practices and technology, providing insight for legislators on the importance of marine management to private industry, as well as valuable contributors to discussions on enhancing marine management on both a national and regional level.

A detailed presentation of Project stakeholders, as well as intended role is included in the tables in Appendixes 1.

Select what role civil society will play in the project:

Consulted only; Yes

Member of Advisory Body; Contractor;

Co-financier; Yes

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

Executor or co-executor;

Other (Please explain) No

3. Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment

Provide the gender analysis or equivalent socio-economic assesment.

The project will ensure significant participation of both men and women in project implementation and will involve multi-racial and multi-ethnic stakeholder groups. The project will be consistent with UNEP and GEF gender policies. Women will play a key role in this project at many levels: parliamentary and caucus, ministerial and departmental, private and non-profit stakeholders, community management cooperatives, etc. Some of the most prominent figures in existing Parliamentary Conservation Caucuses (co-chairs and Ministers) are women, and CCN will be proactive in ensuring their inclusion and leadership in project-supported activities. The project will work to support women's attendance in project-related activities, provide for gender disaggregation in data gathering and project reporting, and assure that policies consider the gender dimension. In addition to gender disaggregation of data, gender mainstreaming will also be achieved by the use of a gender lens in the gathering and analysis of data.

The project itself is designed to be inclusive of all stakeholders, political parties, socio-economic groups, etc., in order to ensure that the effects of the project are far reaching and that project results are sustainable. Because of the important role of rural communities within this project, CCN will ensure that indigenous people and community

leaders have the opportunity and are encouraged to participate in project activities and engage with other stakeholders. CCN will also include gender civil society organizations in its briefings and meetings with policymakers, amplifying their messaging and perspectives.

Further, CCN will seek engagement with organizations such as, and including, the Women in Maritime Association (WIMA), the International Maritime Organization's gender and capacity-building program. (WIMA has helped put in place an institutional framework to incorporate a gender dimension into IMO's policies and procedures, which has supported access to maritime training and employment opportunities for women in the maritime sector. It has programs in several regions, including Africa, Asia, and the Caribbean.)

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;

Improving women's participation and decision making Yes

Generating socio-economic benefits or services or women

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

Yes

4. Private sector engagement

Elaborate on private sector engagement in the project, if any

The private sector plays a very important role in the marine ecosystems in terms of anthropogenic impacts, public/private conservation and development partnerships, technical expertise, investment, etc. It is essential that the private sector be involved at all stages of this project for the benefit of both private-sector actors and project success. In addition, private-sector support for the project goals is essential to project longevity.

The Conservation Council of Nations has a track record of successfully integrating engagement with the private sector into parliamentary briefings as a core aspect of their educational programming model. In each country where they support policymakers through parliamentary conservation caucuses, they draw expertise, research, and resources from a Conservation Council that acts as a coalition of non-profits, multi-lateral institutions, and the private sector to provide information on best practices to members of the caucus.

Convening the private sector, in addition to non-profits, multi-lateral institutions, and community and civil society organizations in briefings with policymakers helps to ensure that policies account for economic drivers, and facilitates legislation and policy that furthers both conservation and development. When cutting-edge private sector information from industries including shipping, fishing, hydroelectric energy generation, and tourism informs policymaker considerations they can develop effective legal frameworks that will allow blue economies to develop and thrive. Commercial operators and policymakers collaborating together and sharing information can also develop practical, realistic conservation commitments with lasting and sustainable impact, addressing the issues of marine debris and plastics in the ocean, and obstacles and opportunities to effective marine protected area governance. Ways in which the private sector will be engaged in this project include the following:

- Members of the private sector will be encouraged to share their knowledge, expertise, and innovations with policymakers and with other project partners to build capacity, encourage marine conservation, and maximize project effectiveness;
- The private sector will be involved in dialogue with policymakers to create policy reforms that balance marine biodiversity conservation and national economic development needs;
- The private sector will educate policymakers on ways to transform regulatory environments and financial policies that will encourage private-sector investment in marine sustainability and conservation;

- Members of the private sector will be encouraged to empower and support policymakers through participation in project activities such as briefings, events, etc.
- Private-sector partners and other actors will be encouraged to promote community engagement in the project;
- The private sector will develop relationships with policymakers that will last beyond the project itself, contributing to project longevity and sustainability;
- Private-sector partners will form multi-stakeholder alliances, which will also persist beyond project conclusion;

Private-sector stakeholders to be engaged are listed above in the Stakeholder Analysis (Section 4).

5. Risks

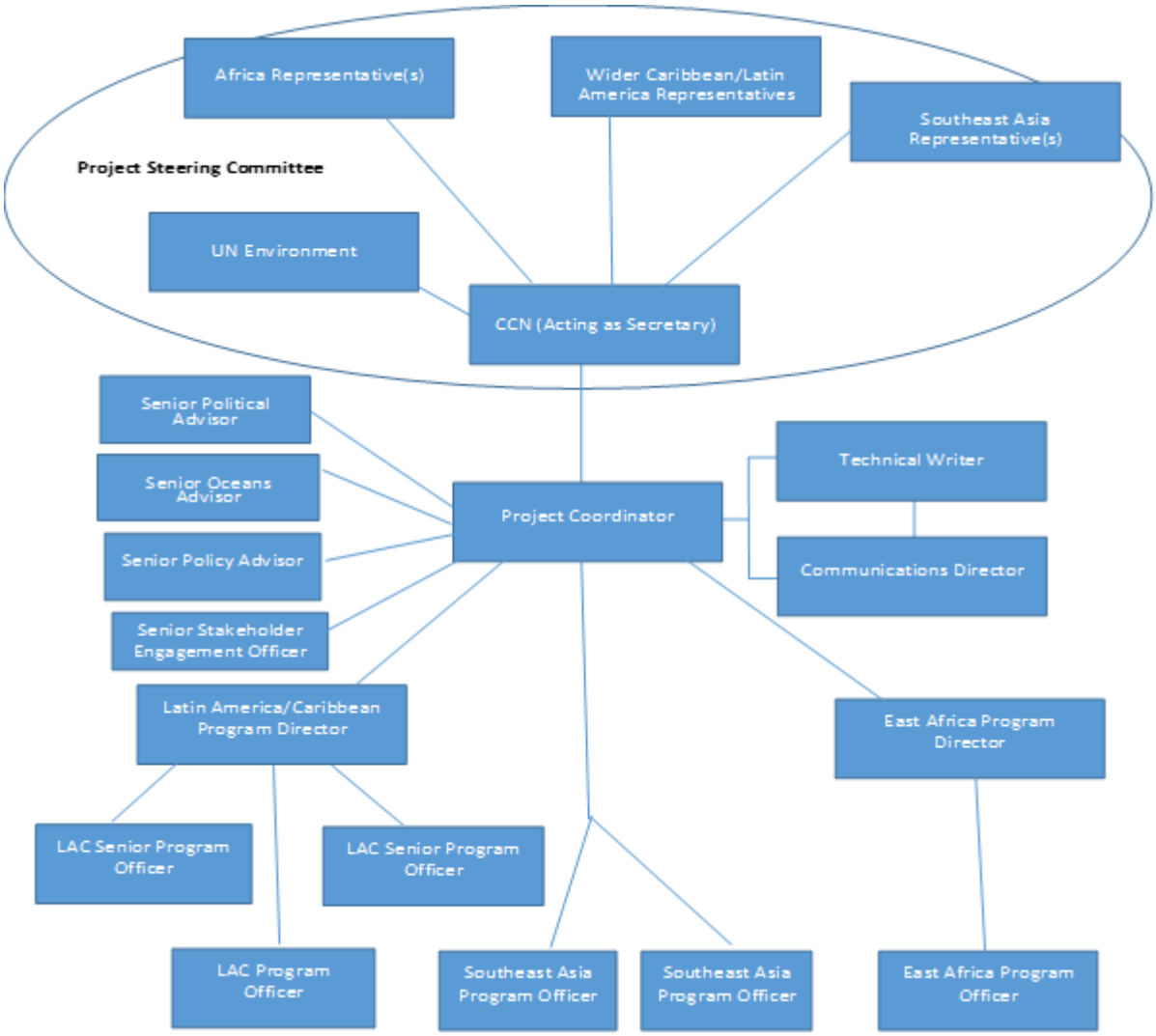
Elaborate on indicated risks, including climate change, potential social and environmental risks that might prevent the project objectives from being achieved, and, if possible, the proposed measures that address these risks at the time of project implementation.(table format acceptable):

Risk	Risk Level	Mitigation Measures
Delays in caucus formation due to unforeseen parliamentary and/or political developments	M	This project will leverage relationships already in place with parliamentarians and other policymakers and work that has already been conducted to lay the groundwork for the establishment of caucuses in Thailand and Indonesia.
Failure of buy-in from legislators	M	Parliamentary/caucus leaders will be encouraged and supported through GEF-funded activities to develop a conservation agenda broader than that proposed by the project, to reflect national concerns and priorities.
Inability of legislators to form sufficient numbers to form caucuses	M	In countries with less functional legislatures, CCN will identify and engage with key leaders–heads of state, ministers, etc.–who can commit to and enact appropriate legislation in concert with caucuses.
Turnover in legislatures due to election cycles	M	Establish caucuses with the strength and numbers to ensure longevity despite election cycles.
Drafted and proposed legislation is not passed into law	M	Project activities tap the right expertise through CCN's extensive partnerships to inform and justify needed policy changes. Caucus-building and/or executive-level engagement activities create the necessary political will, momentum, and leadership for change. Legislation is the ideal to which the project will aspire, but where immediately feasible, regulatory responses may be sought in the interim.
Lack of agreement/signature on regional accords/declarations by parliamentary delegation leaders from countries at regional workshops	M	Parliamentary/caucus leaders will be engaged well in advance of regional workshops offering the opportunity to refine regional accords to suit country representatives; collaborative discussions will be held between policymakers to encourage them to find an approach suitable for all countries involved in the regional governance of target LMEs.

6. Institutional Arrangement and Coordination

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

UNEP is acting as the GEF Implementing Agency. CCN, as the Executing Agency, will provide overall management and oversight of the Project from its headquarters in Washington, DC. A Project Steering Committee will be comprised of representatives from CCN and GEF (International Waters) and a designee from UNEP. CCN's management role (led by the Project Coordinator) will be to review quarterly work programs; administer, oversee, and implement all project activities; provide financial management; monitor project implementation and outcomes; and ensure that the project is delivered on time and on budget. Project stakeholders--including parliamentarians, Ministers, and other high-level decision makers; implementing agency representatives; local communities; and CCN partners in target countries and the region - will also be consulted throughout the course of the project for their insight and feedback on project activities.



CCN staff, in travelling to GEF beneficiary countries or regions, will build upon its extensive, diverse network of CCN and ICCF partner organizations to add value to country/regional initiatives. CCN will involve both local representatives on the ground and overall management of these organizations to invite their input and expertise, as well as their participation in CCN programs, in order to ensure the highest quality programs. CCN's strength is working at the very highest levels of government, engaging policymakers in a top-down approach.

GEF-Financed Projects

The goal of the project is to develop strong governing parties that are effective in their respective governing roles on national and regional levels. CNN will coordinate high-level political engagements with experts on conservation strategies and solutions, and provide a non-partisan political space in which legislators can explore innovative solutions to enhance the on-the-ground work that has been supported by prior and on-going GEF-financed projects and initiatives. In the process of reviewing past projects and initiatives, CCN will engage with the responsible parties to ensure there is no overlap in project outputs. Legislation is often overlooked as a tool to further on-the-ground work, and by consulting the relevant projects, CCN will leverage and integrate resources to educate policymakers and increase their competence to effectively and efficiently manage natural resources.

CCN will also ensure that lessons learned and vast knowledge accrued from past and ongoing projects are understood, shared, and taken into account in the implementation of this project.

Some examples of relevant projects and other initiatives that the project may consult include the following:

• Gulf of Mexico: *Implementation of the Strategic Action Program of the Gulf of Mexico Large Marine Ecosystem (6952)*: The objective of this proposed project is to enhance national and regional efforts to move towards sustainable integrated management of the environment and resources of the Gulf of Mexico LME. The first step in this process will be strengthening of a mechanism for regional cooperation; review of the existing knowledge of the status and threats to the GOMLME and development of an SAP of legal, policy and institutional reforms and investments, to address both these threats to ecosystem sustainability and the gaps in knowledge essential to the sustainable management of the ecosystem[6].

• Wider Caribbean Region*: CReW+: An Integrated Approach to Water and Wastewater Management Using Innovative Solutions and Promoting Financing Mechanisms in the Wider Caribbean Region:* The objective of this project, which was approved in 2018, is to implement innovative technical small-scale solutions for Wastewater Management in the Wider Caribbean Region using an integrated water and wastewater management approach and through building on sustainable financing mechanisms piloted through the Caribbean Regional Fund for Wastewater Management[7].

• Caribbean LME: *Catalyzing Implementation of the Strategic Action Programme for the Sustainable Management of Shared Living Marine Resources in the Caribbean and North Brazil Shelf Large Marine Ecosystems (CMLE+):* This project was designed to facilitate EBM/EAF in the CLME+ for the sustainable and climate resilient provision of goods and services from shared living marine resources, in line with the endorsed CLME+ SAP[8].

• Caribbean LME: *Designing and Implementing a National Sub-System of Marine Protected Areas (SMPA):* The goal of this project was to promote the conservation and sustainable use of coastal and marine biodiversity in the Caribbean and Pacific regions through the design and implementation of a financially sustainable and well-managed National Subsystem of Marine Protected Areas[9][10].

• Caribbean: *Integrating Water, Land and Ecosystems Management in Caribbean Small Island Developing States (2014-2019):* The project aimed to contribute to the preservation of Caribbean ecosystems that are of global significance and the sustainability of livelihoods through the application of existing proven technologies and approaches that are appropriate for small island developing states through improved fresh and coastal water resources management, sustainable land management and sustainable forest management that also seek to enhance resilience of socio-ecological systems to the impacts of climate change.[10]

• Latin America: *Implementation of the Strategic Action Programme to Ensure Integrated and Sustainable Management of the Transboundary Water Resources of the Amazon River Basin Considering Climate Variability and Change:* The objective of this project is to promote integrated water resources management (IWRM) and source-to-sea approaches, to improve ecological, social and economic benefits and, enabling the countries to meet their relevant SDG and convention targets in the Amazon basin. [11][11]

• Somali Coastal Current and Agulhas Current: *Demonstrating and Capturing Best Practices and Technologies for the Reduction of Land-sourced Impacts Resulting from Coastal Tourism (2007-2014):* This project sought to demonstrate best practice strategies for sustainable tourism to reduce the degradation of marine and coastal environments of transboundary significance[12][12].

•Somali Coastal Current and Agulhas Current: *Implementation of the Strategic Action Programme for the Protection of the Western Indian Ocean from Land-based Sources and Activities:* The objective of this project is to reduce impacts

from land-based sources and activities through implementation of the WIO-SAP at the national level, supported by regional partnerships at national and regional levels.[13][13]

• Somali Coastal Current and Agulhas Current: *LME-AF Strategic Partnership for Sustainable Fisheries Management in the Large Marine Ecosystems in Africa (PROGRAM)* (2011-2016): This program was designed to assist in the development, adoption and implementation of governance reforms supporting environmentally, economically and socially sustainable marine fisheries in the LMEs of Africa[14][14].

• Somali Coastal Current and Agulhas Current: *Programme for the Agulhas and Somali Current Large Marine Ecosystems: Agulhas and Somali Current Large Marine Ecosystems Project (ASCLME) (2007-2014):* The objective of the project was to work with two other "thematic" GEF international waters projects in the area as part of a "strategic approach" to fill gaps in understanding of transboundary living resources of the two LMEs and to build capacity of the participating countries to utilize this improved understanding for more effective management by use of an ecosystem approach[15][15].

• Somali Coastal Current and Agulhas Current: *Western Indian Ocean LMEs Strategic Action Programme Policy Harmonization and Institutional Reforms (SAPPHIRE) Project* (2013-2018): This project was developed to achieve effective long-term ecosystem management in the Western Indian Ocean LMEs in line with the Strategic Action Programme as endorsed by the participating countries[16][16].

• Southeast Asia: Establishment and Operation of a Regional System of Fisheries Refugia in the South China Sea and Gulf of Thailand (2015-2019): The project aimed to operate and expand the network of fisheries refugia in the South China Sea and Gulf of Thailand for the improved management of fisheries and critical marine habitats linkages in order to achieve the medium and longer-term goals of the fisheries component of the Strategic Action Programme for the South China Sea[17][17]

• Southeast Asia: Implementing the Strategic Action Programme for the South China Sea: The aim of the project is to assist countries in meeting the targets of the approved Strategic Action Programme (SAP) for the marine and coastal environment of the South China Sea (SCS) through implementation of the National Action Plans in support of the SAP, and strengthening regional co-ordination for SCS SAP implementation.[18][18]

• East Asia (China, Indonesia, Philippines, Vietnam): *LME-EA Scaling Up Partnership Investments for Sustainable Development of the Large Marine Ecosystems of East Asia and their Coasts (PROGRAM)*: The goal of the program is to promote sustainable development of large marine and coastal ecosystems of the East Asia and Pacific Region and improve livelihoods of local populations by reducing pollution of and promoting sustainable marine fisheries, ICM and ecosystem based management.[19][19]

•Indonesia: *LME-EA Coral Triangle Initiative Project (COREMAPIII-CTI)*: This project was developed to manage coral reef resources, associated ecosystems and biodiversity in a sustainable manner for the welfare of coastal communities.[20][20]

•East Asia: *EAS: Scaling up the Implementation of the Sustainable Development Strategy for the Seas of East Asia*: The goal of this project is to catalyze actions and investments at the regional, national and local levels to rehabilitate and sustain coastal and marine ecosystem services and build a sustainable coastal and ocean-based blue economy in the East Asian region, in accordance with the Sustainable Development Strategy for the Seas of East Asia (SDS-SEA).[21][21]

•East Asia*: Applying Knowledge Management to Scale up Partnership Investments for Sustainable Development of Large Marine Ecosystems of East Asia and their Coasts* (2013-2016): The objective of the project was to enhance the capacity and performance of investments in sustainable development of LMEs and coasts in the East Asian Seas region through knowledge and experience sharing, portfolio learning, and networking.[22][22]

•East Asia:: *Enabling Transboundary Cooperation for Sustainable Management of the Indonesian Seas*: This project was designed to facilitate the implementation of ecosystem approaches to fisheries and coastal management (EAFM/EBM) to

ensure the sustainable development of ecosystem resources in the Indonesian Seas Large Marine Ecosystem (ISLME) through a TDA/SAP.[23][23]

•Global: *Addressing Marine Plastics - A Systemic Approach*: UNEP, GEF, and other partners are working to capitalize on a growing baseline of knowledge on marine plastics sources, pathways and environmental impacts to inform the development of the GEF 7 Strategy and the application of a systemic approach to global plastic issues. Project components focus on: 1) catalyzing a systemic change towards a circular economy for plastics – a New Plastics Economy; 2) mobilizing investment, science, governments and civil society in implementing effective waste management to address current waste streams; 3) examining and identifying strategic intervention points in moving linear and wasteful plastic economies to circular systems within the broader rubric of sustainable consumption and production that is essential to curbing plastic flows to the ocean.

• Global: *The Coastal Fisheries Initiatives Global Partnership*: The objective of this project is to coordinate, support, strengthen and consequently add value to the efforts of the CFI Partners in the achievement of the CFI Program goal.

• Global: *The Coastal Fisheries Initiative Challenge Fund: Enabling Sustainable Private Sector Investment in Fisheries (CFI-CF)*: This project aims to strengthen the capacity of government institutions, private sector and local fishing communities to generate a pipeline of return-seeking responsible investments in selected coastal fisheries.Sub-Saharan Africa: *Regional Partnership for African Fisheries Policy Reform (RAFIP)*: The goal of this project is to improve access to best practices and new knowledge on fisheries management of selected SSA countries.

[1] https://www.thegef.org/project/addressing-marine-plastics-systemic-approach
[2] https://grid.cld.bz/From-Source-to-Sea
[3] https://www.thegef.org/project/coastal-fisheries-initiatives-global-partnership
[4]https://www.thegef.org/project/coastal-fisheries-initiative-challenge-fund-enabling-sustainable-private-sector-investment
[5] https://www.thegef.org/project/regional-partnership-african-fisheries-policy-reform-rafip

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[4]https://www.thegef.org/project/coastal-fisheries-initiative-challenge-fund-enabling-sustainable-private-sector-investment
[5] https://www.thegef.org/project/regional-partnership-african-fisheries-policy-reform-rafip
[6] https://iwlearn.net/iw-projects/6952
[7]https://www.thegef.org/project/crew-integrated-approach-water-and-wastewater-management-using-innovative-solutions-and
[8]https://www.thegef.org/project/catalyzing-implementation-strategic-action-programme-sustainable-management-shared-living
[9]https://www.thegef.org/project/designing-and-implementing-national-sub-system-marine-protected-areas-smpa
[10] https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/partnership/?p=7429
[11] https://www.thegef.org/project/implementation-strategic-action-programme-ensure-integrated-and-sustainable-management
[12] https://iwlearn.net/iw-projects/2129
[13] https://iwlearn.net/iw-projects/4940
[14] https://iwlearn.net/iw-projects/4487
[15] https://iwlearn.net/iw-projects/1462
[16] https://iwlearn.net/iw-projects/5513
[17] https://www.thegef.org/project/establishment-and-operation-regional-system-fisheries-refugia-south-china-sea-and-gulf

[18] https://www.thegef.org/project/implementing-strategic-action-programme-south-china-sea
[19]https://www.thegef.org/project/lme-ea-scaling-partnership-investments-sustainable-development-large-marine-ecosystems-east
[20] https://www.thegef.org/project/lme-ea-coral-triangle-initiative-project-coremapiii-cti
[21] https://www.thegef.org/project/eas-scaling-implementation-sustainable-development-strategy-seas-east-asia
[22] https://www.thegef.org/project/lme-ea-applying-knowledge-management-scale-partnership-investments-sustainable-development
[23] https://www.thegef.org/project/enabling-transboundary-cooperation-sustainable-management-indonesian-seas

7. Consistency with National Priorities

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

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

The proposed project is consistent with the following sustainable development goals:

Sustainable Development Goal 14—Conserve and Sustainably Use the Oceans, Seas and Marine Resources for Sustainable Development.

- *Target 14.1: By 2025, prevent and significantly reduce marine pollution of all kinds, in particular from land-based activities, including marine debris and nutrient pollution.*

- *Target 14.2: By 2025, sustainably manage and protect marine and coastal ecosystems to avoid significant adverse impacts, including by strengthening their resilience, and take action for their restoration in order to achieve healthy and productive oceans.*

- *Target 14.7: By 2030, increase the economic benefits to Small Island Developing States and least developed countries from the sustainable use of marine resources, including through sustainable management of fisheries, aquaculture and tourism.*

The project will also have indirect beneficial impacts for other SDGs, including SDG 1 (Poverty), SDG 2 (Hunger), SDG 3 (Good Health and Well-Being), SDG 8 (Decent Work and Economic Growth), SDG 12 (Responsible Production and Consumption), and SDG 17 (Partnerships for the Goals

The proposed project is also consistent with many of the Aichi Biodiversity Targets, including the following:

- Target 2: *By 2020, at the latest, biodiversity values have been integrated into national and local development and poverty reduction strategies and planning processes and are being incorporated into national accounting, as appropriate,* and *reporting systems.* This project will increase political will and capacity of policymakers to develop improved policy and legislation to address conservation challenges; it will also provide them with an understanding of the need to incorporate biodiversity values into funding and development policies and strategies.

- Target 4: *By 2020, at the latest, Governments, business and stakeholders at all levels have taken steps to achieve or have implemented plans for sustainable production and consumption and have kept the impacts of use of natural resources well within* safe *ecological limits.* This project will convene policymakers, business leaders, and other stakeholders in order to educate them on biodiversity conservation issues and provide a forum for them to seek multisectoral solutions to conservation challenges.

- Target 11: *By 2020, at least 17 percent of terrestrial and inland water, and 10 percent of coastal and marine areas, especially areas of particular importance for biodiversity and ecosystem services, are conserved through effectively and equitably managed, ecologically representative and well-connected systems of protected areas and other effective area-based conservation measures and integrated into the wider landscapes and seascapes.* This project will

provide improved policy and legislation, which will contribute to conservation of marine areas, as well as integration of these areas into wider seascapes.

- Target 12: *By 2020 the extinction of known threatened species has been prevented and their conservation status, particularly of those most in decline, has been improved and sustained.* Improved biodiversity conservation laws and policies developed as a result of this project will contribute to the overall protection and health of ecosystems, including threatened species.

- Target 14: *By 2020, ecosystems that provide essential services, including services related to water, and contribute to health, livelihoods and well-being, are restored and safeguarded, taking into account the needs of women, indigenous and local communities, and the poor and vulnerable.* Improved policy/legislation resulting from this project will contribute to the protection of ecosystems that provide essential services and contribute to health, livelihoods, and well-being. This project is designed to take into account the needs of women, as well as indigenous and local communities.

Regional Focal Area #1 - Eastern Africa

Regional Core Country: Kenya: Kenya's Fifth National Report to the Conference of Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity (2015) sets forth the following targets:

- Target 6: By 2020 Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated fishing is eliminated or brought close to zero
- Target 6: by 2020 at least five management plans for inland-specific water bodies and marine species developed
- Target 10: By 2020 minimise anthropogenic pressures on coastal and marine resources by 50%.[1]

This project will support Kenya in meeting its national targets and international commitments by providing education and building capacity to strengthen marine sustainability at the national level and by promoting regional cooperation. This will result in overall improved conservation, reduction in IUU fishing, and lessening of marine debris and other anthropogenic pressures. It will also help build national capacity to meet obligations under international agreements.

In Kenya, the project will align with the United Nations Development Assistance Framework (UNDAF), in particular Priority II: A social and cohesive society enjoying equitable social development in a clean and secure environment and Priority III: Sustainable and inclusive growth that is increasingly resilient, green, diversified, competitive and creating decent jobs and providing quality livelihoods for all.

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[1] Kenya UNDAF 2018-2022: Resources and Results Framework, https://www.undp.org/content/dam/kenya/docs/unct/UNITED%20NATIONS%20DEVELOPMENT%20ASSISTANCE%20FRAMEWORK%20(UNDAF)%20B5%20web.pdf

Other: Mozambique: The National Strategy and Action Plan of Biological Diversity of Mozambique (2015-2035) contains a number of Strategic Objectives and Targets relevant to this project, including the following:

- Strategic Objective A: Reduce the direct and indirect causes of degradation and loss of biodiversity

o Target 3: By 2025, adopt and effectively implement policies and legal instruments for preventing and mitigating the impacts of human activities likely to cause degradation of biodiversity.

o Target 5: By 2035, reduce by at least 20% the area of critical ecosystems, or that provide essential goods and services, under degradation and fragmentation.

- Strategic Objective B: Improve the status of biodiversity by preserving the diversity of ecosystems, habitats, species and genes[2].

As with other countries assessed above, this project will support realization of broader biodiversity objectives/targets by addressing marine biodiversity, which is a key aspect of biodiversity in general.

- The National Strategy and Action Plan goes on to describe the national legal framework of Mozambique as characterized by a range of legal instruments governing all activities related to biodiversity, including among others, the Law on the Environment, the Law of Fisheries, and the Law of Conservation Areas, as well as a series of regulations associated with these laws (including the General Regulation of Fisheries and Maritime Activities). The Plan goes on to state that some of these instruments need to be updated and/or consolidated and that implementation needs to be strengthened[3].

This project, by its design, will contribute greatly to building the capacity of policymakers to improve legislation related to marine issues.

In Mozambique, this project will ensure mainstreaming with the Mozambique: United Nations Development Assistance Framework (UNDAF) 2017-2020, in particular Outcome 9: Most vulnerable people in Mozambique benefit from inclusive, equitable and sustainable management of natural resources and the environment.

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[1] https://www.unicef.org/about/execboard/files/Mozambique-UNDAF_2017-2020_Eng.pdf

Regional Focal Area #2 - Southeast Asia

Regional Core Country – Indonesia: The Indonesian Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan (IBSAP) 2015-2020 sets forth a number of national targets aligned with the CBD and Aichi Targets. Those with most relevance to this project include the following:

- 1. Awareness and participation of various parties established through formal and informal educational programs (AT-1);
- 3. Realization of an incentives and disincentives system in business and the sustainable management of biodiversity (AT-3);
- 4. Establishment of increased availability and implementation of policies supporting sustainable production and consumption (SCP) in the utilization of biodiversity resources (AT-4);
- 5. Development of ex-situ conservation areas to protect local ecosystems (AT-5);
- 6. Implementation of a policy for sustainable management and harvesting (AT-6);
- 8. Reduction of pollution that damages biodiverse ecosystems (AT-8);
- 10. Reduced level of anthropogenic pressure on coral reefs and other vulnerable ecosystems affected by climate change (AT10);
- 11. Realization of sustainable maintenance and improvement of conservation areas (AT-11);
- 12. Realization of efforts to maintain the populations of endangered species as a national conservation priority (AT12);
- 14. Improved functionality of integrated ecosystems to ensure the improvement of essential services (water, health, livelihoods, tourism (AT-14)[4].

Mainstreaming within the Southeast Asia focal region for this project will be ensured through alignment with national-level frameworks developed by UN Country Teams with support from the UNDG Asia-Pacific, for example, the national-level Indonesia-UN Partnership for Development Framework and the national-level Thailand-UN Partnership Framework 2017-2021. In Indonesia, the project actions will in particular align with:

Outcome 1: Poverty reduction, equitable sustainable development, livelihoods and decent work

Outcome 3: Environmental sustainability and enhanced resilience to shocks

CCN does not have a parliamentary caucus in Indonesia at this time; however, CCN is developing a partnership with the Walton Family Foundation to engage policymakers in Indonesia on marine issues.

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[1] https://ims.undg.org/downloadFile/8c3af252f2e1411c3958993d48b1757986b879e4f620aafd1d4d8cdc2ee4f8ae

Other: Thailand

Thailand's Master Plan for Integrated Biodiversity Management B.E. 2558 – 2564 (2015-2021), published by the Office of Natural Resources and Environmental Policy and Planning Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment, sets forth a number of measures aligned with the CBD and Aichi Targets. Those most relevant to this project include the following:

- CBD Strategic goal A: Address the underlying causes of biodiversity loss by mainstreaming biodiversity across government and society
- Aichi Target 3. Incentives, including subsidies, harmful to biodiversity are eliminated, phased out or reformed in order to minimize or avoid negative impacts, and positive incentives for the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity are developed and applied, consistent and in harmony with the Convention and other relevant international obligations, taking into account national socio-economic conditions. (Addressed by NBSAP Strategy 1, Measure 2.5 and Strategy 4, Measure 1.7)
- CBD Strategic goal B: Reduce the direct pressures on biodiversity and promote sustainable use
- Aichi Target 6. 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. (Addressed by NBSAP Strategy 2, Measures 3.1 & 3.2 and Strategy 3, Measure 2.1)
- Aichi Target 7. Areas under agriculture, aquaculture and forestry are managed sustainably, ensuring conservation of biodiversity. (Addressed by NBSAP Strategy 2, Measures 3.1 & 3.2 and Strategy 3, Measure 2.1)
- Aichi Target 8. Pollution, including from excess nutrients, has been brought to levels that are not detrimental to ecosystem function and biodiversity. (Addressed by NBSAP Strategy 2, Measure 3.2)
- Aichi Target 10. The multiple anthropogenic pressures on coral reefs, and other vulnerable ecosystems impacted by climate change or ocean acidification are minimized, so as to maintain their integrity and functioning. (Addressed by NBSAP Strategy 2, Measure 3.2)
- Aichi Target 11. At least 17 percent of terrestrial and inland water areas, and 10 percent of coastal and marine areas, especially areas of particular importance for biodiversity and ecosystem services, are conserved through effectively and equitably managed, ecologically representative and well connected systems of protected areas and other effective area-based conservation measures, and integrated into the wider landscapes and seascapes. (Addressed by NBSAP Strategy 2, Measures 1.1, 1.6, 2.3, 3.2, & 3.5) [5]

In Thailand, this project's actions will align with the Thailand-UN Partnership Framework 2017-2021, in particular Outcome: By 2021, inclusive systems, structures and processes advance sustainable people-centered, equitable development for all people in Thailand; and Objective 30: Number of national strategies, policies and plans developed and/or implemented on marine debris with UN support that contribute to the achievement of SDG 14.1 including initiative targeting to effectively manage plastic wastes from collection, recycling and disposal.

[1] http://www.un.or.th/wp-content/uploads/2018/05/ENG-UNPAF-2017-2021.pdf

Regional Focal Area #3 - Caribbean

United Nations Development Assistance Framework (UNDAF) mainstreaming within the Latin America/Caribbean focal area will be ensured through CAR/RCU given also the fact that there are Caribbean UNDAFs called MSDFs in several countries, as well as collectively for the Caribbean[1]. The project actions will in particular align with:

- Priority 2 “A Healthy Caribbean” with regard to health and well-being, nutrition and food security, and water and sanitation and
- Priority 4 “A Sustainable and Resilient Caribbean” with regard to the sustainable use and management of the natural resources and ecosystems.”

[1] https://www.unicef.org/about/execboard/files/UNDAF-MSDF-Caribbean.pdf

Regional Core Country: Colombia: Colombia’s National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan (NBSAP) identifies the need to “carry out in situ and ex situ conservation actions, both in wilderness areas (protected or not) and in transformed continental, marine, coastal and island landscapes, in order to maintain viable populations of flora and fauna, resilience of socio-ecological systems and support for the provision of ecosystem services at national, regional, local and cross-border scales.” (Axis I.) The NBSAP further calls for “formulation of a strategy to reduce pollution…especially on coasts and marine ecosystems.” (Axis III, iii.13).[6] The Ministry of Environment and Sustainable Development (MADS) through the Directorate of Marine Affairs, Coastal and Aquatic Resources (DAMCRA), is working to implement a wide range of coastal management plans and plans for the protection of key priority species (sharks, marine turtles, aquatic mammals, etc.). Colombia has signed a variety of international agreements related to the nation’s marine and coastal biodiversity, including the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD), Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES), Convention for the Protection of the Marine Environment and Coastal Area of the South-East Pacific, and others[7].

This project will support the Government of Colombia in meeting its national objectives and commitments, outlined above, by providing education and building capacity to strengthen marine sustainability at the national level and promote regional cooperation. This will result in overall improved conservation actions, promote the reduction of pollution in the form of marine debris, support the goals of the country’s marine action plans, and help build national capacity to meet obligations under international agreements.

Other: Mexico

Mexico’s NBSAP calls for several actions that align with Aichi Targets 6 and 10, specifically[8]:

- National Goal 6.2: By 2020, the adoption of non-destructive fishing gear has increased, illegal and incidental fishing has been reduced and fishing activity has minimal impacts on marine, coastal, freshwater and its biodiversity.
- National Goal 6.3: By 2020, fishing refuges representative of the main fisheries and their habitats have been established, thus ensuring their permanence.
- National Goal 10.1: By 2030, threats to ecosystems, species at risk and priority marine species have been reduced, particularly areas with reefs and are under protection, and the activities carried out in them are carried out in a sustainable manner.
- National Goal 10.2: By 2030, there is a national policy for the integral management of wetlands.
- National Goal 10.3: By 2030, there is a national strategy for the attention of reefs.

The proposed project is designed to address Aichi Targets 6 and 10, and through education and capacity building will support Mexico in its efforts to achieve its national targets in areas such as marine debris, coral reefs, fisheries, wetlands, and threats to ecosystems, species at risk, and priority marine species.

[1]Republic of Kenya: Fifth National Report to the Conference of Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity 2015.
[2] Ministério da Terra, Ambiente e Desenvolvimento Rural (2015). Estratégia e Plano de Acção para a Conservação da Diversidade Biológica em Moçambique. Maputo. MITADER. 112 pp. https://www.cbd.int/doc/world/mz/mz-nbsap-v3-en.pdf
[3] Ibid.
[4] https://www.cbd.int/doc/world/id/id-nbsap-v3-en.pdf
[5] https://www.cbd.int/doc/world/th/th-nbsap-v4-en.pdf

[6]http://www.minambiente.gov.co/index.php/asuntos-marinos-y-costeros-y-recursos-acuaticos/conservacion-de-la-biodivesidad-marina-costera-e-insular-y-ecosistemicos/manejo-de-los-recursos-hidrobiologicos-marinos-y-costeros
[7] Ibid.
[8]https://www.cbd.int/nbsap/targets/default.shtml

8. Knowledge Management

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

To grow awareness and engender replication efforts, CCN will broadly disseminate results of the project's approach together with the tools and materials developed for its execution. Materials and modules on particular themes can be made available for key groups, including the conservation community, through methods such as IW:LEARN. Throughinternationalconservation.org, interested parties will be able to access materials, information about the project, and project progress reports. The project team will include CCN communications experts who have rich experience in awareness building through networks. CCN's communications experts will electronically communicate project updates on a regular basis to its extensive network of email subscribers.

9. Monitoring and Evaluation

Describe the budgeted M and E plan

The project will follow UNEP standard monitoring, reporting and evaluation processes and procedures, with substantive technical and financial project reporting requirements. Reporting requirements and templates are an integral part of the UNEP legal instrument to be signed by the executing agency and UNEP.

The project M&E plan is consistent with the GEF Monitoring and Evaluation policy. The Project Results Framework includes SMART indicators for each expected outcome. These indicators along with the key deliverables and benchmarks will be the main tools for assessing project implementation progress and whether expected project results are being achieved. The means of verification of these elements are summarized in the Project Result Framework.

UNEP's independent Evaluation Office will be responsible for managing the evaluation process. The Project Steering Committee (PSC), Task Manager, CCN Project Management Team, country representatives, and partners will participate actively in the process. In line with UNEP Evaluation Policy and the GEF's Monitoring and Evaluation Policy, the project will be subject to a Terminal Evaluation.

The Evaluation Office will be responsible for the Terminal Evaluation (TE) and will liaise with the Task Manager and Executing Agency(ies) throughout the process. The TE will provide an independent assessment of project performance (in terms of relevance, effectiveness and efficiency), and determine the likelihood of impact and sustainability. It will have two primary purposes: (i) to provide evidence of results to meet accountability requirements, and (ii) to promote learning, feedback, and knowledge sharing through results and lessons learned among UNEP, the GEF, executing partners, and other stakeholders. The direct costs of the evaluation will be charged against the project evaluation budget. The Terminal Evaluation will be initiated no earlier than six months prior to the operational completion of project activities and, if a follow-on phase of the project is envisaged, should be completed prior to completion of the project and the submission of the follow-on proposal. Terminal Evaluations must be initiated no later than six months after operational completion.

The draft TE report will be sent by the Evaluation Office to project stakeholders for comments. Formal comments on the report will be shared by the Evaluation Office in an open and transparent manner. The project performance will be assessed against standard evaluation criteria using a six-point rating scheme. The final determination of project ratings will be made by the Evaluation Office when the report is finalized and further reviewed by the GEF Independent Evaluation Office upon submission. The evaluation report will be publicly disclosed and may be followed by a recommendation compliance process.

The direct costs of reviews and evaluations will be charged against the project evaluation budget.

The Project Steering Committee will receive periodic reports on progress and will make recommendations to the Project team concerning the need to revise any aspects of the Results Framework or the M&E plan. Project steering to ensure that the project meets UNEP and GEF policies and procedures is the responsibility of the Task Manager. The Task Manager will also review the quality of draft project outputs, provide feedback to the project partners, and establish peer review procedures to ensure adequate quality of scientific and technical outputs and publications.

Project supervision will take an adaptive management approach. The Task Manager will develop a project supervision plan at the inception of the project which will be communicated to the project partners during the inception workshop. The emphasis of the Task Manager supervision will be on outcome monitoring but without neglecting project financial management and implementation monitoring. Progress *vis-à-vis* delivering the agreed project global environmental benefits will be assessed with the Project Steering Committee once or twice a year. Project risks and assumptions will be regularly monitored both by project partners and UNEP. Risk assessment and rating is an integral part of the Project Implementation Review (PIR). The quality of project monitoring and evaluation will also be reviewed and rated as part of the PIR. Key financial parameters will be monitored quarterly to ensure cost-effective use of financial resources. The estimated costs of the M&E activities are detailed further below in the table.

More details are presented in Annex Q.

10. Benefits

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

In the absence of comprehensive, transboundary marine conservation approaches and of adequate governance frameworks, marine resources will continue to decline. This would result in many socio-economic repercussions, including negative effects on national economies, livelihoods, and food security for vulnerable populations. This project will contribute to the development of improved marine governance at the national and regional levels, which will improve economies, livelihoods, and food security.

Policymakers will benefit from educational briefings about marine biodiversity conservation and its impacts on local people and will develop improved policies and legislation, which will translate to improved socio-economic status for many vulnerable people who rely on the marine environment and its resources as a source of food and income. This increased knowledge will also lead policymakers to effectively connect local issues with global issues; to mainstream marine biodiversity conservation into other policies/legislation; to employ synergies and avoid tradeoffs between water, energy, and food; and to ensure that improved human well-being, health, livelihoods, and social equity are co-benefits of marine biodiversity conservation.

Additional benefits will include: larger areas of seascapes under improved management for biodiversity conservation; globally over-exploited fisheries moved to more sustainable levels; and marine pollution/debris reduced.

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

<table>
<tr><th>PROJECT OBJECTIVE</th><th colspan="3">OBJECTIVELY VERIFIABLE INDICATORS</th><th>VERIFICATION METHODS</th><th>ASSUMPTIONS</th></tr>
<tr><td>Leverage and build upon existing parliamentary caucus architecture to raise awareness about blue economy opportunities, and elevate marine issues amongst legislators in order to facilitate regional cooperation.</td><td colspan="3"># of countries implementing parliamentary caucus architecture, and #s of caucus participants [per country]

# of national-level and regionally adopted new/revised laws, agreements, policies, and/or regulations for sustainable management of the marine resources.</td><td>- Annual monitoring and evaluation reports detailing utilization of the parliamentary caucus architecture to develop capacity among legislators to effectively address marine issues and blue economy opportunities at the national level and among countries that share LMEs</td><td>- Marine conservation remains a priority internationally.

- Political will is available for capacity development.

- Sufficient stability of partner nations to allow for project continuity.</td></tr>
<tr><td rowspan="2">Outcomes and Outputs</td><td colspan="3">Objectively Verifiable Indicators</td><td rowspan="2">Verification Methods</td><td rowspan="2">Assumptions</td></tr>
<tr><td>Indicator</td><td>Baseline</td><td>Target</td></tr>
<tr><td colspan="6">Component 1: Facilitating targeted dialogues with legislators and national leaders in Southeast Asia, the wider Caribbean and East Africa in order to promote effective blue economy development and legal frameworks targeting the regulation of marine pollution.</td></tr>
</table>

Outcome 1.1. Parliamentary caucuses serving as a platform to build political will and enhance knowledge amongst legislators about the best practices and successful blue economic models leading to **harmonized regional action** on blue economy and pollution regulations in Southeast Asia, the wider Caribbean and East Africa	- # of caucuses and caucus members in target countries / regions - # of overall capacity building programs on a national and regional level regarding blue economy model - -	- Four caucuses with membership #'s as follows: Kenya: 61 Tanzania: 28 Colombia: 44 Mexico: 32 Mozambique: 28 - - No capacity building programs on a national or regional level regarding blue economy model - No new laws, regulations, and/or regional accords - No national action plans and/or strategic agendas/road maps	- Six caucuses with membership #'s of: Kenya: 73 Tanzania: 33 Colombia: 53 Mexico: 38 Thailand: 20 Indonesia: 20 Mozambique: 33 - - 15 total capacity building programs on a national and regional level regarding blue economy model - 2 new laws, regulations, and/or regional accords to promote blue economy and address pollution - 2 national action plans and/or strategic agendas/road maps per region	- Caucus membership rosters - Progress reports detailing capacity building programs, stakeholder agreements, and progress toward regional actions and national actions on marine issues - Program attendance lists (gender disaggregated)	- Willingness of legislators and stakeholders to participate in educational recruitment briefings and events - Willingness and cooperation of international parliamentarians to form and participate in collaborations committed to a results-driven marine policy agenda - Willingness of policymakers to achieve consensus / party politics left aside to favor the common good - Critical mass of legislators backing the initiative

Output 1.1.1 Existing parliamentary caucuses strengthened through stakeholder briefings, strategic planning discussions, and regional exchanges, as well as caucus membership recruitment efforts and caucus membership growth in Colombia, Mexico, Kenya, Mozambique, and Tanzania in order to raise awareness amongst legislators and elevate marine governance issues (blue economy and marine pollution).	- # of caucus members in target countries that already have existing caucuses	- Five existing caucuses with membership #'s as follows: Kenya: 61 Tanzania: 28 Colombia: 44 Mexico: 32 Mozambique: 28	- Five strengthened caucuses with membership #'s of: Kenya: 73 Tanzania: 33 Colombia: 53 Mexico: 38 Mozambique: 33	- Caucus membership rosters	- Willingness and cooperation of international parliamentarians in Kenya, Tanzania, Colombia, and Mexico to participate in collaborations committed to a results-driven marine policy agenda
Output 1.1.2 New parliamentary caucuses developed in Indonesia and Thailand with accompanying caucus membership lists and caucus strategic plans.	- # of caucus members in target countries that do not already have existing with new caucuses	- No new caucuses in target countries that do not already have existing caucuses	- Two new caucuses with membership #'s of: Thailand: 20 Indonesia: 20	- Caucus membership rosters	- Willingness and cooperation of international parliamentarians in target countries (Indonesia and Thailand) to form and participate in collaborations committed to a results-driven marine policy agenda

Output 1.1.3 Capacity building programs (at least 12) on blue economy and regulation on marine pollution carried out in the various targeted regions to enhance knowledge and improve coordination amongst legislators.	- # of capacity building educational programs for legislators on a national level in the focal countries (Colombia, Kenya, Indonesia) on best practices and successful blue economic models [completed] - # of regional inter-parliamentary summits on issues of blue economy and pollution	- No capacity building educational programs for legislators on best practices and successful blue economic models - No regional inter-parliamentary summits on issues of blue economy and pollution	- 12 capacity building educational programs for legislators on best practices and successful blue economic models - 3 regional inter-parliamentary summits on issues of blue economy and pollution	- Progress reports detailing capacity building programs - Program attendance lists (gender disaggregated)	- Willingness of legislators and stakeholders to participate in educational briefing programs to build capacity
Outcome 1.2. Enhanced cooperation amongst legislative members, the private sector and non-governmental institutions to improve the state of the marine affairs (i.e., legislators take leadership to propose and adopt new legislation in the areas of marine pollution and/or the development of blue economies and marine sectors).	# of pledges of support amongst key stakeholders to support the cooperation of the parliamentary caucuses	- No pledges of support amongst key stakeholders to support the cooperation of the parliamentary caucuses	- At least 5 pledges of support amongst key stakeholders to support the cooperation of the parliamentary caucuses	- Project reports	- Legislators and stakeholders recognize the value of the parliamentary caucuses and are willing to engage with one another

Output 1.2.1 Strategic partnerships featuring stakeholder briefings and/or conservation council membership agreements amongst key private-sector actors, non-governmental partners, regional LME SAP implementation projects and other regional transboundary processes/bodies developed to support the cooperation of the parliamentary caucuses regionally.	# of strategic partnerships featuring stakeholder briefings and/or conservation council membership agreements among key private-sector actors, non-governmental partners, and regional LME SAP implementation projects and other regional transboundary processes/bodies developed to support the cooperation of the parliamentary caucuses	- No new strategic partnerships featuring stakeholder briefings and/or conservation council membership agreements among key private-sector actors, non-governmental partners, and regional LME SAP implementation projects and other regional transboundary processes/bodies developed to support the cooperation of the parliamentary caucuses	- At least 5 new strategic partnerships featuring stakeholder briefings and/or conservation council membership agreements among key private-sector actors, non-governmental partners, and regional LME SAP implementation projects and other regional transboundary processes/bodies developed to support the cooperation of the parliamentary caucuses	- Project reports detailing partnership agreements and/or strategic partnerships featuring stakeholder briefings	- Stakeholders recognize the value of supporting the parliamentary caucuses and are willing to agree to partner in support of caucuses

Output 1.2.2 Legislation, regulations and/or regional accords passed (2 from each of the 3 regions) and 2 national action plans and/or strategic agendas/road maps per region, enabling blue economy sectors to grow sustainably (fisheries, maritime transport, coastal tourism, waste management, renewable energy).	- # of new laws, regulations, and/or regional accords - # of national action plans and/or strategic agendas/road maps	- No new laws, regulations, and/or regional accords - No national action plans and/or strategic agendas/road maps	- 2 new laws, regulations, and/or regional accords - 2 national action plans and/or strategic agendas/road maps per region	- Records, reports, and/or transcripts of new laws, regulations, regional accords, national action plans, and/or strategic agendas/ road maps	- Willingness of policymakers to collaborate on marine issues and achieve consensus at the national and regional levels
Component 2: Knowledge management, sharing, and communications					
Outcome 2.1. Enhanced visibility and awareness of best practices on legal frameworks for blue economy and regulation of marine pollution in legislator networks in Southeast Asia, the wider Caribbean, and East Africa.	- # of information products and communications shared with a wider group of stakeholders on a regional and international level as a result of national and regional dialogues on the blue economy and marine pollution -	- No information products and communications shared with a wider group of stakeholders on a regional and international level as a result of national and regional dialogues on the blue economy and marine pollution	- At least 18 information products and communications shared with a wider group of stakeholders on a regional and international level as a result of national and regional dialogues on the blue economy and marine pollution	- Records and/or releases of media, reports, policy outcomes, presentations, and other knowledge products shared with a wide audience	- Policymakers and stakeholders are willing to view online materials and/or other types of digital communications / visual materials

Output 2.1.1 Parliamentary caucus strategic plans, model legislation and regulations on marine pollution, and sectors that facilitate blue economic development (fisheries, maritime transport, coastal tourism, waste management, renewable energy) made available to countries through meetings as well as digital communications.	- # of meetings to share caucus strategic plans, model legislation and regulations - # of digital communications to share caucus strategic plans, model legislation and regulations	- No meetings to share caucus strategic plans, model legislation and regulations - No digital communications to share caucus strategic plans, model legislation and regulations	- At least 3 meetings to share caucus strategic plans, model legislation and regulations - At least 12 digital communications to share caucus strategic plans, model legislation and regulations	- Meeting reports - Copies of strategic plans, model legislation, regulations, etc.	- Policymakers are willing to attend meetings to share caucus strategic plans, model legislation, and regulations on plastic and nutrient pollution -
Output 2.1.2 Knowledge products / visual briefing presentations (e.g., PowerPoint presentations, briefing packets, etc.) made available to legislators by the private sector and non-governmental organizations, regional LME SAP implementation projects and other regional transboundary processes/bodies to make the business case on marine governance from various perspectives.	- # of knowledge products / visual briefing presentations (e.g., PowerPoint presentations, briefing packets, etc.)	- No knowledge products / visual briefing presentations (e.g., PowerPoint presentations, briefing packets, etc.)	- 12 knowledge products / visual briefing presentations (e.g., PowerPoint presentations, briefing packets, etc.)	- Knowledge products / visual briefing presentations (e.g., PowerPoint presentations, briefing packets, etc.)	- Briefing presenters are willing to develop and share knowledge products / visual briefing presentations (e.g., PowerPoint presentations, briefing packets, etc.) - Policymakers and stakeholders are willing to view knowledge products / visual briefing presentations (e.g., PowerPoint presentations, briefing packets, etc.)

Output 2.1.3 Regional targeted visual materials and public awareness campaigns (one in each region) promoting blue economy best practice policies, investments, and programs developed and disseminated through legislator networks and through existing global information and knowledge sharing platforms (e.g.,. GEF IW:LEARN).	- # of regional targeted visual materials and public awareness campaigns promoting blue economy best practice policies, investments, and programs developed and disseminated - # of experience and results notes for IW LEARN - All project products and information/data available on the project website.	- No regional targeted visual materials and public awareness campaigns promoting blue economy best practice policies, investments, and programs developed and disseminated - No new experience and results notes for IW LEARN - No project website	- Regional targeted visual materials and public awareness campaigns promoting blue economy best practice policies, investments, and programs (1 per region) developed and disseminated - 3 experience and results notes for IW LEARN -An IW:LEARN compliant project website developed.	- Links to project information made available on existing global information and knowledge sharing platforms (IW LEARN website and project website). - Availability of experience and results notes on IW LEARN website. -Project website URL	- Existing global information and knowledge sharing platforms such as GEF IW:LEARN are accessible, and materials are able to be uploaded

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

N/A

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

N/A

ANNEX D: CALENDAR OF EXPECTED REFLOWS (if non-grant instrument is used)

Provide a calendar of expected reflows to the GEF/LDCF/SCCF/CBIT Trust Funds or to your Agency (and/or revolving fund that will be set up)

N/A

ANNEX E: Project Map(s) and Coordinates

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

Submitted to HQ

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