

# Large Marine Ecosystems, an approach for assessment & reporting

## Introduction

Large Marine Ecosystems (LMEs) are large extensions of ocean encompassing coastal areas to the seaward boundaries of continental shelves and the outer margins of major ocean current systems. Our area of interest are the Caribbean and North Brazil Continental Shelf LMEs (CLME+). Due to the transboundary nature of these LMEs, their adoption as a management unit will require **international coordination and collaboration**.

## Approach

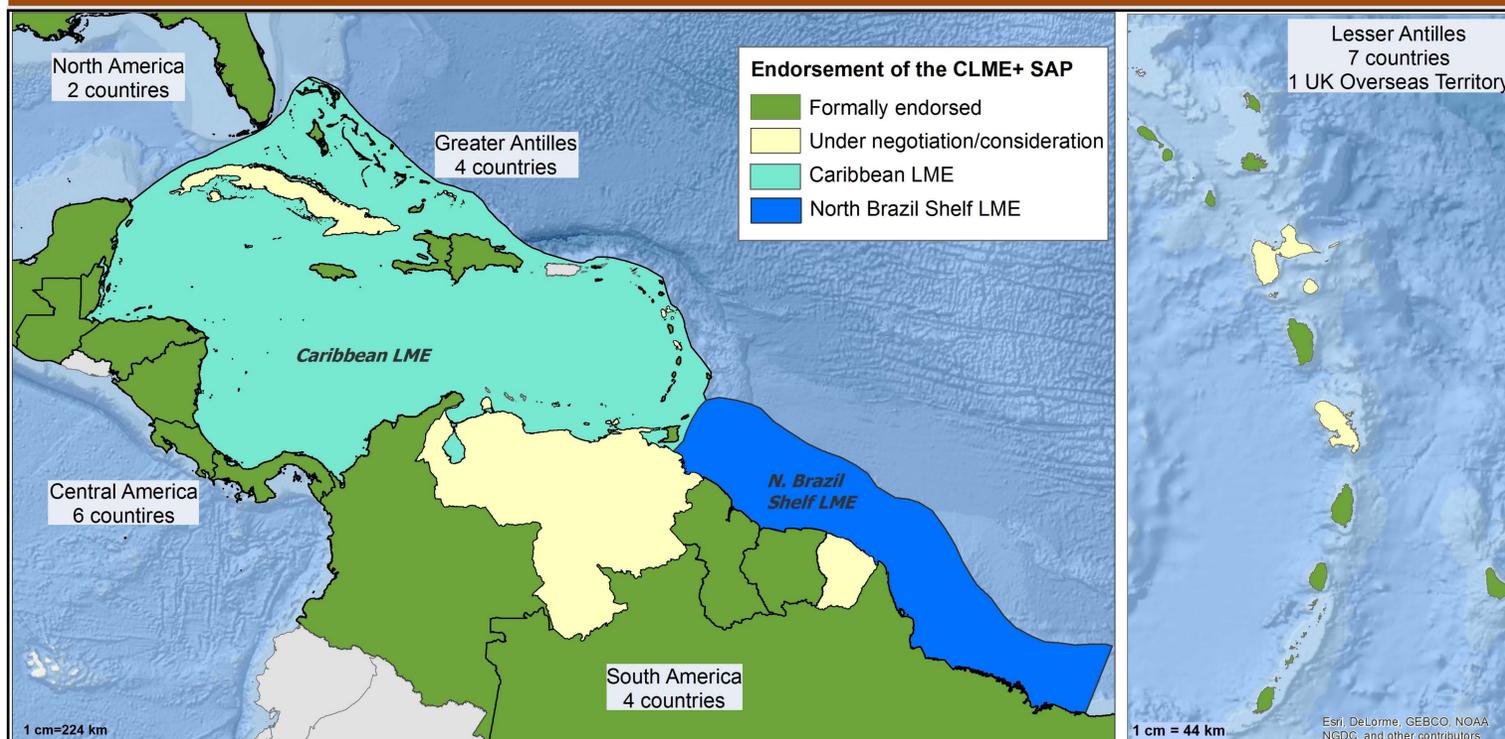
The Global Environment Facility fosters the adoption of a cyclical approach of **(a) diagnosis, (b) strategic planning and (c) monitoring & evaluation** in order to identify key transboundary problems, their root causes and priority actions needed to apply an ecosystem-based approach (EBM)/ ecosystem approach to fisheries (EAF).

## Results

Three important documents:

1. **Transboundary Diagnostic Analysis** for Reefs, pelagic fisheries and fisheries in the North Brazil Shelf
2. A ten-year regional **Strategic Action Programme**, endorsed by 24 countries to date.
3. A dynamic, periodic reporting mechanism on the **“State of the Marine Ecosystems and associated Economies”** – SOME (in progress)

## The CLME+ Region



26 independent States and 18 dependent/associated territories lie within the Caribbean and North Brazil Continental Shelf LMEs

## Methodology

	TRANSBOUNDARY DIAGNOSTIC ANALYSIS	→	STRATEGIC ACTION PROGRAMME	→	MONITORING AND EVALUATION
Methodology	Causal Chain	Discuss and select priority actions	Strategic approach	Implementation using EBM/EAF	Drivers-Pressures- State-Impacts-Response; Governance Effectiveness Assessment Framework
Focus	Causes (e.g. drivers/direct pressures) of environmental change		Governance arrangements		Responses Governance Effectiveness
Results	Key issues: 1) Habitat degradation; 2) Unsustainable fisheries; 3) Pollution		Politically-endorsed document: 6 Strategies 4 Sub-strategies 76 Actions		A mechanism for periodic, online monitoring of SAP implementation

## Conclusions

The TDA/SAP/M&E approach has proven useful to plan and agree upon strategic action and on attracting and upscaling investment for reversing environmental degradation in the world's Large Marine Ecosystems. However, the adoption and implementation of this approach has typically been project-based. In full consideration of the cyclical nature of the TDA-SAP process and of the need to ensure continuity beyond the project lifespan, it is important that current GEF support for the CLME+ region is used to progressively **institutionalize the TDA/SAP approach**, so that the positive impacts from SAP implementation are not lost. It is therefore proposed to foster continuity by having the integrated SOME reporting mechanism rooted within the international organisations that have mandates relative to the marine environment.

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