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Scientific Aspects of Marine
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REPORT OF THE ADMINISTRATIVE SECRETARY OF GESAMP

Activities and achievements of the Sponsoring Organizations of GESAMP since the 45th session

This document provides a summary of the achievements of United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) since GESAMP 45 (17-20 September 2018).

Introduction

1 UNDP's operational ocean governance portfolio, valued at about \$200 million in grant funding, primarily mobilized from various vertical funds (GEF, GCF, AF, LDCF) as well as bilateral sources, covers a range of programs and projects including the **Large Marine Ecosystems and Regional Fisheries Programme**, **Greening the Shipping Industry**, and **Ridge to Reef Integrated Water Resources and Coastal Area Management**. In late 2019, UNDP will also be launching a new **Ocean Innovation Facility**. Summaries of initiatives active in the 2018-19 reporting period follows.

Large Marine Ecosystems and Regional Fisheries

Catalysing implementation of a Strategic Action Programme for the Sustainable Management of shared Living Marine Resources in the Humboldt Current System (HCS).

2 The project objective is to facilitate ecosystem-based fisheries management (EBFM) and ecosystem restoration in the Humboldt current system for the sustainable and resilient delivery of goods and services from shared living marine resources, in accordance with the Strategic Action Programme (SAP) endorsed by Chile and Peru. Main project components include:

1. Recovery and maintenance at optimal population biomass levels of the majority of fisheries resources while maintaining ecosystem health and productivity under climate change scenarios;
2. Improve the environmental quality of the marine and coastal ecosystems via integrated management considering the various sources of pollutants;
3. Restore and maintain the habitat and biodiversity of marine and coastal systems at sustainable levels;
4. Diversify and add value by creating productive opportunities inside and outside the fisheries sector with people socially organized and integrated; and
5. Contribute to the population's food security and food safety.

Implementation of the Yellow Sea LME Strategic Action Programme for Adaptive Ecosystem-Based Management

3 The objective of the regional project is to achieve adaptive ecosystem-based management of the Yellow Sea Large Marine Ecosystem bordered by China, the Republic of Korea and the Democratic People's Republic of Korea by fostering long-term sustainable institutional, policy and financial arrangements for effective ecosystem-based management of the Yellow Sea in accordance with the YSLME Strategic Action Programme (YSLME SAP) adopted by China and

the Republic of Korea in 2009. To achieve this objective, the project will support the formation of the YSLME Commission to oversee the implementation of the YSLME SAP, innovate institutional arrangements, improve management capacity and quality of function. This includes, developing robust governmental coordination mechanisms, strengthening regulatory mechanisms while strengthening the incentive structure to promote environmental protection, developing mechanisms to link land and sea and resource use to carrying capacity, and systems for the participation of a range of stakeholders. The key benefits of the project include recovery of depleted fish stocks and improved mariculture production and quality, improved ecosystem health, maintenance of habitat areas, strengthened stakeholder participation in management and improved policy making and skills and capacity significantly developed for region-wide ecosystem-based management.

Implementation of Global and Regional Oceanic Fisheries Conventions and Related Instruments in the Pacific Small Island (w/FAO)

4 This project supports Pacific SIDS in meeting their obligations to implement and effectively enforce global, regional and sub-regional arrangements for the conservation and management of transboundary oceanic fisheries thereby increasing sustainable benefits derived from these fisheries. The project includes five Components: 1. Regional Actions for Ecosystem-Based Management, 2. Sub-regional Actions for Ecosystem-Based Management, 3. National Actions for Ecosystem-Based Management, 4. Stakeholder Participation and Knowledge Management; and 5. Project Management. The Project supports Pacific SIDS as the major bloc at the WCPFC to adopt regional conservation and management measures, supports the innovative approaches being developed by Pacific SIDS at sub-regional level as they collaborate in fisheries of common interest, and assists SIDS to apply measures nationally in their own waters and to their fleets.

CLME+: Catalysing Implementation of the Strategic Action Programme for the Sustainable Management of Shared Living Marine Resources in the Caribbean and North Brazil Shelf Large Marine Ecosystems

5 CLME+ project is a 5-year project that specifically aims at facilitating the implementation of the 10-year politically endorsed Strategic Action Programme for the Sustainable Management of the Shared Living Marine Resources of the Caribbean and North Brazil Shelf Large Marine Ecosystems (CLME+ SAP). The project seeks to achieve this by facilitating ecosystem-based management/an ecosystem approach to fisheries (EBM/EAF) within the CLME+ region, in such a way that a sustainable and climate resilient provision of goods and services from the region's living marine resources can be secured. Given its regional and comprehensive nature, the CLME+ Project is uniquely positioned to address the root causes of environmental degradation, in particular the gaps and weaknesses in transboundary and cross-sectoral governance arrangements. In this same context, the project will assist stakeholders in achieving improved coordination, collaboration and integration among the wide array of ongoing and newly planned projects and initiatives that are of relevance to the wider objectives of the CLME+ SAP.

Western Indian Ocean LMEs - Strategic Action Programme Policy Harmonization and Institutional Reforms (SAPPHIRE) Project

6 This Project builds on the previous work completed under the UNDP supported GEF financed Agulhas and Somali Current Large Marine Ecosystems (ASCLME) Project in close collaboration with a number of partners. The ASCLME Project delivered the intended regional TDA and ministerially endorsed SAP for the western Indian Ocean LMEs as well as individual Marine Ecosystem Diagnostic Analyses (MEDAs) for each participating country. The ASCLME Project also created the Western Indian Ocean Sustainable Ecosystem Alliance (WIOSEA). The SAPPHIRE Project aims to support and assist the appropriate and formally mandated government institutions and intergovernmental bodies in the region to implement the activities which they require in order to deliver the SAP and to ensure sustainability of efforts and actions toward long-term management of activities within the LMEs as well as the sustainability of associated institutional arrangements and partnerships.

Timor/Arafura Seas Strategic Action Programme Implementation

7 The ATSEA-2 project is the second phase of the GEF-financed, UNDP-supported ATSEA program, and is designed to enhance regional collaboration and coordination in the Arafura and Timor Seas (ATS) region. ATSEA-2 will specifically focus on supporting the implementation of the endorsed strategic action program (SAP), a 10-year vision for the Arafura-Timor Seas with the long-term objective “to promote sustainable development of the Arafura-Timor Seas region to improve the quality of life of its inhabitants through restoration, conservation and sustainable management of marine-coastal ecosystems”.

Improving Ocean Governance and Integrated Management in the Benguela Current LME

8 The GEF co-funded Benguela Current Large Marine Ecosystem (BCLME) Programme has promoted the integrated management and sustainable use of marine resources of the BCLME since 2002. Over the past years, BCLME has accomplished several achievements in the three countries (Angola, Namibia and South Africa) among which the establishment of Benguela Current Commission, and the signing of the Benguela Current Convention, were milestones. Building on the strong political commitment of the three countries to sustainable management of the BCLME and on the past GEF investment in the region, the project aims to 1) promote further policy, legal, institutional and management reform at both regional and national level to implement SAP and Convention; 2) promote the engagement of communities as well as private sectors in stress reduction demonstration activities and in the implementation of SAP and Conventions; and 3) strengthen institutional and human capacity building through, among other means, south-south cooperation.

Towards joint integrated, ecosystem-based management of the Pacific Central American Coastal Large Marine Ecosystem (PACA)

9 The Pacific Central-American Coastal Large Marine Ecosystem (PACA) extends from southern Mexico to northern Peru. Nine countries share PACA (from north to south): Mexico, Guatemala, El Salvador, Honduras, Nicaragua, Costa Rica, Panamá, Colombia and Ecuador. The objective of the PACA project is to promote ecosystem-based management of the Pacific-Central American Large Marine Ecosystem through: strengthening of regional governance, improvement of governance instruments for joint management at regional level, implementation of initial on-the ground pilot actions to address common key issues and advance collaborative work and replication, and knowledge management.

Strengthening of the enabling environment, ecosystem-based management and governance to support implementation of the Strategic Action Programme of the Guinea Current Large Marine Ecosystem (w/UNEP, UNIDO, FAO)

10 The project objective is strengthening the enabling environment, ecosystem-based management and governance to support implementation of the ministerially endorsed Strategic Action Program of the Guinea Current Large Marine Ecosystem. UNDP will lead on Component 3: Assessments, stakeholder and inter-ministerial consultations

Scaling up the Implementation of the Sustainable Development Strategy for the Seas of East Asia

11 The project seeks to reduce pollution and rebuild degraded marine resources by scaling up the implementation of the Sustainable Development Strategy for the Seas of East Asia (SDS-SEA) – in Cambodia, People’s Republic of China, Indonesia, Lao PDR, Philippines, Thailand, Timor Leste and Vietnam – countries that share six large marine ecosystems (LMEs) and related catchment areas. It represents a transformation process, culminating in a self-sustaining, country-owned regional organization (PEMSEA) and continuing commitments of funding and support for the implementation of SDS-SEA over the longer term. It also makes a stronger linkage between

sustainable development of river basins, coastal and marine areas and local, national and regional investment processes by the public and private sectors in support of a “blue economy”.

Global Sustainable Supply Chains for Marine Commodities

12 Overexploitation of marine fisheries is a major global issue and a key driver of changes in the marine environment. Excessive fishing is caused by a variety of inter-acting factors, including the growing global demand for seafood. This project contributes to address key aspects of the market forces that drive overfishing. The project will add to the transformation of the seafood market by mainstreaming sustainability in the value chain of important commodities from developing countries, improving emerging tools such as corporate sustainable purchase policies, sustainable marine commodities platforms, and fisheries improvement projects (FIP), developing national capacities, and generating learning to be shared worldwide. The project target fisheries include tuna, mahi mahi (dorado) and other pelagic fish in the Eastern Pacific Ocean; tuna in the Western Pacific Ocean; Small Pelagic in Ecuador; Filipino octopus; and blue swimming crab fisheries in Indonesia and The Philippines.

Coastal Fisheries Initiative – Latin America component

13 The project objective is to demonstrate holistic, ecosystem-based management and improved governance of coastal fisheries in the South-East Pacific. The project is the LAC component of the GEF Coastal Fisheries Initiative programme (CFI) which aims to motivate a change shift towards an integrated, inclusive and sustainable approach to fisheries management and development. The project addresses the key issue of weak fisheries governance in coastal fisheries in Ecuador and Peru, focusing mainly on artisanal and small-scale fisheries. The project strategy is (1) to establish communities of practice with fishers, stakeholders and authorities of both countries, (2) implement hands-on trials in fishery-specific (seven fisheries) and area-specific cases (two sites), (3) systematically document, exchange and disseminate experience and lessons within each country, between both countries and among participants of CFI, and (4) apply lessons to improve existing fisheries governance schemes or to implement new ones.

Strengthening Global Governance of Large Marine Ecosystems and Their Coasts through enhanced sharing and application of LME/ICM/MPA knowledge and information tools (LME:LEARN)

14 LME:LEARN is a program to improve global ecosystem-based governance of Large Marine Ecosystems and their coasts by generating knowledge, building capacity, harnessing public and private partners and supporting south-to-south learning and north-to-south learning. A key element of this improved governance is mainstreaming cooperation between LME, MPA, MSP and ICM projects in overlapping areas, both for GEF projects and for non-GEF projects. The project plans to achieve a multiplier effect using demonstrations of learning tools and toolboxes, to aid practitioners and other key stakeholders, in conducting and learning from GEF projects.

Greening the Shipping Industry

Transforming the Global Maritime Transport Industry towards a Low carbon Future through Improved Energy Efficiency (GloMEEP)

15 **Global Maritime Energy Efficiency Partnerships (GloMEEP) is a GEF-UNDP-IMO project aimed at supporting the uptake and implementation of energy efficiency measures for shipping, thereby reducing greenhouse gas emissions from shipping. GloMEEP supports ten Lead Pilot Countries of the project to implement these measures, through:** legal, policy and institutional reforms, awareness raising and capacity-building activities, and establishment of public-private partnerships to support low carbon shipping. The Lead Pilot Countries (LPCs) of the GloMEEP project are: Argentina, China, Georgia, India, Jamaica, Malaysia, Morocco, Panama, Philippines and South Africa.

Building Partnerships to Assist Developing Countries to Reduce the Transfer of Harmful Aquatic Organisms through Biofouling (GloFouling Partnerships)

16 The overall objective of the GloFouling Partnerships Project is to build capacity in developing countries for implementing the IMO Biofouling and other relevant guidelines for biofouling management and to catalyse overall reductions in the transboundary introduction of biofouling-mediated IAS with additional benefits in the reduction of GHG emissions from global shipping. The GloFouling Project is divided into five major components: 1. Legal, Policy and Institutional Reforms (LPIR) in participating countries, developed and implemented to minimise the risk of Invasive Aquatic Species (IAS) transferred through biofouling; 2. Capacity building and technical support for the implementation of the 2011 Biofouling Guidelines and best practices for biofouling management in other ocean industries; 3. Public-private partnerships to bring active private sector participation at global, regional, national and local levels, to support the development of innovative technological and other solutions and financial sustainability for the control and management of biofouling; 4. Knowledge management systems and enhanced stakeholder and institutional cooperation for research, monitoring and evaluation of biofouling management and control measures; and 5. Monitoring and evaluation.

Ridge-to-Reef Integrated Watershed and Coastal Area Management

Implementing a Ridge to Reef approach to Preserve Ecosystem Services, Sequester Carbon, Improve Climate Resilience and Sustain Livelihoods in Fiji

17 This R2R approach in priority catchments will bolster Fiji's national system of marine protected areas through an enhanced, representative and sustainable system of LMMA including greater protection of threatened marine species. Negative impacts of land-based activities on these MPAs will be reduced through development and implementation of integrated catchment management plans, including mangrove protection, the adoption of appropriate sustainable land use practices and riparian restoration in adjoining upstream watersheds as well as terrestrial PAs, restored and rehabilitated forests. The R2R planning and overarching management approach is comprehensive; it aims to cover all activities within a catchment and out to the sea to ensure natural resource sustainability and biodiversity. The selected priority catchments are Ba River, Tuva River and Waidina River/Rewa Delta on Viti Levu and Labasa River, Vunivia River and Tunuloa district on Vanua Levu

Reimaanlok - Looking to the Future: Strengthening natural resource management in atoll communities in the Republic of Marshall Islands employing integrated approaches (RMI R2R)

18 As a Small Island Developing State (SIDS), the Republic of Marshall Islands (RMI) has a strong dependence on natural resources and biodiversity not only for food and income. The Marshallese relationship with the islands forms the basis of its culture and way of life which has developed in harmony over thousands of years. In the face of global threats, RMI still has pristine waters and coral reefs that contribute to ecosystem services and livelihoods. In recognition of the importance of its natural assets, RMI together with other SIDS responded to global conservation targets through the Micronesia Challenge and specifically for its part, it prepared Reimaanlok to serve as a clear roadmap of the way forward. This project aims to support operationalizing the Reimaanlok – the National Conservation Area Plan, adopted in 2008 to effectively conserve at least 30% of the nearshore marine resources and 20% of the terrestrial resources across Micronesia by 2020. The project objective is to sustain atoll biodiversity and livelihoods by building community and ecosystem resilience to threats and degrading influences through integrated management of terrestrial and coastal resources. The principles and processes outlined in Reimaanlok will be implemented in 5 islands/atolls, the lessons from which will guide replication in other sites

Implementing a Ridge to Reef approach to protect biodiversity and ecosystem functions in Tuvalu (R2R Tuvalu)

19 The objective of the Tuvalu R2R Project is “to preserve ecosystem services, sustain livelihoods and improve resilience in Tuvalu using a ‘ridge-to-reef’ approach”. To achieve this objective, the project focuses on: enhancing and strengthening conservation and protected areas; rehabilitating degraded coastal and inland forests and landscapes and supporting the delivery of integrated water resource management (IWRM) and integrated coastal management (ICM) at a national scale whilst piloting hands-on approaches at the island scale (on three selected pilot islands); enhancing governance and institutional capacities at the national, island, and community levels for enhanced inland and coastal natural resource management; and improving data and information systems that would enable improve evidence-based planning, decision-making, and management of natural resources in Tuvalu.

Application of Ridge to Reef Concept for biodiversity conservation, and for the enhancement of ecosystem service and cultural heritage in Niue

20 This project will enhance Niue’s capacities to effectively create and manage its protected areas, focusing on the expansion of its PA estate on land and on its marine areas through a combination of community conservation areas and government-led PA. In the Community Conservation Area, strict protection and sustainable use zones will be identified and planned carefully, recognizing that tenure over most land areas are vested in local communities. This project has been designed to engineer a paradigm shift in the management of marine and terrestrial PA sites from a site centric approach to a holistic ridge to reef management approach, whereby activities in the immediate production landscapes adjacent to marine and terrestrial protected areas will be managed to reduce threats to biodiversity stemming from key production activities (tourism and agriculture). Additionally, the project also introduces the concept of connectivity in landscape and seascape in Niue. The terrestrial protected area will include a landscape that links strictly protected community areas (Tabu) to each other to enhance their integrity and to form a corridor between them. Similarly, the creation of a protected area in Beveridge Reef is expected to sustain recruitment of clams and other marine species for Niue’s coral reefs and vice versa.

ASEAN IWRM: Reducing Pollution and Habitat Loss and Preserving Environmental Flows to the East Asian Seas through the Implementation of Integrated River Basin Management

21 The project objective is to improve governance and management responsiveness and capacities in integrated water resources management, pollution load reduction from nutrients and other land-based activities, protection and conservation of freshwater environmental flows, and alleviation of climate vulnerability through demonstrations, planning, and strengthening of integrated river basin management in selected countries in the East Asian Seas. The project consists of three components: 1. Baseline Assessment of Source to Sea Management Continuum; 2. IRBM Pilot Projects for Improved Governance and Management of River Basins/Sub-Basins and Associated Coastal Areas, and 3. Knowledge management and learning.

Restoring marine ecosystem services by rehabilitating coral reefs to meet a changing climate future (Seychelles/Mauritius)

22 The objective of the project is to upscale and mainstream the rehabilitation of coral reefs degraded by coral bleaching in order to restore essential ecosystem services in the face of climate change threats and to generate knowledge about the most effective solutions for dissemination to SIDS and countries within the wider region. The project will contribute to demonstrating where, when and how healthy or restored coastal ecosystems can contribute to cost-effective solutions that address current and growing risk from natural hazards and climate change. The project will demonstrate innovations in adaptation finance for transformational impact both by using new technologies and different financial models to create cost effective solutions to sustain these

adaptation measures beyond the project lifespan. By adopting the regional approach, it is expected that the stakeholders involved will develop the technical and scientific partnerships as well as a common political understanding and will to promote the use of effective natural solutions in adaptation and disaster risk reduction.

Implementing Integrated Land, Water & Wastewater Management in Caribbean SIDS: IW-ECO (w/UNEP)

23 The overall project objective is 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. UNDP roles include responsibility for support in strengthening of livelihood opportunities in the development and execution of small-scale community investments associated with the national sub-projects in the eight countries through the GEF Small Grants Programme as well as execution of activities under Regional Sub-project 4 on Knowledge Management.

Ridge to Reef - Testing the Integration of Water, Land, Forest & Coastal Management to Preserve Ecosystem Services, Store Carbon, Improve Climate Resilience and Sustain Livelihoods in Pacific Island Countries

24 The purpose of the regional project is to test the mainstreaming of 'ridge-to-reef' (R2R), climate resilient approaches to integrated land, water, forest and coastal management in the PICs through strategic planning, capacity building and piloted local actions to sustain livelihoods and preserve ecosystem services. This regional project provides the primary coordination vehicle for the national R2R STAR Projects that are part of the Pacific R2R Program, by building on nascent national processes from the previous GEF IWRM project to foster sustainability and resilience for each island through: reforms in policy, institutions, and coordination; building capacity of local institutions to integrate land, water and coastal management through on-site demonstrations; establishing evidence-based approaches to ICM planning; improved consolidation of results monitoring and information and data required to inform cross-sector R2R planning approaches. This project will also focus attention on harnessing support of traditional community leadership and governance structures to improve the relevance of investment in ICM, including MPAs, from 'community to cabinet'.

UNDP Ocean Innovation Facility

25 In late 2019, UNDP will be launching its "Ocean Innovation Facility (OIF)". The Ocean Innovation Facility is a unique new mechanism that has been designed to accelerate progress on SDG14 via the identification, financing, advising and mentoring of truly innovative, entrepreneurial and creative approaches towards ocean and coastal restoration and protection that sustains livelihoods and advances the 'blue economy'. Towards maximizing and catalyzing impact, OIC seeks innovations that are transferable, replicable and scalable. The OIF will issue a series of staggered 'Ocean Challenges' or Requests for Proposals, each focused on a specific SDG14 target. Initial concepts may be submitted by public or private entities, including governments, private companies (including start-ups), NGO/CSO, United Nations entities, academic institutions, and intergovernmental organizations. The OIF will also work to develop, disseminate and provide easy access to information and resources on successful ocean innovations, both of these funded by the OIC and others. This will be primarily done through the OIC website and the [Ocean Action Hub](#), an established knowledge platform which aims to connect experts and practitioners. The OIC will coordinate and share information with related initiatives such as the World Bank's ProBlue, Sustainable Ocean Fund, Sustainable Ocean Alliance, and others.