

LME23

PARIS, FRANCE • 3-5 June 2024



**23rd ANNUAL CONSULTATIVE MEETING ON
LARGE MARINE ECOSYSTEMS AND COASTAL PARTNERS (LME23)**

3 – 5 June 2024

UNESCO Headquarters, Paris, FRANCE

CONCEPT NOTE

Goal of the meeting

The Consultation Meeting on Large Marine Ecosystems (LMEs) and Coastal Partners plays a crucial role in fostering the development of collaborative efforts and partnerships within the framework of LMEs. By actively engaging leaders in marine science, coastal management, biodiversity conservation, and projects focused on coastal climate change adaptation, this gathering serves as a dynamic platform for knowledge exchange and strategic discussions. It provides a global forum for Global Environment Facility (GEF)-funded and other marine and coastal practitioners, partner organizations and institutions, including Regional Seas organisations and Fisheries Management Organizations, international NGOs and regional community leaders. The primary goal is to exchange experiences and insights related to ecosystem-based management (EBM) of LMEs and effective ocean governance.

Overarching objectives

- To continue strengthening the LME process and partnerships;
- To promote collaboration among LMEs, Regional Seas Programmes (RSPs) and Regional Fisheries Management Organizations (RFMOs), Areas Beyond National Jurisdiction (ABNJ) and River Basin Organizations (RBOs) in pursuance of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), in particular the SDG14;

- To foster a mutually supportive global network of leaders and institutions engaged in marine and coastal ecosystem-based management, including LMEs, integrated coastal management (ICM), marine protected areas (MPA), marine spatial planning (MSP), sustainable blue economy (SBE), sustainable ocean plans (SOPs), Source-to-Sea management (S2S) and others, for discussing experiences and lessons learned;
- To mobilize knowledge resources, new scientific applications and tools to support the implementation of LME and marine projects, and organizational action related to priority knowledge topics;
- To mobilize partners to enhance the LME community's efforts towards the implementation of Strategic Action Plans (SAPs), as well as the implementation of Agenda 2030.

Specific objectives of the LME23 Meeting

- To review progress in regions through GEF-funded marine and coastal projects, disseminating best practices, and discussing emerging issues requiring common responses;
- To consult the LME community on the progress of the work on updating the LME concept and strategy;
- To share the latest science, innovation, and knowledge from the ocean science community;
- To further elaborate on integrated approaches in the management of LMEs, such as SOPs, S2S collaboration and inform on the status of GEF-8 Integrated Programmes (IPs);
- To consolidate inputs to the Tenth International Waters Conference (IWC10) on sessions related to marine and coastal issues, other key events and processes, e.g. the United Nations Ocean Conference (UNOC 2025) process and help shape strategic priorities for the GEF-9 replenishment cycle;
- To inform on the status of the Data and Information Management (DIM) workstream and brainstorm on the next steps.

Expected Outputs

- Input to the IWC10 in September 2024, UNOC 2025 & GEF9
- Roadmap for updating the LME concept
- Definition of outreach activities for the coming year
- Constitute a working group on DIM

Proposed set-up

The meeting will take place at the UNESCO Headquarters in Paris starting on Monday 3 June in the afternoon until Wednesday 5 June. The proposed set-up will include presentations, facilitated panel discussions, interactive sessions and break-out working groups. The break-out groups will build on the presentations and discussions of the preceding sessions. The last session on Wednesday 5 June afternoon will be dedicated to a workshop on Data and Information Management (DIM). The LME23 meeting will gather ~ 70 participants representing the GEF implementing and executing agencies, regional organizations, NGOs, governmental representatives familiar with IW projects, partners from the private sector, other partners and practitioners from LMEs and adjacent river basins. Participants to the DIM workshop will include LME project managers and relevant DIM partners.

Participation is by invitation only.

Enclosed documents

- [LME22 summary report](#)
- [Draft LME Community Medium Term Framework Strategy](#)

Draft Agenda-at-a-Glance

	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday
	3 June 2024	4 June 2024	5 June 2024
09.15-09.30	Bi-lateral meetings (tbc)	Recap of Day 1 and introducing Day 2	Recap of Day 2 and introducing Day 3
09.30-10.00		Session 3 – Challenges and opportunities for advancing LMEs (+ 🎤)	Session 5 – Sustaining results and impacts of LME projects (+ 🎤)
10.00-10.30			Break-out session
10.30-11.00			
11.00-11.30		Break-out session	Session 6 – Towards IWC10, UNOC etc
11.30-12.00			
12.00-12.30		Session 7 – LME23 closing session	
12.30-13.00	LUNCH	LUNCH	LUNCH
13.00-13.30			
13.30-14.00			
14.00-14.30	Session 1 - Opening	Reporting back	Workshop on Data and Information Management (DIM)
14.30-15.00	Session 2 – LME Implementation progress (+ 🎤)	Session 4 – From LMEs to high seas(+ 🎤)	
15.00-15.30			
15.30-16.00		Break-out session	
16.00-16.30			
16.30-17.00	Break-out session	Reporting, discussion and wrap-up Day 2	
17.00-17.30			
17.30-18.00	Reporting and wrap-up Day 1		
18.00	Welcome cocktail		

DAY 1: Monday 3 June 2024 (afternoon)			
Time	Title	Objectives	Description
14.00-14.30	Session 1 - Opening	To open the meeting, welcome the participants and set the scene for the subsequent sessions and discussions.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Welcome • Key developments since LME22 meeting • Structure and objectives of LME23 meeting
14.30-16.30	Session 2 - LME Implementation progress	To elaborate on the progress in the LME implementation by showcasing latest results in terms of scientific results & tools; partnerships; innovation and SIDS	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Showcasing latest highlights since LME22 (max. 8)
16.15-16.30	Coffee		
16.30-17.30	Break out groups		
17.30-18.00	Reporting and wrap up Day 1		

DAY 2: Tuesday 4 June 2024			
Time	Title	Objectives	Description
09.15-09.30	Recap of Day 1 and introducing Day 2		
09.30-11.15	Session 3 – Challenges and opportunities for advancing LMEs	To address challenges and highlight opportunities related to a number of topics of interest to LMEs	Possible points for discussion <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - <i>Leveraging science (LME updated bibliography; Report back from LME satellite event at ODC etc.)</i> - <i>Share status on TDA/SAP update</i> - <i>Status update IPs</i> - <i>Knowledge management and exchange - role of IW:LEARN</i> - <i>Data and Information Management (link to workshop)</i> - <i>Gender mainstreaming and stakeholder participation</i> - <i>Expediting and streamlining the starting and implementation of LME projects</i>
11.15-11.30	Coffee		
11.30-12.30	Break out groups (IW Clinics or World Cafe tbd)		
12.30-14.00	LUNCH		
14.00-14.30	Reporting back		
14.30-16.00	Session 4 – From LMEs to high seas	To address the potential engagement and role of LMEs in the conservation and sustainable use of ABNJs in view of the latest developments on the BBNJ treaty.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Update from GEFSec on ABNJ/BBNJ • Update of LME concept and strategy • Integration of LMEs & High Seas; LMEs & RBOs (S2S)
16.00-17.00	Break-out groups		
17.00-18.00	Reporting, discussion and wrap-up Day 2		

DAY 3: Wednesday 5 June 2024			
Time	Title	Objectives	Description
09.15-09.30	Recap Day 2 and introducing Day 3		
09.30-10.30	Session 5 - Sustaining results and impacts of LME projects	To address how to sustain results and impacts of LME projects	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Funding partnerships, collaboration with private sector Perspectives of industry partners and government representatives as beneficiaries
10.30-10.45	Coffee		
10.45-11.45	Break-out groups Financing tools		
11.45-12.15	Session 6 – Towards IWC10, UNOC 2025 and GEF-9	To design a roadmap on how to position LMEs in upcoming events and processes	
12.15-12.30	Session 7 – Closing session	To summarize key outcomes and next steps	
12.30-14.00	LUNCH		
14.00-17.30	Workshop on DIM	To inform on the status of DIM workstream, including latest DIM considerations by partners To brainstorm on the next steps with respect to the four pillars (metadata; visualization; legal aspects; reporting) To constitute the DIM WG	