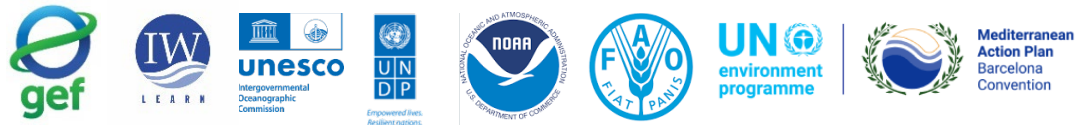


LME24

ATHENS, GREECE • 14-16 May 2025



24th ANNUAL CONSULTATIVE MEETING ON

LARGE MARINE ECOSYSTEMS AND COASTAL PARTNERS (LME24)

14 -16 May 2025

Athens, GREECE

DRAFT CONCEPT NOTE

Goal of the meeting

The Consultation Meeting on Large Marine Ecosystems (LMEs) and Coastal Partners plays a crucial role in the maintaining and developing collaborative efforts and partnerships within the framework of LMEs. This gathering serves as a dynamic platform for knowledge exchange and strategic discussions by actively engaging leaders in coastal management, marine science and biodiversity conservation. 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

The overarching objectives of the annual LME meetings are to:

- To further strengthen the LME process and partnerships;
- To extend 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 LME24 Meeting

The LME24 meeting will focus on **“Thirty years of LME Collaboration: Advancing Policy Coherence and Integration”**. The specific objectives include:

- To highlight achievements and progress in regions through GEF-funded marine and coastal projects, disseminating best practices, discussing common challenges and emerging issues requiring common responses;
- To foster engagement and new partnerships with a broader range of stakeholders, including potential donors;
- To brainstorm on how to mainstream the LME concept;
- To explore ways how to enhance policy coherence in the management LMEs and align LME-based initiatives with Multilateral Environmental Agreements (MEAs);
- To further elaborate on the integrated approaches in the management of LMEs, such as S2S and SOPs;
- To consult the LME community on the GESAMP's work on LME designation and the enhancements of the TDA/SAP methodology;
- To inform of the status Integrated Programmes (IPs) and other programmes, including cross-cutting topics such as indicator frameworks and knowledge management platforms;
- To inform on the strategic priorities for the GEF-9 replenishment cycle;
- To consolidate inputs to key global dialogue events, namely United Nations Ocean Conference (UNOC3), the 11th International Waters Conference (IWC11) and the 6th International Marine Protected Area Congress (IMPAC 6).

Expected Outputs

- Update of the key achievements and challenges of the LME portfolio
- Input to LME Advisory Committee on how to mainstream the LME concept
- Inputs from the LME community to the upcoming global dialogues

Proposed set-up

The LME24 meeting will gather ~ 80 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.

The two-and-half day meeting will take place in Athens from Wednesday 14 May 2025 to Friday 16 May 2025. Details on the meeting venue will be provided shortly as part of the logistics note. The proposed set-up will include interactive sessions, discussions, panel and group discussions.

Participation is by invitation only.

Enclosed documents

- [LME23 summary report](#)

Draft Agenda-at-a-Glance

	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
	14 May 2025	15 May 2025	16 May 2025
09.00-09.30	Session 1: Opening	Reporting Day 1 (Sessions 2B & 4B)	Session 9: Mainstreaming the LME approach into global environmental and policy processes and initiatives (panel)
09.30-10.00	Session 2A: Progress in LME Implementation (panel) Key highlights from the GEF projects, including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - SAP implementation - Sustainable Blue Economy (SBE) - Fisheries - Plastics - 30 X30, - ABNJ/BBNJ etc. 	Session 5A: Data, Information and Knowledge Management Strategies (panel) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Experiences and challenges from integrated programmes (IPs) and other programmes (e.g. Common Oceans, Freshwater Challenge, MedProgramme etc.) - Experiences from Regional Seas 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - GEF-9 strategic directions (ppt) - Panel discussion on synergies with global processes - UNFCCC, CBD, DOALOS, MEAs, RSCs, RFMOs, ABNJ/BBNJ etc.
10.00-10.30			Session 10: Extending cooperation with the private sector (tbc) (panel) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Placeholder panel with private sector representatives
10.30-11.00		Coffee break	
11.00-11.30	Coffee break	Session 5B: Data, Information and Knowledge Management Strategies (Round table discussions) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - DIM: Regional data infrastructure, standards, accessibility, availability etc. - DIM: Common indicators - Integrating DIM from source-to-sea - Knowledge management 	Coffee break
11.30-12.00	Session 2B: How to advance the existing LME partnerships and overcome challenges they face (Round table discussions) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - PSE/PPP - governance - project management 		Reporting (8B) & wrap up

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - inclusion (youth, gender, IPs) - .. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Use of AI in Ecosystem Based Management 	
12.00-12.30		Session 6: Launch of twinning programmes (5x pitches + World Café)	Closing
12.30-13.00	LUNCH	LUNCH	LUNCH
13.00-13.30			
13.30-14.00			
14.00-14.30	Session 3: Supporting LME implementation (panel) Proposed chair: Andrew Hume/Ines Benabdallah <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Updates on the LME designation process (GESAMP) - TDA/SAP enhancements (MSP/SBE & S2S) - IW:LEARN activities 	Session 7A: Science generation, uptake and communication (panel) Chair: Julian Barbieri <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Ocean Decade update (IOC) - Increasing science provision into integrated approaches - ... 	Second LME Advisory Committee meeting
14.30-15.00			
15.00-15.30	Session 4A: Towards more integrated approaches (panel) Proposed Chair: Isabelle Vanderbeck/Hartwig Kremers <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - S2S guidances (UNECE; IWL) - Clean and Healthy Oceans (FAO) - Sustainable Ocean Planning and Management (SOPM) (IOC) 	Session 7B: How to communicate science better (workshop led by MedProgramme in collaboration with Climate Explorers 2024/ Constructive Institute)	
15.30-16.00			

16.00-16.30	Coffee Break	Coffee Break	
16.30-17.00	Session 4B: Supporting LME implementation and integration	Session 7B: How to communicate science better (workshop cont.)	
17.00-17.30	(Round-table discussions) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - MSP in TDA/SAP consultation - How to integrate S2S in GEF IW projects - LMEs as users and vehicle to implement SOPM - Strengthening capacities - Citizen science in LME projects 	Session 8: Engagement of the LME community in global dialogues (panel/ppts) Proposed Chair: IW:LEARN <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - UNOC3, IMPAC6 .. - Outcomes of IWC10 and inputs to IWC11 	
17.30-18.15	Clean and Healthy Ocean IP soft launch	Reporting (5B & 7B) & wrap up	
18.15-19.15	Welcome cocktail		

DAY 1: Wednesday 14 May 2025			
Time	Title	Objectives	Description / Format
09.00-09.30	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 remarks • Structure and objectives of LME24 meeting
09.30-11.00	Session 2A - Progress in LME Implementation	To present key highlights from the GEF projects, <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - SAP implementation - Sustainable Blue Economy (SBE) - Fisheries - Plastics - 30 X30, - ABNJ/BBNJ etc. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Showcasing latest highlights from the portfolio since LME23 • Panel
11.00-11.30	COFFEE		
09.30-11.00	Session 2B - How to advance the existing LME partnerships and overcome challenges they face	Discussions in round-table based on a set of questions covering: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - PSE/PPP - governance - project management - inclusion (youth, gender, IPs) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Round-table discussions
12.30-14.00	LUNCH		
14.00-15.00	Session 3 - Supporting LME implementation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Updates on the LME designation process (GESAMP) - TDA/SAP enhancements (MSP/SBE & S2S) - IW:LEARN activities 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Panel
15.00-16.00	Session 4A - Towards more integrated approaches	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - S2S guidances (IW:LEARN) - Clean and Healthy Oceans (FAO) - Sustainable Ocean Planning and 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Panel

		Management (SOPM) (IOC)	
16.00- 16.30	COFFEE		
16.30- 17.30	Session 4B - Supporting LME implementation and integration	Discussions in round-tables based on a set of questions: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - MSP in TDA/SAP consultation - How to integrate S2S in GEF IW projects - LMEs as users and vehicle to implement SOPM - Strengthening capacities - Citizen science in LME projects 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Round-table discussions
17.30- 18.15	Clean and Healthy Ocean IP soft launch		
18.15- 19.15	Welcome Cocktail		

DAY 2: Thursday 15 May 2025			
Time	Title	Objectives	Description / Format
09.00-09.30	Reporting Day 1 (Sessions 2B & 4B)		
09.30-10.30	Session 5A – Data, Information and Knowledge Management Strategies	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Experiences and challenges from integrated programmes (IPs) and other programmes (e.g. Common Oceans, Freshwater Challenge, MedProgramme etc.) - Experiences from Regional Seas 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Panel
10.30-11.00	COFFEE		
11.00-12.00	Session 5B – Data, Information and Knowledge Management Strategies	Discussions in round tables based on a set of questions covering: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - DIM: Regional data infrastructure, standards, accessibility, availability etc. - DIM: Common indicators - Integrating DIM from source-to-sea - Knowledge management - Use of AI in Ecosystem Based Management 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Round-table discussions
12.00-12.30	Session 6 – Launch of twinning programmes		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 5x pitches + World Café
12.30-14.00	LUNCH		
14.00-15.00	Session 7A: Science generation, uptake and communication	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Ocean Decade update (IOC) - ... 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Panel
15.00-16.00	Session 7B:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Increasing science provision into integrated approaches 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Round-table discussions

		- Communicating science – the role of green/blue journalism	
16.00-16.30	COFFEE		
16.30-17.30	Session 8 - Engagement of the LME community in global dialogues ...	- UNOC3, IMPAC6 .. - Outcomes of IWC10 and inputs to IWC11	• Panel & discussion
17.30-18.00	Reporting (5B & 7B) & wrap up		
DAY 3: Friday 16 May 2025 (morning only)			
Time	Title	Objectives	Description / Format
09.00-10.00	Session 9 – Strengthening cooperation to achieve policy coherence	- GEF-9 strategic directions (ppt) - Panel discussion - UNFCCC, CBD, DOALOS, MEAs, RSCs, RFMOs, ABNJ/BBNJ etc.	• Presentation • Panel
10.00-11.00	Session 10 - Extending cooperation with the private sector	-	• Panel
11.00-11.30	COFFEE		
11.30-12.00	Reporting (8B) & wrap up		
12.00-12.30	Closing		