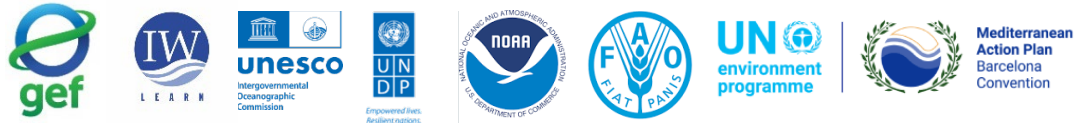


LME24

ATHENS, GREECE • 14-16 May 2025



24th ANNUAL CONSULTATIVE MEETING ON

LARGE MARINE ECOSYSTEMS AND COASTAL PARTNERS (LME24)

14 -16 May 2025

Athens, GREECE

CONCEPT NOTE & AGENDA

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 planning and management (SOPM), 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 Programmes (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 SOPMs;
- 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)	Session 5A: Data, Information and Knowledge Management Strategies (panel)		Session 10: Extending cooperation with the private sector (panel)
10.00-10.30		Coffee break		
10.30-11.00				
11.00-11.30	Coffee break	Session 5B: Data, Information and Knowledge Management Strategies (Round table discussions)	Coffee break	
11.30-12.00	Session 2B: How to advance the existing LME partnerships and overcome challenges they face (Round table discussions)			Closing
12.00-12.30			Session 6: Launch of twinning programmes	
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)	Session 7A: Science generation, uptake and communication (panel)	Second LME Advisory Committee meeting	
14.30-15.00				
15.00-15.30	Session 4A: Towards more integrated approaches (panel)	Session 7B: How to communicate science better		
15.30-16.00				
16.00-16.30	Coffee Break	Coffee Break		
16.30-17.00	Session 4B: Supporting LME implementation and integration (Round-table discussions)	Session 7B: How to communicate science better (workshop cont.)		
17.00-17.30		Session 8: Engagement of the LME community in global dialogues		
17.30-18.15	Curbing land-based pollution to address marine hypoxia: soft launch of the GEF-8 Clean and Healthy Ocean Integrated Program (CHO IP)	Reporting (5B & 7B) & wrap up		
18.15-19.15				Welcome cocktail

DAY 1: Wednesday 14 May 2025			
Session 1 - Opening			
Session Chair: Julian Barbière (UNESCO-IOC)			
Objectives: To open the meeting, welcome the participants and set the scene for the subsequent sessions and discussions.			
Time	Description	Name	Format
09.00-09.25	Welcome	Tatjana Hema (Barcelona Convention Secretariat) Muhammad Abdi Suhufan (Special Envoy of the Ministry of Marine Affairs and Fisheries of Indonesia) Dionysia Avgerinopoulou (Special Envoy for Ocean, Greece) - tbc Ines Benabdallah (GEFSec) Adnan Awan (UNDP) Hartwig Kremer (UNEP) Konstantina Toli (IW:LEARN)	Plenary; individual addresses
09.25-09.30	Structure and objectives of LME24 meeting	Claudette Spiteri (IW:LEARN)	Plenary, presentation
Session 2A - Progress in LME Implementation			
Session Chair: Vladimir Mamaev (UNDP)			
Objectives: To present latest key highlights from the GEF projects			
Time	Description	Name	Format

09.30-11.00	Build back a blue and stronger Med (10685)	Romain Renoux (MedFund)	Panel
	Blue Nature Alliance (10375)	Madeline Beattie (Conservation International)	7-8 mins each Topics:
	Common Fisheries Initiative Indonesia (9129)	Syahril Abd Rauf (CFI Indonesia; Ministry of Marine Affairs and Fisheries, Indonesia)	- MPAs; 30 X 30
	Sustainable management of the living marine resources of the WCPFC (10394)	Lisa Buchanan (OFMP; FFA)	- Fisheries
	REBYC-III CLME+ (10857)	Nerissa Lucky (University of the West Indies)	- SIDS
	ICZM, governance & climate change 9687 & SSCF -9670	Djurdjina Bulatovic (Ministry of Ecology, Sustainable Development and Northern Region Development)	- Sustainable Blue Economy
	Gulf of Mexico SAP LME (6952)	Margarita Garcia; Sergio Bernabe Garzon (GoM SAP; UNOPS)	- SAP implementation
	Arafura and Timor Seas Ecosystem Action (6920)	Handoko Adi Susanto (PEMSEA)	- Coastal Zone Management
			- Marine Spatial planning
			2 slides :
			1. Brief overview of project, location, objectives, timeline etc.
			2. Describe the latest key achievement on one of the topics above with respect to one of the following:
			<ul style="list-style-type: none">• scientific results & tools• partnerships• governance• innovation• sustainability
11.00-11.30	COFFEE BREAK		
Session 2B - How to advance the existing LME partnerships and overcome challenges they face			
11.30-12.30	i. Governance issues	Isabelle Vanderbeck (UNEP)	Round-table discussions
	ii. Project management issues	Vladimir Mamaev (UNDP)	

	iii. Inclusion (youth, gender, Indigenous People)	Marialena Vyzaki (FAO) Senem Berber (MedProgramme)	
	iv. Stakeholder Engagement	Dimitris Faloutsos (GWP)	
	v. Partnerships	Michail Marios Scoullas (MIO-ECSDE; GWP-Med; WES-BCA)	
12.30-14.00	LUNCH		
Session 3 - Supporting LME implementation			
Session Chair: Ines Benabdallah (GEFSec)			
Objectives: To inform on the latest processes and activities in support of the LME implementation			
Time	Description	Name	Format
14.00-15.00	Update on GESAMP Scoping Paper on Scientific Support to LMEs	Andrew Hudson (GESAMP) (online)	Presentation (10-15 mins each)
	TDA/SAP enhancements (S2S & MSP/SBE)	Ruth Mathews (Currents Converge) Louise Lieberknecht (GRID-A)	
	Leverging expertise and contribution from the industry/private sector expertise in support of LMEs	Lilia Khodjet El Khil (IMO)	
	IW:LEARN activities	Claudette Spiteri (IW:LEARN)	
Session 4A - Towards more integrated approaches			
Session Chair: Isabelle Vanderbeck & Hartwig Kremer (UNEP)			
Objectives: To highlight progress and challenges in the application of more integrated approaches			
Time	Description	Name	Format
15.00-16.00	S2S guidance (UNECE; IW:LEARN)	Ruth Mathews (Currents Converge)	Presentation (7-8 mins each)
	Sustainable Ocean Planning and Management (SOPM)	Fanny Douvere (UNESCO-IOC)	

	Clean and Healthy Oceans IP	Lorenzo Galbiati (FAO)	Panel (40 mins + Q&A) Questions – no slides
	Integrated management approaches from source to sea	Dimitris Faloutsos (GWP)	
	South China Sea and Gulf of Thailand SAP (5538)	Margarita Victoria Caballa (COBSEA)	
	From Common Oceans to ABNJ/BBNJ	Viktoria Varga Lencses (FAO)	
16.00-16.30	COFFEE BREAK		
Session 4B - Supporting LME implementation and integration			
16.30-17.30	i. MSP in TDA/SAP consultation	Louise Lieberknecht (GRID-A)	Round-table discussions
	ii. How to Apply the Source-to-Sea Approach in GEF IW projects	Ruth Mathews (Consultant)	
	iii. LMEs as users and vehicle to implement SOPM	Fanny Douvere (UNESCO-IOC)	
	iv. Citizen science in LME projects	Reynaldo Molina (SCS SAP; UNOPS)	
	v. Integrating MED LME policies and action across sectors and spatial segments: Recommendations from the MedProgramme ASM	Christine Haffner-Sifakis & Alessandro Candeloro (MedProgramme)	
17.30-18.15	Curbing land-based pollution to address marine hypoxia: soft launch of the GEF-8 Clean and Healthy Ocean Integrated Program (CHO IP)	FAO	
18.15-19.15	Welcome Cocktail		

DAY 2: Thursday 15 May 2025			
Time	Description	Name	
09.00-09.30	Reporting Day 1 (Sessions 2B & 4B)	Group Rapporteurs	
Session 5A- Data, Information and Knowledge Management Strategies			
Session Chair: Lorenzo Galbiati (FAO)			
Objectives: To share experiences and challenges on DIM at different levels			
Time	Description	Name	Format
09.30-10.30	Approaches and challenges From Global		5 mins & 1 question each. Slides optional – 3 max.
	Blue and Green Islands IP	Adnan Awad (UNDP)	
	Plastic Reboot IP	Isabelle Vanderbeck (UNEP)	
	Common Oceans Programme	Viktoria Varga Lencses (FAO)	
	Integrating coral reef indicators, monitoring data, and the subsequent global and regional assessments	Tom Dallison (ICRI)	
	Ocean Intelligence	Jason Meads (SubSee AI)	
	To Regional		
	Black Sea - Blueing the Black Sea (BBSEA)	Venera Domi (BSEC)	
10.30-11.00	COFFEE BREAK		
Session 5B - Supporting LME implementation and integration			
11.00-12.00	i. DIM: Regional data infrastructure, standards, accessibility, availability etc.	Isabelle Vanderbeck (UNEP)	Round-table discussions

	ii. DIM: Common indicators	Vladimir Mamaev (UNDP)	
	iii. Integrating DIM from source-to-sea	Iryna Makarenko (BSC)	
	iv. Collect, Curate, Share: The Knowledge Management Challenge	Konstantina Toli (IW:LEARN)	
	v. Use of AI in Ecosystem Based Management	Richard Saville (SubSee AI)	
Session 6 - Launch of twinning programmes			
12.00-12.30	i. Sustainable Pacific (10076) & Humboldt II (9592)	Alejandro Arrivillaga (WWF)	Pitches x4 (5 mins each)
	ii. African SIDS (10865) & PROCARIBE+ (10800)	Ralph Philip (GWPSA)	
	iii. BE-CLME+ (10211) & Micronesia Challenge 2030 (10740)	Dayne Buddo (CRFM)	
	iv. CAR BlueFin (10782) & OCTA Amazon (9970)	Claudette Spiteri (IW:LEARN)	
12.30-14.00	LUNCH		
Session 7A - Science generation, uptake and communication			
Session Chair: Julian Barbière (UNESCO-IOC)			
Objectives: To discuss how to enhance uptake and communication of science generated by LMEs			
Time	Description	Name	Format
14.00-15.00	Ocean Decade update	Julian Barbière (UNESCO-IOC)	Panel
	INMS tools - the global scientific support process for international nitrogen policy development	Mark Sutton (CEH) (online)	3 slides 2 questions How can projects be designed to include a robust scientific component?
	GloNoise’s contribution to scientific data	Sevtap Ozdogan (IMO)	

	generation and its integration into policy frameworks		<i>How can we ensure that the science generated is effectively taken up, particularly in policy and societal processes?</i>
	GEF TDA/SAP methodology to an ABNJ marine ecosystem – A case study of the Sargasso Sea	Andrew Hudson (consultant) (online)	
	Assessing biodiversity status using plankton assemblages	Kalliopi Pagkou (HCMR)	
	Ocean science and governance: looking into the future	Cyrille Barnerias (OfB)	
Session 7B - How to communicate science better			
15.00-16.00	Communicating science – the role of green/blue journalism 1) Can we address the current geopolitical context and how to navigate science communications and our wording in science communications? How can we make people care with all that’s going on? 2) The cultural context and language, how do we manage that when talking about science? 3) Related to the psychological part and predisposition of people, how can we speak to all kinds of persons, with more and less knowledge?	Climate Explorers 2024/ Constructive Institute	Workshop
16.00-16.30	COFFEE BREAK		
16.30-17.00	Session 7B - How to communicate science better (cont.)		
Session 8 - Engagement of the LME community in global dialogues			

Session Chair: Claudette Spiteri (IW:LEARN)			
Objectives: To identify synergies and opportunities for the engagement of the LME community in global dialogues			
Time	Description	Name	Format
17.00-17.30	UNOC3 & One Ocean Science congress	Julian Barbieri (UNESCO-IOC)	Presentations (10 mins)
	Ocean and Climate Dialogue & COP30	Jasdeep Randhawa (UNFCCC -online)	
	IMPAC6	Gonzalo Cid (NOAA - online)	
	GEF-9 strategic directions	Ines Benabdallah (GEFSec)	
Time	Description		
17.30-18.00	Reporting (5B & 7B) & wrap up	Group Rapporteurs	

DAY 3: Friday 16 May 2025 (morning only)			
Session 9 – Mainstreaming the LME approach into global environmental and policy processes and initiatives			
Session Chair: Ines Benabdallah (GEFSec)			
Objectives: To identify opportunities for synergies with other global processes			
Time	Description	Name	Format
09.00-10.00	Contribution by the MedProgramme & Fish EBM (10560) to other ocean related frameworks: CBD-KMBDF, BBNJ, UNFCCC (Paris Agreement)	Tatjana Hema (Barcelona Convention Secretariat)	Presentation (10 mins each)
		Anna Carlson (GFCM) Emna Derouiche (SPA/RAC)	
	Contribution of national activities, supported by LME projects, towards global processes	Sabria Bnoui (Ministry of Environment, Tunisia)	Panel discussion
		Omar Sharif (Ministry of Environment, Libya) - tbc	
		Djurdjina Bulatovic (Ministry of Ecology, Sustainable Development and Northern Region Development)	
	Session 10 – Extending cooperation with the private sector		
Session Chair: Konstantina Toli (IW:LEARN)			
Objectives: To explore how LMEs can enhance cooperation with the private sector			
Time	Description	Name	Format
10.00-11.00	Showcasing diverse examples of private sector engagement, focusing on contributions to marine sustainability through data services, green technologies, partnerships, and voluntary action.	Alpa Bhattacharjee (Fugro)	Panel
		Alkistis Kyriakopoulou (Deepsea Technologies)	
		Georgia Linaraki (Vasileiadis Group of Companies - V Group)	
		tbc	
11.00-11.30	COFFEE BREAK		

Time	Description	Name
Session Chair: Vladimir Mamaev (UNDP)		
11.30-12.00	Closing	Tatjana Hema (Barcelona Convention Secretariat) Julian Barbière (UNESCO-IOC) Dionysia Avgerinopoulou (Special Envoy for Ocean, Greece) - tbc