Open Ocean & Large Marine Ecosystems Components

Sustainability and Repeatability of the Assessment

2nd Working Group Meetings
7-11 April 2014
Objectives:

1. To undertake the first global assessment of transboundary waterbodies, through a formalised consortium of partners, that will assist GEF and other international organizations to improve the setting of priorities for funding allocations.

2. To formalise the partnership with key institutions aimed at incorporating transboundary considerations into regular assessment programmes, resulting in periodic assessments of transboundary groundwater, lake/reservoirs, river basins, large marine ecosystems, and open ocean areas.
## Sustaining the assessments - outputs

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>LMEs</th>
<th>OPEN OCEAN</th>
<th>OUTCOME</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Sustainable consortium of partners</td>
<td>Formal agreements among partner institutions and experts to conduct periodic assessment of open ocean</td>
<td>Improved review of the state of the open ocean /LMEs through a periodic sustainable assessment process linked to regular assessment programmes</td>
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<tr>
<td>Framework for sustaining the assessment process</td>
<td>A strategy for linking the open ocean assessment as a contribution to the ongoing UN Regular Process</td>
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Primary mechanisms for sustaining TWA

Primary mechanisms are considered as mechanisms that are required for future TWAP Open Ocean and LMEs assessments

And/ or

Provide moderate to excellent opportunities to mainstream the assessment methodologies, indicators, and initial assessment results in global and regional water assessments, which have not previously included transboundary water considerations.
Primary mechanisms

- Repeating the Open Ocean and LMEs assessments by a consortium of partners (follow on assessments within GEF6 IW Strategic Framework, multiple scales?)

- Uptake of the assessment methodologies, indicators and results in Global Assessment Mechanisms

- Scientific Support for Regional/ National Agencies in charge of water assessments

- Scientific Support for Communities of Practice

- Maintaining the data portal (Bruno)
Consortium of partners

- Current partners
- New partners (and roles)
- Statement of interest in contributing to future assessments (possibly linked to partners’ mandates)
- Individual experts?
Uptake in Existing Global Water Assessment Mechanisms

- UN World Ocean Assessment
- UNEP Global Environment Outlook (GEO)
- Global thematic assessments: FAO State of the World Fisheries and Aquaculture; IUCN Global Marine Species Assessment
Scientific support for regional/ national agencies with mandate for marine assessments

- GEF International Waters Projects (implementing and executing agencies)- TDA/SAP
- Regional Seas Programmes (UNEP and independent Regional Seas Programmes)
- LME Commissions, RFMOs, others

Open Ocean assessment can be tied to the regional and national scales by providing data and information about the potential impact of global ocean-scale influence on coastal ecosystems and human communities
Scientific Support for Communities of Practice

- GEF International Waters (IW) projects
- LMEs Community of Practice (project in development)
- Open Ocean community of practice?
Maintaining datasets and data portal

Requires the technical capability for maintaining the data portal and updating the indicators as new datasets become available.

In this current phase, the TWAP data management infrastructure is being supported through GEOWOW.

For future assessments, it is desirable that funding for the data portal is raised through a separate project.
Maintaining datasets and data portal

Minimal maintenance and improvements

• Ensure users support
• Monitoring server and services. The system is hosted on a virtual machine. Some regular maintenance (related to memory management) are also needed
• Updating the database and adapting the infographics
• Updating the narratives
• Merging with other IOC databases and information systems
• etc
Maintaining datasets and data portal

- Possible improvement: data vs elaboration of information in a more structured way

- Several communities of expert are needed to go from raw data to real advice to policy makers

- How to more formally help those different communities to work at the interface of their own expertise?
Rolling out the Assessment

The potential for influencing appropriate agencies to uptake the methodologies and results of the TWAP marine components will be greatly increased by an effective strategy to disseminate and promote the assessments and engage with key stakeholders and potential funders.

- Who?
- How?
- When?
- Where?
Target groups - International agencies (Member States)

- UN General Assembly: WOA
- IOC/UNESCO: TWAP
- UNEP (DEWA): GEO (global and SIDS)
- FAO: Fisheries Commissions, RFMOs, FAO State of the World Fisheries reports
- UN Environmental Conventions
- Global Ocean Commission: focus on high seas
- GEF implementing/executing agencies: UNDP, FAO, UNIDO, UNEP, World Bank, etc
- International NGOs: IUCN, Conservation International, Nature Conservancy
- Others
Scientific support for regional/ national agencies with mandate for marine assessments

- GEF International Waters Projects (implementing and executing agencies)- TDA/SAP

- Regional Seas Programmes (UNEP and independent Regional Seas Programmes)

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Key international and regional conferences and meetings (upcoming)

- UN Open-ended Informal Consultative Process on Oceans and the Law of the Sea, (June 2014)
- Annual LMEs Consultative Committee meeting (July 2014)
- Third International Conference on Small Island Developing States (1 - 4 September 2014, Samoa)
- Third Global Conference on Large Marine Ecosystems (8-10 October 2014, Namibia)
- Second International Ocean Research Conference (17-21 November 2014, Spain)
- Others
Roadmap

• To be developed