



## Sustainability of Large Marine Ecosystems: Bridging the Governance and Socioeconomic Gap

### Workshop Evaluation Summary March 23, 2006

Participants, representing nine LMEs and 17 countries, were asked to evaluate the LME Governance and Socioeconomics workshop based on:

- meeting the workshop objectives,
- what they wanted to learn,
- what they actually did learn, and
- what adaptations they will recommend for their LMEs.

Of the 21 participants, 95% (20) returned the evaluation. They gave the workshop an **overall grade of B (good)** for meeting the objectives and a **grade of A- (excellent)** for addressing the issues they wanted to learn. Their comments were thoughtful, honest and will help shape the Governance and Socioeconomics handbook that is in development as well as future iterations of LME Governance and Socioeconomics Module training. The participant feedback is summarized below.

#### **Overall Comments of the Workshop**

Participants gave a range of comments for the overall workshop. Several people thought the workshop was a very good experience to share ideas and learning about the issues. Two participants reflected on the critical point that context matters when applying a governance system to LMEs. One person noted that we are in uncharted territory and more needs to be done before we can talk with confidence. Another felt that the workshop was more instructive than participatory. Reading material given before hand, such as the draft handbook, would have helped improve the learning curve. Finally, one participant thought that considering the time constraints, the workshop's goals were too ambitious. However, the range of topics addressed helped shape participants' ideas.

#### **Meeting the Workshop Objectives**

Participants graded the workshop based on each of the six objectives stated below. It averaged out to a grade of 'B', which means good on an 'A' (excellent) to 'F' (fail) grading scale.

#### **1. To probe the human dimensions of LME governance (overall grade of A-)**

All of the respondents rated the workshop as good or excellent in meeting this objective. Participants thought that the facilitators did an excellent job in addressing this issue. Four people provided further comments on this objective, saying the diverse views of participants and facilitators allowed for a detailed exchange of experience that shared useful information. One person asked for more examples from existing LME projects.

**2. To strengthen the linkages between LME planning and sustained adaptive implementation (overall grade of B+)**

Again, all of the respondents rated the workshop as good or excellent in meeting this objective. Two people commented on this objective. One said that this goal takes time, so learning about searching for options is a good first step. The other person believed that people left with a better view of the linkages between LME components.

**3. To develop options for the institutional designs for SAP implementation (overall grade of B)**

About 70% of the respondents gave the workshop a good or better rating for addressing this objective. The other respondents rated it as fair. Five people gave further comments on this objective. Two of the comments thought that the discussion focused on expectations of institutional design but didn't provide practical options. One participant from the Benguela LME mentioned that they have already addressed this issue. Another person suggested that the discussion should have taken a broader perspective on institutional arrangements, rather than just focusing on the organizational structure attached to the governments. They would have looked at institutional structures with all three-stakeholder groups (government, resource users and private industry).

**4. To develop sustainable financing strategies for SAP implementation (overall grade of B)**

Over 70% of the respondents rated the workshop as good or excellent for addressing this objective. The remaining 30% rated this objective as fair. Six people gave comments. Four of the comments appreciated the brainstorming activity, which gave a full spectrum of options for designing sustainable financing strategies. Two people were looking for more details on the options, such as how to do trust funds without increasing the burden on stakeholders. Another comment noticed that the discussions assumed that all resources could support program activities.

**5. To discuss options for strengthening the linkages among the 5 LME modules (overall grade of B)**

Participants thought that the workshop did a good job or better in addressing the issue of strengthening linkages between the modules. Two people commented that this was a great first step in sharing ideas and experiences. Another person thought there was very little information and discussion on the topic. Finally one participant shared their view that the modular approach leads practitioners down the wrong road if they are not integrated throughout the process. A well-designed governance process can embed each module activity in a way that makes the linkages clear.

**6. To develop frameworks of indicators for measuring progress toward fundamental LME management goals (overall grade of B)**

The workshop didn't allocate much time to this objective due to the dynamic flow of the workshop. The limited time for presentation and discussion is reflected in the evaluations. Over 60% of the respondents rated the workshop as good or excellent for addressing this workshop. The remaining respondents rated this objective as fair. Three people provided further comments on this objective, stating that time constrained our progress on this objective and that selecting indicators that are acceptable by all of the LME countries will not be easy. One said that although not much work has been done in this area, they learned that governance and socioeconomic indicators are necessary.

## **Participants Wanted to Learn**

The major topics that participant most wanted to learn about in this workshop were focused around linking governance and socioeconomics to natural sciences, the TDA/SAP process, sustainable financing and learning from each other. Participants gave the workshop an **overall grade of A- (excellent)** for addressing the issues and themes that they most wanted to learn about. The items that follow are taken from surveys taken on the first and last days of the workshop.

### **1. Linking the Governance and Socioeconomics to the other Modules**

(11 participants, overall grade A-)

- Living micro to macro (scales) and forging lines between the two
- Opportunities to bring the socioeconomic issues to the foreground in LME process
- How to integrate governance and socioeconomics with the 3 natural science modules
- How to do the analysis of governance and socioeconomics

### **2. Implementation of the TDA/SAP process** (4 participants, overall grade B+)

- Understand what is special about the LME approach and how to improve my work
- Be clearer on TDA/SAP process
- Creative implementation of the TDA/SAP

### **3. Governance of LMEs** (8 participants, overall grade B+)

- Importance of Governance in LME practice
- Develop ways to define strategies to lead from government to governance
- Better compliance at national and regional scale

### **4. Sustainable Financing** (5 participants, overall grade A-)

- How to finance LME after GEF funding
- Developing sustained financing of LMEs
- Understanding markets

### **5. Learning from the experience of other LMEs** (5 participants, overall grade A-)

- Lessons learned in other LMEs
- How other LMEs are facing governance challenges
- Networking and linkages

## **Participants Actually Learned**

The most important lessons that were learned by the participants were grouped between governance, socioeconomics, human dimensions and LME networking. Participants did not grade this section of the evaluation. Instead, refer to the overall workshop objectives on page 1 of this evaluation summary.

### **1. Better understanding of LME Governance** (11 participants), ...

- Organizational frameworks and design
- Concept of ecosystem governance
- Indicators for governance outcomes
- Adaptive management approaches that need to be adopted

### **2. Socioeconomic and Sustainable Financing** (11 participants), ...

- How to introduce sustainable financing into LMEs
- How to assess sustainable financing options for regions after GEF funding
- Emphasis on resource valuation was good and should be expanded to include tools

3. **Human Dimensions of LMEs to include** (6 participants), ...
  - Importance of changing behaviors for LME implementation
  - Stakeholders have to be in the process from the beginning
  - Implementation of TDA/SAP needs real participation and government will
  - Perceptions and actions and moral system
  - Role of ethics and social values in compliance
  
4. **Network of LME Practitioners Learning** (8 participants), ...
  - Ideas of how to improve implementation of LMEs
  - Exchanging pros and cons of options
  - How good teams complement each other and develop friendships
  - There is a body of people that I could relate to and draw upon
  - Practical experiences from other LMEs for governance, sustained financing and to envision proposals to develop capacity building for our LME region

### **Participants' Recommendations for Adapting LMEs**

Participants were asked to think about one or two recommendations that they would advocate for in their respective LME programs based on what they learned at this workshop. Most of the recommendations address changes to their existing governance frameworks and processes. Several participants want to start immediately on designing sustainable financing mechanisms to transition from GEF funding. Increasing stakeholder support was another key concern of the participants.

#### **Governance Focus** (10 participants)

- Form a working group with diverse skill sets to cover the governance, policy, socioeconomics and environmental areas
- Build capacity at the local and national levels to institutionalize ocean and coastal governance
- Design measurable indicators for governance process, socioeconomics and environmental conditions to track progress
- Improve the current LME organizational design to integrate the markets in the governance process. Perhaps through establishing a conservation forum for industry
- Use methods for linking fisheries, pollution, ecosystem health and industry to the governance process and incorporating socioeconomics
- Broaden my colleagues view of governance analysis
- Conduct governance and socioeconomic analyses in our LME. Introduction sessions were very important, but we also need specific techniques.
- The workshop was timely in helping us think about these governance and socioeconomic issues.
- Address governance issues at the very beginning of the TDA/SAP process

#### **Socioeconomic Focus** (6 participants)

- Reform the legal framework and the tax revenue system to accommodate innovative proposals for sustained financing of LME activities
- Put socioeconomics issues to the forefront of the process
- Start sustainable financing mechanisms right away (trusts, fees, etc.) so it can build up and allow a smooth transition after GEF funding ends
- Strengthen our socioeconomic unit to re-organize it into full bodied S&G center that will become one of the basic units LME components

**Participation Focus** (11 participants)

- Increase participation of governments and stakeholders
- Share information at all levels
- Continue to develop public outreach programs
- Improve communications throughout our LME organization
- Have participation from the very beginning of the TDA/SAP process
- Identify the right stakeholders
- Assure as much participation and stakeholder buy-in as possible
- Continue to emphasize iterative processes that include all stakeholders and are based on agreed governance principles

**LME Networking** (4 participants)

- Share information between LMEs to learn about experiences
- Share my experience and information from this workshop with my colleagues
- Recommend a global network for governance and socioeconomic information

Participants will be contacted in June 2006 to report on their success in advocating for their LME governance and socioeconomic recommendations.