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SARGASSO SEA  
COMMISSION

STRENGTHENING THE STEWARDSHIP OF AN ECONOMICALLY AND  
BIOLOGICALLY SIGNIFICANT HIGH SEAS AREA – THE SARGASSO SEA

## Project Inception Workshop

### Stakeholder Involvement and Participation

David Freestone

Executive Secretary Sargasso Sea Commission

# Importance of Stakeholder Engagement

- Build on work already undertaken by the SSC and its partners and would aim to identify further partnerships and collaborators and their expertise to assist in addressing these gaps
- Essential to 'populate' the Ecosystem Diagnostic Analysis and associated Impact & Threat Casual Chain Analysis
- Necessary to identify gaps and needs and to adopt measures to address same
- Central to the long-term sustainability of the Project, particularly for ecosystem welfare monitoring and collaborative stewardship
- Critical to understanding the status of the economic importance of the Sargasso Sea through interaction and engagement with countries that depend on its resources (esp. in relation to eel migration and fishery)
- Stakeholder engagement will also be an important component of the Knowledge Management and Communications Strategy for the overall Common Oceans Programme and assist in disseminating information, lessons and practices (important role of IW:LEARN)

# Stakeholder Engagement Strategy - Specific Objectives

- ❖ Informing stakeholders to ensure a common understanding of the intended Project goals and approaches
- ❖ Generating Project buy-in and appropriation by targeted partners and beneficiaries.
- ❖ Identification of priority interventions and adequate strategies to successfully achieve the intended outcomes of the Project.
- ❖ Identification of opportunities for synergies and partnerships, including co-financing and institutional cooperation.
- ❖ Validation of the intervention strategy and targets by its key stakeholders.
- ❖ Facilitation of participatory M&E and feedback mechanisms.
- ❖ Establishment of grievance mechanisms.

# Stakeholder Engagement

## Important Elements Identified in the Project Document

Table 3 (P. 33 – 42).

This list all of the Partnerships & Stakeholders that have evolved as part of the Project Development. It also lists their existing roles and activities as well as their expected inputs to the Project

Stakeholder and Private Sector Engagement Section (P. 43-44):

This summarises the stakeholder engagement and partnership process

Stakeholder Engagement Plan (Annex 8):

This provides a detailed explanation of the objectives of the stakeholder engagement process along with the principles of engagement, Involvement of stakeholders during project development, communication, an engagement timetable, responsibilities, monitoring, etc.

# Primary Stakeholder Sectors and Groups

## Academic and Research Bodies:

Including scientific agencies, universities and other technical bodies with interest and/or activities in the Sargasso Sea

## Intergovernmental Organisations:

Including UN Conventions and Treaties and their governing bodies

## Non-Governmental Organisations:

Including environmental, humanitarian, social NGOs

## Private Sector:

Including Fisheries, Seafood, Shipping, Extraction and Infrastructure Industry (oil, gas, mining, cables)

## Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment:

The Ecosystem Diagnostic Analysis will act as a Targeted Assessment to identify gender discrimination and inequality issues. The Strategic Action Programme will capture the mitigation and redress needs for endorsement where appropriate

# Academic and Research Bodies - Current Stakeholders



MGEL - Duke University

BIOS

Centre for Environmental Policy, Imperial College, London



NASA-led CEOS Ocean Variables Enabling Research and Applications for GEO (COVERAGE)

Edinburgh University UK (ATLAS & I-Atlantic Project)



Université de Bretagne Occidentale

# National Governmental Organisations - Current Stakeholder



NOAA – United States National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

AFB (Agence Française de Biodiversité)

**AGENCE FRANÇAISE  
POUR LA BIODIVERSITÉ**  
ÉTABLISSEMENT PUBLIC DE L'ÉTAT

FFEM (Le Fonds français pour l'environnement mondial)



# Intergovernmental Organisations - Current Stakeholder



UNITED NATIONS

Hamilton Declaration Signatories

Cartagena Convention on Marine environment of Wider Caribbean Area

Convention on Migratory Species

The Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora)

WECAFC - Western Central Atlantic Fishery Commission

ICCAT

NAFO

International Maritime Organization

IOC UNESCO

International Seabed Authority

Inter-American Sea Turtle Convention (IAC)

World Maritime University Sasakawa Global Ocean Institute



Western Central Atlantic  
Fishery Commission

The logo for ICCAT, featuring a stylized map of the Atlantic Ocean in blue.

ICCAT





# Non-Governmental Organisations - Current Stakeholders



- Sargasso Sea Commission
- MarViva
- The International Union for Conservation of Nature
- Global
- Fishing Watch

# Private Sector - Current Stakeholders



## The International Cable Protection Committee

N.B. Much of the private sector engagement/involvement falls under the mandates of some of the aforementioned IGOs (e.g. fisheries, shipping, etc)



# Beneficiary Countries - Current Stakeholders



A number of developing countries have a growing dependency on eel fishing and/or propagation through aquaculture and then exportation.

The Project will therefore also engage with 'Range State' countries that depend economically on the eel fishery during those stages of the eel's life-cycles within their Jurisdiction.



Thank you for  
your Attention  
and your Inputs

