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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 Evolution of the Project To Date

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# Strengthening stewardship through cooperation in an economically and biologically significant high seas area – the Sargasso Sea

Addressing the challenge of developing an effective partnership for stewardship of this economically and biologically significant high seas area falls within GEF's overall Programmatic Approach for the GEF 7 Common Oceans ABNJ Program. The Program consists of four other child projects:

- ❖ Two global projects that will promote more sustainable management of tuna and deep-sea fisheries (fisheries sector focus)
- ❖ A third project that seeks to build capacity to improve cross-sectoral collaboration and coordination on key ABNJ issues at global level (thematic focus), and
- ❖ A fourth project that will ensure effective coordination, communication, partnerships, lesson learning and knowledge management between the other child projects and support innovative financing initiatives for sustainable use of ABNJ resources across the Program (program level focus)

# Overall Objective of the 'Sargasso Project'

Facilitation of a collaborative, cross-sectoral ecosystem-based sustainable stewardship approach for the Sargasso Sea, as an ABNJ of significant importance, through improvements in the knowledge base and strengthened frameworks for collaboration

Core Indicator: 685 Million hectares of ABNJ with improved practices and enhanced monitoring strategies

Core Indicator: Shared marine ecosystem under new or improved cooperative management

# COMPONENT 1: IMPROVED KNOWLEDGE BASE TO SUPPORT A COLLABORATIVE, ADAPTIVE ECOSYSTEM-BASED STEWARDSHIP APPROACH

**Outcome 1.1** Quantified threats and impacts identified along with their immediate and root causes establishing a baseline for on-going monitoring and collaborative ecosystem-based stewardship

<b>Baseline Prior to Project</b>	<b>End-Of-Project Target</b>
<p data-bbox="38 664 1235 863">Significant gaps in information related to the ecosystem and the long-term expected trends on potential and actual threats and impacts</p> <p data-bbox="38 942 1184 1071">Inadequate capacity within SSC or current partners to determine baseline or future status</p> <p data-bbox="38 1149 1210 1278">No clear summary of interactions between various conservation and sustainable use bodies</p>	<p data-bbox="1299 664 2484 721">Ecosystem Diagnostic Analysis (EDA) completed</p> <p data-bbox="1299 799 2497 1071">Annual report on the ongoing monitoring of baseline parameters (as established in EDA) which also identifies trends in impacts, threats and improvements</p> <p data-bbox="1299 1163 2497 1363">A summary on existing and potential cooperative practices used to guide development of the SAP</p>

# COMPONENT 1: IMPROVED KNOWLEDGE BASE TO SUPPORT A COLLABORATIVE, ADAPTIVE ECOSYSTEM-BASED STEWARDSHIP APPROACH

**Outcome 1.2** Analysis of the global value of this unique ecosystem (with accurate figures and conclusions where possible) so as to further justify and mobilize support for collaboration.

<b>Baseline Prior to Project</b>	<b>End-Of-Project Target</b>
<p data-bbox="38 668 1401 953">Insufficient awareness of value of this ecosystem regionally or globally even though the few existing figures suggest the annual value could be in billions of \$\$\$</p> <p data-bbox="38 1051 1388 1336">Current Management plans by responsible/mandated management bodies do not always recognise the potential losses from poor ecosystem management</p>	<p data-bbox="1480 668 2446 803">Final Ecosystem Valuation Report adopted and has 'informed' the SAP</p> <p data-bbox="1480 901 2486 1336">Policy briefings providing guidance on benefits of conservation and sustainable use of ecosystem goods and services endorsed by Commission and circulated to appropriate bodies</p>

# COMPONENT 1: IMPROVED KNOWLEDGE BASE TO SUPPORT A COLLABORATIVE, ADAPTIVE ECOSYSTEM-BASED STEWARDSHIP APPROACH

**Outcome 1.3** Knowledge and Information capture and analysis to support effective stewardship

## Baseline Prior to Project

Gaps identified, particularly through the EDA, cannot be rectified in absence of human and other resources available to SSC

Inadequate capacity within SSC or current partners to determine baseline or future status

## End-Of-Project Target

A long-term partnership-based Science Monitoring Programme management and monitoring drafted and adopted by SSC and Partners

Relevant Capacity Building and Training Workshops (3) and Training Courses (4) delivered

## COMPONENT 2: DEVELOPMENT OF A STRATEGIC ACTION PROGRAMME FOR ADDRESSING THREATS AND STRENGTHENING STEWARDSHIP THROUGH COLLABORATION AND CONSERVATION OF THE SARGASSO SEA ECOSYSTEM

**Outcome 2.1** Priority immediate and long-term actions identified in order to a) address or mitigate the impacts of threats and b) strengthen cooperative stewardship and conservation.

<b>Baseline Prior to Project</b>	<b>End-Of-Project Target</b>
<b>No current prioritisation of actions or definitive cooperative stewardship strategy for the SSC to follow that addresses identified main threats, impacts and barriers</b>	<b>All actions have been endorsed by stakeholders by time of Mid Term Review</b>  <b>Formal scientific and/or professionally recognised publications define the actions that have been endorsed along with a preliminary road-map/work-plan for activities</b>

## COMPONENT 2: DEVELOPMENT OF A STRATEGIC ACTION PROGRAMME FOR ADDRESSING THREATS AND STRENGTHENING STEWARDSHIP THROUGH COLLABORATION AND CONSERVATION OF THE SARGASSO SEA ECOSYSTEM

**Outcome 2.2** Priority actions to strengthen collaborative stewardship endorsed by various partner institutions and other stakeholders to support actions for the conservation and sustainable use of the Sargasso Sea.

<b>Baseline Prior to Project</b>	<b>End-Of-Project Target</b>
<b>Absence of a formal agreement for adaptive management and stewardship for SSC and partners to pursue and monitor</b>	<b>A Strategic Action Programme endorsed as appropriate which defines the actions to be taken (being taken) within a work-plan and assigns budgets and responsibilities and identifies partnerships (funding and other resources)</b>



## COMPONENT 3: PARTNERSHIPS AND COLLABORATION FOR THE SUSTAINABILITY OF THE NATURAL RESOURCES OF THE SARGASSO SEA ECOSYSTEM

**Outcome 3.1** Collaborative stewardship of an iconic high seas ecosystem through the development of interactive, partnerships for the conservation and sustainable use of its natural resources

<b>Baseline Prior to Project</b>	<b>End-Of-Project Target</b>
<p data-bbox="45 694 1243 825"><b>No existing ecosystem-based Strategic Action Programme of activities in the region.</b></p> <p data-bbox="45 925 1268 1129"><b>Hamilton Declaration recognises a need for greater collaboration and interaction between stakeholders in the long-term</b></p>	<p data-bbox="1388 694 2481 901"><b>A fully developed and endorsed initiative to support the implementation of the SAP post-Project</b></p>

## COMPONENT 4: KNOWLEDGE MANAGEMENT, MONITORING AND EVALUATION

**Outcome 4.1** Knowledge Capture and Management through Identification of Best Lessons and Practices. (All of the knowledge management approaches will be coordinate with the Global Coordination Child Project (GCP) in order to ensure consistency in messaging and branding)

### Baseline Prior to Project

Various different forms of data are available but are not being analysed in reference to each other with a view to having a 'big picture' ecosystem approach

Data analysis, conclusions and knowledge are not being made accessible or communicated to those bodies that most have need of them

### End-Of-Project Target

Data Platform fully functional and guiding scientific analysis and decisions

Briefing documents are circulated to entities with responsibilities related to the Sargasso Sea and with interest in making use of the results of a monitoring process

# COMPONENT 4: KNOWLEDGE MANAGEMENT, MONITORING AND EVALUATION

## Outcome 4.1 Baseline and Targets Continued....

<b>Baseline Prior to Project</b>	<b>End-Of-Project Target</b>
<p data-bbox="45 578 1166 858">Data analysis, conclusions and knowledge are not being made accessible or communicated to those bodies that most have need of them</p> <p data-bbox="45 958 1141 1320">Scientific Information within and related to the Sargasso Sea is not widely known or available. Much of this could be resolved through this Project's activities and outputs</p>	<p data-bbox="1197 578 2481 941">Lessons and Practices from the Sargasso Sea Project are documented and available for use by other ABNJ strategies as appropriate along with an End-of Project Workshop on Lessons &amp; Best Practices (Score 1)</p> <p data-bbox="1197 1035 2491 1243">Briefing documents, and documentation of lessons and practices coordinated with GCP Chile Project and shared with other Child Projects</p>

## COMPONENT 4: KNOWLEDGE MANAGEMENT, MONITORING AND EVALUATION

### Outcome 4.1 Baseline and Targets Continued....

<b>Baseline Prior to Project</b>	<b>End-Of-Project Target</b>
<b>Limited current interaction between Sargasso Sea Commission and its partners and UNDP GEF IW:LEARN</b>	<b>Final Report on Lessons and Practices shared with IW:LEARN and available on IW:LEARN website</b>  <b>Various appropriate Experience Notes and Training Materials evolved t from Sargasso Project shared with IW:LEARN and available on IW: LEARN website (Score 1)</b>  <b>Attendance by Sargasso Project at International Waters Conferences and other appropriate GEF-related venues</b>

# Main Deliverables ( as per the Overall Project Work-Plan)

- ❖ Communications and Knowledge Sharing Strategy for the Project
- ❖ Ecosystem Diagnostic Analysis
- ❖ Detailed Causal Chain Analysis (Similar DPSIR)
- ❖ Ecosystem Valuation and Value Chain Analysis Report
- ❖ Information/Data Gaps Analysis
- ❖ A 'complex' data-set handling platform
- ❖ Capacity Building Needs Analysis and Training Strategy
- ❖ Long-Term Science Monitoring and Review Programme (with Partners)
- ❖ A Strategic Action Programme for the Stewardship of the Sargasso Sea
- ❖ A SAP Implementation Strategy for longer term sustainability of project results
- ❖ Lessons and Best Practices for possible further consideration in other ABNJ

# Summary of First Year Work-Plan and Deliverables

- Adoption of a Project Communications and Knowledge Sharing Strategy
- Establishment of all Project structure and administration needs (Staff recruitment, etc.)
- Quarterly and Annual reviews of progress
- Capture all baseline information for the Ecosystem-Based Diagnostic Analysis
- A detailed causal chain analysis and assessment of gaps and needs
- Final draft of Ecosystem Diagnostic Analysis for adoption
- Ecosystem Valuation and Cost-Benefit Analysis underway
- Identify capacity building and training needs and initiate capacity building and training
- Dialogue and adoption of Partnerships for risk/threats mitigation
- Establish linkage between Project and IW:LEARN and share pertinent information

# Role of the Steering Committee

The Project Board (also called Project Steering Committee) is primarily responsible for:

- Providing overall guidance and direction to the Project
- Taking corrective action as needed to ensure the Project achieves the intended results
- Advising on major and minor amendments to the Project within the parameters set by UNDP-GEF
- Tracking and monitoring financing and co-financing for the Project
- Reviewing the Project progress, assess performance, and appraise the Annual Work Plan for the following year
- Addressing any Project-level grievances
- Approving the Project Inception Report, Mid-term Review and Terminal Evaluation reports and corresponding management responses
- Reviewing the final End-of-Project report to discuss lesson learned

# Composition of the Steering Committee

The Project Executive: The Executive Secretary of the Sargasso Sea Commission

Beneficiary Representatives: The Sargasso Sea Commission

The Hamilton Declaration Signatories

Development Partners: The parties providing funding and/or technical expertise to the Project. This includes the GEF Implementing Agency (UNDP), the UNDP Implementing Partner (IOC-UNESCO), and major co-financing partners (FFEM)

N.B. Day-to-Day Project Management and Coordination is the responsibility of the Project Coordination Unit, essentially the Project Coordinator/CTA supported by the Finance and Administration Officer and the Communications Officer



# Monitoring and Evaluation of Project Delivery and Performance

- ❖ Inception Workshop and Inception Report
- ❖ Quarterly Project Reports to the Project Steering Committee
- ❖ Annual PSC Meetings
- ❖ GEF UNDP Annual Project Implementation Report (PIR)
- ❖ M&E of GEF core indicators and Project Results Framework
- ❖ Independent Mid-term Review (MTR)
- ❖ Independent Terminal Evaluation (TE)
- ❖ Final Project Report and Exit/Sustainability Strategy

Thank you for  
your Attention  
and your Inputs

