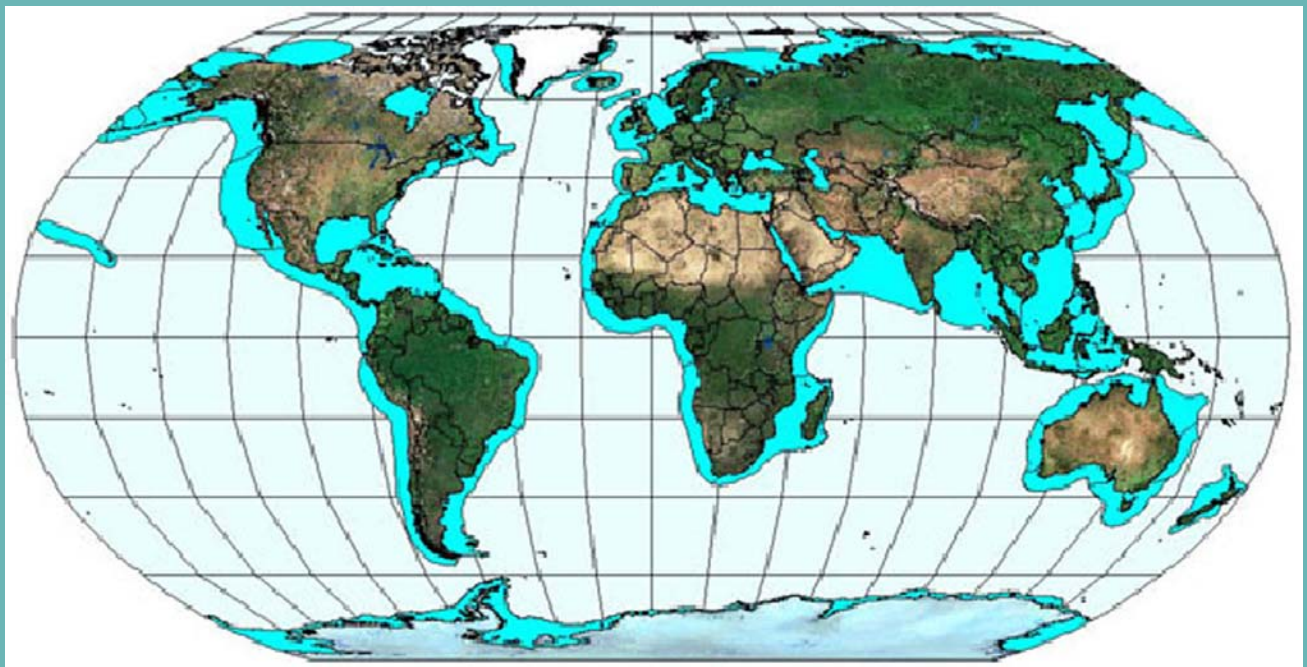


A Handbook on Governance and Socioeconomics of Large Marine Ecosystems



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TABLE OF CONTENTS

Preface	iv
Acknowledgments	v
Foreword	vi
<i>Part I: From Sectoral to Ecosystem-based Management</i>	1
A Paradigm Shift	1
Ecosystem-based Management in LMEs	3
Managing Humans in LMEs.....	5
The Dimensions of Governance	5
The Potential Benefits of Managing LMEs as Ecosystems.....	8
The Global Environment Facility and Its Investments in LME Management	9
The Centrality of Governance Challenges in LMEs	10
<i>Part II: From Planning to Implementation: The Steps in the Governance Process</i>	12
A Strategic Approach to the Transition to Ecosystem-based management in LMEs	12
How Long Does It Take?.....	12
Forming and Managing an Interdisciplinary Team.....	13
Understanding the Governance Cycle	15
Step 1: Issue Identification through the TDA.....	16
Step 2: Negotiation of a Strategic Action Plan.....	19
Step 3: Formal Endorsement of the SAP.....	22
Step 4: Adaptive Implementation of the SAP.....	25
Step 5: Evaluation and Sustained Learning.....	26
The First Order: Assembling the Enabling Conditions for Ecosystem-based Management.....	28
The Second Order: Program Implementation as Behavioral Change.....	28
Third Order Outcomes: The Achievement of Initial Ecosystem Quality Goals.....	29
The Fourth Order: Sustainable LME Conditions and Uses.....	30
<i>Part III: A Primer on the Challenges and Dimensions of LME Governance</i>	31
Markets	31
Markets and Ecosystems.....	31
Pollution.....	32
Destruction of coastal wetlands, mangroves, coral reefs.....	34
Overfishing.....	34
Markets and Economic Justice.....	36
What does the issue of equity have to do with LME governance?.....	37
Correcting and Mitigating Market Failures.....	38
Government	39

<u>Challenges for Successful Governance Programs</u>	41
<u>Correcting and Mitigating Governance Failures</u>	45
<u>Civil Society</u>	46
<u>Strengthening Adaptive Governance for Complex Ecosystems</u>	47
<u>Compliance, Enforcement and LME Governance</u>	48
<u>Compliance Behavior in Fisheries</u>	48
<u>Illegal Gains</u>	49
<u>Expected Penalty</u>	49
<u>Moral Obligation</u>	50
<u>Social Influence</u>	50
<u>Aggregate Compliance Behavior</u>	51
<u>Voluntary Compliance</u>	52
<u>User participation</u>	53
<u>Moral Suasion</u>	56
<u>Smart Compliance Policy</u>	56
<u>Summary and Conclusions</u>	60
<i>Part IV. Sustainable Financing</i>	61
<u>The Financing Challenge</u>	62
<u>Planning for Sustainable Financing</u>	63
<u>Taming Markets</u>	64
<u>Finance Mechanisms: An Overview</u>	66
<u>Examples of Sustainable Financing for Marine Governance Initiatives</u>	69
<u>Tourism</u>	69
<u>Energy and Mining</u>	70
<u>Fishery Management</u>	71
<u>Real Estate Tax Surcharges</u>	71
<u>Earmarked Bonds and Taxes</u>	72
<u>For-profit Investments</u>	72
<u>Potential Applications</u>	72
<u>Criteria for Selecting Among Financing Options</u>	74
<u>The Way Forward for Sustainable Financing of LMEs</u>	75
<u>Readings and Sources of Information on Sustainable Financing</u>	76
<i>Part V. Future Directions</i>	79
<u>References</u>	80

PREFACE

The primary purpose of this Handbook is to serve as a practical guide to innovators of governance and socioeconomics in Large Marine Ecosystem (LME) projects. Based on a Global Environmental Facility IW:LEARN-sponsored workshop for 11 LME programs,¹ the Handbook is designed to be used in short courses and workshops on governance and socioeconomics science to support the ecosystem approach to marine resources management.

The Handbook explains why governance and socioeconomics are important to the success of resource management in the LME context. Good governance and socioeconomics can lead to good outcomes; bad governance and socioeconomics nearly always doom management efforts to failure. To improve the chances of successful management, the Handbook explains the basic principles and ingredients that make for good governance and socioeconomics – at all phases of LME project development, from the Transboundary Diagnostic Analysis to the Strategic Action Plan, and implementation of adaptive management and sustainable financing.

¹Information on the workshop can be found at http://www.iwlearn.net/abt_iwlearn/pns/learning/b2-2lme

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

This Handbook builds upon a series of meetings and publications on the human dimensions of large marine ecosystems extending back over the past several years. With funding from the Global Environmental Facility (GEF) IW:LEARN program this Handbook and a training course were produced. The training course was held in Newport, Rhode Island in March 2006. It was attended by 21 participants associated with nine large marine ecosystems. An early draft of the Handbook was the basis for the training and this final version is much improved thanks to the excellent discussions and many suggestions of the participants.

We are particularly grateful for the strong support of Ken Sherman, director of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration/National Marine Fisheries Service Narragansett Laboratory and Office of Ecosystem Studies who instigated this effort and worked closely with the team on the design and content of the training workshop and this Handbook. Dann Sklarew (GEF IW:LEARN) served as our project manager. His many efforts in support of all aspects of the project are gratefully acknowledged. The final draft of the Handbook benefited from the comments and suggestions of many reviewers including Alfred Duda (GEF Secretariat), Marea Hatzios (World Bank), Andrew Hudson (United Nations Development Program), and Veerle Vandeweerd, Ulrik Weuder and Annie Muchai of the United Nations Environmental Programme.

Glenn Ricci ably served as project manager at the University of Rhode Island Coastal Resources Center (CRC) and dealt with the many substantive and logistical issues with effectiveness and good humor. Kimberly Kaine and Sharon Clements, also of CRC, with the assistance of Omar Fahmy and Ryan McLane smoothed the path for the participants' travel and all the details that made the training a success.

FOREWORD

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The health, and in some cases the very survival, of coastal populations depends upon the health and well being of the marine and coastal ecosystems. The effective governance of marine and coastal ecosystems is therefore essential to progress towards sustainable forms of development. Good governance, in turn, requires a thorough understanding of the socioeconomic implications of coastal and marine ecosystem change. Together, the governance and socioeconomic aspects of large marine ecosystems (LME) address the human dimensions of important regions of our planet.

This Handbook sets forth the defining features and the dynamic interplay between the governance and socioeconomic modules and the three natural science modules (productivity, fish and fisheries, and pollution and ecosystem health) that together describe the condition and functioning of LMEs. As such it is a major contribution to LME planning and decision-making. The Handbook begins with a discussion of ecosystem-based management as a paradigm shift from traditional sector-by-sector management. It proceeds to analyze the planning and decision-making process as it unfolds into a plan of action for ecosystem-based management. A primer on the driving forces and challenges that must be understood and addressed in LME management explores markets and the factors that determine whether stakeholders comply with or resist the implementation of rules governing how natural resources are allocated and utilised. The final chapter is devoted to the critical issue of sustained financing for long-term ecosystem-based management initiatives.

The production of the Handbook contributes to the partnership that links the coastal and marine activities of the global Regional Seas Programme coordinated by the United Nations Environmental Programme (UNEP) with the LME approach. This joint initiative also contributes to one of the global Regional Seas Strategic Directions to “(d)velop and promote a common vision and integrated management, based on ecosystem approaches, of priorities and concerns related to the

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