

## Management Response: Implementation Plan for Evaluation Recommendations

### General Information

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Project Evaluation Title	Terminal Evaluation of the UNEP/GEF Project "Global Foundations for Reducing Nutrient Enrichment and Oxygen Depletion from Land-Based Pollution in Support of Global Nutrient Cycle"
PIMS #	
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UNEP Sub-programme	SP5 – Chemicals, Waste and Air quality
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Project Manager/ Task Manager	Isabelle Vanderbeck
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Implementation Plan finalized (if different from the date above)	00/00/00

### Implementation Plan

No	Challenge/problem to be addressed by the recommendation	Recommendation	Priority level	Type of Recommendation	Responsibility	Proposed Implementation time-frame	Acceptance	Reason if not Accepted or Partially Accepted	Management Action(s) to be taken
1	It is a challenge to monitor the projects and the outputs and outcomes of projects that contribute to the achievement of the objective of the Strategic Action Plans in LMEs. The Offices of the Regional Seas Programmes rely on the reporting of governments and project managers. Sharing reporting on relevant UNEP/GEF projects would help to ensure that timely information on results is available to the coordinators of SAP implementation.	Project reporting of progress, results, outputs, and outcomes should be shared with the Regional Seas Conventions and Action Plans Secretariat (e.g., CoBSEA, SACEP) and other regional institutions (e.g., ASEAN, GPNM and informal GPNM Regional Platforms). In this manner, there is sustainability that is institutionalized and a systematic documentation of the actions from relevant UNEP/GEF projects to address pollution from land-	Critical	Project	UNEP Source to Sea Pollution-Free Unit, Regional Seas Convention and Action Plans Secretariat, Marine and International Waters Unit	12 months (within GEF Replenishment)	Accepted		<b>GEF IW</b> 1. Each GEF IW project has the obligation to have a website and sustain it after project closure. GNC is no exception. The main deliverables and website were uptaken by the GPNM website. 2. As such the website has been a depository of project tools and deliverables and

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	<p>This recommendation will help alleviate challenges in addressing marine pollution of LMEs. Marine pollution is a transboundary problem that needs to be addressed in the strategic action planning by the governments in the riparian countries. To be able monitor outcomes of projects to the impact level, governments in LMEs report progress to the regional offices. There is a need to strengthen the monitoring of outcomes, particularly the changes in governmental agencies in the adaption of policies and regulations for nutrient-reduction in the agriculture, aquaculture, and housing infrastructure (urbanization) with increasing population.</p> <p>The Regional Sea Convention and Action Plans Secretariat and other MEA organisations, in their capacity as coordinator and executing institutions for SAPs, where relevant, should be informed of the outputs and outcomes of projects for monitoring and adaptive management (see paragraphs 274-276 for linkage of science and policy at LME scale). This will ensure the institutional sustainability of the direct outcomes of projects that will lead to the impact in the LME (please see Section 5.8.3).</p>	based sources under the SAP.							<p>accessible by all incl. RSP and GEF PMs.</p> <p>3. The tools have been used in the Philippines more broadly. Those tools might however be a outdated already.</p> <p>4. The GEF IWLEARN website has also uploaded the tools</p>
2	<p>The source-impact model, as part of the toolbox for nutrient-reduction, was difficult to understand (according to one expert). This is one of the useful tools that can calculate for nutrient inputs with data from the LGUs. The training was not</p>	A guided application of the source-impact model by governments should be considered with the provision that the model is reviewed and updated if needed. The application should be user-friendly so that the model can become a sustained practice	Critical	Project	UNEP Source to Sea Pollution-Free Unit, Regional Seas Convention and Action Plans Secretariat,	12 months	Partially Accepted		<p><b>GEF IW</b> The models served as the basis for some of the work in INMS including the National Nitrogen Budgets, Nitrogen Impact Assessment Methods, Fluxes and</p>

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	<p>done due to the lack of time. The model took some time to prepare because the data from the LGUs were not ready to be plugged into the model. The units in the data were not the same throughout the available database and so some time was spent to prepare the data for the model. This resulted to some time for data-preparation which could have been used for training.</p> <p>The source-impact model may be difficult for some officers in the government to understand (according to one expert who was interviewed). There was insufficient time during the GNC Project implementation to conduct a training of the model with data from national officers (see Section 5.4.2).</p>	<p>for nutrient-reduction and management. The existing model is connected to the Indicator for Coastal Eutrophication Potential (ICEP ). This operationalizes the actions needed and reporting to achieve Target 14.1 (SDG #14), i.e., by 2025, prevent and significantly reduce marine pollution of all kinds, in particular from land-based activities, including marine debris and nutrient pollution. Training with other partners could be considered e.g. the UNEP GEF IW Project “Targeted Research for Improving Understanding of the Global Nitrogen Cycle towards the Establishment of an International Nutrient Management System” (INMS), GEF ID 5400. INMS is built in part on the GNC model aiming to further develop its source impact models.</p> <p>The unspent funds of about eighty-six thousand dollars (USD 86,000) could be used for this purpose (See Annex VIII).</p>			Marine and International Waters Unit				<p>Distribution Methods etc. for which INMS is finalising a series of guidance documents. While the GNC models are simple, one would need to seek an expert opinion on the real value added before considering reprogramming the left over GEF IW GNC resources to update the GNC models. When it comes to training, one could envisage to have a session on nutrient management in general during the IWC10 to be take place possibly in September 2024. Also one had envisaged to use the remaining balance of the GEF IW GNC project to possibly prepare E-book with summaries of all final project products for decision makers and non-technical stakeholders.</p>
3	<p>The sustainability of the GNC Project was assessed as “Moderately Likely”. The socio-political and institutional sustainability of the GNC Project was assessed “Likely”. The financial sustainability was assessed as “Moderately Likely”. While governments have national policies to</p>	<p>GPNM activities should be promoted at regional level. The envisaged regional GPNM platforms could be established and operationalized to capture best practices and solutions on point and non-point source discharge mitigation and to develop nutrient-reduction projects with the private</p>	Critical	Project	Source to Sea Pollution-Free Unit	12 months	Accepted		<p>The UNEP Source to Sea Pollution-Free Unit is in the process of revamping the GPNM. As part of this effort, the regional platform established in the Caribbean region will be</p>

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	<p>address coastal pollution with government appropriations, this is not enough if it requires high investments and integrated and coordinated approach among stakeholders and drivers. For example, in the Manila Bay Watershed, the source-impact model showed that the inputs of nutrients from human settlements was higher than from agriculture and aquaculture. Investments in wastewater treatment plants will be needed (as well social programs to manage population growth). Investments for this type of infrastructure is high and will need additional investments from the private sector. For the other drivers, financial investments will be needed to support the replication of ecosystem-level projects such as nature-based solutions (in watersheds that are linked to coastal waters) by the governmental agencies in a PPP arrangement. The financial investment for the application of interventions from the toolbox will need investment from the private sector, especially from the drivers of coastal nutrient pollution (see Financial Sustainability section). Regional GPNM platforms, if established and operationalized, could work with governmental agencies and other stakeholders to develop projects for replication and up-scaling in the region (see Section 5.8.2).</p>	<p>sector. Regional arrangements, programs, or protocols that function in addressing LbSP (such that is found in the Wider Caribbean Region) should be supported for sustainability. The research outputs and technical guidance through a platform with formal and informal regional institutions in riparian countries, could lead to ecological and societal benefits.</p>							<p>revitalized. Additionally, the Unit will collaborate with COBSEA on their regional action plan for nutrient management, thereby extending the Unit's activities to the COBSEA region (Ning Liu, Ning LIU, Source to Sea Pollution Unit, Marine and Fresh Water Branch, Ecosystems Division, 23/04/24).</p>
4	<p>The challenge was that the GNC Project was designed to deliver the foundation for</p>	<p>Adequate indicators at outcome level should be included in the results</p>	Important	UNEP-wide	UNEP	12 months			

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	<p>nutrient-reduction and the project's monitoring framework was focused on outputs rather than Outcomes (as defined by UNEP) as such the change in the behaviour of the beneficiaries and key stakeholders were not monitored. Evaluations of projects, however, emphasise the achievement of outcomes in order to assess change and impact.</p> <p>The use of the ToC for designing projects will require the assessment of outcomes which are behavioural changes or actions that are aspired for at the end of a project (Restructured Theory of Change). There is a gap in the monitoring of the progress of implementation, particularly at outcome level, as these are responses of beneficiaries of the project. More often than not, the behavioural change or uptake of a good practice takes some time (see Section 5.7).</p>	<p>framework of projects. Outcome level change, often identified as behavioural change in beneficiaries and relevant stakeholders, including disadvantaged groups, takes time and are to be realized at the end of the Project and change could be incremental. Process indicators could be used for this purpose. For example, for Project Outcome 1, the indicators could be:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Governments and partners send key stakeholders to trainings and workshops for nutrient reduction;</li> <li>• Governments review and revise policies based on policy briefs and consultation with relevant stakeholders and groups;</li> <li>• Governments develop projects using tools for nutrient-reduction.</li> </ul>							