



Member's report on activities related to ICRI

Reporting period October 2013–September 2014

1. Updates on your activities.

Project 1

Cornerstone(s) implemented through the project	Check all that apply: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Integrated Management <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Capacity Building <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Science & Monitoring <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Periodic Assessment (Review)
Project Title	Red Sea & Gulf of Aden Strategic Ecosystem Management (GEF project)
Location	Red Sea & Gulf of Aden
Dates	Jan. 2014-Jan. 2018
Main Organizer(s)	The Regional Organization for the Conservation of the Environment of the Red Sea and Gulf of Aden (PERSGA)
Main Stakeholder(s)	<p>The primary stakeholders of the project include those whose incomes are primarily dependent on the quality of the Red Sea and the Gulf of Aden. This includes coastal communities and businesses in the Red Sea & Gulf of Aden states of Djibouti, Egypt, Jordan, Saudi Arabia, Sudan, and Yemen. Primary stakeholders also include MPA administrations and fisheries administrations at the local level. Women's needs will receive special attention in ensuring participation in management of resources as well as alternative livelihood approaches, supported by the ongoing study on gender equity described in higher level objectives.</p> <p>Secondary stakeholders include those not living along the Red Sea and Gulf of Aden coastline, but still generate revenue from the marine environment, i.e. fish processors, boat repair, launch, storage facilities; ecotourism industries; etc.</p> <p>Tertiary stakeholders include those who benefit from development project generation and management, including academic institutions, Ministries, consultants, and non-governmental organizations</p>
Description of Project (Please elaborate on how the project implements the FFA cornerstones)	<p>The Project will contain four components, which are tailored to the most urgent country needs and preparedness at the local level, with an overarching and harmonizing regional component. Detailed description of the components follows:</p> <p>Component 1: Strengthening the principles of marine managed areas through stakeholder driven MPA implementation.</p> <p>This component select TWO Marine Protected Areas as pilot sites to serve as Marine Managed Areas—to include zonation and multiple uses consistent with local community needs and benefits using a participatory, community-based process. Activities within this component include the provision of training and demonstrations necessary to implement, use and update marine areas management plans in cooperation with national implementing agencies in the</p>

PERSGA MPAs network. This component also focuses on improving the capacity of member countries to share information and select the most appropriate marine protected/managed area models (MPAs/MMAs) based on current capacity and area(s) of comparative advantage and environmental features. It will also train community members in rights based MPA management to be able to effectively review, update and implement marine protection and management plans, and transition to multiple use MMAs.

Coastal sites in Sudan & Yemen have been identified and prepared as pilot sites with the required due diligence through a ESMF and PF. Concrete alternative livelihood pilot activities was determined during implementation by local communities based on feasibility, cost-benefit and environmental and social considerations.

Criteria for the site include a designated MPA area adjacent to communities that can support the MMA concept and engage in a rights based approach.

Based on the finding of the SA and consultation, Community Action Plan will be prepared to address the needs related to the restrictions community livelihood investments. Although these pilot activities will be initially carried out in two countries, they will provide training opportunities to specialists from all PERSGA countries, as representatives from all participating countries will be invited to the training and implementation experiences at the pilot sites.

Through this Component, PERSGA can strengthen its regional MPA network and also support member countries in developing more holistic, rights and ecosystem-based approaches whereby local communities can be empowered to balance resource use with sustainability and help provide stronger stewardship of marine resources adjacent to them. All PERSGA member countries are invited to participate in the training to the pilot communities.

Component 1 will be implemented through the following activities:

- Build the capacity of community stakeholders and institutions involved in MPAs in rights based MPA management and MMA zoning
- Update master plans with community and other stakeholder input and implement the master plans. This includes developing actionable incentives; incentives will be identified with communities based on the tools available in the countries, such as subsidies, tax breaks for fisheries incomes, licensing etc.; boundary demarcation and monitoring; building capacity for the implementation at the institutional level
- Develop a series of engagements/exchanges between MPA authority staff from one PERSGA member country to another. These will include lessons (both successes and challenges) that one jurisdiction can share with another. Strengths can be celebrated/shared and weaknesses can be examined for possible ways in which they may be improved based on exchange of information and knowledge
- Develop education and public awareness materials that highlight the challenges and success of community-based management of MMAs.

Component 2: Strengthening coastal communities to use incentive based approaches to improve fisheries management and achieve other marine resource benefits

Component two will provide institutional and technical capacity needed for communities to use and protect living marine resources to increase net benefits derived from the resources in a sustainable manner. The capacity of community and user group will be built to understand trade-offs associated with development and the costs and benefits to the community, and to organize as user groups around these uses and their rights identified under component 1. They will also be trained in the monitoring of the uses and their impacts on the resources, particularly on fisheries to support informed decisions by communities. Through a community-driven process, the selected coastal communities will receive support to identify and develop sub-projects for alternative livelihood initiatives to reduce pressure on the resources and improve benefits to the community members. On-the-ground activities will be developed by local communities and congruent with national priorities. Consultants or NGOs experienced in community driven fisheries and marine resource management will help facilitate community capacity building for MPA management engagement and development of sub-projects.

Potential subprojects could include, but are not limited to some mentioned during consultations:

Fish processing activities which involves the preparation of fish for direct consumption or for preservation. Traditional fish processing activities include gutting, washing the fish, splitting, filleting, sticking the fish and smoking

Designation of hiking trails/ camping sites for eco-tourism within the National Parks- this is relevant to site selection in critical habitats

Activity supporting recreational fishing/ snorkelling etc. for tourism purposes: through tent for gathering, jetty and boats

Structure for visitor centre built from natural materials

Workshop for women group for producing and selling artisanal products - establish structure from natural materials

Enabling tour guiding through licensing and training, potentially providing boats

Training and certifying community members as rangers

Component 2 will be implemented through the following four main activities:

- Build capacity in communities to understand the current uses and resource benefits, and how these are distributed within the community, including establishing baseline of status of the marine environment;
- Build capacity of user groups including fisheries cooperatives in monitoring their resource uses and impacts; establish a community monitoring manual and follow up
- Support identification and planning of sustainable economic activities of marine resources and demonstrate small scale, low impact alternative livelihood sub-projects that are compliant with

all environmental and social safeguards and upon which the community has reached consensus.

- Strengthen regional community participation through education and knowledge sharing through study tours, to share pilots on rights and responsibilities to improve community compliance and build ownership for resource protection and sustainability, as well as the implementation of monitoring, control and surveillance systems for fisheries;

Component 3: Regional Environmental and Socioeconomic Monitoring Network Supporting Ecosystem Based Management (EBM) and Community Benefits

This component will build on ongoing monitoring activities and help in standardizing parameters and monitoring approaches between the participating countries, making data comparable and sharable through the strengthening of a regional network of MPAs. It will support the expansion of monitoring to include socio-economic data, especially for fishery and MPA communities. Capacity building will also be strengthened through workshops and knowledge exchanges.

Specific sites selected by the National Steering Committees will be monitored during the project, which will include MPAs and MMAs within the regional network and will be geared to enhance the capacity of PERSGA and member countries in concert with their communities. This presents an opportunity to leverage the latest knowledge and monitoring indicators in fisheries management to engage in supra-regional knowledge sharing on fisheries and marine resources monitoring. Monitoring of baseline data and other variables between MPAs and the pilot MMAs under components 1&2 will allow for comparison between the outcomes of the project intervention in the selected sites versus no intervention. This will provide a blue print for lessons learned from applying the EBM and rights based approach in the Red Sea and Gulf of Aden which can be scaled up to the entire regional MPA network.

Activities for Implementation of Component 3

- Use SAP I standard survey methods manual of 2004 and other relevant manuals as a basis for conducting a gap analysis of research and monitoring capacity in each country, review of current parameters applied to monitoring at the national and community levels.
- Conduct workshops between marine research and monitoring institutes on harmonization of research and monitoring parameters to establish regionally harmonized manual and implement harmonized monitoring through community members' and agencies' monitoring activities
- Organize a training workshop for scientists, research students, MMA managers and community leaders from the communities in collaboration with international bodies such as IUCN and the Global Coral Reef Monitoring Network (GCRMN); discuss lessons from the regional harmonization and the community pilots in these meetings and other outreach material
- Supporting establishment of a standardized integrated database (of socioeconomic, ecological, biological, chemical and physical variables

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Enhance collaboration with the countries for collection of available data from current monitoring activities for enriching a regional database of environmental ecosystem variables ➤ Inter-calibration of monitoring methods and sharing experience among countries on specific topics of interest, focusing for example on specific monitoring needs at hot spots ➤ Updated mapping of significant habitats and anthropogenic threats (including sensitivity mapping for oil spills and other pollution hazards and establishment of Before-After-Control-Impact (BACI) monitoring sites). ➤ Outreach Concerning the Monitoring Component PERSGA has a role to play with public awareness by raising the profile of stakeholder engagement at the country and community level and how progress will be made over the course of the project. PERSGA will provide leadership at a high level in communicating successes and providing guidance to member governments and to continue to galvanize support for applying EBM principles elsewhere in the Region. Scientifically informed management is also crucial for a well informed public, and the monitoring component will also endeavour to reach the wider community. <p>Component 4: Project Management</p> <p>This component is expected to support the GEF project with technical, administration, procurement, financial management, project monitoring and evaluation and environmental and social impact monitoring. This includes cost of training of PERSGA and at the local project management level in the administrative, environmental and social aspects mentioned.</p>
<p>Outcome (Expected outcome)</p>	<p>The project outcome is to increase net benefits from use of marine resources through improved management of MPAs including resource protection, incentive systems for communities and the harmonization of the knowledge base of marine resources between PERSGA member countries. The following are the expected outcomes of the project:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Member countries develop holistic, incentive ecosystem based system whereby local communities are empowered to balance resource use with sustainability. ➤ - Provide stronger stewardship of adjacent marine resources through rights based approach to MPA management. ➤ Coastal communities and MPA institutions have the technical capacity to actively protect marine resources and transition to Marine Managed Areas ➤ Strengthen PERSGA’s regional MPA network ➤ Management of fisheries and other living marine resources improved in the two pilot areas. ➤ Pressure on marine resources reduced due to alternative income sources ➤ Countries enabled to conduct policy dialogue based on comparable data of status of marine environment ➤ PERSGA strengthened in its role as regional integrator making data comparable and sharable through the strengthening of a

	<p>regional network of MPAs.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ PERSGA member countries enabled to identify needs for collaboration and to update Strategic Action Plan building on research and monitoring findings ➤ Net benefits increased for communities adjacent to the MPAs including incomes, fish abundance and employment ➤ Selected pilot Marine Protected Areas identified under phase I have updated management plans are implemented with community involvement. ➤ Marine environmental monitoring activities in PERSGA member states integrated and operational ➤ Documented inter-regional exchanges of community stakeholders to share lessons, technical skills, training and knowledge in addressing living marine resource stewardship, protection and sustainable
<p>Lessons learned</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The project builds on lessons learned and investment recommendations of phase I (SAP1 1999-2005). These include building on the Coastal Zone Management component by using coastal zone information to help regulate the exploitation of marine and other natural resources to support livelihoods (e.g. mapping of threats or areas appropriate for fisheries, tourism, and other sustainable economic development). SAP II explicitly builds on this lesson and strengthens the information generation and sharing aspect through regionally supported monitoring. It pilots a livelihoods approach and supports communities to organize around the management of MMAs, to understand benefit distribution of coastal marine resources and to prepare them for on-the-ground activities supporting alternative livelihoods approaches. 2. The project will build on the work done in phase I by emphasizing the role of Marine Managed Areas (MMAs) — expanded marine spatial areas that include both marine resource protection and a gradient of sustainable-to-extractive uses. Marine zoning plays a large role in this process. The goal of phase II is to identify selected MPAs, currently with limited management capacity and adjacent to selected coastal communities that can be strengthened through community-based stewardship and rights based use of the MMA. Through pilot demonstration projects and effective monitoring, sustainable use and marine resource stewardship will highlight the role that MMAs can play for the entire Region by sustaining benefits while balancing conservation objectives. Adjacent to MPAs, communities are engaging in livelihood and commercial activities, including fisheries, tourism and other uses. The goal is to actively involve communities in the creation and management of MMAs. This community management be combined with supporting activities, such as alternative livelihoods and income generation, establishment of community-based fisheries organizations, stakeholder participation, training and inter-regional exchanges, knowledge sharing and learning, and conflict resolution, so that communities will gain an integrated view of the trade-offs and benefits to the community about sustainable use and conservation within a coastal area. Experiences from MMA area pilots will be documented and

shared, which will further enhance the capacity of PERSGA and its member country representatives.

3. The countries targeted in this project are at different levels of Protected Area development, management, and knowledge of the resource base and user impacts differ among communities. Therefore, the project aims at taking a differentiated country and community focus, adapting the components to add the maximum value to the coastal development and preservation of resources. This will be of particular concern in the country-specific components, while the regional component will address the umbrella activities of knowledge exchange and harmonization of parameters for monitoring activities among the countries and their communities. The goal of the community driven approach is to change the mindset of the users. Emphasizing both rights and responsibilities is a novel approach in the region and will be piloted in selected MPAs and countries with the goal to subsequently scale the outcomes elsewhere in the region. Regional activities, such knowledge exchanges and study tours to pilots, will support the harmonization of policies and the standardization of monitoring and research activities among countries and local communities.
4. SAP II is simplifying and streamlining the project's management by using one implementing agency of GEF funds (as opposed to three engaged during SAP 1). Project management lessons learned from Phase I of the SAP showed that financial arrangements were organized in such a manner that PERSGA performed satisfactorily in managing the whole processes for procurement and financial monitoring. This allowed the countries to concentrate on deliverables rather than financial and procurement processes. While this imposed a considerable burden on the PERSGA staff, it allowed the organization to build important capacity that has further increased and is sustained today. PERSGA is now able to manage operations and multi-country activities with sufficient capacity. Furthermore, adaptive management was used during Phase I implementation and revealed to be a useful and important Project management tool in Monitoring and Evaluation. The breadth, diversity and geographical spread of the activities tested the capacity of PERSGA to manage a regional program, which has by now gained significant experience.
5. Lessons from SAP I have also identified the ongoing (and in some cases significant) variation in capacity to prioritize and undertake essential environmental monitoring. It is clear that fisheries data for the region continues to be severely lacking. Even following the completion of the SAP, there remains a strong need to make a broader spectrum of data and information available to better conserve biodiversity and protect ecosystem processes and services. EBM is also scientifically informed management that considers the broad or holistic functioning of ecosystems and the services they provide to people. In that sense, the monitoring output can also contribute to an integrated plan of action for ecosystem management for the region. However, there is a balance needed between the capacity to undertake and sustain sufficiently robust monitoring activities, with generating monitoring information that is timely and useful to managers and decision makers, and to share this information with the public.

	<p>Furthermore, local community stakeholders also have to benefit from the outcomes from such endeavors, so they can use the summary of findings to communicate awareness to their constituents and understand and support the management interventions needed that sustain benefits to them.</p> <p>6. The failure to standardize monitoring methods, activities and to actively share data sets continue to affect regional technical cohesion and inhibits the spread of 'best practice' and lessons learned. The monitoring of socio-economic factors is also an area that is in need of further development in the Region. For this reason a component dedicated to enhancing and integrating a range of environmental monitoring has been identified as a priority.</p> <p>7. A focus on community-based organization and rights to marine resources has largely been untested in the region previously, but elsewhere has clearly demonstrated significant positive effects on managing environmental resources locally, helping communities to more actively protect the benefits received from ecosystem services (e.g. fisheries and MMAs that support fisheries and tourism shown in places such as Fiji and Belize). SAP I was focused to a greater extent on developing rapport and building capacity by working through governments. While this remains a hallmark of PERSGA's mandate for the region, supporting community-based activities and ownership is an important step toward a more distributed and effective form of environmental management, and a sustainable future that can benefit all member states</p>
<p>Related websites (English preferred)</p>	<p>www.persga.org</p>

2. Contribution to the ICRI Plan of Action and GM.

a. Engaging other sectors

[Insert text here]

b. Reef zoning for multiple use

<p>Location where a zoning plan has been implemented</p>	
<p>Year when the zoning plan was implemented</p>	
<p>Is the zoning plan accepted by the local community?</p>	<p><input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No</p>
<p>Did the zoning plan cause conflicts among stakeholders?</p>	<p><input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No</p>
<p>Did the zoning plan resolve conflicts among stakeholders?</p>	<p><input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No</p>
<p>Has there been effective enforcement for stakeholders to follow the zoning plan?</p>	<p><input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No</p>
<p>Overall, how would you rate the success of the zoning plan?</p>	<p><input type="checkbox"/> Very successful <input type="checkbox"/> Somewhat successful <input type="checkbox"/> Not so successful <input type="checkbox"/> Unsuccessful</p>

[Insert text here]

3. Publications.

Title (incl. author and date)	Website URL if available	Type of publication (Paper, report, etc.)

4. General Information.

Member type (Country / Organization):	PERSGA
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<i>Name:</i>	Dr. Maher Abdel Aziz Amer
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