

First Meeting of the Executive Group of the Wider Caribbean* Ocean Coordination Mechanism

OCM EGM1

*convened virtually by the OECS Commission
on 24 February 2025 from 9:00 am - 2 pm Colombia time*

EGM1 DECISIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

The OCM Executive Group (EG):

Having convened virtually on 24 February 2025 from 9:00 am - 2 pm Colombia time, with participants as indicated in the [EGM1 Participants List](#), proceeds to adopt on [XX of XX 2025] the **EGM1 Decisions and Recommendations** as contained in the present document.

Agenda Item 3: Status of the ICM, Nominations of EG Focal Points and Establishment of the OCM Secretariat

The OCM Executive Group:

1. Takes note of (a) the formal termination of the CLME+ SAP ICM and of the ICM Secretariat, made effective on 24 February 2025 at the onset of EGM1 based on a request for such termination formulated in writing by the majority of ICM members, and of (b) the orderly conclusion of ICM activities, in compliance with OCM MOU Article XX.6 and in alignment with the procedure for such termination set forward under ICM MOU Article XV.
2. Requests that ICM members and observers and the OCM Steering Group (SG) membership, and PROCARIBE+ Project Board, be informed of the ICM's formal termination. **(Decision EGM1.D3.1)**
3. Agrees to an interim arrangement where the UNDP/GEF/UNOPS PROCARIBE+ Project Management and Coordination Unit (PMCU) exercises the functions assigned in the OCM MOU to the OCM Secretariat, this until the OCM Secretariat becomes formally established by the OCM Steering Group (SG). **(Decision EGM1.D3.2)**

4. Agrees to appoint the UNDP/GEF/UNOPS PROCARIBE+ Project Management and Coordination Unit (PMCU) as the Secretariat to the EG for the duration of the PROCARIBE+ Project or for as long as the PMCU is in conditions to exercise this role, or until the OCM EG decides otherwise, and agrees to have the PMCU represent the EG on its behalf, as per the guidance contained in the procedural guidelines. **Decision EGM1.D3.3**
5. Recommends to the OCM Steering Group (SG) that the UNDP/GEF/UNOPS PROCARIBE+ Project Management and Coordination Unit (PMCU) be formally appointed as the OCM Secretariat, and the PROCARIBE+ Regional Coordinator as Director of the Secretariat, for the duration of the PROCARIBE+ Project or for as long as the PMCU is in conditions to exercise this role, or until the OCM decides otherwise. **(Recommendation EGM1.R3.1)**
6. Acknowledges the interest expressed by the OECS Commission to be the ad interim Custodian of the OCM MOU text and of all signatures thereto, this until the moment that the OCM Secretariat becomes formally established through a Decision of the OCM Steering Group. The EG agrees that until then and for all practical purposes, the PROCARIBE+ PMCU exercises this role in support of and on behalf of the OECS Commission. **(Decision EGM1.D3.4)**
7. Requests that all EG Members who may not yet have done so, register (a) their "official address" and (b) their duly authorized OCM EG representative(s), with the PROCARIBE+ PMCU at their earliest convenience. **(Decision EGM1.D3.5)**

Agenda Item 4: Meeting Objective(s), Expected Outcomes and Outputs

The OCM Executive Group (EG):

1. Adopts the EGM1 Agenda as presented at the onset of EGM1 and as contained in Document "[OCM EGM1 250224 Agenda for EGM1](#)". **(Decision EGM1.D4.1)**

Agenda Item 5: Presentation and Adoption of the OCM Executive Group (EG) Procedural Guidance

The OCM Executive Group (EG):

1. Confirms the OECS Commission as EG Chair for all EG business starting with EGM1 and until the position of the EG Chairmanship is opened for re-election - the latter, as per the (draft) EG Procedural Guidance, being expected to take place at the start of oEGM3. **(Decision EGM1.D5.1)**
2. Appoints UNEP / Cartagena Convention Secretariat as EG Co-Chair (Vice Chair) covering all EG business for the period starting with EGM1 and until the position of the EG Co-Chairmanship is opened for re-election - the latter, as per the (draft) EG

Procedural Guidance, being expected to take place at the start of oEGM3). **Decision EGM1.D5.2)**

3. Requests its Members to provide feedback and suggested changes to the EG Procedural Guidelines as contained in Document "[OCM_EGM1_250327_EG Procedural Guidance v2.0](#)" by 21st of April and requests the PROCARIBE+ PMCU to review the document based on the comments received and recirculate it to the EG at the latest on 9th of May. **(Decision EGM1.D5.3)**

Agenda Item 6: Proposed OCM Work Programme, Multi-Year Work Plan (MYWP) and budget

The OCM Executive Group (EG):

1. Recommends to the OCM Steering Group (SG) that consideration is given to enabling the use of the OCM as a regional support platform on matters relating to the BBNJ Agreement. **(Recommendation EGM1.R6.1)**
2. Recommends to the OCM Steering Group (SG) giving consideration to the use of the OCM for supporting regional coordination on Sargassum. **(Recommendation EGM1.R6.2)**
3. Recommends to the OCM Steering Group (SG) giving consideration to the use of the OCM for supporting regional coordination on the implementation of the UN Decade for Ocean Sciences, and the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework. **(Recommendation EGM1.R6.3)**
4. Recommends to the OCM Steering Group (SG) giving consideration to the use of the OCM as supporting mechanism for the implementation of the Regional Roadmap for the wider Caribbean under the CBD Sustainable Ocean Initiative. **(Recommendation EGM1.R6.4)**
5. Suggests that, in the context of the UN Ocean Decade and of the proposed 2025-2028 OCM Work Programme, the SG gives consideration to the upscaling of the following OCM functions from "Complementary" to "Core Functions": (a.) Coordinate knowledge management and facilitate data and information sharing, and (c) Strengthen science-policy interfaces. **(Recommendation EGM1.R6.5)**
6. Recommends the approval by the OCM Steering Group (SG) of the proposed OCM Work Programme and (tentative) Multi-Year Work Plan (MYWP) and Budget for the period January 2025 - April 2028 as contained in Document "[OCM_EGM1_250224_OCM Work Programme](#)". **(Recommendation EGM1.R6.6)**

Agenda Item 7: VARIA: SGM1, OCM Membership, Observers, Working Groups, Visibility and Branding

Proposed date, location and objectives for the 1st Meeting of the OCM Steering Group (SGM1)

The OCM Executive Group (EG):

1. Agrees to the proposal that the OECS Commission as EG Chair seeks to convene the First Meeting of the OCM Steering Group (SGM1) as an in-person meeting (hybrid format), to be held in Saint George, Grenada, on 13-14 May 2025. **(Decision EGM1.D7a.1)**
2. Endorses the proposed Objectives, expected Outcomes and Outputs for the First Meeting of the OCM Steering Group (SGM1), as described in Document "[OCM EGM1 250224 Item 7a](#)"; (b) agrees that these be presented/recommended to the Steering Group (SG) as the basis for the further planning of SGM1, and (c) requests the PROCARIBE+ PMCU to support the OECS Commission with the drafting of a proposed Provisional Agenda for SGM1. **(Decision EGM1.D7a.2)**
3. Recommends that the EG Members participate in SGM1 as observers, and, as a general principle, seek to also further engage in this quality in the business of the SGM1, whenever deemed relevant to their individual mandates and/or to the mandate and work of the Executive Group. **(Recommendation EGM1.R7a.1)**
4. Delegates to the PROCARIBE+ PMCU the sending out of a communication requesting all OCM MOU Signatory countries to confirm, as soon as possible, their "official address" and duly authorized representative(s) for all matters relative to the OCM and in particular to facilitate the organization and conduct of the First OCM Steering Group Meeting (SGM1). **(Decision EGM1.D7a.3)**

OCM Member Country representation on the Steering Group

The OCM Executive Group (EG):

5. Recommends that OCM Signatory Member States & Territories, in line with the OCM's Objectives and the OCM's Steering Group's mandate to provide high-level guidance on the wider range of ocean matters, give due consideration to:
 - enabling high-level/senior-level (political) engagement of their State/Territory with the OCM;
 - their representatives participating in the business of the OCM Steering Group having the ability to bring their State/Territory's holistic/integrated vision on oceans/marine matters in the MOU area to the OCM
 - pursuing a meaningful connection between the OCM and their national-level intersectoral ocean coordination efforts (e.g. national ocean governance committees, national inters-sectorial ocean coordination committees,...)**(Recommendation EGM1.R7b.1)**

On expanding the OCM Membership, OCM Observership, and the engagement of non-signatories

The OCM Executive Group (EG):

6. Takes stock of the current status of OCM memberships by States and Territories and by IGOs listed in Annex 1 to the OCM MOU, and requests that (a) EG Member IGOs help mobilize additional memberships from the list. **(Decision EGM1.D7c.1)**
7. Agrees to the proposal that invitations be extended to all States and Territories and IGOs listed in Annex 1 to the OCM MOU and that have not yet signed the MOU, to attend SGM1 as Observers, and to also be invited to engage in any further OCM SG business in that same quality (this until they become Signatories). **(Decision EGM1.D7c.2)**
8. Recommends that the OCM Steering Group (SG), at the First Meeting of the Steering Group (SGM1), considers adopting a decision that clarifies that, following the commencement of the OCM MOU, the United Kingdom Overseas Territories (UKOTs) that are able and wish to do so and that are listed under OCM MOU Annex 1 "Potential Signatories for MOU Commencement", "States and Territories", item 31.a-e, can join the OCM as individual OCM members by directly signing the OCM MOU, in coordination with the United Kingdom. **(Recommendation EGM1.R7c.1)**

Working Groups

The OCM Executive Group (EG):

9. (a) recommends the formal establishment by the OCM Steering Group (SG) of the following OCM Working Groups: (1) Marine Data and Information (MDI) Working Group; (2) State of the Marine Environment and associated socio-Economics Reporting (SOME) Working Group; (3) Strategic Action Programme (SAP) Working Group; (4) Gender and Youth Working Group, and (b) defers, for the time being, the possible consideration of additional Working Groups to the SG/SGM1. **(Recommendation EGM1.R7d.1)**
10. Suggests that (a) the OCM Steering Group (SG) gives consideration to endorsing the partial list of WG nominees provided by EG members listed in "OCM_EGM1_250224 Item 7 - VARIA: SGM1, OCM members, observers, WG, branding", slide 30; and (b) suggests the SG develops a way forward to complement the nominations already provided by the EG member IGOs. **(Recommendation EGM1.R7d.2)**

Wider-ranging Partnership(s)

The OCM Executive Group (EG):

11. The OCM Executive Group (EG) requests the further development of the proposal to host a Partnership Forum during the Gulf & Caribbean Fisheries Institute (GCFI) Annual Conference in Cartagena, Colombia, in October 2025, for presentation to, and adoption by the OCM Steering Group (SG). **(Decision EGM1.D7e.1)**

OCM Visibility, Communications and Branding

The OCM Executive Group (EG):

12. Requests that the development of a draft proposal for a "OCM Visibility and Communications Strategy/Plan", including the development of the "OCM brand" (with 2 different Brand Identity proposals), be advanced by the PROCARIBE+ PMCU for presentation to the OCM EG and SG for their consideration and adoption. **(Decision EGM1.D7f.1)**

Agenda Item 8: Discussion on important upcoming regional and global events of relevance to the mandate and work of the OCM

The OCM Executive Group (EG):

1. Agrees to apply for an on-site "OCM" or "OCM EG" Blue Zone side event (submission deadline: 14 March 2025) through a joint submission of (interested) OCM Member IGOs and countries, with the Requesting Lead Organization to be further decided, and based on the preliminary Side Event Concept described in "[OCM_EGM1_250224 Agenda Item 8 - Relevant Events](#)". **(Decision EGM1.D8.1)**
2. Requests EG Members to inform the PROCARIBE+ PMCU about their UNOC3 side-event proposals; the PROCARIBE+ PMCU will then prepare and share this overview with the OCM EG Membership. **(Decision EGM1.D8.2)**
3. Recommends that all UNOC3-participating EG Members make good use of UNOC3 to promote and increase the visibility of the OCM and of their work thereunder, including, as applicable, through their role as (co)organizers or participants in relevant UNOC3 activities and side events. **(Recommendation EGM1.R8.1)**
4. Requests the PMCU to come up with an EG Voluntary Commitment for consideration by the EG. **(Decision EGM1.D8.3)**
5. Requests that the OCM Steering Group (SG) be informed of (a) the registry of a Voluntary Commitment for inclusion in the "Voluntary Ocean Commitments Database" in connection with the upcoming Third United Nations Oceans Conference (UNOC3), with this Voluntary Commitment mirroring the commitment made by the OCM MoU Signatories through their signature to the OCM MOU, and (b) the possibility for this

Voluntary Commitment to still be further edited, as may be desired by the OCM Membership. **(Decision EGM1.D8.4)**

Any Other Business

The OCM Executive Group (EG):

1. Takes note of the feedback provided by FAO's Legal Division regarding the presence of a limited number of typographical errors/inconsistencies between the different language versions of the OCM MOU text (...), and of the proposed solutions, both listed in Document "[OCM_EGM1_250224_Item_9b - AOB discussion materials \(REVISION 250313 with additional FAO inputs\)](#)", and requests that the PROCARIBE+ PMCU brings these issues, including the recommendation from FAO-Legal that the MoU be amended at the earliest opportunity to correct the described inconsistencies, to the attention of the OCM Steering Group (SG), for corresponding decision-making and action. **(Decision EGM1.D9.1)**
2. Notes the "[Joint Statement by the Scientific and Conservation Community on the Impact on Cetaceans of the GARANTI 2 Seismic Survey in the Caribbean](#)" and invites EG Members to act on the request as per their mandate and procedures. **(Recommendation EGM1.R9.1)**
3. Recommends that the FAO/CAF/GEF/CRFM BE CLME+ Project Steering Committee considers mobilizing the project's investments in knowledge management in support of the OCM Work Programme, and in particular the development and subsequent implementation under the OCM of a regional Marine Data and Information (MDI) Infrastructure Blueprint, and of a regional OCM Knowledge Management Hub; and that the BE CLME+ Project Coordinator/Project Team engages for this purpose with the PROCARIBE+ PMCU and the MDI Working Group. **(Recommendation EGM1.R9.2)**
4. Requests the PROCARIBE+ PMCU to get more information on the GCF proposal to develop a Blue Economy Coordination Mechanism with 15 Caribbean countries being brought forward by the Caribbean Development Bank and requests the PMCU to share with the EG to define next steps. **(Decision EGM1.D9.2)**
5. Agrees with the proposal of the PROCARIBE+ PMCU that the PROCARIBE+ website be used, ad interim, to host information relative to the OCM, and all (public) materials arising from or related to the business of the OCM, at www.procaribeplus.org/oceancoordinationmechanism and <https://www.procaribeplus.org/pages/meetings-of-the-ocean-coordination-mechanism-ocm>, and currently also already more easily reachable via oceancoordinationmechanism.org or also caribbeanocm.org, this until the OCM Hub

contemplated under the OCM Work Programme has become operational. **(Decision EGM1.D9.3)**

6. Agrees to tentatively schedule the next EG Meeting, as an extraordinary (inter-sessional) EG Meeting focussed on the review of progress under the OCM Work Programme Consultancies (TDA/SAP and MDI,...), and to be held during the second semester of 2025. **(Decision EGM1.D9.4)**