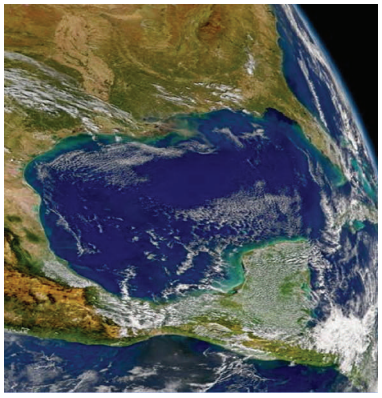
GEF IW STRATEGIC OBJECT 1 AND GEF4 IW STRATEGIC PROGRAM 1

INTEGRATED ASSESSMENT AND MANAGEMENT OF THE GULF OF MEXICO LARGE MARINE ECOSYSTEM

Background



The Gulf of Mexico Large Marine Ecosystem (GoM-LME) is shared by Cuba, Mexico and the United States. It is one of the most productive marine ecosystems in the world, and an important global reservoir of biodiversity. However, this high productivity is at risk from a range of anthropogenic threats that include excessive fishing, destruction of critical coastal and marine habitats, and nutrient-enrichment resulting in one of the largest hypoxic zones in the world. Additionally, many fishing stocks are over-fished, or are close to their maximum yield. Intensive fishing, the primary force driving biomass changes in the Gulf, is compounded by two other significant factors: habitat modification, including loss of critical habitats; and connectivity, resulting from poorly planned growth in the Gulf's coastal and urban areas, which translates into a trend of urban growth at the expense of estuaries, marshes, sea grasses, coral reefs, mangroves and other vital ecotones.

The GOM-LME Project is a Global Environment Facility partially funded initiative that launched its activities in June, 2009. It aims at removing identified constraints and barriers, developing common mechanisms and tools, and promoting reforms and investments, to set the bases for application of the ecosystem-based management (EBM) approach in the management of the GoM-LME. This will be complemented through capacity-building activities and pilot projects in three critical aspects of the EBM approach: productivity, conservation and adaptive management, and cross-sectoral engagement, including solid monitoring and evaluation frameworks for each component.

The project's global benefit will result in an enhanced understanding of LME functions, to serve as input into LME management strategies. The project aims to respond to these threats through an ecosystem-based management framework, allowing the countries of the Gulf to strengthen the Gulf's living resources, and address land-based and marine pollution, including the reduction of nutrient loads that contribute to hypoxic zones in the region.







Objective

To set the foundations for LME-wide ecosystem-based management approaches to rehabilitate marine and coastal ecosystems, recover depleted fish stocks, and reduce pollution and nutrient overloading.

Main activities

- Updating the Transboundary Diagnostic Analysis (TDA)
- Formulation of the Strategic Action Program (SAP) and associated National Action Programs (NAP's)
- Implementation of three demonstration projects in Laguna de Términos, Campeche, Mexico:
  - ⇒ "Natural Habitat and Ecosystem Conservation of Coastal and Marine Zones of the Gulf of Mexico: Wetlands, Mangroves, Sea Grass Beds and Sand Dunes"
  - ⇒ "Joint Assessment and Monitoring of Coastal Conditions in the Gulf of Mexico"
  - ⇒ "Restoring Depleted Shrimp Stocks through Ecosystem Based Management Practices in the Gulf of Mexico Large Marine Ecosystem"

GEF IW STRATEGIC OBJECT 1 AND GEF4 IW STRATEGIC PROGRAM 1

Achievements to date

- Project inception workshop held and the Steering Committee established in June 2009.
- Project coordination unit has been established.
- Experts workshops for planning activities on joint assessment and monitoring of coastal conditions, mangrove, sea grass beds and sand dunes restoration were held in 2009.
- Bi-national Mex-US technical experts workshop to review work plan activities for 2010.
- Updating the Transboundary Diagnostic Analysis (TDA) and formulation of the Strategic Action Program (SAP) are in progress.
- Project's overall work plan has been prepared and approved by the Steering Committee.
- Collaboration agreements and coordination efforts with several national agencies have been established to cover the following main issues:
  - ⇒ Coastal ecosystem rehabilitation (mangrove, sea grass beds, and sand dunes
  - ⇒ Watershed management, coastal and marine pollution, nutrient over enrichment, eutrophication, harmful algal blooms and red tides
  - ⇒ Overexploitation of living marine resources
- Crosscutting activities to ensure strong cooperation and engagement with other existing GEF funded projects in the GoM LME and Caribbean region.
- Progress in capacity building through training courses, seminars and wide public participation throughout the GoM LME region, such as QA/QC for the monitoring of the ecosystem health.
- Preparation of a specific education and outreach program for the GoM LME project.

Project Components

1. Updating the Transboundary Diagnostic Analysis (TDA) and confirmation of priorities.
2. Formulation and adoption of the Strategic Action Program (SAP) and associated National Action Programs (NAPs).
3. Strengthening of the LME wide ecosystem based management approaches through the successful implementation and integration of the Pilot Projects and their results through the GoM LME region.
4. Monitoring and Evaluation System for the Project and the GoM LME under continuous development.

Executing Partners/Agencies at National Level

UNIDO/SEMARNAT/NOAA

Project Budget

The total budget includes: Total Project Cost $101,750,280; GEF 4,975,500; Co-financing 96,774,780

Milestones

Activities	Timeframe	
Transboundary issues analysed and priorities defined	Y1	Y2
SAP and associated NAPS formulated and adopted at ministerial level	Y3	Y4
Demonstration projects successfully implemented	Y4	Y4
Monitoring and Evaluation System for the Project and the GOM LME established	Y1	Y4
Effective project co-ordination	Y1	Y4

Contact

UNIDO
IGOR VOLODIN

COUNTRY
PORFIRIO ÁLVAREZ TORRES

Blvd. Adolfo Ruiz Cortines 4209, 3er Piso Ala "A" Jardines en la Montaña, Del. Tlalpan, 14210 México, D.F.
Tel: 55-5628-0701; 55-5490-0926 E-mail: alvarez.porfirio@gmail.com