

CONTRIBUTION 9.3

Laying the Foundation for Blue Economic Growth in the Caribbean: The BE-CLME+ Project

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ABSTRACT

The marine environment and its highly complex ecosystems and biological diversity are valuable national and regional environmental and economic assets which have been providing the people of the Caribbean with countless benefits in the form of food, employment, trade, culture, recreation and tourism, and social and economic stability of many coastal communities. If these assets are used and managed well, they can make significantly enhanced and sustained contributions to sustainable blue economic development of the region.

This paper introduces a recent regional project funded by the GEF, entitled, *Promoting National Blue Economy Priorities Through Marine Spatial Planning in the Caribbean Large Marine Ecosystem Plus* (or the BE-CLME+ Project). The aim of this project is to strengthen the foundation for blue economic growth and development in the region based on the marine living resources, which are valuable economic assets. This is to be achieved through enhanced and expanded investments in marine spatial planning and marine protected areas, the ecosystem approach to fisheries, and sustainable seafood value chain development.

KEYWORDS: *blue growth, marine spatial planning, area-based management, seafood value chain.*

NOTE: *There is no accompanying paper for this item.*

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