



UNIDO and LMEs: A commentary



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ABSTRACT

The United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO) is the United Nations Specialized Agency with the mandate to promote Inclusive and Sustainable Industrial Development.

Through promoting ISID, Green Industries and the Transfer of Environmentally Sound Technologies (TEST) UNIDO contributes substantially towards the recovery and sustainability of degraded goods and services in LMEs. Out of the 5-module LME strategy the technical assistance provided by UNIDO is of particular importance to reduce pollution and enhance ecosystem health, to promote sustainable socio-economic development and to promote sustainable industrial fisheries and fish based value added chains.

UNIDO's engagement in Large Marine Ecosystem Projects:

- Guinea Current Large Marine Ecosystem (GCLME)
- Mediterranean Sea Large Marine Ecosystem (MEDLME)
- Gulf of Mexico LME (GoM LME)
- COAST Project

UNIDO is highly committed to the ecosystem based approach to LME management and will continue to provide technical assistance and mobilize funds to achieve measurable changes in the status of LMEs with primary focus on the pollution and ecosystem health module, the socioeconomic module and the industrial aspects of the fishery module.

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1. UNIDO and Inclusive and Sustainable Industrial Development (ISID)

The United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO) is the United Nations Specialized Agency with the mandate to promote Inclusive and Sustainable Industrial Development. ISID is credited with (1) promoting value addition, (2) realizing productivity gains and returns to scale, (3) creating jobs and income, (4) enhancing international

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competitiveness and trade, (5) building efficient and effective productive capacity, (6) supporting economic diversification, and (7) building green industries. “Inclusive” in this context means that industrial development must include all countries and all peoples, as well as the private sector, civil society organizations, multinational development institutions, and all parts of the UN system, and offer equal opportunities and an equitable distribution of the benefits of industrialization to all stakeholders. The term “sustainable” addresses the need to decouple the prosperity generated from industrial activities from excessive natural resource use and negative environmental impacts.

2. UNIDO's Green Industry Policy for the promotion of ISID

In the last few years, keeping with its mandate, UNIDO coined the concept of Green Industry to place ISID in the context of new global sustainable development challenges. Green Industry means economies striving for a more sustainable pathway of growth, by undertaking green public investments and implementing public policy initiatives that encourage environmentally responsible private investments. Greening of Industry is a method to attain sustainable economic growth and promote sustainable economies. It includes policymaking, improved industrial production processes and resource-efficient productivity.

Our Green Industry Initiative creates awareness, knowledge and capacities. We work with governments to support industrial institutions that in turn provide assistance to enterprises and entrepreneurs in all aspects relating to the greening of industry. The underlying principle of Green Industry is to decouple human wellbeing and economic development from resource consumption and environmental impacts.

3. Transfer of Environmentally Sound Technologies a UNIDO tool for the promotion of ISID

The UNIDO integrated TEST methodology constitutes an approach that introduces Cleaner Production Assessment (CPA), Environmental Management Systems (EMS) and Environmental Management Accounting (EMA) tools simultaneously. The TEST methodology identifies improvements in industrial production processes ranging from better house-keeping to comprehensive investments into the production process and shows industries which Return On Investment (ROI) can be achieved by making these investments (e.g. reduced energy costs, reduced water consumption, reduced waste management costs). By demonstrating to the industries that the investments in higher resource efficiency in their production process can have Internal Rates of Return of 20% and above the application of the TEST methodology effectively leverages investments by the private sector. The application of the integrated TEST methodology allows enterprises to merge the two seemingly conflicting goals – that of reducing environmental impacts and increasing company competitiveness simultaneously. The result is a win-win situation in which companies applying Environmentally Sound Technologies become more profitable while at the same time reducing their detrimental environmental impacts.

4. UNIDO's relevance for Large Marine Ecosystems

UNIDO's Industrial Resource Efficiency Unit which was created in 2015 by merging the Water Management Unit and the Cleaner Production Unit supports the ecosystem approach through demonstration of best practice strategies, capacity building, and strategic partnerships, to reduce the degradation of transboundary river basins and the marine and coastal environments.

Through promoting ISID, Green Industries and the Transfer of Environmentally Sound Technologies (TEST) UNIDO contributes substantially towards the recovery and sustainability of degraded goods and services in LMEs. Out of the 5-module LME strategy the technical assistance provided by UNIDO is of particular importance to reduce pollution and enhance ecosystem health, promote sustainable socio-economic development and to promote sustainable industrial fisheries and fish based value added chains.

5. UNIDO's engagement in Large Marine Ecosystem Projects

5.1. Guinea Current Large Marine Ecosystem (GCLME)

UNIDO was the Executing Agency for the GEF funded project “Combating Living Resources Depletion and Coastal Area Degradation in the Guinea Current LME through Ecosystem-based Regional Actions”. Under this full size GEF project with a total budget of \$20,812,404 the costs for the development of a Strategic Action Plan to reverse the presently observed trends in ecosystem deterioration, for the implementation of nine demonstration projects, designed to be replicable and intended to demonstrate how concrete actions can lead to dramatic improvements and for the establishment of a an Interim Guinea Current Commission Commission for the sustainable management of natural resources shared by 16 west and central African countries.

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