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Seventeenth Intergovernmental Meeting on the Action Plan for the Caribbean Environment Programme and Fourteenth Meeting of the Contracting Parties to the Convention for the Protection and Development of the Marine Environment of the Wider Caribbean Region

Cayenne, French Guiana, 15-17 March 2017

**CEP SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT STRATEGY  
AND PERFORMANCE INDICATORS  
(including Resource Mobilization Strategy)**

*For reasons of economy and the environment, Delegates are kindly requested to bring their copies of the Working and Information documents to the Meeting, and not to request additional copies.*



**I. Recommendation to the 17<sup>th</sup> Intergovernmental Meeting of the Action Plan for the Caribbean Environment Programme and Fourteenth Meeting of the Contracting Parties to the Convention for the Protection and Development of the Marine Environment of the Wider Caribbean Region (Cartagena Convention)**

1. Member States are invited to consider the adoption of a decision on the update of the Strategy for the development of the Caribbean Environment Programme.
2. In preparing such a decision on a renewed strategy, Member States may consider the following aspects:
  - a. The Strategy for the Development of the Caribbean Environment Programme adopted in 1990;
  - b. Strategic goals of the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), the Regional Seas Strategic Directions (2017-2020), 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, SIDS accelerated modalities of action (SAMOA Pathway) and other relevant strategic objectives set under relevant Multilateral Environment Agreements (MEAs);
  - c. Strategic directions and targets developed within the region;
  - d. Allocation of sufficient resources to allow the development of a renewed strategy with sufficient regional consultations.
3. Member States are further invited to consider a decision on the development of a resource mobilization strategy. It is recommended to consider inclusion of the resource mobilization strategy within a renewed Strategy for the Caribbean Environment Programme, if Member States decide to develop such a strategy.

**II. Background**

4. The Caribbean Environment Programme was established in 1981 through the adoption of the Action Plan for the Caribbean Environment Programme (Action Plan). The principal objectives of the Action Plan is to assist the governments of the region in minimizing environmental problems in the Wider Caribbean through the assessment of the state of the environment and development activities in environmental management. The Action Plan is legally underpinned by the Cartagena Convention, which entered into force in 1986.
5. The Fourth Intergovernmental and the First Contracting Parties Meeting held in 1987 requested the development of a strategy for the development of the Caribbean Environment Programme. Following an in-depth evaluation of the programme from 1976 to 1987<sup>1</sup>, the Strategy for the Development of the Caribbean Environment Programme was adopted in 1990 with the long-term goal to achieve sustainable development of marine and coastal resources in the Wider Caribbean Region through effective integrated management that allows for increased economic growth.
6. Specific measures were not put in place to periodically assess and report on the implementation of the strategy. Furthermore, it has been noted that emerging issues have not been well incorporated in the strategy since its adoption.

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<sup>1</sup> The Action Plan for the Caribbean Environment Programme: Evaluation of its Development and Achievements (1976-1987)

7. In 2015, the Office of Internal Oversight Services (OIOS) conducted an audit of the Caribbean Environment Programme as presented in reference document (No.AA2015/220/03). The audit concluded with the following four recommendations:
  - a. *Update the strategy for CEP to assure that programme activities were aligned with strategic goals;*
  - b. *Review the performance indicators for CEP work plans to ensure that they facilitate objective performance measurement, reporting and evaluation;*
  - c. *Develop and implement a resource mobilization strategy to raise adequate resources for CEP; and*
  - d. *Monitor the expenditure incurred from the Caribbean Trust Fund to maintain the fund's financial stability.*
8. The present document provides suggested actions to address the four recommendations listed above.

### **III. Possible actions to address the audit recommendations**

#### **A) Update the strategy for CEP to assure that programme activities were aligned with strategic goals**

9. Since the adoption of the Strategy for the Development of the Caribbean Environment Programme in 1990, the international community adopted various strategic goals related to the conservation and sustainable management of marine and coastal ecosystems. UN Member States adopted the SIDS Accelerated Modality of Action (SAMOA) Pathway through its resolution A/RES/69/15. Subsequently the UN General Assembly adopted “Transforming our world: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development” through its resolution A/RES/70/1. A goal specific to the sustainable management of oceans was included as Goal 14 “Conserve and sustainably use the oceans, seas and marine resources for sustainable development”.
10. The Governing Council of UNEP and the United Nations Environment Assembly have also adopted decisions and resolutions that set strategic objectives for the work on oceans. At the same time, Member States have also agreed on global targets under MEAs, such as the Aichi Biodiversity Targets.
11. The Regional Seas programmes also adopted a collective Regional Seas Strategic Directions (2017-2020) emphasizing four thematic areas: pollution, climate change, living and non-living extractives, and governance. Further to this, the United Nations Environment Assembly through its resolution 2/10 paragraph 10 requested the Executive Director to bring the Strategic Directions to the conference of parties of the Regional Seas Conventions and Action Plans. The Strategic Directions is presented to the meeting as reference document (UNEP/WBRS.18/INF8) for consideration by Member States when developing an updated strategy for the Caribbean Environment Programme.
12. Under the project entitled “Sustainable Management of the Shared Living Marine Resources of the Caribbean Large Marine Ecosystem and Adjacent Regions” (CLME+ project), a Strategic Action Programme (SAP) was developed for sustainable marine resource management. The SAP set six strategies with a view to strengthening cooperation and coordination among countries in the region and to enhancing the implementation of the ecosystem approach. The SAP has been endorsed by more than 34 ministers of 25 countries in the region. All of these countries also participate in the Caribbean Environment Programme.
13. Responding to these developments, Member States are invited to consider updating the Strategy for the development of the Caribbean Environment Programme. It is proposed that a new strategy be developed in line with the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development so that the Caribbean Environment Programme

will be able to assist member States in implementing and following-up the ocean-related Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) through regional cooperation.

14. It is suggested to consider the following strategic goals in the updated strategy, if Member States decide to develop one:
  - a. Reposition the Caribbean Environment Programme as a leading regional organization for sustainable development;
  - b. Streamline activities under the three programmes and Regional Activity Centres in order to enhance the implementation and delivery of the Action Plan, Cartagena Convention and its Protocols.
15. The strategy will guide the development of the biennial workplans and will be implemented through these workplans. Intergovernmental Meetings will function as the review mechanism to monitor and evaluate the implementation of the strategy.
16. UNEP has prepared the guideline for Regional Seas programmes to prepare plan for the implementation of SDGs. These plans will outline how Regional Seas programmes will support their respective member States in implementing and following-up the ocean-related SDGs. The guideline proposed four steps: (i) alignment of the regional objectives and targets; (ii) establishment of current baseline situation; (iii) planning programmes and partnerships for achieving the regional objectives and SDGs; and (iv) planning possible new institutional and financial arrangements. This guidance document can be used in preparing a renewed strategy for the Caribbean Environment Programme.
17. The Regional Coordinating Unit has already conducted analysis on the linkages between the programmes and the SDGs, Aichi Biodiversity Targets and SAMOA Pathway (UNEP(DEPI)/CAR WG.34/6 ). The analysis has shown that the current activities already contribute to the achievement of many SDGs, Aichi Biodiversity Targets and SAMOA Pathway. The analysis will allow further alignment of the programmes' objectives with the global targets in the future. By aligning regional targets, the Caribbean Environment Programme will be able to provide coordinated assistance to Member States in achieving global targets.
18. It is proposed that the Bureau continue to work for the development of the strategy during the inter-sessional period. It is also recommended to allocate sufficient resources for the development of the strategy, including resources to facilitate consultation processes with Member States and Stakeholders, as necessary.

**B) Review the performance indicators for CEP work plans to ensure that they facilitate objective performance measurement, reporting and evaluation**

19. The workplan and budget as presented in UNEP(DEPI)/CAR IG.39/3 already incorporated measurable and performance indicators for each of the planned outputs as recommended by the auditor. The Regional Coordinating Unit will assess the progress of the implementation using the indicators and will report to member States at the next Intergovernmental Meeting.
20. The indicator-based monitoring will help quantify the achievement of the Caribbean Environment Programme and showcase the results of its interventions. In this way, Member States will have a clearer understanding of the outcomes of the programme.

21. The impact of the programme on the marine and coastal environment can also be measured. Periodic assessments compiled as the Status of the Convention Areas for the Wider Caribbean region (SOCAR) reports should be able to show the impact of the Convention and its Protocols on the marine and coastal ecosystems in the long term.

**C) Develop and implement a resource mobilization strategy to raise adequate resources for CEP**

22. The lack of financial and human resources has impacted on the development and implementation of new activities. The financial challenges have influenced on the ability of the Secretariat to coordinate activities. As was reported to Member States (UNEP(DEPI)/CAR IG.33/INF.4), financial stability remains to be a high priority for the Caribbean Environment Programme.
23. Based on the recommendation from the audit and the current financial challenges at the Secretariat and the Regional Activity Centres, Member States are invited to consider developing a resource mobilization strategy. If Member States decide to develop an updated strategy (see Section A), it is recommended to include this resource mobilization strategy as part of the strategy so that it will support the achievement of overall goals and objectives of the Caribbean Environment Programme.
24. Considering the need for resource mobilization, the Secretariat has started preparing a draft resource mobilization strategy. It is suggested that Member States consider including the following elements in the resource mobilization strategy:
  - a. Analysis of the current donor priorities;
  - b. Sustainability and improvement of the status of the Trust Fund;
  - c. Needs and priorities of Member States;
  - d. Identification of current and potential donors including the private sector and foundations;
  - e. Modality for coordination and implementation of the resource mobilization strategy, including possible new institutional and human resource arrangements;
  - f. Recommendations with clear resource mobilization targets.
25. The Regional Coordinating Unit with support of member States and the Regional Activity Centres will implement the strategy and report the progress on the implementation to the Intergovernmental Meeting.

**D) Monitor the expenditure incurred from the Caribbean Trust Fund to maintain the fund's financial stability.**

26. The Regional Coordinating Unit has a Funds Management Officer who monitors the status of the Trust Fund. The Funds Management officer closely works with the UNEP Headquarters to assure management of the Trust fund. Based on the recommendation by the auditor, UNEP has already submitted a report that described measures taken to improve the monitoring on the expenditure from the Trust Fund.
27. The Secretariat biannually reports the status of the Trust Fund to the Intergovernmental Meeting. Current status of the Trust Fund is presented to the meeting document in the information document UNEP(DEPI)/CAR IG.39/INF.4.