

Regional and global programmes and initiatives that address

MARINE LITTER

The Caribbean addressing Marine Litter with regional framework:

Cartagena Convention Secretariat & Pollution (LBS) Protocol



Seventy to eighty-five per cent of Marine Litter within the Wider Caribbean Region, is from land-based sources of solid waste. Marine Litter is now one of three priority pollutants that are being targeted for improved management. This threatens livelihoods especially through economic losses to the tourism, shipping and fishing sectors. The impact of marine pollution also poses risks to human health, and the beauty of the Caribbean islands and coastal communities.

As the **Secretariat to the Cartagena Convention**, the only legally binding environmental agreement in the Region, the United Nations Environment Programme – Caribbean Environment Programme (UN Environment CEP) ensures synergies with the obligations of Regional Governments that are its Contracting Parties. For the last 30 years, the Secretariat for the Cartagena Convention, in Kingston, Jamaica continues to support regional programme implementation of Protocols to foster sustainable development.

The Land-Based Sources of Marine Pollution (LBS) Protocol (signed in 1999 and adopted in 2010) and the [Caribbean Regional Action Plan for Marine Litter \(RAPMaLI\)](#) (developed in 2008 and updated in 2010) are regional frameworks for our marine litter projects and activities.

Support includes national and regional marine litter projects as well as promoting national policy and legal reforms. Activities may range from technical and high-level meetings, a dedicated webpage, social media platforms to the creation of information materials to the development and implementation of solid waste and marine litter related projects and sharing of information on new grant opportunities.

Global #CleanSeas Campaign



Launched by United Nations Environment Programme in February 2017, UN Environment spearheaded the #CleanSeas Campaign to engage governments, the public, civil society, and the private sector in the fight against marine plastic litter. The campaign aimed to address the root-cause of marine litter by targeting the production and consumption of non-recoverable and single-use plastic. More than anything else, #CleanSeas aims to highlight the scale of the problem.



Within the first year, **9** Caribbean Countries
(all Contracting parties of LBS Protocol) made commitments under the #CleanSeas Campaign to eliminate marine litter in the Wider Caribbean Region accounting for more than 60% of the world's coastline

Caribbean CleanSeas Campaign

In order to further strengthen our regional response, the Secretariat and the Gulf and Caribbean Fisheries Institute (GCFI), as co-hosts of the Caribbean Node of the Global Partnership on Marine Litter (GPML-Caribe) in the Wider Caribbean Region (WCR), is collaborating with the Caribbean Youth Environment Network (CYEN) to launch a Regional Clean Seas Campaign (#CaribbeanCleanSeas).

The initiative focuses on enhancing the work of GPML-Caribe with linkages to the International Coastal Cleanup (ICC) 2019 campaign. It also offers an opportunity to conduct field testing of the **harmonized monitoring methodology** which was developed through the Node in 2018. The Caribbean #CleanSeas Campaign has been launched in 5 selected countries initially (Barbados, Grenada, St Kitts and Nevis, St Vincent and the Grenadines and Trinidad and Tobago).

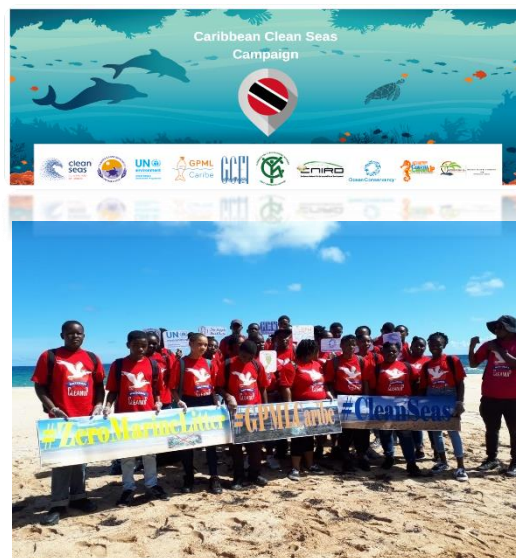


Photo-St. Kitts and Nevis

Caribbean Regional Action Plan for Marine Litter (RAPMaLI)

First adopted in 2008 as a regional policy response to the growing concerns of litter accumulation in the Caribbean Sea, the Regional Action Plan for Marine Litter (RAPMaLI) for the Wider Caribbean later updated in 2010, addresses the challenge of marine litter and plastics pollution and serves as a comprehensive toolkit to assist Caribbean Small Island Developing States (SIDS) in particular to incorporate proper waste management across all sectors. Since the adoption of this Action Plan, resources have been mobilized to support countries in various pilot projects including:



- Guyana, Barbados and Saint Lucia to improve national marine litter and solid waste management policies and legislation, monitoring and assessment programmes, public awareness, education and outreach activities.

The Caribbean node of the Global Partnership on Marine Litter (GPML) continues to implement the regional priorities and facilitates the inclusion of the regional summary of the situation with marine litter related legislation, monitoring and management as contained in RAPMaLI.

The Global Partnership for Marine Litter (GPML)

The Global Partnership on Marine Litter (GPML) formed in 2012 is a multi-stakeholder partnership which brings together actors working on marine litter to share knowledge and experience to reduce the quantity and impact of marine litter in the region.

This is facilitated in the Wider Caribbean Region through [the Caribbean node of the Global Partnership on Marine Litter \(GPML\)](#) launched in 2016 and is hosted by the Secretariat for the Cartagena Convention and the Gulf and Caribbean Fisheries Institute (GCFI), a regional not-for-profit organization.



Over the last 4 years, the Caribbean Node has facilitated, several projects for improving marine litter management in the region including training, outreach, advocacy, resource mobilization and project development. A few of the projects supported include:



Projects & Initiatives	Agency/Partner	Brief Overview
Grenada Microplastics	St. George' University, Grenada	Microplastic ingestion by commercially important species of fish in the Caribbean region.
Piloting marine litter reduction strategies for major Caribbean cultural/musical/sporting events- Carnival in Trinidad and Tobago	IA Movement (NGO) Trinidad and Tobago	Reduction of marine litter associated with a major Caribbean cultural event – Carnival in Trinidad and Tobago.
Links between marine litter and the prevalence of mosquito-borne public health concerns	All Points Geospatial Consulting , Puerto Rico	Marine litter and the incidence of mosquito-borne public health concerns such as Chikungunya virus/Chik V in the Caribbean region.
#PlasticFreeJuly Social Media Campaign		Launched from July 1-31, 2019 to raise awareness on plastic pollution and encourage the use of alternative products and practices
Caribbean #CleanSeas Campaign	CYEN, CNIRD	Focused on increased engagement and awareness of the general public, private sector and government in the fight against marine plastic pollution in 5 selected countries
Youth Involvement -Marine Litter		Sponsorship for students participation at the Marine Litter Session at GCFI72 Conference, Punta Cana, DR
Abandoned Loss & Discarded Fishing Gear (ALDFG)	Global Ghost Gear Initiative, US State Dept	Project to minimize the occurrence and impact of ALDFG in extreme weather events through assessment of port reception facilities,new technologies, data collection, best practices and workshops.

Cooperation: OSPAR & Cartagena Convention

The OSPAR Convention for the North East Atlantic and the Cartagena Convention Secretariat are cooperating to support the implementation of Sustainable Development Goal 14 (#OceanAction17198). Through this cooperation, funds were mobilized in 2018 from the Governments of Sweden and the Netherlands to support marine litter activities in the Wider Caribbean Region. GCFI and the Cartagena Convention Secretariat convened a regional workshop of technical marine litter experts in 2018 & 2019 to discuss regional marine litter priorities and develop a strategic plan to further support RAPMAli. A report was commissioned to propose a new harmonized approach to monitoring marine litter.

Regional State of the Convention Area Report

As the very first of its kind for the Caribbean, the State of the Convention Area (SOCAR) report provides a regional quantitative assessment of the state of the marine environment of the Wider Caribbean Region, with respect to land-based sources of pollution. This report incorporates the Driver-Pressure-State-Impact-Response (DPSIR) framework, which describes the interactions between human society and the environment. This report facilitates informed regional or country-level decisions on addressing such sources of pollution.

The Trash Free Waters Initiative in the Caribbean



Regional Office for Latin America & the Caribbean

UN Environment CEP entered into a partnership with the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), Peace Corps and UN Environment's Regional Office for Latin America and its Caribbean Sub-Regional Office (UN Environment SRO), Government and other partners to reduce and prevent land-based trash from entering watersheds, coastal waters, and the marine environment in Jamaica and Panama.

Based on the project's successes, a grant has been extended through the Caribbean Regional Node for Marine Litter Management to further expand the reach of the project tackling waste with disposal system, sustainable meal-packaging in schools and upcycling opportunities in the form of Small and Medium Enterprise (SME) Business Training for the residents of the communities.



Pilot in Jamaica [Solid Waste Reduction Project, Westmoreland, Jamaica]:

Scope: 200 garbage bins distributed across 40 locations in Whitehouse and Bluefields Communities in Jamaica



Recycling: 4,500 lbs of plastic bottles were collected



Public Awareness Campaigns Reach: 3,445 persons were impacted by Outreach efforts
2,400 students
1,045 adults

Compost: 2,500 lbs of compost collected

Upcycling Workshop: 20 residents trained on jewellery making from items collected from sea & composting

Pilot in Panama [Partnership for Marine Litter: Juan Diaz Community]

Scope: Juan Diaz



Public Awareness: 450 students among 4 schools educated on trash reduction



Volunteer training: 10 volunteers trained on the 3 Rs and sensitization of the Juan Diaz River trap being established to help the local community

Public Awareness (Commercial Institutions): members of the public benefit from capacity building of proper waste separation

Excursion for Water Quality assessment: students tested the water quality

Status of Plastics and Styrofoam bans in the Wider Caribbean Region



Over the last decade, the debate on the ban of Styrofoam and disposable plastics has gained momentum. A report on the [Status of Plastics and Styrofoam bans in the Wider Caribbean Region](#) was prepared by the Secretariat to highlight



the policies and bans that have been implemented in the Wider Caribbean Region, and identify lessons learned for policy makers. This is expected to assist in future efforts to regulate the use and production of disposable plastics. This report is complemented by an [interactive map](#) of the status of the bans on plastic bags and Styrofoam in the Caribbean.

Major barriers to combatting marine litter

- Sufficient time to implement on-the-ground concrete activities eg. mobilizing national partners
- Lack of a harmonized monitoring for Marine Litter at national and regional levels including a data base/information platform and improved characterization of solid waste generated at national and/or regional levels
- Lack of effective policy, regulatory and enforcement frameworks for plastics within the waste stream – (treatment of plastics as a hazardous waste)
- Lack of appropriate business cases to encourage private sector investment in waste and plastic



In Latin America and the Caribbean, an estimated **145,000** tons of waste per day are disposed in open dumpsites, including **17,000** tons of plastic. (UN Environment Programme, 2018)

Project Proposals Under Development/Submitted

Lead Entity	Project Proposals, Concepts
UN Environment CEP/ Panama/ Jamaica	Caribbean Microplastics Reduction Proposal –(submitted to Government of Japan)
UN Environment CEP/ IDB	Reducing plastic pollution in the Caribbean Sea, through the Sustainable Management of Plastics in the Wider Caribbean Region- (Draft GEF Concept)
UN Environment CEP/GCFI	Improving Marine Litter Management in the Caribbean (Approved by Environment Canada)