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

Montego Bay, Jamaica, 29 November to 2 December 2006

**REPORT OF THE MEETING**



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## INTRODUCTION

1. In its Decision I, the Eleventh Intergovernmental Meeting on the Action Plan for the Caribbean Environment Programme and the Eighth Meeting of the Contracting Parties to the Convention for the Protection and Development of the Marine Environment of the Wider Caribbean Region endorsed the revised Workplan and adopted the Budget for the Caribbean Environment Programme for the 2004-2005 biennium.
2. Thus, in accordance with the revised Workplan for the biennium 2004-2005 (UNEP(DEPI)/CAR IG.26/4), this Meeting was convened by the Secretariat of the Caribbean Environment Programme in Montego Bay, from 29 November to 2 December 2006.
3. The objectives of the meeting were as follows:
  - Evaluate the projects and activities implemented within the framework of the Caribbean Environment Programme during the period 2004-2005;
  - Review the progress made in the implementation of the decisions of the Eleventh Intergovernmental Meeting and Eighth Meeting of the Contracting Parties, Montego Bay, 28 September to 2 October 2004;
  - Review and take action, as appropriate, on the decisions of the Fourth Meeting of the Contracting Parties (COP) to the Protocol Concerning Specially Protected Areas and Wildlife (SPA) in the Wider Caribbean Region, Montego Bay, Jamaica, 28 November 2006;
  - Review the recommendations of, and take action as appropriate on, the Report of the Third Meeting of the Interim Scientific, Technical and Advisory Committee (ISTAC) to the Protocol Concerning Pollution from Land-based Sources and Activities, Mexico City, Mexico, 22-26 August 2005;
  - Review the recommendations of, and take action as appropriate, on the Report of the Third Meeting of the Steering Committee to the Protocol Concerning Cooperation in Combating Oil Spills in the Wider Caribbean Region, Willemstad, Curacao, 24-25 July 2006;
  - Review and adopt, as appropriate, the recommendations of the open intersessional working group established at the Eleventh Intergovernmental Meeting and Eighth Meeting of the Contracting Parties, Montego Bay, Jamaica, 28 September to 2 October 2004 on the Rules of Procedure and Financial Rules for the Caribbean Environment Programme;
  - Review and adopt, as appropriate, the recommendations of the open intersessional working group established at the Eleventh Intergovernmental Meeting (IGM) on the guidelines for the operations of the Regional Activity Centres (RACs) and the Regional Activity Networks (RANs) of the Caribbean Environment Programme;
4. The experts invited to the Meeting were nominated by the national focal points of the Governments that constitute the Caribbean Environment Programme (CEP). In addition to United Nations Member Governments of the Wider Caribbean, other States that have demonstrated concern for the protection of the marine environment of the Wider Caribbean, as well as non-governmental organisations, other UN agencies and other regional and international organizations interested in the CEP were also invited to attend the Meeting as observers. (Annex V contains the list of participants).
- Review and adopt the Workplan and Budget for CEP for the 2006-2007 Biennium, including those of the Regional Activity Centres; and
- Decide on the composition of the Monitoring Committee and the Bureau of Contracting Parties for the 2006-2007 period.

### Agenda Item 1: Opening of the Meeting

5. On the occasion of the celebration of the 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the CEP and 20 years of the establishment of the RCU in Kingston, the secretariat organised a special opening ceremony to mark the event.
6. Mr. Franklin McDonald, Chairman of the Opening Ceremony, welcomed all delegates, invited guests and media to the meeting. He highlighted the activities over the years that have improved the management of coastal and marine resources in the region. He noted that the Meeting was being held in the same facility that twenty-five years ago saw the creation of the Action Plan and invited the Meeting to reflect upon the achievements as well as the challenges ahead. He continued by inviting Ms. Leonie Barnaby, to address the meeting on behalf of the Honorable Minister of Land and Environment of Jamaica, Mr. Dean Peart, who regrettably, had been unable to participate in this important event. Ms. Barnaby proceeded to welcome the participants to Jamaica and wished for a stimulating meeting culminating in time well spent in protecting the marine environment of the region. The Coordinator of the Caribbean Environment Programme, Mr. Nelson Andrade Colmenares invited Ms. Lesma Levy, who has worked for the programme for 20 years, to lead the Meeting in prayer. He also invited the staff of the CEP to join him at the podium and introduced them to the meeting participants.
7. Ms. Leonie Barnaby, speaking on behalf of the Hon. Dean Peart, Minister of Local Government and the Environment, welcomed delegates to Jamaica and congratulated the CEP on its 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary of existence. She underscored the tremendous achievements of the Programme and in particular, the benefits reaped by Jamaica in the form of project activities for the protection of the country's coastal and marine environment. She referred to the status of Jamaica's accession

- to the LBS and SPAW Protocols, noting that draft legislation regarding requirements under these Protocols had been prepared for review. It was noted that as a signatory to the Protocols, Jamaica had already indicated support of their provisions. She drew the meeting's attention to the completion of a National Programme of Action (NPA) for the Protection of the Marine Environment from Land-based Sources of Pollution. This Programme was approved by the Jamaican Cabinet in February 2006 and addresses the main sources of pollution in the coastal and marine environment. She indicated that further work would continue in the form of projects centered on sewage treatment and disposal, agricultural practices and collection and disposal of solid waste.
8. She mentioned the recent Second Intergovernmental Review of the Global Programme of Action for the Protection of the Marine Environment from Land-based Activities (GPA), in which Jamaica had participated.
  9. The representative of Jamaica expressed her country's deep appreciation to UNEP for assisting in identifying strategic financing for the implementation of the NPA. She also welcomed the proposed establishment of a Caribbean Revolving Fund for Waste Water Management (CRew) aimed at providing Caribbean Small Island Developing States (SIDS) with a window through which to address wastewater management in the region. She recalled the comments made by the Hon. Delano Franklin at the previous IGM relating to the importance of disaster management. She expressed the hope that over the next 25 years, the relevance and impact of the CEP would grow and that governments, the private sector, communities and citizens would acknowledge and play their part in the protection of the resources of the Caribbean. In concluding, she indicated that her government stood ready to continue its host arrangements with the Regional Coordinating Unit (RCU) in Jamaica.
  10. Ms. Rossana Silva Repetto brought greetings and best wishes from Dr. Veerle Vandeweerd, Head of the UNEP Regional Seas Programme and Coordinator of the GPA. She thanked the Government of Jamaica for hosting the RCU for the past 20 years and for its expressed intention to continue to do so. She recalled that the Cartagena Convention provided the legal framework for regional cooperation in the protection of the marine and coastal environment and that the RCU, having taken this programme to the position as one of the leading regional seas programmes, had been eminently successful in the areas of mobilization of funds, government ownership and secretariat strength.
  11. She pointed out that the CEP had provided valuable input to the successful Second Intergovernmental Meeting on the Implementation of the GPA (Beijing, October 2006), in terms of good examples and lessons learnt in integration and mainstreaming of the environmental concerns into developmental planning and poverty reduction programmes, in the development of successful partnerships and in the implementation of the Regional Seas Global Strategic Directions. She mentioned further the six strategic directions for the Global UNEP Regional Seas Programme, which now form the framework for the five-year strategy of the CEP. She noted UNEP's appreciation that the CEP had successfully implemented, despite its lack of increased or sustained funding, the operational goals which had been outlined in the CEP Workplan approved at the Eleventh IGM for the period 2004-2005.
  12. The Coordinator of the Caribbean Environment Programme, Mr. Andrade Colmenares, welcomed participants to the Twelfth Intergovernmental Meeting on the Action Plan for the Caribbean Environment Programme and the Ninth Meeting of the Contracting Parties to the Cartagena Convention for the Protection and Development of the Marine Environment of the Wider Caribbean Region. He highlighted the special occasion for the CEP, the twenty-fifth anniversary of the adoption of the Action Plan and twenty years since the establishment of the Regional Coordinating Unit in Kingston, Jamaica. He noted that the existence and growth of the CEP had been possible thanks to the support and cooperation received throughout the years from governments, organizations, communities, civil society and donors at the national, regional and international levels. All had worked in partnership with the CEP towards the harmonization of programmes and activities of mutual interest to the region.
  13. He thanked the Government of Jamaica for its offer to continue to host the CEP, as well as for its invaluable support, hospitality and cooperation as host of the programme for the past 20 years. The Coordinator touched upon the many challenges and difficulties that the CEP had faced, particularly of a financial nature, due to the difficulties experienced by the member countries in contributing to the Caribbean Trust Fund (CTF) and noted that the major portion of the existing project funds did not come from the CTF. However, through extensive fundraising from various donors who believed in the programme, the total project portfolio had increased from US\$2.3 million in 2000 to around US\$40 million. He pointed out that, unfortunately, the core budget and staff contingent at the RCU had not grown and that this had put a lot of strain on the office. Mr. Andrade assured the Meeting that with its guidance, the CEP would continue to work with various partners for the benefit of the region. He highlighted the fact that the Meeting provided the opportunity for member governments to further contribute to the development of the CEP, as well as to review and assess the accomplishments of the past twenty-five years. He concluded by urging participants to participate as actively as possible in this process.

report on the 2004-2005 biennium as contained in document UNEP(DEPI)/CAR IG.26/INF.3.

## Agenda Item 2: Organization of the Meeting

### (a) Rules of Procedure

14. The Meeting agreed to apply *mutatis mutandis* the Rules of Procedure of the Governing Council of UNEP, as contained in document UNEP/GC/3/Rev.3.

### (b) Election of Officers

15. The Meeting elected from amongst its participants the following officers: the Chairperson, three Vice-Chairpersons and a Rapporteur. These officers will form the Bureau of Contracting Parties for the period until the Thirteenth Intergovernmental Meeting on the Action Plan for the Caribbean Environment Programme and Tenth Meeting of the Contracting Parties to the Convention for the Protection and Development of the Marine Environment of the Wider Caribbean Region is convened. The President of the Bureau shall also serve as Chairman of the Monitoring Committee.

16. The Meeting elected, by acclamation, the following officers of the Meeting:

- Chairperson: Leo Brewster (Barbados)
- First Vice-chairperson: Stéphane Louhaur (France)
- Second Vice-Chairperson: David Balton (U.S.A.)
- Third Vice-Chairperson: Martha López (Nicaragua)
- Rapporteur: Byron Boekhoudt (Aruba)

### (c) Organization of work

17. English, French and Spanish were the working languages of the Meeting. The working documents of the Meeting were available in all the working languages.
18. The Secretariat convened the Meeting in plenary sessions, with the assistance of working groups established by the Chairperson. Simultaneous interpretation in the three working languages was available for the plenary sessions and working groups.

## Agenda Item 3: Adoption of the Agenda

19. The Meeting was invited to adopt the agenda as contained in document UNEP(DEPI)/CAR IG.26/1. The Agenda was adopted, without modification, as presented in Annex I of this report.

## Agenda Item 4: Report of the Chairperson of the Monitoring Committee and President of the Bureau of Contracting Parties

20. The outgoing Chairperson of the Monitoring Committee and President of the Bureau of Contracting Parties, presented his

21. He highlighted a few of the accomplishments of the Programme over the past biennium and congratulated the Secretariat on the celebration of the 25th Anniversary of the CEP. He indicated that the CEP has made significant efforts in refining and streamlining individual Sub-Programme Areas, in improving financial sustainability, in strengthening the capacity of the Regional Activity Centres, and in ensuring that national and regional project activities responded to the needs and priorities of Member Governments. Unfortunately, the CEP had seen a reduction in the rate of accession to, and ratification of the Cartagena Convention and its Protocols. In that regard, he congratulated and formally welcomed the Government of Nicaragua which had ratified the Convention and the Oil Spills Protocol in 2005 and urged governments to work towards ratifying the Convention and its Protocols. He further highlighted the fact that although the CEP had been quite successful at mobilizing financial support for specific projects, the lack of regular contributions to the Caribbean Trust Fund remained a major concern. The financial support for the 2004-2005 workplan received by the Secretariat from the Global Environment Facility, the Swedish International Development Agency (SIDA), the Governments of France, Venezuela, Netherlands, Cuba and the USA, and from international NGOs including the McArthur Foundation was commended, as well as the extraordinary contribution and support received from the Governments of Mexico and Venezuela in hosting the Third Meeting of the Interim Scientific, Technical and Advisory Committee of the LBS Protocol and the Third Meeting of the Scientific and Technical Advisory Committee for the SPAW Protocol. Several other countries including Saint Lucia, Panama, Costa Rica, Jamaica and Trinidad and Tobago had hosted technical workshops and meetings.

22. It was noted that the secretariat had continued to develop and expand on the portfolio of different projects within the three sub-programmes, AMEP, SPAW and CEPNET and that despite the lack of funding for a Programme Officer for Education, Training and Awareness (ETA), had produced a number of promotional materials and had participated actively in regional and global meetings. The two GEF projects on Integrating Management of Coastal Areas and Watersheds in the Caribbean Small Island Developing States, and Reducing Pesticide Run-off to the Caribbean Sea from Central America have now been initiated. He pointed to a few critical issues for careful consideration, namely ownership and the importance of Member governments to be active partners in the continued development and implementation of the CEP; the finalization of operational rules and guidelines; and the commitment to demonstrate political and financial interest in the CEP by meeting the financial obligations of the Trust Fund as well as other forms of in-kind contribution.

23. In his report, he also urged governments that have not already done so, to become Parties to the Cartagena Convention and its Protocols.

**Agenda Item 5: Report of the Executive Director of the Cartagena Convention on the Implementation of the Caribbean Environment Programme (2004-2005)**

24. The Secretariat presented the Report of the Executive Director of the Cartagena Convention on the Implementation of the Caribbean Environment Programme as contained in document UNEP(DEPI)/CAR IG.26/INF.4. The Secretariat focused on the response to the Decisions of the Eleventh Intergovernmental and Eighth Contracting Parties Meeting (Montego Bay,) as contained in document UNEP(DEC)/CAR IG.24/5 as well as decisions and recommendations of other CEP meetings convened during the 2004-2005 biennium.
25. The Coordinator of the Programme, Mr. Nelson Andrade, introduced the major activities, achievements, and challenges of the CEP during the 2004-2005 biennium. In addition to his own post, the Secretariat had benefitted from the assistance of four Programme Officers, a Project Manager and seven support staff. The Administrative/Fund Management Officer and the Administrative Assistant were paid from the 13 per cent programme support costs levied on contributions to the Trust Fund while all other posts were paid from the Caribbean Trust Fund.
26. The Coordinator then requested the Programme Officers to report on the progress of their respective programmes: AMEP, SPAW and CEPNET. He also informed the Meeting that the representatives of the Regional Activity Centres would make brief interventions highlighting their key contributions in the respective work programme areas.
27. The AMEP Programme Officer then presented the major achievements of the AMEP sub-programme during the 2004-2005 biennium. It was indicated that, in addition to the Protocol on the Control of Pollution from Land-based Sources and Activities, the Programme also coordinates the Protocol Concerning Cooperation in Combating Oil Spills, the establishment and development of the LBS-RACs, and also works in support of various global conventions. The Programme Officer highlighted the main actions taken in response to the Decisions of the Eleventh Intergovernmental Meeting (IGM) held in Jamaica in 2004 and provided a summary of the recommendations of the Third LBS/ISTAC held in Mexico in 2005.
28. The Programme Officer reported that over the last biennium, there had been eleven projects supporting the implementation of the LBS Protocol and its Annexes. Over the years there has been an increase in the number of projects, their geographical scope and the amount of funding allocated. Regrettably, a few projects still remain unfunded. The Programme Officer

highlighted the significant fundraising efforts undertaken in the past by the Coordinator and the former AMEP Programme Officer, which, in many cases, were beginning to bear fruit, and stated that the main focus during the previous biennium had been on project implementation.

29. He outlined the progress made in the implementation of the three GEF Projects being executed by the Secretariat. He informed the Meeting of the recruitment of the Regional Project Managers for the GEF Integrating Watershed and Coastal Area Management Project (IWCAM) and Reducing Pesticide Contamination of the Caribbean Sea and the establishment of Project Coordinating Units for the respective projects in Saint Lucia and Jamaica.
30. He continued by providing a summary of the major project activities undertaken in the areas of pollution prevention and control, capacity building, training and technology transfer, promotion and awareness, and partnership development.
31. The AMEP Programme Officer noted the successful completion of the Mitch Project in Central America, the Rio Manzanares Project in Venezuela and the National Programme of Action in Jamaica. He emphasized the importance of the work done to update Technical Report 33 and reflected that the AMEP project portfolio was a blend of regional and national pilot projects responding directly to regional and national priorities and needs.
32. In the area of partnerships, the Programme Officer reported on the successful signing of a Memorandum of Cooperation with the Organization of Eastern Caribbean States and of the strengthening of working relationships in project development, implementation and overall collaboration with several national, regional and international agencies including MEA Secretariats.
33. He pointed to some of the challenges facing the AMEP Programme including the lack of country ownership and focal point involvement, lack of effective coordination mechanisms and difficulties in co-financing. He outlined the response taken by the Secretariat to develop project proposals with more realistic timeframes and expectations, to place special emphasis on promotion and awareness of the AMEP sub-programme, and to develop approaches for integrating environmental objectives into economic development agendas. He invited member governments to become more proactive especially in terms of country and/or focal point ownership of projects. At the same time, he urged focal points to increase their links with other ministries within their respective countries.
34. The Director of the RAC-CIMAB outlined the main activities carried out by the Centre, notably the Regional Project for the Promotion of the LBS Protocol and highlighted the Subregional Workshop held in 2005, the project on the update of CEP Technical Report #33 and the Regional Workshop held in Venezuela in 2005, at which Methodological Guidelines were adopted. He emphasized the cooperation achieved with other United Nations agencies, such as IAEA, WHO/PAHO and

UNDP in the implementation and execution of several projects in the Wider Caribbean Region, and he also highlighted significant support received from the Swedish International Development Authority (Sida).

35. The AMEP Programme Officer provided apologies to the Meeting on behalf of the Acting Director of the RAC-IMA who was unable to attend. He underscored the significant work done by this RAC in the development of a National Programme of Action for Trinidad and Tobago and the implementation of promotional activities for the LBS Protocol in English-speaking countries.
36. The Director of the RAC/Rempeitc provided an overview of the Centre's main activities in support of the implementation of the Oil Spills Protocol and presented a summary of the specific recommendations as outlined in their strategic plan for 2006-2007.
37. The AMEP Programme Officer concluded by suggesting areas that member Governments may wish to consider for inclusion in the Decisions of the 12th Meeting. They included the need to develop additional proposals for GEF funding, the strengthening of Regional Capacity in Geographic Information Systems (GIS), improving regional marine water quality monitoring programmes, including a commitment to provide pollutant data for regular updating of Technical Report 33, and to develop additional activities focussing on the management of ship generated wastes, with specific focus on marine litter and ballast water management.
38. The Programme Officer of the SPAW regional programme presented the main activities and achievements during the biennium. In addition to the secretariat functions for the SPAW Protocol, she highlighted as the main areas of focus the strengthening of MPAs, conservation of endangered species, particularly marine mammals and sea turtles, and coral reef management. In this regard, particular mention was made of the achievements to date of the UNF/USAID US\$3 million, ICRAN Mesoamerican Reef Alliance project, which includes the three integrated components of watershed management, sustainable fisheries and sustainable tourism. Progress in Protocol implementation included the convening of the COP3 and STAC3 meetings, as well as the work on the draft guidelines for the listing of protected areas under SPAW with support from the SPAW/RAC.
39. She noted the successful fundraising for SPAW activities amounting to approximately US \$1.2 million from various donors during the biennium (in addition to the ICRAN/MAR). She concluded by highlighting the fact that despite, the availability of funds for activities, implementation and delivery had faced serious challenges as the human resources from SPAW had remained the same, while the portfolio of activities had increased substantially. She noted that as most of the funds collected were from medium to small grants, it was not possible to secure funding from these to also cover the personnel costs necessary to manage the projects.
40. She recognized the valuable support received during the biennium from the SPAW/RAC and from the major donors to SPAW, primarily the governments of Sweden, France, the USA and Venezuela, as well as the McArthur Foundation and UNF. Her presentation was complemented by inputs from the Director of the SPAW/RAC who highlighted the major areas of support provided to SPAW, both in project implementation and fundraising.
41. The AMEP Programme Officer presented the major achievements of the Information Systems for the Management of Coastal and Marine Resources (CEPNET) sub-programme on behalf of the CEPNET Programme Officer who left at that position in 2005.
42. He reported on the five main areas covered by the programme including Strengthening CAR/RCU Information Management Capabilities, Strengthening of the Caribbean Environment Programme web site, Spatial analysis for decision-making, Caribbean Environment Programme Clearinghouse Mechanisms, and Coordination with global and regional environmental assessment initiatives.
43. Of significant note was the progress made in the information management capacity of the Secretariat which has improved its ability to respond to requests from Member Governments, Partners and other UNEP agencies. It was further noted that this was an ongoing activity which was critical to the effective dissemination of information resulting from CEP projects and activities.
44. He noted the efforts made by the Secretariat to further develop the web site of the Caribbean Environment Programme as well as those of the Regional Activity Centres. Support had been provided for the finalization of the Oils Spills Regional Activity Centre's website at <http://www.rac.rempeitc.org>, and for the establishment of a website for the LBS RAC CIMAB at <http://www.cep.unep.org/cimab> in Spanish. Training had also provided to the staff of the SPAW-RAC in Guadeloupe for a similar web site development to be located at <http://www.cep.unep.org/spaw-rac>.
45. The AMEP Programme Officer outlined the significant support from projects under the AMEP and SPAW subprogrammes to data base development and use of spatial decision tools such as GIS. The capacity building to be provided under the GEF IWCAM Project and Know Why Network Project being implemented during the next biennium was highlighted. Particular reference was made to the support provided through CEPNET to the WW2BW partnership initiative.
46. He further noted the importance of the CEPNET activities in overall promotion of the CEP. This involved direct support for the production of promotional material, participation and

presentation at various meeting fora, as well as coordination of various environmental information networks. CEPNET also played a central role in planning and conducting CEP Meetings and Workshops.

47. He concluded by highlighting some of the challenges facing CEPNET, including the need for continuous improvement of the infrastructure of the Secretariat to enable maximum use of web-based facilities. He stated further that the continuous update of information on the website was a major task and challenge for CEPNET, given the very limited human resources available. He suggested that without dedicated web support services for example, it was very difficult to cope with the quantity of information available.
48. The AMEP Programme Officer stated that the 12th IGM was an ideal opportunity to re-evaluate the CEPNET subprogramme and determine how best this critical area may be facilitated by the Secretariat. He underscored the importance of determining the additional technical, human and financial resources that would be required for this subprogramme to perform in an optimal fashion.
49. The Programme Officer noted that future CEPNET activities during the 2006-2007 biennium were expected to focus on GIS capacity building and increased use of web-based decision-making tools. He then noted the anticipated support from the JPO at the RAC CIMAB, with expertise in GIS, and acknowledged his contribution to the presentation.
50. The Meeting was invited to make additional observations on the implementation of the CEP over the 2004-2005 biennium and to request the Secretariat to clarify any aspects of the report.
51. The delegate of the United States congratulated the CEP on its achievement of 25 years of existence and lauded its work. He reminded the Meeting of the financial constraints faced by the CEP and urged all Governments to contribute to the Caribbean Trust Fund. He expressed his appreciation for references made to the White Water to Blue Water (WW2BW) Initiative and also noted that, during the presentations, the CEP had appropriately addressed actions taken in response to the Decisions of the 11<sup>th</sup> IGM. He congratulated the Government of Nicaragua for becoming a new member of the Cartagena Convention. He also welcomed the new format for reporting by the secretariat and requested that future financial reports include information relating to the strategic allocation of funds within the programme for past, current and future budgets.
52. The delegate of France also congratulated the secretariat for the extensive work completed during the biennium and reiterated his government's commitment to continue supporting the programme. He outlined the major activities undertaken by his government at the national level to fulfil the objectives of the Convention and its Protocols, in particular

with regard to protected areas, land-based sources of pollution and coral reefs. In this context, he expressed the desire of his government to be more actively involved in the activities of the CEP regarding LBS. He requested that future reports include more detailed financial reporting, in particular on the projects and activities of the subprogrammes.

53. He further requested that for future IGMs, status reports from the RACs be made available as information to the meeting as is the practice at the level of the STAC Meetings.
54. The secretariat noted that this would be corrected in the future and took the opportunity to thank the Government of France for its continued support and contribution to SPAW.
55. The representative of the IMO noted that IMO Treaties enhanced the CEP and its Programmes, and reminded the Meeting that the IMO was a significant contributor to the RAC-REMPEITC, the Regional Activity Centre whose work is centered on the Oil Spills Protocol.
56. He also highlighted the close linkages between the obligations of IMO Conventions such as the MARPOL Convention and the work of the CEP. He reminded delegates that the Caribbean Sea had been declared a special area in the context of Annex 5 of MARPOL and that countries of the region needed to inform the IMO on the availability of port reception facilities for solid waste.

#### **Agenda Item 6: Report of the Government of Jamaica on the Host Agreement with UNEP**

57. The Chairman invited the Government of Jamaica to report to the secretariat of the Caribbean Environment Programme on the status of the Host Agreement with UNEP. The representative, Ms. Leonie Barnaby, presented a summary of the host arrangements for the UNEP RCU (UNEP(DEPI)/CAR IG.26/INF.5).
58. She informed the meeting that negotiations over the past year involving UNEP, the RCU and the Government of Jamaica had culminated in an acceptance by Cabinet of the terms of the Agreement. Subsequently, a draft Agreement prepared by the Attorney General's Department had been sent to the RCU for review; its finalization was expected in December 2006. She reiterated her government's support for the RCU and the CEP, while commending the Coordinator and his staff for their dedication and achievements.

#### **Agenda Item 7: Rules of Procedure and Financial Rules of the Caribbean Environment programme**

59. In keeping with Decision VIII of the Tenth IGM on the Action Plan and Seventh Meeting of the Contracting Parties to the Cartagena Convention on the continuity of the open intersessional drafting group established at the 13th Meeting of

the Monitoring Committee, the Chairman asked the Government of the United States of America to present the "Discussion Paper for the Open Intersessional Drafting Group on the Rules of Procedure for the Caribbean Environment Programme, Financial Rules for the Cartagena Convention and the Caribbean Environment Programme, and Terms of Reference for the Caribbean Trust Fund" (UNEP(DEPI)/CAR IG.26/INF.6).

60. The US delegate outlined the perspectives for the future of the Cartagena Convention by recognizing the important role of the Action Plan and the catalytic role it has played in the implementation of the Cartagena Convention. However, the lack of a clear legal framework as regards rules of procedure had prevented greater progress. Restructuring of the relations between the Convention and the Action Plan would facilitate the work of both instruments and encourage States to become Parties to the Convention.
61. The presentation of the document focused on the work undertaken by the drafting group in its analysis of the three options for restructuring the relationship between the Cartagena Convention and the Action Plan: maintain the status quo, articulate the precise roles and responsibilities of the Convention and Action Plan, and consolidate both instruments by placing the Action Plan within the framework of the Convention.
62. The chairman of the Working Group outlined the implications of the options for the participation of Parties, non-Parties and Territories in the decision-making process of the Action Plan and of the Convention.
63. The delegate of the Netherlands Antilles pointed to the fact that their membership in the Convention was placed in an uncommon situation as it had been negotiated through the Kingdom of the Netherlands. He clarified the difference between The Netherlands and the Kingdom of the Netherlands which was comprised of three countries (i.e., Aruba, the Netherlands Antilles and The Netherlands) and mentioned that the Netherlands Antilles was not a Territory. The effects that option three would have on their participation would, however, be the same as for territories (i.e. only one voice and only one contribution). If option three were to be chosen, they would wish to explore avenues to accommodate the full participation of territories. The representative mentioned that a drafting group would need to be established to address these issues and prepare the relevant texts. A face-to-face meeting would also be necessary to decide definitively on those issues. The Netherlands Antilles indicated that it would reserve its decision until the relevant texts for the three options were drafted and they could properly analyze the issue of territorial participation. This position was supported by Aruba.
64. The delegate of Cuba commended the group for clarifying the options and their implications, but highlighted the need for further work on a clear definition of concepts and rules. He referred to the need to have a first text drafted to include the expressed concerns and reflections of the group. That draft would serve as the basis for discussion and negotiation in a face-to-face meeting.
65. The delegate of Colombia also commended the work of the group and its coordinator and expressed his preference for option two. Besides being the most viable long-term option, it would also encourage accession to the Convention by countries that were not yet Parties. A face-to-face meeting was considered the best way to advance in the further development of the relevant documents.
66. The delegate of Mexico emphasized the fact that, despite the length of time the issue had been under consideration, it still needed further work. He expressed his country's preference for option three, with the understanding that it would require the identification and establishment of mechanisms to ensure full participation of territories. Despite the fact that electronic group work and telephone conferences had proven useful, he emphasized the need for a face-to-face meeting with the participation of legal experts, as this could result in a draft document on the rules of procedure. The representative of the Dominican Republic supported this position.
67. The delegate of Jamaica drew the attention of the meeting to the need to determine the number of countries that were not yet Parties to the Convention, in order to facilitate a proper analysis of the procedure to adopt and the options to select.
68. The delegate of the Turks and Caicos supported the proposal to convene a face-to-face meeting and mentioned that they would establish contact with other territories in order to define their position.
69. The delegate of the United States expressed his country's preference for an option which would better address their three concerns, namely, the need for a decision-making structure, for clear financial rules, and for a clear definition of the scope of both instruments –the Convention and the Action Plan. They felt that option three would meet their concerns. They supported the proposal to hold a face-to-face meeting, open to all interested Parties, if resources were made available. The delegate suggested that further discussions take place immediately to take advantage of the presence of delegates at the IGM.
70. The delegate of Mexico endorsed the proposal to make use of the opportunity available to begin discussions and to determine the best way to proceed. The draft text to be prepared should use option three as its basis, since that was the option for which countries had expressed a preference during the group work.
71. The delegate of Cuba indicated that no specific options had been chosen and that it would not therefore be advisable to use any of the options as a basis for a first draft. He reiterated the need to begin face-to-face negotiations on the basis of a first

draft that included all the tendencies and possibilities. He expressed his country's preference for option two.

72. The delegate of Colombia emphasized the need to use the results already produced by the group, as the basis for further work, including his country's preference for options 2 and 3, as manifested during the group discussions.
73. The report of the Working Group on The Draft Terms of Reference for the Work of the Open Intersessional Drafting Group on the Rules of Procedure for the Caribbean Environment Programme and Proposed Financial Rules for the Cartagena Convention and the Caribbean Environment Programme as well as the Terms of Reference for the Caribbean Trust Fund, was presented. It included reference to the participation of new countries and country representatives.
74. Each country was free to designate the best qualified expert for its representation, though not necessarily a legal expert. Countries were urged to consider that a high degree of continuity in representation would ensure an efficient process. The working group is expected to continue its work, by meeting at an appropriate time during the process in order to formulate a final draft before the next IGM in 2008. The secretariat would have this draft available on its website six to eight weeks prior to the IGM.
75. The Head of the US delegation underscored the importance of the Convention and encouraged countries to ratify this instrument and its associated Protocols at the earliest opportunity.
76. The Chairman proposed that the discussion be closed in order to facilitate discussion of agenda items 8 and 9. This would allow the relevant working groups to gather in the afternoon and benefit from the interpretation facilities arranged for the meeting. This proposal was accepted by delegates.

**Agenda Item 8: Guidelines for the operations of the Regional Activity Centres (RACs) and the Regional Activity Networks (RANs) of the Caribbean Environment Programme**

77. The Government of Venezuela, in its capacity as Chair of the Intersessional Working Group on Guidelines for the operations of the Regional Activity Centres (RACs) and the Regional Activity Networks (RANs) of the Caribbean Environment Programme was invited to present on the work of the Intersessional Group, which resulted in Document UNEP(DEC)/CAR IG.24/CRP.9/Rev.1.
78. The delegate of Venezuela congratulated the members of the group, which included governments, as well as representatives of the RACs and RANs, NGOs, and the CEP, for their intensive work over two years but particularly over the 6 months preceding the IGM.

79. The Guidelines prepared by the group had been revised several times to incorporate comments and observations received in preparation of a final version to be presented to the meeting. Comments in writing had been received from the government of the USA, the government of Venezuela, the government of the Netherlands Antilles and the UNEP Regional Seas Coordinating Unit. Comments had also been received from NGOs. All comments and proposals were incorporated in the revised version of the document, submitted to the meeting as a conference room paper (UNEP(DEPI)/CAR IG.26/CRP.1). The representative considered it necessary for the members of the group to meet once more in order to finalize and restructure the document, taking into consideration the comments made. The chair of the working group that had made the presentation also proposed that a list of acronyms to be added, as is conventional in UN documents. He emphasized the need to have these rules approved and in force to allow RACs and RANs to work under agreed rules with regard to administrative, technical and financial procedures, as well as to make the rules public so as to allow other RACs and RANs to be established and operate under a common framework.
80. The delegate of the United States commended the working group and emphasized the useful nature of the document. However, he saw the need to improve its clarity and focus, reduce duplication, avoid redundancies, and extrapolate the background paragraphs in an annex to the document. He indicated overlaps in parts V, VII and IX and considered it necessary to edit the document in order to define the RACs and RANs, their establishment and functioning, their financial operations and other issues. A meeting of the working group, within the framework of the IGM meeting, would concentrate on giving the document a more logical structure and reduce redundancy. As regards participation of NGOs in RACs and RANs, he postponed his country's decision until a clearer document was ready, which would clarify the scope and implications of such participation.
81. The delegate of the Netherlands Antilles agreed on the need to restructure the document, while emphasizing that its contents should not be lost in doing so. He requested the USA to make the proposed structure available as soon as possible so as to allow participants to discuss the issue of NGO participation. He highlighted the fact that as in 1981, the Action Plan had been conceived to allow NGOs to play an important role in the implementation of its activities.
82. The delegate of Venezuela mentioned that the role played by the NGOs was a very important one but that conventions were to be implemented by States. The delegate proposed that the principles relating to the participation of civil society be used to deal with the issue of NGO participation in the UN. Otherwise, it might become necessary to consider specificities and legislation on this issue in each of the countries. The relevant UN rules would allow for homogeneous treatment in and by all the countries.

83. The delegate of France, after reserving the right to return to the document after its translation into French, made some specific remarks and comments on the draft text submitted. The SPAW RAC currently has an NGO status (Association according to the French legal framework) which is independent of the French State administration and supports the reference to NGOs found in the draft document. He indicated that the document needed further restructuring and formal adjustments, including an annex on the Centre's communications procedures, as well as coordination procedures between the RACs and the RCU, both of which would be pending until the next IGM.
84. The delegate of the Dominican Republic emphasized the need to clarify the way in which the RACs and RANs would be subject to the new rules.
85. The representative of Venezuela proposed that the work of the group be extended for a limited time in order to facilitate the incorporation of comments into the final document, to be submitted to the next IGM for its approval.
86. The representative of Barbados supported the request for an extension of the mandate of the working group during the intersessional period and requested that comments be sent in writing to the Chairperson of the Working Group.
87. The Chairman highlighted the need for the document to be finalized by the next IGM, Comments not received by then would not be incorporated. He added that States would have enough time to make comments after due internal consultations.
88. The delegate of Venezuela, who has chaired the Intersessional Working Group, reported that the time schedule for the Working Group had been extended, that the actual draft would be circulated among the governments, and that the STACs would be informed of the progress made. They would also have access to a preliminary version for their information. The document would be restructured in order to make it more logical and the draft of the decision would be formulated by the Working Group at the present meeting. It was agreed by the STACs would receive a copy of the preliminary versions but that all comments of the STACs would have to be channelled through the respective country representative in the Working Group.
- Agenda Item 9: Workplan and Budget for the Caribbean Environment Programme for the 2006-2007 Biennium**
89. The secretariat presented the document UNEP(DEPI)/CAR IG.26/3, entitled "Draft Workplan and Budget for the Caribbean Environment Programme for the 2006-2007 Biennium".
90. The secretariat had prepared this document with inputs received from working group meetings convened since the Eleventh Intergovernmental Meeting, from the recommendations of the Third Meeting of the Scientific and Technical Advisory Committee of the SPAW Protocol, from the decisions of the Fourth Meeting of the Contracting Parties to the SPAW Protocol and from the recommendations of the Third Meeting of the Interim Scientific and Technical Committee of the LBS Protocol. The document had also taken into consideration relevant global or regional initiatives, as well as past and ongoing activities.
91. The secretariat presented the objectives of the workplan. Information was also provided on the status of personnel and administration. Mention was made of the continued support from the Government of Sweden in the form of two Junior Programme Officers. Certain key concerns of CEP were highlighted, notably the low level of ordinary contributions to the Caribbean Trust Fund. The secretariat pointed out that this problem would force the CAR/RCU to operate with a very limited budget for the 2006-2007 biennium. The capacity of the secretariat to attract extraordinary contributions was another key concern. The secretariat needed therefore to continue to dedicate time to fund-raising efforts to cover the additional operating costs that exceed the level of ordinary contributions to the Trust Fund. The secretariat has compensated by optimising both personnel and office administration costs through a temporary redistribution of responsibilities within the CAR/RCU. This has constrained the normal implementation of the CEP Workplan but the secretariat is confident that its goals were achieved in view of the successful fundraising it had carried out.
92. The Coordinator informed the Meeting of meetings to be held during the biennium namely: 4th COP SPAW (2006), 12th IGM/9th COP Cartagena Convention (2006), 4th STAC SPAW (2007), 4th ISTAC LBS (2007), 13th IGM / 10th COP Cartagena Convention (2008). He stressed the importance of identifying hosts for these meetings, and invited the countries to submit proposals for hosting CEP meetings in lieu of their arrears to the CTF.
93. The AMEP Programme Officer presented the projects and activities within the AMEP programme. He stated that the workplan and budget covered the activities to be developed under the Assessment and Management of Environmental Pollution (AMEP) sub-programme of CEP and the two RAC's (Centro de Ingeniería y Manejo Ambiental de Bahías y Costas-CIMAB, Cuba and Institute of Marine Affairs-IMA, Trinidad and Tobago) for the 2006-2007 biennium in support of the Protocol concerning Pollution from Land-based Sources and Activities (LBS Protocol). Additional support will be provided by the RAC/REMPTEIC in support of the Oil Spills Protocol.
94. He reiterated the strategic approach to be adopted in the development and implementation of AMEP projects and activities, which are consistent with the overall CEP strategy. They include the importance of ratification and implementation of the LBS and Oil Spills Protocols, the need to mainstream environmental issues into the economic development agenda, the focus on implementation of relevant plans and strategies,

and an emphasis on resource mobilization and development of innovative financial mechanisms.

95. Some of the mechanisms which will be used to support this approach include greater involvement of the RACs, RANs and country focal points, strengthening linkages with other regional and global projects, and facilitating exchanges with other regions including regional seas.
96. The AMEP Programme Officer then presented a summary of all ongoing and proposed projects and activities for the 2006/2007 biennium. The projects were grouped according to GEF projects, ongoing projects from the 2004/2005 biennium and new project activities.
97. The geographical scope, range of partners and sources of funding for these projects were highlighted. Specific mention was made of the significant financial support being provided by Sida for several AMEP activities.
98. The priority areas for the work of RAC-REMPTEIC for the 2006/2007 biennium, as outlined in their Strategic Plan, were provided. These include the continued implementation of a regional oil spills contingency plan for Central America, training and development of national oil spills plans for the Caribbean islands and work with IMO on the GloBallast initiative. It is expected that there will be close relationships between the RACs in work related to Ballast Water, Invasive Species and Marine Litter Management.
99. The importance of the Tela Project in Honduras, as a follow up to the successfully concluded Mitch Project, was noted as a model example of how strategies and plans could form a basis for attracting additional financial support.
100. The objectives and expected outputs of the new AMEP project activities were provided. Particular mention was made of the Marine Litter Project and the proposed development of a global GEF Project on Marine Litter by UNEP Regional Seas.
101. The AMEP Programme Officer also presented activities in support of the signed memoranda of cooperation with the OECS and the BASEL Secretariat. These include an assessment of sustainable financing of National Environmental Management Strategies in the OECS, support to the development of regional used lead acid battery and used oil strategies and the development of a GEF PDF B proposal on used pesticide stocks.
102. Projects and activities where either partial funding or full funding was still required were presented. Emphasis was placed on the need for continued financial support to the Small Grants for Best Management Practices in Agriculture, Sewage Needs Assessment Pilots and National Programmes of Action, as these projects facilitated activities at the local level.
103. Two follow-up projects for which funding will be sought were recommended to begin in 2007 in the area of Marine Litter and Geographical Information Systems (GIS) to build on 2006 activities. The new activities would include implementation of a regional Marine Litter Strategy and promotion of Regional Capacity Building in GIS.
104. The AMEP Programme Officer indicated that two projects that were unfunded from the previous biennium had been maintained, since they were considered to be of high priority to the sub-programme at AMEP-related workshops. These are the classification of waters according to the LBS Protocol and the development of safe recreational water environments. Efforts are ongoing to source financial support for these projects, in collaboration with PAHO and CEHI. Attempts are also being made to conduct related activities under projects that are already funded.
105. Proposed GEF Project Proposals at various stages were presented and the AMEP Programme Officer noted the possibility of the Secretariat being involved in further development and /or implementation of these projects. The need for both in-kind and financial contribution to these GEF projects by the CEP was noted as an important consideration in the proposed budget. Such contributions could leverage significant quantities of additional financial resources for carrying out activities in the region.
106. The AMEP Programme Officer concluded his presentation by providing an overview of the AMEP budget for 2006/2007, identifying the level of funds which had been secured for the biennium and where additional funds were still needed. He noted that the RACs would play an even greater role in project development and implementation and in realizing the objectives of this sub-programme. He reiterated the importance of government contributions to the CTF as well as direct contribution from Governments to specific project activities.
107. The delegate of Dominica raised the question of access to assistance for training and capacity building for the development of oil spill plans. He also requested information on how to contact the RACs for this purpose. The AMEP Programme Officer indicated that these requests could be forwarded through the RCU, although the RAC operated with relative autonomy.
108. The REMPEITC and IMO representative referred to the possibility of participating in workshops and indicated that this information was available on the website. He stated that the best way to do this was by sending an e-mail request for participation at workshops to the RAC and/or directly to the IMO. This would facilitate the transfer of funds to the RAC from the IMO to address this request. He pointed out that the Strategic Plan could be downloaded from the website. He further indicated that Strategic Plans informed States and could also be used as marketing tools with the relevant donor organisations to generate support for the work of the RAC.
109. The delegate of Saint Lucia thanked the RCU for its support with the Sewage Needs Assessment Pilot Project carried out by

CEHI. He noted that attempts would be made to replicate this pilot project in other local communities.

collaborative arrangements with existing and emerging regional or global initiatives relevant to SPAW.

110. The delegate of France announced that France was in the process of ratifying the LBS Protocol and that this process would be completed by the end of 2006. He indicated that France had decided to take this step based on its recognition that 80% of pollution is derived from land-based sources. The representative encouraged other countries to also ratify the LBS Protocol. He insisted that each Focal Point must receive information from all other RACs and indicated France's interest in following up all projects. He expressed interest in receiving more detailed information on the project to update Technical Report No. 33.
111. The representative of the USA congratulated the Secretariat on the work done and on the presentation. He stated that it was the USA's wish to have more detail on the way in which strategic goals and objectives have been met in the past, how they are being met at present and how they will be met in the future. The representative of the USA also requested a list of tasks, team members, and deliverables for each project. He further noted that given the increasing role that RACs would have in implementing project activities, the secretariat should seek an update from the Government of Trinidad and Tobago on the possible institutional changes to the RAC/IMA.
112. The AMEP officer specified that a breakdown of each project was available and would be provided in future reports.
113. The Coordinator of the RCU, Mr. Nelson Andrade, pointed out that the RACs played an important role and that they should be self-sustaining through funding by governments and partnerships. He noted that, new RACs would also sustain themselves as much as possible, with assistance from Sida. Cuba was also supporting the RAC located in that country. He also noted that the inability of the RAC located in Trinidad and Tobago to send a representative to the meeting was due to institutional changes. The RCU coordinator expressed his hope that the IMA would continue its activities but promised to inform the Parties of any new developments.
114. The representative of Instituto Nacional de los Espacios Acuáticos e Insulares (INEA) commented on the completion of the structure of a database on invasive species and invited countries to begin to submit data for this new database.
115. The SPAW Programme Officer presented the planned projects of the Specially Protected Areas and Wildlife (SPAW) regional programme. She outlined the background decisions leading to the proposed Workplan and noted that detailed information such as the expected outputs was contained in the document being presented with the Workplan and Budget for the CEP. Within the framework of coordination activities under SPAW, she mentioned the coordination and collaboration with the SPAW Regional Activity Centre and with relevant Conventions, programmes and organizations as well as collaborative arrangements with existing and emerging regional or global initiatives relevant to SPAW.
116. In this regard, she highlighted the recently signed MoCs with the Convention on Migratory Species and the Interamerican Convention on Sea Turtles (IAC) to develop synergies and collaboration in areas of common interest with these agreements.
117. She also made reference to synergies with the Western Hemisphere Migratory Species Initiative (WHMSI) currently under development through a mandate from the 2001 Summit of the Americas as well as the participation of major conventions such as CMS, Ramsar and the IAC. The initiative has developed a US\$15 million project to help provide countries with capacity at various levels on management of migratory species. For additional information she invited participants to visit the OAS website which coordinates this project.
118. During the biennium major focus will be placed on the implementation of the SPAW Protocol, through the finalisation of the criteria for listing protected areas and on continued strengthening of MPAs towards the achievement within the region of the 2012 goals. The development of guidelines to assess the exemptions under Article 11(2), as well as those to prevent species from becoming threatened and endangered were noted as needs within the biennium and to this end working groups will be established as soon as feasible, in keeping with the decisions of the recently concluded SPAW COP4. The SPAW Programme Officer also noted the UN designation of 2007 as the Year of the Dolphin and that ICRI had designated 2008 as the Year of the Reef, both excellent opportunities to further promote the objectives of the Protocol and the programme.
119. She noted that in 2007 the successful culmination of the ICRAN MAR project would be achieved. This would provide new opportunities for additional synergies with partners to ensure the sustainability and expansion of the activities developed under the project. It is also expected that the draft action plan for the conservation of marine mammals will be further refined and activities in support of coral reefs, sea turtles and bird conservation will continue, depending on fundraising efforts. In concluding, she reiterated the difficulties within SPAW of implementing specific activities due to limited financial resources. She noted in particular to the situation of the CTF which was making a very small contribution to SPAW projects. She also highlighted the prioritisation provided to the workplan activities by the recently concluded COP4 of SPAW and the challenges of the secretariat to implement the proposed Workplan, given the imminent departure of the Junior Programme Officer (JPO) for SPAW in February 2007 and the lack of resources to cover operating costs of SPAW.
120. The delegate of Dominica suggested that the Caribbean Regional Fisheries Mechanism (CRFM) and CITES should be among the collaborators for the conch and lobster fisheries

management projects with FAO/WECAFC. The RCU mentioned that these institutions were already indirect partners to the project.

121. The representative of France congratulated the SPAW Programme Officer and the Secretariat for the presentation. He indicated the need for a more detailed budget for each subprogramme area in order to identify specific access for possible support. The French delegation mentioned that France was highly committed to the protection of coral reefs and outlined a series of actions undertaken by his government in that area. The RCU also recognized the work France was doing in support of coral reef conservation and stated that it looked forward to collaboration with France in this respect.
122. The JPO for SPAW presented the workplan for the CEPNET and ETA subprogrammes. She indicated that CEPNET activities were a continuation of activities in the 2004-5 workplan. However, due to the increased number of issues, activities and demands of the secretariat, as well as the departure of the CEPNET Programme Officer in 2005 and the Systems Analyst in 2006, the work plan reflected changes in both the nature of activities and mechanisms of implementation. Activities included maintenance and upgrading of website and databases, capacity building of CEP staff to enhance computing capabilities and evaluation of existing support services for the purpose of cost-effectiveness. Support to clearinghouse mechanisms such as IWCAM, WW2BW partnership website and use of the developing GIS centre with RAC-Cimab to raise funds and strengthen geographic information system projects were other activities highlighted.
123. Regarding the ETA Workplan, it was highlighted that following extensive discussions within the secretariat, and in keeping with current staff and fund availability, a proposal to merge CEPNET and ETA was reflected in this Workplan. The merger would result in a new subprogramme entitled Communication, Education, Training and Awareness (CETA). Activities included the promotion of ratification/accession to the LBS and SPAW Protocols, promotion of CEP at various fora and media, support to national and regional ETA initiatives which support CEP objectives, inventory on ETA material and identification of gaps where additional material needed to be produced.
124. The coordination of the CEP Internship Programme was also mentioned as well as the promotion of the CEP 25th Anniversary. Additional activities included finalization of the Communication and Outreach strategy, coordination of media activities, support for capacity building activities and/or sensitisation workshops for environmental journalists in the region, maintenance and upgrading of the CEP website to include various project websites, and identification of new partners for information dissemination.
125. CETA would assist in the mobilization of resources for capacity building exercises, responding to the needs and priorities of the CEP Parties and providing support to the SPAW and AMEP Programmes through the development and implementation of specific technical training programmes and capacity building exercises such as the Training of Trainers workshops.
126. Where feasible, CETA would support the implementation of educational activities by UNEP and other UN organizations that are relevant to the mandate of the CEP such as the United Nations Decade of Education for Sustainable Development (DESD). It would also facilitate further regional discussions on education for sustainable development and the inclusion of this item in the national education curriculum.
127. The Meeting was informed of the IW learn project created as a joint project with UNEP/DEWA and GEF IW learn to test the effectiveness of cross focal area networking among a "regional cluster" of ongoing and pipeline projects in the Wider Caribbean. It was highlighted that the majority of funding available under CETA was provided by the Swedish Government.
128. The Administrative/Fund Management Officer presented a consolidated table of the budget of the CEP for the 2006-2007 biennium for the Overall Coordination and Common Costs (OCCC) and for each subprogramme.
129. She highlighted two main areas of the Administration, namely Fund Management and Human Resources Management. She stated that the CEP continued to face challenges in securing funds to cover its costs to sustain the Secretariat. Although inflation in the region had been trending downwards, its rate was still considered high, creating the need for an increase in the level of annual contributions from the governments. She mentioned that the local staff salary had been increased by 8% by the UN Secretariat in NY, in keeping with the current inflation rate.
130. She presented the draft budget for the biennium 2006-2007, consolidating the budgets of the three programme areas and the Caribbean Trust Fund (CTF). The proposed budget for 2006 was USD 8.3 million in total, consisting of USD 1.7 million from the CTF and USD 6.6 million from other sources of funds, while the budget for 2007 was USD 9.2 million in total consisting of USD 1.9 million from CTF and USD 7.3 million from other sources of funds. This demonstrated that the secretariat had succeeded in mobilizing 3.5 times more project funds than it received from the CTF. For 2006, the Secretariat has secured almost all the required funds, except for USD 0.3 million. Other sources of funds have been mainly the GEF, USA, France, Sweden, UNF and the Macarthur Foundation.
131. Contributions received in 2006 for previous years and for 2006 totalled some USD 850,000, whereas the requirement was more than double that figure (USD 1.7 m for 2006 and USD 1.9 m for 2007). To fill the gap, the CEP is making efforts to reduce the proportion of the operational costs covered from the CTF by tapping into project funds wherever possible. However, it is

projected that by April 2007, the cash balance of the Secretariat may be negative if the collection of contributions is not accelerated. The Fund Management Officer urged the Governments to pay their contributions at the earliest opportunity, particularly those Governments that have not paid at all.

132. She welcomed the initiatives which were taken by the following governments: the Government of Venezuela which hosted the SPAW/STAC meeting in Oct 2005, the cost of which was approximately USD 70,000; and the Government of Guatemala has confirmed its willingness to host the STAC in 2007. She added that there were also ongoing discussions with the government of Cuba for the hosting of the 4th LBS ISTAC meeting in 2007. These contributions should be acknowledged in the contributions table and the amount could be deducted from the arrears. She also encouraged other Governments to consider making similar contributions to the work of the Secretariat and of the CEP.

133. The trend of expenditure from the CTF in recent years was to maintain staff costs at the same level or with very minimal increases in actual costs. Any additional contributions to the CTF from the Governments have been allocated directly to support programme activities. Overall percentage of staff costs from the CTF expenditure has decreased while programme activities have increased both in actual number and in percentage.

134. With regard to Human Resource Management, the Administrative Officer mentioned that the Secretariat had reassigned the duties of its staff in order to increase its efficiency and indicated that there had been a proposal to merge some of the CEPNET activities with the ETA programme and implement them by establishing a new P3 CETA post (Communication, Education, Training, and Awareness). This is indicated in the new organigramme of the Secretariat for 2006-2007, which shows 27 established posts, including posts financed by projects such as GEF.

135. In conclusion, the Administrative/ Fund Management Officer requested the Governments to approve the proposed budget for 2006-2007, increase by 8% the level of contributions by Governments, extend the CEP until the end of 2009, anticipating that the next IGM would be held in mid 2008, and establish a P3 CETA post in the current biennium. She acknowledged the contributions to the CEP meetings from the Government of Venezuela and the Government of Guatemala, stating that these should be reflected in the Contributions table upon endorsement by the governments.

136. In the ensuing discussion, the delegate of Saint Lucia called for the relevant vacant position to be advertised at the P4 level, considering the importance of communication, education, training and awareness. Many of the delegates were of the opinion that despite the importance of the training and communication components, the Secretariat should be

allowed to take this managerial decision, bearing in mind the availability of resources. Some delegates applauded the Secretariat on its prudent financial management in this regard. Many of the delegates were not in agreement with the proposed increase of 8% in the country contribution to the Caribbean Trust Fund (CTF) since they are already making great efforts to meet their pledges and arrears. The delegate of Guatemala offered to host the next STAC Meeting in 2007, which was welcomed by the Secretariat. The delegate of Venezuela commended the Secretariat for the comprehensive presentations and supported the merger of CEPNET and ETA at the level proposed. At the request of one delegate, the Secretariat clarified the need to request the Governing Council to extend the CTF until 2009. The French delegates emphasized the need to improve communication between the RACs and the National Focal Points. The delegate of Venezuela informed the Meeting of his country's intention to initiate the creation of a Caribbean Environment Bank to facilitate financing of projects in the region. The proposed bank would operate within the framework of CEP, attracting and channeling funds from governmental and non-governmental sources. The Meeting welcomed this initiative and proposed that Venezuela take the lead in this endeavor.

137. The secretariat made reference to a Decision of the 7th IGM that gave the Secretariat the mandate to negotiate directly with governments on issues related to their contribution to the CTF. The Secretariat withdrew the proposal to raise quotas but asked that governments submit written proposals for scheduling the payment of arrears and acceptance of in-kind contributions. The Chairman requested applause for the Secretariat for its excellent work and its transparent presentation of the proposed budget and activities. The Chairman also called upon the delegates to meet their commitments if they wished to continue benefiting from the work of the Secretariat.

138. The Coordinator welcomed the comments of the delegates and expressed his appreciation for the interest shown by governments for the work of the CEP and the Action Plan.

#### **Agenda Item 10: Election of Members of the Monitoring Committee on the Action Plan for the Caribbean Environment Programme for 2006-2007**

139. The Meeting was invited to decide on the composition of the Monitoring Committee for the 2006-2007 period. Seven governments were elected to the membership of the Monitoring Committee. The President of the Bureau of Contracting Parties, elected under Agenda Item 2, will serve as the Chairman of the Monitoring Committee, with the rest of the Bureau also serving as members.

140. The following governments were also elected as members of the Monitoring Committee for 2006-2007: Antigua and Barbuda, Cuba, Dominican Republic, Guatemala, Jamaica, Panama, and Venezuela.

141. The Chairperson congratulated the new members of the Monitoring Committee. The Secretariat also congratulated the governments in question, indicating its willingness to work with them to achieve the mandate and objectives of the CEP.

#### Agenda Item 11: Other business

142. The Coordinator invited participants to raise any other issues relevant to the objectives of the meeting.

143. A representative of the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) made a presentation on the work of the Agency. She explained that partnerships for development were either financial, strategic and/or technical, with the most important thematic area being human health. The representative presented a newly approved project for the Wider Caribbean Region, the objective of which is to develop and improve capabilities to reduce degradation, caused by anthropogenic and natural impacts on the coastal ecosystems, through the use of nuclear techniques. She explained that this project would be implemented between 2007 and 2010 for a total of US\$ 1.5 million. Desired outcomes include the improvement of the regional scientific infrastructure, training, the establishment of a regional reference centre to support others in the region, guidelines for sampling, analysis and reporting of results, improved knowledge of the ecosystems of the region, as well as dissemination of results to the scientific community, decision-makers and the society. The Meeting was informed that the project beneficiaries included Colombia, Cuba, Honduras, Guatemala, Dominican Republic, Costa Rica, Haiti, Nicaragua and Venezuela, and that Mexico, Panama and Jamaica were also interested in participating.

144. The delegate of Jamaica thanked the IAEA for the presentation and for involving countries such as Jamaica in training activities. She noted that the stated aim of the technical cooperation programme was the development of a regional high level political agreement for the protection of the Caribbean Sea. She asked for clarification of this aim, bearing in mind the existence of the Cartagena Convention, the LBS protocol and the other protocols. The IAEA representative advised that a scientific assessment would be made and that governments would be able to make a decision on that basis regarding what action should be taken. The delegate of Dominica noted that his country was not included in the proposed project and asked if the scope of the project would be extended to include other countries. The representative of the IAEA explained that projects could only be implemented in countries that were Member States of the IAEA, but that the results could be shared with all the countries of the Wider Caribbean.

145. The delegate of the Dominican Republic informed the Meeting that his country was now a signatory to the Convention on Atomic Energy.

146. The delegate of Panama requested clarification on the requirements needed to participate in the project.

147. The representative of the IAEA replied that the main requirement was that countries have an existing programme dealing with issues relating to the Caribbean Sea, and that national counterparts should ideally be multi-institutional. The Secretariat concluded the discussion by welcoming the possibility of collaborating with a sister UN Agency.

148. The delegate of France presented the project on Sanctuary for marine mammals in the French Antilles, the objective of which is the conservation of habitats and cetaceans in the French territorial waters of Guadeloupe, Martinique, Saint-Martin and Saint-Barthélemy. This sanctuary should allow for completion of the legal regime for integrated protection by delimiting an area where human activities that are disastrous for the conservation of cetaceans can be controlled, or even prohibited, within the framework of a process agreed to by all the actors. Eventually, a natural marine park will be created.

149. The project, which will be national at first and which is part of the French strategy on biodiversity, seeks to bring together the Caribbean countries that are interested in a common conservation management of cetaceans. This initiative is in keeping with the Cartagena Convention and its SPAW Protocol.

150. Through this new project, France reaffirmed its commitment to the conservation of cetaceans and to the goal enshrined in the Convention on Biological Diversity of reducing the rate of decline in biological diversity by the year 2010.

151. The delegate of Dominica stated his reservation to the proposed sanctuary and questioned the need for such an initiative by the French Government. The delegate of Santa Lucia sought clarification regarding the definition of a mammal sanctuary and what it implied. The delegate of the Netherlands Antilles, in highlighting the importance of such a sanctuary, commended the efforts of France for taking the initiative to develop this type of national action.

152. With regard to the proposed Caribbean revolving fund, the Secretariat introduced the consultant UNEP had contracted to undertake a feasibility study on the fund. The consultant explained briefly how the Caribbean revolving fund could be implemented and stated that by the next IGM he hoped that mechanisms for the operations of such a fund could be presented.

153. The delegate of Cuba welcomed the revolving fund initiative but requested further clarification on the participation of all member states, reminding the Meeting that Cuba had been excluded from the White Water to Blue Water Initiative. The Secretariat assured all member States and several stakeholders that they would be able to participate and stated that the revolving fund was to be a financial mechanism to implement the LBS Protocol. The Coordinator again urged all countries to ratify this Protocol.

154. The delegate of the USA stated that the White Water to Blue Water Initiative (WW2BW) was open to all member states of the CEP and to all stakeholders.
155. The Meeting noted the activities undertaken within the framework of the WW2BW as presented at a side event held at the Meeting. A summary of this event is reflected in Annex VIII of this Report.
156. The President of the RAC-Rempetit Steering Committee proposed that UNEP-CAR/RCU include management indicators in the next reports.

#### **Agenda Item 12: Adoption of the report of the Meeting**

157. The report was adopted with modifications.

#### **Agenda Item 13: Closure of the Meeting**

158. In his closing statement, the Chairman of the meeting remarked on the excellent discussions which had resulted in the decisions taken by the meeting. He congratulated the secretariat on the phenomenal work executed during the biennium and highlighted the solid programme achievements worthy of financial support. He urged governments to show their support and to participate actively by ratifying the Convention and its Protocols. He indicated that the Working Group on the Rules of Procedure would continue during the intersessional period and would be open to all governments. He announced that the final report would be circulated via the Internet within the next eight (8) months.
159. The Coordinator of the CAR/RCU, in his closing remarks, thanked the governments for their continued support and the open discussions which had contributed to the success of the meeting. He recognized the work carried out by the partners and friends of the CEP, the NGOs and the scientific community as well as the media, interpreters, translators and others. He highlighted the excellent work of the Chairman of the Meeting, indicating that his clear guidance had contributed greatly to the outcome of the meeting. He recognized the RACs not only for their technical input but also for their participation in the legal process.
160. The Meeting was closed at 1:30pm on Saturday, December 2, 2006, by the Chairman and the secretariat.



## **ANNEX I: AGENDA**



## AGENDA

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

1. Opening of the Meeting
2. Organization of the meeting
  - a. Rules of procedure
  - b. Election of officers
  - c. Organization of work
3. Adoption of the agenda
4. Report of the Chairperson of the Monitoring Committee and President of the Bureau of Contracting Parties
5. Report of the Executive Director of the Cartagena Convention on the Implementation of the Caribbean Environment Programme (2004-2005)
6. Report of the Government of Jamaica on the Host Agreement with UNEP
7. Results of the Working Group on the Rules of Procedure and Financial Rules of the Caribbean Environment Programme
8. Results of the Working Group on the Guidelines for the operations of the Regional Activity Centres (RACs) and the Regional Activities Networks (RANs) of the Caribbean Environment Programme
9. Workplan and Budget for the Caribbean Environment Programme for the 2006-2007 Biennium
10. Election of Members of the Monitoring Committee on the Action Plan for the Caribbean Environment Programme for 2006-2007
11. Other Business
12. Adoption of the report of the meeting
13. Closure of the meeting



## ANNEX II: DECISIONS OF THE MEETING



## DECISIONS OF THE MEETING

### The Meeting:

**Having convened** the Twelfth Intergovernmental Meeting on the Action Plan for the Caribbean Environment Programme and the Ninth Meeting of the Contracting Parties to the Convention for the Protection and Development of the Marine Environment of the Wider Caribbean Region;

**Taking into account** the Report of the Executive Director of the Cartagena Convention on the Implementation of the Caribbean Environment Programme (2004-2005) as presented in UNEP(DEPI)/CAR IG.26/INF.4;

**Noting** the Reports of the Third Meeting of the Scientific and Technical Advisory Committee (STAC) (UNEP(DEPI)/CAR WG.29/6) and of the Third Meeting of the Contracting Parties (UNEP(DEC)/CAR IG.23/4) to the Protocol Concerning Specially Protected Areas and Wildlife in the Wider Caribbean Region;

**Having reviewed** the Report of the Third Meeting of the Interim Scientific, Technical and Advisory Committee of the Protocol concerning Pollution from Land-Based Sources and Activities, Mexico City, Mexico, 22-26 August 2005, as contained in UNEP(DEC)/CAR WG.28/5;

**Taking note** of the Report of the Third Meeting of the Regional Activity Centre/Regional Marine Pollution Emergency, Training, and Information Centre- Caribbean (RAC/REMPEITC-Carib) Steering Committee as contained in document RAC/REMPEITC-Carib;

### Decides:

## DECISION I

**Having reviewed** the draft Workplan and Budget for the Caribbean Environment Programme for the Biennium 2006-2007 as contained in the document UNEP(DEPI)/CAR IG.26/3;

### Decides to:

1. **Approve** the Workplan and Budget for the Caribbean Environment Programme for the Biennium 2006-2007, taking into account the observations and inputs provided by the Meeting. The Meeting **also requests** the Secretariat to seek additional funds to meet the full requirements of the approved workplan and **urges** governments to support the Secretariat in this regard.
2. **Approve** the establishment of a Communication, Education, Training and Awareness (CETA) position at a P3/P4 level depending on the availability of financial resources.
3. **Welcome** the designation of 2007 as the Year of the Dolphin and invites the secretariat, governments and organizations from the region to actively promote and participate in this effort.
4. **Welcome** the designation of 2008 as the Year of the Reef and **invite** the Secretariat, governments and organisations from the region to actively promote and participate in this effort.

## DECISION II

**Recalling** that the Thirteenth Meeting of the Monitoring Committee established the Open Intersessional Drafting Group on the Rules of Procedure for the Caribbean Environment Programme, Financial Rules for the Cartagena Convention and the Caribbean Environment Programme, and Terms of Reference for the Caribbean Trust Fund,

**Recalling also** that the work of the Open Intersessional Drafting Group was continued by the Tenth Intergovernmental Meeting of the Action Plan for the Caribbean Environment Programme and the Seventh Meeting of the Contracting Parties to the Cartagena Convention, as well as by the Eleventh Intergovernmental Meeting of the Action Plan for the Caribbean Environment Programme and the Eighth Meeting of the Contracting Parties to the Cartagena Convention,

**Having reviewed** the document "Results of the Open Intersessional Drafting Group on the Rules of Procedure for the Caribbean Environment Programme and Proposed Financial Rules for the Cartagena Convention and the Caribbean Environment Programme, and Terms of Reference for the Caribbean Trust Fund," UNEP(DEPI)/CAR IG.26/INF.6,

**Having also** convened in plenary a Working Group on this topic and exchanged considered views on the future of the work of the Open Intersessional Drafting Group,

Decides to:

- a) **Extend** the Mandate of the Open Intersessional Drafting Group on the Rules of Procedure for the Caribbean Environment Programme and Proposed Financial Rules for the Cartagena Convention and the Caribbean Environment Programme, and Terms of Reference for the Caribbean Trust Fund under the Chairmanship of the United States of America
- b) **Establish** the Terms of Reference for the work of the Drafting Group appended hereto.
- c) **Urge** the Drafting Group to work in the spirit of cooperation and compromise to successfully conclude its work for consideration and approval at the next Intergovernmental Meeting of the Action Plan for the Caribbean Environment Programme and Meeting of the Contracting Parties to the Convention for the Protection and Development of the Marine Environment of the Wider Caribbean Region.

**Appendix to DECISION II**  
Terms of Reference

The Drafting Group shall draft one set of Rules of Procedure and one set of Financial Rules and recommend both documents to be considered for approval at the next Intergovernmental Meeting of the Action Plan for the Caribbean Environment Programme (IGM) and Meeting of the Contracting Parties to the Convention for the Protection and Development of the Marine Environment of the Wider Caribbean Region.

If the Group determines at a later date that due to time and resource constraints it is not possible to complete its work on both documents, the Group shall prioritize between the two documents and submit the higher priority document to the next IGM and Meeting of the Parties to be considered for approval.

The Drafting Group shall formulate both drafts taking into account the following considerations:

- a) The Drafting Group should take into account the work of the intersessional discussions prior to the twelfth IGM and ninth Meeting of the Parties in Montego Bay, Jamaica
- b) The Drafting Group also should take into account the discussions that took place during the current Meeting, in particular the concerns raised with regard to the participation of territories and non-Party states to the Convention.
- c) The Drafting Group should use as an initial basis, when drafting the documents, the UNEP Governing Council Rules of Procedure, under which the IGM and Meeting of the Parties has operated in an interim capacity, previous efforts in this forum to draft Rules of Procedure and Financial Rules, including UNEP(DEC)/CAR IG.19/3, and any relevant precedents from other fora.

The Secretariat shall compile a contact list for this group. In doing so, it shall send invitations to all governments, including those already engaged in this process and those who have not yet participated in the Drafting Group. For the latter group, the Secretariat shall request that the governments designate one contact person for the work of this group.

The Chair of the Drafting Group, in conjunction with the Secretariat, shall prepare and circulate to the Drafting Group initial working drafts of one set of Rules of Procedure and one set of Financial Rules in the three languages, as soon as practicable but no later than May 31, 2007.

The Secretariat shall post the initial draft documents on the Caribbean Environment Programme website in three languages, in addition to circulation via e-mail, and if technical feasible and responsive to confidentiality concerns, to post annotated draft documents in all three languages on a password-protected portion of the website.

The participants in the Drafting Group shall have approximately two months, but no longer than 10 weeks, for circulation of the drafts to review and provide comments on such drafts. The secretariat will announce precise deadlines on the relevant time and with due notice. Comments received after such deadlines will not be included in the annotated draft for circulation and review by the Drafting Group.

The Chair and Secretariat will create annotated drafts of the two documents and circulate to the Drafting Group participants as soon as practicable for further review, consideration, and if appropriate, discussion via telephone conference call(s).

The Group will determine the time schedule for its remaining work after circulation of the annotated drafts. The Secretariat will circulate final drafts in the three languages to all participants in the Caribbean Environment Programme in advance of the next IGM and Meeting of the Parties according to its usual schedule for circulation of working documents.

The Secretariat (in conjunction with the chair of the working group, de forma conjunta con el presidente del grupo de trabajo) also shall work simultaneously to determine whether or when a face-to-face meeting of appropriate experts designated by the participants would be feasible.

The Drafting Group will operate on the basis of consensus.

### DECISION III

**Having reviewed** the reports and decisions of the meetings convened under the Caribbean Environment Programme since the Eleventh Intergovernmental Meeting;

**Decides to:**

1. **Approve** the Report of the Third Meeting of the Interim Scientific, Technical and Advisory Committee (ISTAC) to the Protocol Concerning Pollution from Land-Based Sources and Activities (LBS) in the Wider Caribbean Region, Mexico City, Mexico, 22-26 August 2005 (UNEP(DEC)/CAR WG.28/5); and
2. **Take note** of the Report of the Third Meeting of the Scientific and Technical Advisory Committee (STAC) to the Protocol Concerning Specially Protected Areas and Wildlife (SPA) in the Wider Caribbean Region, Caracas, Venezuela, 4 to 8 October 2005 (UNEP(DEPI)/CAR WG.29/6); and
3. **Adopt** the decisions of the 4<sup>th</sup> meeting of the Contracting Parties to the SPAW Protocol held in Montego Bay on 28<sup>th</sup> November 2006 as outlined in Annex II of the meeting report (UNEP(DEPI)/CAR IG.25/6).

### DECISION IV

**Having reviewed** the report of the Third Meeting of the Steering Committee for the RAC/REMPEITC-Carib, Willemstad, Curacao, 24-25 July 2006; and

**Having examined** the Final Strategic Plan for the 2006-2007 Biennium of the Regional Activity Centre, REMPEITC-Carib;

**Decides to:**

1. **Approve** the recommendations of the Third Meeting of the Steering Committee for the RAC/REMPEITC-Carib;
2. **Endorse** the Final Strategic Plan for the 2006-2007 Biennium of the Regional Activity Centre, REMPEITC-Carib;
3. **Request** the Secretariat to continue its collaboration with the International Maritime Organization in the further development and implementation of projects and activities for the management of marine litter and ballast water;
4. **Invite** the Government of Mexico to consider supporting the Centre with a Secondment.

## DECISION V

Taking note of the voluntary contributions to the Caribbean Trust Fund by the States and Territories of the Wider Caribbean Region for 2004-2005

Having examined the budgetary needs of the Caribbean Environment Programme to complete its workplan for 2006-2007;

### Decides to:

1. Gratefully recognize the generous support provided by the Government of Venezuela in hosting the Third STAC of the SPAW Protocol in Caracas in 2005 and acknowledge their in-kind contribution towards their arrears to the CTF.
2. Welcome the offer from the Government of Guatemala to host the Fourth STAC in 2007 as an in-kind contribution towards their arrears to the CTF.
3. Adopt the table of voluntary contributions to the CTF as reflected in Annex III of this Report;
4. Request the Secretariat to invoice the states and territories of the Caribbean Environment Programme in the amounts expressed in Annex III of this Report;
5. Request that the Executive Director of UNEP, make the necessary arrangements to extend the Caribbean Trust Fund until 2009;
6. Strongly urge all Governments, to pay all contributions to the Caribbean Trust Fund in a timely manner to ensure the Programme's financial sustainability and continuity;
7. Strongly urge all governments to promptly pay their arrears to the Caribbean Trust Fund considering the financial constraints of the secretariat for 2007; and
8. Request the Secretariat to continue its efforts to collect contributions and to continue to explore financial mechanisms with member governments to facilitate payment of their arrears.

## DECISION VI

Having reviewed the revised document on "Guidelines for the Operations of the Regional Activity Centres (RACs) and the Regional Activities Networks (RANs) of the Caribbean Environment Programme" (UNEP(DEC)/CAR IG.24/CRP.9/Rev.1) prepared by the Working Group created by the Chairperson of the Eleventh IGM, and under the leadership of the Government of Venezuela;

Taking into account the draft Workplan and Budget for the Caribbean Environment Programme for the Biennium 2006-2007 as contained in the document UNEP(DEPI)/CAR IG.26/3 and the presentations made by the Secretariat and by the Regional Activity Centres;

### Decides to:

1. Request the Secretariat to continue the work of the Open Intercessional Working Group on the "Guidelines for the Operations of the Regional Activity Centres (RACs) and the Regional Activities Networks (RANs) of the Caribbean Environment Programme" under the chairmanship of the Government of Venezuela.
2. Request the Secretariat in coordination with the Chair of the Working Group to present an update of the progress made with regard to the finalization of the guidelines at the 4<sup>th</sup> LBS ISTAC and 4<sup>th</sup> SPAW STAC Meetings in 2007.
3. Further request the Secretariat to present a final version of the guidelines for consideration and possible adoption at the 13<sup>th</sup> Intergovernmental Meeting of the Caribbean Action Plan and Tenth Meeting of the Contracting Parties to the Cartagena Convention.

## DECISION VII

**Having reviewed** the progress of the Caribbean Environment Programme during 2004-2005;

**Recognizing** the need for the continuing development and implementation of the Caribbean Environment Programme for the 2006-2007 biennium and beyond;

**Decides to:**

1. **Request** the Secretariat and the Governments to continue strengthening the communication and coordination between the Secretariat, the RACs and the Focal Points and **urge** governments to maintain frequent communication with the Secretariat, in order to have active and open exchange of information, in particular during the intersessional period between meetings of the Programme;
2. **Encourage** the governments to ratify the Cartagena Convention and its Protocols, including the Protocol Concerning Pollution from Land-based Sources and Activities to ensure its entry into force as soon as possible;
3. **Encourage** governments to inform the Secretariat of the status and impacts of the implementation of the Convention for the Protection and Development of the Marine Environment of the Wider Caribbean Region and of its Protocols, and **encourage** greater involvement and participation of Focal Points in the development of the work programme and implementation of the CEP;
4. **Request** the Secretariat to continue its efforts at strengthening collaborative relationships with regional agencies and relevant convention secretariats to enable more effective implementation of the workplan of the CEP; and
5. **Commend**, in particular, the Coordinator and staff of the Secretariat for the considerable progress made in implementing the CEP during the period since the Eleventh IGM.

## DECISION VIII

**Taking into consideration** the importance of data, data sharing and information systems to decision making on environmental management;

**Recognizing** the work done up to now by LBS RAC-Cimab for the update of CEP Technical Report No. 33; and

**Acknowledging** contributions from Member Governments for the update of CEP Technical Report No. 33;

**Noting** the presentation made by the International Atomic Energy Agency on areas of possible collaboration with the Caribbean Environment Programme

**Decides to:**

1. **Request** that the Secretariat and RACs continue their work to quickly finalize the update of CEP Technical Report No. 33;
2. **Encourage** Governments to provide any additional data to finalise the update of CEP Technical Report No. 33;
3. **Encourage** Governments to develop and implement national monitoring programmes, using standardized methodologies, that would support periodic updating of regional overviews of land-based sources of pollution in the Wider Caribbean Region and also reporting on the implementation of the LBS Protocol;
4. **Support** the concept of a regional monitoring programme/network and **evaluate** the feasibility of such an activity; taking into account that there are existing activities.
5. **Encourage** the use of Geographical Information Systems (GIS) and other decision-support tools in future CEP projects and Activities.

### DECISION IX

**Noting** the activities undertaken within the framework of the White Water to Blue Water (WW2BW) initiative since its inception at the 2002 World Summit on Sustainable Development

**Further noting** that the focus of the WW2BW activities in the Wider Caribbean area complement those of CEP

**Welcoming** the initiation of several partnership arrangements involving stakeholders and the effective mobilization of resources in support of CEP Programmes

**Decides to:**

1. **Request** that the Secretariat continue its support to the development of innovative partnerships such as the WW2BW, ICRI, ICRAN etc., convey to future IGMs appropriate reports on the progress of such partnerships and include information on the steps taken to ensure the active participation of all CEP Member States in these initiative.

### DECISION X

**Acknowledging** the "French Government Project for a Marine Mammal Sanctuary in the French West Indies" (UNEP (DEPI)/CAR IG.26/CRP.2) presented by the Government of France,

**Decides to:**

1. **Take note** of the initiative of the Government of France on the creation of a national sanctuary in the Departments of Martinique, Guadeloupe, in St. Martin and St. Bartholomew for the protection of marine mammals in their EEZ.
2. **Invite** other governments to consider taking appropriate actions at the national level that meet the objectives of the Cartagena Convention and its SPAW Protocol.

## DECISION XI

**Noting with concern** the existing financial limitations and constraints for countries of the Wider Caribbean Region to implement activities for the conservation of marine and coastal resources

**Recognizing** the need to make sufficient and timely financial resources available for the implementation of environmental projects in the region

**Noting** further the changes in the procedures for developing project proposals and in the financial resources allocation for submission to the Global Environment Facility (GEF)

### Decides to:

1. **Welcome** the initiative of the Government of Venezuela on the creation of a Caribbean Environment Bank to assist with the access of funds for environmental projects for the region;
2. **Invites** the Secretariat and governments to explore the creation of an intergovernmental committee under the Chairmanship of Venezuela to initiate discussions on the objectives and functions of this Bank;
3. **Request** the Secretariat to continue efforts to develop innovative financial mechanisms such as the Caribbean Revolving Fund for Wastewater Management to assist countries in meeting the obligations of the Cartagena Convention and in particular the Land Based Sources of Marine Pollution Protocol

## DECISION XII

**Acknowledging** the recently signed Memorandum of Cooperation between the Secretariat to the Cartagena Convention and its Protocols and the Secretariat to the Convention on Migratory Species (CMS);

**Recognising** the common objectives between both agreements **and** that many Parties to Cartagena Convention have not yet joined the CMS; and

**Further recognising** the opportunities for synergies and collaboration between both agreements on matters of mutual interest,

### Decides to:

1. **Encourage** governments of the Wider Caribbean who have not already done so to consider the possibility of becoming Parties to the CMS.
2. **Requests** the Secretariat to continue developing linkages of cooperation with the CMS in the spirit of the MoC.

**ANNEX III: INDICATIVE LEVEL OF CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE  
CARIBBEAN TRUST FUND, 2006-2007**



INDICATIVE LEVEL OF VOLUNTARY CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE CARIBBEAN TRUST FUND, 2006-2007 (in US dollars)

States and Territories of the Wider Caribbean Region	2006*	2007*
ANTIGUA & BARBUDA	10,571	10,571
BAHAMAS	10,571	10,571
BARBADOS	10,571	10,571
BELIZE	9,639	9,639
COLOMBIA	18,937	18,937
COSTA RICA	11,501	11,501
CUBA	19,883	19,883
DOMINICA, COMMONWEALTH	10,571	10,571
DOMINICAN REPUBLIC	12,433	12,433
FRANCE	240,989	240,989
GRENADA	10,571	10,571
GUATEMALA	11,502	11,502
GUYANA	10,571	10,571
HAITI	10,571	10,571
HONDURAS	10,571	10,571
JAMAICA	15,301	15,301
KINGDOM OF THE NETHERLANDS		
ARUBA	9,639	9,639
NETHERLANDS ANTILLES	10,571	10,571
MEXICO	40,000	40,000
NICARAGUA	10,571	10,571
PANAMA	11,502	11,502
ST. KITTS-NEVIS	2,835	2,835
SAINT LUCIA	9,639	9,639
ST. VINCENT & THE GRENADINES	9,639	9,639
SURINAME	10,571	10,571
TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO	12,433	12,433
UNITED KINGDOM		
ANGUILLA	10,571	10,571
CAYMAN ISLANDS	5,868	5,868
BRITISH VIRGIN ISLANDS	6,237	6,237
MONTSERRAT	2,835	2,835
TURKS & CAICOS ISLANDS	5,103	5,103
USA	205,200	205,200
VENEZUELA	140,806	140,806
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>928,773</b>	<b>928,773</b>

\* Same contribution as of 2005

**ANNEX IV: LIST OF DOCUMENTS**

## LIST OF DOCUMENTS

### Working Documents

UNEP(DEPI)/CAR IG.26/1	Provisional agenda
UNEP(DEPI)/CAR IG.26/2	Provisional annotated agenda
UNEP(DEPI)/CAR IG.26/3	Draft workplan and budget for the Caribbean Environment Programme for the biennium 2006-2007
UNEP(DEPI)/CAR IG.26/4	Report of the Twelfth Intergovernmental Meeting on the Action Plan for the Caribbean Environment Programme and Ninth Meeting of the Contracting Parties to the Convention for the Protection and Development of the Marine Environment of the Wider Caribbean Region ( <i>to be prepared during the meeting</i> )

### Information Documents

UNEP(DEPI)/CAR IG.26/INF.1	Provisional list of documents
UNEP(DEPI)/CAR IG.26/INF.2	List of participants
UNEP(DEPI)/CAR IG.26/INF.3	Report of the Chairperson of the Monitoring Committee and President of the Bureau of Contracting Parties
UNEP(DEPI)/CAR IG.26/INF.4	Report of the Executive Director of the Cartagena Convention on the Implementation of the Caribbean Environment Programme (2004-2005)
UNEP(DEPI)/CAR IG.26/INF.5	Report of the Government of Jamaica on the Host Agreement with UNEP
UNEP(DEPI)/CAR IG.26/INF.6	Results of the Open Intersessional Drafting Group on the Rules of Procedure for the Caribbean Environment Programme and Proposed Financial Rules for the Cartagena Convention, and the Caribbean Environment Programme, and Terms of Reference for the Caribbean Trust Fund
UNEP(DEPI)/CAR IG.26/INF.7	The Caribbean Environment Programme -- 1981-2006
UNEP(DEPI)/CAR IG.26/INF.8	Activity report 2004-2005 for the LBS Regional Activity Centre RAC-Cimab, Havana, Cuba (English and Spanish only)
UNEP(DEPI)/CAR IG.26/INF.9	Activity report 2004-2005 for the LBS Regional Activity Centre RAC/Rempeitc-Carib, Curaçao, Netherlands Antilles
UNEP(DEPI)/CAR IG.26/INF.10	Activity report 2004-2005 for the LBS Regional Activity Centre RAC-IMA, Trinidad and Tobago
UNEP(DEPI)/CAR IG.26/INF.11	GloBallast Partnership Project: Status of project preparation activities and discussions with Wider Caribbean Region related to participation in the Project (English only)
UNEP(DEPI)/CAR IG.26/INF.12	Intergovernmental Meetings (IGM) Decisions of the Caribbean Environment Programme, 1981-2004 (English only)
UNEP(DEC)/CAR IG.24/CRP.9/Rev.1	Guidelines for the operations of the Regional Activity Centres (RACs) and the Regional Activity Networks (RANs) for the Caribbean Environment Programme
UNEP(DEC)/CAR WG.28/INF.4	Compilation of summaries of workshop reports for the sub-programme on the Assessment and Management of Environmental Pollution (AMEP) in support of the Protocol Concerning Land-Based Sources of Marine Pollution
UNEP(DEC)/CAR WG.28/INF.5	Project Summary Sheets for the sub-programme on the Assessment and Management of Environmental Pollution (AMEP) in support of the Protocol Concerning Land-Based Sources of Marine Pollution 2004-2005
RAC/REMPEITC-Carib	Report of the Third Meeting of the Steering Committee of the Regional Activity Centre, REMPEITC-Carib (RAC/REMPEITC-Carib), Willemstad, Curacao, 24-25 July 2006 (English only)

UNEP(DEPI)/CAR WG.29/6	Report of the Third Meeting of the Scientific and Technical Advisory Committee (STAC) to the Protocol Concerning Specially Protected Areas and Wildlife (SPA) in the Wider Caribbean Region, Caracas, Venezuela, 4-8 October 2005
UNEP(DEC)/CAR WG.28/5	Report of the Third Meeting of the Interim Scientific, Technical and Advisory Committee (ISTAC) to the Protocol Concerning Pollution from Land-based Sources and Activities, Mexico City, Mexico, 22-26 August 2005
UNEP(DEC)/CAR IG.24/5	Report of the Eleventh Intergovernmental Meeting on the Action Plan for the Caribbean Environment Programme and Eight Meeting of the Contracting Parties to the Convention for the Protection and Development of the Marine Environment of the Wider Caribbean Region, Montego Bay, Jamaica, 28 September – 2 October 2004
UNEP(DEC)/CAR IG.23/4	Report of the Third Meeting of the Contracting Parties (COP) to the Protocol Concerning Specially Protected Areas and Wildlife (SPA) in the Wider Caribbean Region, Montego Bay, Jamaica, 27 September 2004
Strategic Plan, 2006-2007	Final Strategic Plan for the 2006-2007 Biennium of the Regional Activity Centre, REMPEITC-Carib (English only)

#### Conference Room Papers

UNEP(DEPI)/CAR IG.26/CRP.1	Guidelines For Establishment And Operation Of Regional Activity Centres And Regional Activity Networks For The Cartagena Convention: Including changes from the Netherlands Antilles and the secretariat
UNEP(DEPI)/CAR IG.26/CRP.2	French Government Project For A Marine Mammal Sanctuary In The French West Indies
UNEP(DEPI)/CAR IG.26/CRP.3	Indicative Level Of Voluntary Contributions To The Caribbean Trust Fund, 2006-2007 (In US Dollars)

#### Reference Documents

UNEP(DEC)/RS.6.INF.1	A Global Initiative to strengthen Regional Seas Conventions and Action Plans and enhance cooperation – Regional Seas Strategic Directions for 2004-2007
UNEP, 2006	Directory of Focal Points of the Caribbean Environment Programme. CEP Information Paper (English only)
UNEP, 2001/2004	Convention for the Protection and Development of the Marine Environment of the Wider Caribbean Region, Protocol Concerning Cooperation in Combating Oil Spills, Protocol Concerning Specially Protected Areas and Wildlife and the Protocol Concerning Pollution from Land-based Sources and Activities (English, Spanish (2001) and French (2004))
UNEP/GC.23/11	Proceedings of the Twenty-third session of the Governing Council Global Ministerial Environment Forum Nairobi, 21–25 February 2005 (Adoption of the Report) (English only)
A/CONF.207/L.6 (consolidated)	International Meeting to Review the Implementation of the programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States – Mauritius Declaration and Mauritius Strategy for the Further Implementation of the programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States, Port Louis, Mauritius, 10-14 January 2005 (English only)
UNEP(DEC)/CAR IG.22/5	Strategy for the Development of the Caribbean Environment Programme 2002-2006
UNEP(DEC)/CAR IG.22/7	Proposal from the Governments of Cuba and Trinidad and Tobago: Regional Activity Centre Concerning Pollution from Land-based Sources and Activities (English and Spanish only)

UNEP(DEC)/CAR IG.22/9	Concept Paper for Establishing and Coordinating Regional Activity Centres and Regional Activity Networks of the Caribbean Environment Programme
UNEP, 1999	Final Act of the Conference of Plenipotentiaries to Adopt the Protocol Concerning Pollution from Land-based Sources and Activities in the Wider Caribbean Region
UNEP(OCA)/CAR IG.11/7	Proposed legal framework for the administrative, technical and financial operations of RACs and RANs
UNEP(OCA)/CAR WG.10/3	Concept Paper for Regional Activity Centres and Regional Activity Networks
UNEP, 1990b	Final Act on the Conference of Plenipotentiaries Concerning Specially Protected Areas and Wildlife (SPAW) in the Wider Caribbean Region
UNEP/GC/3/Rev.3, 1988	Rules of Procedure of the Governing Council of UNEP
UNEP, 1983a	Action Plan for the Caribbean Environment Programme. UNEP Regional Seas Reports and Studies No. 26
UNEP GPA, The Hague	UNEP Handbook on the Development and Implementation of a National Programme of Action for the Protection of the Marine Environment from Land-based Activities
CEP Technical Report No. 33	Regional Overview of Land-Based Sources of Pollution in the Wider Caribbean Region, 1994
UNEP/GPA (2006)	Protecting coastal and marine environments from land-based activities: A guide for national action (English only)
UNEP/GPA (2006)	The State of the Marine Environment: Trends and Processes (English only)
UNEP/GPA (2006)	Implementation of the GPA at the regional level: The role of Regional Seas Conventions and their Protocols (English only)
UNEP 2006	Financing the implementation of regional seas conventions and action plans: A guide for national action (English only)
UNEP/GPA (2006)	Ecosystem-based management: Markers for assessing progress (English only)
The Hague, July 2006	The State of the Marine Environment: Regional Assessments (English only)
LBS Workshop, 2006	Final Report of Workshop for the Promotion of the Protocol Concerning Pollution from Land-based Sources and Activities (LBS Protocol) in English Speaking Caribbean countries, (Gros Islet, St. Lucia, 24–26 July 2006) (English only)
Beijing Declaration, 2006	Beijing Declaration on furthering the implementation of the Global Programme of Action for the Protection of the Marine Environment from Land-based Activities (English only)
UNEP/GC/24/4/Add.1	Final draft updated water policy and strategy of the United Nations Environment Programme, 2007-2012 (English only)
Regional Basel Strategy, 2006	Regional Strategy For The Environmentally Sound Management Of Used Lead Acid Batteries In Central America, Colombia, Venezuela And The Caribbean Island States - (Phase II – Strategy Development) (English only)



## ANNEX V: LIST OF PARTICIPANTS



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**ANNEXE VI: OPENING REMARKS BY THE GOVERNMENT OF JAMAICA**



Mr. Nelson Andrade, Coordinator, UNEP-CAR/RCU,  
Dr. Rosanna Silva Repetto,  
Delegates of the States and Territories of the Wider Caribbean Region,  
Contracting Parties to the Convention for the Protection and Development of the Marine Environment of the Wider Caribbean Region,  
Observers from Intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations, private sector representatives,  
Ladies and gentlemen good morning.

On behalf of the Government of Jamaica, I wish to extend a warm welcome to those persons visiting our shores for the first time and to those of you who have been here before, welcome back.

This meeting is of particular significance, as in 1981, 25 years ago, the Action Plan for the Caribbean Environment Programme, was adopted here in Montego Bay. This paved the way for the 1983 adoption of the Cartagena Convention for the Protection and Development of the Marine Environment of the Wider Caribbean Region, to which the majority of countries in the Caribbean are a party.

Much has been accomplished over the past 25 years and Jamaica has benefited tremendously from a wide range of environmental development activities, funded by UNEP, for the protection of the country's coastal and marine environment. Worthy of mention is the regional seas programme that was established so that countries sharing seas could effectively develop solutions to common problems at the regional level.

Jamaica is pleased to be a party to the Cartagena Convention as well as to the Oil Spills Protocol. Although we are not yet a party to the Protocol on Land-based Sources of Pollution nor the Protocol on Specially Protected Areas and Wildlife, as signatories to the protocols, we have already indicated our support for their principles and provisions. As regards the SPAW Protocol, we have draft legislation which will be reviewed shortly and we also have draft regulations on waste water which will address some of the elements of the LBS Protocol.

With the assistance of UNEP, Jamaica's National Programme of Action for the Protection of the Marine Environment from Land-based Sources of Pollution and Activities was completed in October 2005. **It was approved by Cabinet in February 2006.**

The NPA sets out a five year programme (2005-2010) to address the main sources of pollution in the coastal and marine environment.

Projects are now being developed for the implementation of activities around three priority areas:

- Sewage treatment and disposal
- Agricultural practices, (soil conservation, pesticides, and fertilizer usage, and
- Collection and disposal of solid waste.

I am pleased at the partnership that has emerged between the Government of Jamaica and UNEP and we hope that this will continue as we forge alliances in the interest of protecting and preserving the environment and in particular the Caribbean Sea.

The Government of Jamaica appreciates the assistance being provided by the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) in identifying strategic financing for the implementation of Jamaica's National Programme of Action (NPA).

We also welcome the proposed establishment of a Caribbean Revolving Fund for Waste Water Management (CREW) to provide Caribbean Small Island Developing States with a window, through which they can obtain resources, to address wastewater management in the region.

I led Jamaica's delegation to the 2<sup>nd</sup> Intergovernmental Review Meeting of the Global Programme of Action for the Protection of the Marine Environment from Land-based Activities which took place in Beijing, China from October 16-20, 2006.

- During this meeting, the need for international assistance, particularly to developing countries, to address issues related to the management of coasts and oceans within national, regional, and global development agendas was highlighted.
- It was also agreed that, donor support through various financial mechanisms should continue, to recognize the special needs and vulnerabilities of specific regions, such as small island developing states (SIDS) in the further development and implementation of international projects and programmes.

I urge you to take these issues under consideration, as you deliberate on the future of the Action Plan for the Caribbean Environment Programme in the Wider Caribbean Region.

At the last IGM, Minister Delano Franklin of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in opening the meeting suggested that disaster management be a standard matter for consideration at meetings such as this. As you will recall, in November 2004 Hurricane Ivan had just wreaked havoc in the Caribbean. At this point, I should like to acknowledge the support given to Jamaica and the region, including the kind response from Sida, proposed at the IGM.

As we look to the next 25 years of the programme, I expect that the Caribbean Environment Programme will continue to grow in its relevance and impact on the quality of life of the people of the Caribbean and that Governments, the private sector and communities of ordinary citizens will acknowledge and their play their part in this regard.

And as you will hear in more detail later, we also look forward continuing to host the Regional Coordinating Unit in Jamaica.

Ladies and gentlemen, I wish you a productive and effective meeting.

I thank you.

**ANNEXE VII: COMMUNICATION OF THE GOVERNMENT OF JAMAICA ON THE HOST  
AGREEMENT**



## COMMUNICATION OF THE GOVERNMENT OF JAMAICA ON THE HOST AGREEMENT

Negotiations have taken place over the past year with the United Nations Environment Programme, the Regional Coordinating Unit and the Government of Jamaica.

The Cabinet has agreed to the terms of the Agreement. The Attorney General's Department has accordingly prepared a draft agreement which has been sent to the RCU for review.

We are working towards a conclusion of the Agreement in December 2006.

The Government takes the opportunity to express its continued support of the RCU and the Caribbean Environment Programme and commends the Coordinator and the staff for their dedication and achievements.



## ANNEX VIII: SUMMARY OF WHITE WATER TO BLUE WATER SIDE EVENT



## SUMMARY OF WHITE WATER TO BLUE WATER SIDE EVENT

The "White Water to Blue Water Initiative (WW2BW): Promoting Integrated Watershed Management in the Wider Caribbean". WW2BW is an international alliance of governments, international organizations, financial institutions, non-governmental organizations, universities and corporations. It aims to stimulate partnerships that will improve integrated and marine ecosystem-based management. The presentation was aimed at acquainting participants with its four programme areas i.e., Integrated watershed management, environmentally sound marine transportation, sustainable tourism and marine ecosystem-based management, as well as the way in which regional cooperation is promoted and developing country capacity strengthened.

Presentations were made on the four programme areas of WW2BW mentioned above, and were complemented by presentations on GEF funding mechanisms, on how to improve the effectiveness of public-private partnership, financial and other resource requests, and on the UNEP-proposed revolving fund to improve sewage and wastewater management for small coastal communities and small private sector industry who are unable to access affordable financing.

Several instances of positive collaboration between the CEP/RCU and the White Water to Blue Water (WW2BW) partnerships were presented. The supporting role played by the CEP in the evolution and development of WW2BW activities, the excellent functional collaboration and working relationships which have evolved between the CEP and WW2BW initiative, including the presence of the CEP Secretariat on the WW2BW executive and the continuing access of CEP parties and stakeholders in the wider Caribbean to the benefits of the WW2BW activities was also noted.

Participants were invited to take note of the complementarities of interest between the WW2BW initiatives and those of the CEP, and of the continuing collaboration in processes related to the implementation of recommendations and decisions related to the SPAW and LBS Protocols as well as the area of Communication, Awareness Building, and Education and the creation of innovative partnership arrangements supporting sustainable use of the Caribbean Sea. Tangible benefits were described such as the development of a Clean Water Revolving Fund. Participants were also made aware of the outcomes of a Strategic Retreat undertaken in 2005 by the WW2BW stakeholders and the improvements made in the WW2BW processes and coordination arrangements.

The following recommendations were made:

- WW2BW initiative should maintain its strategic focus; to strengthen stakeholder processes, to improve governance, coordination, communication and implementation arrangements including a system of rolling work plans; and to continue to contribute to innovative approaches including mobilization of financial and other resources,
- Continued collaboration, and the deepening and strengthening of the cooperation and collaboration between the CEP and WW2BW as outlined in the provisional Action Plan for 2007 - 2008 were outlined.
- Urge all member States of the CEP and CEP stakeholders to fully utilize the WW2BW process and its products such as the Primers in further developing innovative partnership arrangements (involving the public and private sector as well as civil society) in support of the protection, conservation and sustainable use of the marine resources of Wider Caribbean area.