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Fourteenth Intergovernmental Meeting on the Action Plan for the Caribbean Environment Programme and Eleventh 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, 6 to 9 October 2010

REPORT OF THE MEETING

ACRONYMS

AMEP.....	Assessment and Management of Environmental Pollution
CAR/RCU.....	Caribbean Regional Coordinating Unit
CATHALAC.....	Water Centre for the Humid Tropics of Latin America and the Caribbean
CEHI.....	Caribbean Environmental Health Institute
CEP.....	Caribbean Environment Programme
CIGEA.....	Environment, Management and Information Centre
Cimab.....	Centro de Ingeniería y Manejo Ambiental de Bahías y Costas
COP.....	Contracting Parties
CETA.....	Communication, Education, Training and Awareness
GEF.....	Global Environment Facility
GIS.....	Geographic information systems
GPA.....	Global Programme of Action
IGM.....	Intergovernmental Meeting
INVEMAR.....	Instituto de Investigaciones Marinas y Costeras
ISTAC.....	Interim Scientific and Technical Advisory Committee
IWCAM.....	Integrating Watershed and Coastal Areas Management
LBS.....	Land-based Sources and Activities
MARPOL.....	International Convention for the Prevention of Pollution from Ships
MoU.....	Memorandum of Understanding
NGO.....	Non-Governmental Organization
NOAA.....	National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
NPA.....	National Programme of Action
RACs.....	Regional Activity Centres
RAN.....	Regional Activity Network
REMPEITC...	Regional Marine Pollution Emergency, Information and Training Centre
REPCar	Reducing Pesticides Run-off to the Caribbean Sea
ROLAC.....	Regional Office for Latin America and the Caribbean
SIDS.....	Small Islands Developing States
SPAW.....	Specially Protected Areas and Wildlife
UNEP.....	United Nations Environment Programme
US EPA.....	United States Environmental Protection Agency
WCR.....	Wider Caribbean Region
WW2BW.....	White Water to Blue Water

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Introduction

1. The Fourteenth Intergovernmental Meeting (IGM) on the Action Plan for the Caribbean Environment Programme and Eleventh Meeting of the Contracting Parties to the Convention for the Protection and Development of the Marine Environment of the Wider Caribbean Region was convened 6 – 9 October 2010 in Montego Bay, Jamaica.
2. This Meeting proposed to review the achievements of the Caribbean Environment Programme (CEP) during the 2008-2009 biennium and to approve the Work plan of the CEP for the 2010-2011 biennium.
3. The Secretariat, on behalf of the CEP Governments and Contracting Parties to the Cartagena Convention, convened the Meeting to:
 - Evaluate the projects and activities implemented within the framework of the Caribbean Environment Programme during the period 2008-2009;
 - Review the progress made in the implementation of the Decisions of 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, St John's, Antigua & Barbuda, 9-12 September 2008;
 - Review and take action, as appropriate, on the Decisions of the Sixth Meeting of the Contracting Parties (COP) to the Protocol Concerning Specially Protected Areas and Wildlife (SPAW) in the Wider Caribbean Region, 5 October 2010;
 - Review the recommendations of and take action, as appropriate, on the Report of the Fifth Meeting of the Interim Scientific, Technical and Advisory Committee (ISTAC) to the Protocol Concerning Pollution from Land-based Sources and Activities, Panama City, Panama, 24-28 May 2010;
 - Review the recommendations of and take action, as appropriate, on the Report of the Fifth Meeting of the Steering Committee to the Protocol Concerning Cooperation in Combating Oil Spills in the Wider Caribbean Region, Willemstad, Curacao, 11-12 May 2010;
 - Review and adopt the Rules of Procedure and Financial Rules for the Caribbean Environment Programme;
 - Review and adopt the Work plan and Budget for CEP for the 2010-2011 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 2010-2011 period.
4. National focal points or their designated representatives of all States and Territories participating in the Caribbean

Environment Programme and the Commission of the European Union were invited to attend the Meeting. Other States that have demonstrated concern for the protection of the marine environment of the Wider Caribbean Region (WCR), UN and non-UN regional and international organizations, NGOs, donors and private sector representatives participating or interested in the Caribbean Environment Programme, were also invited to attend the Meeting as observers. Regional and international experts were also invited to make special presentations to the Meeting.

AGENDA ITEM 1: OPENING OF THE MEETING

5. The Opening Ceremony of the Meeting was initiated on Wednesday, 6 October 2010 at 9:15 a.m. Opening statements were made by Mr. Nelson Andrade Colmenares, Coordinator of the Caribbean Environment Programme and Executive Secretary of the Cartagena Convention, and by Ms. Leonie Barnaby of the Government of Jamaica.
6. Mr. Nelson Andrade Colmenares welcomed all delegates to the 14th IGM. He then introduced Didier Salzmann, Fund Management Officer for UNEP's Division of Environmental Policy Implementation (DEPI). Mr. Salzmann greeted the participants and transmitted the salutations of Mr. Ibrahim Thiaw, Director of DEPI, the UNEP Division responsible for the coordination of the activities of the Caribbean Environment Programme and its Regional Coordinating Unit. Mr. Salzmann recalled the overall responsibility of UNEP in the context of the IGM for the delivery of the Programme of Work by the Secretariat of the Cartagena convention, in accordance with the UN financial rules and regulations. He wished the participants a very successful meeting.
7. Mr. Nelson Andrade Colmenares, Coordinator of the Caribbean Environment Programme, thanked the Government of Jamaica for her welcome and welcomed the delegates, specially invited guests, partners, donors and friends of the Caribbean Environment Programme, to the 14th Intergovernmental Meeting on the Action Plan for the Caribbean Environment Programme and 11th Meeting of the Contracting Parties to the Cartagena Convention for the Protection and Development of the Marine Environment of the Wider Caribbean Region.
8. Mr. Andrade Colmenares remarked that it was evident that 24 years after its entry into force, the Cartagena Convention was still valued by the member states of the Wider Caribbean Region, as demonstrated by the call for accession, just five months ago, by the Government of Guyana to the Convention and its three Protocols. He pointed out that the remaining four countries which had not yet acceded to the Convention had all begun to promote ratification and he emphasized that the Secretariat pledges to continue to work with them on their efforts. Mr. Andrade Colmenares acknowledged that the SPAW Protocol continues to attract the support of the Wider

- Caribbean Governments, five of whom have ratified it since its entry into force in the year 2000, bringing the total to 14 Contracting Parties. The LBS Protocol, adopted in 1999, is enjoying renewed vigour as shown by the call for ratification by five countries during the past three years, including Belize and Saint Lucia in January, the U.S. in February, 2009, Antigua and Barbuda in May, 2010, Guyana in June 2010.
9. Mr. Andrade Colmenares noted that one of CEP's oldest partnerships was with the Government of Jamaica, who has been the host of the Caribbean Environment Programme from the very beginning in Kingston, Jamaica. He expressed gratitude for the strong support given to the programme from its creation, thanked the Government of Jamaica for their hospitality and cooperation and looked forward to their continued support. Mr. Andrade Colmenares was very happy to mention that UNEP, through the Caribbean Environment Programme, had just signed an agreement with the Government of Jamaica and the European Union, to become the implementing agency for a project valued at 4.8. Million Euros, on climate change adaptation. He noted that climate change is one of the six priority areas of the United Nations Environment Programme, and is of crucial importance to the region. As one of the top priorities for CEP the programme will continue to seek ways to address the needs of our member states with regard to climate change adaptation and mitigation.
 10. Mr. Andrade Colmenares saluted and acknowledged the programme staff and institutions of our Regional Activity Centres, the Regional Marine Pollution Emergency Information and Training Centre, Regional Activity Centre for the Specially Protected Areas and Wildlife Protocol, the Centre of Engineering and Environmental Management of Coasts and Bays, and the Institute of Marine Affairs. He highlighted that the activities of these Centres had been essential to the productivity of the CEP. He also recognized and applauded the invaluable support of the hosts of our Centres, the Governments of the Netherlands Antilles, France, Cuba, Trinidad and Tobago and the work of the RACs. Mr. Andrade Colmenares welcomed our new partners, including the European Union with whom the CEP is embarking on an exciting project in Jamaica, the Inter-American Development Bank who is CEP's partner in the implementation of the Caribbean Regional Fund for Wastewater Management, and the Government of Italy for regional coordination and capacity building activities in support of the Caribbean Challenge project.
 11. Mr. Andrade Colmenares called on the delegates to participate actively with the Draft Rules of Procedure and Financial Rules for the Cartagena Convention in an effort to adopt them in a decisive manner. He also requested participants to weigh in on decisions and recommendations which were proposed at the Sixth Meeting of the COP to the SPAW Protocol, which was held on 5 October, 2010, the Fifth Meeting of the ISTAC, and the Fifth Meeting of the Steering Committee to the Oil Spills Protocol, held in May, 2010.
 12. Mr. Andrade Colmenares highlighted the importance of the tourist sector in the region and made special mention that biodiversity is a critical component of the natural environment that tourists enjoy, whether in the form of coral reefs, mangroves, or the animals that inhabit and support them. He also mentioned that frequently, tourism development occurs without management standards and guidelines to promote conservation of nature and to deliver tangible benefits to local communities. He also informed the meeting that with this challenge in mind, a panel discussion of experts, including two prominent representatives from the tourism sector would be coming to the meeting, to discuss the economic relevance of biodiversity and ecosystem services in the Wider Caribbean Region. Mr. Andrade Colmenares made particular mention of CEP's focus on biodiversity in 2010, which has been designated by the United Nations as the International Year of Biodiversity, and the need to mobilize a global response to the loss of living organisms and forests, freshwaters, coral reefs and other ecosystems that generate multi-trillion dollar services that underpin all life. Finally, he called for special attention to the fact that this past biennium has experienced the worst global economic crisis since the 1930's, and that member states had been particularly challenged to fulfil their financial obligations with the Caribbean Trust Fund, which is the foundation upon which the sustainability of the CEP depends. Mr. Andrade Colmenares concluded by confirming the commitment of the CEP and reiterated that the CEP will continue to act as spokesperson for regional interests at the global level, seeking financial and in-kind resources from beyond the boundaries of the Caribbean Sea.
 13. He then gave the floor to the Chair, Ms. Leonie Barnaby, representing the Government of Jamaica, who welcomed all delegates and participants to Jamaica. After thanking Mr. Colmenares, she welcomed the participants to Jamaica and to the 14th Intergovernmental Meeting on the Action Plan for the Caribbean Environment Programme and Eleventh Meeting of the Contracting Parties to the Convention for the Protection and Development of the Marine Environment of the Wider Caribbean Region.
 14. She underlined the recent tragic loss of life and major damage of infrastructure caused by last week's tropical storm in Jamaica, which had also done damage in the Cayman Islands, Cuba and the Bahamas, while Barbados had been affected as well by a different tropical disturbance. She reminded participants that during the Thirteenth IGM, the Secretariat had expressed their solidarity to Turks and Caicos which had been the victim of Hurricane Ivan, lamenting the fact that severe weather events were all too familiar in this region.
 15. Ms. Barnaby enumerated several key international environmental meetings taking place within the coming months, including meetings on the green economy, the upcoming meeting of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), the meeting on Rio+20 and the COP of the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD), being

held in Japan this month. She mentioned Jamaica's work on an advanced draft to be submitted to the CBD COP, and complimented the Secretariat for their initiative in organizing a Panel on Biodiversity during the present IGM.

16. Mentioning the heavy international environmental agenda of 2010, including negotiations on a mercury decision, Ms. Barnaby emphasized the ever increasing need for the Member States to work together as a region, and the continuing relevance of the CEP as a valid regional coordinator.
17. She highlighted the success of Jamaica's pilot project under the auspices of IWCAM and indicated her enthusiasm for future proposals concerning CEP-sponsored activities in Jamaica, including a watershed management proposal, a pilot project within the proposed Caribbean Regional Fund for Wastewater Management (CReW), a Reducing Pesticides to the Caribbean Sea (REPCar) pilot project, a European Union project on climate change adaptation, as mentioned in Mr. Andrade Colmenares' opening remarks, and the GEF master plan for strengthening National Programmes of Action, in keeping with Jamaica's efforts to ratify the SPAW protocol.
18. Ms. Barnaby applauded the energy and application of the staff of CAR-RCU whose campaign to ensure the entry of the LBS Protocol into force had had excellent results. Only one more country is needed for the Protocol to enter into force. Jamaica hopes to be the one to announce the happy news shortly, as they are in the process of finalizing ratification of LBS by the cabinet and submitting wastewater regulations to the parliamentary council for approval.
19. Ms. Barnaby concluded by wishing the participants a productive and successful meeting while hopefully being able to take advantage of Jamaican hospitality.
20. Mr. Andrade Colmenares thanked Ms. Barnaby for the excellent news concerning the imminent ratification by the Government of Jamaica of the LBS Protocol, acknowledging that her personal support and assistance had been instrumental in advancing the ratification of the LBS Protocol by Jamaica.
21. The Meeting was formally opened by Leonie Barnaby of the Government of Jamaica, at 9:40am.

Agenda Item 2: ORGANISATION OF THE MEETING

a) Rules of Procedure

22. 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

23. The Meeting elected from among 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 Fifteenth Intergovernmental Meeting on the Action Plan for the Caribbean Environment Programme and Twelfth 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.

24. The Meeting elected from among the experts the following officers of the Meeting:

Chairperson: Leonie Barnaby (Jamaica)

First Vice-chairperson: María Guzmán Ortiz (Costa Rica)

Second Vice-Chairperson: Anthony Headley (Barbados)

Third Vice-Chairperson: Ydalia Acevedo (Dominican Republic)

Rapporteur: Laverne Walker (Saint Lucia)

c) Organization of work

25. English, French and Spanish were the working languages of the Meeting. Simultaneous interpretation in these languages was provided by the Secretariat for the plenary sessions. The working documents of the Meeting were available in all the working languages. The Meeting also elected to adopt its hours of work as reflected in the order of the day, and such other arrangements of a procedural or organizational nature as deemed necessary.

Agenda Item 3: ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA

26. The Meeting was invited to adopt the Agenda of the Meeting as contained in document UNEP (DEPI)/CAR IG.30/1.
27. The Delegate from Mexico thanked Jamaica for hosting the meeting and the Secretariat for providing the lovely venue. She requested that the discussion on the election of the Intersessional Working Group be added to the agenda as a discussion point, as it was a different subject from the report of the Working Group on the Draft Rules of Procedure and Financial Rules of the CEP. Mr. Andrade Colmenares responded that the subject would be covered during the decisions of the 13th IGM when the Chair presented the report.
28. The Delegate from France thanked the Secretariat for their hospitality and for the lovely venue but expressed concern about the cost of the hotel accommodations which had prohibited the attendance of several delegates. It was suggested that considering the economic crisis, a solution should be sought in future to provide an adequate comfort level and working conditions while remaining affordable for the

delegates. He also commented on the very tardy uploading of the major working documents on the internet, which had prevented an adequate review of the information in time for the meeting, and which could result in the adoption of certain aspects of the programme with reservations.

29. He suggested that another point in the agenda be added before item seven, to present the important regional initiatives being developed during the next few years, including the Caribbean Challenge, and the GEF project on invasive species, for which a document could be included in the Annex of the meeting report. He expressed interest in having the Coordinator of the Caribbean Challenge provide specific details on the articulation between this initiative, which is requesting financial support from France, and the SPAW network of marine protected areas. He also asked that a presentation be made on the results of the GEF-5 replenishment, so that the Secretariat of the Cartagena Convention could align its activities with the priorities as set out in the recent GEF meeting. He offered to participate in the organization of these additional discussions.
30. Mr. Andrade Colmenares responded that more details would be presented concerning the Caribbean Challenge and the GEF invasive species project during the presentation of the SPAW work plan, and that if insufficient, the subjects could be discussed further within that agenda item. He explained that Kristin McLaughlin of UNEP-DGEF was participating in the meeting and could make a presentation on GEF-5. He agreed to take note of the remarks of the French delegate concerning hotel accommodations for future meetings, and admitted that the Secretariat had failed to deliver the working documents on time and would try to perform better in the next meeting.
31. After adjustments, the Agenda was adopted 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

32. The outgoing President of the Bureau of Contracting Parties and Chairman of the Monitoring Committee, Mr. Lionel Michael from Antigua and Barbuda presented his report for the 2008-2009 biennium. He began by congratulating the Coordinator, Nelson Andrade Colmenares and staff of the Secretariat, Regional Activity Centres and GEF Project Management Units for their achievements.
33. He highlighted the successes of the projects funded by the Global Environment Facility (GEF); the increased numbers of ratifications of the Cartagena Convention and its Protocols and the challenges ahead that needed to be addressed to ensure financial sustainability of the Caribbean Environment Programme. Mr. Michael encouraged the Secretariat to continue to play a leading role in coordinating and ensuring

synergies between regional projects implemented in the Wider Caribbean.

34. He recognized recent ratifications of the Convention by the Governments of Guyana and his own Government's ratification of the LBS Protocol. He challenged other Governments to move quickly towards ratification of the LBS Protocol which could result in greater funding opportunities in support of pollution prevention.
35. In the area of financial sustainability, he recognized the high demand being placed on the Secretariat by Contracting Parties to develop and implement new projects with limited human and financial resources. With regard to the review of the work plan and budget for the 2010-2011 biennium, he suggested that realistic targets and priorities be set and emphasis placed on projects resulting in the greatest impacts and benefits regionally and nationally.
36. In conclusion, Mr. Michael reiterated the importance of Parties maintaining their levels of financial contribution to the Caribbean Trust Fund, the importance of showcasing the Secretariat and its capacity to execute large projects, and the need to demonstrate political support through ratification of the Convention and all of its Protocols.
37. He thanked all delegates for their support and wished the incoming chair, Ms. Leonie Barnaby from the Government of Jamaica best wishes for her tenure.

AGENDA ITEM 5: REPORT OF THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF THE CARTAGENA CONVENTION ON THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE CARIBBEAN ENVIRONMENT PROGRAMME (2008-2009)

38. The Chairperson invited the Secretariat to present the Report of the Executive Director of the Cartagena Convention on the Implementation of the 2008 – 2009 Work plan of the Caribbean Environment Programme as contained in document UNEP (DEPI)/CAR IG.30/INF.4, including the response to the Decisions of the Thirteenth Intergovernmental and Tenth Meeting of the Contracting Parties (9-12 September, St. John's, Antigua and Barbuda, 2008).
39. Mr. Andrade Colmenares highlighted Guyana's accession to the Cartagena Convention and its three Protocols and the accession to the LBS Protocol by Antigua and Barbuda, Saint Lucia and the United States. He also stated that Belize acceded to the LBS Protocol and now adheres to the SPAW Protocol and that Costa Rica and the Bahamas are in the process of ratifying the SPAW Protocol.
40. He also presented the major challenges to the Secretariat during the 2008-2009 biennium which included limited human and financial capacity and broader institutional challenges experienced due to changing focal points. Despite the

challenges, he informed the Meeting that the Secretariat was able to seize several opportunities which helped to facilitate greater ownership by countries and increased levels of integration and coordination across the region.

41. With regard to achievements, he mentioned that the Secretariat had worked on identifying and accessing new sources of funding which allowed it to provide greater support to projects and conduct more regional workshops to build capacity among Parties. He highlighted that a total of 55 such workshops and seminars were held over the biennium which reached over 1,500 participants. He also mentioned the Communication, Education, Training and Awareness (CETA) Programme Officer, Tess Cieux, who provided significant support to the work of the Secretariat through the development of promotional and educational material and through engagement of members of the media and the public and private sectors. This was an area mentioned for improvement and the Thirteenth IGM.
42. In the area of key partnerships, the Coordinator reminded the Meeting that the Secretariat was mandated by UNEP to work with the private and public sector. This was demonstrated in the execution of the REPCar project for example. He expressed appreciation for funding and support received from the extra-regional governments of Spain and Italy due to their recognition of the important work of the Secretariat in the region. He gave further highlights of some of the Secretariat's other key partners in the categories of international organizations, Convention Secretariats, Governments of the Wider Caribbean Region, Regional Agencies, NGOs and Intergovernmental bodies.
43. Among the recommendations presented by the Coordinator to the Meeting for consideration were the approval of an increase in the budget allocation; approval of the addendum to the 2010-2011 budget for 2012; adoption of the Cartagena Convention Reporting Template as reflected in the document UNEP (DEPI)/CAR IG.30/4 REV and the establishment of the procedure for future updates of Technical Report 33 as presented in the document UNEP(DEPI)/CAR WG.32/INF.4 "Draft of Updated CEP Technical Report No.33. Land Based Sources and Activities in the Wider Caribbean Region: Domestic and Industrial Pollutant Loads and Watershed Inflow".
44. The Coordinator invited the Secretariat's Programme Officers to report on the progress of their respective programmes: AMEP, SPAW and CETA.
45. The AMEP Programme Officer presented the major achievements of the AMEP Sub-programme during the 2008-2009 biennium, as contained in document UNEP(DEPI)/CAR WG.32/4.
46. Mr. Corbin began his overview by stating that he was optimistic that countries would shortly sign-off on the LBS Protocol and bring it into force. He also outlined the objectives and targets of the AMEP sub-programme, recalling the recommendations and decisions of the 13th IGM and 4th LBS ISTAC, and the actions taken in response to these during the biennium. He briefly presented on the activities conducted under the various GEF projects and LBS Regional Activity Centres and their outputs, as well as the overall programme coordination. Other projects and activities were presented under the specific thematic areas of monitoring and assessment, wastewater management, watershed management, solid waste management, national programmes of action, climate change and oil spills planning.
47. Mr. Corbin offered apologies on behalf of the RAC CIMAB director Antonio Villasol, and on behalf of the Director of IMA from Trinidad and Tobago, who was unable to attend the meeting due to national commitments. He stated that he might make the presentation on their behalf on their activities in support of the LBS Protocol during the 2008-2009 biennium.
48. Mr. Corbin highlighted the production and printing of the 2007-2009 AMEP Atlas of activities, training and capacity-building in Geographic Information System (GIS). Mr. Corbin also reported on the completion of the Know-Why Network Project, in particular the Coastal Monitoring sub-component that involved water quality assessment of selected regional "Hot Spots". Some of the outputs of the project mentioned by Mr. Corbin included the strengthened lab capacity at the LBS RACs and the preparation of guidelines on water quality indicators for monitoring programmes.
49. He thanked the Parties and Focal Points for the assistance provided to complete the Draft Update of CEP Technical Report No. 33 and indicated that the draft of the report was available for review by the Member Countries in English and Spanish.
50. Mr. Corbin acknowledged the CETA Programme Officer, Tess Cieux, and her efforts to improve awareness of the Secretariat and the AMEP Sub-Programme. This was a much needed activity that was mentioned at the 13th IGM.
51. Mr. Corbin made reference to the GEF REPCar and IWCAM projects and stated that both received favorable external reviews, which are a part of the GEF requirements. He also stated that based on their success they could become model projects and potentially be continued as GEF REPCar II and GEF IWCAM II. He encouraged interested Parties to speak with both project managers directly.
52. Mr. Corbin indicated that significant efforts had been made to engage the LBS Focal Points through the GEF projects and other national pilot activities. He further encouraged Focal Points to continue being active in their participation in the Programme.
53. He recognized and thanked the governments which continued to contribute to the Caribbean Trust Fund (CTF). The Chairman thanked the AMEP Programme Officer and the Secretariat

- Coordinator for their very comprehensive presentations and opened the floor for comments.
54. The Delegate of Barbados thanked the Secretariat for their hospitality and their choice of the location. He also thanked the Secretariat Coordinator and the AMEP Programme Officer for the quality and comprehensive nature of the presentation. He also thanked the Secretariat for the high quality of the work done over the biennium and for the assistance it provided to the Government of Barbados to help facilitate public consultation sessions on the LBS Protocol. He stated he would continue to encourage his Government to support the LBS Protocol and informed the Meeting that he was waiting on Cabinet to complete the ratification process so that they could accede to the Protocol. He encouraged Parties to honor arrears to ensure the CTF can enable the Secretariat to function efficiently. Those Members in arrears could also sponsor the cost of additional staff to help the Secretariat function better and continue to deliver quality work. He also stated that CREW was one of the most substantial projects for the region considering the impact of wastewater on the region especially in terms of the quality of water and its importance to tourism. He also asked to learn more about the lessons learned from the wetlands project that was conducted in St Lucia, which he believed would help the Government of Barbados in their own efforts regarding housing programs and management of near shore marine resources.
 55. The Chair thanked Barbados for its practical suggestion on how Parties can help defray the cost of the Secretariat.
 56. The Chairperson invited Mrs. Alessandra Vanzella-Khoury of the Secretariat to present the "Status of Implementation of the Work plan and Budget for the SPAW Regional Programme for the 2008-2009 Biennium", also contained in UNEP(DEPI) IG.29/ INF.3. She noted the work plan had been developed by the Fourth Scientific and Technical Advisory Committee Meeting (STAC) and approved by the Fifth Meeting of the Contracting Parties to SPAW, both convened in 2008 by the Secretariat. In addition to these two major meetings under the implementation of the SPAW Protocol, the Secretariat also convened the Meeting on the Guidelines and Criteria for the Evaluation of Protected Areas to be Listed under the Protocol, Gosier, Guadeloupe, 1 July 2008 with the support of the Regional Activity Centre (RAC) and the Government of France.
 57. She noted the SPAW Programme was supported by a Programme Officer and an Assistant based at the Secretariat in Jamaica, as well as additional staff provided by the Government of France in 2009 for the SPAW RAC in Guadeloupe, including the new Director for the RAC, Ms. Helene Souan. She highlighted the substantive technical and financial support received from the SPAW RAC during the biennium in several programmatic areas which greatly facilitated the delivery of priority activities within the Work plan, and thanked the RAC team and the Government of France for their important contribution.
 58. Among the major agreements developed, she mentioned those with the Gulf and Caribbean Fisheries Institute for the CaMPAM activities, with the SPAW RAC and with UNOPS for the implementation of the Pilot project under the GEF UNDP/IOC/UNESCO Caribbean Large Marine Ecosystem (CLME) Project. Additionally she highlighted the enhanced coordination with a number of organizations, namely CABI, IUCN-Caribbean, BirdLife International, WIDECAST, the US Marine Mammal Commission, US NOAA and the Secretariats of the Ramsar and Interamerican Sea Turtle (IAC) Conventions.
 59. With regard to the programme area related to the Strengthening of Protected Areas, she highlighted the work carried out to support MPAs in several countries through the Caribbean Marine Protected Areas Management Network and Forum (CaMPAM) and as summarized in document UNEP (DEPI) INF.5. She noted that through the CaMPAM Training of Trainers Programme two additional regional courses had been delivered where 32 MPA practitioners from 14 Caribbean countries received capacity building on all aspects of MPA management and whom subsequently were receiving seed funding to carry out training activities and disseminate lessons learnt at the local level. She also informed the meeting about the updating of information in the MPA database for at least 40 MPAs of the region and the increased membership in the CaMPAM list serve and partners.
 60. On the development of Guidelines under the Protocol requirements she mentioned that the criteria for assessing exemptions under Article 11.2 were delayed until the next biennium as the Secretariat focused on the finalization of the Guidelines for listing protected areas under the SPAW Protocol (adopted at COP in August 2008) and subsequently on the implementation of the Pilot Project to test the Guidelines and the Annotated Format for reporting, which had now resulted in 9 Protected Areas proposed by Parties to be listed under the Protocol, as reflected in UNEP(DEPI).IG.29/3.
 61. Regarding conservation of threatened and endangered species, important progress was achieved in the biennium with the Marine Mammal Action Plan (MMAP), having been adopted by COP5 in 2008 and subsequently initiating its implementation with priority activities such as the 3 Workshops to build capacity to respond to strandings, for Dutch, French and Spanish speaking countries (see UNEP (DEPI) IG.29/INF.4). Additionally, a grant from the US Marine Mammal Commission was received for whale watching information gathering and capacity building and the publication of the updated manatee regional management plan. The Sea Turtle Recovery Plan for Panama was published with WIDECAST and those for Trinidad and St. Vincent are almost completed. Additional tools for sea turtle conservation were also produced addressing issues such as management of nesting beaches and monitoring practices.
 62. Additional major publications produced on species conservation issues included the Important Bird Areas of the

Caribbean with Birdlife International and the first Regional Atlas for Sea Turtle Nesting Beaches with WIDECAS.

63. The Secretariat also mentioned the collaboration with the Inter-American Convention for the Conservation of Sea Turtles (IAC) on the regional strategy and Workshop for Hawksbill Turtles in the Caribbean (Cancun, September 2009) and with CABI on the implementation of the GEF Project for the development of a strategy for Invasive Species in the insular Caribbean, in particular to support the marine invasive component of the project and facilitate the transfer of lessons learnt to other countries.
64. The area of work on Sustainable Management of Coastal and Marine Ecosystems focused on the promotion of the International Year of the Reef in 2008, support to the sub regional node for coral reef monitoring in the Southern Tropical Americas and finalization of the arrangements for the Reef Biodiversity and Reef Fisheries Pilot Project of the regional GEF CLME Project. This included finalizing agreement with UNOPS for implementation of the Pilot Project and support to the selected sites (Seaflower Biosphere Reserve, Pedro Bank and Haiti/Dominican Republic) with development of work plans to be implemented in 2010-2011.
65. The SPAW RAC announced that the team had been strengthened and 4 people (a director, 2 project coordinators and 1 assistant) were now working on a full-time basis at the RAC and the financial support from the government of France was intensified. The staff had also been renewed, with the arrival of a new director in July 2009 and of the rest of the staff shortly after. The RAC supported the secretariat with various activities mandated by the STAC and COP. In particular, the RAC coordinated the electronic working groups on guidelines for listing protected areas and on implementation of the marine mammal action plan; helped for fund raising and developed thematic activities (sea turtles, birds, and invasive alien species) with several regional partners. The RAC also participated in the preparation of COP 6, in particular with the review and translation of a number of documents, and contributed to the broadcast and sharing of information with preparation of a newsletter, creation of a dedicated trilingual website, and promotion of the SPAW Protocol and the Cartagena Convention in various meetings, in close collaboration with the Secretariat.
66. The RAC reactivated the working group on guidelines and criteria for protected areas and implemented a pilot project designed to test the annotated format for presenting reports on the protected areas submitted for listing under the SPAW Protocol. After a call for candidates from the SPAW focal points, nine protected areas were selected to participate in the pilot project. A report, using the annotated format, was prepared for each protected area and was transmitted to the RAC, together with the comments of managers and competent authorities regarding the annotated format. On this basis the SPAW RAC, in coordination with the Protected Areas Working Group, prepared a new proposal for an annotated format, as well as the outline of a tool that allows for the online preparation and transmission of these presentation reports. The revised format was adopted by SPAW COP 6 and the nine protected areas that participated in the pilot project were approved as the first group of protected areas to be listed under the SPAW Protocol.
67. The RAC also developed activities for conservation of endangered and threatened species. The MMAP working group was presented with a new mandate and discussions of several thematic issues relevant for the implementation of the MMAP were coordinated by the SPAWRAC. The RAC also assisted to implement various priorities of the MMAP, like the three stranding workshops, the preparation of a workshop on marine mammals watching, and the elaboration together with the Secretariat of proposals to facilitate fundraising. Several partnerships were established or continued in order to implement activities for the conservation of sea turtles and birds. The RAC was also involved in the launching of the establishment of a regional strategy against the Lionfish, together with ICRI and the government of Mexico and with support from NOAA, and in collaboration with CABI's GEF Project on Mitigating the Threats of Invasive Alien Species in the Caribbean.
68. The Delegate of the U.S. stated that they appreciated the activities of the SPAW sub-programme and the work done under the "Conservation of Threatened and Endangered Species" particularly the implementation of "on the ground" activities such as workshops held to improve the capacity of member countries, and others in the region, to respond to marine mammal strandings and the development of tools in support of marine turtle conservation under the auspices of WIDECAS. They further commended the work completed with the development of information materials in collaboration with WIDECAS and further encouraged the SPAW sub programme to strengthen partnerships and regional synergies with existing as well as new partner organizations. The US delegation also noted the progress of the Sub Programme in the development of pilot projects for the implementation of the guidelines for the management of Marine Protected Areas.
69. The Delegate of the U.S. highlighted the ongoing intervention of the US Government in the management of marine litter particularly in relation to improving public awareness and compliance. This intervention resulted in part from the review of the UNEP Annual Report in 2008. They added that they are currently implementing Small-grants Programme pilot projects within the Wider Caribbean Region including Grenada, Belize, Saint Vincent & the Grenadines and Jamaica and they further highlighted the linkage between this issue and the potential impacts for Marine Protected Areas.
70. The Delegate of the U.S. similarly commended the implementation of the AMEP sub programme activities for the previous biennium, in particular the continued collaboration with

National Oceanic & Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) in the development of National Programmes of Action (NPA) for the countries of the Wider Caribbean Region. They further expressed their support in the implementation of the Caribbean Regional Fund for Wastewater Management (CReW) as countries have expressed the need for innovative financing for wastewater management solutions. The US delegation further informed of potential opportunities for technical expertise exchange and synergies with related programmes by the US government including the water quality work being carried out by the US Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and activities for the new agreement signed between the NOAA and the Caribbean Community for Climate Change Centre (CCCCC) for climate change management within the Wider Caribbean Region.

71. The Delegate of France thanked the Programme Officer for the presentation on the SPAW activities for the 2008-2009 biennium, especially for the good news concerning the development of MPA pilots, which represents many years of effort. The delegate further positively acknowledged the latest ratification of the SPAW protocol by the Government of Guyana. He mentioned two points which needed to be carefully considered in the future: 1) the important issue of reporting; 2) the exemption criteria under article 11.2 of the SPAW Protocol, both points of which are important if the SPAW Protocol is to be effective on the ground. He also suggested that the synergies be improved between the AMEP work on land based sources of pollution, and the SPAW work on marine water quality in the context of the marine mammal environment.
72. The Chairperson invited Ms. Tess Cieux of the Secretariat to present the "Status of Implementation of the Work plan and Budget for the CETA Regional Programme for the 2008-2009 Biennium", also contained in UNEP(DEPI) IG.29/ INF.3. She noted that Decision 1 of the Twelfth Intergovernmental Meeting (2006) had approved the establishment of a Communication, Education Training and Awareness post and that Decision 12 of the Thirteenth Intergovernmental Meeting (2008) had encouraged the CEP to continue to produce and disseminate information products on coastal and marine issues in the Wider Caribbean Region.
73. She outlined the three objectives of the CETA programme: assisting CEP with producing information relevant to the Cartagena Convention and its Protocols; increasing access to marine and coastal resources information throughout the WCR, and supporting public awareness and environmental education campaigns.
74. As examples of supporting the CEP, she cited the communication support to intergovernmental meetings and workshops, the production of LBS Protocol brochures and other materials created in English, Spanish and French to reach a wide range of stakeholders; and, a partnership with the media production consultant firm Urban Arts to create radio and TV PSAs on biodiversity targeted to both the general public and youth audiences.
75. In support of the member states, she cited CETA's work with the CaMPAM Network, the re-organization of the CEP web site, including the new web-based Interactive Project Activity Map, and the creation and/or revision of CEP related web sites for the RACs and GEF REPCar and IWCAM projects.
76. She explained the GEF-IWLEARN project to test a mechanism for networking among a regional cluster of GEF projects in the WCR to document the experiences and lessons learnt in the development, implementation and management of GEF projects in the region. Outputs from the project included a dedicated web site, pilot e-forum, regional workshop for experience sharing, compilation of 13 case studies and a promotional brochure in English and Spanish.
77. In terms of public education and outreach, she described the partnership with Panos Caribbean, and journalist training workshops and seminars which were organized during the biennium including a 2008 media workshop on climate change and the coastal environment of the Caribbean attended by journalists from eight Caribbean countries. She also highlighted the visibility and awareness activities, including workshops, exhibitions, radio and television interviews, which had mobilized the media and the general public around the celebration of various environmental days such as Biodiversity Day, World Environment Day and the 2008 International Year of the Reef.
78. The AMEP Programme Officer presented the Draft of Updated CEP Technical Report 33 presented in UNEP (DEPI)/CAR WG. 32/INF.4 and the "Draft Reporting Template for the Cartagena Convention and its Protocols" UNEP (DEPI)/CAR WG. 32/INF.9/REV 1. He explained that further to the presentation of these draft documents during the ISTAC Meeting in May 2010, these documents were being presented to the Fourteenth IGM for review and subsequent approval.
79. Mr Corbin highlighted the lead role played in the update to Technical Report 33 by the RAC Cimab, including the compilation and analysis of the data and the preparation of the final report. He further chronicled the evolution of the Update to TR33 project by explaining that the update for the TR33 was first requested during the 9th IGM and 2nd LBS ISTAC meetings and further to the development of the methodologies via expert meetings in 2005 and 2006. The report was compiled with data contributed directly from the national and Technical CEP Focal Points, Technical Experts involved in the management of land based sources of pollution, Regional Activity Centres and regional network Institutes. He stated that final comments to this report were submitted by the Governments of Costa Rica, French Guiana, Jamaica Netherlands Antilles, Mexico and the United States, LBS RAC IMA and INVEMAR, Project Managers of the GEFIWCAM & REPCar Projects, PAHO. He reemphasized that the report

represented a culmination of wide scale efforts and that although the process was challenged he explained that the attempt was to within the limitations to compile the most recent and best available information to represent significant improvement to have an overall assessment on the current extent of pollutant loading in the WCR. He then requested that the meeting consider this document as a concluded document in terms of its effort and for guidance as to how this type of information can be captured for future assessments given the limitations. The Delegate of the U.S. commended the work of the CEP and the RAC Cimab and acknowledged the effort in the development of the report and proposed as a way forward that an intercessional working group be formed to continue dialogue for the preparation of recommendations for the next ISTAC to develop further related interventions at the regional level. They recommended that the CEP consider for the next TR33 reporting process to include more comprehensive ambient water quality monitoring and assessments to build further on the work of the Know-Why Network GEF IWCAM and REPCar, INVEMAR, and other nations within the region, that could also form the basis for a common regional wide policy with common methodologies and standards for the assessment of resources critical for national and regional level decision making support.

80. The Delegate of France acknowledged the challenges encountered for the compilation of the report and commended the results of TR33. They suggested that the priority should be for the ratification and entry into force of the LBS Protocol. Subsequently, initial results from TR33 could serve as a reference given the fact that each contracting party would have to be in accordance with article 12 of the protocol that requires Contracting Parties to define their own annexes.
81. The Delegate of the Dominican Republic apprised the meeting of their positive progress towards ratification of the LBS Protocol. Specifically they indicated that the enabling legislative framework for the protocol ratification had been completed and expressed the hope that they would ratify the Protocol in the near future.
82. The AMEP Programme Officer acknowledged the recommendations for TR33 and the Reporting Template. He further requested the endorsement of the template and explained that the format used was designed to be useful and not tedious. He added that the comments received during the 5th LBS ISTAC and the RAC REMPEITC Steering Committee had been incorporated into the current draft under review.
83. The delegate of the U.S. recommended that the Cartagena Convention reporting be done on a biennial basis as a more realistic schedule for member governments. They also suggested that the template format be adjusted to facilitate the insertion of website links for specific sections that will require large quantities of text. They further indicated that part b of section 2 did not match the Convention language and that they would be willing to provide alternative text in this regard.

Additionally, they suggested that for section 6 part b requests for a status update should include the Cartagena Convention and not only the Protocols as currently stated in the document.

84. The Netherlands Antilles endorsed the reporting template and supported the suggestion for biennial reporting. The Delegate further encouraged other Contracting Parties to approve the template as soon as possible as the Convention urgently needs to have a reporting mechanism established.
85. The Delegate of Mexico recommended that the Spanish translation of the reporting template be reviewed and revised to remove inconsistent terms and vague language. She added that there should also be a method for including certification.
86. The Delegate of Antigua & Barbuda endorsed the current format and recommended that the questions in the reporting template prioritize the topics related to the Protocols.
87. The Delegate of France endorsed the previous recommendation on the reporting frequency and reemphasized the need to establish a reporting mechanism for the Convention to enhance its credibility. He also recommended that the Secretariat attempt to mobilize funds to validate the templates and engage in an evaluative process every two years.
88. The Delegate of Barbados endorsed the template and agreed with the previous comments to approve the document during the meeting.
89. In conclusion to the discussion regarding the reporting template, the Delegate of the U.S. proposed to incorporate the required changes and present the revised draft to the meeting. The Antigua Delegate further urged the Secretariat to mobilize funds for participating countries to improve national capacities for reporting.
90. The Ramsar Secretariat congratulated the Secretariat of the Caribbean Environment Programme for the work plan of the SPAW Protocol and the achievements in the biennium. They affirmed that the progress made in the data base for the designations of sites and the Caribbean Challenge Initiative represented a good opportunity to enhance the synergies between the two Conventions under the cooperation agreement. He cited as an example that under both SPAW and RAMSAR, wetlands could be designated as wetlands of international importance, and that like SPAW, RAMSAR also had regional initiatives, such as the Caribbean Initiative, championed by Jamaica and Cuba, and the Mangrove and Coral Reef Initiative, led by Mexico and Ecuador. They expressed the hope that in the near future common actions under these processes could be implemented and strengthened.

AGENDA ITEM 6: REPORT OF THE CHAIR OF THE WORKING GROUP ON THE RULES OF PROCEDURE AND

FINANCIAL RULES OF THE CARIBBEAN ENVIRONMENT PROGRAMME

91. The Chair advised the Meeting that the Government of Mexico would present the report of the Working Group concerning the Appointment of the Executive Director (annex 1 of UNEP(DEPI)/CAR IG30/4 1REV. Chris Corbin then responded on behalf of the Secretariat and informed the Meeting that the previous Working Group established during the 13th IGM led by the United States had completed their job at the last Meeting for both the Rules of Procedure and Financial Rules and that only two paragraphs remained unresolved, specifically the bracketed text of Rule 41 and the Rule pertaining to the Executive Director. He stated that this formed the basis for the establishment of the intercessional working group led by Mexico. He then proceeded to explain the process that followed the 13th IGM, specifically in reply to Decision 5 that stated approval of the Final Rules and Rules of Procedure with the exception of the aforementioned paragraphs and that the Secretariat was requested to incorporate all comments from the meeting and resend the document to the Parties in particular those absent from the 13th IGM. He further stated that the compiled document was then distributed to all Member States and comments received from a few countries. This compiled document was presented to this Meeting and that further to minor formatting corrections that it was now for the Meeting to decide on how to proceed with the bracketed text.
92. The Delegate of the U.S. suggested that the Meeting adopt the Rules of Procedure as they were with the brackets surrounding Rule 41 (Rule of Decision). He stated that if the bracketed text was accepted, then by default, the rule of decision would be consensus. He also mentioned the lack of intercessional comments, as only two countries responded. This could be considered an indicator for the adoption of the document as is.
93. The Delegate of the Netherlands Antilles thanked the US for the proposal and gave their full support to simply adopt the Rules and Procedures and to continue taking decisions by consensus until that changed.
94. The Delegate of Cuba stated that there were previous instances of documents being adopted with bracketed text but that this was not ideal in the current case especially since it pertained to the making of decisions. In order to get further information and clarification, his delegation therefore wanted to hear from those Parties who wished to proceed with the bracketed text retained.
95. The Delegate of Mexico thanked the Coordinator for the enthusiastic and active work on the activities pertaining to the care of the Caribbean Region. The Delegate also stated that the Secretariat was one of the most active of the Regional Seas Programmes despite the constraints mentioned by the Coordinator. She informed the Meeting that Mexico was the president of the Working Group established at the Thirteenth IGM and that they had conducted extensive research and information gathering from the different multilateral agreements pertaining to the replacement of the executive director (UNEP DEPI CAR IG30/INF4 REV 1) and therefore they made the following recommendations:
96. To write a decision in which it is expressed that we, the Contracting Parties of the Cartagena Convention, decide to make an agreement with UNEP such that whenever the position of the Executive Secretary of the Secretariat becomes vacant, the Executive Director of UNEP would nominate a candidate who possessed the characteristics and qualifications expressed by the Parties, represented by the Monitoring Committee. Concerning the evaluation of the Director's performance, the Executive Director of UNEP would submit an evaluation report to the Monitoring Committee which would then be reviewed. After consultation, the Monitoring Committee would then submit a final performance report. When reviewing the Director's contract, the UNEP Executive Director could then decide whether it be extended or revoked, after consultation with the Monitoring Committee. The Delegate informed the Meeting that a document prepared on the matter by the Delegation of Mexico was available for review.
97. The Delegate of Cuba stated that the purpose of meetings such as the 14th Intergovernmental Meeting was to discuss proposals presented by any State. The intention of Mexico was however unclear and he asked whether the issue was how the mandate of the Executive Secretary for the Secretariat would work and whether they were now proposing to remove the Secretary of the Convention from his position. He then informed the meeting that his Delegation was not in a position to have such discussions at the Meeting and felt it was a topic that could be raised for further discussion in the future.
98. The Delegate of Mexico responded that the proposal was not to remove the Executive Secretary, but that the proposal referred to what was requested at the Thirteenth IGM: that the Working Group, which they chaired, research the mandate of the Executive Secretary of other Multilateral Environmental Agreements (MEA). The Delegate from the Netherlands Antilles further confirmed that there appeared to be no intention to remove the current Executive Secretary particularly in light of the good work that had been done. He further explained that these discussions originated from the previous IGM meeting where it was agreed among parties to remove the paragraph in the Rules of Procedure regarding the Replacement of the Coordinator and establish a working group to do more research and seek clarification as this was a substantive area in which there was difficulty arriving at a consensus. He added that in consideration of this it would not be necessary to finalize this issue immediately but rather to focus on the adoption of the Rules of Procedure and the finalization of Rule 41 that is in bracketed text.

99. The Delegate of St. Lucia informed the Meeting that they had reviewed the paragraph prepared by the Government of Mexico regarding the Replacement of the Coordinator but had significant issues with the translation that had been done from Spanish to English, which made reading and understanding the document very difficult.
100. The Delegate of France echoed similar sentiments and suggested that further research be done and the issue raised with UNEP on the best approach in the event that the post became vacant. He also proposed that given the importance of the Executive Secretary's post to the region and Parties, Parties could be nominated to serve on a board that would assess candidates for the position. The French Delegation also highlighted that there were 57 draft rules in the document and since there were issues of concern with only two or three items the Meeting could approve the non-contentious items and review the others at a later date. The US delegation considered that there were a number of issues that would need further thinking here, indicated that there might be merit in the proposal for the region to be involved in the decision-making process for the post, and expressed their desire to participate further in any further dialogue regarding this issue.
101. The Chair reminded the Meeting that there was another matter, Rule 41 (Decision Making), to be discussed and asked the Meeting if the bracketed text should be adopted. The Delegate from the Netherlands Antilles stated a preference for option 1a (decision by consensus) rather than 1b (decision by super majority). He stated that the Meeting was unable to make a final decision at the previous IGM and was unsure if that would change at this Meeting. His Delegation was however prepared to support the adoption of the document with the bracketed text. The Cuban Delegate further suggested that option 1a be accepted, option 1b deleted and the document accepted on that basis. The Antigua and Barbuda Delegation however, favoured option 1b, as did the Mexican Delegation. The Barbuda Delegation expressed that they considered 1b to be more substantive than 1a which they felt required more work in terms of phrasing. They recommended that a small Contact Group be established to deliberate on the options and report to the Meeting.
102. The Delegate of the U.S. explained its intercessional comment that in Rule 26 of the Rules of Procedure, "on an annual basis" should be changed to "on a bi-annual basis" or other words meaning every two years. The delegation explained that the reason for this suggestion was for consistency with Rule 19 of the Financial Rules, which specifies reports every two years rather than annually.
103. The Chair asked the Delegation from Antigua and Barbuda to convene the Contact Group to review the options and provide a report to the Meeting before it ended. The Cuban Delegate reminded the Chair that the Contact Group needed a mandate in order to bring a resolution. This mandate was given by the Chair who also encouraged the Antigua and Barbuda Delegation to reformulate the language of the options into text that might be satisfactory to all Parties.
104. The Delegate of Cuba stated that since the Mexican Proposal had not been circulated to the meeting following the deliberations of the Contact Group, copies should be made available to the Meeting in all three languages in order to have clarity on the proposal from Mexico. The Coordinator of the Secretariat responded that Mexico had provided their presentation in all three languages and that the Secretariat would print copies for immediate distribution to the Delegates. The proposed decision was distributed before the end of the Meeting. He also added that the Contact Group to review the ROP for Decision 41 would have to be mandated to complete this. The Secretariat responded favourably to the recommendations of the member States.
105. The Delegate from the Bahamas announced that the documents for accession to the Cartagena Convention and the LBS Protocol had been deposited in Colombia on 11th June, bringing the total of countries which have ratified LBS to 9, the number needed for entry into force. 25 out of 28 countries have now ratified the Cartagena Convention. The delegate from the Bahamas also confirmed that they hoped to be ratifying the SPAW Protocol in the near future.
106. The Secretariat formally welcomed the Government of the Bahamas to the Convention, and thanked them for being loyal supporters of the Caribbean Environment Fund.
107. The Delegate of Antigua & Barbuda then presented on the results of the Contact Group convened to review Rule 41 of the Rules of Procedure. He stated that the group was comprised of delegates from the Governments of Antigua & Barbuda, Costa Rica, Cuba, Dominican Republic, Mexico, Netherlands Antilles, and the U.S.A. Further to discussions, they arrived at the consensus that Rule 41 a & b should be re submitted to the general meeting to assess any strong objections to either option by the other delegates.
108. The Chairman in response to the request proposed that the brackets be removed from paragraph 41a and that 41b be removed.
109. The Cuba delegate added that there was also an amendment to the wording of the text in Rule 41 a. The delegations of Antigua & Barbuda and the United States verified this amendment.
110. The Delegate of the U.S. further advised that in accordance with Article 20 of the Convention regarding unanimous consensus that the Secretariat gather formal approval within a reasonable timeline from all of the Member States including those absent from the proceedings.
111. The Delegate of Mexico proposed that since there was agreement on Rule 26 regarding biennial reporting of the CTF that the remaining brackets around Rule 26 should be

- removed to ensure a clean document. The Delegate of Antigua & Barbuda endorsed this proposal.
112. The Delegate of Cuba emphasized that in the formal communication to absent Contracting Parties that it is clearly indicated that the rules of procedure will not be reopened for further discussion but rather for approval and if no objection is presented then that would be considered as approval. He recommended that a decision be drafted mandating the Secretariat to proceed in this manner.
 113. The Delegate of France indicated that the rules of procedure have been under discussion for a significant period of time and recommended that the Contracting Parties focus on substantive aspects as opposed to formatting issues. He further recommended that all non contentious articles be approved.
 114. The Delegate of Mexico reminded the meeting that given the previous approval of the Financial Rules during the previous IGM that the final adoption process should be the same for the Rules of procedure.
 115. The Delegate of Netherlands Antilles emphasized that the request for approval should be sent to parties clearly stating that where no response or objection by absent parties is received, it will be assumed rules of procedure will be adopted as agreed at this meeting. The Government of Cuba endorsed this proposal. The Mexican delegate added to the Netherlands Antilles position by stating that it would be necessary to receive formal acknowledgement of document receipt. This proposal was endorsed by the United States delegation. The United States also encouraged the Secretariat to follow up with non-present Parties as appropriate to secure express approval rather than tacit approval if possible.
 116. The Chairman proposed that the Secretariat send the latest version of the Rules of procedure to the 5 absent parties to indicate their approval or non-objection, with acknowledgement of receipt and statement of approval within 60 days. After that it would be considered approved by all parties if no objections were received.
 117. The Chairman added that in respect to the Executive Secretary (Coordinator) that it appeared there was no issue with regard to the rule itself, but rather as to how the Parties to the Convention would be involved. She added that the Secretariat should endeavour to determine from UNEP Headquarters ways to involve Contracting Parties to the Convention in this decision. She proposed that Mexico continue with this consultation through a Working Group to receive information from the Secretariat to present at the 15th IGM. The Delegate of Mexico expressed their continued commitment to continue consultation on the issue and to provide information at the next meeting.
 118. In response to the Reporting Template for the Cartagena Convention Group the Delegate of the U.S. indicated that no other Member States had approached for further dialogue and therefore all of their suggested comments were submitted to the Secretariat for the preparation of a revised draft.
 119. In response to the working group for Technical Report 33 the Delegate of the U.S. met with representatives of Barbados, France and the secretariat and it was agreed that the existing version would be accepted and this would be sent to the Member States to facilitate comments within a 3-4week period. It was further suggested that an open intercessional working group be established to advise or make recommendations to the LBS STAC for onward submission to the next IGM and a formal technical group established at the 15th IGM to address article 6 and 7 under LBS protocol
 120. The Delegate of Mexico indicated their willingness to assist with the improved translation of the TR33 into Spanish to make that version more acceptable and standardized.
- AGENDA ITEM 7: WORKPLAN AND BUDGET FOR THE CARIBBEAN ENVIRONMENT PROGRAMME FOR THE 2010-2011 BIENNIUM**
121. The Secretariat was invited to present a summary of its 2008-09 financial activities and present its financial position at the close of the biennium. The presentation was delivered by the Fund Manager of UNEP/DEPI, lending support to the Secretariat in the absence of a duly appointed Administrative Officer.
 122. He reported that overall expenditures of the Cartagena Trust Fund (CTF) totalled USD 2,223,980 while cash contributions received over the same period totalled USD 2,385,373. The closing cash balance of the CTF totalled USD 2,263,339, with the balance of unpaid pledges as of 31-12-2009 totalling USD 1,652,079.
 123. An expenditure analysis by type of expense incurred by the Secretariat was presented to the Parties.
 124. The Fund Manager drew the attention of the audience to the decline of resources channelled through the Cartagena Convention Extra Budgetary contributions (QCL) with the conclusion of the main donor contribution (SIDA-Sweden) agreement.
 125. The increasing importance of the Global Environment Facility (GEF) in the activity of the Secretariat, representing 69% of its total expenditures in 2009, was also brought to the attention of the Parties.

126. The Fund Manager placed special emphasis on the importance of establishing a strong coherence between Approved POW-Approved Budget-Total Pledges-Contributions. He emphasized that unless this link was established and consistently maintained, the Secretariat would have to adopt an extremely conservative management of its own resources, at the expense of projects which might have been considered under a more pro active budget management.
127. The proposed 2010-11 budget was then presented to the Parties.
128. He explained that the budget had been constructed based on the 2008-09 budgets, according to a principle of no real growth. Thus only an inflation rate of 7.2% for expenses incurred locally (2009 inflation rate in Jamaica) and 3% on International Staff costs (UNEP costing) were applied to the budget of the previous biennium.
129. The proposal submitted to the Parties for approval was a budget for the CTF amounting to USD 1,831,219 in 2010 and USD 1,762,487 in 2011.
130. In his recommendations, the Fund Management Officer called for the approval of a one-time three year budget in order to re-establish consistency between the approval of the POW/Budget and the respective period. This would imply that the IGM be reconvened in 2012 for the approval of the 2013-14 budgets. The Fund Manager also recalled the importance of the Parties honouring their pledges promptly.
131. In line with his recommendation the Fund Management Officer presented a 2012 budget for the CTF amounting to USD 2,019,079 with its corresponding analysis of cost by type of expense.
132. In light of the above, and provided that the Parties agreed to restore coherence between budget approval and agreed pledges, the current cash balance in the Trust Fund could then be reduced from USD 2,263,339 to USD 1,000,000, thus establishing an official CTF reserve of the latter amount.
133. Finally, the Fund Manager reiterated the need for the Pledges to match the Approved Budget and the Contribution to match the Pledges, in order to facilitate work planning and improve funds utilization. For 2010-11 the difference between approved budget and actual contributions could be absorbed by the current reserve, thereby leaving the pledges of the Parties unchanged in 2010, with an increase of 6% in 2011.
134. Beginning in 2012, the Parties should either increase their pledges to match the total proposed POW/budget of approximately US\$ 2 million, or renegotiate the POW/budget to correspond to the amount of their proposed pledges.
135. With respect to Recommendation 1, the Coordinator informed the meeting that it would be appropriate to synchronize the Secretariat's budget and work and asked the Meeting to approve the Addendum to the budget at the next IGM in 2012, so that they could approve the new budget for 2012-2013.
136. The Delegate of Barbados informed the Meeting that their Delegation had no difficulty with the proposal that the budget be approved prior to the year started. Other Parties such as the USA, France and the Netherlands Antilles also supported this proposal. The USA stated however that they would have some comments on some of the budget numbers proposed by the Secretariat.
137. The Chairperson concluded that all countries seemed to support the proposal of the Secretariat and proposed to adopt it and review the next recommendation.
138. With regard to Recommendation Two, the Delegate from France suggested that the budget of the Secretariat also include supplemental information on the commitments and volume of contributions to the RACs, as they participated actively in the implementation of the CEP work plan. He expressed disappointment that the budgets of the 4 RACs had not been included in the IGM documents, and explained that even contributions not transiting through UNEP should nevertheless be reflected. The Delegation of the USA agreed that the budget should include the financial resources provided to the RACs as they make a strong contribution to the Secretariat. They also thanked all the Members and countries providing support to the RAC.
139. The Coordinator of the Secretariat supported the request by the Parties for the inclusion of the expenses and funding from the RACs for the activities on behalf of the various Protocols, as this would provide a clearer breakdown of what expenditures were covered through the CTF, and what was covered by the extraordinary contributions and contributions to the RACs.
140. The Delegate from St. Lucia asked if approving Recommendation 2 would imply that the Meeting was also approving the increase in payments of 6% requested for 2011-2012.
141. The Secretariat, through the Fund Management Officer, responded that the 6% increase was a reflection of what would be needed to meet the budget. The estimate is based on previous experience on how pledges are gradually increased. He also clarified that how Parties meet the cost is a separate issue from the approval of the budget.
142. The Delegate of the U.S. requested to change the word "must" in the 2nd and 4th bullets as pledges are voluntary contributions. They then stated that it might not be possible to achieve the 6% increase in the current economic climate, and that since UNEP had adopted a budget with a 0% increase, this fact should be reflected in the CEP budget. They encouraged all Parties to make every effort to pay contributions.
143. The Coordinator of the Secretariat responded to say that the requests of the Parties had been noted and that he was happy

- to see all the support from the Parties to the suggestion from France. He stated that the recommended revisions to the text would be incorporated into the documents and presented at the 15th IGM with a table reflecting the contributions to the RACs. The Fund Management Officer also reiterated the commitment of the Secretariat to changing the wording of the text. He stated that the budget presented by the Secretariat was a no-growth budget, i.e. based on inflation. He informed the Parties that discussions could be held on how to reach consensus on the inflation rate applied.
144. The Delegate of the U.S. sought clarification on whether the final bullet implied that governments should continue to renew extraordinary contributions. The Secretariat responded by stating that the paragraph seeks to encourage Parties to revive this funding mechanism which is currently losing momentum.
145. The Delegate of France pointed out the incongruousness of having to make decisions on the budget before seeing all the activities being proposed for 2010-2011. For example, the CATREC project had been included in the budget and constituted a significant portion, but the project itself had not yet been discussed or validated. He emphasized the necessity of discussing existing or future regional opportunities, such as the Caribbean Challenge, and GEF-5, before deciding on the validation of the budget. Moreover, he stipulated that since the documents had not been transmitted in advance, to allow for a proper review, the 6% increase could not be validated at this time.
146. The Chair stated that she was mindful of the comments made by France regarding the RACs and the regional activities, and reminded the meeting that the focus should be to review the general document rather than to go into the specifics of the budget. She also indicated that the GEF 5 representative was available and time permitting, would make a presentation on some of the opportunities for collaboration and coordination.
147. Given the comments, she concluded that the recommendations could be validated, taking into consideration the comments and proposals of the Parties.
148. The Delegate of the U.S. encouraged the continued increase in extra budgetary contributions to the Secretariat in order to promote alignment of the Secretariat's work with the needs of the Convention and hoped that would be an acceptable way forward.
149. The Delegates of Mexico and Colombia supported the position of France that documents, especially those pertaining to the Secretariat's finances, be made available ahead of time to allow sufficient time for review and include more details to ensure greater clarity of the information presented. The Government of Colombia also stated the need to have the documents available in Spanish.
150. The delegate from Jamaica asked how the entry into force of the LBS Protocol would be reflected in the budget and the work plan, for such expenses as the holding of a COP. The Secretariat, through the AMEP Programme Officer, responded by stating that with the entry of the LBS Protocol into force, savings rather than additional expenses were likely to be realized as funding would only have to be provided to the Parties of the Protocol rather than to all the Parties. He further stated that there might be a one day COP similar to that of SPAW but this would have to be discussed by Delegates in order to agree on the best and most cost effective approach.
151. The Fund Manager of UNEP/DEPI also presented the human resources structure of the Secretariat for the biennium 2010-11. The staff head count of the Secretariat was presented according to source of funding, representing a total of 24 staff members. The only foreseen changes in the staff head count of the Secretariat will concern positions funded by project budgets.
152. The Chair invited the Programme Officers to make a presentation on their Work plan starting with the AMEP Programme Officer, Christopher Corbin. In his preamble, he stated that contributions from the LBS RACs were provided in the individual RAC reports and informed the Meeting that he had noted the recommendation to include the RAC's financial status in the general budget of the Secretariat. He advised Delegates that they could review the RAC reports which were available on the CEP website.
153. Mr. Corbin presented an overview of the AMEP Sub Programme and information on the various project activities as well as the resource implications of the LBS Protocol entering into force. He stated that emphasis would now be placed on implementation of the Protocol thanks to the accession of the Bahamas which had brought the LBS Protocol into force. He indicated that greater emphasis would be placed on the sharing of best practices and lessons learnt through close collaboration with CETA, and more capacity building at the country level for the implementation of the Protocol. He further stated that the RACs would play a keen role in this regard, assisting with the implementation of agreements and helping to identify new sources of contributions and partnerships.
154. Mr. Corbin shared that the Secretariat had been selected as the ideal location to host a Clearing House Mechanism for the GEF IWCAM project, and that the GEF IWCAM Project Manager would help ensure that the benefits of the project would be brought to the Ministerial level among countries of the Wider Caribbean Region.
155. Mentioning the CReW project in partnership with IDB, which is expected to receive approval from the GEF within the next few weeks, he expressed confidence that the project could be expanded in the future for the benefit of additional countries.

156. The SPAW Programme Officer presented the planned projects of the Specially Protected Areas and Wildlife (SPAW) Regional Programme for 2010-2011, with the comments provided by the recently concluded SPAW COP6 (Montego Bay, 5 October 2010). She outlined the background decisions leading to the proposed Work plan and noted that more detailed descriptions of the activities, including individual budgets, were contained in the work plan document presented and adopted with changes by COP6 (UNEP(DEPI)/CAR IG.29/4). Within the framework of coordination activities under SPAW, she mentioned the close coordination and collaboration with the SPAW Regional Activity Centre (RAC) for the implementation of many of the activities and thanked the Government of France for the additional support provided through the RAC, which would enhance implementation of activities during the biennium.
157. Coordination will continue with relevant Conventions, programmes and organizations as well as collaborative arrangements with existing and emerging regional or global initiatives relevant to SPAW.
158. She noted that under the area of Strengthening of Protected Areas, major focus will continue to be provided to the building capacity in MPAs via CaMPAM through the Training of Trainers Programme, the exchanges among sites, the Small Grants Fund for targeted assistance and the development of a mentorship programme to facilitate more long term assistance. This work will be greatly supported and enhanced through the funding received for the biennium from the Government of Italy in support of the Caribbean Challenge regional activities. The Programme Officer also provided a brief presentation on the background and major elements of the Caribbean Challenge Initiative and the synergies with the SPAW Programme and CaMPAM. She explained that the SPAW activities in support of the Challenge would be focused primarily on strengthening countries capacities on MPA management and networks (national or trans boundary), harmonisation of approaches and indicators, exchanges and transfer of lessons learnt and database enhancement. She noted that this presented an important opportunity to the region to make further progress on the protection of marine areas and the building of biologically representative networks of MPAs.
159. With regard to the Development of Guidelines component of the Work plan, she highlighted the progress made with the Pilot Project for listing Protected Areas (PA) under the Protocol and the Decisions by COP6 to continue the process to formally list the proposed PAs with the support of the SPAW RAC. This will include building the database in synergy with the CaMPAM database. The development of guidelines to assess the exemptions under Article 11(2) will be considered as a priority and following the mandate of COP6, a process to initiate the review of species under the Criteria adopted in 2004 will also be initiated. To this end working groups will be established as soon as possible, in keeping with the decisions of SPAW COP6.
160. In the area of Conservation of Species, she described the main activities to be implemented in support of the Marine Mammal Action Plan (MMAP) including follow-up to the stranding workshops, a whale watching regional workshop and specific actions to support implementation of national sea turtle recovery plans. She also mentioned the efforts and opportunity to advance the MMAP implementation through a proposal under Life Web with funding from the Government of Spain and noted the Secretariat will continue to work on that regard. The work on invasive species will include continuing the collaboration with CABI on the UNEP/GEF regional project for the insular Caribbean on invasive species management, in particular to contribute to the element marine invasives and to facilitate the transfer of lessons learnt from this project to other countries in the region. Additionally, the Secretariat will continue to collaborate with partners on the issue of lion fish control. The major activities to be implemented under the Conservation of Coastal and Marine Ecosystems include the implementation of the activities under the Reef Biodiversity Pilot Project of the GEF CLME Project. This will include actions towards strengthening the management frameworks and governance at the Sea flower Biosphere Reserve (Colombia) and Pedro Bank (Jamaica), as well as harmonising fisheries management in a transboundary site between Haiti and Dominican Republic. Coordination will also continue with ICRI and to the extent that resources are available continue the support to the sub regional coral reef monitoring nodes under the Global Coral Reef Monitoring Network (GCRMN). In presenting the budget she noted that funding for 2010 had been secured for the implementation of all activities, but the same was not the case for activities in 2011, in particular for funding coming from the Caribbean Trust Fund (CTF) as this will be dependent on the level of contributions to the CTF.
161. Several delegations congratulated the Secretariat for the comprehensive and balanced programme of work which placed equal emphasis on activities on the ground, as well as activities in support of Protocol implementation such as the listing on PA and the Guidelines for assessing exemptions. The delegation of the US was particularly pleased.
162. The Delegate of France congratulated the Secretariat.
163. Due to the lateness of the hour, the CETA Programme Officer abbreviated her presentation on the activities being planned for the Communication, Education, Training and Awareness regional programme for 2010-2011. She explained that the focus for CETA during the biennium would be placed on activities to accomplish four main goals: media recognition, public outreach and environmental education, resource mobilization, and serving as regional partner for GEF-IWLEARN
164. In terms of media recognition, CETA will be targeting outreach to specialized media, such as the Spanish-speaking TV stations; developing permanent relationships with prominent media partners, such as the Jamaica radio station Power 106,

which would be broadcasting the afternoon Biodiversity Panel; and, finally, representing the region and its interest in global media events. As an example of this last point, she mentioned the 5th International Marine Debris Conference, to be held in March, 2011 in Hawaii, co-hosted by UNEP and NOAA. Both she and the AMEP Programme Officer are involved in the organization of the event, and will ensure that the important work in the region on marine litter, such as the pilot activities in Barbados, Guyana and Saint Lucia, is showcased during the Conference.

165. As an example of public education and outreach, she cited the Jamaica Children's Painting competition launched in Jamaica this year, to raise awareness on the importance of protecting the marine environment. Through a partnership with Urban Arts Institute, and in association with Puerto Rico, CEP hopes to receive a grant from Fundacion Biodiversidad in the amount of 25,000 Euros to finance the second phase of a media outreach programme on biodiversity.
166. The Meeting thanked the Secretariat for the proposed comprehensive and focused Work plan presented. The US delegation congratulated AMEP for its successes with the IWCAM project and indicated their desire for continued collaboration. They inquired about the level of funding that the Secretariat would have to contribute towards the EU funded Climate Change adaptation Project for Jamaica and noted it would be cause for concern if substantial. They also expressed concern about the CATREC Proposal and requested more specific information, including concerns regarding the possible creation of a new centre. The Delegate of France stated that priority should be given to the existing RAC-REMPEITC.
167. The Delegate of Jamaica also noted the Secretariat's efforts to integrate climate change into the work programme based on discussions held during the Thirteenth IGM. They realized that the vulnerabilities inherent in climate change and which needed to be addressed were consistent with the mandate of the Secretariat. The question now was whether the requisite capacity existed to implement the required actions and to take advantage of the current and future funding opportunities available such as the Special GEF Climate Fund and the Copenhagen Green Climate Fund. They also shared that Jamaica had been able to certify their national institution for accessing funds under the Adaptation Fund and looked forward to cooperation and collaboration with the Secretariat
168. The Secretariat responded to the question asked by the US Delegation on the level of co-financing given under the European Union's climate change proposal and responded that due to intensive negotiations the Secretariat's co-financing obligations were limited to in-kind contributions which amount to US\$180,000 in in-kind and staff support over two years. The Secretariat noted the concerns relayed with regards to the CATREC proposal and suggested that it will not be included in the 2010-2011 work plan but used instead as a basis for

informing the strengthening of RAC REMPEITC and identifying other opportunities for building capacity in the region.

169. With regard to the SPAW Programme the Delegate of the U.S. thanked the Regional Activity Centre for the assistance they provided on the implementation of the Secretariat's programmes and noted these were worthwhile projects that would provide valuable contributions to the conservation and management of species and habitats. They also commended the Secretariat's attempt to focus the Programme of Work and Budget on "on-the-ground" activities. They were pleased to see obvious attempts to find synergies with other organizations in the region in order to find linkages within activities. They paid particular attention to the historic link between SPAW and WIDECAST, a flagship programme of the Protocol.
170. The Delegate of France expressed their satisfaction with the ambitious work programme of SPAW and noted they attached great importance to implementation of the Protocol, such as the formal listing of the nine proposed protected areas. They stated their interest in the Caribbean Challenge Initiative and requested additional information from TNC on components of the project such as the creation of a regional fund for protected areas and the management of that fund. The Delegation informed the Meeting that a study had been conducted in the region regarding protection of biodiversity in the Wider Caribbean with respect to biological corridors.
171. The Delegate of France also announced, on behalf of France and the Ministers of the Overseas Territories, that the Agoa Sanctuary for Marine Mammals was being declared in the waters of the French Antilles, including the Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ) and the territorial waters of Saint Martin, Martinique and Guadeloupe. The Agoa Sanctuary will be supported by local authorities, local fishermen, scientists, practitioners, public centres and associations in charge of studying and preserving marine mammals.
172. The Chair commended France on this initiative and encouraged other countries to follow France's example and establish similar sanctuaries.
173. The Delegate of the Netherlands Antilles congratulated the Secretariat on past and proposed work and activities. He also extended congratulations to France on their initiative to declare a marine mammal sanctuary and welcomed the opportunity to collaborate with them in the future on marine mammal status and research in the Caribbean. He stated that the Netherlands Antilles was also working on a management plan in the EEZ and on establishing a sanctuary for marine mammals. The Delegate welcomed Guyana and The Bahamas to the Cartagena Convention, and thanked them for making it possible for the LBS Protocol to enter into force.
174. The Delegate of the Netherlands Antilles stated they had some issues with the AMEP work plan and agreed with the Government of the USA that the CATREC initiative might be

better in the context of strengthening the RAC REMPEITC in Curacao. He commented that the RAC had done a lot of work on the global ballast water initiative and was being asked to do more work although their capacity was limited. He mentioned that in the past the RAC had a secondment from Venezuela and France and requested that other countries second people to the RAC in Curacao to help it address all the issues it works on.

175. With respect to the work plan and the planning of a workshop on pollution and marine mammals, the Delegate of the Netherlands Antilles thought the workshop would lend itself to a possible collaboration with the LBS Protocol given that it addresses pollution, and run-off from pesticides which are issues that also affect marine mammals. This would be a good opportunity to link the two protocols, and if staged, the Delegate recommended that the workshop include expertise from the REPCar Project and from Tech. Report 33 in which water quality monitoring of pollution is addressed. They also indicated that when studying pollution and contaminants marine mammals might be the perfect indicator species to identify when the marine environment is polluted.
176. With regard to the Caribbean Large Marine Ecosystem (CLME) Project and the strengthening of MPAs, the Delegate stated that the Netherlands Antilles had recently designated the Saba Bank as a Protected Area. Under this protected areas large tankers would no longer be allowed to anchor on the bank. The Netherlands Antilles would therefore welcome collaborations with areas such as Pedro Bank (Jamaica) and the SeaFlower Reserve (Colombia), particularly with how to manage large marine areas that are usually far from shore.
177. The Nature Conservancy (TNC) representative informed the Meeting that the Caribbean Challenge had its origins under the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) since 2004. He noted that given TNC's extensive work in a number of countries to establish and support Marine Protected Areas, his organization had been involved with the Caribbean Challenge since its inception. The main components of the Challenge include expanding the protection of MPAs to 20% of the shelf area in each country. The TNC representative stated that one of the goals of the Challenge and TNC was to enable the management of protected areas through the creation of a Biodiversity Fund which acted as a mechanism to address financial shortfalls, with countries matching the amounts issued through the Fund.
178. TNC highlighted the importance of Marine Protected Areas (MPAs) in reducing the vulnerability of coastal areas and stated that maintaining vital coral reefs and mangrove areas was vital to reducing coastal vulnerability. They stated that the Caribbean Challenge had been endorsed on a number of levels – project implementation and national endorsements. Additionally, while the organization had been playing a leadership role in the project, there was the need for broader collaborations with countries interested in participating in the

Challenge and they saw no reason why more territories could not participate.

179. The Delegate of France thanked TNC for providing information on the Caribbean Challenge Initiative. They indicated that the project should be consistent with, and supportive to, the work of the Cartagena Convention and that within that context they expressed their willingness to provide support. They stressed the need for the partners involved in the Initiative to strengthen coordination and asked TNC and the Secretariat to work in that regard.
180. The Secretariat congratulated France on their announcement of the establishment of a Sanctuary for Marine Mammals, stating that it was a major step forward towards safeguarding the region's coastal and marine resources. They also thanked all the Delegates who expressed congratulations for the work that was done in last biennium as well as the work planned for the next biennium.
181. The Secretary of IOCARIBE/UNESCO noted that his organization has had a long history of collaboration with UNEP CEP and under their current respective work plans there were important areas to continue partnering towards the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals in the region. He emphasized their efforts to strengthen capacity of member states for implementation of the LBS Protocol with support from SIDA, as well as the Caribbean Large Marine Ecosystem (CLME). He noted that they would be interested in exploring opportunities for new initiatives and projects, especially in Climate Change Adaptation and Millennium goals for Biodiversity conservation.
182. The Chair invited the Secretariat to present background information on the Ballast Water Management and Strategy (BWM) and REMPEITC activities. The Secretariat presented a summary on the evolution of the development of the Ballast Water strategy including mandates provided by earlier intergovernmental meetings, the role of RAC REMPEITC as a Regional Coordinating Organization and the several national and regional capacity building workshops related to Ballast Water Management. The Secretariat emphasized the importance of the Regional Strategy and the creation of national task forces to help in its implementation, and further encouraged its ratification by IMO member states of the Ballast Water Convention.
183. The Delegate of the U.S. indicated that it supported the activities of the BWM but is not a signatory to the BWM Convention, the USG does not agree with overall objective of the Regional Strategic Action Plan (SAP) listed on page 3 (third bullet from top): "Promote the accession to the BWM Convention by IMO Member States and facilitate its harmonized implementation within the Region." The delegate recommended that the language be restated as follows: "Encourage the accession to the BWM Convention by IMO Member States and facilitate harmonized implementation of

effective BWM strategies and policies within the Region.” The meeting adopted the recommendations without comment.

184. The Secretariat invited the Director of REMPEITC-Caribe to present the recommendations of the 5th Steering Committee meeting for the Oil Spill Protocol as contained in UNEP(DEPI)/CAR IG.30/5. These recommendations were adopted by the IGM. The Secretariat highlighted the significant support offered by the governments of France, the United States and the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela.

185. The Secretariat then presented the recommendations of the 5th LBS ISTAC meeting as contained in document UNEP (DEPI)/CAR WG32.4 Rev1. The meeting adopted the recommendations without comment.

186. The Chair invited delegates to comment on the decisions of the SPAW COP 6. The Secretariat requested final endorsement by the IGM that the decisions be annexed due to its implications for the 2010-2011 work plan and budget. No objections were received and the decisions were duly endorsed by the IGM.

AGENDA ITEM 8: PANEL DISCUSSION ON “BIODIVERSITY: PROVIDING ECONOMIC VALUE TO THE WIDER CARIBBEAN THROUGH ECOSYSTEM SERVICES”

187. On 7 October 2010, as part of the 14th Intergovernmental Meeting on the Action Plan for the Caribbean Environment Programme, and in celebration of the 2010 International Year of Biodiversity, the Caribbean Environment Programme hosted a panel discussion titled “Biodiversity: Providing Economic Value in the Wider Caribbean through Ecosystem Services”. The panel, chaired by Mr. Vincent Sweeney, Regional Project Coordinator of the Integrating Watershed and Coastal Areas Management in the Caribbean (IWCAM) project, represented a broad cross-section of organizations which included the private sector, non-government organizations and academic institutions. The panellists were Heidi Clarke from Sandals Foundation, Dr. Roberto Iglesias-Prieto from the Instituto de Ciencias del Mar y Limnología, Carlos Manuel Rodriguez from Conservation International, Jamie Sweeting from Royal Caribbean Cruises Ltd. and Kristian Teleki from Sea Web.

188. The presentations made by the panellists examined and demonstrated the value of biodiversity in the Wider Caribbean as it relates to the role of the ecosystem services provided, and the existing and potential economic benefits derived from reducing the loss of, and preserving, the rich marine and terrestrial biodiversity of the region. Their contributions placed particular emphasis on the extensive economic benefits derived from, and the importance of, coral reefs, fisheries, tourism and the incentives which the payment for ecosystem services may offer within the Wider Caribbean as well as globally.

189. As part of the panel presentations, the experience of Costa Rica was used to illustrate the national level approach being taken for an environmental service payment programme, using forests and the service these contribute by providing water and carbon sequestration, and to demonstrate the success this country has had in addressing sustainable development. Likewise, Caribbean coral reefs provide goods and services with annual net economic value estimated at between US\$3.1 billion and US\$4.6 billion for fisheries, dive tourism and shoreline protection services. In this context, it was shown how the reefs of Cancun had a remarkable effect in dramatically absorbing and reducing the power of the waves during the powerful Hurricane Wilma (2005), and untold damage to the valuable coastal properties was prevented as a result.

190. In the Caribbean, fishing generates more than 500,000 direct jobs and many more indirectly or in related industries, and generates US\$1.6 billion in exports. Over the past ten years, this region's marine and coastal ecosystems alone have provided up to 30% of the world's total fish supply. The trends of fishing pressure in the Wider Caribbean region are increasing, and the overall catch is declining (targeting smaller and smaller fish), seriously endangering this immensely important industry in the region.

191. Tourism in the Wider Caribbean, as well as on a global scale, benefits greatly from the ecosystem services derived from the environment and the biodiversity contained within. The tourism industry has major economic importance in this region and the private sector companies that participated in the Panel demonstrated how they benefit by investing in the conservation and protection of the ecosystems and related services which are the life blood of their industry.

192. It is critically important that there be continued conservation and management efforts in order to reduce impacts to coral reefs and maintain ecosystem services. This in itself is a challenge as the time span of a policy maker in office is not in sync with the continued long term vigilance that is required for addressing coral reef health. In addition to policy efforts, resilience must be integrated with reef management and support given for local communities to restore their reefs.

193. Payment for ecosystem services can result in significant national benefits including: income generation to the rural poor; improvement of watersheds; contribution to carbon sequestration; conservation of biodiversity, and other indirect benefits such as improved public health and human well being.

194. The Chair invited delegates to comment on the Biodiversity Panel Discussion. The Delegate from the Netherlands Antilles recommended that the Secretariat follow-up on the perspectives presented and determine how and where the private sector could become more involved. The Delegate from the Bahamas urged the Secretariat to work more closely with the private sector in their activities and the Dominican Republic

Delegate agreed that more collaboration was needed with the private sector and the scientific community.

195. The Delegate of Barbados urged the Secretariat to evaluate the issue of resource valuation and development in the region. Additionally, the Delegate recommended greater collaboration between the Secretariat and CARICOM and the Forum of Ministers through direct presentations to these and other regional bodies to demonstrate the importance of the region's resources.

AGENDA ITEM 9: ELECTION OF MEMBERS OF THE MONITORING COMMITTEE ON THE ACTION PLAN FOR THE CARIBBEAN ENVIRONMENT PROGRAMME FOR 2010-2011

196. The Chair invited Delegates to comment on the election of the members for the 2010-2011 monitoring committee. The Delegate from Cuba identified the members of the previous committee and recommended that they not be considered for the new committee. The Delegate proposed for nomination the Governments of St. Lucia, Guyana, Trinidad and Tobago, Bahamas, Barbados, Nicaragua, United Kingdom and Cuba. The Delegate of the U.S. agreed with the suggestion made by the Cuban delegate and the Secretariat informed the IGM that the committee would function during the current biennium and in 2012. This would ensure consistency with the recommendations regarding the reporting of the activities for the period 2010-2012. The meeting endorsed the proposal.

AGENDA ITEM 10: OTHER BUSINESS

197. The Delegate from the Netherlands Antilles informed the meeting of the impending constitutional changes within the Kingdom of the Netherlands. On 10 October 2010 the internal structure of Kingdom of the Netherlands, which is comprised of Aruba, The Netherlands, and the Netherlands Antilles will change. The Netherlands Antilles, which consists of Curacao, St. Maarten, Bonaire, Saba and St. Eustatius will be split leaving Curacao and Saint Maarten as two autonomous countries while the three remaining islands will come directly under the auspices of the Netherlands. They reported that the Kingdom of the Netherlands would then consist of 4 equal and autonomous countries: Aruba, the Netherlands, Curacao, and Saint Maarten. Since the Kingdom of the Netherlands remains the only signatory to the Cartagena Convention and its protocols, this will not affect the countries' representation at the Conference of the Parties.

198. The Chair invited the representative from UNEP's Division of Global Environment Facility (DGEF) Coordination to make a presentation on "UNEP and GEF-5". The representative informed the IGM that the GEF-5 began on 1 July 2010 with US

\$4.2 billion that may be allocated over the next 4 years. Caribbean countries have access to country specific allocations in the GEF focal areas of Biodiversity (BD), Climate Change (CC) and Land Degradation (LD) and may also access non country specific funds for initiatives in the areas of Persistent Organic Pollutants (POPs)/Chemicals and International Waters (IW) including the Marine Areas Beyond National Jurisdiction (ABNJ) which is aimed at reducing fisheries depletion. Opportunities under the Adaptation Fund, for which UNEP is an accredited Multilateral Implementing Entity (MIE) were also presented.

199. The Delegate of France requested more information on funding options for projects on marine biodiversity, which they felt could be important to Parties to the Cartagena Convention. The delegate from the Netherlands requested clarification regarding the eligibility of the ABNJ fund for biodiversity projects on the high seas. The representative from UNEP-GEF explained that the ABNJ is still under development and details of the program were still not clear.
200. Mr. Anthony Headly of the Barbados delegation delivered a brief presentation entitled "Policies, Challenges and Opportunities for Advancing the Transition to a Small State Green Economy: the Barbados Model". The presentation examined the emergence of the green economy concept in a small island developing state and covered both policy and implementation issues. It was noted that the green economy requires a fundamental change in the approach to development and must be grounded in national policy articulated from the highest decision-making authority. One case study highlighted community opportunities for financial gain and integrated tourism, agriculture and social objectives. Another demonstrated the use of financial incentives as a means to reduce carbon dioxide emissions and save foreign exchange through encouraging alternative energy usage. Further efforts to institutionalize the principles of the green economy are advanced through the establishment of private and public sector partnerships in the form of a Trade and Environment Committee. It was noted that the green economy is a new concept. Various challenges to implementation exist for Barbados including a capacity needs analysis within the government and private sector, further mainstreaming of environmental sustainability in development policy and public sector sensitization, accounting for ecological assets and education and public sensitization.
201. Ms. Gillian Guthrie, regional focal point for the Strategic Approach to International Chemicals Management (SAICM) was invited to make a presentation on behalf of SAICM on the activities of the Committee on Chemical Management in the region and possible linkages to the work of the Caribbean Environment Programme. SAICM's over arching goal is to change the way chemicals are produced and used in order to minimize their effects on human health and the environment. By 2020 it is expected that chemicals will be used and produced in ways that will lead to the minimization of significant

adverse effects on human health and the environment. Possible linkages include the New Global Chemicals Strategy and increased coordination at the national, regional and hemispheric levels. The representative also recognized the linkages already established with the Secretariat but emphasized the need to pay increased attention to chemicals management by strengthening existing linkages with AMEP.

202. The Delegate from the United States requested that the representative expand on the relationship between SAICM and the Global Program of Action (GPA). The representative reported that there are currently no concrete linkages and these deficiencies need to be addressed.

203. The Secretariat thanked the SAICM Secretariat which funded the participation of the representative. They also indicated their willingness to collaborate with SAICM wherever possible.

204. Dr. Leonard Nurse from the Centre for Resource Management and Environmental Studies (CERMES) at the University of the West Indies (UWI) requested the floor to mention its key role in the implementation of the Caribbean Large Marine Ecosystem (CLME) Project. Other projects include Marine Resources Governance in the Eastern Caribbean (MARGOV) and the Sustainable Grenadines Project (SUSGREN). The UWI is also involved in the operation of the Caribbean Sea Commission which aims to have the Caribbean Sea declared a 'Special Area in the Context of Sustainable Development'. The CERMES representative also mentioned their involvement in the Future of Reefs in a Changing Environment (FORCE) project, a major initiative funded by the European Commission and led by Exeter University, involving 17 academic and research institutions from Europe, the Wider Caribbean and beyond. This project focuses on the evaluation of the impacts of climate change, overfishing, pollution and poor governance on the health of Caribbean reefs, and is assembling a toolbox of management measures appropriate to the Wider Caribbean.

205. The Secretariat requested proposals for hosting the 2012 IGM. No proposals were made. The Secretariat will be open to receiving proposals in the coming year and if no proposal is made the Secretariat will convene the next IGM in Jamaica.

206. Delegates noted the increasing trend of other Convention Secretariats such as the Montreal Protocol to have completely "paperless" meetings and recognized the potential savings in costs to the Secretariat from such a measure. The Meeting recommended that the Secretariat continue its efforts to reduce the amount of printed documentation at their meetings including by providing only electronic copies of the final draft meeting report in English for review and approval during the meeting. The decisions of the meeting would be available for review in English, Spanish and French during the meeting, with the Spanish and French versions of the rest of the report to be posted on the web site within two weeks of the meeting.

AGENDA ITEM 11: ADOPTION OF THE REPORT OF THE MEETING

207. The Rapporteur presented the English version of the draft Report of the Meeting. The Meeting adopted the Report with amendments and corrections, which were included by the Secretariat in the revised document. The Secretariat agreed to post the revised English version of the draft report for final consultation on the web site, with the revised French and Spanish versions to follow within 30 days, after which time Delegates would have 30 days to review and approve the final report.

AGENDA ITEM 12: CLOSURE OF THE MEETING

208. In his closing remarks, the Coordinator made mention of the excellent results of the Meeting, in large measure due to the very proactive participation of the delegates, which had produced a number of decisions that would enable the Secretariat to do its job more efficiently. He thanked the Government of Guyana for ratifying the Cartagena Convention and its three Protocols and the Government of the Bahamas for its ratification of the LBS Protocol which had now entered into force. He thanked the members of the elected Bureau, particularly the Rapporteur who had worked long hours with the Secretariat, and the Chair, who had guided the participants smoothly through the Meeting. He expressed special thanks to the UNEP Representative from Nairobi, Didier Salzmann, for the critical assistance he provided to the Secretariat which is still without its own Fund Manager. He expressed his sincere thanks to the staff of the Secretariat of the Cartagena Convention including the GEF Project Managers and RACs, the translators and interpreters, and members of the technical team responsible for the setup at the Meeting. Special mention was made of the tremendous contribution made by the SPAW RAC, with the support of the Government of France.

209. In conclusion, he added a special thanks to the members of the Biodiversity Panel and the Secretariat staff involved in planning that innovative event for the benefit of the Meeting, and thanked the delegates once again for their continuing support of the Cartagena Convention and its Protocols, as relevant as ever to addressing issues relevant to marine pollution and to the loss of biodiversity.

210. The Chairperson thanked the delegates and observers for their participation, which had resulted in a successful meeting marked by a spirit of partnership. She thanked the Coordinator for his sterling leadership of the Secretariat and commented that the Convention was a model within the Regional Seas Programme of which all members could be proud. She acknowledged comments from the delegate of the Netherlands Antilles, who reminded the meeting that this would be the last

time the Netherlands Antilles would be represented at such a meeting, and that two or three new countries would be added to those present at future Meetings. The Chair thanked everyone at the meeting again and closed by stating that she looked forward to the exciting new biennium ahead.

211. The Meeting was closed at 12:15p.m. on Saturday, 9 October 2010 by the Chairperson and the Secretariat.

ANNEX I: AGENDA

AGENDA

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 Secretary of the Cartagena Convention on the Implementation of the Caribbean Environment Programme (2006-2007)
6. Report of the Chair of the Working Group on the Rules of Procedure and Financial Rules of the Caribbean Environment Programme
7. Report of the Chair 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
8. Work plan and Budget for the Caribbean Environment Programme for the 2008-2009 Biennium
9. Panel Discussion of Regional Experts on the impacts of Climate Change in the Wider Caribbean and implications for UNEP's future interventions.
10. Election of Members of the Monitoring Committee on the Action Plan for the Caribbean Environment Programme for 2008-2009
11. Other Business
12. Adoption of the Report of the Meeting
13. Closure of the Meeting

ANNEX II: DECISIONS OF THE SIXTH MEETING OF THE CONTRACTING PARTIES TO THE SPAW PROTOCOL

DECISIONS OF THE COP6

The Contracting Parties:

Having convened the Sixth Meeting of the Contracting Parties (COP) to the Protocol Concerning Specially Protected Areas and Wildlife (SPA) in the Wider Caribbean Region;

Taking note of the Status of Implementation of the Work plan and Budget for the SPA Regional Programme for the 2008-2009 biennium UNEP(DEPI)/CAR IG.29/INF.3 and supporting document UNEP(DEPI)/CAR IG.29/INF.5);

Taking note of the Report on the Activities of the Regional Activity Centre for SPA (SPA RAC) in Guadeloupe for the period 2008-2009 (UNEP (DEPI)/CAR IG.29/INF.7)

Having reviewed the Report of the Working Group on the Guidelines and Criteria for the Evaluation of Protected Areas to be listed under the SPA Protocol (UNEP(DEPI)/CAR IG.29/3), including the revised Annotated Format contained in Annex I of the Report;

Recognizing the effort of the Protected Areas Working Group to develop a reporting format for the submission of proposed protected areas to be listed under the Protocol;

Affirming that the Guidelines and Criteria for the evaluation of protected areas provide for the assessment of protected areas for listing by the STAC;

Recognizing the extraordinary situation of a SPA STAC not being held in advance of COP6 and **noting** the importance of making progress in establishing protected areas and networks;

Having reviewed the Report on the Implementation of the Action Plan for the Conservation of Marine Mammals (MMAP) in the Wider Caribbean Region (UNEP (DEPI)/CAR IG.29/INF.4);

Considering that the Third Conference of the SPA Parties (COP3), Montego Bay, Jamaica, 27 September 2004, adopted the criteria for the listing of species in the Annexes;

Having reviewed the Draft Work plan and Budget of the SPA Regional Programme for the 2010-2011 biennium (UNEP (DEPI)/CAR IG.29/4); and

Taking note of the UN designation of 2010 as the International Year of Biodiversity

Decides to:

1. **Urge** the governments of the region, which have not yet done so, to become Contracting Parties to the Cartagena Convention and its Protocols, including the SPA Protocol.
2. **Adopt** the revised Annotated Format as contained in Annex I of the report Working Group on the Guidelines and Criteria for the listing of protected areas (UNEP(DEPI)/CAR IG.29/3).
3. **Provide** Parties 60 days to formally nominate their pilot protected area.
4. **Provisionally approve** the listing of formally nominated pilot protected areas pending the assessment by the Fifth Scientific and Technical Advisory Committee Meeting (STAC) and **stress** that this procedure does not set precedent for future review of protected area submissions.
5. **Urge** additional Contracting Parties to submit their proposed protected areas to be listed to the Fifth STAC Meeting for their assessment.

6. **Extend** the mandate of the Working Group on the Guidelines and Criteria for Protected Areas Listing under SPAW and **request** the Group to continue its work under the leadership of the SPAW RAC, with a view to develop the database and continue the process of listing additional protected areas.
7. **Acknowledge** the progress made with the implementation of the MMAP and **request** that the Secretariat, in collaboration with the SPAW RAC continue to fundraise and develop strategic partnerships for its further implementation, in particular the development of the proposal to Life Web on marine corridors and marine mammal conservation for the Wider Caribbean, and the implementation of key priorities of the Manatee Regional Management Plan.
8. **Acknowledge** the establishment by France of a sanctuary for Marine mammals, named Agoa, in the waters of the French Antilles, as a contribution to the implementation of the Marine mammals Action Plan, and congratulate the government of France for this initiative.
9. **Re-establish** the Working Group in charge of the Review of the Criteria for the Listing of Species in the Annexes to the SPAW Protocol and **request** the Group to:
 - a. As a first step, seek the input from the Parties on the species to be reviewed.
 - b. Secondly, identify any species receiving protection from any other International Agreements and internationally recognized lists that are not listed on the SPAW Annexes.
 - c. Select from the species resulting from points a) and b) and any other species that the Working Group feels needs attention, a species "short-list" to be reviewed by the Working Group according to the criteria approved by COP3.
10. **Request** the above-mentioned Working Group to present a report on progress achieved to the Fifth SPAW STAC meeting and **request** that the Secretariat, together with SPAW RAC, coordinates and supports the work of the Group.
11. **Endorse** for final approval by the Fourteenth Intergovernmental Meeting and Tenth Meeting of the Contracting parties, the revised Work plan and Budget for the SPAW Regional Programme for the 2010-2011 Biennium, with modifications and priorities introduced by the Meeting, and **note** that the SPAW Programme of work should give priority to Contracting Parties to the SPAW Protocol, taking into consideration regional conservation needs, as well as donor partnerships that may, on occasion, necessitate the participation of non-Parties.
12. **Prioritize** in the 2010-2011 Work plan the draft criteria for the assessment of exemptions regarding Article 11 paragraph 2, and to this end **establish** a Working Group under the leadership of SPAW RAC to begin its work as soon as feasible.
13. **Acknowledge** the Secretariat's initiative to collaborate with Governments and partners in the development of a strategy for managing the lionfish invasion and **request** the Secretariat to incorporate this activity within the SPAW Programme for 2010-2011 as agreed by the Meeting.
14. **Urge** Contracting Parties to respond to the requests of the secretariat to join and participate more actively in the Working Groups established by the Parties.
15. **Welcome** the Secretariat's initiative of convening a Panel on Biodiversity at the 14th IGM addressing priority issues such as sustainable fisheries, coral reef conservation, and sustainable tourism and **encourage** governments to actively promote and initiate programmes aimed at conserving the region's biodiversity.
16. **Endorse** in principle the proposed extension of SPAW work plan and budget for 2012 and **further decide** that it be forwarded to the 14th IGM for final approval.
17. **Welcome** the offer of the Government of the Dominican Republic to tentatively host the Fifth SPAW STAC Meeting and **request** the Secretariat to further explore this offer.

ANNEX III: DECISIONS OF THE FOURTEENTH INTERGOVERNMENTAL MEETING

DECISIONS OF THE FOURTEENTH INTEGOVERNMENTAL MEETING

The Meeting:

Having convened the Fourteenth Intergovernmental Meeting on the Action Plan for the Caribbean Environment Programme and the Eleventh 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 (2008-2009) as presented in UNEP(DEPI)/CAR IG.30/INF.4

Noting the Decisions of the Sixth Meeting of the Contracting Parties to the Protocol Concerning Specially Protected Areas and Wildlife (SPAW), in the Wider Caribbean Region, Jamaica, 5 October 2010;

Having reviewed the Report of the Fifth Meeting of the Interim Scientific and Technical Advisory Committee of the Protocol Concerning Pollution from Land-Based Sources and Activities, in Panama City, Panama, 24-28 May 2010 as contained in UNEP(DEPI)/CAR WG.32/4;

Taking note of the Report of the Fifth Meeting of the Regional Activity Centre/Regional Marine Pollution Emergency, Training, and Information Centre- Caribbean (RAC/REMPEITC- Carib) Steering Committee, Curacao 11-12 May 2010 as contained in document UNEP(DEPI)/CAR IG.30/5;

Decides:

DECISION I

Having reviewed the draft Workplan and Budget for the Caribbean Environment Programme for the Biennium 2010-2011 as contained in the document UNEP(DEPI)/CAR IG. 30/3;

Taking note of the voluntary contributions to the Caribbean Trust Fund (CTF) by the States and Territories of the Wider Caribbean Region for 2008-2009;

Having examined the budgetary needs of the Caribbean Environment Programme to complete its Workplan for 2010-2011;

Taking further note of the presentation by the Secretariat of an Addendum Budget for 2012 and list of indicative projects and activities for the same period;

Decides to:

1. **Approve** the Workplan and Budget for the Caribbean Environment Programme for the 2010-2011 biennium, taking into account the observations and inputs provided by the Meeting, **request** that the Secretariat seek additional funds to meet the full requirements of the approved Work plan and **urge** governments to support the Secretariat in this regard. The meeting did not support a 6% increase in the budget, bearing in mind the current economic situation globally, and recommended a “no real growth” budget;
2. **Further approve** the Budget and indicative Workplan for the Caribbean Environment Programme for 2012 and request that the Secretariat submit a detailed Workplan for 2012 no later than December 1st 2011 for intercessional approval by the Contracting Parties. The meeting approved of the logic of having the budget cycle fall in line with the timing of the IGM and extend it to 2012;
3. **Urge** the Secretariat to ensure that in the implementation of the Workplan, efforts are made to establish synergies between different projects and also between the sub-programmes;
4. **Request** the Secretariat to examine and establish the appropriate coordination mechanisms with the Caribbean Challenge, including the Trust Fund effort lead by The Nature Conservancy, and to **report** progress at the next SPAW COP;
5. **Request** the Secretariat to present detailed information on what funding is provided by/to the RACs in order to improve transparency and understanding of the relevant expenditures. The meeting also requested that the financial documentation for the budget be made available in advance to facilitate review at the national level and recommended that the expenditures for activities be presented;
6. **Gratefully recognize** the logistical support provided by the Government of Panama in hosting the Fifth LBS ISTAC in Panama City, in May 2010 and the financial support from the Government of the United States for this meeting;
7. **Adopt** the table of voluntary contributions to the CTF in 2010-2011 as reflected in Annex IV of this Report;
8. **Request** the Secretariat to invoice the States and Territories of the Caribbean Environment Programme in the amounts expressed in Annex IV of this Report;
9. **Strongly urge** all the governments to pay all contributions to the CTF in a timely manner to ensure the Programme’s financial sustainability and continuity;
10. **Strongly urge** those governments which have not paid into the CTF in the past and in recent years, to start doing so and those governments which have started, to pay the remaining arrears promptly;
11. **Request** the Secretariat to continue its efforts to collect and to explore innovative financial mechanisms with member Governments to facilitate payment of their arrears such as through support for meetings, etc.; and
12. **Request** that the Executive Director of UNEP, make the necessary arrangements to extend the Caribbean Trust Fund until 2013.

DECISION II

Having reviewed the Reports, Recommendations and Decisions of the Meetings convened under the Caribbean Environment Programme since the Thirteenth Intergovernmental Meeting;

Decides to:

1. **Approve** the Report and Recommendations of the Fifth 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, Panama City, Panama, (UNEP(DEPI)/CAR WG. 32/4); and
2. **Endorse** the Decisions of the Sixth Meeting of the Contracting Parties to the SPAW Protocol held in Montego Bay, Jamaica on 5 October 2010 as contained in Annex II of the Meeting Report (UNEP(DEPI)/CAR IG.30/6).

DECISION III

Having reviewed the Report of the Fifth Meeting of the Steering Committee for the RAC/REMPEITC-Caribe, Willemstad, Curacao, 11-12 May, 2010 (UNEP(DEPI)/CAR IG.30/5);

Having examined the Final Strategic Plan for the 2010-2011 Biennium of the Regional Activity Centre, REMPEITC-Caribe (UNEP (DEPI)/CAR IG.30/INF 5);

Having reviewed the Regional Strategy to Minimize the Transfer of Harmful Aquatic Organisms and Pathogens in Ships' Ballast Water and Sediments and the Terms of Reference of the Regional Task Force on Control and Management of Ships' Ballast Water and Sediments in the Wider Caribbean Region (UNEP (DEPI)/CAR WG.32/REF.5/ Rev.1);

Noting with thanks the continuous contribution of the Governments of France, Netherlands Antilles and the United States to the RAC/REMPEITC-Caribe and the contribution of the Government of Venezuela for the secondment of an officer to the RAC/REMPEITC-Caribe between 2006 and 2008;

Further noting the new hosting arrangements for the Centre with the Government of Curacao;

Welcoming the entry into force of the MARPOL Special Area Designation for the Caribbean Sea which becomes effective on 31 March 2011;

Decides to:

1. **Approve** the Recommendations of the Fifth Meeting of the Steering Committee for the RAC/REMPEITC-Caribe;
2. **Endorse** the Final Strategic Plan for the 2010-2011 Biennium of the Regional Activity Centre, REMPEITC-Caribe;
3. **Note** the major challenges faced in terms of having sufficient personnel and acknowledge the hard work put in by Consultants and staff, including those seconded by other governments;
4. **Welcome** the offer from the upcoming Government of Curacao to continue hosting RAC/REMPEITC-Caribe on the island of Curacao, autonomous within the Kingdom of the Netherlands;
5. **Urge** all governments to attend future Steering Committee Meetings of the RAC/REMPEITC-Caribe to ensure that the RAC/REMPEITC-Caribe's activities reflect the needs of the Wider Caribbean Region and all Contracting Parties;
6. **Acknowledge with satisfaction** the contribution and support of the International Maritime Organization in the development and implementation of projects and activities within the framework of the Cartagena Convention and its Protocols through its Integrated Technical Cooperation Programme and **request** the Secretariat to further continue its collaboration with the IMO;
7. **Strongly urge** all governments to support the RAC/REMPEITC-Caribe through long-term secondments to sustain its activities;
8. **Gratefully recognize** the valuable support of the GEF/UNDP/IMO GloBallast Partnerships Project, RAC/REMPEITC-Caribe, as its Regional Coordinating Organization, and the International Maritime Organization (IMO)'s Integrated Technical Co-operation Programme to the Caribbean Environment Programme and its member governments;
9. **Endorse** the Regional Strategy to Minimize the Transfer of Harmful Aquatic Organisms and Pathogens in Ships' Ballast Water and Sediments, taking into account the input of the Meeting, and encourage the accession to the *International Convention for the Control and Management of Ships' Ballast Water and Sediments* by IMO member states at their earliest convenience;

10. **Encourage** GEF/UNDP/IMO GloBallast Partnerships, RAC/REMPEITC-Caribe and IMO's ITCP to continue cooperating in the framework of the CEP; and
11. **Request** the Secretariat not to include the CATREC project proposal as part of the 2010-2011 Workplan but to use it as a background document that could assist in identifying opportunities to strengthen the capacity of RAC/REMPEITC and as a basis for discussing with other partners the broader training needs for the Wider Caribbean Region in Oil and Hazardous Chemicals Spills Planning and Response.

DECISION IV

Recalling the decision of the Thirteenth Intergovernmental Meeting to approve the “Guidelines for the Operations of the Regional Activity Centres (RACs) and the Regional Activity Networks (RANs) for the Cartagena Convention” (UNEP (DEPI)/CAR IG.28/INF.5.Rev.1);

Recognizing the ongoing efforts by the Secretariat to finalize and/or update Host Agreements for the Regional Activity Centres;

Noting the efforts by UNEP to standardize its Host Agreements for RACs under its Regional Seas Programme;

Decides to:

1. **Request** the Secretariat, in coordination with the Regional Activity Centres, to finalize outstanding Host Agreements with RAC Host Governments.

DECISION V

Recalling Decision V of the Thirteenth Intergovernmental Meeting to apply conditionally the draft Financial Rules and the draft Rules of Procedure for the Cartagena Convention, with the exception of the first paragraph of Rule 41;

Further recalling the recommendation to adopt the draft Financial Rules for the Cartagena Convention and to resolve the remaining brackets in paragraph one of Rule 41 of the Rules of Procedure for the Cartagena Convention at the Twelfth Meeting of the Contracting Parties;

Noting the authorization provided to the Secretariat to obtain approval and/or views on both sets of Rules from any Contracting Parties not present at this Eleventh Meeting of the Contracting Parties within 90 days in order to allow final unanimous adoption of the Financial Rules and Rules of Procedure by the Contracting Parties at the Fourteenth Intergovernmental Meeting;

Decides to:

1. **Approve** the Rules of Procedure and Financial Rules with the input from the Meeting and subject to receiving affirmation of Parties not present at the Meeting; and
2. **Request** the Secretariat to contact those Contracting Parties who were absent and follow-up with such parties, asking for confirmation that the document has been received. A deadline of 60 days from confirmation of receipt will be given to respond. It will be assumed that no response by 60 days conveys approval of the Rules of Procedure and Financial Rules.

DECISION VI

Noting the importance of the Executive Secretary's post to the region and the interest of contracting parties to have some inputs into decisions regarding the appointment of future Executive Secretaries;

Decides to:

1. **Invite** the Government of Mexico to continue chairing the Working Group in order to analyze the legal and administrative aspects in the appointment of the Executive Secretary of the Cartagena Convention, in coordination with the Secretariat;
2. **Request** UNEP to provide the Working Group with a report on the mechanisms for the selection of the Executive Secretary and the assessment of its performance within the framework of other Conventions, particularly in those with similar scope of application to the Cartagena Convention, and the way the Contracting Parties can participate in a more active manner in these processes; and
3. **Also request** that the Government of Mexico report to the Fifteenth Intergovernmental Meeting and Twelfth Meeting of the Contracting Parties of the Cartagena Convention.

DECISION VII

Having reviewed the progress of the Caribbean Environment Programme during 2008-2009;

Recognizing the need for the continuing development and implementation of the Caribbean Environment Programme for the 2010-2011 biennium and beyond;

Welcoming the recent ratification of the Cartagena Convention and all of its Protocols by the Government of Guyana; the recent ratification of the Cartagena Convention and all of its Protocols, except for the SPAW, by the Commonwealth of the Bahamas; the LBS Protocol by the Government of Antigua and Barbuda and the progress made by other Parties towards ratification of the LBS and SPAW Protocols; **Acknowledging** the entry into force of the LBS Protocol;

Noting the importance of obtaining reports from countries on the status of implementation of the Convention and its Protocols;

Decides to:

1. **Applaud** the Commonwealth of the Bahamas as being the final country to bring the LBS Protocol into force;
2. **Encourage** other governments to ratify the Cartagena Convention and its Protocols, including the Protocol Concerning Pollution from Land-based Sources and Activities, noting the progress made towards ratification by many countries;
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 Caribbean Environment Programme including participation at meetings of the Secretariat;
4. **Adopt** the draft reporting template for the Cartagena Convention and its Protocols, taking into account the observations and inputs provided by the Meeting, including the need to ensure accurate use of terminology in the three languages;
5. **Request** the Secretariat to seek resources to improve national capacity in the delivery of reliable reporting, through training workshops and the development of guidelines to guide Parties in using the template;
6. **Further request** the Secretariat to continue its efforts to strengthen collaboration with regional agencies and relevant Convention Secretariats to enable more effective implementation of the Caribbean Environment Programme Work plan;
7. **Commend**, in particular, the Coordinator and staff of the Secretariat for the considerable progress made in implementing the Caribbean Environment Programme during the period since the Thirteenth Intergovernmental Meeting; and
8. **Encourage** governments to express their appreciation of, and support to, the Caribbean Environment Programme within their national institutions, as well as at the regional and global levels through relevant meetings and fora as appropriate.

DECISION VIII

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 various subject areas available for funding under the portfolios of the Global Environment Facility (GEF);

Further recognizing the importance of ratification of the Cartagena Convention and its Protocols when mobilizing funding;

Decides to:

1. **Welcome** the efforts by the Secretariat to develop new proposal concepts for funding by the GEF and **request** that the support of governments to the further development of these proposals and their implementation in the region be communicated as appropriate to the GEF Secretariat; and
2. **Request** the Secretariat to ensure that new projects, including GEF Projects, build further on the experiences of ongoing projects and activities.

DECISION IX

Noting the presentations and discussions by regional experts during the Panel Discussion on Biodiversity, “Providing economic value in the Wider Caribbean through ecosystem services”;

Decides to:

1. **Support** the strengthening of partnerships between the Secretariat and the private sector in the area of biodiversity advocacy and conservation;
2. **Urge** greater involvement of the academic and research community in deliberations on this subject; and
3. **Request** the Secretariat to prepare the important information presented in the Panel Discussion for wider dissemination, especially to decision-makers in the region, and to seek funds to continue supporting the process of translating key technical information for the public and decision makers.

DECISION X

Welcoming the presentations made by governments and observer organizations on the several ongoing and proposed initiatives taking place in the region which can help support the implementation of the Cartagena Convention and its Protocols:

Noting the opportunities provided for establishing synergies, reducing overlap and maximizing on the use of limited financial and human resources in the region;

Decides to:

1. **Request** the Secretariat, along with the Regional Activity Centres, to continue to strengthen partnerships with national, regional and international agencies and initiatives, in areas of relevance to the Cartagena Convention and its Protocols;
2. **Urge** Contracting Parties to explore with UNEP DGEF and the Secretariat, opportunities which might be presented in respect of funding for Biodiversity (including on the High Seas); and
3. **Request** the Secretariat to continue close collaboration with SAICM and other Chemicals-related Conventions, to enhance cooperation and coordination, including the development and implementation of Chemicals Projects within the Wider Caribbean Region; and to encourage CEP focal points to work closely with national SAICM focal points to facilitate an integrated approach to the management of the marine environment of the Wider Caribbean.

DECISION XI

Recognizing the efforts by the Secretariat and by RAC CIMAB to produce the final draft report of the update of Caribbean Environment Programme Technical Report No. 33;

Acknowledging the significant contributions from member Governments to enable the completion of this update;

Noting the continued efforts by the Secretariat to strengthen its information and data management capacity and its proposed hosting of Clearing House and Information Dissemination mechanisms;

Decides to:

1. **Request** the Secretariat to continue its work on the production, management and dissemination of data and related products generated by the Caribbean Environment Programme, or that supports the objectives of the Caribbean Environment Programme, with the assistance of its sub-programme for Communication, Education, Training and Awareness (CETA);
2. **Adopt** Caribbean Environment Programme Technical Report No. 33, subject to any additional edits received from Contracting Parties no later than 15 November 2010;
3. **Establish** an Interim Working Group to continue work related to monitoring and assessment that could use Technical Report No. 33 as a baseline document; with the goal to improve effluent reporting and assessment of water quality conditions throughout the Convention Area as will be required under the LBS Protocol; and
4. **Request** the Secretariat to identify resources for convening regional technical meetings as part of the 2010-2011 Work plan in support of this work.

ANNEX IV: PROPOSED CONTRIBUTIONS FOR THE BIENNIUM 2010-2011

APPROVED CONTRIBUTIONS FOR THE BIENNIUM 2010-2011

States and Territories of the Caribbean Region	2010	2011
ANTIGUA & BARBUDA	12,791	12,791
BAHAMAS	12,791	12,791
BARBADOS	12,791	12,791
BELIZE	11,663	11,663
COLOMBIA	22,914	22,914
COSTA RICA	13,917	13,917
CUBA	24,059	24,059
DOMINICA - COMMONWEALTH	12,791	12,791
DOMINICAN REPUBLIC	15,044	15,044
FRANCE	291,598	291,598
GRENADA	12,791	12,791
GUATEMALA	13,917	13,917
GUYANA	12,791	12,791
HAITI	12,791	12,791
HONDURAS	12,791	12,791
JAMAICA	18,514	18,514
ARUBA	11,663	11,663
NETHERLANDS ANTILLES(Kingdom of Netherlands)	12,791	12,791
MEXICO	40,000	40,000
NICARAGUA	12,791	12,791
PANAMA	13,917	13,917
ST KITTS-NEVIS	3,430	3,430
ST LUCIA	11,663	11,663
ST VINCENT & THE GRENADINES	11,663	11,663
SURINAME	12,791	12,791
TRINIDAD & TOBAGO	15,044	15,044
ANGUILLA	12,791	12,791
CAYMAN ISLANDS	7,101	7,101
BRITISH VIRGIN ISLANDS	7,547	7,547
MONTSERRAT	3,430	3,430
TURK & CAICOS ISLANDS	6,175	6,175
USA	248,292	248,292
VENEZUELA	170,375	170,375
	1,115,424	1,115,424

2010 - Same as Contributions for the year 2009

2011 - Same as Contributions for the year 2010

ANNEX V: LIST OF DOCUMENTS

LIST OF DOCUMENTS

Working Documents

UNEP(DEPI)/CAR IG.30/1	Provisional agenda
UNEP(DEPI)/CAR IG.30/2	Provisional annotated agenda
UNEP(DEPI)/CAR IG.30/3	Draft Work plan and Budget for the Caribbean Environment Programme for the 2010-2011 Biennium
UNEP(DEPI)/CAR IG.30/4	Draft Rules of Procedure and Financial Rules for the Convention for the Protection and Development of the Marine Environment of the Wider Caribbean Region (Cartagena Convention)
UNEP(DEPI)/CAR IG.30/5	Report of the Fifth Meeting of the Steering Committee to the Protocol Concerning Cooperation in Combating Oil Spills in the Wider Caribbean Region, Willemstad, Curacao, 11-12 May 2010
UNEP(DEPI)/CAR WG.32/4	Report of the Fifth Meeting of the Interim Scientific, Technical and Advisory Committee (ISTAC) to the Protocol Concerning Pollution from Land-Based Sources and Activities in the Wider Caribbean (LBS), Panama City, Panama, 24-28 May 2010
UNEP(DEPI)/CAR IG.30/6	Report of the Fourteenth Intergovernmental Meeting on the Action Plan for the Caribbean Environment Programme and Eleventh 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>)
UNEP(DEPI)CAR IG.29/5	Decisions of the Sixth Meeting of the Contracting Parties to the Protocol Concerning Specially Protected Areas and Wildlife (SPA) in the Wider Caribbean Region

Information Documents

UNEP(DEPI)/CAR IG.30/INF.1	Provisional list of documents
UNEP(DEPI)/CAR IG.30/INF.2	List of participants
UNEP(DEPI)/CAR IG.30/INF.3	Report of the Chairperson of the Monitoring Committee and President of the Bureau of Contracting Parties
UNEP(DEPI)/CAR IG.30/INF.4	Report of the Executive Director of the Cartagena Convention on the Implementation of the 2008-2009 Work plan of the

Caribbean Environment Programme

UNEP(DEPI)/CAR IG.30/INF.4 Annex VII	Expenditures for the overall coordination of common costs and sub programmes (Annex to the ED Report)
UNEP(DEPI)/CAR IG.30/INF.5	Strategic Plan, 2010-2011 Biennium RAC/REMPEITC - Caribe
UNEP(DEPI)/CAR IG.30/INF.6	Activity Report 2008-2009 for the LBS Regional Activity Centres IMA (Trinidad and Tobago) and Cimab (Cuba)
UNEP(DEPI)/CAR WG.32/REF.5/Rev.1	Regional Strategy to Minimize the Transfer of Harmful Aquatic Organisms and Pathogens in Ships' Ballast Water and Sediments
UNEP(DEPI)/CAR IG.27/6	Report of the Fifth Meeting of the Contracting Parties (COP) to the Protocol Concerning Specially Protected Areas and Wildlife (SPAW) in the Wider Caribbean Region, St John's, Antigua & Barbuda, 8 September 2008
UNEP(DEPI)/CAR IG.28/4	Report of 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, St John's, Antigua & Barbuda, 9-12 September 2008
UNEP(DEPI)/CAR IG.29/3	Report of the Working Group on the Guidelines and Criteria for the Evaluation of Protected Areas to be Listed under the SPAW Protocol (<i>includes report on the pilot project</i>)
UNEP(DEPI)/CAR IG.29/INF.4	Report on the Implementation of the Action Plan for the Conservation of Marine Mammals in the Wider Caribbean Region
UNEP(DEPI)/CAR IG.29/INF.5	Update on the Caribbean Marine Protected Areas Managers Network and Forum (CaMPAM) and its major activities
UNEP(DEPI)/CAR IG.29/INF.7	Report of the SPAW Regional Activity Centre (SPAW RAC) in Guadeloupe with regard to RAC operations for the period 2008-2009
UNEP (DEPI)/CAR WG. 32/INF.4	Draft of Updated CEP Technical Report No. 33. Land Based Sources and Activities in the Wider Caribbean Region. Domestic and Industrial Pollutant Loads and Watershed Inflows. (English and Spanish)
UNEP(DEPI)/CAR WG.32/INF.9/Rev.1	Draft Template for National Reporting on the Cartagena Convention and its Protocols
UNEP(DEPI)/CAR WG.32/INF.10	Draft Project Proposal Summary for a Caribbean Training, Research and Experimental Centre for Accidental Marine Pollution (CATREC) (English and Spanish)

UNEP, 2008 Action Plan for the Conservation of Marine Mammals in the Wider Caribbean Region (English only)

Reference Documents

UNEP(DEPI)/CAR WG.31/6 Report of the Fourth Meeting of the Scientific and Technical Advisory Committee (STAC) to the Protocol Concerning Specially Protected Areas and Wildlife (SPAW) in the Wider Caribbean Region (Gosier, Guadeloupe, France, 2-5 July 2008)

CEP Technical Report 48 Regional Management Plan for the West Indian Manatee (English and Spanish)

UNEP, 2008 Marine Litter in the Wider Caribbean: A Regional Overview and Action Plan

UNEP/GCSS.X/10 Proceedings of the Governing Council / Global Ministerial Environment Forum at its Tenth Special Session

UNEP/LAC-IG.XVII/6 Final Report of the XVII Meeting of the Forum of Ministers of the Environment of Latin America and the Caribbean, Panama City, Panama, 26–30 April 2010 (English and Spanish)

UNEP/GCSS.X/8 Proposed (UNEP) Medium Term Strategy 2010-2013

UNEP(DEPI)/RS.9/6 Global Strategic Directions for the Regional Seas Programmes 2008-2012: Enhancing the Role of the Regional Seas Conventions and Action Plans

UNEP, 2010 Directory of Focal Points of the Caribbean Environment Programme. CEP Information Paper (English only)

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Measures for Adaptation to Climate Change (Spanish only)

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Management (CReW), Full Project Document (GEF)-
pending GEF approval

UNEP and Essig K, 2010

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ANNEX VI: LIST OF PARTICIPANTS

LIST OF PARTICIPANTS

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ANNEX VII: BIODIVERSITY PANEL

“Biodiversity: Providing Economic Value in the Wider Caribbean through Ecosystem Services”.

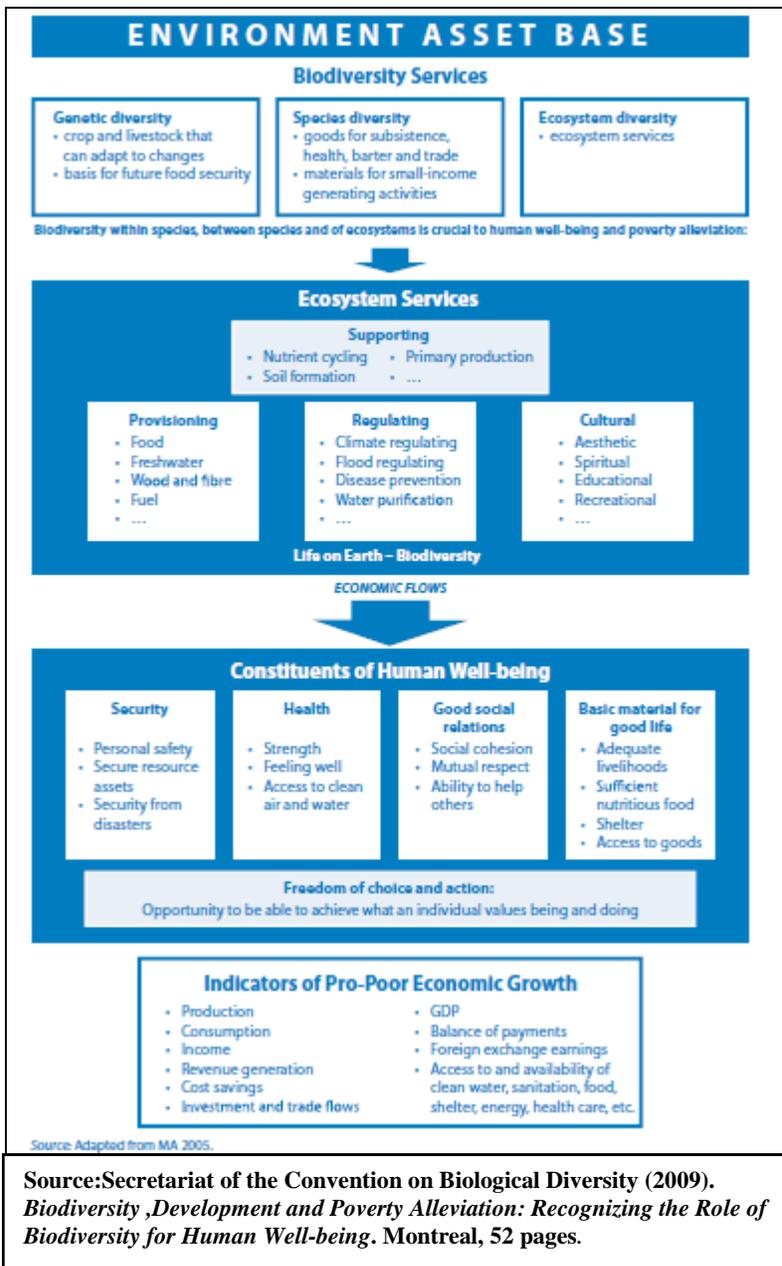
Introduction

On 7 October 2010, as part of the 14th Intergovernmental Meeting on the Action Plan for the Caribbean Environment Programme, held in Montego Bay, Jamaica and in celebration of the designation of 2010 as the International Year of Biodiversity, the Caribbean Environment Programme hosted a one-day panel discussion titled *“Biodiversity: Providing Economic Value in the Wider Caribbean through Ecosystem Services”*.

Biodiversity loss continues to occur at high rates, threatening the capacity of the globe to maintain its functions and undermining development that is sustainable. For this reason, the United Nations General Assembly declared 2010 as the International Year of Biodiversity. The year coincides with the target adopted by governments in 2002 to achieve, by 2010, significant reduction in the current rate of loss of biodiversity (www.cbd.int).

Biodiversity ecosystem services contribute substantially to economic development and human wellbeing. The annual global market value of the most critical service to humanity, food, is by itself valued at \$980 billion. Climate change and related carbon dioxide emissions represent further challenges as with a rapidly changing environments come fundamental changes to biodiversity resources and related services.

Despite the need to improve appreciation of the importance of ecosystem integrity, it is clear that the tourism industry can contribute to the conservation of resources and biodiversity that are assets for development and poverty alleviation. Tourism presents itself as an important vehicle to demonstrate the economic value of ecosystems, given that its long-term sustainability as an engine for growth depends on the industry's ability to recognize the need to significantly reduce its footprint.



Goals

The main objectives for convening the panel was to: (i) discuss current threats to marine and terrestrial ecosystems throughout the Wider Caribbean region (ii) determine ways to assess the value of these ecosystems and their biodiversity and (iii) establish how important economic sectors such as fisheries and tourism – an industry heavily dependent on these resources in the region- can serve as a platform to foster their protection and maintenance of their ability to provide valuable goods and services.

Participants

The panel was opened by Ms. Alessandra Vanzella-Khoury on behalf of the Caribbean Environment Programme and it was chaired by Mr. Vincent Sweeney, Regional Project Coordinator of the Global Environment Facility / United Nations Environment Programme project “Integrating Watershed and Coastal Areas Management in the Caribbean” currently under implementation by the Caribbean Environment Programme.

Invited participants represented a broad cross-section of experts and organizations from and outside the Caribbean which included the private sector, non-government organizations and academic institutions.

The invited panellists and topics selected for presentation and subsequent debate were equally representative of the key issues surrounding biodiversity and economic assessment of their value were:

Mr. Carlos Manuel Rodriguez, Vice President of Conservation Policy, Conservation International, USA (keynote speaker).

Ms. Heidi Clarke , Director of Programs, Sandals Foundation, Jamaica.

Dr. Roberto Iglesias-Prieto, Head of the Reef Systems Unit at Puerto Morelos, the Instituto de Ciencias del Mar y Limnología, Universidad Nacional Autónoma de México.

Mr. Jamie Sweeting, Vice President of Environmental Stewardship and Global Chief Environmental Office, Royal Caribbean Cruises Ltd., USA and

Mr. Kristian Teleki , Vice-President for Science Initiatives, SeaWeb, USA

The presentations made by the panelists examined and demonstrated the value of biodiversity in the Wider Caribbean as it relates to the role of the ecosystem services provided, and the existing and potential economic benefits derived from preserving, and reducing the loss of marine and terrestrial biodiversity within the region. Their contributions placed particular emphasis on the extensive economic benefits derived from, and the importance of, coral reefs, fisheries, tourism and the incentives for sustained economic growth and poverty alleviation for which the payment for ecosystem

WHAT IS THIS ?

- A water factory
- A flood control mechanism
- A food production plant
- A pollinator system
- A fish production facility
- More than resources;

It's Systems

Not just bugs and plants;

It's Services

Services provided by ecosystems. Taken from the presentation by Mr. C.M. Rodriguez from Conservation International.

services may offer within the Wider Caribbean and globally.

Speakers and Their Organizations

Carlos Manuel Rodriguez, the panel's keynote speaker, once served as Costa Rica's Environment and Energy minister and is currently Vice President of Conservation Policy at Conservation International. He was instrumental in establishing a multinational marine park and in international efforts to eliminate bottom trawling and other unsustainable fishing practices in Costa Rica. He is currently promoting the development and implementation of Environmental Services Payment Programmes in Central America and Asia.

Vincent Sweeney, the panel moderator, is UNEP's regional coordinator for the Project "Integrating Watershed and Coastal Areas Management in the Caribbean", a multi-island project funded by the Global Environment Facility. He has also served as Executive Director of the Caribbean Environmental Health Institute, in St. Lucia.

Heidi Clarke is Director of Programs at the Sandals Foundation, the philanthropic arm of Sandals Resorts International based in Jamaica. Her responsibilities include managing environmental, education and community-based projects as well as developing and maintaining relationships with non-profit organizations, corporate partners and volunteers throughout the Caribbean.

Roberto Iglesias-Prieto is Chair of the Reef Systems Unit at the Instituto de Ciencias del Mar y Limnología at the Universidad Nacional Autónoma de México. His studies currently focus on the cellular mechanisms responsible for coral bleaching, and the impact thermal stress and ocean acidification has on coral reefs. He is also a member of the Coral Reef Targeted Research Program an international coral reef initiative that provides sound scientific information to improve coral reef management.

Jamie Sweeting is Vice President of Environmental Stewardship and Global Chief Environmental Officer for Royal Caribbean Cruises Ltd. He is responsible for establishing the cruise line's long-term environmental strategy and ensuring their responsible corporate performance worldwide.

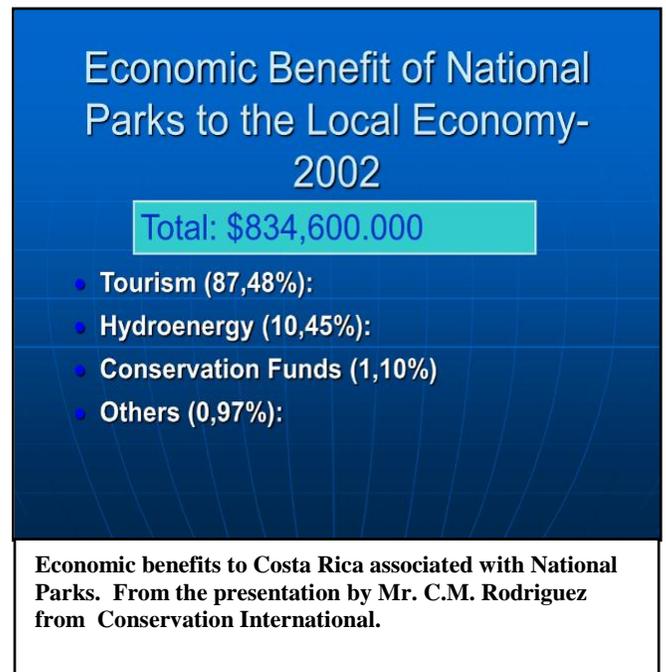
Kristian Teleki is Vice President for Science Initiatives at SeaWeb, an international communications and science non-profit organization with offices worldwide. He works to highlight feasible, science-based solutions to threats facing marine ecosystems, particularly the global decline of fish stocks and its impact on the overall integrity of the marine environment.

The Value of Biodiversity and Ecosystems

The Environmental Services Payment Programme: A success story of sustainable development in Costa Rica .by Mr. Carlos Manuel Rodriguez, Conservation International

To set the tone for discussions by the Panel, a key note presentation on Costa Rica, a country recognized by the success it has had in embracing sustainable development as a national goal, was used to illustrate a national level approach in implementing an Environmental Services Payment Programme (ESPP), using forests and the services they contribute by providing water and carbon sequestration.

In essence, payment for environmental services is a mechanism implemented to pay land owners for the services provided to the society such as the protection of biodiversity and water resources for different uses; the mitigation of greenhouse effect gases and carbon fixation and the maintenance of landscapes and scenic beauty. The combination of public policies and the payment for environmental services has proven to be successful in controlling deforestation and promoting forest restoration. As a result, forest coverage in Costa Rica has increased from 21% in 1987 to 51% in 2005, with an equivalent growth in GDP/pc of US\$ 3,574.19 in 1986 to US\$8,710.00 in 2005. The annual economic benefit of national parks in Costa Rica and the services they provide has been valued at US\$834 million which is a 5.5% contribution to its GDP.



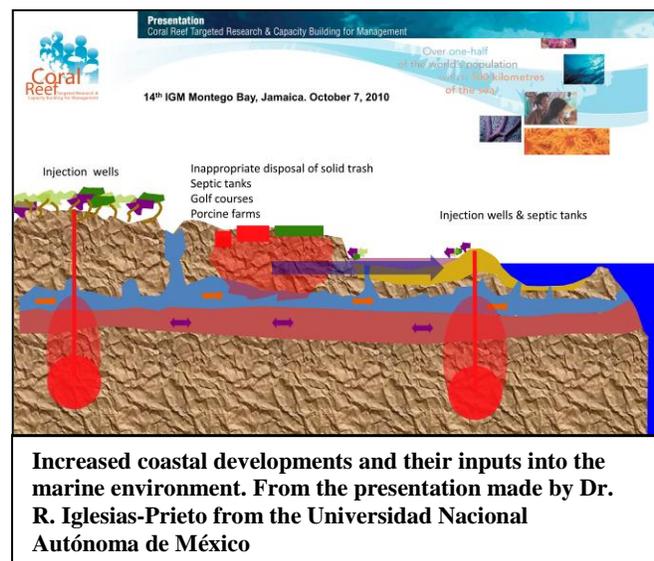
The EPPS has resulted in significant national benefits to Costa Rica including:

- (i) income generation to the rural poor
- (ii) improvement of watersheds
- (iii) contribution to carbon sequestration
- (iv) conservation of biodiversity
- (v) other indirect benefits such as improved public health and human well being.

The Value of Coral Reefs

Perspectives of services contributed to communities, the private sector, member states, and to the integrity of the marine environment by Dr. Roberto Iglesias-Prieto, Reef Systems Unit, Instituto de Ciencias del Mar y Limnología, Universidad Nacional Autónoma de México.

More than half of the world's population living within 100 kilometres of the sea, huge pressures are placed on the marine environment and their ecosystems. The expansion of tourism development within the Caribbean, the resulting impacts on existing infrastructure and a greater reliance on marine resources may also adversely affect these ecosystems and the services they provide.



As one of the major ecosystems in the Caribbean coral reefs provide goods and services with annual net economic value estimated at between US\$3.1 billion and US\$4.6 billion from fisheries, dive tourism and shoreline protection services. However, almost two thirds of the Caribbean coral reefs are threatened by unsustainable coastal development, sedimentation, contamination by toxic substances, ocean acidification and overfishing.

Cancun, Mexico, is a rapidly growing city that has experienced a 20% increase in population in the last five years. Such growth coupled with rapid coastal development and increase in tourist industry which is growing by 19.4% per year has placed further strain on the near shore environment. Coral reefs provide the white sands which tourists seek yet changes to the water quality from land based sources of pollution affects the health of the reefs and the attractiveness of the beaches. Degraded ecosystems would severely affect the total value of these services provided by coral reefs with respect to tourism which in the Cancun area is currently estimated to be worth over US\$5.5 billion annually.

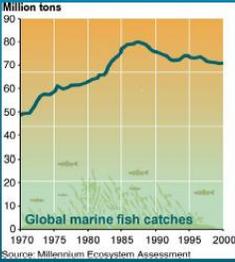
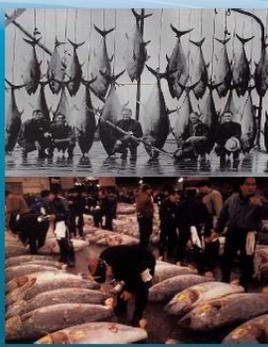
With addition of the reef related fishery and the role which a healthy coral reef plays in removing the energy from powerful waves and storm surges the value of these services rises exponentially. The reefs of Cancun had a remarkable effect in dramatically absorbing and reducing the power of the waves during the severe Hurricane Wilma (2005), and untold damage to the valuable coastal properties was prevented as a result.

The Value of Fishes

Fishing our Future? by Mr. Kristian Teleki, SeaWeb

More than 3.5 billion people worldwide depend on the ocean for their primary source of food. In 11 years this could double. Fishing in the Caribbean, contributes to the economic development of these islands, generating more than 500,000 jobs directly and many more indirectly through related industries, resulting in approximately US\$1.6 billion in exports. Over the past ten years, the region's marine and coastal ecosystems alone have provided up to 30% of the world's total fish supply, responsible for 7% of total protein consumption in the Caribbean. Increasing fishing pressure in the Wider Caribbean region, combined with declines in overall catch (targeting smaller and smaller fish) and the targeting of species at lower trophic levels pressure indicate that this industry is in danger. The area of seafloor which is impacted by trawling or dredging is 150 times that of all the forest clear cut worldwide annually.

- 52% of 441 global fishery stocks are 'fully exploited'
- 17% are 'overexploited'
- 7% are 'depleted'
- 90% of all big fish are gone

SeaWeb

The exploitation of fish stocks over time. From the presentation of K. Teleki from SeaWeb

The Value of Biodiversity for Tourism

Associated Costs and Contributions to the Caribbean by Heidi Clark, Sandals Foundation, Jamaica and Mr. Jamie Sweeting, Royal Caribbean Cruises, USA.

Tourism in the Wider Caribbean, and globally, benefits greatly from the ecosystem services derived from the environment and their biodiversity. The tourism industry has major economic importance in this region. Testimony presented from the private sector companies that participated in the panel demonstrated how they benefit by investing in the conservation and protection of the ecosystems and related services. It was acknowledged, however, that further work needs to be done to address the environmental impacts associated with tourism, particularly with respect to raising environmental awareness and enhancing education programmes for their guests.



Sandals FOUNDATION Marine and Coastal preservation efforts

- **Beach, Coastal and Reef Clean-Ups**
- **Reef Cleanups** quarterly by our dive team
- **Monthly**- water quality tests to assess our runoff and impact on reef
- **Coastal cleanup activities** and adoption of needy beaches such as Port Marie Beach where we pay locals to keep beach clean... 12 miles from our closest resort done solely for the purpose of marine protection
- **Reef Balls Project**- Partnered with Project Aware for Construction of two reefs- Turks & Caicos
- **Great Exuma**- Waste Water collected in Elizabeth harbour from moored boats.

Description of some of the work being done by Sandals Foundation. Taken from the Sandals Foundation presentation

Tourism's footprint can be significantly reduced by cleaner production and sustainable consumption patterns. If allied with the involvement of and capacity building opportunities for local communities, particularly embodying traditional lifestyles at the destination level, tourism development can directly benefit the people and communities who become stewards and custodians of biodiversity.

By providing development opportunities to local communities and stakeholders through sustainable tourism projects and initiatives which enhance their traditional knowledge and life style, the capacity to successfully manage a destination along with its biodiversity and natural assets is improved, multiplied and spread throughout a country.

Conclusions

Services from healthy ecosystems may include the provision of food, water, fibers, housing materials, medicines, pollination, carbon storage, waste disposal, etc . Challenges identified in the path to growth that is sustainable point to shifting perspectives from the “products” that ecosystems generate to the “functions” they provide . Ecosystem services are often viewed as free and the environment as a luxury, not a necessity. Additionally, the costs of degradation are often not factored in economic analysis and short-term values are erroneously considered to outweigh long-term benefits. Furthermore, the costs of restoration and recovery are always higher than the costs of prevention and precautionary measures.

MARKET FAILURES: GDP is a specialized tool	
Includes: activity	Excludes: Quality
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Net Exports ■ Consumption Expenditures ■ Government Expenditures ■ Built Capital 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Natural resource assets ■ Ecosystem Services ■ Social Capital ■ Democracy ■ Education ■ Planetary limits ■ Quality of life ■ Pollution
<p>Lessons learned indicate the need to address market failures. From the presentation by Mr. C.M. Rodriguez from Conservation International.</p>	

Lessons learned from the experiences of Costa Rica demonstrate that identifying the costs of degradation and ways of capturing values of environmental services, making links to economic sectors are important for the transfer of payment for such services, as well as emphasizing in very practical and pragmatic way that human well being is directly related to healthy ecosystems.

Strategies for paying for these services have been developed in order to encourage stakeholders to conserve and manage the environment better.. Although an economic value can be attached to the provision of these services it requires beneficiaries and other stakeholders to be engaged to ensure maintenance of pristine ecosystems. This maintenance and value not only provides valuable economic

incentives and livelihood benefits, but also provides extra resources and opportunities to engage the public on the importance for conserving biodiversity.

In order to ensure the integrity of the ecosystems within a country and the services they provide, the private sector have a strong role to play as a key segment dependent on such services and partnerships with non-governmental and governmental organisations are crucial to safeguard their protection for long-term sustainability. It is critically important that there be continued conservation and management efforts in order to reduce impacts to coral reefs and maintain their role in offering ecosystem services. In addition to policy efforts, resilience science must be integrated into reef management and support given to local communities for reef restoration. Similarly, policy efforts need to be intensified for sound fisheries management in the region as demonstrated by the recent adoption of the Castries (St. Lucia) Declaration on Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated Fishing in August 2010

Payment for ecosystem services can result in significant national benefits including: income generation to the rural poor; improvement of watersheds; contribution to carbon sequestration; conservation of biodiversity, and other indirect benefits such as improved public health and human well-being.

Increasing the contribution of ESPP to poverty reduction will assist with the fulfillment of the Millennium Development Goals, with high level political commitment and with the international policy dialogue by promoting new financial mechanisms for sustainable development.

To this end, the continued need to assess the value of natural resources which are important to the economic growth of the Caribbean, such as coral reefs, marine mammals, sea turtles, fisheries and other environmental assets such as coastal forests, marine protected areas, beaches and water resources are crucial., Their close linkages to the Caribbean communities, socially , culturally and financially also need to be further exposed to the general public and decision-makers at large.

Information on the value of such ecosystems require, in addition to compilation and analysis of data, the development of an effective communication strategy to reach specific and target audiences. The goal would be to sensitize and inform constituencies as well as to promote the integration of ESPP and associated data into policy and strategic frameworks, existing programmes and projects at the country level.

In the age of a wide variety and powerful internet based tools and social networks, these could be used to this advantage. In this respect the private sector and civil society can play a significant role as agents of change and catalisers to entice new ways and means of achieving sustainability in the management and conservation of Caribbean biodiversity. Leveraging such partnerships and alliances, including financing regional institutions, will be equally key in generating multipliers and scaling up positive experiences and replicating successful cases throughout the region.

Follow-up by UNEP-CEP

A briefing with major findings on the value of biodiversity, challenges and useful tools emanating from the conclusions of this Panel could be elaborated by UNEP-CEP, on an attractive and interactive format (as a video clip for example), as a starting point to begin further dialogue on the way forward by its member countries. Such a brief could be widely disseminated through the existing networks of UNEP-CEP focal points, partners from the private sector and local communities.

**ANNEX VIII: DRAFT RULES OF PROCEDURE AND FINANCIAL RULES OF THE
CARIBBEAN ENVIRONMENT PROGRAMME**