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Third 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 Region  
(LBS)

Mexico City, Mexico, 22 - 26 August 2005

## **REPORT OF THE MEETING**



***Promoting regional co-operation for the protection and development  
of the marine environment of the Wider Caribbean Region***



## ACRONYMS

ACIM.....	Microbiological Indicators
AMACUHBAT....	Asociación para el Manejo de las Cuencas Hidrográficas en la Bahía de Tela
AMEP.....	Assessment and Management of Environmental Pollution
BMP/SGP.....	Small Grants project for the application of Best Management Practices in Agricultural Production
CAR/RCU.....	Caribbean Regional Coordinating Unit
CarWASSH.....	Caribbean Water Assessment Snap Shot
CATHALAC.....	Water Centre for the Humid Tropics of Latin America and the Caribbean
CATIE.....	Centro Agronómico Tropical de Investigación y Enseñanza
CEHI.....	Caribbean Environmental Health Institute
CEP.....	Caribbean Environment Programme
CEPNET.....	Information Systems for the Management of Marine and Coastal Resources
CHM	Clearing House Mechanism
CIGEA.....	Environment, Management and Information Centre
Cimab.....	Centro de Ingeniería y Manejo Ambiental de Bahías y Costas
CITMA.....	Ministry of Science, Technology and the Environment
COP.....	Contracting Parties
CWWA.....	Caribbean Water and Wastewater Association
DSS.....	Decision-support Systems
EIA.....	Environmental Impact Assessments
ETA.....	Education, Training and Awareness
FIU.....	Florida International University
GEF.....	Global Environment Facility
GIS.....	Geographic information systems
GIWA.....	Global International Water Assessment
GOOS.....	Global Oceanographic Observing System
GPA.....	Global Programme of Action
IFREMER.....	Institut Français de Recherche pour l'exploitation durable de la mer
IGM.....	Intergovernmental Meeting
INVEMAR.....	Instituto de Investigaciones Marinas y Costeras
IOC.....	International Oceanographic Commission
ISTAC.....	Interim Scientific and Technical Advisory Committee
IWCAM.....	Integrated Watershed and Coastal Area Management
LBS.....	Land-based Sources and Activities
MARPOL.....	International Convention for the Prevention of Pollution from Ships
MBRS.....	Mesoamerican Barrier Reef System
MoU.....	Memorandum of Understanding
NASA.....	North American Space Agency
NEMS.....	National Environmental Management Strategies

NGO.....	Non-Governmental Organization
NOAA.....	National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
NPA.....	National Programme of Action
OECS.....	Organization of Eastern Caribbean States
PAHO.....	Pan American Health Organization
PROSET.....	Regional Programme for the Protection of the Southeast Pacific against Pollution from Land-based Activities
RACs.....	Regional Activity Centres
RAMSAR.....	Secretariat of the Convention on Wetlands
RAN.....	Regional Activity Network
REMPEITC...	Regional Marine Pollution Emergency, Information and Training Centre
ROLAC.....	Regional Office for Latin America and the Caribbean
RONA.....	Regional Office for North American
SEMARNAT...	Secretaría del Medio Ambiente y Recursos Naturales
SERVIR.....	Regional Meso-American Monitoring and Visualization System
SIDA.....	Swedish International Development Agency
SIDS.....	Small Islands Developing States
SO.....	Support Organization
SPAW.....	Specially Protected Areas and Wildlife
UNEP.....	United Nations Environment Programme
UNESCO.....	United Nation Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization
US EPA.....	United States Environmental Protection Agency
USAID.....	United States Agency for International Development
WCR.....	Wider Caribbean Region
WHO.....	World Health Organization
WTO.....	World Tourism Organization
WW2BW.....	White Water to Blue Water

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## Introduction

1. Decision No. 29 (b) of the Ninth Intergovernmental Meeting on the Action Plan for the Caribbean Environment Programme (CEP) and the Sixth Meeting of the Contracting Parties to the Convention for the Protection and Development of the Marine Environment of the Wider Caribbean Region (Kingston, Jamaica, 14-18 February 2000) agreed to bring into existence an Ad Hoc Group of Government-designated Experts to begin to function as an Interim Scientific and Technical Advisory Committee (ISTAC) on Land-based Sources and Activities (LBS) and Assessment and Management of Environmental Pollution (AMEP) activities as they relate to the Protocol, until the Protocol enters into force.
2. Consistent with the Workplan and Budget of the CEP for 2004-2005, the present meeting was convened as the Third Meeting of the LBS/ISTAC with the following objectives:
  - review the current status and activities of the LBS Protocol;
  - develop the 2006-2007 Workplan and Budget of the LBS Protocol for subsequent approval by the Twelfth Intergovernmental Meeting;
  - review relevant activities of the Global Programme of Action for the Protection of the Marine Environment from Land-Based Activities (GPA) and in particular the development and implementation of National Programmes of Action (NPAs);
  - review the activities of the LBS Regional Activity Centres (RACs) including an assessment of the development of the Regional Activity Network (RAN) and the Operating Procedures for the RACs and RAN; and
  - identify new activities and projects for further development as part of the AMEP work programme.
3. The experts invited to the Meeting were nominated by the National Focal Points of the Caribbean Environment Programme. Additionally, representatives of international, regional, intergovernmental, and non-governmental organizations have been invited to attend the Meeting as Observers.
5. Mr. Andrade Colmenares highlighted the fact that the Third Interim Scientific and Technical Advisory Committee of the Protocol on Land-based Sources of Pollution (LBS/ISTAC) was convened with the assistance of the Mexican Government, SEMARNAT, and with substantial financial assistance from the Government of the United States. He pointed out that owing to the vast fundraising efforts of the secretariat over the past years, as well as the contribution of two Global Environment Facility (GEF) projects, the project portfolio of the Programme on Assessment and Management of Environmental Pollution (AMEP) is today at a value of almost US\$40 million. Support from donors such as the Governments of France, Sweden, United States of America, Venezuela, as well as financial input to the Caribbean Trust Fund from other member countries, indicates that the LBS Protocol and the activities implemented under it, are perceived as valuable by the countries of the region, and allow for the secretariat to continue its efforts in promoting it. Mr. Andrade Colmenares recognized the assistance of the White Water to Blue Water (WW2BW) Partnership Initiative, initiated by the Government of the United States of America, in increasing collaboration and fundraising and mentioned the signing of an agreement between CEP and the Swedish Government through the Swedish International Development Agency (SIDA), of US\$1 million, towards partnership projects within WW2BW. He further thanked the host Governments of the RACs in Cuba, Trinidad & Tobago, and the Netherlands Antilles. He also acknowledged the quality of the work of the AMEP Programme Officer, Mr. Christopher Corbin, since he joined the CEP a year ago.
6. The Coordinator mentioned upcoming meetings in the region such as the Fourth World Water Forum in March 2006, in Mexico, and the Fifteen Meeting of the Forum of Ministers of the Environment of Latin America and the Caribbean in November 2005 in Venezuela and commended Mexico and Venezuela for hosting these meetings. He indicated that extensive cooperation existed between the CEP and the Organization of Eastern Caribbean States (OECS), and that Memoranda of Understanding have been signed with the Secretariat of the Convention on Wetlands (Ramsar) as well as with the Secretariat of the Basel Convention.

## Agenda item 1: Opening of the Meeting

4. The Meeting began on Monday, 22 August 2005 at 9:00 a.m. The head table for the opening of the Meeting was composed of Mr. Nelson Andrade Colmenares, Coordinator of the Caribbean Environment Programme (CEP), Mr. Julio Calderón, Head of the Unit of Natural Resources at the UNEP Regional Office for Latin America and the Caribbean (ROLAC), Representatives from the Host Government Mr. Juan Carlos Valencia Vargas, Water Planning Manager at the National Water Commission, Mrs. Maria Teresa Rosas, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, and Dr. Antonio Díaz de León Corral, General Director of Environmental Policy, and Regional and Sectorial Integration, of the Secretaría del Medio Ambiente y Recursos Naturales (SEMARNAT).
7. With regard to the implementation and ratification of the LBS Protocol, the Coordinator thanked the Governments of the United States of America and France for initiating the revision and clarification of the translation of the text of the Protocol, an exercise that will assist other governments in ratifying the Protocol. He informed the Meeting that workshops for the promotion of the LBS Protocols have been implemented, together with the Regional Activity Centre of the LBS Protocol in Cuba, the Centro de Ingeniería y Manejo Ambiental de Bahías y Costas (LBS/RAC-Cimab) and with the support of SIDA in Costa Rica, Cuba and Venezuela, for the Spanish-speaking countries of the region. Efforts are currently being undertaken together with the LBS/RAC in Trinidad and Tobago, the Institute of Marine Affairs (LBS/RAC-

IMA), to implement similar workshops in the English speaking Caribbean. Several projects of the CEP are advancing, and will move forward especially with the selection of a coordinator for the Integrated Watershed and Coastal Area Management (IWCAM) project of US\$22 million, as well as the imminent selection of a coordinator of the GEF pesticide project. As the LBS Protocol seeks to protect and manage coastal and marine areas, he urged governments and organizations of the region to keep working together for the sustainable management of the marine and coastal environment.

8. Mr. Calderón welcomed the participants and noted with pleasure the great interest in the meeting of governments, NGOs, technical agencies and universities. He noted that the Forum of Ministers of the Environment will be vital to continuing the work of protecting the environment and will also provide an opportunity for exchange of experiences with other regions, e.g. the South Pacific, as well as closer regional offices such as the UNEP Regional Office of North America. He also highlighted the upcoming Fourth World Water Forum in March 2006 as an important meeting for presenting the work of the Wider Caribbean Region, and mentioned the regional meeting in Montego Bay, Jamaica, as a forum for the countries of the region to liaise with each other.
9. Mr. Valencia Vargas referred to the uneven distribution of rain in Mexico over the year and the inefficient usage of water, with 40-60% being lost before usage. Industries, he indicated, are most efficient in their water usage; however, the level of contamination is three times higher than that of residential use. For these reasons, the Mexican Government considers the hosting of the Fourth World Water Forum in March 2006 as an important platform for exchange of experiences and identification of best practices in a number of areas, including risk management and integrated coastal management. Governments were encouraged to visit the website of the Forum ([www.worldwaterforum.org](http://www.worldwaterforum.org)) in order to familiarize themselves with the progress of preparations for the Forum.
10. Mrs. Rosas highlighted the fundamental need for water management and conservation, and called for the active participation of all governments at the Fourth World Water Forum, with special mention of a session of Environmental Ministers to discuss water management in their respective countries.
11. Dr. Diaz de Leon welcomed the participants and informed the Meeting of efforts in the Gulf of California, as well as the Gulf of Mexico, to minimize conflict due to the use of natural resources, through increased coordination between government agencies, transparent processes and the involvement of the community in general. Oil and electricity producing sectors have been involved in the ecological management of the Gulf of Mexico and urban wastes from the cities have been identified as the main land-based sources of pollution. He noted that a GEF project has been initiated entitled Integrated Management of the Large Marine Ecosystem

in the Gulf of Mexico. Further, National Programmes of Action focusing on local problems are underway and it is anticipated that now that a coordinator has been selected for this project, additional strategies and plans will be identified within a year in order to protect the Gulf of Mexico from land-based sources of pollution. Best practices will also be identified within the Mesoamerican Barrier Reef System (MBRS) and codes of conduct on best practices will also be developed in collaboration with the neighbouring countries within the scope of existing competencies. Mexico will publish its National Policy, with the focus being on marine and coastal areas. He concluded by wishing all the participants a fruitful meeting and encouraged them to enjoy Mexico as well. He officially opened the Meeting at 10.25 am.

12. Mr. Christopher Corbin, Programme Officer of AMEP acknowledged the support of SEMARNAT and the Government of Mexico.

### Agenda item 2: Election of Officers

13. The Meeting elected:
  - Chairperson.....Dr. Porfirio Alvarez Torres, Mexico
  - First Vice Chairperson Mr. Lucas González Milla, Venezuela
  - Second Vice Chairperson Dr. Amoy Lum Kong, Trinidad and Tobago
  - Third Vice Chairperson Mrs. Sheila Braithwaite, British Virgin Islands / United Kingdom
  - Rapporteur .....Mr. Patrick Cotter, United States of America



Mr. Patrick Cotter (Rapporteur), Dr. Porfirio Alvarez Torres (Chairperson), Mr. Nelson Andrade Colmenares (Coordinator of the CEP) and Mr. Christopher Corbin, AMEP Programme Officer.

### Agenda item 3: Organization of the Meeting

14. The Chairperson outlined the procedures for the conduct of the meeting.

#### (a) Rules of procedure

15. The rules of procedure of the Governing Council for UNEP (UNEP/GC/3/Rev.3) were applied *mutatis mutandis*.

#### (b) Organization of the work



16. English, French and Spanish were the working languages of the Meeting. Simultaneous interpretation in these languages was provided for the Meeting. The working documents of the Meeting were available in all the working languages.
17. The Secretariat convened the Meeting in plenary sessions, with the assistance of working groups. The Chairperson also established a drafting group for the recommendations of the Meeting; a working group on marine litter; and a working group reviewing the workplan and budget for the biennium 2006-2007. Simultaneous interpretation was not available for the working groups.

#### **Agenda item 4: Adoption of the Agenda**

18. The Meeting adopted the Agenda of the Meeting as proposed by the Secretariat in document UNEP(DEC)/CAR WG.28/1.

#### **Agenda item 5: Review of the Status and Activities of the LBS Protocol**

##### **(a) Review of Status**

19. The Government of Colombia, as Depository for the Cartagena Convention, reported that, to date, 21 States had either ratified or acceded to the Cartagena Convention. However, only six Caribbean states had signed and two, Panama and Trinidad and Tobago, had acceded to the LBS Protocol.
20. The Coordinator of the CEP, Mr. Nelson Andrade, drawing on the experience of the Protocol on Specially Protected Areas and Wildlife (SPAW), pointed out that a ten-year period for achieving the goal of entry into force of the Protocol was not unreasonable. He noted however that governments needed to follow the process carefully in order to comply with all the stages. He highlighted the opportunities for the promotion of the Protocol by the Secretariat and the RACs of Cuba and Trinidad and Tobago. A promotional workshop had been organized for Spanish-speaking countries by the RAC-Cimab. He noted that these Spanish-speaking countries had no intrinsic problems with the signing of the Protocol but were perhaps daunted by the work that ratification entailed. He mentioned that Costa Rica and Honduras were making significant progress in this regard. He indicated that the RAC-IMA in Trinidad would be hosting a similar regional workshop for English-speaking countries, and that two of the countries had already produced printed material to promote ratification of the Protocol.
21. He reminded participants that ratification had no financial implications. It was merely a benchmark for the activities undertaken and a simpler way of achieving objectives. He pointed out that efforts such as access to loans, would be enhanced once the Protocol has been signed.
22. Member governments were invited to report on the status of the ratification or accession process in their respective countries.
23. The Government of the United States of America reported that it was involved in the process of ratification but was unable to give a definite date for completion of that process. The Representative of the Dominican Republic indicated that its government was also involved in the process of ratification. The Representative of Honduras suggested that the ratification process needed to be dealt with from the local level.
24. The Coordinator recommended that Honduras draft a recommendation to this effect, which would be sent to Venezuela, Chair of the Working Group on Recommendations. Thus, any future workshops held with local authorities would already have the endorsement of the ISTAC.
25. The Representative of Mexico indicated that the Ministry of the Environment and Natural Resources was examining Mexico's future accession and was currently working on the practical aspects of this commitment. He also pointed to the fact that funds needed to be identified in order to ensure compliance with all the obligations.
26. The Delegate from Venezuela reported that his government was preparing the studies and making the consultations necessary. He mentioned that Venezuela has had regulations for wastewaters for more than fifteen (15) years; nevertheless, it should be noted that the greatest progress has been made in the treatment of industrial wastewater. Venezuela has invested heavily in the treatment of domestic wastewater in the coastal sector where there is tourism; however, treatment coverage, at a nationwide level, is still very low.
27. The Representative from Nicaragua reported that her country has not yet ratified the LBS Protocol; however, work is being done in this respect. She mentioned that her country has a decree to regulate domestic, industrial and agricultural wastewaters, in addition to a National Water Resources Policy with a decree regulating environmental impact. The General Water Law is in the discussion and approval stage in the Parliament, the national cleaner production policy is being discussed and the application of an instrument called the Gradual Integral Plan to reduce industrial pollution is being implemented. She expressed her country's concern about the impact of pollution through discharges into the Wider Caribbean Region arising from point and non-point sources; therefore a study is being made of the cities that discharge into the Wider Caribbean Region and the second stage of the pesticide runoff project into the Wider Caribbean Region is being continued in order to update it.
28. The Representative of the Netherlands Antilles indicated that the legislation necessary for ratification was in the last phase of being passed by parliament. A delay in the process was caused by the need to address capacity issues in relation to enforcement of the legislation.

Meanwhile sewage treatment plants are in place in Curacao and St. Maarten, while Bonaire is in the last phase of realizing a sewage treatment plant.

#### **(b) Review of Activities**

29. The Secretariat made a presentation in which it evaluated the major projects implemented or under implementation under the AMEP sub-programme within the scope of the LBS Protocol. It was indicated that, in addition to the LBS Protocol, the Programme coordinates the Protocol Concerning Cooperation in Combating Oil Spills, the establishment and development of the LBS RACs and also works with global conventions. Referring to the document "Status of Activities for the Sub-programme on the Assessment and Management of Environmental Pollution (AMEP) in Support of the Protocol Concerning Land-Based Sources of Marine Pollution for 2004-2005" (UNEP(DEC)/CAR WG.28/INF.3), the Programme Officer highlighted the main objectives of the programme which he summarized as promotion, ratification and implementation; collaboration, coordination and communication; project development, financing and management and; coordination with the LBS/RACs. He reported that, pursuant to the recommendations of the Second LBS/ISTAC held in Nicaragua in 2003, as well as the recommendations of the Eleventh Intergovernmental Meeting (IGM) held in Jamaica in 2004, AMEP was responding to the mandate given by the member governments. He outlined some of the issues involved in the management of the various projects as well as the challenges facing the programme.
30. Regarding the implementation of recommendations of the 2<sup>nd</sup> ISTAC, the Secretariat presented the major actions taken in respect of these recommendations.
31. With respect to the promotion of the LBS Protocol, the programme officer reported that a promotional workshop had been held for Spanish-speaking countries in Costa Rica, a number of brochures had been produced by the Secretariat and the RAC-Cimab, a national workshop had been held in Cuba and several missions and workshops had taken place.
32. With respect to the establishment of relationships and partnerships with other agencies, programmes and initiatives, notably with the Pan American Health Organization (PAHO) and within the WW2BW Initiative, the Secretariat signalled the participation of PAHO in selected workshops convened by the Secretariat. He also pointed to the partnership proposal with SIDA under which six new projects are to be implemented within AMEP during the next biennium, four of which will fall under the LBS Protocol.
33. Further to Decision VII of the 11<sup>th</sup> IGM, the Programme had sought to fully formalize its relationship with the RACs. To this end, a complete review of the guidelines had been undertaken for submission to the 12<sup>th</sup> IGM in 2006. Additionally, a review of the MoUs had been completed and was awaiting the endorsement of the governments. Other initiatives undertaken in furtherance of the decisions include collaboration with regional initiatives on Ballast Water and Invasive Species. The Secretariat reported in this regard that the SPAW Programme Officer had participated in a biodiversity meeting held in Montreal, Convention on Biological Diversity, June 2005, and the Programme Officer for AMEP in the Globallast Project Launching in London, UK, 2005. Additionally, resources had been identified to convene an initial needs assessment workshop on Ballast Water. The Secretariat also sought to increase cooperation with the Basel Convention and, to this end, missions were conducted to the Basel Secretariat and to the Caribbean Regional Centre, joint project activities were carried out in relation to used oil and used lead acid batteries as well as outdated pesticides stocks. He indicated also that there was a joint GEF project on wastes and chemicals under development.
34. The Programme Officer reported that over the last biennium, there had been nine active projects aimed at supporting the implementation of the LBS Protocol and its Annexes. Over the years there has been an increase in the number of projects, their geographical scope and the amount of funding allocated. Regrettably, a number of projects still remain unfunded. The Programme Officer highlighted the significant fundraising efforts undertaken in the past by the Coordinator and the former AMEP Programme Officer, which, in many cases, were beginning to bear fruit. Mr. Corbin pointed to some of the challenges facing the Programme and highlighted the aspect of co-financing which, he said, required special attention and innovative thinking. He invited member governments to become more proactive especially in terms of country and/or focal point ownership of projects. At the same time, he urged focal points to increase their links with the ministries within their respective countries.
35. The Representative of the RAC-IMA gave a brief overview of activities as they relate to the AMEP Programme. She pointed to administrative changes and hurdles that had thwarted the smooth progress of activities, including the new leadership and the transfer of the IMA itself from the Ministry of Public Utilities and Environment to the Ministry of Science, Technology and Tertiary Education. She also indicated, despite the absence of an MoU, RAC-IMA continued to work on projects under the Programme. The main project was the development of a National Programme of Action (NPA) for Trinidad and Tobago. The main activity was: the establishment of a committee comprising government ministers and agencies which had met 8 times and had focussed on the preparation of a pilot project. At the last meeting it had received the report on the progress of the project and had agreed on the way forward, that is to change the focus from a pilot project to a national focus. She indicated that the RAC had been involved in, or had attended several meetings in furtherance of the LBS Protocol including the GPA in Cairns, Australia in May 2004, and the Second Caribbean Environment Forum, Trinidad and Tobago in June 2004. The Basel Convention Awareness Workshop and the UNEP Regional Seas Workshop were important meetings in which the RAC had also been involved.

36. The way forward, she indicated, would involve greater participation in several projects under the LBS Protocol. More staff was required at the RAC and more local institutions needed to be involved in order to develop regional activities. She concluded by saying that the RAC was severely hampered by the lack of an MoU which she considered to be essential to further implementation of activities. In response to this concern, the Coordinator, Mr. Andrade, indicated that negotiations should be held between the RAC and UNEP Headquarters, as they were the signatories of the MoU. Funding for activities was entirely the responsibility of the RAC; however, if funding were required from the Caribbean Trust Fund, the request would have to be made directly to UNEP-CAR/RCU by the RAC.
37. The Representative of Honduras sought clarification on the status of the ETA Programme (Education, Training and Awareness) as no funding appeared to have been allocated to this programme, as mentioned in document UNEP(DEC)/CAR WG.28/INF.3.
38. The Secretariat explained that a lack of funding had forced the suspension of the Programme in 1996; however, its activities had continued to be developed under other programmes until 2002 when the Government of Sweden's contribution of human resources and funding, had facilitated its reactivation. The Coordinator of the CEP indicated that plans were underway to re-open the ETA Programme for 2006-2007, notably with the assistance of the Swedish government. He also highlighted the work of the PANOS Institute of the Caribbean in the dissemination of information.
39. The Coordinator further indicated that donors were requesting that funding be channelled directly to communities rather than to governments. This was the case in Mexico, Honduras and the Bahamas, where fishermen and tourism interests were targeted. The Representative of Venezuela enquired as to whether or not there were large-scale plans to involve communities. He mentioned by way of example the removal of plants in Lake Maracaibo which had been carried out at the community level. The Coordinator of the RCU explained that GEF-funded projects were usually country driven. However, in the case of Lake Maracaibo, UNEP had provided technical assistance directly. He reiterated the possibility of this arrangement but indicated that the request had to be made and that the Ministry of the Environment or the national technical agency must be on board.
40. The Representative of Haiti said it is very important to develop an education programme on environmental issues that can be used to each country in the Wider Caribbean Region because there is a significant movement of country populations toward the coast throughout the WCR.

**Agenda item 6: Adjourn Meeting and Open Regional Workshop on National Programmes of Action (NPAs)**

41. The GPA Representative acknowledged the important work that is being done in the region, and thanked the countries for their contributions to implementing the GPA that was negotiated in Washington, DC in 1995. In keeping with the Agenda, the meeting adjourned to allow for the workshop on National Programmes of Action for the Protection of the Marine Environment (NPA) to be convened to deliberate on the progress of the development and implementation of NPAs in the region.

**Agenda item 7: Presentation and Review of Other Relevant Activities and Initiatives**

**(a) Recommendations from Regional NPA Workshop**

42. ISTAC was reconvened following the day-and-a-half adjournment to allow for the Workshop on National Programmes of Action for the Protection of the Marine Environment (NPAs). The Secretariat gave a brief presentation of NPAs and their relevance to the LBS Protocol, followed by presentations and discussions on the outcome and recommendations from the Workshop, specifically focused on possible recommendations for ISTAC. This forum allowed countries throughout the wider Caribbean to share their individual experiences.
43. NPAs, by determining necessary priorities and implementation strategies<sup>1</sup>, are recognised as mechanisms for strengthening and facilitating the LBS Protocol. An NPA is envisioned as a management plan or tool to address prevention of marine pollution from land based sources. It is a flexible instrument adapted to each country's reality. The goal of the NPA is to assist the national or regional government, industry, and local communities in the prioritization of economic and social development objectives.



*The Delegation of Venezuela leading the Drafting Work Group on Recommendations*

44. It is recognised that in order for NPAs to be implemented, it is important that they be built on realistic assumptions of capacities and resources that are available to the country, both from domestic and

<sup>1</sup> NPAs and the LBS Protocol are two separate entities, however NPAs should be developed to complement the Protocol. They could also complement the National Environmental Management Strategies (NEMS) for the OECS countries.

- international sources. It is further recognised that for NPA development, all relevant stakeholders should be included in the process.
45. The presentations and subsequent discussions during the workshop identified many lessons learnt, challenges, constraints and barriers to the implementation of the NPAs. These include:
- Lack of adequate financial resources;
  - Insufficient capacity both at the institutional and technical levels, which are required for implementation;
  - Lack of effective mechanisms for the decentralisation process (transfer of responsibility). This process is often not accompanied by the provision of the necessary supporting frameworks (legal, financial, enforcement and monitoring etc.), which allows for local governments to implement their responsibilities; and
  - Inadequate knowledge and ownership of marine environmental issues, which are perceived to be barriers to the prioritisation of the NPAs.
46. Other issues mentioned were:
- Time constraints in the development process;
  - Endorsement and ratification of the Protocol; and
  - Empowerment of communities.
47. The delegation from Venezuela prepared and presented a detailed report of recommendations from the workshop. The report reflected the need to strengthen cooperation, information sharing and utilisation of the expertise in the region. It underscored the inadequacies of institutions, capacity, frameworks, conditions and financing in most countries to properly address LBS-related activities. The report further highlighted the need to strengthen knowledge of specific regional technology, the need for training and the transfer of knowledge. Further, it underscored the need for international funding, using the NPA as a catalyst to strengthen domestic resource mobilisation and leverage international resources effectively.
48. The CAR/RCU Secretariat presented a summary of recommendations for consideration by ISTAC. PAHO also presented a written recommendation for strengthening and identifying synergies between the activities of PAHO and ISTAC. Dominica raised the need to engage politicians and decision makers due to the important role they play and stressed the need to develop modules of environmental education and information on the Cartagena Convention and its protocols particularly for decision makers of the region. Other participants raised the need to ensure that activities were not duplications of previous or on-going activities in the region.
49. The delegation from Costa Rica proposed that the recommendation specifically addressed to ISTAC should be integrated into the final ISTAC report. The presentation on recommendations by the Secretariat was considered to be addressed directly towards ISTAC. It was therefore suggested to integrate the ISTAC-relevant recommendations from the report from Venezuela, as well as other recommendations, into the Secretariat's presentation. The delegation from the United States of America further proposed that the recommendations were structured to clearly identify to whom the recommendations be addressed (countries, ISTAC, Secretariat).
50. The workshop identified the following recommendations of action for consideration by ISTAC.
51. Recommendations for action by countries:
- i. Urge countries to develop NPAs in order to facilitate and guide the implementation of the LBS Protocol.
  - ii. Recommend, for implementation in the OECS countries, that the NPA process be integrated into the existing NEMS in order to avoid duplication.
  - iii. Initiate activities on strengthening long-term sustainable financing (domestic resource mobilisation and efficient leverage of international sources), activities on socioeconomic/affordability constraints and strategic planning/sequencing of actions.
  - iv. Increase focus on economic valuation and environmental health cost assessments.
  - v. Increase awareness/initiatives on the benefits from LBS activities.
52. Recommendations for ISTAC:
- vi. To continue its efforts to strengthen capacity for the development and implementation of LBS/NPA activities. In addition there should be increased experience-sharing in the region, including methods/tools in order to strengthen LBS implementation.
  - vii. Facilitate implementation of NPAs through clearly-defined short, medium and long-term plans.
  - viii. Develop, through ISTAC, a mechanism to assist countries in addressing barriers and constraints to the development and implementation of NPAs (recommendations iii-v).
  - ix. Initiate and strengthen activities on training and transfer of knowledge using regional experience and expertise.
  - x. Develop tools and information packages on LBS addressed specifically to policy and decision makers.
  - xi. Increase involvement of the academic community.
  - xii. Strengthen cooperation with PAHO - Build on synergies between programmes.
  - xiii. Ensure that duplication of projects does not occur.
- (b) Marine Debris**
53. In his presentation of this topic, the AMEP Programme Officer noted that the objective of this particular activity was to focus on the key priority needs at the moment for marine litter, which could be included in a pilot project for the region. He indicated that the Regional Seas Programme Coordinating Office of UNEP was in the

process of developing a larger GEF project that would focus on marine litter. He signalled that the opportunity was now being given to identify not only the short-term priorities but also the medium to long-term issues that may be incorporated into this larger GEF project.

54. He cautioned against "re-inventing the wheel" when looking at future action for marine debris and marine litter. He informed delegates that there had already been a document prepared by the Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission (IOC) of UNESCO on marine debris in 1994 which had already designed a Solid Waste Action Plan for the Caribbean. The AMEP Programme Officer thanked the countries for responding to the questionnaire distributed earlier in 2005 that provided background information on concerns and programmes.
55. The Delegation of the United States, as Chairperson of the Working Group on Marine Debris, alerted the meeting to the serious nature of the problem of marine debris. She indicated that, based on The Ocean Conservancy's annual clean-up, it was estimated that 73% of the debris found in the Caribbean in 2004 originated from land-based activities. The study labelled caps/lids, plastic bottles, cigarettes/filters, food wrappers/containers and bags as the most frequently found items on beaches. Likewise, plastic bottles, glass bottles, bags, caps/lids, and cups/plates/utensils were most frequently found underwater. Participants in the Working Group confirmed that these items, especially plastic bottles, presented a large, growing problem.
56. Participants also believed that debris reached the marine environment or their beaches due to a variety of actions/situations such as:
  - hurricanes and extreme weather events;
  - poor behavioural actions (with or without waste management infrastructure);
  - unavailable/inconveniently located waste receptacles;
  - unreliable or poor timing (e.g. need for weekend collection at popular beaches) of trash collection; and
  - transport from other countries due to ocean circulation patterns.
57. The participants noted some of the negative impacts such as:
  - flooding when debris blocks rivers or storm drains;
  - impaired access to or reduced use of beaches; and
  - human, ecosystem and animal impacts (entanglement, needles, habitat alterations).
58. More data on the sources and impacts (ecosystem, species, economics) would be useful. Participants agreed that there was no "one fit solution" to the WCR since the source of problems and potential actions for remediation differ from island to island and island to continental countries.
59. Participants could uniformly agree, however, that local community-based programs would have the most impact. In this regard, the group discussed how to use the \$35,000 the CEP currently had to address marine debris. Most thought that the best use of this funding would be to apply it towards the investigation and development of a larger GEF project rather than to one or two small pilot projects.
60. The \$35,000 could be utilized to identify existing information in each of the countries such as:
  - who are the players (e.g. International Coastal Cleanup (ICC) co-ordinators);
  - what are the existing community level projects -- successful and unsuccessful;
  - what are the existing/proposed national legal mechanisms; and
  - what are the existing educational materials.
61. Gathering this information would help develop a larger scale GEF project which fosters action in each country. Participants highlighted their inability to subsume marine debris into their existing workloads. As a result, it was recommended that a marine debris coordinator be hired in each country. A large packet of materials (based on the \$35,000 study - e.g. educational materials, exemplary projects) would be provided to each coordinator to facilitate local action and community-level solutions.
62. Another component of a larger GEF project could be some regional or global activities such as:
  - research on small scale recycling opportunities (e.g. making roof sheeting, developing artisan markets);
  - research on making biodegradable plastics;
  - establish a monitoring program; and
  - working with cruise ships to implement MARPOL Annex V.
63. The Delegation of the United States of America added some comments regarding the marine debris programme of their country. In the last few years there has been an increasing emphasis on this subject due to attention in the US Ocean Action Plan and by the US Congress. In Fiscal Year 2005, the NOAA received \$5 million from Congress to increase marine debris activities. The US Department of State is seeking \$50,000 to host a seminar (in conjunction with other agencies and organizations) to bring together port authorities, resource managers and fishermen in the WCR to discuss ways in which to better dispose of old fishing gear and to minimize loss of gear while at sea.
64. Lastly, the US drew attention to its National Marine Debris Monitoring Program managed by the US EPA with assistance from The Ocean Conservancy. The program is designed to gather scientifically valid marine debris data following a rigorous statistical protocol. One of the goals of the program is to identify trends in the amounts of marine debris affecting the US coastline and to determine the main sources of the debris. The region may want to look at this program as a model for undertaking a monitoring and assessment program.

**(c) Protection of Recreational Water Quality in the Wider Caribbean Region**

65. The Director of the Research Centre at the Florida International University, Dr. Rudolph Jaffe, outlined a programme entitled Caribbean Water Assessment Snap Shot, (CarWASSH), in which he made a proposal for the establishment of long-term water quality monitoring programme in the Caribbean. In his presentation, Mr Jaffe pointed to the need that has manifested during the meeting for more reliable water quality data within the region, for a compilation of such data and for the sharing of this data across the Wider Caribbean. He underscored three main objectives of the initiative, namely:
- i) to build a cohesive network for long-term water quality monitoring in the Caribbean and to focus on coastal ecosystems, coral reefs, mangrove and sea grass dominated areas;
  - ii) to provide an early warning system for coastal water degradation and to furnish environmental quality data for informed decision-making and management; and
  - iii) to determine environmental pollution and effects caused through urbanization, agriculture, hurricane activity and climate change as well as to assist in capacity building, for example in the area of analytical and field methods for ecosystem monitoring.
66. He listed the reasons for the establishment of a Caribbean environmental monitoring network as academic, social, economic and political. He stressed the areas of conservation and recreation as being of academic and social interest respectively, while tourism and fisheries as well as informed decision-making would drive the economic and political motivations. Other political motivations, he said, were natural resources management, capacity building and sustainability. He pointed to the organizational, financial and technical difficulties involved in establishing an efficient Caribbean-wide network and underscored the need for real local participation and involvement.
67. He indicated that, to date, twenty-three Caribbean partners had come on board, giving to the initiative a fairly broad representation. He noted that all samples from partners were treated similarly during the process of reception and analysis at the laboratory in order to determine their chemical and optical properties. By way of follow-up initiatives, he pointed to the need for a Caribbean Water Quality Workshop involving technicians and scientists, in order to determine needs throughout the region. He also reiterated the need to identify potential sources of funding to cover costs for nations unable to prepare and implement water quality programmes for themselves.
68. During the ensuing discussion, the Representative of France indicated that that country possessed an observation laboratory established by IFREMER, located in Martinique and Guadeloupe. She indicated that the website of that institution provided a description of methodologies for dealing with different polluting substances such as heavy metals and oils. She pointed to the fact that France, in the framework of the EU, is undertaking a new monitoring and evaluation of water quality programme, based on chemical and biological parameters, this broadening that of the FIU proposal; the ultimate objective of this programme being to achieve good environmental status of water bodies by 2015.
69. The Representative of Cuba cautioned against the use of parameters that have a daily variation and may need to be monitored more frequently.
70. The Representative of Bonaire indicated that Bonaire was embarking on a nutrient study. He requested information regarding the extent to which guidelines should be used in relation to sampling and analyses procedures. This in view of assessing reliable data which is coherent with data collected in other areas of the Wider Caribbean Region. In response to this question, the Representative of the FIU explained that countries were free to select the types and sources of the samples that they would send to the laboratory, as both frequency and sites would remain the purview of the individual territories. He suggested that guidelines in this regard could be decided at the proposed workshop. He reiterated the FIU's commitment to working in a participatory manner with the countries by making its Florida Coastal Monitoring Database available to everyone. The Representative of INVEMAR noted that existing laboratories in each country could do these analyses according to defined laboratory protocols.
71. The Panama Representative recommended using inter-calibration tests for the laboratories that want to participate in order to ensure reliable results.
72. The PAHO Representative declared that at a microbiological level it was difficult to perform certain tests because the samples sent do not guarantee reliable results. Nevertheless, he stated that given the importance inherent to actions of this kind, the PAHO offered to technically support a draft proposal for the development of a regional recreational waters monitoring system.
73. The FIU Representative underscored the fact that the FIU was not attempting to take over the water quality monitoring process for the entire Caribbean. This, he claimed, was not physically or politically possible. They could however, assist smaller countries and institutions in carrying out this function. In response to Panama's comment about the need for inter-laboratory calibration, FIU agreed that QA/QC methods were needed. The Secretariat thanked the FIU and recognized the value of a regional monitoring programme. A variety of existing laboratories could develop a network for monitoring, using standard methods and procedures. Regional monitoring is a fundamental instrument for the Protocol.
74. The Representative of the Dominican Republic made a presentation on the Blue Flag Campaign Initiative in which that country has been involved. He described the

- Blue Flag initiative as an initiative of the Foundation for Environmental Education. This Campaign was launched in France in 1985 and has been active at the international level since 1987, the European Year of the Environment. The concept of the Blue Flag in the Dominican Republic, which started in 2002 with the assistance of UNEP and the World Tourism Organization (WTO), entails "the design and dissemination of a new concept of global quality, which includes among its attributes, legality, equity, and accessibility at the ecological, economic and social levels for everyone, whether citizen or visitor"
75. In outlining the objectives and criteria for the award of the Blue Flag, he noted that the presence of a Blue Flag on a beach recognized the efforts of certain local communities in complying with certain criteria for accessibility, cleanliness, safety, attention to environmental management and adequate information. He indicated the challenges relating to beach clean-up by the users themselves, in particular the vendors, as their close proximity to the beaches meant that there were always discharges onto the beach. He noted the efforts of some hoteliers three years ago to invest in buying 4,000 m<sup>2</sup> to build a plaza for all the vendors. An agreement is currently being signed between the hotel sector and the Secretary of Tourism to solve this problem.
76. With regard to the treatment of sewage emanating from the hotel sector, the Representative noted that in one area, only 50% of hotels had treatment plants; in another area, 75% while in the city of Santo Domingo itself, only 60% of hotels had treatment plants, in an area where discharges were made directly into the Caribbean Sea. He highlighted the fact that hotels located on beaches with Blue Flag certification all had treatment facilities.
77. The Representative of Panama mentioned that consultants in her country worked on the elaboration of the Marine and Coastal Water Quality Regulations. This considered the viability of integrating the Blue Flag Programme into the regulations. Currently, these regulations are in the public consultation period. The Representative of the Dominican Republic pointed out that there were international guidelines and that a national committee, including the Ministry of the Environment, evaluated the characteristics of the beach before a Blue Flag could be awarded.
78. He also indicated that hotels carried out their own monitoring, with an official environment audit carried out later to ensure compliance and the legality of the results. In response to the Delegation of Honduras wishing to know whether or not treatment plants were considered at the time of hotel construction, the Representative responded that projects for construction were not approved if this requirement was not met at the planning stage; established hotels however, were in a more difficult situation. The hotels, he reiterated, met all the economic costs of the monitoring process.
79. The Representative of the Netherlands Antilles, supported by Mexico, sought clarification on compliance by all hotels on a given beach and requested to know if there were consequences if one hotel did not comply with the monitoring requirements, since certification depended on all hotels being on board. The Representative of the Dominican Republic reiterated that the Blue Flag Campaign Initiative was voluntary and non-binding. However, given their interest in attracting a different kind of tourist, i.e. the European tourist who is particularly conscious of a beach's Blue Flag status, they were eager to comply with the stated guidelines.
80. The Coordinator of CEP pointed out that this situation had not been encountered to date. He seized the opportunity to provide an overview of criteria required for the Blue Flag certification including Reef Check procedures, fish abundance, effects on reefs and funding. He indicated that there were three countries with Blue Flag certification, notably, The Bahamas, Dominican Republic, Jamaica and the Territory of Puerto Rico. In response to a question from Venezuela regarding assistance in the preparation for Blue Flag implementation, he said that the Secretariat would make the guidelines of the programme available to all Member States. The Representative of the British Virgin Islands sought clarification on whether or not the Blue Flag Programme had provision for beaches not dedicated to tourism. To this, the Secretariat responded that Puerto Rico had selected four beaches, two public and two private but that the standards were the same.
81. The Representative of Cuba noted that the Blue Flag Programme was closely related to water treatment systems and to environmental permits for establishing hotels. He indicated that in Cuba, beach monitoring was the purview of the Ministry of Public Health as it was not only an environmental issue but also a public health issue.
82. The Representative of Costa Rica shared his country's experience in developing a national programme similar to the Blue Flag Initiative that has been in place for ten years but adapted to local conditions. In this case, local entities are linked to laboratories and this has allowed beaches to be rated as category A, B and C and awarded with stars. He noted that the programme was not limited to coastal areas but had been expanded to inland communities and more recently, schools, as these were areas where awareness could be built. He reiterated an offer he had made some time ago to the CTO to share this experience.
83. The PAHO Representative mentioned that they have been working with various countries on the quality of recreational waters since the WHO standards were published. The PAHO offered to technically support a draft proposal for the development of a regional recreational waters monitoring system.
84. Mr. Joaquín Gutiérrez Díaz, Representative of the Environment, Management and Information Centre (CIGEA), Ministry of Science, Technology and the

Environment (CITMA) presented options for the treatment and final disposal of domestic wastes and their relation to the Protocol Concerning Pollution from Land-based Sources and Activities. Within the basic studies recommended in ISTAC II to eliminate the technical barriers of the LBS, the formulation of a regional methodological guide for the case of ocean outfalls was identified. As is known, they represent a safe alternative for the final disposal of treated waste waters in the marine environment. The paper covered the context of ocean outfalls in the Wider Caribbean and stressed the key elements of their conception and hydraulic design where the inclusion of a mix zone is recommended. Methodologically-speaking, the paper uses 21 rules for the design and other fundamental elements of this kind of system.

85. Using calculation models like the EPA's UM3 and other conventional equations, the distance, width and area of the zone complying with the microbiological indicators (ACIM) was calculated. This information is of interest in forecasting bacteria densities in the bathing zone
86. The participants asked numerous questions and expressed interest in having an English version of the document.
87. The methodology and focuses proposed in this study may serve as an initial step in the preparation of a regional methodology guide for ocean outfalls, where the creation of workgroup among the RACs could be useful.

**(d) Geographic Information Systems and Information Management in support of the AMEP sub programme**

88. Asha Singh, a research student from the University of Plymouth in the United Kingdom made a presentation on the Caribbean Sea and Small Island Developing States. Ms Singh provided economic information on the SIDS, highlighting the various trends in the economic sectors. In addition, spatial data on various activities in the Caribbean Sea were presented along with a devised vulnerability assessment of the sea. It was noted that maps of traffic intensity show that the Caribbean has 40-50% of the cruise ship market which creates about 75 million kilograms of waste. Ms Singh discussed the emerging issues in the marine environment and discussed the response mechanisms currently in place. She suggested that the Caribbean Sea needs to be managed in an integrated way.
89. During the ensuing discussion, the point was highlighted that many countries were well aware of the environmental situation and its complexity; however they do not have the means to improve the situation. The question of how to attract funding to address these issues was raised. With regard to bathing water quality and areas at risk, it was emphasized that the classification of bathing zones should be non-negotiable for the safety of swimmers.
90. The Meeting inquired as to whether the information presented by the Cuban delegate was available in

English and was informed that it would be made available within the next two months. Given the fact that traditional sewage treatment options are fairly expensive, when taking into account the small amount of users in a SIDS, a number of the island countries inquired about alternative and more cost effective ways of sewage treatment; requests were also made for information on low cost sewage treatment systems. Innovative treatment systems such as constructed wetlands network are being explored in some mainland countries. However there is a need for additional options as smaller countries have difficulty in accessing high cost treatments due to the small population.

91. The Secretariat highlighted two documents, "A Directory of Environmentally Sound Technologies for the Integrated Management of Solid, Liquid and Hazardous Waste for SIDS in the Caribbean Region" (CEHI/UNEP, 2004) document developed to guide decision makers on possible options for SIDS with regard to sewage treatment; and the recently printed "Needs Assessment Guidance to Developing National Plans for Domestic Wastewater Pollution Reduction, a Planning Guidance to Fulfil the Requirements of Annex III of the LBS Protocol and its activities to the Cartagena Convention" produced by the CEP, currently available in English and soon also Spanish. The Representative of the US EPA also indicated that models from the US Virgin Islands and from Florida where similar contexts to those of many island states could be looked into for practical solutions in response to a comment from the BVI delegation.
92. Saint Lucia noted that a sea outfall was still being used for wastewater treatment although it is now perceived as an inappropriate measure, given the recent emphasis on tourism, and the increased risk of disease, as most fisheries are operating close to the coastline. The Representative of REMPEITC indicated that under SOLAS Annex VI, ships must deal with waste discharges to the sea. The need for high quality Environmental Impact Assessments (EIA) developed, during a period of no less than 1.5 years, was stressed as a precautionary measure for major projects in the Caribbean.
93. The Representative of INVEMAR informed the meeting of a study on ships of all classes, calculating the quantity of residual waste. The information may be obtained from INVEMAR.
94. Mrs. Zvia Leibler-Danon, of the Water Centre for the Humid Tropics of Latin America and the Caribbean (CATHALAC) presented the Regional Meso-American Monitoring and Visualization System (SERVIR). SERVIR is headquartered in CATHALAC and primarily funded by NASA and the United States Agency for International Development (USAID). Other key partners are the National Environmental Authority (ANAM) include the CCAD, the World Bank, the City of Knowledge in Panama and private sector companies. SERVIR intensively utilizes the services of NASA, USGS and NOAA (earth science research, observations and remote sensing products). Real and near real time information can be accessed to collect, archive, process, model and distribute



- environmental data and implement geo-referenced decision-support tools for Meso-American countries in the areas of climate change, disaster management, land planning, biodiversity, forest fires monitoring, geological monitoring, water resources and coastal zone management. Capacity-building takes place in the form of training workshops and *in situ* technical assistance in satellite data processing, geographic information systems (GIS), decision-support systems (DSS), and modelling natural resources.
95. SERVIR's state-of-the-art tools can be used by various decision-makers, governments, scientists, educators, policy makers, the private sector and students. CATHALAC has created a SERVIR webpage (<http://servir.nasa.cathalac.org>) in Spanish and English which provides free and open access to satellite and other spatial data sets. The MesoStor webpage provides access to interactive online maps, Thematic decision support areas, and 3-D interactive visualization tools. CATHALAC offered its services as a useful tool in the development work of the LBS Protocol so as to avoid duplicating efforts and to take advantage of existing capacities.
  96. Questions following the presentation touched upon resolution and scale of the data, and whether the project would seek strategic alliances with other countries, other than the ones already involved. The Meeting was informed that CATHALAC would expand to the rest of the Caribbean and would contact the Ministries of Environment in due course.
  97. The CEPNET Programme Officer, Mr. Luc St. Pierre, made a presentation "How to facilitate access to information for the implementation of the AMEP Programme and the LBS Protocol". Although mechanisms to access information are getting more efficient and accessible, it remained true that projects relating to environmental management in the CEP work programme do not maximize the use of good data and information (precision, coverage, comparability, adequate periodicity, etc.). In addition, considering the scarce resources, the significant investments required for developing and continuing data collection programmes; and the range of activities in the AMEP Programme, the Secretariat proposes to continue to strengthen the development of networks, increase the inter-agency coordination. This will allow for an increase in accessibility to information. The Secretariat favours the development of an AMEP/LBS clearinghouse mechanism (CHM) that will build on existing projects or initiatives. Various activities have as their objective the development of clearinghouses and information systems. Almost all have a need for data and analysis. All generate important amounts of new data and information. The AMEP/LBS CHM can be developed around five on-going activities:
    - The NPAs which are part of a global framework and have resources available;
    - The CHM of the GPA and its Caribbean node already under development;
    - The Global Oceanographic Observing System (GOOS) which generates data, models, value-added products, institutional capacity and promote the development of information systems;
    - The WW2BW Initiative which brings opportunity and a large and broad network; and
    - The IWCAM project which has resources assigned for a regional CHM and that will generate national and regional datasets.
  98. This networking and increased coordination will produce a broader exchange of information i.e. from contact information to complex geographic datasets. It was noted that the AMEP/LBS CHM would provide more opportunity for cross-programme development with the Protocol on Specially Protected Areas and Wildlife (SPAW). It was concluded that although each activity had its own goals, scale, timeframe and different users/beneficiaries, all of them were using similar information, thus would benefit from the networking.
  99. The CEPNET Programme Officer mentioned the need to move away from complex systems towards easier ways of information-sharing. Some participants noted that some information was accessible on-line; however, many smaller countries might not have the experience or capacity to absorb and manage the information that was available. It was stressed that there is a need for capacity-building in the SIDS, including training in applications. It was also noted that it was important for countries with perceived limited capacity or lack of expertise in certain areas, to identify their needs and actively seek assistance, while making an effort to improve capacity. Organizations that manage and distribute information in the region, e.g. CATHALAC, which also provide training, could be helpful in this regard. The Global Environment Outlook was also mentioned as a source of information that was easily accessible.
  100. Dr. Carlos E. Hernández from the EARTH University presented the projects under the AMEP Programme they have managed. The GEF-AMEP project "Reduction of Pesticide Run-off to the Caribbean Sea" is aimed at protecting the marine environment of the Caribbean Sea by reducing dependence on pesticides in farming activities and the general improvement in pesticide management. The project has approximately US\$10 million in financing. The countries that participated in drafting the proposal for the Pesticide Run-off Reduction Project were Nicaragua, Costa Rica, Panama and Colombia. However, Panama decided not to participate in the execution of the project. In the opinion of the consultant, this is regrettable because Panama occupies a strategic position for the trade and distribution of agricultural chemicals. The Panama report states that more than 300 vessels carrying hazardous chemicals pass through the canal annually and that the Port of Colón is a bulk distribution centre for pesticides. Consequently, the consultant recommends that the project manager seek direct or indirect mechanisms to include Panama during the project execution.

101. The procedure for the execution of the preliminary phase of the project included several steps. An administrative committee was established, made up of representatives of the leading regional organizations, various representatives of the academic sector and national coordinators. This group set the general policy to be followed during the execution of the project in the preparation of the final report.
102. Each country appointed a National Committee with representatives of governmental organizations, non-governmental organizations and civil society, private enterprise and academia. These committees were responsible for the formulation of a National Consensus Report that was taken to a National Workshop. The national workshops were attended by 60 to 100 persons representing all sectors of society. Consequently, the reports were revised and modified to reflect a true national consensus. These national reports were summarized into a Regional Report that was endorsed following discussion during a Regional Workshop in Panama City.
103. The results of the report indicate that the Caribbean Sea is a common destination for pollutants from land-based sources. The report stresses the following sources of pollution: discharge of untreated sewage; partial discharge of untreated liquid industrial and agribusiness wastes; mishandling of solid wastes and the leaching of such; and erosion due to poor soil husbandry practices, inadequate land use, deforestation and urban growth. A project manager is currently being hired to coordinate activities for the project.
104. The second project is a Small Grants Fund for the Application of Best Management Practices in Agriculture. UNEP-CAR/RCU is starting a small grants project for the application of Best Management Practices in agricultural production (BMP/SGP), within the AMEP Programme. The BMP/SGP Programme will establish small-scale demonstration pilot projects aimed at integrated farming and fishing production systems. Some of the specific activities (BMP) to be included will be the correct use of fertilizers, soil conservation and sediment retention, alternative tillage systems, handling agricultural wastes and livestock husbandry activities that contribute to sustainable agricultural production.
105. The objective of this project is to promote the implementation of Best Management Practices (BMP) to prevent, reduce and control non-point source run-off, and assist the countries of the Wider Caribbean Region in the development of integrated environmental planning and Best Management Practices for agricultural facilities that affect watersheds in the coastal zone.
106. The BMP/SGP Project will be executed in those countries that are Contracting Parties to the Cartagena Convention and its Protocols and which possess territory in direct contact with the Caribbean watershed. Work will be done with Costa Rica, Nicaragua and Honduras in the first stage. Nevertheless, in the short-term, this action is expected to extend to other countries in the Central American region. A second stage will include all the other Caribbean countries.
107. UNEP-CAR/RCU will delegate the co-ordination of the BMP/SGP Programme to a Support Organization (SO) that will function as the regional executing unit to promote, implement, control and assess the projects individually. For the first phase of this programme, the SO will be the EARTH University, through its Research and Special Projects Unit. UNEP-CAR/RCU reserves the responsibility of giving final approval for all the projects and activities.
108. High Administrative costs were acknowledged as being one of the main problems of this project. In order to address this, it was recommended that the duration of projects be limited to one year and that efforts will be made to support on-going activities which have an established administrative organization. Some of the administrative costs would thus be covered by the existing capacity of local organizations.
109. The Coordinator informed the Meeting that Croplife, had committed themselves to providing USD\$100,000 for the duration of the pesticide project.
110. Mr. Corbin requested the Focal Points to assist in the dissemination of the English and Spanish versions of the Manual developed by EARTH University for the Small Grant Fund for pesticides. He highlighted the interest of the CEP in working on activities at the local level as well as the community level.
111. Mr. Corbin further asked the Meeting to review the operational procedures for the RACs and submit any thoughts that participants may have on them.
- Agenda item 8: Review of the Operations of the Regional Activity Centres (RACs) for Marine Pollution from Land-Based Sources**
112. Mr. Antonio Villasol, Director of RAC-Cimab gave a presentation on the activities carried out by the RAC-Cimab from 2003-2005 to support the ratification of the LBS Protocol. The presentation was based on the recommendations of the 2<sup>nd</sup> Meeting of the ISTAC and the 11<sup>th</sup> Intergovernmental Meeting held in Montego Bay in 2004.
113. In the Sub-regional Workshop to Promote the LBS Protocol, held in Costa Rica in November 2004, the countries representatives agreed on the need to continue to promote ratification of the LBS Protocol and disseminate information relating to the protocol in all the countries of the region. The need to convene national workshops to further promote the LBS Protocol was noted and, in this regard, the UNEP-RCU/CEP recommended that the delegates submit letters of intent to the Secretariat to facilitate the convening of National Promotional Workshops.
114. One such National Workshop was held in July in Cuba during which, the lack of knowledge among decision-makers concerning the LBS protocol was evident. Additionally, it was noted that some of Cuba's standards

were more restrictive than what was proposed in Annex III of the Protocol. The most important conclusion of the workshop was the need to persuade the relevant authorities of the desirability of ratifying the Protocol.

115. The Workshop on GIS carried out by RAC-Cimab, resulted in the determination of the institution's needs to improve its capacity to use this tool, both in the Classification of Waters into class I and class II, pursuant to Annex III of the Protocol, and in the updating of CEP Technical Report #33. The use of GIS will also facilitate more effective dissemination of the results of ongoing projects and enable more informed decision-making.
116. The RAC-Cimab participated in the United Nations Meeting on Human Settlements held in Havana in the first half of 2005. This Conference addressed the impact of coastal cities on the marine environment in Latin America and the Caribbean. It was pointed out that 60 of the 77 most important cities in Latin America and the Caribbean are located in the coastal zone, which include the region's principal seaports and bays. Consequently, it may be necessary to revitalize the Regional Project of Heavily Polluted Bays.
117. The RAC-Cimab also participated in the International Environment Convention held in Havana. The results obtained in the Global International Water Assessment (GIWA) Project were presented including a focus on other Caribbean islands. These indicate that marine pollution produced by land-based sources is the most important problem in the sub-region. The other fundamental problem in the sub-region is the pollution caused by intense sea traffic. This situation is worsened by the fact that most of the ports and bays in the region do not have the infrastructure necessary to treat the wastes generated by the vessels.
118. Finally, there was the presentation of the results obtained in holding the Regional Workshop on Updating Report #33 of the CEP, in which the countries were jointly able to establish the Methodology Guidelines for the Characterization of Polluting Loads that are produced by Specific and non-Specific Sources of Pollution and it was announced that serious work was being done by Cuba, Costa Rica, Colombia, Mexico and the USA in determining the Polluting Loads that reach the Caribbean. In addition, the Ministry of the Environment of Nicaragua is planning to obtain funds to classify pollutant loads reaching the Caribbean Sea from point and non-point sources.
119. The AMEP Programme Officer noted, following a request for Cimab to assist in the compilation of regional information, that the need might be more pressing for increased coordination and information gathering at the national levels, and that the CEP could provide the framework for this.
120. The Representative of the British Virgin Islands informed the meeting that constraints in water quality monitoring activities are the results of a lack of experienced people as well as advanced laboratory facilities. She requested the Secretariat to initiate a project under the auspices of

the AMEP Programme, targeting the OECS countries, with a focus on quality of beaches, as well as seagrass, and mangrove areas. FIU, CEHI and OECS Secretariat were identified as possible partners in such an initiative.

121. The Coordinator clarified to the Meeting that countries interested in implementing national promotional workshops could request assistance from the CEP. Panama noted the importance of working on inter-institutional arrangements for the promotion of the LBS Protocol, and expressed their recommitment to working towards this goal through a national workshop at the earliest. The delegate requested the assistance of CEP in the implementation of this proposal. Interest in promotional workshops was expressed by several of the delegates.

#### **Agenda item 9: Review of the Draft 2006-2007 Workplan and Budget for the LBS Protocol**

122. In his presentation of the Draft Workplan and Budget, the AMEP Programme Officer indicated that the objectives of the Programme were to ensure access to and compliance with the LBS protocol, facilitate implementation of activities, ensure financial sustainability and contribute to sustainable development and poverty alleviation. He noted that this would be done through collaboration, and partnerships, and measures such as expanding the role of RACs and RANs, increasing involvement and networking among LBS focal points, and strengthening interprogramme linkages, including those with the other Regional Activity Centres under the SPAW and Oil Spills protocols.
123. He gave an outline of some of the related major projects which included GEF PDFB project on Oceans, Coasts and SIDS and a UNDP Gulf of Mexico Large Marine Ecosystems project.
124. He highlighted the GEF projects that were underway, including those relating to pesticides and Integrated Coastal and Watershed Management for SIDS, which were seen as flagship projects within the region. The pesticide project, he noted, would allocate US\$500,000 to each of the three participating countries for their demonstration project activity, representing approximately 50% of the total value of the project. Similar allocations have been made for the demonstration projects under the IWCAM project.
125. An overview was provided on ongoing projects, and these were identified as sewage needs assessments, best management practices for agriculture, development of NPAs, and the second regional overview of land based sources and activities in the wider Caribbean region. He highlighted several new projects for which funding had been secured, including Integrated Wastes and Chemicals, capacity development in GIS for Cimab, and the promotion of the LBS protocol.
126. He noted that the Secretariat was still seeking funding for a few initiatives which had not attracted any funds so far. These he identified as the joint regional project to

- assist governments of the WCR in classifying their waters; this was estimated at US\$206,000. Another project on the development of safe recreational water environments in the WCR was estimated at US\$188,000.
127. Proposed new projects relating to the work of AMEP included those on integrated wastes and chemicals, coastal aquifers and Globallast. Other potential projects included areas on sewage needs, enabling implementation of the protocol and a follow up to the Contaminated Bays Project. He stressed that UNEP-CAR/RCU may be a partner, co-executing or lead executing agency for the GEF projects. He suggested that GEF projects be developed in the areas of water quality monitoring and particularly for the Implementation of NPAs, given the interest generated by the recently-concluded workshop. He also mentioned that the issue of Globallast had become one of high priority and that UNEP was partnering with IMO and Venezuela in this regard.
128. In reference to the draft budget, the Programme Officer noted that the projection for 2008 was based on two ongoing GEF projects for which GEF funding had already been secured. The required balances in 2006 were for two recreational water quality projects and support to two additional sewage needs assessment pilots. He reiterated the need for the Intergovernmental Meeting to be brought in line with the ISTAC and the STAC meetings and that the Secretariat was working on reducing the time lag between the Technical Meetings (LBS ISTAC and SPAW STAC) and the IGM.
129. The Working Group on the WorkPlan and Budget for the 2006-2007 biennium, comprising Belize, the British Virgin Islands, France, Trinidad and Tobago and the USA, presented its report through its Chairperson, the Representative of Trinidad and Tobago. Referring to the strategic objectives of the AMEP programme, as presented by the Programme Officer, the group felt that these were quite general in support of the LBS Protocol. Further defining of these to describe specific objectives and timeframes would make it easier to prioritize projects, in other words, to design a Strategic Plan for AMEP. This was deemed important given the limited available funding, as such a document could be used to support funding proposals.
130. Given that GEF funding required a long gestation period, members of the working group felt that additional and/or alternative sources of funding should be explored, especially for smaller projects. Additionally, development of a two-page project concept paper could be useful prior to finalization of new proposals. This could be reviewed and returned for refining and improvement, if necessary. This would better ensure that sustainability and achievement of overall goals and objectives were included in each project.
131. The working group further felt that a compilation of completed projects, including outputs and achievements, over the past Workplan period, would be useful in demonstrating to potential funding sources the track record of the programme as well as accountability.
132. The Working Group reviewed the recommendations made by the 2<sup>nd</sup> ISTAC meeting in 2003 in order to determine whether the Draft Workplan adequately dealt with them. As a result it made two recommendations concerning workplan items:
- a. Re. Recommendation II, 2<sup>nd</sup> ISTAC: "That guidelines being developed by WHO on recreational water quality be further examined and that CEP pursue the development of epidemiological studies so that criteria and standards that may be adopted within the region reflect regional conditions"  
  
PAHO, based on its intervention of the previous day, should be asked to compile a list of all standards and guidelines which exist in the region in order to determine how we should design a recreational beach water quality programme. This would enable PAHO to design a protocol and work with individual countries to design pilot studies. PAHO would continue to support this process.  
  
(Note: This would not be a project requiring funding but a programme which would recognize the need for ongoing input and participation of the states to develop the database.)
  - b. Re. Recommendation V, 2<sup>nd</sup> ISTAC: "That CAR/RCU, and the two RACs develop demonstration projects to provide for mapping environmentally sensitive areas and hotspots..."
  - c. RAC-IMA and RAC-CIMAB should develop guidelines for classifying class I and class II waters using a decision-tree format.
  - d. Note: This funding needs to be completed and should include specific objectives and deliverable dates.
133. In his response, the Programme Officer stated that other Regional Seas Programmes had developed such strategic plans as part of enabling projects in other regions. He noted that this included a complete diagnosis and looked at goals, objectives and actions. He remarked however, that it was quite complex for a region such as the Wider Caribbean, and may require significant funds. He mentioned that during the last IGM, governments had endorsed a draft regional strategy for the CEP and that this could form an excellent framework for the development of an AMEP strategic plan. He was in agreement with the group that a lot of time was sometimes spent in developing projects that go nowhere. Projects needed to be defined by governments so that areas for priority attention could be highlighted.

The two-page concept document could be useful, he agreed, in identifying opportunities for funding.

134. He indicated that the budget for this biennium related primarily to funds that were already available. He pointed out that some on-going projects had been included in the new Workplan with others being new. A few other projects such as the development of the NPAs required additional funds, as funds originally allocated had been depleted. He reiterated the challenge presented by the lapse between the IGM and the ISTAC, with CEP implementing projects before they were formally approved by the IGM. This problem needed to be addressed as the IGM would often adopt projects that were already underway in order to avoid long periods of inactivity.
135. The Representative of the United States reiterated the importance of transparency and accountability as they relate to marketability. She noted that projects outcomes needed to be clear and defined, while timelines and a specific entity responsible for each project would help provide this accountability. This information should be available for past as well as current activities to properly show AMEP's management of the programme.
136. The Representative of RAC/IMA, in reference to the LBS Protocol involving the RACs, sought clarification on whether a single project on the promotion of the LBS Protocol, with a limited time frame, could meet long-term objectives. She asked if it would not be worthwhile to upgrade the project to a programme to allow time for feedback from countries.
137. The Secretariat responded that this was an excellent point and that the draft work programme for the 2006-2007 biennium had incorporated promotion of the LBS Protocol as an ongoing coordination activity. The Programme Officer highlighted the presence of the PANOS Institute at this meeting and their role in promoting the Protocol as well as the opportunities used by the Secretariat to promote the Protocol during missions and workshops. He pointed out that sustained promotion must occur at the national level and highlighted the fact that some countries had designed their own materials for dissemination. The RCU, he noted, could provide tools to assist in the process but replication within the territories themselves was desirable. The Programme Officer reiterated the importance of the promotional Workshop to be conducted by RAC-IMA for English-speaking countries, targeting decision-makers. This could be used to catalyse additional promotional activity and the development of national workshops in Spanish speaking countries that would request them.

138. The CWWA Representative referred to the upcoming 14<sup>th</sup> Annual conference & Exhibition of the Caribbean Water and Wastewater Association which will be held in Barbados, October 10-14, 2005. He gave an overview of the CWWA as a body and proceeded to highlight some of the main issues of common importance to the Wider Caribbean in the water, wastewater and solid waste sectors that will be dealt with at the Conference.
139. The Representative of PAHO noted that in the English-speaking Caribbean, there were problems linked to the design and management of on-site septic systems. He pointed to the need to review these systems as in many cases, they are not properly designed. He indicated that the organization was trying to work with the appropriate authorities to correct the problem by introducing the correct methodologies.
140. The Representative of the CWWA further outlined the importance of carrying out comprehensive needs assessments for water and wastewater management with specific focus on training and certification of operators of water and wastewater plants.

#### **Agenda item 10: Other Business**

141. The participants of the Meeting were invited to raise other issues not covered by the preceding agenda items, but relevant to the scope of the Meeting.
142. The CWWA Representative presented a paper on behalf of the Barbados Delegation. The paper entitled "Development of NPA for LBSMP Control for Barbados" drew attention to the incessant practice of illegal dumping in gullies as a major source of pollution on the island.
143. The Representative of the British Virgin Islands remarked that the presence of larger household items in gullies seemed to be a year-round phenomenon in Barbados. In her country, she stated, these items seemed to be most present at Christmas time in response to a need to shop more. She indicated that this had prompted the government to introduce a roadside programme which the public could avail itself of. She suggested this as a possible solution to the problem of illegal dumps in Barbados. The Representative of the CWWA replied that such a programme had always encountered difficulties in scheduling and had therefore not been successful.
144. The PCSP Representative, Dr. Ulises Mundylla, made a presentation of the activities underway in the Southeast Pacific region within the scope of the implementation of the Protocol for the Protection of the Southeast Pacific Against Pollution from Land-based Sources, the Regional Programme for the Protection of the Southeast Pacific against Land-Based Activities (PROSET) and the application of the regional GPA. He also mentioned the importance of inter-regional co-operation among Regional Seas Programmes and especially how fruitful it would be to strengthen PCSP co-operation with the Caribbean Environment Programme.

145. The Delegation of the United States of America recognized the contribution of the staff of the Caribbean Environment Programme to the White Water to Blue Water Initiative and presented a Certificate of Recognition to the Coordinator of the Caribbean Environment Programme.
146. The Delegate of Haiti was actively promoting the need to ratify the Cartagena Convention and its three Protocols because of their importance for the protection of its 1, 771 km of coast. The Government of Haiti further requested the support of the Secretariat to better understand the ratification process so that linkages with the Programme and the other Member States could be strengthened.
147. A press conference was held for the launch of three of the ten SIDA supported partnerships under the White Water to Blue Water initiative. The AMEP programme Officer in his introductory remarks stressed the importance of partnerships at all levels national as well as regional and the importance of enhancing existing projects. He thanked Sida for their continued support to the CEP and looked forward to the success of these partnerships. The three partnerships presented were: Captain Fitzroy Dorant, Director of RAC/REMPEITC for the partnership of COCATRAM, SICA/CCAD, ARPEL, UNEP-CAR/RCU, and RAC/REMPEITC-Carib, Oil Spill Preparedness in Central America; Mr. Antonio Villasol, Director of RAC/Cimab for the partnership "The Know Why Network" with UNEP-CAR/RCU, IOC-UNESCO, RAC/IMA, and INVEMAR; and Joaquin Agüero, Advisor to the Minister of the Honduras Secretariat of Natural Resources and the Environment, for the UNEP-CAR/RCU, Tela, CATIE partnership "Asociación para el Manejo de las Cuencas Hidrográficas en la Bahía de Tela" (AMACUHBAT).

148. The election of the Steering Committee for the RACs was reached by consensus.

President: Mexico  
Vice-president: Venezuela  
Resident governments of the RACs: Cuba and Trinidad and Tobago  
Member states: British Virgin Islands, Costa Rica, Dominican Republic, Jamaica and United States of America

Secretariat

**Agenda item 11: Adoption of the Report of the Meeting**

149. The Rapporteur of the Meeting presented the Draft Report of the Meeting. The Meeting adopted the Report, with amendments and corrections to be introduced in the draft by the Secretariat, as appropriate, and circulated to the participants by the 15 September for review. Comments were to be forwarded to the Secretariat within an additional 2 weeks.

**Agenda item 12: Closure of the Meeting**

150. The Meeting was closed on Friday, 26 August 2005 at 5:00 p.m. by the Chairperson of the Meeting and the Secretariat, along with the participation of Dr. Fernando Tudela, Under Secretary of the Department of Planning and Environmental Policy in the Secretaría de Medio Ambiente y Recursos Naturales (SEMARNAT).

**Annex I:       Agenda**

1. Opening of the Meeting
2. Election of Officers
3. Organisation of the Meeting
  - a. Rules of Procedure
  - b. Organisation of Work
4. Adoption of Agenda
5. Review of status and activities of the LBS Protocol (2004-2005)
6. Regional Workshop on the Development and Implementation of National Programmes of Action
7. Presentation of Recommendations of NPA Workshop
8. Review of other relevant activities and initiatives under AMEP Sub-programme
9. Review of the Draft 2006-2007 Workplan and Budget of the AMEP sub-programme and LBS Protocol activities
10. Other Business
11. Adoption of the Report of the Meeting
12. Closure of the Meeting





## **Annex II: Recommendations of the Meeting**

### **The Meeting:**

**Having convened** the Third Meeting of the Interim Scientific, Technical and Advisory Committee to the Protocol Concerning Pollution from Land-based Sources and Activities (ISTAC /LBS) in the Wider Caribbean Region, Mexico City, Mexico, 22 - 26 August 2005;

**Making reference** to the Second Meeting of the ISTAC/LBS, Managua, Nicaragua, 12 - 16 May 2003;

**Taking into account** the deliberations of the working group on Recommendations formed by the Third LBS/ISTAC, chaired by Venezuela and composed by the Netherlands Antilles, Colombia, Costa Rica, the United States of America, Honduras, the British Virgin Islands, Mexico, Panama, Dominican Republic and Surinam;

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

### **RECOMMENDATION I**

**Taking into consideration** the activities of the Sub-programme of Assessment and Management of Environmental Pollution (AMEP) for the period 2004-2005, as appears in the document UNEP(DEC)/CAR WG.28/INF.3;

**Taking note of** the slow rate of progress made by the Contracting Parties to the Cartagena Convention concerning ratification of the LBS Protocol

**Having made note** of the importance of the promotion and dissemination of the Cartagena Convention and the LBS Protocol in the educational community of the Wider Caribbean Region countries

#### **Recommends that:**

1. The Secretariat develop a programme with activities aimed at sensitizing parties, and in particular, address Ministries and other national entities that formulate policies, on the importance of the LBS Protocol and the need for its ratification;
2. Projects be developed to promote and disseminate the LBS Protocol, sharing the necessary experiences and the lessons learnt.
3. A project be designed and co-ordinated together with the competent national education authorities to promotes the incorporation of environment-related studies into study programmes, particularly in reference to the objective of the Cartagena Convention, and especially the LBS Protocol.

### **RECOMMENDATION II**

**Having taken note** of the presentation of the Florida International University and interventions by the representatives in the Meeting concerning the water quality monitoring programmes in the Wider Caribbean Region,

#### **Recommends that:**

1. The scope and coordination of a regional monitoring network and recommendations be given to the Twelfth Intergovernmental Meeting on the Action Plan for the Caribbean Environment Programme and Ninth Meeting of the Contracting Parties to the Convention for the Protection and Development of the Marine Environment of the Wider Caribbean Region;
2. Recommendation should be made on aspects of harmonisation, technologies and other related aspects of water quality analysis;
3. A list be compiled of relevant laboratories in the region and their specific capabilities in the field of water analysis; and
4. The RAC-IMA and RAC-CIMAB develop guidelines for classifying class I and class II waters using a decision-tree format.

### RECOMMENDATION III

**Having reviewed** the recommendations made by the participants in the Regional Workshop on National Programmes of Action (NPAs), in the framework of the Third Meeting of the ISTAC/LBS;

**Taking into account** the financial difficulties facing some countries;

**Recommends that:**

1. The Secretariat identify additional financial resources in coordination with the Global Programme of Action (GPA), the focal points of the LBS Protocol, the WW2BW Initiative Regional Steering Committee, and other relevant regional organizations to organize a regional donors forum, focusing on implementation and financing mechanisms for NPAs and similar action plans and strategies. To such end, the forum should comply with the following goals:
  - i. Inform the donors about the development process of the NPAs and how these tools may enhance governance capacities within the region and help reduce land-based sources of pollution in the Wider Caribbean Region; and
  - ii. Discuss mechanisms for the implementation and sustainable financing of these NPAs and related strategies.

### RECOMMENDATION IV

**Having heard** the information of the Pan-American Health Organization (PAHO) representative concerning guidelines on recreational water quality published by this organization in 1996;

**Taking into account** the presentation made by the Dominican Republic concerning the "Blue Flag" initiative for the certification of beaches; as well as the observations and remarks made by the countries concerning their programmes to evaluate the quality of recreational waters;

**Considering** the concern expressed by delegations about the potential negative impact on the economies of the countries of the Wider Caribbean Region, from the deterioration of recreational water quality and degradation of coastal and marine ecosystems, particularly for those countries where tourism is the major economic activity,

**Recommends that:**

1. PAHO initiate a survey of recreational water quality standards in the region.

2. The Secretariat seeks financial support to develop a recreational waters programme among the States of the Wider Caribbean Region, which will include the compilation and assessment of water quality data, human resources and monitoring and analysis infrastructure existing in the Wider Caribbean Region, in co-operation with PAHO.

## RECOMMENDATION V

**Taking into consideration** the importance of information and technology sharing among the countries of the Wider Caribbean Regions;

**Understanding** the need for reliable information in support of the development of environmental policy within the Convention area;

### Recommends that:

1. The Secretariat, jointly with the LBS/RACs, promote the use of existing information and technology systems in the Wider Caribbean Region developed by regional research centres like the SERVIR system presented by CATHALAC. Furthermore, accomplish adequate articulation among such centres to avoid duplicating human and financial efforts, and thus prevent an economic impact on the Member States.
2. A database be prepared of all the projects approved and underway concerning the LBS, to be used by the Member States to guide the development of programmes, projects and studies in order to minimize waste of financial and technical resources and to avoid duplication of efforts

## RECOMMENDATION VI

**Taking into consideration** the relationship between the GPA and the LBS Protocol;

**Taking into account** the special diversity of the environments in the watersheds and the coastal zones of the Member States; and

**Understanding** the environmental characteristics of certain geographical areas in Wider Caribbean Region,

### Recommends that:

1. The Secretariat will continue cooperation with the GPA to assist countries in the development of the NPAs;
2. The GPA will evaluate NPAs in process and present recommendations to member countries.
3. The Secretariat and the GPA will cooperate in preparation of the Second Intergovernmental Revision of the GPA (2006).
4. The Secretariat will identify additional financial resources to organize national workshops for the Member States.

## RECOMMENDATION VII

**Having reviewed** the draft of the Workplan and the Budget for the activities of the AMEP sub-programme for the biennium 2006-2007 as shown in UNEP(DEC)/CAR WG.28/3;

**Having specifically convened** a working group of the ISTAC to review the work plans and a working group to discuss marine debris;

### Recommends that:

1. As far as possible, the guidelines provided in the summary of the Working group on Marine Debris be used for the preparation of the MoU with the Regional Seas Programme in order to draw up a pilot project of \$35,000 dollars in the Wider Caribbean Region.
2. As far as possible, the guidelines provided in the summary of the Working group on Marine Debris be used for the preparation of the Wider Caribbean Region component for the GEF project on marine debris.
3. After the reviews based on the discussions of the ISTAC and the Working group on the Work Plan, and those presented in the body of this report, the Workplan and Budget combined for the biennium 2006-2007 will be sent to the Twelfth Intergovernmental Meeting on the Action Plan for the Caribbean Environment Programme and Ninth Meeting of the Contracting Parties to the Convention for the Protection and Development of the Marine Environment of the Wider Caribbean Region for approval.

### **RECOMMENDATION VIII**

**Taking into account** the need to sustain actions from watershed management projects and programmes to reduce polluting environment discharges:

**Recommends that:**

The Member States, the Secretariat, the RACs and other partners promote investments in the economic and social valuation of the natural resources so as to obtain the basis to generate capital through payments for environment services that provide watersheds to the global environment (carbon certificates, in improving water availability and quality, in hydro-electricity generation and others).

### **RECOMMENDATION IX**

**Considering** that the heavily-polluted bays project is a priority in the CEP activities plan that will help countries implement the LBS protocol:

**Recommends that:**

The Secretariat, jointly with the RACs draw up a proposal to obtain additional resources so as to continue with the activities envisaged in the project.



## **Annex III: Recommendations of the Open Regional Workshop on National Programmes of Action (NPAs)**

**22 to 23 August 2005**

The workshop on National Programmes of Action for the Prevention of Marine Pollution was convened to deliberate on the progress of the development and implementation of National Programmes of Action for the Prevention of Marine Pollution from Land based Sources (NPA) in the region. This forum allowed countries throughout the wider Caribbean to share their individual experiences.

NPAs, by determining necessary priorities and implementation strategies<sup>2</sup>, are recognised as mechanisms for strengthening and facilitating the LBS Protocol. An NPA is envisioned as a management plan or tool to address prevention of marine pollution from land based sources. It is a flexible instrument adapted to each country's reality. The goal of the NPA is to assist the national or regional government, industry, and local communities in the prioritization of economic and social development objectives.

It is recognised that in order for NPAs to be implemented, it is important that they be built on realistic assumptions of capacities and resources that are available to the country, both from domestic and international sources. It is further recognised that for NPA development, all relevant stakeholders should be included in the process.

### **Barriers and Constraints**

The presentations and subsequent discussions identified many lessons learnt, challenges, constraints and barriers to the implementation of the NPAs. These include:

- Lack of adequate financial resources;
- Insufficient capacity both at the institutional and technical levels, which are required for implementation;
- Lack of effective mechanisms for the decentralisation process (transfer of responsibility). This process is often not accompanied by the provision of the necessary supporting framework (legal, financial, enforcement and monitoring etc.), which allows for local governments to implement their responsibilities;
- Inadequate knowledge and ownership of marine environmental issues, which are perceived to be barriers to the prioritisation of the NPAs.

### **Other issues mentioned were:**

- Time constraints in the development process;
- Endorsement and ratification of the Protocol;
- Empowerment of communities.

### **Recommendations**

This workshop identified the following recommendations of action for consideration by ISTAC.

- Urge countries to develop NPAs in order to facilitate and guide the implementation of the LBS Protocol.
- Recommend, for implementation in the OECS countries, that the NPA process be integrated into the existing NEMS in order to avoid duplication.
- Urge ISTAC to continue its efforts to strengthen capacity for the development and implementation of LBS/NPA activities. In addition there should be increased experience-sharing in the region, including methods/tools in order to strengthen LBS implementation.
- Facilitate implementation of NPAs through clearly-defined short, medium and long-term plans.
- Initiate activities on strengthening long term sustainable financing (domestic resource mobilisation and efficient leverage of international sources), activities on socioeconomic/affordability constraints and strategic planning/sequencing of action.
- Develop, through ISTAC, a mechanism to assist countries in addressing barriers and constraints to the development and implementation of NPAs.
- Increase focus on economic valuation and environmental health cost assessments.
- Increase awareness/initiatives on the benefits from LBS activities.
- Increase involvement of the academic community.

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<sup>2</sup> NPA's and LBS are two separate entities, however NPAs should be developed to complement the Protocol.

**Other matters for consideration**

- Harmonization of standards
- Creation of a clearinghouse at project level
- Donor meeting/dialog forum on marine/LBS



## Annex IV: List of Documents

### Working Documents

- UNEP(DEC)/CAR WG.28/1 Provisional agenda
- UNEP(DEC)/CAR WG.28/2 Provisional annotated agenda
- UNEP(DEC)/CAR WG.28/3 Draft Workplan and Budget for sub-programme on the Assessment and Management of Environmental Pollution (AMEP) in support of the Protocol Concerning Land-Based Sources of Marine Pollution 2006-2007
- UNEP(DEC)/CAR WG.28/4 Summary of the Status of the National Programme of Action (NPA) Development in the Wider Caribbean Region (*see UNEP(DEC)/CAR WG.28/5 below*)
- UNEP(DEC)/CAR WG.28/5 Report of the Third Meeting of the Interim Scientific, Technical and Advisory Committee (ISTAC) to the Protocol Concerning Pollution from Land-Based Sources and Activities (LBS Protocol) in the Wider Caribbean Region (*Includes Annex III "Recommendations of the Open Regional Workshop on National Programmes of Action (NPAs)", previously listed as UNEP(DEC)/CAR WG.28/4*)

### Information Documents

- UNEP(DEC)/CAR WG.28/INF.1 Provisional list of documents
- UNEP(DEC)/CAR WG.28/INF.2 List of participants
- UNEP(DEC)/CAR WG.28/INF.3 Status of Activities for the sub-programme on the Assessment and Management of Environmental Pollution (AMEP) in support of the Protocol Concerning Land-Based Sources of Marine Pollution for 2004-2005
- UNEP(DEC)/CAR IG.24/4 Workplan and budget for the Caribbean Environment Programme for the biennium 2004-2005 (including for the sub-programme on the Assessment and Management of Environmental Pollution (AMEP))
- UNEP(DEC)/CAR WG.28/INF.4 Compilation of summaries of workshop reports for the sub-programme on the Assessment and Management of Environmental Pollution (AMEP) in support of the Protocol Concerning Land-Based Sources of Marine Pollution
- UNEP(DEC)/CAR WG.28/INF.5 Project Summary Sheets for the sub-programme on the Assessment and Management of Environmental Pollution (AMEP) in support of the Protocol Concerning Land-Based Sources of Marine Pollution 2004-2005
- UNEP(DEC)/CAR WG.28/INF.6 Report of the Workshop on the Legal Implementation of Regional Seas Conventions and related MEAs, Kingston, Jamaica, 4-6 July, 2005 (English only)
- UNEP(DEC)/CAR WG.28/INF.7 Report of the Workshop on the Promotion of the Protocol Concerning Pollution from Land-Based Sources and Activities (LBS Protocol), San José, Costa Rica, 7-10 December 2004 (English and Spanish only)
- UNEP(DEC)/CAR WG.28/INF.8 Memoria del taller Subregional por el proyecto planificación para la Rehabilitación, manejo Ambiental y Desarrollo Costero en Nicaragua, Honduras y Guatemala después de Huracán Mitch, Tela, Honduras, 17-18 de enero de 2005 (Spanish only)
- UNEP(DEC)/CAR WG.28/INF.9 Report of the Workshop on Methodologies for the Determination of Pollutant Loads to the Marine Environment from Land-based Sources and Activities, Caracas, Venezuela, 29-31 March, 2005 (English and Spanish only)
- UNEP(DEC)/CAR WG.28/INF.10 Informe del Taller para la "Evaluación de las necesidades para el desarrollo de un Sistema de Información Geográfico (SIG) como una herramienta en el Manejo Integrado de Zonas Costeras en Cimab-RAC", 18-19 de Mayo, La Habana, Cuba (Spanish only)
- UNEP(DEC)/CAR WG.28/INF.11 Summary of Responses to UNEP Questionnaire on Marine Debris, 2005 for the sub-programme on the Assessment and Management of Environmental Pollution (AMEP) in support of the Protocol Concerning Land-Based Sources of Marine Pollution
- UNEP(DEC)/CAR WG.24/6 Report of the Second Meeting of the Interim Scientific, Technical and Advisory Committee (ISTAC) to the Protocol Concerning Pollution from Land-based Sources and Activities, Managua, Nicaragua, 12-16 May 2003
- UNEP(DEC)/CAR IG.24/5 Report of the Eleventh Intergovernmental Meeting on the Action Plan for the Caribbean Environment Programme and Eighth Meeting of the Contracting Parties to the Convention for the Protection and Development of the Marine Environment of the Wider Caribbean Region, Montego Bay, Jamaica, 28 September - 2 October 2004

### Conference Room Papers

- UNEP(DEC)/CAR WG.28/CRP.1 Status of the Cartagena Convention and its Protocols  
UNEP(DEC)/CAR WG.28/CRP.2 Recommendations of the Open Regional Workshop on National Programmes of Action (NPAs)  
UNEP(DEC)/CAR WG.28/CRP.3 Proposed Regional Projects in Hazardous Wastes and Chemicals Management  
UNEP(DEC)/CAR WG.28/CRP.4 Workgroup on Recommendations of the Meeting within the Framework of the Third Meeting of the Interim Scientific and Technical Advisory Committee (ISTAC) for the Protocol Concerning Pollution from Land-based Sources and Activities (LBS) in the Wider Caribbean Region

### Reference Documents

- OECS-ESDU National Environmental Management Strategies (NEMS) - Guidance for Improved Environmental Management in the Organization of Eastern Caribbean States (OECS) Member States (English only)
- UNEP, 2005 Directory of Focal Points of the Caribbean Environment Programme. CEP Information Paper, August 2005 (English only)
- EARTH University, 2005 Small Grants Programme for the Application of Best Management Practices (BMP) in Sustainable Agricultural Production - Draft Operations Manual (English and Spanish only)
- CATIE/PNUMA/Asdi,2005 Plan de Manejo Integrado por Guatemala, Honduras y Nicaragua por el proyecto "Planificación de la Rehabilitación, Manejo Ambiental y Desarrollo Costero en Nicaragua, Honduras y Guatemala después del Huracán Mitch" (Spanish only)
- UNEP/GC.23/11 Proceedings of the Twenty-third session of the Governing Council Global Ministerial Environment Forum Nairobi, 21-25 February 2005 (Adoption of the Report) (English only)
- A/CONF.207/L.6 (consolidated) International Meeting to Review the Implementation of the programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States - Mauritius Declaration and Mauritius Strategy for the Further Implementation of the programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States, Port Louis, Mauritius, 10-14 January 2005 (English only)
- NEPA, Oct. 2004 Jamaica's National Programme of Action (NPA) for the Protection of the Coastal and Marine Environment from Land-based Sources of Pollution 2005-2010 (English only)
- Joaquin Gutierrez, 2004 Opciones de tratamiento y disposición final de residuales domésticos y su relación con el Protocolo Fuentes Terrestres de Contaminación Marina (Región del Gran Caribe) (Spanish only)
- UNEP(DEC)/CAR IG.24/3 Outline of Strategy for the Enhancing of the Caribbean Environment Programme within the Framework of the Regional Seas Programmes and Sustainable Development for 2005-2009
- UNEP, 2001/2004 Convention for the Protection and Development of the Marine Environment of the Wider Caribbean Region, Protocol Concerning Cooperation in Combating Oil Spills, Protocol Concerning Specially Protected Areas and Wildlife and the Protocol Concerning Pollution from Land-based Sources and Activities (English, Spanish (2001) and French (2004))
- UNEP/Tetra Tech EM, 2003 Needs Assessment Guidance to Develop National Plans for Domestic Wastewater Pollution Reduction (English and Spanish only)
- UNEP,GPA, The Hague UNEP Handbook on the Development and Implementation of a National programme of Action for the Protection of the Marine Environment from Land-based Activities
- UNEP, 1999 Final Act of the Conference of Plenipotentiaries to Adopt the Protocol Concerning Pollution from Land-based Sources and Activities in the Wider Caribbean Region
- UNEP(OCA)/LBA/IG.2/7 Global Programme of Action to Protect the Marine Environment from land-based Sources and Activities, Washington, D.C., 23 October - 3 November, 1995
- CEP Technical Report No. 33 Regional Overview of Land-Based Sources of Pollution in the Wider Caribbean Region, 1994
- UNEP/GC/3/Rev.3, 1988 Rules of Procedure of the Governing Council of UNEP

**Annex V: List of Participants**

<b>DELEGATES/DELEGUES/DELEGADOS</b>			
<i>Participants/Participants/Participantes</i>	<i>Title/Titre/Título</i>	<i>Address/Adresse/Dirección</i>	<i>Tel./Fax/E-mail /Website</i>
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## **Annex VI: Launch of Sida Partnerships Project (Spanish only)**

### **PRESS RELEASE**

#### **Reunión del Gran Caribe para luchar la contaminación marina de las fuentes terrestres.**

**Ciudad de México, el 22 de agosto de 2005 (Panos)** - Una reunión de los expertos y representantes gubernamentales tendrá lugar del 22 hasta el 26 de agosto en la Ciudad de México para implementar medidas que puedan reducir el impacto de la contaminación marina procedente de las fuentes terrestres en el Mar Caribe y el Golfo de México. Más de 80% de la contaminación en los mares se origina de las comunidades en la tierra. Aproximadamente 60 participantes de casi 40 países con fronteras con el Mar Caribe y el Golfo de México (llamado la región del Gran Caribe) asistirán la reunión.

La reunión tendrá lugar dentro del base de un acuerdo legal inter-gubernamental, el Protocolo Relativo a la Contaminación Procedente de Fuentes y Actividades Terrestres (el Protocolo FTCM). El Protocolo FTCM fue adoptado en 1999, pero todavía no se ha puesto en práctica. Sin embargo, ya han sido implementados una gran cantidad de proyectos y actividades para promover el tratado.

El título de la reunión es " Tercera Reunión del Comité Asesor Interino Científico y Técnico (ISTAC) del Protocolo Relativo a la Contaminación Procedente de Fuentes y Actividades Terrestres en la Región del Gran Caribe (FTCM) . Es organizada por el Programa Ambiental del Caribe (PAC). Hace mas de 25 años, esta agencia fue fundado por todos los países del Gran Caribe para permitir acción colectiva en la protección y administración del uso de los recursos marinos y costeros de la región. La PAC viene bajo la jurisdicción del Programa de Naciones Unidas del Medio Ambiente (PNUMA), y tiene su sede en Kingston.

Los expertos nombrados por los gobiernos proporcionarán el consejo técnico y científico sobre varios asuntos en relación con la contaminación marina de las fuentes terrestres.

"Vamos a examinar las actividades llevadas a cabo bajo el Protocolo FTCM durante los últimos dos años y también ponernos de acuerdo con un plan de trabajo y un presupuesto para los próximos dos años", señaló Christopher Corbin, PNUMA Oficial del Programa para la Evaluación y Gestión de la Contaminación Ambiental (AMEP), quien administra los proyectos relacionados con la implementación del Protocolo FTCM.

#### **Taller Regional sobre los Programas de Acción Nacionales (NPA)**

La reunión de cuatro días en el Hotel Fiesta Americana Reforma en México también incluirá un taller regional sobre el desarrollo y la implementación de Programas de Acción Nacionales (NPA) para algunos de los países participantes.

"Ya Jamaica ha terminado su plan nacional de acción. Los de algunos otros países están en varias etapas de desarrollo. Durante el taller, los países tendrán la oportunidad de compartir sus experiencias en cuanto a sus planes de acción", explicó Corbin. "Las recomendaciones del taller servirán para informar algunas de las decisiones tomadas en la reunión técnica".

Una parte del objetivo del taller regional será examinar estrategias posibles para financiar e implementar el NPA, y también para compartir las experiencias técnicas y administrativas utilizando un base global.

#### **Aguas Blancas hacia Aguas Azules (WW2BW)**

La inauguración de cuatro proyectos colaborativos de por lo menos seis países caribeños tendrá lugar el miércoles, 24 de agosto durante una conferencia de prensa. Este será un acontecimiento muy interesante de la reunión. Los proyectos vienen bajo la jurisdicción de la iniciativa de asociaciones ambientales "Aguas Blancas hacia Aguas Azules (WW2BW)". Este iniciativa tiene el propósito de lograr más colaboración entre las numerosas agencias y actores involucrados en el manejo del medio ambiente, de las montañas hasta el mar.

En junio, el gobierno sueco, a través de la Agencia Sueca de Desarrollo Internacional (SIDA) firmó un acuerdo para desembolsar un millón de dólares americanos durante tres años para sostener el WW2BW, coordinado por PNUMA/PAC.

Los cuatro proyectos colaborativos emprenderán áreas tales como la preparación para los derrames de petróleo, cooperación y respuesta en Centroamérica; las medidas de conservación comunitaria para proteger los recursos naturales en las cuencas de los ríos; el transporte marítimo responsable ambientalmente; y una red de tecnología y ciencia marina.

#### **El Instituto Panos**

El Instituto Panos, una organización regional no-gubernamental de información, con el sede en Puerto Príncipe, Haití, proveerá servicios de prensa durante la reunión. Dispondrá informes diarios y preparará reportajes para ser distribuidos gratis a los medios

de comunicación. También, el instituto Panos puede ayudar a los periodistas en arreglar entrevistas con los que hablan o los otros participantes durante la semana.