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

Cartagena, Colombia, 11-13 December 2014

REPORT OF THE MEETING

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ACRONYMS

AFMO	Administrative/Funds Management Officer
AMEP	Assessment and Management of Environmental Pollution
BWM	Ballast Water Management
CaMPAM	Caribbean Marine Protected Areas Managers Network
CARICOM	Caribbean Community
CEP	Caribbean Environment Programme
CETA	Communication, Education, Training and Awareness
CITES Flora	Convention on the International Trade of Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora
CLME	Caribbean Large Marine Ecosystem Project
CMS	Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals
COP	Conference of Parties
CORALINA Old	Corporation for the Sustainable Development of the Archipelago of San Andres, Old
	Providence and Santa Catalina
CRFM	Caribbean Regional Fisheries Mechanism
CTF	Caribbean Trust Fund
EBM	Ecosystem-Based Management
ECMMAN	Eastern-Caribbean Marine Managed Areas Network Resilient to Climate Change
EU	European Union
FAO	Food and Agriculture Organization of the UN
GCFI	Gulf and Caribbean Fisheries Institute
GCRMN	Global Coral Reef Monitoring Network
GEF-CReW Management	Global Environment Facility – Caribbean Regional Fund for Wastewater Management
GEF-IWCAM Management	Global Environment Facility – Integrating Watershed and Coastal Area Management
GEF-REPCar	Global Environment Facility – Reducing Pesticide Run-off to the Caribbean Sea
GIS	Geographic Information System
GPA	Global Programme of Action
IAEA	International Atomic Energy Agency
ICRI	International Coral Reef Initiative
IGM	Intergovernmental Meeting

IMA	Institute of Marine Affairs
IMO	International Maritime Organization
IOCARIBE	Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission's Sub-commission for the Caribbean and Adjacent Regions
IUCN	International Union for the Conservation of Nature
IWC	International Whaling Commission
IW:LEARN	International Waters: Learning Exchange and Resources Network
KAPS	Knowledge, Attitudes and Practices Survey
LBS	Land-Based Sources of Marine Pollution
LME	Large Marine Ecosystem
MAR Fund	Mesoamerican Reef Fund
MEA	Multilateral Environment Agreement
MMAP	Marine Mammals Action Plan
MPA	Marine Protected Area
NGO	Non-Governmental Organization
NOAA	National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
OECS	Organization of Eastern Caribbean States
OPRC	Oil Pollution Preparedness, Response and Co-operation
PA	Protected Areas
PAHO	Pan American Health Organization
RAC	Regional Activity Centre
RAC-CIMAB	Regional Activity Centre – Centre for Engineering and Environmental Management of Coasts and Bays
RAC-REMPEITC	Regional Activity Centre – Regional Marine Pollution Emergency Information and Training Centre
RAC-SPAW	Regional Activity Centre – Specially Protected Areas and Wildlife
Ramsar	Convention on Wetlands of International Importance
RAPMaLi	Regional Action Plan on Marine Litter
SIDS	Small Island Developing States
SPAW	Specially Protected Areas and Wildlife
STAC	Scientific and Technical Advisory Committee
STRAP	Sea Turtle Recovery Action Plan
TNC	The Nature Conservancy
UN	United Nations
UNDP	United Nations Development Programme
UNEP	United Nations Environment Programme

UNEP-CAR/RCU Unit	United Nations Environment Programme – Caribbean Regional Coordinating
UNEP-DEPI	United Nations Environment Programme – Division of Environmental Policy Implementation
UNESCO	United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization
UNV	United Nations Volunteer
WCR	Wider Caribbean Region
WECAFC	Western Central Atlantic Fishery Commission
WIDECAST	Wider Caribbean Sea Turtle Conservation Network

REPORT OF THE MEETING

1. Introduction

1. The Sixteenth Intergovernmental Meeting (IGM) on the Action Plan for the Caribbean Environment Programme and Thirteenth Meeting of the Contracting Parties to the Convention for the Protection and Development of the Marine Environment of the Wider Caribbean Region was convened from 11-13 December 2014 in Cartagena de Indias, Colombia.
2. This Meeting proposed to review the achievements of the Caribbean Environment Programme (CEP) during the 2013-2014 period and to approve the Workplan and Budget of the Caribbean Environment Programme (CEP) for the 2015-2016 Biennium.
3. The Secretariat, on behalf of the CEP Governments and Contracting Parties to the Cartagena Convention, convened the Meeting to:
 - Evaluate the projects and activities implemented within the framework of the Caribbean Environment Programme during the period 2013-2014;
 - Review the progress made in the implementation of the Decisions of the Fifteenth Intergovernmental Meeting on the Action Plan for the Caribbean Environment Programme and Twelfth Meeting of the Contracting Parties to the Convention for the Protection and Development of the Marine Environment of the Wider Caribbean Region, held in Punta Cana, Dominican Republic, 25-27 October 2012;
 - Review and endorse the Decisions of the Eighth Meeting of the Contracting Parties (COP) to the Protocol Concerning Specially Protected Areas and Wildlife (SPA) in the Wider Caribbean Region, Cartagena, Colombia, 9 December 2014;
 - Review and endorse the Decisions of the Second Meeting of the Contracting Parties (COP) to the Protocol Concerning Pollution from Land-Based Sources and Activities (LBS) in the Wider Caribbean Region, Cartagena, Colombia, 10 December 2014;
 - Review and approve the Report of the Seventh Meeting of the Steering Committee to the Protocol Concerning Cooperation in Combating Oil Spills in the Wider Caribbean Region, Willemstad, Curaçao, 20-21 May 2014;
 - Review and adopt the Workplan and Budget for CEP for the 2015-2016 Biennium, including those of the Regional Activity Centres; and
 - Decide on the composition of the Monitoring Committee and the Bureau of Contracting Parties for the 2015-2016 Biennium.
4. National focal points or their designated representatives of all States and Territories participating in the Caribbean Environment Programme and the Commission of the European Union were invited to attend the Meeting. Other States that have demonstrated concern for the protection of the marine environment of the Wider Caribbean Region (WCR), UN and non-UN regional and international organizations, NGOs, donors and private sector representatives participating or interested in the Caribbean Environment Programme, were also invited to attend the Meeting as observers. Regional and international experts were also invited to make special presentations to the Meeting. The List of Participants is included in Annex VIII of this Report.

AGENDA ITEM 1: OPENING OF THE MEETING

5. Opening statements were provided by Mr. Nelson Andrade Colmenares, Coordinator of the Caribbean Environment Programme and the Cartagena Convention; by Ms. Jacqueline Alder, Coordinator, Freshwater and Marine Ecosystems Branch, Division of Environmental Policy Implementation (DEPI), Nairobi, on behalf of the Executive Director of UNEP, Mr. Achim Steiner; and by Maria Claudia Garcia, Acting Vice-Minister of Environment and Sustainable Development of Colombia. The meeting was declared open at 9:30 am at the Almirante Hotel in Cartagena de Indias.
6. Mr. Andrade Colmenares welcomed all delegates, partners and donors of the Caribbean Environment Programme to the Sixteenth Intergovernmental Meeting on the Action Plan for the Caribbean Environment Programme and the Thirteenth Meeting of the Contracting Parties to the Cartagena Convention for the Protection and Development of the Marine Environment of the Wider Caribbean Region. He thanked the Government of Colombia for hosting the meeting and then handed over to Ms. Alder who indicated that having the meeting in Colombia is significant since it is the 30th anniversary of the CEP and because it commemorates the signing of the Cartagena Convention. She thanked the Government of Colombia for hosting the meeting.
7. She looked forward to continue working with the CEP and LBS Protocol to address major pollution issues in the Caribbean. In addition, she pointed out the SPAW and LBS COPs represented the excellent work of the CEP Secretariat and that the Programme is a well-managed one.
8. She informed the delegates that UNEP is entering an agreement with the Government of Jamaica to open a sub-regional office in Jamaica. She also informed the delegates that the application process for post of the Coordinator is open so they can share the information with others and encouraged applications so that the best candidate could be selected.
9. Ms. Alder commended Mr. Andrade Colmenares for his 19 years of excellent and dedicated service to the CEP and indicated that he was instrumental in reviving the CEP; he will retire in February 2015. She added that the CEP has set the standard for other Regional Seas Programme and that Mr. Andrade Colmenares should be congratulated for his achievements. She indicated that Lesma Levy will also retire in 2015 after serving the organization for over 19 years. She concluded by wishing the meeting fruitful deliberations.
10. Mr. Andrade Colmenares thanked Ms. Alder for the kind words spoken on his behalf. He again thanked the Government of Colombia for the financial and logistical support which enabled the hosting of the four (4) meetings in Cartagena. He then welcomed the Vice-Minister from the Dominican Republic, Ms. Ydalia Acevedo Monegro, all delegates, partners and donors of the Caribbean Environment Programme (CEP).
11. He pointed out that the Cartagena Convention is of paramount importance to deal with the environmental issues of the region. He stated that the CEP is celebrating its 30th anniversary and has had challenges which have been surmounted. He highlighted that the CEP was able to get the Cartagena Convention and its three (3) Protocols ratified and that the work and impact of the programme in the region was made possible with the support of partners, donors and scientific institutions. He added that cooperation has been strengthened with NGOs and other institutions.
12. He highlighted some of the work done by the CEP, including the improved use of agricultural products in Central America through the GEF REPCar Project and the work of CaMPAM on marine protected areas. He added that the work of the Secretariat would not be possible without the support of the governments. He further highlighted that the work of the Secretariat supports the region's efforts in dealing with the issue of climate change.
13. He reminisced about the early days of the CEP where funding and technologies were very limited and emphasized the need to continue the work as mandated by the Cartagena Convention with

sustainable financing. Despite increasing economic challenges and limited financial resources, he expected to see the Programme continuing for another 30 years. The most important challenge over the next decade will be the effective management of marine and coastal areas and indicated that the CEP is willing to support the process in the region. He added that more attention should be paid to the SIDS.

14. He thanked all partners, donors and governments and reminded them that the CEP belongs to them. He indicated that he is not leaving because he wants to but has to, and will always be linked to the region and the work being done here. He stated that it has been an honour serving throughout the years and would like to work towards its continuous development and that he was satisfied with the work he has done and that it was a great experience working with the countries.
15. Ms. Maria Claudia Garcia, Acting Vice-Minister of Environment and Sustainable Development of Colombia welcomed all participants and indicated that it was a pleasure and honour to host the meetings of the Cartagena Convention and its Protocols She pointed out that having the meeting in Colombia is symbolic as this was where the Convention was 'born'. She highlighted that the Parties are committed to the discussions and invited them to continue with the constructive work. She added that the conservation of the marine species contribute to food safety and livelihoods of persons and emphasized that the challenge of effective management is paramount. She reminded the participants that degradation of habitats and exploitation of marine resources put pressure on the marine and coastal ecosystem and that work is being done to reduce these threats. She also pointed out that the vulnerability of marine and coastal resources is evident and invited all present to continue with the work achieved over the past 30 years.
16. She concluded by thanking Mr. Andrade Colmenares, on behalf of the Government of Colombia, for his dedication in furthering the work of the CEP and for making the Convention work.

AGENDA ITEM 2: ORGANIZATION OF THE MEETING

2.1) Rules of Procedure

17. The Rules of Procedures for the Meetings of the Convention for the Protection and Development of the Marine Environment of the Wider Caribbean Region (Cartagena Convention) were applied.

2.2) Election of Officers

18. A chairperson, three (3) vice-chairpersons and Rapporteur were elected from among its members as follows:
 - Chairperson: Gaia Hernández Palacios (Colombia)
 - First Vice-Chairperson: Lavina Alexander (Saint Lucia)
 - Second Vice-Chairperson: Robert Mearkle (USA)
 - Third Vice-Chairperson: Ruben Dario Muñoz Robles (Costa Rica)
 - Rapporteur: Maud Casier and Arnaud Anselin (France)
19. These officers will form the Bureau of Contracting Parties for the period until the Seventeenth Intergovernmental Meeting on the Action Plan for the Caribbean Environment Programme and Fourteenth Meeting of the Contracting Parties to the Convention for the Protection and

Development of the Marine Environment of the Wider Caribbean Region is convened. The President of the Bureau shall also serve as Chairman of the Monitoring Committee.

2.3) Organization of Work

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

AGENDA ITEM 3: ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA

21. The Meeting was invited to adopt the Agenda and Annotated Agenda of the Meeting as contained in documents UNEP(DEPI)/CAR IG.36/1 and UNEP(DEPI)/CAR IG.36/2 respectively, as well as the working hours and other procedural and organizational matters.
22. The Agenda was adopted without modifications, as presented in Annex I of this Report.

AGENDA ITEM 4: REPORT OF THE PRESIDENT OF THE BUREAU OF CONTRACTING PARTIES AND OUTGOING CHAIRPERSON OF THE MONITORING COMMITTEE

23. The outgoing President of the Bureau of Contracting Parties and Chairman of the Monitoring Committee, Dominican Republic, presented her report for the 2013-2014 biennium. She welcomed all to the meeting then congratulated the CEP team for its continued efforts in developing and implementing programmes, projects activities that respond to the needs and priorities emerging in the Wider Caribbean Region (WCR). She highlighted the accomplishments for 2013-2014 and made recommendations for 2015-2016.
24. She indicated that the work of the RACs reflects the dedication and commitment of those involved and that countries should now focus on ratification of the Convention and its Protocols and financial sustainability. She recognized the continued efforts of Haiti, Suriname and Honduras to be Contracting Parties to the Protocols. She reported that there are no new ratifications for SPAW and LBS and pointed out that the ratification of the Dominican Republic to the LBS Protocol was officially accepted in 2012 biennium however, their documentation was submitted prior to 2012. She added that the support provided by the Secretariat to the countries in regard to ratification was instrumental.
25. She also pointed out that the Secretariat continues to provide support for marine mammals, communication and awareness programmes and that it is more involved in publicizing the work of the CEP via the social media. She expressed her hope that a more sustainable solution can be reached in the short-term and added that the best proof of the success of the organization is reflected in the continuous financial support from the governments despite the difficult financial times. She also thanked the Secretariat for the diligence and continuous negotiations with the governments. She implored the governments to provide support. Although payments of contributions have increased they need to be maintained and expanded as sustainability will depend on continued financial contributions and effective management by the Secretariat.

26. She recognized the important contribution of the RACs provided through their host governments, namely Cuba, Curaçao, Trinidad and Tobago and France. A strong message needs to be sent regarding the importance and pertinence of the regional seas programme as it is an effective mechanism to implement projects. She emphasized that the CEP is one of the most successful regional seas programmes and has worked honestly and transparently, citing the implementation of the LBS Protocol and GEF projects as good examples.
27. On the behalf of the Government of the Dominican Republic and the Ministry of Environment and Natural Resources, she expressed gratitude to Mr. Andrade Colmenares for his extraordinary work and presented him with a plaque for his extraordinary work and dedication to the CEP. Mr. Andrade Colmenares thanked the Dominican Republic for the recognition.
28. The delegate from Colombia thanked the Dominican Republic for a thorough report. The delegate from Mexico thanked the DR for the report and indicated that the report was not on the website. The Secretariat clarified that as a Chairperson's Report, it is not distributed to the Parties before the meeting but will be available from the web site following the meeting.

i. Status of ratification

29. The government of Colombia as depositary for the Cartagena Convention and its Protocols was invited to provide an update on the status of ratifications. They confirmed that there were 25 Contracting Parties to the Cartagena Convention and the Oil Spills Protocol, 16 Contracting Parties to the SPAW Protocol and 11 Contracting Parties to the LBS Protocol. Four (4) Parties are awaiting ratifications for the SPAW Protocol. It was also indicated that there has been no change in the status of ratification since the meeting in Punta Cana two (2) years ago.

ii. Summary of Cartagena Convention Report

30. The Secretariat (Mr. Corbin) informed the meeting that five (5) countries completed and submitted reports – Colombia, Mexico, Guatemala, Belize and the USA. He thanked the focal points and technical persons involved in the preparation. He indicated that the Cartagena Convention Template which facilitated the reporting was approved by previous meetings. He also indicated that the information provided was comprehensive and the activities done were in support of the Cartagena Convention and will be made available through the website. The information being collected will support the development of new programmes, projects, etc.
31. He informed the meeting that since some Parties were unable to submit reports due to challenges, the Secretariat would like to know what the challenges were. They were encouraged to submit reports by the end of March 2015.
32. Some of the challenges identified in implementing the Cartagena Convention and its Protocols by the countries who submitted reports included competing national priorities, lack of financial resources, lack of awareness and lack of compliance and enforcement of regulations. In addition to the challenges, specific priority needs for future capacity building efforts were identified.
33. Mr. Corbin again thanked the Parties who submitted reports and reiterated the need for the other Parties to submit same by the end of March 2015 to enable a more comprehensive assessment of the state of implementation of the obligations of the Cartagena Convention and its Protocols.
34. The USA delegate thanked the Chairperson and the staff of the CEP for their work and mentioned that he found the reporting exercise very useful for his country. He also emphasized the need for the

other countries to complete the template and encouraged the Secretariat to make all reports available online for others to see.

AGENDA ITEM 5: REPORT OF THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF UNEP ON THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE CARIBBEAN ENVIRONMENT PROGRAMME (2013-2014) AND BUDGET

35. The Chairperson invited the Secretariat to present the Report of the Executive Director of the Cartagena Convention on the Implementation of the 2013-2014 Workplan of the Caribbean Environment Programme, as contained in document UNEP(DEPI)/CAR IG.35/INF.4, including implementation of the Decisions of the Fourteenth Intergovernmental and Eleventh Meeting of the Contracting Parties (Punta Cana, Dominican Republic, 25-27 October 2012).
36. In his presentation, Mr. Andrade Colmenares provided a summary of the implementation of the work programme for the 2013-2014 biennium, the budgetary status, and administration and human resources management at the Secretariat.
37. He reiterated that CEP projects and activities continue to support its mission to promote regional cooperation for the protection and development of the Wider Caribbean Region (WCR) and its long-term objective of achieving sustainable development of marine and coastal resources in the WCR through effective and integrated management that allows for economic growth and sustainable livelihoods.
38. The Secretariat has taken appropriate actions in response to the Decisions of the Fourteenth Intergovernmental Meeting and other CEP intergovernmental or technical meetings and these were implemented within the work programme for 2013-2014 (Annex I, UNEP(DEPI)/CAR IG.35/INF.4).
39. Staffing at UNEP-CAR/RCU currently includes a total of 14 staff members (the Coordinator, two professional officers, and nine general service/locally-recruited staff financed under the Caribbean Trust Fund; and one Fund Management Officer and one Finance Assistant (funded through the programme support costs). There is one project post at the general service level and one long-term consultant at the professional equivalent, financed through external funding, under the GEF project on the Caribbean Regional Fund for Wastewater Management (GEF/CRew).
40. The Secretariat has actively pursued the collection of pledges to the Caribbean Trust Fund (CTF), including the collection of outstanding pledges. The Secretariat collected a total of US\$2,986,350 in 2012-2013 and US\$944,469 (as at 30 October) in 2014. While there was some improvement in payments or pledges and outstanding contributions, the Secretariat continued to implement successful innovative strategies such as in-kind contributions through the hosting of meetings, workshops, and support for unfunded and new project activities. Governments must continue to make timely payments of their contributions.
41. Other CEP member Governments, especially those with unpaid pledges are encouraged to make regular and timely payments to the Trust Fund. In challenging situations, Member Governments are also called to consider hosting CEP meetings and workshops in the future to offset their financial outstanding contributions. This will allow for programme continuity and a more effective response by the Secretariat, to the needs of member Governments.
42. Mr. Andrade Colmenares acknowledged the cooperation shown by many other Governments who provided support and extraordinary contributions to facilitate the implementation of the 2013-2014 work programme. He noted the continued support provided by the Governments of Cuba, France,

Trinidad and Tobago and Curaçao for hosting the Regional Activity Centres (RACs). Additionally, the Secretariat thanked the Governments of France and the United States of America for seconding experts to the Regional Centre for Oil Spills (RAC-REMPEITC) in Curaçao and looks forward to their continued support.

43. The significant contribution of USD 50,000 by the Government of Colombia for the hosting of the four intergovernmental meetings of the Secretariat was noted, as well as the hosting of the 2nd LBS STAC by the Government of Nicaragua in June 2014.
44. Mr. Andrade Colmenares presented a summary of the status of ratifications of the Cartagena Convention and its Protocols and demonstrated how over the years since the Convention was first signed, Governments have continued to demonstrate political commitment through ratification and contributions to the Caribbean Trust Fund.
45. The Secretariat provided an overview of a few of the highlights from the implementation of the 2013-2014 work plan including the development and successful implementation of GEF Projects, and partnerships involving governments, civil society, the private sector and the donor community, in particular the development banks. These have enhanced the profile of the work of the Secretariat at the regional and global levels.
46. Mr. Andrade Colmenares highlighted that despite the successes, the Secretariat continued to face financial challenges and reiterated the importance of Governments timely contribution of pledges to allow the Secretariat to respond to the many needs of Governments. He then provided a brief summary of the major activities undertaken by the AMEP and SPAW sub-programmes as well as collaboration with the International Maritime Organization (IMO) through the RAC/REMPTEIC in support of the protection and development of the Caribbean Sea.
47. In concluding, the Secretariat suggested that Regional Seas should continue to serve as a platform for UNEP on regional implementation of global targets and for ensuring a priority focus on oceans governance. He mentioned that the Secretariat should support Global Assessments e.g. World Ocean Assessment and World Bank - Global Partnership on Ocean, as well as being a regional node for new data and information platforms such as UNEP Live. He ended by confirming that future projects and activities of the Secretariat will continue to enhance partnerships and the involvement of the Private Sector in their design and implementation.
48. The Coordinator invited the Secretariat's Programme Officers and Team Assistant to report on the progress of their respective programmes: AMEP, SPAW and CETA.
49. Mr. Corbin began his overview by outlining the goal and specific objectives of the AMEP sub-programme that included pollution prevention and reduction as well as data and information management. He highlighted the impacts that the AMEP sub-programme has had in the past through projects such as GEF IWCAM and GEF REPCar, and through capacity building and training activities coordinated by RAC/REMPEITC. He recognized the continued significant contribution to the programme's achievements from the implementation of the GEF-funded projects such as GEF CReW and through the work of the LBS Regional Activity Centres.
50. Mr. Corbin outlined what he considered to be the major achievements of the AMEP sub-programme during the biennium including the ratification of the LBS Protocol by the Government of Dominican Republic and ongoing efforts by several other countries towards formal ratification. Other achievements included: (1) The preparation of the full-sized project proposal for the GEF IWeco Project; (2) Ongoing implementation of the GEF CReW project leading to an increased profile and focus on wastewater management in region; (3) Increase in the number of internal and external publications and fact sheets on pollution; (4) Preparation of a draft updated Regional

Action Plan for Marine Litter with support of the Caribbean Youth Environment Network (CYEN); (5) Establishment of the Caribbean Platform for Nutrients; and (6) Progress in the development of the State of Convention Area Report (SOCAR).

51. Specific mention was then made of fund-raising efforts, and that despite the ongoing challenges in mobilizing funds for new activities, the Secretariat had been able to mobilize a total of USD 379,500 for activities. In addition, Mr. Corbin outlined that co-financing had been mobilized through partnerships with external agencies for projects such as GEF CReW to conduct joint capacity building activities. These funds go directly to the activity and thus are not reflected in UNEP's budget and were estimated at USD 350,000.
52. Mr. Corbin then reported on some of the major activities carried out as part of overall Programme Coordination. These included: (1) Management & Coordination of all project activities including management of consultants and contracts; (2) Provision of technical and advisory support to Contracting Parties; (3) Coordination all activities relating to the CETA sub-programme including management of the web site and social media accounts. Continued responsibility for CETA is due to the lack of a dedicated CETA Programme Officer; (4) Promotion and awareness including the development of calendars; videos; fact sheets; quarterlies; publications; case studies; experience notes and participation at regional and international meetings; (5) Resource mobilization and developing new Partnerships and (6) Responding to the Recommendations and Decisions of the 1st LBS STAC and COP; and 15th IGM. Mr. Corbin ended this section by stating that this coordination included all the preparations for the 2nd LBS STAC and the 2nd LBS COP.
53. The main outputs from project implementation activities were presented according to the major impacts at the national and regional levels. These included: (1) Increased global recognition of regional environmental issues and priorities; (2) Progress with the development of the State of Convention Area Report and the significant contribution made by the Working Group on Monitoring and Assessment chaired by the Governments of the USA and Jamaica; (3) Development of the GEF IWeco project proposal which is now under consideration by the GEF Secretariat including the mobilization of several partners that have committed co-financing for the project; (4) Strengthening of national and legal policy, legislative and regulatory frameworks; and (5) Capacity building and training that provided support for ratification and implementation of the LBS Protocol, increasing awareness on wastewater by Spanish- and English-speaking media, and online training for wastewater management professionals through the GEF CReW Project. Mr. Corbin also highlighted the successful conclusion of the EU-funded climate change project in Jamaica and the availability of several outputs that might be of interest to Contracting Parties.
54. The efforts by the Secretariat to raise the profile of the projects and activities implemented under AMEP at high-level Ministerial events such as meetings of Ministers of Water and Wastewater were outlined.
55. Mr. Corbin then highlighted some of the major capacity-building activities including national and regional workshops coordinated by RAC REMPEITC in Curaçao.
56. The importance of partnerships with a range of national, regional and global organizations representing public, private, academic and NGO sectors was emphasized as being critical to the successful development and implementation of programme activities.
57. Mr. Corbin ended his presentation by indicating that 18 Decisions were reached by the 2nd LBS COP and included the need for continue work on the development of SOCAR, support to the development of new GEF Projects; support to implementation of the GEF CLME+, continued close collaboration with the Global Programme of Action (GPA) and its partnerships on Marine Litter,

Nutrients and Wastewater and to increase regional awareness as well as to support monitoring on ocean acidification in the region.

58. The Chairperson invited Ms. Alessandra Vanzella-Khoury of the Secretariat to present the results of implementation of the SPAW Sub-programme during the 2013-2014 reporting period, as contained in document UNEP(DEPI)/CAR WG.36/INF.4.
59. Ms. Vanzella-Khoury presented the status of activities of the SPAW subprogramme and their implementation during the 2013-2014 biennium, and highlighted the close collaboration and valuable support partnership from the SPAW/RAC in Guadeloupe for the implementation of all activities and for fundraising efforts. She also noted that details on the extensive work done by the SPAW RAC during the biennium was summarized in UNEP(DEPI)/CAR WG.36/INF.4.
60. SPAW activities focused primarily on the five broad areas of work of the subprogramme: i) Coordination, ii) Strengthening of protected areas (with emphasis on MPAs through SPAW's CaMPAM programme); iii) Development of guidelines and criteria as per specific provisions and requirements of the Protocol (i.e. on listing of protected areas and species and on exemptions under Article 11.2); iv) Conservation of threatened and endangered species; and v) Conservation and sustainable use of coastal and marine ecosystems.
61. Collaboration was enhanced with relevant global MEAs, with the Interamerican Convention on Sea turtles and with fisheries bodies, namely FAO/WECAF and CRFM. In the context of developing further synergies, a new Memorandum of Cooperation was established with MarFund for collaboration within the Mesoamerican reef.
62. The activities for the strengthening of protected areas included technical assistance through technical assistance grants (approximately US\$300,000) to 15 MPAs, as well as training and capacity building on marine protected areas management, all executed through CaMPAM as reflected in the detailed update provided by the Secretariat in UNEP(DEPI)/CAR WG.36/INF.5.
63. In her presentation, she highlighted the significant financial support provided since 2011 (USD 1.2 million) by the Government of Italy, through the project "Regional Support for the Caribbean Challenge Initiative: Networking, consolidation and regional coordination of MPA management", in support of the Caribbean Challenge Initiative which has made the achievement of several outputs on the ground possible. The project was closed during the biennium. More than 300 MPA practitioners from 15 countries of the region were trained through both regional and local courses on different aspects of MPA management. Exchanges on better practices between fishers and MPA managers, training on PAs sustainable finance mechanisms, updating of the regional MPA database with online applicability, and maintaining communications and information exchange among the CaMPAM members through the electronic forum were among the main outputs of the project. Important achievements were the designation of 50,000 Km² of marine protected areas and the review, enhancement or completion of 15 MPA management plans.
64. Through CaMPAM and the SPAW-RAC, a new project was initiated in 2014, the TNC Resilient Eastern Caribbean Marine Managed Areas Network (ECMMAN) with funding from the German Government (Euros 1,176,000) until 2016. CaMPAM, through its grant programme, coordinated and supported the assistance and technical advice provided for strengthening the management of these marine managed areas.
65. A major accomplishment of the subprogramme was the listing of 18 of protected areas under the SPAW Protocol by Parties (first listing since the entry into force of the Protocol in 2000) and the launching of the cooperation programme to support these areas (UNEP(DEPI)/CAR WG.36/3).

66. The guidance document to assess exemptions under Article 11.2 of the Protocol was revised during the biennium with the cooperation of members of the working group and adopted by COP8 (UNEP(DEPI)/CAR WG.36/4). The working group on the review of species to be listed under the SPAW Annexes resulted in a “short list” of species proposed to STAC6 and subsequently revised by COP8 (UNEP(DEPI)/CAR WG 36/5).
67. Implementation of the Marine Mammal Action Plan advanced significantly with the UNEP/Spain LifeWeb project (USD 395,000) (update on the MMAP is included in UNEP(DEPI)WG.36/INF.6) which increased knowledge on distribution, abundance and corridors of marine mammals and their threats; capacities on marine spatial planning and developed scenarios for the transboundary management of these species. Collaboration with IWC and NOAA also resulted in strengthening capacities for addressing marine mammal strandings, impacts of vessel strikes and entanglements. Support to sea turtle conservation through national sea turtle recovery plans (STRAPs) with WIDECASST continued as well as bird conservation activities in a number of SPAW Parties.
68. Important progress was made to address the lion fish invasion with the wide dissemination of the Lionfish control manual and finalization of the regional strategy (in English and Spanish) with the Regional Lionfish Committee (UNEP(DEPI)WG.34/INF.8).
69. Through the pilot project implemented on reef fisheries biodiversity as part GEF project “Sustainable Management of the Shared Living Marine Resources of the Caribbean Large Marine Ecosystem (CLME) and Adjacent Regions” (2010-2013), a more integrated, intersectoral coral reef fisheries management and governance scheme was achieved through assessments, legal analysis, education and awareness, stakeholders consultations and policy review (UNEP(DEPI)/CAR WG.36/INF.7). This focused on 4 pilot projects: 1) Seaflower Biosphere Reserve, Colombia with CORALINA; 2) Montecristi National Park, with Ministry of Environment and Natural Resources in the Dominican Republic; 3) Pedro Bank, Jamaica with Fisheries Division and The Nature Conservancy; and 4) Caracol Bay in Haiti.
70. Total expenditures of SPAW projects and activities amounted to US\$ 937.377,00. In addition the Government of France contributed in cash through the SPAW-RAC a total of US\$256.178 for activities in the biennium and approximately US \$600,000 in-kind for the operations of the RAC.
71. The delegate of France applauded the efforts of the Contracting Parties towards ratification of the Convention. She referred to the French Guiana Plateau project and said they (France) would be willing to facilitate and encourage knowledge exchange and joint activities in the Guiana Plateau where there were effective examples of trans-border MPAs.
72. The delegate of the United States reiterated their appreciation for the work of the Secretariat. He stressed the importance of genuine and durable partnerships, especially in the international Year of Small Island Developing States. The work that CEP is doing could be seen as a model, particularly with regard to the number of partnerships. He cited for example GEF, UNEP GPA, the World Bank, and countless other entities in the public and private sectors. The US looked forward to similar work in the next two years.
73. The delegate of Haiti thanked the Secretariat and the Government of Colombia. He recalled that close ties had been formed between the Secretariat and Haiti, that the Coordinator had established a very strong relationship between them. He cited several examples, among them the Laselle Biosphere Reserve, the National Park of Trois Bays and Caracol, which had been established.
74. The delegate of Colombia congratulated the Secretariat for the work of its programmes and urged it to continue working hard, especially with regard to horizontal cooperation in different countries and

knowledge-sharing, including the sharing of knowledge and towards greater regional cooperation in the context of Climate Change.

75. The delegate of Guyana expressed his gratitude and said that the Government of Guyana is committed to and will ensure its full participation in UNEP CEP as well as south-south participation with the Parties.
76. The delegate of Costa Rica also expressed thanks again and stated that they were making efforts to ratify the LBS Protocol.
77. The representative of the GEF reiterated that the LBS Protocol is an extremely important tool which enables the GEF to invest in countries in the region. Without the framework provided by the Cartagena Convention, they would have to go through a much more lengthy process. He highlighted the fact that lessons learnt in WCR were extremely valuable to other regions, for example in the areas of nutrient reduction and fisheries. Other regions look to the wider Caribbean region for lessons. He added that the GEF would be happy to post any substantial reports and information on its website as well.
78. RAC/CIMAB wished to join the rest of participants in expressing appreciation. He referred to the need to make the best use of opportunities and to the intervention made by the GEF representative. With reference to the development of the SOCAR and Acidification of the Oceans, he submitted a recommendation that the Secretariat work towards preparing a proposal on Ocean Acidification for submission to the 6th cycle of the GEF.
79. The Chairperson invited Ms. Chrishane Williams, AMEP/CETA Team Assistant to present the Status of Implementation of the Workplan for the Communication, Education, Training and Awareness (CETA) Sub-programme for the period 2013-2014.
80. The overall and specific objectives of the CETA Sub-programme were outlined by the AMEP/CETA Team Assistant, Ms. Chrishane Williams. These include activities and projects completed in accordance with the approved Workplan for the period 2013-2014 through joint activities with the SPAW and AMEP Sub-programmes and their respective projects.
81. In the absence of a dedicated Programme Officer for the CETA Sub-programme, Ms. Williams noted that activities of the sub-programme were coordinated by the AMEP Programme Officer with the support of the AMEP/CETA Team Assistant, interns, consultants as well as the GEF CReW Communication Specialist. She mentioned that additional support was provided by a national United Nations Volunteer who functioned as a Communication Officer and supported CEP activities and the implementation of the CEP component of the GEF IW: LEARN3 Project.
82. The significant support provided to the AMEP and SPAW Sub-programmes was highlighted including the preparation and distribution of a Survey on the State of the Convention Area which was later summarised into a report of the survey and presented to the Second LBS STAC; production of the AMEP Quarterly over the biennium; an info-graphic PSA on the importance of pollution prevention and the ratification of the LBS Protocol also launched during the Second LBS STAC; a video compilation on land-based sources of pollution with particular emphasis on the impacts of sedimentation, marine litter, wastewater and agrochemical run-off launched at the GLOC2; the coordination and execution of a Photo Competition on Island Biodiversity for the International Year of Biological Diversity 2014, as well as several press releases on environmental issues.
83. Ms. Williams noted that in an effort to increase usability and improve access to information, the CEP website was redesigned to be mobile friendly with multilingual capacity, include quick links to

information and databases, a redesigned homepage and meeting page with multiple-document download and an online interactive game on marine litter. She encouraged countries to share information to aid in updating and populating relevant databases. Social Media was emphasized as an important tool for raising awareness regionally and internationally and that the CEP has seen a significant increase in the number of likes on Facebook and followers on Twitter over the biennium.

84. Of particular importance was the establishment and testing of an Online Reporting Tool for the implementation of the Cartagena Convention and its Protocols in member countries. The AMEP/CETA Team Assistant also indicated that CETA responded to several requests for information and coordinated responses to surveys and information requests from countries, partners and UNEP Headquarters.
85. In the area of public education and outreach, Ms. Williams described the partnership with local and regional agencies, NGOs and Ministries on commemorative environmental days and international years and in other outreach efforts.
86. She highlighted that the Internship Programme welcomed approximately 13 interns over the period, three of which supported the work programme of CETA. This was recognized as being of great importance in accomplishing the output of the Secretariat and the fulfilment of the 2013-2014 Workplans given limited human resources especially for supporting CETA activities.
87. She highlighted CEP's implementation of the component on regional learning exchanges in Latin America and the Caribbean under phase three of the GEF: IWLEARN Project. She indicated that the Sub-programme, along with the support of the United Nations Volunteer (UNV) coordinated three project to project exchanges across International Waters marine and freshwater projects as well as three regional workshops, one of which produced a Policy Brief on Recommendations for the Sustainability of IW Projects and Outcomes through Governance Structures, Policies and Legislation.
88. The representative of the Global Environment Facility noted that several knowledge products had been listed as outputs of the CETA Programme and enquired as to what extent they are used. The Secretariat explained that it was beginning to track use, that several outputs are provided to the National Focal Points directly but these may not often be known to others. It was explained that to some extent distribution is demand-driven but that CETA is working to make the website more user friendly. It welcomes the support of the Parties to get information products out more widely.
89. The delegate of the US asked that Parties be notified of or alerted to the availability of new material by CETA so that they could then alert their embassies and consulates. The Secretariat agreed that this could be done, in addition to the posting of alerts as already done via CEP's website, networks and social media pages.
90. The delegate of Antigua and Barbuda asked if any Knowledge, Attitudes and Practices Surveys (KAPS) had been done regarding social media use and effectiveness. The Secretariat explained that this was to be part of the Communications Strategy in 2015 and they should be able to present it to all countries.
91. The delegate of France enquired as to whether the Communications Strategy tracked the reach of social media in different languages and regarding its geographic distribution. The Secretariat responded that analytics showed that the greatest number of hits were from the WCR especially Jamaica, the United States, Western Europe and Kenya. Facebook was used to post articles and items from the Secretariat but also material relevant to themes covered by the Protocols. Twitter posts were in all three of the Convention's languages, less so on Facebook.

92. The representative of IUCN wished to alert the Parties to the increased profile of the Secretariat with civil society through their efforts through social media and noted that as material was shared they sent it to their respective networks, allowing persons to reach many more persons.
93. The Chairperson invited Ms. Annie Muchai, the Fund Management Officer, to present the financial performance of the Secretariat. She gave an overview of the Caribbean Trust Fund receipts from governments against approved contributions for 2010-2014. The analysis reflected great efforts made in the payment of outstanding contributions in 2012 and 2013 as compared to 2010-2011. In 2014, collections rested at 73% as at October 2014, in cumulative total amount collected for previous, present and future years. In total, the outstanding contributions currently rest at US\$2,116,466. She urged the governments to continue making efforts to pay their outstanding contributions.
94. She presented the expenditures over the last three years that rested at an average of US\$1.4M including programme support costs. The report indicated that the years of major meetings (COPs/IGM) reflect much higher expenditure. However, in 2012, the costs of the COPs/IGM were offset by the Government of the Dominican Republic at a total of US\$200,000 in payment of their outstanding contributions. In comparing the expenditures against the annual approved contributions, the years with major meetings saw expenditures much higher than annual approved pledges, while this was less for the years without major meetings.
95. Ms. Muchai reiterated the challenge on maintaining an adequate budget for activities from the Caribbean Trust Fund and that most activities were supported through other counterpart/earmarked contributions as well as in-kind support. Major support was provided by the Regional Activity Centres (RACs) in the implementation of activities. In addition, a number of operating costs had been offset by apportioning and charging these to the projects as appropriate which resulted in savings for the Caribbean Trust Fund.
96. She indicated that the financial position of the Caribbean Trust Fund (CTF) was US\$3.7 million (including the expected outstanding contributions) at the beginning of 2014. The projected cash balance as at December 2014 would be an estimated US\$1.3 million. This takes into consideration the actual expenditures of the CTF as at September 2014 at US\$1 million, and the projected expenditures of US\$541,000 between October and December 2014 (including the costs of the present COPs/IGM meetings). She highlighted the continued need to ensure that there was a reserve of at least US\$1M.
97. Ms. Muchai took the opportunity to inform the meeting of the UN's move to a new Administrative System called Umoja. She explained that Umoja is a Swahili word that means Unity (and not an acronym). UMOJA is an integrated ERP system resulting from Resolution A/RES/63/262 of the UN General Assembly on 24th December 2008. She explained that it aims at consolidating the management of all financial, human and physical resources under a single integrated system and will ensure real-time data, transparency, master data and shared catalogue among other advantages. Umoja go-live is scheduled for June 2015 for Cluster 3: UNEP, UN-Habitat and UNON, among others.
98. In updating the financial rules of the Cartagena Convention, Ms. Muchai suggested three additions to the financial rules. The first entailed maintaining a working capital reserve within the Caribbean Trust Fund, in line with the UN Administrative Instruction of 1982 on General Trust Funds. She explained that this is recommended at a rate of 15% of the average annual budget and would be estimated at US\$250,000. The second proposal entailed the addition of a Termination clause, seeing that the financial rules did not include this. For the third proposal, she recalled that at every COP/IGM the Secretariat is requested to find innovative mechanisms to facilitate payment of

outstanding contributions. However, Ms. Muchai indicated that despite every effort made, some governments had long outstanding contributions for over 10 years and thus suggested including a clause to this effect, as a mechanism to facilitate the payment of outstanding contributions.

99. The CEP organigram presented highlighted that staffing had remained as in the past biennium with two positions still frozen (P5 Deputy Director and P2 CETA Programme Officer) due to the situation of the CTF. Ms. Muchai explained that the Secretariat used the support of a UN Volunteer (UNV) to support CETA, along with interns. She highlighted that as requested at the last IGM, the UNEP Executive Director had notified all Parties of the advertisement of the position of D1 Coordinator that would be vacant as of 1st March 2014 upon the retirement of the current Coordinator, Sr. Nelson Andrade. Ms. Muchai highlighted that the deadline for applications was fast approaching (15th December 2014) and underscored the importance of encouraging qualified candidates to apply to the post.
100. The Chairperson thanked the Secretariat for the very comprehensive presentations and opened the floor for comments.
101. The delegate from Barbados commended the Secretariat for the amount of work done with very minimal resources. She expressed concern on how the Secretariat would manage to enhance national capacities and provide support to countries with the continued trend of contributions. In response, Ms. Muchai explained the continued resource mobilization undertaken and the measures that had been taken to freeze some positions in efforts to work within the existing funds. She explained that the additional resources greatly assisted to offset costs within the Trust Fund to subsequently cover for the years with lesser projects covered from other resources, than the Trust Fund. She also highlighted the consideration given to ensure projects included allocation for staff and operating costs in order to maintain sufficient support to the countries. Ms. Muchai reiterated the exceptional efforts made by the Coordinator over the years to encourage payment of contributions to the Trust Fund.
102. The delegate from USA made reference to the additions to the financial rules requesting if these would be made available in writing. He requested elaboration on the measures to be taken to facilitate payments of outstanding contributions, questioning how a country would regain their eligibility to be financially supported to participate in meetings and whether they would be expected to pay their contributions entirely. He also requested clarity on the point of not participating in projects 'applicable', conveying that projects were funded from different resources including the GEF. Ms. Muchai confirmed that the additions to the financial rules would be circulated and then discussed further the following day. She made reference to the actual clause 'proposing a payment schedule...' and thus financial support to participate would depend to compliance with this. In reference to projects, she clarified that the statement 'where applicable' was precisely because this statement would not be applicable to all projects such as the GEF, but rather to counterpart or earmarked contributions mobilized by the Secretariat through the support of the Trust Fund. She reiterated that the CTF included contributions from both Contracting and Non-Contracting Parties and there are those countries that were contributing and paying even in advance, while some did not make any efforts to pay for over a decade, and that a mechanism was needed in writing in order not to undermine the Trust Fund.

AGENDA ITEM 6: WORKPLAN AND BUDGET FOR THE CARIBBEAN ENVIRONMENT PROGRAMME FOR THE 2015-2016 BIENNIUM

103. The Secretariat was invited by the Chairperson to present a summary of its 2015-2016 proposed Workplan contained in document UNEP(DEPI)/CAR IG.36/3 entitled “Draft Workplan and Budget for the Caribbean Environment Programme for the 2015-2016 Biennium”.
104. The Meeting was also invited to review and endorse the following, including recommendations and decisions for further actions:
- i. Seventh Ordinary Meeting of the Steering Committee of the Regional Activity Centre/Regional Marine Pollution Emergency Information and Training Centre RAC/REMPEITC-Caribe (Willemstad, Curaçao, 20-21 May 2014) (UNEP(DEPI)/CAR IG.36/4);
 - ii. Second Meeting of the Scientific, Technical and Advisory Committee (STAC) to the Protocol Concerning Pollution from Land-Based Sources and Activities in the Wider Caribbean Region (Managua, Nicaragua, 10-13 June 2014) (UNEP(DEPI)/CAR WG.35/4 Rev.1);
 - iii. Sixth Meeting of the Scientific, Technical and Advisory Committee (STAC) to the Protocol Concerning Specially Protected Areas and Wildlife (SPAW) in the Wider Caribbean Region (Cartagena de Indias, Colombia, 8 December 2014) (UNEP(DEPI)/CAR WG.36/7);
 - iv. Eighth Meeting of the Contracting Parties to the Protocol Concerning Specially Protected Areas and Wildlife (SPAW) in the Wider Caribbean Region (Cartagena de Indias, Colombia, 9 December 2014) (UNEP(DEPI)/CAR IG.34/3); and
 - v. Second Meeting of the Contracting Parties (COP) to the Protocol Concerning Pollution from Land-Based Sources and Activities (LBS) in the Wider Caribbean Region (Cartagena de Indias, Colombia, 10 December 2014) (UNEP(DEPI)/CAR IG.35/3)
105. The Secretariat was then invited by the Chairperson to present the draft AMEP Workplan and Budget for the 2015-2016 Biennium in support of the Protocols concerning Pollution from Land-based Sources and Activities (LBS Protocol) and Oil Spills (Oil Spills Protocol).
106. The AMEP Programme Officer presented the proposed projects and activities within the draft 2015-2016 work plan. He stated that the work plan and budget covered activities to be developed under the Assessment and Management of Environmental Pollution (AMEP) sub-programme of CEP with the support of the two LBS RACs (Centro de Ingeniería y Manejo Ambiental de Bahías y Costas-CIMAB, Cuba and Institute of Marine Affairs-IMA, Trinidad and Tobago).
107. Mr. Corbin highlighted the programme priorities for the biennium including: implementation and development of a GEF CReW Phase 2; launch and continued implementation of GEF IWeco Project; support to the execution of relevant activities for the GEF CLME+ Project; continued efforts to source funding for a follow-up project to REPCar including re-design of the existing project proposal for resubmission; proceed with the development of the State of Convention Area Report; promote further LBS ratification and support the regional implementation of the GPA and in particular the Global Partnerships on Marine Litter, Nutrients & Wastewater through possible national pilot projects.
108. Before describing the specific projects and activities, Mr. Corbin began by outlining the nature of the administrative and technical support that would be required from the Secretariat to ensure the effective implementation of the work programme. This included the support provided by Finance

and Administration and the CETA sub programme in areas such as travel, procurement, human resources management, communication, awareness raising and information technology support.

109. A description of ongoing and proposed new projects and activities was then provided within the following eight thematic areas: Global Environment Facility funded Projects, Monitoring & Assessment, Wastewater Management, Watershed Management, Waste Management, National Programmes of Action, Climate Change and Disaster Risk Response. He reiterated that where no specific new project activities had been proposed in the work plan, such as in the areas of watershed and wastewater management, support in these areas will be provided through the GEF funded projects.
110. Mr. Corbin highlighted that based on recommendations received from the 2nd LBS STAC, which were endorsed by the 2nd LBS COP, additional proposed activities were presented to support nutrients management and the control of non-point sources of marine pollution. He also outlined that efforts would be made to further work on ocean acidification as reflected by decisions of the LBS COP 2.
111. Finally, Mr. Corbin provided an overview of the main activities to be undertaken by RAC REMPEITC in support of the Cartagena Convention and in particular the oil spills protocol. These included: (1) development of a long term strategic plan for the Centre; (2) a new communication plan including enhanced website, use of social media, development of promotional videos; (3) organizing training courses in collaboration with institutions & industry; (4) developing, updating & testing national and regional Contingency Plans; (5) Ballast Water Management twinning & national capacity building; (6) developing partnerships for the sustainable use & management of coastal & marine resources and (7) promoting multi-country & multi-agency cooperation including through the use of the RAC/REMPEITC's GIS tool.
112. In conclusion, Mr. Corbin provided a summary of the overall proposed budget highlighting the amount of funds to be requested from the Caribbean Trust Fund, the level of funding already mobilized and funding still required. While he highlighted that most of the funds listed as unfunded related to the full-sized projects that are under development and which will be submitted to the GEF for consideration, additional funds were still needed for other proposed projects and activities and invited support of countries and partners to mobilize the required funding.
113. The delegate of the United States thanked the Secretariat for listening to the Conference of Parties and for incorporating recommendations in the Workplan concerning the issue of acidification of the oceans.
114. The delegate of Mexico informed the meeting that it has a national contingency plan for hydrocarbons and recommended conduct of an emergency drill. They would provide RAC REMPTIEC with information regarding maritime traffic in order to trigger better monitoring of the programme.
115. The delegate of France explained that after a meeting in October 2013 in Cayenne, French Guiana, about the water management and aquatic ecosystems a network called WAVINGS that includes the countries of the Guiana Shield had been established. It could contribute to the LBS Protocol especially through experience feedback on wastewater treatments and water quality monitoring..
116. The delegate of Colombia confirmed their interest in continuing internal issues regarding the Protocol. Even though they had not yet ratified the LBS Protocol, they have already initiated actions in line with the LBS protocol, for instance legislation updating, strategic actions for trash management, agricultural practices capacity strengthening for agencies in charge of control of land-based sources of pollution and will continue to work towards the ratification of the LBS Protocol.

She also indicated that Colombia also reported on the actions being developed complying with the objectives of the Protocol including the adoption of the new regulatory instruments, the promotion of good agricultural practices in the management of solid waste along the Magdalena river, among others.

117. The delegate of Jamaica stated that although Jamaica had not yet ratified the LBS Protocol, progress had been made and it was now a political decision. However, Jamaica has regulations to conform to the intent of the Protocol and also continues to put some effort into monitoring air and water quality. In addition, they were in a pilot for developing a database for environmental information which may take time due to the need for collaboration between different ministries. They welcomed the opportunity to be part of the Working Group regarding the development of SOCAR and were glad to see focus on the issue of reuse of wastewater and noted the change in terminology. They also expressed concern regarding the extent of marine litter and welcomed plans in the proposed work plan.
118. The delegate of Honduras suggested that information should be made available in Spanish on the LBS Protocol to facilitate dissemination in Spanish-speaking countries.
119. Following the presentation of the work plan and budget by Mr. Corbin, he then presented an overview of the decisions made by the second LBS COP. These decisions were subsequently endorsed by the Meeting.
120. Mr. Vassilis Tsigourakos, IMO Consultant, presented the recommendations of the Seventh Ordinary Meeting of the Steering Committee of the Regional Activity Centre /Regional Marine Pollution Emergency Information and Training Centre, RAC/REMPEITC Caribe which took place in Willemstad, Curacao, 20-21 May 2014, and found in the document titled UNEP(DEPI)/CAR IG.36/INF.6. He presented an outline with the key ideas that will guide the Working Group, established by the 7th OSC of RAC/REMPEITC-Caribe, in the development process of a long term strategic plan, the work done so far by them, and invited the Contracting Parties to join the Working Group in this effort.
121. The delegate of France wished to recognize the contribution of Total to the work of RAC REMPEITC and noted the importance of updating points agreed to, including IMO, UNEP and the cooperating states as well as the need for regular maintenance of the exercises against pollution in the region.
122. The delegate of the US strongly supported finalization of the agreements and looked forward to the update of the Caribbean Island OPRC Regional Oil Spills Response plan, stating that it was an important opportunity to consider contributions from other multilateral work taking place in the northern Caribbean that includes off-shore oil development, prevention, preparedness and response.
123. The representative of PAHO noted that it was working with CDEMA on some aspects of oil spill response but that it would also be interested in working with the RAC as covers some kinds of emergency response.
124. The representative of the GEF stated that he was not aware that oil spills is an area currently funded by the GEF.
125. The delegate of France stated that oil exploration works were taking place in the maritime area of French Guiana and that new seismic campaigns and exploration would take place. Studies had been launched to define the device to be set up in the case of oil contamination of mangroves and mud floods, the outcomes could be shared with Contracting Parties in one year.

126. The delegate of the United States pointed out that 20 of the 25 Cartagena Convention States were also Parties to the London Convention, and that reporting rates from the region are low. He encouraged Parties to report on their dumping activities. He thanked the Secretariat for its contributions to recent meeting.
127. The recommendations presented by Mr. Tsigourakos were then formally adopted by the Meeting.
128. The SPAW Programme Officer presented the draft “*Workplan and Budget for the SPAW Sub programme for 2015-2016 Biennium*” also contained in UNEP(DEPI)/CAR WG.36/6, as it had been presented to the preceding Sixth Scientific and Technical Advisory Committee (STAC) Meeting and the Eighth Conference of Parties (COP8) of the SPAW Protocol. The Work plan had been approved by SPAW COP8 with minor adjustments and final approval of its budget was needed by the 16th IGM.
129. She noted that the major programme elements will remain the same as the previous biennium, however prioritization of concrete activities will be done based on emerging needs and the financial resources available. In this context, the Programme Officer indicated that approximately 80% of the indicative Budget has been raised so far but she highlighted these funds were largely allocated for the two (2) major projects addressing the integration of ecosystem-based management and the strengthening of marine managed areas, mentioned below. As recommended by the STAC6 and COP8, the CTF allocation to the budget for the 2015-2016 will be maintained at the same level as it had been recommended for 2013-2014, whilst recognising that additional funding sources can be identified. In this context, a resource mobilization strategy will also be developed during the biennium as recommended by the COP8.
130. With regard to coordination, it will continue to be led by a Programme Officer and an Assistant at the CAR/RCU Kingston Office. Additional support will also be provided through the SPAW-RAC in Guadeloupe (5 full time staff members fully funded by the Government of France) and two (2) project officers. Coordination will focus on developing synergies with relevant MEAs and initiatives (e.g. CBD, CMS, Ramsar, ICRI) and regional agreements, organizations and programmes (IAC, FAO/WECAFC, CRFM, OECS, CCCCC, WIDECAS, etc.). The Secretariat will continue dialogue with IWC with the aim to conclude a Memorandum of Cooperation.
131. Regarding the strengthening of protected areas, emphasis on MPAs will continue through CaMPAM with the assistance of a coordinator and the SPAW-RAC. She further explained that capacity-building activities, such as those of the Training of Trainers programme (ToT) will continue to be updated to address priority needs. The Small Grants programme is also forecasted to continue providing direct technical assistance to MPA needs, both through the TNC project of the Resilient Eastern Caribbean Marine Managed Areas Network (ECMMAN) initiated in 2014 and funded by the Government of Germany, as well as the newly approved project with funding (1.35 million euros) from the Government of Italy for the systematic integration of EBM in islands and their MPAs. Through the above mentioned projects it is also expected to continue updating the regional MPA database and enhance its applications for countries.
132. She noted that as per COP8 decisions, the Secretariat will continue to support Parties with the nomination of protected areas under the SPAW Protocol and support and enhance the cooperation programme for these areas. There is now a total of 31 protected areas after COP8 approved 13 more for the list. With approval by COP8 of the Guidance document on exemptions to Article 11(2) of the Protocol, the Secretariat and the working group will work on the formats for exceptions during the biennium. The Working Group on Species will continue its work to elaborate guidelines for the nomination of species, with specific instructions provided by the COP8 for its work during the

biennium. Parties were urged to participate actively in the Working Groups established under the Protocol. The Parties are invited to use those guidelines for the next STAC

133. Marine mammals conservation activities will continue to be based on the priorities of the regional marine mammal action plan (status of MMAP implementation is included in UNEP(DEPI)/CARWG.36/INF.6). Proposed activities will include: (i) mitigation of effects of ship strikes/entanglements; ii) continue capacity to respond to strandings; and iii) follow-up to the transboundary management scenarios for marine mammals developed in the previous biennium. With regard to sea turtles, collaboration will continue with the WIDECASST to develop and/or finalise, as well as implement national recovery plans (STRAPs) (namely the Bahamas, Guyana, and Grenada). The collaboration with various partners, under the framework of the Regional Lion Fish Committee, on the control of the lionfish will also be continued through the implementation of the Regional Lionfish Strategy.
134. She introduced the proposed activities on coral reefs which will focus on reactivating the regional monitoring network and on building linkages with monitoring and coral restoration sites with a view to improved coordination and collaboration. Steps will be taken to re-engage dialogue with the private tourism sector within the region, with a view to developing a pilot project to collaborate more actively with major tourism companies on sustainable use and conservation of marine resources. A major component for the biennium will include the coordination and development of activities in response to the Strategic Action Programme (SAP) under the GEF CLME+ Project. Activities will focus on enhanced coordination among the AMEP and SPAW subprogrammes and collaboration with and among other projects and initiatives of relevance to the SAP with a view to promoting integrated approaches and enhanced governance. An Action Plan and Strategy for key marine habitats valuation, protection and restoration will constitute one of the major activities for SPAW under the CLME+. During the biennium, the Secretariat will explore the development of a project to support mangrove conservation, through improved knowledge on their status and support monitoring activities in countries.
135. The delegate from the US continued by stating that having just endorsed the recent decisions of the SPAW Protocol Contracting Parties, the United States is taking the floor briefly to inform the IGM and Contracting Parties to the Convention that we were compelled to vote against decision 5 during the recent SPAW COP meeting to list new species on Annexes II and III of the Protocol. We do not view this meeting's endorsement of the SPAW COP's decision as reaffirming those decisions, as Article 14 of the Convention indicates that decisions concerning any Protocol shall be taken only by the Parties to the Protocol.
136. The decision taken by the COP added 10 species to Annex II and III of the SPAW protocol without a clear nominating party, without supporting documentation addressing the criteria noted in Article 19 of the Protocol and without receiving an evaluation of the SPAW STAC on the proposals. For that reason, and although the United States already extends protections to most if not all of the species in question, we believe that the decision to list these species ran contrary to the procedures laid out in the Protocol in Article 11(4). Therefore, we could not join consensus.
137. In spite of this objection, we are pleased that all SPAW Parties also agreed to work together to elaborate guidelines for a process for future nominations of species to the annexes and we look forward to working with our SPAW colleagues and the Secretariat in that effort.
138. With this one exception, we are very pleased to endorse the decisions of the SPAW COP and we thank SPAW Parties for the constructive meetings this week and we thank the Secretariat for their continued efforts to assist us in protecting the marine environment in the Caribbean and congratulate them once again on the excellent workplan that they have developed. We particularly

note and support Recommendation IV of the SPAW COP calling for a period of time in between the next SPAW STAC and COP, as is done for the LBS Protocol. We believe that this period of time is extremely useful in order to achieve consensus on important issues and therefore is work to find the necessary additional expenses involved.

139. The delegate of France referred to the decision on listing of additional species by voting procedure, stating that this was unfortunate as decisions should be reached by consensus. She thanked Colombia for the efforts to reach a consensus and asked for optimal conditions in such cases including explanations on rules of procedure and interpretation until the end of negotiations. The delegate of France also thanked the Secretariat for having included the issue of sargasso algae in the recommendation.
140. The delegate of Colombia agreed that consensus was preferable. She further noted that they had been having discussions with the Buenos Aires group of the International Whaling Commission and in conjunction with the Minimata Convention. They would like to present this proposal to the GEF and would conduct a preparatory workshop in March 2015. They took the opportunity to invite the Caribbean countries that were interested.
141. The delegate of Jamaica stated that they were aware of mercury issues in the ambit of the Minimata Convention and had already expressed interest in ratifying the Convention by doing some preliminary work/assessment to determine where the mercury challenges are.
142. The United States gave a brief presentation about efforts to understand and monitor increasing ocean acidification and to mitigate and adapt to its impacts. The presentation included an overview of the phenomenon of ocean acidification and its potential disastrous impacts on the marine environment. The current focus within international efforts to address ocean acidification is on understanding the ocean acidification and increasing global monitoring efforts. The presentation highlighted ways the international community is already working together to advance common goals on ocean acidification, including the Global Ocean Acidification Observing Network (GOA-ON) and the Ocean Acidification International Coordination Center (OA-ICC) hosted by the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA). Finally, the United States reported on an ocean acidification workshop for SIDS that was organized during the recent Third International SIDS Conference. The United States encouraged the Parties to consider including a recommendation into the 2015-2016 workplan, encouraging ocean acidification related activities, possibly through inclusion in already planned activities.
143. The delegate of France thanked the United States for proposing to take into consideration the recommendations of the Samoa Workshop and urges the parties to take into consideration the results of the work done by the Oceanographic Center in Monaco on social-economic impact of acidification of the oceans. France also mentioned the need for coordination between the different regional seas conventions on the issue of monitoring of acidification.
144. The delegate of Colombia thanked the meeting for all initiatives especially those on Ocean Acidification which affects shell formation. She also thanked the Secretary of State for its invitation. She stated that Colombia had participated in the Our Ocean Conference. With regard to the Magdalena River, they had collected information to better understand the impact of Ocean Acidification and they would like to see some advancement at the current COP on Climate change. They urged the countries present to work towards adopting synchronized decisions between the Climate Change COP and Cartagena Convention meetings.
145. The delegate of the Dominican Republic congratulated the United States for the initiative and stated that they would like to join. She added that awareness of the issue of Ocean Acidification was low

so CEP could not wait for further action, that there was a need to start a monitoring plan in the Caribbean as soon as possible; without systematic monitoring it was impossible to know if we even have a problem. The Dominican Republic participated in the convention that was organized in June and it is very positive to see such attention placed on this issue. The private sector can also have an important role. A monitoring project on that issue in the Caribbean area would be very useful.

146. The representative of UNESCO IOC stated that the issue of Ocean Acidification had been raised in the Rio + 20 document, and the need for systematic monitoring for Ocean Acidification, as well as for the development of a monitoring framework had been discussed at the Climate Change COP in the past week (a UNESCO initiative) with the European Union and many of the members of IOCARIBE agreeing to the need to establish such a network. He referred to the Global Ocean Observing System (GOOS), one of the key components of any such network. He also encourage all countries to address the issue locally, from their capitals. He added that awareness-raising was important and that UNESCO IOC had produced a flyer to inform decision-makers.
147. The Regional Project Coordinator of the CLME+ Project was invited to give a presentation to the IGM on the status of the development of the new project with particular focus on the implications for the UNEP CEP Work Plan and Budget for 2015-2016. Mr. Debels indicated that during the first CLME Project three interconnecting transboundary issues were identified and that the Cartagena Convention through its two Protocols had the mandate to address two of these three transboundary issues. He also went on to state that as part of the transboundary analyses undertaken during the first phase of CLME Project, casual chain analyses were undertaken to determine the main root causes of these transboundary issues and that the underlying root cause which was identified was that of weak governance. As such, the ten- year CLME+ Strategic Action Programme (SAP), one of the key project outputs was developed. The CLME+ SAP seeks to address many of the identified root causes through six Strategies and seventy-seven short and medium term actions. Mr. Debels further went on to inform the meeting that the CLME+ SAP had been approved by thirty-one ministers in twenty-two countries.
148. In an attempt to assist the region catalyse the implementation of the CLME+ SAP, a concept note for a new project “Catalyzing the implementation of the 10-year Strategic Action Programme (SAP) for the sustainable management of shared living marine resources in the Caribbean and North Brazil Shelf Large Marine Ecosystems (LMEs)” (CLME+ Project) had been approved by the GEF Secretariat. He informed the meeting that at this time the Project Coordination Unit is working on finalizing the Project Document so that it can be submitted before the end of the year to the GEF Secretariat for CEO endorsement. He informed the meeting that upon GEF CEO endorsement it is then expected that this 5-year project will be implemented between 2015-2019 with 12.5 million dollars secured by the GEF. Like the previous project, the implementing agency would be UNDP, but there would be a number of co-executing agencies including that of the UNEP-CEP. This is because UNEP-CEP through the Cartagena Convention and its Protocols already has the mandate to work on the protection of the marine environment of the wider Caribbean Region. The CLME+ Project consist of five components and it is anticipated that if endorsed by the IGM, UNEP-CEP would be implementing activities under all five components. One of the proposed activities that was articulated in the CLME+ SAP and which is included under component 1 of the CLME Project is the establishment and operationalization of a formal agreement for coordinated action with Brazil. In light of this, the Project Coordination Unit was able to support the participation of a representative from the Government of Brazil to participate in this IGM as an observer. Another activity proposed in the CLME+ Project was that of closer collaboration between the AMEP and SPAW work programmes and the approach for such increased collaboration had already been presented by the AMEP and SPAW programme officers. Mr. Debels ended his presentation by asking the meeting to give consideration to endorsing UNEP-

CEPs implementation of the proposed activities under the CLME+ Project presented in his presentation as part of their 2015–2016 work plan. He once again thanked the Secretariat for giving him the opportunity to present to the IGM.

149. The Colombian delegate thanked the Regional Project Coordinator of the CLME Project for his presentation and reiterated their country's support to the CLME+ Project. The delegate from Colombia also reminded the meeting that the Project Coordinating Unit for the CLME Project was based in Cartagena in Colombia and it was also the hope of her delegation that the Project Coordinating Unit for the CLME+ Project would remain in Cartagena.
150. The delegate from Costa Rica thanked Mr. Debels for his presentation and said that the presentation helped to provide some further clarifications to the proposed activities presented in the AMEP and SPAW workplans. He reiterated the importance of the project to the region and indicated that his country was working very hard to submit their co-financing commitment letter as soon as possible to the UNDP/GEF. He indicated that once the new CLME+ Project begins implementation that the project should investigate ways of ensuring communication between the GEF Focal Points and the project's National Focal Points.
151. The delegate from the United States applauded the outputs of the project during its first phase, and indicated the activities that are being proposed during the CLME+ Project remain a high interest to the United States of America. He further went on to state that his delegation was happy with the integration of CLME+ Project activities into the CEP work plan. The delegate of the United States stated that whilst his delegation was happy to see integration being proposed between the SPAW and LBS Protocol, they also wanted to remind the project that integration should take place across all three protocols including the Oil Spills and that inter-sectoral coordination would be the key to achieving enhanced integration and coordination.
152. The delegate from Brazil thanked the Secretariat to the Cartagena Convention for inviting them to participate in the IGM meeting as an observer as well as the CLME Project Coordinating Unit for supporting the participation of their country. She indicated that in the last few days it has been interesting to see and learn about the work of the Cartagena Convention and that upon her return to Brazil she would discuss with her government potential opportunities for collaboration with the Secretariat, as well as the CLME+ Project, relating to possible common and shared interest.
153. Mr. Debels thanked all the meeting participants for their comments and questions. Regarding the intervention from the United States of America, he indicated that due to the limited resources of the project it would be impossible to undertake all activities and as such it was the hope that in the first instance the project would seek to be catalytic and that it was also hoped that during the project implementation phase, attempts will be made to leverage additional resources that would address the gaps that the CLME+ Project would not be able to support. He also informed the meeting that in the spirit of integration the Guiana Shield Initiative had submitted a co-financing commitment letter to partner with and support the CLME+ Project.
154. The AMEP/CETA Team Assistant, Ms. Chrishane Williams presented the CETA Workplan and Budget which highlighted the proposed projects and activities to be implemented in the 2015-2016 biennium. These activities include continued support to the Secretariat and the work of the AMEP and SPAW Sub-programmes and their projects. Meeting support was outlined as a major aspect in the Workplan for the period 2015-2016, such as the CEP Intergovernmental Meetings and other regional meetings and workshops.
155. Implementation of the CETA Sub-programme continues without a dedicated Programme Officer to accomplish the specific objectives of the sub-programme, however, the Sub-programme will

continue to be supervised by the AMEP Programme Officer with support from the AMEP/CETA Team Assistant, Computer Information Systems Assistant, interns, external consultants and the GEF CReW Communications Specialist until the end of 2015. CETA will also continue to promote the UNEP CEP Internship Programme as a part of the general UN Internship Programme and encouraged the applications from the region for interning at UNEP CEP.

156. Ms. Williams noted that CETA will continue to promote CEP and the Cartagena Convention and its Protocols at national, regional and international fora. CETA will also assist in the dissemination of information from relevant global fora. CETA will also continue to share outputs and products from recently concluded, ongoing, and upcoming projects including the GEF CReW and IWeco projects and continue the implementation of the Media Strategy.
157. Encourage countries to provide updates to country page, lab capacity database and information/articles relating to their public awareness and education efforts on marine and coastal issues.
158. She mentioned that there would be continued improvement to the CEP website; continued enhancements in communication on projects and activities through the CEP website as a Clearing House Mechanism, media activities, public education and outreach materials and updated databases. She also mentioned that there will also be continued outreach in recognition of commemorative environmental days and media engagement.
159. In collaboration with AMEP, CETA will develop an internal communication strategy for the SOCAR. CETA will also work with RAC REMPEITC in the enhancement of their website and the development of new promotional materials as well as explore virtual meetings software for communicating on projects and activities with CEP partners across the region. Ms. Williams also indicated that CETA will coordinate training in the use of social media in promoting the work of CEP and partners and this would be made available to RACs, CEP and Project staff.
160. She mentioned that the CETA Sub-programme hopes to assist in the implementation of a fourth phase of the GEF IW:Learn project which has been submitted to the GEF for approval.
161. Ms. Williams indicated that they will continue to operationalize the communication strategy, which will include the redesign of web-based fact sheets and info-graphics, the creation and design of new CEP Technical Reports, media engagement, audio-visual materials such as public service announcements and testimonials. Thereafter an evaluation of the strategy will be carried out at the end of 2015. She also commented that there will be continued improvement to the Online Reporting Tool including a dedicated webpage for sharing of Country Reports.
162. Ms. Williams highlighted that CETA activities will need to be funded primarily through the CTF and that depending on the level of government contributions, the projected funds available for proposed activities are a maximum of USD10,000. She emphasized that the AMEP and SPAW Sub-programmes will internalise some costs for communication related activities of their projects however many will have to be done in house. She also welcomed any offers of financial and technical support and expertise for the proposed activities.
163. The delegate of Antigua and Barbuda asked if there were plans to develop material for incorporation into the school curriculum. The Secretariat responded that yes but that they were being proposed within selected GEF projects. The delegate of Antigua and Barbuda further enquired as to whether there were any plans for the inclusion of KAPS in the work programme of the CEP to evaluate the effectiveness of its education and communications programme. The Secretariat replied that this was being considered for inclusion in the Communications Strategy. The delegate of Antigua and Barbuda also enquired about the effectiveness of calendars for public awareness. The Secretariat explained that both calendars produced (in 2013 and 2014) had also

been educational tools as they had featured the work of the GEF IWCAM project with tips and quips and facts on wastewater management respectively.

164. The delegate of Barbados commended and stated support for the 2015–2016 Work Plan. She asked if, with regard to national programmes, given the limited capacity in the Secretariat, if a country has funding, there can there be collaboration in programmes. The Secretariat responded that it hoped for such support and to partner with countries as it saw many opportunities and the value of national outreach efforts in the context of the Protocol. It had also been able to tap into the skills of the Communications Specialist for the GEF CReW Project.
165. The Funds Management Officer, Ms. Annie Muchai, presented the budget on the Caribbean Trust Fund for 2015-2016. While the 2015 budget was US\$1,396,160 that for 2016 was US\$1,767,645. The 2016 budget was higher in order to accommodate the meetings of the COPs and IGM. Ms. Muchai highlighted a reduction in budget in 2015-2016 by US\$172,387 compared to that in 2013-2014, in continued efforts to match the budget with the annual pledges. She further explained that the proposed budget fell within the margins of the total annual contributions maintained at the same level for 2015-2016 in addition to the estimated cash balance to be brought forward at the end of 2014.
166. As presented during the previous day Ms. Muchai highlighted the proposed three additions to the financial rules. The first entailed maintaining a working capital reserve within the Caribbean Trust Fund, in line with the UN Administrative Instruction on General Trust Funds. She explained that this is recommended at a rate of 15% of the average annual budget and would be estimated at US\$250,000. The second proposal entailed the addition of a Termination clause, seeing that the financial rules did not include this. In the third proposal, she once again recalled that at every COP/IGM requested the Secretariat to find innovative mechanisms to facilitate payment of outstanding contributions. She indicated that despite every effort made by the Secretariat to collect outstanding contributions, some governments had long outstanding contributions for over 10 years and thus the need to have a mechanism in place.
167. The organigram of the Secretariat as forecasted for the biennium 2015-2016, remains as reflected in 2013. The post of P5 Deputy Coordinator and that of P2 CETA Programme Officer would remain frozen due to limited funds. While the term of the current UN Volunteer (UNV), would be coming to an end, she conveyed that the Secretariat would consider the support of another UNV based on available resources. She explained that should the GEF/IWECO project be approved, new staff would fall under the AMEP Sub-programme. Ms. Muchai reminded of the fast approaching deadline for the position of D1 Coordinator that would become vacant from 1st March 2014 and called upon the governments to encourage qualified candidates to apply for the position. She also requested governments to consider approving the reclassification of the post of G4 Administrative Clerk, to G5 Finance Assistant in efforts to provide more substantive support in relation to administration and particularly with regard to procurement as the organization moves to Umoja.
168. The Government of Mexico, supported by other delegates expressed the need for the proposal for financial amendments to have been sent in advance of the presentation on the work plan and budget. The Secretariat was commended for its hard work however; it was encouraged in light of the Rules of Procedures that it be circulated 15 days before the meeting especially considering that parties would need to time to consult with their country authorities since some delegates do not necessarily represent the department which deals with such matters. It was also suggested that the Annexes that includes the three proposed clauses be sent directly to the parties. Ms. Muchai explained that while the Secretariat had considered sending the information in advance, since the proposal was for discussion, it was felt that delegates would be better able to understand the proposal after the presentation was made.

169. The delegate from IMA thanked the Government of Colombia on their hospitality and inquired about countries that have not been able to provide contributions within five years and how in effect, such sanctions would work. Ms. Muchai reiterated that seeing that there is no mechanism at present, the proposed clause was a first step by the Secretariat towards finding a mechanism to facilitate payment of outstanding contributions. In reference to the question on the applicability of this clause to projects, she recalled a similar question by the United States, and explained that the clause would not apply to projects such as the GEF, but rather to projects where there was flexibility on the use of the funds mobilized by the Secretariat through the support of the Trust Fund. Ms. Muchai clarified that ongoing projects would not be interrupted. The clause refers to new projects.
170. The delegate from Colombia supported by several delegates (Guyana, Mexico, Antigua and Barbuda, Costa Rica), suggested that the proposed clause be amended to reduce the number of years of outstanding contributions from four years to two years beyond which the respective country would be ineligible to be financially supported by the Caribbean Trust Fund to participate in meetings as well as reducing the period of payment from six to four years. This is in order to avoid continued long outstanding unpaid contributions and also to help maintain a healthy Trust Fund.
171. The French delegate asked that in case such a mechanism shall be used, a report should be submitted by the Secretariat at the next COP and suggested that a report of the payment of contributions by the countries be made at each COP in order to try to find smoother solutions as soon as possible.
172. The French delegate queried the lower staff costs in 2016 and increased consultancy costs, as well as the request for reclassification of the G4 Administrative Clerk position to G5. In response, Ms. Muchai clarified that the increase in consultancy costs in 2016 is to allow additional consultancy costs required during the COPs/IGM such as the Interpreters cost in light of the IGM. In addition she clarified that the 2015 staff cost was higher than it had been in 2016 as it included an allowance for the repatriation of the Coordinator and the recruitment of the new Coordinator.
173. In response to the question raised by the government of France, Anne Fontaine, Director of the SPAW-RAC clarified that the Regional Activity Center uses three different types of funding to implement activities: (1) funding from the Caribbean Trust Fund, (2) funding from the government of France and (3) funding from specific projects like the ECCMAN project funded by the government of Germany. Budget information is provided in the report "STATUS OF ACTIVITIES FOR THE SPAW SUB-PROGRAMME 2013-2014" (UNEP(DEPI)CAR WG.36-INF.3).
174. The delegate from Panama along with several other delegates supported the inclusion of the three additional clauses in the Financial Rules. However, in response to the delegate of Mexico on the need to consult back with their government on the financial clauses, the Coordinator of the Secretariat proposed, that time be given for countries to be able to consult and respond back to the Secretariat by January 31, 2015. If there were no objection, then the proposal for the amendment of the financial rules would be considered adopted. If there were any comments, these would be communicated by the Secretariat to the Parties.

AGENDA ITEM 7: ELECTION OF MEMBERS OF THE MONITORING COMMITTEE ON THE ACTION PLAN FOR THE CARIBBEAN ENVIRONMENT PROGRAMME FOR THE 2015-2016 BIENNIUM

175. The Secretariat, based on consultations with Member States, introduced a proposal with a list of nominees for composition of the Monitoring Committee. The proposal took into account geographic representation and with due consideration to the composition of the outgoing Monitoring Committee members. The nominees are Colombia, Saint Lucia, United States of America, Costa Rica, France, Panama, Guyana, Guatemala, Bahamas, Barbados, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines and Jamaica. The Chairperson invited delegates to comment on the election of the members for the 2015-2016 Monitoring Committee.
176. The Monitoring Committee was then approved with the composition proposed above.

AGENDA ITEM 8: OTHER BUSINESS

177. The Meeting was invited to raise any other matter not covered by the preceding Agenda items, but relevant to the scope of the Meeting. Invited observers were also invited to make short presentations of relevance to the objectives of the Meeting.
178. Mr. Cesar Toro representing IOCARIBE reminded delegates that during the COP20 of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change in Lima, countries are finalizing discussions on the major impacts of climate change. He outlined that during the Third UN International Conference on SIDS held in Apia, Samoa (1-4 September 2014) SIDS urged the international community to continue providing adequate support, including in the areas of capacity-building and technology transfer for the development and implementation of national, regional and interregional policies.
179. Mr. Toro emphasized that strategic partnerships are one of main mechanisms for implementing and advancing solutions and within that context, in 2002 the Secretariat of the Cartagena Convention and IOCARIBE of the Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission (IOC) of UNESCO signed a Memorandum of Cooperation that has been a strategic partnership for addressing the challenges Member States are facing in coping with the use, management and development of the Wider Caribbean.
180. A good example is the close cooperation achieved in the development and implementation of the Caribbean Large Marine Ecosystem Project that was developed by IOCARIBE and the Cartagena Convention Member states. The Cartagena Convention as one of the main instruments and mechanisms for regional ocean governance in the Wider Caribbean has been proving the importance of a dynamic governance framework for country sustainable development.
181. On behalf of UNESCO IOC and its Regional Sub-commission IOCARIBE, Mr. Toro congratulated the Cartagena Convention Secretariat on its 30 years of existence and called upon Member States to continuing strengthening their strategic partnership.
182. In conclusion, Mr. Toro conveyed his appreciation on behalf of the UNESCO IOC Executive Secretary Mrs. Wendy Watson-Wright to his colleague and friend Mr. Nelson Andrade-Colmenares who jointly with his team has been instrumental to ensuring a fruitful cooperation between our agencies. He recognized Mr. Andrade's contribution to the implementation of joint projects and programmes, and more importantly his leadership and vision for helping achieving the decisions of the Cartagena Convention and its Protocols.

183. Mr. Kemit-Amon Lewis from the Nature Conservancy presented on their Caribbean Coral Reef Restoration Strategy. The Conservancy noted that they had expanded their coral restoration work from pilot phase in 2009 with funding from the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act and the Caribbean program now has coral nurseries in the US Virgin Islands and in the Bahamas totalling over 16,000 corals and are working towards expanding this work throughout the region. Since its inception in 2009, the Caribbean programs coral restoration strategy has grown into a more holistic approach to coral reef conservation. Their work features five main components including taking the program to scale (both with regards to number of corals, number of coral species, and geographic range); advancing and sharing the science of coral restoration; building resilience principles into coral restoration work; community and industry engagement; and assisting with the development of coral restoration or conservation policy.
184. Mr. Robert Mearkle from the USA thanked the TNC for their presentation and work and highlighted their partnership with the TNC which focused on sites in Haiti, the Dominican Republic, Jamaica, Grenada and St. Vincent and the Grenadines with support from the USAID. He mentioned that activities relating to the conservation of Caribbean marine biodiversity and the control of invasive species was important for the region and commended the team for their work in the region.
185. Ms. Elizabeth Taylor-Jay from the Government of Colombia thanked the TNC for such a relevant presentation. She highlighted that in Colombia there is an ecosystem restoration project and suggested that it was important to look for mechanism for the sharing of experiences and also lessons learnt with other coral reef restoration efforts in the region.
186. The delegate from the Government of Panama, Ms. Zuleika Pinzon thanked the TNC for a very interesting presentation and commented that it is very good to see what is being done with the project and in Colombia regarding coral reef restoration, as it provides the experience which can be replicated in the region. She emphasized the need to get more information on coral species, given that coral reefs are so threatened and aslo affected by effects of climate change, with other consequences in the future. She was pleased to have learnt of these experiences in the region, that could be applied in other Caribbean states and was pleased.
187. The delegate from Barbados, Dr Lorna Inniss, joined in congratulating the TNC and mentioned that in Barbados they are in the process of implementing a similar framework and was happy to learn that so many other countries were moving in the same direction. She emphasized that these efforts in the region clearly demonstrated why countries needed to support the Cartagena Convention and its Protocols. She also mentioned that in Barbados and other countries land-based sources of pollution will prevent countries in finding suitable solutions for coral reef protection. She mentioned that there is a nexus between what the Secretariat has being trying to do and what the TNC are pushing in coral reef restoration and lamented that there need to be serious consideration from an economical perspective. She encouraged other countries to support the work of the Secretariat especially as we move toward working on issues to support projects such as that of the TNC.
188. Mr. Díaz from the Government of Guatemala thanked the TNC for the presentation and informed the meeting of a project on the Mesoamerican reef with Mexico, Guatemala, Honduras, and commented that he saw where there could be cooperation and invited the TNC to share activities in order to reduce costs for the design of new projects. He commented that the Convention is an umbrella for the development of these projects under CEP.
189. The French Delegation thanked the TNC for the presentation and highlighted that France is going to mobilise political will regarding the reduction of greenhouse gases. During the SIDS conference

there was a strong indication sent by SIDS regarding the severity of climate change on the coral reef systems and that the responsibility of helping to reduce these changes was that of the international communities facing these issues. She emphasized that France would mobilize all political efforts to get good results out of the 2015 conference on Climate Change, including significant consultation with all states and contracting parties to be led until then.

190. Mr Paul Hoetjes from the Caribbean Netherlands echoed the praise for the work being done by the TNC and was happy to hear of the work in Colombia regarding the development of a protocol for coral restoration activities. He repeated the need for such protocols and the need to work together, exchange experiences, as coral reef restoration was often being done through private sector funding, providing excellent opportunities for Public/Private partnerships by the way, but that use of proper methodologies cannot always be taken for granted. He also stressed that funding for coral restoration projects should be additional and not diminish funding intended for habitat protection or restoration activities.
191. Mr. Patrick Debels from the UNDP/GEF CLME+ Project thanked the TNC for their presentation and highlighted that, in light of the subsequent interventions, both the need as well as the potential for a major up-scaling of restoration actions has become very clear. He acknowledged that integrated habitat protection and restoration activities at a scale that will deliver tangible benefits at a regional level will require a substantial amount of financial resources. He indicated that in this context, the forthcoming CLME+ Project provides a unique and timely opportunity as it can support the region-wide coordination and collaboration towards this needed up-scaling of efforts. He further noted that UNEP CEP would be well-placed to support this process given its mandate and considering the projected participation of UNEP CEP in the implementation of the CLME+ Project.
192. The Coordinator of the SPAW-RAC thanked the TNC for presenting such positive and encouraging results and indicated that they also focused on the survey of coral reefs and offer their expertise along with other countries leading similar projects in the region.
193. Mr Marko Tomic presented on the “Basin Sea Interactions with Communities (BASIC Cartagena)” which is an applied research project with the objective of generating adaptation tools for integrated water resource management in the coastal zone of Cartagena, Colombia, towards the reduction of pollution risks, ecosystem service conservation and climate change adaptation. Mr. Tomic indicated that the BASIC Cartagena Project focuses its research on 6 key components. He highlighted that BASIC Cartagena represents an important advancement in applied research at the national level, as it is one of the first initiatives in Colombia to integrate high-level academic research linking disciplines of hydrology, ecotoxicology, socio-economy and public health.
194. The delegate from Mexico added that in addition to the work being done in rest of the Caribbean, the Government of Mexico had produced two reports on water quality monitoring using eight sites from the Gulf of Mexico into Mexico.
195. Mr. Julius Reyna, General Secretary for the Comisión Permanente del Pacífico Sur (CPPS) thanked the Secretariat for convening the meeting and congratulated Mr. Tomic on his presentation on the monitoring of contaminated water in a UNESCO World Heritage Site. He used the opportunity to offer the Governments a chance to request assistance for the region from his Secretariat. He spoke of the PINCAM Project focusing on establishing frameworks for indicators in the Caribbean and Pacific region and integrated management systems, capacity building, and networking to address the needs in the region. He mentioned that they are hoping to implement a phase 3 of the project to begin in 2016 and would like to take back any specific proposals from this meeting.

196. The Delegate from Colombia, Mrs. Elizabeth Taylor-Jay thanked all the Governments for a dynamic meeting of the convention. She shared her country's efforts since 2012 on the Ocean Health Index. She proposed for consideration how we can build a regional platform to cooperate in the region by 2018 and help to elevate in 5 points of the ocean health index as a regional effort. She proposed that this cooperation platform has a communication and training programme that would coordinate with education programmes of the convention. She invited any country interested to approach the delegation or write to them in order to begin generating these partnerships. She invited interested participants to the COLECMAR Conference next year from 18-22 October in Cartagena as an opportunity to also disseminate work being worked relating to oceans with over 800 people from more than 20 nations.
197. Dr. Lorna Innis from the Government of Barbados took the take opportunity to highlight the work relating to the World Ocean Assessment. She expressed that many experts participated in drafting that the assessment and they are currently awaiting one final chapter to be delivered to be later sent to member states to review. She indicated that countries would be given three months to review and encouraged all to participate in the review and determine how well they did in assessing the Caribbean Region and whether it was relevant to what was happening in the Caribbean. Dr. Innis highlighted that the World Ocean Assessment was called for by the member states of United Nations during the World Ocean Summit in 2002 and they are now at the first assessment cycle and hope to have a final document ready by 2015 to be presented the UN General Assembly.

AGENDA ITEM 9: ADOPTION OF THE REPORT

198. The Rapporteur presented the English version of the draft Report of the Meeting. The Meeting provisionally adopted the Report with amendments and corrections, which were included by the Secretariat in the revised document. It was agreed that further details for the 'other business' section will be done via e-mail. The Secretariat agreed to circulate the revised version of the draft in English, French and Spanish after which Delegates would have 15 days to review and provide comments to the Secretariat.

AGENDA ITEM 10: CLOSURE OF THE MEETING

199. Mr. Nelson Andrade Colmenares delivered closing remarks on behalf of himself and the UNEP Representative from Nairobi, Ms. Jacqueline Alder. He thanked all Government representatives for their active participation throughout the meetings. He mentioned that the decisions set the path for more work to be done. He noted that through negotiations held during the SPAW and LBS STAC, and with the support of the Governments, the Secretariat hopes to have sufficient funds to attempt having joint STAC meetings in the future.
200. Mr. Andrade mentioned that the presentations highlighted the synergies and collaboration being undertaken and emphasised the progress being made through the intervention of partners who acknowledge the importance of the Cartagena Convention and its Protocols, and are working jointly for sustainability of the Wider Caribbean Region. He thanked the Governments for placing their trust in the Secretariat as it carries out its mandate and highlighted that it will continue to look for partners to help carry out its mandates and try to attach priorities to the real needs of the region.
201. He offered special thanks to the Government of Colombia for committing to have the meetings in Cartagena, Colombia where the Convention was first signed 30 years ago. He thanked the Chairperson from the Government of Colombia, the Governments of the United States of America,

Costa Rica and Saint Lucia in their roles as Vice Chairs and the Government of France as Rapporteur throughout the meeting.

202. Mr Andrade pointed out that as he is retiring, he is happy that there is now a mechanism for financial sustainability of the Secretariat for the coming years. He thanked the Parties and non-Parties for their hard work and dedication and emphasised that when he started working with the Secretariat there were only 16 parties and now there are 25 with 16 parties to the SPAW and the 11 to the LBS Protocol. He thanked everyone for their commitment to the development of the Cartagena Convention and its Protocols and especially the private and banking sectors and all partners who also greatly helped to improve the region.
203. Mr Andrade also thanked the Secretariat staff with whom he worked throughout his years and applauded Ms. Lesma Levy who will also be retiring soon and who has assisted the Secretariat during meetings over the years.
204. Special thanks were given to the ASOCARS team and the Government of Colombia for helping in the arrangements for the meetings. He also thanked the interpreters and translators for their professionalism, support and very good work during the meetings. The Regional Activity Centres REMPEITC-Caribe, SPAW, IMA and CIMAB were heartily thanked for their hard work over the biennium and during his time as Coordinator. Mr. Andrade thanked the hotel for allowing us to have the meetings there and for the great assistance rendered and for the security personnel provided by the Colombian Government and the United Nations Development Programme in Colombia.
205. Mr Andrade highlighted that he leaves the Secretariat feeling a sense of accomplishment and also bade farewell to all the countries, thanking them for their commitment to working with the Secretariat towards the protection and development of the Caribbean Sea. He also thanked his son and his wife for allowing him to make this sacrifice in order to work with countries towards sustainable environmental development.
206. The Chairperson thanked all the Contracting Parties and Observers and those from the RACs for their dedication in furthering their objectives towards regional environmental development. She also thanked the Bureau of the meeting and the Secretariat staff for their support, as well as ASOCARS for assisting with logistics arrangements which led to a successful set of meetings. She also commended the excellent job of the interpreters and translators.
207. On behalf of the Government of Colombia, Ms. Elizabeth Taylor Jay thanked Mr Andrade for his dedication and the collaborative effort of the Government and the Secretariat in arranging these meetings. She also made a special tribute to Mr Andrade upon his retirement after 18 years of service to UNEP and as the Executive Director to the Cartagena Convention and Coordinator for the Secretariat. Mrs Taylor Jay also recognised Ms. Lesma Levy for her 28 years of service to the Secretariat and wished them both the best in their next phase.
208. The meeting was officially adjourned at 2:15 p.m.

ANNEX I: AGENDA

AGENDA

1. Opening of the Meeting
2. Organisation of the Meeting
 - 2.1. Rules of Procedure
 - 2.2. Election of Officers
 - 2.3. Organisation of Work
3. Adoption of the Agenda
4. Report of the Chairperson of the Monitoring Committee and President of the Bureau of Contracting Parties
5. Report of the Executive Director of UNEP on the Implementation of the Caribbean Environment Programme (2013-2014)
6. Workplan and Budget for the Caribbean Environment Programme for the 2015-2016 Biennium
7. Election of Members of the Monitoring Committee on the Action Plan for the Caribbean Environment Programme for the 2015-2016 Biennium
8. Other Business
9. Adoption of the Report of the Meeting
10. Closure of the Meeting

**ANNEX II: RECOMMENDATIONS OF 7th MEETING OF THE STEERING COMMITTEE OF
RAC/REMPEITC**

**Recommendations of the Seventh Ordinary Meeting of the Steering Committee of the Regional Activity Centre/ Regional Marine Pollution Emergency Information and Training Centre
RAC/REMPEITC-Caribe**

The Steering Committee:

Having convened the Seventh Ordinary Meeting of the Steering Committee of RAC/REMPEITC- Caribe;

Making reference to the Sixth Meeting of the Steering Committee of REMPEITC-Caribe;

Taking into account Decision III of the 14th Intergovernmental Meeting on the Action Plan for the Caribbean Environment Program and 11th Meeting of the Contracting Parties to the Cartagena Convention;

Considering the Protocol Regarding Cooperation in Combating Oil Spills of the same Convention; and

Having reviewed the Draft Strategic Plan of the RAC/REMPEITC-Caribe and other documents submitted to this Steering Committee by RAC/REMPEITC-Caribe;

Recommends to the 16th Intergovernmental Meeting on the Action Plan for the Caribbean Environment Program and 13th Meeting of the Contracting Parties to the Cartagena Convention:

1. Review and endorse the recommendations of 7th steering committee;
2. Review and approve the 2014-2015 strategic work plan;
3. Recognize the contributions of Curacao, France, the U.S.A, and the IMO;
4. UNEP and the Government and Curacao finalize and sign the MOU for the hosting of RAC REMPTEIC as soon as possible given that it will serve as the legal basis for developing of additional MOUs involving the IMO, RAC/REMPTEIC-Caribe and the US Coast Guard;
5. IMO, RAC REMPTEIC and the US Coast Guard finalize and sign MOUs to ensure continued provision of technical and financial assistance;
6. UNEP CEP provides an update on the hosting arrangements of the Centre at the next Meeting of Contracting Parties to the Cartagena Convention and Oil Spills Protocol;
7. Urge all contracting parties to contribute to the activities of the Centre through secondments or provision of resources;
8. Urge all contracting parties to attend future meetings of the Steering Committee in order to ensure that the Centre's activities reflect the needs of the Wider Caribbean Region and all Contracting Parties and to note the proposed date of November 17-18, 2015 for the 8th Steering Committee meeting;
9. Note that RAC-REMPEITC-Caribe will explore the possibility of using virtual attendance technologies to participate in future steering committee meetings to enhance greater participation;

10. Endorse the development of a 5-10 year strategic plan to enhance the mission of the centre and future work plans and note the establishment of an open/ended working group under the chairmanship of the government of Jamaica to oversee this development;
11. Urge the secretariat in collaboration with RAC/REMPEITC-Caribe and IMO to promote the integration of oil spill disaster planning within the national and regional disaster planning processes through contact with regional disaster management agencies such as CDEMA;
12. Encourage the secretariat in collaboration with IMO to explore the possibilities of large scale funding opportunities in particular through the GEF for the implementation of oil spill related activities identified in the proposed strategic plan;
13. Recommend the contracting parties, IMO, UNEP and the centre to promote the GIS tool and its value including through presentation at SMA meeting and seeking partner support for the enhancement and continued update of the tool;
14. Recommend that the secretariat in collaboration with the government of Curacao establish guidelines for the enhanced use of social media by RAC/REMPEITC-Caribe taking into account the existing social media policies of IMO, UNEP and the government of Curacao;
15. Encourage contracting parties to continue the development and finalisation of oil/HNS spill national contingency plans and to provide input for the update of the Caribbean Island OPRC plan through the creation of a workgroup;
16. Recommend acknowledgement with thanks of the financial contribution of the Rijkswaterstaat, Netherlands, to the centre for the 2014-2015 biennium;
17. Recommend that the contracting parties, IMO, UNEP and the centre identify resources for supporting the conversion, adaptation and updating of records and enhancement of the REMPEITC website;
18. Recognize the significant contributions of the industry and NGO partners and note their pledge of continued support to the work of the centre in particular from ITOPF, OSRL, M/V FREEWINDS, Kosmos Energy, ARPEL and the Curaçao Maritime Association.

ANNEX III: DECISIONS OF SPAW COP8

DECISIONS OF THE MEETING

The Contracting Parties:

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

Taking note of the “Status of Activities of the SPA Subprogramme for 2013-2014” (UNEP(DEPI)/CAR WG.36/INF.3)” and **commending** the work of the Secretariat and the SPA-RAC;

Taking note of the “Report of the SPA Regional Activity Centre (SPA-RAC) in Guadeloupe: RAC Operations and Budget for the period 2013-2014” (UNEP(DEPI)/CAR WG.36/INF.4);

Having reviewed the “Report of the Working Group on the Evaluation of Protected Areas Proposed for Listing Under the SPA Protocol” (UNEP(DEPI)/CAR WG.36/3) and the Report of the First Meeting of Managers of the Protected Areas Listed under the SPA Protocol of the Cartagena Convention at the 66th Gulf and Caribbean Fisheries Institute (GCFI). (UNEP(DEPI)/CAR WG.36/INF.9).

Having reviewed the “Report of the Working Group on the Application of Criteria for Listing Species Under the Annexes to the SPA Protocol” (UNEP(DEPI)/CAR WG.36/4);

Having reviewed the “Report on the Implementation of Activities in Support of the Action Plan for the Conservation of Marine Mammals (MAMAP)” (UNEP(DEPI)/CAR WG.36/INF.6) and the Report on the LifeWeb-Spain UNEP-CEP Meeting on Scenarios for Transboundary Marine Mammal Management in the Wider Caribbean (UNEP(DEPI)/CAR WG.36/INF.8);

Taking note of the “Report on the Workshop of Global Coral Reef Monitoring Network (GCRMN) for the Wider Caribbean: Review, improve and revitalize the network and the nodes for more effective coral reef monitoring and data management” (UNEP(DEPI)/CAR WG.36/INF.10);

Taking note of the Statement of the UNEP CMS Secretariat to the Eighth Meeting of the Contracting Parties (COP) to the Protocol Concerning Specially Protected Areas and Wildlife (SPA) in the Wider Caribbean Region, Cartagena, Columbia, 9 December 2014 (UNEP(DEPI)/CAR WG.36/CRP.1);

Having reviewed the “Draft Workplan and Budget for the Specially Protected Areas and Wildlife (SPA) Subprogramme for the 2015-2016 Biennium” (UNEP(DEPI)/CAR WG.36/6);

Having reviewed the “Recommendations of the Sixth Meeting of the Scientific and Technical Advisory Committee to the SPA Protocol” (UNEP(DEPI)/CAR WG.36/7).

Decide to:

1. **Urge** the governments of the region, which have not yet done so, to become Contracting Parties to the SPA Protocol.

2. **Approve** the thirteen (13) protected areas presented by STAC6 for listing under the SPAW Protocol and **welcome** the Secretariat's initiative to continue to support the Protected Areas listed through the cooperation programme.
3. **Urge** Contracting Parties to respond to the requests of the Secretariat to participate more actively in the Working Groups established by the Parties, in particular in those on the species review and on the formats for the exemptions reports.
4. **Approves** the revised version of the Guidance document as presented in Annex III of the Report and extension of the duration of the Working Group to develop the formats for reporting on exemptions granted and **further agrees** to a review of the exemptions process using the Guidance document as approved, after two biennia.
5. **Amend** the species Annexes by adding the following species to Annex II and Annex III respectively:

ANNEX II

Corals

Species	Common name
<i>Acropora cervicornis</i>	Staghorn coral
<i>Acropora palmata</i>	Elkhorn coral
<i>Montastraea annularis</i>	Boulderstar coral
<i>Montastraea faveolata</i>	Mountain star coral
<i>Catharus bicknelli</i>	Zorzal / Tordo de Bicknell
<i>Pterodroma hasitata</i>	Petrel de Coronilla negra

ANNEX III

Birds

Species	Common name
<i>Columba leucocephala</i>	White-crowned pigeon

Plants

Species	Common name
<i>Guaiacum sanctum</i>	Lignum vitae, Hollywood
<i>Ekmanianthe longiflora</i>	Roble Real
<i>Bombacopsis emarginata</i>	Seibon de Arroyo

6. **Adopt** the Recommendations of the Sixth Meeting of the Scientific and Technical Advisory Committee to the SPAW Protocol as contained in UNEP/(DEPI)/CAR WG.36/7, with the comments provided the Eighth SPAW COP as reflected below:

Recommendation I

Points 12, 13, 14 and 15 to read as follows:

12. “The SPAW Secretariat should work with SPAW Parties and CITES to develop a regional wildlife enforcement network
13. Countries that are Parties to CITES should join the CITES Standing Committee contact group discussing the Bahamas report and recommendations on the iguana poaching incident. SPAW, Parties and NGOs should support recommendations emanating from the contact group.
14. Parties and NGOs should work within their respective spheres of influence, such as the EU, CARICOM and CITES to urge the other Parties to regulate within their national legal systems the ownership, possession, sale and advertising of CITES-listed living species endemic to the Caribbean, to keep illegally acquired specimens, and their progeny, from entering domestic or international markets.
15. Recommends that Parties considering exemptions under Article 11.2, take appropriate measures under their national laws and policies to ensure that these specimens or their offspring do not unintentionally end up being commercially traded in the future.”

Recommendation III

1. “The *ad hoc* working group on the listing of species to the Annexes be reestablished in the intersessional period to continue its work.
2. The working group elaborate guidelines (e.g. a checklist) for the nomination of species for listing in the SPAW Annexes using Article 11(4) as a basis.
3. The draft guidelines developed and approved by the working group be circulated to SPAW Protocol Parties as soon as it is available.
4. Parties be invited to use the draft guidelines for the development of nominations of species for inclusion in the SPAW Annexes in time for consideration by STAC7.
5. The draft guidelines be forwarded to STAC7 for its consideration.”

Recommendation IV

As reflected above in Decision 4.

7. **Approves** the proposed SPAW Workplan for 2015-2016 as revised by STAC6, and its budget subject to the approval of CEP’s budget by 16th IGM and 13th Cartagena Convention COP, and **further requests** the Secretariat to develop a strategy for mobilization of resources.
8. **Welcome** offers from Governments to explore with the Secretariat the possible hosting of the Seventh SPAW STAC meeting in early 2016.

ANNEX IV: DECISIONS OF LBS COP2

DECISIONS OF LBS COP2

The Contracting Parties:

Having convened the Second Meeting of the Contracting Parties to the Protocol Concerning Pollution from Land-based Sources and Activities (LBS COP) in the Wider Caribbean Region, Cartagena, Colombia 10 December 2014;

Taking note of the Status of Implementation of the Workplan and Budget for the AMEP sub-programme for the period 2013-2014 as contained in UNEP(DEPI)/CAR WG.35/3/Rev.2;

Taking note of the Report on the Activities of the Regional Activity Centers for LBS (LBS RACs) in Cuba and Trinidad and Tobago for the period 2013-2014 (UNEP(DEPI)/CAR WG.35/INF.4/Rev.1);

Taking further note of the opportunities provided through participation of countries in projects such as the GEF CReW, GEF IWeco and GEF CLME+ to assist them in meeting their obligations under the LBS Protocol;

Taking note of the progress of the international community on raising awareness about ocean acidification;

Having reviewed the Report of the Working Group on Environmental Monitoring and Assessment (UNEP(DEPI)/CAR WG.35/INF.5/Rev.1) including the outline for the State of the Convention Area Report (SOCAR);

Having also reviewed the Recommendations of the Second Meeting of the Scientific, Technical and Advisory Committee to the Protocol Concerning Pollution from Land-based Sources and Activities (LBS STAC) in the Wider Caribbean Region contained in UNEP(DEPI)/CAR WG.35/4/Rev.1;

Having further reviewed the draft Workplan and Budget for the activities of the AMEP sub-programme for the biennium 2015-2016, as shown in UNEP(DEPI)/CAR WG.35/3 Rev.2; and

Noting the progress made by non-Contracting Parties to develop and implement pollution prevention programmes, projects and activities, as well as to ratify the LBS Protocol.

Decide to:

1. **Endorse** the recommendations of the LBS STAC 2.
2. **Endorse** for final approval by the Sixteenth Intergovernmental Meeting and Twelfth Meeting of the Contracting Parties, the revised Work plan and Budget for the AMEP sub-programme for the 2015-2016 Biennium, with modifications and priorities introduced by the Meeting, and **note** that the AMEP sub-programme of work should give priority to Contracting Parties to the LBS Protocol, taking into consideration regional pollution prevention needs, as well as donor partnerships that may, on occasion, necessitate the participation of non-Parties.
3. **Urge** the governments of the region, which have not yet done so, to become Contracting Parties to the Cartagena Convention and its Protocols, including the LBS Protocol.

4. **Extend** the mandate of the Monitoring and Assessment Working Group (WG) to serve as a technical advisory body to the Secretariat throughout the development of the State of Convention Area Report (SOCAR).
5. **Consider** the amended list of marine water quality parameters in the SOCAR outline and **instruct** the WG to further refine acceptable ranges for the defined parameters and the methodologies for monitoring and assessment.
6. **Request** Contracting Parties to provide information to the WG on the particular indicators and methodologies used in their respective countries, to develop guidelines for the classification of coastal water bodies into Class I and Class II waters and their monitoring
7. **Request** the Secretariat to assist Parties in building their capacity to monitor and assess marine water quality, in particular with regards to technical and laboratory capacity and to work towards harmonization of laboratory methodologies and standards.
8. **Request** the Secretariat to develop an outreach strategy as well as an information management and dissemination plan for the SOCAR that will ensure its usefulness as a tool for making informed technical and financial decisions with regards to appropriate interventions that reduce land-based sources of pollution.
9. **Request** the Secretariat to identify other regional and global marine assessments and platforms such as CLME+, the Meso-American Partnership, World Bank GPO, Red Mesoamericana de Calidad del Agua (REMECA) and UNEP Live and how they could support the further development of the SOCAR as well as including information about these initiatives in the first SOCAR.
10. **Request** the WG to present a report on progress achieved to the third LBS STAC and COP meetings and **request** that the Secretariat, together with LBS RACs, coordinate and support the work of the WG.
11. **Recommend** to the 16th IGM that they endorse the continued work by the WG, to further develop the State of Convention Area Report (SOCAR), including using information provided by countries in their reporting on the implementation of the Cartagena Convention.
12. **Request** governments of the Region and others interested in the development of the SOCAR, as well as chairing the group, to inform the Secretariat by March 1st, 2015.
13. **Request** the Secretariat to continue close collaboration with the UNEP GPA and other UNEP offices on the further development and implementation of global and regional Partnerships relating to nutrients, wastewater, solid waste and marine litter as well as the further implementation of NPAs and the Regional Action Plan on Marine Litter (RAPMaLi).
14. **Encourage** the Secretariat to consider including activities related to awareness raising and capacity building for ocean acidification monitoring in future workplans, noting the recommendations and actions arising from the workshop on ocean acidification that took place as a parallel event to the September 2014 Small Island Developing States Conference in Samoa.
15. **Recommend to the 16th IGM** that they endorse the participation of the Secretariat in the GEF CLME+ project in particular on aspects relating to a more integrated approach to LBS and SPAW activities, including a possible joint LBS/SPAW STAC Meeting, and the development of the SOCAR.
16. **Encourage** greater collaboration between the SPAW, LBS and Oil Spills RACS in execution of activities that support their respective work plans and priorities.

- 17. Encourage** active participation of Contracting Parties and other countries within the WCR in AMEP projects so as to better take advantage of the opportunities afforded for supporting their ratification and implementation of the LBS Protocol.
- 18. Request** the Secretariat to continue efforts to mobilize funding for unfunded projects and activities within the 2015-2016 Work Plan.

ANNEX V: DECISIONS OF THE 16TH IGM

DECISIONS OF THE SIXTEENTH INTERGOVERNMENTAL MEETING

The Meeting:

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

Taking into account the Report of the Executive Director of the Cartagena Convention on the Implementation of the Caribbean Environment Programme (2013-2014) as presented in UNEP(DEPI)/CAR IG.36/INF.4;

Having reviewed the Decisions of the Eighth Meeting of the Contracting Parties to the Protocol Concerning Specially Protected Areas and Wildlife (SPAW) in the Wider Caribbean Region, Cartagena, Colombia, 9 December 2014 (UNEP(DEPI)/CAR IG.34/3);

Noting the Decisions of the Second Meeting of the Contracting Parties to the Protocol Concerning Pollution from Land-Based Sources and Activities in the Wider Caribbean Region, Cartagena, Colombia, 10 December 2014 (UNEP(DEPI)/CAR IG.35/4);

Further Noting the Report of the Second Meeting of the Scientific, Technical and Advisory Committee of the Protocol Concerning Pollution from Land-Based Sources and Activities, in Managua, Nicaragua, 10-13 June 2014 as contained in UNEP(DEPI)/CAR WG.35/4;

Further Noting the Recommendations of the Sixth Meeting of the Scientific and Technical Advisory Committee (STAC) to the Protocol Concerning Specially Protected Areas and Wildlife (SPAW) in the Wider Caribbean Region, Cartagena, Colombia, 8 December 2014 (UNEP(DEPI)/CAR WG.36/7); and

Having Reviewed the Report of the Seventh Ordinary Meeting of the Steering Committee of Regional Activity Centre/Regional Marine Pollution Emergency, Training, and Information Centre-Caribbean (RAC/REMPEITC- Carib) Steering Committee, Curacao 20-21 May 2014 as contained in document UNEP(DEPI)/CAR IG.36/INF.6.

Decides:

DECISION I

Having reviewed the draft Work plan and Budget for the Caribbean Environment Programme for the biennium 2015-2016 contained in document UNEP(DEPI)/CAR IG.36/3;

Taking note of the voluntary contributions to the Caribbean Trust Fund (CTF) by the States and Territories of the Wider Caribbean Region for 2013-2014;

Having examined the budgetary needs of the Caribbean Environment Programme to complete its Workplan for 2015-2016; and

Having reviewed the three suggested additional clauses to the Financial Rules for the Convention for the Protection and Development of the Marine Environment of the Wider Caribbean Region (Cartagena Convention) contained in UNEP(DEPI)/CAR IG.36/CRP.1.

Decides to:

1. **Approve** the Work plan and Budget for the Caribbean Environment Programme for the biennium 2015-2016 with the modifications approved by the SPAW COP8 and the LBS COP2 and subsequently by the Meeting;
2. **Request** the Secretariat continue to seek additional funds to meet the full requirements of the approved Work plan and **urge** governments to support the Secretariat in this regard;
3. **Approve** Amendment 1 to the financial rules, integrating three clauses on: the working capital reserve, the administration of the payment of outstanding contributions, and the termination of the Trust Fund. Subject to responses from Parties, and if there will be no objection, this amendment shall enter into effect on 1st February 2015;
4. **Endorse** the organigram of the Secretariat, and the reclassification of the post of Administrative Clerk G4 to Finance Assistant G5 for greater administrative support and integration of procurement and financial functions;
5. **Adopt** the table of voluntary contributions to the CTF in 2015-2016 as reflected in Annex VI of this report, noting the contributions will be maintained at the **same level** as in the previous biennium and this will be reflected accordingly in the approved Work plan and Budget for the 2015-2016;
6. **Request** the Secretariat to invoice the States and Territories of the Caribbean Environment Programme in the amounts expressed in Annex VI of this Report;
7. **Strongly urge** all the governments to pay all contributions to the CTF in a timely manner to ensure the Programme's financial sustainability and continuity;
8. **Further urge** those governments that have not paid into the CTF in the past, to start doing so and for those with outstanding contributions, to settle the same promptly;
9. **Recognise** the support provided by the Government of Colombia in hosting the present meetings (SPAW STAC6, SPAW COP8, LBS COP2, IGM16/COP13), at a cost of US\$50,000 (subject to submission of the financial report) which would have otherwise been a cost to the Caribbean Trust Fund;

10. **Request** the Secretariat to continue its efforts to collect and to explore innovative financial mechanisms with Member States to facilitate payment of their outstanding contributions for example through support to meetings, workshops, etc.;
11. **Request** that the Executive Director of UNEP, make the necessary provisions to extend the Caribbean Trust Fund until 2017.

DECISION II

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

Noting the interest of Contracting Parties to include activities relating to Ocean Acidification within the 2015 – 2016 workplan and budget;

Further noting the need for collaboration between the AMEP and SPAW sub-programmes and the Regional Activity Centres in responding to recommendations and decisions of the Meetings:

Decides to:

1. **Endorse** the Decisions of the Eighth Meeting of the Contracting Parties to the SPAW Protocol held in, Cartagena, Colombia on 9 December 2014 as contained in UNEP(DEPI)/CAR IG 34/3;
2. **Endorse** the Decisions of the Second Meeting of the Contracting Parties (COP) to the Protocol Concerning Pollution from Land-Based Sources and Activities (LBS Protocol) in the Wider Caribbean Region, held in Cartagena, Colombia on 10 December 2014 as contained in UNEP(DEPI)/CAR IG.35/4;
3. **Requests** the Secretariat to include activities in its 2015–2016 work plan to raise awareness, mobilize resources, including the development of new project proposals, to enable assessment and monitoring of Ocean Acidification in the Wider Caribbean Region, making the necessary linkages to the Caribbean coral reef monitoring network currently being coordinated through the SPAW subprogramme.; and
4. **Request** the Secretariat to strengthen cooperation with the Guiana Shield Facility in order to develop synergies between the two programmes.

DECISION III

Having reviewed the Report of the Seventh Ordinary Meeting of the Steering Committee for the RAC/REMPEITC-Caribe, held in Willemstad, Curacao, 20-21 May 2014 (UNEP(DEPI)/CAR IG 36/INF.6);

Having examined the Strategic Plan for the 2014-2015 Biennium of the Regional Activity Centre, REMPEITC-Caribe (UNEP(DEPI)/CAR IG 36/ INF 6.);

Noting with thanks the continuous contribution of the Governments of France, Curacao (Kingdom of the Netherlands) and the United States to the RAC/REMPEITC-Caribe;

Welcoming the offer from the Government of Curacao to continue hosting RAC/REMPEITC-Caribe on the island of Curacao, autonomous within the Kingdom of the Netherlands;

Acknowledging the need to finalize and sign the MoU between UNEP and the Government of Curacao for the hosting of RAC/REMPEITC-Caribe;

Noting the major challenges faced in terms of having insufficient personnel and acknowledge the hard work put in by Consultants and staff, including those seconded by other governments;

Acknowledging the need for continued cooperation in developing and implementing joint multilateral action for responding to oil spills and other marine environmental threats from ships in the Wider Caribbean Region; and

Welcoming the establishment of the working group under the Chairmanship of Jamaica to oversee the development of a long term strategic plan to enhance the mission of the centre and future work plans.

Decides to:

1. **Review** and **endorse** the Recommendations of the 7th Ordinary Meeting of the Steering Committee;
2. **Review** and **approve** the Workplan and Budget for the biennium 2014-2015;
3. **Recognize** the contribution of the Governments of France, USA and Curacao for their continued support to the Centre;
4. **Urge** all Contracting Parties, to similarly support the Centre through future secondments and/or provision of resources to sustain REMPEITC's activities;
5. **Request** the Secretariat to work with UNEP and the Government of Curacao to finalize and sign the MoU for the hosting of RAC/REMPEITC-Caribe as soon as possible given that it will serve as the legal basis for development of additional MoUs involving the IMO, RAC/REMPEITC-Caribe and the US Coast Guard;
6. **Encourage** Contracting Parties to attend future Ordinary Steering Committee Meetings of RAC/REMPEITC-Caribe in order to ensure that the Centre's activities reflect the needs of the Wider Caribbean Region and all Contracting Parties;

7. **Endorse** the development of a 5-10 year strategic plan to enhance the mission of the centre and future work plans and note the establishment of an open/ended working group under the chairmanship of the government of Jamaica to oversee this development;
8. **Encourage** Contracting Parties to continue to develop and finalize oil/HNS spill national contingency plans and to provide input for the update of the Caribbean Island OPRC plan through the establishment of a working group;
9. **Encourage** the Secretariat (or CEP) to continue to cooperate with the IMO to promote the ratification of and compliance with the London Convention and London Protocol on the dumping of wastes and other matter at sea among the nation's of the Wider Caribbean Region.
10. **Further encourage** the Secretariat in collaboration with IMO to explore the possibilities of large scale funding opportunities, in particular through the GEF, for the implementation of oil spill and marine -related activities identified in the proposed strategic plan; and
11. **Welcome** the appointment of the new Director of the Centre, Benjamin Allee, acknowledge with thanks the contributions of the two departed secondments - CDR Felton Gilmore from the United States and Ms. Anne Réglain from France and also welcome their replacements CDR Paul Latanzi and Vassilis Tsigourakos.

DECISION IV

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

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

Welcoming the support by UNEP HQ in the finalization of these Agreements.

Decides to:

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

DECISION V

Having reviewed the progress of the Caribbean Environment Programme during 2013-2014;

Recognizing the need for the continuing development and implementation of the Caribbean Environment Programme for the 2015-2016 biennium and beyond;

Welcoming the progress made by other Parties towards ratification of the LBS and SPAW Protocols;

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

Recognizing that the reporting template should be kept under periodic review by the Secretariat including requesting governments to provide additional information as part of their reporting obligations under the Convention.

Decides to:

1. **Encourage** other governments in the Wider Caribbean Region to ratify the Cartagena Convention and its Protocols;
2. **Encourage** governments to inform the Secretariat of the status and impacts of the implementation of the Convention for the Protection and Development of the Marine Environment of the Wider Caribbean Region and of its Protocols through the approved reporting template for the Cartagena Convention and its Protocols;
3. **Encourage** greater involvement and participation of Focal Points in the development and implementation of the work programme of the Caribbean Environment Programme including participation at meetings of the Secretariat;
4. **Further request** the Secretariat to continue its efforts to strengthen collaboration with regional agencies and relevant Convention Secretariats to enable more effective implementation of the Caribbean Environment Programme workplan;
5. **Commend**, in particular, the Coordinator and staff of the Secretariat for the considerable progress made in implementing the Caribbean Environment Programme during the period since the Fifteenth Intergovernmental Meeting;
6. **Encourage** all Contracting Parties who have not yet submitted national reports to do so no later than 31st March, 2015 and request the Secretariat to make all such reports available through the UNEP CEP website; and
7. **Encourage** governments to express their appreciation of, and support to, the Caribbean Environment Programme within their national institutions, as well as at relevant national, regional and global fora.

DECISION VI

Recognizing the efforts by the Secretariat and by RAC CIMAB to produce the final report of the update of Caribbean Environment Programme Technical Report No. 33 now Technical Report No.52;

Acknowledging the achievements of the working group on environmental monitoring and assessment established by Decision XI of the Fourteenth IGM; and

Further Noting that further work is required to complete the proposed outline for the State of the Convention Area Report;

Decides to:

1. **Endorse** the specific recommendation of the LBS COP2 to enable the continued work of the Working Group on Monitoring and Assessment for the 2015/2016 biennium;
2. **Request** that the Working Group continue as an open-ended working group of experts from Contracting Parties and Regional Activity Centres to the Cartagena Convention;
3. **Further request** that the Chair of the Working Group reports to the 3rd LBS STAC and as appropriate, to the LBS COP3; and
4. **Request** the Secretariat to continue its efforts to mobilize resources that will assist countries to conduct national coastal and marine monitoring and assessments and in the further development of the State of Convention Area Report.

DECISION VII

Recalling Decision IX of the Fourteenth Intergovernmental Meeting on the Action Plan for the Caribbean Environment Programme and Eleventh Meeting of the Contracting Parties to the Cartagena Convention;

Welcoming the presentation on the UNDP/GEF Caribbean Large Marine Ecosystem Project (CLME+): “*Catalysing Implementation of the Strategic Action Programme for the Sustainable Management of shared Living Marine Resources in the Caribbean and North Brazil Shelf Large Marine Ecosystems*”;

Recognizing that the Secretariat of the Cartagena Convention was a co-executing agency for the CLME Project and will continue to support the execution of the CLME⁺ Project;

Acknowledging that the objectives and mandate of the Cartagena Convention and its Protocols are consistent with the long term objective of the politically endorsed CLME⁺ “*Strategic Action Programme for the Sustainable Management of the Shared Living Marine Resources of the Caribbean and North Brazil Shelf Large Marine Ecosystems*”;

Noting that the CLME⁺ Project Document is expected to be submitted to the GEF Secretariat for review and approval by the end of 2014; and

Further noting that upon approval project implementation is expected to commence during the first half of 2015.

Decides to:

1. **Encourage** Governments to support the implementation of the CLME⁺ Project and by extension the politically endorsed CLME⁺ SAP;
2. **Request** that the Secretariat explore opportunities for entering into a formal agreement with Brazil regarding mutual collaboration on activities relevant to the Cartagena Convention and its Protocols;
3. **Urges** the Secretariat to take advantage of resources to be provided through CLME + to facilitate enhanced coordination among the AMEP and SPAW Programme Areas, including through the development of a roadmap for collaborative action and the convening of joint technical meetings and workshops;
4. **Request** that the Secretariat participate in the interim coordination mechanism for the implementation of the CLME⁺ SAP, which is to be established under the CLME⁺ Project, and to participate in the process to identify a coordination mechanism to support Ecosystem-Based Management/Ecosystem Approach for Fisheries (EBM/EAF) implementation within the CLME+;
5. **Request** that the Secretariat participate in the implementation of the CLME⁺ Project through the inclusion of the following activities in the 2015-2016 Workplan with required financial support from the Project:
 - i. Facilitate the development of Regional Strategies and Actions Plans for the protection of marine habitats and the reduction of impacts from nutrients on marine ecosystems in

the CLME+;

- ii. Conduct a baseline and (pre)feasibility assessment of the investment needs and opportunities to protect and restore key habitats, reduce the impacts of pollution on human well-being, and safeguard the goods & services provided by marine ecosystems;
 - iii. Support the development of investment plans for action on habitat protection and restoration and the reduction of land based sources of marine pollution;
 - iv. Coordinate a Demonstration project on “*Piloting the transition to an Ecosystem-based management approach for the CLME+, with special attention to the North Brazil Shelf LME*”;
 - v. Contribute to the development of the “*State of the Marine Ecosystems and associated Living Resources in the CLME+ region*” report and the development of a prototype CLME+ SAP monitoring and evaluation web portal including but not limited to the development of the State of Convention Area Report;
6. **Request** the Secretariat to facilitate the collaboration and coordination between the CLME+ Project and other related Projects being executed by the Secretariat in particular GEF Projects such as the GEF CReW and GEF IWeco.

DECISION VIII

Recognizing the ongoing degradation and loss of critically important marine habitats such as coral reefs, mangrove forests and seagrass beds, and the associated losses in terms of the provision of ecosystem goods and services;

Noting the increase in ongoing and planned efforts towards the protection and restoration of such key habitats in several places across the Caribbean and that the success of these efforts will also require pollution prevention, reduction and control efforts;

Acknowledging the multiple benefits including optimization of resources to be obtained from improved planning, coordination and collaboration among related national and regional programmes, projects and initiatives as well as value of sharing lessons learned and best practices from these activities; and

Welcoming the concrete opportunity provided by the GEF co-funded CLME+ Project to help address the previously expressed needs.

Decides to:

1. **Request** the Secretariat to initiate consultations with relevant initiatives and organizations in the region conducting coral restoration with a view to develop mechanisms to share information, research and best practices on this issue and enhance collaboration and coordination among these and other relevant initiatives;
2. **Further request** the Secretariat to link, as appropriate, the above-mentioned effort to CEP activities to reactivate the regional coral reef monitoring network , as well as those relevant to the issue of ocean acidification in an effort to promote further coordination and maximization of resources; and
3. **Encourage** the Secretariat to include the mechanisms mentioned in Decision VIII.1 within the context of the CLME+ Project which also aims to integrate and facilitate actions and investments on the restoration of key habitats and pollution reduction.

ANNEX VI: INDICATIVE CONTRIBUTIONS FOR THE BIENNNIUM 2015-2016

INDICATIVE CONTRIBUTIONS FOR THE BIENNIUM 2015-2016

COUNTRY	2015	2016
ANGUILLA	12,791	12,791
ANTIGUA & BARBUDA	12,791	12,791
ARUBA	11,663	11,663
BAHAMAS	12,791	12,791
BARBADOS	12,791	12,791
BELIZE	11,663	11,663
BRITISH VIRGIN ISLANDS	7,547	7,547
CARIBBEAN NETHERLANDS	6,000	6,000
CAYMAN ISLANDS	7,101	7,101
COLOMBIA	22,914	22,914
COSTA RICA	13,917	13,917
CUBA	24,059	24,059
CURACAO	10,000	10,000
DOMINICA - COMMONWEALTH	12,791	12,791
DOMINICA REPUBLIC	15,044	15,044
FRANCE	291,597	291,597
GRENADA	12,791	12,791
GUATEMALA	13,917	13,917
GUYANA	12,791	12,791
HAITI	12,791	12,791
HONDURAS	12,791	12,791
JAMAICA	18,514	18,514
MEXICO	40,000	40,000
MONTSERRAT	3,430	3,430
NICARAGUA	12,791	12,791
PANAMA	13,917	13,917
ST KITTS-NEVIS	3,430	3,430
ST LUCIA	11,663	11,663
ST MAARTEN	5,000	5,000
ST VINCENT & THE GRENADINES	11,663	11,663
SURINAME	12,791	12,791
TRINIDAD & TOBAGO	15,044	15,044
TURK & CAICOS ISLANDS	6,174	6,174
USA	425,000	425,000
VENEZUELA	170,375	170,375
	1,300,333	1,300,333

Same as Contributions in the previous biennium

ANNEX VII: LIST OF DOCUMENTS

LIST OF DOCUMENTS

Symbol	Title	Agenda Item
UNEP(DEPI)/CAR IG.36/1	Provisional Agenda	1-3
UNEP(DEPI)/CAR IG.36/2	Provisional Annotated Agenda	3
UNEP(DEPI)/CAR IG.36/3	Draft Workplan and Budget for the Caribbean Environment Programme for the 2015-2016 Biennium	6
UNEP(DEPI)/CAR IG.34/3	Decisions of the Eighth Meeting of the Contracting Parties (COP) to the Protocol Concerning Specially Protected Areas and Wildlife (SPAW) in the Wider Caribbean Region, Cartagena, Columbia, 9 December 2014	6
UNEP(DEPI)/CAR IG.35/3	Decisions of the Second Meeting of the Contracting Parties (COP) to the Protocol Concerning Pollution from Land-Based Sources and Activities (LBS Protocol) in the Wider Caribbean Region, Cartagena, Columbia, 10 December 2014	6
UNEP(DEPI)/CAR IG.36/4	Recommendations of the Seventh Ordinary Meeting of the Steering Committee of the Regional Activity Centre/Regional Marine Pollution Emergency Information and Training Centre RAC/REMPEITC-Caribe, Willemstad, Curacao, May 2014	6
UNEP(DEPI)/CAR IG.36/5	Report of the Sixteenth Intergovernmental Meeting on the Action Plan for the Caribbean Environment Programme and Thirteenth Meeting of the Contracting Parties to the Convention for the Protection and Development of the Marine Environment of the Wider Caribbean Region, Cartagena, Colombia, 11-13 December 2014 (to be prepared during the Meeting)	9
 <u>Information Documents</u>		
UNEP(DEPI)/CAR IG.36/INF.1	Provisional List of Documents	1
UNEP(DEPI)/CAR IG.36/INF.2	Provisional List of Participants	1
UNEP(DEPI)/CAR IG.36/INF.3	Report of the Chairperson of the Monitoring Committee and President of the Bureau of Contracting Parties	4
UNEP(DEPI)/CAR IG.36/INF.4	Report of the Executive Director of UNEP on the Implementation of the 2013-2014 Workplan and Budget of the Caribbean Environment Programme	5

Symbol	Title	Agenda Item
UNEP(DEPI)/CAR IG.36/INF.5	Financial Rules for the Convention for the Protection and Development of the Marine Environment of the Wider Caribbean Region (Cartagena Convention)	1,2,8
UNEP(DEPI)/CAR IG.36/INF.7	Report on the Ratification of the Convention for the Protection and Development of the Marine Environment of the Wider Caribbean Region and its Protocols (Cartagena Convention) presented by the Government of Columbia	
UNEP(DEPI)/CAR WG.36/6	Draft Workplan and Budget of the Specially Protected Areas and Wildlife (SPAW) Subprogramme for the 2015-2016 Biennium	6
UNEP(DEPI)/CAR WG.36/INF.3	Status of Activities of the SPAW Subprogramme for 2013-2014	5
UNEP(DEPI)/CAR WG.36/INF.4	Report of the SPAW Regional Activity Centre (SPAW-RAC) in Guadeloupe: operations and Budget for the period 2013-2014	5
UNEP(DEPI)/CAR WG.36/INF.5	Update on the Caribbean Marine Protected Areas Management Network and Forum (CaMPAM) and its Major Activities (includes supplement on the completed Caribbean Challenge Project and the ongoing Climate Resilient Eastern Caribbean Marine Managed Areas Network (ECMMAN) Project)	5
UNEP(DEPI)/CAR WG.36/INF.6	Update on the Implementation of Activities in Support of the Action Plan for the Conservation of Marine Mammals (MMAP) including the Government of Spain-UNEP Lifeweb project “Protecting Habitats and Migration Corridors for Marine Mammals in the South and Northeast Pacific and the Wider Caribbean through Marine Protected Area Networks”	5
UNEP(DEPI)/CAR WG.36/INF.7	The GEF Caribbean Large Marine Ecosystem (CLME+) and the outcomes of the Reef Biodiversity and Reef Fisheries Pilot Project: Summary Report, Best Practices and Lessons Learnt	5
UNEP(DEPI)/CAR WG.36/7	Recommendations of the Sixth Meeting of the Scientific and Technical Advisory Committee (STAC) to the Protocol Concerning Specially Protected Areas and Wildlife (SPAW) in the Wider Caribbean Region, Cartagena, Colombia, 8 December 2014	5-8
UNEP(DEPI)/CAR WG.35/INF.4 Rev.1	Report of the Activities for the LBS Regional Activity Centres IMA (Trinidad and Tobago) and Cimab (Cuba) for 2013-2014	5
UNEP(DEPI)/CAR WG.35/INF.7	Report of the Global Partnership on Nutrient Management(GPNM) Caribbean Platform Meeting, Port of Spain, Trinidad and Tobago, 7-9 May 2013.	

Symbol	Title	Agenda Item
UNEP(DEPI)/CAR WG.35/4/Rev.1	Report of the Second Meeting of the Scientific, Technical and Advisory Committee (STAC) to the Protocol Concerning Pollution from Land-Based Sources and Activities(LBS) Protocol in the Wider Caribbean Region, Managua, Nicaragua, June 2014	5-6
UNEP(DEPI)/CARWG.35/INF.5/Rev.1	Report of the Working Group on Environmental Monitoring and Assessment	5, 6
UNEP(DEPI)/CAR IG.33/INF.5	Summary of National Reports of Contracting Parties to the Convention 2013-2014	4
UNEP(DEPI)/CAR IG.36/INF.6	Report of the Seventh Ordinary Meeting of the Steering Committee to the Protocol Concerning Cooperation in Combating Oil Spills in the Wider Caribbean Region, Willemstad, Curacao, 20-21 May 2014	5
UNEP(DEPI)/CAR IG.36/INF.8	Update on International Efforts to Address Ocean Acidification (Presented by the United States)	
UNEP(DEPI)/CAR IG.36/INF.9	Project Identification Form for GEF International Waters: Learning Exchange And Resources Network (IW:LEARN) Phase 4 (English only)	
UNEP(DEPI)/CAR WG.35/INF.11/Rev.1	Project Proposal for GEF funded Integrating Land, Water, and Ecosystems Management in Caribbean SIDS (GEF IWeco) (English only)	5,6
UNEP DEPI)/CAR IG.35/INF.3	Project Document CLME+: Catalysing Implementation of Strategic Action Programme for the Sustainable Management of shared Living Marine Resources in the Caribbean and North Brazil Shelf Large Marine Ecosystems (English and Spanish)	6
UNEP(DEPI)/CAR WG.35/INF.18	Mid- Term Evaluation – GEF Funded Project “Testing a Prototype Caribbean Regional Fund for Wastewater Management” (GEF CReW) (English only)	5
UNEP(DEPI)/CAR WG.35/INF.19/Rev. 1	Draft Marine Litter in the Wider Caribbean: A Regional Overview & Action Plan-Updated	5, 6
UNEP(DEPI)/CAR WG.31/6	Report of the Fifth Meeting of the Scientific and Technical Advisory Committee (STAC) to the Protocol concerning Specially Protected Areas and Wildlife (SPAW) in the Wider Caribbean Region, Punta Cana, Dominican Republic, 22 October 2012	5-8
UNEP(DEPI)/CAR IG.29/5	Report of the Seventh Meeting of the Contracting Parties (COP) to the Protocol Concerning Specially Protected Areas and Wildlife (SPAW) in the Wider Caribbean Region, Punta Cana, Dominican Republic, 24 October 2012	5-8

Symbol	Title	Agenda Item
UNEP(DEPI)/CAR IG.33/5	Report of the Fifteenth Intergovernmental Meeting on the Action Plan for the Caribbean Environment Programme and Eleventh Meeting of the Contracting Parties to the Convention for the Protection and Development of the Marine Environment of the Wider Caribbean Region, Punta Cana, Dominican Republic , 25-27 October, 2012	5-8
<u>Reference Documents</u>		
ST/AI/284	Administrative Instructions- General Trust Funds	
UNEP/EA.1/10	Proceedings of the United Nations Environment Assembly (UNEA), Nairobi, Kenya 23-27 June 2014. (English only)	
UNEP/LAC-IG.XIX/9	Final Report of the XIX Meeting of the Forum of Ministers of the Environment of Latin America and the Caribbean, Los Cabos, Mexico 2014	
UNEP, 2013	Report of Second Global Land-Ocean Connections Conference (GLOC), Montego Bay, Jamaica, 2-4 October 2014	
UNEP(DEPI)/RS.16/WP.5.RS	Regional Seas Strategic Direction 2013-2016	
UNEP, 2014	Directory of Focal Points of the Caribbean Environment Programme. CEP Information Paper (English only)	
UNEP, 2012	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	
UNEP, 2010	Rules of Procedure for the Meetings of the Convention for the Protection and Development of the Marine Environment of the Wider Caribbean Region (Cartagena Convention)	
UNEP, 1983a	Action Plan for the Caribbean Environment Programme. UNEP Regional Seas Reports and Studies No. 26	
UNEP, 2014	UNEP Year Book: Emerging Issues in our Global Environment	
UNEP(DEPI)/CAR IG.24/CRP.9/Rev.1	Guidelines for Establishment and Operation of Regional Activity Centres and Regional Activity Networks for the Cartagena Convention	
UNEP DEPI GPA, 2011	Global Partnership on Waste Management - Marine Litter Work Plan- 2012-2016	
UNEP(DEPI)/CAR WG.31/INF.6	IUCN Caribbean Red List of Threatened Species – A Proposal	

Symbol	Title	Agenda Item
STAP, 2012	Impacts of Marine Debris on Biodiversity: Current Status and Potential Solutions. A STAP Document. Global Environment Facility & Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity	
UNEP(DEPI)/CAR WG.35/INF.9	Summary Report of Review Meeting on Caribbean Marine Atlas-Phase 2, Miami, USA, 10-13 December, 2013	
UNEP(DEPI)/CAR WG.35/INF.14	Final Report of the GEF CReW Regional Workshop “ The LBS Protocol: difficulties and challenges in the countries participating in the GEF CReW Project-Spanish speaking countries , Havana, Cuba, 10-11 December, 2013 (English and Spanish)	
UNEP(DEPI)/CAR WG.35/INF.15	Assessment Report for Select Countries in Respect of the Protocol Concerning Pollution from Land-based sources and Activities (LBS Protocol)- English Speaking countries	
UNEP(DEPI)RS.16/INF.2 RS	Green Economy in a Blue World- Executive Summary	
UNEP(DEPI)RS.16/INF.3 RS	Green Economy in a Blue World for SIDS- Executive Summary	
UNEP(DEPI)/RS.16/INF.4.RS	TEEB for Oceans	
UNEP(DEPI)RS.16/INF.5.RS	Background Document Visioning Workshop	
UNEP(DEPI)/RS.16/INF.6.RS	Sustainable Development Goals-Ocean	
UNEP(DEPI)/RS.16/WP.3.RS	Visioning Workshop Report	
UNEP(DEPI)/RS.16/WP.6.RS	Progress in the implementation of the Regional Seas Strategic Directions 2013-2016	
CBD, 2014	CBD Technical Series No. 75: An Updated Synthesis of the Impacts of Ocean Acidification on Marine Biodiversity-Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity (2014)	

ANNEX VIII: LIST OF PARTICIPANTS

LIST OF PARTICIPANTS

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