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Fourth Meeting of the Scientific, Technical and Advisory Committee (STAC) to the Protocol Concerning Pollution from Land-based Sources and Activities in the Wider Caribbean.

Panama City, Panama, 18-20 July 2018

REPORT OF THE MEETING



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

ACRONYMS

ACS.....	Association of Caribbean States
AMEP.....	Assessment and Management of Environmental Pollution
CAR/RCU.....	Caribbean Regional Coordinating Unit
CARPHA.....	Caribbean Public Health Agency
Cartagena Convention.....	Convention for the Protection and Development of the Marine Environment of the Wider Caribbean Region
CEP.....	Caribbean Environment Programme
CIMAB.....	Centro de Ingeniería y Manejo Ambiental de Bahías y Costas
CLME+.....	Catalyzing 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
COP.....	Conference of the Parties
CRew	Caribbean Regional Fund for Wastewater Management
CRew+	Upscaling and enhancing the Caribbean Regional Fund for Wastewater Management through an integrated approach of applying technical solutions with innovative financing mechanisms
GCFI.....	Gulf and Caribbean Fisheries Institute
GEF.....	Global Environment Facility
IGM.....	Intergovernmental Meeting
IMA.....	Institute of Marine Affairs
IWEco	Integrating Water, Land and Ecosystem Management in Caribbean Small Island Developing States
LBS.....	Land-Based Sources
MoU.....	Memorandum of Understanding
PCA.....	Project Cooperation Agreement
PSC.....	Project Steering Committee / Programme Support Cost
RAC.....	Regional Activity Centre
RAN.....	Regional Activity Network
OECS.....	Organisation of Eastern Caribbean States
OSPAR Commission.....	Commission for Oslo and Paris Conventions
SAP.....	Strategic Action Plan
SIDS.....	Small Island Developing States
SOCAR.....	State of the Convention Area Report
SOMEE	State of the Marine Environment and associated Economies
CSRO.....	Caribbean Sub-Regional Office

STAC..... Scientific and Technical Advisory Committee
SPAW..... Specially Protected Areas and Wildlife
UNEP..... United Nations Environment Programme
US EPA..... United States Environmental Protection Agency
WCR..... Wider Caribbean Region

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Introduction

1. Following the entry into force of the LBS Protocol in August 2010, Article XIV of the LBS Protocol established the LBS STAC. Under Article XIII.2.c, the Secretariat of the Cartagena Convention is responsible for providing such assistance that the STAC may require to carry out its functions, as referred to in Article XIV.
2. In accordance with the Workplan and Budget for 2017-2018, endorsed by the Seventeenth Intergovernmental Meeting (IGM) and intersessionally, the Fourth LBS STAC Meeting was held from 18-20 July 2018 in Panama City, Panama.
3. The objectives of the Fourth LBS STAC Meeting were to:
 - Evaluate the projects and activities implemented by the Secretariat and the LBS Regional Activity Centres (RACs) within the Assessment and Management of Environmental Pollution (AMEP) sub-programme during the period 2017-2018;
 - Review the progress made in the implementation of the Recommendations of the Third LBS STAC Meeting, Decisions of the Third Conference of Parties to the LBS Protocol, and relevant Decisions of the Seventeenth Intergovernmental Meeting and Fourteenth Meeting of the Contracting Parties to the Cartagena Convention;
 - Review the status of ratification and/or implementation of the LBS Protocol in member countries;
 - Review and provide technical input to the Draft AMEP Work plan and Budget for the 2019-2020 Biennium for subsequent submission to, and approval by, the upcoming 4th Conference of Parties to the LBS Protocol;
 - Provide recommendations concerning the implementation of the LBS Protocol for consideration by the 4th Conference of Parties to the LBS Protocol in the first quarter of 2019.
4. The experts invited to the Meeting were nominated by the National Focal Points of the Cartagena Convention. Additionally, representatives of international, regional, intergovernmental, and non-governmental organizations and regional project representatives were invited to attend the Meeting as Observers.

Agenda item 1: Opening of the Meeting

5. The meeting began on Wednesday, 18th July 2018 at 9:15 am. Seated at the head table for the opening were Mr. Leo Heileman, Director, UN Environment Regional Office for Latin America and the Caribbean, Ms. Lorna Inniss, Coordinator of the Caribbean Environment Programme (CEP), and Mr. Christopher Corbin, Programme Officer responsible for the Assessment and Management of Environmental Pollution (AMEP) sub-programme of the CEP, who also chaired the opening ceremony.
6. Mr. Corbin began by welcoming participants to the 4th LBS STAC Meeting and acknowledged the presence of representatives of the Regional Activity Centres (RACs) for the LBS Protocol. He indicated that the Government of Honduras had completed their national requirements for ratification of the Cartagena Convention and its Protocols and that the Secretariat was awaiting formal communication from the depository in Colombia to complete the process. He then invited Mr. Heileman to deliver opening remarks.
7. Mr. Heileman expressed gratitude to the Government of Panama for their support to the meeting preparations. He highlighted the importance of science, empirical evidence and information for providing sound advice to governments. He indicated that the region is facing many challenges such as *Sargassum*, which is affecting the economies through impacts on tourism and fisheries. He indicated ongoing efforts by UN Environment to work with Governments to reduce the impacts of land-based pollution on the marine environment and the importance of capacity building in monitoring and research to inform responses by countries. He added that there was a need for improved coordination and support for the countries in the region and that his office was aiming to improve synergies, collaboration and cooperation with the Cartagena Convention Secretariat. This would reduce

- duplication of any kind. He concluded that he was looking forward to increased collaboration with all the Governments within the context of the Convention and its Protocols.
8. Ms. Lorna Inniss recognised Mr. Bob Glazer from the Gulf and Caribbean Fisheries Institute (GCFI), the co-host for the Caribbean Node on Marine Litter. She then welcomed the representative of Honduras, Ms. Sara Zelaya, and representatives of the other Non-Contracting Parties including St. Kitts-Nevis. She informed that St. Kitts and Nevis was close to the end of the ratification process and that Barbados and Haiti were making progress in that regard.
 9. She mentioned that Non-Contracting Parties to the LBS Protocol at the meeting were funded by the Global Environment Facility (GEF) Integrating Water, Land and Ecosystem Management in Caribbean Small Island Developing States (IWEco) Project. She then acknowledged Mr. Jan Betlem, IWEco Regional Project Coordinator and mentioned the symbolic signing of agreements by the Organisation of Eastern Caribbean States (OECS) participating in the project.
 10. She also mentioned the effects of *Sargassum* that had resulted in hotel closures and the increased costs of dealing with it. She stated that she was looking forward to working more with the UN Environment Sub-Regional Office of the Caribbean.
 11. Although the LBS STAC meeting would focus more on technical discussions, Ms. Inniss encouraged the participants to promote the work of the Secretariat with their respective governments to ensure timely and consistent payments to the Caribbean Trust Fund, as it was the only source of funding for the Secretariat to cover the salaries and operational expenses for the office. This enables the Secretariat to support countries through various multi-million-dollar projects.
 12. In line with reducing costs and the Secretariat's carbon footprint, Ms. Inniss acknowledged the participation of the Saint Lucia delegate, Ms. Lavina Alexander, who was joining the meeting remotely, a first-time occurrence for the Secretariat.
 13. She informed the meeting that the host agreement was signed with the Government of Trinidad and Tobago formalizing the Institute of Marine Affairs (IMA) as one of the two Regional Activity Centres for the LBS Protocol. She then acknowledged Dr. Ahmad Khan, the Director of the IMA, who played a significant role in having the host agreement signed. She also mentioned that high-level meetings with Government of Cuba officials were held concerning the finalization of the host agreement for the RAC Cimab. She expressed hope that the Secretariat would be able to finalize in the coming months.
 14. She indicated that the future strategic direction of the Secretariat is linked with the Strategic Action Programme (SAP) of the Catalyzing 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 (UNDP GEF CLME+) and acknowledged the presence of the Project Coordinator for that project, Mr. Patrick Debels.
 15. Ms Inniss informed the meeting that the CReW+ Project was approved for development during the biennium and pointed out that projects such as those allowed for overall increased support by the Secretariat to the Contracting Parties. She also acknowledged the presence of Ms. Stephanie Adrian (Chair of the Monitoring and Assessment Working Group) and Mrs. Sherry Heileman (SOCAR Consultant) and the work they were doing on the development of the State of the Convention Area Report (SOCAR).
 16. She welcomed Mr. John Mouat, representative from the OSPAR Commission (handling the Oslo and Paris Conventions) that is partnering with the Cartagena Convention Secretariat on activities on marine litter and marine protected areas (MPAs).
 17. She added that the field of ocean governance was changing, and the Secretariat needed to better position itself to assist Governments in addressing these issues. To this end, she informed that a questionnaire on the expected role of the Secretariat was prepared and would be shared with governments for completion as a critical aspect in the development of the new CEP strategy.

18. Ms. Inniss highlighted the Green Climate Fund as a new source of potential financing for supporting member states on climate change. She concluded by stating that the work of the Secretariat will continue to support governments in meeting their obligations under the Convention and its Protocols and wished an engaging week of discussions with specific and tangible outputs.

Agenda item 2: Election of Officers

19. The Secretariat presented proposals of nominations for Bureau members it had received. The Meeting had no objections to the proposals received and the Bureau was approved by the Meeting through acclamation.
- Chairperson: Linroy Christian (Antigua and Barbuda)
 - Vice Chairperson: Marion Besancon (France)
 - Rapporteur: Miguel Espinosa (Dominican Republic)

Agenda item 3: Organization of the Meeting

20. The procedures for the conduct of the meeting were outlined.

(a) Rules of procedure

21. The Rules of Procedure of the Meetings of the Convention for the Protection and Development of the Marine Environment of the Wider Caribbean Region (Cartagena Convention) were applied.
22. Eleven (11) of the thirteen (13) Contracting Parties were present with The Bahamas and Costa Rica being absent. The Chair then confirmed that there was a quorum for the conduct of the meeting.

(b) Organization of the work

23. English, French and Spanish were the working languages of the Meeting. Simultaneous interpretation was provided in English, French and Spanish for the Meeting. The Working Documents of the Meeting were available in all the working languages.
24. The Meeting was convened in plenary sessions.

Agenda item 4: Adoption of the Agenda

25. The Chairperson introduced the Agenda (document UNEP(DEPI)/CAR WG.39/1) and invited comments from plenary.
26. The Secretariat informed the meeting that the Global Partnership on Marine Litter was having a side event on Thursday, July 20, 2018.
27. The Agenda of the Meeting was then adopted as presented.

Agenda item 5: Review of AMEP Programme Activities for the period 2017-2018

(a) Review of Status of Ratification and Accession to the LBS Protocol

28. Mr. Corbin provided an update on the status of the ratification of the LBS Protocol (progress and challenges). To date, thirteen (13) countries have ratified or acceded to the LBS Protocol with the Government of Costa Rica

being the most recent country to accede to the LBS Protocol during the last biennium. The Protocol entered into force on 5 November 2016 for Costa Rica.

29. He indicated that Honduras was expected to be fully recognised as a Contracting Party at the next Conference of the Parties (COP). He added that Barbados, Haiti and St. Kitts and Nevis had also made significant progress towards ratification.

(b) Review of Activities

30. Mr. Corbin presented the outputs of the AMEP Sub-programme during the 2017-2018 reporting period, as contained in document UNEP(DEPI)/CAR WG.39/INF.3.
31. He began by providing a comprehensive account of the implementation of AMEP sub-programme including a list of possible recommendations for consideration by the meeting. He summarized the objectives of the sub-programme, personnel changes and the funds raised during the biennium for selected projects. Some of the key achievements for the Programme were also highlighted. He then provided details on work carried out for all the key thematic areas for the sub-programme including work on Global Environment Facility (GEF) Projects.
32. Mr. Espinosa, Dominican Republic, thanked the Secretariat for the efforts made to facilitate his participation in the meeting and informed that he would like to make a presentation on a solid waste and plastics project being undertaken in his country under "Any Other Business" section.
33. Mr. Corbin then invited Mr. Jan Betlem, Regional Project Coordinator of the Integrating Water, Land and Ecosystems Management in Caribbean Small Island Development States (IWEco Project) to present on the work undertaken under the project during the biennium.
34. Mr. Betlem indicated that the IWEco project formally began in September 2016 when the Inception Workshop and First Project Steering Committee Meeting were convened. He indicated the project supported the objectives of the Cartagena Convention through the execution of national projects and through regional capacity building activities.
35. He added that since September 2016 various activities were implemented at the regional level. This includes a Project Cooperation Agreement (PCA) with PCI Media Impact who lead several awareness raising activities including a Regional Communications Workshop held in October 2017 in Saint Lucia. The second Project Steering Committee was held in February 2018 in Havana, Cuba, which approved the 2018 workplan & budget.
36. In terms of national projects, PCAs were signed with Trinidad & Tobago, Antigua & Barbuda and Saint Lucia in 2017 and first disbursements made. The remaining countries with national projects have either signed and/or are in the last stages of signing their respective agreements.
37. Another PCA in support of the Components 2 and 3 of the project on research and monitoring and policy reforms was signed with the Caribbean Public Health Agency (CARPHA).
38. The representative of RAC Cimab, Ms. Marlen Perez, presented on the activities of the RAC for the period 2017-2018. She indicated that RAC Cimab provided technical support to Honduras in 2017 and 2018 under the GEF CReW project. Other activities and projects, included environmental quality monitoring of the bays in Cuba, control and of the environmental quality of the Bay of Havana and identification of pollutant sources. RAC CIMAB also provided technical support to several regional workshops including Amazon-Caribbean Sea Regional Workshop, the third LBS COP, the second project steering committee meeting of the GEF IWEco project and participated in various teleconferences and discussions of the monitoring and assessment group in their work on the development of the State of Convention Area Report (SOCAR).
39. The representative of RAC IMA, Dr. Ahmad Khan, gave an overview of the Institute of Marine Affairs (IMA), its roles and functions and activities carried out during the period 2017-2018. Its activities/achievements included the signing of the host agreement for the RAC, support given to the development of SOCAR, national projects in support of the LBS Protocol namely, bacterial water quality at popular recreational water-use areas in Trinidad

and Tobago, coral reef and seagrass bed monitoring, environmental monitoring and assessment of hotspots in Trinidad and Tobago and hydro-biogeochemical approach to the estimation of pollutant discharge from the Caroni River Basin).

40. The RAC IMA also participated in various meetings/national consultations concerning the assessment and management of environmental pollution. Activities in support of the LBS Protocol included the hosting of the Joint CLME+ inception workshop on Sustainable Management of Shared Living Resources in the Caribbean and the North Brazil Shelf Large Marine Ecosystem.
41. Mr. Corbin concluded by outlining some of the main financial, personnel and administrative challenges in the implementation of the work plan during the biennium.
42. The Chair thanked Mr. Corbin for the presentation and opened the floor for comments or questions.
43. The Delegate of the United States of America (USA), Ms. Stephanie Adrian, thanked all the members of the bureau for taking up the task. She also thanked Mr. Heileman and Ms. Inniss for the work done as well as Mr. Corbin for his continued support and guidance.
44. She inquired of the specific support of the RACs to the Secretariat and vice versa especially in relation to the Protocol. Mr. Corbin responded by stating that contributions by Contracting Parties to the CTF are not used to support the RACs and any of their activities. RACs are fully funded through arrangements with their respective host governments. However, through externally-funded projects including GEF Projects, LBS RACs have supported implementation including capacity building, monitoring and assessment and training.
45. Ms. Adrian thanked Mr. Corbin for the explanation and endorsed the importance of the role of the RACs to the work of the Secretariat and thanked them for their continued support.
46. The Delegate of Antigua and Barbuda, Mr. Linroy Christian, highlighted the opportunities for partnership between the Cartagena Convention and the Cluster of Chemical Conventions. He added that the ongoing global projects looking at mercury levels for example would be valuable data for the LBS Protocol. He expressed hope that more collaboration could be achieved between the Secretariat and the chemicals branch of UN Environment.

(c) State of the Convention Areas Report (SOCAR)

47. Mr. Corbin invited Ms. Stephanie Adrian, Delegate of the USA and Chairperson of the Monitoring and Assessment Group, to present on the status of the SOCAR.
48. Ms Stephanie Adrian commenced her presentation on the SOCAR by providing a summary of the SOCAR development process and the timeline for completion and presentation to the next LBS COP and IGM. She indicated the importance of the meeting to review and agree on data presentation and proposed recommendations for further approval/endorsement.
49. The Delegate of the Dominican Republic, Mr. Miguel Espinosa, asked about the year being used to establish the baseline for the SOCAR since they were asked for data up to 2014. He added that his country provided a lot of data for the report and suggested data on the physio-chemical parameters be requested in the future focus placed to a lesser extent on biological parameters given limited resources.
50. Ms. Adrian responded that the idea of the baseline being established through the SOCAR was for countries to be able to develop their own national reports based on available national data and to be able to monitor trends over time.
51. On the issue of baseline years, Ms. Heileman responded that at the SOCAR Inception Workshop held in 2016, it was agreed that the data to be requested would be for the period 2009 to 2014. Any data generated after 2014 would be included in the next SOCAR. She added that an annual report card or template could be developed for more frequent monitoring and updates of selected parameters.

52. Mr. Espinosa asked about the date for the second SOCAR. Mr. Christian responded that this decision would be made by the COP and guided by STAC recommendations or those of the Monitoring and Assessment Working Group.
53. Mr. Corbin also responded that from this STAC, an information note could be prepared providing guidance as proposed by the Chair regarding timeframe for future SOCARs. He added that the Secretariat would also consider the experiences of other Regional Conventions and Action Plans in developing similar State of Marine Environment Reports.
54. Ms. Adrian stated that the funding and testing challenges related to SOCAR development can be taken to decision makers based on the importance of this environmental assessment of the Caribbean region's waters.
55. The Delegate of Trinidad and Tobago, Dr. Khan, suggested empirical data was required including to establish water quality criteria, for human health and ecological assessment and trend analyses. He commented that the scope and mandate of the SOCAR Monitoring and Assessment Committee could be expanded and formalized like other committees established under other Global Secretariats.
56. He added that the final use of data would be important to guide the level of testing required including using accredited laboratories. He suggested that the RACs could assist in guiding the data collection and assessment, and collaboration could be established with other specialized laboratories to facilitate training and knowledge transfer. One such laboratory in Sao Paulo was identified.
57. The Delegate of Panama, Mr. Marino Eugenio Abrego, thanked Ms. Adrian for the excellent presentation and asked for an update on Panama as it relates to provision of data for SOCAR. Mr. Corbin responded that based on earlier discussions it appeared that although data was available for Panama at national level, no formal submission was made as input to SOCAR. He added that while it would be too late to include data from Panama in this SOCAR publication, he hoped that data from Panama and other Central American countries would be forthcoming for future reports. Mr. Corbin suggested that it might be possible to provide summaries as an Annex to the report in the case of new country data being submitted.
58. The Delegate of France, Ms. Marion Besancon, thanked the Working Group for the immense work done and the first baseline. She reinforced the proposed recommendations made by Ms. Adrian that specific guidance was needed from the STAC for the COP for further consideration and approval regarding the SOCAR. This would include parameters, institutionalised periodicity, and monitoring and evaluation. She added that six (6) years was a good time period for scientific and economic evaluation and that this could form part of the work programme and budget for AMEP. She also added that there should be fixed periods for face-to-face or webex meetings depending on resources available.
59. The RAC Cimab representative, Ms. Marlen Perez Hernandez, agreed with the delegate from the Dominican Republic on the point that bio-data was crucial not only for this report but for the next one. She suggested that data should not be more than two (2) years older than the publication of the report and that a deadline was needed to receive the data therefore enabling meaningful comparisons.
60. Mr. Trevor Thompson from Grenada pointed out that there is a need to increase the profile of the LBS Protocol and the SOCAR offers an opportunity for that to happen. He added that data collection and analysis should be conducted and organized according to short, medium and long-term priorities and time frames. He further added that linkages with social and economic benefits including at local community level may help with justifying the importance of collection of such data by governments as input to future SOCARs.
61. The CLME+ Project Coordinator, Mr. Debels, congratulated the Secretariat on the progress made with the development of the SOCAR. He stated that the challenges are present at different levels and can be viewed as valuable lessons learned. He indicated that some of his concerns were expressed by countries such as Grenada and France. Both additional data and demonstrating the importance of such data were equally important. He suggested that pay back should be more than the effort expended in obtaining the data. He also clarified that the SOMEE, a report from the region was being facilitated by the CLME+ project and the work being done by the Cartagena Convention Secretariat on SOCAR (pollution) and the State of Habitat through the Specially Protected

Areas and Wildlife (SPAW) Protocol would be integrated into SOMEE along with the State of Fisheries.

62. Mr. Debels added that the SOMEE could assist with integrating the work of the LBS and SPAW Protocol with fisheries and blue economy. He continued by stating that additional support has been provided by the CLME+ project towards the development of regional action plans to determine where priority investment was needed in the region. He took note of the comment made by the delegate of Trinidad and Tobago on the need for capacity building and indicated that support would be provided if it was possible.
63. Mr. Mouat, representative of the OSPAR Commission, indicated that their indicators are assessed in less than 6 years, depending on the parameters and others in 1 year. He offered support in future discussions.
64. The representative of CARPHA, Ms. Shermaine Clauzel, agreed with the representative of Trinidad and Tobago on the issue of data quality and importance of accredited laboratories. She informed that CARPHA was established to provide support in areas of training, capacity building, sample collection and analyses. She added that while such opportunities existed, the level of interest in this area was dependent on national priorities and interest.
65. The Delegate of Belize, Ms. Maxine Monsanto, thanked Panama for hosting the meeting and Ms. Adrian for a very good presentation. She asked the OSPAR representative about the type of data and limits required for harmonisation in their Regional Seas. She indicated that under the Meso-American Barrier Reef project, data collection took several years before being able to establish agreed standards based on selected data parameters. She added that having laboratories accredited was costly and maintaining accreditation was difficult. She further added that there would be a challenge even if a laboratory is equipped with monitoring equipment, if data needed to be generated from an accredited laboratory
66. The GCFI representative, Mr. Bob Glazer, pointed out that the way in which the data was presented (red, green, yellow) could be politically sensitive as politicians did not want to show coastal areas as being poor. He suggested that if the data is presented differently, Governments might be more willing to provide the data.
67. Ms. Adrian responded that it was agreed by all countries to use the 'good, fair, poor' parameters and that they were working now on how best to display these. She stated that they were looking at having the dots on the charts (on the coast) but would not identify the sites. She indicated that she was fully aware of the sensitivity and did not want to harm tourism or other economic sectors, however, the information was useful for national action.
68. Ms. Lavina Alexander, Delegate of Saint Lucia, on the issue of SOCAR endorsed the importance of engaging decision makers and suggested that Parties should review the draft report at the national level. She added that there were opportunities under the new GEF CREW+ project and agencies such as CARPHA to strengthen the capacity of national laboratories for monitoring and data analysis and to demonstrate the importance of data collection.
69. Mr. Corbin thanked the participants for the rich input and stated that he would try to summarize the recommendations to help inform discussions at the next LBS COP. He stated that examples of what was happening in other Regional Seas Programmes would be presented at the LBS COP and IGM along with the priorities for monitoring and assessment post SOCAR (monitoring, data, lab capacity and accreditation). He added that ongoing and upcoming projects were being designed to support countries in monitoring several parameters as part of national water quality monitoring programmes, as well as building laboratory capacity at national and regional levels. He further added that if support is being provided to labs for recreational water quality monitoring, then there should be a long-term involvement and maintenance of equipment.
70. Mr. Alexander Girvan, representative of the Association of Caribbean States (ACS), stated that the biggest problem is government investment in data collection and the need for said data. He added that the dots were seen negatively and enquired of the summary for policy-makers for the SOCAR report to ensure that the risk is viewed more as an opportunity. He further added that how the summary was being presented should be reviewed (i.e. poor water quality could suggest investment in a wastewater treatment plant linking impacts on the economy. He further added that presenting information to match the audience is key (information for scientist would be different from what government would want to see).

71. Mr. Corbin thanked Mr. Girvan for his input and added that how the summary was presented to governments could be reflected in the recommendations.
72. The Chair thanked Ms. Adrian for the presentation and the participants for the various interventions.

(d) Regional Nutrients Strategy

73. Mr. Corbin presented the results of discussions held during the pre-technical workshop concerning the development of the Regional Nutrients Reduction Strategy, Pre-Feasibility and Investment Plans being supported by the CLME+ Project. He highlighted the approach to be taken which would involve lead roles for the two LBS RACs – RAC CIMAB and RAC IMA with additional technical support provided by agencies such as CARPHA and INVEMAR. The meeting endorsed the approach and delegates remarked this was an important activity to support Annexes III and IV of the LBS Protocol.

(e) Caribbean Node of the Global Partnership on Marine Litter

74. Mr. Bob Glazer presented on the Caribbean Node on Marine Litter which is being co-hosted by GCFI and Cartagena Convention Secretariat. He gave a brief history of the work of the node to date in support of the Global Partnership on Marine Litter and the activities such as sharing best practices and case studies, updating stakeholders on emerging technical considerations for marine litter management as well as barriers and opportunities. He shared an initial draft of the vision and mission of GPML-Caribe as well as its recently developed logo.
75. Some specific project activities were presented including a marine litter reduction pilot study in Trinidad and Tobago, analysis of links between marine litter and the prevalence of mosquito-borne diseases in Puerto Rico, and a study on microplastics in commercially-exploited fish from Grenada. New marine litter fact sheets were also shared.
76. In conclusion, Mr. Glazer summarized the outcomes of the meeting of the Node which took place during the 6th International Marine Debris Conference in San Diego, which included sharing of best practices and the need for the Caribbean Node to support knowledge-sharing, capacity-building workshops and helping to coordinate and mobilize resources for targeted national and regional actions, monitoring and research.
77. Ms. Adrian thanked Mr. Glazer for the presentation and commented that it was good to see activities and products of the Caribbean Node. She wanted to know how to better coordinate with SOCAR. Ms. Heidi Savelli Soderberg stated that it was an effort at highlighting all the initiatives in the region. Mr. Glazer added that it was not focused on research but on capacity development.
78. Ms. Adrian also stated that recommendations could be adapted to raise the profile of data collection providing resources are available.
79. Mr. Corbin informed the meeting of the previous work of GCFI in support of the implementation of the Regional Action Plan for Marine Litter and their overall support to the Global Partnership on Marine Litter (GPML). He mentioned the role of the Secretariat as co-host of the Caribbean Node which offered the opportunity to collaborate further with governmental representatives through STACs and COPs.
80. Dr. Khan of RAC IMA mentioned the Global Partnership of Waste Management coordinated by UN Environment which would support marine litter management in the region.
81. Ms. Heileman mentioned the international pellet watch programme (University of Tokyo) which was based on a volunteer sampling programme that included analysis of persistent organic pollutants (POPs). For more information, a website is also available.
82. Ms. Savelli Soderberg pointed out that while funding was not immediately available, they were working with colleagues in Osaka on a joint project proposal on plastics management in Jamaica.

83. The representative of Honduras, Ms. Sara Zelaya, stated that ratification was a difficult political progress. She commented on the issue of plastic debris in water bodies, mainly the transboundary river shared with Guatemala. She indicated that actions were taken by both countries to address debris with tons of plastic being removed. She also said that they had an environmental campaign that was aimed at children. They also had a GEF project that was to be implemented in 2018. She indicated that the issue of ballast water was also being dealt with. She thanked the Secretariat/GCFI for the information provided and for the technical workshop on pollution related activities in the Wider Caribbean Region.
84. Mr. Corbin responded that was the reason for the establishment of the Convention and the greater importance of the integration of the Protocols and the different RACs. He added that ballast water can impact coastal and marine ecosystems depending on where ballast water exchanges took place.
85. Ms. Adrian informed that the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) in Puerto Rico encourages citizen science on the issue of plastics/micro-plastics and could share what has been done.
86. Mr. Glazer said it was great to see everyone engaged in the issue and that this should continue pointing out that it was a bottom-up programme that helped countries to achieve their goals.

(f) OSPAR-CEP Cooperation

87. The representative of the OSPAR Commission, Mr. John Mouat, gave an overview of the geographical and thematic scope of the Convention and introduced the North-East Atlantic Environment Strategy which deals with reducing the impacts of marine litter on the coastal and marine environment.
88. He outlined the work by OSPAR on marine litter and beach monitoring. This included work on harmonized marine litter monitoring methodology, marine litter databases, use of common indicators including beach litter, plastic particles in the stomachs of fulmars and turtles, seabed litter and the development of new indicators for microplastics.
89. Key action areas under development included port reception facilities, waste from fishing industry, floating litter hotspots, reduction of single use items, and redesign of harmful products.
90. The Chair thanked Mr. Mouat for the presentation and opened the floor for questions or comments.
91. Ms. Adrian asked about the involvement of industry partners - who they were and the areas they helped in. Mr. Mouat responded that they were very involved and provided support for example in reducing microbeads in cosmetics. He added that there were also important partnerships with private fishermen.
92. Mr. Glazer mentioned that it was easier to get funding if future monitoring could be linked to response actions and strategies.
93. The representative of RAC Cimab, Ms. Marlen Perez, highlighted the quantitative and qualitative study being done in Cuba on litter for touristic beaches where six (6) indicators were used.
94. Mr. Corbin mentioned that the opportunity to partner with the OSPAR Commission as well as the financial support arose during the biennium with a deadline to complete all activities before the end of 2018. He added that these would build on work from GCFI and further develop work on harmonised monitoring approach for submission to the next LBS COP.
95. Mr. Troy Pierce of the USA pointed out that marine plastic does not always get to recyclers and wanted to know if OSPAR had had any success. Mr. Mouat answered that it depended on the country and the condition of the plastics for example if they were too contaminated there would be minimal economic returns from recycling.

Agenda item 6: Draft AMEP Workplan and Budget for the 2019-2020 Biennium

96. The Secretariat was invited to present the Draft AMEP Workplan and Budget for the 2019-2020 biennium in support of the Protocol Concerning Pollution from Land-based Sources and Activities (LBS Protocol). The AMEP Programme Officer presented the proposed projects and activities within the programme as contained in document UNEP(DEPI)/CAR WG.39/3.
97. He stated that the work plan and budget covered activities to be developed under the Assessment and Management of Environmental Pollution (AMEP) Subprogramme of CEP with the support of the two LBS RACs, CIMAB in Cuba and IMA in Trinidad and Tobago. He began with an outline of his presentation, the programme priorities, targets and impacts, projects and activities and the budget.
98. Mr. Corbin outlined the need for increased ratification of the LBS Protocol, the need for further work to respond to the data gaps identified in the SOCAR and the importance of support to new projects such as on Marine Litter and CReW+.
99. The main programme priorities for the work plan include further integration with the work of the SPAW subprogramme with the support of the CLME+ Project, enhancing the work of the Caribbean Node on Marine Litter and the effective dissemination of the SOCAR.
100. Mr. Corbin described some of the specific activities to be implemented under the areas of Programme Coordination and the GEF funded projects including CReW+, GEF IWEco and the UNDP/GEF CLME+ projects. The other areas of focus included Environmental Monitoring and Assessment, Solid Waste and Marine Litter Management, and National Programmes of Action for pollution prevention including nutrients management.
101. During the presentation on the budget summary of the programme, Mr Corbin highlighted that all of the projects and activities were being funded from external funds and that the Secretariat would work to mobilize funding to address the shortfalls for unfunded projects and activities.
102. The Chairperson thanked Mr. Corbin for the presentation then opened the floor for comments and questions.
103. The Delegate of France thanked Mr. Corbin for the presentation and said that they had worked on issues relating to ranges and limits for specific parameters to be presented within the SOCAR.
104. Dr. Khan, RAC IMA, asked for clarification on the non-GEF funding aspect of the budget summary and added that efforts could be made to build on previously funded projects such as Trash Free Waters Initiative and the OSPAR collaboration for the unfunded portion. He noted that it appeared there was no room for RACs to take part in new projects and asked if the structure for GEF projects could be revisited to include a greater role for the RACs.
105. Mr. Corbin responded that there were opportunities including within new GEF Project Proposals where LBS RACs could play a key support role in implementation. RACs could also develop new project proposals that could be included as part of the workplan and budget for submission and approval by the Contracting Parties. It was agreed that with the formalization of Host Agreements, the Secretariat could work more closely with the RACs in the development of the workplan and budget including new project activities and to include activities where RACs could provide concrete technical support.
106. Dr. Khan said he understood but believed the approach was still more top down and mentioned that the reverse was successful in the Caribbean. He added that the RACs had the ability to involve the countries hence they would be approached with issues that were of priority to them.
107. Mr. Corbin stated that he would invite Contracting Parties to respond as the STACs and COPs were the mechanisms where projects and activities were discussed and approved. He added that perhaps persons were not aware of the existing governance frameworks for how the RACs functioned in support of the Convention and Protocols and agreed that there could be a more central role for the RACs in development and implementation of new projects and activities.

108. The Delegate of Antigua and Barbuda, Mr. Christian, added that this was a fundamental issue that needed to be discussed as it related to both funding of the RACs and their activities and one where the Contracting Parties would have to further define the roles. He added that the RACs should play a more prominent role and that could result in successful delivery of projects. He asked the Secretariat how the staffing limitation would be addressed.
109. Mr. Corbin indicated that it was unlikely that based on the current levels of contributions to the Caribbean Trust Fund that additional staff would be possible. He highlighted that as new projects are being developed, the Secretariat is trying as much as possible to fully cover the cost associated with project execution including through acquisition of additional support staff.
110. Mr. Corbin clarified that the amount for programme support cost (PSC) goes to headquarters and covered the salaries for two (2) staff and that unspent amounts were not carried over to subsequent years.
111. The Delegate of the US, Ms. Adrian, supported the idea of the RACs having a larger role to play and more involvement in training and capacity development as suggested by Dr. Khan. She added a proposal could be presented to the Contracting Parties on these proposed roles as an information paper.
112. Mr. Debels mentioned that there was an ongoing consultancy under the CLME+ Project on sustainable financing for ocean governance and that he would work with the Secretariat on how they were financed in the past and look at the challenges encountered and future funding options.
113. Ms. Inniss pointed out that the low levels of contributions by Contracting Parties to the Caribbean Trust Fund was unsustainable and that it was impossible for the Secretariat to provide more support to countries given the existing financial challenges.
114. She endorsed the issue of programme support cost (PSC) and stated that she had discussions with headquarters and confirmed that as a UN Environment-administered regional seas programme, 13% of all external funding including contributions to the Caribbean Trust Fund goes to UN Environment Headquarters and is used to support the Secretariat administratively. While GEF Projects bring significant support to countries, they also do not generate such PSC for Headquarters, so efforts need to continue to diversify external sources of funding for projects.
115. Regarding the IGM, she stated that she hoped to engage with the member states in advance on the issue. She added that governance issues of CLME+ was very related to the work of the Secretariat and that the updating of the strategy would offer an opportunity to reflect these linkages. She informed that a questionnaire to inform the development of a new strategy would be circulated. She expressed hope at having a member-state discussion on the new updated draft strategy before presenting it at the next IGM.
116. On the issue of countries fulfilling their obligations, the Delegate of Grenada, Mr. Trevor Thompson, pointed out that Grenada had to request the amount due for the Cartagena Convention and added that invoices were received from the other conventions. He further added that the process of invoicing should be improved upon and that the focal points should be copied on the e-mail which should be sent by October (end of the financial year) for it to be included in the budget. He then indicated that there were some new initiatives in the Caribbean that could be looked at to strengthen partnerships and see how collaboration could be provided to support the work of the Secretariat. He also suggested that technical officers from the member states could be seconded for a period of 6 months to a year to assist with the work of the Secretariat.
117. Mr. Patrick Debels pointed out that obligations of the SOCAR will continue after the IWEco and CLME+ projects hence it should not depend only on projects for funding. He indicated that what happens under the Convention could be linked with Blue Economy and suggested that the Secretariat could reach out to other organisations, showing the link between LBS and SPAW activities and socio-economic development. On the issue of staff limitations, he pointed out that the Secretariat was not the only entity working on the marine environment therefore the staff from those entities could potentially provide support. He encouraged the Secretariat to map who was doing what in the region and collaborate to achieve more. He mentioned that greater collaboration between the Secretariat and the UN Environment Regional Office for Latin America and the Caribbean could alleviate some of the challenges especially relating to human resources.

118. Ms. Inniss stated that the invoices were distributed by headquarters in Nairobi and therefore encouraged the delegates to inform the Secretariat if invoices were not received. She mentioned that she had had discussions with Headquarters regarding the lateness of invoice delivery and stated that she would try to request a copy to share with the countries. The changes with focal points must be communicated to the Secretariat to not further affect invoice delivery.
119. She stated that the Secretariat tried to create linkages with other activities but that there was often limited funding to attend meetings of other institutions. She added that it was a great idea to map who is doing what but that it was a challenging task. She highlighted that the Secretariat already maintained a comprehensive calendar of meetings related to its work. She further added that there was an additional challenge when the Secretariat is requested by Headquarters to support projects taking place in the region. Such projects generally come with minimal resources to cover the overheads of the Secretariat.
120. Mr. Girvan (ACS) commended the AMEP team on the volume of work done with limited resources. On the issue of invoicing, he pointed out that ministries would ask what they receive in return for contribution paid. He mentioned that ACS is not able to offer programme support but would look at the possibility of funding from observers.
121. In response to Mr. Girvan's input, Mr. Corbin indicated that it was a good point to consider. He added that the Secretariat would look at a standardized way of compiling the relevant information, presenting visually and highlighting value added.
122. Dr. Khan, RAC IMA, Trinidad and Tobago, added the Secretariat working with the UN Environment Sub-Regional Office should explore different mechanisms for implementing projects including GEF projects to ensure that more resources are available to the Secretariat and directly for country activities.
123. Mr. Corbin expressed appreciation for the comments and suggestions that could help the Secretariat be more effective and efficient in providing support to Contracting Parties regarding the roles of RACs, he indicated that the RACs and the Secretariat would work together to redefine these roles. He added that since the Secretariat was required to do conduct due diligence assessments of any partner agency for implementing projects and activities, this may be an opportunity to formalise the RAN with partners that have worked more closely with the Secretariat over the years in order to issue contracts with partners without lengthy delays.

Agenda item 7: Any Other Business

(a) France – Antifouling Paints, Biocides and Marine Pollution

124. The Delegate of France, Ms. Marion Besancon, delivered a presentation focused on antifouling paints, biocides and marine pollution. In her overview, she indicated the regulations that are in place to monitor antifouling paints given the negative impacts on the environment.
125. She also mentioned the negative impacts of biocides on the marine environment and human health and environmental issues being addressed with biocides. She indicated that alternatives to antifouling paints with biocides existed however few were environmentally friendly, and that regional/bilateral cooperation was necessary to identify best environmental practices and biocidal products authorized within the region.
126. Floating boat docks, self-adhesive film of microfibres, floating hydraulic boat lifts were given as potential recommendations to address the issue of antifouling paints. Boat bag, wax and wash station were suggested as additional recommendations. To conclude her presentation, Ms. Besancon provided alternatives to antifouling paints with biocides which included biocide-free coatings and preventative methods.
127. Mr. Glazer said it was an interesting presentation and mentioned that queen conch males are laying eggs near harbours in Fort Lauderdale hence he was intrigued by possible solutions for heavy metals in sediment. He added that he was anxious to hear how it turned out and if there would be an issue with marine micro-plastics after using the alternative solutions.

128. Ms. Kirkland, Delegate of Jamaica, noted that there were various licencing and permitting procedures and enquired if there was a list of alternatives that could be shared for persons requiring such licences.
129. Ms. Sara Zelaya, Honduras, also wanted to know the methodology used for the alternative listing.
130. Ms. Besancon responded that alternatives were available including use of filters and ultrasonic vibration techniques. However, research was ongoing, and this list of alternatives was not complete.

(b) Dominican Republic – Dominicana Limpia

131. The Delegate of the Dominican Republic, Mr. Miguel Espinosa presented on the “Dominicana Limpia” (Clean Dominican Republic) project which was implemented in 2017 by a decree by the President of the Republic. He pointed out that the generation and management of solid waste was a serious problem in the region and other parts of the world.
132. He presented the Environmental Management Plan of the Project and added that the focus was on waste transported by the two main rivers that cross the Capital. He reported on the current situation of the main solid waste landfills in the country and the solutions that were defined to improve or minimize the contributions of contaminants. He referred to the contribution of the private sector to help solve solid waste and noted the contribution of two vessels made by a private company for the collection of solid waste floating in the two main rivers (Ozama and Isabela).
133. He informed that in early July 2018, the Congress of the Republic approved a law on the management of solid waste. He concluded by stating that it was an expensive programme that required a lot of resources and that the country welcomed any technical support from institutions that were present at the Meeting.
134. Ms. Adrian, of the USA, stated that she was impressed with what the Dominican Republic had done on the initiative and that it could be replicated in other countries since it provides a good case study of what could be done. She added the Secretariat could capture and share this initiative with countries in the region.
135. Dr. Khan stated that the issue of solid waste management had been extensively discussed in many of the Caribbean islands. One of the main challenges was inadequate operations and maintenance following the design and installation of systems. While significant knowledge existed, new information may be required going forward.
136. Mr. Mouat stated that most countries under the OSPAR Commission were governed by European Union (EU) legislation. This included an import tariff which was used to support national recycling.
137. Regarding the comment made by Dr. Khan of RAC IMA, Ms. Adrian suggested that the RACs could play a role in collecting that kind of information and making it available to Contracting Parties particularly in the specific areas of concern to ease the burden of the Secretariat.
138. Dr. Khan thanked Ms. Adrian for her suggestion and added that work had to be done in a holistic manner. He stated that countries were putting importation bans on certain material such as pneumatic tyres in Suriname and Trinidad and Tobago and that there remained a challenge in collection and disposal.
139. The representative of ROLAC, Mr. Alberto Pacheco, indicated that it was a very good presentation on how the government of Dominican Republic was dealing with marine litter. He enquired of how the legislation had been modified, and how did coordination with the private sector take place.
140. Mr. Espinosa responded that there was a new legislation enacted whereby private sector would work on the initiative for one year then it would be integrated into the government. He added that he would share the legislation once it had been ‘gazetted’.
141. The representative of Honduras, Ms. Sara Zelaya, stated that it was a very impressive presentation on an issue that was difficult to deal with at the national level – systems for waste collection, treatment and final disposal. She added that in dealing with disposal, education was critical as well as clear allocation of responsibilities for collection and disposal by respective agencies.

(c) UN Environment Sub-Regional Office (SRO)

142. Ms. Alexandra Karekaho, Programme Officer with the UN Environment CSRO, presented on the Technical Meeting of the Latin America and the Caribbean Initiative for Sustainable Development (ILAC) Working Group on Environmental Indicators (WGEI). She informed that the first meeting took place in October 2018, Port-of-Spain, Trinidad and Tobago and its objectives were to learn more about status and trends of the environment in Latin America and the Caribbean (GEO-6) and to develop a core set of multi-purpose environmental indicators that could be implemented in a short amount of time, to help track the state of the environment in the Caribbean. The event was organized by Environmental Management Authority (EMA) and UN Environment and had 83 participants from 11 countries of anglophone and francophone Caribbean, representing governments, civil society and the private sector. The meeting agreed on 13 indicators for six key areas namely, Biodiversity, Energy, Governance, Risk, Waste and Water.
143. She added that the Second Technical Meeting of the Latin American and Caribbean Initiative for Sustainable Development, Working Group on Environmental Indicators would take place in Kingston, Jamaica, 4-6 September 2018, in collaboration with National Environment and Planning Agency of Jamaica. The workshop was expected to provide an opportunity to share experiences and work collaboratively on the production of environmental information that would support decision-making in the region.
144. The objectives were to review progress towards the ILAC core set of multi-purpose environmental indicators for the Caribbean; strengthen regional capacity in data-gathering, processing and communication of environmental indicators and; agree on effective ways to communicate environmental information to support decision makers and public policy. The three-day meeting will host thematic sessions on cross-cutting resources such as Environmental Information Systems; State of the Environment Reports; Waste Management; Ocean Monitoring; and Disaster Risk Reduction.
145. Following the presentation, Ms. Clauzel of CARPHA indicated that it was disappointing that CARPHA had not been a part of the project given their experience in working with several national and regional institutions on environmental data and information. However, she committed to support the activities from now on.
146. Capitan Arias of INVEMAR informed that he would share the SPINCA experience (10 years) as it related to the difficulties in defining indicators and the advantages of standardising them. He added that they were working with five (5) countries and the methods and progress could be shared.

(d) GEF CLME+

147. The Chairperson invited Mr. Patrick Debels of the GEF CLME+ Project to deliver his presentation. He presented on the CLME+ Project, its 10-year Strategic Action Programme (SAP) and the relationship to the LBS Protocol of the Cartagena Convention.
148. Mr. Debels began by highlighting the major threats of the CLME+ region which included unsustainable fishing, ecosystem degradation and marine pollution, which was mainly because of weakness in ocean governance. He mentioned that the 10-year CLME+ SAP was signed by 35 ministers representing 25 countries and six (6) overseas territories. The SAP has 76 actions that are structured under six (6) strategies and four (4) sub-strategies and the involvement of the CEP in strategy one through ecosystem-based management.
149. He gave an overview of the State of the Marine Environment and associated Economies (SOMEE) which focuses on a collaborative reporting mechanism towards a sustainable blue economy through integrated regional ocean governance. The target area for the SOMEE is the Wider Caribbean and CLME+ region and will include the state of coral reefs, protected areas, SOCAR (LBS and SPAW), state of fisheries and World Bank's report on pollution.
150. He indicated that the CLME+ SAP is seen as an umbrella programme for GEF projects that requires cooperation and coordination among three (3) priority areas, namely habitats, pollution and fisheries. He added that one of

the project's objective was to have a consolidated regional online platform for improved decision making and monitoring. Mr. Debels concluded with suggested recommendations on the integration of relevant activities across the LBS and SPAW work programmes, the alignment of future SOCARs with the SOMME and the integration of relevant outputs of the CLME+ (development of SOCAR/SOMEE, Regional Action and Investment Plans for Nutrients, and the Pollution Research Strategies) in the revised CEP Strategy.

151. The Chairperson thanked Mr. Debels for his presentation and opened the floor for comments on the presentation and the recommendations being proposed.
152. The representative of RAC Cimab thanked Mr. Debels for an excellent presentation and the recommendations suggested. She pointed out that future SOCARs should be included in the Secretariat's programme of work which is not dependent on projects.
153. Mr. Debels endorsed the point that SOCAR should not depend on projects as they have a time limit but that it should be an obligation under the Protocol.
154. The representative of INVEMAR also thanked Mr. Debels for the presentation and the fact that the project is a platform for information as it was important to the region to have access to a reliable information platform. He asked about the flexibility to incorporate Brazil in the project.
155. In relation to Brazil, Mr. Debels responded that it would be contextualized in ongoing negotiations with the Secretariat and Brazil and that a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) would capture collaboration modalities – SOMEE and SOCAR could evolve from this.

(e) CARPHA

156. Ms. Shermaine Clauzel, representative of the Caribbean Public Health Agency (CARPHA), began her presentation by giving an overview of CARPHA and its role in the region – preventing disease and promoting and protecting health. Their sustainable development/natural resource management and environmental health programmes were mentioned as well as the available laboratory capacity that could be used to support all countries of the region. She also gave an overview of the role that CARPHA is expected to play in the implementation of the IWEco project.

(f) ACS

157. Mr. Alexander Girvan, representative of the Association of Caribbean States (ACS) presented on the Caribbean Sea Commission and its work. The priority topics being addressed were regional research and required actions on ocean plastics, wastewater treatment and the use and prediction of Sargassum.
158. He indicated that there was room for collaboration with the Cartagena Convention Secretariat.
159. Mr. Corbin thanked Mr. Girvan for his presentation and expressed appreciation on behalf of the Secretariat for the offer to collaborate. He indicated that the three areas identified were consistent with the work of the Secretariat and the areas highlighted by the Contracting Parties. He added that if the Parties agreed, a recommendation could be formulated in that regard.
160. Mr. Girvan added that one could look at expertise countries may have in addressing issues and how they could be framed as opportunities for collaboration.

Agenda item 8: Adoption of the Recommendations of the Meeting

161. The Draft Recommendations were presented by the Rapporteur to the Meeting. The Recommendations were reviewed, discussed and amended during the Meeting. The revised Recommendations will be sent to the delegates for final approval.

Agenda item 9: Closure of the Meeting

162. The Chairperson, Mr. Christian, thanked Panama for hosting the meeting and the participants including the observers and soon to be new Contracting Parties – Honduras and St. Kitts-Nevis. He also thanked Ms. Heileman and partner agencies and projects for having participated in the meeting and continued by thanking the interpreters for their hard work and a wonderful job done. He concluded by thanking the Secretariat and its staff and added that the countries would work hard to support the Secretariat regarding contributions.

163. He then invited Ms. Inniss to make closing remarks on behalf of the Secretariat. Ms. Inniss stated that it was a pleasure being a part of the meeting and that it had been particularly useful and effective. She said that she was happy about the agreed text in the recommendations that spoke to the support to the Secretariat and suggested that Governments could also provide support to the Secretariat through provision of expertise and other forms of in-kind support to meetings in addition to financial contributions. She concluded by thanking all the participants and wished them a safe journey home.

164. Senior Marino Eugenio Abrego, thanked all participants and the Secretariat on behalf of the Ministry of Environment of Panama as the host country.

165. The meeting concluded at 2:54 pm on Friday, 20 July 2018.



Annex I: Agenda

1. Opening of the Meeting
2. Election of Officers
3. Organization of the Meeting
 - a. Rules of Procedure
 - b. Organization of Work
4. Adoption of the Agenda
5. Review of AMEP Programme Activities for the 2017-2018 biennium
6. Draft AMEP Work Plan and Budget for the 2019-2020 biennium
7. Other Business
8. Adoption of the Recommendations of the Meeting
9. Closure of the Meeting

Annex II: Recommendations of the Meeting

The Meeting:

Having convened the Fourth 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, in Panama City, Panama from July 18-20, 2018;

Noting the significant number of projects and activities that must be completed before the convening of the Fourth Conference of Parties to the Protocol Concerning Pollution from Land-Based Sources and Activities (4th LBS COP);

Recommends to the 4th LBS COP that:

RECOMMENDATION I WORKPLAN AND BUDGET

1. Contracting Parties at the 4th LBS COP endorse the 2019-2020 Draft Work Plan & Budget as presented at the 4th LBS STAC including any recommendations made during the 4th LBS STAC.
2. The Secretariat request Contracting Parties to submit additional input to the draft Work Plan and Budget for the biennium 2019-2020 by October 31, 2018. This will enable an updated draft Work Plan and Budget to be submitted to the 4th LBS COP for further review and approval, and to the Eighteenth Intergovernmental Meeting (IGM) on the Action Plan for the Caribbean Environment Programme (CEP) and Fourteenth Meeting of the Contracting Parties to the Cartagena Convention for information and endorsement.
3. Contracting Parties note the continued efforts to develop new project proposals including for submission to the Global Environment Facility (GEF) and encourage Governments to have their relevant national government focal points review and endorse these project proposals, as amended.
4. Contracting Parties expand the technical support role of the Regional Activity Centres (RACs) including identifying agencies that form part of the Regional Activity Network (RAN) including *inter alia* the Gulf and Caribbean Fisheries Institute as a possible member of the RAN for the Wider Caribbean Region specializing in Marine Litter;
5. The Secretariat explore the possibility of expanding the number and/or scope of RACs to better support Contracting Parties in meeting their obligations under the Cartagena Convention and its Protocols;
6. The Secretariat in coordination with the LBS RACs and RAN prepare an information paper for consideration at the 4th LBS COP, and as appropriate at the 17th IGM on this proposed expanded technical support role to programmes, projects and activities;
7. The Secretariat, in coordination with the national focal points to the Cartagena Convention, consider postponing the 18th IGM and 4th LBS COP to the first quarter of 2019 to enable completion of several outputs to be submitted for approval at these meetings.
8. The Secretariat continue to explore opportunities to convene future joint LBS and Specially Protected Areas and Wildlife (SPA) STACs; and a single IGM including the respective LBS and SPA COPs to encourage continued synergies and to reduce the financial and administrative burden on the Secretariat.
9. The Secretariat work with other agencies to map the ongoing regional programmes and projects relevant to the work of the LBS Protocol and to the Convention building on ongoing and planned efforts in this regard by

inter alia the UNDP GEF 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 (CLME+) project.

10. The Secretariat strengthen coordination and cooperation with the UN Environment Regional Office for Latin America and the Caribbean and other regional and sub-regional organizations such as *inter alia* the Caribbean Community (CARICOM), Organization of Eastern Caribbean States (OECS), Association of Caribbean States/Caribbean (ACS/CSC), Central America Integration System/Central American Commission for Environment and Development SICA/CCAD, and the Latin America and Caribbean Group (GRULAC) Waste and Chemicals Coordinating Centre in Uruguay to assist the Secretariat in supporting countries in meeting their obligations under the LBS Protocol and to use, as appropriate, such high level political fora to showcase the results and relevance of the State of Convention Area Report (SOCAR) including economic and social benefits of addressing pollution, and to explore how such mechanisms can support development of future SOCARs demonstrating the value of data to drive investment.
11. The Secretariat integrate relevant pollution strategies and reports such as the LBS SOCAR, relevant components of the integrated State of Marine Ecosystems and Associated Economies (SOME) report; the Regional Action and Investment Plans for Nutrients Reduction, and the Pollution Research Strategy within the revised CEP Strategy to be presented at the 18th IGM;
12. The Secretariat should ensure strategic linkages of their pollution related activities with efforts to promote Blue Growth and Blue Economy approaches in the Wider Caribbean Region, in particular the Sustainable Blue Economy Initiative of UN Environment and explore synergies with relevant work being undertaken in the region on this and related issues.
13. The Secretariat continue efforts to share experiences with other Regional Seas Programmes in particular the Antigua Convention for the North East Pacific noting the common Contracting Parties between the Cartagena and Antigua Conventions and to build on the Cooperation established with the OSPAR Commission.
14. Contracting Parties provide technical input to and complete surveys relating to the (a) GEF CRW+ Project Proposal Development; (b) Pollution Research Strategy coordinated by GCFI for the UNDP GEF CLME+ Project and (c) the development of the new CEP Strategy.
15. The Secretariat, in collaboration with the LBS and SPAW RACs and other interested partners, prepare an information paper on the status of pelagic and stranded sargassum in the Wider Caribbean Region for submission to the 17th IGM and to continue to engage in discussions on this issue.

RECOMMENDATION II

ENVIRONMENTAL MONITORING AND ASSESSMENT

1. The Contracting Parties continue to provide information to the Secretariat on gaps and barriers that are preventing countries from establishing water quality monitoring and assessment programs and that the Secretariat prepare a status update at the 4th LBS COP for further action;
2. The Secretariat, the LBS RACs and the Monitoring and Assessment Working Group continue to support the efforts of Contracting Parties to establish and/or strengthen their national water quality monitoring and assessment programs that, at a minimum, monitor for SOCAR parameters.
3. Countries benefitting from national and/or regional projects such as GEF IWEco, UNDP GEF CLME+ and GEF CRW+ as well as any future projects, identify and share opportunities for improving national water quality monitoring and assessment programmes, laboratory strengthening and monitoring capacity, and technical training and assistance.

4. The Secretariat work with Contracting Parties/Countries to identify and mobilize financial resources from existing projects and develop new project proposals to respond to the new priorities identified under SOCAR.
5. The existing Interim Working Group on Monitoring and Assessment continue its work prior to the 4th LBS COP to oversee the finalization of the SOCAR based on the comments received during the 4th LBS STAC.
6. The Secretariat work with the Interim Working Group on Monitoring and Assessment to prepare a draft Terms of Reference that defines a future role as an open-ended working group that could meet at least once a year and through regular teleconferences to provide expert guidance to the Contracting Parties through the Secretariat.
7. The Secretariat prepare an information paper for consideration by the COP and IGM of a data platform for internalization of Geospatial information relevant to the LBS Protocol (including the outputs of SOCAR) and consider the trial use of the Caribbean Marine Atlas Phase 2 Geonode as such a platform. This information paper should consider issues such as sustainability, financial implications, data sharing and data sensitivities and how such a platform could be formalized for use as a possible regional data base or platform
8. The Secretariat and Contracting Parties participate, as appropriate, in the upcoming Second Technical Meeting of the Caribbean Working Group on Environmental Indicators of the Latin American and Caribbean Initiative for Sustainable Development (ILAC) 4-6th September organized by UN Environment in Jamaica and to continue efforts to identify synergies and promote greater harmonization of indicators being monitored in the region.
9. Regarding the finalization and further development of the SOCAR,
 1. The Secretariat in collaboration with the Monitoring and Assessment Working Group propose a standardized “digital” template for national reporting on the SOCAR with defined periods for agreed parameters and to reflect this activity in the draft 2019-2020 work plan;
 2. The Working Group identify other parameters that could be added to the existing Cartagena Convention Reporting Template to facilitate biennial reporting including interim reports and products such as those done by other Regional Seas Conventions and Action Plans such as the Barcelona Convention and OSPAR Commission.
 3. Countries agree to identify and approve additional national, regional and/or international non-governmental sources of data that could be used for SOCAR reporting in the absence of national data and to review and endorse the use of any external data submitted directly by those organizations
 - d) The LBS STAC4 propose that the baseline year for data submitted for use in future SOCARs should be two years up to that SOCAR being developed. This data should be submitted through an appropriate regional database that would serve as the source of information for future SOCARs);
 - e) That the 4th LBS COP consider the period for preparation of a comprehensive SOCAR to be every 6 years and that frequency and format for more regular reporting be guided by the final recommendations of the SOCAR.
 - f) The Secretariat and Contracting Parties ensure that further work on SOCAR is aligned to best possible extent with related planned and ongoing reporting efforts including under the SPAW Protocol and SOME and associated methodological frameworks including the Governance Effectiveness Assessment Framework (GEAF) and the Driver Pressure State Impact Response (DPSIR) framework and that new efforts are undertaken to communicate on and highlight the relevance of such reporting for supporting sustainable socio-economic development and blue economy efforts in the Wider Caribbean.

- g) The Secretariat with support of the Working Group continue to work on setting water quality targets and refining the cut values as better data becomes available.
- h) The Secretariat and Working Group develop a guidance document for harmonized monitoring for the SOCAR parameters and that this be reflected in the draft 2019-2020 workplan.
- i) The Secretariat should strengthen collaboration with other Regional Seas Programmes and Multilateral Environmental Agreements to facilitate improved data collection and analysis for the Wider Caribbean Region.
- j) Contracting Parties provide timely responses to the Secretariat to requests for information and for comments on the draft SOCAR, once available.

RECOMMENDATION III

GEF AND OTHER DONOR-FUNDED PROJECTS

1. The Secretariat and relevant Contracting Parties continue to participate in the development of the GEF CReW+ project proposal.
2. The Secretariat develop additional project proposals, in coordination with relevant regional partners including, *inter alia*, the CLME+ Strategic Action Programme (SAP) Interim Coordination Mechanism, and with the work conducted under the SPAW Protocol, to further support and upscale implementation of the LBS Protocol and the Strategies and Actions under the 10-year CLME+ SAP that are of relevance to the Cartagena Convention and its Protocols.
3. The Secretariat seek to develop project proposals targeting other sources of financing including but not limited to the Green Climate Fund (GCF);

RECOMMENDATION IV

LBS PROTOCOL RATIFICATION

1. The Secretariat and Contracting Parties should continue to encourage Non-Parties to ratify the LBS Protocol and for Contracting Parties to raise the profile of the LBS at national and regional levels.
2. The Secretariat request Non-Contracting Parties to the LBS Protocol to provide an update of the status of LBS Protocol Ratification in their respective countries including difficulties being faced in their national ratification process. These non-contracting party countries should further identify opportunities to raise the issue of LBS Protocol ratification at high level political fora and other appropriate intergovernmental mechanisms.
3. The Secretariat work with Contracting and other Parties to identify and facilitate the transfer of knowledge, best practices and appropriate technology aimed at pollution prevention and reduction in the Wider Caribbean Region.
4. Contracting Parties and LBS Focal Points should promote the work of the Secretariat with their respective governments as well as assist in ensuring timely and consistent payments to the Caribbean Trust Fund (CTF). To facilitate this the Secretariat should ensure timely submission of invoices copied to all relevant focal points.

Annex III: LIST OF DOCUMENTS

Working Documents

UNEP(DEPI)/CAR WG.39/1	Agenda
UNEP(DEPI)/CAR WG.39/2	Annotated agenda
UNEP(DEPI)/CAR WG.39/3	Draft Workplan and Budget for the sub-programme on the Assessment and Management of Environmental Pollution (AMEP) for 2019-2020
UNEP(DEPI)/CAR WG.39/4	<i>Recommendations of the Fourth 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</i>
UNEP(DEPI)/CAR WG.39/5	Report of the Fourth Meeting of the Scientific, Technical and Advisory Committee (STAC) to the Protocol Concerning Pollution from Land-Based Sources and Activities in the Wider Caribbean

Information Documents

	Information Note for Participants
UNEP(DEPI)/CAR WG.39/INF.1	List of documents
UNEP(DEPI)/CAR WG.39/INF.2	List of participants
UNEP(DEPI)/CAR WG.39/INF.3	Status of Activities for the sub-programme on the Assessment and Management of Environmental Pollution (AMEP) for 2017-2018
UNEP(DEPI)/CAR WG.39/INF.4	Report of the Activities for the LBS Regional Activity Centres IMA (Trinidad and Tobago) and Cimab (Cuba) for 2017-2018
UNEP(DEPI)/CAR WG.39/INF.5	Status and Challenges of Ratification of the LBS Protocol
UNEP(DEPI)/CAR WG.39/INF.6	Report of the Working Group on Environmental Monitoring and Assessment (SOCAR) 2017-2018
UNEP(DEPI)/CAR WG.39/INF.7	Project Implementation Form – Upscaling and enhancing the experience of the Caribbean Regional Fund for Wastewater Management to the wider Caribbean promoting through an integrated approach of innovative technical solutions and financing mechanisms (CREW+)
UNEP(DEPI)/CAR WG.39/INF.8	Report on the status of Styrofoam and Plastic Bag Bans in the Wider Caribbean Region
UNEP(DEPI)/CAR WG.39/INF.9	Report of the Second Project Steering Committee Meeting for the GEF-Funded Integrating Land, Water, and Ecosystems Management in Caribbean Small Island Developing States (IWEco), Cuba, 26th February to 1st March 2018
UNEP(DEPI)/CAR WG.39/INF.10	Table of Contents for the GEF Caribbean Large Marine Ecosystem+ Research Strategy
UNEP(DEPI)/CAR WG.39/INF.11	OSPAR & Caribbean Environment Programme Cooperation Project Document

UNEP(DEPI)/CAR WG.39/INF.12	Progress Report for the Trash Free Waters Partnership as part of the US EPA-UNEP Cooperation on Global Environmental Programs 2015-2020
UNEP(DEPI)/CAR WG.39/INF.13	Draft Report for State of the Convention Area (SOCAR) for the Wider Caribbean Region
UNEP(DEPI)/CAR WG.39/INF.14	Project document for the Human Security Project on 'Strengthening Resilience in Northern Clarendon and West Kingston, Jamaica'
UNEP(DEPI)/CAR WG.39/INF.15	Regional Nutrients Strategy and Action Plan Concept Paper
UNEP(DEPI)/CAR WG.39/INF.16	Report of the work on the Caribbean Node for Marine Litter Management
UNEP(DEPI)/CAR WG.39/INF.17	Executive Summary and Recommendations of the Feasibility Study on the Development of a Regional Reception Facilities Plan for the Small Island Developing States of the Wider Caribbean Region
UNEP (DEPI)/CAR.WG.39/INF.18	Identifying Research Needs on LBS Pollution in the CLME+ Region
UNEP (DEPI)/CAR.WG.39/INF.19	Project document of the Sub-regional Project on the North Brazil Shelf Large Marine Ecosystem (NBSLME)
UNEP (DEPI)/CAR.WG.39/INF.20	Caribbean Environment Programme – Survey Questionnaire
UNEP(DEPI)/CAR WG.37/INF.7 Rev.2	The GEF Caribbean Large Marine Ecosystem (CLME+) Project and its joint implementation through the AMEP and SPAW Sub-programmes
UNEP(DEPI)/CAR WG.37/INF.9 Rev.1	Updated Project Document for GEF-funded Integrating Land, Water, and Ecosystems Management in Caribbean SIDS (GEF IWEco)
UNEP(DEPI)/CAR WG.37/4	Report of the Third Meeting of the Scientific, Technical and Advisory Committee (STAC) to the Protocol Concerning Pollution from Land-based Sources and Activities, Miami, USA, 31 October-2 November 2016
UNEP(DEPI)/CAR IG.39/3	Work plan and Budget for the Caribbean Environment Programme for the biennium 2017-2018
UNEP(DEPI)/CAR IG.39/6	Report of 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, French Guiana, 13-17 March 2017
UNEP(DEPI)/CAR IG.38/4	Decisions of the Third Meeting of the Contracting Parties to the Protocol Concerning Pollution from Land-Based Sources and Activities (LBS Protocol) in the Wider Caribbean Region, French Guiana, 14 March 2017
UNEP(DEPI)/CAR IG.38/5	Report of the Third Meeting of the Contracting Parties to the Protocol Concerning Pollution from Land-Based Sources and Activities (LBS Protocol) in the Wider Caribbean Region, French Guiana, 14 March 2017

Reference Documents

UNEP, 2016	Directory of Focal Points of the Caribbean Environment Programme
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, 1999	Final Act of the Conference of Plenipotentiaries to Adopt the Protocol Concerning Pollution from Land-based Sources and Activities in the Wider Caribbean Region
UNEP, 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, 2010	Financial Rules for the Cartagena Convention, its Caribbean Environment Programme and Terms of Reference for the Caribbean Trust Fund.
UNEP(DEPI)/CAR IG.36 CRP.1	Amendment to the Financial Rules for the Cartagena Convention
UNEP, 2010	Guidelines for Establishment and Operation of Regional Activity Centres and Regional Activity Networks for the Cartagena Convention.
UNEP(DEPI)/CAR WG.32 INF.9 Rev.3	Template FOR National Reporting on the Cartagena Convention and its Protocols
UNEP/WBRS.18/INF7	List of Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) indicators
UNEP/WBRS.18/INF8	Regional Seas Strategic Directions (2017-2020)
UNEP/WBRS.18/INF9	Regional Seas Core Indicators Set
UNEP/WBRS.18/INF10	Manila Declaration
UNEP MTS 2018-2021	UNEP Medium Term Strategy 2018-2021
UNEP/EA.2/INF/16	Programme of work and budget for 2018-2019
CLME+ SAP v1.3 2016	CLME+ Strategic Action Programme
CEP Technical Report No. 72	Regional Action Plan on Marine Litter Management (RAPMaLi) for the Wider Caribbean Region 2014
MDPI/WTR/2016	Irrigation Water Quality Standards for Indirect Wastewater Reuse in Agriculture: A Contribution toward Sustainable Wastewater Reuse in South Korea
UNEP(DEPI)/CAR.WG.37/INF.11	Terminal Evaluation of the GEF-funded project "Testing a Prototype Caribbean Regional Fund for Wastewater Management (GEF CReW)
UNEP(DEPI)/CAR.WG.37/INF.8	Final Report of the Second Regional Planning Meeting of the Caribbean Platform of Nutrients Management Meeting, Trinidad and Tobago, February 24-25, 2016
UNEP/CEP/FAO, 2017	Report of Inception Workshop for the UNDP/GEF/CLME+ Ecosystem-Based Management Project for North-Brazil Shelf, Trinidad and Tobago, November 18-24, 2017
UNEP/AHEG/2018/INF/2	Compilation of the UN Environment Assembly resolutions on marine litter and microplastics
UNWATER/2015/WM	Wastewater Management: A UN Water Analytical Brief
UNEP/UN HABITAT/2010	Sick water? The central role of wastewater management in sustainable development - A rapid response assessment

UNEP, 2015	Economic Valuation of Wastewater: The Cost of Action or No Action
UNEP, 2015/ WT	Good Practices for regulating Wastewater Treatment
UNEP, 2016	Sanitation, Wastewater Management and Sustainability - From waste disposal to resource recovery
GPA/WWI/2017	Harnessing opportunity: Wastewater as a managed resource
UNEP/WTLX/2017	Sustainable Sanitation Systems: Health, Environment and Governance Challenges
UNWATER//2018	World Water Development report
UNEP/PI, 2010	Clearing the Waters; A focus on Water Quality Solutions
UNEP/WHO/WSSCC/1997	Water Pollution Control - A Guide to the Use of Water Quality Management Principles
UNEP(DEPI)/CAR WG.39/Ref.1	Terminal Evaluation: Testing a Prototype Caribbean Regional Fund for Wastewater Management (CReW) IDB/UNEP/GEF Project, June - December 2016

Annex IV: LIST OF PARTICIPANTS

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