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Third Meeting of the Contracting Parties (COP) to
the Protocol Concerning Pollution from Land-Based
Sources and Activities (LBS) in the Wider Caribbean
Region

Cayenne, French Guiana, 14 March 2017

SUMMARY OF GPA SURVEY ON POLLUTION IN LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN

For reasons of economy and the environment, Delegates are kindly requested to bring their copies of the Working and Information documents to the Meeting, and not to request additional copies.

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Summary of GPA Survey on pollution in Latin America and the Caribbean

I. Background

1. The Global Programme of Action for the Protection of the Marine Environment from Land-Based Activities (GPA) was established in 1995 to prevent the degradation of the marine environment from land-based activities. Over 108 governments committed to the GPA by signing the Washington Declaration on the Protection of the Marine Environment from Land-Based Activities.
2. Under the GPA, sewage, persistent organic pollutants, radioactive substances, heavy metals, oils, nutrients, sediments and litter were identified as priority pollutants. The GPA has also focussed on physical alternation, habitat modification and destruction.
3. Within the framework of the GPA, States were encouraged to develop, review and/or update National Programmes of Action (NPAs) which would be used as the basis for national actions to prevent, reduce and control pollution from land-based activities (UNEP(OCA)/LBA/IG.2/7).
4. While the GPA has a principle focus on national actions, regional cooperation has also contributed to its implementation. In the Wider Caribbean region, member States of the Cartagena Convention adopted the Protocol Concerning Pollution from Land-Based Sources and Activities (LBS Protocol) in 1999. This was the first pollution related agreement to the adopted following the Washington Declaration. Countries in the Wider Caribbean were among the first group of countries to respond to the objectives of the GPA through the implementation of the LBS Protocol and development of National Programmes of Action.
5. At the international level, Intergovernmental Reviews (IGRs) serve as the mechanism to review the status of GPA implementation. Three IGRs have been organized in 2001, 2006 and 2012. Through operative paragraph 5 of the Manila Declaration on Furthering the Implementation of the GPA adopted at the last IGR held in 2012, Member States decided that for the period 2012 -2016, the GPA Coordination Office should focus on nutrients, litter and wastewater as the three priority source categories. It was also decided that this should be done using global multi-stakeholder partnerships.
6. The GPA Coordination Office and UN Environment subsequently established three global partnerships:
 - Global Partnership on Marine Litter,
 - Global Partnership on Nutrient Management;
 - Global Wastewater Initiative.
7. The Secretariat to the Cartagena Convention through the Assessment and Management of Environmental Pollution Sub-Programme between 2012-2016 supported the development of regional partnerships on these three priority areas and has integrated the work of these partnerships into the work plan of the Secretariat.
8. The Fourth IGR will be held in October 2017 in Indonesia. In preparation to the upcoming IGR, the GPA Coordination Office prepared a questionnaire to assist governments review information on the development and implementation of NPAs. The responses will be used to review the progress during the past five years.
9. This document presents the compilation of the responses submitted by six member States of the Caribbean Environment Programme to the GPA Coordination Office (Barbados, Curaçao, Guyana, Haiti, Jamaica and

Mexico). It presents a preliminary analysis of the GPA implementation by those countries and makes recommendations for consideration of the Contracting Parties to the LBS Protocol.

II. Analysis

10. The survey showed that only two out of the six countries who responded from the region (Barbados and Jamaica) have developed NAPs. These were developed between five to ten years ago with external financial assistance. The NAPs are undergoing implementation status and have not been updated since their initial preparation. All six countries responded that issues of marine pollution are mainstreamed in other national planning frameworks. Countries identified Wastewater, physical alternation, hydrocarbons and marine litter as issues that received highest political attention.
11. Countries identified lack of financial resources and institutional capacity as the main barriers in addressing land-based pollution. Many countries also identified weak political support and lack of awareness by civil society as additional barriers.
12. In most countries, between one and five national agencies are involved in the control of land-based sources of pollution (**Annex 1**). However, five out of six countries responded that there is a lack of inter-agency coordination which tends to be more informal in nature reducing overall effectiveness.
13. Four countries rated the policy implementation to address land-based sources of pollution as somewhat satisfactory while the other two countries rated poor. Most of the countries considered the Cartagena Convention and its protocols as the main regional mechanism to address land-based sources of pollution. Responses varied among countries with respect to the linkage between addressing land-based sources of pollution and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).
14. Regarding monitoring of pollution in coastal areas, 50 per cent of the countries responded that they have a regular monitoring programmes with microbiological indicators being the most commonly used parameter, followed by nutrients.
15. All the countries responded that there have been recent assessments on the land-based sources of marine pollution but no country reported that such data was submitted to regional and/or global databases.
16. In terms of financing mechanisms to address land-based pollution, two countries responded that less than 1 per cent of annual national budget was allocated to address land-based sources of marine pollution. User charges and international private-sector institution were used by two countries as the primary financial instruments to recover the cost of pollution control. Most of the countries indicated that no information was available on fiscal incentives while one country responded that no fiscal incentives were used. Half of the countries stated that there were ongoing donor-funded projects and programme to mitigate land-based sources of pollution. The funding sources included the Global Environment Facility, the European Union and the private sector.
17. On the awareness of the GPA and its partnerships, all the countries stated limited to modest level of awareness.
18. Regarding the future activities, half of the countries stated that they had significant projects and programmes planned to address land-based sources of pollution. Wastewater and nutrient loading were the most common focus areas, followed by marine litter.

III. Recommendations

19. In preparation to the Fourth IGR, member States that have not done so are encouraged to submit their responses to the questionnaire to the GPA Coordination Office.
20. As SDG Target 14.1 is closely linked with land-based pollution, it is recommended that actions on land-based sources of pollution be linked with the national implementation plans for SDGs, especially Goal 14 on oceans and Goal 6 on Water and sanitation.
21. Member States are also encouraged to share their monitoring and assessment data with global and regional databases, as appropriate, in order to allow regional and global assessments. Regional data compilation will enable the assessment on the impact of the LBS protocol and will contribute to the preparation of the Status of the Convention Area Report (SOCAR).
22. Member States are further encouraged to consider participating in the three regional multi-stakeholder partnerships on wastewater, nutrients and marine litter and showcase their best practices.
23. Furthermore, Member States are invited to participate in the global campaign to prevent and reduce marine litter - the Clean Sea campaign.

Action: The Meeting is asked to note the results of this report and propose specific decisions based on the recommendations provided.

Annex 1: List of agencies, laws and policies related to land-based sources of pollution

Country	Barbados	Curaçao	Guyana	Haiti	Jamaica	Mexico
List of agencies engaged in LBS pollution control	<p>Coastal Zone Management Unit</p> <p>Environmental Protection Department</p> <p>Barbados Water Authority</p> <p>Ministry of Agriculture, food, Fisheries and water resources management</p> <p>Town and country development planning office</p>	<p>Ministry of Health, Environment and Nature</p> <p>Maritime Authority Curaçao</p> <p>Ministry of Traffic, Transport and Urban Planning</p>	<p>Ministry of Natural Resources</p> <p>Environmental Protection Agency</p> <p>Ministry of Communities</p> <p>Guyana Water Incorporated</p> <p>Mayor and City Councils</p>	<p>Ministry Environment</p> <p>Ministry of Agriculture Natural Resources and Sustainable Development</p> <p>Maritime and Navigation</p> <p>National Service</p> <p>Ministry of Tourism</p> <p>National Port Authorities</p> <p>Coast Guards</p>	<p>National Environment and Planning Agency</p> <p>Ministry Of Economic Growth and Job Creation</p>	<p>Secretaría de Medio Ambiente y Recursos Naturales (SEMARNAT), incluyendo sus órganos desconcentrados (CONANP, CONAGUA).</p> <p>Secretaría de Marina (SEMAR)</p> <p>Secretaría de Comunicaciones y Transportes (SCT)</p> <p>Secretaría de Turismo (SECTUR)</p> <p>Secretaría de Salud Gobiernos estatales y municipales</p>
List the key laws and policies related to LBS of marine pollution control	<p>Marine Pollution Control Act CAP 392A</p> <p>Coastal Zone Management Act CAP 394</p> <p>Town Planning Act CAP 240</p> <p>Health Services Act CAP 44</p>	<p>http://waittinstitute.org/wpcontent/uploads/2016/11/ELI_Curacao-Legal-Framework-Report_July-2016.pdf</p>	<p>National Development strategy (2001-2010)</p> <p>Environmental Protection At (1996)</p> <p>Environmental Protection (Water Quality) Regulations (2000)</p> <p>Environmental Protection (Litter</p>	<p>Degree on environmental (2005)</p>	<p>The Natural Resources and Conservation Act (1991)</p> <p>The wastewater and Sludge Regulations (2013)</p>	<p>Ley General para la Prevención y Gestión Integral de los Residuos (DOF 8 de octubre de 2003, última modificación 22 de mayo de 2015)</p> <p>Reglamento de la Ley General para la Prevención y</p>

Country	Barbados	Curaçao	Guyana	Haiti	Jamaica	Mexico
	Barbados Water Authority Act CAP 274A		Enforcement) Regulations (2013) Draft Solid Waste Management Bill and Regulations Styrofoam Ban and Alternatives Policy (2016)			<p>Gestión Integral de los Residuos (DOF 30 de noviembre de 2006, última reforma 31 de octubre de 2014).</p> <p>Ley General del Equilibrio Ecológico y la Protección al Ambiente (DOF 28 de enero de 1988, última modificación DOF 13 de mayo de 2016).</p> <p>Ley Federal del Mar (DOF 1° de abril de 1986).</p> <p>Ley de Vertimientos en las Zonas Marinas Mexicanas (DOF 17 de enero de 2014)</p> <p>Política Nacional de Mares y Costas de México</p> <p>Estrategia Nacional para el Ordenamiento Ecológico del Territorio en Mares y Costas.</p>

Country	Barbados	Curaçao	Guyana	Haiti	Jamaica	Mexico
						<p>Programa Nacional de Investigación Oceanográfica (DOF 5 de julio de 2016)</p> <p>Programas de Ordenamiento Ecológico Marino: Golfo de California (DOF 15 de diciembre de 2006), Golfo de México y Mar Caribe (DOF 24 de noviembre de 2012).</p>