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

Roatan, Honduras, 4 June 2019

## **DECISIONS OF THE MEETING**



## Decisions of the Meeting

### The Contracting Parties:

**Having convened the** Fourth Meeting of the Contracting Parties to the Protocol Concerning Pollution from Land-based Sources and Activities (LBS COP4) in the Wider Caribbean Region, Roatan, Honduras, 4 June 2019;

**Taking note of** the Status of Implementation of the Workplan and Budget for the AMEP sub-programme for the period 2017-2018 as contained in UNEP(DEPI)/CAR WG.39/3 Rev.1;

**Taking note of** the Report on the Activities of the Regional Activity Centres for the LBS Protocol (LBS RACs) in Cuba and Trinidad and Tobago for the period 2017-2018 (UNEP(DEPI)/CAR WG.39/INF.4 Rev.1);

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

**Taking note of** the ongoing regional and international efforts to raise the profile of oceans and pollution including through work to support the Sustainable Development Goals on Oceans (SDG 14) and on Water and Sanitation (SDG 6);

**Recognizing** the efforts taken by the Secretariat to increasingly integrate the work of AMEP and SPAW sub-programmes;

**Recognising** that the management of ship generated waste received at ports should be considered with the management of waste at the national level;

**Having reviewed** the Report of the Working Group on Environmental Monitoring and Assessment (UNEP(DEPI)/CAR WG.41/INF.3) including the draft State of the Convention Area Report (SOCAR);

**Having also reviewed** the Recommendations of 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 contained in UNEP(DEPI)/CAR WG.39/5;

**Having further reviewed** the draft Workplan and Budget for the activities of the AMEP sub-programme for the biennium 2017-2018, as shown in UNEP(DEPI)/CAR IG.39/3 Rev.1;

**Having also reviewed** the Paper on the proposed expanded role of Regional Activity Centres (RACs) to the Cartagena Convention and its Protocols within the Wider Caribbean Region contained in UNEP(DEPI)/CAR IG.41/INF.6;

**Having also reviewed** the outline for the Draft Regional Nutrients Strategy and Action Plan for the UNDP/GEF Caribbean and North Brazil Large Marine Ecosystems Project contained in UNEP(DEPI)/CAR IG.41/INF.8;

**Welcoming** the ratification of the LBS Protocol by the Government of Honduras during the biennium and the progress made by non-Contracting Parties to develop and implement pollution prevention programmes, projects and activities, as well as to ratify the LBS Protocol; and

**Noting** the finalization of the host agreement with the Government of Trinidad and Tobago and the progress made with the Government of Cuba as hosts for the LBS RACs.

**Decide to:**

1. **Endorse** the recommendations of LBS STAC 4;
2. **Endorse** for final approval by the Eighteenth Intergovernmental Meeting and Fifteenth Meeting of the Contracting Parties, the Workplan and Budget for the AMEP sub-programme for the 2019-2020 biennium, including modifications recommended during the meeting;
3. **Urge** the governments of the region, which have not yet done so, to become Contracting Parties to the Cartagena Convention and its Protocols, including the LBS Protocol;
4. **Take advantage of** the global political momentum concerning the fight against plastic pollution while continuing to devote appropriate attention to the LBS protocol's longstanding areas of focus, including wastewater and nutrient pollution which raise the profile of the LBS Protocol and highlight the importance of its ratification;
5. **Support** an expanded role for the Regional Activity Centres (RACs) and the Regional Activity Network (RAN) for implementing the LBS Protocol including requesting the RACs to develop a 6-year strategic plan, assist the Secretariat by mobilising funds and develop new projects and activities as part of a workplan to be approved by the COP;
6. **Recognise** the following institutions as part of the RAN – Gulf and Caribbean Fisheries Institute (GCFI), Centro del Agua del Trópico Húmedo para América Latina y el Caribe (CATHALAC), Caribbean Public Health Agency (CARPHA), Instituto de Investigaciones Marinas y Costeras (INVEMAR);
7. **Adopt** the State of the Convention Area Report (SOCAR) and recommend in its finalization that the Secretariat should **develop** communication and knowledge products from the SOCAR for targeted audiences *inter alia* policy makers, schools, local community, and private sector;
8. **Recommend** that the meeting of the Contracting Parties to the Convention establish the interim Monitoring and Assessment Working Group as an Ad Hoc open-ended working group in support of the LBS Protocol with a new mandate;
9. **Adopt** the recommendations proposed by the Working Group on Monitoring and Assessment regarding the SOCAR;
10. **Mobilise** resources for technical meetings/workshops to encourage greater participation of countries in the development of the SOCAR and for contribution of data;
11. **Develop** partnerships with academic institutions to assist in the generation and analysis of data;
12. **Take advantage of** the support available from ongoing projects and activities in the dissemination of SOCAR and development of future SOCARs;
13. **Update** the SOCAR on a 6-year cycle with periodic updates to coincide with the COP and to consider amending the existing Cartagena Convention Reporting Template to facilitate this reporting;
14. Subject to the availability of funds, **assist** countries with monitoring, data collection and analysis;
15. **Investigate** emerging contaminants relevant to the Convention area, including identifying opportunities for training and capacity building as well as sharing of experiences and best practices.