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

Roatan, Honduras, 4 June 2019

REPORT OF THE MEETING



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

ACRONYMS

AMEP.....	Assessment and Management of Environmental Pollution
CAR/RCU.....	Caribbean Regional Coordinating Unit
CARPHA.....	Caribbean Public Health Agency
CATHALAC....	Centro del Agua del Trópico Húmedo para América Latina y el Caribe (CATHALAC)
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+.....	Catalysing Implementation of Strategic Action Programme for the Sustainable Management of shared Living Marine Resources in the Caribbean and North Brazil Shelf Large Marine Ecosystems
COP.....	Contracting Parties
CETA.....	Communication, Education, Training and Awareness
CRew+	An Integrated Approach to Water and Wastewater Management Using Innovative Solutions and Promoting Financing Mechanisms in the Wider Caribbean Region
GCFI.....	Gulf and Caribbean Fisheries Institute
GEF.....	Global Environment Facility
GPA.....	Global Programme of Action for the Protection of the Marine Environment from Land-based Activities
IDB.....	Inter-American Development Bank
IGM.....	Intergovernmental Meeting
IMA.....	Institute of Marine Affairs
INVEMAR.....	Instituto de Investigaciones Marinas y Costeras
IWEco.....	Integrating Water, Land and Ecosystems Management
LBS.....	Land-Based Sources and Activities
MARPOL.....	International Convention for the Prevention of Pollution from Ships
MoU.....	Memorandum of Understanding
NGO.....	Non-Governmental Organization
NOAA.....	National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
NPA.....	National Programme of Action
PIF.....	Project Identification Form
PMU.....	Project Management Unit
PSAs.....	Public Service Announcements

RACs.....	Regional Activity Centres
RAPMaLi.....	Regional Action Plan for Marine Litter Management
RAN.....	Regional Activity Network
REMPEITC.....	Regional Marine Pollution Emergency, Information and Training Centre
SAICM.....	Strategic Approach to International Chemicals Management
SAP.....	Strategic Action Plan
SIDS.....	Small Island Developing States
SOCAR.....	State of the Convention Area Report
SSFA.....	Small Scale Funding Agreement
STAC.....	Scientific and Technical Advisory Committee
SPAW.....	Specially Protected Areas and Wildlife
UNEA.....	United Nations Environment Assembly
UNEP.....	United Nations Environment Programme
US EPA.....	United States Environmental Protection Agency
WCR.....	Wider Caribbean Region
WG.....	Working Group

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Introduction

1. The Secretariat of the Cartagena Convention is responsible for convening meetings of the Contracting Parties to the Protocol Concerning Pollution from Land-Based Sources and Activities (LBS Protocol) in accordance with Article XV of the LBS Protocol.
2. In accordance with the Workplan and Budget for 2017-2018, approved by the Fourteenth Meeting of the Conference of Parties to the Cartagena Convention, the Fourth Meeting of the Conference of Parties (COP) to the LBS Protocol was held on 4 June 2019 in Roatan, Honduras.
3. The proposed objectives of the Fourth COP were to:
 - review the implementation of the LBS Protocol and the effectiveness of actions taken pursuant to it, including a review of the Decisions of the Third LBS COP and relevant Decisions of the Fourteenth Meeting of the Contracting Parties to the Cartagena Convention;
 - review the implementation of projects and activities 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;
 - take appropriate action regarding the recommendations of the Scientific, Technical and Advisory Committee resulting from the 4th LBS STAC held from July 17 to 20, 2018 in Panama City, Panama;
 - assess the status of ratification and/or implementation of the LBS Protocol in member countries and take appropriate action to facilitate increased ratification and/or implementation;
 - approve the AMEP Workplan and Budget for the 2018-2019 biennium for subsequent submission to, and approval by the 15th Meeting of Contracting Parties of the Cartagena Convention to be held from 5th to 6th June 2019 in Roatan, Honduras; and
 - Conduct other business as appropriate.
4. The meeting was opened on Tuesday, 4 June 2019. Seated at the head table were Sr. Jose Antonio Galdames Fuentes, Secretary of State, Ministry of Energy, Natural Resources, Environment and Ministry, Mr Habib El-Habr, Coordinator of UN Environment Programme Global Programme of Action (GPA); and Mr Christopher Corbin, Pollution Programme Officer, representing the Cartagena Convention Secretariat
5. Mr. José Antonio Galdames Fuentes stated that it was an honour for the Government of Honduras to host the meeting. He spoke of the value of the Cartagena Convention and its Protocols in managing coastal and marine resources in a holistic and integral manner. He wished everyone a productive meeting.
6. Mr. Habib El-Habr highlighted the current state of Caribbean coastlines littered with plastic waste and reminded participants of how vulnerable the region was to the impacts of pollution. He then thanked the Government of Honduras for hosting the meeting and welcomed all delegates and partners..
7. He continued by stating that concerted efforts were needed to reverse marine degradation and highlighted the World Bank report entitled "*Marine Pollution in the Caribbean: Not a Minute to Waste*" and the contribution by the Cartagena Convention Secretariat to the report..
8. He indicated that the LBS Protocol had evolved over time by responding to emerging regional needs and priorities. He outlined the importance of programmes and activities on priority pollutants such as solid waste, marine litter and plastics; domestic wastewater; and agrochemical run-off and nutrients.
9. He informed delegates that the concern over pollution was being reflected in several international frameworks related to the environment and sustainable development. For example, the third session of the UN Environment Assembly (UNEA) called for improved coordination, engagement and support on land-based pollution as well as increased linkages among the Regional Seas, relevant platforms and international initiatives to facilitate effective integrated delivery of pollution reduction activities.
10. Mr. El-Habr closed by reminding the Contracting Parties that the protection of the Caribbean Sea from marine pollution, would require all Governments in the region to demonstrate political commitment through ratification and implementation of measures to control, reduce and prevent marine pollution from all land-based sources and activities.
11. Mr Christopher Corbin welcomed the participants to the LBS COP4. He recognised the new RAC Cimab Director and bode farewell to Antonio Villasol, the out-going

Director. A video highlight of Mr. Villasol Nuñez's work with RAC Cimab and the Secretariat was shown, and a plaque was presented to him by the Secretariat in acknowledgement of his contribution.

12. The Meeting was formally opened at 9:45.
13. The Meeting then proceeded with the election of officers.

Agenda item 2: Election of Officers

14. The proposal of the following officers by the Secretariat was unanimously approved by the Meeting.
 - Chairperson: Linroy Christian (Antigua & Barbuda)
 - Vice Chair: Marnie Portillo (Honduras)
 - Rapporteur: Richard Nelson (Jamaica)

Agenda item 3: Organization of the Meeting

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

(a) Rules of procedure

16. 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), as contained in UNEP, 2010 and adopted pursuant to Article 20 of the Cartagena Convention, was applied for the conduct of the Meeting.

(b) Organization of the work

17. English, French and Spanish were the working languages of the Meeting. Simultaneous interpretation in these languages was provided for the Meeting. The working documents were available in the working languages.
18. The Secretariat convened the Meeting in plenary sessions.

Agenda item 4: Adoption of the Agenda

19. The draft Agenda of the Meeting UNEP(DEPI)/CAR IG.41/1 was amended to include short presentations from the Governments of the Dominican Republic and Honduras to be done under any other business and subsequently adopted.

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

20. The Pollution Programme Officer, Mr Christopher Corbin, provided an update of the status of ratification of the LBS Protocol and mentioned that the Government of Colombia, as repository for the Convention, had advised the Secretariat of the ratification of the Cartagena Convention and the LBS Protocol by the Government of Honduras.

(b) Review of Activities

21. Mr Corbin presented the outputs of the Pollution Sub-programme for 2017-2018 as contained in document UNEP(DEPI)/CAR WG.39/INF.3 Rev.1.
22. He reflected the continued progress in efforts by regional Governments to ratify the LBS Protocol. There are now Fourteen Contracting Parties to the Protocol. He also recognized the support provided by the Government of Panama in the successful convening of the 4th LBS STAC Meeting held in Panama from July 2018.
23. Mr Corbin reported on some of the major sub-programme achievements during the reporting period including: (1) Development of the GEF CReW+ project proposal which is now under consideration by the GEF Secretariat; (2) Ongoing and strategic partnerships being strengthened including Trash Free Partnership in Jamaica and Panama, OSPAR Cooperation; (3) Increase in the number of internal and external publications and fact sheets on pollution; (4) Development and implementation of new marine litter activities within the framework of the Caribbean Marine Litter Node; (5) SPAW/LBS Collaboration (6) Progress with the development of the State of Convention Area Report (SOCAR on marine pollution); (7) Port Reception Feasibility Study conducted by RAC REMPEITC Caribe and; (8) The Secretariat's response to IGM16 and LBS COP3 Decisions and LBS STAC4 Recommendations.
24. Mr. Corbin thanked the focal points, project managers and staff of GEF Projects, directors and staff the LBS RACs, and the several national, regional and international partners who had contributed to the success of the programme during the biennium.
25. Mr. Corbin also mentioned the signing of the LBS RAC for the Institute of Marine Affairs (IMA) between UNEP and the Government of Trinidad and Tobago and the progress made to sign a similar agreement with the Government of Cuba for RAC CIMA.

26. The Chair thanked Mr. Corbin for a very comprehensive presentation and then opened the floor for comments.
27. The new RAC Cimab Director, Ms. Lina de las Mercedes Tello Cebria, thanked Mr. Corbin for the work done and that she remained committed to continue the close working relationship with the Secretariat established under the leadership of Mr. Antonio Villasol.
28. Ms. Marlen Perez Hernandez thanked Mr. Corbin for the presentation on the work done and the results achieved as well as the reports produced.
29. The Head of delegation from Cuba, Mr. Pedro Ruiz Hernandez, thanked the Secretariat for the work done. He informed the meeting that the process of formalizing the Host Agreement for RAC CIMAB had begun. He also mentioned that Cuba was in consultation with the Secretariat regarding ratification of the LBS Protocol and acknowledged that the Secretariat continues to provide support with that process.
30. Mr. Anthony Headley, the head of delegation for Barbados, indicated that his Government remains committed to the ratification and implementation of the LBS Protocol and was going through the final stages for ratification and he expected the process to be completed very shortly.
31. Ms. Stephanie Adrian, from the US, thanked the Government of Honduras for hosting the meeting and the Secretariat for its ongoing work. She indicated that the US appreciated the work of the Secretariat and expressed support for the SOCAR Working Group and the work of the Regional Activity Centres (RACs). She also expressed gratitude to Mr. Antonio Villasol Nuñez for the leadership provided to RAC Cimab, the Secretariat and countries. She also welcomed the new Director of RAC CIMAB.
32. Ms. Adrian acknowledged and thanked the Secretariat for the tremendous work done with limited financial and human resources.
33. The representative of Colombia, Ms. Claudia Cuevas Ortiz, said she was pleased to inform the meeting that Colombia's legislative process for the ratification of the LBS Protocol was under way and pointed out that the issue of land-based sources of marine pollution was important for her country.
34. Mr. Corbin expressed gratitude for the support shown by the Parties, partners, and other agencies. He was heartened to hear of the progress by non-Contracting Parties to ratify the LBS Protocol and added that the Secretariat was committed to provide support to countries in their ratification process.
35. Mr. Corbin then presented on the major projects and activities implemented in support of the LBS Protocol during the 2017-2018 biennium.
36. Mr Corbin spoke of the importance of the contribution of two LBS RACs to the work of the Secretariat. The establishment and operations of Regional Activity Centres (RACs) and related Regional Activity Networks (RANs) have the potential of becoming one of the most effective ways for governments and CEP partner organizations to implement cooperative measures and programmes in support of the implementation of the Protocol's obligations..
37. Mr. Corbin continued his presentation highlighting the proposed expanded role of Regional Activity Centres/ Networks (UNEP(DEPI)/CAR IG.41/INF.6).
38. Mr. Corbin referred to the various GEF funded projects and other activities that the LBS RACs had played a major supporting role.
39. He also highlighted the participation by RAC staff as resource persons in technical workshops on pollution and for national workshops on the ratification and implementation of the LBS Protocol. Reference was made to the Ratification map that was developed by RAC CIMAB.
40. The Secretariat, in conclusion, suggested that the Meeting may wish to decide on the STAC recommendation to consider an expanded role for the LBS RACs including: i) the development by LBS RACs of a 6 year Strategic Plan; ii) Assistance to be provided by LBS RACs with resource mobilization and development of new projects and activities; iii) The Secretariat develop MOUs with selected partner agencies - GCFI, CARPHA, INEMAR and CATHALAC to have them formally recognized as part of the RAN.
41. The Chairperson then invited questions on the presentations.
42. Ms. Marlen Perez Hernandez of RAC Cimab thanked Mr. Corbin for the presentation. She asked about activities that could be implemented in a one-year period given that the annual workplan and budget.
43. Ms. Stephanie Adrian of the US voiced her support for the RACs and RANs and their value to the different projects over the years. She commented on the importance to formalize the roles especially with additional partners to show Parties the added value of each Centre to the work of the Secretariat.
44. Mrs. Claudia Patricia Cuevas Ortiz, the delegate of Colombia highlighted the technical support provided by

the RACs and that these could generate more impact in the next biennium based on the additional resources they could provide and/or mobilize.

45. Dr. Daryll Banjoo, RAC IMA representative, stated that the IMA was committed to the work of the LBS Protocol and endorsed the future expanded role that the IMA could play. He added that the Oils Spills RAC (RAC REMPEITC Caribe) and other RACs could work more closely together and that there was the need to look at a mechanism for future sustainable funding.
46. Ms. Sandrine Pivard of SPAW RAC commended the vast work of the Secretariat and the LBS RACs. She pointed out that the SPAW RAC is different from other RACs and works primarily in support of the SPAW Protocol and funded is provided for dedicated staff. She mentioned that it would be good to work on a long-term vision and strategic plan.
47. Mr Corbin indicated that the Secretariat had already developed various strategy documents and will be presenting an updated Strategy for the Secretariat to the Cartagena Convention COP. He informed that the draft overall strategy had been guided by other more specific strategies and thematic documents. He proposed that RACs 6-year strategy would be guided by the overall Strategy for the Secretariat, the needs of the respective Protocols and the biennial work plans and budgets. He supported Ms. Perez Hernandez's view of looking at detailed activities that can be implemented within a two-year biennium.
48. Ms. Ileana Lopez, SPAW PO, said a more defined network of RACs and RANs could result in greater advancement and effectiveness in the implementation of the Secretariat's Work Plan.

Agenda item 6: Recommendations of the Fourth Scientific and Technical Advisory Committee Meeting to the Protocol Concerning Pollution from Land-Based Sources and Activities (LBS STAC4) in the Wider Caribbean

49. Mr Corbin presented an overview of the recommendations of the LBS STAC4 Meeting for discussion by the LBS COP.
50. Following a brief discussion, the Recommendations were adopted by the Meeting.

Agenda item 7: State of the Convention Area Report (SOCAR)

51. Ms Stephanie Adrian, delegate from the USA, was invited by the Chairperson to present on the State of the Convention Area Report (SOCAR).
52. She thanked all the members of the Monitoring and Assessment Working Group which supported the development of the SOCAR. This included representatives from the Governments of Antigua and Barbuda, France, Jamaica, US, LBS RACs IMA and Cimab.
53. The SOCAR was developed using a Driver-Pressure-State-Impact-Response (DPSIR) framework which describes the interactions between human society and the environment. Ms. Adrian reminded that the cut values for water quality parameters were agreed to by the Scientific, Technical and Advisory Committee (STAC) of the LBS Protocol.
54. The benefits and use of the SOCAR as well as activities undertaken in the preparation of the first SOCAR were presented. The challenges and key recommendations were also highlighted. The report was expected to be endorsed by the Parties then finalised between June and December 2019 and launched electronically in early 2020.
55. The Chairperson thanked Ms. Adrian for her presentation and the work of the Working Group and asked that the meeting consider agreeing to the Working Group being provided a new mandate to continue its work. He then invited the Secretariat to provide additional information concerning the findings of SOCAR and next steps.
56. The Secretariat highlighted the additional value of the SOCAR given that pollution from land-based sources is an increasing regional and global concern. Mr. Corbin spoke of the negative impacts of several pollutants on coastal and marine resources, people's livelihoods and the region's economic development. He alluded to empirical evidence that nutrients and faecal contamination is widespread across the Wider Caribbean region.
57. Some of the findings of SOCAR included the fact that the Wider Caribbean region (WCR) had one of the highest plastic concentrations in the world's oceans. Despite considerable advances made at national, sub-regional, and regional levels in the WCR to address land-based pollution, there remained an urgent need for governments to adapt and scale up existing experiences, best practices, and technologies, and undertake the required institutional, policy, legislative,

and budgetary reforms to address land-based pollution, particularly at its source.

58. The Chairperson opened the floor for comments.
59. Mr. Miguel Espinosa Gonzalez, the delegate of the Dominican Republic, suggested the convening of expert meetings to support the development of future SOCARs specially to mobilize financial support to help countries with the generation of monitoring data needed for future SOCARs. This would also be useful as baseline information for new projects and implementing solutions to emerging problems.
60. He said that an adequate database would be needed for the next SOCAR and enquired if the next one would be done in five (5) years. He indicated that he would have to verify the number of years needed for sampling. He added that since resources would be needed to develop the next SOCAR various institutions could be approached to help in that regard. Regional laboratories are very important especially for sampling of heavy metals and pesticides which may be important for the next SOCAR. Countries that have not been incorporated thus far should be encouraged to be a part of the next SOCAR.
61. The delegate of Saint Lucia, Mr. Thomas Nelson, thanked the Working Group, Consultants and Secretariat for the comprehensive report (SOCAR). He encouraged the Secretariat to make the report/products more attractive/reader-friendly for the wider community including decision makers. He agreed that report cards would be effective in presenting a call for action. Policy briefs were also suggested as another communication tool that could be used.
62. Mr. Corbin stated that a minimum of six (6) years was reasonable for the development of the next SOCAR. He acknowledged the point about fine-tuning parameters and providing additional details. He mentioned the recommendation from the STAC regarding the preparation of shorter periodic updates to Parties. Regarding the comment from Mr. Nelson, he stated that communication and knowledge products including summaries for policy makers and report cards should be developed by the end of 2019.
63. Mr. Anthony Headley, representative of Barbados, thanked the Parties and the Secretariat for the report and said that it will have significant potential if used correctly. He stated that it was important to ensure that the general public fully understand the results of SOCAR and associated health and economic implications. He added that it should also be communicated in ways that enabled small entrepreneurs for example to identify potential business opportunities to address pollution. He further added that it was an excellent starting point for developing specific policy briefs and encouraged targeted knowledge products for use in primary and high schools, so the next generation of scientists could continue the work started.
64. Mr. Marc Porter, Head of the US delegation agreed that six (6) years was appropriate for the next SOCAR with periodic updates at during the COPs – every two years.
65. Honduras added that there was information available on pollution of coastal and marine waters and hoped that this information would be reflected in future reports.
66. The Head of delegation from Aruba, Mr. Gisbert Boekhoudt, congratulated the Working Group and the Secretariat for the presentation and the report. He indicated his support for the 6-year cycle for the next SOCAR. He also indicated his willingness to assist with aligning the SOCAR with relevant sustainable development goals (SDGs) and Aichi targets.
67. The representative of Colombia, Ms. Claudia Cuevas Ortiz, expressed appreciation for the work done on water quality and the work of the Working Group.
68. Ms. Perez Hernandez of RAC Cimab thanked the delegate of the Dominican Republic for their first recommendation concerning convening of face to face meetings and explained that the Working Group was not able to have regional meetings due to insufficient funds. She thought it was a good idea to have a technical workshop/meeting but would imply country's commitment to fully participate in the rest of the SOCAR process.
69. Mr. Patrick Debels, Regional Project Coordinator the UNDP GEF CLME+ Project, said it was important to align the timelines for developing various regional reports, strategies, investment plans with the SOCAR.
70. Mr. Paul Hoetjes, representative of the Caribbean Netherlands, expressed hope that the governments could participate in at least one internal assessment. He offered support toward the effort and was willing to provide water quality data. He called attention to the negative impacts of sunscreen and research being conducted in St. Eustatius and Bonaire because of elevated levels of chemicals on corals and the correlation with cancer in humans. The data can be provided to the Secretariat and can therefore be added to the future SOCAR.

71. The delegate of Guyana, Ms. Alona Sankar/ (?) thanked the parties for the excellent report and endorsed the point for presenting the report in such a way to get the attention of the politicians to have the relevant laws passed.
 72. Mr. Corbin thanked the delegates for their contributions. Regarding the input from Mr. Debels, he stated that alignment of SOCAR, strategies and actions plans will be an important consideration moving forward. He welcomed the offers made by the countries to provide data for future reports and hoped that countries that were unable to contribute data for this SOCAR would see the value of the report. He acknowledged the recommendation regarding the communication of the SOCAR results to target different audiences including policy makers, industry, private sector, youth, entrepreneurs, and politicians.
 73. He acknowledged the support provided by the delegates to the work of the Working Group on Environmental Monitoring and Assessment. He mentioned the opportunity existed for other Parties to take on the leadership role of the Working Group which was first chaired by Jamaica and then the USA. The technical support of the Data Sub-Group, chaired by the Government of Antigua and Barbuda, to the Monitoring and Assessment Working Group and the Secretariat was also acknowledged.
 74. Mr. Patrick Debels, CLME+ Regional Project Coordinator, encouraged the Secretariat to use a coordination mechanism such as the Central American Commission for Environment and Development (CCAD) to assist in receiving data from the Central American countries.
 75. The representative of Guatemala, Mr. Carlos Ramos Salguero, congratulated the Secretariat for the report. He indicated that he had information on discharges and watershed areas leading to the Caribbean Sea. He said it was very important for the Central American countries to have a meeting to figure out how they could work together to submit data for future reports.
 76. The Chairperson thanked everyone for their comments.
- Agenda item 8: Draft Workplan and Budget for the AMEP Sub-Programme for the 2019-2020 Biennium**
77. The Secretariat was invited by the Chairperson 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).
 78. The Pollution Programme Officer presented the draft 2019-2020 workplan.
 79. Mr. Corbin outlined the various ways in which the Secretariat could support Contracting Parties, which would therefore include increased ratification of the LBS Protocol, further work by the working group on Monitoring and Assessment to complete the State of Convention Area Report (SOCAR), further development of new projects for possible funding by the Global Environment Facility (GEF) and other donors.
 80. Several other points concerning the proposed work plan were highlighted including the importance of collaboration with other MEAs and regional and international organizations; Pollution and Biodiversity collaboration, private sector engagement; resource mobilization and finalizing the host country agreement with the Government of Cuba for hosting of LBS RAC CIMAB.
 81. The Pollution Programme Officer identified the main programme priorities for the work plan including a focus on GEF project development and implementation, the finalization of the SOCAR, further development of the Caribbean Platforms for Wastewater, Nutrients and Marine Litter and enhancing Pollution and Biodiversity collaboration.
 82. Mr. Corbin informed delegates of some of the major upcoming meetings relating to oceans and pollution and provided a summary of the budget of the programme. He indicated that as a result of reduced contributions to the Caribbean Trust Fund, all activities of the programme were being funded from external sources.
 83. Ms. Perez Hernandez of RAC Cimab indicated that they could collaborate on micro-plastics and would be developing a new regional project. She expressed hope of collaborating with the Secretariat on that issue and focusing on the priorities during the next biennium.
 84. Mr. Corbin informed that national projects on solid waste and wastewater management will be supported by an EU funded African, Caribbean and Pacific project and that the Secretariat will communicate further with focal points on these opportunities.
 85. Mr. Banjoo thanked Mr. Corbin for the excellent presentation and asked about the budget for the expanded role of the RACs.

86. Mr. Corbin indicated that the budget was not included as the assumption was not made that Parties would endorse the expanded role of RACs and RANs and indicated efforts would be made to have RACs play a greater role in the implementation of new projects and activities.
87. The workplan and budget was adopted by the Contracting Parties.

Agenda item 9: Other Business

88. Participants were invited to raise any other issues not covered during but relevant to the meeting. Requests for presentations were made and done as follows.

(a) Environmental Problem in the Motagua River Basin (Honduras)

89. Ms. Zelaya Landa presented on the actions taken in the Motagua river basin which forms part of the border between Honduras and Guatemala. Some actions taken included beach and coastal clean-ups and environmental training. During the beach/coastal clean-ups, 2407.5 tons of garbage were collected from 2015 to 2019; the main waste being plastic bottles.
90. The pollution problem however persisted and posed risks to human health, negative effects on habitats and species of flora and fauna and decreased the social and economic value of the coastal zone (tourism, fishery).
91. Complimentary actions were highlighted including support to the ratification and implementation of the Cartagena Convention, acquisition of equipment to monitor water quality, equipment to clean and recycle plastics and the launch of an environmental campaign to eliminate plastics).
92. The Secretariat applauded the progress of the actions carried out by Honduras and Guatemala to date in relation to reducing pollution of the transboundary basin of the Motagua River. The countries were urged to continue in their efforts for the integral management of the basin, including an in-depth cross-border diagnosis and a bi-annual environmental strategic plan that would facilitate coordination and decision-making and the mobilization of resources, in order to achieve proper management of the basin and reduce its pollution levels to the Caribbean.

(b) Environmental Baseline for Domestic Wastewater that impact the Coastal Zone of Honduras (Honduras)

93. Representatives from the Secretaría de Recursos Naturales y Ambiente in Honduras presented on the main sources that impact the coastal marine area of La Ceiba, Puerto Cortes, Omoa and Tela. Water samples were taken from sites of the areas mentioned and analysed. Fecal coliform, E-coli, Enterococcus, arsenic, fats, oils and lead, and other substances/chemicals were found.

(c) Solid Waste Management (Dominican Republic)

94. Mr. Miguel Espinosa Gonzalez presented on solid waste management efforts of the Government of the Dominican Republic. He stated that his country had prepared legislation aimed at preventing the generation of plastic marine litter; the legislation was in the process of being approved by congress.
95. The legislation prohibits the use of non-biodegradable plastics in all commercial establishments and the use of polyethylene for food packaging. It will target producers, importers and marketers of products that will end up as solid waste. They are obligated to use reusable or recyclable materials as well as report the quantity of waste produced in the manufacturing process annually to the relevant authority.
96. Under this new law, persons seen discarding waste in public places could be imprisoned for up to 10 days, fined or both. Plastic wrappers must not be used and should be replaced by bio-degradable packaging. Labels must also have messages about protecting the environment and encouraging the deposit of reusable containers.

(d) Wastewater Management (Dominican Republic)

97. Mr. Gonzalez made a second presentation on behalf of the Government of the Dominican Republic on their efforts to improve domestic wastewater management. He gave an overview of the country's sewage system including the recent rehabilitation of eight (8) wastewater treatment plants.
98. He also spoke about the new wastewater treatment management plan which will be done in three (3) phases and should be in place by 2020. The first phase will benefit more than 450,000 residents in the north of Santo Domingo. He indicated that treated wastewater could be used for irrigation

(e) Effectively Managing Water and Sewage in the West End Community, Roatan, Honduras

99. Mr. Ian Drysdale, representative of the Polo's Water Association in West End, Roatan, presented on

managing water and sewage in the West End community of Roatan. He began by giving a brief history of wastewater management in West End.

100. A new potable water and wastewater distribution system and a treatment plant were installed. Polo's Water Association had done a great job of managing water resources in West End and was being used as an example for the rest of Honduras by the government responsible for potable water and sanitation.

101. A treatment plant was rehabilitated in 2016 and additional homes and businesses were connected to the treatment plant from 2016 to 2018. The total connection was 97% representing 282 homes and business.

Agenda item 10: Adoption of the Decisions of the Meeting

102. The Rapporteur of the Meeting presented the draft Decisions of the Meeting.

103. The Meeting adopted the Decisions, with amendments and corrections that were introduced.

Agenda item 11: Closure of the Meeting

104. The Chair of the meeting expressed thanks to the Government of Honduras for hosting the meeting, the participants for their contributions during the meeting and welcomed the members of the new Bureau.

105. The Meeting was closed on Tuesday, 4 June 2019 at 6:00 p.m. by the Chairperson of the Meeting and the Secretariat.

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 period 2017-2018
6. Recommendations of the Fourth Scientific and Technical Advisory Committee (STAC) to the Protocol Concerning Pollution from Land-Based Sources and Activities (LBS) in the Wider Caribbean
7. State of the Convention Area Report (SOCAR)
8. Draft Work Plan and Budget for AMEP Sub-Programme for the 2019-2020 biennium
9. Other Business
10. Adoption of the Decisions of the Meeting
11. Closure of the Meeting

Annex II: 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.

Annex III: List of Documents

Symbol	Title	Agenda Item
Working Documents		
UNEP(DEPI)/CAR IG.41/1	Provisional agenda	4
UNEP(DEPI)/CAR IG.41/2	Provisional annotated agenda	4
UNEP(DEPI)/CAR WG.39/3/Rev1	Draft Workplan and Budget for the sub-programme on the Assessment and Management of Environmental Pollution (AMEP) for 2019-2020	8
UNEP(DEPI)/CAR IG.41/3	<i>Decisions of the Fourth Meeting of the Contracting Parties (COP) to the Protocol Concerning Pollution from Land-Based Sources and Activities (LBS Protocol) in the Wider Caribbean Region (to be prepared during the meeting)</i>	
UNEP(DEPI)/CAR IG.41/4	<i>Report of the meeting (to be prepared after the meeting)</i>	
Information Documents		
	Information Note for Participants	
UNEP(DEPI)/CAR IG.41/INF.1	Provisional list of documents`	
UNEP(DEPI)/CAR IG.41/INF.2	List of participants (English only)	
UNEP(DEPI)/CAR IG.41/INF.3	Draft State of the Convention Area Report (SOCAR) for the Wider Caribbean Region	6
UNEP(DEPI)/CAR IG.41/INF.4	Report of the Third Project Steering Committee Meeting for the GEF Integrating Land, Water, and Ecosystems Management in Caribbean Small Island Developing States (IWEco), Santo Domingo, Dominican Republic, 1-3 April 2019	6
UNEP(DEPI)/CAR IG.41/INF.5	Draft Pollution Research Strategy for the UNDP/GEF Caribbean and North Brazil Large Marine Ecosystems Project	5
UNEP(DEPI)/CAR IG.41/INF.6	Paper on the proposed expanded role of Regional Activity Centres to the Cartagena Convention and its Protocols within the Wider Caribbean Region	6
UNEP(DEPI)/CAR IG.41/INF.7	Strategic Plan for Marine Litter Management in the Wider Caribbean Region	6
UNEP(DEPI)/CAR IG.41/INF.8	Draft Regional Nutrients Reduction Strategy and Action Plan for the UNDP/GEF Caribbean and North Brazil Large Marine Ecosystems Project	5

Symbol	Title	Agenda Item
UNEP(DEPI)/CAR IG.41/INF.9	The GEF CReW+ Project Proposal – “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”	6
UNEP(DEPI)/CAR IG.40/INF.4	Paper on the Coordination Mechanism -CLME+	6
UNEP(DEPI)/CAR IG.40/INF.8	Action Document for Capacity Building Related to Multilateral Environmental Agreements in ACP Countries-Phase III (ACP MEAs III)	8
UNEP(DEPI)/CAR WG.40/INF.6	Report to SIDA-OSPAR/CEP Cooperation Grant	
UNEP(DEPI)/CAR WG.40/INF.8	Sargassum White Paper - Sargassum Outbreak in the Caribbean: Challenges, Opportunities and Regional Situation	
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, Panama, Panama City, 17 to 20 July 2018	
UNEP(DEPI)/CAR IG.39/5 Decisions	Decisions of the Seventeenth Intergovernmental Meeting on the Action Plan for the Caribbean Environment Programme and Thirteenth Meeting of the Contracting Parties to the Convention for the Protection and Development of the Marine Environment of the Wider Caribbean Region, Cayenne, French Guiana, 15-17 March 2017	5
UNEP(DEPI)/CAR IG.38/4 Decisions	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, Cayenne, French Guiana, 14 March 2017	5
UNEP(DEPI)/CAR WG.39/INF.3 Rev.1	Status of Activities for the sub-programme on the Assessment and Management of Environmental Pollution (AMEP) for 2017-2018	5
UNEP(DEPI)/CAR WG.39/INF.4 Rev.1	Report of the Activities for the LBS Regional Activity Centres IMA (Trinidad and Tobago) and Cimab (Cuba) for 2017-2018	5
UNEP(DEPI)/CAR WG.39/INF.5 Rev. 1	Report from the Secretariat on the Status of LBS Protocol Ratification	5
UNEP(DEPI)/CAR WG.39/INF.6 Rev.1	Report of the Working Group on Environmental Monitoring and Assessment (SOCAR) 2017-2018	7
UNEP(DEPI)/CAR WG.39/INF.8 Rev.1	Report on the status of Styrofoam and Plastic Bag Bans in the Wider Caribbean Region	5
UNEP(DEPI)/CAR WG.39/INF.11	Report of the OSPAR & Caribbean Environment Programme Cooperation	5

Symbol	Title	Agenda Item
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 January-December 2018	5
UNEP(DEPI)/CAR WG.39/INF.14	United Nations Human Security Trust Fund Project Document on 'Strengthening Resilience in Northern Clarendon and West Kingston, Jamaica'	8
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	5
UNEP(DEPI)/CAR WG.39/INF.16 Rev.1	Report of the work on the Caribbean Node for Marine Litter Management 2017-2018	5
UNEP(DEPI)/CAR WG.37/INF.7 Rev.3	The UNDP/GEF Caribbean and North Brazil Large Marine Ecosystems (CLME+) Project and its joint implementation through the AMEP and SPAW Sub-programmes	
UNEP/GPA/IGR/INF.4/2018	National Voluntary Reporting on the Status of Implementation of National Actions to address Land-based Sources of Marine Pollution	8
UNEP/GPA/IGR/INF.8/2018	Implementation of the Global Programme of Action by the Regional Seas Programmes and Action Plans between 2012 and 2017	8

Reference Documents

UNEP, 2017	Directory of Focal Points of the Caribbean Environment Programme (English only)
UNEP, 2012	Convention for the Protection and Development of the Marine Environment of the Wider Caribbean Region, Protocol Concerning Cooperation in Combating Oil Spills, Protocol Concerning Specially Protected Areas and Wildlife and the Protocol Concerning Pollution from Land-Based Sources and Activities
UNEP, 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

Symbol	Title	Agenda Item
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	
ISBN:978-1-906698-40-9	Our Nutrient World: The challenge to produce more food and energy with less pollution	
UNEP/EA.2/16	Proposed programme of work and budget for the biennium 2020-2021 for UN Environment Programme	
Laguna de Bay 2013 Report Card	Laguna de Bay 2013 Ecosystem Health Report Card	
UNEP/WHO/WSSCC/1997	Water Pollution Control – A Guide to the Use of Water Quality Management Principles	
UNEP/GPA/IGR/INF.5	From Source to Sea, Protecting our Oceans through the Global Environment Facility Partnership and Investment.	
World Bank/2019	Not a minute to Waste: Pollution Report	
UNEP/GCFI/2018	Manual on Harmonizing Marine Litter Strategies in the Wider Caribbean Region (WCR)	
UNEP/CS/208/2018	Regional Seas Follow Up and Review of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGS). UN Environment Programme Regional Seas Reports and Studies No. 208	
UNEP/CS/209/2018	Regional Seas Follow Up and Review of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGS). Case Studies Supplementary Annex. UN Environment Programme Regional Seas Reports and Studies No. 209	
GPML/Caribe/2019	Communication Strategy of the Global Partnership on Marine Litter	
CLME+ PCM SFP Phase II Report	Proposals for a permanent Coordination Mechanism and a Sustainable Financing Plan for Ocean Governance in the Wider Caribbean Region	
SOMEE Booklet	An Information Booklet-State of the Marine Environment and Associated Economies CLME+ SOMEE in the Wider Caribbean (a collaborative, integrated long term reporting mechanism)	
G7 Workshop/Rec/2019	Conclusions and Recommendations of the Workshop on the G7 Action Plan to Combat Marine Litter in Synergy with the Regional Seas Conventions, Metz, France, 5-6 May 2019	

Annex IV: List of Participants

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