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

Roatan, Honduras, 5 to 6 June 2019

**REPORT OF THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR
ON THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE 2017-2018 WORKPLAN AND BUDGET OF
THE CARIBBEAN ENVIRONMENT PROGRAMME**

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

1. This report is presented to the Eighteenth Intergovernmental Meeting on the Action Plan for the Caribbean Environment Programme (CEP) and the Fifteenth Meeting of the Contracting Parties to the Convention for the Protection and Development of the Marine Environment of the Wider Caribbean Region (Cartagena Convention) held in Roatan, Honduras, 6–7 June 2019. It covers the implementation of the work programme for the biennium 2017-2018, budgetary status, and administration and human resource management at the Secretariat.
2. CEP projects and activities continue to support its mission to promote regional co-operation for the protection and development of the Wider Caribbean Region (WCR) and its long-term objective of achieving sustainable development of marine and coastal resources in the WCR through effective, integrated management that allows for economic growth and sustainable livelihoods.
3. The Secretariat has taken appropriate action in response to the Decisions of the Seventeenth Intergovernmental Meeting and other CEP intergovernmental or technical meetings and these were implemented within the work programme for 2017-2018 (Annex I).
4. The staffing composition of UN Environment-CAR/RCU currently includes a total of fourteen staff positions (the Coordinator, two professional officers, and nine general service/locally recruited staff positions) financed under the Caribbean Trust Fund. In addition, there is one professional officer and one general service/locally recruited staff position funded by programme support costs.
5. The Secretariat has actively pursued pledges to the Caribbean Trust Fund (CTF), including the collection of outstanding pledges. The Secretariat received a total of US\$2,041,986 in 2017–2018 and US\$2,017,962 in 2015-2016. Total pledges received from 2013 through 2018 have consistently been below the bi-annual level pledged (US\$2,528,616) to the Trust Fund. As a result, the Secretariat has employed varying strategies to address long-standing financial constraints.
6. The Government of Honduras has committed in-kind contributions estimated to be equivalent to US\$150,000 to host the Cartagena Convention's Conference of Parties Meetings in Roatán, Honduras in July 2019. Other CEP Member Governments, especially those with unpaid pledges, are encouraged to make regular and timely payments to the Trust Fund. In exceptionally challenging situations, Member Governments are encouraged to consider hosting of CEP meetings and workshops to offset financial arrears. This will allow for programme continuity and a more effective response by the Secretariat to the needs of Member Governments.
7. The Secretariat renews its recognition for the cooperation shown by many other Governments who provided support and extraordinary contributions to facilitate the implementation of the 2017-2018 work programme. Also noted is the continued support provided by the Governments of Cuba, France, Trinidad and Tobago and Curaçao for hosting the CEP Regional Activity Centres (RACs).
8. The support of the Governments of Jamaica and the United States in seconding experts to the Regional Centre for Oil Spills (RAC-REMPEITC) in Curaçao and by the Government of Curacao for hosting the Centre is acknowledged.
9. The Secretariat was extensively involved in the execution of the Global Environment Facility (GEF) funded Caribbean Regional Fund for Wastewater Management (CReW) which ended in December 2017. A follow up full-sized project proposal entitled CReW+ was developed and will be submitted to the GEF in May 2019 for funding consideration.

10. The Secretariat is the co-executing agency for the GEF Integrating Water, Land and Ecosystem Management in Caribbean Small Island Developing States (SIDS) or IWeco project which was approved in 2015. It is also an implementing partner for the GEF Catalysing implementation of the Strategic Action Programme (SAP) for the sustainable management of shared Living Marine Resources in CLME+ region (UNDP/GEF CLME+) where activities have been fully integrated into the delivery of the workplan.
11. The Government of Honduras ratified the Protocol concerning Pollution from Land-based Sources and Activities (LBS) to the Cartagena Convention during the biennium. Of the 28 UN Member States of the Caribbean Environment Programme, at the time of this report, 26 had ratified the Convention and the Oil Spills Protocol. The status of the ratification of the Cartagena Convention and its Protocols can be found in Annex V.
12. UN Environment has finalized new host agreements with the Governments of Curacao and Trinidad and Tobago respectively for hosting of Regional Activity Centres (RACs). Discussions with the Government of Cuba are ongoing, and their Host Agreement should be signed in 2019.
13. The reporting template approved at the 14th IGM was circulated to facilitate reporting from countries on the status of implementation of their obligations under the Convention and its Protocols.
14. The implementation of projects and activities is facilitated through a growing number of partnerships with governmental institutions, non-governmental organizations, the academic, scientific and research communities, and civil society including the private sector. Increased cooperation has also occurred with international, regional and sub-regional agencies. These have been done directly with the Secretariat, through the RACs, and by linkages with the GEF-funded projects being executed by the Secretariat. In particular, there was continued collaboration with CARICOM, OECS, UN Environment ROLAC, UN Environment GPA, and the IDB on activities related to the implementation of the 2017-2018 Workplan. The Secretariat actively engaged with other international bodies, organizations, and mechanisms wherever feasible, to focus more attention on the Wider Caribbean Region.
15. The following are Memoranda of Cooperation with MEA Secretariats, and partner regional and international agencies which facilitate cooperation:
 - Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) (signed on 3 March 1997);
 - Ramsar Convention on Wetlands (signed on 1 May 2000);
 - UNESCO-Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission (signed on 25 February 2002);
 - Basel Convention on the Control of Transboundary Movements of Hazardous Wastes and their Disposal (signed on 1 July 2004);
 - Organization of Eastern Caribbean States (OECS) (signed on 16 November 2005);
 - Secretariat of the Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals (signed on 21 November 2005);
 - International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) (signed on 2 April 2007);
 - Inter-American Convention for the Protection and Conservation of Sea Turtles (IAC) (signed in 2012); and
 - Mesoamerican Reef Fund (MAR Fund) (signed in 2014).
 - New agreements proposed are with the Caribbean Regional Fisheries Mechanism, the Sargasso Sea Commission, the Ocean Foundation and the International Whaling Commission.

- An agreement is proposed between Brazil and the Cartagena Convention, and the Secretariat continues to work with the Government of Brazil on this issue.
 - The Secretariat is a member of the interim Inter-Agency Coordination Mechanism for the CLME+ Project which was finalized during the biennium.
16. Several workshops and meetings were convened during the biennium and are reflected in Annex VI.
17. The major achievements of the Secretariat in the implementation of the 2017-2018 work programme are:
- Increased Government contributions to the Caribbean Trust Fund and payments of arrears;
 - Ratification of the LBS Protocol by the Government of Honduras;
 - Mobilization of new sources of funding and technical assistance;
 - Increased awareness and involvement by Member Countries in CEP activities through enhanced activities of the Communications, Education, Training and Awareness Sub-Programme (CETA);
 - Improved synergies with other UN Environment programmes, projects and activities in the Wider Caribbean Region;
 - Increased collaboration between the SPAW and LBS Sub-programmes through the LBS/SPAW RoadMap;
 - Improved coordination and cooperation with regional and international agencies; and
 - Improved knowledge of the state of the marine environment in the Wider Caribbean Region and identification of priority areas for further action through the State of Pollution and State of Marine Biodiversity Reports.
18. Despite these achievements, development and implementation of new projects and activities continue to be limited by various factors: lack of financial and human resources at the Secretariat and the RACs continue to be the main issue. Financial challenges often result from the lack of timely contributions by Member Governments to the Trust Fund and the continued accumulation of arrears. This lack of financial resources negatively impacts on the ability of the Secretariat to coordinate its activities and the need for financial sustainability remains a very high priority for the Secretariat. This is reflected in the proposed resource mobilization strategy that forms part of the updated CEP Strategy.
19. While the work of the Secretariat is developed within the framework of the Action Plan for the CEP and the obligations of the Cartagena Convention and its Protocols, implementation has been informed by UN Environment's Medium-Term Strategy 2014-2016, UN Environment's Regional Seas Strategy 2013-2016, and current and emerging priorities and recommendations of the Member Governments of the WCR. This has resulted in a 2019-2020 work programme that continues to fulfil the obligations of the Cartagena Convention and its Protocols, while also responding to national and regional priorities within the scope and mandate of the Caribbean Environment Programme.
20. Activities during the 2019-2020 biennium will continue to focus on increasing the number of ratifications of the Cartagena Convention and in particular the LBS and SPAW Protocols, improving the data and information management capacity at the Secretariat and the RACs, expanding resource mobilization efforts, building new partnerships and enhancing the impact of CEP projects and activities at the national and local levels.
21. Additional focus will be on the Achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals, particularly Goal 14 on Oceans and Goal 6 on Water and Sanitation.

22. At the core of these new activities are efforts to optimize efficiency through regular monitoring and evaluation of all projects and activities which contribute to the delivery of a coordinated programme by UN Environment in the Wider Caribbean Region. This will consider the new strategic directions for Regional Seas, the new Oceans Strategy for UN Environment, the decisions of the third and fourth United Nations Environment Assemblies, the Samoa Pathway for Small Island Developing States (SIDS) and the Post 2015 Development Agenda.

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ABBREVIATIONS

AFMO	Administrative/Funds Management Officer
AMEP	Assessment and Management of Environmental Pollution
BEST Initiative	Voluntary Scheme for Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services in Territories of European Overseas
BirdsCaribbean	Formerly SCSCB Society for the Conservation and Study of Caribbean Birds
BIOPAMA	Biodiversity and Protected Areas Management Programme
BMUB	German Federal Ministry for the Environment, Nature Conservation, Building and Nuclear Safety
BWM	Ballast Water Management
CABI	CAB International
CaMPAM	Caribbean Marine Protected Areas Managers Network
CARICOM	Caribbean Community
CaribWEN	Caribbean Wildlife Enforcement Network
Cariwet	Caribbean Wetlands Regional Initiative
CARPHA	Caribbean Public Health Agency
CAR/RCU	Caribbean Region Coordinating Unit
CARSEA	Caribbean Sea Ecosystem Assessment
CATHALAC	Water Centre for the Humid Tropics of Latin America and the Caribbean (Centro del Agua del Trópico Húmedo para América Latina y el Caribe)
CAWASA	Caribbean Water and Sewage Association
CBD	Convention on Biological Diversity
CDB	Caribbean Development Bank
CEP	Caribbean Environment Programme
CERMES-UWI/SocMon	Centre for Resource Management and Environmental Studies – University of the West Indies/Socio-Economic Monitoring
CETA	Communication, Education, Training and Awareness
CHM	Clearing House Mechanism
CIMAB	Center of Engineering and Environmental Management of Coasts and Bays (Centro de Ingeniería y Manejo Ambiental de Bahías y Costas)
CITES	Convention on the International Trade of Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora
CLME	Caribbean Large Marine Ecosystem Project
CLME+	Catalysing implementation of the Strategic Action Programme (SAP) for the sustainable management of shared Living Marine Resources in CLME+ region
CMS	Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals
COP	Conference of Parties

CRFM	Caribbean Regional Fisheries Mechanism
CTF	Caribbean Trust Fund
CWWA	Caribbean Water and Wastewater Association
CYEN	Caribbean Youth Environment Network
DSS	Decision Support System
EAF	Ecosystem Approach to Fisheries
EBM	Ecosystem-Based Management
EBSA	Ecologically or Biologically Significant Marine Areas
ECMANN	Climate Resilient Eastern Caribbean Marine Managed Areas Network
EPA	US Environmental Protection Agency
ESI	Environmental Sensitivity Index
EU	European Union
FAO	Food and Agriculture Organization of the UN
FUNDEMAR	Dominican Foundation of Marine Studies
GCCA	Global Climate Change Alliance
GCFI	Gulf and Caribbean Fisheries Institute
GCRMN	Global Coral Reef Monitoring Network
GEF-CEO	Global Environment Facility – Chief Executive Officer
GEF-CReW	Global Environment Facility – Caribbean Regional Fund for Wastewater Management
GEF-IWCAM	Global Environment Facility – Integrating Watershed and Coastal Area Management
GOJ	Government of Jamaica
GWP-C	Global Water Partnership Caribbean
HSDA	Hotspot Diagnostic Analysis
IAA	Inter-Agency Agreement
IAC	Inter-American Convention for the Protection and Conservation of Sea Turtles
IAEA	International Atomic Energy Agency
IAS	Invasive Alien Species
IBA	Important Bird Area
ICC	International Coastal Clean-up
ICCWC	International Consortium on Combating Wildlife Crime
ICRI	International Coral Reef Initiative
IDB	Inter-American Development Bank
IFRECOR	French Initiative for Coral Reef (Initiative Francaise pour les Récifs Coralliens)
IGM	Intergovernmental Meeting
IMA	Institute of Marine Affairs

IMO-ITCP	International Maritime Organization – Integrated Technical Co-operation Programme
INVEMAR	Marine and Coastal Research Institute (Instituto de Investigaciones Marinas y Costeras (Spanish)
IOCARIBE	Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission’s Sub-commission for the Caribbean and Adjacent Regions
IUCN	International Union for the Conservation of Nature
ISO	International Organization for Standardization
ITMEMS	International Tropical Marine Ecosystem Management Symposium
IUCN	International Union for the Conservation of Nature
IWC	International Whaling Commission
IWCAM	Integrating Watershed and Coastal Areas Management
IWECO	Integrating Water, Land and Wastewater Management in Caribbean SIDS
IWRM	Integrated Water Resources Management
KAP	Knowledge, Attitudes and Practices
LBS	Land-based Sources of Marine Pollution
LME	Large Marine Ecosystem
MaMaCoCoSEA	Marine Mammal Conservation Corridor for Northern South America
MAIA	MPA Network of the Atlantic Arc
MARPOL	International Convention for the Prevention of Pollution from Ships
MEA	Multilateral Environment Agreement
MedPAN	Mediterranean Marine Protected Area Network
MMAP	Marine Mammals Action Plan
MPA-MMA	Marine Protected Area – Management of Marine Area
NPA	National Programme of Action
OCCC	Overall Coordination and Common Costs
OCT	Overseas Countries and Territories
OECS-ESDU	Organization of Eastern Caribbean States – Environmental and Sustainable Development Unit
OPRC	Oil Pollution Preparedness, Response and Co-operation
OSPESCA	Organization for Fisheries and Aquaculture of Central America
PAHO	Pan American Health Organization
PCG	Project Coordinating Group
PEG	Project Executive Group
PIF	Project Identification Form
PMU	Project Management Unit
ProDoc	Project Document
PSC	Project Steering Committee
RAC	Regional Activity Centre

RAC-CIMAB	Regional Activity Centre – Centre for Engineering and Environmental Management of Coasts and Bays
RAC-REMPEITC	Regional Activity Centre – Regional Marine Pollution Emergency Information and Training Centre
RAMSAR	Convention on Wetlands of International Importance
RAPMaLi	Regional Action Plan on Marine Litter
REEF	Reef Environmental Education Foundation
ROLAC	UN Environment’s Regional Office for Latin America and the Caribbean
SAP	Strategic Action Programme
SCSCB	Society for the Conservation and Study of Caribbean Birds
SIDS	Small Island Developing States
SOCAR	State of the Convention Area Report
SOI	Sustainable Ocean Initiative
SPAW	Specially Protected Areas and Wildlife
SSFA	Small Scale Funding Agreements
STAC	Scientific and Technical Advisory Committee
Stand-Op	Standardization and Optimization
STRAP	Sea Turtle Recovery Action Plan
TNC	The Nature Conservancy
ToT	Training of Trainers
UN	United Nations
UNDP	United Nations Development Programme
UNEA-2	Second Session of the United Nations Environment Assembly
UNECLAC	UN Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean
UN Environment-CAR/RCU	United Nations Environment Programme – Caribbean Regional Coordinating Unit
UN Environment-DEPI	United Nations Environment Programme – Division of Environmental Policy Implementation
UN Environment-GPA	United Nations Environment Programme – Global Programme of Action
UNESCO	United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization
UNITAR	United Nations Institute for Training and Research
UNOD	United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime
UNOPS	United Nations Office of Project Services
UNV	United Nations Volunteer
UNU-INWEH	United Nations University – Institute for Water, Environment and Health
USAID	United States Agency for International Development
UWI	University of the West Indies
WA-BiCC	West Africa Biodiversity and Climate Change Programme
WCPA	World Commission on Protected Areas
WCR	Wider Caribbean Region

WDCS	Whale and Dolphin Conservation Society
WECAFC	Western Central Atlantic Fisheries Commission
WHMSI	Western Hemisphere Migratory Species Initiative
WIDECAST	Wider Caribbean Sea Turtle Conservation Network
WRI	World Resources Institute
WWF	World Wildlife Fund

REPORT OF THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR ON THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE 2015-2016 WORKPLAN AND BUDGET OF THE CARIBBEAN ENVIRONMENT PROGRAMME

I. MANAGEMENT, ADMINISTRATION AND ORGANIZATION

1. In addition to the Coordinator, there are two full time Programme Officers, and nine locally recruited staff positions supported by the Caribbean Trust Fund. The post of the Deputy-Director (P5) remains frozen and the full-time Associate Programme Officer (P2) for the CETA Programme is currently vacant and not filled due to lack of funding. The Secretariat's Administration/Funds Management Officer position (P4) and the Administrative/Finance Assistant (G5), are paid out of the 13 per cent programme support costs levied on the Trust Fund and other projects implemented by CEP. The total positions in the Secretariat is thus 14, i.e. 4 Professional and 10 General Service positions.
2. The Secretariat also acts as executing and co-implementing agency for a number of regional GEF projects, including project preparation grants for Catalysing Implementation of the Strategic Action Programme (CLME+) and an Integrated Approach to Water and Wastewater Management with IDB/UNEP (CREW+). In addition, the execution of the full-size GEF project, Integrating Water, Land and Ecosystem Management in Caribbean Small Island Developing States (IWEco) which funds five staff positions (3 Professional and 2 General Service) is being executed by the Secretariat.
3. The personnel changes at UN Environment-CAR/RCU between 1 January 2017 and 31 December 2018 were as follows:
 - a) Programme Management Officer (SPAW) – Ms. Alessandra Vanzella-Khouri, separated March 2017
 - b) Programme Management Officer (IWEco-GEF) – Mr. Jan Betlem, assigned October 2017
 - c) Programme Assistant (IWEco-GEF) – Ms. Shamene Parker-Millen, appointed December 2017
 - d) Administrative/Fund Management Officer – Ms. Clementiene Pinder, assigned January 2018
 - e) Programme Assistant (IWEco-GEF) – Ms. Donna Henry-Hernandez, internal promotion April 2018
 - f) Programme Management Officer (SPAW) – Ms. Ileana Lopez, assigned April 2018
 - g) Programme Management Assistant (AMEP) – Ms. Sancha Foremen, internal promotion August 2018
 - h) Communications Officer (IWEco-GEF) – Ms. Donna Sue Spencer, appointed June 2018
 - i) Associate Programme Officer (IWEco-GEF) – Ms. Nicole Caesar, appointed September 2018
 - j) Finance and Budget Assistant – Ms. Philippa Jackson-Forbes, separated September 2018
4. To supplement staff positions, 13 unpaid Interns have supported the CEP programme from 1 January 2017 through 31 December 2018, providing much needed assistance. Efforts are also ongoing to fill the P2 CETA position through the Junior Professional Officer programme.

II. FINANCE AND ACCOUNTS

5. The overall budget position of the Caribbean Trust Fund (CTF) is shown in Annex VII, which provides the status of the CTF budget through 2016, 2017 and 2018. The Secretariat has actively pursued the collection of pledges to the Caribbean Trust Fund (CTF), and subsequently collected a total of US\$2,041,986 in 2017-2018 and US\$2,017,962 in 2015-2016.

6. The Secretariat continues to face increasing financial challenges to meet the expansion of CEP activities in response to region-specific needs and global demands. External factors including the inflation rate in the region, specifically Jamaica, where the Secretariat is located (2017: 4.4%, 2016: 1.7%) and subsequent adjustments in the local salary scale have contributed to increasing operating and activity costs.
7. Ongoing efforts are being made by the Secretariat to solicit funding from other sources such as the Global Environment Facility (GEF) and other donors. In addition to implementing activities within the projects, the Secretariat has benefited from the cost-sharing of operational costs with these projects, which has subsequently reduced such costs to the CTF. The Secretariat urges CEP member governments to make every effort to pay their contributions and arrears in order to maintain the momentum and facilitate the implementation of priority projects/activities in the region. Based on Decision 1 (3) of 16th IGM and 13th COP, the Secretariat will not cover the costs of those member states attending the Intergovernmental Meetings of the Cartagena Convention and its Protocols, who have significant arrears in their contributions to the Caribbean Trust Fund unless a payment schedule for the payment of arrears is agreed in writing by the Party and an initial payment made.

III. ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT AND POLLUTION PREVENTION

Programme Coordination

8. This report presents the status of activities for the sub-programme on the Assessment and Management of Environmental Pollution (AMEP) for the biennium 2017-2018.
9. The goal of this sub-programme is to assist countries of the Wider Caribbean to control, prevent and reduce pollution of their coastal and marine environments enabling them to meet their obligations under the Land-based Sources of Marine Pollution (LBS) and Oil Spills Protocols of the Cartagena Convention.
10. The objectives of the pollution sub-programme were to:
 - a) Coordinate implementation of projects and activities within the framework of the LBS and Oil Spills Protocols;
 - b) Promote ratification of, accession to, and implementation of the LBS and Oil Spills Protocols by Contracting Parties to the Cartagena Convention;
 - c) Enhance coordination, collaboration and communication with relevant regional and international organizations in the development and implementation of new projects and activities; and
 - d) Enhance involvement of LBS and Oil Spills Regional Activity Centres (RAC) in the design and implementation of new projects and activities.
11. Specific activities for this biennium fell under the following major areas:
 - **GEF Projects:**
 - i. 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+);
 - ii. Integrating Water, Land and Ecosystems Management in Caribbean SIDS (GEF IWeco);
 - **Monitoring and Assessment**
 - i. State of the Convention Area in the Wider Caribbean Region (WCR);

- **Waste Management**
 - i. Support to the Caribbean Node for Marine Litter Management
 - ii. Trash Free Partnership Initiatives
 - **National Programmes of Action (NPAs)**
 - i. Support to the Caribbean Platform for Nutrients Management
12. The following is an overview of the highlights of the pollution sub-programme.

Programme Overview

13. The AMEP Programme Officer coordinated the pollution and communications sub-programmes with support from a Team Assistant, a Programme Assistant, and a Computer/Information Systems Assistant.
14. The sub-programme continued to develop and strengthen relationships with regional and international organizations including participation at various conferences. Contributions included oral and poster presentations and exhibition booths with displays of videos, promotional material and posters. A list of these meetings is presented in Annex VI.
15. In October 2018, the Government of Honduras became the 26th country to ratify the Cartagena Convention for the Protection of the Marine Environment of the Wider Caribbean Region and the 14th country to ratify the LBS Protocol. Technical advice and support were provided by the Secretariat to those countries who requested assistance in their ratification process, including St. Kitts and Nevis, Suriname, St. Vincent and the Grenadines, Haiti and Cuba.
16. The agreement for the hosting of the Regional Activity Centre (RAC) for the LBS Protocol at the Institute of Marine Affairs was signed between UN Environment and the Government of the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago in July 2017. Discussions are on-going between the Secretariat and the Government of Cuba regarding their host agreement which would formalize the Centre of Engineering and Environmental Management of Coasts and Bays (CIMAB) as the second LBS RAC.
17. The working group on Environmental Monitoring and Assessment continued to oversee the development of the State of the Convention Area Report (SOCAR) on pollution. A draft of this report was discussed at the Fourth Scientific, Technical and Advisory Committee Meeting of the LBS Protocol held from July 16-20, 2018 in Panama City, Panama. The final draft report will be presented at the 18th Intergovernmental Meeting and 15th Conference of Parties of the Cartagena Convention, 5th-6th June 2019 in Roatan, Honduras.
18. Wastewater management continued to be a priority of the pollution sub-programme with the development of a new full-sized project proposal entitled “*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+)*” Project. The GEF CReW+ Project Identification Form (PIF) was developed by UN Environment CEP, IDB and the GEF CReW Project Management Unit and submitted to the GEF Secretariat in July 2016. Following the approval of this project concept in November 2017, a full-sized project proposal was formulated and will be submitted to the GEF by end of May 2019 for consideration and possible approval.

19. The sub-programme's Quarterly Newsletters provide an ongoing summary of activities and achievements. The most recent edition covering activities from September to December 2018 is available in a new online electronic format (Click [here](#)). PDF versions of all of the newsletters were sent to LBS Focal Points and available for download through the UN Environment CEP website (www.unenvironment.org/cep and www.cep.unep.org).
20. Technical input was provided to several regional and global reports involving "*inter alia*" UN Resolutions relating to Oceans, Small Island Developing States (SIDS) and the Sustainable Development Goals as well as various UN reports on subject areas such as Marine Litter, Wastewater and Nutrients. Contributions were also made to regional and global newsletters such as the SIDS Times 'The Cowrie' first edition June 2018 issue (UN Division for Sustainable Development (UN DESA) bi-monthly newsletter and the Global Partnership on Nutrients Management Newsletter, January–April 2018 edition, highlighting the Regional Nutrient Strategy being developed with support from the UNDP GEF CLME+ Project.
21. In keeping with Decisions VII and VIII of the 17th IGM and 14th COP, the pollution and marine biodiversity sub-programmes, with financial support of the GEF-funded Caribbean Large Marine Ecosystem Project (GEF CLME+) developed and began implementation of a sub-regional Ecosystem-Based Management Project in Guyana, Suriname, Brazil and Trinidad and Tobago.
22. The LBS/SPAW RoadMap, adopted at the 14th Meeting of Contracting Parties to the Cartagena Convention in French Guiana in March 2017 continues to guide implementation of all activities under the two sub-programmes. The new CEP Strategy to be presented at the 15th COP to the Cartagena Convention will further enhance the coordination of SPAW and LBS Protocol implementation and a more integrated approach to the delivery of the CEP Work Plan. An outline of the GEF CLME+ Project and its joint implementation by the AMEP and SPAW sub-programmes is presented as Information Document UNEP(DEPI)/CAR WG.37/INF.7.
23. The Secretariat and four other United Nations Agencies in Jamaica were successful in mobilizing funds from the UN Human Security Trust Fund to implement the first joint UN Human Security project 'Strengthening Human Resilience in Northern Clarendon and West Kingston, Jamaica' with the Government of Jamaica. The UN agencies included the Food and Agricultural Organization (FAO), Pan American Health Organization (PAHO/WHO), United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and UN Women.
24. Our Regional Activity Centre for the Protocol on Oil Spills, RAC REMPEITC-Caribe based in Curacao organized and conducted seven (7) regional training workshops and 22 national-level capacity building events relating to oil spills, management of ship-generated wastes and ballast water management.
25. A Regional Reception Facility Plan (RRFP) feasibility study for the 16 independent Small Island Developing States (SIDS) of the Wider Caribbean Region that included assessment of waste reception facilities at over 20+ ports in 14 countries and 15 national multiagency stakeholder meetings were conducted.
26. Four (4) countries were assisted to complete the GloBallast Partnership Program (two of which have since ratified the BWM Convention) and a formal harmonized Regional Ballast Water Management Guidelines for the countries of the Wider Caribbean Region was developed in 2018.
27. RAC/REMPEITC-Caribe conducted at least 45 marine environmental protection-related outreach activities that involving approximately 1,000 maritime operators, planners and responders across

more than thirty countries. The Centre was selected as a co-recipient of the 2017 North American Marine Environment Protection Association (NAMEPA) Marine Environment Protection Award in recognition of efforts to “Save our Seas”.

Programme Coordination Cost and Expenditure (in USD)

Project Period	Source of Funds	Budget (2017-2018)	Expenditure (2017-2018)
2017-2018	CTF	1,092,000	1,092,000 ¹

GEF Projects

- (i) *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+)*

Background

28. The GEF CRew+ Project Identification Form (PIF) was developed by UN Environment CEP, IDB and the GEF CRew Project Management Unit and submitted to the GEF Secretariat in July 2016. The project was approved in November 2017 for US\$14,943,938 by the Global Environment Facility (GEF) Trust Fund.
29. GEF CRew+ will be implemented by UN Environment and the Inter-American Development Bank. The project consists of four components: Framework reform (institutional, policy, legislative and regulatory); Development of sustainable and tailored financing options (urban and rural). Implementation of solutions (small-scale local and rural community-based) and knowledge management and advocacy.

Objective(s)

30. The main objective of GEF CRew+ is to implement innovative technical small-scale solutions in the Wider Caribbean Region using an integrated water and wastewater management approach building on the sustainable financing mechanisms piloted through the Caribbean Regional Fund on Wastewater Management (CRew).

Scope

Regional – Barbados, Belize, Colombia, Costa Rica, Cuba, Dominican Republic, Grenada, Guatemala, Guyana, Honduras, Jamaica, Mexico, Panama, Saint Kitts and Nevis, Saint Lucia, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Suriname, Trinidad and Tobago

¹Programme Coordination cost includes staffing, travel, reporting, communication, equipment, administration . Office support costs including Communications, Equipment, & Administration for the AMEP sub-programme.

Estimated Project Costs (in USD)

Project Components & Related SDGs	GEF Project Financing	Co-Financing
Sub-total	\$14,964,176	\$274,994,184
Project Management Cost	\$748,209	\$11,878,891
TOTAL PROJECT COST (\$)	\$15,712,385	\$286,873,075

Status

31. The Secretariat coordinated the development of the full-sized project proposal following the approval of the project concept in 2017. This involved collection of (1) baseline information; (2) counterpart contributions, (3) endorsement letters, (4) project profiles, and (5) Co-financing.
32. Several activities were conducted as part of the project preparation process including country surveys, recruitment and oversight of regional and international consultants, and convening of national and regional workshops. Consultations were held with national government officials, partner agency representatives and regional experts who provided technical input into the design of the final project proposal. The final draft proposal is provided as an Information Document for the Meeting – UNEP(DEPI)/CAR WG.37/INF.14/Rev.1.

(ii) Integrating Water, Land and Ecosystems Management in Caribbean SIDS (GEF IWECO)

Background

33. The GEF IWECO Project was approved in April 2015 with completion in 2020. UN Environment and UNDP are the co-implementing agencies with UN Environment being the lead implementing agency. The Cartagena Convention Secretariat is the lead co-executing agency and host of the IWECO Regional Project Coordinating Unit and the Caribbean Public Health Agency (CARPHA) is the other co-executing agency.
34. The GEF IWECO project seeks to improve the management and protection of the terrestrial, coastal and marine resources of the Caribbean Sea within the framework of the Cartagena Convention, the LBS and SPAW Protocols. The mainstreaming of Integrated Water Resources Management (IWRM) and ecosystems management principles will be promoted in national development frameworks. Innovative solutions for reduced pollution and improved fresh and coastal water resources will be implemented considering the additional challenges imposed by climate change and climate variability.
35. The delays in the startup of the IWECO project were due to a lengthy approval process by the GEF, delays in recruitment of project staff, and a changeover at UN Environment to a new administrative and project management system – UMOJA. While the project was officially launched in September 2016, August to December 31, 2016 was considered the Inception Phase with the official start date being 1 January 2017.

Objective(s)

36. To contribute to the preservation of Caribbean ecosystems that are of global significance and the sustainability of livelihoods through the application of existing proven technologies and approaches that are appropriate for small island developing states through improved fresh and coastal water resources management, sustainable land management and sustainable forest management that also seek to enhance resilience of socio-ecological systems to the impacts of climate change.
37. The project's four main project components are:

Component I: Development and implementation of integrated, innovative approaches to sustainable land management (SLM)

Component II: Strengthening of SLM, ecosystems monitoring and indicators framework

Component III: Strengthening capacity for ecosystems services management (institutional, policy, legislative and regulatory)

Component IV: Enhancing knowledge exchange, best-practices, replication and stakeholder involvement

Beneficiary Countries

Regional: Antigua and Barbuda, Barbados, Cuba, Dominican Republic, Grenada, Jamaica, St Kitts and Nevis, Saint Lucia, St Vincent & the Grenadines and Trinidad & Tobago.

Project Cost and Expenditure (in USD)

Project Period	Total Project Cost	Source of Funds	Projected Budget (2017-18)	Actual Project Budget (2017-18)	Expenditure ² (Jan 2017 -Dec 2018)
2015-20	20,722,572	GEF	5,035,329	11,000,000	10,966,247

Status

38. The Regional Project Coordinator and one (1) Programme Assistant assumed duties in 2017 with the second Programme Management Assistant, Monitoring and Evaluation Specialist and Communications Specialist) joining the IWEco project team in Jamaica in 2018.
39. In support of Component 1, Project Cooperation Agreements (PCA's) were finalized for Trinidad and Tobago, Antigua & Barbuda, Saint Lucia, Jamaica and St. Kitts & Nevis. Consultants have been contracted to update the project documents Saint Vincent and the Grenadines and St. Kitts and Nevis based on requests from governments and PCA's have now been signed. The PCA for Dominican Republic was finalized for signature in early 2019. A procurement contract has been prepared and

² Expenditures up until 30 June 2018. The figure also includes commitments.

signed with UNOPS concerning the Cuban National Project for equipment that will be used for execution of activities.

40. The medium-sized (MSP) for The Bahamas was submitted in May 2018 to the GEF and was approved. Implementation will begin in 2019 within the framework of IWECO.
41. The Project Cooperation Agreement between CARPHA as co-executing agency and UN Environment was finalized and focusses on activities under Research and Monitoring (Component 2) and Legislative & Institutional Mechanisms (Component 3). The Organization of Eastern Caribbean States (OECS) and the Secretariat will also support these two Components.
42. To enhance knowledge exchange and communication within the Focal areas, funding support was provided for the following: 1) 69th GCFI Conference on Marine Litter and Pollution Dialogue (8-11 November 2016, Grand Cayman, Cayman Islands) through the participation by the AMEP PO; 2) Convening of a Meeting of the Communication Partnership, 28-29 March 2017, Havana, Cuba. 3) Participation by Cuba at the XI Latin American and Caribbean Phycology Congress (5-10 November 2017, Cali, Colombia); 4) Participation by three (3) Cuban nationals at the Institute for Development Research (IRD) Summer School in Oceanography, 19 February – 9 March 2018, Havana, Cuba; 5) Participation by the AMEP PO at the Third meeting of UNESCO's XII Meeting of the International Hydrological Programme for Latin America National Committees and Focal Points, 18-20 September 2017, Nassau, The Bahamas; 6) Participation of the IWECO Regional Project Coordinator at the 4th Targeted Regional Workshop for GEF International Waters Projects in Latin America and the Caribbean (LAC), 9-11 October 2017, Montevideo, Uruguay and 7) Participation by the IWECO Regional Project Coordinator and AMEP PO at the 26th Caribbean Water and Wastewater Association (CWWA) Annual Conference and 13th High-Level Forum (HLF) – on Water and Solid Waste, 16-20 October 2017, Georgetown, Guyana.
43. PCI Media Impact was contracted in September 2017 to support environmental education, communication and awareness raising activities for the project under Component 4. Among the activities implemented was a Regional Communications Workshop held from 30 October – 3 November 2017 in Saint Lucia with over 40 participants. During this meeting, a strategy to launch the IWECO Project in the countries was agreed upon, including funding arrangements. The IWECO national projects were launched successfully in Saint Lucia, Cuba, and Trinidad & Tobago.
44. The Inception Workshop and First Project Steering Committee (PSC) Meeting was held from 20-22 September 2016 in Kingston, Jamaica and the second in Havana, Cuba from 26th February to 2nd March 2018 with 25 participants. The third was held 2-4 April 2019 in the Dominican Republic.
45. During the biennium, a total of eight (8) webinars were conducted with over 72 participants being trained during this period. The thematic areas included: Monitoring and Evaluation (Dec. 2017), Grant Proposal Process (Jan. 2018), Communication and Youth Engagement (Feb. 2018), The Elements of Photography and Visual Storytelling (March 2018); Introduction to Participatory 3-Dimensional Modelling (P3DM) (March 2018); Introduction to Participatory Video (March 2018); Mobile App Use for Citizen Science Data Collection (May 2018) and Oral Testimonies (June 2018). Communication campaign plans have also been approved for three countries Cuba, Saint Lucia and Trinidad and Tobago.

Monitoring and Assessment

(i) State of the Convention Area Report in the Wider Caribbean Region (WCR)

46. In 2010, the Contracting Parties to the Land-based Sources Protocol took a decision to produce the first State of the Convention Area Report (SOCAR) on land-based pollution. The objectives include assisting the Contracting Parties of the Land-based Sources Protocol to fulfil their reporting obligations by providing a quantitative baseline for monitoring and assessment of the state of the marine environment with respect to LBS pollution; and supporting WCR Governments in assessing progress towards relevant goals and targets including the SDGs, particularly SDG 14.1. This assessment will also inform the development of a regional strategy and investment/action plan for nutrient reduction in the Wider Caribbean Region (WCR).
47. In 2011, the Secretariat established an Interim Working Group in accordance with Decision XI of the 14th IGM to continue work related to Environmental Monitoring and Assessment. The group used the new CEP Technical Report #52 (Updated Technical Report No. 33) and other relevant studies as a baseline for identifying new activities to improve effluent reporting and assessment of water quality conditions throughout the Convention Area.
48. This development of the first State of the Convention Area Report (SOCAR) for the Wider Caribbean Region (SOCAR) will be the first of its kind for this region, where empirical water quality data sets from countries across the region are combined with global data sets, mathematical models, and information from published sources to provide an assessment of land-based pollution for the Cartagena Convention area. The report captures and presents key information on the state of coastal and marine ecosystems within the WCR in terms of their current condition; the pressures and the drivers of those pressures; and an assessment of current environmental management initiatives. It is expected to serve as an operational tool that the Parties and other partner organizations can use to determine baseline conditions and priorities to be addressed in the region and to set targets for region-wide action.
49. Financial support for the finalization of the SOCAR is being provided by the UNDP/GEF CLME+ and GEF IWEco Projects. In that regard, the SOCAR was further refined during the biennium to facilitate greater integration with the State of Habitat Report to be developed under the SPAW sub-programme. The development of SOCAR directly contributes to Output 5.2 of the UNDP/GEF CLME+ project which calls for the development of a prototype CLME+ ecosystem status and SAP implementation M&E mechanism.

Objective

50. This activity will result in the development of the first State of the Convention Area Report for the Wider Caribbean Region on marine pollution.

Beneficiary Countries

Wider Caribbean Region

Activity Cost and Expenditure (in USD)

Activity Period	Source of Funds	Projected Budget (2017-18)	Actual Budget (2017-18)	Expenditure³ (Jan. 2017 - Dec. 2018)
2017-2018	GEF CLME+ & GEF IWEco	75,000	90,000	83,144.27

Status

51. The Working Group (WG) on Environmental Monitoring and Assessment continued its oversight of the development of the first State of the Convention Area Report (SOCAR) for the WCR with support of two consultants, Ms. Sherry Heileman and Ms. Liana McManus. Several working group meetings were convened during the reporting period to assist with the identification of cut values and providing national water data sets for the further development of the report.
52. Following the 3rd LBS STAC Meeting, the WG focused on: developing a methodology for analyzing the water quality data, continued gathering of national water quality data from the Parties and non-Parties, quality assessment/quality control (QA/QC) and analyzing the data, determining how to present the results in the report, resolving several issues with the data, and the drafting of the report. The WG Data Sub-group, led by Dr. Linroy Christian – Government of Antigua and Barbuda, held teleconferences to advance decisions related to specific parameters that were difficult to put into ranges of good-fair-poor.
53. A Data Validation Workshop was held on 14th March 2017 in French Guiana with LBS focal points and relevant stakeholders on the data to be used to develop the SOCAR. National water quality datasets were submitted by 16 countries and territories, and additional data sets were submitted by CARPHA for five other countries. No data was received from countries in Sub-region II (Central America). The computational steps to derive the national average of each parameter were developed and analysis of all national data sets was completed. In December 2017, results were sent to the respective countries for vetting. All countries provided comments on their respective SOCAR results. Since SOCAR is a regional comparative baseline assessment, a harmonized set of acceptable ranges and cut values was desirable to facilitate the comparison. Nevertheless, national standards were considered and included in the report.
54. Countries were asked to provide their input on the measures being taken by countries to implement relevant provisions of the LBS Protocol and of such measures, those that can be considered best practices to address land-based sources of pollution in the region. A total of ten (10) countries responded, following the request to submit data on the best practices used to address land-based sources of pollution to assist with the development of the report. Requests were also made to provide videos, reports, case studies, and/or any other material that showcase national and/or regional efforts taken to control, reduce and prevent pollution of the Wider Caribbean Region.
55. To facilitate the dissemination of the results of SOCAR, several infographics were prepared on land-based pollution (Best Practices, Agrochemical Run-Off, Pollution Reduction, Wastewater Treatment, Water Resources Management). These are referenced in Annex V and UNEP/CEP/2018: Factsheets/Infographics.

³ Expenditures up until 30 June 2018

Waste Management

(i) Support to Caribbean Node for Marine Litter

Background

56. In 2015, the United Nations Environment Programme (UN Environment) through the Global Programme of Action (GPA) based in Nairobi, Kenya and the Secretariat to the Cartagena Convention based in Kingston, Jamaica partnered with the Gulf and Caribbean Fisheries Institute (GCFI) to implement the Caribbean Node of the Global Partnership on Marine Litter (GPML). The goal of the node is to achieve the objectives of the GPML and the Regional Action Plan on Marine Litter (RAPMaLi) that was endorsed by the Contracting Parties to the Cartagena Convention.
57. The GPML Caribbean Node (GPML-Caribe) represents a partnership for national and regional organizations, governments, research, and technical agencies and individuals, that work together to reduce the quality and impact of marine litter in coastal zones of the Wider Caribbean Region.

Objective(s)

58. The objective of this activity is to support the continued implementation of the “Regional Action Plan on Marine Litter Management” (RAPMaLi).

Beneficiary Countries

Regional – Wider Caribbean Region

Project Cost and Expenditure (in USD)

Activity Period	Projected Budget (2017-18)	Actual Budget (2017-18)	Expenditure (Jan. 2017-Dec. 2018)
2017-2018	120,000	127,613	127,613

Status

59. The Gulf and Caribbean Fisheries Institute, in its capacity as co-host of the Caribbean Regional Node, provided support to the 6th International Marine Debris Conference (6IMDC) which took place in March 2018 in San Diego, California, USA. The 6IMDC was coordinated by the Global Partnership on Marine Litter - UN Environment. During the Conference, GCFI coordinated the abstract/poster submission process, the conference mobile app, and coordination of external sponsorships and hosted a meeting to showcase pilot projects by Grenada, Trinidad and Tobago, Jamaica and The Bahamas.
60. The Caribbean Node on Marine Litter, through GCFI provided input to reports, such as the Regional Guidelines on Marine Litter Action Plans being developed by UN Environment and a Sub-Regional Marine Litter Action Plan for Central America coordinated by Marviva.

61. The Caribbean node of the Global Partnership on Marine Litter has been enhancing the communication component of the framework, with a new website (<https://gpml-caribe.org/>), social media accounts (Twitter: @gpmlcaribe, Facebook: gpmlcaribe, Website: gpml-caribe@org, an email distribution list (GPML-Caribb@listserv.gcfi.org), the development of four factsheets including: 1) Introducing the Caribbean Node; 2) Marine Litter in the Wider Caribbean region; 3) The Presence of Microplastics in Caribbean Marine Fish and 4) Responding to the Sargassum Influx which has been translated in Spanish and French and has now been printed in large posters and widely disseminated to partner agencies across the region. Among the various communication outputs of the node during the biennium, the website has also been translated into both French and Spanish and all social media accounts are completed and ready for population. The Caribbean Regional Node on Marine Litter will be completing a Communication Strategy in the next biennium and the website will also be translated in the languages. Please see report provided as an Information document (UNEP/DEPI/CAR.WG.39.INF.16/Rev.1)
62. The OSPAR Commission (OSPAR) and the Cartagena Convention (CEP) Secretariat registered a voluntary commitment to collaborate across the Atlantic at the *United Nations (UN) Conference to Support the Implementation of Sustainable Development Goal 14* (#OceanAction17198) held in New York in June 2017. Several initial areas for inter-regional cooperation among the Wider Caribbean Region and the North-East Atlantic were identified where OSPAR and CEP can partner to provide technical and programmatic support to member states. Funding support was secured from the Government of the Netherlands of £10,000 (USD11,807) and the Government of Sweden of 1,000,000 SEK (USD115,806).
63. Under the collective arrangement between OSPAR and the Cartagena Convention Secretariat, the meeting of the Intersessional Correspondence Group on Marine Litter (ICG-ML) was held in Berlin, Germany 13-14 June 2018 and represented by AMEP PO. Among the topics of discussion were Clean Atlantic Project, the OceanWise Project, waste management and single use plastic bags for implementation.
64. The OSPAR Commission was invited to participate in the Fourth Scientific, Technical and Advisory Committee Meeting convened in Panama City, Panama from 18-20 July 2018. The priority areas for cooperation on marine litter were further defined including the development of a regional marine litter database, convening of a regional expert workshop on marine litter monitoring, and upscaling of pilot project on microplastics in fish that was initiated during the previous biennium.
65. A two-day Regional Marine Litter Expert Workshop from 18 to 19 October 2018 in Miami, Florida) through the OSPAR-CEP Cooperative agreement. Over the two-day workshop, discussions among 16 Regional Experts resulted in several recommendations for improving Marine Litter, Plastics and Solid Waste Management in the Wider Caribbean. This workshop was funded by the Governments of Sweden and the Netherlands. The workshop highlighted best practices on harmonized monitoring strategies, assessed the effectiveness of monitoring, proposed arrangements for strengthening monitoring programmes, and for the management of marine litter data.
66. Based on workshop recommendations, a manual on Harmonizing Marine Litter Strategies in the Wider Caribbean Region (WCR) was completed. This will assist in the development of a monitoring scheme for marine litter in the WCR, (Reference Document: UNEP/GCFI/2018).
67. Additional funding was successfully mobilized from the Environment's Climate Change Division of Canada of CAD75,000 and USD150,000 from the Norwegian Government to support marine litter activities during the next biennium, which are reflected in the 2019-2020 Draft Work Plan.

(ii) Trash Free Waters in the Caribbean Initiative: Reducing Marine Litter by improving Solid Waste Management

Background

68. One of the challenges faced in the WCR is poorly developed solid waste management infrastructure which gives rise to waste streams that negatively impact inland waterways (including streams and gullies), as well as rivers, coastal communities, and marine ecosystems.

Objective

69. To support local actions to reduce land-based sources of trash in local communities and help national governments to significantly reduce and prevent trash from reaching the Caribbean Sea.

Beneficiary Countries

Jamaica and Panama

Project Cost and Expenditure (in USD)

Activity Period	Projected Budget (2017-2018)	Actual Budget (2017-2018)	Expenditure⁴ (2017-2018)
2017-2018	60,000	60,000	60,000

Status

70. During the period under review, the pilot project in Jamaica has been progressing well following initial delays and all activities will be completed in the mid-2019. The contractual agreement was signed in May 2018 between UN Environment and Sandals Foundation to support the implementation of the pilot project in Jamaica to reduce and prevent land-based trash from entering watersheds, coastal waters, and the marine environment. Over 200 bins have been distributed in some 40 locations in Whitehouse and Bluefields in Jamaica for residents to separate plastic bottles, compost and regular solid waste. Thus far, compost exceeding 300 lbs and more than 600 lbs of plastic bottles have been collected. The public education and outreach activities in Jamaica have impacted more than 2000 persons including over 750 adults and 1200 students during the Schools Visits, Parent & Teachers Association Meetings, Community Walks, Town Halls, Church Services, District meetings (DAC), Health Center and Police Stations visits at the location sites.
71. UN Environment - Regional Office for Latin America and the Caribbean (ROLAC) led the implementation of the Trash Free Waters Initiative in Panama from a sub-allotment from the Caribbean Environment Programme involving ANCON. ANCON is a private, non-profit organization, whose mission is to conserve Panama's biodiversity and natural resources for present and future generations. The organization has been coordinating the implementation of pilot project activities in the coastal community of Juan Diaz. Over 400 students were trained in good

⁴ Expenditures up until 30 June 2018

environmental practices and solid waste management across four educational institutions about solid waste management and pollution prevention. A Recycling fair was also held to provide all staff and shoppers with information on proper disposal of waste including waste reduction, recycling and reuse. Approximately 10 volunteers were trained to help the local community understand the importance of proper waste management and the approach.

National Programmes of Action (NPAs)

(i) Support to Caribbean Platform for Nutrients Management

Background

72. Through collaboration with the GPA, UN Environment CEP launched the Caribbean Platform for Nutrients Management (CPNM) in May 2013 to respond to the nutrient challenge faced by the WCR. The CEP supported the CPNM by serving as host of the platform and by working with governments, other UN Agencies, scientists and the private sector to identify ways to reduce the amount of excess nutrients in the WCR without hindering development. The four (4) main work areas proposed for the CPNM are (1) knowledge generation; (2) extension and technical services; (3) outreach and advocacy; and (4) governance, partnership and network development.
73. Within the framework of the UNDP GEF CLME+ project, the Secretariat continues to support the development and implementation of activities linking the LBS and SPAW Protocols, and, work involving nutrients and habitat degradation. For further information, please see the Information document UNEP/DEPI/CAR.WG.37.INF.7.
74. The Strengthening Ecosystem Based Management (EBM) Frameworks and Ocean Governance in the North Brazil Shelf Large Marine Ecosystem (NBSLME) project with support of the Caribbean Large Marine Ecosystem Project, aims to develop and test various governance arrangements to enable effective ecosystem-based management (EBM) of mangroves and wetlands. The project implements at least one (1) mangrove restoration/rehabilitation/protection and pollution abatement/prevention project in Trinidad and Tobago, Guyana, Suriname and Brazil.
75. Under the UNDP/GEF/CLME+ Project, two regional plans will be developed to enhance institutional and stakeholder capacity within the CLME+ Region. These are the Regional Strategy and Action Plan focusing on the valuation, protection and/or restoration of key marine habitats in the CLME+ region and a Regional Action Plan for the reduction of impacts from excess nutrient loads on marine ecosystems.

Objective

76. The overall objective of this activity is to build capacity in countries of the WCR for the development and implementation of NPAs to assist in the protection of the Caribbean marine environment from pollution entering from land-based sources and activities.
77. Further details on the activities are included in Information Document UNEP(DEPI)/CAR WG.37/INF.7/Rev.1.

Beneficiary countries

The EBM Project would benefit Trinidad and Tobago, Suriname, Guyana and Brazil and the Regional Strategy would benefit all Contracting parties of the Cartagena Convention.

Activity Period	Projected Budget (2017-2018)	Actual Budget (2017-2018)	Expenditure⁵ (2017-2018)
2017-2018	600,000	440,000	20,000

Status

78. The Ecosystem-Based Sub-project Document for the NBSLME was approved in mid-2017. Activities in 2018 focused mainly on the finalization of national work plans and contracts with the Governments of Guyana, Trinidad and Tobago, Suriname respectively.
79. These countries are set to benefit from on-the-ground initiatives and the use of cross-sectoral approaches for more integrated management of coastal and marine habitats and pollution reduction within the NBSLME. The Small-Scale Funding agreements (SSFAs) were reviewed, approved and signed by the Secretariat and representatives of the Governments of Guyana and Trinidad and Tobago in October 2018. The agreement for Suriname is to be signed in the second quarter of 2019 following the delays in project initiation and subsequent extension of the GEF CLME+ Project. For Brazil, despite efforts to develop a contract, no further progress was made.
80. Meetings were organized and convened with regional partners and the GEF CLME+ PCU, LBS Regional Activity Centres, the Caribbean Public Health Agency (CARPHA) and INVEMAR (a member of the Regional Activity Network for the LBS Protocol) to discuss the scope, roles and content of the Regional Nutrients Strategy and Action Plan. Opportunities for synergies were identified with the Regional Habitats Restoration Strategy and the new GEF Amazon Project in the implementation of their Strategic Action Programme.
81. Based on technical recommendations from the 4th LBS STAC, an updated concept paper and draft strategy were prepared and will be presented to the 4th LBS COP for further guidance.

IV. BIODIVERSITY AND PROTECTED AREAS

Programme Overview

82. This report presents the priorities of the Regional Programme on Specially Protected Areas and Wildlife in the Wider Caribbean Region (SPAW Programme) and the status of activities for the 2017-2018 biennium.
83. The objectives of the SPAW Programme were to:
 - a) Significantly increase the number of, and improve the management of, national protected areas and species in the Wider Caribbean Region (WCR);

⁵ Expenditures up until 30 June 2018

- b) Support the conservation of threatened and endangered species and the sustainable use of natural resources to prevent them from becoming threatened and endangered;
 - c) Develop a strong regional capability for the coordination of information exchange, training and technical assistance in support of national biodiversity conservation efforts; and
 - d) Coordinate activities with the relevant international biodiversity treaties and initiatives such as the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD), the Convention on Wetlands of International Importance (Ramsar), Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals (CMS), the Convention on the International Trade of Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES), the Inter-American Convention for the Protection and Conservation of Sea Turtles (IAC) and the International Coral Reef Initiative (ICRI) and its global networks.
84. During the period 2017-2018, activities focused on assisting countries with:
- a) Strengthening the management and networking of marine protected areas (MPAs) and protected species;
 - b) Promoting and integrating the principles of the ecosystem approach in order to address the degradation of selected priority ecosystem services and likewise, respond through biodiversity conservation and sustainable use of coastal resources;
 - c) Acknowledging the inter-dependency and multidimensional aspects of ecological and social systems. This approach was supported by other Multilateral Environmental Agreements (MEAs) such as CBD and the Ramsar Convention.
85. Activities were also aimed at coordinating with other environmental agreements and programmes dealing with issues relating to the conservation of biodiversity of particular relevance to the SPAW Protocol, such as UN Environment's Regional Seas Programme Strategy, Abidjan Convention, the IWC, the International Union for the Conservation of Nature's (IUCN), Caribbean Strategy and Biodiversity and Protected Areas Management Programme (BIOPAMA), the IAC, the Catalysing Implementation of the Strategic Action Plan for the Sustainable Management of shared Living Marine Resources in the Caribbean and North Brazil Shelf Large Marine Ecosystems (CLME+) Project, the Western Central Atlantic Fishery Commission of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO-WECAFC), the Caribbean Regional Fisheries Mechanism (CRFM), ICRI, the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) and the OSPAR Commission.
86. Specific activities for the 2017-2018 Workplan fell under five major programme elements (sub-programmes):
- a) Programme Coordination;
 - b) Strengthening of Protected Areas in the Wider Caribbean Region (including training and capacity building for protected area management);
 - c) Development of Guidelines for Protected Areas and Species Management;
 - d) Conservation of Threatened and Endangered Species; and
 - e) Conservation and Sustainable Use of Coastal and Marine Ecosystems (including coral reefs and EBM activities).
87. Additionally, the Secretariat focused on fundraising, strategizing and streamlining SPAW activities as financial contributions to SPAW continue to be limited to external sources other than the Caribbean Trust Fund and human resources were limited, especially with the changes in personnel experienced for the period. Hence, interventions were also opportunistic and strategic in nature.
88. During the period 2017-2018 the day-to-day coordination for implementation of the programme activities continued to be overseen by the SPAW Programme Officer, who is responsible for the overall coordination of the SPAW Programme, with support from the SPAW Programme Assistant.

The post of SPAW Programme Officer was vacant for over a year following the early retirement of Ms. Alessandra Vanzella-Khoury in March 2017, after serving in this capacity for more than 20 years. For the duration of this transitional time a consultant was hired to continue the implementation of SPAW activities until the post was officially filled in April 2018. Two (2) internships at the Secretariat in Kingston were welcomed and successfully completed during this period and dedicated to the delivery of SPAW activities during 2017, and a third internship dedicated partial time to SPAW in 2017. More recently a fourth full-time internship was recruited from 7 August 2018 to mid-December 2018.

89. Additional support to meet the objectives of this sub-programme were received from the SPAW Regional Activity Centre (SPAW-RAC), which is located in Guadeloupe and supported by the Government of France. Since early 2009, SPAW-RAC has been hosted by the National Park of Guadeloupe. More recently, since September 2018, the SPAW-RAC has been placed institutionally under “DEAL” Guadeloupe (*La Direction de l’Environnement, de l’Aménagement et du Logement*), which is the local representation of the French Ministry of Environment. The functioning costs of the RAC are covered by the French Ministry of Environment, including salaries for three (3) French officers/civil servants: one Executive Director, one Programme Officer and one Administrative Assistant.
90. The team is also supported by short-term staff consisting of two (2) civic service volunteers covered by French funds and other fixed-term contract staff (dependent on the SPAW-RAC’s capacity to secure funding for specific projects). One (1) administrative assistant was dedicated to the ECMMAN project which ended in July 2017. Another was covered through the Voluntary Scheme for Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services in Territories of European Overseas (BEST 2.0). SPAW-RAC continued to support the Secretariat with various activities, especially the coordination of actions mandated by COP9, the coordination of the process of Protected Areas listing under SPAW, the implementation of priorities under the Action Plan for the Conservation of Marine Mammals in the Wider Caribbean Region (MAMAP), and the Global Coral Reef Monitoring Network (GCRMN Caribbean).
91. The SPAW-RAC has secured a key role as partner in the implementation of two (2) significant projects funded by the EU (2017-2020): 1) on marine mammal protected area networks (CARIMAM Project: €2,903,178.24); and 2) on mangrove/coral reef ecosystems through the Caribbean network for coastal risks related to climate change (CARIB Coast Project: €3,286,345). Additionally, on an *ad hoc* basis, the RAC kindly reviews and translates a number of documents. (*see UNEP(DEPI)/CAR WG.40/INF.4* for details on the funds provided by the French Government through SPAW-RAC for implementation of SPAW activities)
92. In keeping with the objectives of developing synergies, promoting the Protocol and optimizing resources, the following activities were completed:
 - Submission of the Protocol’s 32nd marine protected area, National Park Cayos de San Felipe (Cuba), to the UN Environment World Conservation Monitoring Centre (UN Environment-WCMC) /IUCN World Database on Protected Areas (WDPA), March 2017.
 - Continued support of the newly created Caribbean Wildlife Enforcement Network (CaribWEN) via cooperation established with the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) through participation and attendance at the Second Caribbean Wildlife Enforcement Network (CaribWEN) Workshop, which brought together relevant focal points in the region involved in the establishment and development of the network, Bridgetown, Barbados, 10-11 May 2017.

- A Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) was signed with the Sargasso Sea Commission in May 2017, in collaboration with the Abidjan Convention (Regional Sea Programme for West Africa) to promote cooperation on Sargasso Sea ecosystem issues, such as: exchange of information, especially on large-scale strandings of *Sargassum*, harmonization of work, strategy development, resource mobilization and stakeholder engagement.
- Representation via the UN Regional Office for Latin America and the Caribbean, to the IMO Regional Ballast Water Management Workshop: *Third Regional Task Force Meeting on the Ratification and Implementation of the IMO Convention on Ballast Water Management*, where synergies and alignment with SPAW objectives and MPAs were explored, Panama City, Panama, 5-9 June 2017.
- *Marine Spatial Planning (MSP) and Decision Support Systems (DSS) in the Wider Caribbean* Workshop held during the 70th GCFI Annual Meeting, as a Special Workshop, 5 November 2017, Merida, Mexico, aimed to facilitate dialogue among key stakeholders involved in these initiatives in the Wider Caribbean Region with support from the EBM and CLME+ Projects along with close cooperation other key regional partners: TNC, WWF Guianas, GCFI, and the Waitt Institute.
- Organization of the *Regional Workshop on ecosystem-based management and application of decision support systems in the Wider Caribbean Region*, 4-6 December 2017, Panama City, Panama, under the *Biodiversity for Sustainable Development in the Caribbean through Ecosystem Based Management (EBM)* project to share best practices and lessons learnt, for the replication and up-scaling of the EBM approach within and beyond national boundaries.
- Representation via the Coordinator at the *3rd Session of the United Nations Environment Assembly (UNEA-3)*, where Haiti announced its intention to ratify the Cartagena Convention and its three (3) protocols alongside a signing ceremony, 4-6 December 2017, Nairobi, Kenya.
- Participation at the *32nd General Meeting of the International Coral Reef Initiative (ICRI)*, 7-9 December 2017, Nairobi, Kenya, with a presentation made and dissemination of a comprehensive report from the Secretariat on activities implemented as contribution to the ICRI Plan of Action 2016-2018.
- Participation at the *2nd Meeting of the CFMC/WECAFC/OSPESCA/CRFM Spawning Aggregations Working Group*, where the Secretariat was represented by the CaMPAM Coordinator and a special presentation made on proposed actions and a background paper on the SPAW Protocol and the Nassau Grouper, 27-29 March 2018, Miami, USA.
- Cooperation with MAR Fund via sub-allotment (USD70,173) from UN Environment Grants Programme and ICRI signed in August 2018 and ending in October 2019, with respect to the project "*Innovative financing and legal mechanisms for reef restoration and emergency response in selected sites of the MAR Region*". The project will focus on the four (4) countries of the Mesoamerican Reef Region (Mexico, Belize, Guatemala and Honduras) regarding a financing mechanism to improve emergency response actions and restoration of key sites in this area.
- A Memorandum of Cooperation (MoC) with the CRFM signed in May 2018 towards mutual development and implementation of a number of strategies concerning precautionary and ecosystem-based approaches, marine species and marine protected areas for listing under the Protocol, fisheries management and recovery plans for commercially important marine species, and control and mitigation of impacts from marine invasive species in the region, including monitoring the *Sargassum* influx, to name a few.

- Participation in the OECS Commission’s 5th *Meeting of the Council of Ministers for Environmental Sustainability*, 10-11 July 2018, Montserrat, with the presentation of a paper titled "*Sargassum: Opportunities and Challenges*" contributing to discussions on the Sargassum influx in the region.
93. The Secretariat continued to coordinate and cooperate, as feasible, with other initiatives and projects relevant to coastal and marine ecosystems in the region, including:
- The ECMMAN project, now officially concluded (2017) led by TNC (*see details in UNEP(DEPI)/CAR WG.40/INF.5*).
 - The BEST 2.0 Caribbean Hub Programme led by the SPAW-RAC through a funding facility supported by the European Commission, which aims to pilot an innovative financing mechanism for biodiversity conservation and sustainable development in the European Union Overseas Countries and Territories (OCTs) for small/medium-scale field activities on the ground.
 - Targeted OCTs include seven (7) SPAW territories (Saba, Saint Martin, St. Eustatius, Aruba, Curaçao, Bonaire and Saint Barthélemy) with a focus on local development, biodiversity conservation and sustainable use of ecosystem services (*see details under UNEP(DEPI)/CAR WG.40/INF.4*).
94. Several activities were undertaken by/or implemented in collaboration with the SPAW-RAC in Guadeloupe. See UNEP(DEPI)/CAR WG.40/INF.4 for further details.

Activities	Status
Continue the listing process of Protected Areas under the SPAW Protocol with relevant Contracting Parties, as appropriate, with the web-based tool and further develop the cooperation for listed protected areas	On-going
Support SPAW in implementing activities under CaMPAM including Transatlantic Cooperation, particularly with the OSPAR Commission, the “Toward a transatlantic MPA network” project and the conclusion of the ECMMAN project.	On-going (<i>see UNEP(DEPI)/CAR WG.40/INF.5; UNEP(DEPI)/CAR WG.39/INF.11 for more information</i>)
Support the implementation of the MMAP with specific emphasis on the MMAP’s Priority Actions: Five-Year Plan (MMAP-PA), 2008-2013 and onset of CARIMAM Project with SPAW-RAC	On-going Launch of the CARIMAM project in Martinique, 16 - 17 October 2018
Support species conservation, with particular emphasis on sea turtles in collaboration with WIDECAST	On-going
Continue to provide guidance on the use of the Guidelines to Assess Exemptions under Article 11(2)	On-going (<i>UNEP(DEPI)/CAR WG.38/3 Rev1 and UNEP(DEPI)/CAR IG.37/3</i>)
Continue to cooperate with relevant institutions on the Invasive Alien Species (IAS) issue, as well as with the relevant partners to assess and merge information and best practices on combating the <i>Sargassum</i> influx	On-going (<i>UNEP(DEPI)/CAR WG.40/INF.8</i>)
Continue the process of review of the species listed under Annexes I-III of the SPAW Protocol, in collaboration with relevant organisations as appropriate	On-going

Activities	Status
Prepare and disseminate quarterly releases of the SPAW newsletter and regularly update of the SPAW-RAC website in English, Spanish and French	On-going
Participate in and/or support regional projects of relevance for the SPAW Workplan	On-going
Promotion of the SPAW Protocol and its objectives to assist with further developments as mandated by the Parties, fundraising and the ratification by non-Parties	On-going
Support the preparation and translation of documents for the SPAW Protocol's 8 th Scientific and Technical Advisory Committee (STAC) Meeting	Completed

95. The costs associated with the coordination of the SPAW Sub-Programme were as follows:

Activity	2017			2018		
	CTF	Other Sources	Total Raised	CTF	Other Sources	Total Raised
Salaries/Operational costs	180,000	96,853	276,853	200,000	58,448	258,448
COP and STAC preparations (including travel)	40,000	7,917	47,917	30,000	5,000	35,000
TOTAL (USD)	220,000	104,770	324,770	230,000	63,448	293,448

*Includes funding from the CLME+ Project and EBM-DSS Project for the interim SPAW PO/ from France through SPAW-RAC for RAC's website, SPAW newsletter, translations, etc.

Projects and activities

(i) Strengthening of Protected Areas in the Wider Caribbean Region

Background

96. The objectives of this sub-programme were to:

- a) Strengthen the management of parks and protected areas of the Wider Caribbean, including the communication between parks and protected areas within the region;
- b) Assist Governments and Non-Government Organizations (NGOs) with the development of human capacity to increase the effectiveness of Marine Protected Areas (MPAs), both sites and national system;
- c) Sensitize Governments of the need and importance of financing protected areas, and to promote the development of funding mechanisms and strategies for successful park and protected area management; and
- d) Promote protected areas in the context of the conservation of important natural resources necessary for the sustainable development of the region.

Summary Status Report and Results

97. During the reporting period, the majority of the activities undertaken through this sub-programme were implemented under two major projects approved under the SPAW Sub-programme:

- Strengthening of MPAs through CaMPAM has been addressed through the implementation of the project “*Biodiversity for Sustainable Development in the Caribbean*”. The €1,350,000 three (3) year project (now extended to four (4) years) is funded by the Directorate for the Environment within the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Italy. Its overall objective is to “enhance the livelihood of the populations of the WCR by contributing to the conservation and sustainable management of coastal and marine biodiversity, through the application of the EBM approach”. The project was extended until April 2019 (plans for a phase 2) with a series of pilot projects and SFFAs in selected protected areas of SPAW Parties, most now slated for completion by mid-2019.
- Project Cooperation Agreement with the Ministry of Environment and Natural Resources of the Dominican Republic signed in September 2016, for the implementation of activities relating to the application of ecosystem-based approach to two (2) selected pilot sites of the country. The project aims to apply DSS methodology and tools for the two (2) sites in consultation with stakeholders in order to: 1) generate a management plan for each area; 2) update of existing plans for the protected areas involved/as required; and 3) enhance capacities to integrate EBM tools and concepts within management through training and technical assistance (\$350,000);
- Small Scale Funding Agreement with Reef Check Dominican Republic signed in December 2015 and concluded in December 2017, to support the gathering of data and information for the DSS for the selected pilot areas (mentioned above) and training on DSS activities. This also included the updating and delivery of the regional MPA Training of Trainers (ToT) regional course for Spanish speaking countries held in Puerto Plata, Dominican Republic, 26 September – 7 October 2016, and support to the evaluation of the CaMPAM activities (\$200,000);
- Small Scale Funding Agreement with GCFI signed in December 2015 and extended to December 2018 for: 1) the updating of the Regional MPA Database; 2) support to the CaMPAM MPA-related sessions and the participation of MPA practitioners from SPAW Parties at the 69th, 70th and 71st Annual GCFI Conference in November 2016, 2017 and 2018 respectively; and 3) support in the planning and implementation of the 8th SPAW STAC, December 2018. Linked to this are efforts to migrate the CaMPAM website (from GCFI sever to be hosted by the CEP) and redesign/upgrade its MPA database format and structure so as to improve user access population of data fields. This is in keeping with the recommendations from the evaluation of the network (\$194,000);
- Two-year agreement with PROGES Italian consulting firm, signed in April 2016 and concluded in January 2017, to develop and promote the use of the software for the EBM/DSS methodology, and provide training on its application and use tailored to the needs and realities of the Caribbean, with particular focus of the two (2) pilot sites in the Dominican Republic (\$142,600);
- Small Scale Funding Agreement with CERMES signed in November 2017 and extended to April 2019 for: 1) establishing CERMES as a regional node for the dissemination and future application of EBM/DSS methodology; 2) providing training as appropriate with specific focus on English speaking countries; and 3) to facilitate convening the 13th edition of the Training of Trainers Course held in Barbados, April 2018 (\$126,500);
- Negotiations for a Small-Scale Funding Agreement to establish additional Regional Nodes focusing on Spanish speaking countries, as well as considerations for Dutch speaking countries under the EBM project;
- Convening of Special Workshop on MSP and DSS in the Wider Caribbean (held during 70th GCFI Meeting, Merida, Mexico, 5 November 2017) as a result of a joint effort among several institutional partners in the Caribbean. The workshop sought to improve and provide a better understanding of the past and present MSP/DSS activities, and identification of potential ways

to be more effective and improve regional coordination and support mechanisms towards its application by Governments and other stakeholders in the region;

- Coordination of CaMPAM, which included: 1) managing a Listserv and individual postings requested by members; 2) the provision of advisory on MPA issues to the SPAW Secretariat and programmes; 3) the development of project proposals, the review of reports; and 4) representation in relevant regional and international meetings, and in expert workshops related to MPA science, practice and managers' networking; and
- Support to MPA practitioners as well as renewed efforts in the development of a Cooperation Programme aimed at increasing added-value to SPAW listed MPAs, with a concept paper developed (in line with the recommendations of the First Meeting of Managers of the Protected Areas Listed under the SPAW Protocol).

98. The following activities were implemented to meet the objectives of the projects above, as well as the overall sub-programme and CaMPAM:

- Through the agreement with TNC and as part of CaMPAM's capacity building programme, the SPAW-RAC finalised responsibilities under the ECMMAN project funded by the German Federal Ministry for the Environment, Nature Conservation, Building and Nuclear Safety (BMUB) to coordinate the CaMPAM-ECMMAN Small Grant Programme. The programme aimed to provide financial resources with technical assistance to promote effective marine managed areas in the Eastern Caribbean island nations - (6) countries (Antigua and Barbuda, Dominica, Grenada, Saint Kitts and Nevis, Saint Lucia, and Saint Vincent and the Grenadines) to enhance MPA effectiveness in at least ten (10) existing marine management areas or MPAs. Final reports from each of the countries were submitted and reviewed in mid-2017 with a summary of project accomplishments compiled and circulated.
- CaMPAM launched its *Expert Group* in April 2018 consisting of more than 30 experts with vast skills, expertise, languages, and institutional affiliations on marine protected area science and management. Members have collaborated with CaMPAM activities in different capacities over the last fifteen (15) years. The members of the CaMPAM Expert Group have agreed to assist with aspects related to reviewing project proposals and reports, serving as instructors/coordinators in regional and local courses, populating the CaMPAM MPA Database, and representing CaMPAM at international meetings as appropriate, to name a few.
- The Secretariat provided the dataset "*Marine Protected Areas listed under the SPAW Protocol*" to UN Environment-WCMC for integration into the WDPA which includes spatial boundaries and attributes relating to the Wider Caribbean Region. The WDPA is an aggregated dataset of the best available data from many sources. It is a joint project of UN Environment and IUCN, managed by the World Conservation Monitoring Centre (UN Environment-WCMC). It is used for multiple conservation purposes, as well as providing support to the Convention on Biological Diversity and the United Nations relating to environmental sustainability.

Activity Cost (in USD)

99. The costs associated with the implementation of activities under this sub-programme were:

2017			2018		
CTF Raised	Other *	Total Raised	CTF Raised	Other **	Total Raised
-	78,591	78,591	-	1,298,955	1,298,955

* Includes funds from the Government of Italy under the EBM-DSS Project

** Includes funds from ECMMAN project through SPAW-RAC and the contribution of IUCN ORMACC to the 2018 Training of Trainers.

(ii) Development of Guidelines for Protected Areas and Species Management

100. The objectives of this sub-programme were to:
- a) Promote and assist with the development and implementation of the guidelines on protected area establishment, management, and listing developed under the framework of the SPAW Protocol;
 - b) Promote national system planning for protected areas as a mechanism for development of relevant legislation and reporting mechanisms; and
 - c) Promote and assist with the development and implementation of guidelines on species conservation and management developed under the framework of the SPAW Protocol.

Summary Status Report and Results

101. Several activities were undertaken by/implemented in collaboration with the SPAW-RAC in Guadeloupe. The activities implemented during 2017-2018 to meet these objectives are:

Activities	Status
Additional Protected Areas listed under SPAW using the revised Annotated Format presented by STAC7	<p>Completed</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Following the call launched by the Secretariat in 2016 for Parties to nominate additional sites for listing, and after adoption by the COP9, there are now currently 32 Protected Areas listed under the SPAW Protocol, after inclusion of National Park Cayos de San Felipe, Cuba. • The process of listing PAs is made easy for managers as they are able to create a presentation report using the interface www.spaw-palisting.org • A brochure in English, Spanish and French on the SPAW listing process and updated maps of SPAW listed MPA sites were completed.
Listing process and revitalization of cooperation programme for Protected Areas under the SPAW Protocol	<p>On-going</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Work continues on this initiative, encouraging future submission of MPAs by Parties, as well as resubmission of previous MPAs with additional information to the process. • Further development of the Cooperation Programme for SPAW-listed MPAs by reactivating support from MPA managers of such SPAW listed areas.
Support the use of the voluntary format for presenting exemptions under Article 11(2) by Contracting Parties and reporting on their implementation - following its finalization and adoption by COP 9	<p>On-going</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Work continues on this initiative, encouraging future submission of MPAs by Parties, as well as resubmission of previous MPAs with additional information to the process. • Further development of the Cooperation Programme for SPAW-listed MPAs by reactivating support from MPA managers of such SPAW listed areas.

Activities	Status
Support the use of the voluntary format for presenting exemptions under Article 11(2) by Contracting Parties and reporting on their implementation - following its finalization and adoption by COP 9	On-going Following-up COP 9 decision encouraging the submission of all relevant information by Contracting Parties when reporting exemptions, and in the case study submitted by Curacao, also encouraging the continuation of this process. (See UNEP(DEPI)/CAR WG.38/3 Rev1 for details)
Application of the criteria for listing species in the Annexes to the Protocol	On-going The status of species, or groups of species, and the assessment of species have continued in collaboration with the IUCN's Red List for the Caribbean to allow for any necessary modifications to the list, should species' status change. (See UNEP(DEPI)/CAR WG.40/3 for details).

102. The major outputs of this sub-programme are:

- An updated list of protected areas under the SPAW Protocol
- Reports from Parties using the voluntary Format for presenting exemptions under Article 11(2) and reporting on their implementation
- A revised list of protected species under Annexes I-III of the SPAW Protocol

Activity Cost (in USD)

103. The costs associated with the implementation of activities under this sub-programme were:

2017			2018		
CTF Raised	Other *	Total Raised	CTF Raised	Other *	Total Raised
0	14,000	14,000	0	33,000	33,000

*Through SPAW-RAC

(iii) Conservation of Threatened and Endangered Species

Background

104. The objectives of this sub-programme were to:

- a) Build consensus in the region on priorities for the management of endangered and migratory species;
- b) Implement priority activities of existing species recovery and management plans developed under the framework of the SPAW Protocol;
- c) Develop, as appropriate, adequate management plans and programmes for priority species of regional concern, including those of economic importance; and
- d) Address the growing threat of invasive alien species (IAS) that could negatively impact SPAW species and WCR habitats, especially marine or coastal IAS.

Summary Status Report and Results

105. Over the course of the biennium, as no funding was specifically available for this sub-programme, work has primarily focused on strengthening and developing cooperation and coordination at the regional and global levels.
106. Support has continued for the implementation of the Marine Mammal Action Plan which included efforts to conclude a Memorandum of Understanding with the International Whaling Commission, to allow for continued and enhanced cooperation in areas such as implementing recommendations emanating from the Joint IWC and SPAW/UN Environment Workshop, to Address Collisions between Marine Mammals and Ships with a focus on the Wider Caribbean (Panama 2014). While significant progress was achieved, there were challenges concerning boilerplate clauses – efforts will continue in this regard.
107. The three (3) year project “*Caribbean Marine Mammals Preservation Network*” (CARIMAM) (2017-2020) funded by the EU (€2,903,178.24), headed by the AGOA Sanctuary and the French Biodiversity Agency, will have the SPAW-RAC taking the lead in the implementation of three (3) out of the seven (7) project components: 1) review and characterisation of whale watching activities in the Caribbean; 2) legal analysis of existing marine mammal protection legislation the Caribbean; and 3) review of marine mammal mortality through collision and bycatch in the Caribbean.
108. The main objective of the CARIMAM project is to develop a network of marine protected areas dedicated to the conservation of marine mammals in the Caribbean. This network will aim to strengthen managerial skills and develop common tools for management and evaluation purposes. The proposed network will also include the development of long-term commercial observation of marine mammals across the Caribbean, and support partnership agreements with the Dutch and Dominican Republic Sanctuaries.
109. Parties have encouraged the Secretariat to enhance cooperation and coordination with regional fisheries management organisations and mechanisms. This is in line with the endorsed regional policy under the CLME+ Project which seeks to guide harmonised sectoral policies and strengthen cooperation between regional fisheries bodies and environmental organisations. In this context SPAW contributed to on-going efforts by regional fisheries bodies and the CMS Convention on species of regional concern, such as the Nassau grouper (*Epinephelus striatus*) and the nine species of sharks and rays listed under the SPAW Protocol. This was reflected through presentations and proposals/recommendations by the sub-programme at relevant meetings.
110. There was greater collaboration with CITES and UNODC towards species conservation in the region with contributions to the establishment of a regional wildlife enforcement network (CaribWEN) by participating in the second regional workshop in Barbados (May 2017). Proposals developed with the aim of: 1) developing an Action Plan for CaribWEN, with short and long-term goals; 2) assisting countries in the region in the development of national strategies for control of wildlife trafficking, responding to the needs (highlighted at the Barbados meeting) of such countries which lack a formal structure established at the national level; and 3) raising the profile of CaribWEN, including technical and other training, increase regular consultations with countries in the region and mobilize resources via engaged partners/governments.
111. The Secretariat continues to support initiatives under WIDECAST and participated in the 2018 Annual WIDECAST Meeting (Trinidad and Tobago, March 2018), with a presentation from the sub-programme, as well as exploration of opportunities for coordination with partners.

112. Several activities were undertaken by or implemented in collaboration with the SPAW-RAC in Guadeloupe. The activities implemented during 2017-2018 to meet these objectives are:

Activities	Status
Support transboundary cooperation and marine mammal monitoring efforts and networking among protected sites, education and awareness in the region	On-going Contribution to the development of the CARIMAM Project and its implementation through SPAW-RAC as means of strengthening networking of protected areas, sustainable marine mammal watching, and improvement of data to mitigate the effects of ship strikes, entanglements and other mortality.
Develop MoC between the Secretariat and the International Whaling Commission (IWC)	On-going Discussions/a draft document produced which require renewed revision to address pending clause that has remained challenging in the process.
Cooperation and coordination with regional fisheries management organisations and mechanisms	Completed Development of MoC with the CRFM signed in May 2018, which will serve as vehicle for joint collaboration on species of regional concern for fisheries, including those listed under the SPAW Protocol On-going Following participation at relevant meetings pertaining to sustainable fisheries in the region, continue to explore synergies and promote joint work as appropriate with regional fisheries bodies towards achieving SPAW goals of enhanced management of protected areas and species.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Support the establishment of a regional wildlife enforcement network (CaribWEN)/ Collaboration established with CITES and UNDOC for the establishment of CaribWEN 	On-going Participation at the 2 nd Meeting of CaribWEN and subsequent discussions providing input. Development of proposal for development of an Action Plan to support short and long-term goals, increase regular consultations with countries in the region, and mobilize resources via engaged partners/governments

Activity Cost (in USD)

113. The costs associated with the implementation of activities under this sub-programme were:

2017			2018		
CTF Raised	Other *	Total Raised	CTF Raised	Other *	Total Raised
0	31,357	31,357	0	34,108	34,108

*Includes from SPAW-RAC for 2017 and 2018 respectively

(iv) Conservation and Sustainable Use of Coastal and Marine Ecosystems

Background

114. The objectives of this sub-programme were to:
- a) Assist with the management of the coastal and marine ecosystems of the region on a sustainable basis, particularly through sustainable practices;
 - b) Mobilise the political will and actions of Governments and other partners for the conservation and sustainable use of coral reefs and associated ecosystems such as mangroves and seagrass beds;
 - c) Effectively communicate the value and importance of coral reefs, mangroves and seagrass beds, including their ecosystem services, the threats to their sustainability, and the actions needed to protect them; and
 - d) Promote the ecosystem management approach and the principles and values of good governance for the conservation and management of marine ecosystems in the region.

Summary Status Report and Results

115. Under this sub-programme, the main project implemented was the coordination and implementation of the CLME+ project.
116. The United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)/GEF funded CLME+ project is a 5-year (2015-2019) USD12.5 million project that seeks to facilitate ecosystem-based management/an ecosystem approach to fisheries (EBM/EAF) within the CLME+ region, to ensure that a sustainable and climate resilient provision of goods and services from the region's living marine resources can be secured.
117. Through collaboration between the biodiversity and pollution sub-programmes, the project aims to kick-start the implementation of the 10-year politically endorsed CLME+ Strategic Action Programme (CLME+ SAP) *See document UNEP(DEPI)/CAR WG.37/INF.7 Rev2).*
118. Activities under the CLME+ project more directly related to the biodiversity sub-programme focused on the following elements:
- Baseline assessment reports, Regional Status Reports and Strategies
 - Small Scale Funding Agreement with the Caribbean Natural Resources Institute (CANARI) to support project activities according to outputs linked to objectives under Output 2.1 “*Regional Strategy and Action Plan for the valuation, protection and/or restoration of key marine habitats in the CLME+*”. Final deliverables are also linked with Output 5.2 - A prototype CLME+ ecosystem status and SAP implementation Monitoring and Evaluation (M&E) mechanism to be developed, and progressively expanded and improved in line with the expansion of the CLME+ Partnership (\$198,500) (*see UNEP(DEPI)/CAR IG.40/INF.4*);
 - Design and implement Sub-Project to institutionalize Ecosystem Based Management (EBM) approaches
 - Negotiations are on-going for the development of a pilot project with a focus on EBM to demonstrate, through pilot on-the-ground initiatives, innovative and participatory, cross-sectoral approaches to deal in a holistic way with the three (3) priority problems of: 1) pollution; 2) habitat degradation; and 3) unsustainable fishing in the Caribbean

region. Additionally, the goal will be to capture and disseminate best practices and lessons learnt for the replication and up-scaling of the EBM approach.

119. During the reporting period, additional activities implemented during the biennium focused on coral reef ecosystems, re-engaging the tourism sector, and further research on the impacts of Sargassum, as described below.

Activities	Status
<p>Support towards the reactivation and work of the Caribbean Coral Reef Monitoring Network and Coral Reef Conservation</p>	<p>Completed</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Secretariat acted as the regional coordinator for the redefined GCRMN in the WCR and provided guidance for the Steering Committee via a series of activities which included: • The GCRMN-Caribbean Steering Committee Annual Meeting, Merida, Mexico (9 November 2017) - updating of the Rules of Procedure for GCRMN-Caribbean and workplan drafted for the year 2018. • In 2017, the role of Members-at-large was formalized and about 150 members shared experiences and relevant information on the exchange online Platform <i>Teamwork</i> for the GCRMN-Caribbean. • Organisation of 2 NFWF-funded workshops (Jamaica, 2017 and St. Martin, 2018) on integrated coral reef monitoring. As a follow-up, a grant has been allocated for biophysical and socio-economic monitoring site assessments, including photo imaging for each participating training site. • Standardised data analysis and reporting following recommendations from ICRI with the establishment of 2 Working Groups (focusing on <i>Data Analysis</i> and <i>Reporting</i> as of February 2017, with voluntary members from the Steering Committee as well as Members-at-large). • Serving as a member of the Steering Committee (and of relevant Working Groups) of the Coral Restoration Consortium since its inception in March 2017 – as a community of practice to foster collaboration, technology transfer, facilitate scientific and practical ingenuity in coral reef restoration.
	<p>On-going</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Representing the network in appropriate venues and fora when possible, including the 32nd ICRI Annual Meeting. • Continued support towards the development of a coral reef partnership within the UN Environment Regional Seas Programme including coordination with ICRI – resulting in the mobilization of funds (USD70,173) via UN Environment Grants Programme and ICRI for implementation of the project "Innovative financing and legal mechanisms for reef restoration and emergency response in selected sites of the MAR Region" with MAR Fund.

Activities	Status
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Through UN Environment, SPAW-RAC and Reef-World, an initiative called Green Fins has been introduced to the Dominican Republic (June 2018) which is a free certification programme for participating businesses that provide SCUBA diving or snorkelling activities and pledge to follow a set of best practices. • The Green Fins 15-point Code of Conduct was developed by the UN Environment in 2004 and has since been introduced in 9 countries in South East Asia. Reef Check Dominican Republic, a local organization focused on protecting coral reefs and their associated species, has taken the lead and will be using Green Fins to address the increase in tourists interacting with the marine environment.
Addressing the management of the <i>Sargassum</i> influx in the Caribbean	<p>On-going</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Since 2015, the Secretariat encouraged Parties to share their information on the <i>Sargassum</i> influx including an on-line forum dedicated to the issue, and surveys have been conducted with Member States. • Following a side-event on <i>Sargassum</i> during the second session of the United Nations Environment Assembly (UNEA-2) and the organisation of a technical session at the 69th Annual Meeting of GCFI, a MoU was concluded with the Sargasso Sea Commission, alongside with the Abidjan Convention (May 2017). • In 2018, the Secretariat partnered with the Universities of South Florida and Texas A&M to further knowledge and manage the effects of the <i>Sargassum</i> influx, addressing recommendations emanating from surveys with Member States including the development of a Regional Strategy with a warning system to forecast influx/landings in the region.
The Blue Finance project	<p>On-going</p> <p>In progress since 2015 (through the SPAW-RAC) – funded by UN Environment via the Global Coral Reef Partnership. Other partners include GRID-Arendal, the Blue Solutions project, IFRECOR (the French Initiative for Coral Reef) and the Organisation of American States.</p> <p>Blue Finance is dedicated to the development of long-term financing instruments for marine conservation, by involving the private sector in co-management and financing arrangements. It has been implemented to different degrees in Barbados, Dominican Republic, St. Kitts and Nevis, The Bahamas and Antigua and Barbuda.</p>

120. The major outputs of this sub-programme were:

Outputs	Indicators of Achievement
Strengthen the Global Coral Reef Monitoring Network (GCRMN) Regional Nodes within the Wider Caribbean Region	Completed Countries ability to monitor and protect coral reef ecosystems enhanced through the use of standardized data collection and reporting methods.
An endorsed process for development of the State of Habitats Report under the CLME+ project	In progress Enhanced capacity of Member States to effectively conserve and sustainably use resources found within critical coastal and marine habitats in the WCR.
Negotiations for implementation of the Pilot project on Ecosystem-Based Adaptation and Workshop on EBM	In progress

Activity Cost (in USD)

121. The costs associated with the implementation of activities under this sub-programme were:

2017			2018		
CTF Raised	Other *	Total Raised	CTF Raised	Other **	Total Raised
0	19,148	19,148	0	234,330	234,330

*Through SPAW-RAC

**Includes funding through the CLME+ project and from SPAW-RAC

V. COMMUNICATION, EDUCATION, TRAINING AND AWARENESS

122. This report presents the status of activities for the communications sub-programme, which supports the Secretariat in the design, maintenance and dissemination of information products.

123. The objectives of CETA were to:

- a) Disseminate information relevant to the implementation of the Cartagena Convention and its Protocols.
- b) Promote improved understanding of the value and importance of marine and coastal resources.
- c) Facilitate training and capacity building of Contracting Parties including enhancing access to information on marine and coastal resource management.

124. The AMEP Programme Officer served as the Officer in Charge of the CETA Sub-programme. He coordinated implementation of the programme's activities and was supported by a Team Assistant and Computer/ Information Systems Assistant.

125. Four interns assisted with public awareness activities, social media posts and website updates. Blogs highlighting their experiences were uploaded on the 'Ask and Intern Blog' page of the CEP website.

126. Communications and technical support were provided for the convening of CEP Intergovernmental Meetings and various programme and project workshops.

127. The CEP Communications Strategy was updated and is being used as the framework for communication activities. These fall under four main pillars:
 - a) Corporate Communications and Public Relations: Raising the visibility of the Caribbean Environment Programme and promoting the projects and activities of the Secretariat;
 - b) Data Information and Management: Providing data, information, and technical support to Contracting Parties and Partners;
 - c) Environmental Education and Public Awareness: Implementing activities to inform the public about specific environmental issues;
 - d) Participatory Communication for Development: Engaging stakeholders and project partners in project-based communication efforts to document and provide evidence of behavioural change.
128. The old CEP website was migrated to UN Environment's cloud servers (www.unenvironment.org/cep). The transfer of remaining content will take place in early 2019. This will allow CEP to reduce hosting costs and take advantage of UN Environments cloud infrastructure, maintenance support and added security.
129. Several changes were made to the structure and content of the old CEP website prior to migration. The website design was further revised to comply with UN Environments website guidelines. This includes a new Content Management System (CMS), template layout and content structure. These changes will improve the effectiveness of the site in targeting a diverse audience and greater usage by country focal points and other stakeholders.
130. All programme and project documents and reports were uploaded to UN Environments Document Repository where they will now conform to the UNs document nomenclature. This will enable documents to be discovered easier through search engines. These include: Factsheets, Technical Reports, Meeting Documents and Infographics.
131. Several activities were undertaken to raise awareness on environmental issues and the importance of protecting coastal and marine resources. These were associated mainly with the commemoration of environmental days such as World Wetlands Day, World Water Day, Earth Day, World Health Day, World Wildlife Day, International Biodiversity Day, UN Day, World Oceans Day, World Environment Day, World Maritime Day and International Coastal Clean-up Day.
132. These activities included, posts on social media sites, workshops and outreach activities including press releases, radio broadcasts and television appearances.
133. For World Environment and World Oceans Days in 2017, the Secretariat coordinated a Plastic Awareness Shopper's Challenge with a focus on how consumers can reduce use of plastics and generation of plastic waste. Social media, radio, television and public events were used to help persons "connect with nature" – the theme for World Environment Day. These included:
 - 1) Invitations to the public to share pledges on how they can protect the environment;
 - 2) Videos by students on the importance of the ocean;
 - 3) Photo competitions on the environment and the reuse of wastewater;
 - 4) Airing of environmental videos on television stations;
 - 5) Radio and Television Interviews with UN Environment staff on the importance of environmental protection.In 2018, a call for photos was launched to encourage persons to showcase "What motivates them about the environment and the Caribbean Sea". The winning photos were showcased on social media and the CEP website.

134. Other Public Education and Awareness-raising efforts included the:

- Design and production of promotional items such as infographic posters and fact sheets on plastic pollution, marine litter and wastewater. A joint GEF CLME+/IWEco poster won an award for best Poster at the Ninth GEF Biennial International Waters Conference in Marrakesh, Morocco in November 2018.
- Development of communication material on Marine Litter including on: 1) Caribbean Marine Litter Node, 2) Marine Litter in the Wider Caribbean Region, and 3) Microplastics in Fish. Over 300 Posters in Spanish and English were distributed across the region.
- Publishing of a new online Interactive Map showing the status of bans on single use plastics and styrofoam in the Wider Caribbean Region. This can be viewed at <https://bit.ly/2GuRi8i>.
- Production and distribution of nine (9) press releases. Environmental news items and updates were posted to the CEP website and on social media regarding the work of Contracting Parties, partners and other UN and UN Environment offices.
- Increasing social media presence. The Secretariat continued to use Facebook, Twitter, Instagram and LinkedIn to share programme updates and highlight relevant national, regional and global environmental news. Our Facebook followers have increased by 61% from a total of 4,400 at the beginning of 2017 to 7,083 at the end of 2018. Twitter followers grew from 2,500 to 4,941. Our total number of followers on Instagram at the end of the biennium stands at 1,119 followers.
- A social media campaign called #gettoknowCEP was launched on Facebook to introduce the work of the Caribbean Environment Programme and highlighting our programmes, projects and activities.

135. Several data bases and briefs were managed including Country Focal Points database, Country Information Page, Photo Database and Gallery, and the Lab Capacity Database. Contracting Parties to the Cartagena Convention, the CEP community and the general public were also provided with updates on the availability of data and/or information regarding the protection and development of coastal and marine resources in the Wider Caribbean Region.

ANNEX I: Status of CEP Meeting Recommendations and Decisions Matrix

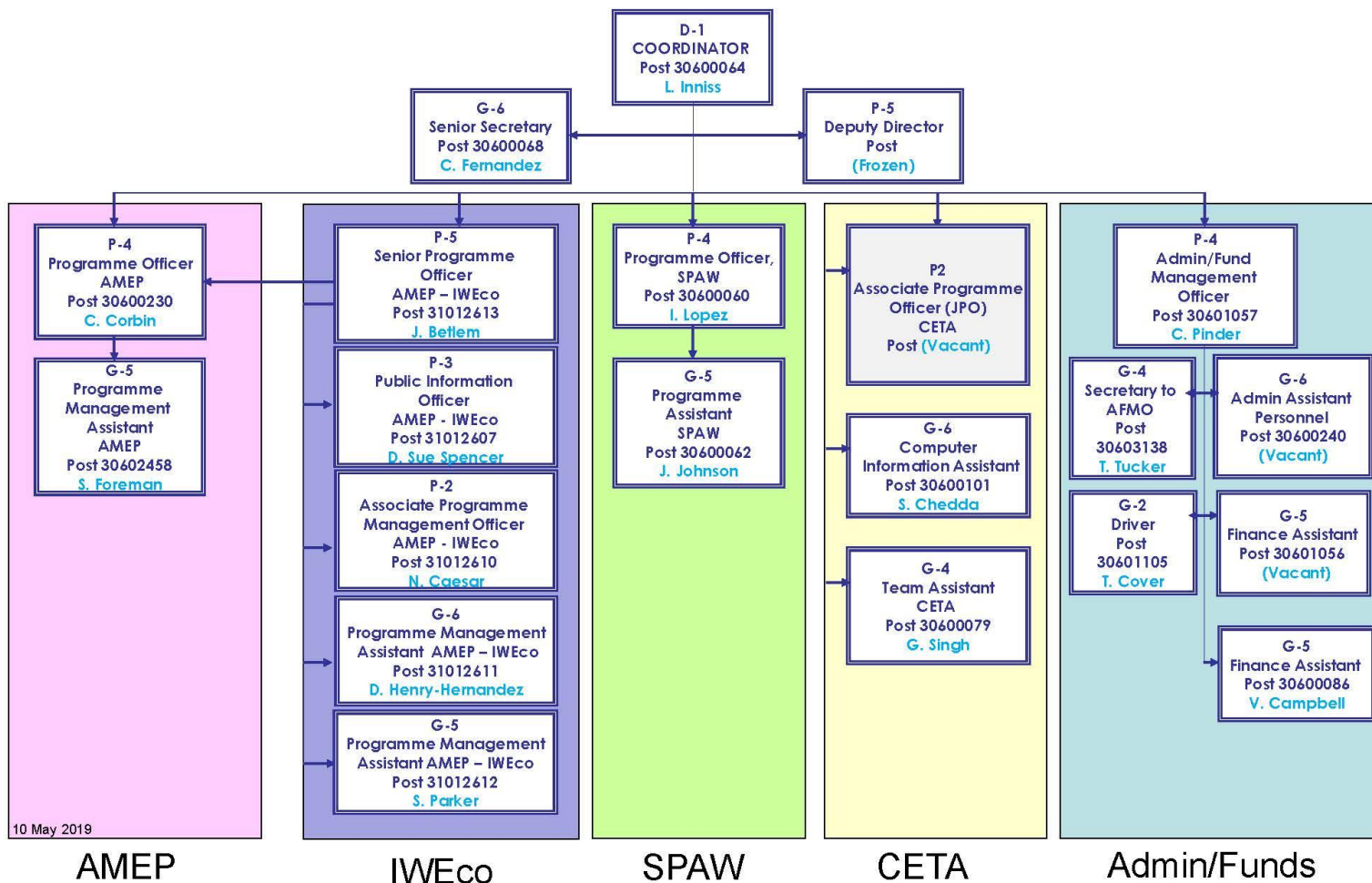
Status of Relevant Decisions of the Seventeenth (17th) Intergovernmental Meeting on the Action Plan for the Caribbean Environment Programme and Fourteenth (14th) Meeting of the Contracting Parties to the Convention for the Protection and Development of the Marine Environment of the Wider Caribbean

DECISIONS OF 17th IGM (2017)	STATUS OF DECISIONS (2017-2018)
<i>Decision II – Reports, Recommendations, and Decisions of the Meetings of CEP convened since the 16th IGM</i>	
II.1 Request the Secretariat to update the CEP Strategy.	Provided input into the design of survey questionnaire which led to the new <i>Draft Strategy for the Development of the Caribbean Environment Programme</i> (UNEP(DEPI)/CAR IG.42/INF.6).
II.2 Request the Secretariat to use information paper (UNEP(DEPI)/CAR IG.39/INF8) as a guide to update the CEP strategy	LBS/SPAW Roadmap is a fundamental part of the new CEP Strategy.
<i>Decision VI – Regional Activity Centres RACs)</i>	
VI.1. Request the Secretariat to finalize outstanding Host Agreements with the Government of Cuba for LBS RAC CIMAB.	Discussions are on-going between the Secretariat and the Government of Cuba including a visit by the Coordinator to Cuba in February 2018. Signing ceremony for LBS RAC IMA held in Trinidad and Tobago in 2018.
<i>Decision VIII – Working Group on Environmental Monitoring and Assessment</i>	
VIII.2 Request the Working Group to continue support of the development of the SOCAR.	Secretariat facilitated work of group including inviting additional membership. Status update provided in UNEP(DEPI)/CAR WG.39/INF.6/Rev.1
VIII.3 Request Parties to provide data and information to the Secretariat for the further development of the SOCAR	Secretariat requested and obtained data and information from Parties.
VIII.5 Request the Secretariat to mobilize resources to conduct monitoring and assessments in the further development of the SOCAR.	Financial support for the finalization of the SOCAR is being provided by the UNDP/GEF CLME+ and GEF IWeco Projects. Additional potential support through CReW+ Proposal under development.
<i>Decision IX – Caribbean Large Marine Ecosystem Project (CLME+)</i>	
IX.2 Request the Secretariat to explore opportunities for entering into a formal agreement with the Government of Brazil.	Draft MOU prepared and submitted to the Government of Brazil in early 2018 for review and signature.
IX.3 Request the Secretariat to continue its efforts to integrate its work under the AMEP and SPAW sub-programmes.	The LBS/SPAW Roadmap is a fundamental part of the revised CEP Strategy. See: UNEP (DEPI)/CAR.WG.37/INF.7/Rev. 1. Collaboration has taken place for the development of the SOMEE and Research Strategies for Pollution and Habitat under the CLME+ Project.
IX.4 Request that the Secretariat participate in the process to identify options for a Permanent Policy Coordination Mechanism (PPCM) for Ocean Governance and for a Sustainable Financing Mechanism under the CLME+ SAP	The Secretariat provided input to the draft report, and participated in CLME+ Meetings in August and September 2018 to agree on selected options.

ANNEX II: Organizational chart of the Secretariat of the Cartagena Convention and Caribbean Environment Programme as at 1 May 2019



UNITED NATIONS ENVIRONMENT PROGRAMME (UNEP)
 CARIBBEAN ENVIRONMENT PROGRAMME
 REGIONAL COORDINATING UNIT (CAR/RCU)
 May 2019



ANNEX III: Table on Status of Pledges
In US\$

Year	2015	2016	2017	2018
Pledged	1,264,308.00	1,264,308.00	1,264,308.00	1,264,308.00
Pledges Received	1,053,574.54	964,387.75	947,928.00	1,094,040.14
Shortfall in pledges	-210,733.46	-299,920.25	-316,380.00	-170,267.86
Actual Expenditure	1,046,336.00	1,062,604.00	997,228.42	1,032,393.16
Diff. in pledges relative expenditure	7,238.54	-98,216.25	-49,300.42	61,646.98

ANNEX IV: Status of the Ratification of the Cartagena Convention and its Protocols

<i>State</i>	Cartagena Convention		Oil Spill		SPAW		LBS	
	Date of Signature	Ratified / Acceded	Date of Signature	Ratified / Acceded	Date of Signature	Ratified / Acceded	Date of Signature	Ratified / Acceded
<i>Antigua and Barbuda</i>		11-Sep-86		11-Sep-86	18-Jan-90			13-July-10
<i>Bahamas</i>		24-Jun-10		24-Jun-10		8-Mar-12		24-Jun-10
<i>Barbados</i>	5-Mar-84	28-May-85	5-Mar-84	28-May-85		14-Oct-02		
<i>Belize</i>		22-Sep-99		22-Sep-99		4-Jan-08		4-Feb-08
<i>Colombia</i>	24-Mar-83	3-Mar-88	24-Mar-83	3-Mar-88	18-Jan-90	5-Jan-98	2-Oct-00	
<i>Costa Rica</i>		2-Aug-91		2-Aug-91			6-Oct-99	26-May-16
<i>Cuba</i>		15-Sep-88		15-Sep-88	18-Jan-90	4-Aug-98		
<i>Dominica</i>		5-Oct-90		5-Oct-90				
<i>Dominican Republic</i>		24-Nov-98		24-Nov-98		24-Nov-98	3-Aug-00	6-Sep-12
<i>France</i>	24-Mar-83	13-Nov-85	24-Mar-83	13-Nov-85	18-Jan-90	5-Apr-02	6-Oct-99	4-May-07
<i>Grenada</i>	24-Mar-83	17-Aug-87	24-Mar-83	17-Aug-87		5-Mar-12		5-Mar-12
<i>Guatemala</i>	5-Dec-83	18-Dec-89	5-Dec-83	18-Dec-89	18-Jan-90			
<i>Guyana</i>		14-Jul-10		14-Jul-10		14-Jul-10		14-Jul-10
<i>Haiti</i>								
<i>Honduras</i>	24-Mar-83	13-Oct-18	24-Mar-83	13-Oct-18		13-Oct-18		13-Oct-18
<i>Jamaica</i>	24-Mar-83	1-Apr-87	24-Mar-83	1-Apr-87	18-Jan-90			5-Nov-15
<i>Mexico</i>	24-Mar-83	11-Apr-85	24-Mar-83	11-Apr-85	18-Jan-90			
<i>Netherlands</i>	24-Mar-83	16-Apr-84	24-Mar-83	16-Apr-84	18-Jan-90	2-Mar-92	6-Oct-99	
<i>Nicaragua</i>	24-Mar-83	25-Aug-05	24-Mar-83	25-Aug-05				
<i>Panama</i>	24-Mar-83	7-Oct-87	24-Mar-83	7-Oct-87	16-Jan-91	27-Sep-96		9-Jul-03
<i>St. Kitts and Nevis</i>		15-Jun-99		15-Jun-99				
<i>Saint Lucia</i>	24-Mar-83	30-Nov-84	24-Mar-83	30-Nov-84	18-Jan-90	18-May-00		30-Jan-08
<i>St. Vincent and the Grenadines</i>		11-Jul-90		11-Jul-90	26-Jul-91	26-Jul-91		
<i>Suriname</i>								
<i>Trinidad and Tobago</i>		24-Jan-86		24-Jan-86	18-Jan-90	10-Aug-99		28-Mar-03
<i>United Kingdom</i>	24-Mar-83	28-Feb-86	24-Mar-83	28-Feb-86	18-Jan-90			
<i>United States of America</i>	24-Mar-83	31-Oct-84	24-Mar-83	31-Oct-84	18-Jan-90	16-Apr-03	6-Oct-99	13-Feb-09
<i>Venezuela</i>	24-Mar-83	18-Dec-86	24-Mar-83	18-Dec-86	18-Jan-90	28-Jan-97		
<i>European Economic Commission</i>	24-Mar-83							

**ANNEX V: Intergovernmental, Technical/Expert and Other Major Meetings Convened by UN Environment CAR/RCU in 2017-2018
(including RACs and GEF Projects)**

Event Number	Programme Area	Title	Venue	Date
1.	AMEP/CEP	Trash Free Initiative Launch	Kingston, Jamaica	14-16 February 2017
2.	CEP	CARICOM Regional Workshop on the Conservation and Sustainable use of Marine Biological Diversity beyond Areas of National Jurisdiction through a New Implementing Agreement under UNCLOS	Georgetown, Guyana	19-22 February 2017
3.	AMEP	SOI Regional Capacity-Building Workshop for the Wider Caribbean and Central America	San Jose, Costa Rica	19-25 February 2017
4.	AMEP	Inception workshop for nutrients and wastewater projects	Costa Rica	March 2017
5.	AMEP/SPAW/CETA	17th Inter-governmental and Conference of Parties Meeting	French Guiana	13-17 March 2017
6.	AMEP	Inception workshop for nutrients and wastewater projects	Costa Rica	March 2017
7.	AMEP	IOCaribe 35 th Anniversary International Marine Science Conference	Cartagena, Colombia	23-26 April 2017
8.	AMEP	8 th TAC for CARPHA	Georgetown, Guyana	22-29 April 2017
9.	GEF IWeco	GEF Workshop in Brazil: IWLearn, Amazon, GPA, CLME+, CReW	Belem, Brazil	5-17 May 2017
10.	AMEP	Fourth Meeting of the CLME+ SAP interim Coordination Mechanism	Miami, Florida	23-29 May 2017
11.	AMEP	Launch of Nutrients/Wastewater Project	Costa Rica	May 2017
12.	AMEP	Blue Planet Symposium	Maryland, USA	31 May – 02 June 2017
13.	AMEP/SPAW	UN Conference to support implementation of Sustainable Development Goal 14	New York, USA	5-9 June 2017
14.	GEF IWeco/CETA	Regional Meeting of GEF IWeco Project on Communication	Cuba	24 June – 2 July 2017
15.	AMEP	CLME+ Project Executive Group Meeting	Miami, Florida	17-21 July 2017
16.	AMEP	Launch of Trash Free Partnership in Panama	Panama City, Panama	14-18 August 2017
17.	GEF IWeco/CETA	Regional Communications Launch and Capacity Building Workshop	Havana, Cuba	September 2017
18.	AMEP	9 th CARPHA TAC	Trinidad and Tobago	5-8 September 2017
19.	GEF IWeco	4 th GEF IW LEARN Targeted Workshop	Uruguay	8-14 October 2017

Event Number	Programme Area	Title	Venue	Date
20.	GEF IWEC _o	CWWA High-Level Forum on Wastewater and Solid Waste	Guyana	15-21 October 2017
21.	AMEP/SPAW	Global Conference on Land Ocean Interaction and Intergovernmental Review	Bali, Indonesia	20-29 October 2017
22.	AMEP	Regional Communications Launch and Capacity Building Workshop	Saint Lucia	30 October – 3 November 2017
23.	AMEP	70 th Annual GCFI Conference	Merida, Mexico	4-11 November 2017
24.	AMEP	Regional Communications Launch and Capacity Building Workshop	Saint Lucia	29 October – 2 November 2017
25.	AMEP/SPAW	Implementing and Monitoring the Sustainable Development Goals in the Caribbean	St. Vincent and the Grenadines	17-19 January 2018
26.	AMEP	CLME+ SAP/SOCAR/Indicators and SOME _E Meeting	Cartagena, Colombia	28 January – 2 February 2018
27.	AMEP	Nutrients/Wastewater Project Launch	Costa Rica	12-18 February 2018
28.	GEF IWEC _o	GEF IWEC _o 2nd Project Steering Ctee. Meeting and Meeting of Implementing and Executing Agencies	Havana, Cuba	25 February – 3 March 2018
29.	AMEP	7 th International Conference on Environmental Future	Honolulu, Hawaii	15-21 April 2018
30.	GEF CReW+	Preparatory Meeting for the Development of the GEF CReW+ Project Proposal	Washington DC, USA	25-28 April 2018
31.	AMEP/SPAW	Caribbean Sargassum and Oil Spill Pilot Project Workshop	Mexico City, Mexico	28 April - 5 May 2018
32.	GEF IWEC _o	IWEC _o Meeting with OECS and CARPHA	Saint Lucia	8-11 April 2018
33.	AMEP/SPAW/CEP	4 th Meeting under collective arrangement with OSPAR Commission	Berlin, Germany	5-9 May 2018
34.	AMEP	CARPHA 10 th TAC Meeting	St. Kitts and Nevis	10 June 2018
35.	AMEP/SPAW/CEP	2 nd UNDP/GEF CLME+ Project Steering Committee Meeting	Panama City, Panama	17-21 June 2018
36.	AMEP/CEP	9 th Ordinary Steering Committee Meeting of RAC/REMPEITC-Caribe	Willemstad, Curacao	4-8 June 2018
37.	AMEP/SPAW/CEP	5 th Meeting of Council Ministers on Environmental Sustainability	Montserrat	10-11 July 2018
38.	AMEP	4 th Pollution Technical Advisory Ctee. to Protocol concerning Pollution (LBS STAC)	Panama City, Panama	16-20 July 2018
39.	AMEP	11 th Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) Meeting of Caribbean Public Health Agency (CARPHA)	Trinidad and Tobago	1-5 August 2018
40.	AMEP/SPAW	CLME+ SAP Interim Coordinating Mechanism Meeting	Miami, USA	14-18 August 2018

Event Number	Programme Area	Title	Venue	Date
41.	GEF IWEC _o	Inception Meeting for Cuba's IWEC _o National Project	Havana, Cuba	9-14 September 2018
42.	AMEP/SPAW/CEP	The Ocean Commons	New York, USA	19-22 September 2018
43.	AMEP/SPAW/CEP	Global Regional Seas Meeting	Split, Croatia	21-26 September 2018
44.	AMEP	CLME+ Country Consultation on Permanent Policy Coordination Mechanism	Cartagena, Colombia	23-25 September 2018
45.	AMEP	CLME+ Partnership Forum	Cartagena, Colombia	26-29 September 2018
46.	AMEP	GEF First Project Synthesis/Marine Plastics Team Building Workshop	Washington DC, USA	2-5 October 2018
47.	AMEP	14 th High Level Forum of Caribbean Ministers Responsible for Water	Montego Bay, Jamaica	6-13 October 2018
48.	GEF IWEC _o	27 th CWWA Annual Conference	Montego Bay, Jamaica	8-12 October 2018
49.	AMEP/SPAW/CEP	Forum of Ministers of Environment of Latin America and the Caribbean	Buenos Aires, Argentina	9-13 October 2018
50.	AMEP	Regional Marine Litter Experts Workshop on Harmonized Monitoring	Miami, USA	17-20 October 2018
51.	AMEP/SPAW/CEP	OSPAR Intersessional Correspondence Group	Sweden	27 October – 2 November 2018
52.	AMEP	First Workshop on World Heritage and Marine Litter	Nordemey, Germany	13-17 November 2018
53.	GEF IWEC _o /AMEP	9th GEF Biennial International Waters Conference	Marrakesh, Morocco	5-8 November 2018
54.	AMEP/SPAW/CEP	Blue Economy	Nairobi, Kenya	24-20 November 2018
55.	GEF IWEC _o	Launch of IWEC _o National Project for Jamaica	Negril, Jamaica	28-30 November 2018

ANNEX VI: Expenditures for the Overall Coordination of Common Costs and Sub-programmes**i) Overall Coordination & Common Costs**

Budget Component	2016 Actual Budget US\$	2016 Exp.	% spent 2016	2017 Actual Budget US\$	2017 Exp.	% spent 2017	2018 Actual Budget US\$	2018 Exp.	% spent 2018
Travel	33,000	32,706	99	35,000	9,207.01	26.3	23,000	19,288.93	83.6
Staff Personnel	910,500	823,208	90	927,000	802,206.48	86.5	954,810	789,948.43	82.7
Contractual Services	13,000	12,648	97	14,000	19,301.24	137.8	14,000	28,435.14	203.1
Supplies Commodities & Material	2,000	1,892	95	2,500	4,415.47	176.6	1,500	1,287.13	85.8
Operational & Other Costs	80,000	68,764	86	82,000	68,407.11	83.4	80,000	78,115.81	97.6
Equipment Vehicle & Furniture	3,000	1,145	38	5,000	60.24	1.2	3,500	164.81	4.7
Sub-Total	1,041,500	940,362	90	1,065,500	903,597.55	84.8	1,076,810	917,240.25	85.2
PSC (13%)	135,395	122,242		138,515	93,630.87		139,985	115,152.91	
Grand Total	1,176,895	1,062,604	90	1,204,015	997,228.42	82.8	1,216,795	1,032,393.16	84.8

ii) **Summary of Funds Provided by the French Government through SPAW-RAC for the Implementation of SPAW Activities**

Activity	2015	2016
2.1 Programme Co-ordination	2,500	11,100
2.2 Strengthening of protected areas in the Wider Caribbean Region	0	11,100
2.3 Development of guidelines for management of protected areas and species	0	25,000
2.4 Conservation of threatened and endangered species	29,000	17,800
2.5 Conservation and sustainable use of coastal and marine ecosystems	32,100	47,100
TOTAL	63,600	112,100