



United Nations
Environment Programme

Distr. LIMITED

UNEP(DEPI)/CAR IG.42/7
31 March 2020

Original: ENGLISH

Eighteenth Intergovernmental Meeting of 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 MEETING

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ACRONYMS

AMEP	Assessment and Monitoring of Environmental Pollution
CCAD	Central American Commission on Environment and Development
CEP	Caribbean Environment Programme
CETA	Communication, Educations, Training and Awareness
CLME+	Caribbean and North Brazil Shelf Large Marine Ecosystems
CMA	Caribbean Marine Atlas
COP	Conference of the Parties
COPACO	Comisión de Pesca para el Atlántico Centro-Occidental
CReW	Caribbean Regional Fund for Wastewater Management
IGM	Intergovernmental Meeting
IWEco	Integrating Water, Land and Ecosystems Management in Caribbean Small Island Developing States (IWEco)
LBS Protocol	Protocol Concerning Pollution from Land-Based Sources and Activities
NGO	Non-Governmental Organisation
OSPAR Commission	Commission for protecting and preserving the North-East Atlantic and its resources
RAC	Regional Activity Centre
REMPEITC	Regional Marine Pollution Emergency, Information and Training Centre
SDG	Sustainable Development Goal
SOCAR	State of the Convention Area Report
SPAW	Specially Protected Areas and Wildlife
STAC	Scientific and Technical Advisory Committee
UNEP	United Nations Environment Programme / UN Environment Programme
WCR	Wider Caribbean Region

INTRODUCTION

1. The Eighteenth Intergovernmental Meeting (IGM) on the Action Plan for the Caribbean Environment Programme (CEP) and Fifteenth Meeting of the Contracting Parties to the Convention for the Protection and Development of the Marine Environment of the Wider Caribbean Region was convened from 5 to 6 June 2019, Roatan, Honduras.
2. The Meeting proposed to review the achievements of the Caribbean Environment Programme during 2017-2018 and to approve the Workplan of the CEP for the 2019-2020 Biennium.
3. The Secretariat, on behalf of the CEP Governments and Contracting Parties to the Cartagena Convention, convened the Meeting to:
 - **Evaluate** the projects and activities implemented within the framework of the Caribbean Environment Programme during the period 2017-2018;
 - **Review** the progress made in the implementation of the Decisions of the Seventeenth Intergovernmental Meeting on the Action Plan for the Caribbean Environment Programme and Fourteenth Meeting of the Contracting Parties to the Convention for the Protection and Development of the Marine Environment of the Wider Caribbean Region, held in Cayenne, French Guiana 15 to 17 March 2017;
 - **Review** and **adopt** the Decisions of the Tenth Meeting of the Contracting Parties (COP) to the Protocol Concerning Specially Protected Areas and Wildlife (SPAW) in the Wider Caribbean Region, Honduras, 3 June 2019;
 - **Review** and **adopt** the Decisions of the Fourth Meeting of the Contracting Parties (COP) to the Protocol Concerning Pollution from Land-Based Sources and Activities (LBS) in the Wider Caribbean Region, Honduras, 4 June 2019;
 - **Review** and **approve** the Recommendations of the Ninth Meeting of the Steering Committee to the Protocol Concerning Cooperation in Combating Oil Spills in the Wider Caribbean Region, Willemstad, Curaçao, 5-7 June 2018
 - **Review** and **approve** the Draft Workplan and Budget for CEP for the 2019-2020 Biennium, including those of the Regional Activity Centres; and
 - **Decide** on the composition of the Monitoring Committee and the Bureau of Contracting Parties for the 2019-2020 Biennium.
4. National focal points or their designated representatives of all States and Territories participating in the Caribbean Environment Programme and the Commission of the European Union were invited to attend the Meeting. Other States that have demonstrated concern for the protection of the marine environment of the Wider Caribbean Region, UN and non-UN regional and international organisations, NGOs, donors and private sector representatives participating or interested in the Caribbean Environment Programme were also invited to attend the Meeting as Observers. Regional and international experts were invited to make special presentations to the Meeting.

AGENDA ITEM 1: OPENING OF THE MEETING

5. The Meeting was opened on Wednesday, 5 June 2019 at 9:04 a.m. at the Paradise Beach Hotel, in Roatan, Honduras. The opening was moderated by Ms. Ileana Lopez and opening statements were made by Mr. Jose

Antonio Galdames, State Minister of Honduras, Mr. Habib El-Habr, UNEP GPA Coordinator and Mr. Christopher Corbin, CEP Programme Officer.

6. The Minister of State of Honduras, Mr. Jose Galdames, gave opening remarks. He began by welcoming the participants to the Meeting. He stated that the concept of development could not be conceived without considering environmental health and the sustainable use of coastal marine resources. He added that the Wider Caribbean was well-positioned geographically with great potential for commerce, tourism, fishing, maritime traffic, etc., As a result, the impact due to use of its resources was considerably high, therefore countries needed to adopt adequate and efficient protection measures to protect it.
7. The Minister, reaffirmed the commitment of Honduras to prevent, reduce and control pollution in the marine environment, betting on the sustainability of resources and ecosystems given the importance of the oceans for food security, trade, mobility, tourism and ecological balance at local, regional and global levels. He concluded by wishing for a successful meeting.
8. Ms. Lopez thanked the Minister for his remarks then invited Mr. Habib El-Habr to give welcome remarks on the behalf of UN Environment Programme.
9. Mr. Habib El-Habr gave opening remarks on behalf of UN Environment Programme. He expressed pleasure at being in the beautiful island of Roatan for the meeting; an island which he said embodied the goal and intent of the Cartagena Convention. He thanked the Government of Honduras for graciously hosting the meeting and welcomed Honduras as the twenty-sixth (26th) and newest Contracting Party to the Convention and its Protocols. He also acknowledged the financial contributions of the Kingdom of the Netherlands, the Global Environment Facility-funded Integrating Water, Land and Ecosystems Management in Caribbean Small Island Developing States (IWEco) Project and The Ocean Foundation towards the hosting of the meeting.
10. He highlighted the plight of the oceans, a vital resource with potential for economic growth, and pointed out that long-term health of the oceans was essential. He reminded the meeting that with the adoption of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development important goals and targets were set to achieve healthy oceans in the long-term through conservation and sustainable use. He also reminded that the UN Secretary-General, António Guterres, described improving the health of the world's oceans as a "test for multilateralism" that the world could not afford to fail.
11. Mr. El-Habr urged Parties to seriously consider the call of UNEA-3 for wider participation in the UN Decade for Biodiversity, and to fully implement the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) as adopted in 2015 in a comprehensive and coherent manner. This he said would require the Contracting Parties of the Cartagena Convention to fully examine how and to what extent these targets could be best translated into practical, achievable and measurable activities. He also reminded Parties that UN Environment Programme would assist countries to transform knowledge into effective decision-making processes, sound policies and implementation of solutions to aid in more sustainable and equitable use of marine and coastal ecosystem services.
12. He also highlighted the Blue Economy Summit which was scheduled for June 7, 2019. The theme of the summit was 'Green Solutions for a Blue Planet' and its objective was to propose the development of sustainable models of consumption and production, and integrated policies for the conservation and sustainable use of marine resources. He closed by encouraging the countries to commit to the ratification and implementation of the Cartagena Convention and its Protocols and wished for a fruitful meeting.
13. Ms. Lopez thanked Mr. El-Habr for his remarks and for endorsing that improved cooperation and collaboration was needed. Mr. Corbin was then invited to give opening remarks on the behalf of the Secretariat.

14. Mr. Corbin welcomed the participants to the meeting on the behalf of the Secretariat and apologised for the absence of the Coordinator, Lorna Inniss, who was unable to attend due to illness. He highlighted the tremendous support of the Government of Honduras in hosting the meeting. He also highlighted the support provided by UN Environment Programme's headquarters and ROLAC, as well as colleagues in Switzerland and the United Kingdom. He acknowledged the financial contribution from the Kingdom of the Netherlands and the GEF IWECO Project to the hosting of the meeting.
15. He said the Convention had evolved and continued to do so, and indicated that marine biodiversity, land-based pollution and oil spills were still relevant issues. He highlighted new critical issues such as ocean-based or blue economies, microplastics, ocean acidification, Sargassum influx, ecosystem-based management, marine spatial planning and climate change which were not mentioned in the Convention.
16. He congratulated Honduras for being the latest country to become Contracting Party to the Cartagena Convention and its Protocols. He thanked the governments that had been able to maintain their financial commitments and pointed out that the sustainability of the work of the Secretariat was at risk since some governments continued to accumulate large arrears.
17. The achievements of the Secretariat highlighted included the finalisation of the host agreement with the Government of Trinidad and Tobago for the Regional Activity Centre (RAC), the signing of cooperation agreement with the OSPAR Commission to address marine protected areas and marine litter, the first State of the Marine Pollution and State of Marine Habitat Reports supported through the UNDP/GEF CLME+ Project, among others. A new internal strategy and website for the CEP were developed, social media use expanded, and new information products were developed.
18. Mr. Corbin informed that the Secretariat contributed to numerous regional and global publications and participated in several political fora during the biennium. He recognised the support provided by the RACs hosted by the governments of France, Curacao, Cuba and Trinidad and Tobago. As it related to future work, he said the Secretariat would continue to partner with development banks, civil society, private sector and governments to implement programme, projects and activities to meet the mandate of the Convention, its Protocols and the decisions made at the meeting.
19. Ms. Ileana Lopez thanked Mr. Corbin then invited the Meeting to discuss the organisation of the meeting.
20. Mr. Corbin then reminded the meeting that it was World Environment Day. A video commemorating the work of Mr. Antonio Villasol, the outgoing Director of RAC Cimab in Cuba, in support of the Caribbean Environment Programme (CEP) was shown. The video included an interview outlining the history of the RAC and persons who had the pleasure of working with him as they addressed various environmental issues over the many years. His vigour and zeal for his work was highlighted, particularly his humour and communication skills.
21. Mr. Corbin invited Ms. Clementiene Pinder, Administrative and Fund Management Officer of the CEP, to present a token of appreciation to Mr. Villasol in recognition of his many years of valuable service.
22. Mr. Villasol expressed gratitude for the recognition and thanked the Honduran Minister for the work done in organising the meetings and UN Environment Programme representatives from Nairobi and Kingston. He sent greetings to the staff in Kingston and a hug for the previous Coordination, Mr. Nelson Andrade Colmenares. He thanked Ms. Adrian of the U.S. for recognising his work and for her work on the SOCAR along with other colleagues. He also thanked all those whom he had worked with over the years, for the level of collaboration towards the mutual benefit of the environment and all the countries. He congratulated the Delegates for their dedicated work in protecting the environment and the continued work of the CEP as one of the few programmes working successfully in the region to protect the environment.

AGENDA ITEM 2: ORGANISATION OF THE MEETING

2.1 Rules of Procedure

23. The Rules of Procedure for the Meetings of the Convention for the Protection and Development of the Marine Environment of the Wider Caribbean Region (Cartagena Convention) (UNEP, 2010) will apply for the conduct of the Meeting.

2.2 Election of Officers

24. A Chairperson, three (3) Vice-chairpersons and a Rapporteur were elected from among member states as follows:
- Chairperson: Sara Zelaya (Honduras)
 - First Vice-Chairperson: Linroy Christian (Government of Antigua and Barbuda)
 - Second Vice-Chairperson: Nadia Deckert (France)
 - Third Vice-Chairperson: Claudius Carty (Sint Maarten)
 - Rapporteur: Fabian Hinds (Barbados)

2.3 Organisation of Work

25. English, French and Spanish were the working languages of the Meeting. Simultaneous interpretation in these languages will be provided by the Secretariat for the plenary sessions. The working documents of the Meeting were made available in all working languages. The Meeting was asked to adopt its hours of work and such other arrangements of a procedural or organisational nature as may be deemed necessary.

AGENDA ITEM 3: ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA

26. The Meeting was invited to adopt the Agenda and Annotated Agenda of the Meeting as contained in documents UNEP(DEPI)/CAR IG.42/1 and UNEP(DEPI)/CAR IG.42/2 respectively, and note any amendments proposed by Delegates.

AGENDA ITEM 4: REPORT OF THE CHAIRPERSON OF THE MONITORING COMMITTEE AND PRESIDENT OF THE BUREAU OF CONTRACTING PARTIES

27. The outgoing Chairperson of the Monitoring Committee and the President of the Bureau of Contracting Parties, who is one and the same, from the Government of France presented their Report for the period 2017-2018 as contained in document UNEP(DEPI)/CAR IG.42/INF.3.
28. Mr. Pierre-Christian Soccoja, Ambassador of France to Honduras, presented on the behalf of the Government of France. He congratulated SPAW/RAC for the work done and the new staff hired.
29. The Chairperson, Ms. Zelaya Landa, thanked the Ambassador for his comments. She noted the numerous overlapping issues, including Sargassum, which were up for discussion during the meeting. She then opened the floor for comments on France's suggestion regarding cetaceans. He also mentioned the issue of cetacean protection.
30. The delegate of Aruba, Mr. Gisbert Boekhoudt, asked for clarification on the mention of an aquarium and the species referenced.

31. The delegate of France, Ms Deckert, clarified that according to the SPAW Protocol, cetaceans were to be protected and managed for their survival, and that any threat to them must be reported to the Scientific and Technical Advisory Committee (STAC) to be evaluated if appropriate for exemption. She stated that Parties were able to capture specifically for scientific study and pointed out that one (1) Party had not reported the capturing of cetaceans for a captive programme, hence it was clear that the effectiveness on the ground needed to be reassessed. Given that the obligations of the Protocol, the recommended action was expected to improve transparency. She urged that the Protocol must be respected, commitment to it demonstrated and transparency shown.
32. The Meeting was invited to review and make comments on the Chairperson's Report as deemed necessary.

AGENDA ITEM 5: REPORT OF THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF UN ENVIRONMENT PROGRAMME ON THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE CARIBBEAN ENVIRONMENT PROGRAMME (2017-2018) AND BUDGET

Ratification Status

33. The Secretariat invited the Government of Colombia as depositary for the Cartagena Convention to provide the Meeting with a report on any ratifications and/or accessions that took place during the period 2017-2018.
34. The delegate of Colombia, Ms. Cuevas Ortiz, reported on the ratification status of the countries to the Convention and its Protocols. She indicated that the Government of Honduras deposited ratification documents on 12 September 2018 which entered into force on 13 October 2018 making it the 26th country for the Cartagena Convention, 17th for SPAW Protocol and 14th for LBS Protocol.
35. The Chairperson expressed pleasure on the behalf of the Government of Honduras for having ratified the Convention and its Protocols. She then invited the Secretariat to present the Report of the Executive Director of UN Environment Programme on the Implementation of the Caribbean Environment Programme for 2017-2018, as contained in document UNEP(DEPI)/CAR IG.42/INF.4. Emphasis was placed on the response to the Decisions of the Seventeenth Intergovernmental Meeting and Fourteenth Meeting of the Contracting Parties (13-17 March 2019, Cayenne, French Guiana).

Assessment and Monitoring of Environmental Pollution (AMEP) / Specially Protected Areas and Wildlife (SPAW)

36. Mr. Christopher Corbin presented on the implementation of the 2017-2018 Workplan of the Caribbean Environment Programme on behalf of the Secretariat. The work was structured across five (5) major areas namely management, administration and organisation, finance and accounts, environmental management and pollution prevention, biodiversity and protected areas, and communication, education, training and awareness.
37. It was indicated that the Secretariat had taken appropriate actions in response to the Decisions of the Sixteenth Intergovernmental Meeting and other CEP intergovernmental and technical meetings and that these were implemented within the work programme for 2017-2018.
38. The Government of Panama was recognised for hosting the two (2) LBS STACs and Curaçao for hosting the Steering Committee Meeting of the Oil Spill Protocol. The support of the Regional Activity Centres (RACs) for Oil Spills and Land-based Sources of Pollution, as well as the Governments of Jamaica, United States of America, Cuba, Curacao and Trinidad and Tobago were acknowledged for their support to the work of the

Secretariat.

39. Through a growing number of partnerships at the national, regional and international levels, Mr. Corbin explained that the Secretariat had been able to implement various projects and training activities to respond to the needs of Member States with the support of four (4) RACs, and/or via linkages with the Global Environment Facility-funded projects being executed by the Secretariat.
40. Of particular importance was the expanded work of the Caribbean Marine Litter Node with the Gulf and Caribbean Fisheries Institute and special recognition received with GEF IWeco Project and RAC/REMPEITC award.
41. Among the main challenges were the lack of financial and human resources at the Secretariat and the RACs. Reference was also made to the difficulties encountered with slow implementation in countries and the lack of capacity at the national level to execute programmes.
42. In relation to the administration of the Secretariat, Mr Corbin informed that the Secretariat had two (2) frozen staff positions (CETA Associate Professional Officer and Deputy Director) as well as 14 active staff positions with 5 of them dedicated to the GEF IWeco Project given the Secretariat is executing and co-implementing agency.

Communication, Education, Training and Awareness (CETA)

43. Ms. Sancha Foremen, Programme Management Assistant presented on the Communication, Education, Training and Awareness (CETA) subprogramme. The core goals of generating information relevant to the implementation of the Cartagena Convention and its Protocols, build awareness of the value of our coastal and marine resources to facilitate training and capacity were outlined.
44. The inability to hire a programme officer for CETA due to lack of financial resources was reiterated. The work was being undertaken by the pollution programme officer with support from the team assistant, interns and the GEF IWeco Communications Consultant.
45. An overview of the main achievements of the subprogramme for the 2017-2018 biennium were highlighted, namely communication, education, training and awareness involving strategies, plans and promotional tools, developments in information and communication technology infrastructure, several new publications, infographics, factsheets and banners, additional training opportunities and support to technical programme and projects.
46. Significant support was provided to the AMEP and SPAW Sub-programmes. This included the production of the AMEP Electronic Pollution Newsletter, the region's first State of the Convention Area Report on marine pollution, status of bans on single use plastics and Styrofoam in the Wider Caribbean Region and a new online interactive map, collaboration with World Bank in the production of chapters for 'Not a Minute to Waste' Pollution Publication, Regional Publications on ocean-related Sustainable Development Goals, Manual on Harmonized Marine Litter Monitoring and Guidelines for the Monitoring and Assessment of Plastic Litter in the Ocean and the coordination of a challenge.
47. The CETA sub-programme responded to several requests for information and coordinated responses to surveys and information requests from countries, partners and UNEP Headquarters. Media coverage was done on environmental issues and work done with schools and fisherfolk. The management of social media presence on the various platforms and the increase in the number of likes on Facebook and followers on Twitter was noted.

48. Ms. Foreman concluded by reiterating that the work of the sub-programme was with minimal or no core funds for activities. She touched on the need for Governments to provide any financial and technical support for the success of the sub-programmes and the work of the Secretariat.

Budget and Finance

49. The Administrative and Fund Management Officer (AFMO), Ms. Clementiene Pinder, presented on the overall budget/expenditure and status of personnel. She highlighted the low level of contribution from the countries which was insufficient to cover staff and operating costs and pointed out that there had not been any increase in pledges for the past few years. She added that countries that were benefitting from projects being implemented by the CEP were in arrears. Forty-four (44) percent of the countries were up-to-date with payments while 41% had arrears ranging from two to nine years and 15% with arrears of ten (10) or more years.
50. A visual illustration of payments per country was given. She said there continued to be a gap between the pledges, contributions and expenditure, and indicated that the gap was indeed larger as the Secretariat often had to seek funding for the convening of the Intergovernmental Meeting in the form of in-kind contribution. She reminded the financial support/funding for meetings was not provided by the UN. She said funding was also secured through mobilising resources from regional partners via projects e.g. CLME+, CReW and IWEco.
51. To address the issue of insufficient funds, Ms. Pinder suggested that projects should include funding for adequate staffing and operational support, encourage countries to honour their commitments and extend the trust fund budget until the next IGM.
52. The Chairperson thanked the Secretariat for the presentations and for outlining the status of contributions. She and encouraged the countries to make outstanding payments given that the sustainability of the programme was at risk then opened the floor for comments.

Discussion

53. The delegate of Cuba, Mr. Pedro Ruiz Hernandez, congratulated the Secretariat for the summary of the work done and how much was accomplished with very limited resources. He indicated that the Government of Cuba had tried on occasions to pay its pledges but was unsuccessful due to the embargo imposed by the U.S. He recognised the efforts of the Secretariat in trying to assist with the issue and implored the Secretariat to find a solution. He said Cuba was considering hosting a meeting to reduce the arrears but that was not a definitive solution. He then added that the issue was discussed with the regional director and reiterated the support of the Secretariat in finding a solution. He thanked the countries for their contributions.
54. Ms. Zelaya Landa, delegate Honduras and Chairperson, referred to RAC/REMPEITC and indicated interest in participating in their activities/work, as well as the ongoing work of the Secretariat and work in other countries, noting the coastal and marine ecosystem and the National Marine Contingency Plan aimed at helping to address spills, and given that Honduras had a plan to control spills. She then congratulated the Secretariat for the great work done with limited funds and for the education and awareness raising efforts. She added that she was happy to see the focus on environmental education, which was not generally a focus for many governments.
55. The delegate of the Dominican Republic, Mr. Jose Feliz, recognised the enormous work of the Secretariat in light of economic difficulty. He stated that the Dominican Republic was aware of their contribution status and was committed to continue providing support to the Cartagena Convention. He added that he would ensure that the contributions were paid.

56. The delegate of the U.S., Mr. Porter, commended the Secretariat for the work done despite the lack of funds. He stated that paying outstanding arrears may seem a daunting task and encouraged the countries help to reduce the amount by making partial contributions to their outstanding balance.
57. The delegate of Colombia, Ms. Cuevas Ortiz, also congratulated the Secretariat for the great work notwithstanding the financial challenges. She encouraged the Secretariat to think strategically and explore other options for partnership. She added that Colombia valued the work of the Secretariat expressed gratitude for its work on communication, the website, documents and activities related to the Convention and its Protocols. She welcomed the effort to improve communication and coordination with other international organisations to implement activities and initiatives in fulfilment of the work of the Protocols.
58. Mr. Christian, delegate of Antigua and Barbuda, acknowledged the indebtedness of his country and assured the Secretariat that internal discussions between relevant government agencies were ongoing. He committed to making small contributions as suggested. He also invited the Secretariat to engage in further discussions regarding the hosting of future COP/IGM and STAC meetings to reduce arrears as the work of the Secretariat was fundamental and his country would like to continue supporting its work and benefit from it.
59. The delegate of Barbados, Mr. Anthony Headley, thanked the Chair and acknowledged the significant work done by the Secretariat during the biennium on the educational and outreach programme. He noted that it was important to understand how the information was consumed and that the indicators for consumption should go beyond usage by age. Given that the Secretariat serve Member States, a useful indicator could be consumption by member states, which would allow analysis of the penetration and usage of the information in Member State. He further indicated that a possible avenue to increase consumption within Parties would be for the focal points to include links to the CEP web on their own websites to ensure that the high-quality information generated from the Secretariat's work is exposed to the widest of audiences. Mr. Headley also agreed with the position of the United States regarding the method of payments (i.e. small/affordable contributions to the Caribbean Trust Fund (CTF) considering the financial difficulties experienced by most countries.
60. Mr. Corbin, on behalf of the Secretariat, expressed gratitude at the appreciation shown for the work of the Secretariat and thanked the delegates for finding ways to address payment of the annual pledges. He endorsed the recommendation of Mr. Porter from the U.S. and welcomed the contribution of Cuba regarding the issue of their payment, as well as the possibility of hosting a meeting. He stated that the Secretariat was still willing to work with them to address the payment issue and to continue providing the high-level product the countries were used to.
61. Mr. El-Habr stated that it was very difficult to sustain a Secretariat without the annual contributions and pointed out that funds for projects would not be possible if the Secretariat did not exist. He added that it was very important to pay annual contributions early in the fiscal year (first quarter) in order to have a sustainable Secretariat. He further added that the Cartagena Convention was not the only regional seas programme with arrears issues and highlighted that UN Environment Programme was working with all the Regional Seas Secretariats to find the best solution.
62. He said that some countries would have difficulties but that it was important to start looking at the annual contribution from now onward. He mentioned that the Secretariat would work with each country on modality to cover arrears but pointed out that 5% per year was not sustainable for the Secretariat as it would not have enough funds to pay salary in five (5) or 10 years. He continued by stating that he could see that the countries appreciated the work of the Secretariat but in order to continue having a strong Secretariat and strong support, it is very important to start thinking how contributions were honoured. He further added that countries should show commitment to pay, even a 5% payment to start with.

63. The SPAW Programme Officer, Ms. Lopez, thanked the countries that made a commitment to pay their contributions. She pointed out that sometimes it was not that countries do not want to pay but that the request was not reaching the right people and hoped that the situation would improve at the next meeting.

Cartagena Reporting Template

64. Mr. Corbin informed that a repository in relation to the Cartagena Reporting Template was set up on the website to allow for online reporting and invited Ms. Jodi Johnson to present on it.
65. Ms Jodi Johnson presented on the Cartagena Reporting Template. During the presentation, she highlighted that of the 26 Contracting Parties, only 12 submitted reports for the period 2017-2018. The noticeable discrepancy of accessible resources and implementation progress of the Convention between different member states was also brought to the attention of the Secretariat. Problems faced by Contracting Parties included non-prioritization of the Convention and its Protocols, environmental measures by governments, deficiency in capital, human resources, policy or political support and technical training.
66. As it related to marine pollution reduction, she said, most of the member states had already implemented certain laws, policies and plans while some were still in the preparation phase. The LBS pollution was pointed out as one of the most severe with issues varying based on geographic locations. She concluded by stating that all pollution emergencies that emerged were remedied and contained.
67. The Chairperson thanked the Secretariat for the presentation.

AGENDA ITEM 6: DRAFT WORKPLAN AND BUDGET FOR THE CARIBBEAN ENVIRONMENT PROGRAMME FOR THE 2019-2020 BIENNIUM

68. The Secretariat presented the document UNEP(DEPI)/CAR IG.42/3, entitled "Draft Workplan and Budget for the Caribbean Environment Programme for the 2019-2020 Biennium".
69. Mr. Corbin began the presentation by highlighting the activities for the 2019-2020 biennium which included increasing the number of ratifications to the Cartagena Convention and its Protocols, expanding resource mobilisation efforts, improve information management capacity, building new partnerships, enhance the impact of the projects and activities of the CEP and supporting the achievement of the sustainable development goals.
70. Strategic areas for the AMEP and SPAW subprogrammes and their related budgets were highlighted.
71. Activities for AMEP included the CReW+ Project, recreational water quality, Caribbean Node for Marine Litter, Trash Free Waters Initiative, project on strengthening human resilience in Northern Clarendon and West Kingston, Jamaica and the Caribbean platform for nutrients.
72. The SPAW activities for the biennium included the strengthening of protected areas in the Wider Caribbean Region, development of guidelines for the management of protected areas and species, conservation of threatened and endangered species, and conservation and sustainable use of coastal and marine ecosystems.
73. The key activities of the CETA subprogramme were highlighted, namely, improve the Cartagena Reporting Template, implement the CEP Communication Strategy, implement communication strategy for the State of the Convention Area Report (SOCAR), strengthen links with UN, international and regional media, share information via social media, enhance the kids page and develop new promotional materials, among others.

74. The countries were urged to provide updated focal points information so that information can be shared with them.
75. Reminder was given about the migration to the new website which would have country pages and that the countries would be contacted by the Secretariat to provide information on the work being done to populate the pages.
76. The Chairperson thanked Mr. Corbin for the presentation on the Workplan and Budget.
77. The Meeting was invited to make comments on the 2019-2020 Draft Workplan and Budget and approve the Workplan and Budget as presented or as amended by the Meeting.
78. Ms. Deckert, delegate of France, thanked the secretariat for the work done and commended the evolution of the project and offered to assist with the dissemination of information particularly in regard to the "Kid's Page". She mentioned a children's webpage that had generic information to teach why waters should not be contaminated and that it could be added to the children's page. She indicated she was available for any questions or observations.
79. The Secretariat thanked France for the audio-visual help with the children's page.
80. The workplan was adopted as presented by the Secretariat.

RAC/REMPEITC

81. As part of review of the recommendations and/or decisions for review and further action by the Secretariat, the Chairperson invited Ms. Gisette Seferina to give remarks on the behalf of the Regional Activity Centre/Regional Marine Pollution Emergency Information and Training Centre (RAC/REMPEITC-Caribe) in her capacity as representative of the Government of Curacao and Chair of the Steering Committee.
82. Ms. Seferina gave an overview of the Centre and highlighted the technical support it provides, staffing and activities done during the 2018-2019 biennium. Planned activities were also highlighted. She said several countries became signatory to and ratified international conventions, as well as developed national oil spill contingency plans. She indicated that the focus of the Centre's work would shift towards providing national-level exercise support or task-specific training as more and more countries further refine their national contingency plans. She highlighted that a major spill would most certainly develop into a regional issue hence there was the need to push for regional solutions. She said the technical support in the region was geared towards regional priorities and improve information sharing.
83. The recommendations of the 9th Steering Committee Meeting held 5-7 June 2018 in Curacao as presented in document UNEP(DEPI)/CAR IG.42/INF.15 were also presented and adopted.
84. Mr. Corbin thanked Ms. Seferina for the presentation. He indicated that the Secretariat was fully supportive of the recommendations then invited the Contracting Parties to provide feedback on the recommendations.
85. Ms. Zelaya Landa, delegate of Honduras, said they were interested in maritime activities (preventing and controlling oil spills) and other commitments under other conventions derived from the International Maritime Organisation (IMO), such as, port reception facilities, anti-fouling paints, transfer of alien species and pathogens. She said clear guidance at strategy and policy level had worked well for Honduras and that it was important for all areas to function synonymously to see points of intersect instead of working independently. She thanked RAC/REMPEITC for their offer on the subject.

86. The representative of Ms. Seferina thanked the Chairperson and said she was looking forward to working with Honduras.
87. Mr. Headley, delegate of Barbados, acknowledged that two years ago the Convention was discussing the financial and personnel difficulties that RAC/REMPETIC-Caribe was experiencing and thanked the Governments of the United States of America and Jamaica for their contributions. He noted the importance of the Centre and the benefited received by his country through oil spill simulation training and the oil spill sensitivity maps. He said of recent work of the National Oil Spill Committee included the preparation of a volunteer protocol along with the development of a communications strategy to keep the public informed during an oil spill incident. He recommended that the capabilities of the Centre needed to be communicated to member states particularly its abilities on risk assessment.
88. Mr. Banjoo, representative of RAC IMA, enquired on what was in place to deal with mystery spills so that polluters can be identified, and compensation obtained from the environmental damages when such unreported spills occur.
89. The Chair of the RAC REMPEITC Steering Committee, Gisette Seferina stated that it was very relevant and pointed out that not everyone was responsible hence it was necessary to formalise a mechanism to address that. She added that there was the need to normalise those kinds of spills and hold everyone responsible.
90. The point made by Ms. Lopez concerning finding the right channels to get what was needed from Parties was supported by the presenter, Ms. Seferina. She also cited the example of the efforts made by Ms. Inniss, Coordinator of the Secretariat during her visit to Honduras, as well as the meetings held to encourage ratification of Honduras, which were quite successful. The impacts, response/containment and regulatory solutions as well as the need for preparedness were highlighted.
91. The Chairperson, on behalf of the Government of Honduras, reiterated the need for preparedness.
92. Ms. Perez Hernandez of RAC Cimab thanked Ms. Seferina for the presentation. She shared a point on fines and sanctions for oil spill infractions and asked who was responsible for a mystery spill. She said it was not an easy task, but it was important to identify the guilty party and hold them accountable. She indicated that fossil fuel had its own signature and a comparison could be done using new technology to identify the source of the spill. With several vessels in the area, it was important to know who to fine (for e.g. cruise ships) to ensure the fine matches the spill. She added that the fine was never enough to cover the consequence of the spill since a study had to be done at the expense of the maritime authority. The cost for the study, she said, should be included in the fine. The environmental impacts of the spill must also be addressed.
93. Ms. Seferina of RAC/REMPEITC stated that national invoices will be done and parties responsible will pay if spills were from land sources. All Parties would be responsible for mystery spills.
94. Delegate of Honduras agreed and pointed out that spills from land-based sources were difficult to address. She mentioned insurance mechanisms that could possibly address that.
95. The delegates from Honduras (Sara Zelaya Landa, Joel Doland and Carlos Sagrera) presented on oil and hazardous noxious substance (HNS) spills and environmental impacts on the Honduran coast. Mr. Drysdale's effort on the subject in the West End of Roatan was recognised as well as Lorna Inniss' (CEP Coordinator) support to Honduras during the ratification process of the Convention.

96. It was pointed out that with increased maritime traffic, there was an increase in incidents and that could range from cruise ships, vessel on fire, sunken vessel or carbon spill.
97. Sinking of a vessel was very serious and should be prevented. It was indicated that priorities for containing oil spills and its environmental impacts should be defined. He mentioned that the three (3) pillars to Oil and HNS spills included national contingency plan, regulations for the registration of companies providing oil spills and hazardous substance containment services and regulations for prevention and control of oil spills and hazardous substances. The need to fine countries that caused oil spill was highlighted but very few countries have adopted the polluter pays principle.

Decisions of the 4th LBS COP

98. The meeting was invited to adopt the Decisions of the Fourth Meeting of the Contracting Parties (COP) to the Protocol Concerning Pollution from Land-Based Sources and Activities (LBS) in the Wider Caribbean Region. They were presented by Mr. Corbin who called attention to Decision 8 regarding the interim monitoring and assessment working group for approval as *Ad Hoc* Open-Ended Working Group on SOCAR and related initiatives and highlighted the SOCAR-related decisions (14-15 to build capacities and share experiences).
99. The Chairperson invited the Parties to provide input, observations and comments on decision 8 of the LBS COP4.
100. The decisions were approved without objection.

Decisions of the 10th SPAW COP

101. The SPAW Programme Officer presented the SPAW COP10 Decisions as endorsed by the COP. She indicated that two (2) decisions had slight word changes and were reviewed.
102. Mr. Porter of the U.S. and Ms. Deckert of France requested language changes to the decisions 2 and 7 respectively.
103. Mr. Hoetjes, delegate of the Caribbean Netherlands, asked if the work of the COP, namely the decisions, was being re-evaluated.
104. Mr. Corbin clarified by stating that if a decision was made by the COP it should be maintained and the document not open for new deliberations. However, it was important to clarify the nature of the changes being made. If they were basic editorial changes then these could be incorporated.
105. The SPAW Programme Officer agreed with Mr. Corbin and said the comments made would be taken into account and the necessary changes made, however the document was not open for edit.
106. Mr. Porter, delegate of the U.S., agreed and added that it was important to ensure that the document being approved was what was agreed to by the COP.
107. Mr. Hoetjes clarified that the decisions being referred to were for the SPAW COP and not those of the Cartagena Convention.

Draft CEP Strategy

108. The Chairperson invited the Secretariat to present on the development of the new Draft Strategy for the Development of the Caribbean Environment Programme, as contained in document UNEP(DEPI)/CAR IG.42/INF.6. She apologized to delegates who may not have had a chance to review the document since it was only recently completed, and efforts were underway to have it translated.
109. Mr. Corbin apologized for the late submission of the document to the Parties. He indicated that support was received from the Ocean Foundation and the GEF CLME+ Project and that the document should be available in all languages. He outlined what the strategy meant for the Secretariat moving forwards. The original strategy was developed in 1990 and its update was recommended by the UN Office of Internal Oversight Services (OIOS) following the audit done in 2015. The update was also requested by the 17th Intergovernmental Meeting as this was what guided the work of the Secretariat. He informed that strategies for other institutions were used to guide the process.
110. He said that the Caribbean Sea, a source of goods and services, was being threatened by land-based activities so the strategy was developed bearing in mind the geographical context, assessment of vulnerabilities of the region and the extent to which urgent intervention was needed. It also recognized the significant dependence on regional seas for livelihoods.
111. He said the recent World Bank study estimated that the value of the coastal and marine environment of the Wider Caribbean Region (WCR) stood at US407 billion and although the strategy did not speak to Blue Economy, it referred to the global and regional strategy that informed the content. He also said it complemented other strategies that Governments would have committed to. In addition, the global and regional frameworks as well as the Permanent Policy Coordination Mechanism (PPCM) that complemented the strategy.
112. The efforts of the UN in relating to global trends in delivering as one were highlighted. Mr. Corbin said the strategy presented real opportunities for resource mobilization and implementation for greater capital investment in the region. However, resource mobilisation could perhaps be deepened with other options. It was pointed out that the UN was guided by specific mandates on how to engage the private sector and highlighted the contribution from the Government of Italy having no specific vested interest in a territory but saw the importance of investing in the region.
113. The Parties were invited to review the draft strategy and provide general/specific feedback. They were also requested to consider the draft strategy for adoption during the COP or inter-sessionally and provide guidance for next steps.
114. The Chairperson stated that the CEP Strategy was a very important document that will guide the work of the CEP, then she opened the floor for comments.
115. Mr. Porter, delegate of the U.S., indicated that the upcoming UN Decade of Ocean Science (2021-2030) would be an opportunity to link the strategy and noted that these types of opportunities may come along only once in lifetime. He said the occasion could be considered as a group or by individual nations. He added that there was still time for nations to participate in the planning process and indicated that he had the contact for the planning committee.
116. The head of delegation of France, Mr. Benoit Bria, indicated that the documents were reviewed and thought there was no difference between the concepts but pointed out that the principle of no-return should be considered because once you start there was no going backwards (must abide by French law). He said the strategy would be a good complement.

117. Mr. Corbin thanked the delegates for their words of guidance and recognised that it could be improved.
118. The delegate of Saint Lucia, Mr. Nelson, requested that the Secretariat prepare an abbreviated version of the strategy for sharing with the various audiences at the national level for input/comments.
119. Mr. Corbin responded that that was possible and could include the first strategy document presented.
120. The Secretariat and invited Observers were asked to introduce information papers relating to the Development of Sustainable Strategies of the Caribbean Environment Programme.

Proposal for Sustainable Ocean-Based Economy (Blue Economy)

121. The chair invited Mr. Ole Vestergaard, UN Environment Programme Nairobi representative, to present on the proposal for development of a *Regional Strategy for Sustainable Ocean-Based Economy in the Wider Caribbean Region* (UNEP(DEPI)/CAR IG.42/INF.18) prepared by UN Environment Programme.
122. Mr. Vestergaard gave an overview of the benefits derived from oceans, pointing out that healthy oceans provided the basis for human well-being and essential economic activity (fisheries, tourism, recreation, etc.) and that contributed to most of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). He also indicated that human activities such as overfishing, agriculture and development contribute to the deterioration of oceans and coasts thereby threatening progress on eliminating poverty.
123. He said it was necessary to find the right balance between the pillars of sustainable ocean-based economy. A holistic multi-faceted approach was needed to realise the full potential of sustainable ocean-based economies. He added that the Regional Strategy was essential and that it would help to address transboundary issues and find solutions.
124. The Chairperson indicated that blue economy could be included in the strategy and work programme and invited the Parties to provide input.
125. The delegate of the U.S., Mr. Porter, expressed gratitude for the interesting presentation and indicated his nation's support for sustainable ocean-based economy. He said that "blue economy" was important to the U.S. as it is an important segment of the U.S. economy and the subject of increasing focus by the U.S. government. He added that successful implementation of the blue economy was the implicit focus of the Cartagena Convention and that a Caribbean Sea free of pollution, with protected species, and with protection from oil spills is the starting point for developing the blue economy. As such, the U.S. believes the primary blue economy strategy should be full and successful implementation of the existing Convention. He expressed concern about starting work on new strategy and working group, as this would place a heavy burden on the Secretariat in terms of financial and human resources. He said adding a new workplan and strategy to the workload was problematic and would run the risk of losing focus on other areas. He pointed out that the Working Group members also had a heavy schedule and wondered if persons would have the capacity to have a new Working Group and indicated that there was the possibility of hiring a consultant to focus on blue economy.
126. Mr. Hoetjes, delegate of the Caribbean Netherlands, endorsed the intervention by the U.S. and said the Contracting Parties should look at what was possible for the Secretariat. He informed that Bonaire was labelling itself as a blue destination based on conservation work being done but much thought had not been put into it. He asked what "blue" really meant and stated that there was the need for a strategy to clearly outline what being a blue economy entailed to perhaps help smaller islands tackle the issue of blue economy. He said that if funding

was available to hire a consultant, as suggested by the U.S., then that would be good.

127. Ms. Deckert, delegate of France, indicated that she was pleased about the “blue economy” concept but there was uncertainty about what “blue” meant. She agreed with the sentiments of Mr. Hoetjes that guidance on what “blue” was and what was not to frame the approach within the region. She added that a framework for blue economy could be established as she would like to see a Blue Caribbean and beyond that it would be political. In short, interest must be displayed. She stated that other agencies in the countries could develop their interest and the focus should not only be about conservation but also pollution to attract more attention and other stakeholders besides the traditional ones. She encouraged working in a logical manner/framework to develop the blue economy and looking at not only the development of a strategy but also the economic/financial aspects. She further added that partners interested in the approach should be identified, noting the limited resources available.
128. Mr. Thomas Nelson, delegate of Saint Lucia, expressed gratitude for the presentation. He said it was important to consolidate efforts by streamlining the strategies and make them more strategic and considering the limited resources available, it was important not to duplicate efforts. Setting up working groups that would stretch the limited resources further and end up achieving nothing was not the goal, therefore it was important to consolidate and establish partnerships. He added that a change in direction and approach was needed hence it was important to revisit the strategic process.
129. The delegate of Mexico, Ms. Andrea Hurtado Upstein thanked the Secretariat and the UN delegate for the presentation noting the importance of the blue economy in Mexico as priority and the work in the environment. She said the term “blue economy” was fundamental and that the concerns regarding the capacity of Secretariat was noted. In addition, she said it was important to involve the local community in relation to the new strategy. She also said Mexico needed to work on residuals waters; there were many occasions where the municipality did not have the financial resources to treat wastewater and this would have to be included in the strategy.
130. Mr. Headley, delegate of Barbados, thanked the presenter for the excellent presentation. He suggested that the Secretariat should focus on doing a few things and do them well. He added that blue economy was progressing, and Parties needed to be at the table to indicate their interest and values. He then stated that Barbados had established Ministry of Blue Economy and was working on identifying the appropriate institutional framework for the Ministry and an overall Policy, which would bring together the maritime affairs and blue economy initiatives. He said Barbados was not opposed to the Secretariat exploring the opportunities that may emerge as the Blue Economy initiatives are built out regionally and globally. He further added that Parties needed to be strategic how they proceed; they should look at all the avenues to ensure the effective use of resources. He suggested the integration of strategies, if possible, and that Parties be given time to submit comments on both documents.
131. Ms. Nina Lysenko, delegate of the Dominican Republic, thanked the speaker for the excellent presentation. She said that work carried out in the preparation of the regional strategy had a clear view on how broad the blue economy concept was. She said that the Strategy of the Caribbean Environment Programme could be a part of the regional strategy that was still to be determined as part of the blue economy. She added that the issues of blue economy must first be taken on by the country as its meaning was not yet defined and informed that the World Bank had an experimental definition of blue economy. She further added that attention should be paid to the new platform as many initiatives could fit into it and recommended that it be included in the work of the Secretariat as the Convention could be a driver to profile the blue economy strategy. She then stated that it was very important to create a discussion forum for this purpose to review how this could be included in the CEP strategy and the relevant documents shared.
132. The delegate of Aruba, Mr. Boekhoudt, referenced the baseline created by the State of the Convention Area Report (SOCAR) and said the economies and livelihoods of the Caribbean were ocean-based and expressed

his support for the creation of a strategy. He added that the environment minister of his country was committed to a blue economy. He also said that three (3) to six (6) months was sufficient time to draft a strategy.

133. Mr. Patrick Debels, representative of the CLME+ Project, said the vision was to support the Cartagena Convention and its Protocols. He recognised the need to work on the strategy and the roles countries should take in defining what was needed from them. He reiterated that while the Secretariat was overloaded it had a very important role to play in blue economy. He pointed out that other regions had interest in the subject, for example, the Comisión de Pesca para el Atlántico Centro-Occidental (COPACO) had a fishing mandate as part of the blue economy. He said that Central American Commission on Environment and Development (CCAD) could support the Convention. He recognized that blue economy was vibrant and needed the effort of many to push it forward.
134. The delegate of Belize, Ms. Maxine Monsanto, thanked the Government of Honduras for hosting the meeting. She said that all the countries were working towards sustainable development and part of that included the three (3) pillars highlighted in the presentation – healthy environment, social and economic. She added that all Parties had ocean-based economies and that the blue economy was essentially a rebranding of the green economy concept, which also aimed at sustainable development with the economy and social aspects working hand in hand. She said that there were limited resources to focus specially on the blue economy but could be a part of the CEP Strategy. She added that a clear definition for blue economy was needed for each country, what it was viewed as for the region and what the countries wanted to work towards, and these should be included in the strategy (joined or say the same thing). She added that financing would be allocated and that there was no harm in investigating how it could be used to the advantage of the countries.
135. Mr. Marc Porter, delegate of the U.S., stated that the countries have slightly different interests (national, economic, social) and some might overlap, but it was important to know what each country wanted from it. He suggested a Venn diagram be done and the overlapping interests focussed on. He said the Secretariat's communication and outreach workplan and related materials should make it clear that what was already being done under the Convention supported the blue economy.
136. The delegate of Honduras, Mr. Carlos Thompson Flores, said the focus on the blue economy should be as indicated by the U.S. He indicated that he sensed some fear in the room and reminded that the countries were working towards improvement in coastal communities, and that all the work that was being done involved the blue economy. He added that Honduras was very interested in blue economy and hoped that countries that would participate in the Blue Summit scheduled for June 7, 2019 should also speak on the issue then.
137. Mr. Miguel Espinosa, delegate of the Dominican Republic agreed with Honduras as there was no clear focus. He stated that he was trying to see the difference between the Strategy of the Convention and that of the UN Sustainable Ocean-based Economy.
138. The delegate of Cuba, Mr. Pedro Ruiz Hernandez, agreed with Honduras and stated that the Parties should try to see the difference of what was being promoted in the meetings. He acknowledged that the blue economy was an emerging concept so Cuba would be reticent in taking it on as they were not sure it would be convenient to adopt it in the Convention. He added that the issues were still being discussed by the countries. He questioned why include the blue economy strategy into the strategy of the Convention, and what new value it was bringing. He suggested that a Working Group be established to identify a common position on the issue.
139. The delegate of Mexico, Mr. de Jager Arnold thanked the Secretariat and the UN delegate for the presentation noting the importance of the 'Blue Economy' in Mexico as a priority and the work in the environment. He said the Convention was contributing to the integral nature of blue economy and that "blue economy" was a very broad term and duplication of efforts should be avoided. He added that for the development of a strategy, it

would be necessary to know where under the Convention Strategy it would link. It was suggested that the three (3) key issues being proposed by the Secretariat (assessment of ecosystems services, tourism, and fisheries) be focussed on instead of opening a discussion of how they match.

140. The delegate of Guyana, Ms. Sankar, agreed with Saint Lucia, the U.S. and Belize as they had spent time developing their strategy. She said there was coherence with the CEP Strategy, but the important thing was to have coherence in whatever was being done in moving forward and resources used effectively.
141. Mr. Alberto Pacheco, programme officer from UN Environment Programme ROLAC, said the approach needed to be revitalised so as not to bring a burden to the Secretariat but an added value. He said the mindset needed to be changed and emerging concepts should be brought on board at the national level as well. He added that there might be a need to have more discussions with countries on how to operationalise that and indicated that it was an important issue, therefore the Caribbean needed to decide on its own terms what it would do.
142. Ms. Adrian, delegate of the U.S., endorsed Mr. Pacheco's views towards not burdening the Secretariat with more work due to their concerns about a lack of resources. She expressed a challenge in determining how blue economy approaches could be incorporated under the existing work of the Convention. She said blue economy was being seen as a separate item and pointed out that all of the work of the Convention being done was already for the benefit of the blue economy. Ms. Adrian informed that discussions during the Blue Summit would help to stimulate thought about its meaning. She then added that perhaps ROLAC could provide information for discussion during the STACs, and this way, there would be a starting point for a more in-depth discussion.
143. Mr. Corbin said he thought it was important to prepare a list regarding the perspective of the Contracting Parties on the issue; country ownership was vital. He said that when the strategy was being prepared, various documents were reviewed and much research done. He said blue economy could be linked to an issue that was important for the Parties/Convention. In regard to knowledge management and pollution control, the aim was to see how things could be done differently (for example, marine litter) but still accomplish what needed to be done. He said the strategy should be looked at to see if the elements were consistent and have a harmonised understanding of what was meant by ocean-based economy. He indicated that he wanted to see the internal strategy supported and endorsed, and a subsequent mechanism to evaluate and expand what was needed from an ocean-based economy standpoint. He also said other regional partners were embarking on similar discussions hence it was not only for the Secretariat but was an economic imperative many governments were moving towards. It could be viewed as an opportunity if framed correctly and was not an undue burden on a limited Secretariat.
144. Mr. Debels said there was the risk for duplication which should be avoided yet there was a chance for synergy and complementarity. He urged that the risk should be eliminated, and transformation done.
145. The Chairperson thanked Mr. Vestergaard for the excellent presentation and everyone for the rich discussion. She then invited the CLME+ representative to present on the CLME+ Initiative.

CLME+ Initiative – Permanent Policy Coordination Mechanism (PPCM)

146. Ms. Laverne Walker, CLME+ representative, presented on the CLME+ Initiative. Ms. Walker began the presentation by giving an overview of the Wider Caribbean Region and oceans as well as the CLME+ Project as contained in *Report on Options for a Permanent Policy Coordination Mechanism and Sustainable Financing Plan for Ocean Governance in the CLME+* (UNEP(DEPI)/CAR IG.40/INF.4).
147. An overview was also given of the CLME+ Strategic Action Programme (SAP) 2015-2025 which called for the

establishment of a Coordination Mechanism for Ocean Governance. A comparison of the vision statements of CLME+ SAP and CEP Strategy was also given, and both were seen to be mutually supportive as they overlapped in timeframe, geographic scope and thematic scope.

148. The reasons for having a coordination mechanism were highlighted. They included inadequate governance, lack of sustainable financing, inefficient/ineffective use of resources and depletion of natural capital (ecosystem resources) in the region.
149. In summary, the mandate of the coordination mechanism will be to promote and facilitate regional collaboration and coordination in core thematic areas, namely marine pollution, marine biodiversity and fisheries as well as climate change. It is expected to progressively expand to cover other areas, sectors and economic activities such as tourism, oil and gas, shipping, mining, biotechnology, bioprospecting and renewable energy.
150. The proposed geographic scope was the Wider Caribbean Region (Caribbean LME and North Brazil Shelf LME) and the Gulf of Mexico LME. The proposed functions would build on the current functions of the CLME+ SAP Interim Coordination Mechanism and potential financing sources were highlighted.
151. It was suggested that the Caribbean Regional Coordinating Unit (CEP Secretariat) could consider hosting the Permanent Policy Coordination Mechanism. The Coordination Mechanism could support the work of the CEP Secretariat in achieving the objectives of the CEP Strategy, supporting the work of the subprogrammes, enabling better coordination/collaboration between the CEP and other intergovernmental organisations and leveraging additional funds through alignment of proposal with CLME+ SAP.
152. The Chairperson thanked Ms. Walker for the detailed presentation then opened the floor for comments.
153. Mr. Corbin thanked Ms. Walker for the presentation. He recognised the need to develop an ocean-based strategy and viewed the meeting as a potential way of gaining support from countries. He said the Secretariat was considered a possible host for the mechanism, as it would represent significant value added in terms of financing and mandate and would be sustainable after the end of the project.
154. He then indicated that it was important for the participants to see the three (3) presentations together, i.e. The CEP Strategy, Sustainable Ocean-Based Economy (Blue Economy) and the CLME+ Initiative regarding the Permanent Policy Coordination Mechanism, so they would be aware of the need to develop an ocean-based strategy and cited it as a potential way of gaining support from the countries. He added that the Secretariat was considered a possible host for the mechanism as it presented a significant value added in terms of financing and mandate, and the fact that it would be sustainable over time, after project has ended. His concerns were how hosting the mechanism would advance the programme without compromising its activities and if it would be valuable to the Secretariat to pursue it in an integrated way.
155. Mr. Nelson, delegate of Saint Lucia, thanked Ms. Walker for the presentation and stated that it was consistent with earlier discussion. He said he was happy about the reminder regarding the realignment of the SAP with the work of the CEP. He added that Saint Lucia was involved with CLME+ Project and was looking forward to a fruitful discussion at the July meeting.
156. Ms. Vanderbeck, the GEF International Waters Task Manager, added that financing was a limiting factor. She said the UN Environment Programme was coordinating two (2) medium-sized projects to advance the definition of the blue economy and the position for the Caribbean will be defined. She added that caucus on advancing blue economy in different regions would be promoted and some of the funds available (\$2M) could be used to advance the discussion in the region.

157. Mr. Paul Hoetjes, delegate of the Caribbean Netherlands, said the CMLE+ SAP was very important for the region. He also said that it sounded like a good idea for CLME+ to partner with the Cartagena Convention and asked what that meant in practice. He also asked what it would mean for the Secretariat with the hiring of staff and hosting.
158. Mr. Debels said the matter would be discussed during the 3-day consultation meeting to be held in July 2019. He said it was anticipated that if the Secretariat agreed to hosting the PPCM, it would not be responsible for hosting its staff as funds would have to be identified through a GEF grant while the region looks for a sustainable financing mechanism. If the Secretariat were to host the staff, then they would support the work of the Secretariat through technical assistance.
159. Mr. Corbin stated that the Secretariat would be a part of the meeting to be held in July 2019. He also stated that aspects of the coordinating mechanism would be consistent with the vision of the CEP and asked the Parties to think whether the Secretariat should be open to hosting such a mechanism, subject to its impact on its programme.
160. Mr. Christian, delegate of Antigua and Barbuda, expressed gratitude for the presentation. He recommended that the Secretariat review the proposal, as presented by CLME+, to assess the modalities of hosting the coordination mechanism, in an effort to further align the work programme of the Secretariat with the objectives of the CLME+ project. This may enable the mobilization of funding to support the work of the Secretariat.
161. As it related to the Blue Economy, Mr. Christian, supported the notion of promoting the guiding principles of the Blue Economy and exploring how the Secretariat may be enhanced through a pragmatic engagement with partner agencies in developing the concept of the Blue Economy.
162. The delegate of Barbados, Mr. Headley, agreed with the delegate of Antigua and Barbuda that the Secretariat should explore the potential opportunity. He recommended that the Secretariat conduct a risk assessment on the implication of hosting the proposed Permanent Policy Coordination Mechanism and Sustainable Financing Plan for Ocean Governance in the CLME+ and report back before any commitments are made. The Secretariat must be involved in the discussions to put itself in a position to capitalise on any grant funding opportunities for its members.
163. The delegate of Colombia, Ms. Cuevas Ortiz, said the presentation was comprehensive and interesting. She informed that Colombia participated in the first consultation meeting and do an analysis regarding the need to make this contribution, especially considering the lack of coordination mechanisms. She advised that the value added, and possible problems should be looked at, and informed that she would agree with the decision of the Parties.
164. Ms. Deckert, delegate of France, said it would be a shame to close the door on the opportunity. She said the aim was not to overload the Secretariat and highlighted that it should be guaranteed that there would be enough funds available.
165. Mr. Christian, delegate of Antigua and Barbuda, reminded that a decision was not made on the strategy. He welcomed the CEP Strategy and supported it with a 6-month review period.
166. Mr. Corbin said the Secretariat would have a discussion with the Rapporteur and notetakers on the three (3) core issues – the CEP Strategy, ocean-based and blue economy, and the coordination mechanism. He added that the discussion was not completely closed but encouraged the Parties to go to the meeting and see the opportunities. He then thanked the presenters for providing the framework to formulate a decision that would give the mandate for the Secretariat on the critical issue.

167. Ms. Adrian, delegate of the U.S., thanked the CLME+ representative for the presentation. She said their work was organised and commended the way they tried to fit it into that of the CEP. She indicated that they were going in the right direction and hoped the outcome of the meeting in July would ensure that the mechanisms developed be put into place.
168. The delegate of France, Benoit Rodrigues Bria, recalled the presentation made by Mr. Corbin on the Strategy and expressed his appreciation for the work reflected in the document and the evolution of the Strategy. He said that constant review of the Strategy was important and that when reviewing it, the difference between ocean economy and sustainable economy was considered and favoured the development of a strategy to figure this out and how it could be incorporated in it. He said there was a no-return principle in France which meant that once something has been adopted, there was no going back, and citizens must abide by what was approved in the French law. He indicated France's support for the effort, on the part of the Secretariat, as all involved were making the effort to protect the environment.
169. Mr. Christian of Antigua and Barbuda thanked the CLME+ representative and the Secretariat for the Strategy, indicating his agreement with it in principle and hoped it will be adopted by the Parties. He proposed a six-month period for review and expressed the hope of seeing how the "blue economy" concept could fit into this strategy (CEP Strategy).
170. The Chairperson urged countries to indicate their proposal if any.
171. Mr. Corbin thanked the delegates for their words of guidance and wisdom on the work of the Strategy. He stated that he was aware it could be further improved as expressed by the recommendations made by the delegates of France and Antigua and Barbuda.
172. The delegate of Saint Lucia, Mr. Thomas, requested that the Secretariat prepare and share an abbreviated version of the strategy when circulating the full strategy document for comments/feedback. This abbreviated version could contain the key messages and would be shared with the various audiences at the national level to facilitate easier review.
173. Mr. Corbin thanked Mr. Thomas for his suggested and indicated the Secretariat's agreement.
174. The Chairperson invited the Secretariat to introduce the next speaker and Mr. Corbin invited the CLME+ Regional Project Coordinator, Mr. Patrick Debels, to present on the State of the Marine Environment and Associated Economies (SOMEE).

State of the Marine Environment and Associated Economies (SOMEE)

175. Mr. Patrick Debels presented on the SOMEE as indicated in the document *Paper on the State of the Marine Environment and Associated Economies – Collaborative Development and Institutionalisation of a Regional Integrated Reporting Mechanism* (UNEP(DEPI)/CAR IG.40/INF.7). The SOMEE, he said, was being collaboratively developed by Inter-Governmental Organizations and provided a regional mechanism for assessment and reporting on the state of the marine environment. It is an institutional mechanism which is done every 6 years to ascertain the progress made in the region and would inform, create awareness and trigger action as well as measure progress. He highlighted how it would contribute to socio-economic development and human well-being.
176. The relationship between the CLME+ Strategic Action Programme (CLME+ SAP) and the CEP Strategy was explained and the similarities and differences between the two regions (CLME+ region and Wider Caribbean Region) highlighted, particularly regarding timeframe, thematic areas and geography.

177. An overview of the core functions of the Interim Coordination Mechanism (ICM) was given. He spoke of the various components of institutionalizing the SOMEE integrated reporting mechanism (environment and socio-economics) which included facilitating the monitoring of the progress of regional programmes (aligned to the Blue Economy and the 2030 Sustainable Development Agenda), ensuring communication and awareness on emerging issues, and promoting stakeholder engagement, sustainable financing and resource mobilization.
178. Mr. Debels explained that the Governance Effectiveness Assessment Framework recognized that enhancing the arrangements and processes for marine resources governance was required in order to achieve the improved human well-being. He highlighted that SOMEE used a storytelling approach building on the Driver, Pressure, Status, Impact and Response (DPSIR) Framework to explore current, past and possible future conditions and the intended targets. A preliminary outline of the SOMEE report was provided and it was explained that the report would include visualisation tools to capture the status and trends, responses and knowledge gaps.
179. The Chairperson thanked the CLME+ and, in her capacity as delegate of Honduras, stated that her country found it hard to accept the existing weaknesses in evaluating the marine environment. She indicated that the project presented an opportunity to address the existing deficiencies.
180. Mr. Adrian of the U.S. thanked Mr. Debels for the precise presentation, which made it easier to see the bigger picture and how the SOCAR and other regional efforts would feed into it. It helped to elevate and address some to those issues on a wider scale. She said the Dominican Republic-Central America Free Trade Agreement (CAFTA-DR) would be having a ministerial meeting later in 2019, for a subset of the countries present, with marine litter as the focus. She highlighted that those issues were being addressed by non-traditional fora and mentioned it so that the Secretariat and others could be aware and get in touch with the appropriate contacts, if they wished to provide input into the CAFTA-DR discussions. She added that the U.S. would do so.
181. The delegate of the Dominican Republic, Ms. Lysenko, stated that her government had worked on various projects over the years and recalled an ongoing project on biodiversity and tourism development which was aimed at sustainable mechanisms for sustainable development. She said the Ministry of Environment had also developed a specific strategy and a mechanism which was in keeping with various alignments to marine protected areas and the very intense use of these areas which could impact their ability to recover. She said there was a greater need an exact definition of these areas to better address protection in keeping with the various uses and guide regulatory processes, with the support of the Secretariat and that it should be noted.
182. Ms. Lopez thanked Ms. Lysenko and confirmed that there was a need to expand the nomenclature on Marine Protected Areas (MPAs) given new developments and which might be up for consideration to link with other stakeholders, e.g. local communities. The Secretariat could offer support to Parties under the new African, Caribbean and Pacific Group of States (ACP) Project, along with planned development for expansion of the CaMPAM Network.

CLME+ Geonodes

183. Mr. Patrick Debels also presented on the CLME+ Geonodes based on the document *Establishing a Formal Network of Geospatial Information Platforms to Support Marine Resources Governance and Management in the Wider Caribbean* (UNEP(DEPI)/CAR IG.40/INF.10). He spoke of the core functions of the Interim Coordination Mechanism (ICM) to implement, monitor and evaluate the CLME+ SAP and to institutionalise the State of the Marine Ecosystems and associated Economies (SOMEE) reporting mechanism to bridge the science-policy gap.
184. Reference was made to the online platform of the Permanent Policy Coordination Mechanism (PPCM) incorporating geospatial platform that uses Caribbean Maritime Atlas (CMA2) and fostered a knowledge and data sharing facility (dubbed CLME+ hub) which enabled sound planning, tracking of progress in order to produce quality assessments and rich data.

185. It was pointed out that the CMA Geonode was an online geospatial information platform that supported regional-level Integrated Ocean Governance and Integrated Coastal Zone Management in IOCARIBE member states.
186. The critical importance of the UNDP/GEF supported TDA-SAP approach for the region and CEP, outlining the timelines of critical plans such as that of CBD, 2030 Agenda and the Coordination Mechanism for Ocean Governance was highlighted. Several points were made on the strategic consideration of the CLME+ follow-up project consolidating the Regional Governance Framework, including upscaling of investments and blue economy considerations, interactive governance and operation system of the Interim Coordination Mechanism (ICM).
187. Ms. Zelaya Landa thanked the CLME+ representative for the presentation, in her capacity as Chairperson and delegate of Honduras and said it was important to have a harmonised approach. She stated that the availability of information was very important and that there were aspects that Honduras was focussing that could benefit from the elements outlined under CLME+, for example, oil spill. She said they would apply the initiative and see how best their information could be integrated into the platform.
188. Mr. Christian, delegate of Antigua and Barbuda, said that the CLME+ Project should be applauded for all the work done and the strategic plan which they developed. He encouraged the Secretariat to continue supporting CLME+ and the way in which they put forward the elements from the outputs, particularly as it related to high-quality data that could be accessed by the countries and assessing how this data could work in the implementation of mechanisms.
189. The delegate of the Turks and Caicos Islands (TCI), Mr. Eric Salamanca, stated that his country was not a signatory to the SPAW and LBS Protocols and indicated that the administration in place would try its best to find a way to comply with the technical requirements. Any matter needing attention would be brought to the attention of the political directorate and the guidance of the CEP Secretariat would be sought where needed. He said his country could benefit from the initiative but realised that overseas territories were not included in GEF Projects, even though they were invited to meetings. He thought it very important for them to be included.
190. The representative of RAC-Cimab, Ms. Perez, thanks Mr. Debels for the presentation which made it easy to understand the project. As it related to the Geonode, she said it was a dream that the Secretariat had always tried to accomplish but was limited by funds. She added that perhaps the SOCAR results could be incorporated in the Geonode and the sub-regions could highlight specific elements. After that, they could start thinking of mechanisms within the region to establish a funds mechanism to ensure continuous use of the Geonode to assist in presenting and assessing project results, for example, how to keep those elements active when a project ended.
191. Mr. Debels thanked Ms. Perez and agreed that many occasions there would be a project then a geonode built and people mobilised then when the project ended the geonode was forgotten. He said the main aim was to adopt a central platform which was institutionalised to ensure continued use of the tool.
192. In response to the comment of the delegate of Turks and Caicos Islands, he said he was sorry that they were not included and stated that they were having less steering committee meetings and they were using IGOs and pointed out that countries like TCI could benefit through this forum, though not ideal but must be guided by GEF rules limiting direct participation.
193. Mr. Christian added that it was a challenge and thanked CLME+ for the support provided.
194. The delegate of Cuba, Mr. Ruiz, thanked Mr. Debels for the excellent presentation and said it was nice to see how the CLME+ project was functioning and that it was well aligned with the work of the Secretariat. He informed

- that the project in Cuba was geared towards gathering data and was willing to work alongside CLME+ to provide that data and asked how that information would be accessed, as it could respond to the needs of many countries.
195. Mr. Debels mentioned Invemar as an option to contact directly. In reference to Honduras' mention of oil spills, he said they were working jointly with Invemar on areas such as that and anyone could contact them to be guided on how country information could be incorporated.
 196. Ms. Lysenko, delegate of the Dominican Republic, said it was a happy about the initiative and indicated that she was the focal point for CLME+ but not the Cartagena Convention. She said the Dominican Republic had a lot of benchmark information and sets of documents and could benefit from the geospatial platform but informed that her government was not able to capitalise on the opportunity at that moment. For the continuity of their projects, they needed to have the strategic plan for 10-12 years.
 197. Mr. Carlos Thompson, delegate of Honduras, asked how that would be implemented based on the various indicators outlined, considering that countries had various methods. He said normally there were many indicators that would have to be constantly updated and wanted to know how the priority ones would be determined.
 198. Mr. Debels responded that it was being discussed and that they were looking at initiatives to determine indicators through the Geonode Project. He said the indicators were being determined from scratch to see if the ones to address the various areas of relevance could be identified which would allow the node to respond to the various needs of the region. He added that there were, for example, sections of the SOMEE that outlined the priority issues in the region and could perhaps be a starting point. The answer he said would be to invest in methodologies to address that specifically and the countries could support by providing the information needed to help develop it.
 199. Mr. Corbin thanked Mr. Debels and the CLME+ team for supporting the Secretariat to advance its work. He also thanked the delegates for their support in advancing the work of the project and those that provided information that helped the Secretariat in the development of the strategy. He said the Secretariat noted the need to collaborate with other organisations to facilitate access to data and information and endorsed the comment of the RAC Cimab representation on the creation of such a tool being a dream of the Secretariat. In relation to the input from the Turks and Caicos delegate, he added that it was unfortunate that the GEF Secretariat had not been able to extend the privilege to overseas territories. He saw the potential of those areas hosting workshops and trainings to support capacity building.

Collaboration with The Ocean Foundation

200. The Secretariat was invited to present on the collaboration with The Ocean Foundation highlighting Ocean Acidification and Review the Recommendations on *Cooperation between The Ocean Foundation (TOF) and the Regional Coordination Unit of the Caribbean Environment Program (CEP) of UN Environment Programme, for the development of the marine environment in the Caribbean region* (UNEP(DEPI)/CAR IG.40/INF.5). Mr. Mark Spalding of The Ocean Foundation presented. Ocean acidification was a priority in the Wider Caribbean Region.
201. Mr. Spalding began the presentation by giving an overview of The Ocean Foundation and its International Ocean Acidification Initiative. An overview was also given of ocean acidification which posed a significant threat to the marine resources, food security and economic activities (fishing, tourism, etc.). Ocean acidification was a result of the changing ocean chemistry and was unpredictable. Its impacts on marine life were also highlighted and included direct mortality, loss of key links in the food web, loss of biodiversity and function, fitness or quality.
202. Proposed solutions to ocean acidification included building science capacity, governance and action, and collaboration to address the issues. Helping countries meet SDG's commitments under 14.3 was of importance,

he said. (SDG 14 – Life Below Water; #3 – minimise and address the impacts of ocean acidification, including through enhanced scientific cooperation at all levels). Ocean acidification was named as a topic of regional concern at UNESCO IOCaribe's meeting which was held in Aruba in May 2019.

203. In concluding the presentation, collaboration was mentioned as the key to success for addressing ocean acidification and The Ocean Foundation could help by supporting regional capacity development, providing one-on-one coaching from experts and establishing a network of national centres of excellence.
204. Mr. Spalding thanked the CEP for the having invited him and for the opportunity to present.
205. The Chairperson thanked Mr. Spalding for the presentation and indicated that research was being done on the issue.
206. The delegates of Honduras and Mexico proposed a joint recommendation to guarantee adequate environmental management. It was pointed out that science showed that the ocean was changing hence a regional instrument was needed to protect the marine environment and species.
207. Mr. Ruiz, delegate of Cuba, said he was having a hard time following the topic and wanted to see the document to be able to analyse it.
208. The delegate of Dominica, Mr. Francisco Sekou Maffei, commended the presenter and stated that with proper data collection and analysis could be done to know the next steps which future generations can follow. He said protecting the marine environment for future generations was important and suggested spreading the word about what was happening in relation to climate change and ocean acidification.
209. Mr. Paul Hoetjes thanked Mr. Spalding for the presentation. He pointed out that the countries were forced to face what was happening and indicated that he fully supported the resolution.
210. The delegate of Mexico thanked Mr. Spalding for the presentation. She said the subject matter was important and very important for the Convention.
211. The delegate of Panama, Mr. Marino Abrego, expressed appreciation for the presentation and stated that the issue was very relevant. He endorsed the resolution stating that incorporating it in the Convention was necessary and solutions should be sought jointly.
212. Ms. Adrian, delegate of the U.S., thanked Mr. Spalding for a great presentation; she said it was a very important issue for all and supported the engagement of the Secretariat on the issues.
213. Other delegates endorsed Ms. Adrian's intervention and looked forward to seeing more work done in collaboration with the Secretariat. She said a look of work was already done by The Ocean Foundation thereby making it a seamless partnership as not much was needed by the Secretariat in terms of funding. She wanted to know how the Secretariat perceived it and if it would engage.
214. Mr. Corbin thanked Mr. Spalding for reinforcing the issue. He said the issue was important for all and that the Secretariat was looking forward to working with The Ocean Foundation. He said it offered the Secretariat the opportunity to continue strengthening the biodiversity and pollution subprogramme and advance common areas of interest such as climate change and ocean acidification. It was indicated that the Secretariat would work with The Ocean Foundation through an MOU and support the Contracting Parties and member governments, UN Environment Programme Panama and Nairobi. He said that as new projects and activities were developed, it

might be able to integrate the missing areas into them. For the two (2) RACs, one aim was to look for opportunities to deal with pollution and how to strengthen capacity for monitoring acidification.

215. The delegate of Belize, Ms. Monsanto, indicated that she needed to read the proposal in English. The delegate of Cuba, Mr. Ruiz, also indicated that he needed to read the proposal.

AGENDA ITEM 7: ELECTION OF MEMBERS OF THE MONITORING COMMITTEE ON THE ACTION PLAN FOR THE CARIBBEAN ENVIRONMENT PROGRAMME FOR THE 2019-2020 BIENNIUM

216. The Meeting was invited to decide on the composition of the Monitoring Committee for the 2019-2020 period. Eight Governments were elected to the membership of the Monitoring Committee, recalling that the President of the Bureau of Contracting Parties, elected under Agenda Item 2, would serve as the Chairperson of the Monitoring Committee and thus as the ninth member.

217. The Secretariat recommended the Monitoring Committee be comprised of the previous members as well as the new. It was stated that the composition was based on proposals received from governments.

218. The previous committee members were Honduras, Antigua and Barbuda, France, Sint Maarten and Barbados. The members proposed were Colombia, Cuba, USA, Saint Lucia, Jamaica, the Dominican Republic, Panama and Turks and Caicos. The Committee was therefore announced as follows:

- Colombia
- Cuba
- USA
- Saint Lucia
- Jamaica
- Dominican Republic
- Panama
- Turks and Caicos
- Honduras
- Antigua and Barbuda
- France
- Sint Maarten
- Barbados

219. The Parties were asked to provide feedback on the proposal for the Monitoring Committee. Given that there was no objection, the Committee was approved as presented.

AGENDA ITEM 8: OTHER BUSINESS

220. The participants of the Meeting were invited to raise any other matter not covered by the preceding Agenda items, but relevant to the scope of the Meeting. Invited observers were also invited to make short presentations of relevance to the IGM.

(a) Honduras – National Oil Spill Contingency Plan

221. Ms. Sara Zelaya Landa presented on the results of the Honduras' national oil spill and hazardous substances contingency plan workshop. The objectives of the workshop were to identify and analyse opportunities for

- improving the contingency plan, address the importance of sensitivity maps, devise treatment strategy for wildlife affected by oil spills and other contaminants, as well as outline the national policy for dispersant uses and fires and those responsible. A sub-committee of the Cartagena Convention Oil Spills Protocol was formed.
222. Mr. Villasol indicated that the contingency plan was a great achievement for Honduras. He said that the coastal area should be analysed if there was a spill and identify areas to contain it so marine resources are not severely compromised. Another thing he said they should be careful of was the issue of dispersants which could create a problem; the cost for addressing the cleaning was not taken into account in the plan. He further said that mechanisms must also be in place to capture the various costs that would help in the processing of claims for those impacted.
223. The Chairperson in her capacity as delegate of Honduras stated that there were components that were not captured in the presentation and some of those areas were being addressed, including a sacrifice area to be mapped in the event of a spill. She said they were trying to define a methodology to determine the best criteria to respond to this, to ensure that the mechanism used would not cause more harm. A sensitivity map was being developed, however, there was the issue of funding which was expected to be addressed through their secretariat. She pointed out that responding to a spill was more complicated as it would involve different actors who were made aware of what was required and that was done through capacity-building trainings.
224. The delegate of the Dominican Republic asked if there was any recommendation concerning cruise ships.
225. The Chairperson said it was an interesting question given that Roatan was one of the leading cruise destinations with two ports. She said discussions were underway to discuss contingencies, but it was clear that they were hesitant to take responsibility in the event of an accident. It was agreed that ports should have an emergency plan especially for containment. It was pointed out that it was not easy to have dialogue with the ships operators as they saw their ship as a business, not necessarily wanting to consider their impacts. She concluded by stating that that was important for Honduras and that follow-up with the operators was being done.

(b) CARIBMEPA – A Solution to Caribbean Pollution

226. The representative of CARIBMEPA (Caribbean Marine Environment Protection Association), Mr. Rawle Badaloo, presented on "A Solution to Caribbean Pollution". He began by thanking the Secretariat for the opportunity then gave an overview of CARIBMEPA and its mission. Its mission included consolidating marine environment issues and actions in the Caribbean, umbrella for engaging industry regulators, government, among others in protecting the marine environment, acting as focal point for the implementation of MARPOL in the Caribbean and educating the public about protecting the marine environment.
227. He asked the delegates to consider including in its resolution their willing to participate with and contribute their talents to the work of CARPBMEPA to save our seas.
228. It was highlighted that shipping ports were vital to a country's welfare and that shipping is environmentally efficient since it is one of the least environmentally damaging modes of transport. However, due to the vulnerability of the region's seas to marine pollution and the lack of implementation tools to reduce those risks, CARIBMEPA was formed to support existing activities to reduce those risks, initiate other activities such as educating the public and improving capacity.
229. He informed that work towards supporting the protection of the Caribbean marine environment would be done through MARPOL and other tools. This would include facilitating the development of legislation and strategies for implementing MARPOL and response, working with RAC/REMPEITC-Caribe, supporting the development of a MARPOL Training Academy at the Caribbean Maritime University; facilitating a potentially polluting wreck prioritization programme, participating in the development of regional waste disposal strategies and educating

the public through beach clean-ups, school education projects, art contests, etc.

230. The Chairperson thanked Mr. Badaloo for the presentation and opened the floor for comments.
231. The delegate of Jamaica, Mr. Richard Nelson, said both presentations were on point as it related to oil spill and pollution affecting the marine environment. He pointed out that there were linkages between RAC/REMPEITC and CARIBMEPA. He endorsed the linkage and encouraged the Secretariat to work closely with CARIBMEPA on future educational opportunities and to synergise the efforts that had been placed on the table so as not to reinvent the wheel.
232. Delegate of Antigua and Barbuda said he saw a lot of opportunities and suggested that the Secretariat endorse collaboration with CARIBMEPA. The outreach, he said, seemed to be a strong part of the issue and synergies were strongly supported.
233. Mr. Spalding said a part of the work on ocean acidification was to study the impacts of pollution and that there were areas of overlap.
234. Secretariat thanked CARIBMEPA and indicated that RAC/REMPEITC should be involved and take the lead on such issues. It was mentioned that there were many synergies and in order to prevent duplication of activities with limited resources, these partnerships were welcome.

AGENDA ITEM 9: ADOPTION OF THE DECISIONS

235. The Rapporteur presented the draft Decisions of the Meeting (UNEP(DEPI)/CAR IG.42/6) was presented for review and adoption.
236. The delegate of France reminded the meeting that the SPAW-RAC was a part of the Secretariat and should therefore be included in deliberations and discussions
237. The Secretariat also reminded that the wording regarding the interpretation/definition of MPAs/PAs and their specific integration in the work of the Protocols and the Conventions as recommended by the delegate of the Dominican Republic, would also be incorporated.
238. The Decisions were adopted with amendments made.

AGENDA ITEM 10: CLOSURE OF THE MEETING

239. The Rapporteur thanked the participants for a successful meeting.
240. The Chairperson also thanked the Rapporteur and the participants for the excellent participation.
241. Mr. Corbin thanked the thanked Rapporteur and Chairperson for serving. He expressed appreciation to Government of Honduras and the Chairperson, Ms. Sara Zelaya Landa and all Contracting Parties for their support.
242. Mr. El-Habr thanked Mr. Corbin for having done a fantastic job. He gave special thanks to Minister Jose Galdames and the Government of Honduras. He also thanked all UN Environment Programme colleagues

present and behind the scenes (Panama and Jamaica) and gave special thanks to Mr. Corbin and his for restlessly organising the meeting. He also thanked the interpreters for the excellent job and staying overtime.

243. Minister Galdames thanked Mr. El-Habr and Mr. Corbin. He recognised the efforts of the Secretariat and the Honduran team. He then indicated that Honduras had a social assistance programme and recycling equipment that could impact the ozone layer that were distributed to schools and hospitals. A programme that provided assistance to fisherfolk and an equipment donation to them was also mentioned. He gifted the participants with artisanal hats and thanked them for being in Honduras and invited persons to the Blue Summit.
244. The Meeting ended at 6:00 p.m. on 6 June 2019 with statements by the Chairperson of the Meeting, the Coordinator of the Caribbean Environment Programme and of the Secretariat of the Cartagena Convention as well as by the representative of the Government of the Honduras as the host Government.

ANNEX 1: AGENDA

AGENDA

1. Opening of the Meeting
2. Organisation of the Meeting
 - 2.1. Rules of Procedure
 - 2.2. Election of Officers
 - 2.3. Organisation of work
3. Adoption of the Agenda
4. Report of the Chairperson of the Monitoring Committee and President of the Bureau of Contracting Parties
5. Report of the Executive Director of UN Environment Programme on the Implementation of the Caribbean Environment Programme (2017-2018)
6. Draft Workplan and Budget for the Caribbean Environment Programme for the 2019-2020 biennium
7. Election of Members of the Monitoring Committee on the Action Plan for the Caribbean Environment Programme for 2019-2020 Biennium
8. Other Business
9. Adoption of the Decisions of the Meeting
10. Closure of the Meeting

ANNEX II: RECOMMENDATIONS OF 9TH MEETING OF THE STEERING COMMITTEE OF RAC/REMPEITC

RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE MEETING

The Steering Committee:

Having convened the Ninth Meeting of the Steering Committee of RAC/REMPEITC-Caribe;

Referring to the Recommendations of the Eight Meeting of the Steering Committee of RAC/REMPEITC-Caribe;

Taking into account Decision IV of the 17th Intergovernmental Meeting on the Action Plan for the Caribbean Environment Program and the 14th Meeting of the Contracting Parties of the Cartagena Convention;

Considering the Obligations of the Protocol Regarding Cooperation in Combating Oil Spills of the same Convention;

Further considering the recent entry into force of the Ballast Water Convention and increased efforts within the Wider Caribbean Region to comply with the MARPOL, OPRC and other related IMO administered Conventions and Agreements;

Noting the social and ecological value of the region's healthy coastal and marine ecosystems, including beaches, coral reefs, mangroves and sea grass beds and the continued risks posed by oil spills, ballast water and marine litter/plastics from both marine and land-based activities.

Noting with concern the changing risk profile of the Wider Caribbean Region with respect to oil spills from ships and offshore oil and gas activities.

Having reviewed the Draft Biennial Work Plan of the RAC/REMPEITC-Caribe and other documents and workshop recommendations submitted to this Steering Committee by RAC/REMPEITC-Caribe;

Recommends to the 18th Intergovernmental Meeting on the Action Plan for the Caribbean Environment Program and the 15th Meeting of the Contracting Parties of the Cartagena Convention to:

General

1. Review and endorse these recommendations of the 9th Meeting of the Steering Committee.
2. Endorse the 2018 – 2020 work plan.
3. Acknowledge the support of the Government of Curacao, UN Environment Programme, IMO, US Coast Guard, Jamaica Defence Force, Governments of Netherlands and Belize, IPEICA and the many agency partners to ensure the sustainability of the Centre and for its work in the Wider Caribbean Region.
4. Commends the continuing efforts by the Government of Curacao to finalize the recruitment of the full time Director as well as the legal framework which will allow the Centre to enter into independent partnership agreements.
5. Acknowledge the extensive work programme and activities conducted by the Centre during 2016-2017 and congratulate all staff for their efforts under challenging circumstances.
6. Commend the work of the outgoing consultant Cmdr. Donohue and welcome the two new Consultants from the US Coast Guard – Lt. Cmdr Matthew Richards, and Jamaica Defense Force, Lt Cmdr Floyd Patterson.
7. Recognize the technical assistance and support provided to the work of the Centre including by Mr. Zakaria Benbia, Ms. Maartje Folbert and Ms. Lilly von Treuenfels.
8. Encourage Governments and Contracting Parties to the Cartagena Convention and Oil Spills Protocol as well as Agency Partners to provide financial, technical and/or human support for ongoing activities including identifying future secondments of personnel to the Centre.
9. Seek to ensure the Contracting Parties are represented at future RAC/REMPEITC-Caribe Steering Committee Meetings by a Member of the Bureau of the Contracting Parties and the President of the Monitoring Committee, as required by the Terms of Reference of the Centre's Steering Committee.
10. Note that RAC-REMPEITC-Caribe will continue to use virtual attendance technologies to facilitate the widest possible participation in future meetings of the Steering Committee.
11. Encourages all partners to support efforts to increase the visibility of the work of the Centre through inter alia social media, web sites and in having material available in other working languages and to further encourage RAC/REMPTEIC to re-activate their Newsletter as a means of disseminating information about the Centre's work.
12. Encourage continued efforts by RAC REMPEITC and the Secretariat of the Cartagena Convention to facilitate greater cooperation among the Regional Activity Centres for Land-Based Pollution and Marine Biodiversity, as well as promoting greater interaction between maritime and environmental agencies on topics of common interest including *inter alia* waste (plastics) management and the detection of oil spills and sargassum.
13. Recognize the significant contributions of industry, maritime institutes and non-governmental organization partners present at the meeting, note their offers of support and partnership to the work of the Centre, and encourage RAC REMPEITC to incorporate, to the extent possible, into the 2018-2020 Work Plan.

14. Acknowledge various regional efforts to provide capacity building and training in the region that are not always effectively coordinated and recommend that COCATRAM and RAC REMPEITC Caribe in particular attempt to collaborate both on the development of respective work plans and in the delivery of training activities.

Strategic Plan of RAC/REMPEITC Caribe

15. Conduct a further review and evaluation of the Mission, Vision and Values, and Outcomes of the Strategic Plan of the Centre to ensure it fully reflects the scope and work of the Centre moving forward and is consistent with the scope of Cartagena Convention and Oil Spills Protocol in addressing oil pollution threats beyond ships.
16. Ensure that existing, ongoing and proposed regional strategies and plans are reflected and/or updated in the Outcomes of the overall Strategic Plan for the Centre.
17. Welcome the finalization of the new Memorandum of Understanding between the US Coast Guard and the International Maritime Organization, which will ensure the continued provision of technical and financial assistance to the Centre.
18. RAC REMPEITC Caribe in collaboration with Member States, UN Environment Programme and IMO to prepare a prioritized list of actions that will assist Governments and Agency Partners identify possible areas for collaboration and /or provision of support.
19. Endorse the need to have a formal instrument to engage new partners and for UN Environment Programme, IMO and Member Governments to further review and refine the Draft Partnership Template to facilitate future partnerships with various sectors including the private sector.

Ballast Water

20. Encourage the Regional Task Force to continue its efforts to promote the ratification and implementation of the IMO Convention on Ballast Water Management.
21. Support the establishment of a web-based "*Caribbean Maritime Invasive Species Clearing House Mechanism*" connected through RAC REMPEITC's Website and encourage continued efforts by the sub-working groups of the Regional Task Force to develop this mechanism.
22. Accepts the proposal by the Government of Colombia to construct on the DIMAR (General Maritime Directorate) Network two portals to be linked to RAC REMPEITC's Website: (i) Ballast Water and Sediments Scientific Committee Portal; and (ii) a Closed-Ended Compliance Monitoring and Enforcement Portal.

OPRC

23. To consider how best to strengthen the cooperation and partnerships between agencies involved in oil spill response planning in the Wider Caribbean Region including through bilateral, regional and multilateral cooperation mechanisms and agreements.
24. Endorses the specific recommendations identified in 9/7/1 and to incorporate these into the 2018-2020 Work Plan and future amendments to the RAC/REMPEITC-Caribe Long Term Strategic Plan.

Further notes the importance afforded to the following activities:

- (i) Regional Risk Assessments;
- (ii) Improving, updating and incorporating off-shore activities into regional plans;
- (iii) Establishing a regional response advisory team;
- (iv) Fully Establishing RAC REMPEITC as a regional spill reporting, notification and coordination centre with a regional online information platform;
- (v) Supporting Governments in conducting exercises and developing mutual assistance agreements (bilateral and multilateral).

MARPOL

25. Requests that RAC REMPEITC Caribe present the results of the Feasibility Study on the development of a Regional Reception Facility Plan for Small Island Developing States of the Wider Caribbean Region to relevant Intergovernmental Meetings of the Cartagena Convention and Senior Maritime Administrators Meeting during 2018/2019. This should include proposed elements for inclusion in a Regional Reception Facility Plan (RRFP) and subject to endorsement by Governments; RAC REMPEITC should coordinate the further development and submission of the RRFP to MEPC 74 through the co-sponsorship of all states included in the plan. This will be done in accordance with Resolution MEPC.221 (63). This will be done in coordination with the IMO Regional Maritime Advisor,
26. Endorses RAC REMPEITC's efforts to obtain technical assistance to integrate the shipping data purchased from Lloyds under the Feasibility Study into the Maritime Traffic Data Base.
27. Encourage RAC REMPEITC to continue to explore synergies for improving waste management including more integrated approaches that consider both ship and shore-generated wastes including the management of plastics waste and closer collaboration between environmental, port, customs and health authorities.

ANNEX III: DECISIONS OF SPAW COP 10

The Contracting Parties:

Having convened the Tenth Meeting of the Contracting Parties (COP) to the Protocol Concerning Specially Protected Areas and Wildlife (SPA) in the Wider Caribbean Region;

Recalling the adoption by the General Assembly of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and its Sustainable Development Goals, which reaffirmed the commitment contained in the Aichi Biodiversity Targets, and **welcoming** target 14.5 of the Sustainable Development Goals, calling for the conservation, by 2020, of at least 10 percent of coastal and marine areas;

Recognizing the International Coral Reef Initiative Action Plan 2016 which set a basis for the integrated management of marine biodiversity following the International Coral Reef Initiative's General Meeting in Paris, November 2016;

Taking note of the "Status of Activities of the SPA Sub-programme for 2017-2018" (UNEP(DEPI)/CAR IG.40/INF.3) and "Report of the SPA Regional Activity Centre (SPA-RAC) in Guadeloupe: RAC Operations and Budget for the period 2017-2018 (UNEP(DEPI)/CAR IG.40/INF.4);

Acknowledging the work of the Secretariat and SPA-RAC to address emerging issues such as Sargassum influx, as well as the continued work on conservation of coral reefs, management of invasive species and marine mammals;

Having reviewed the "Recommendations of the Eighth Meeting of the Scientific and Technical Advisory Committee to the SPA Protocol", Panama City, Panama, 5-7 December 2018 contained in the Report of the Meeting (UNEP(DEPI)/CAR WG.40/8);

Having reviewed the "Draft Workplan and Budget of the Specially Protected Areas and Wildlife (SPA) Sub-programme for the 2019-2020 Biennium" (UNEP (DEPI)/CAR WG.40/5 Rev.1);

Decide to:

1. **Encourage** the governments of the region, which have not yet done so, to become Contracting Parties to the SPA Protocol in particular the Mesoamerican Region.
2. **Approve** the proposed SPA Workplan and budget for 2019-2020 as presented to the meeting, including the amendments proposed by the STAC8; while noting that in addition to marine mammals and sea turtles, attention and resources for the conservation of other listed species in the Protocol should be considered in future workplans and budgets; that additional attention is needed for invasive species other than lionfish; as well as illegal traffic of species listed in the protocol and the new coral disease Stony Coral Tissue Loss Disease (SCTLD) and its spread through the Caribbean (possibly through ballast water); and work with the LBS Protocol and the regional Caribbean Memorandum of Understanding on Port State Control (CMOU) to take measures against ballast water exchange in coastal waters.
3. **Urge** the Secretariat to allocate funds or seek funding sources for the management of protected areas listed as SPA sites.
4. **Recommend** that the STAC consider the inclusion of SCTLD as a subject of discussion and review at the next meeting reflecting the seriousness of this threat to the region's economy, food security and environmental integrity.

5. **Recommend** that the Secretariat undertake a comprehensive review to determine impact of CAMPAM activities thus far, envisaged to evaluate effectiveness and guide future work with a view towards ensuring activities linked to overall SPAW Protocol activities/goals.
6. **Urge** Contracting Parties to respond to the requests of the Secretariat and to participate more actively in the Working Groups established by the Parties.
7. Secretariat **work closely** with the Inter-American Sea Turtle Convention (IAC) and call on key countries and territories (Trinidad and Tobago, French Guiana, Guyana, Suriname and Canada) to cooperate with the SPAW Protocol and IAC to identify and address the threats to the North-West Atlantic leatherback population.
8. **Adopt** the Recommendations of the Eighth Meeting of the Scientific and Technical Advisory Committee to the SPAW Protocol as contained in UNEP/(DEPI)/CAR WG.40/6 with the following amendment:
 - i. Consider that according to the decisions of the first Conference of Parties and first Scientific and Technical Advisory Committee, the Recommendations of STAC8 regarding the terms of reference (recommendations II.4, III.3, IV.1 and V.1) are to be submitted for the STAC assembly's approval and not to the COP's.
9. **Call upon** all Parties to the SPAW Protocol of the Wider Caribbean region in regard to cetaceans to:
 - i. Comply with the Protocol by implementing national legislation prohibiting the hunting of cetaceans and taking enforcement and conservation measures to aid their protection and recovery;
 - ii. Report the numbers and species of cetaceans taken in hunts or involved in other prohibited activities;
 - iii. Improve collaboration with the Secretariat, Scientific and Technical Advisory Committee (STAC), other parties and experts to identify research needs and opportunities to collect and share data relating to the distribution and status of cetaceans in the Region;
 - iv. Reinstatement of the experts working group on marine mammals and charge it with overseeing the assessment of populations of exploited small cetacean species in the Wider Caribbean.
10. **The Secretariat prepare a proposal** for consideration by the COP and IGM on a formal network of data platforms for internalization of Geospatial information relevant to the SPAW Protocol (including the outputs of the State of Habitats report) and consider the trial use of the Caribbean Marine Atlas Phase 2 Geonode as one of such platforms. This information paper should consider issues such as sustainability, financial implications, data sharing and data sensitivities and how such a platform could be formalized for use as a possible regional data base or platform (preliminary information paper: UNEP/(DEPI)/CAR IG.40/INF.10).
11. The Secretariat and Contracting Parties **continue to** contribute to the process developed by the CLME+ Project to identify a Permanent Policy Coordination Mechanism (PPCM) and a Sustainable Financing Plan (SFP) for consolidation of an integrated ocean governance framework in the WCR as appropriate.
12. **Encourage Parties** to report exemptions in a format in which all relevant information be included. A possibility is the Reporting Format for Exemptions accepted at STAC 7 and emphasize that the Reporting of exemptions is a critical component of the SPAW Protocol which enables Parties to confirm their compliance with the obligations they have taken on as Parties to the SPAW Protocol as appropriate.

13. **Recommend that** the SPAW Ad Hoc Working group on Sargassum also include members/experts of the LBS protocol; look into potential health risks from heavy metals and liaise with the International Atomic Energy Agency and Caricom building synergies with other national and regional groups or initiatives working on this issue that working in this area.
14. The Secretariat **continues** progress towards completing the draft State of Habitat and the 2020-2030 Regional Strategy and Action Plan and Investment Plan, supported by the CLME+ Project, for consideration at COP11 and further relevant action, taking into account the comments and inputs received by Parties and partners during the deliberations at the above Regional Workshop, the recommendations contained in Information Paper UNEP(DEPI)/CAR IG.40/INF.7 and other consultations as appropriate.
15. The Secretariat and Contracting Parties **ensure that** efforts are undertaken to communicate on and highlight the relevance of the State of the Habitat Report for supporting sustainable socio-economic development in the Wider Caribbean.
16. The Secretariat to **strengthen** and **enhance** cooperation links with international instruments adopted by the International Maritime Organisation (IMO) aiming to promote cooperation and integrality with the SPAW Protocol and the Convention in general, as well as with maritime issues affecting marine biodiversity, including among others, the transfer of invasive species and diseases as a result of the discharge of ballast water, physical damage to the coral reefs or threats to marine mammals due to navigation, shipwrecks, pollution and noise from ships and wrecks, among others. (Secretariat and RACs to strengthen cooperation accordingly).
17. **Welcome** offers from Governments to explore with the Secretariat the possibility of hosting the 9th SPAW STAC Meeting in 2020.

ANNEX IV: DECISIONS OF LBS COP4

Decisions of the Meeting

The Contracting Parties:

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Having also reviewed the Recommendations of the Fourth Meeting of the Scientific, Technical and Advisory Committee to the Protocol Concerning Pollution from Land-based Sources and Activities (LBS STAC) in the Wider Caribbean Region contained in UNEP(DEPI)/CAR WG.39/5;

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

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

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

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

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

Decide to:

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

ANNEX V: DECISIONS OF THE 18TH IGM

DECISIONS OF THE 18TH IGM

The Meeting:

Having convened the Fifteenth Meeting of the Contracting Parties to the Convention for the Protection and Development of the Marine Environment of the Wider Caribbean Region;

Taking into account the Report of the Executive Director of the Cartagena Convention on the Implementation of the Caribbean Environment Programme (2017-2018) as presented in UNEP(DEPI)/CAR IG.42/INF.4;

Welcoming the Decisions of the Tenth Meeting of the Contracting Parties to the Protocol Concerning Specially Protected Areas and Wildlife (SPAW) in the Wider Caribbean Region, Roatan, Honduras, 3 June 2019 (UNEP(DEPI)/CAR IG.40/6);

Also Welcoming the Decisions of the Fourth Meeting of the Contracting Parties to the Protocol Concerning Pollution from Land-Based Sources and Activities in the Wider Caribbean Region, Roatan, Honduras, 4 June 2019 (UNEP(DEPI)/CAR IG.41/3);

Noting the Report of the Fourth Meeting of the Scientific, Technical and Advisory Committee of the Protocol Concerning Pollution from Land-Based Sources and Activities, in Panama City, Panama, 18-20 July 2018 as contained in UNEP(DEPI)/CAR WG.39/4;

Further Noting the Recommendations of the Eighth Meeting of the Scientific and Technical Advisory Committee (STAC) to the Protocol Concerning Specially Protected Areas and Wildlife (SPAW) in the Wider Caribbean Region, Panama City, Panama, 5-7 December 2018 (UNEP(DEPI)/CAR WG.38/7); and

Having Reviewed the Report of the Ninth Ordinary Meeting of the Steering Committee of Regional Activity Centre/Regional Marine Pollution Emergency, Training, and Information Centre – Caribbean (RAC/REMPEITC-Caribe) Steering Committee, Curaçao, 5-7 June 2018 as contained in document UNEP(DEPI)/CAR IG.42/4 and the Recommendations of that 9th Meeting;

Decides:

DECISION I WORKPLAN AND BUDGET

Having reviewed the draft Workplan and Budget for the Caribbean Environment Programme for the biennium 2019-2020 contained in document UNEP(DEPI)/CAR IG.42/3;

Taking note of the status of voluntary contributions to the Caribbean Trust Fund (CTF) by the States and Territories of the Wider Caribbean Region for 2017-2018;

Having examined the budgetary needs of the Caribbean Environment Programme to implement its proposed Workplan for 2019-2020;

Noting with concern the severe impact that continued non-payment of annual contributions and arrears will have on the viability of the Secretariat, its ability to meet operational costs, and to implement the 2019-2020 Workplan;

Decides to:

1. **Approve** the Workplan and Budget for the Caribbean Environment Programme for the biennium 2019-2020 taking into account comments and modifications made during the meeting.
2. **Urge** the Secretariat to continue to identify partnership opportunities to enable the most effective implementation of the 2019-2020 Workplan.
3. **Request** the Secretariat to continue its efforts to strengthen collaboration with regional agencies and relevant Convention Secretariats to enable more effective implementation of the Caribbean Environment Programme workplan.
4. **Encourage** greater involvement and participation of the Bureau, Monitoring Committee and Focal Points in the development and implementation of the work programme of the Caribbean Environment Programme including participation at meetings of the Secretariat.
5. **Further Encourage** Contracting Parties, as appropriate, to provide to the Secretariat existing knowledge management products and materials that may assist the Secretariat in the implementation of its proposed activities.

DECISION II FINANCIAL ARRANGEMENTS

Noting with concern the critical financial situation of the Caribbean Trust Fund (CTF) that jeopardizes the sustainability of the Secretariat;

Recognizing that the effective implementation of the 2019-2020 workplan will depend on the Secretariat being able to meet, at a minimum, its ongoing operational costs;

Noting the additional financial commitments for the Secretariat associated with the UN Reform process, including a deduction of 1% of all funds received by the CTF and shared non-recurrent cost for the establishment of UN House; and

Acknowledging with thanks the commitments by Contracting and Non-Contracting Parties to contribute in a timely manner to the Caribbean Trust Fund including making arrangements with the Secretariat to honour outstanding pledges;

Decides to:

1. **Encourage** Contracting Parties to make their annual contributions as early as possible in the financial year to enable adequate planning and budgeting by the Secretariat.
2. **Request** the Secretariat to work with each Contracting Party with arrears to the CTF to agree on individual debt payment plans based on the ability of each country to meet their obligations.
3. **Request** that the Executive Director of UN Environment Programme, make the necessary provisions to extend the Caribbean Trust Fund until the next Conference of Parties of the Cartagena Convention.

DECISION III OPEN-ENDED WORKING GROUP ON MONITORING AND ASSESSMENT

Welcoming the adoption of the State of Convention Area Report as contained in UNEP(DEPI)/CAR IG.41/INF.3 by the Fourth Conference of Parties to the Protocol on Land-Based Sources of Marine Pollution (LBS COP4);

Acknowledging the importance of the Working Group on Monitoring and Assessment in providing technical guidance and oversight for the development and completion of this report;

Noting the several recommendations of the SOCAR relating to its dissemination as well as other guidance for the further implementation of pollution-related activities;

Further noting that Recommendation 8 of the LBS COP4 held 4 June 2019, Roatan, Honduras requests the formal establishment of an Open-Ended Working Group (OEWG) by the Conference of Parties to the Cartagena Convention and the value of its continued work to the Secretariat; and

Thanking the outgoing chair of the Interim Working Group from the Government of USA for the support and leadership and all members of the Working Group for technical support during the SOCAR development process;

Decides to:

1. **Establish** an Open-Ended Working Group (OEWG) for Monitoring and Assessment to support the work of the LBS Protocol including the finalization of SOCAR for formal dissemination.
2. **Invite** all Contracting Parties who have an interest in participating in the OEWG to indicate that in writing to the Secretariat no later than 15 September 2019.
3. **Requests** that the OEWG, once convened, develop a new Terms of Reference for the and elects a new Chair.
4. **Further requests** that the OEWG work virtually while encouraging the Secretariat to mobilize additional financial sources to enable face to face meetings, as appropriate.
5. **Also requests** that the OEWG establish other Sub-Groups, as appropriate, in order to provide technical guidance for the work of the Secretariat including on areas of concern raised during the meetings of the LBS STAC, LBS COP and meetings of Contracting Parties to the Convention.
6. **Requests** that the OEWG provide a report of its work to the Fifth LBS STAC and as appropriate, to the Fifth LBS COP and Sixteenth Meeting of Contracting Parties to the Cartagena Convention.

DECISION IV CEP STRATEGY

Recognizing that the Caribbean Action Plan developed in 1983 and the associated strategy adopted in 1990 do not reflect many of the current regional and global issues and priorities;

Acknowledging the importance of having an updated strategy for the Caribbean Environment Programme that will serve to guide the future work of the Secretariat and enable greater integration of the sub-programmes;

Noting that several thematic strategies and action plans already exist and/or are under development by the Secretariat;

Further noting that the updated strategy would provide the overall framework for the further implementation of regional strategies and action plans and enable the Secretariat to respond to new and emerging issues as well as take advantage of new funding opportunities;

Welcoming the presentation by the Secretariat of the draft Strategy for the Development of the Caribbean Environment Programme (CEP) as contained in Document UNEP(DEPI)/CAR IG.42/5;

Further welcoming the presentation by UN Environment Programme on the development of a *“Regional Strategy for Ocean-Based Economies in the Wider Caribbean Region”* UNEP(DEPI)/CAR IG.42/INF.12;

Noting that at the global, regional, and national levels, there are various interpretations/definitions of the term “blue economy”;

Recognizing that the work of the Cartagena Convention Secretariat is contributing to the sustainable development of coastal and marine resources in an integrated manner and is directly related to the concepts of “blue economy” or “ocean-based economies”;

Noting that ocean-based economies are one of the proposed strategic objectives of the draft CEP Strategy;

Decides to:

1. **Endorse** the efforts by the Secretariat to develop the new CEP Strategy.
2. **Requests** Contracting Parties to conduct a further review and analysis of the draft Strategy and provide written comments to the Secretariat no later than 15 December 2019.
3. **Requests** that the Secretariat circulate an abbreviated version of the revised CEP strategy to all the Contracting and non-Contracting Parties by 15 July 2019 to assist in this review process
4. **Also Requests** the Secretariat, to provide a revised draft of the CEP Strategy for intersessional endorsement no later than 15 February 2020.
5. **Further Requests** the Secretariat to take action on the following key issues: ocean acidification, sargassum, the new coral disease Stony Coral Tissue Loss Disease (SCTLD), and invasive species, and consider how these issues can be incorporated in the new CEP Strategy.
6. **Encourage** the Secretariat to work with other regional agencies and Contracting Parties to gain a better understanding of ongoing blue economy initiatives in the Wider Caribbean Region.

7. **Request that** the Secretariat prepare an information paper based on its findings to be presented at the next Conference of Parties.

DECISION V
DECISIONS OF THE COPs

Having reviewed the Reports, Recommendations and Decisions of the Meetings convened under the Caribbean Environment Programme since the Seventeenth Intergovernmental Meeting;

Noting the Decisions of the Fourth LBS COP (UNEP(DEPI)/CAR IG.41/3) and Tenth SPAW COP (UNEP(DEPI)/CAR IG.40/3);

Further noting the need for collaboration between the AMEP and SPAW sub-programmes and the Regional Activity Centres in responding to recommendations and decisions of the Meetings;

Welcoming the opportunity to have Contracting Parties to the Cartagena Convention who are not Parties to specific Protocols being able to attend those COP meetings as observers;

Decides to:

1. **Endorse** the Decisions of the Tenth Meeting of the Contracting Parties (COP10) to the SPAW Protocol held in Roatan, Honduras, 3 June 2019 as contained in UNEP(DEPI)/CAR IG.40/3.
2. **Also Endorse** the Decisions of the Fourth Meeting of the Contracting Parties (COP4) to the Protocol Concerning Pollution from Land-Based Sources and Activities (LBS Protocol) in the Wider Caribbean Region, held in Roatan, Honduras, 4 June 2019 as contained in UNEP(DEPI)/CARIG.41/3.
3. **Encourages** the Secretariat to continue in its efforts to have further integration of the two sub-programmes through joint STACs, COPs and/or full representation of all Contracting Parties at meetings of the Protocols.

DECISION VI **RAC/REMPEITC-Caribe**

Having reviewed the Report of the Eighth Ordinary Meeting of the Steering Committee for the RAC/REMPEITC-Caribe, held in Willemstad, Curaçao, 5-7 June 2018 (UNEP(DEPI)/CAR IG 42/INF.12);

Having examined the Long-Term Strategic Plan for 2015-2025 of the Regional Activity Centre, REMPEITC- Caribe (UNEP(DEPI)/CARIG.42/10);

Acknowledging the initiatives to create a regional notification system for oil spills which will improve communications and provide countries with forecasted trajectories;

Welcoming the efforts of the Global Oil and Gas Industry Association for Environmental and Social Issues (IPIECA) to provide a consultant seconded to RAC/REMPEITC-Caribe;

Recognizing with gratitude the continuous contribution of the Governments of Curaçao (Kingdom of the Netherlands), the United States and Jamaica to the operational support of RAC/REMPEITC-Caribe; as well as the continuous funding support from many nations through the International Maritime Organization that enables RAC/REMPEITC-Caribe to conduct activities throughout the Region;

Noting the change in risk profile of maritime conditions and emerging issues relating to maritime transportation;

Noting the presentation on the development of Caribbean Marine Environment Protection Association (CARIBMEPA) and proposed collaboration with the Secretariat towards supporting the protection of the Caribbean marine environment;

Considering the Decision 2 of the SPAW COP10 to work with the LBS Protocol and the regional Caribbean Memorandum of Understanding on Port State Control (CMOU) to take measures against ballast water exchange in coastal waters;

Decides to:

1. **Endorse** the Recommendations of the Ninth Ordinary Meeting of the Steering Committee.
2. **Encourage** the sharing of expertise with Contracting Parties of the Cartagena Convention and the continued focus by the Centre on more practical regional response measures and training in this area.
3. **Urge** the Centre to disseminate information on their capabilities to countries in the Wider Caribbean Region.
4. **Requests** the Secretariat and RAC/REMPEITC to explore potential partnership opportunities with the Caribbean Marine Environment Protection Association (CARIBMEPA).
5. **Also Requests** the Secretariat to explore with RAC-REMPEITC how Stony Coral Tissue Loss Disease (SCTLD) and other potential ballast water borne invasive species or diseases may be addressed through the regional maritime sector and ballast water regulations.

DECISION VII CARTAGENA REPORTING TEMPLATE

Having reviewed the progress of the Caribbean Environment Programme during 2017-2018;

Recognizing the need for the continuing development and implementation of the Caribbean Environment Programme for the 2019-2020 biennium and beyond;

Welcoming the progress made by several Parties towards ratification of the LBS and SPAW Protocols;

Noting the importance of the Cartagena Convention Reports as a tool for monitoring progress in implementing the obligations of the Cartagena Convention by Contracting Parties;

Acknowledging the efforts taken by countries to submit biennial reports to the Fifteenth Meeting of Contracting Parties to the Convention and the increased number of countries providing such reports;

Recognizing that the reporting template should be kept under periodic review by the Secretariat including requesting governments to provide additional information as part of their reporting obligations under the Convention;

Decides to:

1. **Encourage** other governments in the Wider Caribbean Region to ratify the Cartagena Convention and its Protocols.
2. **Encourage** governments to inform the Secretariat of the status and impacts of the implementation of the Convention for the Protection and Development of the Marine Environment of the Wider Caribbean Region and of its Protocols through the approved reporting template for the Cartagena Convention and its Protocols.
3. **Encourage** all Contracting Parties who have not yet submitted national reports to do so no later than 30 June 2019 and request the Secretariat to make all such reports available through the UN Environment Programme CEP website.
4. **Also Encourage** the Secretariat, dependent on available resources, to develop a system that would enable online reporting and electronic submission of reports.
5. **Request** the Secretariat to **amend** the reporting template to include relevant parameters of the SOCAR.

DECISION VIII STATE OF THE CONVENTION AREA REPORT

Acknowledging the achievements of the Working Group on Monitoring and Assessment established by Decision XII of the Fourteenth IGM and **noting** the establishment of the Open-Ended Working Group on Monitoring and Assessment for the 2019-2020 biennium as per Decision III of this meeting;

Having reviewed the Draft State of the Convention Area Report (SOCAR) for the Wider Caribbean Region as contained in UNEP(DEPI)/CAR IG.41/INF.3;

Noting the progress made in the development of the State of Habitats Report for the Wider Caribbean Region as contained in document UNEP(DEPI)/CAR IG.40/INF.3; and

Further noting the development of regional strategies under the Assessment and Management of Environmental Pollution and Specially Protected Areas and Wildlife sub-programme as contained in the Draft Regional Nutrients Reduction Strategy and Action Plan for the UNDP/GEF Caribbean and North Brazil Large Marine Ecosystems Project UNEP(DEPI)/CAR IG.41/INF.8 and the Strategic Plan for Marine Litter Management in the Wider Caribbean Region UNEP(DEPI)/CAR IG.41/INF.7;

Decides to:

1. **Adopt** the draft State of the Convention Area Report (SOCAR).
2. **Support** the integration of the SOCAR and State of Habitat reports with State of the Marine Environment and Associated Economies (SOMEE) report.
3. **Request** that the Secretariat continue to collaborate and coordinate with the Contracting Parties, the CLME+ Project Coordination Unit and members of the SAP Interim Coordination Mechanism to institutionalize, in alignment with the Convention's geographic and thematic mandate, its long-term role in the collaborative integrated SOMEE reporting effort including visualization and dissemination, pursuing alignment and synergies between the SOCAR-Land-based Sources and State of Marine Habitats reports and the SOMEE approach, and incorporating such a support role to the SOMEE development process as part of the Secretariat's 2019-2020 work programme and beyond.

DECISION IX
PERMANENT POLICY COORDINATION MECHANISM (PPCM)

Welcoming the presentation of the CLME+ PCU on the Permanent Policy Coordination Mechanism;

Noting the alignment between the vision of the Caribbean Large Marine Ecosystem Plus (CLME+) Strategic Action Programme and the Caribbean Environment Protection (CEP) Strategy as contained in the document UNEP(DEPI)/CAR IG.42/5;

Recognising the potential for support for the work of the Secretariat of the Cartagena Convention through the Permanent Policy Coordination Mechanism (PPCM);

Decides to:

1. **Encourage** Contracting Parties to engage in national consultations on the Coordination Mechanism and the development of a Sustainable Financing Plan for Ocean Governance in preparation for the Regional Consultation Meeting scheduled for 30 July to 1 August 2019 in Panama, and for the last CLME+ Project Steering Committee Meeting planned for the first semester of 2020.
2. **Request** that the Secretariat continue to participate, *inter alia* through virtual discussions involving the Bureau, Monitoring Committee and/or all Contracting Parties of the Cartagena Convention, in the process towards the establishment of the Coordination Mechanism and the development of a Sustainable Financing Plan for Ocean Governance.
3. **Request** that the Secretariat undertake further investigations with the CLME+ Project Coordination Unit and members of the SAP Interim Coordination Mechanism, regarding the possibility of the Secretariat hosting the Coordination Mechanism including an analysis of all financial and legal implications and note that no final commitment will be made without the endorsement of the Contracting Parties.
4. **Encourage** the Contracting Parties to support the efforts to leverage additional donor funds to give continuity to the outcomes and the outputs of the CLME+ Project and to the further implementation of the CLME+ SAP, and that the Secretariat, as per their mandate, be engaged in the development and implementation of such projects and initiatives.

DECISION X OCEAN ACIDIFICATION

Welcoming The Ocean Foundation's "International Ocean Acidification Initiative" to address ocean acidification as a regional topic of common concern as acknowledged by the Contracting Parties to the Protocol Concerning Specially Protected Areas and Wildlife;

Noting the Recommendation VIII of the Eighth Meeting of the Scientific Technical Advisory Committee (STAC) to the Protocol Concerning Specially Protected Areas and Wildlife in the Wider Caribbean Region to collaborate with The Ocean Foundation;

Recalling the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, in particular Target 3 of SDG 14 which aims to "*minimize and address the impacts of ocean acidification, including through enhanced scientific cooperation at all levels*";

Decides to:

1. **Request** the Secretariat to work with The Ocean Foundation including through the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding that facilitates collaboration on addressing ocean acidification and related issues within the Wider Caribbean Region (WCR). This may include the development and implementation of joint strategies and pilot projects.

ANNEX VI: INDICATIVE CONTRIBUTIONS FOR THE BIENNIUM 2019-2020

INDICATIVE CONTRIBUTIONS FOR THE BIENNNIUM 2019-2020

COUNTRY	2019	2020
ANGUILLA	12,791	12,791
ANTIGUA & BARBUDA	12,791	12,791
ARUBA	11,663	11,663
BAHAMAS	12,791	12,791
BARBADOS	12,791	12,791
BELIZE	11,663	11,663
BRITISH VIRGIN ISLANDS	7,547	7,547
CARIBBEAN NETHERLANDS	6,000	6,000
CAYMAN ISLANDS	7,101	7,101
COLOMBIA	22,914	22,914
COSTA RICA	13,917	13,917
CUBA	24,059	24,059
CURACAO	10,000	10,000
DOMINICA - COMMONWEALTH	12,791	12,791
DOMINICA REPUBLIC	15,044	15,044
FRANCE	291,597	291,597
GRENADA	12,791	12,791
GUATEMALA	13,917	13,917
GOVERNMENT OF THE CO-OP REPUBLIC OF GUYANA (GCRG)	12,791	12,791
HAITI	12,791	12,791
HONDURAS	12,791	12,791
JAMAICA	18,514	18,514
MEXICO	40,000	40,000
MONTSERRAT	3,430	3,430
NICARAGUA	12,791	12,791
PANAMA	13,917	13,917
ST KITTS-NEVIS	3,430	3,430
ST LUCIA	11,663	11,663
ST MAARTEN		
ST VINCENT & THE GRENADINES	11,663	11,663
SURINAME	12,791	12,791
TRINIDAD & TOBAGO	15,044	15,044
TURK & CAICOS ISLANDS	6,174	6,174
USA	393,975	393,975
VENEZUELA	170,375	170,375
	1,264,308	1,264,308

ANNEX VII: LIST OF DOCUMENTS

LIST OF DOCUMENTS

Symbol	Title	Agenda Item
<u>Working Documents</u>		
UNEP(DEPI)/CAR IG.42/1	Provisional Agenda	1-3
UNEP(DEPI)/CAR IG.42/2	Provisional Annotated Agenda	3
UNEP(DEPI)/CAR IG.42/3	Draft Workplan and Budget for the Caribbean Environment Programme for the 2017-2018 biennium	6
UNEP(DEPI)/CAR IG.42/4	Recommendations of the Ninth Ordinary Meeting of the Steering Committee of the Regional Activity Centre/Regional Marine Pollution Emergency Information and Training Centre RAC/REMPEITC-Caribe	6
UNEP(DEPI)/CAR IG.42/5	Draft Strategy for the Development of the Caribbean Environment Programme	6
UNEP(DEPI)/CAR IG.42/6	<i>Decisions of the 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 (to be prepared during the Meeting)</i>	
UNEP(DEPI)/CAR IG.42/7	<i>Report of the 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 (to be prepared after the Meeting)</i>	
<u>Information Documents</u>		
UNEP(DEPI)/CAR IG.42/INF.1	Provisional List of Documents	
UNEP(DEPI)/CAR IG.42/INF.2	Provisional List of Participants	
UNEP(DEPI)/CAR IG.42/INF.3	Report of the Chairperson of the Monitoring Committee and President of the Bureau of Contracting Parties	4
UNEP(DEPI)/CAR IG.42/INF.4	Report of the Executive Director of UN Environment Programme on the Implementation of the 2017-2018 Workplan and Budget of the Caribbean Environment Programme	5
UNEP(DEPI)/CAR IG.42/INF.5	Report on the Ratification of the Convention for the Protection and Development of the Marine Environment of the Wider Caribbean Region and its Protocols (Cartagena Convention) <i>presented by the Government of Colombia</i>	
UNEP(DEPI)/CAR IG.42/INF.6	Communications Strategy of the United Nations Environment Caribbean Environment Programme, 2017-2018	

UNEP(DEPI)/CAR IG.42/INF.7	Report from the Secretariat on the Status of Cartagena Convention Protocol Ratification 2017-2018	
UNEP(DEPI)/CAR IG.42/INF.8	Summary of National Reports of Contracting Parties to the Convention 2017-2018	
UNEP(DEPI)/CAR IG.42/INF.9	RAC/REMPEITC-Caribe Report of Activities 2016-2018	
UNEP(DEPI)/CAR IG.42/INF.10	RAC/REMPEITC-Caribe Long-Term Strategic Plan 2015-2025	
UNEP(DEPI)/CAR IG.42/INF.11	Report of the Ninth Steering Committee Meeting of the Regional Marine Pollution Emergency, Information and Training Centre (REMPEITC) for the Wider Caribbean Region, Willemstad, Curacao, 5 to 7 June 2018	
UNEP(DEPI)/CAR IG.42/INF.12	Regional Strategy on Sustainable Ocean-based Economies in the Wider Caribbean Region	
UNEP(DEPI)/CAR IG.41/3	Decisions of the Fourth Meeting of the Contracting Parties (COP) to the Protocol Concerning Pollution from Land-Based Sources and Activities (LBS Protocol) in the Wider Caribbean Region, Roatan, Honduras, 4 June 2019	6
UNEP(DEPI)/CAR IG.41/INF.3	Draft State of the Convention Area (SOCAR) Report for the Wider Caribbean Region	6
UNEP(DEPI)/CAR IG.41/INF.4	Report of the Third Project Steering Committee Meeting for the GEF Integrating Land, Water, and Ecosystems Management in Caribbean Small Island Developing States (IWEco, Santo Domingo, Dominican Republic, 2-3 April 2019	
UNEP(DEPI)/CAR IG.41/INF.5	Draft Pollution Research Strategy for the UNDP/GEF Caribbean Large Marine Ecosystems	
UNEP(DEPI)/CAR IG.41/INF.9	The GEF CReW+ Project Proposal- "Upscaling and enhancing the experience of the Caribbean Regional Fund for Wastewater Management to the wider Caribbean promoting through an integrated approach of innovative technical solutions and financing mechanisms"	
UNEP(DEPI)/CAR IG.40/3	Decisions of the Tenth Meeting of the Contracting Parties (COP) to the Protocol Concerning Specially Protected Areas and Wildlife (SPA) in the Wider Caribbean Region, Roatan, Honduras, 3 June 2019	6
UNEP(DEPI)/CAR WG.40/6	Report of the Eighth Meeting of the Scientific and Technical Advisory Committee (STAC) to the Protocol Concerning Specially Protected Areas and Wildlife (SPA) in the Wider Caribbean Region, Panama City, Panama, 5 - 7 December 2018	
UNEP(DEPI)/CAR IG.40/INF.3	An Overview of the Report on the State of Marine Habitats in the Wider Caribbean and the Regional Strategy and Action Plan for the Valuation, Protection and/or Restoration of Key Marine Habitats in the Wider Caribbean 2021 -2030	
UNEP(DEPI)/CAR IG.40/INF.4	Paper on the Coordination Mechanism- CLME+	
UNEP(DEPI)/CAR IG.40/INF.5	Cooperation between The Ocean Foundation (TOF) and the Regional Coordination Unit of the Caribbean Environment Program (CEP) of UNEP, for the development of the marine environment in the Caribbean region	

UNEP(DEPI)/CAR IG.40/INF.7	Paper on the State of the Marine Environment and Associated Economies (SOMEE)- Collaborative Development & Institutionalization of a Regional Integrated Reporting Mechanism
UNEP(DEPI)/CAR WG.40/INF.4	Report of the SPAW Regional Activity Centre (SPAW-RAC) in Guadeloupe: Operations and Budget for the period 2017-2018
UNEP(DEPI)/CAR WG.40/INF.8	Sargassum White Paper- Sargassum Outbreak in the Caribbean: Challenges, Opportunities and Regional Situation
UNEP(DEPI)/CAR WG.40/INF.10	Report on Establishing a Formal Network of Geospatial Information Platforms
UNEP(DEPI)/CAR WG.40/INF.3 Rev. 1	Status of Activities of the SPAW Sub-programme for 2017-2018
UNEP(DEPI)/CAR WG.39/INF.3 Rev.1	Status of Activities of the AMEP Sub-programme for 2017-2018
UNEP(DEPI)/CAR WG.39/5	Report of the Fourth Meeting of the Scientific, Technical and Advisory Committee (STAC) to the Protocol Concerning Pollution from Land-Based Sources and Activities, Panama, Panama City, 17 to 20 July 2018
UNEP(DEPI)/CAR WG.39/INF.4 Rev.1	Report of the Activities for the LBS Regional Activity Centres IMA (Trinidad and Tobago) and Cimab (Cuba) for 2017-2018
UNEP(DEPI)/CAR.WG.39/INF.6 Rev.1	Report of the Working Group on Environmental Monitoring and Assessment
UNEP(DEPI)/CAR WG.39/INF.16 Rev.1	Report of the work on the Caribbean Node for Marine Litter Management 2017-2018
UNEP(DEPI)/CAR WG.39/INF.11	Report of the OSPAR & Caribbean Environment Programme Cooperation
UNEP(DEPI)/CAR WG.39/INF.14	United Nations Human Security Trust Fund Project Document on 'Strengthening Resilience in Northern Clarendon and West Kingston, Jamaica'
UNEP(DEPI)/CAR WG.39/INF.17	Executive Summary and Recommendations of the Feasibility Study on the Development of a Regional Reception Facilities Plan for the Small Island Developing States of the Wider Caribbean Region
UNEP(DEPI)/CAR IG.37/5	Decisions of the Ninth Meeting of the Contracting Parties (COP) to the Protocol Concerning Specially Protected Areas and Wildlife (SPAW) in the Wider Caribbean Region, French Guiana, 13 March 2017
UNEP(DEPI)/CAR IG.38/4	Decisions of the Third Meeting of the Contracting Parties (COP) to the Protocol Concerning Pollution from Land-Based Sources and Activities (LBS Protocol) in the Wider Caribbean Region, Cayenne, French Guiana, 14 March 2017
UNEP(DEPI)/CAR WG.37/INF.7 Rev.3	The UNDP/GEF Caribbean and North Brazil Large Marine Ecosystems (CLME+) Project and its joint implementation through the AMEP and SPAW Sub-programmes
UNEP(DEPI)/CAR WG.37/INF.9	Project Document for GEF-funded Integrating Land, Water, and Ecosystems Management in Caribbean SIDS (GEF IWEco)

Reference Documents

UNEP/LAC-IG.XX/5/Rev1	Final Report of the XXI Meeting of the Forum of Ministers of the Environment of Latin America and the Caribbean. Buenos Aires, Argentina, 9-12 October 2018
UNEP/WBRS.18/INF8	Regional Seas Strategic Direction (2017-2020)
UNEP, 2019	Directory of Focal Points of the Caribbean Environment Programme. CEP Information Paper (English only)
UNEP, 2012	Convention for the Protection and Development of the Marine Environment of the Wider Caribbean Region, Protocol Concerning Cooperation in Combating Oil Spills, Protocol Concerning Specially Protected Areas and Wildlife and the Protocol Concerning Pollution from Land-Based Sources and Activities
UNEP, 2010	Rules of Procedure for the Meetings of the Convention for the Protection and Development of the Marine Environment of the Wider Caribbean Region (Cartagena Convention)
UNEP, 2010	Financial Rules for the Cartagena Convention, its Caribbean Environment Programme and Terms of Reference for the Caribbean Trust Fund
UNEP(DEPI)/CAR IG.36 CRP.1	Amendment to the Financial Rules for the Cartagena Convention
UNEP, 1983a	Action Plan for the Caribbean Environment Programme. UNEP Regional Seas Reports and Studies No. 26
UNEP(DEPI)/CAR IG.24/CRP.9 Rev.1	Guidelines for Establishment and Operation of Regional Activity Centres and Regional Activity Networks for the Cartagena Convention
UNEP(DEPI)/CAR WG.32/INF.9 Rev. 3	Template for National Reporting on the Cartagena Convention and its Protocols
ISBN: 978-1-906698-40-9	Our Nutrient World: The challenge to produce more food and energy with less pollution
UNEP/WBRS.18/UNEP/EA	Compilation of the resolutions of the Third Session of the United Nations Environment Assembly, which are relevant to the Regional Seas programmes (Link)
REPORT 2015/083	Audit of the United Nations Environment Programme Caribbean Environment Programme
UNEP/WTLX/2017	Sustainable Sanitation Systems: Health, Environment and Governance Challenges
UNWATER//2018	Clearing the Waters; A focus on Water Quality Solutions
UNEP/CPR/144/7d/2019	Draft UN Environment Programme's Marine and Coastal Strategy to 2030
UNEP WBRS18/INF9 2016	Regional Seas Core Indicators Set
UNEP/RSRS/208/2018	Regional Seas Follow up and Review of the Ocean Related Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs): Conceptual Guidelines

UNEP/RSRS/209/2019:	Regional Seas Follow up and Review of the Ocean Related Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs): Case Studies Supplementary Annex
UNEP/CEP/2018	Factsheets/ Infographics (Link)
CLME+ PCM SFP Phase II Report	Proposals for a permanent Coordination Mechanism and a Sustainable Financing Plan for Ocean Governance in the Wider Caribbean Region
SOMEE Booklet	An Information Booklet-State of the Marine Environment and Associated Economies CLME+ SOMEE in the Wider Caribbean (a collaborative, integrated long-term reporting mechanism)
EU/UNEP/2018	Applying Area-Based management Approaches to Achieve Multiple Sustainable Development Goal Targets: Summary for Policy makers
UNEP/RSRS/205/2018	The Contributions of Marine and Coastal Area-Based Management Approaches to Sustainable Development Goals and Targets. UN Regional Seas Reports and Studies No. 205

ANNEX VIII: LIST OF PARTICIPANTS

LIST OF PARTICIPANTS

	Participant	Country	Title/ Address	Tel/Fax/ Email/ Website
1.	Linroy Christian	Antigua & Barbuda	Director of Analytical Services Analytical Services Friars Hill St. John's	Tel: +268-764-8338 Fax: E-mail: linroy.christian@ab.gov.ag
2.	Gisbert Boekhoudt	Aruba	Director Directorate of Nature & Environment Bernhardstraat 75 San Nicolas	Tel. +297 584 1199 / 592 9272 Fax: E-mail: gisbert.boekhoudt@dnmaruba.org
3.	Keith Philippe	Bahamas	Environmental Officer Bahamas Environment Science and Technology (BEST) Commission Charlotte House Charlotte and Shirley Street P.O. Box N-7132, Nassau	Tel. +242 801 7509 Fax: +242 326 3509 E-mail: kphilippe@best.gov.bs
4.	Rochelle Newbold (Head of Delegation)	The Bahamas	Acting Director Ministry of Environment and Housing Ground Floor, Charlotte House Charlotte and Shirley Street P.O. Box N-7132, Nassau	Tel. +242 322 4546 Fax: +242 326 3509 E-mail: rwnewbold@best.gov.bs
5.	Anthony Headley (Head of Delegation)	Barbados	Director Environmental Protection Department L.V Harcourt Lewis Building Dalkeith St. Michael	Phone: 1-246-535 4600/1 Fax #: 1-246-228-7103 E-mail: anthony.headley@epd.gov.bb ; enveng@caribsurf.com
6.	Fabian Hinds	Barbados	Coastal Planner (Ag) Coastal Zone Management Unit 8th Floor, Warrens Tower li Warrens, St. Michael Barbados	Tel. 1246-256-3169 Fax: 1246-421-5956 E-mail: fhinds@coastal.gov.bb

	Participant	Country	Title/ Address	Tel/Fax/ Email/ Website
7.	Maxine Monsanto	Belize	Environmental Officer Market Square Belmopan City, Belize	Tel: 501 822 2819 Fax: 501 822 2860 E-mail: lawunit@environment.gov.bz
8.	Paul Hoetjes (Head of Delegation)	Caribbean Netherlands	Policy Coordinator Nature Ministry of Agriculture, Nature and Food Quality National Office for the Caribbean Netherlands P.O. Box 357, Kralendijk, Bonaire	Tel. +599 781 0206 E-mail: paul.hoetjes@rijksdienstcn.com
9.	Claudia Patricia Cuevas Ortiz	Colombia	Bera av, Berce Calle Coeonia San Ignacio Condominio Quinta Bella Tegucigulpa, Honduras	Tel. +504 991 19916 E-mail: claudia.cuevas@cancilleria.gov.co
10.	Pedro Julio Ruiz Hernandez	Cuba	Licenciado 8 A Nro.4118 E/ 41 y 47, Playa, La Habana, CP 11300	Tel. 537-2144256 E-mail: pruiz@citma.gob.cu
11.	Francisco Sekou Maffei	Dominica	Assistant Forest Officer Ministry of Environment, Climate Resilience, Disaster Management & Urban Renewal Forestry, Wildlife & Parks Division Windsor Park Road, Roseau	Tel. (767) 266-5861/285-8353 Fax: E-mail: fmaffei@hotmail.com
12.	Jose Manuel Mateo Feliz	Dominican Republic	Director de Biodiversidad Ministerio de Medio Ambiente y Recursos Naturales, Calle Cayetano Germosen, esq. Avenida Luperion, Sector El Pedregal, Distrito Nacional, R.D	Tel. 809-501-4182 Email: JoseManuel.MateoFeliz@ambiente.gob.do
13.	Nina Lysenko (Head of Delegation)	Dominican Republic	Biologa Ministerio de Medio Ambiente y Recursos Naturales	Tel. 809-501-8173 Email: Nina.Lysenko@ambiente.gob.do
14.	Miguel Angel Espinosa Gonzalez	Dominican Republic	Ingeniero Quimico Ministerio de Medio Ambiente y Recursos Naturales Calle Cayetano Germosen, esq. Avenida Luperion, Sector El Pedregal, Distrito Nacional, R.D.	Tel. 809-567-4300-4182, Ext. 7221 Email: Miguel.Espinosa@ambiente.gob.do

	Participant	Country	Title/ Address	Tel/Fax/ Email/ Website
15.	Benoit Rodrigues Bria (Head of Delegation)	France	Policy Advisor - Marine Environment Protection Ministry for an Ecological and Solidary Transition Arche Sud, 92 055 La Defense cedex	Tel: 33 1 40 81 76 77 Email: benoit.rodrigues@developpement-durable.gouv.fr
16.	Emmanuelle Brigitterie Metral ep Thiesse	France	Chargée de mission pollution et fonds marins Ministère de la transition écologique et solidaire Tour Sequoia 92055 La défense Cedex	Tel: +33140813382 Email: emmanuelle.thiesse@developpement-durable.gouv.fr
17.	Nadia Deckert	France	International Ocean Protection Policy Officer Ministry of Europe and Foreign Affairs 27 rue de la Convention, 75015 Paris	Tel: +33 762098347 Email: nadia.deckert@diplomatie.gouv.fr
18.	Pierre-Christian Soccoja	France	Ambassador of France to Honduras French Embassy Colonia Altos Lomas del Guijarro Sur 4ta. Avenida, 2da Calle, Bloque B, Lote 7, Fte. al BID, AP 3441, Tegucigalpa	Tel: +504 22 32 54 44/ (+504) 22 35 72 75/(+504) 99 92 61 56 Email: info@ambafrance-hn.org
19.	Carlos Walberto Ramos Salguero	Guatemala	Viceministro de Recursos Naturales y Cambio Climático Ministerio de Ambiente y Recursos Naturales	Tel. 502-303-74275 E-mail: cwramos@marn.gob.gt
20.	Alona Sankar	Guyana	Commissioner Guyana Wildlife Conservation and Management Commission Ganges Street, Sophia, Georgetown	Tel. 592-223-0940 E-mail: alonasankar2@gmail.com
21.	Felicia Adams-Kellman	Guyana	Senior Environmental Officer Environmental Protection Agency Ganges Street, Sophia, Georgetown	Tel. 592-609-2343 E-mail: fadams@epaguyana.org
22.	Carlos Sagrera	Honduras	DGMM Calle 47 – 1er. Piso Edif. Bellomar – Marbella Ciudad de Panama	Tel: +598-91-230654 Email: carlos.sagrera@int-marconsult.com

	Participant	Country	Title/ Address	Tel/Fax/ Email/ Website
23.	Carlos Thompson Flores	Honduras	Director CESCCO Secretaria de Recursos Naturales y Ambienté	Tel: +504-223-11006 Email: carlosalbertothompson@yahoo.com
24.	Marnie Xiomara Portillo Rodriguez	Honduras	Ing. Ambiental Ministry of State in the Office of the Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment	Tel: +504-883-62986 Email: portillomarnie@yahoo.com
25.	Sara Isabel Zelaya Landa	Honduras	Head of the Marine Environment General Directorate of the Merchant Marine Boulevard Suyapa, edificio Pietra, contiguo a ALUPAC	Tel: +504-982-73483 Email: szelaya@marinamercante.gob.hn
26.	Josè Antonio Galdames Fuentes	Honduras	Secretario de Estado Secretaria de Recursos Naturales y Ambiente y Minas 100 Metros al Sur del Estado Nacional Tegucigalpa	Tel: (504) 2232 2011 Fax: (504) 2232 6250 Email: cooperacionexterna@miambiente.gob.hn
27.	Richard Nelson	Jamaica	Senior Manager National Environment and Planning Agency 10 and 11 Caledonia Avenue Kingston 5	Tel. +876 754-7540 Fax: +876 908-1391 E-mail: nelson@nepa.gov.jm
28.	Andrea Hurtado Epstein	Mexico	Directora General Adjunta para Desarrollo Sostenible Secretaria de Relaciones Exteriores Plaza Juárez Núm. 20, Col. Centro, Del. Cuauhtémoc, C.P. 06010, Ciudad de México	Tel: 01 55 36865100 Email: ahurtado@sre.gob.mx
29.	Milana Dravnel	Mexico	Environmentalist Unifytulum Boca Baila KL 8th Quitana Roo Tulum Mexico 77788	Tel: 984-166-2016 E-mail: milana@shaktiny.com

	Participant	Country	Title/ Address	Tel/Fax/ Email/ Website
30.	Ricalde de Jager Arnold	Mexico	Director Ocean Alliance Mexico	Tel: 525-534-341952 E-mail: arnoldricalde@gmail.com
31.	Marino Eugenio Abrego	Panama	Head of Department Conservation of Coastal and Marine Resources Calle Diego Dominguez, Bldg, 804 Albrook, Ancon	Tel. +507 61502101 E-mail: meabrego@miambiente.gob.pa
32.	Eavin Parry	Saint Kitts and Nevis	Environmental Scientist Department of Environment Ministry of Agriculture, Marine Resources Cooperatives, Environment and Human Settlement Basseterre	Tel. 869-661-5437 E-mail: elvinparry@hotmail.com ; Eavin.Parry@gov.kn
33.	Thomas Nelson	Saint Lucia	Deputy Chief Fisheries Officer Department of Fisheries Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries, Physical Planning, Natural Resources and Co-operatives Conway Post Office, Castries, LC04 301	Tel. 758-468-4136/35 Fax: 758-452-3853 Email: thomas.nelson@govt.lc ; tomfinch90@hotmail.com
34.	Kris Isaacs	Saint Vincent and the Grenadines	Senior Fisheries Officer Fisheries Division	Tel: 784 456 2738 Fax: 784 457 2112 Email: fishdiv@vincysurf.com ; Kris.isaacs@yahoo.com
35.	Claudius Carty	Sint Maarten	Section Head Maritime Affairs Maritime Authority St. Maarten A.C Wathey Cruise Facility, CBT Building, Office # 12, Pointe Blanche	Tel: 1-721-520-1024 Email: claudius.carty@sintmaartengov.org ; claudiuscarty@gmail.com
36.	Denny Dichansingh	Trinidad and Tobago	Conservator of Forests, Forestry Division Ministry of Agriculture, Land and Fisheries Long Circular Road, St. James Port-of-Spain	Tel: 868-729-9826 Fax: 868-628-5503 Email: ddipchansingh@yahoo.com
37.	Cherylann Jones	Turks and Caicos Islands	Permanent Secretary Ministry of Tourism, Environment, Heritage, Maritime, Disaster Management and Gaming Mercedes Francis Building, Grand Turk Turks and Caicos Islands, TKCA 1ZZ	Tel: 6492327906 Email: cjones@gov.tc

	Participant	Country	Title/ Address	Tel/Fax/ Email/ Website
38.	Eric Salamanca	Turks and Caicos Islands	Assistant Director Department of Environment and Coastal Resources DECR, Lower Bight Road Providenciales	Tel: 649-338-4175 Email: efsalamanca@gov.tc ; ericfsalamanca@gmail.com
39.	Chelsey Young	United States of America	Natural Resource Management Specialist National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration 1315 E. West Highway Silver Spring, Maryland, 20910	Tel: +301 427-8491 Fax: Email: chelsey.young@noaa.gov
40.	Katherine Gorove	United States of America	Attorney-Adviser U.S. Department of State 2201 C Street NW Washington, D.C., 20520	Tel: 202-776-8441 Email: GOROVEKM@state.gov
41.	Marc Porter (Head of Delegation)	United States of America	Foreign Affairs Officer Department of State 2201 C Street NW Washington, D.C., 20816	Tel: 202-294-2545 Email: PorterMR@state.gov
42.	Samantha Dowdell	United States of America	National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration	Tel: Email: samantha.dowdell@noaa.gov
43.	Stephanie Adrian	United States of America	Senior Marine Specialist US Environmental Protection Agency 1200 Pennsylvania Ave, NW, MC2660R Washington, DC 20460	Tel. +202-564-6444 Fax: 202-566-2411 E-mail: adrian.stephanie@epa.gov
44.	Troy Pierce	United States of America	Acting Director/Chief Scientist US Environmental Protection Agency 2510 14 th Street, Suite 1212 Gulfport Mississippi 39501	Tel: 228-679-5909 Email: pierce.troy@epa.gov
45.	Betzabey Motta	Venezuela	Directora de Prevención de Amenazas a la Diversidad Biológica Ministerio del Poder Popular para el Ecosocialismo Torre Sur Centro Simón Bolívar. Piso 9. urb. El Silencio. Caracas	Tel: +58 04142540161 E-mail: prevencion.dqdb.ve@gmail.com

REGIONAL ACTIVITY CENTERS				
	Participant	Organization	Title/Address	Tel/Fax/ Email/ Website
46.	Darryl Banjoo	RAC IMA	Senior Researcher Officer Institute of Marine Affairs Hill top Lane Chaguaramas P.O. Box 3160, Carenage, Port of Spain	Tel: 868-634-4291 Fax: +868-634-4433 E-mail: dbanjoo@ima.gov.tt
47.	Antonio Villasol Nuñez		Outgoing Director Centro de Investigación y Manejo Ambiental del Transporte (Cimab) Calle A6 No. 71 e/ 7ma A y 7ma B, Playa, La Habana, Cuba	Tel. 53-52840820 E-mail: avillasol@gmail.com
48.	Lina de las Mercedes Tello Cebrian	RAC Cimab	Directora General Centro de Investigación y Manejo Ambiental del Transporte (Cimab) Carretera del Cristo No. 3 Casablanca. Regla. La Habana, Cuba	Tel. 53 52865509 E-mail: linatello@cimab.transnet.cu
49.	Marlen Perez Hernandez	RAC Cimab	Investigadora Auxiliar Centro de Investigación y Manejo Ambiental del Transporte (Cimab) Carretera del Cristo No. 3 Casablanca. Regla. La Habana, Cuba	Tel: 53-52114641 E-mail: marlen@cimab.transnet.cu ; mp420ale@gmail.com
50.	Carla Bikker	RAC REMPEITC-Caribe	Acting Director Aviation & Meteorology Building Curaçao	Tel: 5999-689-8004 Fax: 5999-868-4994 Email: carla@cep.unep.org ; carlabikker1964@gmail.com
51.	Gisette Seferina	RAC REMPEITC Caribe	Chair of the RAC Steering Committee Wilhelminaplein 4 Willemstad	Tel. 599 9 525 6555 E-mail: Gisette.seferina@gmail.com

REGIONAL ACTIVITY CENTERS				
	Participant	Organization	Title/Address	Tel/Fax/ Email/ Website
52.	Fabien Jean Remi Barthelat	SPAW RAC	Programme Officer Regional Activity Centre for Specially Protected Areas and Wildlife c/o DEAL Saint-Phy - B.P. 54 97102 Basse-Terre Guadeloupe (FWI)	Tel. +590690382539 Email: fabien.barthelat@developpement-durable.gouv.fr
53.	Sandrine Pivard	SPAW RAC	Programme Officer Regional Activity Centre for Specially Protected Areas and Wildlife c/o DEAL Saint-Phy - B.P. 54 97102 Basse-Terre Guadeloupe (FWI)	Tel. +590690527280 Email: sandrine.pivard@developpement-durable.gouv.fr

UN Environment Programme				
	Participant	Organization	Title/Address	Tel/Fax/ Email/ Website
54.	Habib El-Habr	UNEP GPA	Coordinator Global Programme of Action for Protection of the Marine Environment from Land-Based Activities Ecosystems Division UN Environment Programme, Nairobi, Kenya	Tel: 254-20 762 4591 E-mail: habib.el-habr@un.org
55.	Alberto Pacheco Capella	Regional Coordinator	UN Environment Programme 103 Morse Avenue City of Knowledge, Clayton Panama City, Panama	Tel: +507-305-3139 Email: alberto.pacheco@un.org
56.	Nancy Soi	Coordinator, Regional Seas Programme	UN Environment Programme, Nairobi, Kenya	Tel: 254-020-7624763 Email: nancy.soi@un.org
57.	Ole Vestegaard	Programme Management Officer, Sustainable Blue Economy Initiative	UN Environment Programme Nairobi, Kenya	Tel: Email: ole.vestegaard@un.org
58.	Lauren Weatherdon	Senior Programme Officer – Conserved Landscapes and Seascapes	UN Environment Programme WCMC 219 Huntingdon Rd, Cambridge CB3 0DL, UK	Tel: +44 (0) 1223277314 Email: Lauren.Weatherdon@unep-wcmc.org
59.	Isabelle Vanderbeck	GEF International Waters Task Manager	UN Environment Programme, Washington D.C 900 17th St NW, Washington DC, 20006	Tel: 1-202-974-1314 Email: isabelle.vanderbeck@un.org

SECRETARIAT UN Environment Programme CEP 14-20 Port Royal Street Kingston, Jamaica Tel: +876-922-9267 / Fax: +876-922-9292 E-mail: rcu@cep.unep.org				
60.	Christopher Corbin	Secretariat	Officer-in-Charge/Programme Officer (AMEP)	christopher.corbin@un.org
61.	Clementiene Pinder	Secretariat	Administrative/Fund Management Manager	pinderc@un.org
62.	Donna Henry-Hernandez	Secretariat	Programme Management Assistant, (IWEco Project)	donna.hernandez@un.org
63.	Ileana Lopez	Secretariat	Programme Management Officer (SPAW)	ileana.lopez@un.org
64.	Jodi Johnson	Secretariat	Programme Management Assistant (SPAW)	jodi.johnson@un.org
65.	Sancha Foreman	Secretariat	Programme Management Assistant (AMEP)	sancha.foreman@un.org
66.	Tracey Tucker	Secretariat	Team Assistant (Administration)	tracey.tucker@un.org