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Fifth Meeting of the Scientific and Technical
Advisory Committee (STAC) to the Protocol
Concerning Pollution from Land-Based Sources
and Activities in the Wider Caribbean.

Virtual

15 to 17 March 2021

DRAFT

**STATUS OF ACTIVITES OF THE ASSESSMENT AND MANAGEMENT OF
ENVIRONMENTAL POLLUTION (AMEP) SUB-PROGRAMME FOR 2019-2020**

*For reasons of public health and safety associated with the COVID-19 pandemic, this meeting is being convened virtually.
Delegates are kindly requested to access all meeting documents electronically for download as necessary.*

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Programme Overview

1. This report presents the status of activities for the Sub-Programme on the Assessment and Management of Environmental Pollution (AMEP) in support of the Protocol Concerning Land-Based Sources of Marine Pollution (LBS Protocol) for the period 2019-2020. It provides a summary of relevant recommendations and decisions of the Fourth Meeting of the Scientific and Technical Advisory Committee to the LBS Protocol (4th LBS STAC), Fourth Meeting of the Contracting Parties (4th COP) to the LBS Protocol, Eighteenth Intergovernmental Meeting (18th IGM) and Fifteenth Meeting of Contracting Parties to the Cartagena Convention (15th COP) (See Annex I).
2. The goal of the AMEP Sub-Programme is to prevent, reduce, and control pollution of the coastal and marine environment from land and marine-based sources thereby enabling countries of the Wider Caribbean Region (WCR) to meet their obligations under the Protocols Concerning Pollution from Land-Based Sources and Activities (LBS Protocol) and Co-operation in Combating Oil Spills (Oil Spills Protocol).
3. The objectives of the Sub-Programme are to:
 - a) Coordinate and oversee the implementation of AMEP projects and activities within the framework of the Cartagena Convention;
 - b) Ensure that the formulation and implementation of projects and activities satisfy the obligations of the LBS and Oil Spills Protocols;
 - c) Promote ratification of, accession to, and effective implementation of the LBS and Oil Spills Protocols; and
 - d) Enhance coordination, collaboration and communication with Regional Activity Centres (RACs), members of the Regional Activity Network (RAN), and relevant regional and international organizations in the development and implementation of the AMEP work plan.
4. In June 2019, the Government of Barbados became the 15th country to ratify the Protocol Concerning Pollution from Land-Based Sources and Activities.
5. The importance of ratification of the LBS Protocol was promoted during the biennium through new outreach products including infographics, publications and fact sheets. A list of these products is provided in Annex V.
6. The AMEP Programme Officer (PO) coordinated the implementation of programme activities for 2019-2020 with support from the AMEP Programme Assistant and the CETA Team Assistant. The Directors and staff of the LBS Regional Activity Centres provided additional technical support. The AMEP Programme Assistant separated from the Secretariat in December 2020 and a temporary PMA has been recruited.
7. The AMEP PO continued to be responsible for the Communications Sub-Programme in the absence of a CETA Programme Officer. Eight interns supported the AMEP Sub-Programme over the 2019-2020 period.
8. The AMEP PO supported the Coordinator of the Secretariat by serving as Officer-in-Charge and was responsible for coordinating the 15th Meeting of Contracting Parties to the Cartagena Convention held in Roatan, Honduras. Additional support was provided in monitoring the Decisions of the Convention and LBS Protocol and providing periodic updates to the Bureau and to UNEP HQ.

9. Discussions are on-going between the Secretariat and the Government of Cuba regarding the finalization of the host agreement to formalize the Centre of Research and Environmental Management of Transport (CIMAB) as an LBS RAC.
10. In coordination with the Specially Protected Areas and Wildlife Sub-Programme, Memoranda of Understanding (MOU) were signed between the Cartagena Convention Secretariat and the Gulf and Caribbean Fisheries Institute (GCFI), Water Center for the Humid Tropics of Latin America and the Caribbean (CATHALAC), Institute of Marine and Coastal Research (INVEMAR), and the Caribbean Natural Resources Institute (CANARI).
11. Table 1 below reflects the contribution of the AMEP Sub-Programme to technical discussions on pollution through national, regional and global committees. These meetings were held virtually during March to December 2020.

Table 1: Representation of AMEP staff on National, Regional and Global Committees

No.	Committee	Scope	Relevance to Cartagena Convention/LBS Protocol	Nature of Meeting	Frequency
1	BASEL Convention Plastics Working Group	Global	Responds to LBS COP Decision for increased collaboration with the BASEL Secretariat	Virtual	As needed
2	UNEP Plastics Working Group	Global	Provide regional perspective to the development of UNEP's strategy for Plastics Management in preparation for the next UNEA.	Virtual	Monthly (Jun.-Dec. 2020)
3	Project Steering Committee for GEF 'Strengthening the Blue Economy: The Economic Case, Science-Informed Policy, and Transparency'.	Global	Provide input to the development of a global framework for blue economy and support implementation of Ocean Panel Report 'Ocean Solutions That Benefit, People, Nature and the Economy' at Regional Level.	Face-to-Face	One meeting in 2021
4	Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) – Caribbean Public Health Agency (CARPHA)	Regional	Supports coordination on environmental health projects in the Caribbean and on the GEF IWeco project. Provided support to CARPHA's Environment Advisory Committee	Virtual	Semi-annually

5	Global Water Partnership Caribbean Technical Committee	Regional	Supports coordination on water- related projects in the Caribbean	Virtual and Face-to-Face	Quarterly
6	Strategic Action Programme (SAP) of the UNDP/GEF CLME+ Project	Regional	Vice Chair of Interim Coordinating Mechanism for the SAP	Face-to-Face	Semi-annually
7	Project Executive Group (PEG) of the GEF CLME+ Project	Regional	Facilitate coordinated implementation of project activities.	Virtual and Face-to-Face	Semi-annually
8	Interagency Coordinating Group for GEF IWeco Project	Regional	Represent Secretariat as lead regional Executing Agency for GEF IWeco	Face-to-Face and Virtual	Quarterly
9	Project Steering Committee Meetings of the GEF IWeco Project	Regional	Represent Secretariat as lead regional Executing Agency for the GEF IWeco Project	Face-to-Face and Virtual	Annually
10	Project Steering Committee Meeting of GEF CReW+ Project	Regional	Represent Secretariat as Co-Executing Agency for the GEF CReW+ Project	Face-to-Face and Virtual	Annually
11	Caribbean Node for Marine Litter Management	Regional	Co-Host with the Gulf and Caribbean Fisheries Institute	Virtual and Face-to-Face	As needed
12	Caribbean Platform for Nutrients Management	Regional	Host for Platform which supports LBS Protocol Annex IV	Virtual and Face-to-Face	As needed
13	Caribbean Platform for Wastewater Management	Regional	Technical support to platform hosted by CWWA which supports LBS Protocol Annex III	Virtual and Face-to-Face	As needed
14	Secretariat Monitoring and Assessment Working Group	Regional	Supporting implementation of the AMEP Work Plan	Virtual	As needed
15	Secretariat Sargassum Working Group	Regional	Support implementation of Sargassum activities in the Secretariat Work Plan	Virtual	As needed

16	Committee for Regional Strategic Action Plan on Water Resources Management (RSAP)	Regional	Support coordination on projects and activities relating to integrated watershed, water resources and wastewater management relevant to the LBS Protocol	Virtual	As needed
17	Technical Committee for UN Human Security Trust Fund Project	National	Represent Secretariat as co-implementing agency for project	Virtual and Face to Face	Quarterly
18	Project Steering Committee for GEF IWeco The Bahamas Project	National	Provide technical support and ensure linkages with the Regional IWeco Project	Virtual	Monthly

12. During the reporting period, the AMEP Sub-Programme was represented at several regional and global meetings and conferences including regional Ministerial Meetings focusing on maritime transportation, environment, solid waste, and water.
13. AMEP representatives contributed with oral presentations, exhibition booths with displays of videos, promotional material and posters of work relating to the LBS Protocol. See Annex VI for presentations made and meetings attended. Representation at several virtual meetings, webinars and conferences in 2020 allowed for greater visibility of the work of the Secretariat.
14. Several actions were taken to improve communication with stakeholders and facilitate knowledge sharing. These are summarized in Table 2 below.

Table 2. Summary of Reports, Newsletters and Communication Activities Coordinated by AMEP

No.	Report	Frequency
1	Input to UNEP Ecosystems Division Newsletter	Monthly
2	Input to UNEP Annual Reports	Annually
3	Input to UNEP Reports on relevant UNEA Resolutions	As Required
4	Report on Implementation of Regional Seas Strategic Directions	Annually
5	Report on Implementation of UNEP Global Programme of Action (GPA)	Annually
6	Input to Secretary-General's Report on the Ocean and Law of the Sea	Annually
7	Report on measures taken in support of Resolution 67/205 adopted on 21 December 2012 "Towards the sustainable development of the Caribbean Sea for present and future generations".	Annually
8	Project Financial and Progress Reports to Donors, Project Coordinating Units, implementing agencies and UNEP HQ	As Required (Quarterly, Semi-annually and Annually)

9.	Website and Social Media updates	Daily
10	Database updates – Focal Points	As Required
11	Report to the United Nations Country Team on United Nations Development Assistance Framework	Annually
12	Report to Planning Institute of Jamaica on Projects and Activities in Jamaica	Annually
13	Report for Economic Commission on Latin American Countries on SAMOA Pathway Implementation	As Required
14	Report on Country Implementation Plans (CIPs of the United Nations Multi-Country Sustainable Development Framework (UNMSDF) for Jamaica, Trinidad and Tobago, Belize, Suriname and Guyana	Annually
15.	Contribution to the Project and Contact Data Bases, and CLME+ SAP Monitoring for the CLME+ Hub	As required
16	Support to GEF IWeco Quarterly Newsletter, e-Bulletin and IWeco twice-monthly webinars	As required

15. The Secretariat through the AMEP Sub-Programme reviewed and provided technical input to several regional and global reports involving, *inter alia*, UN Resolutions relating to Oceans, Small Island Developing States (SIDS) and the Sustainable Development Goals, as well as various technical UN reports on pollution-related issues such as marine litter, plastics, wastewater and nutrients. Of specific reference to the LBS Protocol is the Research Strategy on Pollution published by the Gulf and Caribbean Fisheries Institute (GCFI) under the UNDP/GEF CLME+ Project.
16. The AMEP Sub-Programme provided support to regional and international meetings and Annex IV provides a list of the major workshops that were organized with the support of the Secretariat.
17. Linkages were strengthened with regional agencies and coordination meetings were held with several partners on areas of mutual interest relating to pollution prevention and control. Many of these are reflected below:

UNEP Global Programme of Action (GPA) UNEP Regional Office for Latin America and the Caribbean (ROLAC) and Caribbean Sub-Regional Office (CSRO)	Caribbean Public Health Agency (CARPHA) International Maritime Organization (IMO) National Oceanographic & Atmospheric Administration (NOAA)
Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission Sub-commission for the Caribbean and adjacent regions (IOCARIBE) Global Environment Facility (GEF)	Water Centre for the Humid Tropics of Latin America and the Caribbean [el Centro del Agua del Trópico Húmedo para América Latina y el Caribe (CATHALAC)]

<p>Organization of Eastern Caribbean (OECS) Caribbean Water and Sewage Association (CAWASA) The Nature Conservancy Global Water Partnership – Caribbean and Central America</p>	<p>Marine and Coastal Research Institute [el Instituto de Investigaciones Marinas y Costeras (INVEMAR)] US Environmental Protection Agency (EPA)</p>
<p>UN Economic Commission for Latin America (UN ECLAC) Pan American Health Organization (PAHO) Caribbean Water and Wastewater Association (CWWA) Inter-American Development Bank (IDB)</p>	<p>Association of Caribbean States (ACS) UN Development Programme (UNDP) United Nations University, Institute for Water, Environment and Health (UNU-INWEH) Basel Convention Caribbean Regional Centre OSPAR Commission Gulf and Caribbean Fisheries Institute (GCFI)</p>

18. The open-ended Ad-Hoc Working Group on Environmental Monitoring and Assessment continued to oversee the finalization and dissemination of the State of the Convention Area Report (SOCAR) and provide technical support to the Secretariat. The final report was launched at the Meeting of Ministers of Environment in Latin America and the Caribbean in February 2021.
19. The GEF-funded project ‘Integrating Water, Land and Ecosystems Management in Caribbean Small Island Developing States’ (IWEco) convened its Third and Fourth Project Steering Committee Meetings in April 2019 and July 2020, respectively. The Mid-Term evaluation of the project was completed and is included as a Reference Document for the meeting.
20. The GEF CREW+ full sized project proposal was submitted to the Global Environment Facility in March 2019 and received formal approval in November 2019. The Inception Workshop and first Project Steering Committee successfully convened virtually in November 2020.
21. The AMEP Sub-Programme continued to work closely with the SPAW Sub-Programme in the implementation of the GEF-funded Caribbean Large Marine Ecosystem Project (GEF CLME+) and, also with the CETA Sub-Programme on the European Union-funded ‘Capacity-Building Related to Multilateral Environmental Agreements in Africa, Caribbean, and Pacific Countries’ Phase 3 Project (ACP MEA). A summary of the joint implementation of the CLME+ project is presented as Information Document UNEP(DEPI)/CAR WG.41/INF.11.
22. As a follow up to the voluntary commitment registered by the OSPAR Commission (OSPAR) and the Cartagena Convention Secretariat, an MOU was developed and signed to further inter-regional cooperation on marine protected areas (MPAs), marine litter and ecosystem-based management.
23. With support from the UN Jamaica Human Security project ‘Strengthening Human Resilience in Northern Clarendon and West Kingston, Jamaica’, the Secretariat continued to implement activities for improving water and sanitation and reducing pollution in vulnerable local communities in Jamaica. The Secretariat developed a training tool on rainwater harvesting and in 2021 will complete the development of a model for participatory management and operation of community-based water

systems for possible replication and upscaling in the Wider Caribbean Region.

24. Collaboration between the AMEP Sub-Programme and the UNEP Regional and Caribbean Sub-Regional Offices continued on solid waste including plastics and microplastics and chemicals management. Support was provided for the development of the Central American Regional Marine Litter Action Plan, finalization of the Caribbean Regional Action Plan on Solid Waste, and development of joint proposals on solid waste, marine litter and plastics.
25. The Secretariat, in collaboration with regional partners, was successful in mobilizing financial support for unfunded pollution prevention activities reflected in the 2019-2020 Work Plan and for new projects that are presented in the 2021-2022 Draft Work Plan. A summary of the unfunded activities for which financial support was mobilized and which were implemented during the biennium, are:
 - a) Regional Clean Seas Campaign financed by the UNEP Global Marine Litter Partnership (GPML) and implemented through the Caribbean Node for Marine Litter;
 - b) GEF Project Concept/PIF entitled ‘Reducing Plastic Pollution in the Caribbean Sea, through the Sustainable Management of Plastics in the Wider Caribbean Region’ developed and approved by the GEF for development into a full-sized proposal;
 - c) Proposal for Enhancing the Caribbean Node and Marine Litter Management in the Caribbean approved by the Environment and Climate Change Division of the Government of Canada and implemented through the Regional Marine Litter Node;
 - d) Project Concept for a Regional Plastics Reduction Project for Caribbean SIDS approved by the Government of Germany for development into a full-sized proposal.
26. Discussions were also held with UNEP HQ to identify opportunities for the Secretariat to support the implementation of two GEF International Waters Projects:
 - a) GEF Gulf of Mexico Large Marine Ecosystem Project; and
 - b) GEF IW:LEARN 5: Supporting Portfolio Coordination Within and Beyond the International Waters Focal Area, particularly in Small Island Developing States, through Knowledge Sharing, Information Management, Partnership Building and Programmatic Guidance Services.
27. During the 2019-2020 biennium, the Secretariat continued to deliver its work under the AMEP Sub-Programme in the following thematic areas: (a) Monitoring and Assessment; (b) Waste Management; (c) Watershed Management; and (d) National Programmes of Action for Pollution Prevention.

Programme Coordination Cost and Expenditure (in USD)

Project Period	Source of Funds	Projected Budget (2019-20)	Expenditure (2019-20)
2019-20	CTF	989,879	989,879

28. Outlined in the table below is a summary of contracts and consultancies undertaken during the implementation of the AMEP Sub-Programme during the 2019-2020 period:

Programme Coordination cost includes staffing, travel, reporting, communication, equipment, administration.

Contract	Signed/ Start Date	Expiry Date	Contracted Organizations/ Person	Project Output	Country	Total Cost (USD)
1	1 Dec. 2020	31 July 2021	Pierluigi Rauco	Graphic design-outputs for the ACP MEA Phase III Project and GEF IWeco Project	Italy	17,500
2	18 Dec. 2020	18 March 2021	Diana De León Dardon	Graphic design-outputs for the Secretariat, which include deliverables for SOCAR report and Regional Nutrients Strategy (funding from Swedish Ministry of Environment)	Guatemala	15,000
3	18 Jan. 2021	18 March 2021	Hugh Sealy	GEF CReW+ Project	Barbados	10,000
4	19 Jan. 2021	18 March 2021	Jorge Barrios Ordoñez	GEF CReW+ Project	Mexico	10,000
5	24 Dec. 2020	24 June 2021	Susanna Keim	GEF CReW+ Project	Germany	12,000
6	7 Dec. 2020	24 Dec. 2020	Yves Renard	GEF CReW+ Project	Saint Lucia/ France	5,000
7	30 June 2020	29 May 2021	Matthew McFall	United Nations Human Security Joint Project in Jamaica	Jamaica	18,000

8	20 Sept. 2020	3 Jan. 2021	Kala Fleming	United Nations Human Security Joint Project in Jamaica	USA/ Antigua and Barbuda	27,500
9	3 Dec. 2020	2 March 2021	David Simmons	German Plastics Project	Saint Lucia	20,000
10	11 May 2020	31 Dec. 2020	Asha Singh	GEF IWeco-Feasibility Study for the Establishment of a Regional Environmental Monitoring Data Platform (REMDAP)	Trinidad and Tobago	11,250
11	22 June 2020	28 Feb. 2021	Allison Astwood	GEF IWeco-Assessment of Regional Laboratory Capacity to Support Environmental Health Surveillance	Saint Lucia/ Jamaica	8,100
12	1 June 2019	30 June 2019	Anton Holland	Summary for Policymakers-SOCAR report		1,020

Status of the Protocol Concerning Pollution from Land-Based Sources and Activities (LBS)

29. Since the last reporting period, Barbados became the fifteenth country to ratify the LBS Protocol.

Contracting Party	Entry into Force
Antigua and Barbuda	13 July 2010
The Bahamas	24 June 2010
Barbados	29 June 2019
Belize	04 February 2008
Republic of Costa Rica	26 May 2016
Dominican Republic	6 September 2012
France	4 May 2007

Grenada	5 March 2012
Guyana	14 July 2010
Honduras	13 October 2018
Jamaica	5 November 2015
Panama	9 July 2003
Saint Lucia	30 January 2008
Trinidad and Tobago	28 March 2003
United States of America	13 February 2009

30. The Secretariat continued to work with LBS focal points to promote and facilitate the ratification of the LBS Protocol in the Wider Caribbean Region. As a result of this support, St. Kitts and Nevis has prepared and submitted a request for formal ratification to its Cabinet of Ministers.

Summary of Projects and Activities

31. The following is a summary of the background, objectives, expected outcomes, beneficiary countries and status (main outputs and expenditures) for projects and activities implemented by the Secretariat under the AMEP Sub-Programme for the period 2019-2020. -

A. GEF Projects

i. An integrated approach to water and wastewater management using innovative solutions and promoting financing mechanisms in the Wider Caribbean Region. (CRew+)

Background

32. Following the approval of the GEF CRew+ Project Identification Form (PIF), a full-sized project proposal was developed in 2019 and submitted to the GEF for consideration. The proposal was approved in November 2019 and entered a pre-inception phase. The final project document is found UNEP(DEPI)/CAR IG.41/INF.9.
33. The project is composed of four technical components, monitoring and evaluation, and project management. These technical components are:
- Institutional, policy, legislative and regulatory reforms for Integrated Water and Wastewater Management (IWWM);
 - Sustainable and tailor-made financing options for urban, peri-urban and rural IWWM;
 - Provision of innovative small-scale, local, rural, peri-urban and community-based solutions for IWWM;
 - Knowledge Management and Advocacy on the importance of IWWM order to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals;

Objective(s)

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

Expected Outcomes

35. The expected outcomes are:

- Consolidated, improved and reformed institutional, policy and legislative frameworks for IWWM in at least 9 countries;
- Enhanced regional and national coordination, information exchange, science-based decisions, and reporting on relevant SDGs and MEAs, resulting from the use of national and regional platforms/databases for IWWM and regional institutions in at least 6 participating countries;
- Improved knowledge and skills to enable the monitoring of national reform processes for IWWM, and for the creation of reports on relevant SDGs and MEAs;
- Improved understanding of different financing options and greater readiness for wastewater management financing at small-scale local, community and national levels in all participating countries;
- Increased and sustainable financing for Integrated watershed management which includes protecting surface and groundwater sources in at least 3 watersheds/hotspots;
- Improved knowledge and skills for successful design, establishment and management of appropriate financial mechanisms in selected countries;
- Improved wastewater treatment, including reuse, in rural and peri-urban hotspots using low tech and IWWM solutions;
- Improved life cycle management, circular economy and efficiency in water use-consumption promoting source protection and water reuse in the joint management of surface and groundwater resources in 3 critical watersheds/hot spots;
- Improved knowledge and skills within targeted communities to enable implementation of innovative low-cost integrated water and wastewater management solutions;
- Improved awareness and understanding of the advantages of implementing integrated approaches within targeted communities to enable implementation of low-tech and integrated water and wastewater management solutions;
- Improved access to an information exchange mechanism, including knowledge of experiences and lessons learnt, as well as improved information sharing capability with GEF and the wider, local and national communities amongst all 18 participating countries.

Beneficiary Countries

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

<i>i. An integrated approach to water and wastewater management using innovative solutions and promoting financing mechanisms in the Wider Caribbean Region. (CReW+)</i>
Total Project Budget (IDB & UNEP): USD 302,585,460
Total GEF funds (IDB & UNEP): USD 14,943,938
Total GEF funds (UNEP): USD 6,398,100
Biennium Budget (UNEP): USD 3,000,000 (USD 476,000 for 2020; Consumed amt. ~ 43,143.48)
Time Frame: 3 years (2020 to 2022)
Scope: Regional- Barbados, Belize, Colombia, Costa Rica, Cuba, Dominican Republic, Grenada, Guatemala, Guyana, Honduras, Jamaica, Mexico, Panama, Saint Kitts and Nevis, Saint Lucia, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Suriname, Trinidad and Tobago
Partners: Inter-American Development Bank (IDB), GIZ, OAS
LBS Protocol Articles/Annexes: Articles III, V, VI, VII, X, XI; Annex III

Status

36. The full proposal for the GEF-funded CReW+ Project entitled ‘An integrated approach to water and wastewater management using innovative solutions and promoting financing mechanisms in the Wider Caribbean Region (CReW+)’ was approved by the Global Environment Facility (GEF) in November 2019 for US\$14,943,938.
37. As part of the pre-inception phase for the project, the Secretariat convened several meetings and calls with government focal points and regional partners to refine national and regional project activities and budget allocations.
38. New communications products were developed including brochures, a video and PowerPoint presentations.
39. The project was launched at a joint UNEP, IDB, GIZ event titled “Toilets of the Caribbean: Meet the CReW+” held during GIZ’s Week on Water for Development (WW4D) in August 2020.
40. The Secretariat facilitated the convening of the Inception Workshop and first Project Steering Committee held in November 2020. This included the development of background documentation for these events. The draft reports of these meetings are found in UNEP(DEPI)/CAR WG.41/INF.15 and UNEP(DEPI)/CAR WG.41/INF.17.
41. For beneficiary project countries for which UNEP is directly responsible, the Secretariat facilitated the recruitment of national consultants to assist in the update of national packages.
42. The Secretariat recruited two consultants to assist in defining nutrients standards and how the LBS Protocol should consider the reuse of treated wastewater effluent and the management of freshwater resources as part of a more integrated approach to water resources management.

ii. Integrating Water, Land and Ecosystem Management in Caribbean SIDS (GEF IWeco)

Background

43. The GEF IWeco project is focused on improving the management and protection of the terrestrial, coastal and marine resources of the Caribbean Sea within the framework of the Cartagena Convention and the LBS and SPAW Protocols. It seeks to promote the mainstreaming of Integrated Water Resources Management (IWRM) and ecosystems management principles advanced under the GEF-IWCAM Project into national development frameworks. The project also works to implement innovative solutions for reduced pollution and improved fresh and coastal water resources, considering the additional challenges imposed by climate change and climate variability.
44. The GEF IWeco Project was approved in April 2015 with an initial period of implementation from 2015-2020. UNEP and UNDP are the co-implementing agencies with UNEP being the lead implementing agency. The Cartagena Convention Secretariat is the lead co-executing agency with the Caribbean Public Health Agency (CARPHA) as the other co-executing agency.
45. The GEF IWeco Inception Workshop and First Project Steering Committee (PSC) Meeting was held from 20-22 September 2016 in Kingston, Jamaica, the second in Havana, Cuba from 26 February to 2 March 2018, the third in Dominican Republic in April 2019 and the fourth one virtually on 1 and 2 July 2020.
46. While the project was officially launched in September 2016, the period from August to December 31, 2016 was considered the Inception Phase with the official start date being 1 January 2017.
47. Following the fourth PSC, a request is being presented for a no-cost extension until end of August 2023.

Objective(s)

48. To contribute to the preservation of Caribbean ecosystems that are of global significance and to the sustainability of livelihoods through the application of existing proven technologies and approaches that are appropriate for Small Island Developing States through improved fresh and coastal water resources management, sustainable land management and sustainable forest management that also seek to enhance resilience of socio-ecological systems to the impacts of climate change.
49. The project's four main project components are:
 - **Component I:** Development and implementation of integrated, innovative approaches to sustainable land management (SLM);
 - **Component II:** Strengthening of SLM, ecosystems monitoring and indicators framework;
 - **Component III:** Strengthening capacity for ecosystems services management (institutional, policy, legislative and regulatory);
 - **Component IV:** Enhancing knowledge exchange, best practices, replication and stakeholder involvement.

Expected Outcomes

50. The expected outcomes of the project are:

- Outcome C1.1: Measurable stress reduction at project sites through appropriate sustainable water, land and ecosystems management interventions that account for climate change;
- Outcome C1.2: Enhanced livelihood opportunities and socio-economic co-benefits for targeted communities from improved ecosystem services functioning;
- Outcome C2.1: Strengthened national and regional systems for monitoring of environmental status with respect to key international agreements;
- Outcome C3.1: Strengthened policy and legislation for the effective management of water, land and ecosystems resources that account for climate change;
- Outcome C3.2: Strengthened capacity of national and regional institutions and other stakeholders for water, land, and ecosystems management that accounts for climate change; and
- Outcome C4.1: Improved engagement and information access for practitioners and other stakeholders through targeted knowledge sharing networks.

Beneficiary Countries

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

Project Cost and Expenditure (in USD)

Project Period	Total Project Cost	Source of Funds	Projected Budget (2019-20)	Actual Project Budget (2019-20)	Expenditure² (2019 -20)
2015-2020	20,722,572	GEF	5,035,329	17,500,000	10,966,247

Status

51. While the GEF IWeco Project Coordinating Unit is hosted by the Cartagena Convention Secretariat, which also serves as the lead co-executing agency, as multi-focal area project, some activities relating to terrestrial biodiversity, land degradation, sustainable forestry management, freshwater resources management and climate change are not strictly within the scope of the work of the Secretariat or the AMEP Sub-Programme. However, for most Caribbean SIDS, all land-based activities have a direct impact on the coastal and marine environment and hence support the overall objectives and obligations of the Cartagena Convention and its Protocols.
52. This report summarizes the status of the project in general but focuses more on the direct support and activities implemented through the AMEP Sub-Programme.

53. The Secretariat provides overall support for the management of all IWECO Project personnel, the development and approval of contracts with governments and partners, and in facilitating all financial payments.
54. The medium-sized project (MSP) for The Bahamas submitted in May 2018 to the GEF was approved in 2019 and commenced implementation in 2020. The Secretariat has facilitated linkages with the regional IWECO project.
55. The Project Cooperation Agreement between CARPHA as co-executing agency and UN Environment Programme was finalized in September 2018. It focuses on activities under Research and Monitoring (Component 2), and Legislative and Institutional Mechanisms (Component 3). The Organization of Eastern Caribbean States (OECS) and the Secretariat will also support these two Components.
56. The first regional State of the Cartagena Convention Area (SOCAR) Report on marine pollution co-financed by the GEF IWECO project reflects pollution monitoring data collected from 16 countries of the WCR. This report with data on water quality and an agreed list of indicators will enable improved reporting on Multilateral Environmental Agreements and progress towards the Sustainable Development Goals. Analysis on pollution parameters relating to ocean acidification, eutrophication (the excess of nutrients in water), hypoxia (the lack of oxygen dissolved in the water), sedimentation, and bacterial contamination were provided in the report. Recent findings concerning plastics and mercury pollution were presented and state of the art science and modelling was used to complete the evaluation and draw predictions. Some of the findings revealed that faecal contamination of coastal waters (*Enterococcus* and *E.coli*) are widespread in all locations in every country assessed.
57. A Summary for Policymakers was prepared and will be disseminated in early 2021. A Communications Strategy for SOCAR including communication products on the results of the report (best practices, infographics) was also developed and will be finalized in the first half of 2021 for dissemination.
58. A sub-regional study to inform the regional strategy for nutrient reduction in the Wider Caribbean Region (WCR) was conducted by the Secretariat with technical support from RAC IMA, RAC CIMAB and the University of Para in Brazil. This study, funded through the UNDP GEF CLME+ project, included all IWECO countries and will support future work on indicators relevant to nutrients management.
59. The staff of the Secretariat, LBS RACs and members of the Open-Ended Working Group on Monitoring and Assessment provided technical support to IWECO participating countries on environmental indicators and monitoring and assessment.
60. The AMEP PO was involved in the recruitment of Consultants hired for conducting assessments of national and regional indicator frameworks, analysing pollution from the yachting sector, developing policy and legal frameworks for integrated water, land and ecosystems management, conducting laboratory assessments and designing new communication products and in the review of their various reports.
61. The development of Decision-Support tools, a Secretariat lead activity under IWECO, will be informed by the Recommendations of SOCAR and the ongoing needs assessment by the GEF

IWEco PCU and CARPHA. This activity will begin in the second half of 2021. Discussions have been initiated with UNEP HQ on their World Environment Situation Room, with UNEP ROLAC on their work on Environmental Indicators including the development of National Environmental Information Systems, and with UN ECLAC and the UNDP GEF CLME+ project to ensure synergies and sustainability especially for reporting requirements to multilateral environmental agreements (MEAs) including the Cartagena Convention and its Protocols.

62. A key aspect of the AMEP Sub-programme's support to GEF IWEco is to ensure synergies with other projects and activities, such as the UNDP GEF CLME+ Project. Support was provided to the Dominican Republic for a Decision-Support tool which was funded by the Italian Ministry of Foreign Affairs and its Italian Agency for Cooperation and Development (AICS). The resulting decision-support tool can be used by other governments and non-governmental organisations to support decisions on planning and managing the use of coastal resources using an EBM approach.
63. During the biennium, the Secretariat's activities on sargassum, marine litter and microplastics, which were identified as high priorities under the Research Partnership of IWEco and the Working Group under SPAW Protocol and the Sargassum White Paper guided project activities on these topics.
64. As co-host of the Caribbean Node of the Global Partnership on Marine Litter (GPML-Caribe), the Secretariat participated in a webinar in May 2020 which highlighted experiences from the Regional Node on addressing marine litter and plastics management in the Caribbean. This involved priorities for research partnership and provided examples of the Regional Clean Seas Campaign launch with the Caribbean Youth Environment Network and the Secretariat's work in Jamaica, Grenada, Trinidad and Tobago, Barbados, and planned activities for Dominican Republic.
65. Through the support of the GEF Small Grants Programme (SGP) in which the Secretariat is a member of the Project Steering Committee in Jamaica, coordination between the SGP and the IWEco project was facilitated.
66. Other activities undertaken within the framework of the IWEco project that have directly supported the AMEP Sub-Programme and the LBS Protocol include:
 - a) Development and launch of the Breaking Up With Plastics Video;
 - b) Webinars featuring the work of the AMEP Sub-Programme and the LBS RACs;
 - c) Decisions of the IWEco PSC's calling for ratification and implementation of the Cartagena Convention and its Protocols;
 - d) Facilitating dialogue at Ministerial Fora on solid waste, water resources and wastewater management;
 - e) Assisting in encouraging payments by IWEco participating countries to the Caribbean Trust Fund.

B. Monitoring and Assessment

iii. Water Quality Monitoring in the Wider Caribbean Region

Background

67. In 1994, the Cartagena Convention Secretariat concluded the first regional overview of land-based

sources of pollution in the WCR (CEP Technical Report No. 33). This second overview and update was completed in 2011 resulting in Technical Report No 52.

68. In 2011, the Secretariat established an Interim Working Group in accordance with Decision XI of the 14th IGM to continue work related to Environmental Monitoring and Assessment. Subsequent recommendations of the 2016 STAC Meetings of the LBS Protocol and Decisions of the Conference of Parties of both the Cartagena Convention and the LBS Protocol provided further guidance for the Working Group. The Group's mandate was extended in 2014 and again in 2017, under the Chair of the Government of the United States, to continue to oversee the development of the SOCAR. In 2019, a new Ad-Hoc Open-Ended Working Group on Monitoring and Assessment was established.
69. The region's first State of the Convention Area (SOCAR) Report on marine pollution for the Wider Caribbean Region captures and presents key information on the state of coastal and marine ecosystems within the WCR in terms of their current condition, the pressures and the drivers of those pressures, and an assessment of current environmental management initiatives.
70. The further development and use of SOCAR will assist in the implementation of sub-component 2 of the GEF IWECO Project on the Strengthening of the Sustainable Land Management, Integrated Water Resources Management (and Water-Use Efficiency) and Ecosystems Monitoring, and Indicators framework. The expected outcome is strengthened national and regional systems for monitoring of environmental status with respect to key international agreements including the Cartagena Convention and its Protocols. The SOCAR report is aligned to the following four specific outputs under the GEF IWECO project:
 - Output 2.1.1 Regional environmental indicators compendium;
 - Output 2.1.2 Scientific research to support monitoring at national projects;
 - Output 2.1.3. Strengthened field monitoring and assessment capabilities;
 - Output 2.1.4 Decision support tools and systems.

Objective

71. This activity will support dissemination of findings from the first State of the Convention Area Report for the Wider Caribbean Region.

Beneficiary Countries

Wider Caribbean Region

Activity Cost and Expenditure (in USD)

Activity Period	Source of Funds	Projected Budget (2019-20)	Actual Budget (2019-20)	Expenditure (2019-20)
2019-2020	(10,000 funded, 75,000 unfunded)	85,000	85,000	85,000

72. Formal editing of the report was completed by December 2019 and the report is currently undergoing final layout and formatting. A final draft formatted report was received in September 2020 and the final publication completed in January 2021.
73. A Summary for Policymakers, infographics and PowerPoint presentation, as well as a communication strategy have been completed and will be used to facilitate broad dissemination and update.
74. Resources were mobilized to hire a graphic artist to develop additional knowledge management products in Spanish and French that integrate the findings of State of Pollution and State of Habitat Reports, as well as country factsheets and thematic factsheets and infographics as well as summaries for other specific audiences apart from policymakers.
75. The development of the regional strategy for nutrient pollution reduction in the Wider Caribbean Region has provided an opportunity to enhance and build on the findings and data presented in the SOCAR report.
76. A Virtual Meeting of Contracting Parties to the LBS Protocol was convened in July 2020 to provide a status update on LBS COP Decisions and further discuss inputs to the 2021/2022 Work Plan and Budget for the Secretariat, as well as on the topic of monitoring and assessment.
77. Two meetings of the new Ad-Hoc Working Group of Monitoring and Assessment were held to provide oversight for the finalization and dissemination of the SOCAR. Invitations were extended to countries/ parties interested in joining the Open-Ended Working Group.
78. The GEF IWECO Project provided financial support to hire a consultant to conduct an assessment of national and regional indicator frameworks which will be completed by the first quarter of 2021.
79. Another activity financed by the GEF IWECO project was a regional laboratory capacity assessment which included an analysis of national and regional laboratories to analyse the parameters recommended within the SOCAR.
80. The Secretariat continued dialogue to support regional assessments of the Wider Caribbean Region. The CLME+ project supported the development of harmonized maps on marine pollution and information on SOCAR has been shared with partners involved in marine pollution programmes in the region. Based on those discussions, the Wider Caribbean Region has been provisionally identified for regional application of the World Environment Situation Room.
81. The final products will continue to be disseminated during the next biennium.
82. Activities to support the recommendations of the SOCAR have been reflected in newly approved projects such as GEF CReW+ where resources have been mobilized to support capacity-building on laboratory monitoring, the use of the Driver Pressure State Impact Response Methodology (DPSIR), and other data gaps and emerging issues identified in the final SOCAR (no cost). The ACP MEA Phase III project will also support the development of national plans of action on pollution, plastics and nutrients.

C. Waste Management

iv. Caribbean Node on Marine Litter

83. Few sources of pollution affect a wider area or a larger number of people than marine litter. This environmental, human health and aesthetic problem can lead to serious economic losses for coastal communities, the tourism sector, shipping and fishing industries. The Caribbean region is poised to sustain substantial economic losses if current trends in environmental degradation continue.
84. The Caribbean Node of the Global Partnership on Marine Litter (GPML-Caribe) was launched in 2016 as a regional node. The co-hosts of the node are the Cartagena Convention Secretariat and the Gulf and Caribbean Fisheries Institute, a regional not-for-profit organization.
85. The Regional Action Plan on Marine Litter (RAPMaLi) for the Caribbean continues to be used as the framework for supporting the implementation of the Honolulu Strategy and UNEP Global Partnerships on Waste and Marine Litter. The development of a new Regional Marine Litter Strategy will further complement this effort in the Wider Caribbean Region.

Objective(s)

86. To enhance and operationalize the Caribbean Node on Marine Litter Management in support of the GPML and implementation of the RAPMaLi.

Beneficiary Countries

Regional – Wider Caribbean Region

Project Cost and Expenditure (in USD)

Activity Period	Projected Budget (2019-20)	Actual Budget (2019-20)	Expenditure (2019-20)
2019-2020	23,364 (USD 205,000 implemented through GCFI: 55,000 from Environment Canada; 150,000 from Government of Norway)	~23,364	~23,364

Status

87. At the end of the 2017-2018 biennium, the Caribbean Regional Node and the Cartagena Convention Secretariat had successfully mobilized funding from the Environment Climate Change Division of Canada (CAD75,000) and the Norwegian Government (USD 150,000) to support continued implementation of marine litter activities in the Wider Caribbean Region.

88. As a follow up to the UNEP Global #CleanSeas campaign launched in Bali on 23 February 2017, the Cartagena Convention Secretariat supported the launch of a Regional Caribbean Clean Seas Campaign in 2019. The campaign built on the annual International Coastal Clean-up (ICC) activities with support from the Caribbean Youth Environment Network (CYEN). Through the campaign, capacity-building support was provided to various stakeholders on outreach, advocacy, resource mobilization and the development of new project proposals for reducing marine litter and plastics.
89. The Caribbean #CleanSeas Campaign was initially launched in October 2019 in Barbados, Trinidad and Tobago, and St Kitts and Nevis and later in Grenada and St Vincent and the Grenadines in November 2019. Efforts are ongoing to expand the campaign to the rest of the WCR in the next biennium.
90. The clean-up activities conducted as part of the campaign were used to field test a harmonized marine litter monitoring methodology which was developed through the Node at the end of 2018. The Caribbean Breaking Up with Plastics video developed by the GEF-IWEco Project was launched as part of the campaign. The video received an award for Best Short Video at the GCFI CINEFISH Festival in 2019 (73rd GCFI Conference), a Silver Telly Award in the category “Green/Eco-Friendly for Online” and a Communicator’s Award of Distinction in the category “Individual-Social Responsibility for Online Video”, both in 2020.
91. The Secretariat partnered with the Caribbean Tourism Organization (CTO) to develop a Compendium showcasing regional and national initiatives and best practices in solid waste management. See Information Document UNEP(DEPI) CAR WG.41/INF.18.
92. Technical support continued for the development of Marine Litter Action Plan in Central America coordinated by Marviva and the UNEP Regional Office for Latin America and the Caribbean.
93. The Secretariat supported the development of a new Communications Strategy for the Node in 2019. Please see report of GCFI provided as [Information Document UNEP\(DEPI\)/CAR WG.41/INF.7](#).
94. Two students with technical papers/posters on Marine Litter were sponsored to attend the 2019 GCFI Annual Conference in Punta Cana, Dominican Republic.
95. New project proposal concepts were developed and submitted for funding including one on Abandoned and Lost Fishing Gear and Microplastics. A project concept for supporting plastics management in Caribbean SIDS was approved by the Government of Germany for development of a full-sized project proposal to be submitted during the first quarter of 2021. Subject to approval, this will be implemented during the 2021/2022 biennium.
96. The Secretariat also supported UNEP in the development of a GEF Project Concept for a regional project to reduce plastic pollution through the improved management of plastics in Latin American and Caribbean cities. This proposal (PIF) was approved for development into a full-sized project document which will benefit Colombia, Jamaica and Panama.
97. Another proposal was developed through GPML-Caribe and in collaboration with the Global Ghost Gear Initiative (GGGI) to minimize the occurrence and impact of Abandoned, Lost and Discarded Fishing Gear through the assessment of port reception facilities, new technologies, data collection

and promotion of best practices including peer-peer exchanges at regional and global levels. This proposal was approved by Environment Canada and is expected to commence implementation in 2021.

98. The Secretariat also collaborated with Adelphi Research to develop a project proposal entitled Prevention of Marine Litter in the Caribbean Sea (PROMAR) – Promoting Circular Economy Solutions in the Dominican Republic, Costa Rica and Colombia which was approved by the Government of Germany for implementation from January 2021 to December 2023.
99. The interactive map on the status of plastics and Styrofoam bans was kept updated and new factsheets and briefs were also developed. Social media campaigns were implemented in 2019 and 2020 during the months of July (#PlasticFreeJuly) and December (#PlasticFreeChristmas) to raise awareness on plastic pollution and encourage the use of environmentally friendly products and practices.
100. As a result of the delay in the start of the ACP MEA Phase III Project, the feasibility study on the implementation of a Regional Port Reception Facilities Plan for the Wider Caribbean Region to reduce pollution from ships with focus on plastics reduction will occur in 2022.
101. A 3-day Regional Strategic Planning Workshop was held in March 2019 to prepare a Regional Strategy for supporting implementation of Caribbean RAPMALI. The Draft Regional Strategy can be found as Information Document UNEP(DEPI) CAR WG.41/INF.19.
102. The experiences and lessons learned in the development of the Regional Action Plan for Marine Litter Management in the Caribbean, the Regional Marine Litter Strategy and the work of the Caribbean Regional Node in general were shared at important regional and global conferences including: (1) Workshop on Policy and Action on Plastic in the Arctic Ocean, Boston, USA in October 2019; (2) Mid-Atlantic Marine Debris Summit, Virginia in June 2019; (3) Global Conference on the prevention and clean up on Marine Litter held in Lofoten, Norway in October 2019. A case study of the experiences in the Caribbean was also produced as a result of the Boston Conference (accessible here: <https://www.belfercenter.org/sites/default/files/2020-04/Plastic%20Pollution%20Case%20Studies.pdf>).

v. Trash Free Partnerships

Background

103. The Secretariat partnered with the United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), Peace Corps and UNEP Regional Office for Latin America on the Trash Free Waters International Initiative to engage local communities, the private sector and governments in the Caribbean region in the development and implementation of marine litter policies and projects for reducing the amount of trash entering the Caribbean Sea.
104. Pilot projects were implemented in Jamaica and Panama to reduce and prevent land-based trash from entering watersheds, coastal waters, and the marine environment.
105. In Jamaica, the Sandals Foundation implemented a Solid Waste Reduction Project in the Whitehouse and Bluefields communities. The main activities included public awareness

programmes, distribution of labelled garbage bins for waste separation, workshops, recycling of plastic bottles and beach clean-ups.

106. The activities in Panama were coordinated by La Asociación para la Conservación de la Naturaleza (ANCON) and targeted the Juan Diaz coastal community. Interventions included capacity-building on good environmental practices and solid waste management, as well as training for students on how to assess water quality.

Objective

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

Beneficiary Countries

Regional- Jamaica and Panama

Project Cost and Expenditure (in USD)

Activity Period	Projected Budget (2019-20)	Actual Budget (2019-20)	Expenditure (2019-20)
2019-2020	191,589 (ACP/EU Project)	191,589	0

108. Due to delays in the start up of the ACP MEA Phase III Project, marine litter activities will be implemented during the 2021/2022 biennium.
109. Several coordinating meetings were held with donors, partner agencies and Governments to ensure coordination in the development and implementation of national, sub-regional, regional and global projects and activities relating to solid waste, marine litter and plastics management. These included with the World Bank, IUCN, IDB, Government of the Netherlands, Government of Japan, JICA, Government of Germany, OECS, CARICOM, CDB, Caribbean Water and Wastewater Association, UNEP Regional and Sub-Regional Offices, CARPHA.
110. The activities implemented during the pilot projects in Jamaica and Panama during the previous biennium enabled increased public education and awareness about the impacts of solid waste pollution and further understanding about environmental protection. The projects facilitated stakeholder participation, community involvement and livelihood training through capacity-building workshops on upcycling.
111. In Jamaica, 4,500 lbs. of plastic bottles and 2,500 lbs. of compost were collected, and 200 bins were distributed in schools, bars, police stations and the market. Outreach efforts impacted 2,400

students and over 1,045 adults. Within the two communities, plastic beverage bottles, plastic bottle caps and plastic grocery bags were the most common items found on land while for the underwater and beach surveys, plastic beverage bottles, plastic cups and plates, and plastic bags were the top waste items. In Panama, about 450 students benefitted from the training and capacity building activities from the four schools and two commercial institutions were trained on the 3Rs.

112. Due to the successes of the project in Jamaica, a follow-on project was financed by the Caribbean Node of the Global Partnership on Marine Litter through the Gulf and Caribbean Fisheries Institute. This new project upgraded the waste management system in Bluefields, established a sustainable meal-packaging programme in schools, improved plastic waste storage and transportation, and facilitated the start-up of a sustainable compost business. A video case study of the project was also produced.
113. The results of the project were compiled as a case study and showcased in various events including the Caribbean Water and Wastewater Association Conference in 2020 and documented in various reports and case studies published by UNEP.
114. The following summarizes efforts to document and showcase the results of the project at the regional level.

Supporting documents:

- Trash Free Waters Initiative: <https://www.unenvironment.org/cep/trash-free-waters-initiative-caribbean>;
- Trash Free Waters Partnership Draft Final Report: <http://gefcrew.org/carrcu/LBSSTAC5/Info-Docs/WG.41INF.16-en.pdf>.
- Trash Free Waters Partnership Progress Report: http://gefcrew.org/carrcu/18IGM/Info-Docs/WG.39_INF.12-en.pdf;
- Video case study: <https://www.unenvironment.org/cep/news/video/trash-free-enhancing-solid-waste-reduction-project-jamaica>;
- Upcycling Workshop in Jamaica: http://www.jamaicaobserver.com/news/westmoreland-residents-turn-trash-into-treasure_170186;
- Summary Presentation of Trash Free Waters International Projects: <https://www.youtube.com/embed/VD3WFhK5dHM?fbclid=IwAR0QT-7NJaQdocNKOTkpSzgAAff0-WXIfsmSXfhHE5bWe7rCJqb6V6mSDE>;
- Overview of work of Caribbean Regional Marine Litter Node: https://www.youtube.com/embed/jdnuWzMA8XU?fbclid=IwAR2CMK5x_KsUTbZpO51a9sPaqm7ZkH_FYJrLTqfXNsDCZWNhJTQsyuiQw8.

D. Watershed Management

vi. UN Human Security Trust Fund Programme (Jamaica)

Background

115. The United Nations in Jamaica launched its first Joint Programme ‘Strengthening Human Resilience in Northern Clarendon and West Kingston’, from 12-15 March 2018 in Kingston, Jamaica.
116. This programme is being jointly implemented by the Government of Jamaica and the following

United Nations agencies in Jamaica: Food and Agricultural Organization (FAO), Pan American Health Organization (PAHO/WHO), United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), United Nations Environment Programme, and UN Women. Funding is provided by the Government of Jamaica, the UN agencies and the UN Trust Fund for Human Security (UNTFHS).

117. Based on the diverse and complex human security issues faced by the target communities, the programme’s interventions are designed to be delivered in an integrated, multi-disciplinary and multi-sectoral manner. Centered on poverty reduction and climate change adaptation, the programme will bolster economic development through enhanced climate resilience, sustainable agriculture, social cohesion and sustainable livelihoods.
118. This Joint UN Human Security Programme is aimed at enhancing resilience and human security of selected communities in rural and urban Jamaica. It will advance the 2030 Agenda by addressing the economic, environmental, personal and health insecurities facing targeted communities. These insecurities are expressed in the form of poverty, unemployment, land degradation, poor health and reduced social cohesion.
119. The Secretariat is coordinating activities to improve environmental health and water security at the community, local and national levels and strengthen the institutional capacity for integration of Human Security Approach in the selected communities in rural and urban Jamaica.

Objective(s)

120. The goal is to contribute to enhanced resilience and human security of communities in Northern Clarendon and West Kingston in Jamaica. This will be achieved through four specific objectives:
- a) Strengthen community organizational capacity and cohesion;
 - b) Enhance economic, food and nutrition security;
 - c) Improve environmental health and water security at the community, local and national levels; and
 - d) Build institutional capacity for the integration of the Human Security Approach.
121. The AMEP Sub-Programme will support the achievement of Objective 3 relating to specific obligations under the LBS Protocol.

Beneficiary countries

Jamaica.

Activity Period	Projected Budget (2019-20)	Actual Budget (2019-20)	Expenditure (2019-20)
2019-2020	307,900	307,900	73,703.68

Status

122. The Secretariat was involved in several consultations and field visits to assess the most effective mechanisms for implementing joint on-the-ground activities in rainwater harvesting and sanitation, to learn from the experiences of FAO in implementing rainwater harvesting with farmers, and to develop a joint programme for implementing training and capacity-building activities.
123. A joint work plan was developed involving PAHO and UNDP for the implementation of water harvesting, recycling and reuse systems and devices in households, health centres and schools.
124. The launch of the UN Jamaica Human Security Joint Programme and Community Fair in Northern Clarendon was held on Friday, 10 May 2019 to increase the visibility of the project in the area and engage with residents about the initiative.
125. In order to enhance public awareness, a dedicated page was created for the UN Human Security Project on UN Environment Programme's website (hosted by Headquarters in Nairobi, Kenya). Two news stories were produced on the launch of activities in Northern Clarendon and an introductory page on the project and UNEP-led activities which has been linked to UNDP's webpage. For reference, please visit: <https://www.unenvironment.org/cep/news/blogpost/delivering-one-northern-clarendon-and-west-kingston> and <https://www.unenvironment.org/cep/news/blogpost/un-jamaica-human-security-programme-launches-activities-northern-clarendon>.
126. A Terms of Reference was developed, and a Project Implementation Analyst was recruited to develop a participatory model that will be used for possible replication in the region.
127. A rainwater harvesting training manual and online water harvesting training system were developed jointly with UNDP in 2019. A consultant was recruited in 2020 to enhance this tool and to develop additional knowledge and training materials for the design, construction, maintenance and management of water harvesting systems (Activity 3.2.5) and provide general support for integrated water resources management.
128. Resources developed under the project have been shared widely in the region including through the Global Water Partnership Caribbean, the Caribbean Water and Wastewater Association, the GEF IWECO Project and through UNEP's website and social media.

E. National Programmes of Action (NPAs)

vii. Support to Caribbean Platform for Nutrients Management Background

129. Half of the world's food security depends on nitrogen and phosphorous and their use in fertilizer to grow crops. The nutrients released from fertilizers however, as well as from wastewater, aquaculture and other industrial and agricultural activities, have profound environmental impacts ranging from pollution of water supplies to undermining important ecosystems and the services and livelihoods they support. This apparent divide between society's need for food and the adverse environmental impacts on the natural resource base, has led to a nutrients challenge. This challenge is set to intensify as population grows and the demand for food increases, and as growing towns and cities produce more wastewater.

130. Through collaboration with the UNEP GPA, the Secretariat launched the Caribbean Platform for Nutrients Management (CPNM) in May 2013 to respond to the nutrient challenge faced by the WCR. The Secretariat supports the CPNM by serving as host of the platform and by working with governments, other UN Agencies, scientists and the private sector to identify ways to reduce the amount of excess nutrients in the WCR without hindering development.
131. The four main work areas for the CPNM are (1) knowledge generation; (2) extension and technical services; (3) outreach and advocacy; and (4) governance, partnership and network development.
132. Within the framework of the UNDP GEF CLME+ project, the Secretariat is implementing activities to better integrate the work of the LBS and SPAW Protocols with a specific focus on nutrients reduction and habitat degradation, ecosystem-based management approaches, and integrated responses to the impacts of Sargassum. For further information, please see Information Document UNEP(DEPI)/CAR WG.41/INF.11.
133. The EU ACP MEA project further contributes to the development and implementation of plans to control, reduce and prevent pollution from land-based sources at national and local community levels.

Objective

134. The objective is to build capacity in countries of the WCR to develop and implement NPAs to assist in the protection of the Caribbean marine environment from pollution entering from land-based sources and activities with priority focus on pollution from nutrients.

Beneficiary countries

The EBM Project benefitted Trinidad and Tobago, Suriname and Guyana and the Regional Strategy supports all Contracting Parties of the Cartagena Convention.

Activity Period	Projected Budget (2019-20)	Actual Budget (2019-20)	Expenditure (2019-20)
2019-2020	300,000	330,000	330,000

Status

135. The Ecosystem-Based Sub-project for the NBSLME involving integrated management of coastal and marine habitats and pollution reduction was successfully implemented by the Governments of Guyana, Trinidad and Tobago and Suriname. Further details on the achievements are available in Information Document UNEP(DEPI)/CAR WG.41/INF.11.
136. The Regional Nutrients Reduction Strategy and Action Plan was finalized in coordination with the Regional Habitats Restoration Strategy. The LBS RAC IMA, CIMAB and Universidad de Para in Brazil contributed to the development of the Strategy. RAC IMA supported the Secretariat in coordinating the publication of the final product which is Information Document UNEP(DEPI) CAR

WG.41/INF.10.

137. A joint feasibility assessment, investment plan and business cases outlining high-priority actions to reduce LBS pollution, with special attention to pollution sources known to cause substantial impacts on the provision of ecosystem goods and services that are of critical importance for human well-being and sustained socio-economic development as well as targeted habitat restoration interventions was developed. This is presented in UNEP(DEPI)/CAR WG.41/INF.14.
138. Two new project proposal concepts for Nutrients Reduction for possible incorporation into larger projects and to facilitate the implementation of the Regional Nutrients Strategy and Action Plan were also developed. See UNEP(DEPI)/CAR WG.41/INF.28.
139. Due to delays in start-up, the pollution reduction related activities to be implemented with support of the ACP/EU Project will be implemented during the 2021-2022 Work Plan and include to:
 - a) Develop national pollution reduction action plans for at least 5 Contracting Parties to the LBS Protocol with a priority focus on national marine litter/plastics reduction (at least two), domestic wastewater and nutrients reduction strategies and action plans. This will support national implementation of the Regional Marine Litter Action Plan and Strategy for the Wider Caribbean Region and the Regional Nutrients Reduction Strategy and Action Plan.
 - b) Implement local/national Ecosystem-based Management (EBM) projects promoting an integrated approach to pollution reduction and habitat restoration in at least two selected countries who are parties to both the LBS and SPAW Protocols. This will build on lessons learned from EBM pilot projects implemented under the GEF CLME+ Project and support countries in implementing activities under their national pollution prevention plans and strategies.

ANNEX 1: Summary of Recommendations of the 4th LBS STAC, Decisions of the 4th LBS COP and relevant decisions of the 18th Intergovernmental Meeting and 15th COP of the Cartagena Convention.

Summary of Recommendations of the Fourth Meeting of the Scientific and Technical Advisory Committee to the Protocol Concerning Pollution from Land-Based Sources and Activities (4th LBS STAC). The full list of Recommendations is also provided in the Information Document (UNEP (DEPI)/CAR WG.39/5).

**RECOMMENDATION I
WORKPLAN AND BUDGET**

1. Contracting Parties at the 4th LBS COP endorse the 2019-2020 Draft Work Plan and Budget as presented at the 4th LBS STAC including any recommendations made during the 4th LBS STAC.
2. The Secretariat to request Contracting Parties to submit additional input to the draft Work Plan and Budget for the biennium 2019-2020 by October 31, 2018. This will enable an updated draft Work Plan and Budget to be submitted to the 4th LBS COP for further review and approval, and to the Eighteenth Intergovernmental Meeting (IGM) on the Action Plan for the Caribbean Environment Programme (CEP) and Fifteenth Meeting of the Contracting Parties to the Cartagena Convention for information and endorsement.
3. Contracting Parties note the continued efforts to develop new project proposals including for submission to the Global Environment Facility (GEF) and encourage Governments to have their relevant national government focal points review and endorse these project proposals, as amended.
4. Contracting Parties to expand the technical support role of the Regional Activity Centres (RACs) and continue identifying agencies that form part of the Regional Activity Network (RAN) including inter alia the Gulf and Caribbean Fisheries Institute as a possible member of the RAN for the Wider Caribbean Region specializing in Marine Litter.
5. The Secretariat explore the possibility of expanding the number and/or scope of RACs to better support Contracting Parties in meeting their obligations under the Cartagena Convention and its Protocols.
6. The Secretariat in coordination with the LBS RACs and RAN prepare an information paper for consideration at the 4th LBS COP, and as appropriate at the 17th IGM on this proposed expanded technical support role to programmes, projects and activities.
7. The Secretariat, in coordination with the national focal points to the Cartagena Convention, consider postponing the 18th IGM and 4th LBS COP to the first quarter of 2019 to enable completion of several outputs to be submitted for approval at these meetings.
8. The Secretariat continue to explore opportunities to convene future joint LBS and Specially Protected Areas and Wildlife (SPA) STACs; and a single IGM including the respective LBS and SPAW COPs to encourage continued synergies and to reduce the financial and administrative burden on the

Secretariat.

9. The Secretariat work with other agencies to map the ongoing regional programmes and projects relevant to the work of the LBS Protocol and to the Convention building on ongoing and planned efforts in this regard by inter alia the UNDP GEF Catalysing implementation of the Strategic Action Programme for the sustainable management of shared Living Marine Resources in the Caribbean and North Brazil Shelf Large Marine Ecosystems (CLME+) project.
10. The Secretariat strengthen coordination and cooperation with the UN Environment Regional Office for Latin America and the Caribbean, the Regional Office for North American (RONA) and other regional and sub- regional organizations such as inter alia the Caribbean Community (CARICOM), Organization of Eastern Caribbean States (OECS), Association of Caribbean States/Caribbean (ACS/CSC), Central America Integration System/Central American Commission for Environment and Development SICA/CCAD, and the Latin America and Caribbean Group (GRULAC) Waste and Chemicals Coordinating Centre in Uruguay to assist the Secretariat in supporting countries in meeting their obligations under the LBS Protocol and to use, as appropriate, such high level political fora to showcase the results and relevance of the State of Convention Area Report (SOCAR) including economic and social benefits of addressing pollution, and to explore how such mechanisms can support development of future SOCARs demonstrating the value of data to drive investment.
11. The Secretariat integrate relevant pollution strategies and reports such as the LBS SOCAR, relevant components of the integrated State of Marine Ecosystems and Associated Economies (SOME) report; the Regional Action and Investment Plans for Nutrients Reduction, and the Pollution Research Strategy within the revised CEP Strategy to be presented at the 18th IGM.
12. The Secretariat should ensure strategic linkages of their pollution related activities with efforts to promote Blue Growth and Blue Economy approaches in the Wider Caribbean Region, in particular the Sustainable Blue Economy Initiative of UN Environment and explore synergies with relevant work being undertaken in the region on this and related issues.
13. The Secretariat continue efforts to share experiences with other Regional Seas Programmes in particular the Antigua Convention for the North East Pacific noting the common Contracting Parties between the Cartagena and Antigua Conventions and to build on the Cooperation established with the OSPAR Commission.
14. Contracting Parties provide technical input to and complete surveys relating to the (a) GEF CReW+ Project Proposal Development; (b) Pollution Research Strategy coordinated by GCFI for the UNDP GEF CLME+ Project and (c) the development of the new CEP Strategy.
15. The Secretariat, in collaboration with the LBS and SPAW RACs and other interested partners, prepare an information paper on the status of pelagic and stranded sargassum in the Wider Caribbean Region for submission to the 17th IGM and to continue to engage in discussions on this issue.
16. The Contracting Parties to the Cartagena Convention continue to implement national, and in collaboration with the Secretariat, regional actions to address pollution from solid waste, marine litter and in particular plastics. Countries should provide the Secretariat with feedback on national actions being undertaken as well as priority areas for assistance which could inform the development of future project proposals.

RECOMMENDATION II ENVIRONMENTAL MONITORING AND ASSESSMENT

1. The Contracting Parties continue to provide information to the Secretariat on gaps and barriers that are preventing countries from establishing water quality monitoring and assessment programs and that the Secretariat prepare a status update at the 4th LBS COP for further action.
2. The Secretariat, the LBS RACs and the Monitoring and Assessment Working Group continue to support the efforts to set up or strengthen their national water quality monitoring and assessment programs that, at a minimum, monitor for SOCAR parameters.
3. Countries benefitting from national and/or regional projects such as GEF IWeco, UNDP GEF CLME+ and GEF CReW+ as well as any future projects, identify and share opportunities for improving national water quality monitoring and assessment programmes, laboratory strengthening and monitoring capacity, and technical training and assistance.
4. The Secretariat work with Contracting Parties/Countries to identify and mobilize financial resources from existing projects and develop new project proposals to respond to the new priorities identified under SOCAR.
5. The existing Interim Working Group on Monitoring and Assessment continue its work prior to the 4th LBS COP to oversee the finalization of the SOCAR based on the comments received during the 4th LBS STAC.
6. The Secretariat work with the Interim Working Group on Monitoring and Assessment to develop a Terms of Reference that defines a future role as an open-ended working group to provide technical advice and guidance going forward in support of the SOCAR results and recommendation, particularly with regards to strengthening and building water quality monitoring programs throughout the Wider Caribbean Region.
7. The Secretariat prepare an information paper for consideration by the COP and IGM of a data platform for internalization of Geospatial information relevant to the LBS Protocol (including the outputs of SOCAR) and consider the trial use of the Caribbean Marine Atlas Phase 2 Geonode as such a platform.
8. The Secretariat and Contracting Parties participate, as appropriate, in the upcoming Second Technical Meeting of the Caribbean Working Group on Environmental Indicators of the Latin American and Caribbean Initiative for Sustainable Development (ILAC) 4-6th September organized by UN Environment in Jamaica and to continue efforts to identify synergies and promote greater harmonization of indicators being monitored in the region.
9. Further develop and finalize the SOCAR - e.g. standardized “digital” template for national reporting on the SOCAR, additional parameters for assessment, baseline year for data up to two years up to that SOCAR being developed, ensure that further work on SOCAR is aligned to the ongoing reporting efforts including under the SPAW Protocol, SOME E and Governance Effectiveness Assessment Framework (GEAF) and the Driver Pressure State Impact Response (DPSIR) framework, develop a guidance document for harmonized monitoring for the SOCAR parameters and strengthen collaboration with other Regional Seas Programmes and Multilateral Environmental Agreements to facilitate improved data collection and analysis.

RECOMMENDATION III GEF PROJECTS

1. The Secretariat and relevant Contracting Parties continue to participate in the development of the GEF CReW+ project proposal.
2. The Secretariat develop additional project proposals, in coordination with relevant regional partners including, inter alia, the CLME+ Strategic Action Programme (SAP) Interim Coordination Mechanism, and with the work conducted under the SPAW Protocol, to further support and upscale implementation of the LBS Protocol and the Strategies and Actions under the 10-year CLME+ SAP that are of relevance to the Cartagena Convention and its Protocols.
3. The Secretariat seek to develop project proposals targeting other sources of financing including but not limited to the Green Climate Fund (GCF).

RECOMMENDATION IV LBS PROTOCOL RATIFICATION

1. The Secretariat and Contracting Parties should continue to encourage Non-Contracting Parties to ratify the LBS Protocol and for Contracting Parties to raise the profile of the LBS at national and regional levels.
2. The Secretariat request Non-Contracting Parties to the LBS Protocol to provide an update of the status of LBS Protocol Ratification in their respective countries including difficulties being faced in their national ratification process.
3. The Secretariat work with Contracting and other Parties to identify and facilitate the transfer of knowledge, best practices and appropriate technology aimed at pollution prevention and reduction in the Wider Caribbean Region.
4. Contracting Parties and LBS Focal Points should promote the work of the Secretariat with their respective governments as well as assist in ensuring timely and consistent payments to the Caribbean Trust Fund (CTF). To facilitate this the Secretariat should ensure timely submission of invoices copied to all relevant focal points.

Decisions of the Third Meeting of the Contracting Parties (COP) to the Protocol Concerning Pollution from Land-based Sources and Activities in the WCR. The list is available in Information Document UNEP(DEPI)/CAR IG.41/3

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

Relevant Decisions of the Eighteenth Intergovernmental Meeting on the Action Plan for the Caribbean Environment Programme (18th IGM) and Fifteenth Meeting of Contracting Parties to the Cartagena Convention (15th COP). The full list is available in Information Document UNEP(DEPI)/CAR IG.42/6.

DECISION I WORK PLAN AND BUDGET

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 work plan.
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 III OPEN-ENDED WORKING GROUP ON MONITORING AND ASSESSMENT

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 VI RAC/REMPEITC-Caribe

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

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.
5. **Request** the Secretariat to amend the reporting template to include relevant parameters of the SOCAR.

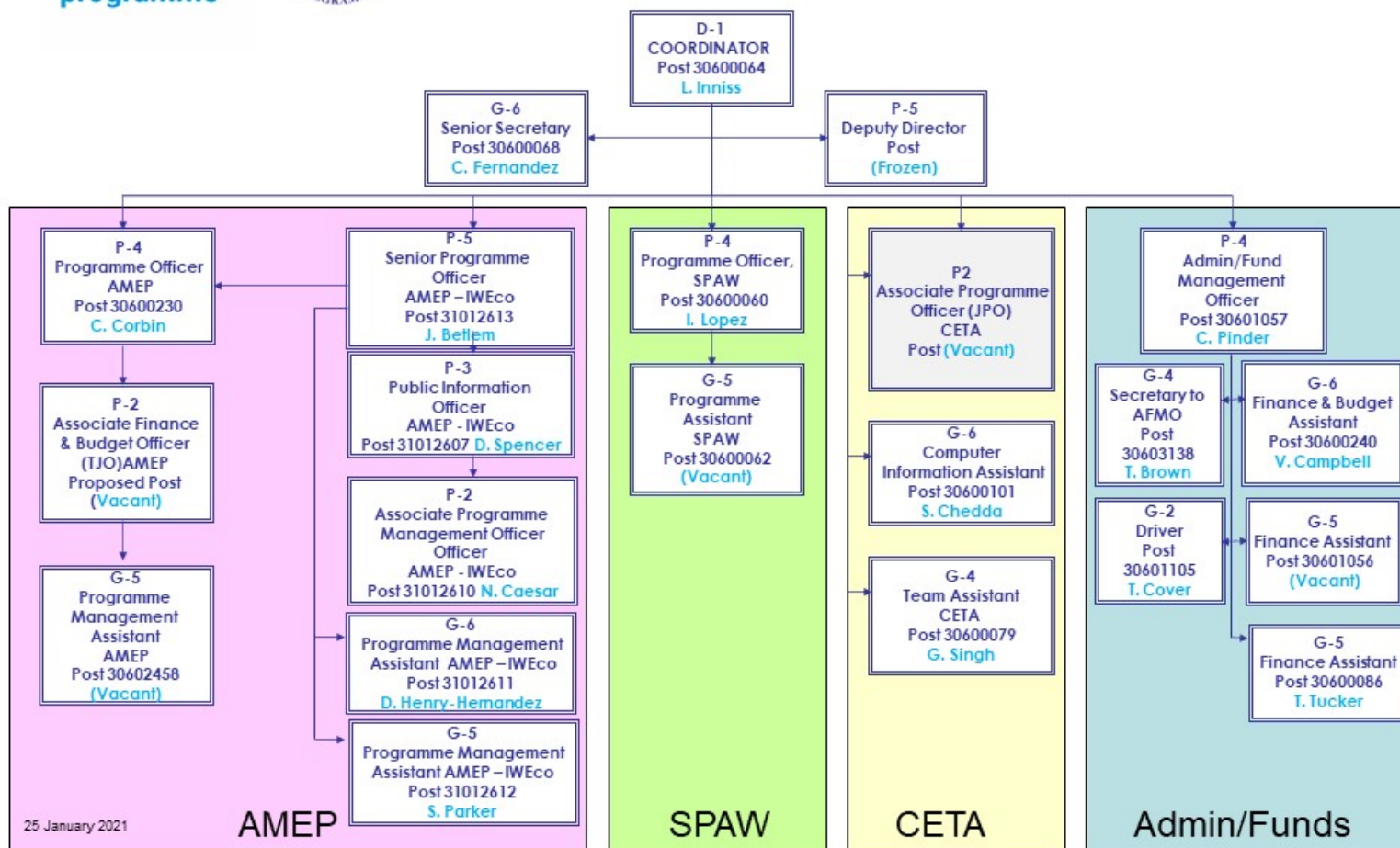
DECISION VIII STATE OF THE CONVENTION AREA REPORT

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.

ANNEX II: Organizational chart of the Secretariat of the Cartagena Convention



UNITED NATIONS ENVIRONMENT PROGRAMME (UNEP)
 CARIBBEAN ENVIRONMENT PROGRAMME
 REGIONAL COORDINATING UNIT (CAR/RCU)
 JANUARY 2021



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

<i>State</i>	Cartagena Convention		Oil Spill		SPAW		LBS	
	Date of Signature	Ratified / Acceded	Date of Signature	Ratified / Acceded	Date of Signature	Ratified / Acceded	Date of Signature	Ratified / Acceded
<i>Antigua and Barbuda</i>		11-Sep-86		11-Sep-86	18-Jan-90			13-July -10
<i>Bahamas</i>		24-Jun-10		24-Jun-10		8-Mar-12		24-Jun-10
<i>Barbados</i>	5-Mar-84	28-May-85	5-Mar-84	28-May-85		14-Oct-02	29 Jun-19	29 Jun-19
<i>Belize</i>		22-Sep-99		22-Sep-99		4-Jan-08		4-Feb-08
<i>Colombia</i>	24-Mar-83	3-Mar-88	24-Mar-83	3-Mar-88	18-Jan-90	5-Jan-98	2-Oct-00	
<i>Costa Rica</i>		2-Aug-91		2-Aug-91			6-Oct-99	26-May-16
<i>Cuba</i>		15-Sep-88		15-Sep-88	18-Jan-90	4-Aug-98		
<i>Dominica</i>		5-Oct-90		5-Oct-90				
<i>Dominican Republic</i>		24-Nov-98		24-Nov-98		24-Nov-98	3-Aug-00	6-Sep-12
<i>France</i>	24-Mar-83	13-Nov-85	24-Mar-83	13-Nov-85	18-Jan-90	5-Apr-02	6-Oct-99	4-May-07
<i>Grenada</i>	24-Mar-83	17-Aug-87	24-Mar-83	17-Aug-87		5-Mar-12		5-Mar-12
<i>Guatemala</i>	5-Dec-83	18-Dec-89	5-Dec-83	18-Dec-89	18-Jan-90			
<i>Guyana</i>		14-Jul-10		14-Jul-10		14-Jul-10		14-Jul-10
<i>Haiti</i>								
<i>Honduras</i>	24-Mar-83	13-Oct-18	24-Mar-83	13-Oct-18		13-Oct-18		13-Oct-18
<i>Jamaica</i>	24-Mar-83	1-Apr-87	24-Mar-83	1-Apr-87	18-Jan-90			5-Nov-15
<i>Mexico</i>	24-Mar-83	11-Apr-85	24-Mar-83	11-Apr-85	18-Jan-90			
<i>Netherlands</i>	24-Mar-83	16-Apr-84	24-Mar-83	16-Apr-84	18-Jan-90	2-Mar-92	6-Oct-99	
<i>Nicaragua</i>	24-Mar-83	25-Aug-05	24-Mar-83	25-Aug-05				
<i>Panama</i>	24-Mar-83	7-Oct-87	24-Mar-83	7-Oct-87	16-Jan-91	27-Sep-96		9-Jul-03

<i>St. Kitts and Nevis</i>		15-Jun-99		15-Jun-99				
<i>Saint Lucia</i>	24-Mar-83	30-Nov-84	24-Mar-83	30-Nov-84	18-Jan-90	18-May-00		30-Jan-08
<i>St. Vincent and the Grenadines</i>		11-Jul-90		11-Jul-90	26-Jul-91	26-Jul-91		
<i>Suriname</i>								
<i>Trinidad and Tobago</i>		24-Jan-86		24-Jan-86	18-Jan-90	10-Aug-99		28-Mar-03
<i>United Kingdom</i>	24-Mar-83	28-Feb-86	24-Mar-83	28-Feb-86	18-Jan-90			
<i>United States of America</i>	24-Mar-83	31-Oct-84	24-Mar-83	31-Oct-84	18-Jan-90	16-Apr-03	6-Oct-99	13-Feb-09
<i>Venezuela</i>	24-Mar-83	18-Dec-86	24-Mar-83	18-Dec-86	18-Jan-90	28-Jan-97		
<i>European Economic Commission</i>	24-Mar-83							

ANNEX IV: Intergovernmental, technical/expert and other meetings convened by the AMEP Sub-Programme, LBS RACs and GEF Projects (2019-2020)

Event Number	Programme Area	Title	Venue	Date
1.	AMEP in collaboration with GCFI	Marine Litter Strategic Planning Session	Miami, Florida	25-27 March 2019
2.	GEF IWECO	GEF IWECO 3rd Regional Project Steering Ctee Meeting and Meeting of Implementing and Executing Agencies	Santo Domingo, Dominican Republic	2 April 2019
3.	GEF IWECO	GEF IWECO Media Strategy Workshop	Arima, Trinidad and Tobago	14-15 May 2019
4.	AMEP/CEP	4 th Meeting of the Contracting Parties (COP) to the Protocol Concerning Pollution from Land-Based Sources and Activities (LBS) in the Wider Caribbean Region	Roatán, Honduras	4 June 2019
5.	AMEP/SPAW/CEP	18 th Intergovernmental Meeting on the Action Plan for the Caribbean Environment Programme and 15 th Meeting of the Contracting Parties to the Convention for the Protection and Development of the Marine Environment of the Wider Caribbean Region	Roatán, Honduras	5-6 June 2019
6.	GEF IWECO	28 th Annual Conference and Exhibition of the Caribbean Water and Wastewater Association	St. Kitts and Nevis	14-18 October 2019

Event Number	Programme Area	Title	Venue	Date
7.	GEF IWeco	GEF IWeco Regional Training Workshop: Building Capacity at the National Project Level in the areas of Environmental Monitoring, Community Engagement and Citizen Science	Barbados	5-7 November 2019
8.	AMEP (in collaboration with GPML-Caribe)	Webinar on “Addressing Marine Litter in the Caribbean: Experiences from the Regional Node of the Global Partnership on Marine Litter”	Virtual	May 2020
9.	GEF IWeco	GEF IWeco 4th Regional Project Steering Ctee Meeting and Meeting of Implementing and Executing Agencies	Virtual	1 - 2 July 2020
10.	AMEP	Meeting of LBS Contracting Parties	Virtual	30 July 2020

ANNEX V: Internal publications by AMEP and GEF IWeco Project (2019-2020)

No.	Publication	Link
1	AMEP Factsheets	https://www.unenvironment.org/cep/resources
2	Marine Litter Brief	https://www.unep.org/cep/resources/factsheet/regional-and-global-programmes-and-initiatives-address-marine-litter
3	GEF IWeco Newsletters	http://iweco.org/publications/newsletters
4	GEF IWeco Media Relations & Social Media Communications Toolkit:	http://iweco.org/publications/toolkits-and-manuals

ANNEX VI: Formal papers and presentations by the AMEP Sub-Programme

Papers

Chapter by Christopher Corbin on “The role of waste management in underpinning the Blue Economy” (Chapter 16) published in *The Caribbean Blue Economy* (2020).

Christopher Corbin. CWWA 2020. Abstract on “Solid Waste and Marine Litter Management Trends in the Wider Caribbean Region.”

Sancha Foreman and Ankur Deb. CWWA Conference 2020. Abstract on “Waste Reduction and the Circular Economy: the Caribbean Approach

Christopher Corbin. 72nd Annual Conference of the Gulf and Caribbean Fisheries Institute. Abstract Solid Waste and Marine Litter Management Trends in the Wider Caribbean Region

Presentations by AMEP staff

Event Number	Event	Presentation	Venue	Date
1	21 st Annual Global Meeting of the Regional Seas Programme	Contribution of the Cartagena Convention Secretariat: Regional Strategic Directions 2017-2020 – AMEP PO	Berlin, Germany	30 September – 2 October 2019
2	CARICOM Webinar on in Observance of World Oceans Day- Innovation for a Sustainable Ocean	Enhancing Caribbean Biodiversity through Pollution Control, Reduction and Prevention. – AMEP PO	Virtual	9 June 2020
3	Meeting of the Ad Hoc Working Group of Experts for Latin American and the Caribbean- Regional Consultation for GRULAC	Overview of actions to prevent marine plastic litter and microplastics in Latin America and the Caribbean.- AMEP PO	Virtual	29 September 2020

4	UNEP Caribbean Sub-Regional Office Lunchtime Webinar	Improving Wastewater Management in the Caribbean: Changing the Narrative.- AMEP PO	Virtual	30 September 2020
5	Webinar series on Marine Plastic Litter and Microplastics organized by the Ministry of Planning and Development of Trinidad and Tobago.	Marine Litter and Plastics Management in the Wider Caribbean Region.- AMEP PO	Virtual	1 October 2020
6	29 th Annual Conference of the Caribbean Water and Wastewater Association	Waste Management and the Caribbean Blue Economy” during the Technical Seminar on Waste Reduction and the Circular Economy: The Caribbean Approach.- AMEP PO	Virtual	19-23 October 2020
7	29 th Annual CWWA Conference	Engagement and capacity-building of local communities by UNEP CEP: Trash Free Waters Initiative in Jamaica and Panama” by Sancha Foreman.		19-23 October 2020
8	Virtual Meeting with Stakeholders (organized by Coordination Environment of the Ministry of Spatial Planning and Environment of Suriname)	The Cartagena Convention: Supporting Biodiversity Management, Pollution Reduction and Environmental Awareness in the Wider Caribbean Region.- AMEP PO	Virtual	23 October 2020
9	UNEP GEF IWeco 9th Partners' Webinar	LBS Protocol: Catalyzing Regional Cooperation to Combat Marine Pollution” presented by Christopher Corbin, Marlen Perez (CIMAB) and Darryl Banjoo (IMA).	Virtual	10 November 2020
10	ACP MEA Phase III Project Partners' Meeting	Presentation in collaboration with SPAW PO on the activities of the Secretariat under the project.	Virtual	17-18 November 2020

ANNEX VII: Status of Cartagena Convention Meeting Recommendations and Decisions Matrix

Status of 4th LBS STAC Meeting Recommendations

Recommendation I Work Plan and Budget	Actions(s) Taken
<i>I.1 Work Plan and Budget presented to LBS COP4 for approval.</i>	Completed. Work Plan submitted and approved by LBS COP4 and IGM 18 in June 2019.
<i>I.6 Secretariat to prepare information paper for 4th LBS COP and 18th IGM on expanded role for RACs.</i>	Completed. Information paper presented and endorsed by LBS COP4 and IGM 18.
<i>I.8 Secretariat to convene joint LBS-SPAW STACs, and a single IGM including LBS and SPAW COPs to encourage synergies and reduce financial and administrative burden on the Secretariat.</i>	Completed. Funds mobilized under ACP MEA project to have joint LBS and SPAW STACs in 2021 and plans to have single IGM and COPs under discussion. Save the Date Notices for LBS and SPAW STACs sent out for March 15-19 after consultation with focal points. COPs scheduled for Jun 21-25, 2021. Webpage developed. Agenda, Annotated and List of Documents completed. Draft Status Reports and Work Plans completed. Virtual consultation held with LBS Focal Points for input to Work Plan and Budget.
<i>I.12 Secretariat to ensure strategic linkages of their pollution activities with efforts to promote Blue Growth and Blue Economy approaches in the Wider Caribbean Region, in particular the Sustainable Blue Economy Initiative of UNEP and explore synergies with relevant work being undertaken in the region.</i>	Completed. Discussions held with UNEP Regional Office for Latin America and the Caribbean for development of a Regional Strategy for Sustainable Ocean-Based Economy in the Wider Caribbean Region (UNEP(DEPI)/CAR IG.42/INF.18). Two Chapters on Waste and Coastal Zone Management and the Blue Economy respectively accepted for new book on <i>Caribbean Blue Economy</i> . Input provided to development of OECS Blue/Green Economy Strategy. AMEP PO delivered presentation on Waste and the Blue Economy at the Annual CWWA Conference in Oct. 2020. Discussions initiated on possible Blue Tourism Project with IDDRI. Secretariat participated in consultation on ‘Mobilizing a transformation to a sustainable blue economy’, part of UNEP’s Sustainable Blue Economy Initiative and 3 virtual Coordination Group meetings to inform further regional discussions in early 2021 that will be financially supported by ACP MEA Project.

<p><i>I.15 Secretariat, LBS and SPAW RACs and other interested partners, to prepare an information paper on the status of pelagic and stranded sargassum in the Wider Caribbean Region for submission to the 18th IGM and to continue to engage in discussions on this issue.</i></p>	<p>Completed. Sargassum White Paper (UNEP(DEPI)/CAR WG.40/ INF.8) prepared and updated on an ongoing basis. SPAW RAC leading working group on Sargassum with input from AMEP as appropriate given linkages with Nutrients. Five Sargassum Webinars convened. AMEP PO invited to be part of Sargassum Working Group and will nominate other pollution experts. Issue of Sargassum included in Regional Nutrients Reduction Strategy being finalized with support from UNDP GEF CLME+ Project.</p>
<p>Recommendation II Environmental Monitoring and Assessment</p>	
<p><i>II.1 Contracting Parties to provide information to the Secretariat on gaps and barriers that are preventing countries from establishing water quality monitoring and assessment programs and Secretariat present update at the 4th LBS COP for further action.</i></p>	<p>Completed. State of the Convention Area Report (SOCAR) for the Wider Caribbean Region provides overview of information received from countries.</p>
<p><i>II. 2 Secretariat, LBS RACs and Monitoring and Assessment Working Group support Contracting Parties to establish and/or strengthen national water quality monitoring and assessment programs that, at a minimum, monitor for SOCAR parameters.</i></p>	<p>Completed. GEF IWeco and GEF CReW+ projects have funds allocated to support citizen science and environmental monitoring and assessment. Some Parties have benefitted and will continue to benefit from these capacity-building activities. IWeco Research Partnership available to support IWeco countries. Secretariat provided input to CLME+ Research Agenda developed by GCFI. SOCAR has identified specific capacity-building needs that CReW+ will aim to address.</p>
<p><i>III.4 The Secretariat to work with Contracting Parties/Countries to identify and mobilize financial resources to respond to the new priorities identified under SOCAR.</i></p>	<p>Ongoing activity including with UNEP HQ and Regional Office. New German Plastics Proposal and support from GPML to Regional Node will assist 3-5 Caribbean SIDS to respond to the plastics and microplastics. GEF CReW+ project will support sewage effluent monitoring and lab capacity-building.</p>

<p><i>II.6 The Secretariat to work with the Interim Working Group on Monitoring and Assessment to prepare a draft Terms of Reference that defines a future role as an open-ended working group that could meet at least once a year and through regular teleconferences to provide expert guidance to the Contracting Parties through the Secretariat.</i></p>	<p>Completed. Working Group Established, Terms of Reference defined and two meetings convened. Next meeting scheduled for January 2021 to focus on STAC preparations.</p>
<p><i>II.7 The Secretariat to prepare an information paper for consideration by the COP and IGM of a data platform for internalization of Geospatial information relevant to the LBS Protocol (including the outputs of SOCAR) and consider the trial use of the Caribbean Marine Atlas Phase 2 Geonode as such a platform.</i></p>	<p>Completed. Report of the Global Environment Outlook Node on Improving Regional Monitoring, Evaluation, Learning and Reporting of Marine Resources: Coordinating a Patchwork of Solutions Using Online Spatial Platforms (UNEP(DEPI)/CAR IG.42/INF.14). CLME+ has produced specific maps and graphics on pollution including marine litter and ratification status. Updated Focal Point Lists and List of Projects provided to the CLME+ Hub. Harmonized maps used in SOCAR Final Report.</p>
<p><i>II.8. The Secretariat and Contracting Parties to participate, as appropriate, in the upcoming Second Technical Meeting of the Caribbean Working Group on Environmental Indicators of the Latin American and Caribbean Initiative for Sustainable Development (ILAC) 4-6 September 2018 organized by UN Environment Programme in Jamaica and to continue efforts to identify synergies and promote greater harmonization of indicators being monitored in the region.</i></p>	<p>Completed. Participation in meeting occurred. Work on Indicators continues mainly through GEF IWeco Project and with ongoing Indicator work by UNEP Regional Office in Panama. Additional coordination with UNECLAC and OECS.</p>

II. 9 Regarding the development and finalization of SOCAR, the following should be taken into account:

(a) Standardized “digital” template for national reporting on the SOCAR with defined periods for agreed parameters and to reflect this activity in the draft 2019-2020 work plan;

(b) The Working Group to identify other parameters that could be added to the existing Cartagena Convention Reporting Template to facilitate biennial reporting;

(c) Contracting Parties and Non-Contracting Parties agree to identify and approve additional national, regional and/or international non-governmental sources of data that could be used for SOCAR reporting;

(d) The LBS STAC4 propose that the baseline year for data submitted for use in future SOCARs should be two years up to that SOCAR being developed and is to be submitted through an appropriate regional database for future SOCARs;

(e) That the 4th LBS COP consider the period for preparation of a comprehensive SOCAR to be every 6 years and that frequency and format for more regular reporting be guided by the final recommendations of the first SOCAR;

(f) The Secretariat and Contracting Parties ensure that further work on SOCAR is aligned to best possible extent with related planned and ongoing reporting efforts including under the SPAW Protocol and SOME and associated methodological frameworks including the Governance Effectiveness Assessment Framework (GEAF) and the Driver Pressure State Impact Response (DPSIR) framework;

(g) The Secretariat with support of the Working Group continue to work on setting water quality targets and refining the cut values as better data becomes available;

(h) The Secretariat and Working Group develop a

Completed. Update provided in the SOCAR Working Group Report presented to the 4th LBS COP. This recommendation is focused on future SOCARs and no further action needed.

<p><i>guidance document for harmonized monitoring for the SOCAR parameters and that this be reflected in the draft 2019-2020 workplan;</i></p> <p><i>i) The Secretariat should strengthen collaboration with other Regional Seas Programmes and Multilateral Environmental Agreements to facilitate improved data collection and analysis for the Wider Caribbean Region;</i></p> <p><i>j) Contracting Parties provide timely responses to the Secretariat to requests for information and for comments on the draft SOCAR, once available.</i></p>	
<p>Recommendation III GEF and other Donor-Funded Projects</p>	
<p><i>III.1 The Secretariat and relevant Contracting Parties continue to participate in the development of the GEF CReW+ project proposal.</i></p>	<p>Completed. Secretariat played a significant role in facilitating discussion and input into the proposal including at the Pre-Technical Pollution Workshop, 4th LBS STAC and other regional workshops and meetings. The GEF CReW+ full-sized project proposal was submitted and approved in Nov. 2019. The Secretariat is the regional executing agency on behalf of UNEP working with 18 countries and with targeted support for LBS Contracting Parties. Collaboration with GIZ, IDB, OAS and several regional partners.</p>
<p><i>III.2 The Secretariat to develop additional project proposals, in coordination with relevant regional partners including, inter alia, the CLME+ Strategic Action Programme (SAP) Interim Coordination Mechanism, and with the work conducted under the SPAW Protocol, to further support and upscale implementation of the LBS Protocol and the Strategies and Actions under the 10-year CLME+ SAP that are of relevance to the Cartagena Convention and its Protocols.</i></p>	<p>Completed. Secretariat has provided input to the development of several new project concepts and proposals including GEF Islands Full Project Proposal, GOM LME, GEF Plastics/Cities PIF, Plastics Management in Caribbean SIDS (Gov. of Germany); Government of Sweden Support, Regional Marine Litter Node – ADLFG.</p>

<p>III.3 <i>The Secretariat to seek to develop project proposals targeting other sources of financing including but not limited to the Green Climate Fund (GCF);</i></p>	<p>Secretariat has partnered with UNEP HQ, UNEP CSRO, Government of Japan, Government of Germany and GCFI to develop several new project proposals. Project Concept for GCF developed for Government of Dominica. Blue Tourism Concept under consideration with IDDRI. New GEF Proposals such as Procaribe also under development. See above for additional details of other projects.</p>
<p>Recommendation IV LBS Protocol Ratification</p>	
<p>IV. 1. <i>The Secretariat and Contracting Parties encourage Non-Contracting Parties to ratify the LBS Protocol and for Contracting Parties to raise the profile of the LBS at national and regional levels.</i></p>	<p>Communication is on-going with Non-Contracting parties to assess assistance required for ratification. Funding mobilized from GEF IWeco, GEF CReW+, GOM LME and ACP MEA projects to assist in that regard. Saint Kitts has indicated provisional Cabinet approval for ratification of LBS and SPAW Protocols. All presentations provided during Webinars offered an opportunity to promote the Convention and Protocol. (All Webinars involving the AMEP/LBS Protocol are listed as an Annex to the Status Report for the 5th LBS STAC).</p>
<p>IV.2. <i>The Secretariat to request Non-Contracting Parties to the LBS Protocol to provide an update of the status of LBS Protocol Ratification in their respective countries including difficulties being faced in their national ratification process. These non-contracting party countries should further identify opportunities to raise the issue of LBS Protocol ratification at high level political fora and other appropriate intergovernmental mechanisms.</i></p>	<p>Completed. Status of LBS Ratification presented to 4th LBS STAC and updated in the Information document UNEP(DEPI)/CAR.IG.41.INF.3. AMEP PO provided taped presentation on the Cartagena Convention and LBS Protocol to Government of Suriname to assist in their ratification efforts.</p>

<p><i>IV.3. The Secretariat's work with Contracting and other Parties to identify and facilitate the transfer of knowledge, best practices and appropriate technology aimed at pollution prevention and reduction in the Wider Caribbean Region.</i></p>	<p>Completed. Ten countries submitted data to the Secretariat on the best practices used to address land-based sources of pollution. Requests were also made for focal points to provide videos, reports, case studies, and/or any other material that showcase national and/or regional efforts taken to control, reduce and prevent pollution of the Wider Caribbean Region. New communication products, pollution factsheets and country pages with summary results of SOCAR being prepared with support of a Graphic Artist. Best practices from EBM subproject developed as well as a Compendium of Case Studies on solid waste management with CTO.</p>
<p><i>IV.4 Secretariat ensure timely submission of invoices copied to all relevant focal points.</i></p>	<p>Invoices submitted to national and technical focal points. Bilateral follow up by Coordinator with all focal points including resending of invoices and updating of contact focal point information.</p>

Status of 4th LBS COP Meeting Decisions

Decisions I	Actions(s) Taken
<p><i>I.3 Secretariat to 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.</i></p>	<p>Completed: Projects such as GEF IWeco, GEF CREW+ and EU ACP MEA were used to promote ratification of both LBS and SPAW Protocols. St. Kitts and Nevis has prepared documents for ratification of the LBS and SPAW Protocols and has advised the Secretariat of their Cabinet's provisional support to ratification. Final confirmation is pending. Decisions of the Project Steering Committee Meetings of both IWeco and CREW+ call for ratification of the LBS Protocol.</p> <p>Funds allocated to further support the ratification process by supporting consultations, exchanges and/or drafting of cabinet submissions with specific focus on Colombia, Cuba, Suriname, St. Kitts and Nevis, Mexico, St. Vincent and the Grenadines, and Guatemala. Taped presentation prepared and provided to Suriname on the benefits of ratification to assist in their ratification process. New factsheets and infographics about the Protocol and the benefits of ratification prepared. Country briefs for all Member Countries of the Caribbean Environment programme are being prepared. Partnership on new GEF project for Facilitating Dialogue and Strengthening Transboundary Cooperation with Legislators to Improve Marine Governance developed with ICCF (International Conservation Caucus Foundation) to promote ratification and implementation of Cartagena Convention and its Protocols.</p>
<p><i>I.4 Secretariat to take advantage of the global political momentum concerning the fight against plastic pollution to raise the profile of the LBS Protocol and highlight the importance of its ratification.</i></p>	<p>Completed: Progress through international and regional exchanges on marine litter including membership of BASEL Partnership Group, Cooperation with Caribbean Tourism Organization to prepare Compendium of best practices and case studies on solid waste management, Webinar on Plastics with Regional Node held, Support to Global Partnership on Marine Litter, development of joint project proposals including GEF-approved PIF on 'Sustainable Management of Plastics in the Wider Caribbean Region'. Several new communication products prepared about the benefits of ratification and shared on social media.</p> <p>Contribution to the Global Road Map on Plastics and CWWA Special Session on Waste and the Circular Economy. Support to the focal point in Trinidad and Tobago for a webinar on plastics. Member of small plastics working group of UNEP to define global narrative and Theory of Change.</p>

<p><i>I.5 Secretariat to 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, and assist the Secretariat by mobilising funds and developing new projects and activities as part of a work plan to be approved by the COP.</i></p>	<p>Ongoing: Discussions ongoing with RACs (IMA & CIMAB) to develop strategies and work plans to be presented at 5th LBS STAC and COP. Ongoing discussion between the Coordinator, RAC CIMAB and the Government of Cuba regarding the Host Agreement.</p> <p>LBS Focal Points asked to provide input into the 2021/2022 work plan. Comments received in advance from Panama, Guyana, Dominican Republic, Jamaica, Saint Lucia, USA, RAC IMA. Virtual meeting organized in July 2020 where additional feedback was provided and additional time provided after the virtual meeting for further comments and input. All inputs incorporated into draft work plan including previous STAC and COP recommendations and decisions.</p>
<p><i>I.6 Secretariat to 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),</i></p>	<p>Ongoing: MOUs finalized and signed by the Secretariat with GCFI, CATHALAC, and INVEMAR to cooperate on research, advocacy and capacity-building. Details of MOU finalized with OSPAR and final draft to be presented to OSPAR Parties in February 2021 for endorsement. Request by CARPHA to change boilerplate clauses under legal review. MOU with CARIBMEPA awaiting additional due diligence information.</p>
<p><i>I.7 Secretariat to develop communication and knowledge products from the SOCAR report for targeted audiences including policymakers, schools, local communities, and private sector.</i></p>	<p>Completed: Old factsheets updated with information extracted from regional and global reports including SOCAR. Powerpoint presentation developed based on SOCAR results. CWWA Abstracts developed featuring SOCAR results. Several new infographics developed. SOCAR results featured during webinars and presentation to 2020 CWWA Annual Conference based on accepted abstracts.</p>

<p><i>I.8 Secretariat to facilitate establishment of 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.</i></p>	<p>Completed: Email request sent to Contracting Parties requesting nominations to Working Group in July 2019. Meetings held on 24 September 2019 and 26 March 2020. New Terms of Reference developed and approved for Group. Meeting held in January 2021 to plan formal launch of SOCAR and preparation for the next LBS STAC and COP.</p>
<p><i>I.10 Secretariat to mobilise resources for technical meetings/workshops to encourage greater participation of countries in the development of the SOCAR report and for contribution of data.</i></p>	<p>Completed: GEF Projects such as IWECO, CREW+ and the European Union-funded ACP MEA project used to support SOCAR-related activities. Marine Litter proposal under development with funds from Government of Germany, technical support to JICA and ongoing discussions with GPML to support regional marine litter monitoring. New GEF Procaribe Project includes support for future SOCARs.</p>
<p><i>I.11 Secretariat to develop partnerships with academic institutions to assist in the generation and analysis of data.</i></p>	<p>Completed: Collaboration with GCFI to develop Research Strategy and with GWP-C for Water and Climate Change Science symposium scheduled for March 2021.</p>
<p><i>I.12 Secretariat to take advantage of the support available from ongoing projects and activities for the dissemination of the SOCAR report and the development of future SOCARs.</i></p>	<p>Completed: Linkages developed with other regional and global initiatives including the UNDP/GEF CLME+ project and GEF IWECO project. IWECO's work on indicators, laboratory assessments and decision-support tools will assist in future SOCARs. Opportunity to develop the Driver Pressure State Impact Response Methodology (DPSIR) which is being used as the methodology for the SOCAR and the State of the Marine Environment (SOMEE) Report under the UNDP/GEF CLME+ project. New Procaribe project proposal and GEF CREW+ Project expected to provide direct support to monitoring and assessment, as well as reporting of pollution-related data and SDGs 6 and 14.</p>

<p><i>I.13 The SOCAR report is to be updated 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.</i></p>	<p>Ongoing: New Online Reporting Template for Cartagena Convention finalized. Proposed additions to Reporting Template to be presented as Information Document to the 5th LBS STAC and COP and Cartagena Convention COP in 2021.</p>
<p><i>I.14 Secretariat to assist countries with monitoring, data collection and analysis.</i></p>	<p>Completed: This is currently being done through GEF IWeco and GEF CREW+ Projects for training on how to collect samples with IAEA collaboration - RAC IMA benefitted from training. Face-to-face workshops were not possible due to COVID-19. Regional training workshops will be planned for the second half of 2021 with support from GEF IWeco and CREW+ Projects.</p>
<p><i>I.15. Secretariat to 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.</i></p>	<p>Completed: Webinar was organized by the UNEP Global Programme of Action Global Wastewater Initiative entitled "Emerging Pollutants in Wastewater: An Increasing Threat" in February 2020. Focal Points were given the opportunity to provide input to the Secretariat's presentation focusing on policy and on-the-ground interventions from the Wider Caribbean Region regarding emerging contaminants. Recording of webinar was circulated and made available on the Secretariat's website. AMEP PO supervised Master's Research student on Microplastics from Wastewater discharges originating from ships in the Wider Caribbean Region.</p>