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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

REPORT OF THE MEETING

ACRONYMS

ACP MEA	African Caribbean and Pacific Multilateral Environmental Agreement
AMEP	Assessment and Management of Environmental Pollution
CARPHA	Caribbean Public Health Agency
CEP	Caribbean Environment Programme
CTF	Caribbean Trust Fund
COP	Conference of Parties
CIMAB	Centre of Research and Environmental Management of Transport
CLME+	Caribbean Large Marine Ecosystems
CYEN	Caribbean Youth Environment Network
EPA	Environmental Protection Agency
EU	European Union
FAO	The Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations
GCFI	Gulf and Caribbean Fisheries Institute
GEF	Global Environment Facility
GESAMP	Group of Experts on the Scientific Aspects of Marine Environmental Protection
GPML-Caribe	Global Partnership on Marine Litter - Caribbean Node
GPA	Global Programme of Action
HQ	Headquarters
ICEP	Indicator of Coastal Eutrophication Potential
IGM	Inter-governmental Meeting
IMA	Institute of Marine Affairs
INVEMAR	Institute of Marine and Coastal Research
IWEco	Integrating Water, Land and Ecosystems Management in Caribbean Small Island Developing States
IWRM	Integrated Water Resource Management
LBS	Land-Based Sources of Pollution
MoU	Memorandum of Understanding
MPA	Marine Protected Area
NOAA	National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
OECM	Other Effective area-based Conservation Measures
OEWG	Open-Ended Working Group
OSPAR	Convention for the Protection of the Marine Environment of the North-East Atlantic
PIF	Project Identification Form
PROCARIBE+	Protecting and Restoring the Ocean's natural Capital, building Resilience and supporting region-wide Investments for sustainable Blue Socio-Economic development
RAC	Regional Activity Centre
RAN	Regional Activity Network
REMPEITC	The Regional Marine Pollution Emergency, Information and Training Centre
RNPRS	Regional Nutrient Pollution Reduction Strategy
SOCAR	State of the Cartagena Convention Area
SOMEE	State of the Marine Environment and Associated Economies
SPAW	Specially Protected Areas and Wildlife

SSFA	Small Scale Funded Agreements
STAC	Scientific and Technical Advisory Committee
SDG	Sustainable Development Goal
UN	United Nations
UNDP	United Nations Development Programme
UNEA	United Nations Environment Assembly
UNEP	United Nations Environment Programme
US	United States of America
WCR	Wider Caribbean Region

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Introduction

1. Following the entry into force of the LBS Protocol in August 2010, Article XIV of the LBS Protocol established the LBS STAC. Under Article XIII.2.c, the Secretariat of the Cartagena Convention is responsible for providing such assistance that the STAC may require to carry out its functions, as referred to in Article XIV.
2. In accordance with the Work Plan and Budget for 2019-2020, endorsed by the Eighteenth Intergovernmental Meeting (IGM), the Fifth LBS STAC Meeting was held virtually from 15th - 17th March 2021.
3. The objectives of the Fifth LBS STAC Meeting were to:
 - Evaluate the projects and activities implemented by the Secretariat and the LBS Regional Activity Centres (RACs) within the Assessment and Management of Environmental Pollution (AMEP) sub-programme during the period 2019-2020.
 - Review the progress made in the implementation of the Recommendations of the Fourth LBS STAC Meeting, Decisions of the Fourth Conference of Parties to the LBS Protocol, and relevant Decisions of the Fifteenth Meeting of the Contracting Parties to the Cartagena Convention;
 - Review the status of ratification and/or implementation of the LBS Protocol in member countries;
 - Review and provide technical input to the Draft AMEP Work Plan and Budget for the 2021-2022 biennium for subsequent submission to, and approval by, the 5th Conference of Parties to the LBS Protocol; and
 - Provide recommendations concerning the implementation of the LBS Protocol for consideration by the 5th Conference of Parties to the LBS Protocol.
4. The experts invited to the Meeting were nominated by the National Focal Points of the Cartagena Convention. Additionally, representatives of international, regional, intergovernmental, and non-governmental organizations and regional project representatives were invited to attend the Meeting as Observers.

Agenda item 1: Opening of the Meeting

5. The meeting convened on Monday, 15th of March 2021 at 8:00 a.m. (Jamaica time). The meeting was held virtually via Microsoft Teams due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Mr. Christopher Corbin, Programme Officer responsible for the Assessment and Management of Environmental Pollution (AMEP) sub-programme of the Cartagena Convention Secretariat led the opening remarks.
6. Mr. Corbin began by welcoming participants to the 5th LBS STAC Meeting and acknowledged the efforts of all Delegates and Contracting Parties for their commitment in being a part of the virtual proceedings of the Inter-Governmental meeting of the Cartagena Convention Secretariat.
7. In acknowledging the continued impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic, Mr. Corbin requested that delegates observe a moment of silence in memory of those persons who lost their lives as a result of the virus. He further acknowledged the recent passing of Mr. Paul Hoetjes and recognized his significant contributions to the SPAW Protocol and, by extension, the work of the Secretariat.

8. Mr. Corbin proceeded to invite Ms. Kerstin Stendahl, Head of the Ecosystems Integration Branch of the United Nations Environment Programme to deliver opening remarks.
9. Ms. Stendahl expressed gratitude to Dr. Lorna Inniss, the Secretariat, delegates, and all meeting participants for their efforts leading to the convening of the 5th LBS STAC. She highlighted relevant activities being undertaken by the UNEP Headquarters and associated outcomes of Part 1 of the 5th Meeting of the United Nations Environment Assembly (UNEA 5.1).
10. She noted that the main outcome from UNEA 5.1 was the approval of the Medium-Term Strategy for 2022-2025 by Member States. She noted that the Strategy guides the work of UNEP and focuses on three planetary crises faced today and their solutions to achieve climate stability, living in harmony with nature, and moving towards a pollution-free planet.
11. She added that experts and scientists in the Wider Caribbean Region (WCR) would be able to support governments of the region to acquire public and private investments towards sustainable investments and consumption.
12. She further noted that the Regional Seas Programme Framework would contribute to the improved management of waste including circular processes, safe recovery of secondary raw material and progressive reduction of open burning and dump sites through the implementation of existing regional LBS protocols and action plans.
13. Ms. Stendahl acknowledged that the resources and capacities of countries had been severely impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic. She added that the STAC deliberations would further improve UNEP's readiness to implement its Medium-Term Strategy, as well as the country's ability to support its implementation.
14. Mr. Corbin expressed gratitude to Ms. Stendahl for highlighting the work being carried out by the Secretariat at the regional level and its alignment with the UNEP Medium-Term Strategy. He then invited Dr. Lorna Inniss, Principal Coordination Officer of the Cartagena Convention Secretariat, to bring further welcome and opening remarks.
15. Dr. Inniss thanked Ms. Stendahl and welcomed representatives of Contracting Parties, Partners and Observers. She further thanked Mr. Christopher Corbin for the facilitation and management of the AMEP work programme of the Cartagena Convention, and in support of the LBS Protocol.
16. She mentioned that the narrative surrounding the work on oceans had changed, requiring the Secretariat to adapt to the requirements of its Member States. She further noted that the focus had changed from pure conservation to sustainability for support to humanity and the planet.
17. Dr. Inniss added that the new conversations surrounding support to humanity focused on socio-economic activity, hunger reduction and the need to improve food security. She alluded to the contributions made by the Contracting Parties in facilitating the overall change in narrative.
18. She further noted that the ocean and coastal assets within the region must be able to support the aspirations of Member States and that with the support of Contracting Parties, the Secretariat was repositioning itself to ensure adequate support to Member States.

Agenda item 2: Election of Officers

19. The Secretariat presented the proposed nominations for Bureau members that were received. The Meeting had no objections to the proposals received and the Bureau was elected by the Meeting through acclamation.
 - Chairperson: Anthony Headley (Barbados)

- Vice Chairperson: Miguel Espinosa (Dominican Republic)
- Rapporteur: Stephanie Adrian (United States of America)

Agenda item 3: Organization of the Meeting

20. The procedures for the conduct of the meeting were outlined.

(a) Rules of procedure

21. The Rules of Procedure for the Meeting of the Convention for the Protection and Development of the Marine Environment of the Wider Caribbean Region (Cartagena Convention) were applied.
22. Fourteen (14) Contracting Parties were present. The Chairperson confirmed that there was a quorum for the conduct of the meeting.

(b) Organization of Work

23. English, French, and Spanish were the working languages of the Meeting. Simultaneous interpretation was provided in English, French, and Spanish for the Meeting through the Interaction Application. The Working Documents of the Meeting were available in all working languages.
24. The Meeting convened in plenary sessions. The Chairperson proposed that where they were significant challenges, working groups would be established without simultaneous translations.
25. Owing to the virtual nature of the meeting, the Chairperson informed the participants of the meeting's protocols. He added that virtual interventions would be allowed once acknowledged by the Chairperson, with simultaneous translation provided. The Chairperson indicated that sequencing would be utilized once the floor had been requested, with priority given to the Contracting Parties, Regional Activity Centres (RACs), Observers and then Institutional project observers.

Agenda item 4: Adoption of the Agenda

26. The Chairperson introduced the Agenda (document UNEP(DEPI)/CAR WG.41/1) and invited comments from the plenary.
27. The Secretariat informed the meeting that the Regional Project Coordinator for the UNDP GEF CLME+ (Caribbean Large Marine Ecosystems) Project had requested to make a presentation during the agenda item 'Any other Business'.
28. The Agenda of the Meeting was adopted with the inclusion of the presentation requested by the CLME+ Project Coordinator.

Agenda item 5: Review of AMEP Programme Activities for the period 2019-2020

(a) Review of Status of Ratification and Accession to the LBS Protocol

29. Mr. Corbin provided an update on the ratification status of the LBS Protocol. At the time of the

meeting, fifteen (15) countries had ratified or acceded to the LBS Protocol with the Government of Barbados being the most recent to accede to the LBS Protocol in June 2019.

30. He indicated that St. Kitts and Nevis was in the process of making a Cabinet submission for ratification of the LBS and SPAW Protocols. He added that St. Vincent and the Grenadines and Suriname have made significant progress towards ratification.

(b) **Review of Activities**

31. Mr. Corbin commenced his presentation by recognizing the contributions of the LBS Regional Activity Centres- the Centre of Research and Environmental Management of Transport (CIMAB) and the Institute of Marine Affairs (IMA)- to projects and activities in support of LBS Protocol implementation. He further acknowledged the contributions by Mr. Jan Betlem, Regional Project Coordinator and the staff of the Integrating Water, Land and Ecosystems Management in Caribbean Small Island Development States for the Regional (IWeco Project) for which the Secretariat is the lead executing agency and host for the Project Coordinating Unit.
32. The achievements and status of activities of the AMEP Sub-Programme during the 2019-2020 reporting period were then presented by Mr. Corbin, as contained in document **UNEP(DEPI)/CAR WG.41/INF.4**.
33. Mr. Corbin provided a comprehensive account of the work carried out by the Secretariat including efforts on transboundary cooperation and harmonized approaches for pollution monitoring. He noted the role of the Secretariat in supporting the Contacting Parties in meeting their national obligations under the LBS Protocol, related multilateral environmental agreements and global commitment, specifically the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) 6 and 14.
34. He added that capacity building, training and improved knowledge management had been the focus of the Secretariat during the previous biennium through various projects and activities. He further added that the Secretariat had worked to identify new opportunities for replicating and upscaling ongoing national projects.
35. Mr. Corbin also provided an overview of the additional resources mobilised by the Secretariat. These included funds from the Government of Germany to develop a new project proposal on marine litter and plastics, through the Regional Caribbean Marine Litter Node co-hosted by the Secretariat and the Gulf and Caribbean Fisheries Institute, the UN Human Security Trust Fund Project for work on water and sanitation in Jamaica and the Government of Sweden for the development of new knowledge management products on pollution.
36. He noted that projects undertaken by the Secretariat have actively worked to support ratification of the LBS Protocol in participating countries. Projects such as the African Caribbean and Pacific Multilateral Environmental Agreement (ACP MEA) Phase III Project, GEF CReW+, and GEF IWeco support LBS ratification in participating countries.
37. In relation to cooperation agreements, Mr. Corbin informed the meeting that Memoranda of Understanding (MoU) were signed with regional agencies such as the Gulf and Caribbean Fisheries Institute, the Institute of Marine and Coastal Research (INVEMAR) of Colombia, The Ocean Foundation, and the OSPAR Convention Secretariat (another Regional Seas Programme). He noted that the framework was established to broaden support by RACs with these agencies

becoming part of the Regional Activity Network (RAN).

38. Mr. Corbin added that both he and the Coordinator provided submissions to a publication on waste and the blue economy, titled *“The Caribbean Blue Economy”*.
39. Mr. Corbin indicated that efforts continued to further integrate the work of the LBS and SPAW Protocols, as evidenced by the development of a joint regional investment strategy on habitat restoration and pollution reduction with funding from the CLME+ Project, joint webinar on Sargassum and Nutrients, linking micro-plastics research with its impacts on marine fisheries and ocean acidification.
40. The Contracting Parties were informed of the various activities launched as a result of additional funding acquired by the Secretariat. He thanked delegates and focal points for their continuous support and inputs provided to the Secretariat on the development of a new work plan. He further urged delegates to communicate their ongoing activities to the Secretariat so that they might be highlighted on the website and social media platforms.
41. Mr. Corbin informed the Parties that the GEF IWeco Project’s Regional Steering Committee Meeting had convened and a recommendation was made to extend the project to August 31, 2022 for technical activities and 2023 for project closure. The activities of the GEF IWeco project were outlined and the challenges faced were noted.
42. Mr. Corbin informed the meeting of a study by the Caribbean Public Health Agency (CARPHA) on the analysis of all environmental laboratories in the IWeco participating countries. He noted that the study would be used as a guide in future capacity building and the development of national monitoring and assessment programmes.
43. He also highlighted the relevance of the study towards the work of the LBS Protocol through the development of a public-private partnership to reduce marine pollution from yachts and tourism centers. Mr. Corbin mentioned that regional collaborations were geared at supporting IWeco countries in strengthening policies and legislations related to land and water resource and ecosystems management, along with the development of a regional framework for integrated water resource management.
44. In the area of monitoring and assessment, Mr. Corbin noted collaborations by the Secretariat with regional agencies and project partners. He added that through these synergies the Secretariat has aimed to enhance data and information management, thus, improving their capacities to manage relevant information to the LBS and SPAW Protocols.
45. On the topic of marine litter, solid waste and plastics, Mr. Corbin alluded to several partnerships and initiatives throughout the region. He noted that a new Regional Strategy had been developed to guide the work of the Node.
46. Mr. Corbin then invited the representative from RAC CIMAB as part of the Secretariat’s presentation, to report on their activities in support of the LBS Protocol (**UNEP(DEPI)/CAR WG.41/INF.5**).
47. Ms. Zunilda Parra Arias, Director of RAC CIMAB, thanked Dr. Lorna Inniss and Mr. Christopher Corbin for the invitation and emphasized CIMAB’s willingness to continue working closely with the Secretariat. Ms. Marlén Pérez Hernández then proceed to present RAC CIMAB’s activities

during the 2019 – 2020 biennium.

48. Ms. Pérez Hernández outlined the activities carried out by the institution within the framework of the GEF IWeco and UNDP GEF CLME+ projects. She noted that RAC CIMAB was responsible for the monitoring programme in one of the demonstration areas of the IWeco Cuba Sub-Project and had participated in all related activities. These included the preparation of monitoring protocols, workshops, sampling and webinars. She further noted that a sub-regional study on nutrients, funded by the CLME+ project, was carried out by RAC CIMAB in Spanish-speaking countries and formed input into the Draft Regional Nutrients Pollution Reduction Strategy and Action Plan.
49. In conclusion, she outlined national projects funded by the Government of Cuba relating to the LBS Protocol with focus on environmental surveillance of Cuba's main bays. These projects include monitoring the environmental quality of water bodies, inventory, and management of the main sources of marine pollution that enter the bays.
50. Due to technical difficulties, the presentation prepared by Dr. Darryl Banjoo, Acting Deputy Director of RAC IMA, for the 2019-2020 biennium was delivered by the Secretariat. During the period RAC IMA's activities included assistance to the Secretariat, implementation of two Small Scale Funded Agreements (SSFA) in support of the UNDP GEF CLME+ Project, attendance at meetings/national consultations and conducting national projects on the assessment and management of pollution. in support of the LBS Protocol.
51. One of the SSFAs was to support implementation of an Ecosystem-based Management (EBM) sub-project in Trinidad and Tobago to reduce organic pollution and pesticides from agricultural activities in the southern section of the Caroni Swamp through the implementation of community - based conservation interventions. The other SSFA facilitated the development of a nutrient management strategy for the Wider Caribbean Region carried out in collaboration with the Secretariat, RAC CIMAB and Para University in Brazil.
52. National projects conducted by RAC IMA funded by the Government of Trinidad and Tobago included activities on the development of the state of the environment report for period 2020, national coastal conservation programme monitoring of water quality and other activities on environmental hot spots, coral reefs, seagrass bed, mangrove areas and bacteriological bathing beach quality.
53. The IMA Analytical Laboratory sought ISO/IEC 17025 accreditation for scope of nitrate/nitrites tests. RAC IMA also implemented an Integrated Environmental Incident and Lionfish Mobile Application and Software Solution (**SeaiTT App**) geared towards reporting and the management of lionfish in the region. The meeting was informed that the App could also be used for reporting on environmental incidents and the state of the environment based on information obtained from sightings of oil spills, chemical spills, algal blooms, and forms of pollution detrimental to the environment.
54. Mr. Corbin concluded by outlining some of the main financial, personnel and administrative challenges in the implementation of the work plan during the biennium.
55. The Chairperson thanked the Secretariat and RACs for the presentations and noted that the expectation for coordination and linkages had been demonstrated in the presentations. He further added that the Secretariat was improving coordination as requested by Contracting Parties. The

floor was then opened for additional comments and/or questions on the presentations.

56. Several delegates thanked the Secretariat for organizing the meeting and for its commitment to the activities during the pandemic. Delegates also commended the RACs on their work.
57. The Delegate of Antigua and Barbuda, Dr. Linroy Christian, thanked the Secretariat and RACs for the work done over the biennium and acknowledged the challenges caused by the pandemic. He highlighted the importance of the sub-regional nutrient map and alluded to the current gaps in data. He noted the need for further collaboration with the RACs, through additional funding, to support sub-regional training and capacity building to improve data analytics and monitoring of nitrates and phosphates.
58. The Chairperson welcomed the suggestions of Antigua and Barbuda and acknowledged the need for training for dataset analysts to ensure high quality data is available for the next State of the Convention Area (SOCAR) Reports.
59. The Government of the United States of America (USA) in its capacity as Chair of the Working Group on Monitoring and Assessment was invited to report on the activities of the working group (UNEP(DEPI)/CAR WG.41/INF.6).

(c) Report from the Chair of the Open-Ended Working Group

60. The Chairperson of the Open-Ended Working Group presented the status of the OEWG's work during the previous biennium and concluded with recommendations for ongoing and additional technical assistance. The work of the previous Interim Monitoring and Assessment Working Group, and the newly created Open-Ended Working Group endorsed by the LBS STAC 4, centered mostly around providing input to the Secretariat in its efforts to finalize and disseminate the first State of the Convention Area Report.
61. The OEWG provided input to the Secretariat on various topics, including: 1) development of a Terms of Reference for the group; 2) technical input to the Regional Nutrient Pollution Reduction Strategy (RNPRS); 3) participation in technical webinars of interest to the LBS Protocol such as the Barcelona Convention's event on municipal waste and sludge, and the amendment of annexes to the Mediterranean Convention's LBS Protocol; 4) the development of a template with training needs on monitoring and assessment; and, 5) early input to the AMEP Work Plan and Budget from the monitoring and assessment perspective.
62. In conclusion, Ms. Adrian presented potential recommendations for consideration by the LBS STAC. The recommendations included provisionally endorsing the RNPRS and providing input to the implementation of the RNPRS. Additionally, the OEWG would form sub-groups on key areas that align with priority issues such as nutrients, wastewater, marine litter, and laboratory capacity. Finally, the OEWG recommended that focus be placed on providing technical advice and guidance to the Secretariat on ways to enhance laboratory capacity for long term monitoring of SOCAR parameters, as well as identifying how to increase LBS and SPAW interactions, specifically on issues such as sargassum and the impact of plastics on marine mammals.
63. The Chairperson noted that the OEWG represented the ideals of the Convention with respect to collaboration between Member States and inputs to products within the region. Mr. Headley reiterated the need for additional sub-groups to support the Parties and augment the work to ensure

that the objectives within the region were met. He then opened the floor for additional comments or questions.

64. Dr. Banjoo, RAC IMA representative, thanked the Secretariat for its extensive work and congratulated Ms. Adrian for the comprehensive work of the OEWG. He noted the need to advance the monitoring programme by introducing additional parameters and a harmonized methodology. He also recommended that revisions of the LBS Protocol and Annexes should ensure good environmental quality. He further encouraged the OEWG to raise awareness of the use of the Indicator of Coastal Eutrophication Potential (ICEP) and suggested that this could be a new parameter for future reports.
65. The delegate from Antigua and Barbuda commended the work of the OEWG and thanked the RAC IMA for their inputs. He added that the sub-group could provide guidance on the management of Sargassum and endorsed the use of Sargassum as a product, for example, as a biofuel. He expressed his interest in participating in future nutrient monitoring discussions and emphasized the need for improved data monitoring across the sub-region, to facilitate data availability and the revision of current data requirements to guide future SOCAR reports.
66. The delegate of Barbados highlighted that there would be financial challenges in implementing all aspects of the proposed new nutrient pollution reduction strategy including, for example, being able to monitor all point and non-point sources of nutrient pollution. He added that collaboration was required to mobilize financial and technical resources to implement more comprehensive national pollution monitoring programmes.
67. Mr. Anthony Headley, in his capacity as Head of Delegation for Barbados, endorsed the importance of financing monitoring programmes. He mentioned the need for the establishment of a working group or sub-group of the OEWG that could focus on emerging pollutants and the use of remote sensing for pollution monitoring.
68. Mr. Corbin commended Ms. Adrian, Chair of the OEWG, for her support and leadership of the group. He extended thanks to the Chairperson of the data sub-group, the delegate of Antigua and Barbuda and the other regional and national experts. He further noted that there were changes in focal points and persons who might have been nominated as members of the OEWG. He indicated that the Secretariat would confirm all nominations and welcomed the possible development of new sub-groups.
69. The Secretariat advised that there would be a specific presentation on the subject of nutrient pollution and an opportunity for more detailed discussions on the draft Regional Nutrient Pollution Reduction Strategy.
70. In response to the comment regarding the management of Sargassum, the Secretariat reminded delegates of the existence of a Working Group managed through the SPAW RAC and that the opportunity existed for close collaboration between pollution experts and marine bio-diversity experts through joint working group discussions.
71. The Secretariat welcomed recommendations to consider remote sensing in future discussions by the working group or through a sub-group and suggested that, subject to resource availability, a consultant could be engaged to develop an information paper to guide future discussions on this issue.

72. The Secretariat further supported the recommendation by the RAC IMA delegate to consider the inclusion of the ICEP indicator, especially as it was one of the indicators recommended for reporting on Sustainable Development Goal 14.
73. The Coordinator of the Secretariat expressed gratitude to the RACs for their excellent work over the biennium and highlighted the positive relationship forged between the RACs and Secretariat as a team. She commended Ms. Adrian for her leadership and support to the Secretariat and the Protocol and urged Contracting Parties to get involved in the work of the OEWG.
74. Ms. Adrian thanked everyone for their comments and recommendations, as well as the working group members for their support and efforts which contributed to the work of the Secretariat and to the region in general. She indicated that the OEWG had contributed to several tools and urged Contracting Parties to be more involved in the OEWG and possible new sub-groups. She further emphasized the need for capacity building within the group and mentioned the assistance received from experts within the US delegation who provided information, tools, and training. She informed the meeting of the working group's intent to facilitate training focused on nutrients and building the capacity of labs to efficiently monitor nutrient levels.
75. Ms. Adrian joined the Secretariat in recognizing the contribution of Dr. Christian, in his capacity as Chair of the data sub-group, for his contributions and support. She noted his influence in advancing the work of the SOCAR. She concluded by thanking everyone for their support and contributions.
76. The Chair reiterated the need for further collaboration with focal points and the OEWG. He added that focal points should engage volunteers, experts within academia and the private sector to allow greater representation throughout the working groups and sub-groups. This was endorsed by the delegate from Antigua and Barbuda.
77. On the matter of working groups and sub-groups, the Secretariat highlighted the importance of ongoing efforts to integrate work within the LBS and SPAW Sub-Programmes and welcomed the willingness of delegates and focal points to participate in future working group discussions.
78. The Chairperson invited the Gulf and Caribbean Fisheries Institute (GCFI) as co-host of the Caribbean Node on Marine Litter (GPML-Caribe) to present on the results of their work during the 2019-2020 biennium (**UNEP(DEPI)/CAR WG.41/INF.7**).

(d) Report from the Gulf and Caribbean Fisheries Institute

79. In her presentation on behalf of the Caribbean Node, Ms. Fadilah Ali, Assistant Executive Director of GCFI, highlighted the development of a new Marine Litter Strategy and projects on education, awareness, research, and plastics reduction activities at the local, national and regional levels. She concluded with an overview of new project proposals under development and the Node's future plans.
80. The Chairperson thanked Ms. Ali for the presentation and noted that GCFI's collaborative efforts had produced outstanding work. He then invited the Secretariat to make any additional contributions.
81. Mr. Corbin expressed his appreciation to the GCFI team for their support to the LBS Protocol and

the Cartagena Convention Secretariat. He informed the meeting of GCFI's work on pollution and highlighted the extent of work carried out to support the SPAW Protocol as well. He further added that the GCFI's readiness to host the Regional Node for Marine Litter offered a platform to better integrate the work of the LBS and SPAW Protocols on subjects such as Marine Protected Areas (MPAs) and marine litter management.

82. The Chairperson then invited the meeting to comment and/or seek additional clarification and make recommendations, as appropriate.
83. The Delegate of the USA, Ms. Adrian, commended the GCFI team for all the work done under the Caribbean Node for the GPML. She noted the importance of the institution within the region to offer support and facilitate synergies on marine litter management.
84. Ms. Adrian informed the meeting of the activities being executed by the United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) including their support to Trash Free International projects in Panama and Jamaica implemented through the Secretariat. She also noted the investment by the US of over 10 million USD to support activities to prevent trash from entering the Gulf of Mexico. She further expressed the willingness of the EPA to share best practices and lessons learnt from their experiences, as well as opportunities for upscaling and replication
85. Ms. Adrian also added that Costa Rica and Dominican Republic were being supported by the US EPA in the development of their National Marine Litter Action Plans.
86. She further mentioned the US Government's support towards the development of the GPML's global digital platform. She noted that this platform would enable collaborative work, improved access to information and improved practices both globally and within the region. Ms. Adrian added that the synergy between the USA and GPML-Caribe would strengthen the connection within the region and offer support for work on marine litter.
87. Dr. Banjoo commended the initiatives of the GCFI and noted the importance of youth engagement to enable a change in mindset towards marine litter. He enquired about capacity building initiatives for laboratories to monitor microplastics in the Caribbean and the issues surrounding sea-based marine plastic pollution, particularly where they were being released and the adequacy of reception facilities within the region.
88. The delegate from Antigua and Barbuda enquired about microplastics monitoring and how an indicator for microplastics might be considered in future SOCAR reports.
89. In relation to youth engagement, Ms. Ali mentioned that the Caribbean Youth Environment Network (CYEN) had partnered with the Regional Node and offered a mechanism for engaging youth in the region.
90. On the issue of microplastics, Ms. Ali provided examples of previous work with St. George's University in Grenada, that measured microplastic levels in commercial species of fish. She indicated that there were plans to continue to build capacity for microplastics monitoring noting that several organizations and countries such as Brazil, Mexico, Belize and INVEMAR had done such research.
91. Ms. Ali indicated that sea-based litter was priority action within the Marine Litter Management

Strategy and that there was a need to identify marine litter hotspots and sources of marine litter throughout the region. Remote sensing could be used to assist in such assessments.

92. Mr. Corbin expressed UNEP's interest in supporting microplastics research through the GPML. He added that a recent publication by the Joint Group of Scientific experts that provides advice to the UN system on scientific aspects of marine environmental protection (GESAMP) on microplastics monitoring and the development of a Methodology for Marine Litter Monitoring by the Regional Node, would contribute to a more harmonised approach for marine litter and microplastics monitoring. He further noted that marine plastics crosses the three transboundary issues of marine pollution, fisheries and marine biodiversity.
93. In response to the delegate of Antigua and Barbuda, Mr. Corbin mentioned that through the ACP MEA Project funded by the European Union (EU), there would be support to help Parties develop national action plans for marine litter management and implement community interventions. The funding would be provided as small grants and executed through the Regional Marine Litter Node.
94. The Chairperson thanked Ms. Ali for her presentation and commended her for the contributions in moving the work on marine litter forward within the region through effective stakeholder engagement at the grass-roots level.

Agenda item 6: Technical Information Papers

95. The Chairperson then invited the Secretariat to introduce the information papers for update, review, discussions and as appropriate, endorsement.

Regional Nutrients Strategy and Action Plan

96. Mr. Corbin presented the Draft Regional Nutrients Strategy and Action Plan and highlighted the significant contributions of the RACs, the partnership with the Universidad Federal de Pará in Brazil and the funding support of the UNDP GEF CLME+ Project. He noted that it was critical for the region to address the impacts of pollution from excess nutrients, noting its multiple sources (agro-chemical runoffs, sewage etc.) and impacts on human welfare and socio-economic development
97. He outlined the aim of the proposed strategy to establish a framework to reduce impacts of excessive nutrient loads within the region, with specific objectives such as: defining specific criteria, supporting institutional policies and legal reforms, contributing to relevant regional and global commitments, contributing to the operationalization of the Caribbean platform for nutrients management and the UN Global Campaign on Sustainable Nitrogen management.
98. Mr. Corbin informed the meeting of the processes for the development of the strategy which included a leadership role by the LBS RACs and extensive consultation with LBS focal points, the OEWG on Monitoring and Assessment, as well as regional and global experts.
99. Mr Corbin highlighted the range of regional and global agreements and initiatives relating to pollution that the strategy would support.
100. He also outlined the main sources of nutrients pollution from land use, increased urbanization and cruise tourism. Discharges from fertilizers, domestic waste and sewage loads were reflected as

incidence of eutrophication, harmful algal blooms, hypoxia, and an exacerbated impact of pelagic Sargassum blooms.

101. He mentioned that in addressing nutrient pollution, all sources including marine-based and atmospheric discharge contributions must be considered, noting the importance of transboundary cooperation. He alluded to further collaborations with the International Maritime Organisation and RAC-REMPEITC to enable a more integrated approach. On the issue of Sargassum, Mr. Corbin mentioned the need for further analyses within the region to explore the linkages between the influx in Sargassum blooms and nutrient enrichment.
102. The nine strategic pillars for the Strategy focusing on sources of nutrients, ecological impacts, socio-economic consequences and enabling conditions were presented. In addition, an outline was provided on a proposed implementation and monitoring framework that included baselines, targets, and indicators. He noted that no new targets or indicators were proposed and the Strategy reflected already agreed targets and indicators, while others would need to be developed and approved by Parties.
103. Mr. Corbin concluded by indicating that an Annex to the Strategy provided Contracting Parties with a compendium of best management practices and a series of recommendations for consideration.
104. The Chairperson thanked the Secretariat for the presentation and for highlighting the linkages with other international and regional processes. He added that the Nutrients Strategy was aligned with discussions at the recent Forum of Ministers of Environment of Latin America and the Caribbean and the resulting Bridgetown Declaration.
105. Ms. Adrian, delegate of the USA, thanked the Secretariat, RACs and consultants for their work and the proposed recommendations. She noted that work on nutrient pollution in the region had been understated, and as such it was an important time to look at how it could be addressed. She added that the US was prepared to offer support for the Strategy and its implementation. However, she requested additional time to share with colleagues at US EPA (hypoxia task force) to enable a more comprehensive review and feedback. She added that having the right lab capacity and accurate data was important. It was recommended to prioritize the monitoring and assessment of data collection, noting that in the past some countries did not have national programmes for monitoring and assessment but had other sources of data through universities and labs. It was suggested that in the absence of a national programme, the data obtained from other sources could be used in reports such as SOCAR and the Nutrients Strategy.
106. Mr. Headley, Delegate of Barbados, endorsed the proposal for additional time to review and provide comments on the Draft Strategy.
107. The Delegate of Antigua and Barbuda acknowledged the diligent work that enabled the development of the Strategy. He noted that discussions and recommendations on the engagement of key stakeholders was an important area to consider with regard to implementation. He provided an example of the agricultural sector and the importance of collaboration with the national pesticide authorities and agencies such as the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) in order to consider issues such as national regulation of fertilizers and identifying appropriate alternatives. He added that the tourism sector was a significant stakeholder that could provide funding for research and the University of the West Indies could assist with scientific research. The proposal for additional time

to review the Strategy was endorsed and recommendations shared were also supported.

108. The Delegate of Barbados, Mr. Headley endorsed the additional time to consult with key stakeholders. He added that data quality and sharing of data would benefit from improved quality data sets. The issues associated with data sharing could be rectified by a regional information management plan or policy to help Contracting Parties determine how the data would be used and the associated restrictions, to help with the development of this Strategy and future SOCAR reports.
109. The Secretariat thanked the delegates for their comments and encouraged them provide additional comments on the Strategy which would be incorporated into the current draft for presentation at the 5th LBS COP.
110. The Chairperson added that the Strategy was a significant step for the region, broadening the focus of pollution from mainly sewage to discussing additional non-point sources of nutrient pollution to the Caribbean Sea and the Convention Area.

Draft Strategy for the Cartagena Convention Secretariat

111. Mr. Corbin gave an overview of the progress made in updating the new Strategy for the Cartagena Convention Secretariat and how it would form a new framework for the Secretariat moving forward. The final draft of the Strategy would be presented to the 16th Conference of Parties to the Cartagena Convention for formal adoption.
112. The Chairperson thanked Mr. Corbin for his presentation and noted that it provided context on the Secretariat's contributions to regional development. He added that the updated strategy allowed greater harmony in the work of the Parties. The floor was then opened to the Parties for comments, observations and feedback.
113. Ms. Adrian noted the significant effort to further develop the strategy and expressed her appreciation to the Secretariat. She noted the importance of having valid data to support the implementation of the strategy. She further added that countries should prioritise the establishment of good monitoring and assessment programmes to have the right data and information to implement the strategy and move the region forward. She expressed the support of US to the strategy and welcomed the opportunity to provide feedback.
114. The observer representative from the CARPHA, Mr. Curtis, welcomed the development of the strategy and noted several opportunities for further collaboration with their programme.
115. The Secretariat thanked Mr. Curtis for his comments and welcomed the contributions of all partners within the region, noting that the focus of the strategy on collaboration with regional partners to support the overall mandate of the Cartagena Convention.
116. Dr. Banjoo, focal point of Trinidad and Tobago and RAC IMA representative, thanked the Secretariat for the overview on the CEP Strategy. He indicated that greater collaboration could be facilitated between the LBS and Oil Spill Protocols on the monitoring of oil spills within the region. He referenced the recent partnership between RAC IMA and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) for training in satellite oil spill detection. He noted the need for coordination between RAC IMA and RAC REMPETIC on possible capacity building initiatives

on oil spill monitoring and response.

117. The Chairperson thanked Dr. Banjoo for his intervention and noted that historically oil spills were tracked by observation and that the prospect of using satellite and remote sensing technologies provided an additional tool in environmental monitoring and emergency response mechanisms. He suggested that a transboundary simulation exercise be conducted within the region.
118. Mr. Hinds, one of the delegates from Barbados, commended the Secretariat on the CEP Strategy and noted that he was pleased with its attention on sustainable ocean-based economies. He informed the meeting of the efforts of the Ministry of Maritime Affairs and the Blue Economy of Barbados to develop an action plan for the implementation of the blue economy, noting that it also complemented the updated CEP Strategy.
119. The Secretariat thanked the Contracting Parties for their inputs on the strategy and noted that the consultants would be incorporating their comments and recommendations in the respective technical documents.
120. The Chairperson added that the document reflected high quality work by the Secretariat, and responded to the needs of Contracting Parties. He further urged the Contracting Parties to review the updated Strategy and ensure that all development needs were captured and reminded them to provide additional comments to improve the document before presentation to the COP for final adoption.

Nutrient Discharge Standards

121. The Secretariat then presented an update on the development of the technical paper on Nutrient Discharge Standards. Mr. Corbin informed the Parties that while the final paper was not yet completed, he would present an overview of the initial findings and recommendations that would be further discussed during the LBS COP.
122. The context for the development of these standards was provided and the importance of such standards, particularly in relation to the management of domestic wastewater discharges.
123. The Chairperson thanked the Secretariat for the presentation and endorsed the need for synergies between the LBS and SPAW Working Groups to effectively preserve ecosystems. He then opened the floor for questions or comments.
124. The Delegate from Antigua and Barbuda commended the Secretariat on the presentation and expressed his support of having Contracting Parties review quantitative standards. He added national legislation specific to specific parameters under the LBS Protocol existed in most countries. Further discussions of the OEWG should focus on non-point sources as they would be better placed to review and comment on the technical paper relating to nutrients discharge standards.
125. The representative of RAC CIMAB, Ms. Perez fully supported the Nutrients Strategy and endorsed the proposed recommendations. She added that the support from focal points across the region towards the strategy would ensure that results were accepted, effective and inclusive. She acknowledged that there were many challenges surrounding implementation, including questions to be addressed and as such, the support of the focal points would be particularly important.

126. With regard to the Barbados Case Study, the Delegate of Barbados, Mr. Headley, pointed out that the development of the Water Reuse Strategy started in 2008 and was only recently approved in 2018. He noted that this was a substantial period for negotiations and referenced the comment made by the USA delegate regarding the need for quality data. He added that Barbados had benefitted from substantive research on groundwater and groundwater flows inter alia, from a database established in 1987 that provided the baseline. He indicated that the aim was to have the overall policy aligned with the national programmes of Barbados. He advised the Secretariat to commence stakeholder negotiations/mapping early to avoid setbacks and underscored the importance of communication throughout this process. The Secretariat was then invited to present on the technical paper on freshwater resource management.
127. The Secretariat thanked the delegates for their comments and guidance, noting that the work on nutrients discharge standards and freshwater management were both funded through the GEF CReW+ Project.

Freshwater Resource Management

128. Mr. Corbin began by indicating that this work was based on feedback from Contracting Parties on the need to reinforce Integrated Water Resource Management (IWRM) within the framework of the LBS Protocol and the Cartagena Convention.
129. Mr. Corbin presented the principles for the proposed IWRM approach which included ecosystem management, sustainable consumption, science policy and health for all. The key areas of focus identified were water governance, water for environment, planning for integrated approaches, sustainable financial mechanisms and information and knowledge management.
130. The information document outlined a possible conceptual framework for how the Secretariat could approach the issue of IWRM in the future and how best it could support Contracting Parties in the implementation of IWRM Plans and Roadmaps.
131. He noted that the Secretariat recognized the need for collaboration with other regional agencies with a mandate for water resource management and disaster risk reduction and proposed a model that encouraged full stakeholder implementation.
132. Mr Corbin concluded with suggested recommendations and proposals on how the document could serve as a basis for work by the OEWG moving forward
133. The Chairperson commended the Secretariat on the presentation that highlighted interlinkages between the marine environment and integrated water resources and the importance of IWRM for the region. He added that in Barbados, with the new Groundwater Protection and Zoning Policy, it was advocated that the policy should reflect the protection of groundwater and must recognize the protection of the marine environment. He then opened the floor for questions and comments.
134. The Delegate of the USA, Ms. Adrian, thanked Mr. Corbin for the presentation and endorsed the importance of the topic within the region. She enquired about the gaps and challenges from previous IWRM programmes, projects and activities which would enable to Secretariat to be more focused in terms of priorities. The delegate supported the convening of a sub-group and recommended that lessons learned or any other relevant inputs should be compiled to guide the

work of this sub-group moving forward.

135. The Chairperson encouraged Contracting Parties to provide feedback on the recommendation to form sub-groups to explore the barriers/gaps associated with IWRM implementation.
136. The delegate of Honduras, Carlos Thompson, thanked the Secretariat for providing clarity on the topic and supported the focus of an integrated approach, endorsing the creation of a sub-group to discuss IWRM within the region.
137. The Delegate of Barbados, Mr Headley, fully endorsed the creation of a sub-group and suggested that volunteers with the expertise or historical experience in the subject matter should chair this sub-group, which would further inform the work of the Secretariat.
138. The Coordinator for the Secretariat informed the meeting of a symposium which was being held in Trinidad and Tobago on integrated water resources, the outputs from which could inform the sub-group discussions. She encouraged the participation of Trinidad and Tobago and other Contracting Parties involved in IWRM to support the work of this new sub-group.
139. Dr. Banjoo thanked Dr. Inniss for highlighting the work of Trinidad and Tobago. He noted that the IMA was participating in the symposium based on the work of RAC IMA on the ecosystem-based management project. He endorsed the proposal to form working groups and suggested the participation of Contracting Parties from the water sector so as to inform representatives at the political level of the state of the integrated water resource management within each country.
140. The Chairperson thanked Trinidad and Tobago for their intervention and noted that their recommendation would be very useful in advancing work on IWRM in the region.
141. In response to the intervention of the USA regarding challenges faced with IWRM, Mr. Corbin explained that these questions were also examined by the consultant. Examples of best practices were compiled and the achievements of countries that had already advanced in the implementation of the policies were highlighted. He added that factors which enabled the success of these countries and the root cause for the lack of stakeholder buy-in at a national level in other countries needed to be examined.

National Reporting Template on the Cartagena Convention and its Protocols

142. The Secretariat delivered a presentation on efforts made to update the national reporting template for the Cartagena Convention based on previous STAC Recommendations and COP Decisions, including the development of an online version and the incorporation of more specific questions relevant to the SOCAR report.
143. Mr. Corbin further added that the Secretariat has provided an opportunity for Contracting Parties to share examples of best practices, lessons learned or case studies relating to the Cartagena Convention via the online template. This would create a repository of information through the website that other Contracting Parties could access.
144. The Chairperson thanked Mr. Corbin for the presentation and commended him for highlighting the areas where suggestions for change by the Contracting Parties had been actioned. He then opened the floor to the delegates for comments and/ or endorsement of the document to be presented at the next Cartagena Convention COP for adoption.

145. Ms. Adrian, Delegate of the USA, thanked Mr. Corbin for the presentation noting that the template had improved tremendously and added that it was good to review and adapt the template over time, to allow improved data capture. She commended the Secretariat for the additional questions relating to SOCAR and suggested additional questions could be included to capture information on the level of access to data sources such as laboratories and universities.
146. The Chairperson thanked Ms. Adrian for her intervention. He noted the usefulness of the internet-based template as an effective tool to enable cooperation across the region, offering additional opportunities for data analytics. He further welcomed comments from the Secretariat and encouraged the Parties to submit their recommendations.

Agenda item 7: Draft AMEP Work Plan and Budget for the 2021-2022 biennium

147. The Secretariat was invited to present the Draft AMEP Work Plan and Budget the 2021- 2022 biennium as contained in document **UNEP(DEPI)CAR WG.41/3**. The two LBS RACs would also present their Draft 6-year Strategy and Work Plan as contained in document **UNEP(DEPI)CAR WG.41/4a and 4b**.
148. Mr. Corbin outlined that the draft work plan was prepared based on verbal and written inputs received from projects, governments, organizations, and Working Groups and from the two LBS RACs.
149. The Secretariat highlighted a new approach in the presentation of the work plan and the inclusion of specific objectives, indicators, and targets, as recommended by Contracting Parties. This would allow more effective monitoring and evaluation of the impacts of the Secretariat's work. The new approach would also enable Parties to understand how all the projects and activities directly support the obligations of the Convention and in particular the LBS Protocol.
150. Mr. Corbin highlighted the ongoing financial challenges facing the Secretariat and the dependence on external funding for all the major projects and activities. He added that due to the level of contributions, funding for the 6th LBS STAC and COP had not been secured from the Caribbean Trust Fund (CTF). The meeting was also informed of several unfunded projects and activities noting that the Secretariat would work to mobilize funding to address this shortfall.
151. Ms. Pérez Hernández, the RAC CIMAB representative, presented an outline of the Draft Strategy for RAC CIMBA for the period 2021-2030 including a mission, vision, guidelines, and strategic objectives. She pointed out the links of their approach to the strategic objectives of the Secretariat for the period 2021 - 2030. She also presented CIMAB's Strategy for the period 2020 - 2023 and the pillars, objectives and indicators of the Draft Regional Nutrients Pollution Reduction Strategy and Action Plan.
152. Ms. Pérez emphasized ways in which RAC CIMAB could help Contracting Parties to develop national projects and activities in support of ratification and/or compliance with obligations of the LBS Protocol. She concluded by inviting further comments and recommendations from delegates on their Strategy and the proposed approach.
153. The Acting Deputy Director of RAC IMA, Dr. Banjoo, presented a similar long-term strategy. He presented the vision and mission of the IMA and added that the RAC IMA strategic plan for 2019-2024 was guided by the Government of Trinidad and Tobago's 2030 Sustainable

Development Agenda (Vision 2030), specifically Theme IV - *Building Globally Competitive Businesses* and Theme V - *Placing the Environment at the Centre of Social and Economic*. Their strategic plan was also aligned with the updated 2021-2030 CEP Strategy for the period 2021 – 2030. He also provided an outline of some of the financial challenges they were also facing and how best they could be involved in future projects and activities. Dr. Banjoo then invited inputs from the Contracting Parties on the further development of projects and activities for the biennial work plan.

154. The Chairperson welcomed the different approach in the presentation of the work plan according to themes and noted the alignment of work with the SDGs and requirements of the LBS Protocol. He endorsed the comment from RAC CIMAB that language should not be a barrier within our region for cooperation and welcomed the Strategies of both LBS RACs and the technical areas that they could both support. He further noted that unfunded projects provide opportunities for regional and external donor partners and the private sector, to improve collaboration and ensure sustainable development at all levels including at community level. The floor was then opened for comments and questions.
155. The delegate of the USA, Ms. Adrian thanked Mr. Corbin and the RAC representatives for their presentations. She endorsed the detailed work plan presented and expressed appreciation for including recommendations from the last COP. The Secretariat was commended for the collaborative approach in the development of the document, allowing Contracting Parties the opportunity to provide input. On the topic of the Trust Fund, she encouraged focal points to share their work plans with decision-makers to highlight the work of the Secretariat. She noted that it would be good to prioritize unfunded activities and suggested the development of an online database for Parties to see the progress in projects and activities. Future work programmes could use this database to access information on previous projects, share best practices and monitor the work of the programme.
156. In relation to the Cartagena Convention reporting template and additional questions, the Chairperson suggested that it would be ideal if information submitted by Contracted Parties could be collated and used to help inform decision making. He also recognized the suggestion by the USA delegate to use the tool to monitor the progress of the Secretariat's work.
157. The delegate of Barbados, Mr. Hinds queried the possibility of including a field in the reporting template for the Secretariat to have an indication of the status of contribution of each country.
158. The Chairperson in response to Mr. Hinds, noted that the trust fund is a voluntary fund. he also pointed out that timing would be a factor as the report would be submitted every 2 years, while contributions were being made annually thus affecting the validity of the information. He indicated that the template might not be most appropriate mechanism to achieve this information.
159. The Secretariat welcomed the suggestion of having a database that could be used as a monitoring tool to track work progress but also to highlight the gaps thus, attracting potential donor funding. Contracting Parties were further encouraged to use the RACs as a resource to support their own work.
160. The Chair as Head of Delegation for Barbados, noted that output-based indicators were predominantly used in the draft Work Plan and Budget and recommended the development of performance-based or process-based indicators. These could be used to help promote the work of the Secretariat and make stronger arguments specifically on environmental improvements.
161. The delegate of Antigua and Barbuda recognized the work of the Secretariat in light of the reduction in financial contributions from Contracting Parties. He expressed appreciation to the Governments of Cuba and Trinidad and Tobago for hosting the LBS RACs and saw an

- opportunity for their greater support to Contracting Parties. He then endorsed the work plan as presented and committed to support its implementation.
162. Dr. Inniss indicated that further discussions on funding would take place at the Cartagena Convention COP and that a functional review of the Secretariat supported by UNEP HQ would shortly begin.
 163. The Chairperson, as Head of Delegation for Barbados, explained that the work of the Secretariat had directly informed national policy decisions in Barbados, thus contributing to national developments objectives. He further noted the central role of the Secretariat in supporting countries to achieve the SDGs and the Post 2020 Global Biodiversity Framework.
 164. The delegate of the USA, Ms. Adrian recognized that the support to Contracting Parties and to the region through donor funded projects and activities was because of the Secretariat's work and coordination. It was therefore important for delegates to inform their respective governments about the benefits from the work of the Secretariat. She added that Parties should try to see how they can contribute more and continue to benefit from donor projects.
 165. Mr. Corbin indicated that the Secretariat ongoing work with a graphic artist to develop communications products and an anniversary video highlighting the work of the Secretariat, for which focal points would be invited to provide feedback.
 166. The Chairperson recommended to the Secretariat that in developing communication products the relevance of the Secretariat's work to the average person on the ground should be demonstrated, and that country briefs should highlight the benefit-contribution ratio. He further welcomed all comments from Parties, expert agencies and project partners.
 167. The delegate from Antigua and Barbuda recommended that synergies be promoted with other relevant Multilateral Environmental Agreements, such as those within the chemicals cluster. This was supported by the Head of Delegation from Barbados, who mentioned the importance of linkages with the agricultural sector and the One Health approach.
 168. Several delegates requested clarification about the timeline to review the draft work plan as well as other technical papers presented to the STAC.
 169. The Secretariat acknowledged all recommendations and comments made. In relation to the development of performance-based and/or process indicators, the Secretariat endorsed their importance and advised that these might be best considered within the overall CEP Strategy. The Secretariat further proposed a deadline of 30th April 2021 for Contracting Parties to provide comments on the work plan and technical documents, as well as indicate priorities for unfunded projects and activities.

Agenda item 8: Any Other Business

170. Mr. Corbin informed the meeting that the UNEP Global Programme of Action (GPA) was requesting that Contracting Parties complete a survey regarding the development and implementation of national plans of action for pollution reduction. He advised the Parties that the Secretariat was asked to share the request with LBS focal points and assist with compiling the information.
 - (a) **CLME+ Project**
171. Mr. Patrick Debels, Regional Coordinator of the UNDP GEF CLME+ Project briefly outlined the history of the CLME+ initiative, starting with the first GEF-supported CLME Project (2009-2014)

- to assist the region in the development and political endorsement of a 10-year integrated Strategic Action Programme on the Marine Environment (the “CLME+ SAP”, 2015-2024). The implementation of this SAP was then catalyzed during its first 5 years by the CLME+ Project (2015-2021). The CLME+ Project created the Interim Coordination Mechanism for Ocean Governance among 8 Intergovernmental Organizations, including the Secretariat, and facilitated regional negotiations which would soon lead to the operationalization of a long-term Ocean Coordination Mechanism.
172. At the same time, the project has promoted integrated reporting on the marine environment in the region, introducing the concept of a “SOMEE” - State of the Marine Environment and associated Economics- reporting mechanism, and for which the State of the Convention Area (SOCAR) report would be an important building block. As such, the CLME+ Project supported the development of the first-ever LBS SOCAR by the Secretariat. The baseline obtained from this assessment informed the development of the “Regional Strategy and Action Plan for the reduction of the influx of Nutrients into the Marine Environment” also with financial support from the Project.
 173. Mr. Debels further added that work had been undertaken with the countries and IGO’s from the region towards the development, and forthcoming submission to the GEF for financing under the GEF International Waters Focal Area, of a new 5-year UNDP/GEF regional proposal, called “PROCARIBE+”. PROCARIBE+ will enable the operationalizations of the Ocean Coordination Mechanism and of wider-ranging ocean-partnerships, involving all sectors of society, to “protect, restore and harness the region’s natural marine capital to support post-COVID-19 recovery, enhanced climate resilience and sustainable socio-economic development (blue economies)”. PROCARIBE+ would help to build a marine data and knowledge infrastructure underpinning work on marine spatial planning, ocean conservation (through MPA’s and OECMs), the source-to-sea approach, nature-based solutions for pollution, sustainable fisheries, and the mainstreaming of marine and coastal natural capital for blue economy development and climate change mitigation and adaptation.
 174. The new proposed project would be highly supportive of the objectives of the Convention, and of the LBS and SPAW Protocols. Prompt mobilization of these new funds, and the continued engagement of the Convention Secretariat and countries from the region would be critical to maintain the important momentum created through the CLME+ initiative thus far.
 175. The Chairperson thanked Mr. Debels for the presentation and highlighted synergies between the project and the LBS Protocol, particularly in data management and knowledge management, with clear overlaps between the SPAW and LBS Protocols.
 176. In noting his concerns regarding the PROCARIBE+ Project, the delegate of Barbados, Mr. Hinds highlighted the overlap of the mandates of the Protocols on Marine Pollution and Marine Biodiversity with the objectives of PROCARIBE+, and suggested that the coordinating mechanisms might be best integrated within the Cartagena Convention Secretariat. He noted the compressed timelines for endorsing the new project proposal and sought clarification on the possible streamlining and integration of this project within the framework of the Cartagena Convention Secretariat.
 177. In response to Mr. Hinds, Mr. Debels noted that the proposal for the coordination mechanism was discussed extensively including through meetings with the CLME+ Project Steering Committee to SOMEE to avoid duplication of efforts. Mr. Debels explained that the coordination mechanism and the new project were in fact complementary to the work of the Cartagena Convention Secretariat as outlined in the new proposed Memorandum of Understanding. He added that the project team was conscious of the mandate of existing Inter-Government Organisations (IGOs)

- and the need for financial mainstreaming. He also added that opportunities were provided for countries and IGOs to help ensure that these objectives were achieved. He noted that discussions were being held on the long-term solutions surrounding the coordination mechanism.
178. The Chairperson urged the Contracting Parties to provide their opinions or guidance to the Secretariat to ensure that the needs of the region were being met in a holistic manner thus reducing duplication.
179. Dr. Banjoo thanked the GEF CLME+ representative for the extensive overview of the project noting that synergies with the CEP Strategy could bring forth a mechanism of funding for the Secretariat. He further enquired if there was focus on marine-based pollution.
180. In response to Dr. Banjoo's enquiry, Mr. Debels explained that the possibility existed to focus on such an effort, however, it was not explicitly explained within the Project Concept (PIF). The full project proposal could consider the incorporation of activities focused on marine-based pollution. He added that opportunities would be provided through other projects and it would be best to not spread the limited resources too widely to ensure the project achieves its intended impacts.
181. Mr. Corbin in response to the delegates from Barbados and Trinidad and Tobago, noted that the Secretariat was able to maximize funding from the CLME+ Project to support the two Protocols. He acknowledged the suggestion by delegates for the Secretariat to host a mechanism or execute an activity. He alluded to the recommendations presented by the CLME+ Project and urged the delegates to consider how best the project can impact their national objectives. He added that some of the recommendations could be presented to the COP and reiterated that the Secretariat would remain actively involved and liaise with regional partners to identify how the project could support both the LBS and SPAW work programmes.
182. The Chairperson endorsed the recommendations made by the Secretariat to the Contracting Parties and further expressed his gratitude for the quality of work received through the CLME+ Project.
183. The Chairperson then invited the participants of the Meeting to raise any other issues not covered by the preceding agenda items, but relevant to the scope of the Meeting
184. No issues were raised by the Contracting Parties. Mr. Corbin invited member governments to consider the possibility of hosting upcoming IGMs through dialogue with other colleagues at a national level and share their expressions of interest in hosting the STACs and/ or COPs. He added that this would be beneficial for COP meetings and help to support the associated financial costs.

Agenda item 9: Adoption of the Recommendations of the Meeting

185. The Chairperson invited the Rapporteur of the Meeting to present the draft Recommendations of the Meeting (UNEP(DEPI)/CAR WG.41/5).
186. Ms. Adrian, Rapporteur, gave an overview of the three-day virtual meeting.
187. The Draft Recommendations were presented by Ms. Adrian. The Recommendations were reviewed, discussed, and amended during the Meeting. The revised Recommendations will be sent to the Contracting Parties and other relevant agencies, experts and RACs to provide further inputs. The draft Recommendations approved by the 5th LBS STAC will be submitted to the 5th LBS CoP for formal adoption.

188. The Meeting was invited to adopt the recommendations, with amendments and corrections to be introduced in the draft, as appropriate.

Agenda item 10: Closure of the Meeting

189. The Chairperson, Mr. Headley, thanked the Rapporteur for the report of the meeting and commended her for her guidance during the review of the recommendations. He then invited Secretariat to facilitate the closure of the meeting.
190. Mr. Corbin thanked the Chairperson-Mr. Headley, the Rapporteur- Ms. Adrian and the Vice Chairperson- Mr. Espinosa for proficiently guiding the proceedings of the meeting. He also thanked the support staff of the Secretariat and further expressed his sincerest appreciation to the Contracting Parties for their commitment, recommendations, and their level of interaction over the period. He further thanked the partner agencies and projects that made presentations and contributed to the work plan, noting that without them, most activities would not be possible. In conclusion, he thanked the technical team and interpreters for their patience and hard work throughout the meeting.
191. The Chairperson endorsed the comments of the Secretariat and expressed his gratitude to Contracting Parties for allowing Barbados to chair the sessions. He further thanked the Secretariat for their tremendous work in preparing for the meeting and for the support during the sessions. In concluding, he thanked the agencies that presented tools to inform decision-making within the region and congratulated all presenters on a job well done.
192. The meeting concluded at 11:00 a.m. on Wednesday 17th March 2021.

Annex I: PROVISIONAL AGENDA

1. Opening of the Meeting
2. Election of Officers
3. Organization of the Meeting
 - 3.1 Rules of Procedure
 - 3.2 Organization of Work
4. Adoption of the Agenda
5. Review of the AMEP Sub-Programme Activities, Recommendations and Decisions for the 2019-2020 biennium
6. Review of Information Papers
7. Draft Work Plan and Budget for the AMEP Sub-Programme for the 2021-2022 biennium
8. Other Business
9. Adoption of the Recommendations of the Meeting
10. Closure of the Meeting

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.

Annex II: PROVISIONAL LIST OF DOCUMENTS

Working Documents

Symbol	Title	Agenda Item
UNEP(DEPI)/CAR WG.41/1	Provisional Agenda	
UNEP(DEPI)/CAR WG.41/2	Provisional Annotated Agenda	
UNEP(DEPI)/CAR WG.41/3	Draft Work Plan and Budget for the Sub-Programme on the Assessment and Management of Environmental Pollution (AMEP) for 2021-2022	
UNEP(DEPI)/CAR WG.41/4a	Dra ft Strategy and Work Plan for LBS RAC IMA	
UNEP(DEPI)/CAR WG.41/4b	Dra ft Strategy and Work Plan for LBS RAC CIMAB	
UNEP(DEPI)/CAR WG.41/5	<i>Recommendations of the Fifth Meeting of the Scientific, Technical and Advisory Committee (STAC) to the Protocol Concerning Pollution from Land-Based Sources and Activities (LBS Protocol) in the Wider Caribbean Region (to be prepared during the meeting)</i>	
UNEP(DEPI)/CAR WG.41/6	<i>Report of the Fifth Meeting of the Scientific, Technical and Advisory Committee (STAC) to the Protocol Concerning Pollution from Land-Based Sources and Activities in the Wider Caribbean (to be prepared after the meeting)</i>	

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Information Documents

Symbol	Title	Agenda Item
	Information Note for Participants	
UNEP(DEPI)/CAR WG.41/INF.1	Provisional list of documents	
UNEP(DEPI)/CAR WG.41/INF.2	List of participants	
UNEP(DEPI)/CAR WG.41/INF.3	Status of Ratification of the LBS Protocol	
UNEP(DEPI)/CAR WG.41/INF.4	Status of Activities for the Sub-Programme on the Assessment and Management of Environmental Pollution (AMEP) for 2019-2020	
UNEP(DEPI)/CAR WG.41/INF.5	Report of Activities for the LBS Regional Activity Centres - IMA (Trinidad and Tobago) and CIMAB (Cuba) for 2019-2020	
UNEP(DEPI)/CAR WG.41/INF.6	Report of the Ad-Hoc Open-Ended Working Group on Environmental Monitoring and Assessment 2019- 2020	
UNEP(DEPI)/CAR WG.41/INF.7	Report on the work on the Caribbean Node for Marine Litter Management (2019-2020)	
UNEP(DEPI)/CAR WG.41/INF.8	State of the Convention Area (SOCAR) Report for the Wider Caribbean Region	
UNEP(DEPI)/CAR WG.41/INF.9	Summary of Water Quality Parameters for developing national recreational water quality monitoring programmes.	
UNEP(DEPI)/CAR WG.41/INF.10	Regional Nutrients Reduction Strategy and Action Plan	
UNEP(DEPI)/CAR WG.41/INF.11	GEF Caribbean Large Marine Ecosystem (CLME+) Project – Final Report	
UNEP(DEPI)/CAR WG.41/INF.12	Collaborative Development and Institutionalization of A Regional Integrated SOMEER Reporting Mechanism and Its Contributions to Socio-Economic Development in The Wider Caribbean Region: An Update	
UNEP(DEPI)/CAR WG.41/INF.13	Regional Spatial Data Infrastructure Coordination and Collaboration Supporting Integrated Ocean Governance in the Caribbean and North Brazil Shelf Large Marine Ecosystems	

UNEP(DEPI)/CAR WG.41/INF.14	Integrated Large-Scale Action on Habitat Restoration and Pollution in the CLME+ Region: A Baseline and Feasibility Assessment Report on the Needs and Opportunities for Investment.
UNEP(DEPI)/CAR WG.41/INF.15	GEF CReW+ Project Inception Workshop Draft Report
UNEP(DEPI)/CAR WG.41/INF.16	Report on the Trash Free Waters Partnership as part of the US EPA-UNEP Cooperation on Global Environmental Programs 2015-2020
UNEP(DEPI)/CAR WG.41/INF.17	GEF CReW+ Project Steering Committee Draft Report
UNEP(DEPI) CAR WG.41/INF.18	Compendium of case studies on solid waste management
UNEP(DEPI) CAR WG.41/INF.19	Draft Regional Marine Litter Strategy for GPML-Caribe
UNEP(DEPI)/CAR WG.41/INF.20	Project Document – Upscaling and enhancing the experience of the Caribbean Regional Fund for Wastewater Management to the Wider Caribbean promoting through an integrated approach of innovative technical solutions and financing mechanisms (GEF CReW+)
UNEP(DEPI) CAR WG.41/INF.21	Regional Project Proposal for Plastics Management in Caribbean SIDS.
UNEP(DEPI) CAR WG.41/INF.22	Draft Strategy for the Caribbean Environment Programme
UNEP(DEPI) CAR WG.41/INF.23	Technical Paper on proposed criteria for Nutrients discharge criteria for domestic wastewater effluent
UNEP(DEPI) CAR WG.41/INF.24	Technical Paper on incorporation of freshwater issues into the LBS Protocol
UNEP(DEPI) CAR WG.41/INF.25	Revised Template for National Reporting on the Cartagena Convention and its Protocols
UNEP(DEPI) CAR WG.41/INF.26	Mid Term Review for the Integrating Water, Land and Ecosystems Management in Caribbean Small Island Developing States (IWEco) Project
UNEP(DEPI) CAR WG.41/INF.27	Summary of Pollution Parameters, Cut Values and Acceptable Ranges for reporting on the State of Marine Pollution in the Wider Caribbean Region
UNEP(DEPI) CAR WG.41/INF.28	Project proposal concepts for Nutrients Reduction
UNEP(DEPI)/CAR WG.39/5	Report of the Fourth Meeting of the Scientific and Technical Advisory Committee (STAC) to the Protocol Concerning Pollution from Land-Based Sources and Activities. Panama City, Panama, 18-20 July 2018.

UNEP(DEPI)/CAR WG.39/3	Work Plan and Budget for the Caribbean Environment Programme for 2019-2020 biennium
UNEP(DEPI)/CAR IG.42/7	Report of the Fifteenth 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.
UNEP(DEPI)/CAR IG.41/3	Decisions of the Fourth Meeting of the Contracting Parties to the Protocol Concerning Pollution from Land-Based Sources and Activities (LBS) in the Wider Caribbean Region. Roatán, Honduras, 4 June 2019.
UNEP(DEPI)/CAR IG.41/4	Report of the Fourth Meeting of the Contracting Parties to the Protocol Concerning Pollution from Land-Based Sources and Activities (LBS) in the Wider Caribbean Region.
UNEP(DEPI)/CAR WG.39/INF.8 Rev.1	Report on the status of Styrofoam and Plastic Bag Bans in the Wider Caribbean Region (2020).
UNEP(DEPI)/CAR IG.41/INF.5	GEF Caribbean Large Marine Ecosystem+ Research Strategy.
UNEP, 2018	Caribbean Waste Management Regional Action Plan
UNEP(DEPI)/CAR IG.42/6	Eighteenth Intergovernmental Meeting on the Action Plan for the Caribbean Environment Programme and Fifteenth Meeting of the Contracting Parties to the Convention for the Protection and Development of the Marine Environment of the Wider Caribbean Region.

Reference Documents

Symbol	Title	Agenda Item
UNEP, 2021	Directory of Focal Points of the Caribbean Environment Programme	
UNEP, 2012	Convention for the Protection and Development of the Marine Environment of the Wider Caribbean Region, Protocol Concerning Cooperation in Combating Oil Spills, Protocol Concerning Specially Protected Areas and Wildlife and the Protocol Concerning Pollution from Land-Based Sources and Activities.	
UNEP, 1999	Final Act of the Conference of Plenipotentiaries to Adopt the Protocol Concerning Pollution from Land-Based Sources and Activities in the Wider Caribbean Region	
UNEP, 2010	Rules of Procedure for the Meetings of the Convention for the Protection and Development of the Marine Environment of the Wider Caribbean Region (Cartagena Convention)	
UNEP, 2010	Financial Rules for the Cartagena Convention, its Caribbean Environment Programme and Terms of Reference for the Caribbean Trust Fund.	

UNEP(DEPI)/CAR IG.36CRP.1	Amendment to the Financial Rules for the Cartagena Convention
UNEP, 2010	Guidelines for the Establishment and Operation of Regional Activity Centres and Regional Activity Networks for the Cartagena Convention.
UNEP(DEPI)/CAR WG.32/INF.9 Rev.3	Template for National Reporting on the Cartagena Convention and its Protocols
UNEP, 2016	Regional Seas Strategic Directions (2017-2020)
UNEP/WBRS.18/INF.9	Regional Seas Core Indicators Set
UNEP MTS	UNEP Medium Term Strategy 2022-2025
CLME+ SAP v1.3 2016	CLME+ Strategic Action Programme
CEP Technical Report No. 72	Regional Action Plan on Marine Litter Management (RAPMaLi) for the Wider Caribbean Region 2014
UNEP/EA.4/INF.7	Proposal for a new marine and coastal Strategy of United Nations Environment Programme for the period 2020–2030
UNEP, 2020	Regional Seas and SDG 14: The contribution of Regional Seas Conventions and Action Plans to a Healthy Ocean
UNEP XXII LAC-Desc, 2021	DECISIONS- XXII Meeting of the Forum of Ministers of Environment of Latin America and the Caribbean
UNEP XXII LAC-BDecl, 2021	BRIDGETOWN DECLARATION- XXII Meeting of the Forum of Ministers of Environment of Latin America and the Caribbean
UNEP, 2018	Caribbean Waste Management Regional Action Plan

Conference Room Papers

Symbol	Title	Agenda Item
UNEP(DEPI)/CAR WG.41/CRP.1	Update on the Strategy of the Caribbean Environment Programme	

Annex III: Recommendations of the Meeting

The Meeting:

Having convened the Fifth Meeting of the Scientific and Technical Advisory Committee to the Protocol Concerning Pollution from Land-Based Sources and Activities (LBS STAC) in the Wider Caribbean Region virtually from March 15-17, 2021;

Taking note of the presentations made by the Secretariat, Regional Activity Centres, Working Groups and partner agencies and projects;

Recommends the following:

- (A) Prior to the Convening of the 5th Conference of Parties to the Land-Based Sources of Marine Pollution Protocol (LBS COP5) and Sixteenth Meeting of the Contracting Parties to the Cartagena Convention (COP16).**

RECOMMENDATION I

REVIEW OF TECHNICAL DOCUMENTS AND REPORTS

1. Contracting Parties and other relevant agencies, experts and RACs **provide** technical inputs and comments on the Regional Nutrients Pollution Reduction Strategy and Action Plan **UNEP(DEPI)/CAR WG.41/INF.10** and the following Technical Papers: Nutrients discharge criteria for domestic wastewater effluent **UNEP(DEPI)/CAR WG.41/INF.23**, Incorporation of freshwater issues into the LBS Protocol **UNEP(DEPI)/CAR WG.41/INF.24**, and the Revised Template for National Reporting on the Cartagena Convention and its Protocols **UNEP(DEPI)/CAR WG.41/INF.25** focussing on sections of the Reporting Template that are relevant to the LBS Protocol.
2. Contracting Parties and other relevant agencies, experts and RACs **submit** all comments on the Regional Nutrients Pollution Reduction Strategy and the aforementioned Technical Papers, to the Secretariat, no later than April 30, 2021.
3. Contracting Parties **welcome** the progress made towards the finalization of the Draft Strategy for the Cartagena Convention Secretariat: **UNEP(DEPI)/CARWG.41/INF.22** and **encourage** involvement of all Contracting Parties and RACs in further reviews, as appropriate, prior to its submission to the Nineteenth Intergovernmental Meeting (IGM) on the Action Plan for the Caribbean Environment Programme (CEP) and Sixteenth Meeting of the Contracting Parties to the Cartagena Convention for approval.
4. Contracting Parties **share** the 2021/2022 draft AMEP work plan and budget with relevant national authorities and Ministries to demonstrate the work of the Secretariat and to underscore the importance of continued financial contributions to the Secretariat and that the Secretariat **continue** its efforts to develop and share material that demonstrates its value added at the regional and national levels.

(B) To the LBS COP5 and Cartagena Convention COP16

**RECOMMENDATION II
WORKPLAN AND BUDGET**

1. Contracting Parties provisionally **endorse** the 2021-2022 Draft Work Plan from a technical perspective including any recommendations made during the 5th LBS STAC.
2. Contracting Parties **endorse** the new format for presentation of the work plan for the AMEP Sub-Programme.
3. Contracting Parties **submit** additional input on the draft Work Plan for the biennium 2021-2022 to the Secretariat by April 30, 2021. This will enable an updated draft Work Plan and Budget to be submitted to the 5th LBS COP for further review and approval, and to the Nineteenth Intergovernmental Meeting (IGM) on the Action Plan for the Caribbean Environment Programme (CEP) and Sixteenth Meeting of the Contracting Parties to the Cartagena Convention for information and endorsement.
4. Contracting Parties **support** new and/or enhanced partnerships between the Secretariat and relevant organizations including Global Multilateral Environmental Agreement (MEA) Secretariats to facilitate work plan implementation building on recently developed MOUs and expanding the Regional Activity Network (RAN). This should include synergies especially with the chemicals cluster of Conventions.
5. Contracting Parties **endorse** efforts by LBS RACs to develop their own Strategies and Work plan and invite Contracting Parties to **provide** additional input through the Secretariat to the LBS RACs by April 30, 2021 to enable submission of final draft strategies for approval at the 5th LBS COP and the 19th IGM.
6. Contracting Parties **welcome** the ongoing efforts to integrate activities under the AMEP and SPAW Work Programmes and encourage greater integration of the sub-programmes in the implementation of the work plan including greater interaction among the existing four RACs of the Secretariat.
7. Given the overall situation of the budget and Caribbean Trust Fund (CTF), Contracting Parties **propose** that the overall budget for the Secretariat and implications be considered during the Cartagena Convention COP XVI and that a comprehensive presentation on the financial status be made including what project funding will be available and what resources will be needed by the Secretariat from the CTF for effective programme and project implementation.

**RECOMMENDATION III
SOURCES AND IMPACTS OF MARINE POLLUTION**

Nutrients Pollution

1. Contracting Parties **provisionally endorse** the Regional Nutrients Pollution Reduction Strategy and Action Plan subject to further review and comments that would enable a final draft to be submitted to the 5th LBS COP for approval. To facilitate implementation of the Strategy, it is further recommended that the Secretariat:
 - i. **Establish** a sub-group(s) of the Open-Ended Working Group (OEWG) to support implementation of the Strategy including consideration of issues such as monitoring and assessment, targets and indicators, ecological quality, and remote sensing.
 - ii. **Facilitate** sharing of experiences among Parties of the Convention, e.g., USA on nutrient pollution action plans for Gulf of Mexico; and Colombia/INVEMAR on coastal monitoring; and with other Regional Seas Programmes including work done under the European Water Framework Directive for setting ecological objectives.
 - iii. **Use** the UNEP Global Programme of Action (GPA) Global Partnership on Nutrients Management (GPNM) to facilitate further training and capacity building.

- iv. In collaboration with Contracting Parties, **prioritize needs and actions** required at the national and regional levels including timeframes for implementation, data and capacity gaps and determination of targets and indicators.
- v. **Identify and/or use** existing opportunities for implementation of the Strategy through pilot projects in high priority areas (hot spots) for nutrient reduction and habitat restoration. This should consider the pollution reduction and habitat restoration investment plans developed by the Secretariat with support of the CLME+ project.
- vi. **Identify** new funding opportunities including private sector partnerships, in particular with the tourism and agricultural sectors.
- vii. **Identify** opportunities through the Decade of Ocean Science and UN Decade on Ecosystem Restoration to establish/strengthen enabling conditions.
- viii. **Implement** Advocacy/stakeholder engagement efforts with regional partners to facilitate uptake, collaboration, and effective implementation.
- ix. **Prepare** an implementation plan for the Strategy at national and regional levels.

Wastewater Discharges

1. Contracting Parties **support** efforts by the Secretariat and the GEF CReW+ Project to finalize a technical information paper on nutrient discharge limits from domestic wastewater including a review of the existing limits for effluent of domestic origin as outlined in Annex III.C of the LBS Protocol UNEP(DEPI)/CAR WG.41/INF.23.
2. The Open-Ended Working Group) including LBS RACs **provide** technical oversight and input for the finalization of this technical information paper for further review by Contracting Parties and submission to the LBS COP5 for further consideration.
3. Secretariat **share** best practices from Barbados and other relevant case studies relating to the reuse of treated wastewater UNEP(DEPI)/CAR WG.41/5.

Freshwater Management

1. Contracting Parties **recognize** the relevance of Integrated Water Resources Management (IWRM) in the future work of the Cartagena Convention and its Protocols and the need for Governments of the Wider Caribbean Region to accelerate IWRM adoption and implementation to meet the 2030 Agenda, Paris Agreement and Sendai Framework.
2. The Secretariat **establish** a new Working Group or OEWG sub-group to explore how this integration can take place building on the recommendations of the Information Paper UNEP(DEPI)/CAR WG.41/INF.24 and what should be the main role of the Secretariat in supporting implementation of IWRM Plans at a national level.

Marine Litter Management

1. Contracting Parties **provide** and **use** information on the Global Partnership on Marine Litter (GPML)-Caribe platform to enable sharing of lessons learned and best practices relating to marine litter management.
2. Secretariat and the Caribbean Regional Node for Marine Litter **support** a review of existing research and provision of capacity building on microplastics that could aid Contracting Parties in understanding the potential impact of plastics on the coastal and marine environment and human health in the Wider Caribbean Region.
3. Secretariat, LBS RACs and Contracting Parties **work to identify** major sources of marine litter, including regional hotspots and propose mitigating actions.

RECOMMENDATION IV

MONITORING AND ASSESSMENT

1. Contracting Parties **establish** new OEWG sub-groups as appropriate with special consideration given to nutrients including nutrient discharge standards, Integrated Water Resources Management/Freshwater, LBS/SPAW Integration (Sargassum), and remote sensing with consideration of inclusion of experts, such as academia, private sector, etc, recommended by the Focal Points.
2. Contracting Parties **endorse** the formation of an Open-Ended Working Group and/or dedicated sub-group to support the implementation of the Regional Nutrients Pollution Reduction Strategy and Action Plan including *inter alia* work on targets, indicators, and ecological objectives.
3. The Open-Ended Working Group **consider** recent reports such as the GEF IWeco lab capacity assessment in identifying priorities for future lab capacity building and training with respect to monitoring and assessment.
4. The Open-Ended Working Group **consider** inclusion of additional monitoring parameters to those identified in the SOCAR and propose methodology that will allow for monitoring of these parameters including for example the indicator of Index of Coastal Eutrophication Potential.
5. Secretariat **maximize the use** of the LBS RACs to provide regional training for ongoing and new projects within their technical areas of competence.

RECOMMENDATION V

KNOWLEDGE MANAGEMENT, DATA, AND INFORMATION MANAGEMENT

1. Contracting Parties provisionally **endorse** the new Cartagena Convention Reporting Template and encourage greater reporting by countries including changes relevant to the AMEP Sub-Programme made during the STAC.
2. The Secretariat **continue** its efforts to establish synergies between various projects – IWeco, CReW+ – for supporting improved national and regional data and information management systems.
3. The Secretariat **prepare** information management guidelines for the sharing of data and information relevant to the LBS Protocol and recommend that such guidelines be considered within the context of the new CEP Strategy.

RECOMMENDATION VI

LBS PROTOCOL RATIFICATION

1. Contracting Parties **welcome** the ratification by the Government of Barbados as the 15th country to ratify the LBS Protocol in June 2019.
2. Contracting Parties **recognize** efforts by non-Contracting Parties to the LBS Protocol to become Contracting Parties, taking advantage of support being provided by projects for that process.
3. Contracting Parties **support** the ongoing efforts by the Secretariat to work with Contracting and Non-Contracting Parties to the LBS Protocol to, as appropriate, ratify, implement, and report on their implementation of their obligations under the LBS Protocol.
4. Secretariat, subject to the availability of resources, **provide assistance** to non-Contracting Parties in their efforts to ratify the LBS Protocol.

RECOMMENDATION VII

POSSIBLE AMENDMENTS TO THE LBS PROTOCOL AND/OR ANNEXES

1. The Secretariat in collaboration with OEWG and the LBS RACs **consider** recommendations from the Technical Papers relating to freshwater and nutrients, and **prepare** an information paper for the LBS STAC6 on possible amendments to the LBS Protocol and/or its Annexes for further discussion and submission of recommendations to the LBS COP6 for further consideration.

RECOMMENDATION VIII

CARIBBEAN LARGE MARINE ECOSYSTEM + PROJECT (CLME+)

1. Contracting Parties **welcome** the presentation by the Regional Project Coordinator of the UNDP/GEF CLME+ Project and **noted** the extent of support by the project to the implementation of previous AMEP and SPAW Work Plans.
2. Contracting Parties **note** the ongoing discussions relating to the formalization of the Coordinating Mechanism and the finalization of the draft Memorandum of Understanding among States, Territories and Intergovernmental Agencies including the Cartagena Convention Secretariat for improving ocean governance.
3. Contracting Parties **further note** the efforts to develop a new follow up project proposal concept (PIF) to CLME+ entitled PROCARIBE+ which is to be submitted to the GEF by March 24, 2021 for consideration.
4. Secretariat and Contracting Parties, that endorsed the new project proposal, **participate** in the development of the full-sized proposal for PROCARIBE+ ensuring that activities involving the Secretariat support the implementation of the LBS and SPAW Protocols respectively.

Annex IV: LIST OF PARTICIPANTS

CONTRACTING PARTIES				
	Participant	Country	Title	Tel/Fax/ Email/ Website
1.	Linroy Christian	Antigua & Barbuda	Director of Analytical Services Analytical Services Friars, Hill St. John's	Tel: +268-764-8338 E-mail: linroyc@gmail.com
2.	Anthony Headley	Barbados	Director Environmental Protection Department, Ministry of Environment and National Beautification	Tel: Email: anthony.headley@epd.gov.bb
3.	Fabian Hinds	Barbados	Coastal Planner Coastal Zone Management Unit, Ministry of Maritime Affairs and Blue Economy	Tel: Email: fhinds@coastal.gov.bb
4.	Ann-Marie Eversley	Barbados	Senior Marine Pollution Officer Environmental Protection Department Ministry of Environment and National Beautification	Tel: Email: ann-marie.eversley@epd.gov.bb
5.	Anthony Mai	Belize	Environmental Officer Enforcement Unit Department of the Environment	Tel: 501 822-2819 Email: enforcement@environment.gov.bz

CONTRACTING PARTIES				
	Participant	Country	Title	Tel/Fax/ Email/ Website
6.	Miguel Espinosa González	Dominican Republic	Departamento Control y Seguimiento Ministerio de Medio Ambiente y Recursos Naturales	Tel: +809-547-8442 ext. 221 E-mail: miguel.espinosa@ambiente.gob.do
7.	Ydalia Elena González	Dominican Republic	Ministerio de Medio Ambiente y Recursos Naturales	
8.	Emmanuelle Thiesse	France	Policy Advisor - Seabed and Pollution Ministry for an Ecological and Solidary Transition	Tel: 33 1 40 81 33 82 E-mail: emmanuelle.thiesse@developpement-durable.gouv.fr
9.	Sharifah Razack	Guyana	Executive Director (Acting) Environmental Protection Agency Ganges Street, Sophia Georgetown, Guyana	Email: srazack@epaguyana.org nschwiers@motp.gov.gy
10.	Felicia Adams-Kellman	Guyana	Environmental Protection Agency Ganges Street, Sophia Georgetown, Guyana	
11.	Rensforde Joseph	Guyana	CRew+ National Coordinator Ministry of Housing and Water - Guyana Water Incorporated	Tel: Email: rensfordj@gwi.gy

CONTRACTING PARTIES				
	Participant	Country	Title	Tel/Fax/ Email/ Website
12.	Marnie Xiomara Portillo Rodriguez	Honduras	Ingeniera Ambiental Secretaria de Recursos Naturales y Ambiente (MiAmbiente+)	Tel: Email: portillomarnie@yahoo.com
13.	Victor Pineda	Honduras	Jefe de Microbiologia Secretaria de Recursos Naturales y Ambiente (Mi Ambiente) El Centro de Estudios y Control de Contaminantes (CESCCO)	Tel: Email: vpineda@miambiente.gob.hn
14.	Aracely Membreño	Honduras	Químico farmacéutico Secretaria de Recursos Naturales y Ambiente (Mi Ambiente) El Centro de Estudios y Control de Contaminantes (CESCCO)	Tel: Email: aracelymembreno@gmail.com
15.	Ana Carolina Castillo	Honduras	Químico farmacéutico Secretaria de Recursos Naturales y Ambiente (Mi Ambiente) El Centro de Estudios y Control de Contaminantes (CESCCO)	Tel: Email: acanavarro24@gmail.com
16.	Carlos Alberto Thompson	Honduras	Secretaria de Recursos Naturales y Ambiente (Mi Ambiente) El Centro de Estudios y Control de Contaminantes (CESCCO)	Tel: Email: carlosalbertothompson@yahoo.com
17.	Mersy Barahona	Honduras	Bióloga MiAmbiente-CESCCO	Tel: Email: messi.gateor@gmail.com
18.	Lisa Kirkland	Jamaica	National Environment and Planning Agency 10 and 11 Caledonia Avenue Kingston 5	Tel. +876 754-7540 E-mail: llatchman@nepa.gov.jm

CONTRACTING PARTIES				
	Participant	Country	Title	Tel/Fax/ Email/ Website
19.	Richard Nelson	Jamaica	Senior Manager of Environmental Management National Environment and Planning Agency 10 and 11 Caledonia Avenue Kingston 5	Email: rnelson@nepa.gov.jm
20.	Marino Eugenio Abrego	Panama	Ministerio de Ambiente de Panamá Jefe del Departamento de Manejo De Recursos Costeros y Marinos	Tel: 507-232-9633/ 507-6150-2101 E-mail: meabrego@miambiente.gob.pa epolo@miambiente.gob.pa
21.	Lavina Alexander	Saint Lucia	Sustainable Development and Environment Officer Ministry of Sustainable Development, Energy, Science and Technology	Tel: +758- 451-8746 Fax: +758- 450-1904 E-mail: alexander@sde.gov.lc
22.	Indira Brown	The Bahamas	Senior Environmental Officer Department of Environmental Planning and Protection (DEPP) Ministry of the Environment and Housing	Tel: Email: protectorofthesea@gmail.com
23.	Keith Philippe	The Bahamas	Environmental Officer Department of Environmental Planning and Protection (DEPP) Ministry of the Environment and Housing	Tel: Email: kphilippe@depp.gov.bs
24.	Rochelle Newbold	The Bahamas	Director BEST Commission The Department of Environmental Planning and Protection (DEPP) Ministry of the Environment and Housing	Tel: 242-322-4546 Email: rwnewbold@best.gov.bs
25.	Denny Dipchansingh	Trinidad and Tobago	Conservator of Forest Ministry of Agriculture, Land and Fisheries	Tel: 1 868 729 9826 Email: ddipchansingh@yahoo.com

CONTRACTING PARTIES				
	Participant	Country	Title	Tel/Fax/ Email/ Website
26.	David Mahabir	Trinidad and Tobago	Conservator of Forest Ministry of Agriculture, Land and Fisheries	Email:
27.	Stephanie Adrian	USA	Acting Senior Advisor US Environmental Protection Agency (USG Focal Point for the US) Department of State 2201 C Street, NW Washington, DC 20520	Tel. +703-308-8753 E-mail: adrian.stephanie@epa.gov ; Cc: sims.janicehq@epa.gov.jm ; reidheadve@state.gov
28.	Troy Pierce	USA	Chief Scientist U.S. EPA Gulf of Mexico Program 2510 14th St., Suite 1212 Gulfport MS 39501	Tel: 228-679-5909 E-mail: pierce.troy@epa.gov
29.	Samantha Dowdell	USA	International Relations Specialist U.S. National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration	Tel: Email: samantha.dowdell@noaa.gov
30.	Van Reidhead	USA	International Relations Officer U.S. Department of State	Tel: E-mail: ReidheadVE@state.gov
31.	Hugh Sullivan	USA	Acting Lead National Coastal Condition Assessment US EPA Office of Water	Tel: 202-564-1763 E-mail: Sullivan.hugh@epa.gov

OBSERVERS (Non-Contracting Parties)				
	Participant	Country	Title	Tel/Fax/ Email/ Website
32.	Gisbert Boekhoudt	Aruba	Director Directorate for Nature & Environment	Tel: 297-585-1199 Email: gisbert.boekhoudt@dnm-aruba.org
33.	Marcia Potter	British Virgin Island	Permanent Secretary Ministry of Natural Resources and Labour BVI Government, Road Town Tortola BVI	Email: mapotter@gov.vg
34.	Gabriela Castellanos	Guatemala	Jefa a.i del departamento de Ecosistemas Ministerio de Ambiente y Recursos Naturales 7A Avenida, Cdad. de Guatemala, Guatemala	Tel: Email: gabrielacastellanos.marn@gmail.com
35.	Iliana Pocasangre	Guatemala	Asesora Cooperación Internacional Ministerio de Ambiente y Recursos Naturales 7A Avenida, Cdad. de Guatemala, Guatemala	Tel: Email: bipocasangre@marn.gob.gt
36.	Guillervin Macario	Guatemala	Asesor en Control y Calidad del Agua Ministerio de Ambiente y Recursos Naturales 7A Avenida, Cdad. de Guatemala, Guatemala	Email: adolfomacario@gmail.com

OBSERVERS (Non-Contracting Parties)				
37.	Juan Carlos Diaz	Guatemala	Minister of Environment and Natural Resources	Email: jcdiaz@marn.gob.gt
38.	Santos Hernández	México	Subdirector de Medio Ambiente	Email: shernandez@sre.gob.mx
39.	René Castellón	Nicaragua	Director de Bioversidad MINISTERIO DEL AMBIENTE Y LOS RECURSOS NATURALES	Email: rcastellon@marena.gob.ni
40.	Eavin Parry	St. Kitts and Nevis	Environmental Scientist Department of Environment Ministry of Agriculture, Human Settlement, Cooperatives and Environment	Tel. +1 (869) 467-1251 / 465-2277 E-mail: elvinparry@hotmail.com Eavin.Parry@gov.kn
41.	Yasa Belmar	St. Vincent and the Grenadines	Environmental Resource Analyst Environmental Management Department, Ministry of Health and the Environment, Kingstown.	Tel: + 784 485-6992; Email: yasa.belmar@gmail.com
42.	Betzabey Motta	Venezuela	Directora de Prevención de Amenazas a la Diversidad Biológica	Tel: 58 04142540161 Email: prevencion.dgdb.ve@gmail.com

43.	Silvana García	Venezuela	Ciencias Políticas Ministerio del Poder Popular para el Ecosocialismo	Email: silvanaagl87@gmail.com
OBSERVERS (Resource Persons, Agencies and Organizations)				
	Participant	Company	Title	Tel/Fax/ Email/ Website
44.	Susan Milward	Animal Welfare Institute	Director Marine Programs	Tel: Email: Susan@awionline.org
45.	Angiolina Henriquez	Aruba Marine Mammal Foundation (AMMF)	President/Founder	Email: infoammf@gmail.com
46.	Shane Kirton	Caribbean Public Health Agency (CARPHA)	Programme Manager Environmental Health & Sustainable Development	Email: kirtonsh@carpha.org
47.	Bradshaw Isaacs	Caribbean Public Health Agency (CARPHA)	Officer in Charge CARPHA-EHSD	E-mail: isaacsbr@carpha.org
48.	Kareem Sabir	Caricom Secretariat	Senior Project Officer Sustainable Development	Tel: Email: kareem.sabir@caricom.org
49.	Teshia Jn Baptiste	Caricom Secretariat	ACP MEAS Phase III Project Project Coordinator	Tel: Email: teshia.jnbaptiste@caricom.org
50.	Christine Haffner Sifakis	CEP Strategy	Consultant	Tel: Email: chaffner@gmx.net

OBSERVERS cont.				
	Participant	Company	Title	Tel/Fax/ Email/ Website
51.	Alejandra Serrano Pavón	Environmental Law Alliance Worldwide (ELAW)	Attorney	Email: ale@elaw.org
52.	Carolina Cassani	Fundación Cethus	Representative in International Organizations	
53.	Patrick Debels	GEF CLME+ Project	Regional Project Coordinator United Nations Office for Project Services (UNDP/GEF)	Tel: +57 5 664 0914 Fax: +57 5 664 8882 E-mail: PatrickD@unops.org
54.	Martha Prada	GEF CLME+ Project	Project Coordinator Consultant United Nations Office for Project Services	Email: marthaceciliap@unops.org
55.	Lavern Walker	GEF CLME+ Project	Senior Project Officer United Nations Office for Project Services	E-mail : lavernew@unops.org
56.	Donna Sue Spencer	GEF IWECO Project	Communications Specialist	donna.spencer@un.org
57.	Pedro Moreo	GEF CReW+ Project	Regional Project Coordinator	Email: PMoreo@oas.org
58.	Jorge Barrios	GEF CReW+ Project	Freshwater Consultant	Email: eugenio.barrios.mx@outlook.com

59.	David Wilk	GEF CReW+ Project	Water & Wastewater Specialist	Email: davidwilkg@gmail.com
OBSERVERS cont.				
	Participant	Company	Title	Tel/Fax/ Email/ Website
60.	Bob Glazer	Gulf Caribbean Fisheries Institute (GCFI)	Executive Director	Tel: 305-676-3230 E-mail: bob.glazer@gcfi.org
61.	Fadilah Ali	Gulf Caribbean Fisheries Institute (GCFI)	Assistant Executive Director	Tel: Email: fadilah.ali@gcfi.org
62.	Alejandro Acosta	Gulf Caribbean Fisheries Institute (GCFI)	Science Coordinator	Tel: Email: alejandro.acosta@gcfi.org
63.	Francisco Arias	Instituto de Investigaciones Marinas y Costeras (INVEMAR)	Director General	Tel: 314-592-5562 Fax: 575-432-8694 Email: francisco.arias@invemar.org.co
64.	Luisa Fernanda Espinosa Díaz	Instituto de Investigaciones Marinas y Costeras (INVEMAR)	Coordinator of Research Program in Marine Environmental Quality	Tel: Email: luisa.espinosa@invemar.org.co
65.	Courtney Vail	Lightkeepers Foundation	Director	Tel: 480 747-5015 Email: courtney@lightkeepersfoundation.com

OBSERVERS cont.				
	Participant	Country	Title	Tel/Fax/ Email/ Website
66.	Minchinton Burton	Ministry of Agriculture and the Environment	Director of Forestry, Wildlife and Parks	
67.	Tiffany van Ravenswaay	Ministry of Spatial Planning and Environment	Environmental Policy Officer	Email: tiffany.vanravenswaay@gov.sr
68.	Christopher Cox	Regional Office for Latin America & the Caribbean (ROLAC)	Programme Officer/UNEP-GEF Task Manager	Tel: Email: christopher.cox@un.org
69.	Sherry Heileman	SOCAR Consultant	UN Environment-CEP Panama City, Panama	Tel : +507 6489-3702 E-mail : sh_heileman@yahoo.com
70.	Liana McManus	SOCAR Consultant	USA	Email: lmcmamus57@gmail.com ; liana.mcmanus@grida.no
71.	Vincent Sweeney	United Environment Caribbean Sub-Regional Office		Email: vincent.sweeney@un.org
72.	Darla Flores		Analista ambiental	Email: bdarlaflores@gmail.com
73.	S Connell			
74.	Scarlet Inestroza			

REGIONAL ACTIVITY CENTERS				
	Participant	Country	Title	Tel/Fax/ Email/ Website
75.	Zunilda Parra Arias	RAC CIMAB Cuba	Director	Email: zunilda@cimab.transnet.cu zuny1503@gmail.com
76.	Marlen Pérez Hernández	RAC CIMAB Cuba	Senior Researcher Carretera del Cristo No. 3, corner Tiscornia, Casablanca. Rule. Havana Cuba. Postal Address: Apartado 17029. Habana 11700. Cuba.	Email: marlen@cimab.transnet.cu ; mp420ale@gmail.com
77.	Darryl Banjoo	RAC IMA Trinidad and Tobago	Acting Director Institute of Marine Affairs Hilltop Lane Chaguaramas	Tel: (868) 634-4291 E-mail: dbanjoo@ima.gov.tt Website: www.ima.gov.tt
78.	Sandrine Pivard	SPAW RAC Guadeloupe	Executive director Direction de l'environnement, de l'aménagement et du logement de la Guadeloupe (DEAL) Saint-Phy, B.P. 54, 97102 Basse-Terre	Tel: Email: Sandrine.PIVARD@developpement-durable.gouv.fr
79.	Fabien Barthelat	SPAW RAC Guadeloupe	Programme Officer Direction de l'environnement, de l'aménagement et du logement de la Guadeloupe (DEAL) Saint-Phy, B.P. 54, 97102 Basse-Terre	Tel: Email: fabien.barthelat@developpement-durable.gouv.fr

REGIONAL ACTIVITY CENTERS cont.

	Participant	Country	Title	Tel/Fax/ Email/ Website
80.	Marine Didier	SPAW RAC Guadeloupe	Project Officer Direction de l'environnement, de l'aménagement et du logement de la Guadeloupe (DEAL) Saint-Phy, B.P. 54, 97102 Basse-Terre	Tel. + 590 (0)5 90 99 43 43 Email: marine.didier@developpement-durable.gouv.fr
81.	Camille Caumette	SPAW RAC Guadeloupe	Project Officer Direction de l'environnement, de l'aménagement et du logement de la Guadeloupe (DEAL) Saint-Phy, B.P. 54, 97102 Basse-Terre	Tel. + 590 (0)5 90 99 43 43 Email: camcaumette@gmail.com
82.	Floyd Patterson	RAC REMPEITC Caribe Curacao	Aviation & Meteorology Building, Curaçao	Email: fpatterson@racrempeitc.org

SECRETARIAT UNEP-CAR/RCU 14-20 Port Royal Street Kingston, Jamaica Tel: +876-922-9267 / Fax: +876-922-9292 E-mail: unep-cartagenaconvention@un.org				
	Participant	Job Title	Title	E-mail
83.	Lorna Inniss	Secretariat	Coordinator	lorna.inniss@un.org
84.	Christopher Corbin	Secretariat	Programme Officer (AMEP)	christopher.corbin@un.org
85.	Ileana Lopez	Secretariat	Programme Management Officer	ileana.lopez@un.org
86.	Coral Fernandez	Secretariat	Administrative Assistant	coral.fernandez@un.org
87.	Georgina Singh	Secretariat	Team Assistant	georgina.singh@un.org
88.	Sean Chedda	Secretariat	Information Systems Analyst	sean.chedda@un.org
89.	Donna Henry-Hernandez	Secretariat	GEF IWeco Programme Assistant	donna.hernandez@un.org
90.	Susanna Keim	Secretariat (Affiliate)	GEF Crew+ Programme Assistant	susanna.keim@un.org
91.	Tamoy Singh Clarke	Secretariat (Affiliate)	Programme Assistant	tamoy.singh@un.org
92.	Jhenelle Barrett	Secretariat (Affiliate)	Programme Assistant	jhenelle.barrett@un.org
93.	Terrike Brown	Secretariat	Team Assistant	terrike.brown@un.org
94.	Tracey Nicola Tucker	Secretariat	Finance Assistant	tracey.tucker@un.org