



United Nations
Environment Programme

Distr. LIMITED

UNEP(DEPI)/CAR IG.47/3
10 October 2023

Original: ENGLISH

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

Oranjestad, Aruba, 04 October 2023

**DECISIONS OF THE SIXTH MEETING OF THE CONTRACTING PARTIES (COP) TO
THE PROTOCOL CONCERNING POLLUTION FROM LAND-BASED SOURCES AND
ACTIVITIES (LBS PROTOCOL) IN THE WIDER CARIBBEAN REGION**

For reasons of economy and the environment, Delegates are kindly requested to bring their copies of the Working and Information documents to the Meeting, and not to request additional copies.

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Decisions of the Meeting

The Contracting Parties:

Having convened the Sixth Meeting of the Contracting Parties to the Protocol Concerning Pollution from Land-based Sources and Activities (LBS COP6) in the Wider Caribbean Region in Oranjestad Aruba on 04 October 2023;

Taking note of the Status of Implementation of the Workplan and Budget for the AMEP Sub-programme for the period 2023-2024 as contained in UNEP(DEPI)/CAR WG.44/3/Rev.1 and the Report on the Activities of the Regional Activity Centres for the LBS Protocol (LBS RACs) in Cuba and Trinidad and Tobago for the period 2023-2024 as contained in UNEP(DEPI)/CAR WG.44/4a and UNEP(DEPI)/CAR WG.44/4b;

Taking note of the Collaboration for Oil Satellite Tracking in the Americas Program (COSTA) led by the US National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA)'s Satellite Analysis Branch (SAB) and the development of the Pilot Program for Oil Spill Satellite monitoring in Trinidad and Tobago as contained in document UNEP(DEPI)/CAR IG.47/INF.3 and acknowledging on this through training provided by NOAA;

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

Further Recognizing the importance of partner agencies in forming part of the Regional Activity Network (RAN) for supporting priority action on wastewater, nutrients and marine litter pollution including through the work of UNEP Global Partnerships on these pollutants;

Having reviewed the Recommendations of the Sixth Meeting of the Scientific, Technical and Advisory Committee to the Protocol Concerning Pollution from Land-based Sources and Activities (LBS STAC 6) in the Wider Caribbean Region contained in UNEP(DEPI)/CAR WG.44/5;

Decide to:

DECISION I WORKPLAN AND BUDGET

1. **Adopt** the LBS STAC6 Recommendations as applicable.
2. **Adopt** the 2023-2024 Draft Workplan and Budget including changes provided during the meeting.
3. **Recommend** to the Cartagena Convention COP the need to **consider** a possible extension of the workplan period for this biennium to the end of 2025 to enable effective implementation and uptake of programme outputs during 2023-2024.
4. **Encourage** continued integration of the AMEP and SPAW subprogrammes in the implementation of the 2023-2024 work plan and budget including on strengthening linkages on issues such as Nutrient pollution and its impacts on Sargassum and Marine Biodiversity, as well as between the LBS Protocol and the work of all the Regional Activity Centres (RACs) of the Cartagena Convention.

DECISION II MARINE POLLUTION

Nutrient Management and Wastewater Discharges

1. **Encourage** Contracting Parties and Non-Contracting Parties to the Protocol Concerning Land-Based Sources of Pollution to **participate** in ongoing activities by the LBS RACs relating to Nutrient Management and classification of receiving waters as required under the LBS Protocol.
2. **Encourage** the LBS RACs to **continue** their work in the ongoing activities and report to the LBS STAC7 and LBS COP7 for further review, recommendation, and decision as appropriate.

State of Convention Area Report on Marine Pollution

3. **Request** the Secretariat, subject to availability of funding, to begin the development of an updated State of Convention Area Report on Marine Pollution (SOCAR) to focus on pollution issues facing our convention area. Subject to available resources and expertise, the SOCAR may also include the possibility of developing a more integrated portion of the environmental assessment report, in collaboration with the SPAW Sub-Programme and with technical oversight by the Open-Ended Working Group (OEWG) on Monitoring and Assessment, to capture important horizontal Convention issues.
4. **Recommend** that the Cartagena Convention COP, subject to available resources, and based upon SOCAR recommendations to monitor and evaluate emerging issues, direct the OEWG Monitoring and Assessment, to **provide** technical assistance in prioritizing action on previously unaddressed pollutants.

Plastic Pollution

5. **Encourage** the active engagement of Contracting Parties in the ongoing intergovernmental negotiating committee on plastic pollution launched following UNEA resolution 5/14, *End Plastic Pollution: Towards an International Legally Binding Instrument* and **encourage** the sharing of further research and study among Contracting Parties.

DECISION III
MONITORING AND ASSESSMENT

1. **Support** the inclusion of REMARCO, an informal network of regional laboratories, as a member of the Regional Activity Network and **encourage** the Secretariat, LBS RACs and Contracting Parties to continue their cooperation with INVEMAR and IAEA.
2. **Support** the continued expansion of the Early Detection System, taking into consideration lessons learnt from the Oil Spills Pilot Project in Trinidad and Tobago and use of Satellite and Remote Sensing for the detection and monitoring of Marine pollutants and **consider** how the system could potentially be adapted and/or further partnerships developed to detect and monitor *Sargassum*, and harmful algal blooms.

DECISION IV
LBS PROTOCOL RATIFICATION

1. **Urge** Non-Contracting Parties to the LBS Protocol to **expand their efforts** towards ratification and to take advantage of external project funding and outreach materials available to support national ratification processes.

DECISION V
PARTNERSHIPS

1. **Encourage** the Secretariat to **continue** close collaboration and cooperation with other Regional Seas Conventions and Action Plans on areas of mutual interest.
2. **Encourage** the Secretariat, in collaboration with other regional and international bodies, as appropriate, to **aid** in the assessment and analysis of environmental data and information, subject to available resources.

DECISION VI
KNOWLEDGE MANAGEMENT, DATA, AND INFORMATION MANAGEMENT

1. **Encourage** Contracting Parties and Non-Contracting Parties to **provide** the relevant information to the Secretariat and RACs to encourage data sharing that is beneficial to assessments and processes undertaken within and outside of this Protocol.
2. **Request** the Secretariat and the LBS RACs to **improve** the dissemination of knowledge management products and to assist Contracting Parties, as requested, with environmental education and promoting behaviour change.