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Eighteenth Meeting of the Contracting Parties to the
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Kingston, Jamaica, 13-16 October 2025.

**REPORT OF THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR
ON THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE
2023-2025 WORKPLAN AND BUDGET OF THE
CARTAGENA CONVENTION SECRETARIAT**

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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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

1. The Secretariat for the Cartagena Convention presents the status of implementation of its approved 2023-2025 work programme including financial overview to the Eighteenth Meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention for the Protection and Development of the Marine Environment of the Wider Caribbean Region (COP18) being convened from October 13th to 16th 2025 in Kingston, Jamaica.
2. The report outlines actions taken by the Secretariat in response to the Decisions of the Seventeenth Meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention for the Protection and Development of the Marine Environment of the Wider Caribbean Region (COP17) which are summarized in Annex I.
3. The operations of the Secretariat are largely funded by the Contracting Parties through contributions to the Caribbean Trust Fund (CTF), for which the total bi-annual level of pledges is US\$2,528,616.
4. Contributions received for 2023 were USD 897,286, for 2024 were USD 1,018,528, and for January to August 2025, USD 556,816
5. Total pledges received from 2010 through 2025 have consistently been below the bi-annual level of contributions and as a result, the Secretariat continues to employ various cost savings and resource mobilization strategies to address the long-standing financial constraints that ultimately affect the delivery of the Cartagena Convention's work programme.
6. Governments with unpaid pledges are strongly encouraged to make regular and timely payments to the CTF to allow for programme continuity and financial sustainability of the Secretariat's operations.
7. The Secretariat acknowledges with thanks the continued support provided by the Governments of Cuba, France, Trinidad and Tobago, and Curaçao for hosting the Secretariat's Regional Activity Centres (RACs) and the Government of Jamaica for hosting the Secretariat's Office.
8. Implementation of projects and activities that the Secretariat had an executing and/or co-executing role was facilitated through partnerships with governmental institutions, non-governmental organizations, academic, scientific and research institutes, civil society organizations and the private sector.
9. The projects and activities implemented as part of the 2023-2025 work plan benefitted from greater technical support from Regional Activity Centres (RACs). This support is reflected in the detailed status reports for work done under the Protocols.
10. In response to mandates provided by Contracting Parties and in collaboration with UNEP and other partners, the Secretariat worked on developing new project proposals and concepts during the 2023-2025 period. These proposals and/or new areas of focus are reflected in the draft 2026-2027 Draft Plan and Budget for consideration by Contracting Parties during the 18th Cartagena Convention COP.
11. The major achievements of the Secretariat in the implementation of the 2023-2025 work programme were:
 - Despite the challenges in the receipt of contributions to the Caribbean Trust Fund, additional funds were mobilized through development of project proposal to support implementation of some of the unfunded projects and activities presented in the 2023-2025 Work Plan;
 - Development and/or updating of regional strategic documents including the Cartagena Convention Medium Term Strategy 2023-2030, Guidelines for Establishment and Operations of Regional Activity Centres (RACs) and Regional Activity Networks (RANs), Resource Mobilization Strategy, Communications Strategy and Marketing Plan, Recommendations for improving the Governance of Working Groups, and the Sargassum Action Plan;
 - Development of new knowledge management products, enhanced Secretariat website, expanded social media presence, and the relaunch of the Secretariat's Newsletter;

- Continued integration of the Specially Protected Areas and Wildlife (SPAW) and Assessment and Management of Environmental Pollution (AMEP) Sub-programmes, particularly through the work of the SPAW Sargassum Working Group and the AMEP Open Ended Working Group on Monitoring and Assessment;
 - Signing of the Regional Ocean Coordination Mechanism (OCM) for the Wider Caribbean Region by UNEP on behalf of the Secretariat and assumption by the Secretariat of Vice Chair of the Executive Agency Group (EAG);
 - Establishment of Mechanisms and Standard Operating Procedures for improved engagement and communications with national and protocol focal points and Bureau Members;
 - Enhanced collaboration and experience sharing with other Regional Seas Conventions and Action Plans (RSCAPs) and Global Multilateral Environmental Agreement (MEA) Secretariats;
 - Showcasing the work and achievements of the Secretariat and Contracting Parties at relevant regional and global fora including the Sustainable Ocean Initiative of the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD SOI), United Nations Environment Assembly (UNEA 6), and the United Nations Oceans Conference (UNOC 3);
 - Development and signing of Letters of Intent with the International Whaling Commission (IWC) and the Inter-American Convention (IAC) for the Protection and Conservation of Sea Turtles to enhance cooperation and collaboration. A Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) on plastics and microplastics pollution in the Wider Caribbean Region is being finalized and is expected to be signed before the end of 2025;
 - Continued implementation of recommendations endorsed by previous Conference of the Parties (COPs) following the Functional Review of the Secretariat with a view towards improving efficiency and effectiveness in the Secretariat's operations, its support to Contracting Parties and in programme delivery; and
 - Training and Internal Capacity Building for Secretariat staff.
 - The Secretariat is advancing a focused pipeline of proposals. Notably, under the Global Biodiversity Framework Fund (GBFF) 2nd programming call, the Secretariat is developing a Marine Protected Area (MPA) centered proposal under the SPAW Protocol to strengthen a representative and effectively managed network of MPAs and associated other effective area-based conservation measures (OECMs) in the Wider Caribbean Region, improve management effectiveness, and enhance regional data interoperability for monitoring and reporting. This pipeline is designed to complement CTF-funded core functions and directly support the implementation of the CEP Strategy 2023–2030.
12. Despite these achievements, the development and implementation of core functions of the Secretariat, including new projects and activities, continue to be constrained by the lack of adequate financial and human resources capacity.
13. Financial challenges faced by the Secretariat are a consequence of a lack of timely contributions by Contracting Parties and Member Governments to the CTF and the continued accumulation of outstanding contributions. This lack of financial resources negatively impacts on the ability of the Secretariat to deliver on its core mandates as outlined in Article 15 of the Cartagena Convention. Therefore, the need for sustainable and predictable funding remains a high priority for the Secretariat.
14. The new Resource Mobilization Strategy was developed during the biennium to assist the Secretariat in responding to this continued challenge.
15. Proposed activities for 2026-2027 will continue to focus on increasing the number of ratifications to the Cartagena Convention and its Protocols, and their implementation by Contracting Parties, supporting the implementation of the new 2023-2030 CEP Strategy—pending its final approval—as well as other relevant regional thematic strategies and action plans previously endorsed by the Contracting Parties.

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REPORT OF THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR ON THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE 2023- 2025 WORKPLAN AND BUDGET OF THE CARTAGENA CONVENTION SECRETARIAT

I. MANAGEMENT, ADMINISTRATION AND ORGANISATION

1. The staff composition of the Cartagena Convention Secretariat as of 31st August 2025 included twelve (12) core staff positions funded through the Caribbean Trust Fund (CTF). These include the Coordinator at the P5 Level, two Programme Officers at P4, and nine locally recruited staff (3-G6, 4-G5, 1-G4 and 1-G3). One post in the Secretariat's Administrative Unit, the Administrative/Funds Management Officer (P-2 level), was paid out of the 13 percent Programme Support Costs (PSC) levied on the Trust Fund and other non-GEF Projects implemented by the Secretariat.
2. The Secretariat also hosted and administered staff, consultants and United Nations Volunteers (UNVs) associated with the implementation of several projects, two of which closed during the biennium. These include the GEF IWECO, GEF CReW+, GEF LAC Cities, the ACP MEA III and PROMAR. These positions are reflected in the organizational chart for the Secretariat presented in Annex III. Several personnel changes at the Secretariat took place and are reflected below:
 - a. Recruitment of new Programme Officer for the Assessment and Management of Environmental Pollution (AMEP) Sub-Programme (P4);
 - b. Recruitment of new Information Technology Assistant (G-6);
 - c. Reclassification of Team Assistant Communication (G4) and Recruitment of a new Public Information Assistant (G5);
 - d. Resignation of Finance and Administrative Assistant (G5). Recruitment of a replacement through an International UNV is ongoing and expected to be completed in the last quarter of 2025.

II FINANCE AND ACCOUNTS

3. The CTF remains the primary source of financing for the Cartagena Convention Secretariat. The financial situation of the CTF is shown in Annex II, which provides the status of the CTF as of 31 August 2025. The Secretariat has actively pursued the collection of pledges to the CTF, including the collection of outstanding pledges.
4. In the development of payment plans to address outstanding contributions, Contracting Parties continue to be encouraged to provide in-kind contributions by hosting meetings and workshops of the Secretariat, where appropriate, while ensuring that the cash financing required for operations and programme support cost is not undermined.
5. Efforts continue to be made by the Secretariat to solicit programme and project funding from other sources, such as the Global Environment Facility (GEF) and other donors. In addition to implementing activities within the projects, the Secretariat has benefited from the cost-sharing of specific operational costs with these projects. This has reduced costs to the CTF, and demonstrates the Secretariat's commitment to meeting the needs of Contracting Parties despite the financial challenges posed by the lack and/or untimely contributions to the CTF. However, these efforts cannot substitute for having sustainable and predictable financing provided through the CTF.
6. Given the trends for 2025 of further reduced contributions and projected costs for 2026-2027, there is an urgent need for Contracting Parties to assess the future financial sustainability of the Secretariat including honoring existing pledges, paying outstanding contributions, considering extraordinary payments, and ensuring that the proposed work plans and decisions can be effectively implemented with available human and financial resources.

III. ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT AND POLLUTION PREVENTION

7. This section is an overview of activities implemented for the Assessment and Management of Environmental Pollution (AMEP) Sub-Programme which supports the Protocols Concerning Pollution from Land-Based Sources and Activities (LBS) and Concerning Cooperation in Combating Oil Spills. It provides a summary of actions taken in response to decisions of the Sixth Meeting of the Contracting Parties (COP6) to the LBS Protocol and COP17 of the Cartagena Convention.
8. The goal of the AMEP Sub-Programme is to prevent, reduce and control pollution of the coastal and marine environment from land and marine-based sources thereby enabling Contracting Parties of the Wider Caribbean Region (WCR) to meet their obligations under the LBS and Oil Spills Protocols.
9. The specific objectives of the Sub-Programme are to:
 - a. Coordinate and oversee the implementation of AMEP projects and activities within the framework of the Cartagena Convention;
 - b. Ensure that the formulation and implementation of projects and activities satisfy the obligations of the LBS and Oil Spills Protocols;
 - c. Promote ratification of, accession to and effective implementation of the LBS and Oil Spills Protocols; and
 - d. Enhance coordination, collaboration and communication with Regional Activity Centres (RACs), members of the Regional Activity Network (RAN), and relevant regional and international organizations in the development and implementation of the AMEP work plan.
10. Since the last reporting period, the number of Contracting Parties to the LBS Protocol is now 16 with the Government of Saint Kitts and Nevis being the most recent government to ratify the LBS Protocol in October 2024.
11. The Centre of Research and Environmental Management of Transport (RAC CIMAB) convened a workshop in 2024 in Cuba to promote LBS Protocol ratification, identify barriers to ratification, and develop a list of capacity-building needs. The Institute of Marine Affairs (RAC IMA) is expected to undertake a similar workshop in St Vincent and the Grenadines in August 2025.
12. The Secretariat continued to promote ratification of the LBS protocol during the period under review through its social media platforms. Further, with support of the GEF CRew+ Project, RAC IMA designed and developed promotional material about the LBS Protocol.
13. During the reporting period, the AMEP Sub-Programme was represented at regional and global meetings and conferences, highlighting the importance of the LBS Protocol, including regional Ministerial meetings focusing on maritime transportation, environment, solid waste and water.
14. The Secretariat, through the AMEP Sub-Programme, reviewed and provided technical input to regional and global reports involving, inter alia, Reports of the UN Secretary-General on Resolutions relating to oceans, Small Island Developing States (SIDS) and the Sustainable Development Goals. Input was also provided to technical reports on pollution-related issues such as marine litter, plastics, wastewater and nutrients.
15. The LBS Regional Activity Centers- Institute of Marine Affairs (IMA) and the Centro De Investigacion Y Manejo Ambiental Del Transporte (CIMAB) assisted the Secretariat in the implementation of the 2023 - 2025 work plan. Efforts were made to develop technical reports which were tabled for discussion during the Seventh Meeting of the Scientific and Technical Advisory Committee (STAC) of the Protocol Concerning Pollution from Land-Based Sources and Activities (LBS). The Regional Activity Centres (RACs) also provided support to engage with non-Contracting Parties regarding the benefits of joining the LBS Protocol.
16. The Open-Ended Working Group (OEWG) on Environmental Monitoring and Assessment and related thematic sub-groups (nutrients and wastewater; microplastics; and Sargassum) continue to provide technical support to the Secretariat and the Regional Activity Centres (RACs) as they implement activities that support the implementation of the Cartagena Convention's Regional Strategy and Action Plan for Regional Nutrient Pollution Reduction Strategy and Action Plan for the Wider Caribbean Region.

17. During the reporting period, the OEWG reviewed and proposed changes to the working group's Terms of Reference, which also considers a slight change in scope. The revised terms of reference (TORs) are presented as Information Document UNEP(DEPI)/CAR WG.46/INF.7.
18. A Joint Monitoring and Assessment Open Ended Working Group and Sargassum Working Group meeting was convened 18-20 March 2025 at the offices of the Regional Activity Center – Institute of Marine Affairs in Trinidad and Tobago. The meeting advanced the draft Sargassum action plan and proposed a definition for Sargassum inundation. The meeting report and proposed recommendations are presented as Information Document UNEP(DEPI)/CAR WG.45/INF.31.
19. The GEF-funded project, Integrating Water, Land and Ecosystems Management in Caribbean Small Island Developing States (IWeco) convened its Final Partners Meetings in Gros Islet Saint Lucia, from the 19th - 21st March 2024. The Cross-Cutting Case Study for Common Barriers and Solutions to Integrated Land, Water, and Ecosystems Management in Caribbean SIDS of the IWeco Project is included as a Reference Document for the meeting. The final Project Implementation Report (PIR) on the project's progress and the challenges faced during its implementation is presented as a Reference Document. The project closed on 31 March 2025, and efforts are underway to support the final project closure process.
20. The GEF-funded project, An integrated approach to water and wastewater management using innovative solutions and promoting financing mechanisms in the Wider Caribbean Region (CREW+) convened its third Project Steering Committee (PSC) in Playa del Carmen, Mexico on 21- 23 June 2023. During the reporting period the delays experienced during the previous biennium were addressed with the outstanding agreements under the project now in place and project activities being fully underway. The PSC meeting report and Project Implementation Report (PIR) are presented as Reference Documents. As a result of delays associated with the implementation of project activities by national partners, a project extension until 31 March 2026 was approved by two-thirds of the Project Steering Committee in February 2025.
21. In collaboration with the UNEP Source to Sea Pollution Unit, the Secretariat is implementing a Water Quality Capacity Development Project in the Wider Caribbean Region funded by the United States Environment Protection Agency. The project which commenced in 2024 seeks to build capacity at the regional and national levels to scale up sustainable water quality monitoring programmes and management and prevention of pollution. A Virtual Kick Off Meeting took place in July 2024 where the Secretariat and UNEP's Source to Sea Pollution Unit sought to introduce the main features and expected results of the project to stakeholders.
22. The GEF-funded project, Reduce marine plastics and plastic pollution in Latin America and Caribbean cities through a circular economy approach (LAC Cities) held its second Project Steering Committee Meeting in Cartagena, Colombia 27 -28 March 2025.
23. The Prevention of Marine Litter in the Caribbean Sea (PROMAR) project held its Project Kick-Off Meeting and Study Tour in Santo Domingo, Dominican Republic from 25 – 28 June 2024. The event marked project inception for five project countries: Suriname, Guyana, British Virgin Islands, Trinidad and Tobago and St. Kitts and Nevis.
24. In relation to the implementation of the European Union-funded Capacity-Building Related to Multilateral Environmental Agreements in African, Caribbean, and Pacific Countries Phase 3 Project (ACP MEA III), project implementation was on hold during 2024 as the Secretariat awaited the approval of a no-cost extension of the project to December 2025. In 2025, the Secretariat entered into an agreement with Guyana and Suriname to implement an ecosystem-based management project focusing on pollution mitigation and habitat protection.
25. The Secretariat has entered a new partnership arrangement with the government of the United Kingdom. In collaboration with Centre for Environment, Fisheries and Aquaculture Science (CEFAS), the Secretariat successfully submitted a project proposal for water quality technical assistance for Jamaica and Guyana through the UK International Development Programme – Sustainable Blue Economy Technical Assistance. The project seeks to support enhanced management of marine water quality in the Caribbean as a fundamental enabler for sustainable blue economies, focusing on advice and capacity building to enable enhanced monitoring, assessment and management of water quality in the two countries. As part of the first

activity, exploratory missions were made to Jamaica in April 2025, and Guyana in June 2025, to better understand the threats of marine pollution to blue economy sectors.

IV. BIODIVERSITY AND PROTECTED AREAS

Programme Overview

26. This section is an overview of activities implemented for the Specially Protected Areas and Wildlife (SPAW) Sub-Programme. It provides actions taken in response to decisions of the Eleventh Meeting of the Contracting Parties (COP12) to the SPAW Protocol and COP17 of the Cartagena Convention, and the status of activities for the biennium which was extended through 2025.
27. During the biennium the SPAW Sub-Programme focused on assisting Contracting Parties with:
 - a. Strengthening of the regional networks of marine protected areas (MPAs) and the conservation of species listed in the Annexes of the SPAW Protocol, through technical cooperation, small grants, and capacity-building efforts in collaboration with regional partners and national authorities.
 - b. Promoting ecosystem-based management (EBM) principles and integrating them into national and regional planning processes, including technical assistance for enhancing cross-sectoral ocean governance, strengthening biodiversity policies, and supporting nature-based solutions for coastal resilience.
 - c. Reinforce regional coordination through the continued work of the ad hoc working groups of experts on Sargassum, species, protected areas, and exemptions, resulting in outputs such as the draft Regional Sargassum Action Plan and updated species conservation recommendations.
28. Activities were also aimed at coordinating with other environmental agreements and programmes dealing with issues relating to the conservation of biodiversity of particular relevance to the SPAW Protocol such as the International Whaling Commission (IWC), the International Union for the Conservation of Nature's (IUCN), Caribbean Strategy and Biodiversity and Protected Areas Management Programme (BIOPAMA), the Inter-American Convention for the Protection and Conservation of Sea Turtles (IAC), the Western Central Atlantic Fishery Commission of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO-WECAFC), Caribbean Community (CARICOM) Secretariat, Centre for Resource Management and Environmental Studies (CERMES), Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD), the Convention on Wetlands of International Importance (Ramsar), Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals (CMS), the Convention on the International Trade of Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES), Gulf and Caribbean Fisheries Institute (GCFI), Inter-governmental Oceanographic Commission's Sub-Commission for the Caribbean and Adjacent Regions/United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (IOCARIBE/UNESCO), Mesoamerican Reef Fund (MAR Fund), National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), Organisation of Eastern Caribbean States (OECS), Sargasso Sea Commission, The Nature Conservancy (TNC), UNEP Latin America and the Caribbean Office (LACO), Wider Caribbean Sea Turtle Conservation Network (WIDECAST), the Caribbean Regional Fisheries Mechanism (CRFM), International Coral Reef Initiative, (ICRI), and the Oslo and Paris Conventions (OSPAR) Commission.
29. Specific activities for the 2023-2025 Workplan fall under five major programme elements (sub-programmes):
 - a. Programme Coordination;
 - b. Strengthening of Protected Areas in the Wider Caribbean Region (including training and capacity building for protected area management);
 - c. Development of Guidelines for Protected Areas and Species Management;
 - d. Conservation of Threatened and Endangered Species and
 - e. Conservation and Sustainable Use of Coastal and Marine Ecosystems (including coral reefs, mangroves and seagrasses using the ecosystem-based management (EBM) approach).
30. Additionally, the Secretariat focused on fundraising by strategizing and streamlining SPAW activities, given the limitations on financial contributions and human resources needed to fulfil programmatic mandates. Therefore, interventions were targeted and strategic in nature.

31. The Secretariat, in close collaboration with SPAW-RAC and interested Contracting Parties, is preparing a proposal under the Global Biodiversity Framework Fund (GBFF)'s 2nd programming call to advance SPAW Protocol implementation with a focus on MPAs and associated OECMs. The proposed intervention will:
 - a. Strengthen the representative SPAW MPA network and ecological connectivity across key ecoregions;
 - b. Improve management effectiveness (e.g., METT-based improvements) through targeted capacity building, co-management pilots, and small grants;
 - c. Support blue-carbon and climate-resilient restoration in priority mangrove/seagrass sites (where requested by Parties);
 - d. Deploy a regional MPA data pipeline interoperable with SPAW-RAC/CEP platforms and aligned with OCM processes to streamline reporting and the next State of the Convention Area Report;
 - e. Promote nature-positive financing mechanisms and partnerships that scale local stewardship and compliance. The proposal will be structured to align with the CEP Strategy 2023–2030 and KM-GBF Targets (notably Target 3), complement ongoing PROCARIBE+ and Large Marine Ecosystem (LME) activities, and respond to COP17 Decisions on data/reporting and collaboration with global MEAs. Country participation, sites, and co-financing are being confirmed through focal-point consultations.
32. During the reporting period, the day-to-day coordination for implementation of programmatic activities continued to be overseen by the SPAW Programme Officer, who was onboarded in June 2023 and assumed responsibility for the overall coordination of the SPAW Programme, working in close collaboration with the SPAW Programme Assistant.
33. Additional support to meet the objectives of the sub-programme was received from the SPAW Regional Activity Centre (SPAW-RAC), which is located in Guadeloupe and hosted by the Government of France (see UNEP(DEPI)/CAR WG.45/INF.5 for details on the funds provided by the Government of France through SPAW-RAC for the implementation of SPAW activities).
34. The Government of St. Kitts and Nevis acceded to the SPAW Protocol in 2024, bringing the total number of Contracting Parties to nineteen (19). Discussions are ongoing with Antigua and Barbuda, Dominica, Haiti, Costa Rica, Guatemala, Jamaica, Mexico, Suriname, and the United Kingdom regarding their ratification of the SPAW Protocol
35. Implementation of activities under the following projects:
 - a. EU funded project “Enforcing Environmental Treaties in African, Caribbean and Pacific (ACP) Countries – ACP-MEAs Phase III” (USD 1,961,264) continued (UNEP(DEPI)/CAR WG.45/INF.7, UNEP(DEPI)/CAR WG.45/INF.31 and UNEP(DEPI)/CAR WG.45/INF.32). The four (4) year project (2020-2024) was extended to December 2025. The main objective of the project for SPAW was to develop a functional network of SPAW-listed protected areas that cover interconnected marine habitats and ecosystems for restoring and sustaining the health of the oceans.
 - b. GEF Funded UNOPS-UNEP: Collaborative Execution of selected activities of the GoM LME Project: “Implementation of the Strategic Action Program (SAP) of the Gulf of Mexico Large Marine Ecosystem” (USD 382,000) UN to UN agreement with UNOPS signed in August 2024 – December 2025 (UNEP(DEPI)/CAR WG.45/INF.34). The Secretariat has entered into agreements with three partners, SPAW-RAC, Kalanbio and CONABIO for the implementation of the project. The project experienced some delays with implementation however agreements with respective partners are now finalised and being executed.
 - c. GEF Funded UNOPS-UNDP: Collaborative Execution of some activities of the PROCARIBE+ Project: Protecting and Restoring the Ocean’s natural Capital, building Resilience and supporting region-wide Investments in sustainable Blue Socio-Economic development (USD 957,085) UNtoUN agreement with UNOPS signed in January 2025 – September 2027 (UNEP(DEPI)/CAR WG.45/INF.33). The Secretariat has entered into an agreement with ReefCheck Dominican Republic (DR) for implementation of the project in the DR. We await an update from Colombia regarding their selected partner for implementation.
36. The Secretariat continued its close collaboration with the Gulf and Caribbean Fisheries Institute (GCFI) including participating at their Annual Conferences - GCFI 76 (Bahamas 2023) and GCFI 77

(Guadeloupe, 2024). Participation at the 2025 Conference is also anticipated.

37. The Secretariat continued collaboration with civil society through the SPAW Consortium established during (SPAW STAC 10). Development of the SPAW Consortium Workplan 2024-2025 by the members of the Consortium Steering Committee in consultation with the Secretariat and elaboration of a briefing paper on 'Expanding Civil Society Participation in the Caribbean Environment Programme' (UNEP(DEPI)/CAR WG.45/INF.36).
38. Letters of Intent (LOI) signed in 2024 with:
 - a. Inter-American Convention for the Protection and Conservation of Sea Turtles (IAC) (UNEP(DEPI)/CARWG.45/INF.32) and
 - b. International Whaling Commission (IWC) (UNEP(DEPI)/CARWG.45/INF. 33) in 2024.
39. The purpose of the LOIs is to promote collaboration and enhance synergies with these organizations in the implementation of the SPAW Work Programme.
40. Development of a draft workplan with the IWC was completed in 2025 (UNEP(DEPI)/CAR WG.45/INF.34). This draft work plan outlines proposed activities for collaboration between the respective Parties and Secretariats of the Cartagena Convention and the IWC and will be presented to SPAW COP13 for adoption.
41. SPAW continued to enhance synergies with the AMEP Programme through collaboration on the Joint Meeting of the Monitoring and Assessment Open Ended Working Group (OEWG) and the SPAW Sargassum Working Group (WG) in Trinidad and Tobago, March 2025. See Information Document UNEP(DEPI)/CAR WG.45/INF.31. The LBS OEWG members are included as members in the SPAW Sargassum WG.
42. In collaboration with UNEP Headquarters, the SPAW sub-programme contributed to the raising awareness about the Agreement under the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea on the Conservation and Sustainable Use of Marine Biological Diversity of Areas beyond National Jurisdiction (BBNJ agreement) and process for ratification by disseminating relevant information and participating in regional events that highlighted the synergies between the SPAW Protocol and the BBNJ Agreement.
43. Discussions were initiated to provide support to Parties for integrating blue carbon ecosystems into their Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs), through engagement with partners such as the Pew Charitable Trusts.
44. The Secretariat enhanced regional data and information platforms in preparation for the next State of the Convention Area Report. A more integrated report will be prepared on marine biodiversity and marine pollution in collaboration with the AMEP subprogramme.
45. New multifocal project proposals were developed integrating biodiversity, climate, and socio-economic objectives. Financing was provided by UNEP Headquarters to support the implementation of ecosystem-based management (EBM), restoration initiatives, and—upon request from countries—support for the update of National Biodiversity Strategies and Action Plans (NBSAPs), to include marine and coastal environment considerations.
46. Meetings and webinars were organized and/or attended in order to continue promoting the objectives of SPAW and to enhance synergies and cooperation in the implementation of the approved work plan and SPAW COP Decisions.

V. KNOWLEDGE MANAGEMENT AND COMMUNICATIONS

47. This section provides a summary of the communications work of the Secretariat as described in the 2023-2025 work plan approved by the COP17 of the Cartagena Convention.
48. The main objectives of the communications work are to:

- a. Raise visibility and promote the value and impact of the work of the Secretariat, Contracting Parties and Partners in the implementation of the Cartagena Convention and its Protocols as well as programmes, projects and activities on coastal and marine management in the Wider Caribbean Region.
 - b. Develop and implement training programmes for the management of the use of coastal and marine resources.
 - c. Develop and/or support existing public awareness initiatives through the use of appropriate traditional and social media platforms, partnerships and knowledge-sharing tools.
 - d. Increase access to data and information on coastal and marine resource management through the Secretariat's website, networks and databases, and
 - e. Provide technological support in the implementation of the Secretariat's operations. meetings) and other outreach including activities which are highlighted with the specific sub-programmes.
49. The Communications Strategy of the Secretariat was further updated during the current biennium to function as a Knowledge Management and Advocacy tool and as the framework for communication activities. These fell under four main pillars:
- a. Corporate Communications and Public Relations: Raising the visibility of the Caribbean Environment Programme and promoting the projects and activities of the Secretariat;
 - b. Data Information and Management: Providing data, information, and technical support to Contracting Parties and partners;
 - c. Environmental Education and Public Awareness: Implementing activities to inform the public about specific environmental issues;
 - d. Participatory Communication for Development: Engaging stakeholders and project partners in project-based communication efforts to document and provide evidence of behavioural change.
50. As part of ongoing efforts by the Secretariat to respond to the need to have more effective knowledge management and communications support to the Programmes and Projects, the Secretariat completed the selection of a full-time Information Technology (IT) Assistant who joined the Secretariat in August 2024. This has resulted in a restructuring of the website and inclusion of tools to enable full compliance with UNEP and UN procedures and guidelines relating to communication and information security.
51. Following the departure of the Associate Programme Officer and the retirement of the GEF IWeco Communications Specialist, communications support in 2023 was maintained by the National UN Volunteer under the ACP MEAs 3 project. In 2024, a communications and advocacy consultant, along with a replacement consultant for the ACP MEAs 3 project, continued to provide communications support under the Coordinator's supervision.
52. Following recruitment delays, the post of CETA Team Assistant was reclassified and a Public Information Assistant assumed duties in the second quarter of 2025. This position will be key for knowledge management and communications in the future.
53. The Secretariat re-launched its newsletter, enhancing outreach of the work of the secretariat and the Contracting Parties.
54. As the Communications Sub-Programme does not have an assigned budget for the implementation of its work plan, the Secretariat continued to harness the resources available through partnerships and build on the communications work of ongoing projects in order to maximize the effectiveness of its work. The following communications and public education activities were undertaken through or with funding from projects that are co-executed or led by the Secretariat.

Website(s)

55. A dedicated webpage was developed for the ACP MEA project and sharing of all project outputs was done with UNEP Headquarters who manages the overall project website.
56. The GEF-IWeco Project which closed in March 2025 was a multi-focal, regional project to address water, land and biodiversity resource management as well as climate change in ten participating countries. Many of the final project outputs were uploaded to the project website. This website will be archived enabling

continued access to the resources produced under the project.

57. The Secretariat has assumed responsibility for maintaining the GEF CReW+ Website and efforts have expanded to all project outputs made available.
58. The Secretariat is finalizing the development of the LAC Cities module, to be embedded within its web infrastructure. The implementation will employ consistent information architecture, shared style sheets, and interoperable content management protocols, with bidirectional linking to ensure full integration and navigational continuity.
59. PROMAR maintains a dedicated, partner-managed project site hosted and administered by adelphi (<https://promar.org/en>), the website operates outside the UNEP CEP domain, with content governance, hosting infrastructure, and updates managed directly by the implementing partner.

Newsletters and External Reports.

60. With the closure of the IWeco project, focus was on sharing experiences for other external reports and newsletters including GEF IW Learn.
61. The Secretariat contributed to CReW+ Newsletter which is prepared and disseminated by the CReW+ Project Coordinating Unit.
62. PROMAR has quarterly newsletters, which are currently managed by adelphi, with input from the Secretariat's Project Manager. The GEF LAC Cities project has opted to highlight its work through contributions to the regional plastics newsletter led by the UNEP Panama Office.

Case Studies, Best Practices and Technical Publications

63. Case studies highlighting the results, lessons and best practices for national projects in Cuba, Dominican Republic, St. Kitts and Nevis, Saint Lucia and Trinidad and Tobago and a cross-cutting case study were developed. Promotional videos introducing the project, on nature-based solutions, sustainable livelihoods and REMDAP, the regional environmental monitoring platform, can be accessed here.
64. With support from the GEF IWeco Project, policy briefs and posters were developed defining the benefits of Integrated Water Resources Management in Caribbean, Integrated Coastal Zone Management and Data and Information for Better Environmental Decision Making. Additionally, A Guide for Integrated Conservation and Sanitation Programs and Approaches and A Pollution Assessment and Monitoring Manual was also developed.
65. Through the GEF LAC Cities project, several reports were published including:
 - A global report on best practices for policy instruments, including recommendations tailored to the LAC context.
 - A global report on best practices for financial instruments, with LAC-specific recommendations
 - A global report on best practices in upstream business innovations focused on elimination, reduction, and reuse was developed.
 - A global report on best practices in collection and recycling interventions for cities was prepared, including LAC-specific recommendations.

Advocacy and Awareness Raising

66. The Gulf and Caribbean Fisheries Institute (GCFI) through the small grant programme supported the development of an educational manual detailing Bahamas Plastic Movement's approach to education manual detailing Bahamas Plastic Movement's approach to education via their plastic camp programme.
67. The Secretariat partnered with RARE, which has been engaging with communities in countries within the Wider Caribbean Region to develop behavior-centered design processes to reduce pollutants entering the marine environment in coastal communities.
68. Knowledge management products developed by Global Water Partnership-Caribbean (GWP-C) through its Technical Committee produced two perspectives papers on the following topics: 1) Wastewater Management in the Caribbean: A Jamaica Case Study and 2) A Toilet Paper. For each of these papers short promotional videos were also developed.

69. The GEF LAC Cities project also contributed by hosting online and face to face events, including:
70. In efforts to raise stakeholder awareness and foster behavioral changes at the country-level, the PROMAR project engaged local stakeholders across the five project countries in a Knowledge, Attitudes, and Practices survey at the inception of the project (Q2 and Q3 2024). This survey will be replicated as well as at the end to measure behavioral change and heightened awareness as a direct outcome of project activities. In this respect, regional sessions on upstream and downstream solutions for the focal points of the three implementing countries were held in June and July 2025, respectively.
71. Environmental days were commemorated through the following activities:
- a. World Wetlands Day- social media posts and a website blogpost
 - b. International Day of Zero Waste- social media posts and a blogpost which merged the idea of zero waste particularly in wetlands: <https://www.unep.org/cep/news/blogpost/zero-waste-wetlands-call-protect-caribbeans-coastal-ecosystems>
 - c. World Wildlife Day- social media posts
 - d. World Water Day- social media posts
 - e. International Women’s Day- featured the ladies of the Cartagena Convention Secretariat, environmental professionals, and scientists all of whom are committed to the goals of the Cartagena Convention. The Coordinator’s message which was also shared as a blog post highlighted the inclusive nature of the Secretariat’s operation and the strong gender balance, tipped in favour of our environmental women champions/advocates
 - f. International Biodiversity Day- social media posts.
 - g. World Oceans Day, World Environment Day- social media posts, joint week-long event with the National Environment and Planning Agency in 2024 and 2025, Jamaica and a web story- <https://www.unep.org/cep/news/story/national-environmental-awareness-week-turning-tide-plastic-pollution-jamaica>
 - h. World Turtle Day- blog and social media posts
72. Several other activities were undertaken to raise awareness on environmental issues and the importance of protecting coastal and marine resources. These included the publication of new factsheets on thematic issues and new projects, website articles and publications and regular features in the Regional Seas newsletter; These included through partnering with the Science for Nature and People Partnership (SNAPP) to develop the following on Marine Pollution. These are highlighted below.
- a. [A Guide for Pollution Assessment & Monitoring in Coastal Ecosystems](#)
 - b. [Factsheets on Approaches to Assessing & Monitoring Coastal Pollution](#)
 - c. [Factsheets on Methods for Collection of In-Situ Water Quality](#)
73. In collaboration with the Economist Impact, the Secretariat supported the revision of the [Economist Road Map on Pollution](#).
74. *Press Releases, Media Interviews & Social Media*: Five press releases and 25 publications (combination of stories, blogposts, web announcements) were made to the website and disseminated to regional media partners for publishing from Jan. 2023 to date.

Press Releases included: Celebrating 25 years of the SPAW Protocol, Circular Economy –Catalyst for Economic Development, St Kitts and Nevis SPAW Protocol Ratification, Caribbean and Latin American Cities collaborate to reduce plastic pollution and transition to a circular economy, and an OP ED congratulating Jamaica on its environmental focus for Labour Day. To commemorate the SPAW 25th Anniversary, Susana Perera Valderrama, Programme Management Officer, SPAW participated in a prime-time television interview-CVM @ Sunrise. Christopher Corbin, Coordinator also joined her for a 1.5-hour radio interview on Palav, Radio Jamaica 94FM where they also discussed the Cartagena Convention, its Protocols, the work of the Secretariat, special projects, community involvement and partnership

opportunities.

Through the GEF LAC Cities Project, seven press releases were published in regional media featuring the launch of the project, the press releases were published both in English and in Spanish.

The PROMAR Project was also featured in four regional media publications.

The Secretariat continued to use Facebook, X (formerly Twitter), Instagram and LinkedIn to share programme updates and highlight relevant national, regional and global environmental news. The [Facebook](#) followers are 10,353. X (formerly [Twitter](#)) has also maintained a current following of 5,624. Our total number of followers on [Instagram](#) at the end of the biennium stands at 2,182 (representing an increase of 17.2%). [LinkedIn](#) followers have increased from 1,500 in the last biennium to 3,186 followers, representing an increase of 112.2%.

75. Programme and project documents and reports continued to be uploaded to UNEP's Document Repository where they formed part of UNEP's official database and were more easily monitored in terms of access and downloads, and more easily located through search engines.
76. The Secretariat continued efforts to develop an online reporting template for the Cartagena Convention and an update will be provided to COP 18. Work on the development of the online reporting template for the UNEP Cartagena Convention Secretariat is progressing, with ongoing technical discussions taking place with UNEP Headquarters to ensure alignment and interoperability between our systems.
77. Initial review of their reporting framework confirms strong compatibility with our intended design, as the structure and requested information closely mirror our requirements. This provides a solid basis for integrating best practices and ensuring consistency across reporting mechanisms.

ANNEX I: Status of Responses to Decisions of the COP17 of the Cartagena Convention

Cartagena Convention COP17 Decisions		
	Status (Completed, Ongoing or Not Started)	Actions(s) Taken
Decision I Workplan and Budget		
Secretariat to continue to leverage resources and expertise from other organisations and projects to help achieve the objectives of the Convention and its Protocols and in the implementation of the 2023-2025 Workplan including for unfunded activities.	Completed. This will continue subject to COP 18 Decisions.	Secretariat partnered with the UNEP Source to Sea Pollution Unit to implement a 3-year Capacity Building Water Quality Project funded by the US EPA. Secretariat worked with other Regional Seas Programmes on a project to accelerate delivery of the K-M GBF and other biodiversity related commitments within the framework of SPAW. Funding was mobilized from UNEP Marine and Freshwater Branch for capacity building activities on SPAW and relating to the GBF. Proposal on Water Quality and Pollution under the Sustainable Blue Economy Programme was approved and supporting LBS activities in Jamaica and Guyana. GEF Project Identification Form (PIF) under development for a Sand Management Project in Saint Lucia and St. Kitts and Nevis in collaboration with GRID Geneva. Potential sources of funding identified for new projects in collaboration with the International Maritime Organization (IMO), Development Bank of Latin America and the Caribbean (CAF) and International Petroleum Industry Environmental Conservation Association (IPIECA) for inclusion the draft 2026-2027 Work Plan and subject to its approval.
Decision III RAC/REMPEITC-Caribe		
Contracting Parties to support RAC IMA's monitoring effort in the Eastern and Southern Caribbean and invite those Contracting Parties in areas currently without an oil spill monitoring programme to engage with the COSTA programme to consider establishing one in collaboration with RAC IMA and RAC REMPEITC Caribe.	Completed. This will continue subject to COP 18 Decisions.	The Secretariat advised Contracting Parties of this need at the Oil Spills Steering Committee Meeting and Meeting of Directors and Heads of Maritime Administrations. Recommendations from both meetings highlighted the opportunity to enhance national capacity for oil spill monitoring. A few Contracting Parties have expressed interest (Jamaica and Guyana). Recommendation received from LBS STAC 7 to continue to explore collaboration on this activity.

Secretariat, in collaboration with RAC REMPEITC Caribe, to develop partnership agreements or MOUs with RAC IMA and Contracting Parties, as appropriate, for the expansion of the COSTA programme.	Not Completed.	Government of Curacao is no longer hosting the Centre. Discussions are ongoing including with National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) to decide how this work might continue. Awaiting new offer (s) by Parties to host RAC REMPEITC Caribe.
Decision IV REGIONAL STRATEGY FOR CARTAGENA CONVENTION SECRETARIAT		
Secretariat to convene an Open-Ended Working Group of Contracting Parties to conduct a final review of the Draft Regional Strategy for the Cartagena Convention (2023-2030) focussing on additional recommendations received during the meetings of the LBS and SPAW Protocol Conference of Parties and this meeting and subsequently request the Secretariat to present a revised version to Contracting Parties for intersessional review and approval.	Completed.	Open Ended Working Group was established and one meeting convened. Discussion on the Regional Strategy held and endorsed with minor comments. Final draft circulated in the three languages and will be submitted to the Cartagena Convention COP 18 for formal adoption.
Decision V GOVERNANCE		
Secretariat to work with Contracting Parties, as well as existing RACs and RANs, to update the 2008 “Guidelines for the Establishment and Operation of Regional Activity Centres and Regional Activity Networks for the Cartagena Convention”, taking into account relevant decisions of the SPAW and LBS Contracting Parties relating to the roles of RACs, RANs and working groups, and present proposed revisions to IGM21/COP18 for further consideration and possible adoption.	Completed	PreCOP scheduled for September 2025 to discuss and finalize the draft RAC RAN Guidelines prepared. This will be presented to the COP 18 of the Cartagena Convention for possible adoption.
Decision VI FOCAL POINTS INITIATION		
Secretariat to develop an “Onboarding/Welcome Kit” for new Focal Points providing historical background on the work and processes of the Cartagena Convention and its Protocols and the role of Convention and Protocol Focal Points.	Completed	Focal Point toolbox completed and available on the Secretariat Website. A Webinar will be planned to launch Toolbox and as part of orientation for ne focal points during the 2026-2027 biennium.
Decision VII RATIFICATION OF THE CARTAGENA CONVENTION AND/ OR ITS PROTOCOLS		

Call upon eligible Non-Contracting Parties to the Cartagena Convention and/or its Protocols to accelerate their efforts towards ratification and, as appropriate, to request assistance from the Secretariat and/or the RACs to assist in their national ratification processes.	Ongoing	Regional Workshops and Bilateral Discussions with Focal Points are being used on an ongoing basis to promote ratification. National Promotional Workshops convened in Cuba in January 2025 by RAC CIMAB and in St Vincent and the Grenadines in August 2025 by RAC IMA with project funding. RAC IMA produced promotional material on LBS Protocol ratification which has been shared on the Secretariat's social media web pages.
Invite Non-Contracting Parties to provide an update during the next meetings of the Cartagena Convention Conference of Parties on their domestic ratification efforts, including any impediments identified.	Ongoing	Informal discussions have been held with non-Contracting Parties and Member States will be invited to provide feedback to Cartagena Convention COP 17 on their status of ratification and challenges.
Decision VIII OCEAN COORDINATION MECHANISM/PROCARIBE+ Project		
Secretariat to work with the PROCARIBE+ Project Coordination Unit (PCU) to identify potential opportunities for the Secretariat to serve as a partner executing agency for activities that would support the implementation of the Cartagena Convention and its Protocols and in collaboration with Contracting Parties to develop and present a draft plan for any proposed Secretariat engagement to Contracting Parties for their intersessional review and approval.	Completed	The Secretariat identified specific activities that it would take the lead on and this was communicated to focal points and received a no objection. The Secretariat may be involved with the development of “State of Reports” and this will be presented as part of the draft 2026-2027 Work Plan.
Secretariat, through UNEP, to consider signing the MOU, and participating in the Executive Group and encourage Contracting Parties to sign the MOU, as appropriate considering national circumstances, and participate in the Steering Group.	Completed	The Ocean Coordination Mechanism (OCM) MoU has been signed. Secretariat communicated with all focal points encouraging signature. No further action required. Secretariat was appointed as the Vice Chair of the OCM.
Decision IX SARGASSUM		
Secretariat to facilitate communication and coordination, as appropriate, across the Convention and its Protocols on Sargassum inundation, including by working with the RACs and RANs.	Completed. Further work to be defined at COP 18.	The Secretariat in collaboration with SPAW RAC have used several regional and global workshops, events and meetings to highlight the importance and priority of Sargassum. Much of the work is taking place through the Sargassum Working Group coordinated by SPAW RAC. Joint meeting of Sargassum Working Group and OEWG on Monitoring and Assessment convened. Secretariat supported multiple events on Sargassum at UNOC 3. Cartagena Convention PreCOP will review Sargassum Action Plan for presentation to Convention COP.

Secretariat in collaboration with the RACs and RANs, to support efforts on regional coordination within the Wider Caribbean region on Sargassum, including doing an analysis of ongoing activities by other regional and international agencies on this issue, and that the results of such analysis be reported to the Contracting Parties in a timely manner.	Completed	See above.
Secretariat to present a draft action plan developed in response to Recommendation VI of SPAW STAC10, subject to approval by SPAW COP13, to the Cartagena Convention COP18 for decision.	Completed	Input received from joint meeting and Draft Action Plan presented at SPAW STAC 11. Recommendation by both SPAW STAC 11 and LBS STAC 7 to further discuss the Sargassum Action Plan during a PreCOP before it is tabled at the COPs.
Recognize that Sargassum inundation extends beyond the Wider Caribbean Region and request the Secretariat to continue communication and collaboration, as appropriate, with other relevant organizations, including other affected Regional Seas Conventions and Action Plans, such as the Abidjan Convention.	Completed.	Meeting held with Coordinator of Abidjan Convention Secretariat and areas identified for collaboration including presentation at the Joint LBS/SPAW Workshop in Trinidad and Tobago.
DECISION X FINANCIAL ARRANGEMENTS		
Contracting Parties to honour their financial commitments to the Caribbean Trust Fund and make their annual contributions as early as possible to enable adequate planning and budgeting by the Secretariat.	Ongoing	Focal Point List periodically updated and annual invoices updated, reconciled and shared periodically. Engagement table developed and used to track interactions with Parties and reported to Bureau. Details of Contributions included in High Level Briefing Notes prepared for UNEP Senior Management. Meetings convened with national focal points and UNEP to ensure that invoices and balances are correct and contact persons and addresses are updated.
DECISION XI DATA AND INFORMATION MANAGEMENT		
Secretariat and the RACs to increase efforts to promote the sharing of best practices, lessons learned, guidelines, manuals and other knowledge management products in the three working languages of the Convention, to enhance science-based decision-making and alignment of monitoring efforts.	Ongoing	Public Information Assistant onboarded, and Communications and Advocacy Consultant supported update of Communication Strategy. New fact sheets were prepared, website updated, and new CEP Technical Reports were launched.

<p>Secretariat in collaboration with other regional and international partners, as appropriate, to support efforts to strengthen national and regional capacity for data and information management including monitoring coastal and marine resources in the Wider Caribbean Region.</p>	<p>Ongoing. This is a priority for 2026-2027 subject to COP 17 Decisions.</p>	<p>This is an ongoing process through multiple projects to enhance data and information management and to improve national capacity for monitoring and assessment.</p>
<p>DECISION XII COLLABORATION WITH GLOBAL MEAs</p>		
<p>Secretariat to continue to explore opportunities for collaboration on activities of the Cartagena Convention with the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework, as appropriate and within respective mandates, and to advise Contracting Parties on the opportunities to support the implementation of the Cartagena Convention that this helps to identify.</p>	<p>Completed. This will continue subject to COP 17 Decisions.</p>	<p>Engaged several MEA Secretariats including RAMSAR, CITES, CBD, as well as regional agencies and mechanisms such as WIDECAS, IUCN, CBD SOI, CMS, CBF to reduce overlap and duplication in the implementation of the work programme.</p>
<p>Secretariat to work with UNEP to further identify tools and guidance that could support Contracting Parties' collaborative approaches to implementing Multilateral Environmental Agreements at the national level, as appropriate and within respective mandates, including at the 6th United Nations Environment Assembly which will take place from 26 February to 1 March 2024.</p>	<p>Completed</p>	<p>UNEA 6 resolution 6/15 referencing to Regional Seas Conventions and Action Plans.</p>
<p>Contracting Parties to establish close collaboration between Convention focal points and the focal points of other relevant Multilateral Environmental Agreements to align approaches in implementation, as appropriate and within respective mandates, to increase efficiency and effectiveness.</p>	<p>Completed</p>	<p>Secretariat participated in relevant regional and global meetings and provided inputs to Global MEA resolutions on aspects specific to the Cartagena Convention and its Protocols based on mandates provided by Contracting Parties.</p>
<p>Contracting Parties to include strategies and actions relevant to the Cartagena Convention in National Biodiversity Strategies and Action Plans, and in associated knowledge management and reporting, as appropriate and within respective mandates.</p>	<p>Completed. This may continue subject to COP 17 Decisions.</p>	<p>Secretariat shared International Coral Reef Initiative (ICRI) guidelines with regional and international partners for integrating coral reef considerations into NBSAPs. Focal Points were advised of the NBSAP accelerator programme and continues to discuss future needs with Parties. Consultant provided capacity building on GBF during SPAW STAC 11.</p>

<p>Contracting Parties to explore the benefits of using the Data Reporting tool for MEAs (DaRT) developed by the United Nations Environment Programme as a tool to support national reporting on Multilateral Environmental Agreements including through sharing of experiences with Contracting Parties of the Cartagena Convention who are already using this tool.</p>	<p>Ongoing</p>	<p>Secretariat participates as part of the Project Steering Committee on Governance Project led by the UNEP Law Division, including on the use of Data Reporting tool for MEAs (DaRT). Costa Rica can be used as a possible champion.</p>
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ANNEX II: Status of Contributions to the Caribbean Trust Fund as at 31 August 2025

States and Territories of the Caribbean Region	Indicative Contributions 2023	Outstanding Contributions (Previous years incl. 2023)	Recd' 2023	Balance as at 31-Dec-2023	Indicative Contributions 2024	Outstanding Contributions (prev yrs. incl. 2024)	Recd' 2024	Balance as at 31-Dec-2024	Indicative Contributions 2025	Outstanding Contributions (prev yrs. incl. 2025)	Recd' 2025	Balance as at 31-August-2025
Anguilla	12,791.00	12,791.00	-	12,791.00	12,791.00	25,582.00	0.00	25,582.00	12,791.00	38,373.00	0.00	38,373.00
Antigua & Barbuda	12,791.00	153,492.00	-	153,492.00	12,791.00	166,283.00	0	166,283.00	12,791.00	179,074.00	0	179,074.00
Aruba	11,663.00	11,663.00	11,663.00	0.00	11,663.00	11,663.00	11,663.00	0.00	11,663.00	11,663.00	0.00	11,663.00
Bahamas	12,791.00	51,164.00	-	51,164.00	12,791.00	63,955.00	0.00	63,955.00	12,791.00	76,746.00	76,746.00	0.00
Barbados	12,791.00	12,791.00	12,791.00	0.00	12,791.00	12,791.00	12,791.00	0.00	12,791.00	12,791.00	0.00	12,791.00
Belize	11,663.00	11,663.00	-	11,663.00	11,663.00	23,326.00	0.00	23,326.00	11,663.00	34,989.00	0.00	34,989.00
British Virgin Islands	7,547.00	7,547.00	7,547.00	0.00	7,547.00	7,547.00	7,547.00	0.00	7,547.00	7,547.00	7,547	0.00
Cayman Islands	7,101.00	70,742.00	-	70,742.00	7,101.00	77,843.00	0.00	77,843.00	7,101.00	84,944.00	0.00	84,944.00
Colombia	22,914.00	22,914.00	22,914.00	0.00	22,914.00	22,914.00	22,914.00	0.00	22,914.00	22,914.00	22,914.00	0.00
Costa Rica	13,917.00	19,244.04	-	19,244.04	13,917.00	33,161.04	0.00	33,161.04	13,917.00	47,078.04	17,846.31	29,231.73
Cuba	24,059.00	517,585.35	-	517,585.35	24,059.00	541,644.35	0.00	541,644.35	24,059.00	565,703.35	0.00	565,703.35
Curacao	10,000.00	30,000.00	20,000.00	10,000.00	10,000.00	20,000.00	20,000.00	0.00	10,000.00	10,000.00	0.00	10,000.00
Dominican Republic	15,044.00	15,602.51	15,355.40	247.11	15,044.00	15,291.11	14,919.45	371.66	15,044.00	15,415.66	15,338.38	77.28
France	291,597.00	291,597.00	291,597.00	0.00	291,597.00	291,597.00	291,597.00	0.00	291,597.00	291,597.00	291,597.00	0.00
Grenada	12,791.00	331,940.22	-	331,940.22	12,791.00	344,731.22	51,996.00	292,735.22	12,791.00	305,526.22	37,037.04	268,489.18
Guatemala	13,917.00	13,917.00	-	13,917.00	13,917.00	27,834.00	0.00	27,834.00	13,917.00	41,751.00	0.00	41,751.00
Guyana	12,791.00	38,339.06	13,093.53	25,245.53	12,791.00	38,036.53	38,036.53	0.00	12,791.00	12,791.00	0.00	12,791.00
Haiti	12,791.00	38,373.00	-	38,373.00	12,791.00	51,164.00	0.00	51,164.00	12,791.00	63,955.00	0.00	63,955.00
Honduras	12,791.00	19,163.00	19,163.00	0.00	12,791.00	12,791.00	0.00	12,791.00	12,791.00	25,582.00	24,822.00	760.00
Jamaica	18,514.00	58,339.61	18,514.00	39,825.61	18,514.00	58,339.61	58,339.61	0.00	18,514.00	18,514.00	0.00	18,514.00
Mexico	40,000.00	40,000.00	40,000.00	0.00	40,000.00	40,000.00	40,000.00	0.00	40,000.00	40,000.00	0.00	40,000.00
Montserrat	3,430.00	6,860.00	3,430.00	3,430.00	3,430.00	6,860.00	3,430.00	3,430.00	3,430.00	6,860.00	0.00	6,860.00

Nicaragua	12,791.00	331,897.86	0.00	331,897.86	12,791.00	344,688.86	0.00	344,688.86	12,791.00	357,479.86	0.00	357,479.86
Panama	13,917.00	96,323.00	0.00	96,323.00	13,917.00	110,240.00	0.00	110,240.00	13,917.00	124,157.00	41,751.00	82,406.00
Saint Kitts and Nevis	3,430.00	3,430.00	0.00	3,430.00	3,430.00	6,860.00	6,860.00	0.00	3,430.00	3,430.00	0.00	3,430.00
Saint Lucia	11,663.00	65,022.80	0.00	65,022.80	11,663.00	76,685.80	23,291.00	53,394.80	11,663.00	65,057.80	0.00	65,057.80
St Vincent and the Grenadines	11,663.00	163,165.34	0.00	163,165.34	11,663.00	174,828.34	0.00	174,828.34	11,663.00	186,491.34	0.00	186,491.34
Suriname	12,791.00	140,701.00	0	140,701.00	12,791.00	153,492.00	0.00	153,492.00	12,791.00	166,283.00	0.00	166,283.00
The CW Of Dominica	12,791.00	252,319.39	0	252,319.39	12,791.00	265,110.39	0.00	265,110.39	12,791.00	277,901.39	0.00	277,901.39
The Netherlands	6,000.00	6,000.00	0.00	6,000.00	6,000.00	12,000.00	12,000.00	0.00	6,000.00	6,000.00	0.00	6,000.00
Trinidad and Tobago	15,044.00	15,044.00	15,044.00	0.00	15,044.00	15,044.00	15,044.00	0.00	15,044.00	15,044.00	15,044.00	0.00
Turks and Caicos Islands	6,174.00	6,174.00	6,174.00	0.00	6,174.00	6,174.00	6,174.00	0.00	6,174.00	6,174.00	6,174.00	0.00
United States of America	393,975.00	387,950.00	400,000.00	-12,050.00	393,975.00	381,925.00	381,925.00	0.00	393,975.00	393,975.00	0.00	393,975.00
Venezuela	170,375.00	2,044,500.00	0	2,044,500	170,375.00	2,214,875.00	0.00	2,214,875.00	170,375.00	2,385,250.00	0.00	2,385,250.00
TOTAL	1,264,308.00	5,288,255.18	897,285.93	4,390,969.25	1,264,308.00	5,655,277.25	1,018,527.59	4,636,749.66	1,264,308.00	5,901,057.66	556,816.73	5,344,240.93

ANNEX IV: Status of pledges and expenditure (US\$)

YEAR	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025*
Pledged (a)	1,282,824.00	1,264,308.00	1,264,308.00	1,264,308.00	1,264,308.00
Pledges Received (b)	1,162,961.00	1,098,030.00	897,286.00	1,018,528.00	556,816.73
Shortfall in pledges (a-b=c)	(119,863.00)	(166,278.00)	(367,022.00)	(245,780.00)	(707,491.27)
Actual Expenditure (d)	1,124,526.18	865,126.99	775,707.47	1,157,478.77	825,024.35
Diff. pledges vs Expenditure (b-d=e)	38,434.82	232,903.01	121,578.53	(138,950.77)	(268,207.62)

* 2025 Data as at 31 August 2025

Expenditure (b-d=e)					
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ANNEX V: Budget and Expenditure by Commitment Class (US\$)

Budget Component	2023 Actual Budget	2023 Exp.	2024 Actual Budget	2024 Exp.	2025 Actual Budget	2025 Exp*.
Travel	30,000	14,556	30,000	6,529	30,000	13,632
Staff Personnel	911,500	581,839	930,000	962,206	930,000	695,053
Contractual Services	15,000	28,492	15,000	-	15,000	8,559
Supplies & Material	2,000	1,248	2,000	1,417	2,000	-
Operational Costs	110,000	61,164	135,000	56,675	135,000	39,748
Equipment & Furniture	7,000	-	7,000	-	7,000	481
<i>Sub-Total</i>	1,075,500	687,299	1,119,000	1,026,827	1,119,000	757,473
PSC (13%)	139,815	88,409	145,470	130,652	145,470	67,551
<i>TOTAL</i>	<u>1,215,315</u>	<u>775,707</u>	<u>1,264,470</u>	<u>1,157,479</u>	<u>1,264,470</u>	<u>825,024</u>