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**CAPACITY-BUILDING FOR SUSTAINABLE SEAS: SUPPORTING THE IMPLEMENTATION  
OF THE LONDON PROTOCOL THROUGH EDUCATION AND COLLABORATIVE  
RESEARCH (SMART-C LC/LP)**

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## **Capacity-Building for Sustainable Seas: Supporting the Implementation of the London Protocol through Education and Collaborative Research (SMART-C LC/LP)**

### **Background**

The London Protocol (LP) provides an international standard and framework for countries to individually and collectively protect and preserve the marine environment from all sources of pollution and take effective measures, according to scientific, technical, and economic capabilities to prevent, reduce, and where practicable, eliminate pollution caused by dumping. Hence, effective implementation of the LP promotes a healthy marine environment, supports the blue economy, and advances the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, particularly SDG 14: "Life Below Water".

### **SMART-C LC/LP Project**

To promote implementation of the LP the IMO has initiated a project entitled *Capacity-Building for Sustainable Seas: Supporting the Implementation of the London Protocol through Education and Collaborative Research* (SMART-C LC/LP). The five year project, supported by the Republic of Korea, will promote LP implementation through capacity-building in the form of education and collaborative research in the marine environment areas with a focus on Mongolia, the Caribbean region and other Contracting/non-Contracting Parties to the LP.

### **Caribbean region element**

The Convention for the Protection and Development of the Marine Environment of the Wider Caribbean Region, or the Cartagena Convention is the only legally binding regional environmental agreement for the protection of the Caribbean Sea from pollution, including land-based sources, seabed activities, and maritime operations. The Convention also addresses pollution caused by dumping of sea and collaborates closely with the IMO and with other international instruments such as the London Convention (1972) and the London Protocol (1996) to regulate dumping more comprehensively.

The Convention has 26 out of 28 Contracting Parties and is further supported by Protocols Concerning Cooperation in Oil Spills (Oil Spills Protocol), Protocol Concerning Specially Protected Areas and Wildlife (SPAW Protocol) and the Protocol Concerning Pollution from Land-Based Sources and Activities. These Protocols along with a network of Regional Activity Centres and partner agencies enables an integrated and holistic approach to the control, reduction and prevention of marine pollution from all sources. This integrated approach has helped align national policies and legislation and regional cooperation mechanisms including the recently established Ocean Coordinating Mechanism for the Wider Caribbean Region. It also strengthens ocean governance and contributes to the sustainability and resilience of the coastal and marine ecosystems in the region. Strengthening capacity to assess the impact of waste dumping and current environmental conditions, through accession to and effective implementation of the LP, would further enhance environmental protection in the Caribbean.

Given the diversity of countries in the region, a strategic approach tailored to each nation's unique needs and challenges is necessary for effective implementation and compliance with the treaties. These include issues like legislation on dumping activities, technical capacity, and available resources. Under the SMART-C LC/LP project, a consultant will conduct a needs

assessment and create a strategic roadmap to support ratification and implementation of the London Protocol and its guidelines in the Caribbean.

Based on outputs of the consultancy, further consultancy/consultancies to execute the interventions identified to support the Caribbean States in ratifying and implementing the London Protocol will be issued.

**Expected outcomes of the project**

- The global implementation of the LP supported, and protection of the marine environment strengthened through education and collaborative research
  - Scientific, technical, and administrative capacity of SIDS and LDCs strengthened to implement the provisions of the LP
  - National and regional cooperation and coordination in the Caribbean strengthened to implement the LP and enhance protection of the marine environment.
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