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Seventh Meeting of the Scientific and Technical
Advisory Committee (STAC) of the Protocol
Concerning Pollution from Land-Based Sources
and Activities (LBS) in the Wider Caribbean
Region

Virtual, 22-25 July 2025

DRAFT

**STATUS OF ACTIVITIES OF THE ASSESSMENT AND MANAGEMENT
OF ENVIRONMENTAL POLLUTION (AMEP) SUB-PROGRAMME FOR
2023-2025**

This meeting is being convened virtually. Delegates are kindly requested to access all meeting documents electronically for download as necessary.

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Programme Overview

1. This report presents the status of activities for the period 2023-2025 for the Assessment and Management of Environmental Pollution (AMEP) Sub-Programme which supports the Protocol Concerning Pollution from Land-Based Sources and Activities (LBS) and the Protocol Concerning Cooperation in Combating Oil Spills. It provides a summary of relevant recommendations and decisions of the Sixth Meeting of the Scientific and Technical Advisory Committee to the LBS Protocol (6th LBS STAC) UNEP(DEPI)/CAR WG.44/5, Sixth Meeting of the Contracting Parties (6th COP) to the LBS Protocol UNEP(DEPI)/CAR IG.47/3, Twentieth Intergovernmental Meeting (20th IGM) and Seventeenth Meeting of Contracting Parties to the Cartagena Convention (17th COP) UNEP(DEPI)/CAR IG.48/4.
2. Progress on the Cartagena Convention's 6th LBS STAC and 6th LBS COP Meeting Recommendations and Decisions Matrix can be seen in Annex III
3. The goal of the AMEP Sub-Programme is to prevent, reduce, and control pollution of the coastal and marine environment from land and marine-based sources thereby enabling countries of the Wider Caribbean Region (WCR) to meet their obligations under the LBS and Oil Spills Protocols.
4. The specific objectives of the Sub-Programme are to:
 - Coordinate and oversee the implementation of AMEP projects and activities within the framework of the Cartagena Convention;
 - Ensure that the formulation and implementation of projects and activities satisfy the obligations of the LBS and Oil Spills Protocols;
 - Promote ratification of, accession to, and effective implementation of the LBS and Oil Spills Protocols; and
 - 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.
5. RAC CIMAB convened a meeting in 2024 in Cuba to promote LBS Protocol ratification, identify barriers to ratification, and develop a list of capacity-building needs. RAC IMA is expected to undertake a similar meeting in St Vincent and the Grenadines in August 2025.
6. The Cartagena Convention Secretariat continued to promote ratification of the LBS protocol during the period under review through its social media platforms. Further, with support of the CReW+ Project, RAC IMA designed and developed promotional material about the LBS Protocol.
7. The recruitment process for the new AMEP Programme Officer (PO) took place in 2023 with the new PO, Ms. Laverne Walker commencing duties on 1 February 2024.

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

No	Committee	Scope	Relevance to Cartagena Convention/LBS Protocol	Nature of Meeting	Frequency
1	BASEL Convention Plastics Working Group	Global	Responds to LBS COP Decision for increased collaboration with the BASEL Secretariat	Virtual	As needed
2	RAC REMPEITC Steering Committee	Regional	Represents the Cartagena Convention Secretariat	Face-to-face Virtual	Annually
3	GESAMP Coordination	Global	To reduce duplication of efforts and increase coordination amongst the UN.	Virtual	As needed
4	GESAMP Coordination	Global	To reduce duplication of efforts and increase coordination amongst the UN.	Virtual	As needed
4	Project Steering Committee Meetings of the GEF IWeco Project	Regional	Represent Secretariat as lead regional executing agency for the GEF IWeco Project	Face-to-Face and Virtual	Annually
5	Project Steering Committee Meeting of GEF CReW+ Project	Regional	Represent Secretariat as co-executing agency for the GEF CReW+ Project	Face-to-Face and Virtual	Annually
6	Project Steering Committee meeting of GEF LAC Cities Project	Regional	Represent Secretariat as executing agency for the GEF LAC Cities Project	Face-to-Face and Virtual	Annually
7	GEF IW LEARN Project Steering Committee	Global	Represents Secretariat as executing agency for GEF projects	Face-to-Face and Virtual	Annually
8	Project Steering Committee meeting of Promar Project	Regional	Represent Secretariat as executing agency for the Promar Project	Face-to-Face and Virtual	Annually
9	Caribbean Node for Marine Litter Management	Regional	Co-host with the Gulf and Caribbean Fisheries Institute	Virtual and Face-to-Face	As needed
10	GEF Islands Project Steering Committee	Global	Represents Secretariat's work under AMEP subprogramme	Virtual	As needed
11	Caribbean Platform for Wastewater Management	Regional	Technical support to platform hosted by the Caribbean Water and Wastewater Association (CWWA) which supports LBS Protocol	Virtual and Face-to-Face	As needed

No	Committee	Scope	Relevance to Cartagena Convention/LBS Protocol	Nature of Meeting	Frequency
12	Secretariat Monitoring and Assessment Working Group and Subgroups	Regional	Supports the implementation of the AMEP work plan	Virtual	Every two months
13	Committee for Regional Strategic Action Plan on Water Resources Management (RSAP)	Regional	Support coordination on projects and activities relating to integrated watershed, water resources and wastewater management relevant to the LBS Protocol	Virtual	As needed
14	Ocean Sewage Alliance	Global	Represents Secretariat's work under the AMEP subprogramme	Virtual	Quarterly

8. In the absence of a dedicated AMEP PO, the implementation of 2023 -2025 work programme was coordinated by Mr. Christopher Corbin, who straddled multiple roles and responsibilities. Once the AMEP PO commenced duties in February 2024, work programme implementation was coordinated by her with support from the AMEP Programme Management Assistant. The Directors and staff of the LBS Regional Activity Centres provided additional technical support.
9. The AMEP Programme Management Assistant was on maternity leave between the period of July – December 2024. Two Project Assistants (CReW+ and ACP MEAs III Projects) resigned during the reporting period. The new ACP MEAs III Project assistant is in place, and the CReW+ recruitment process is being finalized.
10. The Regional Project Manager for the GEF LAC Cities Project and the PROMAR project commenced duties with the Secretariat in October 2023.
11. An international United Nations Volunteer (UNV), as well as a national UNV were recruited to assist with the implementation of the LAC Cities and Promar projects on circular economy.
12. Table 1 below reflects the contribution of the AMEP Sub-Programme to technical discussions on pollution through national, regional, and global committees. These meetings were face-to-face and virtual and were convened between January 2023 – March 2025.
13. During the reporting period, the AMEP Sub-Programme was represented at several regional and global meetings and conferences including regional Ministerial meetings focusing on maritime transportation, environment, solid waste and water.
14. AMEP representatives contributed with oral presentations, and promotional materials relating to the LBS Protocol.
15. The Secretariat, through the AMEP Sub-Programme reviewed and provided technical input to several regional and global reports involving, inter alia, UN Resolutions relating to oceans, Small Island Developing States (SIDS) and the Sustainable Development Goals. Input was also provided to various

technical UN reports on pollution-related issues such as marine litter, plastics, wastewater and nutrients. These are summarized in Table 2 below.

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

No.	Report	Frequency
1	Input to UNEP Annual Reports	Annually
2	Input to UNEP Reports on relevant UNEA Resolutions	As Required
3	Input to Report on Implementation of Regional Seas Strategic Directions	Annually
4	Input to UN Info reporting on Projects	Annually
5	Input to Secretary-General's Report on the Ocean and Law of the Sea	Annually
6	Input to Report on measures taken in support of Resolution 67/205 adopted on 21 December 2012 "Towards the sustainable development of the Caribbean Sea for present and future generations".	Annually
7	Input to project financial and progress reports to donors, Project Coordinating Units, implementing agencies and UNEP headquarters	As Required (Quarterly, Semi-annually and Annually)
8	Content provided for website and social media	As required
9	Database updates – Focal Points	As Required
10	Input to Report to the United Nations Country Team on United Nations Development Assistance Framework	Annually
11	Report to Planning Institute of Jamaica on Projects and Activities in Jamaica	Annually
13	Report on Country Implementation Plans (CIPs of the United Nations Multi-Country Sustainable Development Framework (UNMSDF) for Jamaica and Trinidad and Tobago	Annually
15	Input to the UNEP Cartagena Convention Secretariat Newsletter	Quarterly
16	Support to the GEF CReW+ Quarterly Newsletter and Communications meetings	As required

16. Several actions were taken to improve communication with stakeholders and facilitate knowledge sharing.
17. The AMEP Sub-Programme provided support to regional and international meetings and Annex I provides a list of the major workshops that were organized with the support of the Secretariat.
18. Linkages were strengthened with regional agencies and coordination meetings were held with several partners on areas of mutual interest relating to pollution prevention and control. Many of these are

reflected below:

UNEP Source to Sea Unit UNEP Regional Office for Latin America and the Caribbean (ROLAC) and Caribbean Sub-Regional Office (CSRO)	Caribbean Public Health Agency (CARPHA) International Maritime Organization (IMO)
Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission Sub-commission for the Caribbean and adjacent regions (IOCARIBE) Global Environment Facility (GEF)	La Asociación Nacional para la Conservación de la Naturaleza (ANCON) Conservation International CEMPRE
Organization of Eastern Caribbean (OECs) Caribbean Water and Sewage Association (CAWASA) Global Water Partnership – Caribbean and Central America RARE	Marine and Coastal Research Institute [el Instituto de Investigaciones Marinas y Costeras (INVEMAR)] US Environmental Protection Agency (EPA)
Pan American Health Organization (PAHO) Caribbean Water and Wastewater Association (CWWA) Inter-American Development Bank (IDB) International Union for the Conservation of Nature (IUCN)	Association of Caribbean States (ACS) United Nations University, Institute for Water, Environment and Health (UNU-INWEH) The University of Geneva Basel Convention Caribbean Regional Centre OSPAR Commission Gulf and Caribbean Fisheries Institute (GCFI)
Adelphi University of Guyana Green Heritage Fund Suriname	Institute of Marine Affairs GreenVI Clarence Fitzroy Bryant College -

19. The Open-Ended Working Group (OEWG) on Environmental Monitoring and Assessment and related thematic sub-groups (nutrients and waste water; microplastics; and Sargassum) continues 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.
20. 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 TORs are presented as Information Document UNEP(DEPI)/CAR WG.46/INF.7.
21. 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.

22. 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, 19-21 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 project closure process.
23. 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 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 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.
24. 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. The PSC meeting decisions and PIR are presented as Reference Documents. Key decisions from the second GEF LAC Cities PSC Meeting include:
 - Signature of country agreements to be prioritized by UNEP Cartagena Convention Secretariat (CCS), the Executing Agency, and the countries. CCS should prioritize sending funds within 6-8 weeks upon counter signature of the Legal Agreement.
 - Executing Agency and PMU to design a comprehensive risk management plan incorporating new and updated risks and mitigation measures to be included in the upcoming Project Implementation Review (PIR) cycle and to be shared with countries.
 - The PSC approves the 2025 project workplan and budget as presented at the second Project Steering Committee meeting contingent upon the submission of Jamaica's revised documents.
 - A framework for regional knowledge management, communications and monitoring to be developed / defined by the Project Management Unit within the Executing Agency.
 - The PMU within the Executing Agency to refine the governance structure of the Intercity Network to align with the cities and the intergovernmental network of Plastics Integrated Program (IP), among other initiatives.
 - The Intercity Network will identify possible opportunities for resource mobilization to promote greater sustainability of its activities.
 - The Executing Agency, together with the cities, to refine the approach to private sector engagement, including in connection with the Plastic Reboot Integrated program, amongst others.
25. 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

& Tobago and St. Kitts & Nevis. The meeting report is included as a Reference document. Key decisions from the meeting include:

- The Secretariat and Adelphi to organize follow-up webinars/virtual meetings to build further capacity of key deliverables (e.g., material flow analysis, monitoring and evaluation, pilot implementation, EPR training, etc.): starting in Q3 2024
- The Secretariat to support the connection of focal points between Zero Waste Caribbean and PROMAR projects: by end of July 2024
- The Secretariat and GRID Geneva to refine proposal for regional monitoring and knowledge platform, based on feedback shared: by end of July 2024

26. 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), project implementation was on hold during 2024 as we were awaiting the approval of a no-cost extension of the project to December 2025. In 2025, the Secretariat entered into an agreement with Guyana to implement an ecosystem-based management project focusing on pollution mitigation and habitat protection.

27. Despite this, the following advancements related to marine pollution under the ACP MEA III are detailed in UNEP(DEPI)/CAR WG.45/INF.23. However, a summary of the advancements achieved during the reporting period are summarized below:

- **CaMPAM Small Grants Programme Implementation: March 15, 2022 - December 31, 2023**
 - Hybrid projects launched across eight countries in the Wider Caribbean Region.
 - Focused on reducing marine litter, promoting sustainable livelihoods, and improving MPA resilience.
- **Marine Litter Monitoring & Policy Alignment Workshop (GPML-Caribe/SPAW-RAC): June 6 - 8, 2023**
 - Virtual and in-person sessions with Caribbean stakeholders to enhance capacity in marine litter data collection and policy development under the LBS Protocol.
- **Drafting of National Action Plans on Marine Litter: July 1, 2023 - March 31, 2024**
 - Jamaica and Saint Lucia received targeted technical assistance to develop draft National Action Plans aligned with the Cartagena Convention and global marine litter strategies.
- **Strengthening GPML-Caribe Node: Ongoing: January 1, 2023 - March 31, 2025**
 - Collaboration with UNEP and regional actors to expand GPML-Caribe outreach, data sharing, and campaign coordination across the Wider Caribbean.
- **Legal and Policy Training on LBS Protocol Implementation: September 19 & 20, 2023**
 - Regional legal training hosted online by UNEP and the Cartagena Convention Secretariat to support countries in revising legal instruments on pollution prevention.

- **Pacific Hub – Cleaner Pacific 2025 Support (SPREP/UNEP): April 17, 2023 - November 30, 2024**
 - Technical support for national solid waste management strategies in Samoa, Fiji, and Vanuatu, including guidance on plastic waste reduction and wastewater management.
 - **SPAW 25th Anniversary – Marine Pollution Communication Campaign: To be launched: June 3, 2025 (World Environment Day Week)**
 - Countdown and testimonial-based campaign to highlight SPAW's role in addressing marine pollution and biodiversity challenges over the past 25 years.
 - **Regional Marine Pollution Awareness Materials: July 15, 2023 - March 2024**
 - Produced videos, infographics, and policy briefs on marine litter and LBS-related initiatives for use in national outreach and digital media.
 - **Pollution Mainstreamed into ACP MEAs III Governance Events: October 3 - 5, 2023: Caribbean STAC Preparatory Meetings & February 20 - 22, 2024: Regional Coordination Meeting (RCM)**
 - Pollution topics, particularly marine litter and plastics were formally addressed as cross-cutting priorities in regional environmental planning sessions.
 - **ACP MEAs III Social Media Introductory Video: April 12, 2025**
 - A 60-second animated explainer video scripted and produced to introduce ACP MEAs III to online audiences, with emphasis on pollution, biodiversity, and governance focus areas.
28. Collaboration between the AMEP Sub-Programme and the UNEP Regional and Caribbean Sub-Regional Offices continued to focus on areas of solid waste including plastics and microplastics and chemicals management including through the identification of synergies between the Zero Waste Caribbean and PROMAR projects at the PROMAR Kick-Off Meeting in June 2024.
29. During the 2023 -2025 biennium, the Secretariat continued to deliver its work under the AMEP Sub-Programme in the following thematic areas: (a) Programme Coordination and Management; (b) Land and Marine-Based Sources of Pollution; (c) Monitoring and Integrated Ecosystem Assessment; and (d) Ecosystem Based Management Approaches.

Programme Coordination Cost and Expenditure (in USD)

Project Period	Source of Funds	Projected Budget (2021-22)	Expenditure (2021-22)
2021-2022	CTF		

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

30. Since the last reporting period, the number of 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.

Contracting Party	Entry into Force
Antigua and Barbuda	13 July 2010
The Bahamas	24 June 2010
Barbados	29 June 2019
Belize	04 February 2008
Republic of Costa Rica	26 May 2016
Dominican Republic	6 September 2012
France	4 May 2007
Grenada	5 March 2012
Guyana	14 July 2010
Honduras	13 October 2018
Jamaica	5 November 2015
Panama	9 July 2003
Saint Lucia	30 January 2008
St. Kitts and Nevis	10 October 2024
Trinidad and Tobago	28 March 2003
United States of America	13 February 2009

Summary of Activities

31. The following is a summary of activities implemented by the Secretariat under the AMEP Sub-Programme for the period 2023-2025.

A. Programme Coordination and Management

32. During the reporting period, the Monitoring and Assessment Open Ended Working Group reviewed, and revised the group's Terms of Reference – Information Document UNEP(DEPI)/CAR WG.46/INF.7. The OEWG met regularly during the reporting period with meetings taking place every

two months. Two of the three thematic subgroups – Nutrients and Wastewater and Emerging Issues – were operationalized and meet regularly prior to meetings of the OEWG. The Nutrients and Wastewater subgroup has provided guidance to the LBS Regional Activity Centers (RACs) on documents – addressing water classification according to the LBS Protocol and regional guidelines/standards for nitrogen and phosphorous loads in wastewater discharges - that have been prepared for the consideration of the LBS STAC. Under the emerging issues subgroup, two thematic areas were identified as priority emerging areas. These include microplastics and Sargassum. The Sargassum thematic subgroup has been consolidated into the SPAW Sargassum Working Group with LBS OEWG participating in the meetings of the SPAW Sargassum Working Group. The Report of the Chair and proposed recommendations from the OEWG to the 7 LBS STAC can be found at UNEP(DEPI)/CAR WG.46/INF.6.

33. The OEWG convened 9 meetings during the period under review. During that time 5 meetings of the Nutrients and Wastewater and 4 meetings of the Microplastics Thematic Subgroup were convened. The Chair of the OEWG continues to be Dr. Darryl Banjoo as the LBS Focal Point for Trinidad and Tobago and the Vice Chair Dr. Linroy Christian (Antigua and Barbuda). The leads of the thematic subgroups are nominated experts. The thematic subgroups report to the meetings of the OEWG. The report of the meetings can be found as a Reference Document.
34. 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 placed on developing technical reports which are tabled for discussion during the 7 LBS STAC. The RACs also provided support to engaging with non-Contracting Parties regarding the benefits of joining the LBS Protocol. The status reports for the 2023-2035 period for RAC IMA and CIMAB can be found at UNEP(DEPI)/CAR WG.46/INF.5.
35. The Secretariat, in collaboration with regional partners, was successful in mobilizing financial support for activities on water and wastewater management, nutrient management, marine pollution, plastics and microplastics as presented in the 2023-2025 work plan. A summary of the unfunded activities for which financial support was mobilized and which were implemented during the biennium, are:
 - With funding from ACP MEAs III project, the Secretariat was able to support the implementation of an Ecosystem-based Management project promoting an integrated approach to pollution reduction and marine habitat restoration in Guyana. The project is expected to be completed in December 2025.
 - With support of the PROMAR Project, a regional platform for information and monitoring related to marine litter is currently under development within the PROMAR project and in partnership with GRID Geneva and adelphi, building upon the existing CCS geospatial information platform (<https://wesr-cartagena.unepgrid.ch/>).
 - Through support of the UK government through the Sustainable Blue Economy Programme, Jamaica and Guyana are receiving support on approaches for enhancing their national water quality monitoring programmes.
 - The PROMAR project is supporting capacity building on plastic pollution tracking and monitoring across five countries: Guyana, Suriname, St. Kitts & Nevis, British Virgin Islands, and Trinidad & Tobago. Through online webinar/knowledge exchange sessions and in-person regional dialogues, the project has capacitated country implementing partners (NGOs, universities, research institutes) and government partners alike, to better track and monitor plastic pollution at community/local

levels.

36. Several public awareness activities were undertaken through the Caribbean Node of the Global Partnership on Marine Litter (GPML-Caribe), co-hosted by the Cartagena Convention Secretariat and the Gulf and Caribbean Fisheries Institute that saw opportunities for further implementation of the Regional Action Plan for Marine Litter and the Regional Marine Litter Management Strategy through projects UNEP(DEPI)/CAR WG.46/INF.8.
37. The Secretariat raised the profile of the Nutrients Reduction Strategy by presenting at UNEP's Sixth Nitrogen Working Group meeting by highlighting the approach that the region has taken to address nitrogen pollution in the Wider Caribbean Region.
38. Work on the project 'Prevention of Marine Litter in the Caribbean (PROMAR)', financed by the Government of Germany and implemented in partnership with Adelphi, continued during this reporting period. All agreements with the participating countries - the British Virgin Islands, Guyana, Suriname, Saint Kitts and Nevis, and Trinidad and Tobago – were signed and national activities have commenced implementation. Regional activities which were advanced during the reporting period specifically in partnership with GRID Geneva to develop and refine a regional information and monitoring platform for marine litter. A mapping of existing platforms and their uses was undertaken between May – September 2024. GRID Geneva/UNEP CCS also undertook stakeholder consultations, some occurring in-person in June 2024 on the occasion of the PROMAR Kick-Off Meeting, with relevant parties from all 5 countries. A “blueprint” was developed in December 2024, outlining the conceptual and technical aspects of the system under development, which seeks to serve as a platform for information and data related to plastic pollution the region, with a focus on the 5 countries. Current discussions center upon defining the methodology and precise data to be featured on the platform.
39. In collaboration with the UNEP's Source to Sea Unit, the Cartagena Convention 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 the UNEP's Source to Sea Unit sought to introduce the main features and expected results of the project to stakeholders.
40. As part of the GEF International Waters Learning Exchange and Resource Network (IW LEARN 5): Supporting Portfolio Coordination Within and Beyond the International Waters Focal Area, the Secretariat collaborated with IW LEARN to undertake a preconference workshop as part 10th International Waters Conference which took place in Uruguay in September 2024. The SIDS Preconference Workshop took place on Saturday, 21 September 2024 in Montevideo, Uruguay. Workshop participants undertook a review of GEF support to SIDS whilst also outlining recommendations on how this support can be strengthened and more aligned to the priorities of the new SIDS Programme of Action.
41. Following the SIDS pre-conference workshop, the Cartagena Convention Secretariat, in conjunction with IW-LEARN convened a SIDS Webinar which took place virtually on 13 November 2024. The webinar sought to continue the conversation which commenced in Montevideo and focused on identifying priority capacity and training needs for Caribbean and Pacific SIDS as part of regional workshops to be convened under GEF IW LEARN.

42. The Secretariat advanced with several consultancies during this reporting period which resulted in the following outputs:
- Analysis of the Functioning of the Cartagena Convention Working Groups and Recommendations for Improvement (UNEP), Information Document UNEP(DEPI)/CAR WG.45/INF.9. The consultant interviewed members of the OEWG to better understand how it works and what could be improved and attended a meeting of the OEWG as an observer.
 - Updated guidelines for the Establishment and Operation of the Regional Activity Centres and Regional Activity Networks for the Cartagena Convention (UNEP) Information Document UNEP(DEPI)/CAR IG.24/CRP.9 Rev.4. The consultant undertook interviews with members of the LBS and Oil Spill RACs on the functioning of the RACs, including recommendations for strengthening the capacity of RACs to support the implementation of the Protocols.
 - Cartagena Convention Secretariat Resource Mobilization Strategy (UNEP)- Reference Document.
43. The Secretariat has been engaged in the development of a new project proposal and concept for the GEF 8 medium sized Sand Management Project in Caribbean SIDS. This project if approved will seek to reduce levels of environmental degradation and over consumption of sand, leading to greater preservation of biodiversity and greater coastal and riverine resilience through strengthened governance, data and knowledge management and innovative alternatives as well as implementation of pilots in selected Caribbean islands.
44. The Secretariat facilitated the preparations for the convening of LBS STAC 6 and LBS COP 6 in 2023 including consultations with Parties, Working Groups and regional partners to inform the preparation of working and information documents for those meetings.
45. The Project Manager for GEF LAC Cities/PROMAR projects also attended the 4th round of negotiations on a new global instrument on plastic pollution, in Ottawa, Canada in April 2024. Additionally, the Project Manager attended a CARICOM regional meeting in January 2024 in Aruba, focused on identifying regional needs ahead of INC4.
46. The Secretariat has entered a new partnership arrangement with United Kingdom Government. In collaboration with Centre for Environment, Fisheries and Aquaculture Science (CEFAS), the Cartagena Convention Secretariat successfully submitted a project proposal for water quality technical assistance to 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, initially focusing on Guyana and Jamaica, through advice and capacity building to enable enhanced monitoring, assessment and management of water quality. As part of the first activity exploratory missions were made to Jamaica in April 2025, with the proposed mission to Guyana expected to take place in June 2025, to better understand the threats of marine pollution to blue economy sectors in that country.
47. The Cartagena Convention Secretariat continued to strengthen its collaboration with other Regional Seas Convention through the following activities:
- Participation of the Abidjan Convention in the Joint Monitoring and Assessment Open Ended Working Group and Sargassum Working Group Meeting

- Participation of the Convention for the Protection of the Marine Environment of the North-East Atlantic (OSPAR Convention) at the Joint Monitoring and Assessment Open Ended Working Group and Sargassum Working Group Meeting
- Participation of the Cartagena Convention Secretariat with other regional seas in a webinar titled - Policy coordination at regional level: Experiences from Regional Seas Conventions and Action Plans".

48. In January 2023, the Secretariat launched the fourth edition of its Newsletter which shortly after the Public Information Assistant resigned. The Secretariat is finalizing the fifth edition of the newsletter which is expected to be launched in the coming weeks.

Main Activities	Indicators of Achievement	Status
Promote ratification of the LBS Protocol by Non-Contracting Parties.	<p>a. Increased number of ratifications of the LBS Protocol;</p> <p>b. Targeted promotional material on the benefits of ratification for multiple audiences e.g. general public, private sector, governments and key economic sectors.</p>	<p>Fully Completed</p> <p>St Kitts and Nevis became the sixteenth Contracting Party to the LBS Protocol on 10 October 2024.</p> <p>Workshop to promote LBS ratification held in Cuba by RAC CIMAB.</p> <p>Promotional material to promote LBS ratification produced by RAC IMA with funding from CReW+ and ACP MEA projects.</p>
Organize 6 th LBS STAC and 6 th LBS COPs	<p>a. Meetings successfully convened with appropriate decisions and recommendations made to support countries in the region to control, prevent and reduce land-based sources of marine pollution.</p>	<p>Fully Completed</p> <p>The Sixth LBS STAC was convened virtually from 1 February – 3 February 2023.</p> <p>The Sixth LBS COP was convened on 4 October 2023 in Aruba.</p>
Provide Secretariat support to Open Ended Work Group on Monitoring and Assessment and related Thematic Groups	<p>a. Meetings convened.</p> <p>b. Resources circulated and input received from group members.</p>	<p>Fully Completed</p> <p>New experts continued to be nominated for the LBS OEWG and subgroups. As of April 2025, eight meetings of the LBS OEWG were convened virtually. Five meetings of the nutrients and wastewater subgroup were convened and 4 meetings of the microplastics subgroup were convened. A joint meeting of the OEWG and the SPAW Sargassum took place 18-20 March 2025 in Trinidad and Tobago. The meeting was hybrid.</p>

Main Activities	Indicators of Achievement	Status
Identify opportunities for further implementation of Regional and/or National Strategies and Action Plans addressing marine pollution.	At least two countries have begun implementing their national strategies and/or action plans on marine pollution	<p>Partially Completed</p> <p>National Marine Litter Action Plan for Saint Lucia being used to inform the development of new programmes and projects to address the issue of marine litter.</p> <p>Jamaica Case Study on Nutrient Management Valuation is being built on through the SBE project supported through the UK Government.</p>
Ensure timely and coordinated programme implementation, monitoring of progress against targets and indicators, periodic evaluation and reporting.	<p>a) CREW+: - 8 National Projects implemented; - Steering Committee meetings organized; Project Work Plan timely implemented; Timely submission of progress narrative and financial reports;</p> <p>b) Support to preparation of new GEF Project Proposals – Blue Economy, Nutrients, Plastics</p> <p>c) Ongoing implementation of ACP MEA, GEF CReW+ and GEF IWEco projects</p> <p>d) Support to final evaluation, closure and final reporting for GEF CReW+ and GEF IWEco Projects</p>	<p>Partially Completed</p> <p>All outstanding agreements under the CReW+ Project are in place, with the exception of one. National projects under CReW+ under implementation. PSC approved no cost extension and national projects are expected to be completed by March 2026.</p> <p>CCS is partnering with the University of Geneva to develop a medium sized project for the GEF on sand management.</p> <p>GEF IWEco closed 31 March 2025 and CCS is providing support to the project closure and terminal/final evaluation.</p> <p>The Secretariat has advanced with a social media campaign to showcase the outputs under the APC MEA III projects</p>
Provide technical assistance and guidance to Contracting Parties for the implementation of the Cartagena Convention, Oil Spills and LBS Protocols.	a. Guidance on the national implementation of the Cartagena Convention and the LBS Protocol provided through briefs, model cabinet papers and/or twinning;	<p>Partially Completed</p> <p>Facilitated through funding from ongoing projects/grants- GEF IWEco, GEF CReW+, ACP MEAs III, Promar in areas of nutrient management, IWWM, plastics, marine litter.</p> <p>Will be further supported through new projects such as the Water Quality Capacity Building Project and the SBE project.</p>

Main Activities	Indicators of Achievement	Status
<p>Coordinate with key partners to support enhanced roles for Regional Nodes and Platforms for Marine Litter, Wastewater and Nutrients</p>	<p>New projects and activities implemented by the Regional Nodes in support of the obligations of the CC and LBS Protocol and LBS COP Decisions;</p>	<p>Completed</p> <p>RACs IMA and CIMAB continued to advance with implementation of activities under ACP MEA and CReW+ related to wastewater management.</p> <p>RAC IMA is the implementing partner for the PROMAR project in Trinidad & Tobago.</p> <p>GCFI continues to co-host the GPML-C with the Cartagena Convention Secretariat.</p> <p>INVEMAR is the principal implementing partner for the GEF LAC Cities project in Colombia.</p> <p>INVEMAR is supporting countries in the area of water quality capacity development through the US EPA project.</p>
<p>Undertake periodic reviews of bilateral cooperation with partner organizations to enhance synergies and impact on the ground.</p>	<p>a) New areas of cooperation identified with existing and/or new partners including with the Chemical Cluster of MEAs – BASEL, Stockholm, Rotterdam and Minamata Conventions;</p> <p>b) Synergies enhanced with sub-regional initiatives;</p> <p>MOU for SAP Coordinating Mechanism and Oceans Governance signed subject to COP Decision;</p>	<p>Partially completed</p> <p>Area of cooperation identified with IAEA on microplastics aligned with work being advanced within the region. MOU between IAEA and UNEP CCS on the area of plastic pollution being negotiated.</p> <p>UNEP signed the Memorandum of Understanding for the Ocean Coordinating Mechanism under the PROCARIBE+ Project during CBD COP 16.</p>
<p>Facilitate reporting on relevant pollution targets and indicators.</p>	<p>a) Mandate received to start work on next State of Convention Areas Report on Marine Pollution using a more Integrated Assessment approach. At least 3 Contracting Parties supported to report on pollution relating to relevant regional and/or global reporting requirements. (SDG 6, SDG 14)</p>	<p>Partially completed</p> <p>Recommendation from the Joint LBS/SPAW working group meeting to develop an integrated chapter on Sargassum as part of the next State of report.</p> <p>Fundraising is being undertaken to support the next SOCAR.</p>

Main Activities	Indicators of Achievement	Status
Facilitate cooperation with relevant projects and coordinating mechanisms relating to pollution.	<p>a) Participation in CLME+ SAP Coordinating Mechanism subject to approval of Procaribe+;</p> <p>b) Participation in relevant UNEP HQ committees and working groups on marine pollution;</p> <p>c) Continued Participation in BASEL Plastics Partnership;</p> <p>d) Representation on Global Water Caribbean Technical Committee;</p> <p>Representation of Committee overseeing implementation on Regional Strategic Action Plans on Waste and Water;</p>	<p>Partially Completed</p> <p>The Secretariat continued to participate in meetings of the SAP ICM once the PROCARIBE+ project commenced. The Secretariat also participated in meetings of the Ocean Coordinating Mechanism.</p> <p>The Secretariat continues to participate in meetings of the GPML and other working groups on marine pollution such as the Nitrogen Working Group being facilitated through UNEP HQ.</p>
Evaluate the role of pollution prevention, control and reduction as part of ongoing efforts to develop ocean-based and blue economy approaches.	Ongoing activities and consultations that the Secretariat is involved in concerning efforts by CP to develop ocean-based and blue economy approaches reflect the economic impacts of pollution as well as the economic benefits of pollution control, prevention and reduction actions -	<p>Partially Completed</p> <p>Approval of Technical Assistance Project through the UK International Development Programme, Sustainable Blue Economies through the CCS to support capacity building in Jamaica and Guyana to enable enhanced monitoring, assessment and management of water quality.</p>

B. Land and Marine-Based Sources of Pollution

49. The Secretariat supported the Dominican Republic in the development of a draft Regulation for the implementation of the International Convention for the Prevention of Pollution from Ships (MARPOL). Financing was provided under the ACPs MEA III project.
50. Funded by the ACP MEAs III project, the Secretariat supported the Government of Barbados in updating the National Oil Spills Contingency Plan and Dispersant Use Policy in Barbados.
51. The Secretariat continues its efforts to reduce marine plastic pollution in the region through the GEF-funded project 'Reduce marine plastics and plastic pollution in Latin American and Caribbean cities through circular economy' (GEF LAC Cities). This project aims to reduce regional marine plastics and plastic pollution by facilitating circular actions at the city-level to accelerate the transition to a circular economy through improved waste management. It directly responds to national, regional and global marine litter and plastics-related action plans, resolutions and commitments such as the Regional Action Plan for Marine Litter (RAPMaLi) for the Wider Caribbean Region. The GEF LAC Cities Pre-Inception Workshop was hosted by the Secretariat on 16 January 2023 and the second Steering Committee Meeting took place in Marh 2025.

52. A regional network on city-level collaboration was launched in Cartagena, Colombia on March 26, 2025, as part of the LAC Cities project.
53. The Secretariat in coordination with the Saint Lucia Solid Waste Management Authority (SLSWMA), through support from the ACP MEAs III project and UNEP Science Division developed a Marine Litter/Plastic Reduction Strategy and Action Plan.
54. During the reporting period the Caribbean Node of the Global Partnership on Plastic Pollution and Marine Litter (GPML-Caribe) supported fisher awareness raising on abandoned, lost and otherwise discarded fishing gear (ALDFG) by employing fishers who are well-respected leaders within their communities in Saint Lucia and Antigua and Barbuda. Using their authority as champions within their local fishing communities, these fishers educated their peers, students and other community members about ALDFG, and what can be done to reduce fishing gear impacts using communication products previously designed by the GCFI and GGGI through support from a previous grant from the Ghost Gear Fund from the Government of Canada. In 2024, with funding from the Builders Initiative, this work was expanded to The Bahamas (New Providence, Andros, Grand Bahama, Abaco, Acklins Island and Mayaguana).
55. Through the GPML-C, the Global Ghost Gear Initiative (GGGI), in association with the GCFI, convened a cross-sectoral workshop focused on solutions for end-of-life (EOL) fishing gear in the Caribbean region. The workshop consisted of a series of presentations, including an introduction to the ALDFG issue, ongoing work in the Caribbean and an introduction to the Regional Action Plan that the GGGI created in 2022 as a guide to ALDFG prevention and mitigation in the Caribbean region. There was great interest in this virtual workshop with 82 registrants for the workshop and 69 participants who attended at its peak – Information Document UNEP(DEPI)/CAR WG.46/INF.8
56. Funded by the ACP MEAs III project, 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.
57. The Regional Activity Center Institute of Marine Affairs (RAC IMA) and the Caribbean Water and Wastewater Association (CWWA) undertook an online workshop on approaches to wastewater management titled "Exploring innovative and low -cost management alternatives and wastewater reuse" in February 2025. In April, 2025 the CWWA also facilitated a technical training session entitled "Strengthening, Monitoring and Reporting – SDG 6 (Clean Water and Sanitation)" targeting water utility and Regulatory personnel. These activities were provided with the support of the CReW+ Project.
58. The Cartagena Convention Secretariat also 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.
59. The Caribbean Water and Sewerage Association (CAWASA) provided capacity-building initiatives in wastewater management in four countries, namely Barbados, Belize, Grenada, and Saint Lucia where wastewater operators were certified at the Association of Boards of Certification (ABC) Levels I or II in both Wastewater Treatment and Wastewater Collection. This was supported through the GEF CReW+ Project.
60. The Global Water Partnership – Caribbean Regional with support through the GEF CReW+ Project undertook a science communication workshop targeting journalists with a focus on integrated water

and wastewater management (IWWM). These virtual sessions targeted Caribbean youth and journalists, focusing on wastewater management and its links to climate change, gender, and innovative reuse technologies. The youth workshop aimed to raise awareness through social media campaigns, while the journalist workshop provided guidance on covering wastewater issues and creating impactful content to engage the public and policymakers.

61. Knowledge management products developed by 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. This was supported through the GEF CReW+ Project.
62. The Secretariat collaborated with the Science for Nature and People Partnership (SNAPP) to develop several important Pollution manuals. See the list below:
 - [A Guide for Pollution Assessment & Monitoring in Coastal Ecosystems](#)
 - [Factsheets on Approaches to Assessing & Monitoring Coastal Pollution](#)
 - [Factsheets on Methods for Collection of In-Situ Water Quality](#)
63. In collaboration with the Economist Impact, the Secretariat supported the revision of the [Economist Road Map on Pollution](#).
64. The Institute of Marine Affairs (IMA) and the Centre of Research and Environmental Management of Transport (CIMAB), Regional Activity Centres for the LBS Protocol supported the development of the following technical papers through an SSFA financed by the GEF CReW+ and ACP MEAs III Projects, and SIDA Grant. which are to be considered during the LBS STAC:
 - Guidelines for classification of waters according to the LBS Protocol UNEP(DEPI)/CAR WG.44/INF.16 Rev.1.
 - Regional Criteria and Standards for N and P Loads in Domestic and Industrial Wastewater Discharges UNEP(DEPI)/CAR WG.44/INF.17 Rev.1.
 - Draft recommendations for amendments to the LBS Protocol and Annexes to facilitate increased reuse of domestic wastewater including adoption of new criteria or standards for domestic wastewater discharges UNEP(DEPI)/CAR WG.46/INF.13.
 - Assessment and recommendations on the management of freshwater resources within the framework of the Cartagena Convention UNEP(DEPI)/CAR WG.44/INF.9 Rev.1. This document was informed by analysis undertaken for countries within the Wider Caribbean Region through the following two documents: Action Framework for Integrated Water Resources Management for the Caribbean Community Region supported through the IWEC project UNEP(DEPI)/CAR WG.46/INF.9 and Summary Document - Development of a Strategy or Protocol for the management of freshwater resources within the framework of the Cartagena Convention with a regional approach in Spanish-speaking countries UNEP(DEPI)/CAR WG.46/INF.10.
65. The Secretariat, along with other organizations such as CEFAS, the Commonwealth Secretariat, Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority, and Wildlife Conservation Society partnered to establish the Nutrient Pollution – Global Action Network (NP-GAN). The NP-GAN aims to catalyse action to

address nutrient and wastewater pollution impacts on ocean ecosystems and human health focusing on (but not limited to) agrochemical run-off of fertilizers and sewage/domestic wastewater. The NP-GAN hosted a hybrid event as part of the Ocean Decade Week, Barcelona, on 9 April 2024, which the Secretariat participated in.

66. RAC IMA is also supporting the implementation of the PROMAR Project, which focuses on the prevention of marine plastic waste in the Caribbean Sea in Trinidad and Tobago.
67. The Regional Nutrients Pollution Reduction Strategy and Action Plan (RNPRSAP) will be used to guide the development of national pollution reduction action plans in Contracting Parties to the LBS Protocol. Efforts are ongoing to implement the Regional Nutrients Pollution Reduction Strategy and Action Plan with the support of the Nutrients and Wastewater subgroup under the OEWG (as per Decision 4, LBS COP5).
68. Through financing from the Global Partnership on Nutrient Management (GPNM), Jamaica and Barbados benefitted from an Economic Valuation Pilot Project. Two case studies that propose options for improving nutrient use efficiency, as well as to quantify the multiple costs and benefits of meeting the nutrient management targets for food security, marine and freshwater ecosystems, terrestrial ecosystems, the mitigation of greenhouse gases and other climate threats, and the improvement of human health were advanced under this study.
69. The IWEco Project supported the development of national strategies and action plans in the following Caribbean SIDS:
 - Draft Marine Pollution Management Strategy and Action Plan developed for Barbados
 - Revised ICZM Action Plan defined for Saint Lucia;
 - Development of ICZM Plans for pilot shoreline areas in Grenada, Jamaica and St. Vincent and the Grenadine;
 - Revised National Risk Reduction Plan prepared for the Dominican Republic

Main Activities	Indicators of Achievement	Status
Promote the use of relevant instruments and incentives to prevent/ reduce plastic pollution including the generation of single-use plastic bags and microplastics; abandoned, lost, discarded fishing gear (ALDFG); and marine litter from land and marine-based sources.	a) Best practices, case studies and models identified and shared with the CPs at regional level; b) Partnership opportunities identified c) Support provided to negotiations on new Plastic Resolution d) Data uploaded into new GPML Digital Platform	Partially Completed <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Under the GEF LAC Cities project, regional work has been undertaken to consolidate best practices related to policy frameworks, financing instruments and reuse business models seeking to address marine litter and reduce plastic pollution at large. This activity was completed in Q4 2024, inclusive of regional recommendations for the project countries/cities. Under the PROMAR project, a toolkit referred to as a “BlueBox”

Main Activities	Indicators of Achievement	Status
		<p>has been compiled, highlighting relevant tools, resources, and knowledge products to prevent plastic pollution.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Collaboration with the GPML Regional Platform is underway for the purpose of the PROMAR regional monitoring and information platform.
Promote reduction of municipal wastewater using nature-based solutions; and prevention of sewage sludge and storm water-related waste from entering into the marine environment using BAT/BEP	Best practices identified and shared with the CPs at a regional level	<p>Partially Completed</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • RAC IMA and CWWA undertook an online workshop on approaches to wastewater management titled “Exploring innovative and low-cost management alternatives and wastewater reuse” in February 2025. • RAC CIMAB facilitated a seminar on innovative techniques for domestic wastewater treatment in Panama in January 2024.
Update the Annexes/Text of the LBS Protocols	<p>a. Working group(s) established/mandated by COP 6 to work with RACs on possible Amendments to the LBS Protocol and/or its Annexes for submission to COP 7;</p> <p>b. Working group(s) established/mandated to continue work on assessing how the management of freshwater resources can be addressed within the framework of the Cartagena Convention.</p>	<p>Partially Completed</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Nutrients and Wastewater subgroup established and undertook regular meetings in 2024. • RACs IMA and CIMAB developed a paper to be presented to the 7 LBS STAC on possible amendments to the Annexes of the LBS Protocol, • A comprehensive review of Water Resource Issues in the Caribbean Community Region on Integrated Water Resources Management Study was undertaken by GWP-C through the IWEco project. • RACs IMA/CIMAB developed a document to be presented to the 7 LBS STAC on how the management of freshwater resources can be addressed within the framework of the Cartagena

Main Activities	Indicators of Achievement	Status
		Convention. The document outlines recommendations to the LBS STAC for consideration UNEP(DEPI)/CAR WG.44/INF.9 Rev.1
Develop technical Guidelines for classification of waters as per the LBS Protocol	<p>Finalization/Adoption of Guidelines for classification of waters according to the LBS Protocol</p> <p>Contracting Parties supported to classify their recreational/receiving waters, based on request (carried over from previous biennium due to lack of funding)</p>	<p>Partially Completed</p> <p>Guidelines for Classification of Waters According to The LBS Protocol document developed by LBS RACs with input from Nutrients and Wastewater Subgroup and to be presented to the 7 LBS STAC UNEP(DEPI)/CAR WG.44/INF.16 Rev.1</p> <p>Through the support of a consultancy undertaken through the CReW+ Project, St. Kitts and Nevis has recommended classifying its waters as Class I waters.</p>
Support implementation of relevant Regional Strategies and Action Plans such as the Regional Marine Litter Action Plan for Central America, Regional Solid Waste Strategy and Action Plan and the Regional Strategic Action Plan on Water including Wastewater	Regional Strategies and Action Plans implemented with Secretariat support	<p>Partially Completed</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The implementation of both PROMAR and LAC Cities projects began in 2024, both of which support countries in the Caribbean to reduce plastic pollution and transition to a circular economy.
Support development, update and implementation of national pollution prevention plans including on wastewater, marine litter/plastics and nutrients	<p>National Strategies and Action Plans implemented with Secretariat support</p> <p>Sustainable Financing/Business Plans for future Wastewater Investments</p>	<p>Partially Completed</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Nutrient Management Valuation Case Studies developed for Barbados and Jamaica with support from the Global Partnership on Nutrient Management (GPNM). Supported the development of a Marine Litter Strategy and Action Plan for Saint Lucia Draft Marine Pollution Management Strategy and Action Plan developed for Barbados with support under the IWeco project. Revised ICZM Action Plan defined for Saint Lucia with

Main Activities	Indicators of Achievement	Status
		<p>support of the GEF IWeco Project.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Development of ICZM Plans for pilot shoreline areas in Grenada, Jamaica and St. Vincent and the Grenadine with support of the GEF IWeco Project. • Revised National Risk Reduction Plan prepared for the Dominican Republic with support of the GEF IWeco Project.
Support development and/or update of policy, plans, legislation, regulations, environmental quality standards and discharge criteria relating to water, wastewater, solid waste, plastics, nutrients and receiving water bodies.		<p>Partially Completed</p> <p>Under the GEF CRew+ project:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Ministry of Housing & Water of Guyana developed policy and legislation to promote water-saving measures as proposed within the Climate Resilience Strategy and Action Plan for Guyana, such as wastewater reuse • The Ministry of Tourism, Civil Aviation, Sustainable Development & Culture in SVG will develop a National Policy on Wastewater & Sludge Management • Centro de Estudios Ambientales de Cienfuegos to design methodologies to support the conservation and sustainability of biodiversity in Cuba through the integrated watershed and coastal area management approach. <p>All activities are expected to be completed by March 2026.</p>
Enhance ratification and implementation of relevant international maritime Conventions related to the protection of the	<p>Technical support provided to CPs, on request to:</p> <p>a) Prepare and/or update national policy and/or legal frameworks</p>	<p>Completed</p> <p>Through the support of the ACP MEAs III Project.</p>

Main Activities	Indicators of Achievement	Status
marine environment	<p>for implementation of relevant agreements such as MARPOL and the Ballast Water Convention – ongoing; and</p> <p>Ratify and implement relevant international maritime conventions related to the protection of the marine environment - ongoing.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Update of National Oil Spills Contingency Plan and Dispersant Use Policy in Barbados. • Improved compliance with the MARPOL Convention by the Dominican Republic.
Implement national/community-based projects on wastewater management, marine litter/plastics and nutrients reduction, reuse & recycling;	National and/or Community Based Projects successfully implemented	<p>Partially completed</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Community based integrated water and wastewater projects being supported through the CReW+ Project in Saint Lucia, Guyana, Panama and Costa Rica. Activities expected to be completed by March 2026. • Under the PROMAR project, country implementing partners are working with local communities in Guyana, Suriname, St. Kitts & Nevis, Trinidad & Tobago, British Virgin Islands, to identify demonstration sites and measure local-level waste, initiate pilot projects and engage community members in educational and awareness raising activities related to plastic waste.

C. Monitoring and Integrated Ecosystem Assessment

70. In collaboration with the UNEP's Source to Sea Unit, the Cartagena Convention 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, amongst others, build capacity at the regional and national levels to scale up sustainable water quality monitoring programmes and management and prevention of pollution. Through the support of the project a Water Quality Needs Assessment Survey was administered to Contracting Parties to determine priority needs to inform a Learning Management System for water quality capacity development. Responses were received from 22 individuals located in 19 countries in the Wider Caribbean Region Information Document UNEP(DEPI)/CAR WG.46/INF.12.

71. The GEF IWeco project facilitated a consultancy to support the development of a Regional Environmental Monitoring Data Portal (REMDAP). The [REMDAP](#) which serves as a clearinghouse mechanism and decision-making tool to strengthen the process of regional environmental monitoring and assessment within the Caribbean region was launched in 2024.

72. A regional platform for information and monitoring related to marine litter is currently under development within the PROMAR project and in partnership with GRID Geneva. A mapping of existing platforms and their uses was undertaken between May – September 2024. During this time, GRID Geneva/UNEP also undertook stakeholder consultations, some occurring in-person in June 2024, with relevant parties from all 5 countries. A “blueprint” was also developed in December 2024, outlining the conceptual and technical aspects of the system under development, which seeks to serve as a platform for information and data related to plastic pollution the region, with a focus on the 5 countries. Current discussions center upon defining the methodology and precise data to be featured on the platform.
73. Work on the development of National Water Information Management Systems (WIMS) has been advanced in four CReW+ Project beneficiary countries by the United Nations University Institute for Water, Environment and Health (UNU INWEH) to facilitate access to and the dissemination of water-related data. The countries are Costa Rica, Jamaica, Saint Lucia, and Trinidad and Tobago. These national WIMS are expected to improve national capacities to analyze and manage spatial water-related data. An assessment of the IWWM/IWRM Regional Platform/s (WIMS) was also undertaken by the Caribbean Water and Wastewater Association through the GEF CReW+ Project.
74. The Secretariat has begun discussions between REMARCO and Caribbean network of Laboratories regarding approaches for establishing a network of laboratories to support Contracting Parties. The challenge remains the language divide, with most laboratories within REMARCO being Spanish speaking.
75. The Secretariat and IAEA are finalizing discussions in relation to increased partnerships in addressing plastic pollution, including microplastics pollution, into the Wider Caribbean Region. Also related to the issue of microplastics, REMARCO has shared their proposed guidelines for microplastic monitoring on beach sand and the water column with the microplastic thematic subgroup UNEP(DEPI)/CAR WG.46/INF.11. The members of the OEWG have outlined the need for regional guidelines to guide the monitoring of certain parameters within the WCR.

Main Activities	Indicators of Achievement	Status
Support the development and/or enhancement of national recreational water quality monitoring programmes based on recommendations from SOCAR	a) Strengthening of national and as appropriate regional Laboratory Capacity based on needs assessment; b) Establishment of network of laboratories supporting Contracting Parties	Partially Completed <ul style="list-style-type: none"> With the support of the US EPA Capacity Development Water Quality Project, a survey was administered to countries within the WCR to understand their capacity limitations in relation to water quality monitoring. Technical assistance support through the UK government is being provided to Jamaica and Guyana to strengthen their national water quality monitoring programmes. Initial interactions between Caribbean Network of Laboratories and REMARCO regarding opportunities for collaboration.

Main Activities	Indicators of Achievement	Status
Begin development of new State of Convention Area Report on Marine Pollution.	Updated assessment factsheets and maps prepared with new data originating from pollution reports and strategies to inform development of new State of Marine Pollution Report;	<p>Partially Completed</p> <p>Development of two platforms:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A regional environmental monitoring data portal (REMDAP) in partnership with the OECS Commission to strengthen the process of regional environmental monitoring and assessment within the Caribbean region through the support of the GEF IWECO Project. • Regional environment monitoring platform which facilitates the compilation of information from national monitoring and assessment programmes to make environmental information generated in the Wider Caribbean Region (WCR) through the support of the GEF CReW+ Project in place. <p>National Research Strategy for the Collection of Environmental Data developed for Antigua and Barbuda and Trinidad and Tobago through the support of the IWECO project</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Factsheets drafted for review and finalization through support under the ACP MEAs III Project.
Support countries in the implementation of the LBS Protocol	a. Technical assistance provided and capacities built to support LBS implementation	<p>Fully Completed</p> <p>Technical assistance provided to Guyana and Jamaica with the support of the UK government to strengthen their national water quality development programmes</p> <p>RAC IMA and CWWA undertook an online workshop on approaches to wastewater management titled Exploring innovative and low -cost management alternatives and wastewater reuse in February 2025.</p> <p>RAC CIMAB facilitated a seminar on innovative techniques for domestic wastewater treatment in Panama in January 2024.</p>

Main Activities	Indicators of Achievement	Status
Develop and implement national training programmes around key pollution issues.	<p>Intra and inter-regional training delivered in and among SIDS regions through regional partners</p> <p>Training on Driver Pressure State Impact and Response (DPSIR) conducted</p> <p>Regional Training Webinar by UNITAR relating to monitoring and assessment with a focus on nutrients and treated wastewater reuse.</p>	<p>Partially Completed</p> <p>Activities under the Agreement with LBS RACs, GWP-C, GCFI to support monitoring etc</p>

D. Ecosystems-Based Management Approaches

76. The AMEP and SPAW Sub Programmes, along with the LBS and SPAW RACs convened a Joint Monitoring and Assessment Open Ended Working Group and Sargassum Working Group Meeting at the Institute of Marine Affairs, Trinidad and Tobago 18-20 March 2025. The workshop sought to enhance coordination between the SPAW and LBS Protocols, fostering collaboration between regional activity centres (RACs) and regional activity networks (RANs) to ensure more effective responses to these challenges. It also considered the role of Sargassum as an important habitat for marine species, as well as it becoming a pollutant as a result of inundation events on beaches and in shallow bays UNEP(DEPI)/CAR WG.45/INF.31. The Joint Working Group Meeting also provided an opportunity for participants to advance with the development of the Sargassum Action Plan mandated by 12 SPAW COP. Due to the integration of the OEWG Sargassum working group with that of the SPAW Sargassum Working Group, members of the OEWG provided input to the Sargassum Action Plan and as such it is being included as a document for consideration by the 7 LBS STAC UNEP(DEPI)/CAR WG.45/INF.27.
77. The GEF-IWEco Project which closed in March 2025 was a multi-focal, regional project built upon the work of previous initiatives, to address water, land and biodiversity resource management as well as climate change in ten participating countries. Many of the project outputs can be found on the project website. Case studies highlighting the results, lessons and best practices for the national project in the following countries, [Cuba](#), [Dominican Republic](#), [St. Kitts & Nevis](#), [Saint Lucia](#) and [Trinidad and Tobago](#) and a [cross-cutting](#) case study were also developed. Promotional videos introducing the project, on nature-based solutions, sustainable livelihoods and REMDAP, the regional environmental monitoring platform, can be accessed [here](#).
78. As part of its agreement under the IWEoc Project CANARI focused on supporting small and micro nature-based enterprises (SMEs) under four intervention areas which effectively combine empowerment, knowledge sharing, capacity development and practical actions to enhance the long-term health, sustainability and adaptive capacity of ecosystems and associated nature-based livelihoods. CANARI was able to mentor and coach six SMEs in Jamaica, St Kitts and Nevis, Saint Lucia and St. Vincent and the Grenadines.
79. Building on work under the UNDP GEF CLME+ project, the Secretariat through funding from the ACP MEAs III project is supporting the implementation of an Ecosystem-based Management project promoting an integrated approach to pollution reduction and marine habitat restoration in Guyana. The finalization of the agreement with Guyana was delayed and only finalized in 2025. It is anticipated that the project will be finalized during the last quarter of 2025.

80. 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.

Main Activities	Indicators of Achievement	Status
Support continued integration of the LBS and SPAW sub-programmes through joint activities and capacity building	a) Joint projects and activities designed and implemented	Partially Completed <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Collaboration through ACP MEAs III project with LBS and SPAW Protocol • The LBS and SPAW programmes convened a Joint OEWG/Sargassum Working Group meeting in Trinidad and Tobago in March 2025.
Support region-wide use of EBM approaches including tools such as MSP, ICZM	<p>6 Case studies on EBM from GEF IWeco Projects developed and disseminated</p> <p>Improved engagement and information access for practitioners and other stakeholders through targeted knowledge sharing products and networks</p> <p>Greater integration of the AMEP and SPAW Work Programmes and subject to funding, additional joint LBS and SPAW meetings convened, joint LBS/SPAW projects developed, and joint capacity building workshops implemented</p>	Completed <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Case Studies developed for the following countries, Cuba, Dominican Republic, St. Kitts & Nevis, Saint Lucia and Trinidad and Tobago and a cross-cutting case study under IWeco Project to share best practices and Saint Lucia under CReW+ for Waste water Guidelines for Small scale treatment facilities. • The LBS and SPAW programmes convened a Joint OEWG/Sargassum Working Group meeting in Trinidad and Tobago 18 March 2025. • EBM project encompassing pollution and habitat elements being implemented in Guyana under ACP MEA III
Implement EBM projects in a number of Contracting Parties	<p>i) Pollution Stress reduction at least 2 project sites through appropriate sustainable water, land and ecosystems management interventions that account for climate change.</p> <p>ii) Enhanced livelihood opportunities and socio-economic co-benefits for targeted communities from improved ecosystem services functioning as a result of reduced pollution.</p> <p>iii) Partnership opportunities identified for integrated approaches to address sargassum and nutrients</p>	Completed <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pollution stress reduction projects under implementation in countries through support of the CReW+ Project. Land degradation and ecosystem management projects successfully implemented under IWeco project. • CANARI with support under GEF IWeco project was able to mentor and coach six SMEs in Jamaica, St Kitts and Nevis, Saint Lucia and St. Vincent and the Grenadines to enhance the long-term health, sustainability and adaptive capacity of ecosystems and associated nature-based livelihoods.

Main Activities	Indicators of Achievement	Status
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The LBS and SPAW programmes convened a Joint OEWG/Sargassum Working Group meeting in Trinidad and Tobago 18 March 2025. • The Abidjan Convention participated and presented at the Joint Sargassum meeting on the impacts of Sargassum to their Contracting Parties as well as how they utilize the algae once it has washed up on beaches.
Implement policy, legislative and institutional reforms for natural resource management and pollution prevention	<p>i) Strengthened policy and legislation for the effective management of water, land and ecosystems resources that account for climate change</p> <p>ii) National Development Planning Strategies and Decision-Making Frameworks broadened to incorporate elements of EBM, MSP, ICZM, natural resources management and integrated pollution prevention and habitat restoration.</p>	<p>Partially Completed</p> <p>Action Framework for Integrated Water Resources Management for the Caribbean Community Region developed under the IWEco project.</p> <p>Development of A Citizen's Guide to the Grenada National Ecosystem Assessment through CANARI with support of the IWEco.</p>

Annex I: Intergovernmental, technical/expert and other meetings convened by the AMEP Sub-Programme, LBS RACs and GEF Projects (2023-2025)

Programme Area	Title	Venue	Date
AMEP/CEP	6th 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	4 October 2023
AMEP/SPAW/CEP	20th Intergovernmental Meeting on the Action Plan for the Caribbean Environment Programme and 17th Meeting of the Contracting Parties to the Convention for the Protection and Development of the Marine Environment of the Wider Caribbean Region	Oranjestad, Aruba	5 October 2023
GEF CReW+	GEF CReW+ 3 rd Project Steering Committee Meeting	Playa del Carmen	21- 23 June 2023
AMEP/Oil Protocol	Spills The Eleventh Ordinary Steering Committee Meeting of the Regional Marine Pollution Emergency, Information and Training Centre – Caribe (RAC REMPEITC-Caribe)	Willemstad, Curacao	7-8 May 2024
GEF IWeco	GEF UNEP IWeco Project Final Partners' Meetings	Gros Islet, Saint Lucia	18-22 March 2024
AMEP/SPAW	Joint Monitoring and Assessment Open Ended Working Group and Sargassum Working Group Meeting	Chaguaramas, Trinidad and Tobago	18-20 March 2025
RAC IMA and CWWA	Exploring Innovative and Low-Cost Management Alternatives and Wastewater Reuse	Virtual	18 February 2025
AMEP	Project Kick-Off Meeting and Study Tour	Santo Domingo, Dominican Republic	25 – 28 June 2024
AMEP/LAC Cities	GEF LAC Second Project Steering Committee Meeting	Hybrid	27-28 March 2025

Annex II: Internal publications by AMEP and GEF IWEco Project (2023-2025)

No.	Publication	Link
1	GEF IWEco Newsletters	http://iweco.org/publications/newsletters
2	Cartagena Convention Secretariat Newsletters	https://www.unep.org/cep/resources?type=240
3	GEF CReW+	https://www.gefcrew.org/our-news

ANNEX III: Status of Cartagena Convention Meeting Recommendations and Decisions Matrix Status of 6th LBS STAC Meeting Recommendations

LBS STAC-6 RECOMMENDATIONS	Status (Completed, Ongoing or Not Started)	Actions(s) Taken	Date last updated
REQUESTS FOR INPUT FOR TECHNICAL REPORTS AND DRAFT WORK PLAN			
<i>i. Contracting Parties to respond to the survey for informing the development of technical papers by the LBS RACs</i>	<i>Completed</i>	<i>A cumulative questionnaire to inform the papers the RACs were responsible for developing and was administered to Contracting Parties. A total of 7 countries (6 English speaking and 1 Spanish speaking) responded to the survey. Whilst RACs IMA and CIMAB referred to the responses, desk reviews were undertaken to advance the reports that they worked on. Two of the four draft reports were reviewed by members of the OEWG.</i>	<i>23-Apr-25</i>
WORKPLAN			
<i>2. Secretariat to strengthen partnerships with various partners including the Association of Caribbean States, GRID-Geneva and the Secretariat of the Convention for the Protection of the Marine Environment of the North-East Atlantic (OSPAR) and encourage a continued partnership approach to facilitate work plan implementation building on recently developed MOUs and expanding the Regional Activity Network (RAN).</i>	<i>Completed</i>	<i>This is an integral part of the AMEP Work Plan and Budget and is reflected in the projects and activities that are under implementation and the role of regional partners.</i>	<i>31-Dec-24</i>

LBS STAC-6 RECOMMENDATIONS	Status (Completed, Ongoing or Not Started)	Actions(s) Taken	Date last updated
3. Secretariat to continue efforts to integrate activities under the AMEP and SPAW Work Programmes, including the development of the next State of Convention Area Reports on Marine Pollution and Marine Habitats, collaboration between RACs and Working Groups, and the development of new project proposals	Completed	Members of the LBS OEWG attend the Working Group on Sargassum under SPAW. Quarterly Meetings involving the Secretariat and all of the RACs enable greater opportunities for Synergies and Joint Implementation. All the RACs participate in an expanded Staff Meeting every 3 months. A Joint Monitoring and Assessment Open Ended Working Group and Sargassum Working Group Meeting took place at the offices of RAC IMA in Trinidad and Tobago, in March 2025. During the Meeting, Working Group members recommended the collaboration of the two subprogrammes and RACs in developing a chapter on Sargassum in the next State of Report.	23/04/2025
5. Open-Ended Working Group (OEWG) to provide technical and expert support, advice, and input to the Secretariat and LBS RACs on the implementation of project activities in the draft 2023/2024 work plan.	Completed	OEWG reviewed the draft papers on classification of waters according to the LBS Protocol, and on regional criteria and standards for N and P Loads in Domestic and Industrial Wastewater Discharges and submitted comments to RACs. There was not sufficient time to review the paper on recommendations for amendment to the LBS Protocol and Annexes and Freshwater.	23-Apr-25

LBS STAC-6 RECOMMENDATIONS	Status (Completed, Ongoing or Not Started)	Actions(s) Taken	Date last updated
7. Secretariat strengthen its partnership with the private sector and industry to encourage more circular economy approaches and the use of waste as a resource in the design and/or implementation of pollution control projects and activities.	Ongoing into first quarter of 2025	This is being facilitated as part of the implementation of the GEF LAC Cities and PROMAR projects, with a specific focus on transition to the circular economy and plastic waste management.	20-Nov-24
SOURCES AND IMPACTS OF MARINE POLLUTION			
NUTRIENT POLLUTION			
1. The Secretariat with support of the LBS RACs and the OEWS and its thematic sub-groups continue to support the implementation of the regional nutrient pollution reduction strategy and action plan in countries of the Wider Caribbean Region at national and regional levels while noting that existing proposed timelines may require adjustment	Ongoing into 2025	The Nutrients and Wastewater Sub-Group under the LBS OEWS convened three meetings in 2024. During the third meeting on 14 November 2024, the Sub Group recommended the development of guidelines for the classification of waters according to the LBS Protocol. Face to face meeting of the NP GAN partnership held, website developed. A survey was administered to determine the capacity of Contracting Parties to undertake national water quality. This was supported through the Water Quality Capacity Development Project funded by US EPA. Jamaica and Guyana participating in an enhancing water quality for sustainable blue economy development project funded by the UK government.	23-Apr-25

LBS STAC-6 RECOMMENDATIONS	Status (Completed, Ongoing or Not Started)	Actions(s) Taken	Date last updated
2. The Secretariat to facilitate continued knowledge exchange and sharing of best practices and case studies among Parties including on the nutrient pollution action plans developed for Barbados and Jamaica.	Completed	A consultant was hired to carry out the work in the 2 countries. The report from the consultancy was shared as an Information Document for LBS COP 6.	31.01.2023
WASTEWATER DISCHARGES			

LBS STAC-6 RECOMMENDATIONS	Status (Completed, Ongoing or Not Started)	Actions(s) Taken	Date last updated
<p>1. Open-Ended Working Group including LBS RACs to provide technical oversight and input for the finalization of technical information papers on water discharge classification and regional nutrient criteria for submission to the LBS STAC7 and LBS COP7 for further consideration</p>	Completed	<p>A preliminary draft report on water classification systems and implementation according to the LBS Protocol and a draft report on regional criteria and standards for nitrogen and phosphorus loads in domestic and industrial wastewater discharges were presented to LBS COP6. Limited comments were received. It was then shared with the LBS OEWG for input. At the Nutrients and Wastewater Subgroup meeting, which took place 5 July, RAC IMA noted that there is a revised version of the documents which will be shared with the working group. Since LBS COP 6, the report on water discharge classification has undergone two reviews by the LBS Open Ended Working Group. The report is being finalised by the LBS RACs before being submitted to the LBS STAC 7 for their consideration. The study is to establish regional criteria for Nitrogen (N) and Phosphorus (P) compounds contained in wastewater discharges has been reviewed by the LBS OEWG and comments are being integrated before the document is submitted to the LBS STAC 7 for review.</p>	2/29/2025
MARINE LITTER MANAGEMENT			
<p>1. Caribbean Regional Node for Marine Litter encouraged to continue the expansion of their work including marine-based sources through partnerships, as appropriate</p>	Ongoing into 2025	<p>Included as part of activities under the signed SSFA between GCFI & UNEP. The role of GCFI and the Regional Node highlighted in Secretariat presentations. Opportunities to identify possible support role in projects such as LAC Cities and Promar being discussed.</p>	31-Dec-24
MONITORING & ASSESSMENT			

LBS STAC-6 RECOMMENDATIONS	Status (Completed, Ongoing or Not Started)	Actions(s) Taken	Date last updated
2. The Secretariat with the support of the LBS RACs continue to, subject to the availability of funding, provide training and capacity development on (i) standards and criteria including comparable data, nutrients standards, wastewater effluent standards and defining Class I & II waters, (ii) information management, and (iii) future planning including consideration of emerging issues such as freshwater management and microplastics.	Ongoing into first quarter of 2025	RAC CIMAB undertook training on innovative low-cost integrated water and wastewater management in Panama 24-25 January 2024. RAC IMA in collaboration with the Caribbean Water and Wastewater Association undertook a Regional and International Approaches to Wastewater Management: Exploring Innovative and Low-Cost Management Alternatives and Wastewater Reuse virtual workshop on 17 February 2025. There will also be a Joint LBS/SPAW Working Group meeting convened by the Secretariat and the LBS and SPAW RACs being convened 18-20 March to discuss the issue of Sargassum in the Wider Caribbean Region.	28-Feb-25
3. Contracting Parties request that the OEWG or a new sub-group guide the development of the next State of Convention Area Report on Marine Pollution in coordination with the development of the State of Marine Habitat Report under the Specially Protected Areas and Wildlife (SPAW) Sub-Programme.	Ongoing into 2025	OEWG during their Eighth meeting on 8 April 2025 recommended that the same approach be used in the development of the 2nd SOCAR, that is that the OEWG will work with consultants to review chapters and provide technical advice as needed. Whilst no funds have been confirmed for the development, fund raising is being prioritized.	23-Apr-25
4. The Secretariat continues to use the LBS RACs to provide regional training for ongoing and new projects within their technical areas of competence.	Ongoing into 2025	RAC CIMAB undertook training on innovative low-cost integrated water and wastewater management in Panama 24-25 January, 2024. RAC IMA in collaboration with the Caribbean Water and Wastewater Association undertook a Regional and International Approaches to Wastewater Management: Exploring Innovative and Low-Cost Management Alternatives and Wastewater Reuse virtual workshop on 17 February 2025. Joint LBS/SPAW Working Group meeting convened by the Secretariat and the LBS and SPAW RACs 18-20 March to discuss the issue of Sargassum and Nutrients in the Wider Caribbean Region.	23-Apr-25

LBS STAC-6 RECOMMENDATIONS	Status (Completed, Ongoing or Not Started)	Actions(s) Taken	Date last updated
KNOWLEDGE MANAGEMENT, DATA, AND INFORMATION MANAGEMENT			
<i>1. The Secretariat to continue its efforts to establish synergies between GEF IWEco, GEF CReW+, GEF LAC Cities, PROMAR projects and to support the ongoing development of the regional data and information management platform including organizing training courses to ensure sustainability of the platform.</i>	<i>Ongoing into 2025</i>	<i>Included as a) part of activities under the signed SSFA between Cimab, IMA & UNEP and b) SSFA with University of Geneva / GRID Geneva to develop a regional monitoring and information platform that will build on the existing platform of the Secretariat, to enhance regional capacities on marine litter under PROMAR. GRID Geneva has commenced activities for the data and information platform under PROMAR, with further development in 2025.</i>	<i>28-Feb-25</i>
POSSIBLE AMENDMENTS TO THE LBS PROTOCOL AND/OR ANNEXES			
<i>Contarcting Parties recommends that LBS COP6 review the progress made regarding the amendment to the LBS Protocol and/or its Annexes relating to freshwater, nutrients standards, and other issues and request the OEWG and the LBS RACs to continue to work on these and a report to the LBS STAC7 and LBS COP7 for further review, recommendation and decision as appropriate.</i>	<i>Ongoing into 2025</i>	<i>These documents are being finalized for presentation to the LBS STAC for the consideration. Some of these documents such as the ones on nutrients standards and water classification have been reviewed by the LBS OEWG and their comments have been integrated by the STACs.</i>	<i>28-Feb-25</i>

Status of 6th LBS COP Meeting Decisions

LBS COP-6	Status (Completed, Ongoing or Not Started)	Actions(s) Taken	Date last updated
DECISIONS			
DECISION I-WORKPLAN AND BUDGET			

LBS COP-6	Status (Completed, Ongoing or Not Started)	Actions(s) Taken	Date last updated
<p>4. Continued integration of the AMEP and SPAW subprogrammes in the implementation of the 2023-2024 work plan and budget including the 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.</p>		<p><i>Members of the LBS OEWG have been participating in meetings of the Sargassum Working Group under SPAW. There was a Joint LBS/SPAW Working Group meeting on Sargassum and Nutrients, which took place 18-20 March 2025 in Trinidad and Tobago. Quarterly Meetings of the Secretariat, all of RACs and the Caribbean Sub-Regional Office of UNEP facilitate opportunities for greater collaboration. This has been evidenced by the cooperation between RAC IMA and RAC REMPEITC on the COSTA Programme for early detection of Oil Spills and between SPAW RAC and RAC REMPEITC on Ballast Water Exchange and Marine Mammals</i></p>	<p>23-Apr-25</p>
Nutrient Management and Wastewater Discharges			

LBS COP-6	Status (Completed, Ongoing or Not Started)	Actions(s) Taken	Date last updated
<p>2. 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.</p>	<p>Ongoing to end of biennium</p>	<p>RAC CIMAB undertook a training activity in Panama in January 2025 on innovative low-cost integrated water and wastewater management and a workshop in Cuba in February to promote ratification of the LBS Protocol. RAC IMA and CIMAB shared the following draft documents with the OEWG for their review and input before being submitted for review at the 7 LBS STAC: draft report water classification systems and implementation according to the LBS Protocol and a draft report on regional criteria and standards for nitrogen and phosphorous loads in domestic and industrial wastewater discharges. The draft recommendations for amendments to the LBS Protocol and its Annexes as well as the document with recommendations to the STAC for improved Source to Sea and IWRM are being finalized for presentation to the 7 LBS STAC. RAC IMA in collaboration with the Caribbean Water and Wastewater Association undertook a Regional and International Approaches to Wastewater Management: Exploring Innovative and Low-Cost Management Alternatives and Wastewater Reuse virtual workshop on 17 February 2025. Joint LBS/SPAW Working Group meeting convened by the Secretariat and the LBS and SPAW RACs 18-20 March to discuss the issue of Sargassum and Nutrients in the Wider Caribbean Region.</p>	<p>23-Apr-25</p>
State of Convention Area Report on Marine Pollution			

LBS COP-6	Status (Completed, Ongoing or Not Started)	Actions(s) Taken	Date last updated
<p>3. The Secretariat in collaboration with the SPAW Sub-Programme 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.</p>	<p>Ongoing to end of biennium</p>	<p>Recommendation from the Joint Working Group meeting to advance with a joint chapter on Sargassum for the next State of Report. At the time of writing ,no funding mobilized to implement this activity although support may be expected through the Procaribe+ project. Secretariat will suggest a working group under the OCM to focus on this.</p>	<p>23-Apr-25</p>
DECISION III- MONITORING AND ASSESSMENT			
<p>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.</p>	<p>Ongoing to end of biennium</p>	<p>The AMEP Programme Management Officer participated in a meeting in March 2024 for the launch of an IAEA funded project being implemented by REMARCO and discussed opportunities for increased partnership. INVEMAR which is a REMARCO member represents the organisation. REMARCO participated in the Joint AMEP/SPAW Working Group meeting on Sargassum and Nutrients. REMARCO shared their monitoring protocol for monitoring microplastics in sand. RAC/RAN Guidelines revised and once endorsed will be shared with potential new RANS for consideration.</p>	<p>23-Apr-25</p>

LBS COP-6	Status (Completed, Ongoing or Not Started)	Actions(s) Taken	Date last updated
<p>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.</p>	<p>Ongoing to end of biennium</p>	<p>The Secretariat promoted the expansion of COSTA during the Oil Spills Steering Ctee of RAC REMPEITC and of DIHMAR in 2024 and interest has been expressed by Guyana and Jamaica to join the COSTA Programme</p>	<p>10-Jul-24</p>
<p>DECISION IV- LBS PROTOCOL RATIFICATION</p>			
<p>1. Secretariat to 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.</p>	<p>Ongoing to end of biennium</p>	<p>RAC CIMAB undertook a workshop in Cuba in February 2024 to promote LBS Protocol ratification. During the LBS COP-6, the Coordinator encouraged NCPs to continue their efforts to become ratified and alluded to possible financial support (based on demand) through projects such as the ACP MEAs III. During bilateral meetings with focal points, these opportunities have been promoted. AMEP PO participated in Fourth OECS Blue Economy Roundtable where she presented on the benefits of becoming a Contracting Party to the LBS Protocol. St. Kitts and Nevis became the 16th country to ratify the LBS Protocol. RAC IMA to undertake a LBS Ratification Promotional Workshop in St. Vincent and the Grenadines in August 2025.</p>	<p>28-Feb-25</p>

LBS COP-6	Status (Completed, Ongoing or Not Started)	Actions(s) Taken	Date last updated
DECISION V- PARTNERSHIPS			
1. <i>Encourage the Secretariat to continue close collaboration and cooperation with other Regional Seas Conventions and Action Plans on areas of mutual interest.</i>	Ongoing to end of biennium	<i>During the LME 23, the AMEP Programme Management Officer engaged with other PMOs from other regional seas programmes and discussed opportunities for further collaboration on nutrients and wastewater. Bilateral discussions were held with the Barcelona Convention, Abidjan Convention, Black Sea Convention, and OSPAR with a specific focus on Nutrients and Monitoring and Assessment. Abidjan Regional Seas Programme and OSPAR Commission presented at the Joint LBS/SPAW Working Group meeting on Sargassum which took place in Trinidad and Tobago from 18-20 March 2025.</i>	23-Apr-25
DECISION VI- KNOWLEDGE MANAGEMENT, DATA, AND INFORMATION MANAGEMENT			
2. <i>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.</i>	Ongoing to end of biennium	<i>Continued showcasing of outputs on Social Media and by dissemination to LBS Focal Points. Other Partnerships opportunities including with the ECOP, the SOA and Rotary are being explored to raise awareness about the work of the Convention and the LBS Protocol. With the onboarding of the IT Specialist and a Communications and Advocacy Consultant the Secretariat has increased dissemination of knowledge products.</i>	28-Feb-25