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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 WORKPLAN FOR THE ASSESSMENT AND MANAGEMENT OF  
ENVIRONMENTAL POLLUTION (AMEP) SUB-PROGRAMME  
FOR THE 2026-2027 BIENNIUM**

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



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### Acronyms

ACP	African, Caribbean and Pacific Countries
AMEP	Assessment and Management of Environmental Pollution
CARICOM	Caribbean Community
CARPHA	Caribbean Public Health Agency
CCAD	Central American Commission for Environment and Development
CDB	Caribbean Development Bank
CEP	Caribbean Environment Programme
CIMAB	Centre of Research and Environmental Management of Transport in Cuba
CLME+	Caribbean and North Brazil Shelf Large Marine Ecosystems
COP	Conference of Parties
CP	Contracting Party(ies)
CRew+	Caribbean Regional Fund for Wastewater Management Project
CWWA	Caribbean Water and Wastewater Association
DPSIR	Drivers, Pressures, State, Impact, Responses
FAO	Food and Agriculture Organisation of the United Nations
GCFI	Gulf and Caribbean Fisheries Institute
GEF	Global Environment Facility
GGGI	Global Ghost Gear Initiative
GIZ	Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit GmbH
GPA	Global Programme of Action for the Protection of the Marine Environment from Land-Based Activities
GPNM	Global Platform for Nutrient Management
IAEA	International Atomic Energy Agency
IDB	Inter-American Development Bank
IMA	Institute of Marine Affairs
IMO	International Maritime Organization
IWEco	Integrating Water, Land and Ecosystems Management in Caribbean SIDS
IUCN	International Union for the Conservation of Nature
LBS	Land-Based Sources (of marine pollution)
MEA	Multilateral Environment Agreement
OAS	Organization of American States
OECS	Organization of Eastern Caribbean States

OSPAR	The Convention for the Protection of the Marine Environment of the North-East Atlantic or OSPAR Convention
RAC	Regional Activity Centre
RAN	Regional Activity Network
REMPEITC-Caribe	Regional Marine Pollution Emergency, Information and Training Centre – Caribe
SIDS	Small Island Developing States
SOCAR	State of the Convention Area (Report on Marine Pollution)
SPAW	Specially Protected Areas and Wildlife Sub-Programme
STAC	Scientific and Technical Advisory Committee
TNC	The Nature Conservancy
UNDP	United Nations Development Programme
UNEA	United Nations Environmental Assembly
UNEP	United Nations Environment Programme



## I. Overview

1. The work plan includes ongoing projects and activities from the 2023-2025 biennium and new projects and activities for the 2026-2027 biennium under the Assessment and Management of Environmental Pollution (AMEP) Sub-Programme of the Cartagena Convention Secretariat. These support the continued development of the Land Based Sources of Marine Pollution (LBS) Protocol and assist Non-Contracting and/or Contracting Parties in overcoming barriers to ratification, accession and/or implementation of their national obligations to the Cartagena Convention and specifically the LBS Protocol.
2. The development of the work plan considered recommendations of previous Scientific and Technical Advisory Committee (STAC) Meetings of the LBS Protocol, Decisions of Conferences of Parties (COPs) to the LBS Protocol, and Decisions of the Cartagena Convention COPs. Feedback and recommendations received by the Secretariat from Contracting Parties to the LBS Protocol, LBS Regional Activity Centres (RACs), and the Open-Ended Working Group (OEWG) on Monitoring and Assessment also informed the development of the work plan.
3. Other considerations included recent UNEA Resolutions on marine pollution, including on nutrients and plastics, Decisions of Ministerial Fora in the Wider Caribbean Region (WCR) on marine pollution, and ongoing global and regional political processes on oceans, among others.
4. The work plan further reflects the ongoing efforts by the Secretariat to enhance partnerships and synergies with regional agencies and related global Multilateral Environmental Agreement (MEA) Secretariats, including projects and activities focusing on the control, prevention and reduction of marine pollution. Activities will also support Contracting Parties in future reporting on the Cartagena Convention, its Protocols, related MEAs, and regional and global commitments.
5. The 2026-2027 work plan prioritizes the need to address marine pollution from solid waste, marine litter and microplastics, improve domestic and industrial wastewater management, reduce nutrients pollution from non-point sources including poor agricultural practices, increase awareness of ocean acidification and build capacity for addressing new and emerging contaminants of concern such as Sargassum inundation and monitoring capacity.
6. Activities are expected to continue to strengthen transboundary collaboration that occurred during the previous biennium, particularly with the OSPAR Commission on nutrients management and the Abidjan Convention Secretariat on sargassum.
7. Gender mainstreaming will continue to be reflected in the design and implementation of new projects and activities, and in establishing indicators and targets.
8. Continued efforts will be made to ensure greater incorporation of the LBS RACs and Regional Activity Networks (RANs) and other regional partners into the 2026-2027 Work Plan for the AMEP Sub-Programme, particularly in providing technical support to Contracting Parties in meeting their national obligations under the LBS Protocol.
9. Given the ongoing financial constraints within the Secretariat and the changing priorities of traditional donor countries, financing for new projects and activities will be primarily sourced from external funding, including the Global Environment Facility (GEF), the European Union (EU), and the UK Government.
10. Convening of face-to-face meetings of the 8th LBS STAC and 8th LBS COP will be dependent on increased contributions to the Caribbean Trust Fund (CTF) by Contracting Parties. While collaboration

with ongoing projects may be able to offset some of these meeting costs, this remains a serious concern for the sustainability of the core areas of work for the Secretariat.

11. The focus by UNEP on the three planetary pillars of pollution, nature and climate and the need for more integrated approaches will be reflected in the design and delivery of new projects and activities by the Secretariat, RACs and RANs. Additional coordination will take place with UNEP's Global Partnerships on Marine Litter (GPML), Nutrients (GPNM) and Wastewater (GWII) through existing Regional Nodes and Platforms.
12. When contributions by Contracting Parties are insufficient to meet the demand for unfunded projects and activities, these will be implemented through strategic partnerships. Ongoing resource mobilization will take place within Cartagena Convention Secretariat's Resource Mobilization Strategy, subject to its approval by Contracting Parties.

## **II. Objectives of the AMEP Sub-Programme**

13. The overall objective is to support Contracting Parties to prevent, reduce, and control pollution of the coastal and marine environment from land and marine-based sources, thereby enabling them to meet their obligations under the LBS Protocol, and the Protocol Concerning Cooperation in Combating Oil Spills (Oil Spills Protocol) of the Cartagena Convention.
14. The general objectives of the AMEP sub-programme are to:
  - (a) Promote the Cartagena Convention and in particular the LBS Protocol as a platform for increased collaboration with, and implementation of, pollution prevention, control, and reduction activities in the Wider Caribbean Region;
  - (b) Support countries in their commitment to the 2030 Agenda and the Sustainable Development Goals, in particular through Goal 14, to conserve and sustainably use the oceans, seas and marine resources for sustainable development and 14.1 to, by 2025, prevent and significantly reduce marine pollution of all kinds, particularly from land-based activities, including marine debris and nutrient pollution;
  - (c) Support initiatives to control, reduce and prevent marine pollution from priority sources and activities;
  - (d) Support the implementation of the Regional Nutrients Pollution Reduction Strategy and Action Plan and the Regional Marine Litter Strategy and Action Plan of the Cartagena Convention;
  - (e) Contribute to building national and regional capacities for improved monitoring and integrated ecological assessment of marine pollution including the use of more harmonized approaches and methodologies;
  - (f) Promote the use of integrated solutions and tools for addressing pollution including Integrated Ecosystem Based-Management approaches to address pollution prevention and marine biodiversity conservation and management that reflect greater integration of the AMEP and SPAW Sub-Programmes.
  - (g) Support policy harmonization and management reforms towards improved ocean governance and achieving the targets identified in the Strategic Action Programmes (SAPs) for the Gulf of Mexico (GoM), Caribbean Sea and North Brazil Shelf Large Marine Ecosystems (CLME).
  - (h) Support countries in the development of institutional, policy, legal and financial frameworks, mechanisms, and instruments necessary for the long-term implementation of the Cartagena

Convention and in particular the Land-Based Sources of Marine Pollution Protocol.

- (i) Ensure synergies with relevant decisions of other decision-making fora including UNEA Resolutions and Decisions of Meetings of Ministers with responsibility for the environment, water, wastewater, agriculture, and solid waste.

### **III. Summary of the 2026-2027 Work Plan**

#### **A. Programme Coordination and Management**

*15. The strategic objectives of this focus area are to:*

- Strengthen regional and national governance mechanisms, resource availability, and capacity for the implementation of and compliance with the Cartagena Convention, the Oil Spills and LBS Protocols, and approved regional strategies and/or action plans on pollution.
  - Mobilize additional resources for the implementation of unfunded projects and activities through new and existing donors.
  - Strengthen synergies and collaboration among RACs, RANs, international and regional partners, and organizations active in the Wider Caribbean region, and enhance broad stakeholder participation in the design and implementation of projects and activities.
16. The AMEP Programme Officer will continue to be responsible for the coordination and supervision of the implementation of programme activities for 2026-2027 with support from an AMEP Programme Management Assistant. The directors and staff of LBS RACs and RANs will provide additional programme and technical support where appropriate.
17. Further assistance will be provided through interns, United Nations Volunteers (UNVs) and short-term consultants, as well as staff of externally funded projects implemented by the Secretariat.
18. The Secretariat will support activities that promote the ratification of the LBS Protocol by non-Contracting Parties and implementation by all Parties to the LBS Protocol. Where funding for projects and activities are limited, priority will be given, as appropriate, to those countries that are Parties to the LBS Protocol and/or are in the final stages of the ratification process and those who have met their financial obligations to the Caribbean Trust Fund (CTF) in accordance with the Financial Rules of the Cartagena Convention.
19. The Secretariat will seek to expand its network of Regional Activity Networks to engage with agencies working on Marine Pollution activities, and which align with the objectives of the AMEP Sub-Programme.
20. The development of partnership agreements with regional agencies that form part of the Regional Activity Network (RAN) will be used to support continued capacity building and implementation of activities to support the control, reduction, and prevention of marine pollution in the Wider Caribbean Region.
21. The Secretariat will convene the 8<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the LBS STAC and 8<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the LBS COP in 2027 where the AMEP Draft Work Plan and Budget for the 2028-2029 biennium will be presented for endorsement and/or approval in keeping with the objectives of the LBS Protocol and regional priorities.
22. The Secretariat, with support from the LBS RACs, the OEWG Chair, Vice Chair and the leaders of the thematic sub-groups, will continue to facilitate meetings of the OEWG on Monitoring and Assessment

and sub-groups as mandated by the LBS COP.

23. The Secretariat will support the further development and submission of new project proposals, the launch of new projects and the formal closure of projects during the biennium. This will involve the preparation and submission, as required, of terminal project reports, case studies and experience notes while supporting mid-term and terminal project evaluation and monitoring and evaluation of project interventions.
24. The Secretariat will collaborate with UNEP HQ, UNEP Regional Office for Latin America and the Caribbean (ROLAC), and the Caribbean Sub-Regional Office (CSRO) in resource mobilization and the development of programmes, projects and activities in support of work on the blue economy, sustainable consumption and production, green economy, solid and liquid waste management including waste as a resource, circular economy and life cycle approaches, as well as oceans governance.
25. The Secretariat will also cooperate with relevant projects, Regional Seas Programmes, Global MEA Secretariats and other coordinating mechanisms and partnerships relating to the control, reduction and prevention of marine pollution. Strengthened collaboration with the IMO through the work of RAC REMPEITC Caribe will provide Contracting Parties with technical assistance to address both land and marine-based sources of pollution in a more integrated manner while ensuring compliance with related Maritime Conventions such as MARPOL, Ballast Water and the London Convention.
26. To ensure high-level political engagement, the Secretariat will strengthen partnerships with regional and sub-regional intergovernmental bodies, including CCAD, CARICOM, and OECS, as well as Regional and Sub-Regional Ministerial and High-Level Fora to increase awareness of the LBS Protocol and to enhance synergies and coordinated implementation at the highest political level.
27. The approach to the implementation of the work plan will reflect continued efforts to integrate the AMEP and SPAW Work Programmes as well as enhance coordination among all of the RACs. Subject to funding, efforts will continue to convene future joint LBS and SPAW meetings, develop joint LBS/SPAW projects and implement joint capacity-building and promotional activities.
28. The Decades of Ocean Science for Sustainable Development (2021-2030) and Ecosystem Restoration (2021-2030), the Post 2020 Biodiversity Framework and Agenda 2030 will be further used to help frame the work of the Secretariat on marine pollution over the biennium.

***Specific Activities and Annual Budget to be completed for LBS COP based on STAC Recommendations***

Activity	2026			2027		
	CTF	Other Source*	Total	CTF	Other Sources*	Total
<b>Personnel Costs (Programme Officer &amp; Programme Management Assistant)</b>	210,000	0	<b>210,000</b>	210,000	0	<b>210,000</b>
<b>Convene LBS STAC 8 and LBS COP 8</b>	0	0	<b>0</b>	300,000	0	<b>300,000</b>
<b>TOTAL (USD)</b>	<b>210,000</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>210,000</b>	<b>510,000</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>510,000</b>

Note: funding to convene LBS STAC8 & LBS COP8 is currently unavailable under CTF

## **B. Land and Marine-Based Sources of Pollution**

29. *The strategic objective of this focus area is to:*

- Control, prevent and reduce marine pollution from land and marine-based sources.
30. With financial support from the ongoing CReW+, PROMAR, LAC Cities and US EPA Capacity Development Project on Water Quality projects, the implementation of national and pilot projects will continue to focus on improving marine litter, agrochemical run-off and wastewater management, as well as strengthening national water quality monitoring programmes while contributing to new, alternative, and sustainable livelihoods.
  31. The Secretariat will promote the increased use of pollution prevention and reduction tools and innovative/appropriate technologies to protect human health and reduce the degradation of selected priority ecosystems with financial support from the GEF CReW+, GEF LAC Cities, PROMAR and US EPA Water Quality Capacity Development Projects.
  32. The GEF CReW+, GEF LAC Cities and PROMAR Projects will support the development and/or updating of national marine pollution prevention and control policies, legislation and regulations while building national capacity to develop and implement local and/or national strategies and plans of action for pollution prevention, reduction and control with a focus on solid waste and domestic wastewater. This support to beneficiary countries will assist in improving compliance with national and/or regional guidelines, standards and criteria relating to pollution discharges into the marine environment.
  33. As a result of the capacity-building support and implementation of national projects, there will be an increase in the number of countries developing, updating and/or implementing action plans to reduce marine litter, untreated wastewater, and nutrient discharges into the coastal and marine environment.
  34. Depending on the availability of finances and through technical support from the LBS RACs, the Secretariat will continue to engage Contracting Parties to facilitate intersessional discussions and consultations on possible amendments to the annexes of the LBS Protocol, including issues related to wastewater reuse.
  35. Through the support of the US EPA Water Quality Capacity Development Project, the Secretariat in collaboration with the UNEP Source to Sea Unit will provide support to Contracting Parties in defining and implementing demonstration projects that will seek to strengthen national and regional capacities on water quality management and monitoring as well as pollution reduction and control.
  36. With the support the LBS RACs and the OEWG and the Nutrients and Wastewater subgroup, the Secretariat, pending the availability of funds, will continue to facilitate the development and implementation of regional criteria for Nitrogen (N) and Phosphorus (P) compounds contained in wastewater discharges.
  37. These activities will support the Global Partnerships on Marine Litter, Wastewater and Nutrients through Regional Platforms and Nodes for which the Secretariat is either a host, co-host or partner agency.
  38. The Secretariat will continue to explore opportunities for partnering with international and regional agencies including the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA), CORAL, World Bank, INVEMAR, and the network of laboratories - REMARCO - to identify and address existing and emerging issues such as microplastics, wastewater impacts on coral reef ecosystems, links between nutrients and sargassum, antimicrobial resistance and other areas of interest through monitoring and surveillance activities.

39. The Secretariat will continue to explore collaboration with the World Bank, CEFAS, and CORAL in areas that would support Parties in meeting their obligations under the LBS Protocol.

***Specific Activities and Annual Budget to be completed for LBS COP based on STAC Recommendations***

**C. Monitoring and Integrated Ecosystem Assessment**

*40. The strategic objective of this focus area is to:*

- Improve Science-Policy Interface by enhanced generation and use of pollution-related data and information for more informed decision-making.
41. With financing from the US EPA Water Quality Capacity Development Project, an Online Learning System will be developed and will seek to strengthen national capacities in water quality monitoring and support Contracting Parties to develop and/or strengthen national pollution monitoring programmes.
42. The improvement of national monitoring and assessment capacities and development and/or enhancement of national coastal and marine monitoring programmes will further contribute to the development of more comprehensive State of Convention Area Reports on Marine Pollution.
43. With financing from projects (UNDP GEF PROCARIBE+, US EPA Water Quality Capacity Development Project) and with the support of the RACs, RANs, the OEWG and Subgroups, and Contracting Parties, the Secretariat will advance the development of a more integrated State of Convention Area report.
44. The Secretariat, the RACs and OEWG and subgroups in collaboration with REMARCO and IAEA, will work on the development of regional protocols for monitoring microplastics in the water column and sand.
45. Specific attention will be placed on improving national capacities to monitor the sources, levels and impacts of microplastics, livestock wastes, mercury, mining wastes and agrochemical pollutants on coastal and marine biodiversity, as reflected in the State of Habitats Report as well as on human health.
46. Other capacity-building activities supported by multiple projects (GEF CReW+, and US EPA Water Quality Capacity Development) will focus on training in wastewater effluent monitoring, classification of recreational waters, and strengthening national water quality monitoring programmes.
47. Projects and activities implemented under this focus area will assist Contracting Parties in generating new information for better understanding and adaptive management of the coastal and marine environment, with a view to strengthening linkages between pollution monitoring, ecosystems assessment and reporting mechanisms for informed planning and decision-making processes. Social and economic assessment issues include the economic valuation of goods and services provided by the marine and coastal environment, including enhancing the capacity of Contracting Parties to use the true value of pollution impacts and ecosystems goods and services in their decision-making processes will also be priority areas for the Secretariat.
48. The [Regional Information Management Platform](#) developed in the previous biennium will be further enhanced by incorporating and linking to new databases on plastics and marine litter and developing the capacity to generate new knowledge management products such as story maps, infographics, and factsheets.

***Specific Activities and Annual Budget to be completed for LBS COP based on STAC Recommendations***

Activity	2023			2024		
	CTF	Other Sources*	Total	CTF	Other Sources*	Total

**D. Integrated Ecosystem Based Management Approaches**

49. *The strategic objectives of this focus area are to:*

- Reduce anthropogenic pressures/pollution on coastal and marine areas in order to prevent and/or reduce their degradation;
- Ensure the preservation of the integrity of coastal and marine ecosystems through the control, reduction, and prevention of marine pollution;
- Ensure that activities in terrestrial, coastal and marine areas do not increase marine pollution.
- Increase understanding of how pollution negatively impact marine and coastal habitats important to economies and livelihoods in the Convention area.

50. The Secretariat will continue to support Contracting Parties in the design and implementation of ecosystem-based management approaches to address marine pollution in a more integrated, inclusive, and comprehensive manner. It will seek to reduce or prevent degradation of the coastal and marine environment, in particular from land and marine-based sources of pollution and strengthen the functioning and resilience of coastal and marine ecosystems, including supporting the governments of the region to attain the Sustainable Development Goals and in particular targets 2 and 5 of Goal 14.

51. The Secretariat will further aim to tackle interactive and cumulative impacts of human activities on ecosystems, such as transboundary regional impacts. This will be advanced through complementing the use of other tools such as Marine Spatial Planning and the development of sustainable ocean-based economies and blue economy approaches by Contracting Parties. This is expected to lead to increases in the number of countries adopting integrated management approaches to sectoral and national development planning processes, strategies, and action plans.

52. In response to a decision from the 6 LBS COP, calling for greater integration between the AMEP and SPAW subprogramme on issues such as Sargassum inundation and the impacts of nutrient pollution on marine biodiversity, the Secretariat in coordination with the RACs and the OEWG will support Contracting Parties in the implementation of relevant activities of the Sargassum Action Plan, and in developing mechanisms to monitor, analyze and manage the impact of marine pollutants on coastal and marine ecosystems.

53. Dependent of approval of the GEF Secretariat and in collaboration with GRID Geneva, the Secretariat will support Caribbean SIDS 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.

54. Subject to funding availability, the Secretariat will work with partners to provide support to countries in better understanding the impacts of pollutants on marine and coastal habitats and in safeguarding the habitats which support sustainable ocean-based economies and blue economies important in providing

sustainable livelihoods particularly in coastal communities.

***Specific Activities and Annual Budget to be completed for LBS COP based on STAC Recommendations***

Activity	2023			2024		
	CTF	Other Sources*	Total	CTF	Other Sources*	Total

**E. Knowledge Management and Communications**

55. The knowledge management and communication activities associated with the AMEP Sub-Programme will be reflected in the work plan of the Cartagena Convention Secretariat as the activity is integrated as part of the Secretariat's work.

**IV. 2026-2027 Budget for the AMEP Work Programme and associated projects (To be completed).**

56. The proposed budget for the AMEP Sub-Programme for the 2026-2027 Biennium will be finalized based on LBS STAC 7 Recommendations and presented to the LBS COP 7 and Cartagena Convention COP 18 for endorsement and/or approval.
57. It will include a summary of the draft 2026/2027 programme coordination and management budget in support of the implementation of the AMEP Sub-Programme, proposed biennial budgets for ongoing and newly approved projects executed under the coordination of the Sub-Programme, an overview of pipeline projects and activities either under development and/or which have not yet been approved with indicative funding and an overview of unfunded activities recommended by Contracting Parties during the LBS STAC 7 which are unable to be implemented as part of ongoing projects and/or with resources from the Caribbean Trust Fund.

## V. Main Projects and Activities of the 2026-2027 Work Programme

THEME A. Programme Coordination and Management				
<b>Strategic objectives:</b> <sup>1</sup> To strengthen regional and national governance mechanisms, resource availability, and capacity for the implementation of and compliance with the Cartagena Convention, the Oil Spills and LBS Protocols, and approved national and regional strategies and action plans for pollution prevention. <sup>2</sup> To mobilize additional resources for the implementation of unfunded AMEP Projects and Activities; <sup>3</sup> To strengthen synergies and collaboration among RACs, international and regional partners, and organizations active in the Wider Caribbean region, and enhance broad stakeholders' participation.				
<b>2026-2027 Targets:</b> <sup>1</sup> At least 3 additional ratifications of the LBS Protocol; <sup>2</sup> At least 8 joint activities with partners;				
Main Activities	Project(s)	Lead	Partners	Expected Deliverables
Promote ratification of the LBS Protocol by Non-Contracting Parties.	CRew+, GEF LAC Cities, US EPA Water Quality Projects	Secretariat	RAC CIMAB, RAC IMA, INVEMAR, GCFI	a) Increased number of ratifications of the LBS Protocol; b) Targeted promotional material on the benefits of the Convention and its Protocols for the general public
Organize 8 <sup>th</sup> LBS STAC	N/A	Secretariat	Host country, CPs	a) 8 <sup>th</sup> LBS STAC successfully convened;
Organize 8 <sup>th</sup> LBS COP	N/A	Secretariat	Host Country, CPs	a) 8 <sup>th</sup> LBS COP successfully convened;
Provide Secretariat support to the Open-Ended Work Group on Monitoring and Assessment and related Thematic Groups	N/A	Chair and Lead Working Group and Sub groups	Working Group Members	a) Meetings of Working Groups and subgroups successfully facilitated;
Identify opportunities for further implementation of Regional and/or National Strategies and Action Plans addressing marine pollution.	N/A	Secretariat	LBS RACs	At least two countries have begun implementing their national strategies and/or action plans on marine pollution;
Ensure timely and coordinated programme implementation, monitoring of progress against targets and indicators, periodic evaluation and reporting.	All	Secretariat, Regional Project Coordinators	LBS RACs, Partner Executing Agencies	a) LAC Cities+: - 6 National Projects implemented; - Steering Committee meetings organized; Project Work Plan timely implemented; Timely submission of progress narrative and financial reports; b) Promar: 4 National Projects implemented; - Steering Committee meetings organized; Project Work Plan timely implemented; Timely submission of progress narrative and financial reports; c) US EPA Water Quality Capacity Development Project – 3 to 4 pilots implemented, timely submission of progress narrative and financial reports; d) Support to the preparation of new Project Proposals – Blue Economy, Nutrients, Plastics e) Ongoing implementation of GEF LAC Cities, PROMAR, and US EPA Water Quality Capacity Development projects f) Support to final evaluation, closure and final reporting for GEF CRew+, Promar and LAC Cities

Main Activities	Project(s)	Lead	Partners	Expected Deliverables
				<div>g) Support for the launch of new GEF and non-GEF Projects – GEF Sand management project</div> <div>h) New project proposal and concepts in support of the blue economy, solid and liquid waste management, including waste as a resource, circular economy and oceans governance developed;</div> <div>i) Periodic quarterly updates made of Secretariat responses to STAC Recommendations, COP Decisions and Targets and reported to the Bureau.</div>
Provide technical assistance and guidance to CPs for the implementation of the Cartagena Convention, and LBS Protocols.	N/A	Secretariat	LBS RACs, RAN, Regional Nodes	<div>a) Guidance on the national implementation of the CC and the LBS Protocol provided through briefs and model cabinet papers; Twinning and/or personnel exchange facilitated on request and subject to funding availability</div>
Coordinate with key partners to support enhanced roles for Regional Nodes and Platforms for Marine Litter, Wastewater and Nutrients.	N/A	Secretariat	GCFI, INVEMAR	<div>a) New projects and activities implemented by the Regional Nodes in support of the obligations of the Cartagena Convention and LBS Protocol and LBS COP Decisions;</div>
Strengthen partnership arrangements with regional and global IGOs to enhance synergies and impact on the ground.	PROCARIBE+	Secretariat	Global MEA Secretariats, CARICOM, SICA, OECS, IAEA	<div>a) Synergies enhanced with sub-regional initiatives;</div> <div>b) Active participation in the Ocean Coordination Mechanism;</div> <div>c) Partnership arrangement with IAEA in support of coastal and marine monitoring in the Wider Caribbean Region;</div>
Facilitate reporting on relevant pollution targets and indicators.	PROCARIBE+, US EPA Water Quality Capacity Development	Secretariat	CPs	<div>d) State of Convention Area Report is defined as adopting an integrated assessment approach;</div> <div>e) At least 3 Contracting Parties supported reporting on pollution relating to relevant regional and/or global reporting requirements. (SDG 6, SDG 14);</div>
Facilitate cooperation with relevant projects and coordinate mechanisms relating to pollution.	PROCARIBE+	Secretariat	RACs	<div>f) Participation in the Ocean Coordinating Mechanism;</div> <div>g) Participation in relevant UNEP HQ committees and working groups on marine pollution;</div> <div>h) Continued Participation in BASEL Plastics Partnership;</div> <div>i) Representation on the Global Water Caribbean Technical Committee;</div> <div>j) Representation of the Committee overseeing the implementation of the Regional Strategic Action Plans on Waste and Water;</div>
Evaluate the role of pollution prevention, control and reduction as part of ongoing efforts to develop ocean-based and blue economy approaches.	N/A	Secretariat	RACs	<div>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 - ongoing</div>

THEME B: Land and Marine-Based Sources of Pollution				
<b>Ecological Objectives:</b> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Pollution from Land and Marine-Based Sources causes no significant impact on coastal and marine ecosystems and human health.</li> <li>New and emerging land-based pollution-related problems are identified and tackled, as appropriate.</li> </ol>				
<b>Strategic objectives:</b> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>To control, prevent and reduce marine pollution from land and marine-based sources.</li> </ol>				
<b>2026-2027 Indicators:</b> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Number of countries with pollution-related policies, legislation and/or regulations updated and/or developed.</li> <li>Number of new and/or updated guidelines on marine pollution.</li> <li>Number of Training and Capacity Building Workshops</li> <li>Number of Contracting Parties with:               <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>National Plans of Action developed to address marine pollution, wastewater, marine litter and nutrients</li> <li>National/Pilot Projects focusing on pollution reduction activities</li> </ol> </li> </ol>			<b>2026-2027 Targets:</b> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>4 countries with updated and/or new policy/regulatory instruments.</li> <li>4 new/updated guidelines developed/updated.</li> <li>4 countries with new or strengthened water quality monitoring programmes</li> <li>At least 4 Regional Workshops Conducted</li> <li> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>At least 5 national plans of action relating to marine pollution.</li> <li>At least 8 national/pilot projects focusing on pollution reduction.</li> </ol> </li> </ol>	
Main Activities	Project(s)	Lead	Partner(s)	Expected Deliverables
<b>2.1. Strengthening implementation of the obligations under the Land-Based Sources of Marine Pollution and Oil Spills Protocols and related regional strategies on Marine Litter, Wastewater and Nutrients</b>				
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.	GEF LAC Cities, PROMAR	Secretariat	Regional Marine Litter Node, GPML, UNEP Source to Sea Unit	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Best practices, case studies and models identified and shared with the CPs at a regional level;</li> <li>Partnership opportunities identified</li> <li>Data uploaded into the new GPML Digital Platform</li> </ol>
Promote reduction of municipal wastewater using nature-based solutions; and prevention of sewage sludge and stormwater-related waste from entering into the marine environment using BAT/BEP	CRew+,	Secretariat	CWWA, UNEP Source to Sea Unit, World Bank, CORAL	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Best practices identified and shared with the CPs at the regional level;</li> <li>Regional wastewater reuse guidelines</li> </ol>
Strengthen the capacity of CPs to respond to marine pollution incidents through strengthening sub-regional and regional mechanisms and contingency plans.	N/A	RAC REMPEITC	IMO	Technical support provided to CPs to assess, prepare, adopt, update as well as implement and test national contingency plans and regional or sub-regional agreements/contingency plans dealing with preparedness for and response to oil and HNS spills from ships, seaports, oil handling facilities and offshore installations; (unfunded from previous biennium)

Main Activities	Project(s)	Lead	Partner(s)	Expected Deliverables
<b>2.2 Development, and/or update and/or implementation of new/existing regional strategies, action plans including guidelines, standards and criteria including possible amendments to the LBS Protocol and its Annexes</b>				
Update the Annexes/Text of the LBS Protocols		Secretariat	LBS RACs, Working Group(s)	OEWG and subgroups to work with RACs on proposed Amendments to the LBS Protocol and/or its Annexes for submission to COP 8;
		Secretariat	LBS RACs, Working Group(s)	Finalization of Regional Criteria and Standards for N and P Loads in Domestic and Industrial Wastewater Discharges to for submission to COP 8
Develop technical Guidelines for the classification of waters as per the LBS Protocol		Secretariat	LBS RACs, Working Group	Adoption of Guidelines for the classification of waters according to the LBS Protocol Contracting Parties supported to classify their recreational/receiving waters, based on request
Address the management of freshwater within the framework of the Cartagena Convention		Secretariat	RACs, OEWG	Working group(s) established/mandated to work on assessing how the management of freshwater resources can be addressed within the framework of the Cartagena Convention
Support implementation of Regional Strategies and Action Plans such as the Regional Marine Litter Action Plan, Regional Nutrients Reduction Strategy and Action Plan, Regional Solid Waste Strategy and Action Plan and the Regional Strategic Action Plan on Water including Wastewater	CRew+	Secretariat	UNEP ROLAC, CSRO, CWWA,	Regional Strategies and Action Plans implemented with Secretariat support; (ongoing)
Support development, update and implementation of national pollution prevention plans including on wastewater, marine litter/plastics and nutrients	CRew+, PROMAR; and LAC Cities	Secretariat	UNEP Source to Sea Unit	National Strategies and Action Plans implemented with Secretariat support (ongoing); Sustainable Financing/Business Plans for future Wastewater/Plastics Investments (ongoing);
<b>2.3 Enhancing national marine pollution prevention and control policies, legislation and regulations.</b>				
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.	CRew+,	Secretariat		National Diagnostic Analysis conducted, as needed - ongoing National Policies, Plans, Guidelines, Legislation and/or Regulations developed and/or updated - ongoing;
Enhance ratification and implementation of relevant international maritime Conventions related to the protection of the marine environment		Secretariat	RAC REMPEITC IMO	Technical support provided to CPs, on request to: a) Prepare and/or update national policy and/or legal frameworks for implementation of relevant agreements such as MARPOL and the Ballast Water Convention – ongoing; and b) Ratify and implement relevant international maritime conventions related to the protection of the marine environment - ongoing.

Main Activities	Project(s)	Lead	Partner(s)	Expected Deliverables
<b>2.4 National and Pilot projects implemented on marine litter, nutrients, wastewater.</b>				
Implement national/community-based projects on wastewater management, marine litter/plastics and nutrients reduction, reuse & recycling;	PROMAR; CReW+; LAC Cities	Secretariat	CP, LBS RACs, RANs, UNEP Source to Sea Unit	a) National and/or Community Based Projects successfully implemented - ongoing

<b>THEME C: Monitoring and Integrated Ecosystem Assessment</b>				
<b>Ecological Objectives:</b> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Pollution from Land and Marine-Based Sources cause no significant impact on coastal and marine ecosystems and human health;</li> <li>New and emerging land-based pollution-related problems are identified and tackled, as appropriate.</li> </ol>				
<b>Strategic objectives:</b> To control, prevent and reduce marine pollution from land and marine-based sources.				
<b>2026-2027 Indicators:</b> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Number of countries with improved national capacity for recreational water quality monitoring;</li> <li>Number of countries with system for classification of recreational waters for effluent discharges;</li> <li>Number of Training and Capacity Building Workshops</li> </ol>			<b>2026-2027 Targets:</b> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>5 countries provided with laboratory equipment to facilitate improved recreational water quality programmes;</li> <li>3 countries develop systems for classification of receiving water bodies as per requirements of LBS Protocol</li> <li>3 Regional capacity-building workshops convened relating to monitoring and assessment.</li> <li>1 State of Report with integrated elements between SPAW and AMEP Subprogrammes</li> </ol>	
Main Activities	Project(s)	Lead	Partner(s)	Expected Deliverables
<b>2.1 National pollution monitoring programmes developed and/or enhanced to include the relevant indicators recommended by the SOCAR Report in Marine Pollution</b>				
Support the development and/or enhancement of national recreational water quality monitoring programmes based on recommendations from SOCAR;	CReW+, US EPA Water Quality Capacity Development	Secretariat	LBS RACs, RAN, INVEMAR, IAEA, REMARCO	Strengthening of national and as appropriate regional Laboratory Capacity based on needs assessment (ongoing from previous biennium); Strengthened water quality monitoring programmes in 3 contracting parties Establishment of network of laboratories supporting Contracting Parties; Development of 1 regional monitoring guideline for parameter as part of water quality monitoring programme
<b>2.2 Marine pollution assessment tools (including maps, infographics and factsheets) developed and/or updated for key pollutants</b>				
Advance the new State of Convention Area Report on Marine Pollution.	PROCARIBE+, US EPA Water Quality Capacity Development	Secretariat	LBS RACs, RAN, REMARCO, Source to Sea Unit	a) Updated assessment factsheets and maps prepared with new data originating from pollution reports and strategies to inform development of a revised more integrated State of Convention Area Report; b) New/revised chapters with updated data and information for new State of Convention Area Report;

Main Activities	Project(s)	Lead	Partner(s)	Expected Deliverables
2.3 Enhanced capacity at regional, sub-regional and national levels including technical assistance, training and capacity building.				
Support countries in the implementation of the LBS Protocol	CRew+, LAC Cities	Secretariat	LBS RACs, RANs	Technical assistance provided and capacities built to support LBS implementation - ongoing
Develop and implement national training programmes around key pollution issues.	CREW+, US EPA Water Quality Capacity Development, LAC Cities	Secretariat	LBS RACs, RAN, Source to Sea UNEP HQ, GRID, INVEMAR, GCFI	a) Online learning management system (LMS) with customized contents based on identified countries' needs in place; b) Training on Driver Pressure State Impact and Response (DPSIR) conducted: c) Training in the identification and tracking of priority pollutants; d) Training in monitoring impact of run-off & poor land-use practices; (subject to funding)
Strengthen collaboration with RAC REMPEITC and IMO to provide Contracting Parties with technical assistance.		RAC REMPEITC	Secretariat; IMO	Ongoing and guided by Recommendations of RAC REMPEITC Steering Ctee.

THEME D. Integrated Ecosystem Management Approaches				
<b>Long-Term Impacts:</b> 1. Sustainable use and development of coastal and marine resources through reduced impacts of land and marine-based pollution; 2. Incorporation of environmental considerations into decision-making processes on the development and use of coastal and marine resources; 3. Coherence is achieved between public and private initiatives and between decisions by the public authorities, which affect coastal and marine ecosystems. 4. Integration of Pollution (LBS) and Marine Biodiversity (SPAW) sub-programme areas.				
<b>2026-2027 Indicators:</b> 1. Number of countries implementing IEBM Projects; 2. Number of Case Studies and/or Experience Nodes on IEBM 3. Training Courses/Webinars on EBM or related integrated planning tools			<b>2026-2027 Targets:</b> 1. 4 countries implementing IEBM pilot and community projects; 2. 2 Case Studies developed and disseminated; 3. 2 Regional Training Workshops/Webinars on integrated ecosystem management convened 4. 2 Joint Initiatives advanced with SPAW Subprogramme on issues of relevance to AMEP and SPAW subprogrammes	
<b>Strategic objectives:</b> 1. To reduce anthropogenic pressures/pollution on coastal and marine areas in order to prevent and/or reduce their degradation; 2. To ensure the preservation of the integrity of coastal and marine ecosystems through the control, reduction and prevention of marine pollution; 3. To ensure that activities in terrestrial, coastal and nearshore marine areas do not increase marine pollution.				
Main Activities	Project(s)	Lead	Partners	Expected Deliverables
Support continued integration of LBS and SPAW sub-programmes through joint activities and capacity building	All	Secretariat	Working Groups, RACs, RAN,	a) Joint projects and activities designed and implemented  b) Partnership opportunities identified for integrated approaches to address sargassum and nutrients

Main Activities	Project(s)	Lead	Partners	Expected Deliverables
Support region-wide use of EBM approaches including tools such as MSP, ICZM	PROCARIBE+	Secretariat	GRID Geneva	a) Improved engagement and information access for practitioners and other stakeholders through targeted knowledge-sharing products and networks; b) 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 - ongoing
Implement Integrated Ecosystem Management projects in a number of Contracting Parties	PROCARIBE+, Sand management (subject to approval)	Secretariat		a. Pollution Stress reduction in at least 2 project sites through appropriate sustainable water, land and ecosystems management interventions that account for climate change. b. Enhanced livelihood opportunities and socio-economic co-benefits for targeted communities from improved ecosystem services functioning as a result of reduced pollution. c. Increased understanding of the impacts of marine pollution on coastal and marine habitats and species and economies.
Implement policy, legislative and institutional reforms for natural resource management and pollution prevention	PROCARIBE+	Secretariat	CARPHA, OECS	a. Strengthened policy and legislation for the effective management of water, land and ecosystems resources that account for climate change – ongoing b. 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. - ongoing