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

13 and 16 October 2025
Kingston, Jamaica

REPORT OF THE MEETING

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

ACRONYMS

AMEP	Assessment and Management of Environmental Pollution
CEP	Caribbean Environment Programme
CETA	Communication, Education, Training and Awareness
CTF	Caribbean Trust Fund
COP	Conference of Parties
CIMAB	Centre of Research and Environmental Management of Transport
CRew+	Caribbean Regional Fund for Wastewater Management+ project
GEF	Global Environment Facility
GPA	Global Programme of Action
HQ	Headquarters
IAEA	International Atomic Energy Agency
IGM	Intergovernmental Meeting
IMA	Institute of Marine Affairs
LBS	Land-Based Sources of Pollution
MEA	Multilateral Environmental Agreement
OCM	Ocean Coordination Mechanism
OEWG	Open-Ended Working Group
RAC	Regional Activity Centre
RAN	Regional Activity Network
SOCAR	State of the Convention Area
SPAW	Specially Protected Areas and Wildlife
STAC	Scientific and Technical Advisory Committee
UK	United Kingdom
UN	United Nations
UNEA	United Nations Environment Assembly
UNEP	United Nations Environment Programme
USA	United States of America

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REPORT OF THE MEETING

INTRODUCTION

1. The Secretariat of the Cartagena Convention is responsible for convening meetings of the Contracting Parties to the Protocol Concerning Pollution from Land-Based Sources and Activities (LBS Protocol) in accordance with Article XV of the LBS Protocol.
2. The Seventh Meeting of the Conference of Parties (COP) to the LBS Protocol was held in Kingston, Jamaica, on 13 and 16 October 2025.

Meeting Objectives

3. The objectives of the Seventh LBS COP Meeting are to:
 - Take appropriate action regarding the recommendations of the 7th Meeting of the LBS Scientific and Technical Advisory Committee (STAC) held virtually from 22-25 July 2025.
 - Assess the status of ratification and/or implementation of the LBS Protocol in member countries and take appropriate action to facilitate increased ratification and/or implementation.
 - Approve the Assessment and Management of Environmental Pollution (AMEP) and LBS Regional Activity Centres (RACs) Workplan and Budget for the 2026-2027 biennium for subsequent submission to and endorsement by the 18th Meeting of Contracting Parties of the Cartagena Convention held in Jamaica from 13 to 16 October 2025; and
 - Conduct other business as appropriate.

AGENDA ITEM 1: OPENING OF THE MEETING.

4. The Meeting was officially opened on Monday, 13 October 2025 at 8:34 a.m. by Ms. Laverne Walker, Programme Management Officer responsible for the AMEP Sub-Programme of the Cartagena Convention Secretariat.

AGENDA ITEM 2: ELECTION OF OFFICERS

5. The Meeting elected a President, two Vice Presidents, and a Rapporteur from among the Bureau Members, based on nominations proposed by the Secretariat. All were elected by acclamation.
 - **President** – Antigua and Barbuda
 - **1st Vice President** – Guyana
 - **2nd Vice President** – Dominican Republic
 - **Rapporteur** – France

6. Ms. Walker welcomed the new Bureau Members to the Meeting.
7. The President assumed the Chair for the meeting with support from the Secretariat.

2.1 Opening Remarks of the President -

8. The President welcomed participants, congratulated the new Bureau, expressed gratitude for the honour of chairing the Meeting, and emphasized the importance of working efficiently within the allotted time.

AGENDA ITEM 3: ORGANIZATION OF THE MEETING

9. The President outlined the rules of procedure and organization of work for the meeting.

3.1 Rules of Procedure

10. The Rules of Procedure for Meetings of the Convention for the Protection and Development of the Marine Environment of the Wider Caribbean Region (Cartagena Convention), as contained in UNEP 2010 and adopted pursuant to Article 20 of the Cartagena Convention, were applied for the conduct of the Meeting.

3.2 Organization of Work

11. English, French, and Spanish were the working languages of the Meeting. Simultaneous interpretation in these languages was provided for the Meeting. The Working Documents of the Meeting were available in all three languages.
12. The Meeting convened in plenary sessions. The President proposed that if required, working groups would be established. However, these would not have simultaneous interpretation. The President encouraged full collaboration in all decision-making.

AGENDA ITEM 4: ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA

13. The President introduced the agenda (UNEP(DEPI)/CAR IG.50/1 and UNEP(DEPI)/CAR IG.50/2), noting a Secretariat amendment to place the Recommendation under item 5 and the proposed workplan under item 6 for smoother transition. With no objections, the agenda was adopted.

AGENDA ITEM 5: RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE SEVENTH SCIENTIFIC AND TECHNICAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING TO THE PROTOCOL CONCERNING POLLUTION FROM LAND-BASED SOURCES AND ACTIVITIES (7th LBS STAC) IN THE WIDER CARIBBEAN.

14. The President invited the Secretariat to present the recommendations as reflected in UNEP (DEPI)/CAR WG.46/5.

15. The Secretariat presented the LBS STAC7 Recommendations to the Meeting for consideration, noting that LBS STAC7 had requested further input on certain items. Accordingly, presentations outlining the Secretariat's actions taken between the LBS STAC7 and COP7 were shared under this agenda item.

RECOMMENDATION I: REQUESTS FOR INPUT INTO DRAFT WORK PLAN

16. The Secretariat presented Recommendation I from LBS STAC7, which requested input on the draft work plan and the Regional Activity Centre/Regional Activity Network (RAC/RAN) Guidelines. The presentation highlighted actions taken in preparation for the LBS COP7. The following paragraphs summarize discussions on the draft RAC/RAN Guidelines under this recommendation. The Secretariat noted that the revised work plan would be presented under Agenda Item 6.
17. The Secretariat noted that both the LBS and SPAW STACs requested revisions to the RAC/RAN Guidelines during the Pre-COP held on 17–18 September, based on UNEP(DEC)/CAR.IG.24/CRP.9 Rev.4. The Pre-COP served as an informal forum for delegates to raise concerns, clarify issues, and propose edits. A summary of comments received was shared, as detailed in UNEP(DEPI)/CAR IG.49/CRP.1.
18. The United States congratulated the Bureau on its appointment and expressed appreciation for the presentation on the RAC/RAN Guidelines, the productive Pre-COP discussions, and the efforts of the Contracting Parties and the Secretariat to advance the guidelines.
19. The United States emphasized that within the Pre-COP summary, some Parties had identified possible ways forward, though there was uncertainty about whether these decisions fully reflected the deliberations. They suggested that Parties would benefit from an intersessional period to refine the guidelines, but proposed instead that the Secretariat prepare a new streamlined draft incorporating both Pre-COP and LBS COP7 inputs. Acknowledging the need for significant revisions, the United States requested that the Secretariat provide an updated version of the RAC/RAN Guidelines and convene an intersessional meeting for final review and endorsement.
20. France supported the Secretariat's proposals to review the guiding principles and establish an intersessional framework for this purpose. They called for a broader perspective encompassing technical, scientific, political, and strategic elements. France endorsed the concept of RACs operating within regional activity frameworks that maintain autonomy under the Cartagena Convention, supported the current framework for financial and institutional autonomy, and expressed commitment to mobilizing external partnership funding.
21. Barbados supported establishing an intersessional working group for this activity. They emphasized the need for clarity on the roles, operations, financial and institutional arrangements, and limits of authority of RACs and RANs, which would be vital for agencies interested in becoming a RAC/RAN.
22. The Foundation for Development Planning Inc. (Observer) supported the recommendations for intersessional work and a streamlined document, stressing the inclusion of observers engaged with RANs or supporting RACs and ensuring their inputs are reflected. They

emphasized that RACs and RANs must differ in structure and function, with guidelines allowing flexibility for expanded formats such as marine labs or short-term research networks. They also highlighted the need to strengthen the legislative and enabling environment, urging flexibility in the structure and role of RACs and RANs given the scale of work required and the growing impacts on ecosystems and social systems.

23. The Secretariat confirmed that most Contracting Parties supported the preparation of a new, updated version of the document, to be further discussed through an intersessional working group. They noted that, as revisions progress, the document could potentially be endorsed intersessionally depending on the pace of the process.

RECOMMENDATION II: WORKPLAN

24. The Secretariat presented LBS STAC7 Recommendation II on the Workplan, outlining proposed recommendations to continue exploring capacity development opportunities with partners such as the private sector, industry, and the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA). The recommendation also encouraged ongoing efforts to integrate activities under the AMEP and SPAW Sub-Programmes.
25. The Meeting had no comments on the content of Recommendation II.

RECOMMENDATION III : LBS PROTOCOL RATIFICATION

26. The Secretariat presented LBS STAC7 Recommendation III, through which Contracting Parties welcomed the Government of St. Kitts and Nevis as the sixteenth Party to the LBS Protocol. The recommendation also recognized ongoing efforts by Non-Contracting Parties to ratify the Protocol and acknowledged the support provided by the RACs and the Secretariat.
27. The Meeting had no comments on the content of Recommendation III.

RECOMMENDATION IV: SOURCES AND IMPACTS OF MARINE POLLUTION

28. This recommendation included two sub-recommendations, the first focusing on Nutrient and Wastewater Pollution and Wastewater Classification.

Nutrient and Wastewater Pollution

29. The Secretariat presented the Nutrient and Wastewater recommendation, under which Contracting Parties requested continued review of proposed nutrient parameters and discharge limits (in UNEP(DEPI)/ CAR WG.44/INF.17 REV.1) with national stakeholders, and further discussion within the OEWG and subgroups. They also encouraged countries to monitor and assess wastewater discharges to establish baselines and develop separate national standards for industrial effluent to improve coastal and marine water management.
30. The Meeting offered no comments on Recommendation IV concerning nutrients and wastewater pollution and water classification.

**RECOMMENDATIONS FOR CONDUCTING FURTHER STUDIES ON THE
EFFECTIVENESS OF REGULATORY IMPLEMENTATION OF NATIONAL MARINE,
COASTAL AND ESTUARINE WATER CLASSIFICATION SCHEMES AND
DELINEATION OF WATER BODIES ALIGNED TO THE LBS PROTOCOL
(UNEP(DEPI)/CAR IG.50/INF.3)**

31. The Secretariat noted that Contracting Parties requested that the Secretariat and the LBS RACs develop recommendations for consideration during the LBS COP7 on how further studies on the effectiveness of regulatory implementation of national marine, coastal and estuarine water classification schemes could be implemented. The proposal responding to this recommendation is outlined in UNEP(DEPI)/CAR IG.50/INF.3. A summary of the paper was presented to LBS COP7 for their consideration.
32. After the presentation by the Secretariat, the President invited comments on the proposal as outlined in UNEP(DEPI)/CAR IG.50/INF.3.
33. Jamaica congratulated Antigua and Barbuda on assuming the Presidency of the Bureau and underscored the importance of classifying waters under the LBS Protocol, noting its relevance for managing land-based pollutants and industrial discharges into rivers. They emphasized that while there is agreement on the need for such classification, adequate financing is essential and urged Contracting Parties in arrears to honour their contributions to enable this critical work.
34. Antigua and Barbuda emphasized the need to consider methodology in conducting the proposed study, noting that several countries already have legislation in place for water classification. They highlighted that practicalities, including existing frameworks and geographic location, should guide the selection of countries for the case study.
35. Panama informed the Meeting that they are developing a Marine Water Quality standard, financed through the GEF CReW+ project. This process involves validating proposed values to assess water quality under tropical conditions and establishing a national monitoring plan. Panama expressed its willingness to share these experiences to contribute to the proposed guidelines and recommendations.
36. The Coordinator, Cartagena Convention Secretariat noted that if there was general agreement, the decision would be reflected in a revised work plan and budget with initial costs identified. With Headquarters present at COP18, the Secretariat could explore possible funding and support aligned with priority work. He emphasized that water quality, classification, and regulatory implementation are high priorities for Contracting Parties and that such support would assist them in meeting obligations. He invited further input from Parties and, referencing ongoing work in Panama and other countries, indicated satisfaction with the proposed budget allocation.
37. Saint Lucia supported the Secretariat's recommendation, stressing the importance of identifying resources to advance this work. They highlighted the value of conducting the additional assessment and expressed hope that Saint Lucia would benefit from its outcomes.
38. Trinidad and Tobago endorsed the comments of colleagues and supported the Secretariat's full recommendation, emphasizing its significance for preserving the Caribbean's marine

environment. They noted that adequate funding is essential to implement physical infrastructure for wastewater treatment and reduction.

39. The President thanked the Parties and the Coordinator for their interventions.

RECOMMENDATION V: MONITORING AND ASSESSMENT

40. The President invited the Secretariat to present LBS STAC7 Recommendation V which addressed Monitoring and Assessment.

41. The Secretariat noted multiple sub-recommendations under Monitoring and Assessment. The first concerned the revised Terms of Reference for the OEWG, on which no comments were made. The second encouraged OEWG members, subject to decisions at the Convention COP, to participate in developing the Integrated State of Convention Report on marine pollution and habitats. In response to the third, the Secretariat prepared UNEP(DEPI)/CAR IG.49/INF.5, outlining how such a report could be developed and summarized the paper for LBS COP7's consideration.

42. As Secretariat and Project Coordination Unit of the Ocean Coordination Mechanism (OCM), the PROCARIBE+ Project highlighted that both the Cartagena Convention Secretariat and the OCM are advancing the State of Convention Area Reports (SOCAR). The Regional Project Coordinator noted that this is an opportune moment, as the integrated SOCAR can serve as a holistic reporting mechanism, bridging the work of the Cartagena Convention with that of other intergovernmental organizations with mandates on marine resources, such as fisheries bodies.

43. The Regional Project Coordinator of the PROCARIBE+ Project confirmed that resources are available to support the development of the integrated SOCAR but emphasized that this is a time-bound opportunity. The project runs until April/May 2028, aligning well within the timeframe of the new work programme of the Cartagena Convention and its Protocols.

44. The Secretariat expressed gratitude for the support offered by the PROCARIBE+ Project and indicated its readiness to pursue further discussions.

45. The Secretariat presented the fourth sub-recommendation under Recommendation V, and invited the Meeting to consider the Sargassum recommendation proposed at the SPAW STAC11 Meeting. The Secretariat noted that the OEWG contributed to the development of the proposed Cartagena Action Plan on Sargassum Inundation (UNEP(DEPI)/CAR WG.45/INF.27 Rev.3). This plan was revised following the Pre-COP meeting based on Parties' comments and submitted as UNEP(DEPI)/CAR WG.45/INF.27 Rev.3, with further discussion scheduled for SPAW COP13 and Convention COP18. The Secretariat also highlighted UNEP(DEPI)/CAR IG.49/INF.14, which was prepared in response to SPAW STAC11, which outlines how a Cartagena Convention Working Group on Sargassum could operate.

46. The President invited comments on the substantive elements of the Sargassum Plan.

47. The Dominican Republic emphasized the need to strengthen connectivity between protocols, citing the sargassum challenge and its severe impacts, such as sea pollution and coastline inundation. They noted this linkage as important for Recommendation V and expressed

appreciation for the cooperation received. While they have an action plan for marine pollution from LBS, they acknowledged that significant effort is still required for implementation and recommended specifying how the issue could be addressed from multiple angles.

48. The Ocean Science and Governance Network welcomed the proposed Sargassum working group and noted a resolution to be advanced by the Dominican Republic at the United Nations Environment Assembly (UNEA). They highlighted the importance of aligning the work of the Regional Seas Convention with this new programme, which also envisions an OEWG. Representing youth in the region and contributing to drafting positions on the resolution, they expressed their intention to use the working group to guide future efforts and looked forward to learning more during the COP about its expected role.
49. The President expressed appreciation for the intervention and underscored the cross-cutting nature of the LBS Protocol and the Cartagena Convention, highlighting the importance of integration with other processes in general, and how integrating with other processes was extremely important.
50. Dominican Republic reported the recent establishment of the Sargassum Commission within the Association of Caribbean States, comprising national representatives and a dedicated subcommittee. They emphasised that this regional platform addresses the issue of Sargassum and expressed a desire to coordinate with other regional initiatives.
51. The President thanked the Dominican Republic for their intervention and underscored the importance of integrating processes to support the Cartagena Convention's Work Programme and optimize efficiencies.

RECOMMENDATION V CONTINUED: MONITORING AND ASSESSMENT

52. The Secretariat presented the remaining sub-recommendations (5-9) of LBS STAC7 Recommendation V to the Meeting for their consideration.
53. The President invited the Meeting to provide comments or objections to the recommendations.
54. Contracting Parties raised no comments or objections on sub-recommendations 5 through 9 under Recommendation V.

RECOMMENDATION VI: ENHANCEMENT OF THE LBS PROTOCOL

55. The Secretariat presented Recommendation VI, which focused on enhancing the LBS Protocol. The recommendations outlined in UNEP(DEPI)/CAR WG.46/INF.13, were discussed as a technical paper during the LBS STAC7 and were submitted for consideration by LBS COP7.
56. The President invited the Meeting to comment on Recommendation VI of the LBS STAC7.
57. No comments were received from Contracting Parties.

RECOMMENDATION VII: INTEGRATED WATER RESOURCE MANAGEMENT

58. The Secretariat presented LBS STAC7 Recommendation VII, through which the LBS STAC7 requested the LBS COP7 to consider recommending to the Cartagena Convention COP the establishment of a new working group to examine how Integrated Water Resource Management could be addressed within the framework of the Cartagena Convention and its Protocols.
59. The President noted that this recommendation would be further considered and endorsed at the Cartagena Convention COP18. He welcomed comments on this as well as any other recommendations.
60. There were no comments or interventions on Recommendation VII.

AGENDA ITEM 6: DRAFT WORKPLAN FOR THE AMEP SUB-PROGRAMME FOR THE 2026-2027 BIENNIUM

61. The President invited the Secretariat to present the Draft Work Plan for AMEP Sub-programme for the 2026-2027 biennium.
62. Ms. Laverne Walker, Programme Management Officer for the AMEP Sub-programme at the Cartagena Convention Secretariat, presented the 2026-2027 Draft Work Plan as contained in document UNEP(DEPI)/CAR WG.46/3 Rev.1.
63. The workplan was developed based on input received from Governments, organizations and the LBS RACs, and following the review conducted by the 7th LBS STAC. Specific recommendations from the 7th LBS STAC were incorporated into the draft workplan and budget presented. Ms. Walker stated that the work plan's main goal is to help Contracting Parties prevent and reduce coastal and marine pollution from land and sea sources. It also seeks to promote the Cartagena Convention and its LBS and Oil Spills Protocols, support pollution control initiatives, strengthen monitoring and assessment capacity, and encourage integrated solutions linking the AMEP and SPAW sub-programmes.
64. Key activities include implementing regional strategies on nutrient pollution and marine litter, supporting national action plans, updating legislation, and piloting wastewater and plastics reduction projects. The plan also highlights strengthening monitoring programs, advancing SOCAR, developing an online learning system, and supporting working groups.
65. The total budget for the Work Plan is estimated at USD 9,180,621. Ms. Walker proposed that Contracting Parties adopt the LBS STAC7 recommendations and the Draft 2026–2027 Work Plan and Budget, with any agreed changes, and forward them to the Cartagena Convention COP18 for endorsement.
66. The President invited the Meeting to comment on the draft workplan and budget.
67. The United States commended the clear presentation of the group's accomplishments. However, after reviewing the report posted on the meeting website, they stated they could not

support references to the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. While supportive of capacity-building in principle, they requested that any mention of the London Protocol also include the London Convention and emphasized that participation in activities related to both instruments should remain voluntary.

68. The President thanked the United States for their comments and advised that they would be reflected.
69. France inquired why the new work programme did not further address climate change or circular economy. They noted that although projects in French overseas territories are not explicitly mentioned, France links the Convention's work with its own initiatives in those territories.
70. The Secretariat welcomed France's efforts to link the Convention's work with projects in its territories and dependencies. They noted that a strategic priority is closer collaboration with the territories of France, the Netherlands, and the United Kingdom, given shared challenges. The Secretariat also expressed interest in learning from these countries' experiences and fostering cooperation with projects in the Caribbean Netherlands, as well as in France's and the UK's overseas territories.
71. The Secretariat explained that, based on feedback from Contracting Parties, the work plan was kept tightly focused on issues directly relevant to the Protocol. Since not all Parties endorsed references to broader principles such as climate change and the circular economy, these were minimized. Instead, the Secretariat sought to address them through specific activities, particularly in plastics and waste management. They welcomed further input on how Parties would like these matters reflected, while emphasizing that the core focus remains on reducing, controlling, and preventing pollution in the Convention area.
72. The Acting Head of UNEP's Marine and Freshwater Branch thanked the Secretariat for the presentation, noting the extensive work planned. They highlighted UNEP's role in hosting the Global Programme of Action (GPA) for the Protection of the Marine Environment from Land-Based Activities, which marks its 30th anniversary in 2025. They expressed appreciation for collaboration with the Cartagena Convention Secretariat during the biennium on LBS Protocol implementation, including action plans on nutrients, nitrogen, and plastic pollution. They also emphasized ongoing cooperation through the Water Quality Capacity Development Project, supported by the U.S. EPA, jointly implemented by the Source to Sea Pollution Unit and the Cartagena Convention Secretariat.
73. The UNEP Representative invited delegates to a joint site event, scheduled the following day, which focused on future opportunities for resource mobilization from philanthropic organizations of the GPA.
74. The President thanked Parties for their interventions and UNEP for their invitation.
75. On the proposed decision regarding LBS STAC7, the work plan, and the budget for the next biennium, the President requested their adoption and invited any objections, particularly concerning the work plan.

76. There were no objections to the proposed decision.

AGENDA ITEM 7: OTHER BUSINESS

77. The President invited delegates to raise any other issues relevant to the meeting but not covered under the agenda. No request for the floor was received.

78. The Secretariat thanked the Regional Project Manager for her work on the LAC Cities and PROMAR Projects, noting her role in initiating activities in participating countries. They informed delegates that her final day with the Secretariat would be Wednesday, October 15, and expressed appreciation for her contributions.

79. The President adjourned the 7th LBS COP to allow the convening of SPAW COP13 on 14 October 2025 and the reconvening of Cartagena Convention COP18 on 16 October 2025.

AGENDA ITEM 8: ADOPTION OF THE DECISIONS OF THE MEETING

80. The 7th LBS COP was reconvened at 8:30 a.m. on 16 October 2025.

81. The President invited the Rapporteur of the Meeting to present the summary of the proceedings to date and the draft decisions of the Meeting as outlined in UNEP(DEPI)/CAR IG.50/3.

82. The Meeting was invited to review and adopt recommendations, with amendments and corrections to be introduced in the draft, as appropriate. The meeting then adopted the Decisions.

AGENDA ITEM 9: CLOSURE OF THE MEETING

83. The President and Secretariat thanked everyone for their attendance and participation.

84. The Meeting was closed on Thursday, 16th October 2025, by the President of the Meeting and the Secretariat.

ANNEX I. AGENDA

AGENDA

1. Opening of the Meeting
2. Election of Bureau
3. Organization of the Meeting
 - a. Rules of Procedure
 - b. Organization of Work
4. Adoption of the Agenda
5. Review of Recommendations of the Seventh Scientific and Technical Advisory Committee (STAC7) to the Protocol Concerning Pollution from Land-Based Sources and Activities (LBS) in the Wider Caribbean
6. Draft Work Plan and Budget for AMEP Sub-Programme for the 2026-2027 biennium
7. Any Other Business
8. Adoption of the Decisions of the Meeting
9. Closure of the Meeting

ANNEX II. LIST OF DOCUMENTS

LIST OF DOCUMENTS

Symbol	Title	Agenda Item
<u>Working Documents</u>		
UNEP(DEPI)/CAR IG.50/1 Rev.1	Agenda	4
UNEP(DEPI)/CAR IG.50/2 Rev.1	Annotated Agenda	4
UNEP(DEPI)/CAR WG.46/3/Rev.1	Draft Work Plan and Budget for the Sub-Programme on the Assessment and Management of Environmental Pollution (AMEP) for 2026-2027	5
UNEP(DEPI)/CAR WG.46/4a/Rev 1	Draft Work Plan for LBS RAC IMA for 2026-2027	5
UNEP(DEPI)/CAR WG.46/4b/Rev 1	Draft Work Plan for LBS RAC CIMAB for 2026-2027	5
UNEP(DEPI)/CAR IG.50/3	<i>Decisions of the Seventh Meeting of the Contracting Parties (CoP) to the Protocol Concerning Pollution from Land-Based Sources and Activities (LBS Protocol) in the Wider Caribbean Region (to be prepared during the meeting)</i>	8
UNEP(DEPI)/CAR IG.50/4	<i>Report of the meeting (to be prepared after the meeting)</i>	

Symbol	Title	Agenda Item
<u>Information Documents</u>		
	Information Note for Participants	
UNEP(DEPI)/CAR IG.50/INF.1 Rev.2	List of Documents	All
UNEP(DEPI)/CAR IG.50/INF.2	List of Participants <i>(to be prepared after the meeting)</i>	
UNEP(DEPI)/CAR WG.46/INF.4	Status of Activities for the Sub-Programme on the Assessment and Management of Environmental Pollution (AMEP) for 2023-2025	6
UNEP(DEPI)/CAR WG.46/INF.5	Report of Activities for the LBS Regional Activity Centres – IMA (Trinidad and Tobago) and CIMAB (Cuba) for 2023-2025	6

UNEP(DEPI)/CAR WG.46/INF.6	Report of the Open-Ended Working Group on Environmental Monitoring and Assessment 2023-2025	6
UNEP(DEPI)/CAR WG.46/INF.7	Terms of Reference Open-Ended Working Group (OEWG) on Monitoring and Assessment	
UNEP(DEPI)/CAR WG.46/5	Recommendations of the Seventh Meeting of the Scientific and Technical Advisory Committee (STAC) to the Protocol Concerning Pollution from Land-based Sources and Activities in the Wider Caribbean.	6
UNEP(DEPI)/CAR WG.46/6	Report of the 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.	6
UNEP(DEPI)/CAR WG.44/INF.16 Rev.1	Guidelines for the classification of waters according to the LBS Protocol	6
UNEP(DEPI)/CAR WG.44/INF.17 Rev.1	Regional criteria and standards for Nitrogen (N) and Phosphorus (P) loads in domestic and industrial wastewater discharges	6
UNEP(DEPI)/CAR IG 49/INF 5	Proposal towards an integrated State of Convention Area Report on marine pollution and marine habitats	6
UNEP(DEPI)/CAR IG.50/INF.3	Recommendations for conducting further studies on the effectiveness of regulatory implementation of national marine, coastal and estuarine water classification schemes and delineation of water bodies aligned to the LBS Protocol.	6
UNEP(DEPI)/CAR WG.44/INF9 Rev.1	Assessment and recommendations on the management of freshwater resources within the framework of the Cartagena Convention.	6
UNEP(DEPI)/CAR WG.45/INF.9	Analysis of the Functioning of the Cartagena Convention Working Groups and Recommendations for Improvement	
UNEP(DEPI)/CAR WG.45/INF.31	Report of the Joint Monitoring and Assessment Open-Ended Working Group and Sargassum Working Group Meeting/Workshop	
UNEP(DEPI)/CAR WG.46/INF.13 Rev 1	Draft recommendations for enhancing the LBS Protocol to facilitate increased reuse of domestic wastewater including adoption of new criteria or standards for domestic wastewater discharges	6
UNEP(DEPI)/CAR WG.45/INF.27/Rev.3	Draft Cartagena Action Plan on Sargassum Inundation (formerly STAC Sargassum Working Group Updated Action Plan Proposal)	6
UNEP(DEPI)/CAR IG 49/INF.6	Capacity-Building for Sustainable Seas: Supporting the Implementation of the London Protocol through Education and Collaborative Research (SMART-C LC/LP)	5

UNEP(DEPI) CAR IG.49/INF.14	Proposal for a Cartagena Convention Established Working Group on Sargassum	
UNEP(DEPI)/CAR IG.24/CRP.9 Rev.4 UNEP(DEPI)/CAR IG.47/3	Final updated Guidelines for the Establishment and Operation of Regional Activity Centres and Regional Activity Networks for the Cartagena Convention. Decisions of the Sixth Meeting of the Contracting Parties (COP) to the Protocol Concerning Pollution from Land-Based Sources and Activities (LBS) in the Wider Caribbean Region.	
UNEP(DEPI)/CAR IG.47/4	Report of the Sixth Meeting of the Contracting Parties (COP) to the Protocol Concerning Pollution from Land-Based Sources and Activities (LBS) in the Wider Caribbean Region	
UNEP(DEPI)/CAR IG.48/4	Decisions of the Twentieth Intergovernmental Meeting on the Action Plan for the Caribbean Environment Programme and the Seventeenth Meeting of the Contracting Parties to the Convention for the Protection and Development of the Marine Environment of the Wider Caribbean Region	
UNEP(DEPI)/CAR IG.48/5	Report of the Twentieth Intergovernmental Meeting on the Action Plan for the Caribbean Environment Programme and Seventeenth Meeting of the Contracting Parties to the Convention for the Protection and Development of the Marine Environment of the Wider Caribbean Region	
UNEP(DEPI) CAR WG.41/INF.22/Rev.2	Caribbean Environment Programme: Draft Regional Strategy for the Protection and Development of the Marine Environment of the Wider Caribbean Region (2023-2030)	

Symbol	Title	Agenda Item
<u>Reference Documents</u>		
UNEP(DEPI)/CAR WG.46/INF.8	Report on the work on the Caribbean Node for Marine Litter Management (2022-2025)	
UNEP, 2012	Convention for the Protection and Development of the Marine Environment of the Wider Caribbean Region, Protocol Concerning Cooperation in Combating Oil Spills, Protocol Concerning Specially Protected Areas and Wildlife and the Protocol Concerning Pollution from Land-Based Sources and Activities	

UNEP, 1999	Final Act of the Conference of Plenipotentiaries to Adopt the Protocol Concerning Pollution from Land-Based Sources and Activities in the Wider Caribbean Region	
UNEP, 2010	Rules of Procedure for the Meetings of the Convention for the Protection and Development of the Marine Environment of the Wider Caribbean Region (Cartagena Convention)	
UNEP, 2010	Financial Rules for the Cartagena Convention, its Caribbean Environment Programme and Terms of Reference for the Caribbean Trust Fund	
UNEP(DEPI)/CAR IG.36/CRP.1	Amendment to the Financial Rules for the Cartagena Convention	
UNEP(DEPI)/CAR WG.32/INF.9 Rev.3	Template for National Reporting on the Cartagena Convention and its Protocols	

ANNEX III. DECISIONS OF THE MEETING

The Contracting Parties:

Having convened the Seventh Meeting of the Contracting Parties to the Protocol Concerning Pollution from Land-based Sources and Activities (LBS COP7) in the Wider Caribbean Region in Kingston, Jamaica on 13 October 2025;

Taking note of the Draft Work Plan and Budget for the Sub-Programme on the Assessment and Management of Environmental Pollution (AMEP) for 2026-2027 as contained in UNEP(DEPI)/CAR WG.46/3/Rev.1 and the Draft Work Plans and Budgets for the Regional Activity Centres for the LBS Protocol (LBS RACs) in Cuba and Trinidad and Tobago for the period 2026-2027 as contained in UNEP(DEPI)/CAR WG.46/4a/Rev 1 and UNEP(DEPI)/CAR WG.46/4b/Rev 1.

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

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

Having reviewed the Recommendations of the Seventh Meeting of the Scientific, Technical and Advisory Committee to the Protocol Concerning Pollution from Land-based Sources and Activities (LBS STAC 7) in the Wider Caribbean Region contained in UNEP(DEPI)/CAR WG.46/5;

The Meeting decides as follows:

DECISION I

WORKPLAN AND BUDGET

1. **Adopt** the LBS STAC7 Recommendations contained in UNEP(DEPI)/CAR WG.46/5 as applicable.
2. **Adopt** the 2026-2027 Draft Workplan and Budget as outlined in UNEP(DEPI)/CAR WG.46/3 Rev.1.

DECISION II

MARINE POLLUTION

Nutrient Management and Wastewater Discharges

1. **Encourage** Contracting Parties and Non-Contracting Parties to the Protocol Concerning Land-Based Sources of Pollution to **participate** in ongoing activities by the LBS RACs relating to Nutrient Management and classification of receiving waters as required under the LBS Protocol.
2. **Encourage** the LBS RACs to **continue** their work in the ongoing activities and report to the LBS STAC8 and LBS COP8 for further review, recommendation, and decision as appropriate.

Water Classification

1. **Request** the Secretariat, dependent on the availability of resources, and in collaboration with the RACs and the Nutrients and Wastewater Subgroup of the OEWG, advance a study to assess and document the effectiveness of national marine, coastal, and estuarine water classification schemes, with a focus on regulatory implementation and alignment with the LBS Protocol.
2. **Request** the Secretariat present the findings and recommendations, including proposed best practices to LBS STAC8 and COP8 for consideration.

DECISION III

MONITORING AND ASSESSMENT

State of Convention Area Report on Marine Pollution

1. **Request** COP18 endorse the establishment of a sub-group of the OEWG to support the development of the integrated State of Convention Area report on marine pollution and marine habitats.
2. **Request** that the proposed sub-group be open to all Contracting Parties from the Cartagena Convention and its protocols and regional experts, as necessary.
3. **Encourage** Contracting Parties to submit requested data and information to be used to inform the integrated SOCAR on marine pollution and marine habitats.
4. **Request** the Secretariat identify potential partner organizations that could provide supplementary data on coastal water quality to inform the integrated SOCAR.

Sargassum Inundation

1. **Acknowledge** the contributions of the OEWG and the Pre COP to advancing the draft Cartagena Convention Action Plan on Sargassum Inundation.
2. **Request** the Cartagena Convention COP consider endorsing **UNEP(DEPI)/CAR WG.45/INF.27 Rev.3** draft Cartagena Convention Action Plan on Sargassum Inundation taking note of any additional amendments made during SPAW COP13 and Cartagena Convention COP18.
3. **Request** the Cartagena Convention COP consider the recommendation as outlined in **UNEP(DEPI)/CAR IG.49/INF.14** in relation to the establishment of a Convention

Working Group on Sargassum.

4. **Encourage** Contracting Parties to participate in the proposed Convention Working Group on Sargassum

DECISION IV

LBS PROTOCOL RATIFICATION

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

DECISION V

INTEGRATED WATER RESOURCE MANAGEMENT

1. **Request** the Cartagena Convention COP consider the establishment of a new working group, open to the Convention Contracting Parties to further investigate how Integrated Water Resources Management (IWRM) could be addressed within the context of the Cartagena Convention and its protocols by December 2025.
2. **Request** the Working Group report its findings to the Cartagena Convention COP 19

DECISION VI

RAC/RAN GUIDELINES

1. **Request** the Secretariat to provide an updated version of the RAC/RAN Guidelines by December 2025 aligned with the comments shared during the Pre-COP, as well as written comments submitted by delegates after the Pre-COP discussions.
2. **Request** that an inter-sessional Open-Ended Convention Working Group be established by December 2025 to finalize the revision of the RAC/RAN Guidelines by March 2026.
3. **Request** the Secretariat to share the final version of the RAC/RAN Guidelines with Contracting Parties inter-sessionally for final review and convene an extraordinary meeting no later than the end of 2026 for possible endorsement, pending available resources.
4. **Request** that any new proposals for RACs and RANs in the short term be evaluated on a case-by-case basis by Contracting Parties.

ANNEX IV. LIST OF PARTICIPANTS

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