



DRAFT GUIDELINES FOR CLASSIFICATION OF WATERS

SIXTH MEETING OF THE SCIENTIFIC AND TECHNICAL
ADVISORY COMMITTEE (STAC) TO THE LBS PROTOCOL
AND ACTIVITIES IN THE WIDER CARIBBEAN.

RAC IMA

FEB 2ND, 2023

SMALL SCALE FUNDING AGREEMENT

Small Scale Funding Agreement (SSFA May 2022) – UNEP & RAC IMA

Objective - Strengthening the cooperation between RAC IMA and the Cartagena Convention Secretariat through

- Implementation of specific activities under the EU-funded ACP MEAs III and GEF CRew+ Projects assisting in the Environmental Pollution Assessment and Management (AMEP) subprogram of the UNEP Caribbean Regional Coordinating Unit to prevent, reduce and control marine pollution and to assist countries in the implementation of the LBS Protocol.

ACTIVITIES OF THE SSFA

1. Develop Guidelines for classification of waters according to the LBS Protocol with support by RAC CIMAB
2. Establish regional criteria and standards for N and P loads in domestic and industrial wastewater discharges with support by RAC CIMAB
3. Organize a Regional Workshop on Index of Coastal Eutrophication & Harmful Algal Blooms with External Consultant, Staff of RAC CIMAB and selected country/agency experts that form part of the Regional Activity Network.
4. Support RAC-CIMAB in the development of recommendations for amendments to the LBS Protocol to facilitate increased reuse of domestic wastewater including adoption of new criteria or standards for domestic wastewater discharges.
5. Review, Analysis and Report for developing a new Strategy or Protocol on the management of freshwater resources within the framework of the Cartagena Convention with a focus on Source to Sea and Integrated Watershed Management.

ACTIVITIES OF THE SSFA

6. Promote LBS Protocol Ratification in Non-Contracting Parties (English Speaking countries), including development of promotional and awareness material for ratification
7. Implement Training on innovative low-cost integrated water and wastewater management such as through webinars, MOOC, training programmes with the participation of civil society.
8. Update CReW+ clearinghouse mechanism on financial options, small- and large-scale wastewater treatment technologies, and wastewater and water management policies and practices developed.
9. Develop/Review/Update one national pollution/nutrients reduction strategy and plan in one English speaking country.

WATER CLASSIFICATION

- Annex III - Two classifications for water (Class I and Class II)
- Class I
 - (a) waters containing coral reefs, seagrass beds, or mangroves;
 - (b) critical breeding, nursery or forage areas for aquatic and terrestrial life;
 - (c) areas that provide habitat for species protected under the Protocol Concerning Specially Protected Areas and Wildlife to the Convention (the SPAW Protocol);
 - (d) protected areas listed in the SPAW Protocol; and
 - (e) waters used for recreation.

WATER CLASSIFICATION

- Class II

waters in the Convention area, other than Class I waters, that due to oceanographic, hydrologic, climatic or other factors are

- less sensitive to the impacts of domestic wastewater and where humans or living resources that are likely to be adversely affected by the discharges are not exposed to such discharges.

ACTIVITY 1

Develop Guidelines for classification of waters according to the LBS Protocol with support by RAC CIMAB

- Design and send a questionnaire to the English-speaking countries on water classification systems.
- A literature review on water classification systems used globally.
- A review on water classification system according to the LBS Protocol implemented in the wider Caribbean region, including successes and lessons learnt.
- Information Paper LBS STAC

PRELIMINARY RESULTS

- LBS Protocol Contracting Parties
 - Antigua & Barbuda, The Bahamas, Barbados, Belize, Grenada, Guyana, Jamaica, St. Lucia, T&T and USA
- Limitations
 - Limited response to questionnaire
 - Desk study – restricted to information available online/Open access
 - Ongoing legislative changes in progress

ANTIGUA AND BARBUDA

- Environment Management and Protection Act (2019)
 - Schedule VII - Water Quality Management Criteria and Guidelines
- Water Classification
 - **Class AA Waters** - Support and propagation of shellfish and other marine life, conservation of coral reefs, recreation, absolute minimum of pollution from any source (remain in natural state), no point source discharge
 - **Class A Waters** – recreational, support and propagation of aquatic life; shall not act as receiving waters for any effluent without highest level treatment
 - **Class B Water** - ports, small boat harbours, industrial activities, mining, commercial and industrial shipping, compatible recreation; discharge of any pollutant be controlled to the maximum extent

THE BAHAMAS

- **The Ministry of Environment Act 2019**
 - Management, protection and conservation of all land, water, air and living resources of the Bahamas
 - Determine the process by which environmental policies are developed and implemented.
- **The Environmental Planning and Protection Act 2019**
 - Policy development and implementation for environmental management and conservation.
 - Framework of the National Environment Policy (Beach and coastal management policy and National Coral Reef Conservation)

BARBADOS

- The Marine Pollution Control Act 1998
 - Manage marine water quality against harmful effects on fisheries and marine ecosystems from anthropogenic sources such as land based sources, sea bed activities, and dumping.
- The Coastal Zone Management Act
 - Development of a coastal management plan including standards for water quality in coastal and marine areas to effect the maintenance, rehabilitation and enhancement of coastal and marine habitats.

BELIZE

- The Environmental Protection Act 1995
 - Effluent Limitation Regulations 2009 Amendment
- Water classification
 - Class I and Class II Waters (as per Annex III, LBS Protocol)
- The Coastal Zone Management Act 1998
 - Guidelines for coastal development, land or water use in the coastal zone, establishment of marine protected areas, recreation and tourism, environmental monitoring

GRENADA

- National Water and Sewerage Authority (NAWASA) Act 1991
 - Prohibition of discharge sewage or industrial waste to a natural outlet or the ocean
- ICZM Policy (2015)
 - To prevent, reduce, or mitigate the discharge of pollutants into nearshore areas, that are derived from human activities (agriculture, housing development) within the coastal zone.
 - Need for establishment of domestic and industrial wastewater effluent standards for discharge into the coastal zone and the enforcement of these standards to achieve and maintain coastal water quality to international standards.

GUYANA

- The Environmental Protection Act (1996)
 - Environmental Protection (Water Quality) Regulations 2000
- Prohibition of effluent discharge to inland or coastal waters from an industry, commercial, agriculture, institutions or sewage related facility.
- Prohibition of sewage discharge from vessels moored, in transit or otherwise, to inland or coastal waters except through proper device

JAMAICA

- Natural Resources Conservation Authority Act (1991)
 - Natural Resources Conservation (Wastewater and Sludge) Regulations, 2013
- Prohibits discharge into waters (on or into ground) of sewage or trade effluent or any poisonous, noxious or polluting matter
- Water Classification
 - Class I and Class II Waters (as per Annex III, LBS Protocol)

SAINT LUCIA

- The Public Health (Water Quality Control) Regulations (1978)
- Prohibits the discharge of sewage, industrial and trade waste into a water course, streams, rivers and seas.
- St. Lucia Bureau of Standards developed Guidelines for Recreational Water Quality which established effluent limits consistent with Class I waters in Annex III

TRINIDAD & TOBAGO

- Environmental Management Act, 2000
 - Water Pollution Rules, 2019
- Prohibits release of any water pollutant into the environment which is in violation of any applicable standards, conditions or permit requirements under this Act.
- Water Classification
 - **Environmentally Sensitive Areas and/or Groundwater** - The designation of a defined portion of the environment requiring special protection / The water below the earth's surface

TRINIDAD & TOBAGO

- **Water Classification**
 - **Inland Surface Waters** - Water from rivers, creeks, tidal waters, estuaries, swamps, streams, lakes and impounded reservoirs that flows over or rests upon the land surface
 - **Coastal Nearshore Waters** - The area of the marine environment which extends no more than three nautical miles from the high water mark
 - **Marine Offshore Waters** - That area of the marine environment seaward of the coastal nearshore.
- The Environmentally Sensitive Areas and/or Groundwater category is consistent with Class I waters under Annex III of the Protocol, while the remaining categories can be seen as sub-divisions of Class II waters.

USA

- Federal Water Pollution Control Act referred to as Clean Water Act (CWA)
 - Regulates discharges of pollutants in US waters
 - Prohibits discharge of any pollutant into navigable waters which are defined to include ocean and coastal waters or waters
- The Water Quality Standards (WQS) establishes the benchmark goals required under the CWA for all water bodies in the US and designates the uses and the required standards to protect US waters.
 - Designations adopted are chosen by State

USA

- Water classification (**Florida State**) is arranged according to water quality criteria from most (Class I) to least (Class V) stringent
 - **Class I** - Potable Water Supplies
 - **Class II** - Shellfish Propagation or Harvesting
 - **Class III** - Fish Consumption; Recreation, Propagation and Maintenance of a Healthy, Well-Balanced Population of Fish and Wildlife
 - **Class III-Limited** - Fish Consumption; Recreation or Limited Recreation; and/or Propagation and Maintenance of a Limited Population of Fish and Wildlife
 - **Class IV** - Agricultural Water Supplies
 - **Class V** - Navigation, Utility and Industrial Use

GUIDELINES FOR CLASSIFICATION

Status of Contracting Parties must be harmonised

- Incorporation of LBS Protocol Annex III into the environmental protection/management legislation.
- Development of new and/or updating existing policy framework supporting environmental legislation and capacity building.
- Inclusion of Effluent Limitation Regulations consistent with (or stricter) than the LBS Protocol in determination of water quality for coastal areas.

THANK YOU



Government Offices of Sweden
Ministry of the Environment

