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Fifth Meeting of the Scientific and Technical
Advisory Committee (STAC) to the Protocol
Concerning Pollution from Land-Based Sources
and Activities in the Wider Caribbean.

Virtual

15 to 17 March 2021

Strategy and Work Plan of RAC IMA

RAC IMA Long Term
Strategic Plan 2021 - 2026

Institute of Marine Affairs

10th March 2021

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Based on the Fifteenth Meeting of the Contracting Parties to the Convention for the Protection and Development of the Marine Environment of the Wider Caribbean Region Roatan, Honduras, 5-6 June 2019 there was a Decision taken to Support an expanded role for the Regional Activity Centres (RACs) and the Regional Activity Network (RAN) for implementing the LBS Protocol including requesting the RACs to develop a 6-year strategic plan, assist the Secretariat by mobilising funds and develop new projects and activities as part of a workplan to be approved by the COP. The informational paper presented on expanded role for the Regional Activity Centres (RACs) and the Regional Activity Network (RAN) indicated the RACs to prepare detailed biannual work plan and budget for approval/endorsement at the next meeting of Contracting Parties scheduled.

The primary objective of the RAC is to provide scientific and technical support to UNEP-CAR/RCU for the coordination of the implementation of the Convention and its's Protocols. The establishment and operations of Regional Activity Centres (RACs) and related Regional Activity Networks (RANs) have the potential of becoming one of the most effective ways for governments and Caribbean Environment Programme (CEP) partner organizations to implement cooperative measures and programmes called for by the Cartagena Convention and its Protocols. Overall, RACs and RANs represent an institutional framework of technical cooperation consisting of regional and national institutions selected for the purpose of coordinating the implementation of CEP activities in a systematic manner.

The Institute of Marine has a current strategic plan 2019 -2024 which does not provide sufficient information on the operationalization of the RAC. The document indicates in the Organisational Strategic Objectives "To build long term value for the United Nations Environmental Programme (UNEP) as the Regional Activity Centre (RAC) for the Caribbean Environmental Programme of UNEP by delivering at least 60% of the Institute's obligations to the RAC on a phased basis over a two-year period." The current strategic plan 2019 -2024 further indicates "To expand the research capability of the organisation by accessing grant funding so that it represents at least 60% of its research budget (10% in the first two years, 20% by the third year and 40% by the end of the five year strategic period). Operational cost reduction by 15% through a value for money approach and optimising available resources."

Based on the last two years on the global economic downturn and fall in hydrocarbon prices, the IMA had 40 % cuts in allocation and a freeze in hiring of new position and filling of vacant post. These economic constraints would have an impact on the implementing of the RAC and thus a new strategy needs to be developed. Dedication of 60% of the Institute obligations may seem too ambitious and thus a phase approach is therefore required.

The approach taken by RAC-IMA is based on short (1-2yrs, 20%), medium (2-4yrs,40%) and long-term (4-6 yrs, 60%) for implementation of the RAC-IMA strategy.

A biennial work plan will be developed and projects will be based on the strategic research areas of the CEP Strategy. RAC IMA will continue to contribute to in-kind contributions in small scaled funded projects with UNEP CAR/UNEP and will seek grant funding from other sources.

The IMA receives the majority of its funding from the Government. However, the inherent uncertainty of Government funding as provided in the Official Estimates continues to be a weakness that the IMA faces. IMA proposes to increase its contribution over the period from the annual allocated deficit of 40% (from 2019) of government funding to be achieved through increased grant/donor funded research projects as generated by the RAC IMA and or creating of a business unit, sale of products derived from research activities, and attraction of sponsorships for certain operational aspects such as a laboratory facilities or equipment.

Due to the impact on the COVID-19 pandemic in 2020, and the inherent delays on work and activities, a draft long term strategy is produced. It is expected that the development, progress and inputs to this strategic plan would occur during the scientific and technical meeting of the convention.

1. Introduction

Background and History of the IMA

The Institute of Marine Affairs (IMA) is a multi-disciplinary marine research organization established to conduct inter-disciplinary studies. The IMA was established by Act of Parliament No. 15 of 1976, Chap. 37:01, and became operational in 1978. The Act was amended in 1990 (Act 13 of 1990) and further amended in 1996 to allow the IMA to fulfil its primary objective of conducting and fostering research and providing advice to support the sustainable management of the coastal and marine areas and resources of Trinidad and Tobago.

The IMA is the only multi-disciplinary coastal, marine and environmental research organization of its kind in the CARICOM Region and as a result is able to expand its services to other Caribbean countries as required. It is formally recognized as the regional Remote Sensing and Geomatics Centre for the region and as one of the two Regional Activity centers for the LBS protocol.

Based on the IMA's Research strategic plan for the period (2019-2024), the IMA has four research strategic priorities:

- 1) Improved long term stakeholder value through Vision 2030 alignment and the fostering of interdisciplinary research and linkages to industry;
- 2) Growth and diversity of research funding through grant funding and corporate sponsorship;
- 3) Operational cost reduction and optimisation of resources to achieve value;
- 4) Strengthening of external engagement.

During the current period 2021, IMA intends to fulfil its Mission and Mandate to the Government of the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago, the Ministry of Planning and Development and the people of Trinidad and Tobago by undertaking applied research on the marine and coastal environment that is policy-driven and policy-relevant using the best available technology. IMA's 2019-2024 Research Strategic Plan will be augmented by the RACs- Long term six year strategic plan and Regional mandate while contributing to the achievement of Vision 2030 of Trinidad and Tobago by collecting and analysing data that contribute to indicator type identification. This is useful for evidence-based decision making on the marine environment and coastal sphere, identifying appropriate interventions that address development pertaining to human interaction with the marine environment and formulation of projects and programmes in partnership with national and international stakeholders to bridge the development gaps identified at global, regional, national and local levels. Based on the current economic situation in 2021 and the reduced allocation from government funding of approximately 7% annually, projects are streamlined and aligned with projects of a regional mandate. Some of the core research projects funded from government sources are streamlined by a reduction in sampling costs.

Vision, Mission, and Mandate of the IMA

Vision Statement:

To be the Centre of Expertise for Marine Scientific Research in the Caribbean Region, (2018 update).

Mission Statement:

The IMA was established under Chapter 37:01 (as amended) of the Laws of the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago with the primary objective of conducting and fostering research, and providing advice to support the sustainable management of the coastal and marine resources of Trinidad and Tobago. The IMA is the only multidisciplinary coastal, marine and environmental research organisation of its kind in the CARICOM Region and as a result is able to expand its services to other Caribbean countries as required.

Mandate:

The IMA is mandated to collect, analyse and disseminate data and information relating to the economic, technological, environmental, social and legal developments in marine affairs generally, and to formulate and implement specific programmes/projects to achieve its overall objectives.

The objectives of the IMA as described in IMA's Act (1990) (as amended, 1996) are:

- To develop and implement programmes and projects that translate marine and related policies of Government into activities that contribute to national development;
- To develop and execute programmes and projects that foster and encourage regional and international collaboration in the exploitation of the marine and other related areas of the environment;
- To promote a public understanding of and an appreciation for all aspects of the marine and related environment;
- To stimulate and advance the conduct of marine scientific research in Trinidad and Tobago;
- To promote the utilisation and conservation of marine resources for the economic and social benefit of Trinidad and Tobago and to enhance the national capabilities and To do such things incidental or conducive to the attainment of the above objects.

The functions of the IMA as stated in the IMA's Act (1990) (as amended, 1996) are:

- To conduct research and development on the marine and related resources of Trinidad and Tobago, the Caribbean and adjacent regions;

- To conduct research and development on the marine environment and other areas that impact upon the environment of Trinidad and Tobago, the Caribbean and adjacent regions;
- To study multiple uses of the sea and coastal zones, resources and use potential in Trinidad and Tobago, Caribbean and adjacent regions and to evaluate and promote such studies to minimize conflicts which may result from such uses;
- To establish at the IMA an Information Centre for collection and dissemination of information on economic, social, technological, environmental and legal developments in the marine and coastal zones of the Caribbean and adjacent regions;
- To provide information and advice to the government in its formulation of policies relating to the marine and other related aspects of the environment;
- To respond to technical enquiries and questions by policy-making organs of the Government, private sector organizations and individuals;
- To organize training courses and projects that foster and encourage regional and international collaboration in exploitation of the marine and related environment;
- To advise development and optimum utilization of the marine and coastal resource potential of Trinidad and Tobago;
- To take action necessary or expedient for proper performance of its functions.

Overview Of Research Programmes Currently at the IMA

Research Goal:

To strengthen the science-policy nexus by conducting applied research on the coastal and marine environment to assist with effective decision-making towards achieving sustainable development and produce knowledge products for public education and awareness.

Objectives:

- To monitor the coastline and coastal ecosystems and produce biennial State of the Marine Environment Reports;
- To conduct applied and innovative research related to Climate Change impacts and adaptation, land and marine pollution, biodiversity conservation, food security, creating sustainable livelihood opportunities for coastal communities and publishing findings;
- To produce knowledge products for public education and outreach;

- To fulfil the regional mandate as the Regional Activity Centre for the English-speaking Caribbean for the LBS of Pollution Protocol;

IMA's research programme will align its output to the GORTT Vision 2030 – Theme V:

- Strategic Initiatives aligned to strengthening of environmental governance and management systems;
- Reduction of carbon footprint;
- Assessment of vulnerability to climate change impacts;
- Creation of comprehensive waste and pollution systems;
- Improvement of natural resource management.

Five broad strategic research areas have been identified that are aligned to achieving the targets under Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) Goal # 14- Life underwater:

- 1) Assessment of marine ecological systems, their biodiversity, ecological processes and functioning so as to advise on conservation initiatives, that includes restoration plans;
- 2) Assessment of the geophysical and chemical processes operating in the coastal and marine environment, and assessing the various impacts on the coastal and marine environment from anthropogenic and natural influences;
- 3) Supporting the implementation of an integrated coastal zone management policy, and development of regional ICZM plans that promotes ecosystem-based management approaches;
- 4) Supporting food production through ecosystem conservation initiatives and mariculture;
- 5) Assessment of the vulnerabilities of the non-living and living resources in the coastal zone to climate change impacts to provide advice on building coastal resilience.

The objectives to be realised under the broad strategic research areas are to be achieved through the work of IMA's Research Programmes in:

Biodiversity and Ecology (B&E)
 Oceanography and Coastal Processes (OCP)
 Fisheries and Aquaculture (F&ARP)
 Environmental Quality Programme (EQP)

Marine Governance and Policy Research
 Geomatics and Remote Sensing

2.0 Historical Background of IMA as a RAC

On the 4th April 2018, the honourable Minister of Planning & Development, Mrs Camille Robinson-Regis of Trinidad and Tobago and Dr. Lorna Inniss, Coordinator, UN Environment Programme Cartagena Convention Secretariat, officially signed an agreement to have the IMA recognized as a RAC of the Caribbean Environment Programme of the United Nations Environmental Programme (UNEP). However, since 2002 the IMA has operated “in principle” in carrying out various duties and functions as a LBS RAC. These activities are detailed in the biennial RAC reports to the Convention are done in support to the broad headings of the UNEP-CAR/RCU workplan:

Support to Programme Coordination and Management

- Hosting of Workshop and Training.
- Support activities that promote the ratification and implementation of the LBS Protocol
- Production of promotional DVD to LBS protocol.
- Hosted Regional Workshop for the Launch of the Caribbean Platform for the Global Partnership on Nutrient Management

Land and Marine Based Sources of Pollution Management

- Participation in Workshops and Training
- Conducting monitoring and assessment. Submission of environmental data.
- Support to the Regional Nutrient Pollution Reduction Strategy and Action Plan
- Support to SOCAR development.
- Support to STAC.
- Support to Monitoring and Assessment working group and data sub-group.

Knowledge Management and Communications

- Production of a public education and awareness DVD on the work of the CEP.
- Production of article on CEP website on Ecosystem based management.
- Design and development of GIS maps, infographics as well as promotional and awareness material about the LBS Protocol

The development of RACs and RANs was initially proposed to, and accepted by, CEP Member Governments in 1992 at the Sixth IGM through the presentation and adoption of the 1992 Concept Paper (UNEP(OCA)/CAR WG. 10/3). The RAC RAN Guidelines, adopted through Decision IV.1 of the Thirteenth Intergovernmental Meeting on the Action Plan for the Caribbean Environment Programme and Tenth Meeting of the Contracting Parties to the Convention for the Protection and Development of the Marine Environment of the Wider Caribbean Region held in September 2008 in Antigua and Barbuda, provides guidance on the establishment and operation of RACs and RANs under the Cartagena Convention. The guidelines are intended to assist Contracting Parties, other participating governments, organizations or institutions responsible for RACs and RANs (existing or proposed), and the Secretariat of the Cartagena Convention in the evaluation of the administration and implementation of existing RACs and

RANs and to evaluate new RAC and RAN proposals as they arise. These guidelines are recommendatory in nature and not binding under international law.

In accordance with Decision IX, of the Tenth IGM, 7-11 May 2002, two RACs were established to support the Protocol Concerning Pollution from Land-Based Sources and Activities (LBS). These were established within the existing institutions of the Centro de Ingeniería y Manejo Ambiental de Bahías y Costas (CIMAB) in Cuba and the Institute of Marine Affairs (IMA) in Trinidad and Tobago.

The Second Meeting of the Interim Scientific Technical and Advisory Committee (ISTAC) to the LBS Protocol, held from 12 to 16 May 2003 in Managua, Nicaragua, decided to establish a Steering Committee for the LBS RACs and agreed on its composition, terms of reference and reporting requirements. Delays in the formal signing of host agreements has delayed the operationalization of these Steering Committees.

3.Objectives of IMA as a LBS RAC

The primary objective is to provide scientific and technical support to UNEP-CAR/RCU for the coordination of the implementation of the Convention, its Protocols as well as the following:

- a) To assist the UNEP-CAR/RCU with the development and the identification of potential sources of funding to ensure the achievement of Convention/Protocol.
- b) To facilitate the provision of technical and scientific assistance (expertise, consultancies) to Contracting Parties and other governments, as appropriate;
- c) To promote the implementation of specific activities individually or jointly in cooperation with e.g. UN specialized agencies, intergovernmental, governmental and non-governmental organizations;
- d) To foster scientific and technical cooperation with e.g. UN specialized agencies, intergovernmental, governmental and non-governmental organizations;
- e) To promote cooperation on research and monitoring and assessment needs of the region.

Functioning of IMA as a LBS RAC

RAC-IMA will seek over the six year period to provide the overall supervision, technical guidance and administrative oversight for the implementation of specific and selected activities to fulfill the LBS Protocol and its Convention assigned by the Contracting Parties for the RAC through UNEP-CAR/RCU. Specifically, IMA RAC will seek to:

- a) Supervise and coordinate the implementation of specific project activities approved by the Contracting Parties to the Cartagena Convention (“Contracting Parties”) in consultation with UNEP-CAR/RCU;
- b) Assist, at the scientific and technical levels, with the coordination of the implementation of specific activities in support of the Convention and its Protocols;
- c) Provide administrative input related to the implementation of project activities;
- d) Assist in the identification of institutions and experts required for programme implementation and the development of arrangements and sub-contracts for project implementation with participating institutions or individuals;
- e) Provide assistance to and advise UNEP-CAR/RCU on specific technical matters and programme development;
- f) Exchange information with UNEP-CAR/RCU and institutions within the region;
- g) Provide technical assistance, training and research inputs to the sub-programmes of the CEP;

Strategic Directives of RAC IMA

The strategic directives for the development of the six-year strategic plan for the period 2021 to 2026 would be based on support to UNEP-CAR/RCU as a RAC and alignment on the updated CEP Strategy.

4. Vision and Mission of CEP Strategy

- (i) Vision: Healthy coastal and marine ecosystems of the Wider Caribbean Region provide a secure supply of ecosystem goods and services for human well-being and livelihoods.
- (ii) Mission: To facilitate integrated ecosystem-based management through the control, reduction and prevention of marine pollution and the conservation, sustainable use and restoration of coastal and marine resources and habitats.

The updated CEP Strategy can form the basis for the further development and implementation of approaches that focus on ocean-based economies and blue economy strategies. It will facilitate a more integrated approach to the delivery of the pollution and marine biodiversity programmes in support of the implementation of the Cartagena Convention, its Protocols and related regional and global commitments. The implementation of programmes on pollution,

marine biodiversity and knowledge management and communications secretariat will form the main basis for the implementation of the CEP Strategy.

5. Challenges for the Marine Environment of the WCR

The surface of the WCR is about 3.3 million km², with an average depth of 2,200 m and a coastal length of 55,383 km. The coast/area ratio (km/km²) is double the world's average, highlighting the importance of coastal management for the region. With over 40 million people living within 10 km of the coastline, human activities are reported to threaten two thirds of the Caribbean's coral reefs, placing one third at high risk. Major economic sectors including tourism, fisheries, maritime transportation and trade are all inextricably linked to the Caribbean Sea. A conservative estimate of the gross revenues generated in 2012 by the ocean economy in the Caribbean was US\$407 billion and US\$53 billion for the Island States and Territories (Patil et al., 2016). The coastal and marine environment forms a fundamental part of the economic, recreational, cultural and spiritual ethos of the WCR and its peoples. However, the marine environment's capacity to provide goods and services that support livelihoods and sustained socio-economic development and well-being, has become increasingly impacted by marine and land-based activities including by global phenomena such as climate change and sea-level rise. Increasing human populations, poorly planned urbanization, and harmful production and consumption patterns are generating unprecedented pressures on the marine environment. There is undisputed evidence that pollution, particularly from land-based sources, has become a serious and pervasive threat to marine ecosystems as well as to human health, livelihoods, and economies in the WCR (UNEPCEP, 2019). According to the United Nations Joint Group of Experts on the Scientific Aspects of Marine Environmental Protection (GESAMP), an estimated 80 percent of marine pollution originates from landbased sources. This includes solid waste, domestic and industrial wastewater, plastics, nutrients, sediments, and toxic by-products from various industries, including mining and oil exploration.

Due to the many challenges of the marine environment of the WCR, understanding the processes and the threats faced by the marine systems allows RAC IMA to contribute to the development of management best practices of marine resources. Assessment and monitoring will be geared towards promoting healthy coastal waters, their associated ecosystems and resources as well as supporting sustainable development of goods and services derived from the marine ecosystems of the WCR.

6. Strategic objectives

The four strategic objectives of the RAC-IMA Strategy are mirrored of the CEP Strategy and summarized as:

a) Strategic objective 1: Enhance regional and national decision-making and policy-making for improving the management of coastal and marine resources of the Wider Caribbean Region – Knowledge Management and Communications;

- b) Strategic objective 2: Increase use of innovative pollution prevention and reduction tools, innovative/appropriate technologies including circular economy approaches, waste as a resource and sustainable consumption and production - Pollution Prevention, Reduction and Control;
- c) Strategic objective 3: Support policies, strategies and action plans that enable the integrated management and sustainable use of coastal and marine resources; - Marine Biodiversity Conservation and Management;
- d) Strategic objective 4: Implement innovative institutional, policy, legislative and financing programmes, projects, instruments and initiatives to facilitate a transition to sustainable ocean-based economies. – Ocean-Based Economies;

Specific focus areas for each strategic objective are summarized below.

Strategic objective 1: Enhance regional and national decision-making and policy-making for improving the management of coastal and marine resources of the Wider Caribbean Region – **Knowledge Management and Communications.**

RAC –IMA will seek to assist countries in developing their monitoring and assessment programs and the provision of quality data. The science-based assessment of the functioning of coastal and marine ecosystems and the pressure and drivers that lead to changes in their health will inform the development of appropriate national and regional policies to address those pressure and drivers. This objective will be addressed through increased generation, dissemination and use of quality data and information and through fully participatory processes. RAC IMA through its Public Education and Awareness programme and in close coordination with the technical programmes on pollution and marine biodiversity will support the generation and dissemination of data and information for targeted audiences.

This will assist contracting parties in meeting their obligation on the reporting towards the LBs protocol and contributing monitoring data to UN Environment as part of the global monitoring of targets 14.1., 14.2 and 14.5 and in ensuring that data and information from the Wider Caribbean Region (WCR) contribute to Voluntary National Reports and SDG databases.

Strategic objective 2: Increase use of innovative pollution prevention and reduction tools, innovative/appropriate technologies including circular economy approaches, waste as a resource and sustainable consumption and production - **Pollution Prevention, Reduction and Control.**

For the prevention, control and reduction of pollution from land and marine-based sources, RAC-IMA would seek to establish demonstration projects for select countries aimed at assessing

pollution levels and the employ of innovative technologies, tools and mechanisms leading to progressive pollution reduction and impact on the environment. These demonstration projects would be chosen from select countries based on previous environment assessments from SOCAR (UNEP CEP, 2019) and the recent Nutrient Pollution Reduction Strategy and Action Plan Project that warrants reduced pollution of the coastal and marine environment. This will support Contracting Parties in meeting their obligations specifically under the LBS Protocol.

Strategic objective 3: Support policies, strategies and action plans that enable the integrated management and sustainable use of coastal and marine resources- **Marine Biodiversity Conservation and Management**

RAC-IMA will seek to promote Ecosystem Based Management approaches which aims to manage in an integrated and precautionary manner human uses and their cumulative impacts on marine and coastal ecosystem functioning on an ecological scale, rather than confined to jurisdictional boundaries. Lesson learnt and recommendations will be shared among countries based on previous project experience at demonstration sites for implementing and upscaling in the North Brazil Shelf Large Marine Ecosystem and wider Caribbean region.

Marine and coastal ecosystem services are under threat from human activities that degrade ecosystem health and functions. The situation is exacerbated by uncoordinated sector policies and management arrangements. There are often trade-offs between the benefits generated by various human activities and their cumulative environmental impacts. Integrated policies and management across sectors have the potential to reduce undesirable sector impacts and enable the sustainable use of the system overall, balancing the provision of ecosystem services to various users at appropriate spatial scales. Ecosystem-based coastal and marine planning and management is a key approach to ensure long-term ecosystem service delivery and resilience to environmental change.

Strategic objective 4: Implement innovative institutional, policy, legislative and financing programmes, projects, instruments and initiatives to facilitate a transition to sustainable ocean-based economies – **including Ocean-Based Economies**

Traditional investments in the ocean economy have often resulted in negative impacts and externalities, damaging the health of marine and coastal ecosystems. Sustainable investments need to meet the triple bottom line of providing environmental, social and economic benefits. Through this approach, the intended impact will be healthy and productive marine and coastal ecosystems, while ensuring job creation, business development and sustained economic growth. For sustained economic benefits while protecting human health and ecosystem goods and services, maintaining healthy and resilient ocean and coastal ecosystems must be a core priority.

These four Strategic Objectives will guide the specific objectives of the pollution and marine biodiversity programmes of the Secretariat in which RAC IMA will contribute to enable a more integrated delivery of the biennial work plans and budgets.

The approach taken by RAC-IMA is based on short (1-2yrs), medium (4yrs) and long-term (6) for implementation of the strategy. The production of this strategy is ongoing.

In the short term RAC-IMA will implement a phased approach to involve key staff based on a 10-20% time spent on project at national and regional basis. A biennial work plan will be developed and project done will be based on the strategic research areas of the CEP Strategy. RAC IMA will continue to contribute to in-kind contributions in small scaled funded projects with UNEP CAR/UNEP and will seek grant funding from other sources.

Annex 1 list Potential RAC IMA Projects and Activities of the 2021-2022 Work Programme.

7. Key Strategic Areas based on Regional Mandate for RAC IMA

In order to focus the IMA to meet the needs of its regional mandate as a Regional Activity Center, the IMA will address certain Key Strategic Areas within the planning period (2021-2026) by building on existing strengths of the organization and treating with weaknesses and threats (economics and financial). The elements of the Key Strategic Areas are:

1. Programme Alignment;
2. Human Resource Management & Mobilization Strategy;
3. Income Generation;
4. Networking and Relationship Building with agencies;
5. Public Relations; Image Improvement & Marketing;

In addressing these Strategic Areas, the Critical Success Factors are outlined in the Table 1 below:

Table 1: Critical Success Factors Addressing Regional Mandate for RAC IMA.

Key Strategic Areas	Critical Success Factors
Programme Alignment	<p>Alignment of IMA's research programmes to meet regional needs and objectives.</p> <p>Shared vision between IMA's national mandate and regional mandate as a RAC.</p> <p>Relevance of research programmes, cost cutting and alignment with RAC IMA mission.</p> <p>An organizational culture alignment striving for common goals, one vision and mission.</p>

	<p>Making IMA unique, more efficient, flexible and professional in its operations</p> <p>Incorporation of specific, measurable, attainable, realistic and timely (SMART) objectives in projects.</p> <p>Alignment of IMA's research programmes to meet national/regional needs and objectives.</p> <p>Generating income from external, grant funding and reducing reliance from Government sources.</p> <p>Shared vision between the Management of the IMA and the Board of Governors.</p>
Human Resource Management and Mobilization Strategy	<p>A structure of the RAC within the organization to be created and aligned with current structure.</p> <p>Filling in positions comprising the RAC.</p> <p>Appointment to the post of Director of RAC and minimizing conflicts.</p> <p>Attracting and retaining a strong cadre of human resources for the RAC.</p> <p>Recruitment of qualified and experienced research staff.</p> <p>Strategy for in-kind cost and improvement in remuneration packages.</p>
Income Generation	<p>The skill set for marketing and winning grant funding</p> <p>Training in grant funding</p>
Networking and Relationship Building	<p>Development of strong networks and co-investment partners</p>
Public Relations, Image Improvement & Marketing	<p>Enhanced relationship between RAC IMA and its regional stakeholders</p> <p>Responsiveness by IMA to the needs of regional stakeholders on mandate of convention and protocols.</p> <p>Feedback between IMA and its stakeholders</p> <p>Sound public education processes</p> <p>Sound image/brand development</p>

8. Human Resource Complement

Based on the long term strategic plan for RAC IMA, the resource complement of IMA from the present establishment (Table 2) would be increased which requires a financial plan and proposal for implementation.

As of 2021, there are a total of 30 personnel in research from a total of 80 staff. Of these Research Staff 5 have tertiary degree, Ph.D level, 10 MPhil and 10 Bsc and 5 advance level.

Table 2: Human Resource complement of IMA based on approved establishment (1998)

<u>Human Resource Disposal</u>	
<u>Department</u>	<u>Approved Establishment 1998</u>
Directorate	6
Research Programmes	46
Analytical Laboratory	6
Information Technology	2
Geomatics	0
Human Resources	2
Information/Education/PR/Marketing	9
Advisory and Business	1
Operations and Support	18
Accounts and Administration	11
<u>Total</u>	<u>101</u>

9. Finance Proposal

Income

The IMA receives the majority of its funding from the Government. However, the inherent uncertainty of Government funding as provided in the Official Estimates continues to be a weakness that the IMA faces. IMA proposes to increase its contribution over the period from the allocated deficit of 40% to be achieved through increased grant/donor funded research projects as generated by the RAC IMA and or creating of a business unit, sale of products derived from research activities, and attraction of sponsorships for certain operational aspects such as a laboratory facilities or equipment.

Capital Expenditure

Capital expenditure is met from a variety of sources. Major items of equipment are obtained through Public Sector Investment Programme funding from the Government under specific projects. Other acquisitions are the result of the application of funds earned on consultancy projects as well as counterpart funding on sponsored or grant funded projects. The largest single capital project is the completion of construction of the IMA's new facilities. It is expected that grant funding would contribute to the capacity building on laboratory equipment.

Recurrent Expenditure

The IMA acknowledges its continuing need to attract and retain suitable professional staff. In order to accomplish this, the IMA expects that it will have to improve on the remuneration packages of its staff generally, and those of its professional staff. Cost of maintenance as well as utilities and other costs will increase owing to the coming on stream of new facilities.

It is expected that, based on the suggested research programme, the budget for materials and supplies is expected to significantly increase by the end of the period.

Based on the operation of the IMA and annual figure of 5.2 million USD of recurrent expenditure is required per year for present research projects and staffing of which the deficit of 2.08 million USD (40%) is required from funding from external or other sources based on the trend of yearly increased expenditure. Table 3 shows the proposed funding sources for research projects for biennium 2021/2023

Table 3. Proposed funding sources for research projects for biennium 2021/2023.

Funding sources (USD)	2021-2022	2022-2021
TT Government		
Recurrent Expenditure	5.2	5.4
Capital	1.0	1.2
TT Green Funds (3 proposal)	1.5	1.6
External Sources (UNEP, GEF etc) 3 projects	0.5	0.6
Total	8.2	8.8

10. Proposed work plan and cost

Based on the expanded role of the IMA and the need to substantiate funds for the IMA would seeked additional funds from External sources (UNEP, GEF, etc). Table 4 summaries proposed project activity and cost of RAC IMA for biennium 2021/2023.

Table 4: Summary of proposed project activity and cost of RAC IMA for biennium 2021/2023.

Theme/Component	Activity	Budget (USD)
Programme Coordination	Promote ratification of the LBS Protocol by Non-Contracting Parties.	10,000
	Targeted promotional material on the benefits of ratification for multiple audiences e.g. General Public, Private Sector.	10,000
	Provide technical assistance and guidance to CPs	10,000

	<p>for the implementation of the Cartagena Convention, Oil Spills and LBS Protocols. Guidance on sampling, monitoring and assessment for oil spills (by IMA RAC)</p> <p>Evaluate the role of pollution prevention, control and reduction as part of ongoing efforts to develop ocean-based and blue economy approaches.</p>	
Land and Marine-Based Pollution	<p>Develop Guidelines for classification of waters according to the LBS Protocol;</p> <p>Classify recreational/receiving waters in selected countries (3 countries);</p> <p>Establish regional criteria and standards for N and P loads in domestic and industrial wastewater discharges;</p> <p>Regional Strategies and Action Plans (Nutrients) implemented at national level (3 countries);</p> <p>Pilot national projects on pre-treatment of industrial discharges into domestic wastewater systems implemented (3 countries);</p>	<p>50,000</p> <p>10,000</p> <p>30,000</p> <p>20,000</p> <p>60,000</p>
Monitoring and Assessment	<p>Develop technical Guidelines for classification of watershed and water bodies for good ecological status.</p> <p>Quantify industrial discharges of N and P and other pollutants (3 countries);</p> <p>Regional Workshop on Index of Coastal Eutrophication & Harmful Algal Blooms;</p> <p>Regional Workshop on the identification and tracking of priority pollutants;</p>	<p>30,000</p> <p>20,000</p> <p>30,000</p> <p>30,000</p>
Knowledge Management	<p>a) New pollution fact sheets, project briefs, PSAs and infographics developed for the AMEP Sub-Programme in English, Spanish and French;</p> <p>Improve Communication and Outreach with LBS Focal Points Newsletter circulated quarterly on ICZM news (RAC IMA)</p>	<p>10,000</p> <p>5,000</p>

10. References

RAC_RAN Guidelines rev3 2008, Consolidated version for the 13th IGM which include the observation of all States and Organizations which participated in the working group – 10/09/2008.

IMA's Strategic plan 2019-2024

UNEP CEP, 2019. State of the convention area convention report.

Workplan and budget for the assessment and management of Environmental pollution (AMEP) Sub-Programme for the 2021-2022 Biennium, Fifth Meeting of the Scientific, Technical and Advisory Committee (STAC) to the Protocol concerning Pollution from Land based Sources and Activities in the Wider Caribbean, 15-17 March 2021, virtual meeting.

Annex1: Potential RAC- IMA Projects and Activities of the 2021-2022 Work Programme.

THEME A. Programme Coordination and Management				
Strategic objectives:				
1. 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. 2. To mobilize additional resources for implementation of unfunded AMEP Projects and Activities; 3. To strengthen synergies and collaboration among RACs, international and regional partners, and organizations active in the Wider Caribbean region, and enhance broad stakeholders' participation.				
2020-2021 Targets:				
1. At least 4 additional ratifications of the LBS Protocol; 2. 2 MoUs/MoC concluded and/or updated with regional partners; 3. At least 10 joint activities with partners;				
Main Activities	Project(s)	Lead	Partners	Expected Deliverables
Promote ratification of the LBS Protocol by Non-Contracting Parties.	ACP MEA, IWECO, CREW+, GoM	Secretariat	RAC CIMAB, RAC IMA, CARPHA, OECS, CCAD, IDB, GIZ	a) Increased number of ratifications of the LBS Protocol; b) Targeted promotional material on the benefits of ratification for multiple audiences e.g. General Public, Private Sector, Governments and Key Economic Sectors.
Provide Secretariat support to Ad Hoc Meetings of Working Groups	N/A	Chairs Working Groups	Working Group Members RAC IMA	a) Meetings of Working Groups successfully facilitated;
Identify opportunities for implementation of Regional and/or National Strategies and Action Plans addressing marine pollution.	N/A	Secretariat	LBS RACs RAC IMA	Countries begin implementing national strategies and/or action plans on pollution; Action plan on nutrient reduction strategies

<p>Ensure timely and coordinated programme implementation, monitoring of progress against targets and indicators, periodic evaluation and reporting.</p>	<p>All</p>	<p>Secretariat, Regional Project Coordinators</p>	<p>LBS RACs, Partner Executing Agencies RAC IMA</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) CREW+: - 8 National Projects successfully initiated and implementation started; - Steering Committee meetings organized; Project Work Plan timely implemented; b) Support to preparation of new GEF Project Proposals – Procaribe+, GEF Marine Plastics; c) Support to ongoing implementation of ACP MEA, GEF IWeco and UNHSTF Projects; d) Support to closure and final reporting for UNDP GEF CLME+ Project; e) Support to launch of new GEF and non-GEF Projects – GEF Islands, GEF IW Learn, German Plastics Project for SIDS; f) New projects and activities in support of the blue economy, sustainable consumption and production, green economy, solid and liquid waste management including waste as a resource, circular economy and oceans governance developed; g) Periodic quarterly updates made of Secretariat responses to STAC Recommendations, COP Decisions and Targets;
<p>Provide technical assistance and guidance to CPs for the implementation of the Cartagena Convention, Oil Spills and LBS Protocols.</p>	<p>N/A</p>	<p>Secretariat</p>	<p>LBS RACs, RAN, Regional Nodes RAC IMA</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) Guidance on the national implementation of the CC and the LBS Protocol provided through briefs, model cabinet papers and/or twinning; b) Guidance on sampling, monitoring and assessment for oil spills (by IMA RAC)
<p>Facilitate cooperation with relevant projects and coordinating mechanisms relating to pollution.</p>	<p>N/A</p>	<p>Secretariat</p>	<p>RACs RAC IMA</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) Participation in CLME+ SAP Coordinating Mechanism; b) Participation in relevant UNEP HQ committees and working groups on marine pollution; c) Continued Participation in BASEL Plastics Partnership; d) Representation on Global Water Caribbean Technical Committee; e) Representation of Committee overseeing implementation on Regional Strategic Action Plans on Waste and Water; f) Representation on Project Steering Committees of relevant projects

				including the following GEF Projects: “Facilitating Dialogue And Strengthening Trans-boundary Cooperation With Legislators To Improve Marine Governance” and ‘Strengthening the Blue Economy: The Economic Case, Science-Informed Policy, and Transparency’;
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 RAC IMA	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;

THEME B: Land and Marine Based Sources of Pollution				
Ecological Objectives:				
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Pollution from Land and Marine-Based Sources cause no significant impact on coastal and marine ecosystems and human health; 2. New and emerging land-based pollution related problems are identified and tackled, as appropriate. 				
Strategic objectives:				
1. To control, prevent and reduce marine pollution from land and marine-based sources.				
2020-2021 Indicators:			2020-2021 Targets:	
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Number of countries with pollution related policies, legislation and/or regulations updated and/or developed; 2. Number of new and/or updated guidelines on marine pollution; 3. Number of Training and Capacity Building Workshops 4. Number of Contracting Parties with: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> (a) National Plans of Actions developed to address marine pollution, wastewater, marine litter and nutrients (b) National/Pilot Projects focusing on pollution reduction activities 			<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. 6 countries with updated and/or new policy/regulatory instruments; 2. 3 new/updated guidelines developed/updated; 3. At least 6 Regional Workshops Conducted 4. (a) At least 5 national plans of action relating to marine pollution; (b) At least 10 national/pilot projects focusing on pollution reduction. 	
Main Activities	Project(s)	Lead	Partner(s)	Expected Deliverables
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				
Strengthen the capacity of CPs to respond efficiently to marine pollution incidents through strengthening sub-regional and regional mechanisms and	N/A	RAC REMPEITC	IMO RAC (IMA)	Technical support provided to CPs, which so request, 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, sea ports, oil handling facilities and offshore installations; (subject to funding) Host Regional work shop on guidance on oil spill sampling, monitoring, spill assessment, effect on environment and linking with polluter (Subject to funding)

contingency plans,				
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				
Update the Annexes/Text of the LBS Protocols	CRew+	Secretariat	Working Group(s) RAC (IMA)	Working group(s) established by COP 5 and proposed recommendations for Amendments to the LBS Protocol and/or its Annexes formulated as appropriate for submission to COP 6; 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; Review, Analysis and Report for developing a new Strategy or Protocol on the management of freshwater resources within the framework of the Cartagena Convention.
Develop technical Guidelines for classification of waters as per the LBS Protocol. Develop technical Guidelines for classification of watershed and water bodies for good ecological status	CRew+ CRew+	Secretariat Secretariat	LBS RACs, Working Group RAC IMA	Guidelines for classification of waters according to the LBS Protocol developed (subject to funding); Contracting Parties supported to classify their recreational/receiving waters, based on request (subject to funding) Contracting Parties supported to classify their recreational/receiving waters, based on request (subject to funding) Guidelines for classification of watershed and water bodies (developed (subject to funding);
Promote and support implementation of Regional Marine Litter and Regional Nutrients Reduction Strategies	ACP MEA	Secretariat	LBS RACs, Regional Node RAC (IMA)	Regional Strategies Launched and used as basis for developing new project proposals and partnership opportunities;

2.3 Enhancing national marine pollution prevention and control policies, legislation and regulations.				
2.4 National and Pilot projects implemented on marine litter, nutrients, wastewater.				
Implement national/community-based projects on wastewater management, marine litter/plastics and nutrients reduction, reuse & recycling;	ACP MEA, German Plastics; CReW+	Secretariat	CP, LBS RACs, UNEP GPA, IDB, GIZ RAC (IMA)	<p>a) National and/or Community Based Projects successfully implemented</p> <p>b) Pilot projects on pre-treatment of industrial discharges into domestic wastewater systems implemented (subject to funding)</p> <p>c) National and/or Community Based Projects successfully implemented on elimination of floating plastics on major river catchments.</p>
2.5 Identifying and tackling new and emerging issues, as appropriate.				
Identify and compile latest research on new and emerging pollutants for briefing CP.	IWEco	Secretariat	LBS RACs, RAN RAC (IMA)	Fact Sheets and review briefs prepared on the high priority contaminants identified by the 5 th LBS STAC including but not limited to ocean acidification, microplastics and the links between pollution and Sargassum;

THEME C: Monitoring and Integrated Ecosystem Assessment				
Ecological Objectives:				
1. Pollution from Land and Marine-Based Sources cause no significant impact on coastal and marine ecosystems and human health;				
2. New and emerging land-based pollution related problems are identified and tackled, as appropriate.				
Strategic objectives:				
1. To control, prevent and reduce marine pollution from land and marine-based sources.				
2020-2021 Indicators:		2020-2021 Targets:		
- Number of countries with national recreational water quality monitoring programmes;		- 6 countries develop and/or enhance recreational water quality programmes;		
- Number of countries with system for classification of recreational waters for effluent discharges;		- 3 countries develop systems for classification of receiving water bodies as per requirements of LBS Protocol;		
- Number of Training and Capacity Building Workshops.		- 3 regional capacity building workshops convened.		
Main Activities	Project(s)	Lead	Partner(s)	Expected Deliverables
2.1 National pollution monitoring programmes developed and/or enhanced to include the relevant indicators recommended by the SOCAR Report in Marine Pollution				
Support the development and/or enhancement of national recreational water quality monitoring programmes based on recommendations from SOCAR;	IWEco, CReW+, GoM	Secretariat	LBS RACs, RAN, CARPHA, INVEMAR, IAEA, GCFI RAC (IMA)	Strengthening of national and as appropriate regional Laboratory Capacity based on needs assessment; Technical Recommendations provided for the development and/or strengthening of national recreational water quality monitoring programmes; Relationships developed with regional laboratories to facilitate testing and analysis by CP;
Harmonize and standardize the monitoring and assessment methods of pollution and marine litter.	IWEco, CReW+	Secretariat	LBS RACs, RAN, GCFI, GIZ RAC (IMA)	a) Protocols for applying good laboratory practices prepared; b) Monitoring Protocols (6 maximum) related to Pollution (eutrophication and contaminants), Marine Litter, and sampling and analysis of microplastics developed; c) Field testing of Harmonized approach to Marine Litter Monitoring conducted.
2.2 Marine pollution assessment tools (including maps, infographics and factsheets) developed and/or updated for key pollutants				

Update thematic fact sheets based on SOCAR and Regional Nutrients Reduction Strategy;	CREW+, ACP MEA, IW Eco	Secretariat	LBS RACs, RAN, IDB, GIZ, OAS RAC (IMA)	a) Updated assessment factsheets and maps prepared with new data originating from pollution reports and strategies;
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	IW Eco, CREW+, ACP MEA	Secretariat	LBS RACs, RAN, IDB, GIZ RAC (IMA)	Technical assistance provided and capacities built to support LBS implementation Sub-regional/regional workshops and trainings related to common capacity-building needs and knowledge gaps for LBS Protocol Implementation by CP
Develop and implement national training programmes around key pollution issues.	IW Eco, CREW+, ACP MEA, IW Learn	Secretariat	LBS RACs, RAN, GIZ, IDB, CAWASA, GWP, UNEP HQ RAC (IMA)	At least 5 capacity building activities developed to enhance knowledge on monitoring and/or integrated ecosystem assessments including on: (1) sample collection, analysis and monitoring; (2) data analysis, evaluation and reporting; (3) monitoring of specific pollutants and emerging contaminants in recreational water and wastewater effluent; Training courses and other capacity-strengthening guidance developed on cross-cutting topics of relevance to SIDS (marine spatial planning as a tool for strengthening blue economy opportunities) Intra and inter-regional training delivered in and among SIDS regions through regional partners Training on Index of Coastal Eutrophication & Harmful Algal Blooms; (subject to funding) Training in monitoring impact of run-off & poor land-use practices; (subject to funding) Training in the identification and tracking of priority pollutants; (subject to funding)

<p>Strengthen collaboration with RACREMPTEIC and IMO to provide Contracting Parties with technical assistance relating to oil spill detection, monitoring, the oil spill modelling, risk assessment of contaminated areas.</p>		<p>RAC REMPEITC</p>	<p>Secretariat; IMO,RAC IMA</p>	<p>Technical assistance provided and national capacities strengthened in the following areas: oil spill detection, monitoring, the oil spill modelling, risk assessment of contaminated areas</p>
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THEME D. Ecosystem Based Management Approaches				
Long-Term Impacts:				
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 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. 				
2020-2021 Indicators:			2020-2021 Targets:	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Number of countries implementing EBM Projects; - Number of Case Studies and/or Experience Nodes on EBM; - Number of Countries supported with Decision Support tools; - Training Courses/Webinars on EBM or related integrated planning tools; 			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 10 countries implementing EBM project; - 4 Case Studies developed and disseminated; - 4 Countries integrating EBM Principles into national Decision Support Tools - 3 Regional Training Workshops/Webinars Convened 	
Strategic objectives:				
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. To reduce anthropogenic pressures/pollution on coastal and marine areas in order to prevent and/or reduce their degradation; 2. To ensure preservation of the integrity of coastal and marine ecosystems through the control, reduction and prevention of marine pollution; 3. To adopt measures to reduce the negative impact of natural hazards and in particular of climate change which may exacerbate polluting impacts; 4. 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 the LBS and SPAW sub-programmes through joint activities and capacity building	All	Secretariat	Working Groups, RACs, RAN RAC (IMA)	a) Joint projects and activities designed and implemented;
Support region-wide use of EBM approaches by sharing lesson learnt and case study for implementation	IWEco, ACP MEA, CLME+	Secretariat	RAC IMA	b) Case studies on EBM developed and shared with member states. c) Lessons learnt on project implementation shared. d) Webinar convened and information shared with member states.

THEME E. Knowledge Management and Communications

Strategic objectives:

1. To strengthen knowledge and awareness on best practices, lessons learned and appropriate technologies for the control, reduction and prevention of marine pollution;
2. To compile, analyze and present pollution related data and information for informing policy and decision-making in the Wider Caribbean Region;
3. To ensure visibility of the LBS Protocol, its role and achievements and the work of the Secretariats, LBS RACs and RAN;
4. To improve national reporting on sources, impacts and status of marine pollution in the Wider Caribbean Region.
5. To facilitate greater engagement and networking with Governments, Civil Society, Donors, Youth, Private Sector and General Public

2020-2021 Targets:

1. 25 reports, factsheets and other scientific publications;
2. At least 12 online press releases and 30 news items;
3. 30 events/ side events;
4. 1 Decision support tool on pollution piloted.

Main Activities	Project(s)	Lead	Partners	Expected Deliverables
Prepare thematic products building on the findings of the State of the Convention Area Report on Marine Pollution and the Regional Nutrients Reduction Strategy	IWEco, CReW+, ACP MEA	Secretariat	LBS RACs, GIZ RAC (IMA)	Fact Sheets and Infographics on specific pollution issues prepared;
Identify opportunities to enhance national and/or regional databases and information platforms.	IWEco, CLME+, CReW+	Secretariat	RACs, GIZ RAC (IMA)	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> a) Operationalize regional platforms for sharing of pollution data and information with an emphasis on data contained within the SOCAR and promote integration with marine habitat data; b) Reporting on the CLME+ Hub including keeping Project and Focal Points databases updated; c) New or updated national platforms/databases, supported by a regional platform for IWWM developed

				<p>d) National data bases on existing wastewater treatment facilities developed (subject to funding)</p> <p>e) CEP Website updated to reflect clearinghouse function for pollution related indicators and for reporting on selected SDGs e.g. SDG 6 and 14 and including information on financial options, small- and large-scale wastewater treatment technologies, and wastewater and water management policies and practices.</p>
Support the implementation of the Communications Strategy of the CC Secretariat and projects under execution.	IWEco, CReW+	Secretariat	RACs, GIZ RAC (IMA)	<p>a) CEP and Project Websites updated regularly with stories relating to the LBS Protocol and Marine Pollution;</p> <p>b) At least 2 Communications campaigns on pollution prevention designed and implemented;</p> <p>c) Participation in national and regional meetings, exhibitions and webinars to showcase best practices, lessons learned and appropriate technologies for pollution prevention, reduction and control in the Wider Caribbean Region;</p> <p>d) New pollution fact sheets, project briefs, PSAs and infographics developed for the AMEP Sub-Programme in English, Spanish and French;</p> <p>e) Standard presentation templates and communication material on the AMEP sub-programme developed and disseminated to LBS Focal Points, RACs, RAN and Regional Nodes;</p> <p>f) Knowledge products, case studies and best practices from the GEF CLME+, GEF IWEco and other projects and activities involving the management of domestic wastewater, reduction of marine litter and the management of nutrients compiled and disseminated;</p> <p>g) Formal Launch of State of Convention Area Report on Marine Pollution, Regional Nutrients Reduction Strategy and Regional Marine Litter Strategy;</p> <p>h) Awareness, information materials on marine pollution from ships produced and disseminated;</p> <p>i) Input provided to regional and global reports and assessments relating to marine pollution.</p>

Facilitate exchange of best practices, lessons learned, twinnings and experience between and among Contracting Parties	IWEco, CReW+, IWLearn	Secretariat	GIZ, RACs and RANs RAC (IMA)	a) Twinning and dialogue activities in support of regional collaboration among SIDS via cooperation among all GEF focal area projects and participating countries; b) Strengthened web portal and resource catalogue to facilitate information-sharing and learning across the SIDS project portfolio in support of the SAMOA Pathway areas and beyond
Support Environmental Commemorative Days focusing on marine pollution.	ACP MEA, IWEco, CREW+,	Secretariat	UNEP Regional Office, GIZ RAC (IMA)	Three national celebrations supported with technical and promotional material, and participation of Secretariat, RAC and/or RANs. One regional celebration supported with technical and promotional material and participation of Secretariat, RACs and/or RANs.
Improve Communication and Outreach with LBS Focal Points	All	Secretariat	RACs RAC (IMA)	Newsletter/E Bulletin prepared and circulated to focal points on a quarterly basis; At least 3 Webinars organized per annum related to the work of the LBS and Oil Spills Protocol; Newsletter circulated quarterly on ICZM news (RAC IMA)