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Sixth 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, 01 to 02 February 2023

## RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE MEETING

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

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## **Recommendations of the Meeting**

### **The Meeting:**

**Having convened** the Sixth Meeting of the Scientific and Technical Advisory Committee to the Protocol Concerning Pollution from Land-Based Sources and Activities (LBS STAC) in the Wider Caribbean Region virtually from February 01-03, 2023;

**Taking note of** the presentations made by the Secretariat, Regional Activity Centres, Working Groups and partner agencies and projects;

### **Recommends the following:**

- (A) Prior to the Convening of the 6<sup>th</sup> Conference of Parties to the Land-Based Sources of Marine Pollution Protocol (LBS COP6) and Seventeenth Meeting of the Contracting Parties to the Cartagena Convention (COP17).**

## **RECOMMENDATION I**

### **REQUESTS FOR INPUT FOR TECHNICAL REPORTS AND DRAFT WORK PLAN**

1. Contracting Parties **submit** responses to the survey for informing the development of the following technical papers by the LBS RACs: (i) Report on Freshwater Resource Management UNEP(DEPI)/CARWG.44/INF.9, (ii) Guidelines for the classification of waters- UNEP(DEPI)/CARWG.44/INF.16 and (iii) Report on regional criteria and standards for Nitrogen (N) and Phosphorous (P) loads in domestic and industrial wastewater discharge- UNEP(DEPI)/CARWG.44/INF.17, as soon as possible but no later than **February 28, 2023**.
2. Contracting Parties **submit** any written comments on the 2023-2024 Draft AMEP Workplan to the Secretariat no later than **February 15, 2023**, to enable an updated draft Workplan and Budget to be submitted to the 6<sup>th</sup> LBS COP for further review and approval.

**(B) To the LBS COP6**

**RECOMMENDATION II**

**WORKPLAN**

1. Contracting Parties provisionally **endorse** the 2023-2024 Draft Workplan from a technical perspective including any recommendations made during the 6<sup>th</sup> LBS STAC.
2. Contracting Parties **welcome** efforts to strengthen partnerships with various partners including the Association of Caribbean States, GRID Geneva and the Secretariat of the Convention for the Protection of the Marine Environment of the North-East Atlantic (OSPAR) and **encourage** a continued partnership approach to facilitate work plan implementation building on recently developed MOUs and expanding the Regional Activity Network (RAN).
3. Contracting Parties **encourage** continued efforts to integrate activities under the AMEP and SPAW Work Programmes including for the development of the next State of Convention Area Reports on Marine Pollution and Marine Habitats, collaboration between RACs and Working Groups, and in the development of new project proposals.
4. Contracting Parties **request** the LBS COP6 to **endorse** the need to update the existing RAC-RAN Guidelines as contained in (UNEP(DEPI)/CAR WG.44/INF.18) to facilitate more effective partnerships for implementing the 2023-2024 Draft Work Plan.
5. The Open-Ended Working Group (OEWG) **continue to provide** technical and expert support, advice, and input to the Secretariat and LBS RACs on the implementation of project activities in the draft 2023/2024 work plan.
6. Contracting Parties **request further** nomination from the existing members of the OEWG and other experts of countries/agencies to be members of the present thematic working groups and new sub-groups.
7. The Secretariat **strengthen** its partnership with the private sector and industry to encourage more circular economy approaches and the use of waste as a resource in the design and/or implementation of pollution control projects and activities.

**RECOMMENDATION III**

**SOURCES AND IMPACTS OF MARINE POLLUTION**

Nutrient Pollution

1. The Secretariat with support of the LBS RACs and the OEWG and its thematic sub-groups **continue** to support the implementation of the regional nutrient pollution reduction strategy and action plan in countries of the Wider Caribbean Region at national and regional levels while noting that existing proposed timelines may require adjustment.
2. The Secretariat **facilitate continued** knowledge exchange and sharing of best practices and case studies among Parties including on the nutrient pollution action plans developed for Barbados and Jamaica.

### Wastewater Discharges

1. Contracting Parties **request** to the LBS COP6 that the Open-Ended Working Group including LBS RACs **provides** technical oversight and input for the finalization of technical information papers (UNEP(DEPI)/CAR WG.44/INF.16 and UNEP(DEPI)/CAR WG.44/INF.17) for further review by Contracting Parties and submission to the LBS STAC7 and LBS COP7 for further consideration.

### Marine Litter Management

1. Contracting Parties **welcome** the ongoing work of the Caribbean Regional Node for Marine Litter and **encourage** the continued expansion of this work including marine-based sources, through partnerships, as appropriate.

## **RECOMMENDATION IV MONITORING AND ASSESSMENT**

1. Contracting Parties **endorse** the formation of new OEWG sub-group(s) to support the development of regional marine and coastal water quality criteria to be used in assessing the state of the marine environment.
2. The Secretariat with support of the LBS RACs **continue to, subject to availability of funding**, provide training and capacity development on (i) standards and criteria including on comparable data, nutrients standards, wastewater effluent standards and defining Class I & II waters, (ii) information management, and (iii) future planning including consideration of emerging issues such as freshwater management and microplastics.
3. Contracting Parties **request** that the OEWG or a new sub-group guide the development of the next State of Convention Area Report on Marine Pollution and that this be done in coordination with the development of the State of Marine Habitat Report under the Specially Protected Areas and Wildlife (SPA) Sub-Programme.
4. The Secretariat **continue to use** the LBS RACs to provide regional training for ongoing and new projects within their technical areas of competence.

## **RECOMMENDATION V KNOWLEDGE MANAGEMENT, DATA, AND INFORMATION MANAGEMENT**

1. The Secretariat **continue** its efforts to establish synergies between various projects – GEF IWEco, GEF CReW+, GEF LAC Cities, PROMAR and to support the ongoing development of the regional data and information management platform including organizing training courses to ensure sustainability of the platform.

**RECOMMENDATION VI**  
**LBS PROTOCOL RATIFICATION**

1. Contracting Parties **recognize** efforts by Non-Contracting Parties to the LBS Protocol to become Contracting Parties, taking advantage of support being provided by projects for that process and **encourage** all Non-Contracting Parties to become Parties to the LBS Protocol.
2. Contracting Parties **recognize** the ongoing efforts by the Secretariat to work with Contracting and Non-Contracting Parties to the LBS Protocol to, as appropriate, ratify, implement, and report on the implementation of their obligations under the LBS Protocol.

**RECOMMENDATION VII**  
**POSSIBLE AMENDMENTS TO THE LBS PROTOCOL AND/OR ANNEXES**

1. Contracting Parties **note** the challenges in obtaining data to enable preparation of information papers to guide possible amendments to the LBS Protocol and/or its Annexes relating to freshwater, nutrients standards, and other issues and **recommend** that LBS COP6 review progress made and request the OEWG and the LBS RACs to continue to work on these and a report to the LBS STAC7 and LBS COP7 for further review, recommendation and decision as appropriate.