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Sixth Meeting of the Scientific and Technical Advisory Committee (STAC) of the Protocol Concerning Pollution from Land-Based Sources and Activities (LBS) in the Wider Caribbean Region

Virtual, 01 February 2023 – 03 February 2023

**STATUS OF RATIFICATION OF THE PROTOCOL CONCERNING POLLUTION FROM  
LAND-BASED SOURCES AND ACTIVITIES  
(LBS PROTOCOL)**

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

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**Status of the Protocol Concerning Pollution from Land-based Sources and Activities (LBS Protocol)**

Country/State/Territory	Date of Signature	Date of Ratification	Entry into Force
Antigua and Barbuda		13 July 2010	13 August 2010
Bahamas		24 June 2010	13 August 2010
Barbados	29 June 2019	29 June 2019	13 August 2010
Belize		4 February 2008	13 August 2010
Costa Rica	6 October 1999		26 May 2016
Dominican Republic	3 August 2000	6 September 2012	5 October 2012
France	6 October 1999	4 May 2007	13 August 2010
Grenada		5 March 2012	4 April 2012
Guyana		14 July 2010	13 August 2010
Honduras	13 October 2018	13 October 2018	13 October 2018
Jamaica		5 November 2015	4 December 2015
Panama		9 July 2003	13 August 2010
Saint Lucia		30 January 2008	13 August 2010
Trinidad and Tobago		28 March 2003	13 August 2010
United States of America	6 October 1999	13 February 2009	13 August 2010

## Status of Ratification of the LBS Protocol

Decision 17 refers to the Secretariat’s efforts to:

*“encourage all Non-Contracting Parties to the LBS Protocol to become Contracting Parties at their earliest opportunity, and in doing so, the Secretariat should provide Non-Contracting Parties with examples of benefits of ratification including through the achievements of Contracting Parties in addressing marine pollution from land-based sources and activities”*

1. Pursuant to Decision 17 as quoted above of the Fifth Meeting of the Contracting Parties(COP) to the Protocol Concerning Pollution from Land-Based Sources and Activities (LBS) in the Wider Caribbean Region, **26 July 2021**. The Secretariat to the Cartagena Convention convened two virtual meetings in English and Spanish for Non-Contracting parties to the LBS Protocol in November 2021 to promote ratification, assess the level of progress in the ratification of the LBS Protocol, identify major barriers to ratification and the type of support that could be provided by the Cartagena Convention Secretariat, the LBS Regional Activity Centres (RACs) and Regional Activity Networks (RANs), through ongoing programmes, projects, and activities (**UNEP (DEPI)/CAR WG.44/INF.4**).
  
2. During the workshop participants were invited to input their responses to 3 questions regarding opportunities and barriers to ratification within their country and key stakeholders to engage. The questions and responses are noted in the tables below:

Question 1	Responses	
<b>What are the existing opportunities to promote ratification?</b>	1	An established partnership with the Caribbean Environment Programme (CEP) which created other opportunities
	2	SDG requirement to control pollution
	3	The assistance of the Secretariat and RACs
	4	Heading towards Caribbean environmental standards

Question 2	Responses	
<b>Who are the main stakeholders we need to engage?</b>	1	Industry, tourism, agriculture, building development, political level/government
	2	Coral and nature advocates
	3	Sewage treatment facilities
	4	The focal point and lead Ministry

Question 3: <b>What are the barriers to and benefits of ratification?</b>	
1	A greater informed national public
2	Country selected for participation in a regional project
3	Buy-in by sectors that believe that the changes can affect their bottom-line
4	Lack of lead agency, focal point or national champion in the country
5	Monitoring capabilities
6	Solid waste handled according to a linear process
7	The benefit of funds to finance activities for implementation
8	Money
9	Stakeholders not understanding the economic, social and environmental impacts of pollution and do not have the right tools to communicate
10	A bottom-up approach must take place in the respective countries. Time and funding are required to get people at the grassroots level to buy into the programme.

3. The Governments of Guatemala, Mexico, Suriname and Saint Kitts and Nevis were provided with technical support and advice to assist them with becoming Parties to the LBS Protocol. As a result of this support, Saint Kitts and Nevis prepared and submitted a request to its Cabinet of Ministers for ratification of the LBS Protocol. The request was approved, and efforts are underway to formally deposit the instrument of ratification.