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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

DRAFT WORKPLAN FOR THE ASSESSMENT AND MANAGEMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL POLLUTION (AMEP) SUB-PROGRAMME FOR THE 2023-2024 BIENNIUM

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

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Acronyms

ACP	African, Caribbean and Pacific Countries
AMEP	Assessment and Management of Environmental Pollution
CARICOM	Caribbean Community
CARPHA	Caribbean Public Health Agency
CCAD	Central American Commission for Environment and Development
CDB	Caribbean Development Bank
CEP	Caribbean Environment Programme
CIMAB	Centre of Research and Environmental Management of Transport in Cuba
CLME+	Caribbean and North Brazil Shelf Large Marine Ecosystems
COP	Conference of Parties
CP	Contracting Party(ies)
CRew+	Caribbean Regional Fund for Wastewater Management Project
CWWA	Caribbean Water and Wastewater Association
DPSIR	Drivers, Pressures, State, Impact, Responses
FAO	Food and Agriculture Organisation of the United Nations
GCFI	Gulf and Caribbean Fisheries Institute
GEF	Global Environment Facility
GGGI	Global Ghost Gear Initiative
GIZ	Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit GmbH
GPA	Global Programme of Action for the Protection of the Marine Environment from Land-Based Activities
GPNM	Global Platform for Nutrient Management
IAEA	International Atomic Energy Agency
IDB	Inter-American Development Bank
IMA	Institute of Marine Affairs
IMO	International Maritime Organization
IWEco	Integrating Water, Land and Ecosystems Management in Caribbean SIDS
IUCN	International Union for the Conservation of Nature
LBS	Land-Based Sources (of marine pollution)
MEA	Multilateral Environment Agreement
OAS	Organization of American States
OECS	Organization of Eastern Caribbean States

OSPAR	The Convention for the Protection of the Marine Environment of the North-East Atlantic or OSPAR Convention
RAC	Regional Activity Centre
RAN	Regional Activity Network
REMPEITC-Caribe	Regional Marine Pollution Emergency, Information and Training Centre – Caribe
SIDS	Small Island Developing States
SOCAR	State of the Convention Area (Report on Marine Pollution)
SPAW	Specially Protected Areas and Wildlife Sub-Programme
STAC	Scientific and Technical Advisory Committee
TNC	The Nature Conservancy
UNDP	United Nations Development Programme
UNEA	United Nations Environmental Assembly
UNEP	United Nations Environment Programme

Overview

1. The work plan includes ongoing projects and activities from the 2021-2022 biennium and new projects and activities for the 2023-2024 biennium under the Assessment and Management of Environmental Pollution (AMEP) Sub-Programme of the Cartagena Convention Secretariat. These support the continued development of the Land Based Sources of Marine Pollution (LBS) Protocol and assist Non-Contracting and/or Contracting Parties in overcoming barriers to ratification, accession and/or implementation of their national obligations to the Cartagena Convention and specifically the LBS Protocol.
2. The development of the work plan considered recommendations of previous Scientific and Technical Advisory Committee (STAC) Meetings of the LBS Protocol, Decisions of Conferences of Parties (COPs) to the LBS Protocol, and Decisions of the Cartagena Convention COPs. Feedback and recommendations received by the Secretariat from Contracting Parties to the LBS Protocol, LBS Regional Activity Centres (RACs), and the Open-Ended Working Group (OEWG) on Monitoring and Assessment also informed the development of the work plan.
3. Other considerations included recent UNEA Resolutions on marine pollution including on nutrients and plastics, Decisions of Ministerial Fora in the Wider Caribbean Region (WCR) on marine pollution, and ongoing global and regional political processes on oceans, among others.
4. The work plan further reflects the ongoing efforts by the Secretariat to enhance partnerships and synergies with regional agencies and related global Multilateral Environmental Agreement (MEA) Secretariats including projects and activities focusing on the control, prevention and reduction of marine pollution. Activities will also support Contracting Parties in future reporting on the Cartagena Convention, its Protocols, related MEAs, and regional and global commitments.
5. The 2023-2024 work plan prioritizes the need to address marine pollution from solid waste, marine litter and microplastics, improve domestic and industrial wastewater management, reduce nutrients pollution from non-point sources including poor agricultural practices, increase awareness of ocean acidification and to build capacity for addressing new and emerging contaminants of concern including monitoring capacity.
6. Activities are expected to continue to strengthen transboundary collaboration that occurred during the previous biennium in particular with the OSPAR Commission on nutrients management, the Abidjan Convention Secretariat on sargassum, and the Barcelona Convention Secretariat on environmental monitoring, assessment and data and information management.
7. Gender mainstreaming will continue to be reflected in the design and implementation of new projects and activities and in establishing indicators and targets.
8. With the endorsement of the medium-term strategies by the LBS RACs by LBS COP 5, and greater incorporation of the work of the RACs in the 2023-2024 Work Plan for the AMEP Sub-Programme, the LBS RACs, members of the Regional Activity Network (RAN) and other regional partners will continue to have an enhanced role in providing technical support to Contracting Parties in implementing the work plan and supporting them in meeting their national obligations under the LBS Protocol.
9. Given the ongoing financial constraints within the Secretariat, financing for new projects and activities will be primarily sourced from external funding including the Global Environment Facility (GEF), the European Union (EU), and the Government of Germany.

10. Convening of face-to-face meetings of the 7th LBS STAC and 7th LBS COP will be dependent on increased contributions to the Caribbean Trust Fund (CTF) by Contracting Parties. While collaboration with ongoing projects may be able to offset some of these meeting costs, this remains a serious concern for the sustainability of the core areas of work for the Secretariat.
11. The focus by UNEP on the three planetary pillars of pollution, nature and climate and the need for more integrated approaches will be reflected in the design and delivery of new projects and activities by the Secretariat, RACs and RANs. Additional coordination will take place with UNEP's Global Partnerships on Marine Litter (GPML), Nutrients (GPNM) and Wastewater (GWII) through existing Regional Nodes and Platforms.
12. When contributions by Contracting Parties are insufficient to meet the demand for unfunded projects and activities, these will be implemented through strategic partnerships. Ongoing resource mobilization will take place within the broader framework of the 2022-2030 Regional Strategy for the Cartagena Convention and its Protocols including its Resource Mobilization Strategy, subject to its approval by Contracting Parties, the new 2022-2025 Medium-Term Strategy for Regional Seas Programmes, and the new regional delivery model for UNEP's Programme of Work.

II. Objectives of the AMEP Sub-Programme

1. The overall objective is to support Contracting Parties to prevent, reduce, and control pollution of the coastal and marine environment from land and marine-based sources, thereby enabling them to meet their obligations under the LBS Protocol, and Cooperation in Combating Oil Spills (Oil Spills Protocol) of the Cartagena Convention.
2. The general objectives of the AMEP sub-programme are to:
 - (a) Promote the Cartagena Convention and in particular the LBS Protocol as a platform for increased collaboration with, and implementation of, pollution prevention, control, and reduction activities in the Wider Caribbean Region;
 - (b) Support countries in their commitment to the 2030 Agenda and the Sustainable Development Goals, in particular through Goal 14, to conserve and sustainably use the oceans, seas and marine resources for sustainable development and 14.1 to, by 2025, prevent and significantly reduce marine pollution of all kinds, particularly from land-based activities, including marine debris and nutrient pollution;
 - (c) Support initiatives to control, reduce and prevent marine pollution from priority sources and activities;
 - (d) Support the implementation of the Regional Nutrients Pollution Reduction Strategy and Action Plan and the Regional Marine Litter Strategy and Action Plan of the Cartagena Convention;
 - (e) Contribute to building national and regional capacities for improved monitoring and integrated ecological assessment of marine pollution including the use of more harmonized approaches and methodologies;
 - (f) Promote the use of integrated solutions and tools for addressing pollution including Ecosystem Based-Management approaches to address pollution prevention and marine biodiversity conservation and management that reflect greater integration of the AMEP and SPAW Sub-Programmes.

- (g) Support policy harmonization and management reforms towards improved ocean governance and achieving the targets identified in the Strategic Action Programmes (SAPs) for the Gulf of Mexico (GoM), Caribbean Sea and North Brazil Shelf Large Marine Ecosystems (CLME).
- (h) Support countries in the development of institutional, policy, legal and financial frameworks, mechanisms, and instruments necessary for the long-term implementation of the Cartagena Convention and in particular the Land-Based Sources of Marine Pollution Protocol.

III. Ensure synergies with relevant decisions of other decision-making fora including UNEA Resolutions and Decisions of Meetings of Ministers with responsibility for the environment, water, wastewater, agriculture, and solid waste. **Summary of the 2023-2024 Work Plan**

A. Programme Coordination and Management

The strategic objectives of this focus area are 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 regional strategies and/or action plans on pollution.
- Mobilize additional resources for the implementation of unfunded projects and activities.
- Strengthen synergies and collaboration among RACs, international and regional partners, and organizations active in the Wider Caribbean region, and enhance broad stakeholder participation in the design and implementation of projects and activities.

The AMEP Programme Officer will continue to be responsible for coordination and supervision of the implementation of the programme activities for 2023-2024 with support from a Junior Programme Officer funded by the Government of Germany and an AMEP Programme Assistant. The directors and staff of the LBS RACs will provide additional programme and technical support where appropriate.

Further assistance will be provided through interns and short-term consultancies, as well as staff of externally funded projects implemented by the Secretariat.

The Secretariat will support activities that promote the ratification of the LBS Protocol by non-Contracting Parties and implementation by all Parties to the LBS Protocol. Where funding for projects and activities is limited, priority will be given, as appropriate, to those countries that are Parties to the LBS Protocol and/or are in the final stages of the ratification process and those who have met their financial obligations to the Caribbean Trust Fund (CTF) in accordance with the Financial Rules of the Cartagena Convention.

The development of partnership agreements with regional agencies that form part of the Regional Activity Network (RAN) will be used to support continued capacity building and implementation of activities to support the control, reduction and prevention of marine pollution in the Wider Caribbean Region.

The Secretariat will convene the 7th Meeting of the LBS STAC and 7th Meeting of the LBS COP in 2024/2025 where the AMEP Draft Work Plan and Budget for the 2025-2026 biennium will be presented for endorsement and/or approval in keeping with the objectives of the LBS Protocol and regional priorities.

The Secretariat, with support from the LBS RACs, will continue to facilitate meetings of the OEWG on Monitoring and Assessment and other sub-groups as mandated by the LBS COP.

The Secretariat will support the further development and submission of new project proposals, the launch of new projects and the formal closure of projects during the biennium. This will involve the preparation and submission, as required, of terminal project reports, case studies and experience notes while supporting mid-term and terminal project evaluation and monitoring and evaluation of project interventions.

The Secretariat will collaborate with UNEP HQ, UNEP Regional Office for Latin America and the Caribbean (ROLAC), and the Caribbean Sub-Regional Office (CSRO) in resource mobilization and the development of programmes, projects and activities in support of work on the blue economy, sustainable consumption and production, green economy, solid and liquid waste management including waste as a resource, circular economy and life cycle approaches, as well as oceans governance.

The Secretariat will also cooperate with relevant projects, Regional Seas Programmes, Global MEA Secretariats and other coordinating mechanisms and partnerships relating to the control, reduction and prevention of marine pollution. Strengthened collaboration with the IMO through the work of RAC REMPEITC Caribe will provide Contracting Parties with technical assistance to address both land and marine-based sources of pollution in a more integrated manner while ensuring compliance with related Maritime Conventions such as MARPOL, Ballast Water and the London Convention.

To ensure high-level political engagement, the Secretariat will strengthen partnerships with regional and sub-regional intergovernmental bodies including CCAD, CARICOM, OECS and the ACS as well as Regional and Sub-Regional Ministerial and High-Level Fora to increase awareness of the LBS Protocol and to enhance synergies and coordinated implementation at the highest political level.

The approach to the implementation of the work plan will reflect continued efforts to integrate the AMEP and SPAW Work Programmes as well as enhance coordination among all of the RACs. Subject to funding, efforts will continue to convene future joint LBS and SPAW meetings, develop joint LBS/SPAW projects and implement joint capacity-building and promotional activities.

The Decades of Ocean Science for Sustainable Development (2021-2030) and Ecosystem Restoration (2021-2030), the Post 2020 Biodiversity Framework and Agenda 2030 will be further used to help frame the work of the Secretariat on marine pollution over the biennium.

Specific Activities and Annual Budget to be completed for LBS COP based on STAC Recommendations

Activity	2023			2024		
	CTF	Other Sources *	Total	CTF	Other Sources *	Total
Personnel Costs (Programme Officer & Programme Management Assistant)	280,000	0	270,000	270,000	0	270,000
Convene LBS STAC 6 and LBS COP 6	0	0	0	300,000	0	300,000
TOTAL (USD)	280,000	0	270,000	570,000	0	570,000

Note: funding to convene LBS STAC6 & LBS COP6 is currently unavailable under CTF

B. Land and Marine-Based Sources of Pollution

The strategic objective of this focus area is to:

- Control, prevent and reduce marine pollution from land and marine-based sources.

With financial support from the ongoing GEF IWeco, CReW+ and ACP MEA III projects, the implementation of national and pilot projects will continue to focus on improving marine litter, agrochemical run-off and wastewater management while contributing to new, alternative, and sustainable livelihoods.

The Secretariat will promote the increased use of pollution prevention and reduction tools and innovative/appropriate technologies to protect human health and reduce the degradation of selected priority ecosystems with financial support from the GEF CReW+, ACP MEA III, GEF LAC Cities and Promar Projects.

The GEF CReW+, GEF LAC Cities and Promar Projects will support the development and/or updating of national marine pollution prevention and control policies, legislation and regulations while building national capacity to develop and implement local and/or national strategies and plans of action for pollution prevention, reduction and control with a focus on solid waste and domestic wastewater. This support to beneficiary countries will assist in improving compliance with national and/or regional guidelines, standards and criteria relating to pollution discharges into the marine environment.

As a result of the capacity-building support and implementation of national projects, there will be an increase in the number of countries developing, updating and/or implementing action plans to reduce marine litter, untreated wastewater, and nutrient discharges into the coastal and marine environment. This will build on the development of national case studies on Nutrient Pollution Reduction in Jamaica and Barbados and the development of a National Marine Litter Strategy in Saint Lucia that took place during the previous biennium 2021/2022.

With financing from the GEF CReW+ project and technical support from the LBS RACs, the Secretariat will continue to facilitate intersessional discussions and consultations on possible amendments to the LBS Protocol including on incorporation of issues relating to freshwater management.

These activities will support the Global Partnerships on Marine Litter, Wastewater and Nutrients through Regional Platforms and Nodes for which the Secretariat is either a host, co-host or partner agency.

The Secretariat will partner with regional agencies including the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA), INVEMAR, Association of Caribbean States, and the network of laboratories - REMARCO to identify and address existing and emerging issues such as microplastics, wastewater impacts on coral reef ecosystems, links between nutrients and sargassum, antimicrobial resistance and other areas of interest through monitoring and surveillance activities.

Specific Activities and Annual Budget to be completed for LBS COP based on STAC Recommendations

C. Monitoring and Integrated Ecosystem Assessment

The strategic objective of this focus area is to:

- Improve Science-Policy Interface by enhanced generation and use of pollution-related data and information for more informed decision-making.

The development of the SOCAR Report on Marine Pollution illustrated the importance of collaboration with regional and international agencies, programmes and projects to facilitate activities that support regional assessments of the Wider Caribbean Region including consultations, workshops, presentations and publications.

Funding has been mobilized to provide support to training on the Driver Pressure State Impact Response Methodology (DPSIR) which was used as the methodology for the SOCAR and the State of the Marine Environment and Associated Economies (SOME) Reports and to support Contracting Parties in responding to pollution data gaps and assessing new and emerging issues.

With financing from the GEF CReW+ Project and in partnership with UNITAR, the Secretariat will provide training on water quality monitoring and support Contracting Parties to develop and/or strengthen national pollution monitoring programmes.

The improvement of national monitoring and assessment capacities and development and/or enhancement of national coastal and marine monitoring programmes will further contribute to the development of more comprehensive State of Convention Area Reports on Marine Pollution.

Specific attention will be on improving national capacities to monitor the sources, levels and impacts of microplastics, livestock wastes, mercury, mining wastes and agrochemical pollutants on coastal and marine biodiversity, as reflected in the State of Habitats Report as well as on human health. This will be done in collaboration with several projects including the GEF Islands Programme and the Mesoamerican barrier Reef Project.

Other capacity-building activities supported by multiple projects (GEF CReW+, IW Learn, GEF LAC Cities, Promar and ACP MEA III) will focus on training in wastewater effluent monitoring, classification of recreational waters, developing behavioural change programmes on pollution reduction and reuse of treated wastewater in collaboration with RARE and The Nature Conservancy (TNC), monitoring the impact of run-off & poor land-use practices; nutrients monitoring and in the identification and tracking of priority pollutants such as plastics leakage to the environment.

Projects and activities implemented under this focus area will assist Contracting Parties in generating new information for better understanding and adaptive management of the coastal and marine environment, with a view to strengthening linkages between pollution monitoring, ecosystems assessment and reporting mechanisms for informed planning and decision-making processes. Social and economic assessment issues include the economic valuation of goods and services provided by the marine and coastal environment, including enhancing the capacity of Contracting Parties to use the true value of pollution impacts and ecosystems goods and services in their decision-making processes will also be priority areas for the Secretariat.

The Regional Information Management Platform developed during the previous biennium will be further enhanced by incorporating and linking to new databases and developing the capacity to generate new knowledge management products such as story maps, infographics, and factsheets.

Subject to funding availability and with the support of the GEF Procaribe+ project, the Secretariat will begin the development of the second State of Marine Pollution Report with linkages to ongoing efforts by UNEP HQ relating to the GEMS Ocean and Freshwater Programs.

Specific Activities and Annual Budget to be completed for LBS COP based on STAC Recommendations

Activity	2023			2024		
	CTF	Other Sources*	Total	CTF	Other Sources*	Total

D. Ecosystem-Based Management Approaches

The strategic objectives of this focus area are to:

- Reduce anthropogenic pressures/pollution on coastal and marine areas in order to prevent and/or reduce their degradation;
- Ensure the preservation of the integrity of coastal and marine ecosystems through the control, reduction, and prevention of marine pollution;
- Adopt measures to reduce the negative impact of natural hazards and in particular climate change which may exacerbate polluting impacts;
- Ensure that activities in terrestrial, coastal and marine areas do not increase marine pollution.

The Secretariat will continue to support Contracting Parties in the design and implementation of ecosystem-based management approaches to address marine pollution in a more integrated, inclusive, and comprehensive manner. It will seek to reduce or prevent degradation of the coastal and marine environment in particular from land and marine-based sources of pollution and strengthen the functioning and resilience of coastal and marine ecosystems, including supporting the governments of the region to attain the Sustainable Development Goals and in particular targets 2 and 5 of Goal 14.

The aim is to tackle interactive and cumulative impacts of human activities on ecosystems, such as transboundary regional impacts. It will complement the use of other tools such as Marine Spatial Planning and the development of sustainable ocean-based economies and blue economy approaches by Contracting Parties. It is expected to lead to increases in the number of countries adopting ecosystem-based management approaches to sectoral and national development planning processes, strategies, and action plans.

With support from the ACP MEA III project, and in cooperation with the SPAW Sub-Programme, national EBM projects will be implemented in Suriname and Guyana. In collaboration with the Global Water Partnership Caribbean (GWP C) and the Gulf and Caribbean Fisheries Institute, community-based EBM projects will focus on enhancing local community benefits through the use of decentralized and nature-based solutions for wastewater management and integrated approaches to the management of Marine Protected Areas and Marine Litter management. Efforts will continue to replicate and upscale successful examples of more integrated approaches to marine biodiversity conservation and pollution prevention.

Subject to funding availability, the Secretariat will work with partners to provide training in EBM approaches and principles, the use of Decision-Support Tools for EBM, the use of Nature-Based Solutions, and the application of Methodology for the Selection of Sites for Ecosystem Restoration

Specific Activities and Annual Budget to be completed for LBS COP based on STAC Recommendations

Activity	2023			2024		
	CTF	Other Sources*	Total	CTF	Other Sources*	Total

E. Knowledge Management and Communications

The strategic objectives of this focus area are to:

- Strengthen knowledge and awareness of best practices, lessons learned and appropriate technologies for the control, reduction, and prevention of marine pollution;
- Compile, analyze and present pollution-related data and information for informing policy and decision-making in the Wider Caribbean Region;
- Enhance visibility of the LBS Protocol including value and relevance to the region and general population;
- Improve national reporting on sources, impacts and status of marine pollution in the Wider Caribbean Region;
- Facilitate greater engagement and networking with Governments, Civil Society, Donors, Youth, Private Sector and General Public.

While this is presented as part of the AMEP sub-programme, as much of the funding is through projects developed in support of the sub-programme, this work forms part of the broader communications of the Secretariat and will involve outreach activities not only to promote ratification and implementation of the LBS Protocol and the benefits of ratification but also for the Convention and all of its Protocols.

Proposed activities for the next biennium will be supported by the Secretariat, RACs, interns, consultants and, where appropriate, dedicated project staff. The updated Knowledge Management and Communications Strategy of the Secretariat subject to approval by the Cartagena Convention COP will form the framework for all communications and outreach activities. This will include expansion of the use of social media platforms, continued expansion of the reach of newsletters developed by the Secretariat, RACs and specific projects, commemorating environmental days, and implementation of relevant global campaigns on nutrients, marine litter, wastewater and other issues relevant to the LBS and Oil Spills Protocols.

The Secretariat will facilitate the compilation and dissemination of knowledge products, case studies and best practices from recently concluded and ongoing projects, as well as the exchange of information with national stakeholders, and building awareness, involvement and capacity development among communities. Any information generated will be provided in an easily accessible and understandable format to assist in decision-making processes and to raise awareness among the public of the importance of pollution threats and their impacts on the environment and human health.

The Secretariat will, through ongoing projects and partnerships, work to strengthen and support nature-based solutions, enterprises, and sustainable livelihoods, while also building resilience to climate change, at the community level and amongst vulnerable groups such as youth. Experience and learning will be documented in information products and national and regional sharing will be promoted via Action Learning Groups and regional fora. Regional Lessons Learned workshops will be supported through the GEF IW Learn Project with a specific focus on Small Island Developing States.

The Secretariat will continue to support efforts to strengthen regional, sub-regional and national decision support tools and mechanisms including developing National Water Information Management Systems (WIMS) through the GEF CReW+ Project, a sub-regional platform for environmental data through the GEF IWeco project and a regional platform to support plastics and solid waste management through the Promar project. Linkages between the Secretariat's regional information platform and the World Environment Situation Room, the CLME+ Hub and other relevant regional knowledge and data-sharing mechanisms and platforms, including reporting mechanisms and information exchange, and institutional strengthening for the implementation of the LBS Protocol and related pollution agreements will continue during the biennium. These activities are expected to also support Contracting Parties in meeting national reporting obligations on pollution indicators linked to SDGs (6 and 14) and other Global MEAs. One new area of focus will be on the development of decision-support tools relating to resource management and the impacts of pollution on economies and new blue/ocean-based economic opportunities.

Participation of the Secretariat in national and regional meetings and exhibitions will enable the showcasing of best practices, lessons learned and appropriate technologies for pollution prevention, reduction and control in the Wider Caribbean Region. The Secretariat is expected to participate in the Our Oceans Conference in Panama in March 2023 and other relevant regional and global conferences and meetings. With project funding, the Secretariat will also facilitate exchange of best practices, lessons learned, twinnings and experience between and among Contracting Parties.

The Secretariat will continue to contribute to regional and global publications relating to marine pollution and support the implementation of research priorities on pollution identified in the Science and Research Serving Effective Ocean Governance in the Wider Caribbean Region Report (Research Agenda) developed by the Gulf and Caribbean Fisheries Institute (GCFI) under the UNDP GEF CLME+ Project. This will be done through enhanced partnerships with academic and research institutions with a focus on the sources and impacts of marine pollution, and on emerging issues such as microplastics, and emerging contaminants of concern in wastewater.

Section V provides a detailed breakdown of the main activities, supporting projects, lead and partner agencies and expected deliverables for each of the main thematic areas of focus. For each theme, strategic objectives, indicators and targets are highlighted. Where appropriate, ecological objectives have also been identified.

IV. 2023-2024 Budget for the AMEP Work Programme and associated projects (To be completed).

The proposed budget for the AMEP Sub-Programme for the 2023-2024 Biennium will be finalized based on LBS STAC Recommendations and presented to the LBS COP 6 and Cartagena Convention COP for endorsement and/or approval.

It will include a summary of the draft 2021/2022 programme coordination and management budget in support of the implementation of the AMEP Sub-Programme, proposed biennial budgets for ongoing and newly approved projects executed under the coordination of the Sub-Programme, an overview of pipeline projects and activities either under development and/or which have not yet been approved with indicative funding and an overview of unfunded activities recommended by Contracting Parties during the LBS STAC 6 which are unable to be implemented as part of ongoing projects and/or with resources from the Caribbean Trust Fund.

V. Main Projects and Activities of the 2023-2024 Work Programme

THEME A. Programme Coordination and Management				
<p>Strategic objectives:</p> <p>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.</p> <p>2. To mobilize additional resources for the implementation of unfunded AMEP Projects and Activities;</p> <p>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.</p> <p>2023-2024 Targets:</p> <p>1. At least 4 additional ratifications of the LBS Protocol;</p> <p>2. At least 10 joint activities with partners;</p>				
Main Activities	Project(s)	Lead	Partners	Expected Deliverables
Promote ratification of the LBS Protocol by Non-Contracting Parties.	ACP MEA, IWECO, CReW+, GoM, GEF LAC Cities, GEF IW Learn, Promar	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 the Convention and its Protocols for the general public
Organize 7 th LBS STAC	N/A	Secretariat	Host country, CPs	a) 7 th LBS STAC successfully convened;
Organize 7 th LBS COP	N/A	Secretariat	Host Country, CPs	a) 7 th LBS COP successfully convened;
Provide Secretariat support to the Open-Ended Work Group on Monitoring and Assessment and related Thematic Groups	N/A	Chairs Working Groups	Working Group Members	a) Meetings of Working Groups successfully facilitated;
Identify opportunities for further implementation of Regional and/or National Strategies and Action Plans addressing marine pollution.	N/A	Secretariat	LBS RACs	At least two countries begin implementing their national strategies and/or action plans on marine pollution;
Ensure timely and coordinated programme implementation, monitoring of progress against targets and indicators, periodic evaluation and reporting.	All	Secretariat, Regional Project Coordinators	LBS RACs, Partner Executing Agencies	a) CREW+: - 8 National Projects implemented; - Steering Committee meetings organized; Project Work Plan timely implemented; Timely submission of progress narrative and financial reports; b) Support to the preparation of new GEF Project Proposals – Blue Economy, Nutrients, Plastics c) Ongoing implementation of ACP MEA, GEF CReW+ and GEF IWECO projects d) Support to final evaluation, closure and final reporting for GEF CReW+ and GEF IWECO Projects e) Support to launch of new GEF and non-GEF Projects – GEF LAC Cities, GEF IW Learn, GEF Procaribe+ f) New project proposal and concepts 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

Main Activities	Project(s)	Lead	Partners	Expected Deliverables
				developed; Periodic quarterly updates made of Secretariat responses to STAC Recommendations, COP Decisions and Targets and reported to the Bureau;
Provide technical assistance and guidance to CPs for the implementation of the Cartagena Convention, Oil Spills and LBS Protocols.	N/A	Secretariat	LBS RACs, RAN, Regional Nodes	a) Guidance on the national implementation of the CC and the LBS Protocol provided through briefs and model cabinet papers; Twinning and/or personnel exchange facilitated on request and subject to funding availability
Coordinate with key partners to support enhanced roles for Regional Nodes and Platforms for Marine Litter, Wastewater and Nutrients.	N/A	Secretariat		New projects and activities implemented by the Regional Nodes in support of the obligations of the CC and LBS Protocol and LBS COP Decisions;
Undertake periodic reviews of bilateral cooperation with partner organizations to enhance synergies and impact on the ground.	ACP MEA	Secretariat	Global MEA Secretariats, CARICOM, CCAD	a) New areas of cooperation identified with existing and/or new partners including with the Chemical Cluster of MEAs – BASEL, Stockholm, Rotterdam and Minamata Conventions; b) Synergies enhanced with sub-regional initiatives; c) MOU for SAP Coordinating Mechanism and Oceans Governance signed subject to COP Decision;
Facilitate reporting on relevant pollution targets and indicators.	PROCARIBE+	Secretariat	CPs	d) Mandate received to start work on the next State of Convention Areas Report on Marine Pollution using a more Integrated Assessment approach. At least 3 Contracting Parties supported to report on pollution relating to relevant regional and/or global reporting requirements. (SDG 6, SDG 14); e)
Facilitate cooperation with relevant projects and coordinate mechanisms relating to pollution.	PROCARIBE+	Secretariat	RACs	f) Participation in CLME+ SAP Coordinating Mechanism subject to the approval of Procaribe+; g) Participation in relevant UNEP HQ committees and working groups on marine pollution; h) Continued Participation in BASEL Plastics Partnership; i) Representation on Global Water Caribbean Technical Committee; j) Representation of the Committee overseeing the implementation of the Regional Strategic Action Plans on Waste and Water;
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	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 - ongoing

THEME B: Land and Marine-Based Sources of Pollution

Ecological Objectives:
 1. Pollution from Land and Marine-Based Sources causes 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.

<p>20223-2024 Indicators: 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: (a) National Plans of Action developed to address marine pollution, wastewater, marine litter and nutrients (b) National/Pilot Projects focusing on pollution reduction activities</p>	<p>2020-2021 Targets: 1. 10 countries with updated and/or new policy/regulatory instruments. 2. 4 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 15 national/pilot projects focusing on pollution reduction.</p>
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Main Activities	Project(s)	Lead	Partner(s)	Expected Deliverables
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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

Promote the use of relevant instruments and incentives to prevent/ reduce plastic pollution including the generation of single-use plastic bags and microplastics; abandoned, lost, discarded fishing gear (ALDFG); and marine litter from land and marine-based sources.	IWEco, ACP MEA, German Plastics , GEF LAC Cities	Secretariat	Regional Marine Litter Node, GPML, IUCN, OECS, UNEP GPA, IMO (GloLitter Project), GGGI, FAO	a) Best practices, case studies and models identified and shared with the CPs at a regional level; b) Partnership opportunities identified c) Support provided to negotiations on new Plastic Resolution d) Data uploaded into the new GPML Digital Platform
Promote reduction of municipal wastewater using nature-based solutions; and prevention of sewage sludge and stormwater-related waste from entering into the marine environment using BAT/BEP	CRew+, ACP MEA	Secretariat	IDB, CWWA, TND, UNEP GPA, IUCN, GIZ	e) Best practices identified and shared with the CPs at the regional level;
Strengthen the capacity of CPs to respond to marine pollution incidents through strengthening sub-regional and regional mechanisms and contingency plans.	N/A	RAC REMPEITC	IMO	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, seaports, oil handling facilities and offshore installations; (unfunded from previous biennium)

Main Activities	Project(s)	Lead	Partner(s)	Expected Deliverables
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)	Working group(s) established/mandated by COP 6 to work with RACs on possible Amendments to the LBS Protocol and/or its Annexes for submission to COP 7; Working group(s) established/mandated to continue work on assessing how the management of freshwater resources can be addressed within the framework of the Cartagena Convention.
Develop technical Guidelines for the classification of waters as per the LBS Protocol	CRew+	Secretariat	LBS RACs, Working Group	Finalization/Adoption of Guidelines for the classification of waters according to the LBS Protocol Contracting Parties supported to classify their recreational/receiving waters, based on request (carried over from previous biennium due to lack of funding)
Support implementation of relevant Regional Strategies and Action Plans such as the Regional Marine Litter Action Plan for Central America, Regional Solid Waste Strategy and Action Plan and the Regional Strategic Action Plan on Water including Wastewater	ACP MEA, IWEco, CRew+	Secretariat	UNEP ROLAC, CSRO, IDB, CDB, CWWA, CAWASA, CCAD, GIZ	Regional Strategies and Action Plans implemented with Secretariat support; (ongoing)
Support development, update and implementation of national pollution prevention plans including on wastewater, marine litter/plastics and nutrients	ACP MEA, CRew+	Secretariat	UNEP GPA	National Strategies and Action Plans implemented with Secretariat support (ongoing); Sustainable Financing/Business Plans for future Wastewater Investments (ongoing);
2.3 Enhancing national marine pollution prevention and control policies, legislation and regulations.				
Support development and/or update of policy, plans, legislation, regulations, environmental quality standards and discharge criteria relating to water, wastewater, solid waste, plastics, nutrients and receiving water bodies.	IWEco, CRew+, ACP MEA	Secretariat	OECS, CARPHA	National Diagnostic Analysis conducted, as needed - ongoing Regional Model Policies, Legislation, Guidelines prepared – ongoing with a focus on IRWM; National Policies, Plans, Guidelines, Legislation and/or Regulations developed and/or updated - ongoing; Feasibility study on the implementation of a Regional Port Reception Facilities Plan for the Wider Caribbean Region to reduce pollution from ships with a focus on plastics reduction – carried over from previous biennium due to lack of funding;
Enhance ratification and implementation of relevant international maritime Conventions related to the protection of the marine environment	ACP MEA	Secretariat	RAC REMPEITC	Technical support provided to CPs, on request to: a) Prepare and/or update national policy and/or legal frameworks for implementation of relevant agreements such as MARPOL and the Ballast Water Convention – ongoing; and b) Ratify and implement relevant international maritime conventions related to the protection of the marine environment - ongoing.
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	a) National and/or Community Based Projects successfully implemented - ongoing

THEME C: Monitoring and Integrated Ecosystem Assessment				
Ecological Objectives:				
<p>3. Pollution from Land and Marine-Based Sources cause no significant impact on coastal and marine ecosystems and human health;</p> <p>4. New and emerging land-based pollution-related problems are identified and tackled, as appropriate.</p>				
Strategic objectives:				
2. To control, prevent and reduce marine pollution from land and marine-based sources.				
2023-2024 Indicators:			2020-2021 Targets:	
<p>5. Number of countries with improved national capacity for recreational water quality monitoring ;</p> <p>6. Number of countries with system for classification of recreational waters for effluent discharges;</p> <p>7. Number of Training and Capacity Building Workshops</p>			<p>5. 6 countries provided with laboratory equipment to facilitate improved recreational water quality programmes;</p> <p>6. 3 countries develop systems for classification of receiving water bodies as per requirements of LBS Protocol</p> <p>7. 3 regional capacity building workshops convened relating to monitoring and assessment.</p>	
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	Strengthening of national and as appropriate regional Laboratory Capacity based on needs assessment (ongoing from previous biennium); Establishment of network of laboratories supporting Contracting Parties.;
2.2 Marine pollution assessment tools (including maps, infographics and factsheets) developed and/or updated for key pollutants				
Begin development of new State of Convention Area Report on Marine Pollution.	CREW+, ACP MEA, IWEco	Secretariat	LBS RACs, RAN, IDB, GIZ, OAS	a) Updated assessment factsheets and maps prepared with new data originating from pollution reports and strategies to inform development of new State of Marine Pollution Report;
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	IWEco, CREW+, ACP MEA	Secretariat	LBS RACs, RAN, IDB, GIZ	Technical assistance provided and capacities built to support LBS implementation - ongoing
Develop and implement national training programmes around key pollution issues.	CREW+, ACP MEA, IWLern	Secretariat	LBS RACs, RAN, GIZ, IDB, CAWASA, GWP, UNEP HQ	Intra and inter-regional training delivered in and among SIDS regions through regional partners Training on Driver Pressure State Impact and Response (DPSIR) conducted Regional Training Webinar by UNITAR relating to monitoring and assessment with a focus on nutrients and treated wastewater reuse. 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)
Strengthen collaboration with RAC REMPEIC and IMO to provide Contracting Parties with technical assistance.		RAC REMPEITC	Secretariat; IMO	Ongoing and guided by Recommendations of RAC REMPEITC Steering Ctee.

THEME D. Ecosystem Based Management Approaches				
Long-Term Impacts:				
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:	
8. 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			8. 4 countries implementing EBM pilot and community projects; 9. 2 Case Studies developed and disseminated; 10. 2 Regional Training Workshops/Webinars on EBM Convened	
Strategic objectives:				
1. To reduce anthropogenic pressures/pollution on coastal and marine areas in order to prevent and/or reduce their degradation; 2. To ensure the 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	a) Joint projects and activities designed and implemented - ongoing;
Support region-wide use of EBM approaches including tools such as MSP, ICZM	IWEco, ACP MEA,	Secretariat	CARPHA, OECS	b) 6 Case studies on EBM from GEF IWEco Projects developed and disseminated Improved engagement and information access for practitioners and other stakeholders through targeted knowledge-sharing products and networks; Greater integration of the AMEP and SPAW Work Programmes and subject to funding, additional joint LBS and SPAW meetings convened, joint LBS/SPAW projects developed, and joint capacity building workshops implemented - ongoing
Implement EBM projects in a number of Contracting Parties	ACP MEA, PROCARIBE+ (subject to approval)	Secretariat		i) Pollution Stress reduction in at least 2 project sites through appropriate sustainable water, land and ecosystems management interventions that account for climate change. ii) Enhanced livelihood opportunities and socio-economic co-benefits for targeted communities from improved ecosystem services functioning as a result of reduced pollution. iii) Partnership opportunities identified for integrated approaches to address sargassum and nutrients
Implement policy, legislative and institutional reforms for natural resource management and pollution prevention	IWEco	Secretariat	CARPHA, OECS	i) Strengthened policy and legislation for the effective management of water, land and ecosystems resources that account for climate change - ongoing ii) National Development Planning Strategies and Decision-Making Frameworks broadened to incorporate elements of EBM, MSP, ICZM, natural resources management and integrated pollution prevention and habitat restoration. - ongoing

THEME E. Knowledge Management and Communications

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

2020-2021 Targets:
 3. 10 reports, factsheets and other scientific publications;
 4. At least 6 online press releases and 15 news items;
 5. 10 events/ side events;
 6.

Main Activities	Project(s)	Lead	Partners	Expected Deliverables
Provide support to Contracting Parties to facilitate the process of national reporting on pollution indicators.	IWEco, CReW+, ACP MEA, Promar, LAC Cities	Secretariat	UNEP Regional Seas, Global Pollution MEAs, UNEP GPA, GIZ	a) Support work by regional intergovernmental bodies and UN agencies on relevant Sustainable Development Goals (SDG 6 and 14) as well as joint UN initiatives and reporting based on regional and/or global reporting obligations including pollution-related MEAs - ongoing; b)
Prepare thematic products building on the findings of the State of Convention Area Report on Marine Pollution and the Regional Nutrients Reduction Strategy	GEF LAC Cities, ACP MEA, Promar	Secretariat	LBS RACs, GIZ	Fact Sheets and Infographics on specific pollution issues prepared and disseminated - ongoing;
Support the work of CPs to identify appropriate pollution-related indicators and targets.	N/A	Secretariat	UNEP Regional Seas; UN ECLAC, CCAD, CARICOM, OECS, UNEP ROLAC	a) Finalize core set of Indicators relating to pollution guided by recent MEA COP Decisions;
Promote/Identify research and educational programmes in cooperation with academic institutions, focusing on pollution prevention.	IWEco	Secretariat	GCFI, IOC UNESCO, INVEMAR, IAEA	Support to strengthening of network of laboratories including the expansion of REMARCO to be a RAN; Joint activities with ACS to promote research, networking and dissemination of results on marine pollution, and specifically microplastics.; Increased use of citizen science to raise local awareness of marine pollution – ongoing; Active participation by the Secretariat and LBS RACs in the Research and Governance Partnerships of the GEF IWEco Project - ongoing; Support ongoing work to address antimicrobial resistance and emerging contaminants of concern

Main Activities	Project(s)	Lead	Partners	Expected Deliverables
Identify opportunities to enhance national and/or regional databases and information platforms.	IWEco, CREW+, Promar	Secretariat	RACs, GIZ	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) Enhance regional platform developed in previous biennium with new environmental data and information including linking to data bases managed under the Caribbean Biological Corridor, and the work of GEMS Ocean and GEMS Freshwater b) Reporting on the CLME+ Hub including keeping Project and Focal Points databases updated; c) Regional Solid Waste Information Platform and Data base developed d) 6 National IWRM data bases developed 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.
Support the implementation of the Communications Strategy of the CC Secretariat and projects under execution.	IWEco, CREW+, LAC Cities, Promar	Secretariat	RACs, GIZ, Adelphi	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) CEP and Project Websites updated regularly with stories relating to the LBS Protocol and Marine Pollution - ongoing; b) At least 2 Communications campaigns on pollution prevention designed and implemented - ongoing; 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 - ongoing; d) New pollution fact sheets, project briefs, PSAs and infographics developed for the AMEP Sub-Programme in English, Spanish and French - ongoing; e) Knowledge products, case studies and best practices from ongoing projects and activities involving the management of domestic wastewater, reduction of marine litter and the management of nutrients compiled and disseminated; f) .Input provided to regional and global reports and assessments relating to marine pollution on request
Facilitate the exchange of best practices, lessons learned, twinnings and experience between and among Contracting Parties	IWEco, CREW+, IWLearn	Secretariat	GIZ, RACs and RANs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) Twinning and dialogue activities in support of regional collaboration among SIDS via cooperation among all GEF focal area projects and participating countries – carried forward from previous biennium 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 – carried forward from previous biennium
Support Environmental Commemorative Days focusing on marine pollution.	ACP MEA, IWEco, CREW+, Promar,	Secretariat	UNEP Regional Office, GIZ	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) Three national celebrations supported with technical and promotional material, and participation of Secretariat, RAC and/or RANs - ongoing. b) One regional celebration supported with technical and promotional material and participation of Secretariat, RACs and/or RANs - ongoing.
Facilitate implementation of campaigns on nutrients, marine litter and wastewater	IWEco, CREW+, Promar, GEF Cities	Secretariat	Global Partnerships on Wastewater, Nutrients and Marine Litter. UNEP Communications Division; GIZ	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) At least one campaign completed per year on each of the three thematic issues of Marine Litter, Nutrients and Wastewater - ongoing
Improve Communication and Outreach with LBS and Oil Spills Focal Points	All	Secretariat	RACs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) CEP Quarterly Newsletter/E Bulletin prepared and circulated to focal points - ongoing; b) At least 3 Webinars organized per annum related to the work of the LBS and Oil Spills Protocol - ongoing;