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Third Meeting of the Contracting Parties (COP) to the
Protocol Concerning Pollution from Land-Based
Sources and Activities (LBS) in the Wider Caribbean
Region

Cayenne, French Guiana, 14 March 2017

**REPORT FROM THE SECRETARIAT ON THE STATUS OF LBS PROTOCOL
RATIFICATION OF THE NON-CONTRACTING PARTIES**

For reasons of economy and the environment, Delegates are kindly requested to bring their copies of the Working and Information documents to the Meeting, and not to request additional copies.

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1.0 Introduction

The Protocol on the Control of Pollution from Land-Based Sources and Activities (LBS Protocol) was signed in Aruba in 2009 and entered into force in 2010. As of February, 2017, there were 13 Contracting Parties to the LBS Protocol. These are: Antigua and Barbuda, Belize, The Bahamas, Costa Rica, Dominican Republic, France, Grenada, Guyana, Jamaica, Panama, Saint Lucia, Trinidad and Tobago, and USA.

The management of transboundary pollution will be significantly enhanced if all countries of the Wider Caribbean Region ratify and implement the LBS Protocol.

The 3rd Scientific, Technical Advisory Committee Meeting of the Protocol recommended (Recommendation IV) the following:

- *"The Secretariat and Contracting Parties should continue to encourage Non-Parties to ratify the LBS Protocol and for Contracting Parties to raise the profile of the LBS at both national and regional levels.*
- *The Secretariat to request Non-Contracting Parties to the LBS Protocol to provide an update of the status of LBS Protocol Ratification in their respective countries including difficulties being faced in their national ratification process. These non-contracting party countries should further identify opportunities to raise the issue of LBS Protocol ratification at high level political fora and other appropriate intergovernmental mechanisms."*

This summary paper responds to the above Recommendation and is presented as an Information paper to the Third Meeting of the Contracting Parties to the Protocol Concerning Pollution from Land-Based Sources and Activities in the Wider Caribbean Region (LBS), and the Fourteenth Meeting of the Contracting Parties to the Convention for the Protection and Development of the Marine Environment of the Wider Caribbean Region.

This analysis draws on four main sources of information:

- Assessment Report for Selected Countries regarding the LBS Protocol, 2013;
- LBS Protocol Difficulties and Challenges (Central American participating countries), 2014;
- E mail responses from non-contracting parties;
- Feedback received during bilateral country discussions.

The first two reports were prepared with support of the GEF Caribbean Regional Fund for Wastewater Management Project (CRew) project and the LBS Regional Activity Centre - RAC CIMAB.

2.0 Difficulties and Challenges for Adherence to the LBS Protocol

2.1 Legal - Non-Contracting Parties need to:

- Review/Analyze, amend and/or develop national legislation and regulations to ensure compliance with the obligations of the LBS Protocol
- Assess environmental quality of coastal areas, including assessment of non-point sources of pollution
- Improve enforcement capacity

2.2 Institutional/Policy - Non-Contracting Parties need to:

- Review, amend and/or develop new policies, strategies and plans to ensure compliance with the obligations of the LBS Protocol
- Review, amend and/or develop new institutional arrangements to ensure compliance with the obligations of the LBS Protocol
- Build consensus among multiple agencies, ministries and authorities about ratification.
- Develop/Strengthen national laboratories and regulatory agencies

2.3 Political - There exists in Non-Contracting Parties:

- Slow political process caused by: (a) Lack of political will; (b) Lack of political interest/priority
- Lack of a political champion
- Perception that meeting the obligations of the protocol will place significant demands on limited human, technical and financial resources
- Perception that the country's existing policies are not in harmony with the provisions of Annexes III and IV of the Protocol
- Lack of understanding of the country benefits from ratification

2.4 Technical/Human - Non-Contracting Parties lack:

- Baseline coastal and marine water quality data
- Capacity to implement the various obligations of the protocol given existing demands to comply with other Multilateral Environmental Agreements such as the lack of treatment facilities, timelines for developing new treatment systems, development of effluent standards and classification of receiving waters
- Laboratory and field monitoring equipment and supplies

3.0 Needs Identified by Countries

3.1 Awareness

- Sensitize and/or lobby political and high level decision-makers as well as relevant stakeholders.
- Design public awareness and environmental education programmes related to the LBS Protocol.
- Conduct sensitization meetings for the Ministers of Government relating to the LBS Protocol, stressing the benefits to be derived as well as highlighting the fact that there are no sanctions for non-compliance with the provisions of the Protocol.
- Develop and implement national campaigns aimed at increasing awareness among various target groups, including developers, public and private sector personnel, non-governmental organizations (NGOs) and civil society.
- Highlight that Protocol-related activities are already being addressed as part of the day-to-day operations of the relevant institutions
- Compile and disseminate best practices relating to pollution prevention activities in other countries in the Wider Caribbean region

3.2 Financing

- Source funding for new national and/or regional projects.
- Develop innovative financing mechanisms for pollution - building on the GEF CReW project.
- Develop proposal concepts targeting specific donors.
- Design and implement projects at the local community or municipal level.

3.3 Technical

- Identify and implement appropriate pollution reduction technologies and practices.
- Develop national water quality monitoring programmes, including providing technical expertise for the laboratories involved in analyzing water quality samples.
- Establish baseline data relating to coastal water quality and pollutant loadings.
- Design, establish and/or strengthen data and information management systems
- Classify Coastal Zones/Receiving Waters
- Conduct an inventory of land-based sources of marine pollution entering the Caribbean Sea, e.g. on domestic wastewater
- Develop Guidelines/Criteria for specific pollution standards e.g. for wastewater effluent from different types of treatment; wastewater permits etc.
- Conduct Needs Analysis in areas such as: Land-Use, Urban and Municipal Planning which will link to how coastal waters are classified.
- Assess specific pollutant impacts on human health, environment and the economy - greater use of resource valuation, cost-benefit analysis etc.

3.4 Policy/Institutional/Legal

- Review and/or draft updated or new legislation, regulations and policies (varies from country to country) to ensure compliance with the obligations of the LBS Protocol.

4.0 Capacity Building/Training Support Required

- Training Needs Assessment: Skills Audit to ensure compliance with new policies and laws
- Training in multiple areas: Financing, Water Quality Monitoring, Data and Information management, Monitoring & Evaluation (Use of Indicators), Technology Selection and Use; Enforcement; Re-use of Treated Wastewater; Sludge Management

Action: Parties are requested to note the issues raised and work with the Secretariat to overcome the barriers to ratification and implementation of the LBS Protocol.