



United Nations  
Environment Programme

Distr.  
LIMITED

UNEP(DEPI)/CAR WG.39/INF.16  
25 June 2018

Original: ENGLISH

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

Panama City, Panama, 18<sup>th</sup> to 20<sup>th</sup> July 2018

**REPORT OF THE WORK ON THE CARIBBEAN NODE FOR  
MARINE LITTER MANAGEMENT  
JAN 2017 TO DEC 2018**

*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.*



## Report of the work on the Caribbean Node for Marine Litter Management Jan 2017 to Dec 2018

Robert Glazer  
Executive Director  
Gulf and Caribbean Fisheries Institute  
bob.glazer@gcfi.org  
www.gcfi.org

The Caribbean node of the Global Partnership on Marine Litter (GPML) was launched in 2016 as one of two implemented regional nodes. The co-hosts of the node (GPML-Caribb) are UN Environment Caribbean Environment Programme located in Kingston, Jamaica, and the Gulf and Caribbean Fisheries Institute, a regional not-for-profit organization. Together, the co-hosts have begun to build the node by developing activities under the umbrella of the node related to the following activities.

### Email Distribution List

In 2017, we developed an email distribution list for interested individuals, agencies, and organizations to exchange information on issues related to marine litter in the Caribbean region. The email distribution list (GPML-Caribb@listserv.gcfi.org) is hosted on the GCFI domain and is moderated. The information that will be exchanged on the list relate to reports, meetings, breaking news, and other timely information related to marine debris in the Caribbean region.

### Factsheets

The Caribbean node is in the process of developing three factsheets for distribution to interested parties. The three factsheets are 1) Introducing the Caribbean Node, 2) Marine Litter in the Wider Caribbean region, and 3) The Presence of Microplastics in Caribbean Marine Fish. The Marine Litter factsheet is nearing completion (see draft factsheet image below) and the other two are in the early stages of development.

### Logo development

The Caribbean Node is in the process of developing a logo which will uniquely identify the GPML-Caribb in a relevant and visually-compelling way.

### 6<sup>th</sup> International IMDC support

The GCFI, in its capacity as co-host of the Caribbean Regional Node, provided support to the 6<sup>th</sup> International Marine Debris Conference (6IMDC) which

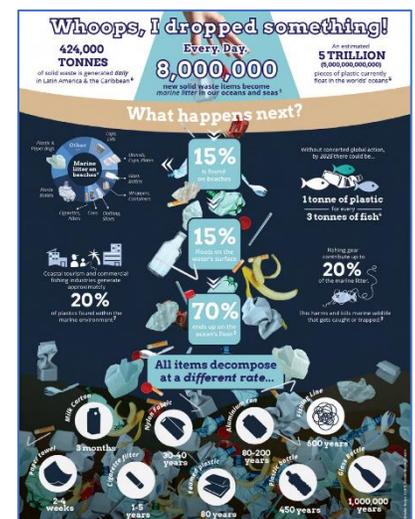


Figure 1. Draft Front Page of Marine Litter in the Caribbean factsheet

took place in March 2018 in San Diego, California, USA. The 6IMDC was coordinated by the GPML UN Environment GCFI developed the abstract submission process, the conference mobile app, and managed outside sponsorships. The GCFI continues to engage with

#### **Preparation of research gaps analysis for CLME+.**

GCFI, as part of the Project Execution Team (PEG) for the Caribbean and North Brazil Shelf Large Marine Ecosystems project (CLME+) is conducting a gap analysis of research needs that will help inform managers.

#### **Report on Marine Pollution Workshop at GCFI 2016**

In 2016, GCFI conducted a workshop in Grand Cayman that examined research priorities related to marine pollution in the Caribbean region. The report was completed in early 2017 and will be included as part of the CLME+ research gap analysis

#### **Examining the presence of microplastics in Caribbean fish**

The Caribbean node has supported the work of St. Georges University in Grenada to examine the presence of microplastics in marine fish. This project build on a pilot study conducted under previous funding from the node and will look at the human health implications of microplastics in food fish.