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

Miami, Florida, USA, 31<sup>st</sup> October to 2<sup>nd</sup> November 2016

## REPORT OF THE MEETING



*Promoting regional co-operation for the protection and development of the marine environment of the Wider Caribbean Region*



## ACRONYMS

AMEP.....	Assessment and Management of Environmental Pollution
CAR/RCU.....	Caribbean Regional Coordinating Unit
CARPHA.....	Caribbean Public Health Agency
Cartagena Convention.....	Convention for the Protection and Development of the Marine Environment of the Wider Caribbean Region
CDB.....	Caribbean Development Bank
CEP.....	Caribbean Environment Programme
CIMAB.....	Centro de Ingeniería y Manejo Ambiental de Bahías y Costas
CIMH.....	Caribbean Institute for Meteorology and Hydrology
CLME.....	Caribbean Large Marine Ecosystem Project
CLME+.....	Catalysing Implementation of Strategic Action Programme for the Sustainable Management of shared Living Marine Resources in the Caribbean and North Brazil Shelf Large Marine Ecosystems
COP.....	Contracting Parties
CETA.....	Communication, Education, Training and Awareness
CRew .....	Caribbean Regional Fund for Wastewater Management
CRew+ .....	Upscaling and enhancing the Caribbean Regional Fund for Wastewater Management through an integrated approach of applying technical solutions with innovative financing mechanisms
GEF.....	Global Environment Facility
GPA.....	Global Programme of Action for the Protection of the Marine Environment from Land-Based Activities
GPO.....	Global Partnership for Oceans
IDB.....	Inter-American Development Bank
IGM.....	Intergovernmental Meeting
IMA.....	Institute of Marine Affairs
LBS.....	Land-Based Sources and Activities
MoU.....	Memorandum of Understanding
NGO.....	Non-Governmental Organization
NOAA.....	National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
NPA.....	National Programme of Action
PIF.....	Project Identification Form
PPG.....	Project Preparation Grant
PMU.....	Project Management Unit
PSAs.....	Public Service Announcements

RACs.....	Regional Activity Centres
RAN.....	Regional Activity Network
REMPEITC.....	Regional Marine Pollution Emergency, Information and Training Centre
SAP.....	Strategic Action Plan
SIDS.....	Small Island Developing States
SOCAR.....	State of the Convention Area Report
SSFA.....	Small Scale Funding Agreement
STAC.....	Scientific and Technical Advisory Committee
SPAW.....	Specially Protected Areas and Wildlife
UNEP.....	United Nations Environment
US EPA.....	United States Environmental Protection Agency
WCR.....	Wider Caribbean Region

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## Introduction

1. Following the entry into force of the LBS Protocol in August 2010, Article XIV of the LBS Protocol established the LBS STAC. Under Article XIII.2.c, the Secretariat of the Cartagena Convention is responsible for providing such assistance that the STAC may require to carry out its functions, as referred to in Article XIV.
2. In accordance with the Workplan and Budget for 2015-2016, endorsed by the Sixteenth Intergovernmental Meeting (IGM) and intersessionally, the Third LBS STAC Meeting was held from 31<sup>st</sup> October to 2<sup>nd</sup> November 2016 in Miami, Florida, USA.
3. The objectives of the Third LBS STAC Meeting were to:
  - Evaluate the projects and activities implemented by the Secretariat and the LBS Regional Activity Centres (RACs) within the Assessment and Management of Environmental Pollution (AMEP) sub-programme during the period 2015-2016;
  - Review the progress made in the implementation of the Recommendations of the Second LBS STAC Meeting, Decisions of the Second Conference of Parties to the LBS Protocol and relevant Decisions of the Sixteenth Intergovernmental Meeting and Thirteenth Meeting of the Contracting Parties to the Cartagena Convention;
  - Review the status of ratification and/or implementation of the LBS Protocol in member countries;
  - Review and provide technical input to the Draft AMEP Work plan and Budget for the 2017-2018 Biennium for subsequent submission to, and approval by, the 3<sup>rd</sup> Conference of Parties to the LBS Protocol in the first quarter of 2017; and
  - Provide recommendations concerning the implementation of the LBS Protocol for consideration by the 3<sup>rd</sup> Conference of Parties to the LBS Protocol in the first quarter of 2017.
4. The experts invited to the Meeting were nominated by the National Focal Points of the Cartagena Convention. Additionally, representatives of international, regional, intergovernmental, and non-governmental organizations and regional project representatives were invited to attend the Meeting as Observers.

## Agenda item 1: Opening of the Meeting

5. The meeting started on Monday, 31<sup>st</sup> October 2016 at 9:08 am. Seated at the head table for the opening of the meeting were Ms. Lorna Inniss, Coordinator of the CEP, Mr. Christopher Corbin, Programme Officer responsible for the Assessment and Management of Environmental Pollution (AMEP) sub-programme of the Caribbean Environment Programme (CEP) and Mr. Martin Okun, Administrative and Fund Management Officer..
6. Mr. Corbin chaired the opening ceremony. He welcomed participants to the 3<sup>rd</sup> LBS STAC Meeting and then invited Ms. Lorna Inniss to deliver opening remarks.
7. Ms. Inniss welcomed all present and thanked the Government of the US (namely the Department of State, EPA, NOAA) for hosting the meeting. She acknowledged the financial support from the GEF-funded UNDP CLME+ project thus making it possible for the possibility of having a joint LBS/SPAW STAC meeting for the first time. She indicated that the objective of having a joint meeting was to facilitate the development of a road map for greater collaboration between the two subprogrammes (AMEP and SPAW) and to jointly support the achievement of the sustainable development goals (SDGs).
8. She also expressed gratitude for the partnership with the Inter-American Development Bank (IDB) through the GEF-funded CReW Project and pointed out that CReW supported many activities in relation to the ratification and implementation of the LBS Protocol.

9. Ms. Inniss indicated that Jamaica is the newest member to ratify the LBS Protocol having ratified in 2015. This brings the number of Contracting Parties to the LBS Protocol to twelve.
10. She expressed appreciation of the ongoing efforts by LBS Focal Points to promote ratification of the LBS Protocol and pointed out that Contracting Parties benefit from greater financial and technical assistance.
11. Ms Inniss also highlighted the staff challenges being experienced by the Secretariat and thanked Mr. Christopher Corbin, AMEP Programme Officer, for managing the work of the AMEP subprogramme with limited staff. She commended him for the excellent work done during the biennium and indicated that the subprogramme would be back to full capacity shortly. In an effort to overcome the financial challenges, she urged the member states to contribute to the work of the Secretariat.
12. She acknowledged the work of Mr. Nelson Andrade Colmenares, previous Coordinator of the CEP and expressed gratitude for all his work in establishing a very strong CEP.
13. She then apologized on the behalf of the CEP to those who have been directly affected by UNEP's new management system UMOJA and apologised for the payment delays and indicated that many initial problems have been resolved and processes should be easier moving forward. She introduced Mr. Martin Okun, the new Administrative and Fund Management Officer who had been able to solve some of the UMOJA-related issues.
14. Ms. Inniss thanked the many partners of the CEP, namely the IDB, CWWA, CAWASA, World Bank, GWP-C, Water Center among others for their support.
15. She indicated that information on the GEF IWEco Project will be shared later in the meeting and pointed out that within the framework of the UN Environment (UNEP), the Caribbean is breaking new ground in establishing Caribbean Nodes and Platforms for Nutrients, Wastewater and Marine Litter which will help to deliver high quality outputs. She also mentioned the Trash Free Partnership, lead by the US EPA and Peace Corps with Jamaica and Panama as pilot countries.
16. She then pointed out that in addition to the ongoing development of the State of the Convention Area Report on pollution, a State of the Habitat Report under the SPAW Protocol will also be developed with the support of the UNDP/GEF CLME+ Project. These reports will be part of a larger State of Marine Ecosystem (SOME) Report and directly contribute to Sustainable Development Goals 14 and 16.
17. Ms. Inniss stated that the new Executive Director of the UN Environment immediately challenged staff/officers to communicate with partners and the general public in simpler terms. She mentioned that a closer relationship has already been established with UNEP ROLAC through the Sub-Regional Office which is based in Kingston, Jamaica. She recognized and congratulated Mr. Vincent Sweeney as the new head. Ms. Inniss also acknowledged the role of the Regional Activity Centres (RACs) and Regional Activity Network (RAN) and expressed hope that host agreements would be finalized soon. She concluded by again thanking all delegates for their continued support.
18. The US Head of Delegation, Ms. Rona Rathod, welcomed everyone to the meeting on the behalf of the Government of the USA. She recognized the work of her colleagues from the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) and the Secretariat for making the meeting possible.
19. She indicated that protecting the environment was important to President Obama and added that ocean conservation was elevated to the forefront of the diplomatic agenda by the Secretary of State, John Kerry.
20. Ms. Rathod concluded by stating that it was good to be a part of the Wider Caribbean Region (WCR) as the Cartagena Convention has been a vanguard of the region.

## **Agenda item 2: Election of Officers**

21. Ms. Inniss, Coordinator of the CEP, indicated that proposals of nominations for Bureau members were received by the Secretariat. The Meeting had no objections to the proposed nominations and the Bureau was approved by the Meeting by acclamation.

- Chairperson: Rona Rathod (U.S.A)
- Vice Chairperson: Linroy Christian (Antigua & Barbuda)
- Rapporteur: John Bowleg (Bahamas)

## **Agenda item 3: Organization of the Meeting**

22. The procedures for the conduct of the meeting were outlined.

### **(a) Rules of procedure**

23. The Rules of Procedure of the Meetings of the Convention for the Protection and Development of the Marine Environment of the Wider Caribbean Region (Cartagena Convention) were applied.

24. Eleven of the twelve Parties were present, only Panama was absent which confirmed a quorum for the meeting.

### **(b) Organization of the work**

25. English, French and Spanish were the working languages of the Meeting. Simultaneous interpretation was provided in English, French and Spanish for the Meeting. The Working Documents of the Meeting were available in all the working languages.

26. The Meeting was convened in plenary sessions.

## **Agenda item 4: Adoption of the Agenda**

27. The Chairperson introduced the Agenda (document UNEP(DEPI)/CAR WG.37/1) and requested proposals for approval from the Meeting.

28. The delegate from France, Ms. Maud Casier thanked the Secretariat and proposed the inclusion of a presentation on plastics.

29. The Agenda of the Meeting was then adopted with the inclusion of the presentation on plastics as requested by France.

## **Agenda item 5: Review of AMEP Programme Activities for the period 2015-2016**

### **(a) Review of Status of Ratification and Accession to the LBS Protocol**

30. An update on the status of the ratification of the LBS Protocol as provided in the report from Colombia. Colombia is the depository nation for the Cartagena Convention. To date, twelve (12) countries have ratified or acceded to the LBS Protocol with the Government of Jamaica being the most recent country to accede to the LBS Protocol

which entered into force in December 2015 for them.

31. Mr. Corbin informed the meeting that one of the objectives of the AMEP subprogramme was to promote ratification of the LBS Protocol. He then invited any Non-Contracting Parties to comment on the ratification process in their respective countries.
32. The Delegate of Colombia indicated that Colombia will continue with the LBS process; everything was being doing by the government to ratify the Protocol.

**(b) Review of Activities**

33. The AMEP Programme Officer, Christopher Corbin, presented the outputs of the AMEP Sub-programme during the 2015-2016 reporting period, as contained in document UNEP(DEPI)/CAR WG.37/INF.3.
34. Mr. Corbin then provided a comprehensive account of the implementation of AMEP sub-programme including a list of key recommendations. He summarized the objectives of the sub-programme, personnel changes and the funds raised during the biennium for selected projects. Some of the key achievements for the Programme were also highlighted. He then provided details on work carried out for all of the key thematic areas for the sub-programme including work on GEF Projects; Monitoring & Assessment (Article III); Wastewater Management (Annex III); Waste/Litter Management (Annex 1); Watershed Management (Annex IV); and National Programmes of Action (Multiple).
35. Mr. Corbin then invited Dr. Darryl Banjoo, representative of the RAC IMA who was also representing the Government of Trinidad and Tobago to present on the work of RAC IMA in support of the subprogramme. He presented on the activities of the Institute of Marine Affairs (IMA) as a regional activity centre in support of the LBS Protocol. The work done during the period was as follows: 1) support to the State of the Area Convention Report (SOCAR); 2) national Project conducted to provide information on the State of the Environment; 3) attendance at meetings/national consultations concerning the assessment and management of pollution; and 4) production of a National State of Environment Report in Trinidad and Tobago.
36. He highlighted the support given to SOCAR through participation in the regional workshop of technical experts for SOCAR from 15th to 17th August 2016 in Kingston, Jamaica. RAC IMA also participated in teleconferences conducted in 2015-2016 period as well as providing technical input and responses to questionnaires on laboratory capacity, water classification systems and standards of water quality measurements. Reviews were done and feedback provided on the standards methods for measuring the SOCAR Parameters. National Projects conducted and funded by the Government of the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago that would provide data to the SOCAR report included: 1) Environmental Monitoring and Assessment of Hot Spot Areas in Trinidad (USD 10,000. per year.); 2) Bacteriological water quality at popular recreational water-use areas in Trinidad (USD 20,000 per year); 3) Monitoring of coral reef and seagrass beds in Trinidad and Tobago (CARICOMP) (USD 27,000. per year); and 4) hydro-biogeochemical approach to the estimation of pollutant discharge from the Caroni River Basin (USD 40,000. per year.) The environmental monitoring and assessment of Hot Spot Areas in Trinidad was a requirement of LBS protocol and it was implemented in Trinidad and Tobago in 2007 and was ongoing. It provided information on the status of the marine environment that highlights concerns from land based sources of pollution. Water quality parameters monitored included physical (temperature, pH, salinity, turbidity) nutrients (ammonia, nitrites, nitrates, reactive and total phosphates), chlorophyll a, chemical oxygen demand (COD), dissolved and dispersed petroleum hydrocarbons.
37. IMA also conducted a chemical contaminant monitoring project using sentinel organisms such as Oysters to detect hydrocarbon pollution. IMA has been designated the alternate focal point for UNDP/GEF CLME+ project and is the national focal point for the Caribbean Marine Atlas (CMA2 project) regional initiatives. IMA is chairing a Steering Committee with responsibility to develop an Integrated Coastal Zone Management Policy Framework, Strategies and Action Plan for Trinidad and Tobago. The draft policy incorporates recommendations from the Trinidad and Tobago NPA. IMA is part of an initiative headed by the Environment Management Authority to address pollution in the Gulf of Paria, Trinidad. IMA made a presentation entitled "State of the Gulf of Paria,

Trinidad and Tobago” on 7th September 2016 that linked pollution and need for greater regulatory control. IMA produced a State of the Marine Environment Report 2016 for Trinidad and Tobago which highlights impacts from land-based sources of pollution and provides recommendation for addressing impacts. The document went to Cabinet for approval.

38. IMA conducted a training workshop in the investigation of Oil Spills/Fish kills. Multi-stakeholder participants were trained in sampling and on the investigative process. It stressed the importance of monitoring projects and the link to human health and the challenges faced when considering the sensitivity of the issue.
39. Mr. Corbin then presented on the behalf of the Director of RAC Cimab who was unable to participate due to visa issues. He presented the specific contributions of RAC CIMAB to the projects and activities of the 2015-2016 biennium. He highlighted in particular the support provided under the GEF CReW Project to Guatemala, Honduras, Costa Rica and Panama, as well as their contributions to the discussions of the Monitoring and Assessment Working Group. Other technical support provided to the Secretariat by RAC CIMAB was identified as well as an assessment of the total level of co-financing provided.
40. Mr. Corbin continued by acknowledging the support received from several persons and agencies including National, LBS, GEF & Project Focal Points; Chair and Members of the Monitoring & Assessment Working Group; Directors and Staff of Regional Activity Centres; UNEP Ecosystem Branch including the GPA, Regional Agency Partners; GEF Project co-implementing and executing agencies, CReW and CLME+ Project Coordinating Units; UNEP Caribbean Sub-Regional Office and Social Media Followers & Journalists.
41. He then outlined some of the ongoing challenges such as UMOJA: travel, procurement, contracts, limited human resources at the secretariat, changes in governments and Focal Points, increased demands from UN Environment HQ, need for greater awareness raising and outreach, lack of funding from the CTF (Contributions), constraints of GEF funding and national absorptive capacity for projects.
42. In conclusion, he mentioned some of the emerging pollution related issues that the STAC may wish to consider in their discussions including: banning of plastic bags and Styrofoam, waste to energy, microplastics, plastics strategy for SIDS (ROLAC), emerging contaminants of concern, classification of waters under the LBS Protocol, ocean acidification, Sargassum influx and nutrients, LBS Protocol and nutrient discharge criteria, criteria for wastewater/sludge reuse, collaboration with IMO for MARPOL Annex V, and air pollution.
43. Mr. Corbin outlined how the AMEP and SPAW Programmes were proposing to work more closely together to respond to these challenges and ended his presentation with a list of possible recommendations that the Meeting may wish to consider putting forward to the Conference of Parties for the LBS Protocol.
44. Ms. Rathod thanked Mr. Corbin and Mr. Banjoo for their presentations and indicated that Trinidad and Tobago is on a positive path for handling the problems of marine pollutions and setting a good example for the Caribbean. She then thanked Mr. Corbin for highlighting the work done as well as the challenges, for the reminder to fulfil the objectives of the Sustainable Development Goals and the recommendations for future work and collaboration between the LBS and SPAW Protocols. She then opened the floor for comments and questions.
45. The Delegate of Antigua and Barbuda commented on Mr. Corbin’s presentation and made reference to synergies on emerging contaminants citing SAICAM. He indicated that the classification of waters discussed in the Working Group – addressed by Antigua not in Class I or II as per the Protocol but according to the use of water. He mentioned that Sargassum contained heavy metals and further work was required to monitor heavy metal contamination.
46. The Delegate of France thanked the Secretariat for the work over the past 2 years and acknowledged the proposed recommendations particularly in regard to plastics. In response to the issue of solid waste, she suggested that the sources of waste in the countries should be looked at.
47. The Delegate of the USA (EPA) thanked the Secretariat for its work and great work being done despite the challenges mentioned earlier by Mr. Corbin. She also thanked Secretariat for assistance with the work they were involved in and indicated that in terms of increasing ratification, the US would work with the Department of State

to elevate the issue. She also indicated that it would be helpful to have National Focal Points provide information on the challenges being faced in ratifying the LBS Protocol, and what might be helpful to raise visibility in high-level meetings. She informed the meeting that based on a Working Group discussion, they will try to look at political sensitivity regarding the classification of waters and that the Working Group can help countries to classify waters into Class I and II.

48. Several delegations endorsed the need to improve solid waste management as identified by the French delegate.
49. The Delegates of the Dominican Republic informed that as a small country they have had great difficulty with plastics and wanted to know how they could participate based on the programmes being established since they have no ships, equipment nor methodology to work in this regard. They also stated that as it related to the protection of biodiversity, improved synergies between the SPAW and LBS Protocols would be important in responding to new and emerging issues. The negative impact of pollution on coastal and marine biodiversity was one example where such synergy would be necessary.
50. The Delegate of the USA indicated that there would be discussions on efforts to address marine litter (plastics) and was pleased that the subject was brought up as it was not always clear the number of countries that wanted to address the issue. She stated that it would help to inform the recommendations of this LBS STAC Meeting.
51. Taking note of the Sustainable Development Goals, the Delegate of Antigua and Barbuda informed that as of 1<sup>st</sup> July 2016 there was a ban on plastic bags and solicited support from the Secretariat for the protection of watersheds as all areas were intrinsically linked. They were also working towards a Styrofoam ban and overall improvements in national solid waste management.
52. On the matter of waste characterization, the Delegate of Trinidad and Tobago pointed out that mercury pollution was a possible emerging concern and countries had limited capacity to monitor for mercury levels. He added that mercury was present in fluorescent light bulbs so public awareness efforts were important and countries needed to treat it as a hazardous waste so it can be properly disposed of.
53. The Delegate of Saint Lucia thanked the Secretariat for the meeting invitation and the US for facilitating the meeting. He also thanked the Secretariat for the interesting presentation and recognised the work of the RAC IMA. He mentioned that the strengthening of collaboration between the two Protocols was very encouraging and welcomed the opportunity to have two country representatives to be part of the discussions. As it related to SOCAR, he wished that it could be done at country level for the region as this would also effectively link pollution and biodiversity related activities and programmes.
54. The Delegate of Aruba congratulated Mr. Corbin for his extensive presentation. He informed the meeting that marine litter is a severe issue in his country as the island's main economic activity was tourism. He indicated that a plastic bag ban was implemented on February 1, 2013 and that other plastics were also considered a big issue for marine life. He mentioned recent reef clean up exercises that resulted in the removal of large quantities of plastic from the ocean. He added that the oil refinery was to reopen and that there would be an innovative approach involving the use of algae culture to reduce gas emissions. He also mentioned that they were very interested in any recommendations for management of Sargassum while recognizing that there was limited scope in agriculture as this sector was quite limited. He also expressed concern with the potential contaminants reported in Sargassum.
55. The Chair expressed her gratitude for the endeavour to handle plastic bags and that she was looking forward to the handling of emissions from oil refinery.
56. The Delegate of Grenada mentioned that his country was into animal husbandry and waste from pig farms were being disposed into the marine environment however they were collaborating with farmers to do a biogas project to collect the gas and use for cooking to prevent disposal in the marine environment. He added that buffer zones would be included to trap sediments and contaminants.

57. The Delegate of Jamaica endorsed the sentiments of the other countries and informed that Jamaica had regulations in place for air quality and standards, and a reporting and monitoring regime. She added that there was a motion in parliament for a plastic bag and styrofoam ban. As it related to emerging contaminants, she indicated her concern about the possible heavy metal contamination of Sargassum which she had not been aware of before. .
58. The Delegate of the USA mentioned that endocrine disruptors cannot be over-emphasised; they move from inshore to offshore and impact reproduction, and hence close attention should be paid to them. He also mentioned the Sargassum problem and the need for long-term management responses. He pointed out that the Sargassum growth came in from Central America. He recognised the interest in creating biofuels or other sources and emphasised that the Caribbean needed to have strategies in place to prevent the Sargassum from coming to shore and how to stop it from being a problem.
59. The Delegate of France mentioned that she would be doing a presentation on plastic bags and how to reduce its use. She mentioned that she would like all the Parties to join the Plastic Bag Coalition.
60. The representative of the Caribbean Regional Fisheries Mechanism (CRFM) thanked Mr. Corbin and Mr. Banjoo for very informative presentations and congratulated them on the impressive work being done. He commended the achievements and ongoing work amid the challenges of resources. He also commended the work done in improving coordination and cooperation in building partnerships. He mentioned that there was common interest in processes in fisheries and parallel work regarding Sargassum and that there was room for closer cooperation and integration – habitat, biodiversity and pollution. He was concerned about the impact of the endocrine disruptors in the environment and hoped that going forward progress could be made in addressing the issue and gain better understanding.
61. The Delegate of the Caribbean Netherlands thanked the US for hosting the meeting and congratulated the Secretariat for the meeting logistics. He indicated that the LBS Protocol was not yet ratified by the Kingdom of the Netherlands and that one of challenges was the splitting of the environment and nature conservation ministries. He applauded the Secretariat for all the work done and the attention being given to endocrine disruptors and pharmaceutical derivatives as they were affecting the coral reefs; Oxybenzone from sunscreen used on the beach, for example, gets into the water and affects coral reefs.
62. The Delegates of Guyana commended the US and the Secretariat for the opportunity to be present at the meeting and informed the meeting that Guyana implemented a three-fold polystyrene ban in General Assembly in 2015 – the approach was via limited importation and sale, and reduction in use of polystyrene by retailers.
63. They also commented on GEF CReW Lessons Learnt and indicated that efforts were being made to assist with reviewing Guyana's regulations under the CReW project as their overall wastewater treatment regulations were lacking but it was not possible within the timeline. She hoped that this component can be incorporated in GEF CREW+, the proposed follow up project to CReW.
64. The representative from CARPHA congratulated the LBS team for its accomplishments and commented on the presentation by the IMA. She indicated that the link between the environment and health is very important to CARPHA and was happy to see the work that Trinidad and Tobago had been doing and looked forward to seeing the direction that this effort would take.
65. She added that CARPHA was already working with a number of partners, e.g. CIMH in Barbados. She also stated that CARPHA will be having a regional conference on research and health; the theme will be Environment Health and Climate Change and could be used to highlight issues such as health impacts of hormones and endocrine disruptors. She added that this can only be a priority if Member States make it a priority and hoped that the conference will provide them the opportunity to explore this further and build national and regional capacity to monitor the presence and impacts of these emerging contaminants of concern.
66. She commented on the issue of agricultural pollution in Grenada and pointed out that there were pilot projects under the German funded CATS project across various sectors of the region and that information is available on

their website. She concluded with the hope that there could be more synergy between the IWECO and CATS projects. The CATS project will experiment with climate adaptation and reduced need for agricultural chemicals. She concluded by stating that experiences from non-participating countries could be shared so that all could benefit.

67. The representative of the Association of Caribbean States (ACS) congratulated Mr. Corbin and Mr. Banjoo on the work done. As it related to the LBS Protocol, he indicated that the Protocol had political benefits that needed to be explored to encourage countries to ratify; and they could provide support in this area. He added that science and communication with ACS and UN Environment should also be explored further.
68. Mr. Corbin thanked everyone for the positive feedback and encouragement and cited the work of the Secretariat as a team effort. He indicated that the technical input being provided and the impact being made was not only from LBS Focal Points but also biodiversity experts. He also thanked ACS for the support offered.
69. In response to the question from the Delegate of the Dominican Republic regarding plastics, Mr. Corbin responded that the issue is a big one especially for Small Island Developing States (SIDS) and that work was also being done through the UN Environment's Regional Office for Latin American and the Caribbean in Panama. He added that support was being offered for developing and/or strengthening national solid waste policies, strategies and promote sharing of best practices. In addition, there was a global partnership on waste management coordinated through a UN Environment specialized agency in Osaka, Japan. The hope was to be able to provide support to all countries of Wider Caribbean Region and not just Contracting Parties.
70. Regarding the comment from the Delegate of Guyana on CREW, Mr. Corbin said it showed the importance of having legislation in place to drive change. He added that activities to address policy, institutional, legislative and regulatory support were included in the CReW+ proposal.
71. Mr. Corbin, in response to CARPHA's intervention on linkages with human health, commented that there had been enhanced interaction with PAHO through various AMEP Projects and activities including the GEF CReW project and on topics such as development of recreational water standards. He noted that regional media practitioners had suggested that the best way to deliver awareness on water pollution issues was to link it to human health and development issues such as fisheries, tourism and the economy.

### **(c) Trash Free Waters Programme**

72. Mr. Corbin invited Ms. Stephanie Adrian, Delegate of the USA, to do a presentation on the Trash Free Waters International Program.
73. Ms Stephanie Adrian commenced her presentation by giving an overview of Trash Free Waters, a US EPA programme to prevent and reduce land-based trash from entering U.S. waterways. The initiative uses a stakeholder-based driven approach and meetings and workshops were used to prioritize community waste management actions.
74. She also added that this was aimed at expanding the Trash Free Partnership with Collaboration from the EPA, UN Environment and Peace Corps with a focus on solid waste and marine litter aimed at unifying efforts and stakeholders to improve solid waste management in the Caribbean. The approach was to work with countries under LBS to identify how this approach might gain traction. The decision was made to work in Jamaica and Panama as pilot countries as both countries had made efforts to address marine litter to raise visibility, both countries had UN Environment offices and included Peace Corps so that volunteers can work in their communities (mostly rural) on solid waste management. Both countries were also Contracting Parties to the LBS Protocol.
75. She informed that the official launch in Jamaica was in August 2016 and Panama's will take place in early 2017 along with stakeholder workshops in both countries. The idea was that people who were working directly on this issue came together to talk about gaps, things going right and wrong, identify pilot projects to help address gaps. The idea was not to look at things like landfills, large infrastructure that needed lots of resources, but at low

hanging fruit that can benefit from trash-free waters interventions at local community levels..

76. Ms. Adrian pointed out that there was the issue of lack of coordination of efforts across region and missed opportunities to enhance work going on. She added that Trash-free Waters was meant to help unify marine litter efforts that were taking place in cooperation with Peace Corps on the ground efforts.
77. She concluded by stating that trash is a pervasive problem in the Wider Caribbean with multiple effects on health, tourism, economy and coastal ecology and that the use of this forum (LBS STAC) was a way to raise visibility of these efforts and deliver a consistent message about solid waste and marine litter.
78. Mr. Corbin thanked Ms. Adrian for her presentation and added that he was looking forward to partnership and expanding the project to other countries outside of Panama and Jamaica.

#### **(d) Plastic Bag Coalition**

79. The Delegate from France, Ms. Maud Casier, was invited to make a presentation on plastics and microplastics. She informed that France has taken measures to reduce the use of plastic bags (for fruit and vegetables) as they created environmental and economical problems.
80. She indicated that a solution was planned at the national level for the plastic bag problem and an important law was adopted in August 2015 which stopped the distribution of single-use plastic bags. The ban on single-use plastic became effective on January 1, 2016 and the first step was to go to reusable plastic bags or paper bags; plastic bags for fruits and vegetables would be banned. The French decree created specifications for plastic bags (including thickness requirements for reusable and single-use bags). There was also a ban on disposable dishes except for knives and forks because studies have shown it was difficult to find substitutes for plastic utensils.
81. She also informed the meeting that the law on Biodiversity bans microbeads in cosmetic products and a restriction on the marketing of Q-tips will be adopted in 2018.
82. She concluded by stating that the French recently proposed an International Coalition to reduce plastic bag pollution and to promote the reduction of single-use plastic bags. She indicated that she was willing to meet with country delegates that were interested in joining the coalition. She encouraged all to participate in promoting the coalition which will be launched at the upcoming COP22 in Marrakech, Morocco. She also urged persons to make themselves known to the Office of the Minister, Ségolène Royal, President of the COP21.
83. Following the presentations on the trash free waters programme and plastic bag coalition questions/comments were invited.
84. The Delegate of the USA inquired if the Trash Free Waters Program will reach out to indigenous Indian communities in Panama that had issues with solid waste management. Ms. Adrian indicated that no decision has been taken about where the pilot programmes will be but informed that the stakeholders will drive the process (e.g. Peace Corps). The US Department of State seconded the idea of expanding the programme globally.
85. She also highlighted the issue with the Peace Corps as volunteers since there were not a lot of environmental volunteers and outreach projects are therefore the best medium to disseminate information and build awareness. She expressed hope that UN Environment could be a repository for tools in the region for anyone else interested in similar projects.
86. The Secretariat endorsed Ms. Adrian's response and hoped to make any tools developed available on a regional and even global scale.
87. The Delegate of the Dominican Republic mentioned that there were opportunities to work with the Peace Corps especially for plastics. Given economic conditions in many countries, it was felt that measures should be promoted to discourage the continued use of plastic bags and develop and implement policies in this regard

(alternative ways to replace plastic). There is a need to enhance linkages between the state and businesses to effect that change.

88. Ms. Adrian agreed and added that the primary goal is to raise awareness about how to manage solid waste in a way that benefit countries; whether by banning plastics, implementing fees, or recycling. She further added that the meeting with the Working Group will make a similar recommendation to give this initiative the necessary visibility. She hoped that the Trash Free Initiative will encourage countries to see economic value in adjusting certain practices and encourage alternatives for disposal, e.g. recycling.
89. With regard to the Plastic Bag Coalition, Mr. Vincent Sweeney asked if working with the UN Environment Global Programme of Action (GPA) and its Global Partnership for Marine Litter was considered. Ms. Maud Casier responded yes and that the invitation to join the coalition was sent to UN Environment and other international organizations. She highlighted that the objective of the coalition was to increase the cooperation of international and regional partners on the matter.
90. Ms. Lorna Inniss wondered about the concrete actions of the coalition and asked if it was it just a network among Member States or if it foresaw that there will be further roles of the Secretariat. Ms. Casier responded that initially the coalition would be a network for sharing ideas and to improve coordination of ongoing and planned activities. However, in the longer term, it is hoped that there can be more concrete actions.
91. Mr. Corbin added that the recently established Caribbean Node for Marine Litter would be relevant here and the Secretariat could join the Coalition. Ms. Casier responded that any entity can join if they wished to and that information would be sent to relevant Government Ministers/entities on the process for joining the Coalition.

**(e) Report from the Chair of the Monitoring and Assessment Working Group on SOCAR**

92. The Delegate from the US, Ms. Stephanie Adrian, Chairperson of the Monitoring and Assessment Group presented on the State of the Convention Area Report (SOCAR). She indicated that the Working Group had been able to further define parameters of water quality for SOCAR and was looking at the process of hiring a consultant.
93. She added that the work being done for SOCAR plays into what the CLME+ and IWEco will be doing. A data sub-group was formed to specifically address data issues; assess methodology for data and information collection as there were data/information gaps in monitoring data and data quality. Parameters were established for water quality – “good-fair-poor” (i.e., green, yellow, red) for different parts of the waters to indicate where there may be problems, developing problems, or good water quality.
94. An update on key areas of focus was given on Class I and II Waters. It was reported that Working Group has over the past couple of years learnt how to delineate Class I and II waters; most of the coastal waters would be considered Class I, but the Working Group will be exploring the identification of Class II waters during the development of SOCAR.
95. Ms. Adrian encouraged participation by the countries that were not yet members and indicated that they should inform the Secretariat of their interest. She informed the meeting that Mr. Linroy Christian of Antigua and Barbuda was the Chair of the Sub-group on data and reminded countries to submit their raw data by November 15, 2016. She also assured the countries that raw data will not be presented in report, only an analysis using good-fair-poor range would be done.
96. Linkages to complimentary efforts were being sought, for example, regional efforts to global, regional seas indicators, world ocean assessment and ongoing projects were directly supporting this effort. What was to be developed for SOCAR would help with other efforts, including State of Marine Environment effort that CLME+ was working on. She added that the joint SPAW and LBS meeting together was a testament to how the Secretariat had been able to identify complementary efforts that go both ways to help both SPAW and LBS Protocols.

97. The Chair thanked Ms. Adrian for the presentation and opened the floor for questions or comments.
98. The Delegate of France thanked the US and the Secretariat for the work done to promote SOCAR and indicated that the work done so far seemed excellent. She indicated that she could not participate in the meeting held in Kingston due to short timelines and underscored the willingness of the Government of France to support the development of SOCAR and would contribute in the discussions.
99. She also added that they did not have enough time to review the document in French thoroughly and consult with the relevant experts. It is expected that comments will be provided by e-mail before the meeting of the LBS COP after having consulted with their experts and the relevant units.
100. She mentioned that what France intended to provide for the development of the SOCAR were the monitoring data carried out under the European regulation, the framework directive on water. She reported that France had not yet developed a grid/criteria/threshold for the Caribbean region but work was in progress. Therefore as long as the grids and thresholds that will be used in France in the implementation of the European regulation were not known, France cannot make any commitment under the Cartagena Convention.
101. With reference to the schedule presented in Annex 4 of the document, Ms. Casier stated that it was a bit ambitious and left little time for reflection and validation of the data. The indicators cannot be validated by November 15, 2016 because more time was needed to conduct broad consultation on this subject.
102. Ms. Casier suggested that the work could be validated in two steps: capitalize on what was already known and then move on to an assessment phase of the status of our waters (with indicators, thresholds or trends). She also asked some questions regarding the priorities from the SOCAR Workshop held in August 2016, parameters defined for the Caribbean region, socio-economic data transmissions and assessment thresholds.
103. She noted that the workplan in Annex 4 did not allow for validation by the focal points once the data was sent and believed that it was important to include a pre-validation and a review of the selection of the thresholds and the assessment of the indicators. She concluded by expressing her appreciation for the work that has been done and for the outstanding quality of the reports.
104. Ms. Adrian stated that time will be needed to address/cover some of issues presented by France via consultation and further review of the comments. She further stated that more information from focal points will enhance the ability to complete the report and acknowledged that the first SOCAR would not be easy or complete but assessing all available data would show the gaps and how future SOCARs could be enhanced.
105. Mr. Corbin thanked the French delegation for the comments and recommendations regarding the work of the Working Group and indicated that the concerns about the EU framework were well-taken. He agreed that the timeline was ambitious but that the Secretariat would try to have an advance process to present to the COP. He indicated that he was aware that the document will have to be worked on intersessionally.
106. He then informed the meeting that a State of Habitat Report will be done through SPAW and a State of the Marine Environment would be done under the GEF CLME+ Project that would provide linkages and synergies between the two. He indicated that there were plans to share an outline of a broader report to delegates and informed them that a State of Fisheries Report was being worked on by FAO and CRFM; more dialogue would indicate how all assessments will be linked.
107. He reminded the countries that an assessment report prepared by the SOCAR Consultant (Sherry Heileman) was aiming at having national validation hopefully before the COP.
108. On the matter of regional grouping, the Secretariat thought it was a very important process to follow after considering previous technical reports regarding pollution loading. On the matter of the recommendation of the Working Group, the Secretariat thought it prudent to send request for data directly to National Focal Points primarily to ensure feasibility of data to be used in compilation of SOCAR Report.

109. The Delegate of Trinidad and Tobago thanked the Delegate of France for initiating discussion and commented on how parameters were selected. He indicated that the process started in 2004 where countries chose parameters capable of being carried out according to each country's capacity and that the data being analyzed were between 2009 and 2014 and a timeline was set for collection of data. He indicated that there were no data for industries and highlighted that any form of data will be useful towards compilation of the SOCAR Report.
110. Noting no objections to recommendations provided, Mr. Corbin indicated that the recommendations from the Working Group served as endorsement. He added that discussions would continue further during the review and presentation of the Workplan when further recommendations could be added leading up to the COP.

#### **Agenda item 6: Draft AMEP Workplan and Budget for the 2017-2018 Biennium**

111. The Secretariat was invited to present the Draft AMEP Workplan and Budget for the 2017/2018 biennium in support of the Protocol Concerning Pollution from Land-based Sources and Activities (LBS Protocol). The AMEP Programme Officer presented the proposed projects and activities within the programme as contained in document UNEP(DEPI)/CAR WG.37/3.
112. Mr. Corbin began his presentation on the Draft AMEP Workplan and Budget with an overview on Programme Priorities, proposed targets and impacts, specific projects and activities, and draft budget.
113. The main priorities included work on GEF Projects, completion of the first State of Convention Area Report (SOCAR), further development of the Caribbean Platforms for Marine Litter, Nutrients and Wastewater Management, and enhanced LBS/SPAW Collaboration in particular under the UNDP/GEF CLME+ project.
114. He then outlined some of the main targets including: (1) the development of new guidelines, tools, technologies and sharing of best practices; (2) environmental data and information; (3) new projects, activities and partnerships and (4) greater awareness of pollution and Protocols. He mentioned that many of the proposed activities will result in legal, institutional and policy reforms; reduction in pollutant loadings; improvements in environmental quality and he hoped ultimately improved LBS Protocol ratification and implementation.
115. Mr. Corbin proceeded to give a summary of all of the proposed projects and activities for the 2017-2018 Workplan. He provided details on activities, monies already secured and monies to be raised. He also provided information on any executing agency partners as well as the level of support that would be provided by the Secretariat through the Communication, Education, Training and Awareness sub-programme (CETA). He concluded by providing a summary of the status of the budget and the need for just over 1.5 million dollars for unfunded activities.
116. The Delegate from the Dominican Republic mentioned that his country was practically left out of the 2016 budget and would like to be included in activities for 2017-2018 that would be of benefit to his country. In addition to ratification of the LBS Protocol, he mentioned that there was agricultural pollution and wondered about the possibility of getting an advisor or some help with the activity. He also mentioned that there was the issue of mining-related pollution and that someone could be trained for this activity; usually there was no funding for this and would like funding to train personnel.
117. Mr. Corbin responded that that was the kind of input the Secretariat appreciated as they allowed for more flexibility in its ability to access this kind of assistance. He indicated that the Secretariat was working more closely with the regional office and could tap into technical support within the organisation or from existing projects.
118. He added that the Dominican Republic was not a part of projects such as CReW but would benefit from IWEco and could look at supporting activities related to pig farming and mining. He further added that the Secretariat might be able to organise regional activities to have training in this area. He indicated that if the Dominican Republic was aware of technical expertise, the Secretariat could help to source it then pointed out that colleagues from CIMAB could provide possible sources of technical expertise that could be further discussed to provide the kind of support needed. He concluded that perhaps the Delegate of the Dominican Republic could

prepare a summary of the key areas of technical assistance needed and a general background so the Secretariat could provide support. The delegate agreed to provide information.

119. The representative from the CRFM thanked Mr. Corbin for the informative presentation. In terms of linking fisheries with environmental management, he indicated that they had a concern that the over 25,000 fishing vessels and fishers operating on these vessels generated litter and waste that ended up in the marine environment and impacted the fisheries and marine resources. He was not aware if anything had been done about it.
120. In relation to the submission from the DR and looking at the larger issue of agriculture and runoff, there was the need for concerted education building and awareness programme to improve understanding of the marine environment and ecosystems, implementation of best practices (management on waste on land and on vessels). He pointed out that the information was available and getting it to the fisherfolk was a challenge. He concluded by stating that the CRFM was ready and willing to work as partners with the programmes if the opportunity existed to address some of those issues.
121. Mr. Corbin thanked the representative of CRFM for the recommendation. He indicated that some work was done with NOAA on discarded fishing gearing but not all solutions were appropriate to some of the islands. He added that some work was done with RAC REMPEITC on how to deal with oily discharges but some focused work in targeting fisher folk and coastal communities and preparation of a meaningful product for each were needed. He further added that AMEP could work with SPAW to develop material and look forward to working with CRFM in the future.
122. He also suggested an addition to the workplan; what was happening with the different kinds of waste in each country, the equipment used for dealing with waste and what could be done in common to deal with it. She indicated that regulation could be a constraint and a concerted effort in the area could be good. She also expressed concern regarding the overall budget and whether adjustments would take place after the STAC.
123. Mr. Corbin noted the reservation regarding the budget and indicated that it would be adjusted based on recommendations from the STAC. He also recognised the suggestion of the new activity as a good one and that it was consistent with the objectives of the LBS Protocol. He added that an activity on marine habitat could be added though this would form part of the SPAW Work Programme. He then pointed out that the LBS Protocol called specifically for the development of a SOCAR relating to pollution but under the UNDP/GEF CLME+ project, a State of Habitat and State of Fisheries Report will also be prepared and form part of a broader State of Marine Environment Report (SOME). The State of Fisheries Report will be lead by agencies such as FAO, CRFM, etc. and will be developed in coordination with SOCAR and the State of Habitat Reports lead by the Secretariat.
124. The Delegate of Guyana asked if there were benefits to be gained from the trash-free initiative and if there were plans to extend it to other countries.
125. Mr. Corbin responded yes but that resources were limited and countries could inform the Secretariat of their interest. He mentioned that best practices from the pilots would be shared and the countries worked with to provide support at the national level. Governments can indicate their interest and funds could be sourced to provide support to the countries.
126. The Delegate of the USA mentioned that countries could begin the process, and if Peace Corps were in their country they could apply for volunteers to work with the ministry or Non-Governmental Organisations (NGOs). It takes a bit of time but once the volunteers are there, the country would help to determine what they would do as a starting point.
127. The Delegate of Trinidad and Tobago welcomed the suggestions of having training workshops because the activity would take note of the significant input into the workplan in terms of linkages to human health and pollution issues. In terms of the AMEP workplan and the Oil Spills Protocol, the RAC can agree to synergies in making the link and monitoring aspects for oil spill as there is little information after the oil spill and clean up. He also welcomed the inputs from countries with expertise in best management practices related to pig waste,

biogas, etc. (DR and Grenada). With regard to waste management, he indicated that if the type of waste was known, it would give an idea of what the solution would be to treat in terms of technological solutions.

128. Mr. Corbin noted the points and welcomed the opportunity to work with IMA to provide capacity building support for regional activities. IMA could also provide capacity building support on oil spills monitoring in collaboration with the RAC REMPEITC for oil spills response. He reminded delegates of the existence of an online laboratory database on the CEP website that was developed by the Secretariat and which provides information on laboratories, their location and analytical capacity.

## **Agenda item 7: Any Other Business**

### **(a) GEF CReW/CReW+**

129. Mr. Alfredo Coello Vazquez, Regional Project Coordinator for the GEF CReW Project, introduced videos prepared by the Secretariat and the GEF CReW Project as some of the more recent promotional items developed by the project team.
130. Following the video, Mr. Coello Vazquez delivered his presentation highlighting the main components of the GEF CReW and the follow up proposal for CReW+. He highlighted the lessons learnt and major achievements of CReW followed by an overview of the CReW+ which had been endorsed by 18 countries to date.
131. He further indicated that the development of the PIF for the CReW+ was a collaborative process which took into account all the inputs from the countries as well as those of the stakeholders. It was anticipated that CReW+ would be approved with the Project Preparation Grant (PPG) starting in June 2017.
132. He continued by clarifying that the main objective of the CReW+ was still the development of financing mechanisms and outlined five (5) components of the project: 1) institutional reforms; 2) development of financing mechanisms; 3) developing infrastructure linked to innovative financing mechanisms; 4) implementation of small-scale local rural community based solutions not linked to financing mechanisms; and 5) communication sharing and advocacy.
133. He stated that the main characteristics of the CReW+ included the multifocal aspects of chemicals and waste, and the new pollutants in wastewater. He concluded that it would also include a more inclusive and broader framework for the financing mechanisms and will include rural scale low technology intervention and tackle wastewater as a resource.
134. The Chairperson thanked Mr. Coello Vazquez for his presentation and opened the floor for comments.
135. The representative from CARPHA indicated that they prefer to support holistic programmes/project areas and wanted to know if there was an opportunity to partner on a project that focused on wastewater reuse in agriculture.
136. Mr. Coello Vazquez responded that the idea was that there would be individual discussions with the countries and that it would be a perfect opportunity for countries to partner in that area. He however added that there was a lack of data.
137. The Delegate of the USA asked if any of the resources could be used to improve data in the region. Mr. Corbin responded that more resources were allocated under the capacity building component of CReW+ to build on the baseline data and for laboratory training and capacity building as well. He added that it was necessary to be very strategic in what was presented for funding by the GEF as funding for purely research was not usually encouraged.
138. The Delegate of Trinidad and Tobago mentioned that the area of pre-treatment for contaminants is a significant one, especially in the industrial sector such as for Ammonia production and asked if CReW+ would be supporting this type of work. .

139. Mr. Coello Vazquez responded that CReW+ was focusing more on domestic wastewater management. He added that since domestic sewage could become contaminated by industrial wastewaters, that aspect of prevention could be looked at in the project and to build capacity to monitor for these contaminants.
140. The Delegate of Guyana asked if it was easier to get funds when research is being done to inform the policy development process. Mr. Corbin responded yes and that such research could be done early in a project which would then guide future policy and institutional framework development.
141. The Delegate of the USA asked why capacity building for better monitoring could not be funded as this could yield good data. Mr. Coello Vazquez responded that data was needed and an effort would be made as much as the GEF would allow funds to be allocated for such monitoring and research.
142. The GEF CLME+ representative wanted to know how integral the Inter-American Development Bank (IDB) would be in the new phase since they provided funding for CReW. She also wanted to know if there would be a mechanism in place for countries that cannot access IDB funds.
143. Mr. Coello Vazquez responded that two mechanisms were in place and that IDB and the UN Environment worked closely during the year and that the structure will be similar. He added that they would also work with the Caribbean Development Bank (CDB) and that the component does not have a link to financing mechanism. He informed that they were moving towards greater wastewater recycling and reuse and that UN Environment would implement this aspect.
144. Mr. Corbin, in response to the query from the Delegate of the USA, informed that the GEF has constituency meetings that GEF Focal Points attend and therefore would have an opportunity to provide input or lobby for appropriate consideration to be given to projects needed in the region. He added that the GEF was looking for large-scale projects with the development banks but support was also needed to collect baseline data and the GEF may support such efforts if countries express it as a high priority for them at constituency meetings.
145. The Chair (USA) said the GEF should be encouraged to consider funding projects and encouraged the member states to solicit funding for baseline projects in their interaction with the GEF.

**(b) GEF CLME+**

146. The Chairperson invited Mr. Patrick Debels of the GEF CLME+ Project to deliver his presentation.
147. Mr. Debels began by pointing out that the "Large Marine Ecosystems" (LME's) were meaningful geo-spatial units for the implementation of ecosystem-based management (EBM). The Global Environment Facility (GEF) financially supports the implementation of the cyclical transboundary diagnostic analysis-Strategic Action Programmes (TDA-SAP) approach for LMEs. TDA deals with scientific-technical fact-finding on the most important transboundary environmental problems and their root causes. He added that SAPs were negotiated and politically endorsed multi-country agreements identifying priority actions required to address the transboundary problems identified under the TDAs.
148. The Caribbean and North Brazil Shelf LME's (further jointly referred to as "CLME+ region") are two LME's that largely overlap with the Cartagena Convention Area. They are shared among 26 countries and 18 overseas territories. The three key transboundary problems identified for the CLME+ region are habitat degradation, pollution and unsustainable fisheries. The major root causes included weaknesses in governance, inadequate access to data and information, inadequate awareness and insufficient consideration of the value of ecosystem goods and services. With the support of the UNDP/GEF CLME Project (2009-14), a 10-year Strategic Action Programme was developed for the region (the "CLME+ SAP"), consisting of 6 Strategies, 4 Sub-Strategies and a total of 76 priority actions. The SAP responds to the long-term vision of achieving "a healthy marine environment in the CLME+ region that provides benefits and livelihoods for the well-being of its people". To date, the CLME+ SAP had been endorsed by 34 Ministers representing 25 countries from this region.

149. He indicated that the SAP Strategy 1 was aimed at the protection of the marine environment, and focused on the key issues of habitat degradation and pollution. SAP Strategy 2 was aimed at achieving sustainable fisheries.
150. Given its formal mandate, UNEP CEP was to assume a coordinating/lead role in the implementation of SAP Strategy 1. In this role, and giving due consideration to the important connections between the 3 priority problems cited above, UNEP CEP would seek to achieve better coordination of actions both between the AMEP and SPAW Work Programmes, as well as with other regional governance bodies working in the Convention Area on mandates relevant to the CLME+ SAP (e.g. fisheries).
151. Priority actions under CLME+ SAP Strategy 1 included the integration of findings from monitoring, science and research (incl. economic valuation studies) in decision-making; better integration of terrestrial river basin management and the management of the adjacent coastal zone and marine space (cfr. LBS-SPAW linkages); and better data and information collection and management capacity in support of the integrated monitoring, assessment and reporting on the state of the marine environment.
152. The latter is indeed critically important in the context of the ongoing efforts to institutionalize the cyclical TDA-SAP process, so that its continuity as a region-wide programmatic/planning approach for sustainable marine resources governance can be secured. SAP implementation requires a monitoring and assessment framework that allows for (a) the tracking of progress towards SAP goals (including those of the associated conventions and protocols such as the Cartagena Convention and LBS and SPAW), and (b) the corresponding periodic updating of priorities under the CLME+ SAP and associated work programmes.
153. The 5-year UNDP/GEF CLME+ Project (2015-2020), co-executed by UNEP CEP, therefore provided a unique opportunity to support such institutionalization process, through the progressive development of an integrated "State of the Marine Ecosystems" (SOME) reporting mechanism. Reporting responsibilities under the SOME were expected to be distributed among the different Inter-Governmental Organizations involved in CLME+ SAP implementation; responsibilities would be aligned with each organization's formal mandate, and its geographic and thematic scope.
154. In support of this process, he suggested that recommendations for the LBS STAC be formulated as follows: additional joint LBS-SPAW STACs; progressive integration of efforts under LBS and SPAW Protocols; and the progressive development towards LBS COP 4 and SPAW COP 10 – preparation of an integrated State of the Marine Environment of the Convention Area reporting mechanism.
155. The Chairperson thanked Mr. Debels for his presentation and opened the floor for comments on the recommendations and the recommendations proposed.
156. The Delegate of Bahamas indicated that he supported the recommendation for continued joint LBS-SPAW STAC Meetings, particularly since the Protocols have overarching responsibilities and obligations that cannot be met on their own.
157. The Delegate of the USA mentioned that he also supported the recommendation. He added that strategies on the marine environment and geo-spatial planning, biodiversity management, coastal planning, etc. should be integrated.
158. The Delegate of Saint Lucia endorsed the recommendations and stated that a sense of ownership of the SAP was important. He added that conventions and protocols needed to adopt the SAP to ensure sustainability.
159. The Delegate of Colombia recommended that the LBS STAC recommendations be also presented at the SPAW STAC Meeting.
160. The Delegate of the USA suggested that the LBS and SPAW recommendations should be kept separate and highlighted the ones showing linkages.
161. Mr. Corbin stated that the recommendations of the meeting were being worked on and would be presented to the meeting for endorsement. He added that the two ways to approach linking of LBS recommendations to the

- SPAW meeting were to incorporate certain discussion elements in the meeting report and to have the LBS STAC recommendations as an information document for the SPAW STAC Meeting. Recommendations from both STACs would be presented to their respective COPs and then to the IGM can further indicate cooperation.
162. The chairperson encouraged participants to submit the recommendations and request for assistance in writing.
  163. The Coordinator of the CEP mentioned that Colombia contacted and requested permission from all Contracting Parties to the Cartagena Convention to delay the IGM and COP meetings until the end of March; no objections were presented. She added that there was a formal offer from the Government of Antigua and Barbuda to host the IGM and that further discussions would be held; the location of the meetings would be known within the next few weeks.
  164. She further added that she was aware that many member states were involved in the world ocean assessment and in light of the push for integration; it must be reflected in the recommendations if it was to be pursued.
  165. The Chairperson encouraged the countries to consider hosting CEP meetings.
  166. The Delegate of the USA congratulated Antigua and Barbuda for offering to host the meeting.
  167. Mr. Corbin mentioned that the next UN Environment GPA Intergovernmental Review Meeting was scheduled for the second half of 2017. He informed that in preparation for this meeting, a global survey was being carried out regarding pollution priorities. He encouraged delegates to complete the survey as the response from the Latin American and Caribbean Region to date had been very low.

#### **Agenda item 8: Adoption of the Recommendations of the Meeting**

168. The Rapporteur gave an overview of the meeting then presented the Draft Recommendations to the Meeting. The Recommendations were reviewed, discussed and amended during the Meeting. The updated Recommendations would be sent to the delegates for final approval.
169. The Delegate of the Dominican Republic informed that there was massive cooperation towards the ratification of the LBS Protocol.
170. The Coordinator of the CEP indicated that since the adoption of the LBS Protocol, the Secretariat had been working hard with the Non-Contracting Parties to promote ratification of the Protocol through missions. She informed that the Secretariat was committed to the continued work to facilitate ratification and pointed out that the governments can be urged to ratify but the final step is with them. However the aim is for ratification by all countries in the Wider Caribbean Region of all of the Protocols.
171. In relation to pollution reduction technologies, the Delegate of Trinidad and Tobago questioned if there were technologies to bring about pollution reduction and the transfer of said technologies to the countries. He suggested that the Secretariat work with Contracting Parties in the transfer of technology, in the use of best environmental practice and best available techniques in bringing about pollution reduction.
172. Mr. Debels informed that the CLME+ Project would support the identification of best management practices.

#### **Agenda item 9: Closure of the Meeting**

173. The Chairperson invited Ms. Lorna Inniss, Coordinator of the CEP to give closing remarks.
174. Ms. Inniss began by indicating that it had been a very rewarding meeting and that there should be no doubt regarding the benefit of a joint LBS/SPAW meeting. She also commended the participants for their active engagement throughout the meeting and pointed out that she is heartened by the comments made by the SPAW focal points in particular.

175. Ms. Inniss further commended the partners who had expressed support for the integration process and look forward to working with them on the workplan, projects and programmes as well as increasing the number of Contracting Parties to both protocols.
176. She expressed sincere thanks to the chairperson and the Rapporteur for the work done during the meeting. She also thanked the interpreters and the US logistics team and pointed out that more linkages will be evident during the 7<sup>th</sup> SPAW STAC meeting.
177. In closing, the Chairperson, Ms. Rona Rathod, remarked that the work of the LBS Protocol is critical in the efforts to reduce pollution and protect marine life and that the Secretariat is committed to these goals.
178. She recognised the efforts of the AMEP Programme Office, Mr. Corbin towards promotion of the LBS Protocol and the enthusiasm of the Coordinator, Ms. Lorna Inniss. She also thanked the members of the Secretariat, the Rapporteur, presenters, interpreters and the US logistics team for an incredible job done. She concluded by thanking the Contracting Parties for their engagement on important issues.
179. The meeting concluded at 12:20 pm.

## Annex I: Agenda

1. Opening of the Meeting
2. Election of Officers
3. Organization of the Meeting
  - a. Rules of Procedure
  - b. Organization of Work
4. Adoption of the Agenda
5. Review of AMEP Programme Activities for the 2015-2016 biennium
6. Draft AMEP Work Plan and Budget for the 2017-2018 biennium
7. Other Business
8. Adoption of the Recommendations of the Meeting
9. Closure of the Meeting



## Annex II: Recommendations of the Meeting

### The Meeting:

**Having convened** the Third Meeting of the Scientific, Technical and Advisory Committee to the Protocol Concerning Pollution from Land-based Sources and Activities (LBS STAC) in the Wider Caribbean Region, in Miami, USA from October 31- November 2, 2016;

**Making reference** to the Second Meeting of the LBS STAC held in Managua, Nicaragua in June 2014 and the Second Meeting of the LBS COP held in Cartagena, Colombia in November 2014; and

**Recommends** to the Third Conference of Parties to the Protocol Concerning Pollution from Land-Based Sources and Activities (LBS COP) in the Wider Caribbean Region that:

### RECOMMENDATION I

#### WORKPLAN AND BUDGET

1. Contracting Parties submit additional comments including new activities to be included in the draft Work Plan and Budget for the biennium 2016-2017 by December 31, 2016 to enable an updated draft Work Plan and Budget to be prepared by the Secretariat for submission to the 3<sup>rd</sup> LBS COP for approval and the Sixteenth Intergovernmental Meeting on the Action Plan for the Caribbean Environment Programme and Thirteenth Meeting of the Contracting Parties to the Cartagena Convention for information and endorsement.
2. Contracting Parties endorse the 2017-2018 Draft Work Plan & Budget included recommendations made during the third LBS STAC and those submitted leading up to the third LBS COP.
3. Contracting Parties endorse the Secretariat's efforts to develop new project proposals for submission to the Global Environment Facility (GEF) including for the CReW+ & Marine Litter Projects & encourage Governments to seek support from their national GEF Focal Points for endorsement of these project proposals.
4. The Secretariat, the Contracting Parties or any other stakeholder join the "Plastic Bag Coalition" and make themselves known to the Office of the Minister, Ségolène Royal, President of the Climate Change COP21. The "Plastic Bag Coalition" will be officially launched at the Climate Change COP22 in Marrakech, during which a special side event will be held on November 14, 2016 from 4:45pm to 6.00pm.
5. The Secretariat include an additional activity in the draft work plan and budget WG.37/3, to carry out an inventory of solid waste generation in each of the countries of the Wider Caribbean region as well as an assessment of the systems for collection, transportation and disposal and identification of opportunities and challenges for improving these systems including re-use and recycling.
6. Contracting Parties should explore experiences of the Society of Environmental Toxicology and Chemistry (SETAC) for identifying technologies and best practices to deal with emerging contaminants of concern.
7. The Secretariat, subject to availability of resources, convene joint LBS-SPAW STACs in the future, including progressive integration of efforts under LBS and SPAW Protocols in capacity building activities and projects such as integrated "Ecosystem Based Management (EBM)" as part of efforts to develop a road map for LBS/SPAW integration.

8. The Secretariat, in collaboration with Contracting Parties, mobilise technical and financial resources to aid in the control of marine pollution caused by plastic and micro-plastics waste as well as agricultural, livestock and mining waste.
9. The Secretariat, in collaboration with Contracting Parties, mobilise funds for the monitoring of land-based sources of pollution in particular in urban areas.

## RECOMMENDATION II

### ENVIRONMENTAL MONITORING AND ASSESSMENT

1. Contracting Parties may wish to consider using the current pilot Trash Free Waters Initiative being implemented by the Secretariat in Jamaica and Panama as a model for developing similar activities aimed at reducing land-based sources of marine litter/solid waste/plastics in their respective countries.
2. The Parties strengthen laboratory capacity within their own countries to monitor LBS parameters and to maximize on the financial support provided from projects such as GEF IWEco and potentially GEF CRW+.
3. The Parties agree that there may be health effects from microplastics, created upon degradation of plastic material, and to support efforts by the Secretariat to share information and research efforts aimed at developing monitoring methodologies for microplastics that should be incorporated into future water quality monitoring programmes.
4. Further develop and finalize the SOCAR - e.g acceptance of the specific "good-fair-poor" ranges currently under development by the data sub-group, and submission of raw national water quality data, or other data if not available, on the understanding that these data will not be made public without prior written consent by the countries.
5. The Secretariat work with Contracting Parties/Countries to identify/mobilize financial resources from existing projects and/or develop new project proposals to respond to the new priorities identified under SOCAR.
6. The Interim Working Group on Monitoring and Assessment continue its work intersessionally prior to the LBS COP3 Meeting in 2017 and beyond, as necessary, taking into account submissions and information provided by the Contracting Parties.
7. The existing Interim Working Group finalize the draft State of Convention Area Report (SOCAR) including : (1) proposing data values of the assessment ranges, based on information provided in previous discussions; and (2) presenting this report to the 3<sup>rd</sup> LBS COP for further consideration.
8. Encourage all Contracting Parties to provide data and information required for completion of the draft SOCAR by November 15, 2016 noting that some countries may require a longer period for provision of such information.
9. The Secretariat conduct a validation exercise with national focal points and relevant stakeholders of the data used in the development of the SOCAR.
10. The Secretariat continue to explore opportunities to support the further development of the SOCAR through the GEF IWEco and UNDP/GEF CLME+ projects and other related initiatives.
11. The Interim Working Group on Monitoring and Assessment review the existing classification of marine waters according to the LBS Protocol taking into account the political sensitivity of the classification process as well as the methodology used in such classification.
12. Contracting Parties are encouraged to classify their waters with support as needed from the Working Group and the Secretariat.

13. The Secretariat progressively develop an integrated assessment of the State of the Marine Environment (SOME) of Convention Area report, as required under the Cartagena Convention, including the use of economic valuation, for consideration at LBS STAC 4 and SPAW STAC 9. In this regard, the LBS COP 3 and SPAW COP 9 may consider expanding the Monitoring and Assessment Working Group to include biodiversity interests, and furthermore also consider the use of the draft UNDP/GEF CLME+ State of Marine Environment (SOME) outline as the basis for further development of this integrated pollution and habitat report for reporting under the Cartagena Convention. The Secretariat should therefore work in collaboration with the UNDP/GEF CLME+ Project Coordinating Unit on the proposed SOME outline, to be presented to LBS COP3 and SPAW COP9 for endorsement.
14. Given that the Driver Pressure State Impact Response Methodology (DPSIR) is being used for the development of national and regional State of Environment Reports including the SOCAR and the SOME, the Secretariat should identify opportunities and possible funding to provide training to Contracting Parties in the use of this DPSIR Methodology for developing State of Environment Reports.
15. Finalise the SOCAR and validate the assessment ranges, as derived by the data working group, by the Contracting and Non-Contracting Parties.

### **RECOMMENDATION III**

#### **GEF PROJECTS**

1. The Secretariat continue to facilitate the progressive integration of pollution and habitat/biodiversity issues as part of a SPAW/LBS Roadmap and to promote greater collaboration with, and involvement of Brazil in actions leading to reduced LBS pollution inputs to the Convention Area and in support of the UNDP/GEF CLME+ Project and the broader CLME+ Strategic Action Programme (SAP).
2. Support activities of the UNDP/GEF CLME+ project aimed at strengthening cooperation and integration of pollution reduction and prevention actions at regional and national levels with sustainable fisheries, habitat protection and rehabilitation within the context of the ecosystem approach to marine environmental protection.
3. The Secretariat continue to participate in the development of the GEF CReW+ project proposal.
4. Encourage countries to request support by the GEF during GEF Constituency/Council meetings and other interactions with the GEF Secretariat to finance pollution priorities in the Wider Caribbean Region such as the need for further baseline data and research on pollution sources and impacts including wastewater.
5. Contracting Parties use every effort to influence, through national processes, the funding of on-the-ground projects by the GEF.

### **RECOMMENDATION IV**

#### **LBS Protocol Ratification**

1. 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.
2. 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.

3. In light of the common issues addressed by the Caribbean Regional Fisheries Mechanism (CRFM) and the Cartagena Convention Secretariat, (support the development of) a Memorandum of Understanding between CRFM and the Secretariat.
4. The Secretariat work with Contracting and other Parties to identify and facilitate the transfer of knowledge, best practices and appropriate technology aimed at pollution prevention and reduction in the Wider Caribbean Region.

### Annex III: LIST OF DOCUMENTS

#### Working Documents

UNEP(DEPI)/CAR WG.37/1	Provisional agenda
UNEP(DEPI)/CAR WG.37/2	Provisional annotated agenda
UNEP(DEPI)/CAR WG.37/3	Draft Work plan and Budget for the sub-programme on the Assessment and Management of Environmental Pollution (AMEP) for 2017-2018
UNEP(DEPI)/CAR WG.37/4	<i>Report of the Third Meeting of the Scientific, Technical and Advisory Committee (STAC) to the Protocol Concerning Pollution from Land-Based Sources and Activities (LBS Protocol) in the Wider Caribbean Region</i>
UNEP(DEPI)/CAR WG.37/5	Recommendations of the Meeting

#### Information Documents

	Information Note for Participants
UNEP(DEPI)/CAR WG.37/INF.1	Provisional list of documents
UNEP(DEPI)/CAR WG.37/INF.2	List of participants
UNEP(DEPI)/CAR WG.37/INF.3	Status of Activities for the sub-programme on the Assessment and Management of Environmental Pollution (AMEP) for 2015-2016
UNEP(DEPI)/CAR WG.37/INF.4	Report of the Activities for the LBS Regional Activity Centres IMA (Trinidad and Tobago) and Cimab (Cuba) for 2015-2016
UNEP(DEPI)/CAR WG.37/INF.5	Status of Ratification of the LBS Protocol
UNEP(DEPI)/CAR WG.37/INF.6	Report of the Working Group on Environmental Monitoring and Assessment (SOCAR)
UNEP(DEPI)/CAR WG.37/INF.7	The GEF Caribbean Large Marine Ecosystem (CLME+) Project and its joint implementation through the AMEP and SPAW Subprogrammes
UNEP(DEPI)/CAR WG.37/INF.8	Draft Report of the Second Regional Planning of the Caribbean Platform for Nutrient Management, Port of Spain, Trinidad and Tobago, 24-25 February 2016.
UNEP(DEPI)/CAR WG.37/INF.9	Project Document for GEF-funded Integrating Land, Water, and Ecosystems Management in Caribbean SIDS (GEF IWeco)
UNEP(DEPI)/CAR WG.37/INF.10	Annex A and C (Agreement) – CLME+: Catalysing Implementation of Strategic Action Programme for the Sustainable Management of shared Living Marine Resources in the Caribbean and North Brazil Shelf Large Marine Ecosystems
UNEP(DEPI)/CAR WG.37/INF.11	Draft Terminal Evaluation – GEF Funded Project “Testing a Prototype Caribbean Regional Fund for Wastewater Management” (GEF CReW)
UNEP(DEPI)/CAR WG.37/INF.12	AMEP Fact Sheets
UNEP(DEPI)/CAR WG.37/INF.13	Marine Litter Project Proposal Concepts

UNEP(DEPI)/CAR WG.37/INF.14	Project Implementation Form (Draft) – Upscaling and enhancing the experience of the Caribbean Regional Fund for Wastewater Management to the wider Caribbean promoting through an integrated approach of innovative technical solutions and financing mechanisms (CReW+)
UNEP (DEPI)/CAR WG.37/INF.15	Applying innovation to reduce nutrient pollution from wastewater and agricultural discharges in waterways, coastal and marine environments of the Caribbean Sea
UNEP(DEPI)/CAR WG.37/INF.16	Mapping Regional Seas Targets against the SDGs and Aichi Targets (Template)
UNEP(DEPI)/CAR WG.37/INF.17	UNEP and IDB GEF CReW Project Information Report (PIR) – fiscal year 2016
UNEP(DEPI)/CAR WG.37/INF.18	Project Implementation Form (Draft) – Reducing Marine Litter in the Caribbean Sea, through the Sustainable Management of Plastics in the Wider Caribbean Region
CLME+ SAP v1.3 2016	CLME+ Strategic Action Programme
CEP Technical Report No. 72	Regional Action Plan on Marine Litter Management (RAPMaLi) For The Wider Caribbean Region 2014
UNEP(DEPI)/CAR WG.35/4 Rev.1	Report of the Second Meeting of the Scientific, Technical and Advisory Committee (STAC) to the Protocol Concerning Pollution from Land-based Sources and Activities, Managua, Nicaragua, 10-13 June 2014
UNEP(DEPI)/CAR IG.36/3	Work plan and Budget for the Caribbean Environment Programme for the biennium 2015-2016
UNEP(DEPI)/CAR IG.36/5	Report of the Sixteenth Intergovernmental Meeting on the Action Plan for the Caribbean Environment Programme and Thirteenth Meeting of the Contracting Parties to the Convention for the Protection and Development of the Marine Environment of the Wider Caribbean Region, Cartagena, Colombia, 11-13 December 2014
UNEP(DEPI)/CAR IG.35/4 Decisions	Decisions of the Second Meeting of the Contracting Parties to the Protocol Concerning Pollution from Land-Based Sources and Activities (LBS Protocol) in the Wider Caribbean Region, Cartagena, Colombia, 10 December 2014.
UNEP(DEPI)/CAR IG.35/4	Report of the Second Meeting of the Contracting Parties to the Protocol Concerning Pollution from Land-Based Sources and Activities (LBS Protocol) in the Wider Caribbean Region, Cartagena, Colombia, 10 December 2014.

## Reference Documents

UNEP, 2016	Directory of Focal Points of the Caribbean Environment Programme
UNEP, 2012	Convention for the Protection and Development of the Marine Environment of the Wider Caribbean Region, Protocol Concerning Cooperation in Combating Oil Spills, Protocol Concerning Specially Protected Areas and Wildlife and the Protocol Concerning Pollution from Land-based Sources and Activities
UNEP, 1999	Final Act of the Conference of Plenipotentiaries to Adopt the Protocol Concerning Pollution from Land-based Sources and Activities in the Wider Caribbean Region
UNEP, 2010	Rules of Procedure for the Meetings of the Convention for the Protection and Development of the Marine Environment of the Wider Caribbean Region (Cartagena Convention)
UNEP, 2010	Financial Rules for the Cartagena Convention, its Caribbean Environment Programme and Terms of Reference for the Caribbean Trust Fund.
UNEP(DEPI)/CAR IG.36 CRP.1	Amendment to the Financial Rules for the Cartagena Convention
UNEP, 2010	Guidelines for Establishment and Operation of Regional Activity Centres and Regional Activity Networks for the Cartagena Convention.
UNEP(DEPI)/CAR WG.32 INF.9 Rev.3	Template for National Reporting on the Cartagena Convention and its Protocols
UNEP/WBRS.18/INF7	List of Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) indicators
UNEP/WBRS.18/INF8	Regional Seas Strategic Directions (2017-2020)
UNEP/WBRS.18/INF9	Regional Seas Core Indicators Set
UNEP/WBRS.18/INF10	Manila Declaration
UNEP/WBRS.18/INF13	Compilation of the resolutions of the Second Session of the United Nations Environment Assembly, which are relevant to the Regional Seas programmes
UNEP MTS 2018-2021	UNEP Medium Term Strategy 2018-2021
UNEP/EA.2/16	Proposed programme of work and budget for the biennium 2018–2019
UNEP/EA.2/INF/9	Programme of work and budget for 2016–2017



Annex IV: LIST OF PARTICIPANTS

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