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Seventeenth Intergovernmental Meeting on the Action Plan for the Caribbean Environment Programme and Fourteenth Meeting of the Contracting Parties to the Convention for the Protection and Development of the Marine Environment of the Wider Caribbean Region

Cayenne, French Guiana, 15-17 March 2017

REPORT OF THE MEETING

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ACRONYMS

AFMO	Administrative/Funds Management Officer
AMEP	Assessment and Management of Environmental Pollution
BWM	Ballast Water Management
CaMPAM	Caribbean Marine Protected Areas Managers Network
CARICOM	Caribbean Community
CEP	Caribbean Environment Programme
CETA	Communication, Education, Training and Awareness
CITES	Convention on the International Trade of Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora
CLME	Caribbean Large Marine Ecosystem Project
CMS	Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals
COP	Conference of Parties
CORALINA	Corporation for the Sustainable Development of the Archipelago of San Andres, Old Providence and Santa Catalina
CRFM	Caribbean Regional Fisheries Mechanism
CTF	Caribbean Trust Fund
EBM	Ecosystem-Based Management
ECMMAN	Eastern-Caribbean Marine Managed Areas Network Resilient to Climate Change
EU	European Union
FAO	Food and Agriculture Organization of the UN
GCFI	Gulf and Caribbean Fisheries Institute
GCRMN	Global Coral Reef Monitoring Network
GEF-CReW	Global Environment Facility – Caribbean Regional Fund for Wastewater Management
GEF-IWCAM	Global Environment Facility – Integrating Watershed and Coastal Area Management
GEF-REPCar	Global Environment Facility – Reducing Pesticide Run-off to the Caribbean Sea
GIS	Geographic Information System
GPA	Global Programme of Action
IAEA	International Atomic Energy Agency
ICRI	International Coral Reef Initiative
IGM	Intergovernmental Meeting
IMA	Institute of Marine Affairs
IMO	International Maritime Organization

IOCARIBE	Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission's Sub-commission for the Caribbean and Adjacent Regions
IUCN	International Union for the Conservation of Nature
IWC	International Whaling Commission
IW:LEARN	International Waters: Learning Exchange and Resources Network
KAPS	Knowledge, Attitudes and Practices Survey
LBS	Land-Based Sources of Marine Pollution
LME	Large Marine Ecosystem
MAR Fund	Mesoamerican Reef Fund
MEA	Multilateral Environment Agreement
MMAP	Marine Mammals Action Plan
MPA	Marine Protected Area
NGO	Non-Governmental Organization
NOAA	National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
OECS	Organization of Eastern Caribbean States
OPRC	Oil Pollution Preparedness, Response and Co-operation
PA	Protected Areas
PAHO	Pan American Health Organization
RAC	Regional Activity Centre
RAC-CIMAB	Regional Activity Centre – Centre for Engineering and Environmental Management of Coasts and Bays
RAC-REMPEITC	Regional Activity Centre – Regional Marine Pollution Emergency Information and Training Centre
RAC-SPAW	Regional Activity Centre – Specially Protected Areas and Wildlife
Ramsar	Convention on Wetlands of International Importance
RAPMaLi	Regional Action Plan on Marine Litter
SIDS	Small Island Developing States
SPAW	Specially Protected Areas and Wildlife
STAC	Scientific and Technical Advisory Committee
STRAP	Sea Turtle Recovery Action Plan
TNC	The Nature Conservancy
UN	United Nations
UNDP	United Nations Development Programme
UNEP	United Nations Environment Programme
UNEP-CAR/RCU	United Nations Environment Programme – Caribbean Regional Coordinating Unit

UNEP-DEPI	United Nations Environment Programme – Division of Environmental Policy Implementation
UNESCO	United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization
UNV	United Nations Volunteer
WCR	Wider Caribbean Region
WECAFC	Western Central Atlantic Fishery Commission
WIDECAST	Wider Caribbean Sea Turtle Conservation Network

REPORT OF THE MEETING

1. Introduction

1. The Seventeenth Intergovernmental Meeting (IGM) on the Action Plan for the Caribbean Environment Programme and Fourteenth Meeting of the Contracting Parties to the Convention for the Protection and Development of the Marine Environment of the Wider Caribbean Region was convened from 15 to 17 March 2017 in Cayenne, French Guiana.
2. This Meeting proposed to review the achievements of the Caribbean Environment Programme (CEP) during the 2015-2016 period and to approve the Workplan and Budget of the Caribbean Environment Programme (CEP) for the 2017-2018 Biennium.
3. The Secretariat, on behalf of the CEP Governments and Contracting Parties to the Cartagena Convention, convened the Meeting to:
 - **Evaluate** the projects and activities implemented within the framework of the Caribbean Environment Programme during the period 2015-2016;
 - **Review** the progress made in the implementation of the Decisions 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, held in Cartagena, Colombia, 11-13 December 2014;
 - **Review** and **adopt** the Decisions of the Ninth Meeting of the Contracting Parties (COP) to the Protocol Concerning Specially Protected Areas and Wildlife (SPAW) in the Wider Caribbean Region, Cayenne, French Guiana, 13 March 2017;
 - **Review** and **adopt** the Decisions of the Third Meeting of the Contracting Parties (COP) to the Protocol Concerning Pollution from Land-Based Sources and Activities (LBS) in the Wider Caribbean Region, Cayenne, French Guiana, 14 March 2017;
 - **Review** and **approve** the Recommendations of the Eighth Meeting of the Steering Committee to the Protocol Concerning Cooperation in Combating Oil Spills in the Wider Caribbean Region, Willemstad, Curacao, 19-20 May 2016;
 - **Review** and **approve** the Draft Workplan and Budget for CEP for the 2017-2018 Biennium, including those of the Regional Activity Centres; and
 - **Decide** on the composition of the Monitoring Committee and the Bureau of Contracting Parties for the 2017-2018 Biennium.
4. National Focal Points or their designated representatives of all States and Territories participating in the Caribbean Environment Programme and the Commission of the European Union were invited to attend the Meeting. Other States that have demonstrated concern for the protection of the marine environment of the Wider Caribbean Region (WCR), UN and non-UN regional and international organizations, NGOs, donors and private sector representatives participating or interested in the Caribbean Environment Programme, were also invited to attend the Meeting as observers. Regional and international experts were also invited to make special presentations to the Meeting. The List of Participants is included in Annex VIII of this Report.

AGENDA ITEM 1: OPENING OF THE MEETING

5. Opening statements were provided by Ms Lorna Inniss, Coordinator of the Caribbean Environment Programme and the Cartagena Convention; by Mr Christopher Corbin, Programme Officer of the Caribbean Environment Programme; by Mr Habib El-Habr, Coordinator for the Global Programme of Action for the Protection of the Marine Environment from Land-Based Activities (GPA) in Nairobi, on behalf of the Executive Director of UN

Environment, Mr Erik Solheim; and by Mr Martin Jaegger, Préfet de French Guiana. The meeting was declared open at 9:30 am at the Grand Hotel Montabo in Cayenne, French Guiana by Ms Lorna Inniss.

6. Mr. Corbin welcomed all Contracting Parties and Non-Contracting Parties as well as all observers, projects and partners of the Caribbean Environment Programme to the Seventeenth Intergovernmental Meeting (IGM17) on the Action Plan for the Caribbean Environment Programme and the Fourteenth Meeting of the Contracting Parties (COP14) to the Cartagena Convention for the Protection and Development of the Marine Environment of the Wider Caribbean Region. Mr Corbin thanked the Government of France for hosting the meetings and the organisers in French Guiana for their support in the convening of the week's meetings leading up to the IGM17 and for their support over the remaining days of the IGM. Mr Corbin then handed over to Mr Jaeger.
7. Mr Jaeger welcomed all the countries and observers to the meeting and noted that this was the first time that French Guiana had hosted a meeting of the Convention. He welcomed the participation of the French Ambassador for the Environment, Mr Xavier Sticker, and thanked him for his participation in the meetings on behalf of the Government of France. He highlighted that the protection of the Caribbean Sea was vital for states of the Wider Caribbean especially given the importance of the development and impact of the marine environment in the fisheries and tourism sectors. He added that the health of the environment in creating resiliency to external influences was important and that cooperation was necessary in protecting our marine environment especially within the Wider Caribbean.
8. He commented that the work of the Secretariat is very rich and provides many benefits for the Caribbean and therefore extended best wishes for fruitful exchanges and that he hoped that delegates would have the opportunity to discover the country.
9. Mr El-Habr was invited to deliver his remarks. He first thanked the Government of France for hosting the meeting in Cayenne and for the organization of a High-Level Session on Friday, 17 March 2017. He noted that it was the first time that the Intergovernmental Meeting of the Cartagena Convention would be accompanied by a high-level segment and that it was a delight to see this initiative. He added that he hoped that such political engagement would reinforce the excellent commitments of the Parties to the Convention and its Protocols.
10. Mr El-Habr commented on the commitment of the Wider Caribbean Region to the protection of the marine environment through two important events – the 9th SPAW Conference of Parties as well as the 3rd LBS Conference of Parties which were held earlier on 13th and 14th March 2017, respectively. He noted that important decisions were agreed upon during these meetings and that he had high hopes that they would all receive the approval of the parties.
11. He remarked that the Wider Caribbean as a Regional Seas Programme had made significant achievements over the last 30 years in the conservation and sustainable management of the marine and coastal ecosystems in the Region. He added that within the global context, the Wider Caribbean had a major role to play particularly in relation to the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development- particularly Goals 6 and 14; the Paris Agreement- which has a central focus on oceans governance; and the Action Plan (2016-2018) adopted at the International Coral Reef Initiative General Meeting reaffirming the commitments to conserve coral reefs and related ecosystems.
12. He concluded that the international community was giving unprecedented attention to oceans governance which presented a golden opportunity for establishing a strong presence at several milestone events planned over the next several months. He commented that ocean governance would be discussed, strengthened and shaped and Parties would have an opportunity to provide major input in all areas. He urged governments to be at the centre of all the discussions and extended an invitation for partnership with the UN Environment Headquarters to gain additional support in efforts towards the conservation and protection of the marine environment within the Wider Caribbean.

13. Mr Corbin thanked Mr El-Habr and the UN Environment for supporting the work of the Convention and invited Ms Lorna Inniss to deliver remarks from the Director of United Nations Environment Latin America and the Caribbean Office, Mr Leo Heileman.
14. In his address, Mr Heileman thanked the Government of France for their generosity in hosting the meetings in Cayenne and thanked Minister of Environment, Segolène Royal, for the support of her staff to the UN Environment and to the Caribbean Environment Programme. He mentioned that the Cartagena Convention is a unique legal and institutional framework that brings together all member states and territories, in the spirit of cooperation, to address many of the current and emerging challenges in the management of marine and coastal resources in the Caribbean Sea.
15. Mr Heileman congratulated Ms Lorna Inniss for her work as Coordinator of the Programme, and emphasised that there was very close cooperation with the Secretariat to ensure that the regional programmes of the UN Environment were supporting the work of the Regional Seas Programme and the Cartagena Convention.
16. Ms Heileman noted that within the context of the meeting, the pollution from land-based sources such as wastewater, nutrients from agricultural activities and marine litter, including micro-plastics and, other effects such as overfishing and climate change, are challenges that have resulted in significant changes in the marine and coastal environment of the Caribbean Sea, such as the loss of mangroves and coral reefs, reduced fisheries and increased pollution. He added that the Cartagena Convention, as a unique regional institutional framework, allows nations to respond in a coordinated manner to these challenges affecting the Caribbean Sea.
17. He reiterated that Sustainable Development Goal 14 on Oceans provides an opportunity for all countries to take action and that, within the context of the Cartagena Convention, this implies increasing commitments and implementation to the proposed work plan and budget. In addition, support to sister organizations, projects and initiatives in the region, such as the partnership framework of the Caribbean Large Marine Ecosystem and North Brazil Shelf Project and the Convention on Biological Diversity Sustainable Oceans Initiative.
18. In concluding, he encouraged countries to utilise the opportunity to send clear guiding messages to the UN Oceans Conference, taking place in mid-2017, to help in safeguarding our seas and helping to recover from human-induced problems. He further urged member states to take the necessary measures to mitigate the drivers of change indicated and utilize this cooperative framework of the Cartagena Convention and UN Environment, including Decision 11 on Oceans from the 20th Forum of Ministers of the Environment of Latin America and the Caribbean, to take action. He concluded by wishing for successful deliberations and negotiations during the meeting.
19. Ms Inniss was then invited to deliver her remarks. As Coordinator of the Secretariat, she welcomed all countries and observers to the meeting and thanked the Government of France for hosting the present Intergovernmental Meetings and Conferences of Contracting Parties and for organising a High-Level Session.
20. She remarked on the motto of the city – “work brings wealth” – which she highlighted fitted well with the work of the Caribbean Environment Programme which had worked for over 30 years and made significant achievements for the conservation and sustainable management of the marine and coastal ecosystems in the Wider Caribbean Region.
21. Ms Inniss stated that over the last 19 years, more than 2,000 protected areas practitioners had participated in the Marine Protected Areas (MPA) Managers’ Training Programme and produced almost 200 trainers. She noted that the SPAW Programme Officer and the CaMPaM Network had many achievements, culminating in the prestigious International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) Packard Award in 2015 for inspiring Caribbean protected area leaders and managers. On that note, she acknowledged the good work of the SPAW Programme Officer, Mrs Alessandra Vanzella-Khoury and took the opportunity to thank her for over 25 years of dedicated service. Ms Inniss informed the meeting of Mrs Vanzella-Khoury’s early retirement which resulted in her absence from the meetings and congratulated her on her retirement.

22. Ms Inniss pointed out that the region was enriched with knowledge and experiences to be shared with other parts of the world and that the IGM and COPs were a step in that direction. She added that since the last IGM in Cartagena, Colombia, UN Member States had adopted the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development including a specific goal for oceans; Goal 14 - *"conserve and sustainably use the oceans, seas, and marine resources for sustainable development"*. Additionally, she remarked that the Paris Agreement noted the importance of oceans and entered into force in November 2016 as well as the International Coral Reef Initiative General Meeting which adopted an Action plan for 2016-2018, thereby reaffirming commitments to conserve coral reefs and related ecosystems, particularly as we look forward to celebrating 2018 as the Third International Year of the Reef.
23. Ms Inniss noted that the momentum was building towards taking concrete actions on oceans and she urged Parties to seize the opportunity to enhance efforts for the protection of the marine environment. She indicated that the Caribbean Environment Programme had a crucial role to play in supporting the member governments in achieving the ocean-related sustainable development goals. She remarked that as an established intergovernmental mechanism with a clear mandate on oceans and a focus on issues common to countries in the region, the Caribbean Environment Programme could be a vehicle that translates the 2030 Agenda into concrete actions.
24. She invited the delegates to reposition the Caribbean Environment Programme as a mechanism for sustainable development in the region in order to streamline activities throughout the programme by ensuring that the CEP mechanism is sustainable.
25. Ms Inniss highlighted the critical situation of RAC/REMPEITC-Caribe which would be discussed during the meeting and encouraged urgent action in order to ensure that the Center remained productive, robust and sustainable in the future.
26. Ms Inniss congratulated and invited the meeting to welcome the Governments of Jamaica and Costa Rica as the newest countries to become Contracting Parties to the LBS Protocol.
27. In concluding, Ms Inniss remarked that she was confident that with continuous support from member governments and stakeholders, the Caribbean Environment Programme would continue to bring about solutions and concrete actions for the conservation and sustainable management of the Wider Caribbean.
28. Mr Corbin, as chairperson of the opening ceremony, thanked Ms Inniss and the other speakers for their remarks and invited Ms Inniss to introduce the second agenda item of the meeting.

AGENDA ITEM 2: ORGANIZATION OF THE MEETING

2.1) Rules of Procedure

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

2.2) Election of Officers

30. A Chairperson, three (3) Vice-chairpersons and a Rapporteur were elected from among member states as follows:
 - Chairperson: Xavier Sticker (France)
 - First Vice-Chairperson: Rona Rathod (USA)
 - Second Vice-Chairperson: Dwigno Puriel (Curacao)
 - Third Vice-Chairperson: Jenny Asch Corrales (Costa Rica)
 - Rapporteur: Kim Downes-Agard (Barbados)

31. These officers will form the Bureau of Contracting Parties for the period until the Eighteenth Intergovernmental Meeting on the Action Plan for the Caribbean Environment Programme and Fifteenth Meeting of the Contracting Parties to the Convention for the Protection and Development of the Marine Environment of the Wider Caribbean Region is convened. The President of the Bureau shall also serve as Chairman of the Monitoring Committee.

2.3) Organization of Work

32. English, French and Spanish were the working languages of the Meeting. Simultaneous interpretation in these languages was provided by the Secretariat for the plenary sessions. The working documents of the Meeting were available in all the working languages. The Meeting also elected to adopt its hours of work as reflected in the order of the day, and such other arrangements of a procedural or organizational nature as deemed necessary.

AGENDA ITEM 3: ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA

33. The Meeting was invited to adopt the Agenda and Annotated Agenda of the Meeting as contained in documents UNEP(DEPI)/CAR IG.39/1 and UNEP(DEPI)/CAR IG.39/2 respectively, as well as the working hours and other procedural and organizational matters.
34. Ms Jenny Bowie Wilches, from the Government of Colombia, requested that she be allowed to present on the status of the ratifications during the delivery of the Report of the Chairperson of the 2015-2016 Monitoring Committee, considering that the Government of Colombia also served as the Depositary for the Cartagena Convention. This request was accepted by the Government of France as Chair of the 2017-2018 Bureau.
35. The French delegation requested that the review and adoption of a document (Cayenne Statement), intended for the High-Level Session, be introduced as an agenda item for consideration by the COP. This request was accepted by the Chairperson of the Bureau.
36. The Agenda was adopted with the suggested modifications, as presented in Annex I of this Report.

AGENDA ITEM 4: REPORT OF THE CHAIRPERSON OF THE MONITORING COMMITTEE AND PRESIDENT OF THE BUREAU OF CONTRACTING PARTIES AND REPORT ON THE STATUS OF RATIFICATION

37. The Chair invited the Government of Colombia, as Depositary for the Cartagena Convention, to provide the Meeting with a report on any ratifications and/or accessions that took place during the period 2015-2016.
38. The outgoing President of the Bureau of Contracting Parties and Chairperson of the Monitoring Committee, represented by Ms Jenny Bowie Wilches of the Government of Colombia, presented the report for the period 2015-2016. She started her presentation by recalling that the last Intergovernmental Meeting held in Cartagena, Colombia was held on the occasion of the 30th anniversary of the signing of the Convention and that the meeting provided an opportunity to reflect on the past achievements and to identify future areas of work in the region. She briefly reflected on the work of the past Coordinator, Mr Nelson Andrade Colmenares and welcomed the new Coordinator of the Caribbean Environment Programme (CEP), Ms Lorna Inniss.
39. As the Depositary for the Cartagena Convention and its Protocols, she presented the status of the ratifications. She informed that during the last biennium, the Governments of Jamaica and Costa Rica had ratified the LBS

Protocol. She noted that the contracting parties received more financial and technical support from the Secretariat in order to implement the Protocols and thus encouraged those who had not yet done so to ratify the protocols. She further informed that five countries submitted the report on the implementation of the Cartagena Convention and its Protocols, and invited other member governments to submit their reports.

40. During the biennium, she indicated that the Secretariat continued to raise funds in order ensure the implementation of the work plan, through projects such as the GEF CReW. She highlighted that under the SPAW Protocol, 13 new Protected Areas were added, making it to a total of 31 Protected Areas as well as four new coral reef species which were added under Annex II. With regard to CETA, she called for countries to assist the Secretariat in strengthening communication efforts given the limited human and other resources in the area.
41. In terms of the financial sustainability of CEP, Ms Bowie Wilches noted that the Secretariat made significant efforts in working with the member governments to secure contributions. She thanked those who had made contributions to the Caribbean Trust Fund (CTF) and encouraged payment of contributions by those who had not yet done so. She thanked the donors, partners and other agencies including the Government of the United States of America for hosting the Scientific, Technical and Advisory Committee (STAC) meetings in November 2016. She also thanked the Governments of Cuba, Curacao, Trinidad and Tobago and France for hosting the Regional Activity Centres (RACs).
42. She concluded her report by sharing information on the work of the Government of Colombia to implement the Convention and its Protocols. She presented the work in San Andres as an example of integrated management of protected areas. She highlighted that the Government of Colombia had also been implementing the National Action Plan for the conservation of sharks and rays. She concluded by emphasizing the need to maintain the Convention as a means of implementing new global agendas such as the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, the SAMOA Pathway and the Paris Agreement.
43. The delegate from France congratulated the Government of Colombia on their efforts and further commented that the person who was seconded to RAC REMPEITC-Caribe was from the company Total and not from the Government of France and that the final decision to discontinue support did not come from the Government of France.

AGENDA ITEM 5: REPORT OF THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF UN ENVIRONMENT ON THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE CARIBBEAN ENVIRONMENT PROGRAMME (2015-2016) AND BUDGET

44. The Chairperson invited the Secretariat to present the Report of the Executive Director on the Implementation of the 2015-2016 Workplan of the Caribbean Environment Programme, as contained in document UNEP(DEPI)/CAR IG.39/INF.4, including implementation of the Decisions 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 (11-13 December 2014, Cartagena, Colombia). Detailed presentations were made by the Secretariat on the work carried out by each Sub-programme of the CEP (i.e. the Pollution, Biodiversity and Communication Sub-programmes).
45. Ms Lorna Inniss provided a summary of the implementation of the workplan for the period 2015-2016, the budgetary status, and administration and human resources management at the Secretariat. By recalling the mission and objective, she emphasized that CEP would continue to foster regional cooperation for the protection and development of the marine and coastal environment of the Wider Caribbean Region. She noted that the Secretariat had taken appropriate actions in response to the Decisions of the Sixteenth Intergovernmental Meeting and other CEP intergovernmental and technical meetings and that these were implemented within the work programme for 2015-2016 (Annex I, UNEP(DEPI)/CAR IG.39/INF.4).

46. She informed that the Secretariat had 13 active staff positions and two positions (Deputy Coordinator and CETA Programme Officer) which remained frozen. She remarked that although the CTF had received US\$2,017,962 during the biennium, the operations of CEP faced increasing financial challenges. She remarked that the support from member governments had been crucial and thanked the Governments that support the RACs and the Governments of the United States of America and France for hosting CEP meetings. She also thanked the Governments of Jamaica and Costa Rica for ratifying the LBS Protocol.
47. Ms Inniss commented on the implementation of GEF funded projects such as CReW, IWEco, and CLME+. She noted that although the Secretariat made significant efforts in mobilising funding through these projects, the outstanding contributions to the Trust Fund and lack of financial and human resources had posed a significant challenge to the work of the Secretariat. On a similar note, she pointed out that the sustainability of RAC-REMPEITC was an important issue in helping CEP to fulfil its obligations and urged member governments to direct their attention towards efforts in ensuring its sustainability.
48. In terms of achievements, she indicated that the coordination with UN Environment offices, projects and activities in the Wider Caribbean had improved. She highlighted opportunities for further collaboration with other stakeholders such as the private sector and increasing these efforts to ensure the fulfilment of the Sustainable Development Goals. She further indicated that there were also opportunities for linking the ongoing SOCAR process with the World Ocean Assessment.
49. She concluded by introducing a discussion paper (UNEP(DEPI)/CAR IG.39/INF.8) based on the recommendations made by an audit of the Secretariat conducted in 2015. She invited Member Governments to consider a major recommendation of the audit to have an update of the strategy for the CEP Action Plan, which was adopted in 1990 and the development of a resource mobilization strategy- since the latter had not existed previously. In concluding, she summarized the remaining recommendations for consideration by the meeting, such as the financial sustainability of CEP, including that of the RACs and the identification of future programme priorities and projects.
50. The pollution Programme Officer, Mr. Christopher Corbin was invited to present an overview of the achievements of the pollution sub-programme for the 2015-2016 period. Mr. Corbin began by recognizing and congratulating the Governments of Costa Rica and Jamaica that ratified the LBS Protocol during the biennium.
51. He provided a summary of new projects developed and funded; ways in which the Secretariat improved SPAW/LBS collaboration; how the Secretariat responded to IGM16 and LBS COP2 Decisions; new regional tools and guidelines that were developed; capacity building and training provided; and new educational and outreach material produced.
52. During the remainder of his presentation, Mr. Corbin highlighted the amount of funding mobilized by the Secretariat, the number of partnerships that the Secretariat fostered in order to deliver programme activities, as well as examples of some of the specific national and regional capacity building and training workshops which took place.
53. The pollution Programme Officer then presented a summary of some of the achievements of the RAC REMPEITC despite only having one International Maritime Organisation (IMO) Consultant seconded from the US Coast Guard. He emphasized the important work done relating to the management of ship-generated wastes, ballast water and in support of other IMO conventions.
54. In conclusion, Mr. Corbin acknowledged the importance of raising the political profile of the work relating to pollution prevention, reduction and control in the region. He thanked the focal points, LBS RACs, GEF Projects, and the several national, regional and international partners who had contributed to the success of the programme during the biennium.

55. The Chairperson invited Ms. Monica Borobia Hill, Biodiversity Consultant to the Secretariat, to present the status of activities of the Biodiversity Sub-programme and their implementation during the 2015-2016 biennium.
56. She highlighted the close collaboration and partnership with the SPAW/RAC in Guadeloupe, supported by the Government of France, for the implementation of all sub-programme activities and for fundraising efforts. She also noted that details on the extensive work done by the SPAW RAC during the biennium was summarized in UNEP(DEPI)/CAR WG.38/INF.4.
57. She pointed out that SPAW activities focused primarily on the five broad areas of work of the Sub-programme: i) Coordination, ii) Strengthening of protected areas (with emphasis on Marine Protected Areas (MPAs) through SPAW's CaMPAM programme); iii) Development of guidelines and criteria as per specific provisions and requirements of the Protocol (i.e. on listing of protected areas and species and on exemptions under Article 11.2); iv) Conservation of threatened and endangered species; and v) Conservation and sustainable use of coastal and marine ecosystems.
58. She noted that increased collaboration and synergies with relevant organisations and initiatives within and at the global level were enhanced. In this context of developing further synergies, she indicated that two new Memoranda of Cooperation were finalised with the Sargassum Sea Commission and the International Whaling Commission, with both ready for signature, at the time of the IGM17.
59. Ms Hill stated that the activities for the strengthening of protected areas included technical assistance through small grants to 6 OECS countries via the Resilient Eastern Caribbean Marine Managed Areas Network (ECMMAN) which is funded by the German Government, and executed by The Nature Conservancy (TNC), as well as training and capacity building on marine protected areas management, all executed through CaMPAM.
60. In her presentation, she highlighted the significant financial support provided through the Ecosystem-Based Management Project, funded by the Italian Government which made possible the support for: MPA sessions and MPA managers in participating at annual GCFI conferences in 2015 and 2016; two Training of Trainers (ToTs) courses (Grenada and Dominican Republic) for 48 participants from 19 English and Spanish speaking countries; Regional MPA database updating to integrate 31 SPAW listed sites and enhanced functionality for MPAs (with SPAW RAC and GCFI); and a Decision Support System (DSS) tool for Puerto Plata-Monte Cristi, Dominican Republic, to support integrated sustainable management of area.
61. Ms Hill highlighted a major accomplishment of the sub-programme as the listing of 31 protected areas under the SPAW Protocol by Parties (since the entry into force of the Protocol in 2000) and the launch of the cooperation programme to support these areas. The process for listing PAs under SPAW continues and one new proposal has been submitted for the Protected Area Cayos de San Felipe by the Government of Cuba. The Government of France also presented at the SPAW COP9 their intention to propose the listing of two new PAs in French Guiana in the next two years.
62. She mentioned that proposed species listing in SPAW Annexes have been considered such as the inclusion of rays and shark species, as well as the Nassau Grouper in Annexes II and III of the Protocol, which was adopted by the SPAW COP9.
63. Ms Hill noted that a voluntary draft reporting format for exemptions under Article 11.2 had been completed by the SPAW STAC7 and the Ad Hoc Working Group, with the format being tested using the case of an exemption proposed by Curacao. She added that the Format was adopted by the SPAW COP9 and Curacao was encouraged to further provide information on its proposal for exemption based on the comments received by the Ad Hoc Working Group.
64. She mentioned that the implementation of the Marine Mammal Action Plan continued with support to the Sister Sanctuary programme with: The Stellwagen Bank-US NOAA, Agoa Sanctuary-France, Marine Mammal Sanctuary- Dominican Republic and Yarari-Netherlands Caribbean. She said that awareness raising, information

sharing and photo-ID of humpback whales was supported via the CARIB Tails initiative in the region and that Whale Watching principles had also been disseminated through a brochure. She commented on the continued support to sea turtle conservation through national sea turtle recovery plans (STRAPs) with WIDECAS as well as on the bird conservation activities taking place in a number of SPAW Parties.

65. Ms Hill pointed out that important progress was made to address the Sargassum influx as an emerging issue of concern in the region. She added that the Global Coral Reef Monitoring – Caribbean Network was reactivated and monitoring guidelines were agreed on.
66. She commented on the GEF UNDP CLME+ Project which has been operational since May 2015, which had proceeded with an Inter-Agency Agreement signed in June 2016 with UNEP-CEP for implementation of activities to: enhance integration between AMEP and SPAW activities and synergies; develop cooperation agreement with Brazil; an Ecosystem Based Management strategy for living marine resources in the Northern Brazil Shelf; and an assessment and strategy for the protection and restoration of key habitats to reduce impact of pollution.
67. Ms Hill highlighted the total expenditures of SPAW projects and activities which amounted to US\$ 188,076.00 (2015) and US\$ 1,756,843 (2016), solely from counterpart contributions, as no funds were available from the Caribbean Trust Fund. In addition, she emphasized that the Government of France had contributed in cash through the SPAW-RAC in Guadeloupe, a total of Euros 280,000 in the biennium mainly for operations (excluding the salaries of three permanent RAC staff).
68. Ms Hill concluded by acknowledging the generous support of the Government of the United States of America for the convening of the SPAW STAC7 held in Miami from 2-4 November 2016.
69. The Chair invited Mr. Corbin to give a presentation on the Communication Education, Training and Awareness (CETA) Sub-programme.
70. The Pollution Programme Officer, Mr. Christopher Corbin, who is also the Officer in Charge of the CETA sub-programme presented an overview of the main achievements of CETA for the 2015-2016 period. He began by outlining the main goal of the sub-programme which is to generate and disseminate information and to support public awareness efforts; develop tools, plans and strategies; and improve access to information.
71. Mr. Corbin summarized the main achievements of the sub-programme in the following areas: communication, education, training and awareness; managing and updating existing websites and databases; providing support to the technical Programmes and projects; preparing periodic reports, responding to requests for information, and maintaining and updating websites.
72. He highlighted the significant increase in the use of social media, in particular of Facebook, Twitter and YouTube and requested assistance from all governments to assist the Secretariat in promoting the work of the Caribbean Environment Programme.
73. The Chair invited the meeting to pose any questions on the earlier presentations recalling the content of the presentations and reflecting on the substantial work and accomplishments of the Secretariat. He explained that it was important to express the aspirations for the biennium or directions that the Meeting would like to see the Secretariat take.
74. He expressed his desire to see an updated strategy on the Work Programme and commented that it was clear that there were difficulties to be identified requiring collective efforts. Additionally, he touched on the need for adhesion to the Protocol by countries and hoped that it would be possible to get other states to join/ratify the Protocols.

75. He noted the function of the Secretariat and its role in international governance and oceans with the desire to have the Caribbean Sea integrated in all efforts and further touched on the lack of resources and the limiting factors that required a careful examination of budgetary aspects and the actual resources available.
76. The Coordinator agreed that all areas were adequately covered and commented further on the need to have discussions on the direction of the Secretariat for the coming biennium and that she looked forward to hearing the perspectives of the Parties.
77. The Chair requested feedback from the countries on the presentations. He urged the countries to make decisions that will become a road map for the future reminding that one of the questions to begin the discussion within the framework of the work was to recall the framework dated back to 1990, and the need to update this.
78. The delegate from Colombia commented on the possible need to update the Action Plan considering that there were challenges in the general global context. She stated that an update was possible, but there were budgetary constraints and highlighted that she thought it was not feasible to increase contributions. She added that if new spheres were explored, a total reorganisation of activities would be needed. She recalled the close cooperation with the international community and the possible need to strengthen collaborations to make this possible.
79. The delegate from France commented regarding the need for an updated strategic framework and recalled that projects such as the CLME+ offered opportunities for coordination on certain initiatives. He noted that there was the need to improve integration/consolidation between the Convention and other areas of work. He explained that it should consider the long-term actions of the Convention and supported the point of the Secretariat to place the Convention in its regional context. He concluded that it would be helpful to have a strategy to guide activities within the context of this framework over the next biennium.
80. The delegate from Cuba agreed on the need to update the strategy recalling the ISE meeting in Cuba with projects approved as it related to Climate Change. He provided a background summary on each project and the specific areas being addressed e.g. coral reefs, the Sargassum influx, assessment of the effects of climate change and the dispersal of invasive species specifically lionfish. Therefore, in updating the strategy, it would provide a wonderful opportunity to merge efforts in the region.
81. The delegate from the USA thanked the Secretariat and its staff for their tireless efforts over the years calling attention to the issues facing the marine environment of the Caribbean Region. She welcomed the new Coordinator and commended her for her accomplishments thus far. She acknowledged the hard work of the Pollution Programme Officer, Mr. Corbin, and his staff for the very hard work done by the Sub-programme, particularly the support to the Working Group on the SOCAR development progress. She concluded by stating that the USA would be happy to support the process to update the Strategic Action Plan.
82. The delegate from the Dominican Republic congratulated the Secretariat for all the presentations made, noting that they reflected a lot of information and hard work. He expressed his appreciation for what was shared as proof of the Secretariat's dedication and within this context, he highlighted the Agoa Sanctuary workplan which was in progress and whale watching activities in the Dominican Republic, specifically in the Bay of Semana, as an example of how this can be done in a sustainable way. He explained that this had become a means of income generation and had benefited the country on a national level by promoting tourism through generating conservation actions on a community-based level and providing economic benefits.
83. The delegate from the United States of America (USA) requested an intervention which would serve to encourage cooperation between the Parties. She requested the possibility of providing a brief summary on the efforts of the USA to promote the protection and sustainable development of the marine environment in the Wider Caribbean Region in the previous biennium.
84. The delegate from the USA, Ms Rona Rathod, noted the timely submission of their report on the implementation of the Cartagena Convention. She explained that in the previous biennium the USA worked on increasing the

capacity of MPAs to adapt to climate change and also to address pollution issues, considering especially the vulnerability of SIDS. She recalled her comment in SPAW COP9 that the USA Government had funded a Latin American and Caribbean MPA project to support capacity building for planning, innovation, training, and piloting low tech and low-cost compliance solutions for nearshore coastal MPAs in Belize, Honduras, Panama, and the Bahamas, and possibly other countries. She promised to share the findings of this project with the Parties.

85. Ms Rathod highlighted an ongoing project in which the USA had partnered with the Caribbean Environment Programme to fund innovative wastewater treatment technologies and agricultural management solutions to reduce nutrient runoff to the marine environment in Jamaica and Costa Rica. Mention was also made of the Trash Free Waters and Our Oceans Initiative, the hosting the "Our Oceans" conference in Washington in September 2016 which sought to inspire and empower a new generation of leaders, entrepreneurs, scientists, and civil society to identify solutions and take action to protect and conserve our ocean and its resources. HSe mentioned that participants in the third Our Ocean conference announced over 136 new initiatives on marine conservation and protection valued at more than \$5.24 billion, and committed to protecting almost four million square kilometres of the ocean. She pointed out that to date, the three Our Ocean conferences had generated commitments valued at over \$9.2 billion to protect our ocean and committed to protect 9.9 million square kilometres of ocean. She remarked that they looked forward to building on these commitments at the conferences in 2017 hosted by the European Union in Malta.
86. Ms Rathod noted that the USA and 5 Gyres announced a citizen science program to collect data on the impact of marine microplastics on the environment and human health to spur innovative solutions to reduce and prevent the flow of land-based trash into the ocean in Puerto Rico and the Wider Caribbean.
87. She added that the USA had partnered with the Ocean Foundation on two projects in the region: one to support climate change mitigation through conservation and restoration of blue carbon sinks such as mangrove forests and seagrass beds; and the other to provide equipment and training for ocean acidification monitoring, such as capacity building support to scientists to monitor and share data with the Global Ocean Acidification Observing Network (GOA-ON). She stated that a workshop for participants from Latin America and the Caribbean would be held in fall 2018.
88. In concluding, Ms Rathod reported that the USA had signed a series of agreements of relevance to these bodies with Cuba. She mentioned that the USA had signed agreements to cooperate on preparedness and response to oil spills and hazardous pollution, on designating sister protected areas – both marine and terrestrial – in order to share best practices in the management of those protected areas, hurricane forecasting, hydrography and geodesy, and a framework document to cooperate to look after our shared marine ecosystems, preserve biodiversity, and improve maritime safety.
89. The Chair thanked the USA for its efforts on regional solidarity and stated that the USA was proof that there is a need for financing whether bilaterally or laterally to provide protection for the Caribbean Sea.
90. The delegate from Colombia, Ms Jenny Bowie Wilches, sought to clarify the presentation regarding report on the Cartagena Reporting Template received from five countries and added that states are responsible for doing and submitting their reports.
91. Ms Wilches thanked the Chair for the recap and indicated that it was impossible to provide the Secretariat with new resources for the update of the strategy and indicated that it must be done in a creative way.
92. The Fund Management Officer (FMO), Mr Martin Okun, was invited to present on the financial performance of the Secretariat. He gave an overview of the Caribbean Trust Fund (CTF) and receipts from governments against approved contributions for 2010-2017.

93. Mr Okun summarized the contributions between 2012 and 2016 and implored the meeting to look carefully at the figures pointing out that the boost in figures accounted for outstanding contributions paid by countries. He added that CTF expenditure, receipts and pledges were also examined and the sustained decline in contributions was highlighted with 2016 being the worse year. He explained ways in which the Secretariat had been seeking support from other donors (e.g. GEF CReW project, USA and France; UNDP/GEF CLME+ Project and the Italian Government). He mentioned that there was still a need for the contributions from all Parties.
94. He provided the background on the new Administrative System- Umoja and the reason behind its creation to ensure more accountability to Member States. He spoke on challenges with its inception but also the advantages that it offers and the improved efficiency. He reminded the meeting that the Decisions from the IGM16 established that a working capital would be maintained at 15% as well as reminded the countries about the 13% Programme Support Costs (PSC) applied against the CTF as outlined in the Financial Rules of the Convention. Mr Okun proposed a 10% increase in pledges.
95. In light of the financial situation of the Secretariat, Mr. Okun urged the Member States to support the Caribbean Trust Fund (CTF) by paying their pledges on time. He also urged the Member States to approve the reclassification of the position of the G4 Team Assistant.
96. The Chair thanked Mr Okun for his presentation and acknowledged delegates who sought to comment, requesting that comments be brief to make up for lost time in the Order of the Day.
97. The delegate from Cuba expressed the desire to present a new item to be covered, with the understanding that this would be the ideal moment based on the topic being discussed.
98. The Chair responded that the presentation could be facilitated on the following day. He noted that the Meeting had already been able to discuss the strategy/new action plan. He acknowledged that initial remarks were already put forward towards continuing discussions the following day, and that there would need to be a substantial discussion on the proposal for an increase in contributions. He recalled the various recommendations/discussions put forward on how to address the contributions being received then advised that the delegate from Curacao had to make an early departure and therefore wished to be accommodated with an announcement.
99. The delegate from Curacao provided two interventions. Firstly, on the issue of RAC/REMPEITC, she indicated that the Government of Curacao wished to thank the Government of the USA for its support and provision of a consultant, and also the Government of France for its support. She stated that there was currently only one consultant and desired that support be increased with the creation of permanent positions at the RAC, especially for that of a Director. Secondly, she informed the meeting that the Government of Curacao wished to host the next intergovernmental meetings.
100. The Chair thanked the delegate and the Government of Curacao for its commitment to the work of the Convention and expressed gratitude for their support to the RAC and the offer to host the next intergovernmental meetings.
101. Discussions ensued on the Cayenne Statement proposed by the Government of France. Several delegations had concerns with the content of the Statement and a working group was formed to address the issue and to make a recommendation to the meeting.

AGENDA ITEM 6: WORKPLAN AND BUDGET FOR THE CARIBBEAN ENVIRONMENT PROGRAMME FOR THE 2017-2018 BIENNIUM

102. The Chair invited the Secretariat to present the information document UNEP(DEPI)/CAR IG.39/INF.7 on the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between the Government of Brazil and the Secretariat.

103. Ms. Inniss started by explaining that the initial framework for the discussion between the Secretariat and the Government of Brazil was within the framework of the GEF CLME+ project. She called the meeting's attention to Decision VII paragraph 2 of the Sixteenth Intergovernmental Meeting which requested the Secretariat to explore opportunities for entering formal agreement with the Government of Brazil regarding mutual collaboration. She also noted that the United Nations Environment Assembly through its resolution 2/10 paragraph 13 requested the contracting parties to the existing regional seas conventions to "consider the possibility of increasing the regional coverage of those instruments in accordance with international law".
104. She stated that in response to the request, the Secretariat had initiated discussions with the Government of Brazil. She indicated that the Secretariat had made a formal visit to Brasilia and had a meeting with the Ministries of Planning Development and Management, Foreign Affairs, Defence, Environment, as well as agencies with responsibility for Water Resources and Environmental Quality, Biodiversity Conservation, Aquaculture and Fisheries.
105. The Chair invited the delegates to provide comments and reflections.
106. The representative from the Government of Brazil, Mr Vinicius Scofield Siquiera, thanked the Secretariat for allowing him to participate as an Observer at the IGM and COPs. He also thanked the Project Coordinator of the GEF CLME+ Project for his productive mission to Brasilia earlier in the year. He added that the Brazilian inter-agency team had learnt a great deal about the work of the Cartagena Convention and its Protocols and also about the 10-year CLME+ Strategic Action Program and the associated GEF Project and considered them positive initiatives for marine conservation.
107. Mr Scofield recognised that there are areas of mutual interest that could benefit from a more structured framework for dialogue and cooperation and so appreciated the outreach from the Secretariat. He noted the options on how to frame such further engagement with the CEP Secretariat, including through a possible Memorandum of Understanding, were being considered.
108. He identified a number of issues that could benefit from a closer from a closer dialogue and potential cooperation and mentioned that there were already dialogues on opportunities for collaboration under the GEF CLME+ Project, the Ecosystem-Based Management sub-project, the Ecosystem Approach to Fisheries and under the Cartagena Convention and its Protocols. He concluded that the Government had identified these areas of cooperation possibly through formalization of a MoU.
109. The delegate from the United States of America, Ms Rona Rathod, thanked the Government of Brazil for their intervention and added that she was happy to see the fulfilment of a UNEA Resolution regarding cooperation with countries outside of the Cartagena Convention framework. She added that she looked forward to the finalization of such an MoU and that the Government of the United States of America welcomed the cooperation with open arms in this regard.
110. The delegate from Cuba, Mr Pedro Ruiz Hernandez, expressed the support of the Government of Cuba for the proposal from Brazil for cooperation.
111. Regarding the proposed partnership with the Government of Brazil, the Chair, Mr Xavier Sticker, thanked the Secretariat for its efforts in being creative in seeking partnerships elsewhere. He commented on the timely contribution to improve the Secretariat thereby making it possible for the programme to continue. He added that given the impulse to implement new projects, he hoped that the partnership would be endorsed during the meeting in order for the Secretariat to be able to carry out its activities.
112. Mr Sticker stated that he looked forward to the development of a relationship with the Government of Brazil and expressed hope for the Government of Brazil's participation in future workshops and meetings regarding the Convention and that there be continued intense exchanges to ensure that a long-term relation was maintained.

113. The Chair invited the Secretariat to present the information document UNEP(DEPI)/CAR IG.39/INF.8 on the CEP Sustainable Development Strategy and Performance Indicators (including Resource Mobilization Strategy).
114. Ms Inniss told the meeting that in 2015, the Office of Internal Oversight Services (OIOS) conducted an audit of the CEP and made recommendations to update the strategy and develop and implement a resource mobilization strategy (REPORT 2015/083). She then presented the recommendations from the audit for consideration by the Intergovernmental Meeting to arrive at decisions related to the update of the Strategy for the CEP Action Plan, which was adopted in 1990, and the development of a resource mobilization strategy. She indicated that member governments might consider incorporating a resource mobilization strategy within the updated strategy in order to support the overall strategic objectives. While noting previous comments by the delegate from Colombia regarding the cost implication, she stated that the allocation of sufficient resources would be necessary to develop strategies with sufficient consultation with member governments and relevant stakeholders in the region.
115. She stated that the challenges of the strategy were that there was no specific mechanism in place to monitor the implementation, and that it did not incorporate emerging issues.
116. Ms Inniss explained that in responding to the audit recommendations, the Secretariat had initiated the preparation of possible elements to be included in such an updated strategy. She noted that possible strategic objectives of the strategy might include: i) repositioning the Caribbean Environment Programme as a leading regional organization for sustainable development; and ii) streamlining activities under the three programmes and Regional Activity Centres in order to enhance the implementation and delivery of the Action Plan and the Cartagena Convention and its Protocols. She highlighted that approximately USD35,000 would be needed to update the strategy.
117. She indicated that the Secretariat had initiated the preparation of a draft of the resource mobilization strategy given the status of the CTF. She invited the delegates to consider including elements such as an analysis of current donor priorities, and sustainability and improvement of the status of the Trust Fund.
118. She concluded by providing a preliminary timeline and indicative cost for developing the strategies. It was suggested that the strategies could be submitted to the next Intergovernmental Meeting for approval.
119. Mr Xavier Sticker noted that the 1990 strategy was too far delayed as a modality for CEP to carry out its functions and therefore encouraged the meeting to consider the creation of a new strategy.
120. Mr Jose Mateo Félix from the Government of the Dominican Republic noted the efforts of the Secretariat and remarked that the strategy needed to be revised. However, he requested clear guidance on the document and said that a discussion of the needs of the Secretariat was required as it was not clear whether the amount requested would be sufficient. He also commented that it would be useful to have a summary of the proposal for review and highlighted that although it was important to have the Strategy, there were certain aspects that required further clarity.
121. The delegate from Colombia commented that it was necessary to update the strategy considering current international and regional objectives, such as the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. She reiterated concerns on the budgetary implications and remarked on the need to have a copy of the document for review. She noted that it should include a diagnosis and evaluation of the previous Action Plan.
122. Ms Lorna Inniss from the Secretariat apologized to the delegates for the late posting of the document and thanked them for their comments. She mentioned that an evaluation of the previous Action Plan was a part of the consultancy for work on the updated document. She noted that the budget included a workshop and that the work would be done over 3-4 months. She added that funds would be sought from wherever was possible and that the Secretariat was not in a position to use programme funds from the Trust Fund as they were too low.

123. Ms Courtney Vail, representative of the Animal Welfare Institute, thanked the Secretariat for the on-going collaboration with the Secretariat and for welcoming Non-Governmental Organisations (NGOs) to share in these meetings. She also thanked the Government of France for hosting the meeting. She remarked that as a long-standing and active participant in the activities relating to the SPAW Protocol, she heard the earnest request from the Secretariat and the Protocol Programme Officers for support and also funds. She reiterated that the critically low state of the Caribbean Trust Fund was a consistent message over the past few meetings.
124. Ms Vail indicated that the Animal Welfare Institute had been actively involved in the Convention since its inception and that they pledged their continuing assistance. She reaffirmed their commitment to the Convention's success and that she understood that much of this success was dependent upon adequate funding and so would continue to promote the good work of the Convention, the Secretariat and its programmes with NGO colleagues with the hope and intention that new funding sources and mechanisms could be found to support the CTF.
125. She concluded that she was aware of many Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs) outside the region that were interested in the success of the Wider Caribbean but they were not familiar with the Convention and its Protocols and how funds could be channelled more generally into the region. She underlined that although the Secretariat had collaborated with some NGOs in the past, she was hopeful that together they could work to identify, channel, and coalesce resources in the near term.
126. The Chair, Mr Sticker, thanked Ms Vail for her observation and noted that resource mobilization required a certain art in its execution. He remarked on the support to the development of a new version of the strategy and indicated that it should be transparent and inclusive. He mentioned that he had noticed the issue of resources as a challenge and affirmed that the new document would be a strong point for the Convention and therefore encouraged the parties to fulfil this objective. He added that he would not address the issue of funding but welcomed any opportunities to later discuss the modality for the fulfilment of a new strategy.
127. The chair summarized the discussion and mentioned that the process for the development of a strategy needed to be transparent. He concluded by stating that the strategy would be an important result for the next meeting and would encourage the Parties to consider it.
128. The Secretariat was invited by the Chair to present a summary of its 2017-2018 proposed Workplan.
129. The Pollution Programme Officer, Mr. Christopher Corbin presented the draft work plan and budget for the period 2017-2018 for the Pollution sub-programme. He began with an outline of his presentation which focused on the Recommendations and Decisions of the third LBS STAC and COP, programme priorities, targets and impacts, projects and activities and budget.
130. Mr. Corbin outlined that the LBS STAC recommendations included an endorsement of the draft AMEP work plan and budget for 2017-2018, the need for increased ratification of the LBS Protocol, the need for further work by the working group on Monitoring and Assessment to complete the State of Convention Area Report (SOCAR) and endorsed efforts to develop new projects for possible funding by the Global Environment Facility (GEF).
131. He continued with a summary of the LBS COP decisions including decisions requested from the previous IGM. These included requesting all governments of the Caribbean Environment Programme to: (1) provide data and information to the Secretariat as input to the SOCAR no later than 15th April, 2017; (2) indicate an interest in joining the Working Group on Monitoring and Assessment and the Data Sub-Group no later than 30th March, 2017; (3) actively participate in global and regional partnerships on marine litter, wastewater and nutrients including attending the Intergovernmental Review Meeting of the GPA in October 2017 in Indonesia.
132. Several other points concerning the proposed work plan were highlighted including the importance of collaboration with other MEAs and regional and international organizations; Pollution and Biodiversity

collaboration, private sector engagement; resource mobilization and finalizing the host country agreement with the Government of Cuba for hosting of LBS RAC CIMAB.

133. The Pollution Programme Officer identified the main programme priorities for the work plan including a focus on GEF project development and implementation, the finalization of the SOCAR, the further development of the Caribbean Platforms for Wastewater, Nutrients and Marine Litter and enhancing Pollution and Biodiversity collaboration.
134. Mr. Corbin proceeded to describe some of the specific activities to be implemented under the areas of Programme Coordination and the GEF funded projects including GEF CReW, GEF CReW+, GEF IWEco and the UNDP GEF CLME+ projects. The other areas of focus included Environmental Monitoring and Assessment, Solid Waste and Marine Litter Management, and National Programmes of Action for pollution prevention including nutrients management.
135. Mr. Corbin concluded his overview of the main focus areas for the sub-programme by highlighting upcoming activities implemented through the RAC for oil spills- REMPEITC-Caribe.
136. In conclusion, the Pollution Programme Officer informed delegates of some of the major upcoming meetings relating to oceans and pollution and ended by providing a summary of the budget of the programme.
137. He indicated that as a result of reduced contributions to the Caribbean Trust Fund, all activities of the programme were being funded from external funds.
138. Following the Pollution presentation, Mr. Corbin, as the officer in charge of the CETA sub-programme in the absence of a dedicated Programme Officer for CETA, continued with an overview of the proposed activities for CETA. He began by reiterating the lack of dedicated staff for the sub-programme and the need for upgrade of the CETA Team Assistant position from G4 to G5 to be consistent with the other Programme Assistants. He went on to acknowledge the significant support received from partners, GEF projects and UN Environment through the Regional Office for Latin American and the Caribbean and the Caribbean Sub-Regional Office to support the Secretariat's promotional and outreach efforts.
139. Despite having no allocation of funds for CETA activities within the budget, Mr. Corbin highlighted that the programme would continue to work to finalize a Communications Strategy, enhance the use of social media, develop additional promotional materials and communications products, in all three languages and continue to increase engagement with focal points.
140. He ended by encouraging all focal points to become more active in the work of the Caribbean Environment Programme and by showcasing the impacts of the Secretariat's work at national, regional and international fora.
141. The Chair thanked Mr Corbin for his presentations.
142. The delegate from France asked that a correction be made to footnote 4 on page 45 of the Draft Workplan and Budget to correctly reflect that funds for the "Best Initiative" were from European Union funding and not IUCN.
143. The delegate from Guatemala, Mr Mario Diaz Anzueto, congratulated Ms Lorna Inniss on her new position as Coordinator and thanked Mr Corbin for his presentations. He highlighted that the projects provided a good opportunity for Governments to connect with the work of CEP. He emphasized that the Government of Guatemala actively participated in the GEF CReW and GEF CLME+ projects and received a lot of support from the Secretariat. He noted that based on the experience gained from the projects, they were able to work on the Mesoamerican Reef Project and to build capacity within his country. He added that although Guatemala had not yet ratified the LBS Protocol, they were able to make relevant improvements as a result of these projects.

144. Mr Diaz Anzueto requested that the Secretariat make a request for allocation of Global Environment Facility (GEF) funds before the countries were committed to other efforts in the region. He mentioned that this was the reason the country was unable to participate in some initiatives. He highlighted that it is important to make preliminary commitments so funds could be set aside for proposed activities of the Secretariat.
145. The delegate from Barbados, Mr Anthony Headley, sought clarification regarding the budget. He pointed out that sum of the SPAW and AMEP budgets did not match the amount on the consolidated table and asked that the Secretariat clarify this in order to understand whether the figures were based on the current contribution and not what was proposed.
146. The Fund Management Officer, Mr Okun, clarified that the figures were for the biennium and that the figure from finance are the most accurate. He stated that estimates were done based on the amount that was available. Mr Corbin indicated that the figures would be adjusted based on funds received by the Secretariat.
147. The delegate from Barbados requested that the Secretariat present the amounts per year so that it would be easier to see the projected breakdown thereby making it easier to analyse. He requested that the breakdown be provided for both years prior to the meeting making a decision.
148. Mr Corbin acknowledged and thanked Mr Headley from the Barbados Government for his observations and affirmed that the figures would be aligned with the budget of the Secretariat.
149. Mr. Debels, Project Coordinator of the UNDP/GEF CLME+ Project, responded favourably to the request from Mr. Corbin in his workplan presentation regarding funding for the strategy for sustainable financing plan. He pointed out that it was important to look at how activities could be sustainably financed and informed that he was willing to meet with the Secretariat to see how funds could be pooled enabling the region to move forward jointly.
150. The Chair, Mr Xavier Sticker, remarked that the programme can be sustained if funds are available. He added that it was important to get information from the Focal Points as well as the reports from countries on the state of the implementation of the Convention in their countries. He suggested that a decision be made to ensure the delivery of the SOCAR is binding and political support be received to this end. Regarding the proposal to increase the limit of costs, he added that the countries should look at the needs for financing the Secretariat as the budget desired more funding to ensure its effective running.
151. Ms Marlen Perez Hernández from RAC CIMAB thanked Mr Corbin for his excellent presentation as well as the GEF Projects for their financial support to the countries. She remarked that RAC CIMAB remained committed to collaborating with the AMEP Sub-programme and would be willing to assist with translations, although not professionally and especially given the limited availability of funds. She noted that it was important to communicate and collaborate on activities and that RAC CIMAB was committed to providing assistance where necessary.
152. The delegate from Curacao questioned whether it was suitable to raise discussion on RAC REMPEITC.
153. The delegate from Curacao reiterated their commitment to CEP and to supporting the RAC noting that they would now fund a dedicated Director and again requested Parties to support the RAC through the provision of consultants and staff.
154. The Chair thanked the Government of Curacao for their declaration and important contribution.
155. The delegate from the United States of America, Ms Rona Rathod, thanked the delegate from Curacao for her statement and for offering to continue to support and increase support to RAC REMPEITC. She stated that the United States Government was always pleased to support the RAC and hoped to continue representation. She asked parties to take note of the work of the RAC and commented that the RAC has been supported by the United States of America for over two years through the secondment of a US Coast Guard. She requested that

parties considered increasing their financial investment or providing in-kind resources through the provision of subject matter experts.

156. Ms Rathod also commented on behalf of Mr Keith Donohue - the Seconded Officer from the US Coast Guard, noting that he had many responsibilities and the Centre could be supported by another expert. She emphasized that this was an urgent concern and that the Government of the United States of America would be assessing the assignment of Mr Donohue and would consider withdrawing him from the RAC by May 2017. She added that without a second consultant, it was likely that Mr Donohue's services would have to be withdrawn from the Centre. She therefore encouraged the delegates to identify a consultant from their countries.
157. The Chair, Mr Sticker, congratulated the Government of Curacao for their intention to have additional support for the Centre. He mentioned that he hoped the good will of the parties would allow for additional support to the Centre as there should be greater focus on pollution and oil spills from ships. He reiterated that one way to solve the issue being faced by RAC REMPEITC while reducing the challenges with payments to the Trust Fund was to assign expert staff to the Centre which would help to reduce outstanding contributions.
158. Mr Darryl Banjoo from RAC IMA thanked the Government of France for hosting the meeting and Mr Corbin for his presentation. He remarked on the importance of doing integrated assessments like CLME+ which links habitat and pollution. He pointed out that there should be consideration given to utilising large datasets such as those regarding oil spills to make the SOCAR a more comprehensive report. He noted that it was important to take into account priority risks such as oil spills which without an assessment in the area could not be linked with the impacts on human health. He therefore summarised that there should be consideration for a more integrated approach taken in relation to the protocols.
159. Mr Antonio Villasol from RAC CIMAB thanked the Government of France, the Secretariat and the parties for the meeting's proceedings. He established the RAC's commitment to continuing collaboration with the Secretariat and informed the meeting that they would increase their collaboration where possible. He concluded that the RAC would continue searching for funding at the national level in order to contribute more to fulfilling the Caribbean Action Plan.
160. Mr Corbin thanked the Government of Curacao for its continued commitment to hosting RAC REMPEITC. He mentioned that the RAC had expanded its work to do more in relation to other areas such as Ballast Water. He acknowledged the work of the Directors and commented that it was necessary to consider technical support. He also thanked the Government of the United States of America for their continued support and added that considering the close timing for deciding on the status of RAC REMPEITC's support, he hoped to have a plan to support the work of the centre or for any considerations by contracting parties to source the right expert.
161. Mr Corbin thanked RACs CIMAB and IMA for their continued support and remarked that their comments encouraged the Secretariat to undertake more collaboration between the sub-programmes responsible for the LBS and SPAW Protocols and on the need to broaden collaboration at the regional level.
162. Ms. Monica Borobia Hill, the SPAW Consultant, presented the draft "Workplan and Budget for the Specially Protected Areas and Wildlife (SPAW) Sub-programme for the 2017-2018 Biennium". She noted that it had been presented to the preceding Seventh Scientific and Technical Advisory Committee (STAC) Meeting and the Ninth Conference of Parties (COP9) of the SPAW Protocol and have been approved by the SPAW COP9 with minor adjustments and final approval of its budget was needed by the 17th IGM.
163. She remarked that the major programme elements of the SPAW Sub-programme would remain the same as the previous biennium, however new elements were introduced such as: indicators for monitoring the state of the marine environment in line with UNEP Regional Sea Programme's indicators process; linkages and relationship to SPAW Protocol Articles and UNEP programmes and Annex I which identifies linkages to the Sustainable Development Goals, SAMOA Pathway and UNEA-2.

164. She also highlighted that funds were largely allocated from two (2) major projects - the Ecosystem Based Management project funded by the Government of Italy and the UNDP GEF CLME+ project and its joint implementation through the AMEP and SPAW Sub-programmes. She commented that the Caribbean Trust Fund could not accommodate allocations to programme activities during the 2017-2018 biennium.
165. Regarding programme coordination, Ms Hill stated that the work would be led by a Programme Officer, who was currently under recruitment, and a Programme Assistant at the CAR/RCU Office. She pointed out that additional support would also be provided through the SPAW-RAC in Guadeloupe through three full time staff members fully funded by the Government of France and three part-time staff partly funded from project resources.
166. Ms Hill stated that programme coordination would focus on developing synergies with relevant MEAs and initiatives. She added that the Secretariat would proceed with the implementation of the two recently finalized Memoranda of Cooperation with the International Whaling Commission (IWC) and the Sargassum Sea Commission.
167. Regarding the strengthening of protected areas, she pointed out that emphasis on MPAs would continue through CaMPAM with the assistance of a coordinator (Consultant) and the SPAW-RAC. She further explained that capacity-building activities, such as those of the Training of Trainers programme (ToT) would continue to be updated to address priority needs and recommendations of the CaMPAM's 15-year evaluation report. She added that the Small Grants programme is also forecasted to continue providing direct technical assistance to MPA needs and that through the above-mentioned projects the update of the regional MPA database would continue as well as there would be enhancements to its applications for the countries.
168. Ms Hill noted that as per COP9 decisions, the Secretariat would continue to support Parties with the nomination of protected areas under the SPAW Protocol and enhance the cooperation programme for these areas. She mentioned that there was now a total of 32 protected areas after the SPAW COP9 approved Cayos de San Felipe in Cuba. She remarked that with the approval by SPAW COP9 for the voluntary format for submission of exemptions to Article 11(2) of the Protocol, the Secretariat and the working group would address mechanisms for follow-up on their implementation. She noted that the Working Group on Species would continue its work to elaborate guidelines for the nomination of species, with specific instructions provided by the COP9 for its work during the biennium. Parties were urged to participate actively in the Working Groups established under the Protocol.
169. Ms Hill emphasized that marine mammal conservation activities would continue to be based on the priorities of the regional Marine Mammal Action Plan. She highlighted that proposed activities included: (i) Improving awareness and mitigating effects of ship strikes and entanglements (follow-up to workshops with IWC), (ii) Networking among sites, education and awareness; (iii) Supporting sustainable marine mammal watching in the region; (iv) Collaboration with the Agoa initiative and Cari'MAM project to support marine mammals, MPAs networks, sister sanctuaries and Biopsy campaign to identify contaminants (pesticides, PCBs, PAHs) levels in marine mammals.
170. With regard to sea turtles, she noted that collaboration would continue with WIDECASST to develop and/or finalise, as well as implement national recovery plans (STRAPs)
171. Considering that 2018 has been designated as the International Year of the Reef, Governments were encouraged to actively participate and support the Secretariat in the implementation of activities in this regard, including with fund-raising efforts. Ms Hill remarked that these would focus on: (i) GCRMN-Caribbean coral reef monitoring network, facilitating uptake of biophysical monitoring guidelines among countries; (ii) Improving response coordination response to the Sargassum influx; (iii) Linkages to coral reef partnership of UN Environment Regional Seas that promotes coral reef ecosystem services and blue economy and (iv) BEST project for EU territories through the SPAW-RAC.

172. Ms Hill emphasized a major component for the biennium which included the coordination and development of activities in response to the Strategic Action Programme (SAP) under the GEF CLME+ Project. She shared that activities would focus on enhanced coordination among the AMEP and SPAW Sub-programmes and collaboration with and among other projects and initiatives of relevance to the SAP, with a view to promoting integrated approaches and enhanced governance. She stated that an Action Plan and Strategy for key marine habitats valuation, protection and restoration would constitute one of the major activities for SPAW under the CLME+. She said that during the biennium, the Secretariat would explore the development of a project to support mangrove conservation, through improved knowledge on their status and support monitoring activities in countries.
173. Governments welcomed the interest manifested by the Kingdom of the Netherlands to host the SPAW STAC 8 and SPAW COP10 meetings in Curacao in 2019.
174. The Chair thanked Ms Hill for her presentation on the Sub-programme and opened the floor for further comments.
175. The delegate from the USA thanked the Secretariat, Ms. Hill and in particular, outgoing SPAW Programme Officer, Ms Vanzella-Khoury for all the work that had taken place, and stated that the USA looked forward to continued collaboration with the Convention. She noted that in the last two SPAW COPs, new species had been listed which should be considered a great achievement, and requested that Parties focus on protecting these newly listed species while bearing in mind that over time, more new species would need to be added to the Annexes of the SPAW Protocol. In closing, she expressed one final request regarding the SPAW Exemptions Format Document which she understood had been amended since the last interventions at the STAC6. As she was not able to view it online, she sought assistance from the Secretariat in accessing this document for the benefit of further review.
176. Ms. Sandrine Pivard, Director of the SPAW-RAC expressed the desire to make a small addition to Ms Hill's presentation regarding the SPAW workplan and the programme area of ecosystems, noting that this would rely largely on the ability to identify new funding opportunities. She stated that there were currently high expectations to access some degree of funding from other states with an additional focus on coral reefs considering the International Year of the Coral Reef under the Coral Reef Initiative, along with a renewed focus on the cooperation programme.
177. The Chair thanked the delegates for their interventions and believed that they would all play a role in completing the action plan strategy. He invited the Secretariat to continue the Agenda Item for the budget relating to administrative costs.
178. On behalf of the Secretariat, Fund Management Officer Martin Okun, recalled the previous day's presentations regarding the Secretariat's budget and thanked all the countries supporting the regional activities of the Convention, and also thanked the Government of the USA and Italy for their support to the LBS and SPAW Sub-programmes. He also thanked the GEF Secretariat for funding the CReW and IWEco projects.
179. Mr. Okun reminded countries that had not yet submitted deliverables for the CReW project as they reached the closure of the project. He recalled earlier reference to the GEF CREW+ project by the AMEP Programme Officer stating that new finds would now be available in this regard.
180. Mr Okun presented the overall CTF budget which he revealed was very limited. He then provided a budgetary breakdown and its impacts for the Secretariat. He implored countries with outstanding contributions to make their payments or contact the Secretariat to make arrangements for payments while explaining that the overall budget was insufficient to cover total costs.
181. Mr Okun concluded by speaking on the administrative costs for staffing and the incremental costs and differences for the upcoming biennium and asked that countries considered a 10% increase in contributions.

182. At the end of the presentation the Chair opened the floor for remarks.
183. The delegate from Cuba thanked the Chair and expressed the desire to address the general views of Cuba on the request to increase contributions. He noted that Cuba was not able to participate in previous IGMs due to their non-payment of contributions and recalled the decision by the Secretariat not to finance Cuba's participation due to the outstanding amounts. He recalled that this resulted in a protest letter from the Government of Cuba and expressed the intention of Cuba to participate further with the Secretariat. The delegate explained that it was the view of Cuba that it did not consider its current position as a debt if the contribution to the Secretariat was voluntary, and therefore did not agree with the sanctionary measures for those who did not pay contributions.
184. He commented that presently Cuba made voluntary in-kind contributions, and was not in general agreement with the contribution amount established for his country or with the proposed increase. He continued that Cuba did not understand how contributions to the Secretariat were calculated and noticed that his country had the third highest contribution of all the Contracting Parties. As such, the delegate recommended that there be consideration of contributions in-kind noting Cuba's considerable financial contribution through the RAC which he asserted was not considered by the Secretariat. He maintained the desire to be clear in stating that in order for Cuba to make payments and have a linkage with activities regarding participation in meetings as adopted in last meeting, he requested that Cuba's voluntary contributions be reconsidered. He noted that Cuba's recommended contribution to the Secretariat was currently much higher than the country's contribution to other international conventions. He asserted that Cuba would be willing to sit and hold negotiations with the Secretariat so that its voluntary contributions could be reconsidered, and would appreciate if two documents sent to the Secretariat could be included in the report of the meeting.
185. The delegate from Guatemala expressed appreciation to the Secretariat regarding support received at the last IGM in Colombia, and acknowledged that the Secretariat had approached Guatemala due to his country having one of the highest debts. He recalled dialogue with past Secretariat Coordinator Mr Nelson Andrade Colmenares, who had visited the relevant Minister who at the time (January 2015) and prior to the COP, articulated a true intention to support the trust fund and admitted to the debt of Guatemala. The delegate noted that in March 2015, his country made a deposit of USD66,000 which would indicate an expression of interest to settle this debt as it reflected greater than 44% of payment settlement. He emphasized that he was therefore disappointed that Guatemala was in receipt of a letter from the Secretariat calling attention to the debt balance, not taking into consideration this payment.
186. In continuation, he noted that Guatemala was a small country, and that this payment was a lot of money for them to have paid for it to have been ignored by the Secretariat. In light of this, he stated that a formal note had been drafted to express Guatemala's intention to make another payment for this year (USD98,000) as they were trying to close the financial gap with the Secretariat, which should also be taken into consideration. He reiterated that on behalf of his Government, the letter from the Secretariat was considered disappointing because it was indicative that the Secretariat had not considered the payment previously made.
187. In closing, the delegate highlighted that Guatemala wished to have its efforts recognized, and reaffirmed the commitment of the Government of Guatemala to the Convention. He reiterated that the note to the Secretariat was ready and hoped to soon bring good news in the coming months on the country's willingness to close this financial gap. He added that this process had been delayed due to administrative issues and that there were plans to continue collaboration through partnerships on projects and other activities through the Secretariat.
188. The Chair congratulated Guatemala for its efforts and for taking responsibility to cover its late payments.
189. Ms Inniss on behalf of the Secretariat offered a public apology to Guatemala while taking full responsibility for any errors made. She requested that countries take into account the administrative deficiencies of the Secretariat along with the many changes in personnel as efforts were being made to bring additional funds into

the CTF. She highlighted the transition to Umoja which had resulted in figures being lost for a period of time, but acknowledged that these were being recovered gradually. Additionally, she remarked on the many changes in personnel within the Secretariat that may have further contributed to this oversight, and that she promised to work on this to the benefit of the Contacting Parties.

190. The delegate from Barbados expressed appreciation to the Secretariat for the three presentations on the Workplan and budget and considering the work done over the biennium, was of the view that this had provided an extremely valuable service to the Caribbean considering the scarcity of resources. Regarding the matter of the proposed increase, he acknowledged that while Barbados supported the work of the Secretariat via the CTF, and recognised that it 'took money to make money', his government was not in a position to support an increase at this time. However, he promised to make every effort to honour any obligations on behalf of his Government.
191. The delegate from Costa Rica thanked the Government of France and the Secretariat for all their efforts to make the meeting possible. She supported the intervention of Barbados stating that her Government was concerned about the increase, with the further view that if contributions were indeed increased, this might result in more late payments. She believed that countries that were already making timely contributions may now suffer. She recommended that the Secretariat think carefully on this and reconsider with a focus on ensuring countries with outstanding payments, be encouraged to make these payments which may better offset the deficit. The delegate cautioned once more that the Secretariat must be careful with this consideration and it was her recommendation to focus on those with outstanding amounts to avoid dragging down countries who were making timely payments.
192. The delegate from the Dominican Republic thanked the Chair, noting that along the same lines as previous delegates, it was a little complex to agree to, or discuss an increase of this contribution. He said that he believed that the commitments already obtained from existing contributions should be acknowledged, and the further focus should be on those not meeting their contributions. He mentioned a letter from his government on their commitment to meet its payment obligation and contribution, and in so doing, did not neglect the measure of work to be carried out by the Secretariat. However, he added that the Secretariat must note that many countries function on their existing obligation/contribution amount, and any consideration for an increase would therefore pose a difficulty.
193. The Chair acknowledged the comments while noting and agreeing that the work of the Secretariat was a hefty one, and that it was important to acknowledge the collective responsibilities for contributions that allowed the Secretariat to accomplish work in the region. He noted that the Secretariat was faced with a challenge when countries did not pay but that he understood why countries that already honoured their payments were wary of this proposed increase. Therefore, he shared the views of the comments already made on increasing this ceiling. Notwithstanding, he commented that this deficit was an issue that needed to be addressed and he concurred with the comments of Costa Rica to address the issue of late payments. He implored Parties to reflect collectively so that the meeting could find solutions on this matter. The Chair encouraged Parties to express any difficulties they had in making their payments, and believed that it was important for countries to maintain contact with the Secretariat on this issue so that efforts could be made to settle outstanding amounts.
194. The delegate from Cuba stated that he wished to confirm his Government's intention to work with the Convention, noting that it had always been willing to make contributions and work alongside the Convention and its Protocols considering that it was one of the most important tools for monitoring and management of the marine and coastal environments in the region. He reiterated that unlike other countries in the region, Cuba did not recognize 'a debt', as contributions were voluntary and remained open to the Secretariat extending a visit to Cuba to discuss the matter further. The delegate maintained that the contribution amount was something that Cuba could not recognize as a state, with the amount being beyond what they could accommodate. He reminded the Meeting that Cuba remained open to making contributions in kind, noting that outside of full monetary payments recognized by the COP, the Secretariat must realize that payments could be recognized in other ways through contributions e.g. the RAC.

195. The Chair agreed and noted that the issue of late payments was an important part of the debate, and it was therefore important to have a positive outlook with the need for the Secretariat and Parties to examine the best way forward. He highlighted the importance of taking all the needs of the Convention into consideration, and hoped that through bilateral dialogue, it would be possible to make the point on the various options for financial contributions e.g., through contributions in-kind. He felt that a creative and positive exchange would be useful and facilitate options to settle outstanding amounts and late payments.
196. The delegate from Colombia thanked the Chair and expressed the desire to make three points: 1) she thought it was important to have a permanent process to address the issue of late payments and used the example of Colombia whereby the annual budget was generated long before the end of the year to determine contributions, and as such, if plans to dedicate resources were put forward after this period, then it would create a problem in the budget; 2) he noted that it was important to consider the various options for contributions of countries e.g. Cuba, which does not legally recognize debt- scenarios such as this that create a problem for the overall budget as we would be working with a figure that did not exist in reality, only in theory; 3) She concluded that Colombia recognized that buying power had in fact reduced over the years, but their Government was not able to support an increase and would be happy to determine how its late payments could be resolved.
197. The delegate from the Bahamas recognized and thanked the Secretariat for the very informative presentations. She further recognized the hard work of the Secretariat, but as with other delegates, she affirmed that the Bahamas were not in a position to accommodate an increase and noted continued efforts to determine if the Bahamas had outstanding contributions. As such, she wished to indicate a continued intention, on the part of the Bahamas, to work with the Secretariat on activities during the biennium.
198. The Chair acknowledged these comments and reiterated the need to determine a way to reduce the gap for countries with a deficit, and invited the Secretariat to comment.
199. Ms Inniss, on behalf of the Secretariat, thanked the Chair and the countries that took the floor. She acknowledged the work of the Programme Officers noting that in their presentation, CTF contributions were used to leverage activities under the various programme areas, and larger investment projects resulted in return to the Contracting Parties. She used the example of Jamaica which recently ratified the LBS Protocol while highlighting the advantages of ratification referencing the benefits that Jamaica gained from the IWECO project. She noted that the amount of money channelled to Jamaica via the IWECO project, far exceeded the amount paid by Jamaica into the CTF.
200. In regard to the 10% increase requested by Secretariat, Ms. Inniss explained that this was standard and done at every meeting – countries were free to accept or reject this proposal. She noted that the FMO had receipts for all countries to allow all Parties to know their existing position. She encouraged countries such as the Bahamas to liaise with the FMO to get the figures needed.
201. She indicated that there were currently 25-member states of the Convention and that the Secretariat was currently working with Haiti, Suriname and Honduras on ratification. She revealed that these three countries made payments into the CTF even though they were not obligated to do so and that they were up to date. As such she wished to see member states of the convention being similarly up to date. She underscored that the Secretariat did not recognize the voluntary contributions of member states with reference to the RACs. However, in kind support (though appreciated), did not allow the Secretariat to function technically and maintain the ability to adequately respond to the needs of countries, and therefore could not substitute for payment into trust fund.
202. Ms. Inniss noted Decisions from the previous IGM16/COP13 that allowed the Secretariat- via payment plans, to sponsor participation once an agreement could be reached. She acknowledged the letter from the Government of the Dominican Republic, but revealed that no funds had been received to date despite the agreed payment plan. She conveyed that she was answerable to the auditing framework of the UN to ensure that the Secretariat was fulfilling the Decisions from the last meeting. She recalled the Decision which encouraged discussions with

countries that had outstanding contributions offering the option to offset outstanding contributions by hosting meetings and working with the Secretariat in this regard. Without this option it meant that this would be a full cost which the Secretariat could not afford. The offer to host would help offset a percentage of the outstanding contributions of a country.

203. The delegate from the Dominican Republic remarked on the adopted agenda for the meeting and highlighted the need to have the document in Spanish in order to be able to review proposed activities. The delegate from Cuba endorsed the comments from the representative from the Dominican Republic.
204. The delegate from the Dominican Republic thanked the Secretariat for this update and clarified that his previous comment was specifically concerning the request for an increase. He explained that he had spoken to his government's Deputy Minister of Environment to present a proposal to the Secretariat recognising its financial need, and which would also address the needs of the Dominican Republic based on other financial obligations.
205. The Chair acknowledged all comments and recommended that the budgetary authorities for the respective countries be reminded that contributions to the trust fund were not to be viewed as an expense, but as a benefit.
206. Mr Okun from the Secretariat encouraged countries to pay their contributions in a timely manner.
207. The delegate from Antigua and Barbuda sought clarification on the remaining flow of the agenda based on the Chair's request to continue the work of the Working Group (WG) for the Cayenne Statement. The Chair responded that the adopted agenda would continue as a formal part of the IGM17/COP14 and that the WG was informal and would continue during the latter part of the lunch break and he invited countries to participate in these discussions on the newly named Cayenne Statement (previously dubbed Cayenne Declaration).
208. A presentation was delivered on the Regional Activity Centre/Regional Marine Pollution Emergency, Information and Training Centre – Wider Caribbean Region (RAC/REMPEITC-Caribe), by three speakers. First, Mr Christopher Corbin of UN Environment CEP reviewed the 2016/2017 biennium recommendations adopted at the Centre's 8th Ordinary Steering Committee (OSC) Meeting, held 19-20 May 2016 in Curacao.
209. Secondly, U.S. Coast Guard Consultant, CDR Keith M. Donohue, presented information on: 1) the Centre's institutional arrangements; 2) main international instruments; 3) regional risks from oil pollution and pollution from ships; 4) recommendations arising from regional workshops conducted since the 8th OSC Meeting; and 5) the current staffing situation of the Centre. He concluded by stating that the centre was trying to get back to the required capacity in order to provide support needed by the member states.
210. Finally, Ms. Pauline Yearwood, Deputy Program Manager (Transportation) for the Caribbean Community (CARICOM) presented the process for approval of a proposal submitted by regional Maritime Administrators for the consideration by CARICOM's Council for Trade and Economic Development (COTED). She highlighted that the finalized project proposal, which asks for support for the strengthening of the human capacity of RAC/REMPEITC-Caribe, will be prepared for submission to the relevant Councils and ultimately CARICOM's Conference of Heads of Government, in July 2017.
211. The Chair thanked Ms Yearwood for her efforts in raising the profile of RAC/REMPEITC-Caribe.
212. Mr. Banjoo of RAC IMA asked what plans could be put in place for detection of oil spills and identification of pollutant to link it to the polluter-pay principle. He also asked about early detection.
213. Commander Donahue responded that early detection was being undertaken and that tracking goes hand-in-hand with search and rescue and that early detection was included as well.
214. The Director of RAC CIMAB, Mr Antonio Villasol, indicated that following the oil spill in the Gulf of Mexico, he realised that his country did not have a national contingency plan in place. He made the point that when there is

an oil spill it spreads very rapidly making detection by satellite impossible and was concerned about the effects it would have had on his country but luckily it was trapped by the gulf's structure. In light of this, he highlighted the need to have more than a contingency plan but an entrapment area. He added the containment of an oil spill was very expensive and requested that significant work be done in the region to enable SIDS to have access to assistance to development contingency plans.

215. Commander Donahue agreed with Mr Villasol and informed that over the years RAC/REMPEITC conducted regional and sub-regional work and provided technical assistance for the development of contingency plans. He mentioned that the Centre will have a train-the-trainer workshop in 2017 in Puerto Rico and will help to develop a baseline map for the Caribbean.
216. The delegate from Curacao reiterated their support for RAC/REMPEITC and urged other Parties to do so.
217. Commander Donahue thanked the Government of Curacao for their support and stated that seconding a member to the Centre will benefit the countries; the person seconded would become more advanced in the subject area and would represent his country at the international level.
218. The Chair thanked Commander Donahue for his presentation and hoped that other gifts of similar value would be provided so the work of the centre could be expanded. He then asked Mr Corbin to report on the national reports (Cartagena Reporting Template).
219. Mr Corbin noted that during the last quarter of 2016, all countries were requested through their national focal points to submit national information on progress made on the implementation of the Cartagena Convention. He pointed out that to date, only 5 countries had submitted their reports: Colombia, Mexico, Guatemala, Trinidad and Tobago, and the United States of America. Mr Corbin also indicated that the Secretariat had been informed that Barbados and Jamaica had completed their reports internally which were to be later sent to the Secretariat. He indicated that the development of a reporting template was in response to a decision of the Contracting Parties including the development of an online reporting template.
220. Mr Corbin highlighted that the topics covered in the reports received by countries were in specific reference to pollution from ships, technical guidelines, technical cooperation, the ratification status of the Convention and the Oil Spills, SPAW and LBS Protocols.
221. He identified the major areas of assistance identified by countries in their reports to assist them in implementing the obligations of the Cartagena Convention and its Protocols such as the: Management of protected areas; strengthening of legal frameworks to implement the Convention; funding, training/capacity building, equipment (field and laboratory), support for national consultations to raise the profile of need for ratification of the LBS and SPAW Protocols and technical support in general.
222. Mr Corbin ended by highlighting the importance of the submission of these reports and encouraged all countries that had not yet submitted reports to do so no later than April 30th, 2017. He outlined that the summary of the reports will be posted as a Conference Room Paper for the meeting.
223. The delegate from Guatemala highlighted the importance of the submission of reports not only to assist in priority setting and mobilization of resources but most importantly in the exchange of best practices and experiences. Guatemala outlined how important this sharing was for furthering the work of the Convention and its Protocols.
224. The delegate from the Dominican Republic indicated that his Government had spent significant time to prepare the report and had submitted it to the Secretariat. He also reiterated the importance of the reporting process and encouraged other countries to submit these reports.

225. The Secretariat responded acknowledging the importance of the contributions by the delegates including the sharing of experiences among countries. He thanked the Government of Dominican Republic in particular for their submission and promised to work with the Dominican Republic to identify what had happened to their submission.
226. The delegate from Guatemala indicated that for them feedback is very important and that the reports should not only be seen as a requirement but also as a commitment and a way of sharing experience. He added that reporting should be an obligation.
227. The Chair underscored the need for countries to submit their reports as the information was needed to be made available, where possible.

AGENDA ITEM 7: ELECTION OF MEMBERS OF THE MONITORING COMMITTEE ON THE ACTION PLAN FOR THE CARIBBEAN ENVIRONMENT PROGRAMME FOR THE 2017-2018 BIENNIUM

228. The Coordinator started by informing that members of the bureau, France as Chair, the three Vice-Chairs Costa Rica, Curacao, and USA and Barbados as Rapporteur, were automatic members of the Monitoring Committee. The governments of Cuba, Guyana, The Bahamas, Antigua and Barbuda, Grenada, Colombia and Guatemala were named as the additional members. The Secretariat then invited delegates to comment on the election of the members for the 2017-2018 Monitoring Committee.
229. The delegate from the Bahamas, Ms Stacy Lubin-Gray, advised that her ministry accepted a position on the Monitoring Committee.
230. Ms Ndibi Schwieters-Ceres from the Ministry of Presidency in Guyana also accepted a position on the Monitoring Committee on behalf of the Government of Guyana. The delegate also thanked the Government of France for hosting the meeting despite the unfortunate protest and had every confidence that the meeting would end on a positive note.
231. The Chair thanked delegates for their intention to work actively as part of monitoring committee.
232. The Monitoring Committee was then approved with the composition proposed above.

AGENDA ITEM 8: OTHER BUSINESS

233. The Meeting was invited to raise any other matter not covered by the preceding Agenda items, but relevant to the scope of the Meeting.
234. The delegate from Colombia requested that the Secretariat review the Spanish translation of the SPAW COP decisions as they were poorly done.
235. The Chair acknowledged the comment made by Colombia and stated that the issue of translation is quite serious.

(a) USA – Safe Ocean Network presentation (Rona Rathod)

236. The delegate from the United States of America, Ms Rona Rathod, delivered a presentation on the Safe Ocean Network. She informed that the Government of the United States of America had launched the Safe Ocean Network in 2015 to strengthen all aspects of the fight against illegal fishing including detection, enforcement, and prosecution. She added that since then, more than 40 government and non-government actors had joined the network to share knowledge and technology to understand which resources are committed to addressing illegal fishing and to identify resource gaps.

(b) UNEP GPA

237. Mr Habib El-Habr made a presentation on land-based activities causing pollution and gave an overview of the Global Programme of Action (Habib El-Habr).

(c) CLME+ - Project and 10-year SAP – Patrick Debels

238. The UNDP/GEF CLME+ Project Regional Project Coordinator reminded the Meeting that most of the Contracting Parties to the Cartagena Convention had endorsed, at the political level, the 10-year (2015- 2025) CLME+ Strategic Action Programme (SAP). He stated that the 5-year CLME+ Project (2015-2020) is one of a number of initiatives that assists the region in the implementation of the CLME+ SAP. He indicated that implementation of other elements of the CLME+ SAP would be supported through the implementation of a Global CLME+ Partnership.

239. The CLME+ Project Representative stated that the CLME+ vision of a healthy marine environment that provides benefits and livelihoods for the well-being of the people of the region, is aligned with the vision and objectives of the Cartagena Convention and its Protocols. He further went on to state that the CLME+ SAP and by extension the CLME+ Project, provide a roadmap supportive of an agenda of sustainable blue growth, and of region-wide delivery on global and regional targets relating to the marine environment, including Aichi targets and targets under the UN Sustainable Development Goal SDG14.

240. The CLME+ Representative informed the Meeting that through the CLME+ Project, work would be undertaken to support the region in the identification of a Permanent Policy Coordination Mechanism to foster increased collaboration and coordination among regional marine governance bodies.

241. Lastly, he indicated that the CLME+ State of the Marine Ecosystems and Associated Economies Report (SOMEER) will be a reporting mechanism, focused on the state of fisheries, pollution, habitats, integrated ocean governance and socio-economic development, developed collaboratively with input from regional and national bodies and organisations already working on these issues.

(d) GEF-7 Programming Directions

242. Mr Corbin acknowledged the contribution from Isabelle Vanderbeck who worked with GEF Projects. He gave an overview of the integrated approach covering priority issues being addressed by the GEF. He also indicated that the next cycle of funding is targeting integrated approaches.

(e) GEF CReW

243. Ms Chrishane Williams from the GEF CReW Project and UN Environment CEP presented an audio-visual invitation to the GEF CReW Side Event of the IGM17/COP14 scheduled for 16 March 2017.

(f) Cayenne Statement

244. The Government of France presented the updated document with efforts being proposed for collaboration among the Governments of the Wider Caribbean Region. An agreement was reached on the text and was circulated to the countries for final deliberations during the High-Level Session.
245. The delegate from France, Mr Stepan Crouzat, apologized to the delegates for the protest which took place during the High-Level Session earlier that the morning and for the failure in adequate security measures.
246. Mr Crouzat requested the introduction of a decision regarding the Cayenne Statement before the Decisions were read. He also asked that a preamble for the decision, highlighting the position of the countries, be agreed upon.
247. The Chair accepted the request of the Government of France and asked that they lead a review of the Statement with the intention of getting feedback from the delegates.
248. The Government of France introduced the Cayenne Statement to the meeting and invited countries to share their comments on the suggested phrasing for the preamble.
249. The delegate from Antigua and Barbuda, Mr Linroy Christian, requested changes to the preamble highlighting that they noted the Cayenne Statement.
250. The Governments of the United States of America, Barbados, the Bahamas, Trinidad and Tobago, St. Kitts and Nevis and Saint Lucia agreed with the sentiments expressed by the Government of Antigua and Barbuda.
251. The delegates agreed on a suitable preamble which was then added to the decisions. Thereafter the Chair proposed that the Secretariat proceed with a review of the meeting decisions.

AGENDA ITEM 9: ADOPTION OF THE REPORT

252. The Rapporteur presented the English version of the draft Decisions of the Meeting while the participants followed along in the English, French and Spanish versions.
253. During the review of the decisions, the delegate from the Government of Cuba declared the position of Cuba to have further consultations with the Secretariat regarding its contributions to the Convention and was therefore not in a position to agree with Decision II of the meeting.
254. The Rapporteur as well as the Secretariat affirmed that the position of Cuba was adequately reflected in the Report of the Meeting.
255. The delegate from Cuba requested that a footnote be included in the decision to better reflect the position of Cuba.
256. The delegate from Barbados suggested that this not be included given another decision that would cover this concern.
257. The delegate from Colombia offered an explanation on the position of Cuba and provided clarifications on his concern.
258. The Governments of France and the Dominican Republic offered an alternative to the position of Cuba.
259. The delegate from Cuba reiterated the request for a footnote to be included within the decision, which would help to clarify their position. He added there was no intention to divide the plenary and would be willing to go ahead in

order to reach a consensus although he was not entirely pleased however, he requested that their position be made clear and that he would agree to proceed as long as there would be further consultation with the Secretariat on the matter.

260. The delegate from Barbados highlighted that the issue raised by the delegate from Cuba was a very critical one and could potentially affect the ability of the Secretariat to function efficiently. He emphasised that the contributions of the RAC CIMAB was crucial to accomplishing the work of the Convention, however, he expressed concern that the position being taken by the Government of Cuba would set a bad precedence as the courtesy of reducing their contribution would need to be extended to other states. He added that many countries under the Convention at some point experienced financial difficulty and therefore he would prefer that the concerns be noted in the body of the report to ensure that all parties are treated fairly on this matter and if possible explore this topic further under review of the next COP so that it can be properly considered by all Parties.
261. The delegate from Antigua and Barbuda expressed his full support with the submission by the representative from Barbados and was not sure where the text should be inserted as it would require very specific text. He recalled Cuba's intervention concerning in-kind contributions and the need to clarify what is considered voluntary and in what context. He remarked that Cuba's concerns must be reflected in body of report as any inclusion in the decisions would require very general text.
262. The Chair endorsed these interventions and proposed that this be considered for further discussion at the next IGM/COP to better address this issue and the position of Cuba. He agreed that the explanation of the delegate of Cuba as it relates to the sustainable financing of the Secretariat could result in other Parties feeling that they are free from financial obligation.
263. The Chair requested that Cuba provide an official statement for inclusion in the body of the meeting report.
264. The representative from the Government of Cuba submitted the following declaration to the meeting:

Declaration from the Government of Cuba

The Government of Cuba declares its disagreement with the wording of the Decision I: 4, 5 and 7. By considering that it contradicts the position expressed by Cuba during the meeting regarding:

- 1. The need to revise the scale of contributions established for Cuba, since the current is disproportional and excessive, which limits Cuba from being able to make their payment;*
- 2. Non-recognition of the debt with the CTF considering the voluntary nature of contributions to date; and the*
- 3. Need to recognize as payment other expenses made by the Parties towards the successful implementation of the Convention and its Protocols*

The delegation of Cuba requests the Secretariat to open a channel of communication in order to find a mutually satisfactory solution.

265. The Chair accepted the Government of Cuba's declaration and then handed over to the Rapporteur to continue review of the Decisions of the Meeting and the remaining decisions were then agreed to by the parties.
266. The Secretariat suggested that in consideration of the lengthy deliberations, the meeting report be circulated to all the countries, in the three working languages of the meeting, instead of being read during the meeting only in English. It was suggested that the Secretariat be given five weeks for translation and finalization of the meeting report before being sent to all participants for them to review and provide comments to the Secretariat.

267. The Government of Barbados agreed to the suggestion made by the Secretariat.

AGENDA ITEM 10: CLOSURE OF THE MEETING

268. The delegate from the United States of America thanked the Government of France for hosting the meetings and congratulated the Secretariat and applauded them for hosting a productive set of meetings. She added that the meetings were proof that despite limited resources there was much that could be accomplished.

269. The Chair, Mr Xavier Sticker, also expressed his gratitude to the Secretariat for accomplishing as much as it had despite limited resources. He also thanked and acknowledged all the parties for the work done and the cooperation within the region and expressed hope for the good work to continue. He stated that he hoped the COP Decisions could be achieved and that interactions among the countries would be more frequent in order to share ideas and achieve more productive work. He emphasized that the Bureau was at the disposal of the Contracting Parties and to support the decisions in order to accomplish the objectives of the Convention. He congratulated the Coordinator of the Secretariat, Ms Lorna Inniss, and her team on their workover the biennium. In closing he thanked everyone at the meeting and wished everyone a productive working biennium before handing over to Ms Inniss for her closing remarks.

270. Ms. Lorna Inniss thanked all Government representatives for their active participation throughout the meetings and for their favourable comments. She expressed that the past year had been a learning experience for her in her new role and that she thanked the Secretariat present and at the office for such an interesting experience.

271. She thanked the Chair and congratulated him on his handling of the meeting and noted that it was a pleasure sharing with him in the deliberations. Ms Inniss thanked the Bureau and the Rapporteur for their accurate note-taking and support to the meeting.

272. She also commended the excellent job of the interpreters and translators in serving the meeting with professionalism. She expressed gratitude to Mr El-Habr who represented the Executive Director of UN Environment and the GPA and Ms Kanako Hasegawa, also from the UN Environment headquarters, for helping in the preparations for the meeting.

273. Ms Inniss asserted that it had been a long time since there was so much engagement in the IGM but that it meant that the issues were of great importance. She thanked the member governments again for their active engagement in order to have a clear mandate on a way forward. She also thanked all those who made presentations as well as the Observers and the RACs for their support over the biennium. In concluding, she thanked the hosts in French Guiana and the French Government for helping to ensure productive meetings throughout the week.

274. The meeting was officially adjourned at 6:20 p.m.

AGENDA

1. Opening of the Meeting
2. Organisation of the Meeting
 - 2.1. Rules of Procedure
 - 2.2. Election of Officers
 - 2.3. Organisation of Work
3. Adoption of the Agenda
4. Report of the Chairperson of the Monitoring Committee and President of the Bureau of Contracting Parties
5. Report of the Executive Director of UNEP on the Implementation of the Caribbean Environment Programme (2015-2016)
6. High Level Session – Cayenne Statement
7. Workplan and Budget for the Caribbean Environment Programme for the 2017-2018 Biennium
8. Election of Members of the Monitoring Committee on the Action Plan for the Caribbean Environment Programme for the 2017-2018 Biennium
9. Other Business
10. Adoption of the Report of the Meeting
11. Closure of the Meeting

ANNEX II: RECOMMENDATIONS OF 8th MEETING OF THE STEERING COMMITTEE OF RAC/REMPEITC

The Steering Committee:

Having convened the Eighth Meeting of the Steering Committee of RAC/REMPEITC-Caribe;

Making reference to the Seventh Meeting of the Steering Committee of RAC/REMPEITC-Caribe;

Taking into account Decision III of the 16th Intergovernmental Meeting on the Action Plan for the Caribbean Environment Program and the 13th Meeting of the Contracting Parties of the Cartagena Convention;

Considering the Protocol Regarding Cooperation in Combating Oil Spills of the same Convention;

Further considering the statement of IMO that 30% of the world's oil either transits or originates within the Wider Caribbean Region and taking into consideration the implications arising from the imminent expansion of the Panama Canal.

Further taking into account the social and ecological value of the region's healthy coastal and marine ecosystems, including beaches, coral reefs, mangroves and sea grass beds.

Noting with concern the changing risk profile of the Wider Caribbean Region with respect to oil spills both from ships and offshore oil and gas activities.

Further Noting with concern the discontinuation of the French Secondment of a Consultant to RAC/REMPEITC after May 2016.

Having reviewed the Draft biennial Work Plan of the RAC/REMPEITC-Caribe and other documents submitted to this Steering Committee by RAC/REMPEITC-Caribe;

Recommends to the 17th Intergovernmental Meeting on the Action Plan for the Caribbean Environment Program and the 14th Meeting of the Contracting Parties of the Cartagena Convention to:

1. Review and endorse these recommendations of the 8th Meeting of the Steering Committee;
2. Review and endorse the 2016 - 2017 biennium work plan;
3. Endorse RAC/REMPEITC-Caribe's new Long-Term Strategic Plan (2015-2025), including the revised mission, vision and values, as well as the use of "key performance indicators" and consider disseminating the Plan for use as a model for other Regional Activity Centres.
4. Recognize the organizational benefits of a full-time Director for RAC/REMPEITC-Caribe who will lead the implementation of the Centre's new Long Term Strategic Plan, ensure proper direction is provided, and assist with negotiations to procure sufficient staff to fulfil the Centre's mission, achieve its vision, while upholding its values.
5. Recognize the significant contributions of Curaçao, the United States, France and the International Maritime Organization to RAC/REMPEITC-Caribe and the Wider Caribbean Region.
6. Welcome the new Memorandum of Understanding between the United Nations Environment Program and the Government of Curaçao, establishing a renewed hosting agreement for RAC/REMPEITC-Caribe, establishing the Centre as a legal entity.

7. Reiterate the importance for the International Maritime Organization, RAC/REMPEITC-Caribe and the United States Coast Guard to finalize and sign new agreements, ensuring the continued provision of technical and financial assistance to the Centre.
8. Urge all Contracting Parties to contribute to the activities of RAC/REMPEITC-Caribe through secondments of consultants and/or the provision of resources.
9. Urge all donor countries to attend future meetings of the Centre's Steering Committee in order to ensure that the Centre's activities reflect the needs of donors to the Wider Caribbean Region.
10. Seek to ensure the Contracting Parties are represented at future RAC/REMPEITC-Caribe Steering Committee Meetings by a Member of the Bureau of the Contracting Parties and the President of the Monitoring Committee, as required by the Terms of Reference of the Centre's Steering Committee.
11. Note that RAC-REMPEITC-Caribe will continue to use virtual attendance technologies to facilitate the widest possible participation in future meetings of the Steering Committee.
12. Encourage the Centre, in collaboration with IMO and UNEP, to explore possible funding opportunities, in particular through GEF-funded projects, notably GloBallast, GloMEEP and the Caribbean Node for the Global Partnership on Marine Litter.
13. Note the Centre's progress and future plans to develop a Marine Traffic Database using Regional data collected from Automatic Identification Systems (AIS), with a view to providing a proposal outlining the potential costs and utility of its implementation at a future session.
14. Note the communication and outreach materials developed by the Centre (social media pages, brochure, banners, new website and promotional video) and welcome the offer of UNEP to translate the brochure into Spanish.
15. Consider the value of expanding the Multilateral Technical Operating Procedures for Offshore Oil Pollution Response (MTO) to apply to all Contracting Parties by incorporating MTO into the existing Caribbean Island OPRC Plan and changing the name of the Plan to a more inclusive and representative title of "Wider Caribbean Region OPRC Plan".
16. Recognize the significant contributions of industry and non-governmental organization partners and note their pledge of continued support to the work of the Centre, in particular from ITOPF, Cedre, OSRL, Majestic Cruise Lines, Kosmos Energy, ARPEL and the Curaçao Maritime Association.
17. Thank those who attended and made contributions to the Steering Committee Meeting, including representatives from the Curaçao Port Authority, Rijkswaterstaat of The Netherlands, and the Dutch Caribbean Coast Guard.
18. Note the decision by TOTAL/SA to suspend funding the secondee from France to the Centre as of June 2016 and the challenges that this reduction in personnel will present for the Centre to deliver its work programme.
19. Endorse the establishment of a working group led by UNEP-CEP CAR/RCU with participation of IMO, RAC/REMPEITC-Caribe, and other parties to further explore potential solutions presented by the Steering Committee, with a view to identifying one or more secondees from Contracting Parties, other nations, the United Nations, academic institutions and others.
20. Consider an appeal for the use of funding from the Caribbean Trust Fund to sponsor the secondment of one or more consultants to the Centre from within the Contracting Parties to the Centre.
21. Welcome the efforts of Jamaica to initiate a dialogue with other Caribbean States with a view to exploring the possibility of seconding senior level maritime officials on a rotational basis to the Centre to support its work.

22. Explore the possibility of partnerships with academic institutions, including maritime institutions, to support the work of the Centre.
23. Concur with the proposal of the Steering Committee to hold an extraordinary meeting of the Steering Committee in 2017 to revisit the staffing issues currently faced by the Centre, and agree that efforts should be made to align this with the meeting of the Senior Maritime Administrators that is scheduled for 2017.

ANNEX III: DECISIONS OF SPAW COP9

The Contracting Parties:

Having convened the Ninth Meeting of the Contracting Parties (COP) to the Protocol Concerning Specially Protected Areas and Wildlife (SPAW) in the Wider Caribbean Region;

Recalling the adoption by the General Assembly of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and its Sustainable Development Goals, which reaffirmed the commitment contained in the Aichi Biodiversity Targets, and welcoming target 14.5 of the Sustainable Development Goals, calling for the conservation, by 2020, of at least 10 percent of coastal and marine areas;

Recognizing the International Coral Reef Initiative Action Plan 2016 which set a basis for the integrated management of marine biodiversity following the International Coral Reef Initiative's General Meeting in Paris, November 2016;

Commending the continuous work and accomplishments of the Caribbean Marine Protected Areas Management Network and Forum (CaMPAM) which has been implemented for the last 19 years, having been recognised by the international community as a recipient of the Fred Packard Award in 2016;

Taking note of the "Status of Activities of the SPAW Sub-programme for 2015-2016" (UNEP(DEPI)/CAR WG.38/INF.3)" and "Report of the SPAW Regional Activity Centre (SPAW-RAC) in Guadeloupe: RAC Operations and Budget for the period 2015-2016" (UNEP(DEPI)/CAR WG.38/INF.4);

Taking note of the evaluation of CaMPAM activities (2010-2015) and recommendations for improvement (UNEP(DEPI)/CAR WG.38/INF6);

Taking note of the progress made in the implementation of the Action Plan for the Conservation of Marine Mammals in the Wider Caribbean Region;

Acknowledging the work of the Secretariat and SPAW-RAC to address emerging issues such as Sargassum influx, as well as the continued work on conservation of coral reefs and management of invasive species;

Having reviewed the "Recommendations of the Seventh Meeting of the Scientific and Technical Advisory Committee to the SPAW Protocol", Miami, United States, 2-4 November 2016 contained in the Report of the Meeting (UNEP(DEPI)/CAR WG.38/8) ;

Having reviewed the "Draft Workplan and Budget of the Specially Protected Areas and Wildlife (SPAW) Sub-programme for the 2017-2018 Biennium" (UNEP(DEPI)/CAR WG.38/6.Rev.1);

Decide to:

1. **Encourage** the governments of the region, which have not yet done so, to become Contracting Parties to the SPAW Protocol;
2. **Urge** Contracting Parties to respond to the requests of the Secretariat and to participate more actively in the Working Groups established by the Parties;

3. **Adopt** the Recommendations of the Seventh Meeting of the Scientific and Technical Advisory Committee to the SPAW Protocol as contained in UNEP(DEPI)/CAR WG.38/7 with the following amendments:

Recommendation I.4(vi)

"the collaborative work with relevant partners, including the ACS and CRFM, other Governments and regions on areas of common interest, such as the management and response to the *Sargassum* influx, restoration of coral reefs, and invasive species;"

Recommendation IV.2

"The interested members of the Ad hoc Working Group on exemptions also consider the Reporting Format as applied on the Curacao's exemption case and provide its findings on the format only, prior to the end of the year". As discussed during the STAC 7, Curacao is encouraged to provide further information on their exemption submission to the Ad Hoc Working Group.

Recommendation IV.3

"Having approved the voluntary Reporting Format for Exemptions encourages Parties to use it when reporting such an exemption,"

4. **Amend** the SPAW Protocol species Annexes by adding the following species to Annex II and Annex III respectively:

Annex II

Passerina ciris, Painted bunting
Pristis pectinata, Smalltooth sawfish

Annex III

Liguus fasciatus, Florida treesnail
Manta birostris
Manta alfredi
Manta sp. cf. birostris
Sphyrna lewini
Sphyrna mokarran
Sphyrna zygaena
Carcharhinus longimanus, Oceanic whitetip shark
Rhincodon typus, Whale shark
Epinephelus striatus, Nassau grouper

5. **Approve** the submission by the Government of Cuba to list the National Park Cayos de San Felipe under the SPAW Protocol and **welcome** the initiation process of the Government of France presented on the future submission of two (2) protected areas for listing under the SPAW Protocol;
6. **Approve** the voluntary draft Reporting Format for Exemptions Under Article 11(2) of the SPAW Protocol as contained in UNEP(DEPI)CAR WG.38/3 Rev.1;
7. **Encourage** Parties to report exemptions in a format in which all relevant information be included. A possibility is the Reporting Format for Exemptions accepted at STAC 7 and **emphasize** that the Reporting

of exemptions is a critical component of the SPAW Protocol which enables Parties to confirm their compliance with the obligations they have taken on as Parties to the SPAW Protocol –

- i) **Recognize** that the reporting of exemptions also demonstrates that, in exceptional situations, the obligations of the SPAW Protocol cannot be fully met even after all efforts have been made to do so;
 - ii) Further **recognize**, in general, that Parties, before doing so, should be encouraged to follow what is commonly agreed as being good practice; to try and avoid, when possible, mitigate, and on last resort offset impacts on the environment of the activity concerned;
 - iii) **Acknowledge** the transparency of the Government of Curacao in submitting its exemption report as a case study, for the Reporting Format for Exemptions and **encourage** the continuation of this process;
8. **Approve** the proposed SPAW Workplan and [budget] (FR) for 2017-2018 as revised by STAC7 and with modifications and priorities introduced by the Meeting, and **urges** Parties to support the Secretariat with resources and its fundraising efforts to implement the Workplan; and **further decide** that it be forwarded to the 17th Intergovernmental Meeting of the Action Plan for the Caribbean Environment Programme and 14th Meeting of the Contracting Parties to the Cartagena Convention for final adoption;
 9. **Encourage** the Secretariat and SPAW-RAC to enhance cooperation and coordination with Multilateral Environmental Agreements, regional fisheries organizations, the International Coral Reef Initiative, the International Whaling Commission, UN Office on Drugs and Crime, CariWET, the Sargasso Sea Commission, MARFund, International Fund for Animal Welfare, and other relevant regional and international initiatives and projects, in particular on coral reef monitoring and conservation, marine mammals conservation, the illegal trade of species, ecosystem based management activities, and in the CLME+ project activities;
 10. **Welcome** the designation of 2018 as the International Year of the Reef and **encourages** Parties to actively participate and support the Secretariat in the implementation of activities in this regard, including with fund-raising efforts;
 11. **Welcome** offers from Governments to explore with the Secretariat the possibility of hosting the 8th SPAW STAC Meeting in 2018.

ANNEX IV: DECISIONS OF LBS COP3

The Contracting Parties:

Having convened the Third Meeting of the Contracting Parties to the Protocol Concerning Pollution from Land-based Sources and Activities (LBS COP3) in the Wider Caribbean Region, Cayenne, French Guiana, 14 March 2017;

Taking note of the Status of Implementation of the Workplan and Budget for the AMEP sub-programme for the period 2015-2016 as contained in UNEP(DEPI)/CAR WG.37/INF.3 Rev.1;

Taking note of the Report on the Activities of the Regional Activity Centres for the LBS Protocol (LBS RACs) in Cuba and Trinidad and Tobago for the period 2015-2016 (UNEP (DEPI)/CARWG.37/INF.4 Rev.1);

Taking further note of the opportunities provided through participation of countries in projects such as the GEF IWeco, UNDP/GEF CLME+ and GEF CREW+ to assist them in meeting their obligations under the LBS Protocol;

Taking note of the ongoing regional and international efforts to raise the profile of oceans and pollution including through work to support the Sustainable Development Goal on Oceans (SDG 14);

Recognizing the efforts taken by the Secretariat to increasingly integrate the work of AMEP and SPAW including through the convening of the Joint LBS and SPAW STAC meetings in Miami, USA, the development of the Ecosystem-Based Management (EBM) project for the North Brazil Shelf and the development of the State of Convention Area Report (SOCAR);

Recognising that the management of ship generated waste received at ports should be considered with the management of waste at the national level;

Having reviewed the Report of the Working Group on Environmental Monitoring and Assessment (UNEP(DEPI)/CAR WG.37/INF.6 Rev. 1) including the outline for the State of the Convention Area Report (SOCAR);

Having also reviewed the Recommendations of 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 contained in UNEP(DEPI)/CAR WG.37/5;

Having further reviewed the draft Workplan and Budget for the activities of the AMEP sub-programme for the biennium 2017-2018, as shown in UNEP(DEPI)/CAR IG.38/3;

Welcoming the ratification of the LBS Protocol by the Governments of Jamaica and Costa Rica during the biennium and the progress made by non-Contracting Parties to develop and implement pollution prevention programmes, projects and activities, as well as to ratify the LBS Protocol; and

Further noting the progress made in finalization host agreements with the Governments of Cuba and Trinidad and Tobago as hosts for the LBS RACs.

Decide to:

1. **Endorse** the recommendations of the LBS STAC 3 with changes as provided during the meeting of the LBS COP 3.
2. **Endorse** for final approval by the Seventeenth Intergovernmental Meeting and Fourteenth Meeting of the Contracting Parties, the revised Work plan and Budget for the AMEP sub-programme for the 2017-2018 biennium with modifications and priorities introduced by the Meeting, and **note** that the AMEP sub-programme of work should give priority to Contracting Parties to the LBS Protocol, taking into consideration regional pollution prevention needs as well as donor partnerships that may on occasion, necessitate the participation of non-Parties.
3. **Urge** the governments of the region, which have not yet done so, to become Contracting Parties to the Cartagena Convention and its Protocols, including the LBS Protocol.
4. **Extend** the mandate of the Monitoring and Assessment Working Group (WG) under the Chair of the USA to serve as a technical advisory body to the Secretariat throughout the development of the State of Convention Area Report (SOCAR).
5. **Recommend to the 17th IGM that they request** all Contracting and non-Contracting Parties to provide data and information to the Secretariat for the further development of SOCAR by April 15, 2017.
6. **Request** the Secretariat to present to the fourth LBS STAC and subsequent fourth LBS COP the final SOCAR, the status of implementation of the Communications Plan to disseminate the results of SOCAR, linkages with the State of Habitat Report to be developed through the SPAW sub-programme and the overall "State of Marine Environment and Associated Economies (SOMEE)" Report developed through the UNDP GEF CLME+ project.
7. **Recommend to the 17th IGM that they request** governments of the Region and others interested in the development of the SOCAR, including participating in the Working Group and the Data sub-group to inform the Secretariat by March 31, 2017.
8. **Request** the Secretariat to continue its efforts to integrate its work under the AMEP and SPAW sub-programmes including the completion of the AMEP/SPAW Roadmap and through activities such as the development of the SOCAR, the State of Habitat Report and implementation of the EBM sub-project for the UNDP GEF CLME+ project.
9. **Recommend** to the 17th IGM that they request Governments of the Region to actively participate in the global and regional Partnerships relating to nutrients, wastewater, solid waste and marine litter, including attending the Intergovernmental Review (IGR) organized by the UN Environment GPA scheduled to take place 23-27 October 2017 in Bali, Indonesia.
10. **Urge** Governments and the Secretariat to further engage with the private sector in pollution prevention, reduction and control efforts including the maritime sector, the IMO and the MARPOL Convention on the management of ship generated wastes.
11. **Request** the Secretariat to continue to work with the Government of Cuba to finalize its Host Country Agreement for LBS RAC CIMAB as soon as possible.
12. **Encourage** all Contracting Parties to actively promote the work of the LBS Protocol and the Secretariat at national and regional fora.
13. **Request** the Secretariat to continue efforts to mobilize funding for unfunded projects and activities within the 2017-2018 Workplan.
14. **Request** the Secretariat to continue efforts to promote collaboration between the LBS, SPAW and Oil Spills Protocols including through collaboration with their respective Regional Activity Centres.

15. **Recommend** that the Secretariat and Governments consider participation in new initiatives and campaigns involving the management of solid waste, plastics and marine litter such as the "Coalition internationale contre les sacs plastiques" (Plastic Bag Coalition), Clean Seas Campaign and Trash Free Waters International Partnership.
16. The Secretariat and Parties should **explore** linkages with other relevant Conventions, Multilateral Agreements, Regional and International Organizations to support efforts in pollution control priority areas.

ANNEX V: DECISIONS OF THE 17TH IGM

The Meeting:

Having convened the Seventeenth Intergovernmental Meeting on the Action Plan for the Caribbean Environment Programme and the Fourteenth Meeting of the Contracting Parties to the Convention for the Protection and Development of the Marine Environment of the Wider Caribbean Region;

Taking into account the Report of the Executive Director of the Cartagena Convention on the Implementation of the Caribbean Environment Programme (2015-2016) as presented in UNEP(DEPI)/CAR IG.39/INF.4;

Having reviewed the Decisions of the Ninth Meeting of the Contracting Parties to the Protocol Concerning Specially Protected Areas and Wildlife (SPA) in the Wider Caribbean Region, Cayenne, French Guiana, 13 March 2017 (UNEP(DEPI)/CAR IG.37/5);

Noting the Decisions of the Third Meeting of the Contracting Parties to the Protocol Concerning Pollution from Land-Based Sources and Activities in the Wider Caribbean Region, Cayenne, French Guiana, 14 March 2017 (UNEP(DEPI)/CAR IG.38/4);

Further Noting the Report of the Third Meeting of the Scientific, Technical and Advisory Committee of the Protocol Concerning Pollution from Land-Based Sources and Activities, in Miami, Florida, USA, 31 October to 2 November 2016 as contained in UNEP(DEPI)/CAR WG.37/4;

Further Noting the Recommendations of the Seventh Meeting of the Scientific and Technical Advisory Committee (STAC) to the Protocol Concerning Specially Protected Areas and Wildlife (SPA) in the Wider Caribbean Region, Miami, Florida, USA, 2-4 November 2016 (UNEP(DEPI)/CAR WG.38/7); and

Having Reviewed the Report of the Eighth Ordinary Meeting of the Steering Committee of Regional Activity Centre/Regional Marine Pollution Emergency, Training, and Information Centre - Caribbean (RAC/REMPEITC-Caribe) Steering Committee, Curacao, 19-20 May 2016 as contained in document UNEP(DEPI)/CAR IG.39/INF.12;

Decides:

DECISION I

Having reviewed the draft Workplan and Budget for the Caribbean Environment Programme for the biennium 2017-2018 contained in document UNEP(DEPI)/CAR IG.39/3;

Taking note of the voluntary contributions to the Caribbean Trust Fund (CTF) by the States and Territories of the Wider Caribbean Region for 2015-2016;

Having examined the budgetary needs of the Caribbean Environment Programme to complete its Workplan for 2017-2018; and

Recognizing the continued challenges by the States and Territories of the Wider Caribbean Region to increase the level of contributions to the Caribbean Trust Fund (CTF);

Decides to:

1. **Approve** the Work plan and Budget for the Caribbean Environment Programme for the biennium 2017-2018 with the modifications approved by the SPAW COP9 and the LBS COP3 and subsequently by the Meeting.
2. **Request** the Secretariat to continue to seek additional funds to meet the full requirements of the approved Work plan and **urge** governments to support the Secretariat in this regard.
3. **Endorse** the request by the Secretariat to upgrade the post of Team Assistant for the Communications Programme from G4 to G5, subject to the availability of funds.
4. **Adopt** the table of voluntary contributions to the CTF in 2017-2018 as reflected in Annex VI of this report, noting that the contributions will be maintained at the same level as in the previous biennium and that this will be reflected accordingly in the approved Work plan and Budget for the 2017-2018 biennium.
5. **Request** the Secretariat to invoice the States and Territories of the Caribbean Environment Programme in the amounts expressed in Annex VI of this Report.
6. **Strongly urge** all the governments to pay all contributions to the CTF in a timely manner to ensure the Programme's financial sustainability and continuity.
7. **Further urge** those governments that have not paid into the CTF in the past, to start doing so and for those with outstanding contributions, to settle the same promptly including through the development of payment plans.
8. **Request** the Secretariat to continue its efforts to collect and to explore innovative financial mechanisms with Member States to facilitate payment of their outstanding contributions for example through support to meetings, workshops, etc.
9. **Recognise** the support provided by the Government of France in hosting the present meetings (SPAW COP9, LBS COP3, IGM17/COP14), at a cost of €120,000 which would have otherwise been a cost to the Caribbean Trust Fund.
10. **Request the Secretariat** to enhance efforts to engage the private sector in the further development and implementation of programmes, projects and activities.
11. **Request** the Executive Director of UNEP to make the necessary provisions to extend the Caribbean Trust Fund until 2019.

DECISION II

Recalling the adoption of the General Assembly of “Transforming our world: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development” through resolution 70/1 of 25 September 2015 and the inclusion of Goal 14 on the conservation and sustainable use of oceans and seas;

Taking note of the audit recommendations provided by the UN Office of Internal Oversight Service as contained in UNEP(DEPI)/CAR IG.39/INF.8 on the need for an updated performance strategy, indicators and a resource mobilization strategy;

Noting the critical situation of the Caribbean Trust Fund (CTF) and **being aware** that without enhanced resource mobilization efforts, the Secretariat and the Regional Activity Centres (RACs) will be unable to effectively implement the workplan;

Further noting that the Caribbean Action Plan developed in 1983 and the associated strategy adopted in 1990 do not reflect many of the current regional and global issues and priorities;

Recognizing that an updated strategy for the Caribbean Environment Programme including appropriate targets, indicators and a resource mobilization component will assist the Secretariat and the Regional Action Centres in their efforts to be more financially and institutionally sustainable;

Further recognizing opportunities for support from the UNDP/GEF CLME+ project for sustainable financing of regional institutions involved in the protection of the coastal and marine environment;

Acknowledging with thanks the significant efforts taken by Contracting and Non-Contracting Parties to contribute in a timely manner to the Caribbean Trust Fund including making arrangements with the Secretariat to honor their pledges;

Also acknowledging with thanks the significant financial commitments being made by Governments to host Regional Activity Centres; and

Thanking the Secretariat and the RACs for their commitment to implementing the workplan despite existing human and financial constraints;

Decides to:

1. **Request** the Secretariat to update the Strategy for CEP incorporating the following elements, subject to availability of resources:
 - Review, diagnostic and evaluation of the implementation of the current strategy;
 - Strategic planning exercise for the Secretariat;
 - Evaluation of any possible changes to the current levels of contributions to the Caribbean Trust Fund on overall financial sustainability, considering the most updated UN assessment scales of contributions;

- Assessment of the technical and human resource capacity of the Secretariat and its RACs to ensure it continues to respond to the needs of Contracting Parties in the most effective and efficient way possible;
 - Consideration of resource efficiency as part of the resource mobilization strategy;
 - Assessment on and proposal of how the Secretariat could respond to the current regional and international goals such as the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, Aichi Biodiversity Targets, Regional Seas Strategic Directions and SAMOA Pathway;
2. **Request** the Secretariat to use the information paper (UNEP(DEPI)/CAR IG.39/INF8) as a guide to update the existing strategy with proposed indicators and targets including a resource mobilization strategy and to present this updated strategy to the Eighteenth Intergovernmental Meeting of the Action Plan for the Caribbean Environment Programme and Fifteenth Meeting of the Contracting Parties to the Convention for the Protection and Development of the Marine Environment of the Wider Caribbean Region, for consideration and possible approval.

DECISION III

Having reviewed the Reports, Recommendations and Decisions of the Meetings convened under the Caribbean Environment Programme since the Sixteenth Intergovernmental Meeting; and

Further noting the need for collaboration between the AMEP and SPAW sub-programmes and the Regional Activity Centres in responding to recommendations and decisions of the Meetings;

Decides to:

1. **Endorse** the Decisions of the Ninth Meeting of the Contracting Parties to the SPAW Protocol held in, Cayenne, French Guiana, 13 March 2017 as contained in UNEP(DEPI)/CAR IG 37/5.
2. **Endorse** the Decisions of the Third Meeting of the Contracting Parties (COP) to the Protocol Concerning Pollution from Land-Based Sources and Activities (LBS Protocol) in the Wider Caribbean Region, held in Cayenne, French Guiana, 14 March 2017 as contained in UNEP(DEPI)/CAR IG.38/4.
3. **Request** governments of the Region to actively participate in the global and regional Partnerships relating to nutrients, wastewater, solid waste and marine litter, including attending the Intergovernmental Review (IGR) organized by the UN Environment's Global Programme of Action (GPA) scheduled to take place in October 2017 in Bali, Indonesia and other regional and international meetings relevant to the work of the CEP.

DECISION IV

Having reviewed the Report of the Eight Ordinary Meeting of the Steering Committee for the RAC/REMPEITC-Caribe, held in Willemstad, Curacao, 19-20 May 2016 (UNEP(DEPI)/CAR IG 39/INF.12);

Having examined the Long-Term Strategic Plan for 2015-2025 of the Regional Activity Centre, REMPEITC-Caribe (UNEP(DEPI)/CAR IG 39/INF.11.) developed under the guidance of Jamaica as Chair of the Steering Committee for RAC/REMPEITC-Caribe;

Welcoming the finalization of the Host Agreement between UN Environment and the Government of Curacao for the hosting of RAC/REMPEITC-Caribe;

Recognizing with gratitude the continuous contribution of the Governments of Curacao (Kingdom of the Netherlands) and the United States to the operational support of RAC/REMPEITC-Caribe; as well as the continuous funding support from many nations through the International Maritime Organization that enables RAC/REMPEITC-Caribe to conduct activities throughout the Region;

Welcoming with great appreciation the expressed commitment from the Government of Curacao to continue supporting RAC/REMPEITC-Caribe on the island of Curacao, autonomous within the Kingdom of the Netherlands, by: a fulltime director and support staff and by engaging the Policy Department of the Ministry of Traffic, Transport and Spatial Planning;

Noting that since the loss of the Consultant seconded by France though the support of TOTAL in June 2016, RAC/REMPEITC-Caribe is currently only supported by a single Consultant, seconded by through support of United States Coast Guard;

Noting Further that the United States Coast Guard has advised the UN Environment, through the International Maritime Organization, that it believes only one Consultant is not a sustainable option for carrying out the vast missions of RAC/REMPEITC-Caribe, and as such, is considering withdrawing its support at the conclusion of the current consultant's assignment in May 2018, noting the decision could be revisited based on additional full time consultants are secured by May 2017;

Acknowledging the significant work carried out by Consultants and staff of RAC/REMPEITC-Caribe, including those seconded by other governments over the last two decades; in developing and implementing multilateral action for preparing for and responding to oil spills and all other sources of pollution from ships, including ballast water discharge and air emissions, that may threaten the marine environmental of the Wider Caribbean Region; and

Acknowledging also that a proposal titled "Human Capital Strengthening of the Regional Activity and Training Centre – Wider Caribbean Region (RAC/REMPEITC-CARIBE)" has been submitted to the Caribbean Community Secretariat (CARICOM) to be considered by the Sixty-Sixth Special Meeting of the Council for Trade and Economic Development (COTED) – Transportation, St. Vincent and the Grenadines, 27 April 2017, and for the consideration of the relevant council of the Caribbean community and ultimately briefing to the CARICOM Conference of Heads of Governments Meeting;

Decides to:

1. **Endorse** the Recommendations of the 8th Ordinary Meeting of the Steering Committee.
2. **Recognize** the contribution of the Governments of USA and Curacao for their continued support to the Centre.

3. **Thank** the CARICOM Secretariat for their expressed commitment to raise the sustainability challenges facing the Centre at upcoming high level political meetings.
4. **Urge** all Contracting Parties, to support RAC/REMPEITC-Caribe with additional human resources, so that the Centre can attain the optimal level of three seconded consultants and continue to serve the Region.
5. Urge the support of all Contracting Parties to support the following technical activities proposed by the centre:
 - a. **Implement** the Regional Strategic Action Plan to Minimize the Transfer of Harmful Aquatic Organisms and Pathogens in Ships' Ballast Water and Sediments in the Wider Caribbean Region **and to pursue options for** establishing a centralized clearinghouse for receiving, processing and providing to the Parties: Ballast Water Management data from ships operating in the Region;
 - b. **Conduct** a feasibility study on the development of a Regional Port Reception Facilities Plan (RPRFP) for the Wider Caribbean Region;
 - c. **Encourage** the development and implementation of national waste management plans, guidelines, and legislation , for reception, management and disposal of ship-generated wastes;
 - d. **Enhance** National and Regional Oil Pollution Preparedness and Response plans, including the integration of offshore oil and gas facilities and ensuring linkages between all national, regional and bilateral plans in the region; and
 - e. **Support** RAC/REMPEITC-Caribe to become a **regional spill reporting and notification centre**; partnering with the Maritime Coordination Centres of the Region and utilizing risk assessment tools to identify national gaps and further build capacity, with particular focus on emerging offshore oil and gas interests in the region.

DECISION V

Having convened the Ninth Meeting of the Contracting Parties (COP) to the Protocol Concerning Specially Protected Areas and Wildlife (SPA) in the Wider Caribbean Region;

Taking note of the "Status of Activities of the SPA Subprogramme for 2015-2016" (UNEP (DEPI)/CAR WG.38/INF.3)" and **commending** the work of the Secretariat and the SPA-RAC;

Taking note of the "Report of the SPA Regional Activity Centre (SPA-RAC) in Guadeloupe: Operations and Budget for the period 2015-2016" (UNEP (DEPI)/CAR WG.38/INF.3);

Having reviewed the "Assessment of the Protected Areas Proposed for Listing" UNEP (DEPI)/CAR WG.38/5 and the "Proposal for Protected Areas to be listed under the SPA Protocol" (UNEP (DEPI)/CAR WG.38/5 and (UNEP (DEPI)/CAR WG 38/5 Addendum 1. Rev.1) and (UNEP (DEPI)/CAR IG 37/4);

Having reviewed the "Report of the Working Group on the Application of Criteria for Listing Species Under the Annexes to the SPA Protocol" (UNEP(DEPI)/CAR WG.38/4) and the "Species proposals submitted by the Parties for listing under Annexes of the SPA Protocol" (UNEP/(DEPI)/CAR WG38.INF.7);

Having reviewed the " Draft Reporting Format for Exemptions under Article 11(2) of the Specially Protected Areas and Wildlife Protocol (SPA)" (UNEP (DEPI)/CAR WG.38/3 Rev.1);

Having reviewed the "Update on the Caribbean Marine Protected Areas Management Network and Forum (CaMPAM) and its major activities, including the ongoing Climate Resilient Eastern Caribbean Marine Managed Areas Network (ECMMAN) Project (UNEP(DEPI) /CAR WG.38/INF.5);

Having reviewed the "Evaluation of CaMPAM activities (2010-2015) and recommendations for improvement" (UNEP(DEPI)/CAR WG.38/INF.6);

Having reviewed the marine mammal materials in support of the Action Plan for the Conservation of Marine Mammals (MMAP) (UNEP(DEPI)/CAR WG.38/INF.10, UNEP (DEPI) CAR/38.11, UNEP(DEPI)/CAR WG.38/INF.13, UNEP(DEPI)/CAR WG 38./INF 16; and UNEP (DEPI)/CAR WG. 28/INF.17);

Taking note of the "Global Coral Reef Monitoring Network (GCRMN) – Caribbean Network and guidelines " (UNEP(DEPI)/CAR WG.38/INF.17 and UNEP(DEPI)/CAR IG.37/ INF.4;

Taking note of "The *Sargassum* influx platform and factsheets (UNEP (DEPI)/CAR WG.38.INF.9, UNEP (DEPI)/CAR WG.38.INF.12, UNEP (DEPI)/CAR WG.38/INF.14, UNEP (DEPI)/CAR WG.38.INF.15);

Taking note of the "GEF Caribbean Large Marine Ecosystem (CLME+) Project" and its joint implementation through the AMEP and the SPA Subprogrammes (UNEP (DEPI)/CAR WG.37/INF.7);

Having reviewed the "Draft Workplan and Budget for the Specially Protected Areas and Wildlife (SPA) Subprogramme for the 2017-2018 Biennium" (UNEP(DEPI)/CAR WG.38/6 Rev.1); and

Having reviewed the "Recommendations of the Seventh Meeting of the Scientific and Technical Advisory Committee to the SPA Protocol" (UNEP(DEPI)/CAR WG.38/8);

Decide to:

1. **Urge** the governments of the region, which have not yet done so, to become Contracting Parties to the SPA Protocol.

2. **Approve** the protected area Cayos de San Felipe National Park presented at STAC7 for listing under the SPAW Protocol and **welcome** the Secretariat's initiative to continue to support the Protected Areas listed through the cooperation programme.
3. **Urge** Contracting Parties to respond to the requests of the Secretariat to participate more actively in the Working Groups established by the Parties.
4. **Approve** the revised version of the voluntary Reporting Format for submissions of exemptions under Article 11(2) of the Protocol, as adopted by COP 9, and **further encourage** Contracting Parties to use such Format when reporting such an exemption.
5. **Amend** the species Annexes by adding the following species to Annex II and Annex III respectively:

Annex II

Passerina ciris, Painted bunting
Pristis pectinata, Smalltooth sawfish

Annex III

Liguus fasciatus, Florida treesnail
Manta birostris
Manta alfredi
Manta sp. cf. birostris
Sphyrna lewini
Sphyrna mokarran
Sphyrna zygaena
Carcharhinus longimanus, Oceanic whitetip shark
Rhincodon typus, Whale shark
Epinephelus striatus, Nassau grouper

6. **Adopt** the Recommendations of the Seventh Meeting of the Scientific and Technical Advisory Committee to the SPAW Protocol as contained in UNEP(DEPI)/CAR WG.38/7, with the amendments provided by the Ninth SPAW COP as reflected below:

Recommendation I.4 (vi)

"the collaborative work with relevant partners, including the ACS and CRFM, other Governments and regions on areas of common interest, such as the management and response to the *Sargassum* influx, restoration of coral reefs, and invasive species;"

Recommendation IV.2

"The interested members of the Ad hoc Working Group on exemptions also consider the Reporting Format as applied on the Curacao's exemption case and provide its findings on the format only, prior to the end of the year". *As discussed during the STAC 7, Curacao was encouraged to provide further information on their exemption submission to the Ad Hoc Working Group*

Recommendation IV.3

"Having approved the voluntary Reporting Format for Exemptions encourages Parties to use it when reporting such an exemption,"

7. **Approves** the proposed SPAW Workplan for 2017-2018 as revised by STAC7, and its budget subject to the approval of CEP's budget by 17th IGM and 14th Cartagena Convention COP, and **further requests** the Secretariat to develop a strategy for mobilization of resources.
8. **Welcome** the offer from the Kingdom of the Netherlands to explore with the Secretariat the possible hosting of the Eighth SPAW STAC and COP10 meetings in Curacao in 2018.

DECISION VI

Recalling the decision of the Thirteenth Intergovernmental Meeting to approve the Guidelines for the Operations of the Regional Activity Centres (RACs) and the Regional Activity Networks (RANs) for the Cartagena Convention (UNEP(DEPI)/CAR IG.28/INF.5 Rev.1);

Recognizing the progress made by the Secretariat to finalize and/or update Host Agreements for the Regional Activity Centres in Curacao and Trinidad and Tobago; and

Welcoming the support by UN Environment HQ in the finalization of these Agreements;

Decides to:

1. **Request** the Secretariat, in coordination with the Regional Activity Centres, to continue work to finalize outstanding Host Agreement with the Government of Cuba for LBS RAC CIMAB as soon as possible.

DECISION VII

Having reviewed the progress of the Caribbean Environment Programme during 2015-2016;

Recognizing the need for the continuing development and implementation of the Caribbean Environment Programme for the 2017-2018 biennium and beyond;

Welcoming the progress made by other Parties towards ratification of the LBS and SPAW Protocols;

Noting the importance of obtaining reports from countries on the status of implementation of the Convention and its Protocols; and

Recognizing that the reporting template should be kept under periodic review by the Secretariat including requesting governments to provide additional information as part of their reporting obligations under the Convention;

Decides to:

1. **Encourage** other governments in the Wider Caribbean Region to ratify the Cartagena Convention and its Protocols.
2. **Encourage** governments to inform the Secretariat of the status and impacts of the implementation of the Convention for the Protection and Development of the Marine Environment of the Wider Caribbean Region and of its Protocols through the approved reporting template for the Cartagena Convention and its Protocols.
3. **Encourage** greater involvement and participation of Focal Points in the development and implementation of the work programme of the Caribbean Environment Programme including participation at meetings of the Secretariat including through the provision of any changes in their focal points.
4. **Further request** the Secretariat to continue its efforts to strengthen collaboration with regional agencies and relevant Convention Secretariats to enable more effective implementation of the Caribbean Environment Programme workplan.
5. **Commend**, in particular, the Coordinator and staff of the Secretariat for the considerable progress made in implementing the Caribbean Environment Programme during the period since the Sixteenth Intergovernmental Meeting.
6. **Encourage** all Contracting Parties who have not yet submitted national reports to do so no later than 30th April 2017 and request the Secretariat to make all such reports available through the UNEP CEP website; and
7. **Encourage** governments to express their appreciation of, and support to, the Caribbean Environment Programme within their national institutions, as well as at relevant national, regional and global fora.

DECISION VIII

Acknowledging the achievements of the working group on environmental monitoring and assessment established by Decision XII of the Fourteenth IGM; and

Further noting that further work is required to complete the proposed State of the Convention Area Report;

Decides to:

1. **Endorse** the specific recommendation of the LBS COP3 to enable the continued work of the Working Group on Monitoring and Assessment for the 2017/2018 biennium until the completion of the SOCAR.
2. **Request** that the Working Group continue as an open-ended working group of experts from Contracting Parties and Regional Activity Centres to the Cartagena Convention and **request** governments of the Region and others interested in the development of the SOCAR including participating in the Working Group and the Data sub-group to inform the Secretariat by March 31st, 2017.
3. **Request** all Contracting and **invite** non-Contracting Parties to provide data and information to the Secretariat for the further development of SOCAR by April 15th, 2017.
4. **Further request** that the Chair of the Working Group reports to the 4th LBS STAC and as appropriate, to the LBS COP4.
5. **Request** the Secretariat to continue its efforts to mobilize resources that will assist countries to conduct national coastal and marine monitoring and assessments and in the further development of the State of Convention Area Report.

DECISION IX

Recalling Decision VII of the 16th IGM on the Action Plan for the Caribbean Environment Programme and the 13th Meeting of the Contracting Parties to the Convention for the Protection and Development of the Marine Environment of the wider Caribbean Region regarding the implementation of the CLME+ Strategic Action Programme through the UNDP/GEF CLME+ Project;

Acknowledging that the objectives of the 10-year Strategic Action Programme for the Sustainable Management of shared Living Marine Resources in the Caribbean and North Brazil Shelf (CLME+ SAP) are consistent with the vision, objectives and mandate of the Cartagena Convention and its Protocols;

Noting that to date 24 countries of the Cartagena Convention Area have already endorsed the CLME+ SAP at the political level;

Recognizing that the broad political endorsement of the CLME+ SAP has been instrumental in the leveraging of substantial, new financial resources supporting the implementation of the work programmes of the Cartagena Convention and its Protocols;

Acknowledging the role of the CLME+ SAP in fostering collaboration and coordination, particularly among fisheries and environmental agencies at the regional and national levels;

Noting that the CLME+ SAP provides a roadmap supportive of an agenda of sustainable blue growth, and of region-wide delivery on global and regional targets relating to the marine environment, including Aichi targets and targets under the UN Sustainable Development Goal SDG14;

Recognizing that the Secretariat of the Cartagena Convention is a Co-executing Agency for the 5-year UNDP/GEF CLME+ Project (2015-2020), which aims at catalyzing the implementation of the CLME+ SAP; and

Noting relevant decisions related to the CLME+ Project of the Third Meeting of the Contracting Parties to the Protocol Concerning Pollution from Land-Based Sources and Activities within the Wider Caribbean and the Ninth Meeting of the Contracting Parties to the Protocol on Specially Protected Areas and Wildlife of the Wider Caribbean;

Decide to:

1. **Encourage** Governments that have not yet done so, to consider endorsing the CLME+ SAP at the political level.
2. **Request** the Secretariat to continue to explore the opportunities for entering into a formal agreement with the Government of Brazil regarding mutual collaboration on activities relevant to the Cartagena Convention and its Protocols.
3. **Request** the Secretariat to continue its efforts to integrate its work under the AMEP and SPAW sub-programmes including the completion of the AMEP/SPAW Roadmap and through activities such as the development of the Regional Action and Investment Plans for Nutrients and Habitats, the preparation of the LBS SOCAR and State of Habitats reports and their integration into the CLME+ SOME, and implementation of Ecosystem-Based Management (EBM) subprojects under the UNDP/GEF CLME+ Project.
4. **Request** that the Secretariat participate in the process to identify options for a Permanent Policy Coordination Mechanism for Ocean Governance and for a Sustainable Financing Mechanism for strengthening the roles and capacities of regional organizations responsible for ocean governance as articulated under the CLME+ SAP.

DECISION X

Acknowledging the efforts by the Government of France to prepare Conference Room Paper (Reference No.1) which was discussed during the meeting;

Recognizing that many of the proposed actions in the paper are consistent with the goals and objectives of the Cartagena Convention and its Protocols; and

Thanking the delegates who provided input into the final draft of the Cayenne Statement;

Decide to:

1. **Note** the submission of the Cayenne Statement to the 17th IGM and 14th COP of the Cartagena Convention.

ANNEX VI: INDICATIVE CONTRIBUTIONS FOR THE BIENNIUM 2017-2018

COUNTRY	2017	2018
ANGUILLA	12,791	12,791
ANTIGUA & BARBUDA	12,791	12,791
ARUBA	11,663	11,663
BAHAMAS	12,791	12,791
BARBADOS	12,791	12,791
BELIZE	11,663	11,663
BRITISH VIRGIN ISLANDS	7,547	7,547
CARIBBEAN NETHERLANDS	6,000	6,000
CAYMAN ISLANDS	7,101	7,101
COLOMBIA	22,914	22,914
COSTA RICA	13,917	13,917
CUBA	24,059	24,059
CURACAO	10,000	10,000
DOMINICA - COMMONWEALTH	12,791	12,791
DOMINICA REPUBLIC	15,044	15,044
FRANCE	291,597	291,597
GRENADA	12,791	12,791
GUATEMALA	13,917	13,917
GUYANA	12,791	12,791
HAITI	12,791	12,791
HONDURAS	12,791	12,791
JAMAICA	18,514	18,514
MEXICO	40,000	40,000
MONTSERRAT	3,430	3,430
NICARAGUA	12,791	12,791
PANAMA	13,917	13,917
ST KITTS-NEVIS	3,430	3,430
ST LUCIA	11,663	11,663
ST MAARTEN	5,000	5,000
ST VINCENT & THE GRENADINES	11,663	11,663
SURINAME	12,791	12,791
TRINIDAD & TOBAGO	15,044	15,044
TURK & CAICOS ISLANDS	6,174	6,174
USA	425,000	425,000
VENEZUELA	170,375	170,375
	1,300,333	1,300,333

Same as Contributions in the previous biennium

ANNEX VII: LIST OF DOCUMENTS

Symbol	Title	Agenda Item
<u>Working Documents</u>		
UNEP(DEPI)/CAR IG.39/1	Provisional Agenda	1-3
UNEP(DEPI)/CAR IG.39/2	Provisional Annotated Agenda	3
UNEP(DEPI)/CAR IG.39/3	Draft Workplan and Budget for the Caribbean Environment Programme for the 2017-2018 Biennium	6
UNEP(DEPI)/CAR IG.37/5	Decisions of the Ninth Meeting of the Contracting Parties (COP) to the Protocol Concerning Specially Protected Areas and Wildlife (SPAW) in the Wider Caribbean Region	6
UNEP(DEPI)/CAR IG.38/7	Decisions of the Third Meeting of the Contracting Parties (COP) to the Protocol Concerning Pollution from Land-Based Sources and Activities (LBS Protocol) in the Wider Caribbean Region	6
UNEP(DEPI)/CAR IG.39/4	Recommendations of the Eight Ordinary Meeting of the Steering Committee of the Regional Activity Centre/Regional Marine Pollution Emergency Information and Training Centre RAC/REMPEITC-Caribe	6
UNEP(DEPI)/CAR IG.39/5	<i>Decisions of the Seventeenth Intergovernmental Meeting on the Action Plan for the Caribbean Environment Programme and Fourteenth Meeting of the Contracting Parties to the Convention for the Protection and Development of the Marine Environment of the Wider Caribbean Region (to be prepared during the Meeting)</i>	
UNEP(DEPI)/CAR IG.39/6	<i>Report of the Seventeenth Intergovernmental Meeting on the Action Plan for the Caribbean Environment Programme and Fourteenth Meeting of the Contracting Parties to the Convention for the Protection and Development of the Marine Environment of the Wider Caribbean Region (to be prepared during the Meeting)</i>	9
<u>Information Documents</u>		
UNEP(DEPI)/CAR IG.39/INF.1	Provisional List of Documents	1
UNEP(DEPI)/CAR IG.39/INF.2	Provisional List of Participants	1
UNEP(DEPI)/CAR IG.39/INF.3	Report of the Chairperson of the Monitoring Committee and President of the Bureau of Contracting Parties	4
UNEP(DEPI)/CAR IG.39/INF.4	Report of the Executive Director of UNEP on the Implementation of the 2015-2016 Workplan and Budget of the Caribbean Environment Programme	5
UNEP(DEPI)/CAR IG.39/INF.5	Report on the Ratification of the Convention for the Protection and Development of the Marine Environment of the Wider Caribbean Region and its Protocols (Cartagena Convention) <i>presented by the Government of Colombia</i>	
UNEP(DEPI)/CAR IG.39/INF.6	Institutionalizing an integrated reporting mechanism on the State of the Marine Ecosystem in the Cartagena Convention Area	
UNEP(DEPI)/CAR IG.39/INF.7	Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with the Government of Brazil	

UNEP(DEPI)/CAR IG.39/INF.8	CEP Sustainable Development Strategy and Performance Indicators	
UNEP(DEPI)/CAR IG.39/INF.9	Updated Communications Strategy including Analysis of Survey, Social Media and Facebook	
UNEP(DEPI)/CAR IG.39/INF.10	Resource Mobilization Strategy (<i>merged with UNEP(DEPI)/CAR IG.39/INF.8</i>)	
UNEP(DEPI)/CAR IG.39/INF.11	RAC/REMPEITC-Caribe Long-Term Strategic Plan 2015-2025	
UNEP(DEPI)/CAR IG.39/INF.12	Report of the Eighth Steering Committee Meeting of the Regional Marine Pollution Emergency, Information and Training Centre (REMPEITC) for the Wider Caribbean Region	
UNEP(DEPI)/CAR IG.39/INF.13	Recommendations from RAC/REMPEITC Workshops held in 2016	
UNEP(DEPI)/CAR IG.39/INF.14	RAC/REMPEITC-Caribe Report of Activities 2005-2014	
UNEP(DEPI)/CAR IG.39/INF.15	Supplemental Documents related to the Status of Consultants at RAC/REMPEITC-Caribe	
UNEP(DEPI)/CAR WG.37/INF.3 Rev.1	Status of Activities of the SPAW Sub-programme for 2015-2016	5
UNEP(DEPI)/CAR IG.38/INF.3	Report from the Secretariat on the Status of LBS Protocol Ratification of the Non-Contracting Parties	
UNEP(DEPI)/CAR WG.38/INF.4	Report of the SPAW Regional Activity Centre (SPAW-RAC) in Guadeloupe: operations and Budget for the period 2015-2016	5
UNEP(DEPI)/CAR IG.38/INF.9	Summary of GPA Survey on pollution in Latin America and the Caribbean	
UNEP(DEPI)/CAR WG.36/INF.5	Update on the Caribbean Marine Protected Areas Management Network and Forum (CaMPAM) and its Major Activities (<i>includes supplement on the completed Caribbean Challenge Project and the ongoing Climate Resilient Eastern Caribbean Marine Managed Areas Network (ECMMAN) Project</i>)	5
UNEP(DEPI)/CAR WG.36/INF.6	Update on the Implementation of Activities in Support of the Action Plan for the Conservation of Marine Mammals (MMAP) including the Government of Spain-UNEP LifeWeb project "Protecting Habitats and Migration Corridors for Marine Mammals in the South and Northeast Pacific and the Wider Caribbean through Marine Protected Area Networks"	5
UNEP(DEPI)/CAR WG.36/INF.7	The GEF Caribbean Large Marine Ecosystem (CLME+) and the outcomes of the Reef Biodiversity and Reef Fisheries Pilot Project: Summary Report, Best Practices and Lessons Learnt	5
UNEP(DEPI)/CAR WG.38/7	Recommendations of the Seventh Meeting of the Scientific and Technical Advisory Committee (STAC) to the Protocol Concerning Specially Protected Areas and Wildlife (SPAW) in the Wider Caribbean Region	5-8
UNEP(DEPI)/CAR WG. 35/INF.4 Rev.1	Report of the Activities for the LBS Regional Activity Centres IMA (Trinidad and Tobago) and CIMAB (Cuba) for 2013-2014	
UNEP(DEPI)/CAR WG. 35/INF.7	Report of the Global Partnership on Nutrient Management (GPNM) Caribbean Platform Meeting, Port of Spain, Trinidad and Tobago, 7-9 May 2013.	5

UNEP(DEPI)/CAR WG.37/4	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, Miami, Florida, USA, October 31 - November 2, 2016	5-6
UNEP(DEPI)/CARWG.35/INF.5 Rev.1	Report of the Working Group on Environmental Monitoring and Assessment	5, 6
UNEP(DEPI)/CAR IG.33/INF.5	Summary of National Reports of Contracting Parties to the Convention 2013-2014	4
UNEP(DEPI)/CAR WG.37/INF.9	Project Document for GEF-funded Integrating Land, Water, and Ecosystems Management in Caribbean SIDS (GEF IWEco)	5
UNEP(DEPI)/CAR WG.37/INF.5	Status of Ratification of the LBS Protocol	
UNEP(DEPI)/CAR IG.38/INF.4	Terminal Evaluation – GEF Funded Project “Testing a Prototype Caribbean Regional Fund for Wastewater Management” (GEF CReW) (English only)	
UNEP(DEPI)/CAR WG.37/INF.7	The GEF Caribbean Large Marine Ecosystem (CLME+) Project and its joint implementation through the AMEP and SPAW Sub-programmes	
UNEP(DEPI)/CAR IG.35/INF.3	Project Document 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 (English and Spanish)	6
UNEP(DEPI)/CAR WG.37/INF.14 Rev.1	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.36/8	Report of the Sixth Meeting of the Scientific and Technical Advisory Committee (STAC) to the Protocol concerning Specially Protected Areas and Wildlife (SPAW) in the Wider Caribbean Region, Cartagena, Colombia, 8 December 2014	5-8
UNEP(DEPI)/CAR IG.34/4	Report of the Eighth Meeting of the Contracting Parties (COP) to the Protocol Concerning Specially Protected Areas and Wildlife (SPAW) in the Wider Caribbean Region, Cartagena, Colombia, 9 December 2014	5-8
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	5-8

Reference Documents

ST/AI/284	Administrative Instructions- General Trust Funds	
UNEP/LAC-IG.XX/5	Final Report of the XX Meeting of the Forum of Ministers of the Environment of Latin America and the Caribbean. Cartagena, Colombia, 28-31 March 2016	
UNEP/WBRS.18/INF8	Regional Seas Strategic Direction (2017-2020)	
UNEP, 2017	Directory of Focal Points of the Caribbean Environment Programme. CEP Information Paper (English only)	

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, 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, 1983a	Action Plan for the Caribbean Environment Programme. UNEP Regional Seas Reports and Studies No. 26
UNEP(DEPI)/CAR IG.24/CRP.9 Rev.1	Guidelines for Establishment and Operation of Regional Activity Centres and Regional Activity Networks for the Cartagena Convention
UNEP(DEPI)/CAR WG.31/INF.6	IUCN Caribbean Red List of Threatened Species – A Proposal
UNEP(DEPI)/CAR WG.32/INF.9 Rev. 3	Template for National Reporting on the Cartagena Convention and its Protocols
Laguna de Bay 2013 Report Card	Laguna de Bay 2013 Ecosystem Health Report Card
Chilika Lake 2014 Report Card	Chilika Lake 2014 Ecosystem Health Report Card
ISBN: 978-1-906698-40-9	Our Nutrient World: The challenge to produce more food and energy with less pollution
2_IASS Policy Brief 1/2017	Achieving the Sustainable Development Goal for the Oceans
RAC/REMPEITC SMA	Recommendations of the SMA regarding the future resourcing and sustainability of RAC/REMPEITC-Caribe
UNEP/WBRS.18/INF13/rev.1	Compilation of the resolutions of the Second Session of the United Nations Environment Assembly, which are relevant to the Regional Seas programmes
UNEP/EA.2/Res.4	Role, functions and modalities for United Nations Environment Programme implementation of the SAMOA Pathway as a means of facilitating achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals
UNEP/CBD/SOI/WS/2017/1/2	Report of Sustainable Ocean Initiative Regional Capacity-Building Workshop for the Wider Caribbean and Central America
REPORT 2015/083	Audit of the United Nations Environment Programme Caribbean Environment Programme
CEP Technical Report 05	The Strategy for the Development of the Caribbean Environment Programme (1990)
Conference Room Paper	
UNEP(DEPI)/CAR IG.39/CRP.1	Cayenne Statement

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