



THE CARIBBEAN ENVIRONMENT PROGRAMME OF THE UNITED NATIONS ENVIRONMENT PROGRAMME (UNEP-CEP)

The United Nations Environment Programme's Caribbean Environment Programme (UNEP-CEP) was established by Governments of the Wider Caribbean Region in 1986 and constitutes one of the eighteen (18) Regional Seas Programmes of UNEP across the globe. Its mission is to promote regional co-operation for the protection and sustainable development of the marine environment of the 38 Member States and Territories that encompass this Region and this is achieved through the implementation of activities that support the Cartagena Convention and its three Protocols.

The Convention for the Protection and Development of the Marine Environment of the Wider Caribbean Region (Cartagena Convention, 1983) entered into force in 1986 and 25 Governments of 28 possible in the Wider Caribbean are Contracting Parties.

The Cartagena Convention is supplemented by three (3) specific legal agreements:

- The Protocol Concerning Cooperation in Combating Oil Spills in the Wider Caribbean Region (Oils Spill Protocol, 1983);
- The Protocol Concerning Specially Protected Areas and Wildlife (SPAW Protocol, 1990); and
- The Protocol Concerning Pollution from Land-Based Sources and Activities (LBS Protocol, 1999).

In response to the objectives of the Cartagena Convention and its Protocols, the CEP has three mutually supporting sub-programmes:

- Assessment and Management of Environmental Pollution (AMEP);
- Specially Protected Areas and Wildlife (SPAW); and
- Communication Education Training and Awareness (CETA).

The AMEP subprogramme provides regional co-ordination for the implementation of the LBS and Oil Spills Protocols. Additional technical support is provided by three (3) Regional Activity Centres (RACs): Centre of Engineering and Environmental Management of Coasts and Bays (CIMAB) in Cuba and the Institute of Marine Affairs (IMA) in Trinidad and Tobago for the LBS Protocol, and the Regional Marine Maritime Pollution Emergency Information and Training Centre (REMPEITC) in Curacao for the Oil Spills Protocol.

The goal of AMEP is to assist countries of the Wider Caribbean to control, prevent and reduce pollution of their coastal and marine environments thereby enabling them to meet their obligations under the LBS and Oil Spills Protocols of the Cartagena Convention.

The SPAW subprogramme provides regional co-ordination for the implementation of the SPAW Protocol with technical support is provided by the Regional Activity Centre in Guadeloupe (SPAW-RAC) hosted by the Government of France. SPAW has established Memoranda of Cooperation with the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD), the Ramsar Convention on wetlands, the Bonn Convention on migratory species, and the Interamerican Sea Turtle Convention (IAC) and also collaborates CITES, the International Coral Reef Initiative (ICRI), and many other global and regional conservation programmes.

The CETA subprogramme provides assistance to the subprogrammes of CEP through the development of mechanisms to disseminate information and through the development promotional materials relevant to the implementation of the Cartagena Convention and its Protocols.

The SPAW Protocol has established a Scientific and Technical Advisory Committee (STAC) to address issues and identify priorities regarding Protocol implementation which meets biannually with the meetings of the Parties. The Protocol's objectives are to conserve and sustainably manage the marine biodiversity of the WCR through the protection of threatened and endangered species and their habitats and related ecosystems. This objective is met by working with governments within the region to establish and properly manage protected areas, manage and use species sustainably and the coastal ecosystems.

The UNEP-CEP Secretariat is based in Kingston, Jamaica. See www.cep.unep.org