



**United Nations
Environment
Programme**



UNEP

Distr. Limited

UNEP(DEC)/CAR IG.24/INF.11
28 September 2004

Original: English

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

Montego Bay, Jamaica, 28 September to 2 October 2004

**REPORT OF THE INTERSESSIONAL WORKING GROUP ADDRESSING
ISSUES OR CONCERNS FOR LAND-BASED SOURCES OF POLLUTION
AS RAISED BY THE INTERNATIONAL MARITIME ORGANIZATION (IMO)
AT THE MAY 2002 WORKSHOP**

REPORT OF THE INTERSESSIONAL WORKING GROUP ADDRESSING ISSUES OR CONCERNS FOR LAND-BASED SOURCES OF POLLUTION AS RAISED BY THE INTERNATIONAL MARITIME ORGANIZATION (IMO) AT THE MAY 2002 WORKSHOP

Background

The Chair of the second meeting of the Interim Scientific, Technical and Advisory Committee (ISTAC) to the Protocol Concerning Pollution from Land-Based Sources and Activities in the Wider Caribbean (LBS), charged the Working Group to review the Draft Report of the IMO/UNEP Workshop on Marine Pollution Prevention and Environmental Management of Ports in the Wider Caribbean Region (the Workshop). The IMO/UNEP Workshop was held in Ocho Rios, Jamaica from 20-24 May 2002 and the Report of the Meeting is documented in UNEP(DEC)/CAR WG.24/INF.4.

The ISTAC Working Group reviewed and supported the Draft Report recommendations. As highlighted in the Report of the Meeting [UNEP(DEC)/CAR WG 24/6 Annex V, Page 6], the ISTAC Working Group divided the recommendations into the following four groupings:

- A. Subjects being addressed by the CAR/RCU AMEP program that do not require additional recommendations;
- B. Subjects that may not be considered as land-based sources of pollution and do not require specific action under the AMEP program;
- C. New issues or concerns for land-based sources of pollution that should be evaluated by the Parties to the Cartagena Convention, members of the ISTAC, the LBS RACs and CAR/RCU for development of future projects; and
- D. Issues that require coordination with other CAR/RCU Programs or the Secretariat.

Also, in Recommendation VII of the Report of the Meeting, the ISTAC established an intersessional working group chaired by the United States of America with supporting members from: Antigua and Barbuda, Bahamas, Colombia, Costa Rica, Jamaica, Suriname, Trinidad and Tobago, and Venezuela, to address the recommendations specifically listed in group C above.

This informational paper consists of the Intersessional Working Group suggestions to the 11th IGM for each recommendation found in group C. The Intersessional Working Group will coordinate with CEP staff to develop project and product ideas for these recommendations.

Intersessional Working Group Recommendations

- 1. Port reception facilities** (Recommendation 3): *“The establishment of port reception facilities to receive ship generated waste in the Wider Caribbean Region under MARPOL 73/78, in particular for Annex I (oily wastes), Annex IV (sewage), and Annex V (garbage)*

should be promoted without delay, also to give effect to the special area designation of the Region under Annex V. Problems to be overcome include transportation of the wastes, building and operation of landfills, and construction and operation of treatment facilities. Assistance was requested with respect to design of facilities and process requirements.”

Prior to the 12th IGM, CEP should compile and review results of initiatives, by organizations such as the International Maritime Organization, the World Bank, or the Global Environment Facility, which are relevant to this recommendation. Gaps between work already accomplished and the activities described in Recommendation 3 should be highlighted in the CEP informational paper and considered for further action.

- 2. Solid waste management** (Recommendation 4): *“Solid waste management is also a general problem since most countries do not have adequate sanitary landfill sites. Steps need to be taken to facilitate a regional approach to the establishment of facilities for the re-use/recycling or proper disposal of used oils, POPs, pesticides, and solid wastes such as plastics, tyres, car bodies, batteries, and asbestos. The possible role for private enterprise in this initiative would need to be investigated. A regional policy is needed regarding the importation of used cars (near the end of their life that include hazardous material such as lead batteries) and other products (i.e., used cell phones) as “means” of disposing these products that, in the not too distant future, become a waste problem in developing countries in the Wider Caribbean Region.”*

Extensive information on proper location considerations, monitoring, and operating sanitary landfills and recycling facilities already exists and can be provided to CEP by member nations.

The CEP should review the existing information to ascertain the scope and cost of developing a regional strategy on Best Management Practices to control run-off and leachate from sanitary landfills and recycling operations that may impact coastal areas or marine watersheds. If a regional strategy is developed through the CEP, it should include the cost of its promotion and the proposed strategy should be submitted at a future IGM for consideration. The initial action described above should be part of CEP’s 2006-2007 Workplan and Budget for the Sub-programme on Assessment and Management of Environmental Pollution concerning Land Based Sources (“the 2006-2007 Workplan”).

- 3. Dredging and dredged material management** (Recommendation 5): *“Dredging and dredged material management are critical needs in the Wider Caribbean Region and enhanced management of dredged materials is needed.*

1. When dredging near sensitive ecosystems such as coral reefs, special measures should be used to control dispersion of turbidity.

2. Co-ordination of dredging plans should be promoted countrywide and regionally to share dredge mobilization costs and environmental impact assessment costs.

3. Dredged material should be promoted as a resource and used in a beneficial manner, such as in beach nourishment or in wetlands/habitat restoration, creation, or enhancement.”

The London Convention 1972 and the 1996 Protocol to the London Convention specifically deals with ocean disposal of dredged material. Nations in the Wider Caribbean Region who have not yet ratified the London Convention should consider either ratifying the 1996 Protocol, or following the Waste Assessment Guidelines for the disposal of dredged material that can be found on the London Convention’s website (www.londonconvention.org). Technical assistance on dredging and ocean dumping operations is available from Parties to the London Convention.

The recommendations listed above are not covered by the London Convention and the 1996 Protocol. CEP should consider assessing existing practices on dredging and ocean disposal near sensitive habitats, as well as using dredged material as a wetland or beach enhancement resource, assessed on a case-by-case basis. The assessment could be used to develop a region wide guidance on dredging, disposal options, beneficial use of dredge material, and to promote cooperative dredging efforts between member nations. The assessment should reference *inter alia* the UNEP/GPA Key Principles for Port and Harbor Development. CEP should develop the strategy and present it at the 13th IGM. This should be included in the 2006/2007 workplan.

Since coral reef ecosystems in the Wider Caribbean Region are a significant marine environmental resource, special consideration should be given to protecting this important ecosystem, including beaches, sea grass beds, mangrove forests, lagoons, patch reefs, shallow reefs, and deep reefs. Operational measures should be identified to manage dredging carefully that may affect coral reef ecosystems.

- 4. Bulky waste disposal** (Recommendation 12): *“An evaluation of the disposal of bulky waste in the region is needed with the aim of developing recommendations regarding future regulation of the activity. Unregulated dumping of appliances and other bulky items has occurred in the Bahamas, whereas dumping of these types of item is now regulated in the OECS States.”*

The CEP should review the existing regulations (including compliance and enforcement-related issues) in each member State used to control bulky waste disposal in order to develop guidance for the Wider Caribbean Region on bulky waste disposal for adoption outside the OECS. Development of the Wider Caribbean Region guidance on bulky waste disposal should be included in the 2006/07 Workplan, and a report should be presented at the 13th IGM.

- 5. Creation of artificial reefs:** (Recommendation 14) *“A regional policy is needed on creation of artificial reefs including siting, construction and types of materials used for artificial reefs. One key element of the policy should be that tyres should not be used in artificial reef construction.”*

As part of its 2006/07 Workplan, CEP should develop regional guidance on the creation of artificial reefs in the Wider Caribbean. The guidance should include best practices for such things as siting an artificial reef, construction methods, and compatible materials. Information on successful programs on artificial reefs, including The US National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration's (NOAA) National Artificial Reef Plan and other guidance documents, should be reviewed. A draft of this guidance should be presented at the 13th IGM.

- 6. Status of dumping activities carried out and dumping sites** (Recommendation 17): *“A status report should be developed on dumping activities carried out and dumping sites in the Wider Caribbean Region for consideration under the Cartagena Convention and the London Convention 1972.”*

Preparation of a status report, by CEP, on ocean disposal activities and the location and status of ocean disposal sites as well as recommendations in the Wider Caribbean Region should be included in the 2006-2007 Workplan. A report should be presented at the 13th IGM.

- 7. Accession to the IMO Convention on the Control of Harmful Anti-Fouling Systems on Ships, 2001** (Recommendation 18): *“Accession by countries in the Wider Caribbean Region to the IMO Convention on the Control of Harmful Anti-Fouling-Systems on Ships, 2001, should be promoted. In addition, the application of best management practices should be promoted for the handling of chip flakes, especially in dry-docking facilities.”*

Some CEP member nations have developed and implemented Best Management Practices (BMPs) for the handling of chip flakes at dry-docking facilities and marinas. The CEP should summarize and present these existing BMPS to the 12th IGM. The CEP should also develop a general guidance statement on using the BMPs for control of boat-bottom paint chips throughout the Wider Caribbean based on the requirements of the Anti-Fouling Convention.

The Intersessional Working Group supports the promotion of IMO Convention on the Control of Harmful Anti-Fouling-Systems on Ships, 2001, throughout the Wider Caribbean. We recommend that the CEP work with the IMO to aid member States in developing the necessary legal infrastructure to become Parties to the Anti-Fouling Convention.