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Wider Caribbean Region

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**STRATEGY FOR THE DEVELOPMENT OF THE CARIBBEAN ENVIRONMENT
PROGRAMME 2002-2006**

DRAFT

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

In 1981 the governments of the region, with the support of the United Nations Environment Programme, UNEP, adopted an Action Plan within the context of its Regional Seas Programme, to jointly deal with the main environmental problems of the marine and coastal areas of the region. In addition, in 1983 they signed an Agreement that provides the legal framework for all the activities carried out within the region for the protection of its marine and coastal environment.

Progress of the Plan and the level of application and implementation of the Agreement have been evaluated by the governments participating in the Plan, within the framework of the institutional provisions of the Plan. In this context, the governments have agreed to prepare a strategy that will lend coherence to the provisions contained in the Convention, the Caribbean Environment Programme (CEP), Inter-Governmental meeting decisions and the results of regional application of global scope issues. This new strategy covers the period 2002 to 2006 and tends to facilitate the assessment of activities for appropriate Convention implementation and application during that time frame in addition to providing a framework for action, as required by the regional environmental priorities identified by the governments. The strategy also ensures the development of adequate ties between the institutions and regional and global instruments with objectives and elements relevant to the CEP and advocates the search for new financing sources.

For this purpose, the new strategy is structured based on the CEP vision and mission and is motivated by the program background, objectives and development, including the Convention and its Protocols, which, together with inter-governmental decisions, provide the foundation of the conceptual framework on which the strategy rests. Eight basic operational principles give the strategy a philosophy of coherence and complementarity.

The main concepts underlying the strategy are coherence and direction, as the long-term objective of the strategy is to provide appropriate direction to accomplish the sustainable development of the marine and coastal environment of the Wider Caribbean Region. Thus, the strategy includes five strategic elements: legal, institutional, programmatic, training and financial, which represent strategic options to comply with the eight operational goals derived from the objectives of the CEP and the Convention and its Protocols, for the period 2002-2006 in all its actions. These goals constitute the basis of the strategy and play an essential role in the future of the CEP. The goals are aimed at strengthening the regional legal framework for protecting the marine environment, reducing marine pollution in the region, improving marine and coastal environment quality in the region through adequate management of the activities carried out therein, reducing the loss of biodiversity and recovering degraded ecosystems, strengthening regional capabilities to adequately manage the ecosystems and marine and coastal resources, strengthening and expanding international technical cooperation and assistance and increasing the notoriety of the regional marine environment.

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1. INTRODUCTION

1. The Wider Caribbean is a region with very particular characteristics, since almost all its coastal and marine resources and ecosystems fall under national jurisdictions, given the proximity of its Countries and Territories⁽¹⁾⁽²⁾. These, then, are really shared ecosystems. This proximity also causes pollution in the area and other environmental problems to reach cross-boundary and trans-national proportions, involving individual countries and territories, groups of countries and the region as a whole⁽²⁾⁽³⁾. These ecosystems are known for their special fragility, large biodiversity and high productivity and significant vulnerability, as well as for the particular goods and services they provide to the economic and social development of the region⁽¹⁾⁽²⁾.
2. Given the presence of the Panama Canal, the existence of oil producing and refining sites and of locations of significant tourist interest, the region has active routes for tourist cruises and for maritime transportation of oil and raw materials⁽⁵⁾. Another distinctive feature is the complex mosaic of cultures, economies and political traditions that exist in the region and the considerable disparity in the size or extension of the States in the region⁽¹⁾⁽²⁾⁽⁴⁾. The small Caribbean island states have very particular characteristics. In addition to their size, they are considered to be entirely coastal, with extensive marine areas and restricted access to multiple resources, while the continental states have significant land areas, which in some cases exceed one million square kilometres⁽⁴⁾⁽⁶⁾. The combination of these and other aspects give the Caribbean the distinction of being a special area⁽¹⁾⁽²⁾.
3. The semi-closed nature of its basin and its complex oceanography limit water renewal and exchange, so many contaminants that enter or are dumped in the basin become almost permanent⁽¹⁾⁽³⁾ and constitute a threat to coastal residents, resources and to the economy of the area. In addition, the region is permanently exposed to the effects of phenomena caused by oceanic-atmospheric interactions. Several countries and territories are located along the path of "Cape Verde"-type storms and hurricanes and on occasion are seriously impacted by them⁽⁷⁾. Vulnerability to the effects of these phenomena is aggravated by the poor economic conditions that prevail in most of the states and territories. Population increases have come to compromise the coasts and other ecosystems, diminishing their tourism potential. It is generally accepted that many marine resources have reached or surpassed their maximum exploitation level⁽¹⁾⁽⁸⁾. A common concern for these and other environmental problems, the strong sense of cohesion and the experience gained from centuries of interaction, have motivated the governments to unite efforts and work collectively against these and other causes of marine and coastal environmental degradation in the region⁽¹⁾⁽⁸⁾. To collectively face these problems, the governments of the states and territories in the region have agreed on a mechanism consisting of an environmental programme and a plan of action for its implementation⁽⁸⁾⁽⁹⁾.

2. CARIBBEAN ENVIRONMENT PROGRAMME ACTION PLAN SYNOPSIS

4. The Wider Caribbean is one of the eighteen regions of the world where the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), in collaboration with the governments, in 1981 established a regional Plan of Action to identify and properly tend to the main common problems of the marine and coastal environment in a joint and coordinated manner⁽⁸⁾⁽⁹⁾. The Plan's background dates from 1976 when the UNEP Council of Governments adopted the decision to foster a process that would lead to the consolidation of a Regional Seas Programme for the Caribbean⁽⁴⁾⁽⁸⁾⁽⁹⁾. The Plan encompasses the natural marine and coastal and cultural diversity of the region in a joint effort by its 36 states and territories to achieve sustainable environmental objectives and represents and expression of goals and a programme to accomplish them⁽¹⁾⁽²⁾.
5. The Plan was designed to achieve the following objectives, among others⁽⁹⁾⁽¹⁰⁾:
 - Assisting all countries in the region in their efforts against marine pollution and other forms of environmental deterioration, while recognizing the special situation of the small island states and territories in the area;
 - Channelling and coordinating international assistance;
 - Strengthening the capacity of existing national and sub-regional institutions to adequately tend to environmental problems;
 - Increasing the notoriety of the region and public awareness regarding the quality of the regional marine and coastal environment;
 - Increasing technical cooperation for human resources training, economic and other types of support.
6. Twenty-eight United Nations member states participate in the Plan⁽⁹⁾ through a diverse list of national institutions of varying scopes. Important international organizations from within and outside de United Nations System support its programmes. The Plan has a simple structure: a Regional Coordination Unit, UNEP-CAR/RCU, responsible for coordinating the Plan in general, as well as for managing the financial and human resources and channelling and coordinating all international cooperation. In addition, it is in charge of preparing and convening meetings of the Contracting Parties, forwarding information, coordinating the cooperation activities agreed to by the Contracting Parties. It also performs programmatic functions⁽⁹⁾. UNEP-CAR/RCU works under the authority of UNEP headquarters, through its Division of Environmental Conventions (DEC), its Regional Seas Programme and the governments of the Region. It also works with the UNEP Regional Office for Latin America and the Caribbean (ORPALC), and maintains cooperation links with various international organizations of regional and global scope⁽¹⁰⁾⁽¹¹⁾. Within the countries, the Plan is coordinated by the National Focal Points⁽⁹⁾.
7. Plan activities are implemented through projects and activities that provide technical support for implementation of the Convention and its Protocols. The activities are assigned to four sub-programmes:

- Assessment and Management of Environmental Pollution Sub-programme (AMEP), which supports activities related to marine pollution and coastal area management⁽¹¹⁾⁽¹²⁾;
 - Specially Protected Areas and Wildlife (SPA) Sub-programme, which supports all activities for coastal and marine biodiversity conservation in conformity with the SPA Protocol;
 - Information Systems for the Management of Marine and Coastal Resources (CEPNET) Sub-programme, that provides general support to all CEP activities, thus promoting effective information management⁽¹¹⁾⁽¹³⁾; and
 - Education, Training and Awareness (ETA) Sub-programme, which develops the CEP human resources education and training component and increases the notoriety of the Caribbean Sea and its resources through awareness raising and promotion activities.
8. The Convention for the Protection and Development of the Marine Environment of the Wider Caribbean Region (Cartagena Convention), signed in Cartagena, Colombia in 1983, and in force since 1986, with 21 contracting parties, serves as the general legal framework for all Plan activities⁽⁵⁾⁽¹⁴⁾. The Convention translates into the regional context the global legal principles, such as those set forth in the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea⁽⁵⁾. Development has continued and currently it has three supplementary protocols:
- Protocol Concerning Cooperation in Combating Oil Spills in the Wider Caribbean Region, signed in 1983, and in force since 1986. The Protocol contains provisions to control accidental contamination of the sea from petroleum or other harmful substances from ships and establishes measures to guide regional cooperation in the fight against this type of pollution⁽⁵⁾⁽¹⁵⁾;
 - Protocol Concerning Pollution from Land-Based Sources and Activities, (LBS), adopted in Oranjestad, Aruba 6 October 1999. The Protocol contains provisions to control and reduce pollution originating from land-based sources and activities. It includes specific technical annexes that refer to contaminant categories, effluent limitations, management practices and promotes cooperation in pollution research and monitoring and the exchange of scientific and technical information on pollution, etc.⁽³⁾⁽¹⁶⁾; and
 - The Protocol Concerning Specially Protected Areas and Wildlife in the Wider Caribbean Region (SPA Protocol), adopted in two phases, the text on 18 January 1990 and the Annexes on 11 June 1991, in force since 2000. The Protocol has provisions related to measures to protect and preserve coastal and marine biodiversity and other provisions⁽¹⁷⁾.
9. The above instruments, in turn, serve as the legal links to help the countries comply with commitments agreed upon under other instruments, such as the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change⁽¹⁸⁾, the United Nations Convention on Biological Diversity⁽¹⁹⁾, the International Convention to Prevent Marine Pollution by Vessels (MARPOL 73/78)⁽²⁰⁾, etc.
10. In accordance with its organizational structure, Action Plan control is exerted through Inter-Governmental (IG) meetings as well as meetings of the Contracting Parties, the

Bureau of the Contracting Parties and of the Monitoring Committee (Mon Com). For Protocol execution and follow-up, the LBS Protocol Interim Scientific and Technical Advisory Committee (LBS ISTAC)⁽³⁾⁽¹⁶⁾ and the SPAW Protocol Scientific and Technical Advisory Committee (STAC)⁽¹⁷⁾ have also been created.

11. Inter-Governmental meetings (IG) are convened every two years, in order to analyse programme progress, to provide the proposed work plan and budget and to analyse the political, economic and legal consequences of its decisions. The meetings of the Bureau of the Contracting Parties are convened to examine the degree of application of the Convention and its development and implementation, and the Monitoring Committee (Mon Com), constituted by representatives of thirteen States, is in charge of defining Plan contents, with the Inter-Governmental meetings⁽⁹⁾.
12. Regional Activity Centres (RACs) have also been designated, focused on particular aspects of the Convention and its Protocols, such as the Regional Activity Centre Against Oil Spills (RAC-REMPEITC-Carib)⁽²¹⁾ and the Centre for SPAW (SPAW-RAC). Several Plan activities have had significant support from international organizations, external cooperation agencies, third countries and NGOs, etc. The Plan has been reviewed and evaluated by the governments at the inter-governmental meetings. In those opportunities, the governments have examined Plan execution, approved the proposed work programme and associated budget, and examined the political, legal and economic consequences of their determinations. In addition, they have incorporated new programmatic elements to the plan, depending on the needs of the region, as appropriate⁽²²⁾.

3. THE CARIBBEAN ENVIRONMENT PROGRAMME (CEP)

3.1. Situation Synthesis

13. During the 1977 joint IOC/FAO/UNEP Workshop on Marine Pollution in the Caribbean (Trinidad and Tobago), regional experts expressed their concern for the growing and progressive degradation of water quality in the Caribbean and for the accelerated biodiversity loss and ecosystem alteration and highlighted the absence integrated and long-term programmes, plans and projects aimed at documenting and recommending actions to control and reverse these situations and indicated the lack of specific regional standards to regulate and prohibit pollution-generating activities and other forms of deterioration. They also pointed to the weakness of existing measures against waste and disorderly use of resources and ecosystems. The Workshop also recognized the limitations of the existing technical, financial and human capacities in a large portion of the area to deal with these situations and recommended the need to undertake coordinated joint actions to identify, evaluate and document appropriate measures to control these and other sources of degradation and to obtain the technical, political, legal and financial means to achieve them.

14. In conformity with that set forth and in response to these concerns and to the subsequent decisions of the UNEP Council of Governments (3rd Session 1975 and 4th Session, 1976)⁽⁴⁾⁽⁸⁾, UNEP, the Economic Commission for Latin American and the Caribbean (ECLAC), and other specialized organizations of the United Nations System, in consultation with the governments of the region, prepared an Action Plan aimed at evaluating the environmental situation of the marine and coastal environment of the Wider Caribbean Region and recommending appropriate measures to reduce and prevent pollution and other causes of degradation⁽⁴⁾⁽⁸⁾.
15. In 1981 in Cartagena (Colombia), a meeting of plenipotentiaries of the governments and territories of the Caribbean, adopted the Caribbean Environment Programme Plan of Action, as a framework to guide and link national and international efforts to reduce and attenuate regional marine pollution and, to the extent possible, to prevent this and other causes of environmental degradation⁽⁴⁾. Since the adoption of this Plan, the region has had active programmes focusing on the main environmental problems of the region, with cooperative and coordinated participation of important institutions and organizations of the region. This association investigates and assesses pollution and recommends management and control measures, and studies the protection, use and management of biodiversity and the orderly use of marine and coastal spaces and activities⁽¹⁾⁽⁶⁾. In addition, they participate in programmes aimed at strengthening and in some cases reinforcing institutional and human capacities for appropriate management of the regional marine and coastal environment⁽¹⁾⁽²²⁾⁽²³⁾⁽²⁵⁾.
16. With the Convention and its Protocols, the region currently has a duly ratified legal framework in force, that provides the legal support to CEP activities and also provides elements for strengthening and supplementing national regulations, while serving as the legal bond to other international instruments⁽⁵⁾.
17. CEP has also turned out to have significant convening power for international organizations and NGOs, in the support of regional activities against pollution and other forms of environmental degradation and is important in seeking the financial resources required by the programs to implement the Convention and its Protocols and an effective mechanism to adequately connect, provide and distribute information among global and regional networks regarding pollution monitoring and surveillance and protection of coastal and marine resources⁽¹³⁾⁽²¹⁾⁽²²⁾. CEP has also become an important source of inspiration for area governments in the formulation of national plans, projects and programmes in favour of the local marine and coastal environment⁽¹⁾⁽⁴⁾.
18. Although CEP development has concentrated basically on the most critical problems of the region in accordance to the priorities established by the governments, the new challenges and global scope environmental concerns that have required a regional component, have been progressively incorporated in the agenda, so that CEP currently advances activities at different work fronts such as: support to regional application of the Global Coral Reef Monitoring Network, (GCRMN)⁽¹¹⁾⁽⁴¹⁾, International Coral Reef Initiative (ICRI)⁽⁴³⁾; development of the Washington Global Programme of Action (GPA)⁽²⁶⁾⁽²⁷⁾, World Program for the Conservation of Marine Mammals, regional assessments based on the work of the Inter-Governmental Panel of Climate Change (IPCC)⁽²⁸⁾, support in the

development of regional nodes of the Global Ocean Observation System (GOOSCAR)⁽²⁹⁾, Chapter 17 of Agenda 21⁽³⁰⁾, Action Programme for Small Island Developing States (SIDS)⁽⁶⁾, and regional initiatives of common interest that in turn respond to Programme and Convention objectives. The consequence of this proliferation of issues has been a multi-thematic CEP agenda that has required the development of a strategy to provide some coherence to the provisions of the Convention, CEP, Inter-Governmental decisions and the results of the regional application of global scope issues.

3.2. CEP Vision

19. *CEP vision is a marine and coastal environment that is environmentally adequate and safe for the sustainable development of the region for the benefit of present and future generations.*

3.3. CEP General Mission

20. *The general mission of the Caribbean Environment Programme is to promote regional cooperation for the protection and development of the marine environment of the Wider Caribbean Region, for the benefit and enjoyment of present and future generations.*

21. In this mission statement CEP recognizes the special conditions of the area and the hazards faced by the Wider Caribbean Region inhabitants, ecosystems, resources and their legitimate use, in the form of pollution, overexploitation and other forms of environmental degradation, as well as the disadvantage the region due to the absence of an action mechanism that is fully and economically supported by the governments, to collectively face these problems.

4. CONCEPTUAL FRAMEWORK OF THE STRATEGY

22. In practical terms, the CEP is the mechanism that lends operability to the Convention and its Protocols through its programmatic component with work fronts in the activities that are necessary to favour and facilitate any implementations and applications resulting, whether by decision of the governments or incorporation into the CEP agenda, from global scope programs, plans and agreements that have a regional component. The governments have adopted the decision to provide CEP with a strategy that will allow directing the programmes toward the objectives of the Convention and its Protocols and assuring coherence in the decisions. The main concepts underlying the strategy are coherence and direction, as it offers a framework of strategic options for the actions required to maintain the integrity of its programs with all new developments, through the establishment of appropriate links, signature of cooperation agreements or memoranda of understanding, execution of joints actions, partnerships and associations, etc.

4.1. Charting the Future (2006 and Onward)

23. CEP has a promising future. The experience acquired in its development is allowing the creation of a solid and collective base where international cooperation has found an appropriate niche to channel its assistance in support of governments to solve the main environmental problems of the regional marine and coastal environment and where the governments, in turn, have been able to assist in the formulation and implementation of the coastal and marine dimension of their own environmental policies. New environmental challenges will no doubt permeate the CEP agenda and make it grow and become multi-phased, varied and inter-sectoral, thereby requiring more human and economic resources. Application of the 2002-2006 strategy anticipates these changes and identifies strategic options to adapt the CEP to these new scenarios, but its virtues are dependent on the timely availability of resources and on an increased favourable attitude of the governments towards the CEP.

4.2. Operating Goals for the CEP Strategy

24. The operating goals are the dynamic element of the strategy since, within the timeframe of said strategy, they reflect the level of implementation and enforcement of the Convention, the progress made in developing the CEP and its Programs, and the degree of evolution in technical and financial assistance and cooperation, including cross-cutting issues. By definition, they operationally reflect the high level reached in activities to attain CEP goals. This enables governments, as well as coordination bodies and other stakeholders, to “**measure and guide**” CEP development against its objectives and in line with the direction of its programmes and the decisions of the intergovernmental meetings. These goals reflect actions in the following work areas: thematic programmes (AMEP, SPAW, CEPNET and ETA), provisions in the Convention and its Protocols, and crosscutting issues. The strategy operating goals are:
- To exhibit a duly articulated and complemented evolving legal framework;
 - To exhibit a significant reduction in regional marine pollution, regardless of its sources, activities, forms, categories and types of pollutants;
 - To exhibit a reduction in environmental impacts caused by uses partially managed or not managed on coastal and marine resources and spaces in the Wider Caribbean region, and an increase in experiences related to the integrated management and planning of said spaces and resources;
 - To ensure a significant reduction in loss of coastal and marine biodiversity in the region, as well as its consequences;
 - To exhibit significant capacity-building abilities in the region to investigate, learn, assess and organise, and to gather, store, assess and disseminate high-quality information related to the coastal and marine environment of the Wider Caribbean region;
 - To exhibit a significant increase in awareness, reputation and sensitivity concerning the coastal and marine environment of the Wider Caribbean region;

- To exhibit a significant increase in the strength and scope of inter-agency and inter-organizational relations, and in the establishment of diverse collaborative links with non-party governments and organizations to execute CEP cross-cutting issues;
 - To display the continuous evolution of fund searching programmes, plans and projects, and an increase in the number of effecting funding sources and creative funding mechanisms that may provide economic support for CEP activities.
25. Each goal aims at one or more strategy objectives. The operating goals aim at activities resulting from intergovernmental meeting reports, work plans, from activities set out in previous strategies, especially for the two years under analysis, and from programmatic activities that respond to the regional component of a global programme and/or of a Convention, and the activities set forth in the Convention and its Protocols.
26. Within the context of the strategy, the crosscutting elements are those activities that continue to develop within the framework of CEP programmes. They meet the objectives of the regional components of global agreements and programmes, and display significant synergies. The crosscutting issues in the strategy are:
- Regional Caribbean component of the GPA and National Programmes and related activities linked to the LBS Protocol ⁽²⁷⁾;
 - Regional component of the Global Ocean Observing System for the Caribbean (GOOSCAR);
 - Regional Caribbean component of the Global Plan of Action for the Protection and Conservation of Marine Mammals;
 - Regional Caribbean component of the Global Coral Reef Monitoring Network GCRMN ⁽⁴³⁾;
 - Caribbean Regional Network for Monitoring Pollution from Indicator Species;
 - Regional activities within the SPAW Protocol context that also support the Jakarta Mandate Work Plan of the Group on Coastal and Marine Biodiversity of the Convention on Biological Diversity ⁽⁴¹⁾;
 - Activities related to the implementation of Chapter 17 of the Programme of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development and activities resulting from the World Summit on Sustainable Development (Rio +10) ⁽³⁰⁾⁽⁴⁵⁾⁽⁴⁶⁾;
 - Strategic Plan for Municipal Wastewater Discharges of GPA ⁽³⁸⁾;
 - Regional activities developed in compliance with international treaties, such as those related to MARPOL 73/78 ⁽²⁰⁾⁽⁴⁷⁾, and the PAHO Preparedness and Response Convention related to the Regional Protocol;
 - Joint activities by twinning with other Action Plans of the UNEP Regional Seas Programme in Latin America, namely: the Action Plan for the Protection of the Marine and Coastal Environment of the Southeast Pacific, the Action Plan for the Protection and Sustainable Development of the Marine and Coastal Environment of the Northeast Pacific, and the Environmental Plan of Action for Latin America and the Caribbean (UNEP/ROLAC).

27. During the Fourth Intergovernmental Meeting (Guadeloupe, 26-28 October 1987), the governments adopted the decision to provide CEP with a broad, long-term strategy for the future development of the Plan, and instructed the Secretariat to draft it. The governments have indicated that the purpose of the strategy is to offer guidance and guidelines to CEP after each two-year programming period, and to consolidate the decisions of member governments, as well as to provide a short summary of the goals reached and of the programme direction ⁽¹¹⁾⁽¹²⁾⁽²¹⁾⁽³¹⁾.
28. The last project in the strategy covers the 2002-2006 period, and was taken to the Ninth Intergovernmental Meeting and the Sixth Meeting of the Contracting Parties to the Convention for the Protection and Development of the Marine Environment of the Wider Caribbean Region (Kingston, 14-18 February 2000)⁽¹¹⁾ and the Thirteenth Meeting of the Monitoring Committee on the Action Plan for the Caribbean Environment Programme and the Special Meeting of the Bureau of the Contracting Parties to the Convention for the Protection and Development of the Marine Environment of the Wider Caribbean Region (San José, Costa Rica, 9-13 July 2001)⁽¹²⁾⁽²¹⁾⁽²³⁾.
29. The foregoing strategy is part of that same process and consults the strategy drafts for the 2000- 2004 period (UNEP(DEC)/CAR 16 IG.17/10) and 2002-2006 (UNEP (DEC)/CAR IG.19/7)⁽¹¹⁾⁽¹²⁾, as well as the decisions resulting from the Thirteenth Meeting of the Monitoring Committee of the Action Plan for the Caribbean Environment Programme mentioned above (UNEP (DEC)/CAR IG.19/6)⁽²³⁾ and other sources of diverse scope and breadth. It also consults CEP documentation related to strategy purposes and objectives and other relevant information recorded in the references quoted in this document.

5. STRATEGY FOR THE DEVELOPMENT OF CEP: 2002-2006

5.1. Purpose of Strategy

30. The strategy for the development of the Caribbean Environment Programme 2002-2006 supports and facilitates assessing activities for the adequate implementation and enforcement of the Convention and its Protocols, and provides the working framework of action required for the regional environmental priorities identified by the governments. Additionally, the strategy ensures the development of appropriate links between institutions and the necessary relevant regional and global instruments related to CEP ⁽²²⁾⁽³¹⁾.
31. The strategy must also be coherent with the decisions resulting from inter-governmental meetings, CEP programmes, and other international programmes and activities, as well as with the provisions contained in regional and global environmental legal instruments ⁽¹²⁾⁽²¹⁾⁽²³⁾.

5.2. Scope of Strategy

32. The strategy is applied consistent to the Convention and comparable programmes. It covers all measures implemented to protect and preserve the coastal and marine environment within the Wider Caribbean, in benefit of present and future generations in the Convention area of application and within a defined timeframe (the marine environment of the Gulf of Mexico, the Caribbean Sea and the areas adjacent to the Atlantic Ocean, south of 30° North longitude and within 200 miles of the Atlantic coast of the States)⁽¹⁴⁾.

5.3. Operating Principles of Strategy:

33. The strategy functions within the context of the Convention, the CEP and its programmes. It is additionally based on the principles of sustainable development as set forth in the United Nations Declaration on the Environment and Development (1992)⁽³²⁾ and as identified in its Programme 21⁽³⁰⁾. The following operating principles apply:
- In compliance with the **cooperative principle**, the strategy will guide CEP actions that strive for the active participation in its programmes of governments, institutions, experts and other protagonists with interests in the region, so as to reach the objectives of sustainable development⁽²¹⁾;
 - In compliance with the **coordination principle**, the strategy will guide CEP implementation so as to, through adequate coordination, avoid duplication of efforts and waste of resources, and will strive to optimise the use of existing capacity. To this end, the Strategy uses the same coordination and steering mechanisms of the Action Plan;
 - In compliance with the **gradualness principle**, the strategy will guide the progressive development of CEP programmes, in keeping with the priorities indicated by the governments and determined by the Convention⁽²²⁾;
 - In compliance with the **complementariness and convenience principle**, the strategy will explore the synergy between the CEP and other plans, projects and activities, and, as appropriate, will serve as a guide in signing new cooperation agreements and memoranda of understanding to create programmatic links and other connections with these plans, projects and activities⁽²²⁾;
 - In compliance with the **integration principle**, the strategy will strive to provide, through CEP, complete overviews of the social and natural dimensions of the environmental status in the Wider Caribbean and its trends, and will additionally strive to, as appropriate, create and support regional cooperation networks and regional thematic *ad hoc* groups in substantive areas of the CEP programmes, and will foster the inter-disciplinary and inter-institutional development of CEP⁽²²⁾⁽³¹⁾;
 - The strategy, by definition, is an open and timely document, capable of adjusting to different circumstances in time and resources. Therefore, and in compliance with the **versatility principle**, the strategy will streamline CEP development and, as appropriate, the use of diverse approaches, methods,

guides and techniques compatible with the natural, social, cultural and economic conditions of the region⁽³¹⁾;

- In absence of scientific certainty and in presence of reasonable doubt and uncertainty, the strategy, in compliance with the **precautionary principle**, will influence CEP to take steps to develop activities in an environmentally safe and adequate manner⁽³²⁾;
- The strategy is a document that changes with time, in keeping with the needs of the programme itself, of the region, and of the global environment agenda. In keeping with the versatility principle it must, therefore, adapt to new circumstances. Based on this versatility principle and in compliance with the **governance and control principles**, the strategy is involved in the CEP evaluation mechanisms themselves, and must thus be assessed and monitored at the same time and consistent with the strategy.

34. The strategy does not replace any CEP coordination mechanism. As a framework document, it instead serves as a tool to facilitate CEP development, monitoring and evaluation.

5.4. Objective

35. The long-term objective of this strategy is to support activities aimed at CEP goals, providing the adequate guidance to reach sustainable development for the coastal and marine environment of the Wider Caribbean.

36. Different strategic elements are used, as appropriate, to implement the agreed joint actions to fight contamination and other forms of degradation, and to execute measures for the protection, conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity, for an integrated management that fosters greater economic growth, for the integration, dissemination and interchange of relevant information, and for capacity-building activities in the region.

37. In this sense, the strategy supports integration of the Action Plan, recommends linkages, suggests partnerships and points out the adequate means to take action⁽¹¹⁾⁽¹²⁾⁽²²⁾.

5.5. Specific Objectives

38. In line with the goals set out in Section 4.2, the specific objectives of the strategy are:

- To ensure the adequate implementation, development and enforcement of the Convention and its different instruments, through its ratification, entry into force and application, as appropriate;⁽¹¹⁾⁽¹²⁾⁽²²⁾;
- To demonstrate a significant reduction in marine pollution, regardless of its origin, categories and types of pollutants, and source activities⁽¹¹⁾;
- To ensure a significant reduction of coastal and marine biodiversity loss in the region, and its repercussions;
- To show a significant improvement in the institutional, technical and human capacity in the region through suitable economic and technical assistance, to learn about, investigate, monitor and manage coastal and marine environmental

degradation, and to compile, store, assess, process and disseminate high quality data on the coast and marine environment in the Wider Caribbean;

- To ensure that regional coastal-marine environment protection activities are uniform and coherent with Agreements, Conventions and Treaties and with global, regional and sub-regional organizations and programmes that may contain elements of interest to these activities⁽¹¹⁾;
- To exhibit greater knowledge concerning the status of marine environmental quality, and a higher level of awareness and sensibility by inhabitants in the Wider Caribbean towards the natural, social and economic importance of coastal and marine ecosystems, and the resources they contain;
- To ensure a gradual increase in the number of effective funding sources, the creation of partnerships and twinning programmes with organizations that could provide economic support for actions to decrease coastal and marine environmental degradation in the Wider Caribbean region⁽¹¹⁾⁽¹²⁾.

5.6. Strategic Components:

39. As an *ad hoc* document, the strategy enjoys the same components of CEP. Its strategic components are as follows:

5.6.1 Legal Component:

40. The strategy will use the Cartagena Convention and its comparable programmes as legal framework for its enforcement. In this framework, and in line with the outcome of its programmes and activities, UNEP-CAR/RCU, in coordination and in consultation with the governments, is also considering the application and use of the following strategic legal options:
- Guidelines, instructions, and juridical principles, among others, that may be of interest or of use to CEP (e.g., environmental impact assessment guidelines and principles, integrated coastal management instructions, principles and guidelines, guidelines to determine new coastal and marine protected areas, chemical accident prevention principles⁽⁴⁴⁾, etc.);
 - Codes of conduct, voluntary or not, for environment-related activities in or use of coastal and marine resources, that may contain elements of interest to CEP (e.g., FAO Code on Conduct on Responsible Fishing⁽³³⁾, Code of Conduct on the Introduction of Alien Species⁽³⁴⁾, Code on the Transportation and Handling of Hazardous Substances⁽³⁵⁾, etc.);
 - International environmental treaties and conventions with diverse scopes of action, other than those fostered by CEP, but that deal with similar subject matters (e.g., MARPOL 73/78⁽²⁰⁾⁽⁴⁷⁾, Framework Convention on Climate Change⁽¹⁸⁾, Convention on Biological Diversity⁽¹⁹⁾, Ramsar Convention, CITES Convention, etc.);
 - Declarations, political statements with or without politically binding effect, or others that may contain elements of interest for CEP and its goals; (e.g., Stockholm Declaration on the Human Environment⁽³⁶⁾, 1995 Washington Declaration on GPA - 1995⁽³⁷⁾, United Nations Declaration on Environment

and Development - 1992 ⁽³²⁾, Montreal Declaration on the Protection of the Marine Environment from Land-Based Activities ⁽³⁸⁾⁽⁴⁸⁾, Millennium Declaration of the United Nations Assembly ⁽³⁹⁾, Barbados Declaration of the World Conference on Sustainable Development of Small Developing Island States ⁽⁶⁾, etc.);

- National laws, rules and regulations that contain elements and/or provisions potentially useful to the region as a whole;
- Juridical doctrines and legal international experiences that may contain elements of interest for the CEP legal framework;
- Approaches and principles, legal or otherwise, of interest for CEP activities (e.g., the ecosystem approach, the Malawi principles on coastal and marine biodiversity ⁽⁴²⁾, etc.).

5.6.2 Institutional Component:

41. A significant number of institutions in countries and territories of the Wider Caribbean carry out CEP-related activities and programmes at different levels of commitment and of interest, and represent a very diverse list of institutions, laboratories, research centres, universities, government entities and NGOs. The UNEP-CAR/RCU, in consultation with governments, and, when appropriate, shall consider participation in CEP and its programmes, as well as the participation of other institutions and organizations of the region, based on the following institutional strategic options:

- Private-sector institutions interested in the sea and its resources (shipping companies, port associations, fishing companies, tourism promoters, etc.), data and information providers (satellite imagery, mapping and GIS information, databanks, etc.), investors in tourism, hotel companies, etc. ⁽²⁶⁾;
- Associations, cooperatives, and groups of individuals of diverse legal nature, involved in different aspects of the sea (e.g., artisanal fishermen associations, private diving clubs, sail boat and other water-sport clubs, yacht clubs, scuba-diving and underwater archaeology groups, the Caribbean Hotel Association – Caribbean Action for Sustainable Tourism (CHA-CAST), etc.) ⁽²⁶⁾.
- Thematical cooperation networks (e.g., International Coral Reef Action Network (ICRAN) and the International Coral Reef Initiative) ⁽⁴³⁾⁽⁴⁶⁾;
- *Ad hoc* consultation groups and other specialist groups (e.g., coastal area planning groups, integrated waste management groups, special groups on the study of regional vulnerability to climate effects, specialized resources groups, etc.) ⁽²⁶⁾;
- International private and/or government organizations interested in the sea and its resources (e.g., Organization of American States (OAS), Caribbean Community (CARICOM), International Tourism Organization (ITO), Caribbean Tourism Organization (OCT), Caribbean Alliance for Sustainable Tourism (CASI), Organization of Eastern Caribbean States (OECS), European Union (EU), NOAA, United States Environmental Protection Agency, Coastguard Service, etc.);
- NGOs (Audubon Society, Rockefeller Foundation, The Nature Conservancy (TNC), World Resources Institute (WRI), etc.) ⁽²⁶⁾;

- International, regional, sub-regional and global fora with interests in the region (e.g., Permanent Commission of the South Pacific (PCSP), Central American Commission on Environment and Development (CCMD), Central American Commission on Marine Transportation (COCATRAMS), etc.);
- United Nations: United Nations Agencies with programmes and projects in the area (e.g., Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission (IOC/IOCARIBE), International Maritime Organization (IMO), Pan American Health Organization (PAHO/WHO), World Meteorological Organization (WMO), Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC), and others)⁽²⁶⁾.

5.6.3 Programmatic Component:

42. CEP is currently involved in four large programmatic areas (sub-programmes) in response to the objectives of the Convention and its comparable programmes: Programme on the Assessment and Management of Environmental Pollution (AMEP), Programme on Specially Protected Areas and Wildlife (SPAW), Coastal and Marine Resource Management Information Systems (CEPNET) and its sub-programme on Education, Training and Awareness (ETA)⁽¹¹⁾⁽¹²⁾. CEP has additionally supported other international programmes and projects in diverse areas and at different scales throughout the area. UNEP-CAR/RCU, after appropriate consultation, will also consider creating links with the following programmatic strategic options in which CEP might operate ⁽²⁶⁾:

- Other Regional Seas Programmes with similar Action Plans in this region and with which there is considerable synergy (e.g., Action Plan for the Southeast Pacific, Action Plan for the Northeast Pacific, Action Plan for the Upper South American Northeast Atlantic);
- National marine research plans and national plans for development of science and technology (e.g., National Marine Research Plan of Colombia, Trinidad and Tobago – Panama Maritime Strategy, etc.);
- National social and economic development plans that include coastal and marine components (e.g., Clean Seas and Coasts Policy of Colombia, National Maritime Strategy of Panama, etc.);
- National environmental and resource utilization plans having coastal and marine components;
- Global environmental and marine resource monitoring and surveillance plans and programmes, work programmes and work agendas for *ad hoc* and other groups (e.g. Global Monitoring System of Pollution from Indicator Species (NOAA-IOC), World Climate Research Programme (WCRP), International Geosphere and Biosphere Programme (IGBP), Global Oceanic Observing System (GOOS), International Water Assessment (GIWA), etc.).

5.6.4 Education, Training and Awareness Component:

43. In practice, each CEP sub-programme has developed its own training activities depending on its individual needs. However, CEP has a specific Education, Training and Awareness Programme (ETA) with some important actions in the area. UNEP-CAR/RCU will consider potential support for CEP and the Convention as result of the following strategic

options: special courses at universities, institutes and governmental or non-governmental research centres, and short internships for training in CEP matters. Together with governments, it will consider strategic partnerships for training in CEP and Convention matters.

- Courses, seminars and training workshops, among others, contained in the agenda of other programmes, action plans and international organizations, in matters related to CEP, the Convention and its Protocols;
- Specific short training courses on matters of importance to the Programme, available outside the region, especially internships at laboratories and research centres;
- Scholarships from international organizations, foundations and others;
- Conferences, congresses, symposia and seminars, exhibitions, talks and other fora with programmes and agendas that include matters of interest to support the implementation and enforcement of the Convention and its Protocols;
- Events, campaigns, radio and television programmes and other mass media aimed at increasing awareness and relevance of the sea and its resources, of CEP and its programmes;
- Dissemination of CEP: Internet, meetings, publications, technical reports, diagnoses, etc.

5.6.5 Financial Component:

44. Aside from CEP funding sources, the strategy considers the potential of other financing options for its projects and programmes ⁽²⁶⁾, and will consult with the governments, as appropriate, about the need for exploratory consultations and for undertaking strategic actions to attract resources from these new funding sources:
- Private sector, especially businesses and organizations related to coastal and marine activities and/or their resources;
 - Extra-programme resources from governments participating or not in CEP, to develop specific activities;
 - Subsidiaries and/or agencies of international cooperation from countries or groups of countries interested in the region;
 - Resources resulting from the sale of CEP documents and products;
 - International funding banks, such as the Inter-American Development Bank, and the World Bank, based on financing projects;
 - Creation of Trust Funds, etc.

6 CONCLUSION

45. The strategy will be developed gradually, and will focus mainly on priorities highlighted by the governments. It may be adapted to any new developments that arise from new global and regional environmental summits. As a guidance instrument, the success of this strategy will depend, in part, on the results and responses to the utilization, as appropriate,

of the diverse strategies considered, on greater commitment between governments and CEP, and, certainly, on the timely availability of technical and economic resources.

46. CEP has become a significant regional lever with a cooperative framework in constant evolution, which has assisted in regional capacity building to investigate, assess and deal with the most common environmental problems. Despite the progress made, there are other environmental issues still at a basic level that must be put into perspective to yield a more coherent analysis of the regional marine environment. No doubt the situation today is much better than in 1976. Much more is known now about environmental quality in the Wider Caribbean, favouring the complete identification of the principal regional marine environment stressors. Regional natural heritage is now being recorded, and studies are under way to identify various responses that might help Governments reduce regional marine environment degradation. In compliance with its operating principles, the strategy will help CEP maintain its programmatic integrity, reduce biases while executing its programmes, and facilitate the harmonious development of its components.
47. Although the initial approaches, criteria and priorities of CEP were the most appropriate at the time, new environmental problems have penetrated its agenda. Moreover, even more recent environmental problems, currently lobbied in international fora to be considered of global nature, such as nitrogen discharge pollution, may further enlarge the CEP agenda. This growing number of issues has caused the CEP agenda to become multi-thematic, responding to regional as well as global environmental problems. The strategy brings coherence to CEP programme activities, to the enforcement of the Convention and its protocols, to inter-governmental decisions and to the outcome of international fora. However, this development has not occurred parallel to an increase in financial assistance. New funding sources must be found to guarantee long-term stability. The strategy warns about this situation and points out optional sources of funds, where the creation of trust funds is considered attractive and, perhaps, the most permanent source over time to fund new programmes.
48. The strategy is a valid means to measure CEP evolution and to guide its implementation, without replacing any Programme monitoring and assessment devices. It in fact supplements them by offering an integrated overview of work plans for 2002-2006, facilitating CEP coordination.

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