



**United Nations
Environment
Programme**



UNEP

Distr. LIMITED

UNEP(DEC)/CAR IG.24/5
15 November 2004

Original: English

Eleventh Intergovernmental Meeting on the Action Plan for the Caribbean Environment Programme and Eighth 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 MEETING

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INTRODUCTION

1. In its Decision I, the Tenth Intergovernmental Meeting on the Action Plan for the Caribbean Environment Programme and the Seventh Meeting of the Contracting Parties to the Convention for the Protection and Development of the Marine Environment of the Wider Caribbean Region endorsed the general approach of the revised Workplan and adopted the Budget for the Caribbean Environment Programme for the 2002-2003 biennium.
2. Thus, in accordance with the revised Workplan for the biennium 2002-2003 (UNEP(DEC)/CAR IG.22/6, section II.C.3f), this Meeting was convened by the Secretariat of the Caribbean Environment Programme in Montego Bay, from 28 September to 2 October 2004.
3. The Meeting had the following objectives:
 - a) Evaluate the projects and activities implemented within the framework of the Caribbean Environment Programme during the period 2002-2003;
 - b) Review the progress made in the implementation of the decisions of the Tenth Intergovernmental Meeting and Seventh Meeting of the Contracting Parties, Montego Bay, 7-11 May 2002;
 - c) Review and take action, as appropriate, on the decisions of the Third Meeting of the Contracting Parties (COP) to the Protocol Concerning Specially Protected Areas and Wildlife (SPAW) in the Wider Caribbean Region, Montego Bay, Jamaica, 27 September 2004;
 - d) Review the recommendations of and take action as appropriate on the Report of the Second Meeting of the Interim Scientific, Technical and Advisory Committee (ISTAC) to the Protocol Concerning Pollution from Land-based Sources and Activities, Managua, Nicaragua, 12-16 May 2003;
 - e) Review the Outline of the Strategy for the Enhancing of the Caribbean Environment Programme within the Framework of the Regional Seas programmes and Sustainable Development for 2005-2009 approved at the Tenth Intergovernmental Meeting and Seventh Meeting of the Contracting Parties, Montego Bay, Jamaica, 7-11 May 2002 and further developed by the Secretariat;
 - f) Review and adopt, as appropriate, the recommendations of the open intersessional working group established at the 13th Meeting of the Monitoring Committee on the Rules of Procedure and Financial Rules for the Caribbean Environment Programme;
 - g) Review and adopt, as appropriate, the recommendations of the open intersessional working group established at the Tenth Intergovernmental Meeting and Seventh Meeting of the Contracting Parties, Montego Bay, Jamaica, 7-11 May 2002 on the guidelines for the operations of the Regional Activity Centres (RACs) and the Regional Activities Networks (RANs) of the Caribbean Environment Programme;

- h) Review and take action, as appropriate, on the recommendations of the Eleventh Intergovernmental Meeting panel on the regional consultation process on the Barbados Programme of Action in preparation for Mauritius, 10-14 January 2005;
 - i) Review and take action, as appropriate, on the recommendations of the International Maritime Organization (IMO) regarding the Global Ballast Water Management Programme (GloBallast) and the future activities in the Wider Caribbean Region proposed under the GloBallast Partnerships initiative, as well as on the ratification of the International Convention for the Control and Management of Ships' Ballast Water and Sediments;
 - j) Review and adopt the Workplan and Budget for CEP for the 2004-2005 Biennium, including those of the Regional Activity Centres; and
 - k) Decide on the composition of the Monitoring Committee and the Bureau of Contracting Parties for the 2004 - 2005 period.
4. The experts invited to the Meeting were nominated by the national focal points of the Governments that constitute the Caribbean Environment Programme (CEP). In addition to United Nations Member Governments of the Wider Caribbean, other States that have demonstrated concern for the protection of the marine environment of the Wider Caribbean, as well as non-governmental organisations, other UN agencies and other international organizations interested in the CEP were also invited to attend the Meeting as observers. (Annex V contains the list of participants)

AGENDA ITEM 1: OPENING OF THE MEETING

5. Mr. Christopher Corbin, AMEP Programme Officer, welcomed all delegates, invited guests and the media to the meeting, and then introduced the Hon. Delano Franklyn, Minister of State, Foreign Affairs and Foreign Trade of Jamaica; Ms. Veerle Vandeweerd, Coordinator of the United Nations Environment Programme Global Programme of Action (UNEP-GPA) and of the Regional Seas Programme; Mr. Nelson Andrade Colmenares, the Coordinator of the UNEP Caribbean Regional Coordinating Unit (UNEP-CAR/RCU); and Mr. Ricardo Sanchez Sosa, Director of the Regional Office for Latin America and the Caribbean of UNEP (UNEP-ROLAC).
6. In his opening remarks, Mr. Andrade welcomed the Minister and the other members of the Head Table, Delegates, representatives of other United Nations and Caribbean Organizations, donors, representatives of the NGO community, media and observers. He continued by offering words of solidarity for the Jamaican people as they recover from the tragedy of Hurricane Ivan, which hit the island only two weeks prior to the Meeting, and noted the willingness of the Government, the Jamaican people and the International Community, to contribute towards the return to normality. Specific mention was made of other countries in the region that had also been affected by recent hurricanes including the Bahamas, the Cayman Islands, Cuba, the Dominican Republic Grenada, Haiti and the United States of America. A minute of silence was observed in recognition of the loss of life and damages in those countries.

7. The Coordinator noted the progress of the Caribbean Environment Programme (CEP) in fundraising and in the execution of projects, despite the limited human resources of the Secretariat and the irregular contributions to the Caribbean Trust Fund (CTF) by governments. He further highlighted the extraordinary contributions of the Governments of France, Sweden and the United States of America for specific projects. He recognized the importance of strategic partnerships and continued support from the governments, and urged all participants to carefully consider the documents presented to them and to work collectively and collaboratively toward a positive outcome for these important issues. He concluded by reiterating the Secretariat's willingness to strengthen existing partnerships and develop new alliances that will bring about even more tangible achievements at the national and regional levels.
8. The Coordinator of the Global Programme of Action (GPA) conveyed greetings from the Executive Director of UNEP, Mr Klaus Topfer, and noted his recognition of the importance of the CEP. She gave her condolences to the countries of the region that were impacted by hurricanes. She thanked the Government of Jamaica for their support to this Meeting and their continued support to the Programme through the hosting of the Regional Coordinating Unit. Ms. Vandeweerd referred to the CEP under the leadership of its Coordinator as an example for the other Regional Seas Programmes because of its comprehensive agenda and significant results.
9. The Director of ROLAC, expressed his interest in providing the Member States with the support of ROLAC through greater cooperation with the CEP.
10. Minister Franklyn (opening remarks in Annex VI of this report) thanked the Programme for the invitation and gave special thanks to participants coming from overseas. He stressed the importance of improving the general understanding of the significant role of the CEP in improving the life of the citizens of the region. Minister Franklyn expressed the importance of the assistance received from the international community in response to Hurricane Ivan. The Minister reported on the specific impact of the hurricane in Jamaica and assured that the continuing reconstruction work will be efficient. He stressed that response to natural events and disasters must be given a high priority for the CEP and the region and that communication with the population was critical in getting their understanding and support for the actions taken by the government and the different agencies.
11. The Minister declared the Meeting officially opened at 9:30 a.m. on Tuesday, 28 September 2004.

AGENDA ITEM 2: ORGANIZATION OF THE MEETING

a) Rules of Procedure

12. The Meeting agreed to apply *mutatis mutandis* the Rules of Procedure of the Governing Council of UNEP, as contained in document UNEP/GC/3/Rev.3.

b) Election of Officers

13. The Meeting elected from amongst its participants the following officers: the Chairperson, three Vice-Chairpersons and a Rapporteur. These officers will form the Bureau of Contracting Parties for the period until the Twelfth Intergovernmental Meeting on the Action Plan for the Caribbean Environment Programme and Ninth 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.
14. The Meeting elected from among the experts the following officers of the Meeting:

Chairperson:	Mr. Hamlin Jordan	(Venezuela)
First Vice-chairperson:	Ms. Mara Murillo Correa	(Mexico)
Second Vice-Chairperson:	Mr. José A. Castelló	(Cuba)
Third Vice-Chairperson	Ms. Icilda Humes	(Belize)
Rapporteur:	Ms. Anne Chick	(United States of America.)

c) Organization of work

15. English, French and Spanish were the working languages of the Meeting. The working documents of the Meeting were available in all the working languages.
16. The Secretariat convened the Meeting in plenary sessions, with the assistance of working groups established by the Chairperson. Simultaneous interpretation in the working languages was available for the plenary meeting.

AGENDA ITEM 3: ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA

17. The Meeting was invited to adopt the agenda of the Meeting as contained in document UNEP(DEC)/CAR IG.24/1. Some Delegations suggested that items of the Meeting Agenda be adjusted to optimise the discussions. It was noted that the consultation period for the discussion paper on the Rules of Procedures and Financial Rules of the CEP had not been available sufficiently in advance of the for the members of the Intersessional Workgroup to prepare a report to the 11th IGM. After adjustments, the Agenda was adopted 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

18. The outgoing Chairperson of the Monitoring Committee and President of the Bureau of Contracting Parties, presented his report of the 2002-2003 biennium as contained in document UNEP(DEC)/CAR IG.24/INF.3.
19. Mr. Arnulfo Franco, the delegate from Panama, thanked his colleagues from the outgoing Bureau of Contracting Parties for their support since the Tenth IGM, namely Saint Lucia (First Vice-Chairperson), France (Second Vice-Chairperson), Cuba (Third Vice-Chairperson) and the United Kingdom (Rapporteur). While noting the limited resources of the Secretariat and the irregular contributions from most governments to the Caribbean Trust Fund, he highlighted the considerable progress with project fundraising and delivery. He was thankful for the important contributions made by the Governments of France and the United States of America, as well as the extraordinary contributions from these governments and the Government of Sweden for specific projects which have greatly assisted with Programme delivery.
20. The Chairperson welcomed the new ratifications to the SPAW Protocol by Barbados and the United States of America and the efforts by various governments now in the process of joining the Contracting Parties. He was pleased to report that Trinidad and Tobago and his own government (Panama) had ratified the LBS Protocol and that France and the United States of America were about to complete the same process.
21. On the financial aspects of the Programme, he reiterated his concern with the level of financial contributions to the CTF. Despite this, some governments have made extraordinary contributions through the hosting of Meetings, such as the Government of Nicaragua (Second ISTAC/LBS in 2003) and the Governments of the Netherlands Antilles and the United States of America (Second STAC/SPAW in 2003). He then referred to the Memorandum of Cooperation with the Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency (Sida), worth US\$ 1,000,000 as a very welcome and successful addition to the support of the CEP and the Wider Caribbean Region.
22. Among various partnerships of the CEP, the Chairperson pointed out the award of US \$12 million in May 2004, from the Global Environment Facility (GEF) for the project on Integrated Management of Coastal Areas and Watersheds in the Caribbean Small Island Developing States, to be implemented in coordination with the Caribbean Environmental Health Institute (CEHI). The project for "Reducing Pesticide Run-off to the Caribbean Sea" was also approved by the GEF for US \$4.5 million, but the Chairperson urged the participating countries to concretise their commitments in order for funding to be released from the GEF. He continued with the grant for US \$3 million from USAID and the UN Foundation under the framework of ICRAN, for the Mesoamerican Barrier Reef Alliance. Also as a result of efforts initiated in the 2002-2003 biennium, he noted the White Water to Blue Water partnership initiative, in which the Secretariat is a key player.

23. On the subject of governance, the Memorandum of Understanding with the Basel Convention for cooperation on the environmentally sound management of hazardous wastes, the participation of the Secretariat in the preparation of the new Strategy for the Regional Seas, and the development of National Programmes of Action (NPAs) under Global Programme of Action (GPA) were seen as three excellent initiatives to follow during the next biennium
24. The Chairperson was pleased to list several national, regional and international organisations with which the CEP is closely collaborating. He hoped that these efforts of coordination would be further strengthened through the activities of the LBS, SPAW and Oils Spills RACs.
25. His conclusion was to recommend that members focus on issues of importance such as: formalizing the Rules of Procedure; the need for greater involvement of the governments with the Programme; determining a realistic scope of activities; the need for linkages with global environmental initiatives; improving the fragility of the financial situation of the Caribbean Trust Fund; and the need for the full political, programmatic and financial support of Member Governments to make the CEP fully operational.
26. Delegates expressed congratulations for the report presented by the outgoing Chairman of the Monitoring Committee and President of the Bureau of Contracting Parties. The delegate from Costa Rica informed the meeting of the significant efforts taken by the Government of Costa Rica towards ratification of the Protocol Concerning Pollution from Land-Based Sources and Activities, which was now under consideration by their legislative assembly.
27. The meeting welcomed the inclusion of the specific challenges to the Caribbean Environment Programme, which were highlighted in the Chairman's report. It was suggested that this would contribute to a more effective work programme for the next biennium with specific focus on improved collaboration and long term-sustainability.

AGENDA ITEM 5: REPORT OF THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF UNEP ON THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE CARIBBEAN ENVIRONMENT PROGRAMME (2002-2003)

28. The Secretariat presented the Report of the Executive Director of UNEP on the Implementation of the Caribbean Environment Programme as contained in document UNEP(DEC)/CAR IG.24/INF.4. The Secretariat focused on the response to the decisions of the Tenth Intergovernmental and Seventh Contracting Parties Meeting (Montego Bay, 7-11 May 2002) as contained in document UNEP(DEC)/CAR IG.22/8 as well as decisions and recommendations of other CEP meetings convened during the 2002-2003 biennium.
29. The Coordinator of the Programme, Mr. Nelson Andrade, began his presentation on the major activities, achievements, and challenges of the CEP during the 2002-2003 biennium by presenting an assessment of the Secretariat's limited resources. In addition

to himself, the Secretariat benefited from four Programme Officers and ten support staff. The Administration Programme Officer and the Administrative Assistant were paid from the 13 per cent programme support costs levied on contributions to the Trust Fund (all other posts were paid out of the Caribbean Trust Fund). Additionally, there was a National Officer for (and supported by) the International Coral Reef Action Network (ICRAN). He reminded the Meeting that the AMEP post had been vacant for over a year (since June 2003) and that the recruitment process led to the hiring of Mr. Christopher Corbin, a national of Saint Lucia, in September 2004.

30. He noted that the CTF received a total of US\$641,000 in 2002 and US\$ 647,000 in 2003. The Coordinator stressed that delayed payment of contributions and arrears continue to be a problem for the Secretariat. He, however, was grateful for the cooperation shown by many Governments in providing support through extraordinary contributions for the continuing success of the Programme. In this context he recognized the substantial contributions from the Government of Sweden with two junior professional officers for SPAW and AMEP respectively, as well as with funding for specific activities of the workplan.
31. The Coordinator outlined the Secretariat's responses to and actions taken with respect to the Decisions of the Tenth IGM and to Decisions/Recommendations of other CEP Intergovernmental and Technical Meetings, notably on the Strategy of the CEP, on the establishment of the LBS/RACs, and on the implementation of the workplan.
32. He further pointed out that during the biennium, AMEP facilitated the discussions between the governments of the United States of America and France to reach an agreement on the legal text of the LBS Protocol in English and French, which will facilitate the implementation of the Protocol. At the time of the Eleventh IGM, Trinidad and Tobago had acceded to the Protocol and Panama has deposited its instrument of accession.
33. The Coordinator then requested the Programme Officers to report on the progress of their respective programmes: AMEP, SPAW, CEPNET and ETA. He also informed the Meeting that the Representatives of the four Regional Activity Centres would report on the status of their own activities, integrated to their respective supervising programme.
34. The new Programme Officer for AMEP noted that this presentation referred to activities implemented prior to his arrival at the Secretariat. The overall coordination of AMEP involves many partners and activities and particularly the activities of the Regional Activity Centres for the Protocol Concerning Pollution from Land-based Sources and related activities with the Governments of Cuba and Trinidad and Tobago. In addition, AMEP coordinates the work of the RAC-REMPEITC/Carib for the Protocol Concerning Cooperation in Combating Oil Spills.
35. The AMEP subprogramme coordinated several activities under the project "Reducing Pesticide Run-off to the Caribbean Sea"; national reports for Colombia, Costa Rica and Nicaragua were prepared. A regional report was also completed and served as the basis for a new proposal submitted to the Global Environment Facility and currently under review at GEF.

36. In the project “Planning of Rehabilitation, Environmental Management and Coastal Development in Nicaragua, Honduras and Guatemala in the Wake of Hurricane Mitch” watersheds were identified, watershed management plans were prepared and mechanisms for improved coordination were developed.
37. The GEF project on “Integrating Management of Watersheds and Coastal Areas in Small Island Developing States” includes components addressing coastal area management and biodiversity, tourism development, protection of water supplies, land-based sources of pollution and climate change. After two PDF-Block B phases, the full project was approved by the GEF in May 2004 for a period of five years for the sum of 12 million US dollars (with an additional 11 million US dollars in co-financing from different sources).
38. The United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) managed the bilateral aspects of the GEF project “Training for Rehabilitation of Contaminated Bays with Cuba and Jamaica”. CAR/RCU provided coordination and knowledge-sharing for the project for the entire region, with the implementation of two regional workshops.
39. On the project “Sewage Collection and Treatment: implementing Annex III of the LBS Protocol”, the Meeting was informed that a small project had been presented to the Global Programme of Action (GPA) for consideration. A Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) has been signed with the Construction Resource and Development Centre (CRDC), Jamaica, for the construction of viable and environmental sanitation solutions in the communities of Whitehorses, Pamphret and Botany Bay, St. Thomas, Jamaica.
40. Finally, MoUs have also been signed with Jamaica, Saint Lucia and with Trinidad and Tobago for the development of their National Programmes of Action (NPAs). Jamaica embarked on the development of its NPA in April 2003 and a first draft was completed in September 2003. A second phase in the next biennium is expected to build on Jamaica’s experience and a partnership with the GPA Secretariat and with the GPA Node of National Ocean and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) to imitate support the development of potentially 15 NPAs in the WCR.
41. The Director of the LBS/RAC in Trinidad and Tobago, the Institute of Marine Affairs (IMA), Ms Hazel McShine, presented a summary of the main activities to date, which included the establishment of a cabinet-appointed committee to review a proposal for the Government of Trinidad and Tobago to accede to LBS Protocol, which resulted in the Government acceding to the Protocol in March 2003; delivering a presentation on the LBS protocol and functions of the RAC to the Association of Marine Laboratories of the Caribbean (AMLC), July 2002; the execution of the Regional Training Workshop on Nutrient Removal Technologies and Wastewater Management (December 2002); presentation of the Joint Work Programme of the RACs at 2nd ISTAC in Nicaragua (May 2003); the development of an NPA for Trinidad and Tobago commissioned by UNEP (September 2003); and the partnership established between the US State Department, UNEP-CAR/RCU and IMA at the WW2BW Conference (March 2004) to fund a Regional Project to Promote the LBS Protocol.

42. The Director of the LBS/RAC in Cuba, Centro de Ingeniería y Manejo Ambiental de Bahías y Costas (Cimab), Mr. Antonio Villasol, went through the activities performed by CIMAB-RAC, that among other activities consisted of two sub regional workshops for the Global International Waters Assessment (GIWA) (one for sub region 4 held in Cuba in 2002, and another one held in Colombia for Sub region 3 and 4 in 2003). In 2003 the Centre participated in the “Regional Training Workshop on Nutrient Removal Technologies and Wastewater Management” held in Trinidad and Tobago, where the focal points of the LBS protocol participated. In 2003 a regional workshop was convened in Cuba, “Regional Training Workshop in Sewage Sludge Re-use and Disposal in the Wider Caribbean Region”, in which national experts from the region participated. A national workshop was held the same year regarding Nutrient Removal (GEF project), and in August – September 2003, a study tour was carried out to three countries, where treatment sites for residual urban water were visited. During 2004, two Memoranda of Understanding were signed between UNEP-CAR/RCU and CIMAB-RAC, initiating one project to update the UNEP Technical Report 33, and another one to promote the LBS protocol.
43. The representative of RAC/REMPEITC-Carib, Mr. Gabino Gonzalez, began his presentation with a brief history of the Centre, and followed with its Vision, Mission Objectives and Functioning. He stressed the importance of the Centre’s financing process mentioning the cooperative MOU between UNEP-CAR/RCU, International Maritime Organization (IMO), the Government of the Netherlands Antilles, as well as other countries, industries, and organisations contributing financial or in-kind support to the Centre. He presented the actions taken by the Centre, which followed the Workplan and Budget approved by the Steering Committee in Montego Bay, Jamaica, 05-06 May 2002. Activities highlighted in the presentation were: International Convention on Oil Pollution, Preparedness, Response and Cooperation (OPRC) Level I (Suriname), Level II (Dominican Republic, Curacao and Panama), Level III (Peru), the Instructors Meetings, the Mobilization Exercise (MOBEX) - U.S. Coast Guard and Mexico, the International Oil Pollution Compensation Fund (IOPC) 1992 Convention Workshop, the Ecological Risk Assessment Workshop; the participation to the International Petroleum Industry Environment Conservation (IPIECA) Oil Spills Working Group, the IMO Workshop on Partnership Building, the 4th Meeting of the Gulf of Honduras Project, the Caribbean Regional Response Team (CRRT) Meeting and the development of a database for the Wider Caribbean Region on Oil Spills Response.
44. The Programme Officer of the SPAW regional programme presented the main activities and achievements implemented during the biennium. She highlighted the efforts for the promotion of the SPAW Protocol and that two additional Contracting Parties had joined the Protocol during the biennium and others, namely Guatemala, Jamaica, and the United Kingdom had officially informed the Secretariat that the process of ratification has been initiated in their countries. She also referred to the Second Meeting of the Contracting Parties to SPAW (COP 2), held in May 2002 in Montego Bay, and to the Second Meeting of the Scientific and Technical Advisory Committee to SPAW (STAC 2), held in June 2003 in Curaçao, with the financial support of the Governments of the Netherlands Antilles and the United States of America. She highlighted the renewed

- commitment of the Government of France to the SPAW Regional Activity Centre (SPAW/RAC) in Guadeloupe that was made operational with the assignment of additional staff, effective 1 January 2003.
45. The SPAW subprogramme coordinated activities in support of protected areas aimed at supporting and strengthening of the Marine Protected area managers network (CaMPAM) through the continuation of the Small Grants Fund, the redesign of the CaMPAM database and the regular updating of the list serve, as well as the initiation of the development of the draft guidelines for listing of protected areas under the SPAW protocol with the support of the SPAW/RAC.
 46. Building on past successes, the Training of Trainers programme for MPAs was made accessible to many more English and Spanish-speaking countries with two additional regional courses during the biennium which are currently being followed up by local training activities, also supported by the programme.
 47. A number of activities in support of threatened and endangered species were also described by the Programme Officer. Among others: the regional report on the status of spawning aggregations and strategy; the SPAW species database; the manatee national recovery plan for Trinidad & Tobago; and the planning of the regional marine mammal action plan.
 48. It was noted that the Caribbean implementation of the International Coral Reef Action Network (ICRAN) constituted the main component of SPAW activities on conservation and sustainable use of major ecosystems. Various activities were highlighted, including coral reef monitoring activities, the Reefs@Risk report for the Caribbean, USAID and the UN Foundation support for the Mesoamerican reefs; and the collaboration with the regional Blue Flag initiative.
 49. The Director of the SPAW/RAC, Mr. Maurice Anselme, presented the activities of the RAC. These include the planning for the meeting of the Marine Mammal Action Plan, the organization of the workshop on the development of Guidelines and Criteria for the Evaluation of Protected Areas to be Listed under SPAW (April 2004) and the coordination of the electronic Working Group preparing the guidelines. The RAC also provided general assistance and administrative support to the secretariat, as well as support in fundraising and promotion of the SPAW Protocol through the production and translation of documents and information materials.
 50. The CEPNET Programme Officer indicated that the CEPNET programme continues to offer support to the AMEP, SPAW and ETA subprogrammes to facilitate the implementation of the Convention and the Protocols. He noted that owing to the transition in the AMEP Officer position, AMEP coordination had been an important component during the biennium.
 51. The CEPNET subprogramme coordinated the “Strengthening CAR/RCU Information Management Capabilities” with activities including in-house training on computer application. The CEP web site was updated and upgraded as part of the “Strengthening of the Caribbean Environment Programme”. This also involved the improvement and

streamlining of the various communication media of the CEP and of the different sub-programmes.

52. The CEPNET Programme Officer highlighted that although no funds were secured for “Spatial analysis for decision-making”, it is expected that it will become a component of other activities for the development of clearinghouses under the AMEP and SPAW workplans, such as the GPA Clearinghouse and the CaMPAM database. CEPNET is also responsible for the development and maintenance of the WW2BW Partnerships website. This has become an important share of the workload for the Programme Officer and his team and has become one of the CEP flagships in the region.
53. CEPNET coordinated efforts with global and regional environmental assessments initiatives, playing the role of facilitator for the GIWA project, the CARSEA Assessment, the Global Marine Assessment and others.
54. During the 2002-2003 biennium, there was no Programme Officer for the Education, Training and Awareness (ETA) subprogramme at the secretariat; the ETA tasks, however are supervised and developed by the Coordinator and each Programme Officer, where such activities can be integrated within projects developed under the CEP workplan and budget this was done.
55. The CEPNET Programme Officer informed the Meeting on ETA activities. The secretariat responded to inquiries regarding information on marine pollution, wildlife and natural resources protection, geographic information, etc. The Secretariat also supported initiatives and publications of informative brochures for CEP in general and LBS and SPAW activities.
56. Ms. Una McPherson, Acting Administrative Officer, presented a consolidated table of the expenditures of the CEP for the 2002-2003 biennium for the Overall and Coordination Common Costs (OCCC) and for each subprogramme. She explained that most of the expenses for all the subprogrammes were integrated to the OCCC. However, the relative importance of the extraordinary contributions for the implementation of specific AMEP and SPAW activities was pointed out.
57. The Meeting was invited to make additional observations on the implementation of the CEP over the 2002-2003 biennium and to ask the secretariat to clarify any aspects of the report.
58. Several Delegations commended the excellent work and achievements of the secretariat and the RACs within the constraints of limited human and financial resources. One Delegate made particular mention of the potential of the CEP to play a greater supporting role in sustainable development initiatives in the region. Delegates from Barbados, Jamaica and Saint Lucia reiterated their commitment towards the Convention and ratification of protocols.
59. Some Delegates expressed that CEPNET should focus not only on strengthening the capability of the secretariat, but also on capacity building at the national level. One

Delegate recognized that while CEPNET did offer training opportunities, efforts should be made to expand those, provided that funding was available to do this.

60. The Delegate from Barbados informed the meeting of the MOU that had been signed between Intergovernmental Oceanic Commission (IOC) and UNEP, and reiterated the importance of sound scientific data and information for decision-making, especially in the area of disaster preparedness.
61. One Delegate requested clarification on the specific procedures being used for budgetary allocation and spending following IGM approval of the budget. In response to this, the secretariat informed that budgetary procedures were handled by UNEP Head Office in Kenya and that it would seek clarification in response to the delegate's request.
62. Delegates recommended the need for greater synergies among the specific CEP programme areas and highlighted the importance of having the member countries continually promote the Convention and its protocols intersessionally. The Delegation from the United States of America reiterated the importance of support from UNEP and other UN agencies and member countries to the Caribbean Environment Programme for the work of the secretariat. They further recommended that consideration should be given to developing a long-term plan for the development of projects to ensure greater financial sustainability. This approach would build upon the successes of the programme to date.
63. Delegates expressed some concern over the number of countries who were still in arrears and encouraged that all countries make representation at the highest level in their countries to deal with these financial arrears. One Delegate also suggested that the secretariat may wish to consider conducting Missions to specific countries to assist in the promotion of the Convention and its protocols, to encourage new members and also in securing payment of outstanding arrears by current members.
64. Several Delegates welcomed the appointment of the new AMEP Programme Officer.
65. The secretariat endorsed the need for capacity building at the national level by the CEPNET subprogramme while recognizing the particular resource constraints faced by the secretariat. The secretariat further outlined a vision for RACs to become Centres of Excellence that would assist the member countries to reach the objectives of international agreements by taking meaningful actions at the national level. These national activities and the regional cooperation meetings organized by the secretariat were seen as the two fundamental aspects of its work. The secretariat underscored that some of the new project activities of the CEP such as IWCAM and MAR will assist in promoting greater ownership of the Caribbean Environment Programme by member governments, especially in the SIDS.
66. Finally, the secretariat outlined the critical importance of the LBS Protocol and its implementation to sustainable livelihoods in the region as a result of the importance of tourism and fisheries to national economies.

AGENDA ITEM 6: REPORT OF THE GOVERNMENT OF JAMAICA ON THE HOST AGREEMENT WITH UNEP

67. The Chairman invited the Government of Jamaica to report to the secretariat of the Caribbean Environment Programme on the status of the Host Agreement with UNEP. The delegate presented a summary of the hosting of the UNEP RCU (see Annex VII of this report).
68. The report outlined the terms of the Headquarters Agreement concluded in November 1983 that led to the establishment of the Regional Coordinating Unit in Kingston in 1985. The Agreement made provisions for rent-free accommodation, salaries for two (2) staff members from 1986-1998, payment for the maintenance of office space, among others.
69. While the existing Agreement remains in effect, dialogue has been continuing between the Government of Jamaica and UNEP to resolve outstanding issues and broker a new agreement. Since 1999, the concept of a United Nations House in Jamaica has been pursued. This facility would house most of the UN agencies in Jamaica, including UNEP RCU, in one complex at Block 11, 14-20 Port Royal Street, Kingston, its current location.
70. The Delegate informed the gathering that a new agreement was under active consideration by the Ministers of Foreign Affairs and Foreign Trade and Land and Environment and that the Government remains committed to the establishment of a UN House and to the successful conclusion of a new agreement.
71. The secretariat thanked the Government of Jamaica for their presentation and welcomed their positive commitment to continue hosting the secretariat. The Coordinator of UNEP- CAR/RCU further expressed his commitment to continuing discussions on options for the hosting of a UN house at the current location of the UNEP- CAR/RCU offices.

AGENDA ITEM 7: STRATEGY FOR THE SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT OF THE CARIBBEAN ENVIRONMENT PROGRAMME 2005-2009

72. The Chairperson invited the secretariat to present the document UNEP(DEC)/CAR IG.24/3, entitled "Outline of Strategy for the Enhancing of the Caribbean Environment Programme within the Framework of the Regional Seas Programmes and Sustainable Development". Decision I of the Tenth IGM had endorsed the Strategy for the Development of the Caribbean Environment Programme 2002-2006 and requested that the secretariat publish a final document reflecting the inputs and results of the discussions held at the Tenth IGM. In light of various recent initiatives such as the Plan of Implementation of the World Summit on Sustainable Development (WSSD/POI), the UNEP Strategy for the Regional Seas Programme (RSP) and the 10-year review of the Barbados Programme of Action for SIDS (SIDS/POA), the secretariat prepared an important update to the Strategy endorsed by the Tenth IGM, to bring the five-year

strategy document further in line with global and regional orientations in the management of regional seas.

73. Mr. Franklin McDonald began his presentation on Agenda item 7 by giving a brief summary of the evolution and development of the CEP. It was pointed out that national and regional capacity for addressing environmental issues had significantly increased over the period 1981-2004. He listed a number of contributory factors – the RIO process, Agenda 21 as well as initiatives such as the SIDS/POA, the Millennium Development Goals (MDG), WSSD/POI, International Coral Reef Initiative (ICRI) and WW2BW- all of which facilitated comprehensive integrated management approaches in support of Sustainable Development.
74. He pointed out that it was vital to take these new capacities into consideration when developing the 2005–2009 strategy for the CEP.
75. The strategy proposal reflected the current state of the coastal and marine environment, the international policy framework, improved scientific knowledge, and other emerging issues. It was pointed out that the 5th Global Meeting of the Regional Seas Secretariats held in November 2003, in Nairobi had focussed on new strategic elements common to all the Regional Seas Programmes and had made proposals to address the challenges and priorities identified in UNEP GC Decision 22/2 III A, and to ensure that the RSP's contribute as appropriate to relevant targets of Agenda 21, the WSSD/POI and the MDGs.
76. The proposed 2005-2009 strategy thus ensures the development of strong and effective ties between RSPs and UNEP itself as well as with national and multilateral institutions. The strategy further emphasizes continuing the process of formalising linkages and relationships with the various secretariats responsible for MEAs particularly those relevant to the CEP and seeks to ensure optimal integration with the emerging and ongoing local, national, regional and global partnerships supporting sustainable development initiatives building upon and including Agenda 21, the WSSD Plan of Action, the SIDS/Barbados POA, and the Millennium Development Goals within the context of the Regional Seas mandate.
77. The CEP strategy is to be based on both the new strategic directions proposed by the Regional Seas Conventions and Action Plans (RSCAP) Secretariats and the [established] general CEP vision and mission, which are more programmatic. It is proposed that the CEP organs and team members will establish a process for reviewing both the programmatic and higher order elements.
78. In conclusion, Mr. McDonald stressed that the new strategy has implications for staffing, and additionally for increased networking and negotiating skills. It will take a bold vision and joint multiyear planning to achieve sustainable financing for the implementation of the strategy.
79. Following the presentation by Mr. McDonald, Ms Veerle Vandeweerd made a short statement in which she indicated that the Regional Seas Programmes had embarked on a process of regular consultations and sharing of lessons learnt. This, it was indicated,

was to ensure that the RSP's were operating 'in the 21st century' and not just addressing traditional or dated issues. She confirmed that in many respects the CEP was serving as a 'model' for the other RSP's. This process of consultation between the RSP's, she indicated, would continue in Istanbul in November 2004 and she noted that the Regional Coordinators as well as the Chair of the Bureau had been invited. She referred to the RSP's recognition that they need to contribute more to the sustainable development processes in their geographic area of operation.

80. With reference to UNEP's own vision and its response to the changing needs and realities of the RSPs she indicated that thought was being given to strengthening the Regional Seas Secretariats, so that they could become more effective 'service centres' and therefore able offer a wider range of support to their member states. In this respect she also indicated the ability of UNEP to diffuse lessons learnt and best practices between RSP's and gave as examples the shared challenges of RACs and RANs and similar challenges regarding long term, more sustained financing. She also supported the proposed strategy in its articulation of the need to extend the planning horizon and to engage entities such as the GEF in shared visioning and indicative programming. She made reference to the need for the member states to continue to mobilise resources and to demonstrate their own commitments to the programmes for the region. She concluded by reiterating that the new CEP strategy proposal may be considered as is to be adding depth and value to enhance a sound programme.
81. In the discussion following the presentation, general support was indicated for the Strategy proposal.
82. The delegation of Colombia sought clarification on the role of the regional and national mechanisms and urged that the language of the Strategy be clarified on this point. The delegate of Mexico requested the inclusion of the watershed and integrated coastal management approach of coastal and marine resources.
83. The delegation of Cuba urged that the language of the strategy make it clear that the partnership processes would follow the principles established for the WSSD and that appropriate attention be given in the strategy to the issue of capacity building and financial resources. The delegation requested that its objection to initiatives that exclude countries from the region, (such the WW2BW Initiative) be reflected in the report. The delegation of the United States of America (USA) indicated that the process started by WW2BW is open for all in the region – and beyond- to use to promote integrated watershed and marine ecosystem-based management.
84. The delegations of Colombia, Mexico and the United States of America made proposals to clarify the basis of the Ecosystems approach and methodology. Some participants advocated the Convention on Biodiversity (CBD)-related approaches.
85. The delegation of the United States of America expressed its strong support for the strategy and agreed that CEP should work closely with all relevant government agencies, however, they cautioned that CEP should not take on the role of single-handedly coordinating all other programmes and initiatives in the region, but instead seek to actively collaborate and cooperate with such initiatives within the mandate of

the CEP. The delegate of the USA also stressed the importance of building upon recent successes with large international institutional donors and work towards an extended plan that would bring financial stability to the CEP.

86. Several members supported the need to promote the Convention. The delegation of the United States of America proposed that, as in the Arctic Council, the Bureau Chair acts as a high level representative to member states.
87. Particular attention was drawn to public awareness and the need for the strategy to 'cluster' the Awareness building component in a specific element.
88. The delegation of Cuba requested that the following text be added to Element IV:
 - “Support monitoring and evaluation through:
 - Capacity building and strengthening
 - Promoting and securing sources of funding”
89. The delegate of the United Kingdom also endorsed the Strategy in principle and indicated that they would expect to see a final version emerging from the current meeting. The delegate of the United Kingdom made specific mention of the value of the use of the ecosystem based approach and the need for enhanced information sharing and in particular sharing of lessons learnt across the region. He alluded to the need for objective assessment and appropriate diffusion of the findings of such assessments, for example on the Reefs@Risk, to all sectors across the region.
90. The delegate of Jamaica also commended the strategy presentation and noted its comments on 'higher level' issues which implied a changed focus on the part of the secretariat. It was suggested that attention be given to the intersessional role of the IGM Bureau and also the role and visibility of the national focal points. She urged that the implications for the secretariat of the new strategy direction, including the need to fill the position of Deputy Director at the RCU, be considered. In terms of the element related to increasing the visibility of the programme it was urged that the country focal points be involved. It was also suggested that the matter of increasing the membership of the Convention and its Protocols be addressed.
91. The delegate of Jamaica also drew attention to the need to integrate the focus of the CEP and other similar sectoral initiatives with the work of the Latin America and the Caribbean (LAC) Ministers of Environment related to Sustainability Issues. This, she suggested, may require broader action by UNEP itself. She also referred to the vast number of reporting requirements, the burden of tracking the status of the Multilateral Environmental Agreements (MEAs) and of ensuring that institutional arrangements across sectors were in place. With regard to funding, she pointed out that other innovative financial initiatives were being proposed and emphasized the need for a coordinated approach such as the proposed Fund for Sustainable Financing for SIDS.
92. In their comments, delegates expressed their appreciation for the preparation of the CEP Strategy. The delegation of Colombia sought clarification on issues relating to the

implementation of actions at national and regional levels as appropriate and on the translation of the Conventions and Protocols into national legislation.

AGENDA ITEM 8: RULES OF PROCEDURE AND FINANCIAL RULES OF THE CARIBBEAN ENVIRONMENT

93. In keeping with Decision VIII of the Tenth IGM on the continuity of the open intersessional drafting group established at the 13th Meeting of the Monitoring Committee, the Chairman asked the Government of the United States of America to present the “Discussion Paper for the Open Intersessional Drafting Group on the Rules of Procedure for the Caribbean Environment Programme, Financial Rules for the Cartagena Convention and the Caribbean Environment Programme, and Terms of Reference for the Caribbean Trust Fund” (UNEP(DEC)/CAR IG.24/INF.6).
94. During his presentation the delegate from the United States of America outlined the objectives of the information paper and the background to its development. He noted that, pursuant to Decision VIII of the 10th IGM, the object of the paper was to elaborate on the three options previously identified, assess the issues of participation and voting rights, examine financial arrangements and review the experiences of other regional seas programmes. He reminded the Meeting of the three main components being considered under the current structure, namely the Action Plan, the Cartagena Convention, and its protocols as well as the existing procedural and financial arrangements linking these three components.
95. He noted that the distinctions between the Action Plan and the Convention, notably, the differences in participants, governing bodies and, consequently, potential for different activities and accounting, have made the adoption of permanent financial rules and rules of procedure a difficult process. In this context, he recognized that future arrangements should continue to allow the broadest participation possible but highlighted the need to clarify procedural issues, such as participation of Territories and non-party States.
96. He provided an outline of the three options previously identified, namely 1) continue with the current arrangements, and resolve issues on an *ad hoc* basis; 2) formalize the current arrangements, making a distinction between the rules under the Action Plan and those under the Convention; and 3) restructure the current arrangements by subsuming the rules of the Action Plan under those of Convention and thus address issues of participation under the Convention.
97. While considering these options, he noted that the Working Group had also examined the precedents set by other international bodies and fora, both within and outside the framework of the Regional Seas Programmes, the relationship between Action Plans and Conventions, the participation of non-Parties, Party States and Territories as well as the issue of UNEP funding. These experiences provided a variety of models and possibilities which the Meeting was invited to consider within the context and realities of the Wider Caribbean Region.

98. The Meeting was invited to make any relevant and corresponding changes to UNEP(DEC)/CAR IG.24/INF.6 and decide on further action.
99. Members thanked the Government of the United States of America for the excellent presentation and discussion paper, which highlighted the major issues and provided sufficient elements and information to continue work on these rules of critical importance for the functioning of the CEP. Several delegates noted the importance of the issue and their view that it was time to formalize the arrangements. Other delegates urged the group to set a timetable for progress.
100. The issue of participation of Territories generated considerable discussion and there was consensus on the need to carefully consider this matter. The Netherlands Antilles commented that their Territories operate “de facto” as States and therefore it would not be acceptable for them to participate under a different status. Another delegation also noted that while the widest participation possible was desirable, this matter also had to be decided in accordance with international law.
101. A number of delegations were of the view that the third option, which is to restructure the current arrangements, was the best way forward in order to resolve the existing confusion, as long as the very inclusive manner in which Territories currently participate was maintained. Other delegations also noted that in addition to the participation of Territories, other issues such as the relationship between the Action Plan and the Convention and the related financial issues needed to be further discussed and clarified.
102. The Meeting was reminded that two issues needed to be addressed, although they had not been raised in the discussion paper. These include the consideration of (i) whether the current interim rules should be altered to require decision-making by consensus and (ii) whether it should be made clear that budgets approved by Protocol Parties are only for guidance.
103. The Meeting agreed that the discussion paper, as presented, could be used as a starting point for the Working Group to conduct its work during the Meeting. Given the sensitive and complex nature of this issue, it was agreed that additional discussion was required and that the delegations present were not prepared to take decisions at this Meeting.
104. The secretariat welcomed all the inputs that had been provided, noting that this vital issue needed to be resolved for the effective functioning of the Programme, the Convention and the secretariat. Delegates and the Working Group were urged to use the opportunity provided by this Meeting to advance the work as much as possible on this matter and possibly set a timeframe for completion of the rules.
105. The Chair of the Working Group, the Government of the United States of America, presented the general terms of a draft decision that extends the mandate of the open intersessional working group and define its main focus of activity: participation of territories, participation of non-party states, interaction between Action Plan and Convention, decision-making process, and how to craft rules addressing decision-

making in the context of the Convention and/or Action Plan. The results are to be presented at the Twelfth Intergovernmental Meeting and Ninth Meeting of the Contracting Parties.

AGENDA ITEM 9: GUIDELINES FOR THE OPERATIONS OF THE REGIONAL ACTIVITY CENTRES (RACS) AND THE REGIONAL ACTIVITIES NETWORKS (RANS) OF THE CARIBBEAN ENVIRONMENT PROGRAMME

106. The Government of Saint Lucia as Chair of the Intersessional Working Group on Guidelines for the operations of the Regional Activity Centres (RACs) and the Regional Activities Networks (RANs) of the Caribbean Environment Programme began by withdrawing the paper UNEP(DEC)/CAR IG.24/INF.7 which, according to the representative, did not accurately reflect discussions that took place during the intersessional period. A verbal report was then presented.
107. The delegate noted that comments had been submitted to the secretariat from Saint Lucia, United States of America, and the RACs in Cuba and Trinidad and Tobago and hoped that these comments had been incorporated into the original guidelines to prepare a revised paper but that these should be obtained from the secretariat.
108. The delegate from Saint Lucia further emphasized that while E-mail Intersessional working groups were useful, especially for technical issues, other options should be considered including having working group sessions during the Intergovernmental Meetings (IGM) or one day meetings prior to the IGM, COP or ISTAC. It was finally suggested that a more supportive role needed to be played by the secretariat in such working groups.
109. Following a discussion among delegates on the way forward, it was agreed that a new open working group be established consisting of the Directors of the four RACS and any other interested Governments. This working group was chaired by the Government of Venezuela and worked parallel to the plenary session. The Chairman recommended that the AMEP Programme officer provide secretariat support to the working group. It was agreed that the working group would focus on the existing guidelines developed and the comments provided during the intersessional period and aim to produce guidelines that could be adopted by the next IGM.
110. It was also agreed that the working group would focus on two related but separate issues: Communication Mechanisms between RACs and Guidelines for the Operations of the RACs and the RANs.

AGENDA ITEM 10: PANEL ON THE REGIONAL CONSULTATION PROCESS OF THE BARBADOS PROGRAMME OF ACTION IN PREPARATION FOR MAURITIUS, 10-14 JANUARY 2005

111. The meeting was invited to review and discuss the importance for the Member States of the CEP of the Caribbean SIDS position towards the International Meeting for Full and Comprehensive Review of the Barbados Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of SIDS (BPOA/SIDS) (Mauritius, January 2005) and the role of UNEP, taking into account the Agenda 21 highlights of the SIDS vulnerabilities and noting the preparatory process for Mauritius 2005, including the outputs of the Caribbean Preparatory Meeting, as well as recalling the Decisions of UNEP Governing Council 22/13 of February 2003 which call for the strengthening of the institutional capacity of SIDS and of UNEP Governing Council SS.VIII/2 of March 2004 on SIDS which requests UNEP Executive Director to prepare a report on the outcome of the international meeting for the Governing Council at its next session and to review it in the context of the United Nations Environment Forum.
112. Mr. Christopher Corbin from the CEP secretariat explained that the objective of the Panel was to discuss perspectives and provide ideas on how UNEP can further support the BPOA/SIDS in the context of coastal and marine areas as well as how to best engage partners and the donor community in the SIDS sustainable development agenda. The panel consisted of Mr. Arthur Gray, representative of the United Nations Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (UN ECLAC), Mr. Franklin McDonald, Advisor to CEP, Dr. Veerle Vandeweerd, UNEP/GPA Coordinator, Head, Regional Seas and SIDS Coordinator, and Mr. Ricardo Sanchez, UNEP Regional Director for Latin America and the Caribbean (ROLAC). Mr. Corbin provided a brief overview of the origin of the BPOA, stating that the 10-year review process, which included regional and interregional consultations, has enabled the SIDS to identify achievements, constraints and future directions.
113. Mr. Gray summarized the status of discussions since the Preparatory Meeting held in April 2004 in New York as part of the UN Commission on Sustainable Development (CSD)-12th session. He pointed out that the negotiation document, i.e. the Strategy Paper for the Further Development of the BPOA/SIDS had been strongly criticised by developed countries. They expressed concern with the lack of specificity of the document and disagreed with the inclusion of issues such as trade and tourism, since in their view, the concerns raised under these headings were not peculiar to SIDS. They also expressed the view that several demands that were being made by SIDS on the wider international community had introduced an element of imbalance into the strategy paper. He also referred to a CARICOM meeting held in early September in Belize, which proposed the adoption by all SIDS of a prioritised common agenda for presentation to the Mauritius Meeting. He drew the attention of the meeting of criticisms that had met the categorisation of SIDS and to the need for the Millennium Development Goals to be factored to the specificities of SIDS. Finally, he underscored

the fact that the BPOA/SIDS provided a framework for CEP and indicated ECLAC's readiness to collaborate with UNEP and their agencies in the achievement of the SIDS agenda.

114. Mr. Franklin McDonald made reference to challenges facing Caribbean States such as their stewardship of a large marine space and noted current progress on the concept of vulnerability and how this helps to address the socio, economic and environmental problems in SIDS. He pointed out that the preparation for the Mauritius International Meeting had provided an opportunity to identify lessons learned in the implementation of the BPOA/SIDS.
115. Dr. Vandeweerd reiterated UNEP's commitment to SIDS. She explained that UNEP has supported the preparations for the Mauritius International Meeting from the very beginning. UNEP aims to achieve a more integrated programme in the SIDS, having actively assisted each SIDS in a number of the BPOA/SIDS priority areas. She indicated that a detailed overview was provided in UNEP's publication "Assistance in the Implementation of the BPOA, 2004". She also informed the meeting that UNEP and the South Pacific Regional Environment Programme (SPREP) will strengthen their mutual cooperation. She shared her concerns on the need to ensure that concrete action is agreed upon in Mauritius.
116. Mr. Ricardo Sanchez provided a detailed account of the activities that UNEP/ROLAC in cooperation with UNDP and UNEP/GPA has recently undertaken in SIDS, including support for the preparation, of national assessment reports, organization of a civil society meeting prior to the Caribbean SIDS regional preparatory meeting, and preparation of the Regional Synthesis Report. He referred to the decision adopted at the Fourteenth Meeting of the Forum of Ministers of the Environment of Latin America and the Caribbean held in November 2003 in Panama and stated that UNEP/ROLAC was working with partner organizations on the development of the Caribbean SIDS Programme. This action covers, *inter alia*, strengthening of the environmental dimension of the Caribbean Single Market and Economy, south-south cooperation, capacity building and, a regional coordinating mechanism, amongst others. Additional activities spearheaded by UNEP/ROLAC included the State of the Environment Report of the Caribbean SIDS, a climate change assessment with the University of West Indies and the Climate Change Centre, a meeting within the framework of the Caribbean Court of Justice to improve judges' understanding of issues related to environmental law, as well as the creation of a partnership initiative with FAO on land degradation and land management.
117. Delegates reacted very positively to the presentations while one delegation raised the issue of the lack of understanding of BPOA/SIDS at the national level and the need to improve awareness within society at large. Another delegation stressed the value of partnerships and how, for instance, the WW2BW initiative was linked to SIDS. Yet another delegation suggested that a common position from Caribbean SIDS should be framed on coastal and marine issues within the framework of CEP. One delegation cautioned against reinventing the wheel and urged the CEP to build on existing projects

and initiatives. Several delegations called for a high-level of representation by SIDS in Mauritius.

118. Recommendations from delegations included improved long-term financing for SIDS and partnerships in accordance with the agreement reached at the last CARICOM meeting in Belize, prominence on the part of CEP and other regional seas programmes in Mauritius and the need to keep the international community aware of the vulnerabilities of SIDS.
119. It was decided to put forward a decision on SIDS for consideration by the Meeting, to support the 10-year review process, to call for the participation of all member states at the highest level, to encourage active participation by UNEP at the Mauritius Meeting and to recommend that UNEP seek to incorporate the relevant decisions of the Mauritius International Meeting within the framework of their mandates.

AGENDA ITEM 11: BALLAST WATER MANAGEMENT AND FUTURE ACTIVITIES IN THE WIDER CARIBBEAN REGION

120. The Chief Technical Adviser of the GEF/UNDP/IMO GloBallast Programme, Mr. Steve Raaymakers of International Maritime Organization (IMO), made a presentation on the issue of the ballast water/invasive aquatic species, the new IMO Ballast Water Convention and the GloBallast programme, as outlined in document (UNEP(DEC)/CAR IG.24/INF.8) entitled “Ballast water management and future activities in the Wider Caribbean Region”.
121. Invasive species in general have been identified as the second greatest threat to global biodiversity after habitat destruction. Marine invasives represent one of the four greatest threats to the world’s oceans, along with marine pollution, over-fishing and habitat destruction. To address this global problem, member States of the International Maritime Organization (IMO) recently adopted a new international convention in ballast water management, and IMO is now working to ensure a rapid entry-into-force and implementation of this Convention.
122. Mr. Raaymakers invited the Wider Caribbean Region to join in the development of the next phase of the programme, GloBallast partnerships, and recommended that countries consider ratification of the new ballast water convention and take other action as outlined in the information document.
123. Many delegates thanked the IMO representative for the detailed and informative presentation and welcomed the initiative of the secretariat to foster linkages between CEP and the Globallast Programme as well as the Cartagena Convention and the IMO Ballast Water Convention.
124. The delegate of Venezuela suggested that practical actions be taken, such as the development of methodologies and guidelines for mitigating and assessing the impact of ballast water, as well as the development of maps with information on vulnerability

based on threats analysis. In this context, he presented a concrete proposal to create a regional database through an information gathering exercise and develop a demonstration site for the Wider Caribbean, which could be used for training and capacity building. This proposal is included as Annex 9 to this report.

125. Delegations emphasized the importance of addressing this issue proactively in light of the potential threat and also the incidences of possible ballast water related diseases already experienced in the region by the marine ecosystem. This was the case of the massive long spine sea urchin diadema die-off in the 1980's which was possibly linked to ballast water discharges. One delegation recommended that the secretariat coordinate this initiative with IMO in collaboration with IOCaribe and other interested partners. It was also suggested that this initiative be further developed in the context of the IMO proposal of a Particularly Sensitive Sea Area (PSSA) for the Wider Caribbean.
126. In this regard, the delegate of Colombia offered the services of two research centres of the General Maritime Division in order to conduct studies on invasive species and pathogens in the marine environment, for a future programme in the region. Other delegates commented that the CBD convention works with the issue of invasive species and that this work should be taken into consideration. They further commented on the necessity to consider the mandates of each organisation, as well as the financial implications. It was noted that while Members recognized the need and value of this initiative, the implementation of the Convention and the proposed GloBallast programme posed a significant financial challenge and, in this context, it would be necessary to identify alternative sources of funding, if the region were to seriously implement it.
127. The IMO representative emphasized the need to follow a step-by-step approach when developing this initiative in the region, as it will be counterproductive to be over ambitious from the beginning. The first steps were to designate a focal point agency and to work towards informing people of the scope of the problem. He reminded the Meeting that funding sources such as GEF were available to support ballast water initiatives but that countries needed to provide co-financing to access these funds.

AGENDA ITEM 12: WORKPLAN AND BUDGET FOR THE CARIBBEAN ENVIRONMENT PROGRAMME FOR THE 2004-2005 BIENNIUM

128. The secretariat presented the document UNEP(DEC)/CAR IG.24/4, entitled "Draft Workplan and Budget for the Caribbean Environment Programme for the 2004-2005 Biennium".
129. The secretariat had prepared this document with inputs received during working group meetings convened since the Tenth Intergovernmental Meeting, the recommendations of the Second Meeting of the Scientific and Technical Advisory Committee of the SPAW Protocol, the decisions of the Third Meeting of the Contracting Parties to the SPAW Protocol, the recommendations of the Second Meeting of the Interim Scientific

and Technical Committee of the LBS Protocol, and taking into consideration relevant global or regional initiatives, as well as on the basis of past and ongoing activities.

130. The secretariat presented the objectives of the workplan as well as the personnel and administrative status, mentioning the support from the Government of Sweden of two Junior Programme Officers. Certain key concerns of CEP were highlighted, notably the low level of ordinary contributions to the Caribbean Trust Fund. The secretariat pointed out that this problem would force the CAR/RCU to operate with a very limited budget for the biennium 2004-2005. The capacity of the secretariat to attract extraordinary contributions was another key concern. The secretariat must therefore continue to dedicate time to fund-raising efforts to cover the additional operational costs of the secretariat that exceed the level of ordinary contributions to the Trust Fund. The secretariat has compensated by optimising both personnel and office administration costs through a temporary redistribution of responsibilities within CAR/RCU. This has constrained the normal implementation of the CEP workplan but the secretariat is confident that its goals were respected in view of the successful fundraising carried out by the secretariat.
131. The coordinator informed the Meeting of meetings to be held during the biennium namely; 3rd COP SPAW (2004), 11th IGM / 8th COP Cartagena Convention (2004), 3rd STAC SPAW (2005), 3rd ISTAC LBS (2005), 14th MonCom of CEP and Bureau COP Cartagena Convention (2005), 12th IGM / 9th COP Cartagena Convention. He invited the countries to submit proposals for hosting CEP meetings in recognition of their arrears to the CTF, and stressed the importance of identifying hosts for these meetings.
132. Mr. Kjell Grip, consultant to the secretariat provided the meeting with an overview of a proposal for Swedish assistance and support to implement activities, as a result of the White Water to Blue Water Initiative, through the programmes of the UNEP-CAR/RCU. Total contributions of approximately US\$ 970,000 is suggested to support activities of the AMEP sub-programme, with specific focus on project activities carried out by the LBS RACs, the SPAW sub-programme within the framework of the ICRAN project, Watershed management in Tela, Honduras, post disaster environmental assessment of damage from Hurricane Ivan in Jamaica, and activities of Comisión Centroamericana de Transporte Marítimo (COCATRAM) with RAC/ REMPEITIC-Carib and UNEP-CAR/RCU respectively. Specific support is also suggested to assist UNEP- CAR/RCU in providing administrative support to enable improved coordination of all sub-programmes and project activities and to enable greater opportunities for partnership development. The Meeting approved the proposal and requested the secretariat to forward it to Sida. The Meeting also welcomed the presentation and the significant support being provided by Sweden to the Caribbean Environment Programme.
133. Ms. Sachiko Kuwabara-Yamamoto, Executive Director of the Basel Convention made a short presentation to the Meeting expressing her pleasure at the efforts being made by the secretariat to establish collaborative partnerships with other UN International Environmental Conventions. The signing of a Memorandum of Understanding between

the two Secretariats was seen as a significant step in fostering such cooperation. She further provided an overview of the Basel Convention and identified ongoing activities in the region where support was already being received from the secretariat. She expressed her gratitude for this initiative.

134. She concluded by highlighting possible areas for further collaboration and project development in an effort to enable more integrated regional and national implementation of related environmental conventions,. These include integrated waste management and a life cycle approach to chemicals management. Specific mention was made of the potential for increased collaboration among the Basel Regional Centres in Central America and the Caribbean and the RACs of the Caribbean Environment Programme.
135. The Meeting welcomed the presentation and endorsed the need for such collaboration, which would enable more effective delivery of the programmes of both Secretariats, and open the possibility to attract new and additional financial and technical resources.
136. The United States of America presented a report on the White Water to Blue Water Initiative (WW2BW). The overall process was described with emphasis on the over 100 partnerships already underway, methodologies for promoting action-oriented partnerships and on continuing efforts, including meetings of the Steering Committee, publication of the newsletter and operation of the partnership website (www.ww2bw.org).
137. The AMEP Programme Officer presented the projects and activities within the AMEP programme. The Directors of the LBS RACs supplemented the presentation by providing specific details on the projects that they had developed, and which had received endorsement at the second LBS ISTAC Meeting. The workplan and budget covers the activities to be developed under the Assessment and Management of Environmental Pollution (AMEP) sub-programme of CEP and the two RAC's (Centro de Ingeniería y Manejo Ambiental de Bahías y Costas-CIMAB, Cuba and Institute of Marine Affairs-IMA, Trinidad and Tobago) for the 2004-2005 biennium in support of the Protocol concerning Pollution from Land-based Sources and Activities (LBS Protocol).
138. Regarding programme coordination, the AMEP Programme Officer highlighted day-to-day coordination and backstopping to the implementation of the programme activities which include coordination with other regional programmes and organizations and with existing regional or global initiatives relevant to AMEP/LBS, promotion of ratification of the Protocol, fund-raising and convening meetings and workshops.
139. Activities to Promote Ratification/Accession to the Protocol Concerning Pollution from Land-based Sources and Activities, (LBS) for the countries of the WCR will be undertaken in collaboration with the LBS RACs, offering the member states of the Caribbean Environment Programme with necessary information about the Protocol and its annexes.

140. LBS-RAC/IMA will conduct a demonstration project of the socio-economic advantages of ratifying/acceding to the LBS Protocol, in which the main consequences for the Caribbean countries in implementing or not implementing the Protocol could be studied. The project will focus primarily on the legislative, regulatory and technical requirements needed for the English-speaking countries of the Wider Caribbean Region to meet the obligations of the LBS Protocol.
141. LBS-RAC/Cimab will conduct activities that focus on Promoting Ratification/Accession to the Protocol Concerning Pollution from Land-based Sources and Activities, (LBS) in the Spanish speaking countries of the Wider Caribbean Region and urge countries to initiate the development of national plans of work. Moreover, Cimab will organize a national workshop in Cuba, and a sub-regional workshop in early 2005 in Panama on the promotion of the LBS protocol.
142. The AMEP Programme Officer also presented the GEF/Project Development Fund (PDF) project “Reducing Pesticide Run-off to the Caribbean Sea”, involving Colombia, Costa Rica, and Nicaragua. The main objective of the project is to protect the marine environment in the Caribbean Sea by reducing reliance on pesticides in agricultural activities and improving overall pesticide management. It is currently awaiting commitment letters from all the involved countries. The project activities will centre around three main components with various subcomponents:
 - Project Coordination;
 - Demonstration Projects; and
 - Institutionalising Improved Pesticide Management and Strengthening Capacity for Reducing Pesticide Runoff.
143. The project “Planning for Rehabilitation, Environmental Management and Coastal Development in the Wake of Hurricane Mitch”, which is being implemented through the Centro Agronómico Tropical de Investigación y Enseñanza (CATIE) in Costa Rica in the countries of Guatemala, Honduras and Nicaragua, began in 2002 and is expected to be completed in early 2005. Work in 2004-2005 will include:
 - Finalisation of integrated coastal watershed management plans and development of investment plans;
 - Implementation of public awareness campaigns; and a
 - Subregional workshop.
144. It was suggested that consideration be given to identifying possible source of additional funding to ensure successful completion of outstanding activities and to facilitate implementation of the watershed management plans, once completed. This would include the local construction of sanitation facilities.
145. Another project that is co-sponsored with the GEF is the Integrating Management of Watersheds and Coastal Areas in Small Island States in the Caribbean (IWCAM). The GEF Council has approved the project for funding in May 2004 for the sum of US\$12,000,000, supplemented by a further US\$11,000,000 in co-financing. The full project is implemented by the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP). UNEP-CAR/RCU and the

Caribbean Environmental Health Institute (CEHI) are the co-Executing Agencies. Project components include:

- Project management and coordination;
- Demonstration, documentation and transfer of best practices;
- Development of IWCAM process, stress reduction and environmental status indicators framework;
- Policy, legislative and institutional reform for IWCAM; and
- Regional and national capacity building and sustainability for IWCAM.

146. The objective of the GEF project “Training for Rehabilitation of Contaminated Bays” is to provide co-financing to the countries with heavily polluted bays to design and construct appropriate wastewater treatment facilities and nutrient control. The final component of the project is the organisation of a knowledge-sharing workshop on completion of the Cuban national project. This workshop will have regional implications for technology transfer for future activities in the region and the outputs will support the project on the “Second Overview of Land-based Sources and Activities in the Wider Caribbean Region”.
147. The project “Second Regional Overview of Land-based Sources and Activities in the Wider Caribbean Region” will be implemented by Cimab. The second overview will confirm or reconfirm priority sources and pollutants in the Wider Caribbean, including the heavily contaminated bays, through the identification of source categories and their discharges. An assessment methodology will be developed and presented to the countries of the region for review and comment. Training will be offered on the new assessment methodology. Guidelines on how to estimate non-point sources of pollution will be produced.
148. Development of another Global Environment Facility project proposal will take place within the project “Sewage Collection and Treatment: Implementing Annex III”, which is designed to assist countries in their implementation of Annex III on Domestic Wastewater. This proposal will be informed by the Sewage Needs Assessments and Planning pilot projects and Implementation of Sewage Management Plans.
149. The objective of the project “Sanitation Plan for Whitehorses, Pamphret and Botany Bay”, Jamaica, is to improve the health, hygiene, sanitation and environment through education, capacity building and the construction of viable and environmentally friendly sanitation. The project will finance the construction of sanitation systems for single families or groups of families. Activities will include the:
 - Construction of appropriate systems;
 - Conducting of community assessments;
 - Identification of appropriate solutions for construction;
 - Monitoring of the systems constructed; and
 - Conducting of training workshops for Waste, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH) Promoters and WBPBDS and wider community.
150. The project “Best Management Practices for Agriculture”, is designed to implement Annex IV to the LBS Protocol on agricultural non-point sources. This project will

implement small-scale demonstration activities on the appropriate use of fertilizers, alternative crop cultivation methods and environmentally friendly livestock management techniques. EARTH University, based in Costa Rica, has prepared a number of documents as part of the first phase of the project, for approval and translation.

151. The secretariat further presented the project “Development of National Programmes of Action (NPAs)” that has been developed to support the goals of the Global Programme of Action (GPA). The project initiated during the previous biennium is being funded by grants from the United States Department of State and is currently assisting the countries of Jamaica, Saint Lucia and Trinidad and Tobago. In addition, a new regional partnership between UNEP-CAR/RCU, the GPA Secretariat and the GPA Node of NOAA will facilitate the development of NPAs in approximately fifteen countries of the Wider Caribbean Region. This partnership builds capacity, to develop models and guidelines for the preparation of NPAs. These will be disseminated through regional workshops to promote replication and increase the national and regional institutional capacity to implement the NPAs within the national agendas for sustainable development of each participating country. The regional coordination proposes the development of NPAs in two phases, beginning in the first year of this biennium.
152. The representative of the LBS-RAC/IMA, in her presentation, highlighted two projects for which funding had not yet been identified. The first was a “Joint Regional Project to Assist Governments of the Wider Caribbean Region in Classifying their Waters so as to Facilitate the Implementation of the LBS Protocol”. This will help determine criteria and guidelines, develop a public education and awareness programme, train government personnel in the classification of their marine waters and provide expertise through consultants or technical assistance.
153. The second was a “Joint Regional Project for the Development of Safe Recreational – Water Environments in the Wider Caribbean Region”. It was proposed that this project be conducted in Cuba and Trinidad and Tobago in the first instance, and then extended to other countries, depending on the availability of additional resources.
154. The RAC/REMPEITC-Carib presented a detailed overview of their proposed work plan and strategy as endorsed by the last two meetings of their Steering Committee and presented several recommendations for adoption by the Meeting as presented in documents UNEP(DEC)/CAR IG.24/CRP.3 and UNEP(DEC)/CAR IG.24/CRP.4.
155. The AMEP Programme Officer concluded his presentation by highlighting the increasing importance of the RACs in realizing the objectives of this sub-programme and also introduced the recommendations from the second LBS ISTAC to the Meeting for consideration and subsequent adoption.
156. The SPAW Programme Officer presented the projects of the Specially Protected Areas and Wildlife (SPAW) regional programme. She outlined the background decisions leading to the proposed workplan and noted that detailed information such as the expected outputs was found in the document being presented with the Workplan and Budget for the CEP. Within the framework of coordination activities under SPAW she

mentioned the coordination and the collaboration with the SPAW Regional Activity Centre and with relevant conventions, programmes and organizations as well collaborative arrangements with existing and emerging regional or global initiatives relevant to SPAW.

157. She highlighted the effect that much of the work of the secretariat within SPAW was to ensure coordination and synergies with regional and global initiatives, to avoid duplication and maximize member resources.
158. She mentioned the main meetings under the Protocol during the biennium, notably the Third Meeting of the Scientific and Technical Advisory Committee (STAC) in 2005 and noted that work will continue towards the development of the reporting format under SPAW within the context of the UNEP effort at the global level which aims to harmonize national reporting formats under the biodiversity related conventions.
159. With regard to Protected Areas Strengthening, the secretariat highlighted the listing of protected areas under SPAW and the development of a regional network under Article 7. The reactivation of the regional network of Caribbean Marine Protected Areas Managers (CaMPAM) as a follow-up to WW2BW was highlighted. This includes developing MPA linkages with fishing communities, the MPA database updating and addressing invasive species management issues within protected areas.
160. On the development of guidelines, she explained that this included further work with the SPAW/RAC on the draft guidelines for the evaluation of protected areas to assist with their listing under the SPAW Protocol, the secretariat will collaborate with the SPAW Parties and regional experts to identify interested member countries for a pilot activity to test the proposed guidelines. Other activities include using the socio-economic monitoring guidelines for coastal managers in the Caribbean in the training of MPA staff in socio-economic monitoring, continuing the efforts with the SPAW/RAC and other partners on the guidelines to prevent species from becoming threatened or endangered through an Ad Hoc group, as well as a proposal to develop guidelines to assess exemptions under Article 11.2, and supporting the publication of participatory planning guidelines in collaboration with Caribbean Natural Resource Institute (CANARI).
161. The secretariat continued by presenting activities on conservation of threatened and endangered species, including, in collaboration with relevant institutions, updating, maintenance and dissemination of the SPAW species database, selection and implementation of priority actions contained in the national sea turtle recovery plans, preparation of additional recovery plans for sea turtles, support to the Index Monitoring Site for hawksbill sea turtles, and fundraising for the continued implementation of the regional manatee management plan. Other vital activities under this component include support to relevant actions resulting from the regional review of the fisheries management in the Caribbean with partners such as CARICOM- Caribbean Regional Fisheries Mechanism (CRFM) and UN Food and Agricultural Organisation – Western Central Atlantic Fishery Commission (FAO-WECAFC), as well as development of the regional action plan and conservation programme for marine mammals, which will

- include the convening of a regional experts workshop, organised by the SPAW/RAC in early 2005.
162. Training activities in SPAW will include the continuation of the Training of Trainers in MPA management programme initiated in 1999 with the implementation of regional courses on all aspects of marine protected areas management for English-speaking and Spanish-speaking MPA managers and implementation of local training activities. The revision and upgrading of the Training of Trainers manual in both English and Spanish will also be implemented during the biennium, as well as an evaluation of the impact of the training programme to date.
 163. The secretariat noted that sustainable tourism activities would continue to the extent possible, including the participation in the Regional Jury of the Caribbean Blue Flag campaign and providing assistance in promoting the establishment of the Caribbean as a Sustainable Tourism Zone. Further activities planned if funding becomes available are regional training courses using the training manuals developed from the Caribbean Environmental Network (CEN) project; and support to the development of national strategies for sustainable tourism.
 164. With regard to conservation and sustainable use of coastal and marine ecosystems, the secretariat highlighted the fact that most of the activities under this SPAW sub-programme are being implemented through the Caribbean component of the International Coral Reef Action Network (ICRAN). The secretariat pointed out that ICRAN underwent an evaluation in 2003 and is currently refocusing its strategic framework and as a result financial support for 2004-2005 ICRAN activities was not made available.. In the interim, UNEP-CAR/RCU has been carrying out fundraising, targeting the European Union, MacArthur Foundation, the Swedish Government, US National Fish and Wildlife Foundation (NFWF), and NOAA to fulfil its obligations with the countries of the WCR.
 165. The planned activities under the International Coral Reef Action Network (ICRAN) in the Wider Caribbean continue to provide multi-level technical assistance to selected demonstration sites, and other MPA sites to strengthen their capacity in weaker areas of management. During the biennium, the Reefs@Risk report will be widely disseminated and efforts will be made to identify actions for the concrete application of this major study and to seek funding to implement activities based on the findings of the report. Assistance will be provided for target sites through the grant from the US National Fish and Wildlife Foundation to enhance the revenue generation capacity of the Hol Chan Marine Reserve and the Negril Marine Park, facilitate exchange programmes among MPAs and document best practices in MPA management for broader dissemination. A major activity of ICRAN will be the finalization of an agreement between UNEP-CAR/RCU and Sida. Sida is committed to providing funding (US\$270,000) to support sustainable fisheries management practices and alternative livelihoods for fishers geared towards the protection of coral reefs. It is anticipated that the UN Foundation will provide a match for the Sida funds and that the activities will be implemented in coordination with UN Food and Agricultural Organisation – Western Central Atlantic Fishery Commission (FAO-WECAFC), CARICOM- Caribbean Regional Fisheries

Mechanism (CRFM) and Organización del Sector Pesquero y Acuícola del Istmo Centroamericano (OSPESCA). Another focus of ICRAN, if funds become available, will be to support low cost standardized coral reef monitoring, creation of habitat maps of MPAs and their related ecosystems and conduct socio-economic evaluation of coral reefs for decision makers. UNEP-CAR/RCU and ICRAN will also collaborate with partners to implement the assessment of management effectiveness of MPAs in the WCR.

166. A major outcome of ICRAN during 2003 was the successful negotiation with USAID of a US\$1.5 million grant for the ICRAN-Caribbean with matching funds from the UN Foundation. The geographical scope of the project includes primarily the Mesoamerican Caribbean Reef Eco-region (Belize, Guatemala, Honduras & Mexico) and possibly the east coast of Nicaragua. A major activity of ICRAN in the Caribbean will be the implementation of the USAID/UNF US\$3 million dollar project of the Mesoamerican Reef Alliance (MAR). This involves a comprehensive set of interlinked activities, emphasizing integrated watershed management, sustainable tourism and sustainable fisheries practices developed in close coordination with Central American Commission for Environment and Development (CCAD) and with the existing GEF/World Bank/CCAD Mesoamerican barrier reef system project (MBRS).
167. The ICRAN MAR Project responds to the need to halt the degradation and loss of biodiversity in coral reefs and re-establish conditions which guarantee the ecosystem's equilibrium. Recognizing that threats to the ecosystem also originate in agricultural and urban areas which are often far from the coastal region, the project divides its strategy into three components: Watershed Management, Sustainable Fishing and Sustainable Tourism.
168. Equally pressing is the need to incorporate these objectives (conservation and sustainable practices) into an inter-institutional strategy which is tailored to the specific needs of the region. Securing the active participation of coastal communities is also a concrete goal, as is providing them with technical assistance and support for capacity-building and offering them the opportunity to manage their natural resources in a sustainable fashion.
169. The activities which the ICRAN MAR project envisages are beyond the capacity of any one organization or institution. For this reason, the project depends on the collaboration of an alliance of expert government organizations and institutions, NGOs and private initiatives.
170. Additional SPAW/RAC activities for the biennium, in addition to those mentioned above, include finalizing the legal status of the RAC within the framework of French regulations and support for the compilation of best practices for coral reef management. The SPAW/RAC, in collaboration with the Government of France and the secretariat, will also promote the SPAW Protocol and its objectives to assist with the ratification by non-Parties.
171. The CEPNET Programme Officer began his presentation by explaining how the CEPNET programme has evolved since the last biennium according to the needs and

- activities of the other subprogrammes of the CEP, mainly facilitating the development of tools to organise and disseminate information relevant to the implementation of technical activities in support of the Cartagena Convention and its Protocols.
172. The subprogramme will better support and provide guidance to the AMEP, SPAW and ETA subprogrammes for the design, maintenance and dissemination of the information they require or generate, through the existing tools of the CEP or by developing new instruments such as databases, clearinghouses, fora, etc.
 173. CEPNET will continue to maintain the CEP website, www.cep.unep.org. A consultant has worked since the beginning of 2004 to redesign the CEP website and it was inaugurated on 25 June 2004. Support to the RACs in developing their web pages is also planned.
 174. It is expected that the Caribbean Environment Programme clearinghouse mechanisms will become an important part of the workplan. For example, the Clearinghouse mechanism of the Global Programme of Action (GPA/CHM) will be further developed at the global level and the CEP would be responsible for the Caribbean node, including support for the development of NPAs.
 175. CEPNET will also assist the AMEP Programme in collaborating with its partners in the GEF project on Integrating Watershed and Coastal Areas Management (IWCAM) for the regional component calling for the development and maintenance of a clearinghouse node on best practices in integrated management.
 176. The Programme Officer added that CEPNET develops and maintains, since 2003, the Partnerships Website of the White Water to Blue Water Initiative (WW2BW) at www.ww2bw.org. The site will also showcase poster projects to show success stories on how to implement partnerships.
 177. In addition to the Clearinghouse project, the database of the Caribbean Network of Managers of Marine Protected Areas (CaMPAM) is being developed with partners of the SPAW Programme. An updated database will be tested by MPAs before a permanent update mechanism is established.
 178. The CEPNET project for “Spatial Analysis for Decision-making” incorporates various initiatives to be strengthened. It aims to acquire the resources to develop, with relevant institutions and organizations, the tools and knowledge to increase the use of spatial analysis and modelling in the decision-making process of environment management in the Wider Caribbean Region.
 179. He concluded by highlighting the regular coordination with other regional initiatives in the management of environmental information such as the Mesoamerican and Caribbean Geospatial Alliance (MACGA); the Inter-American Biodiversity Information Network (IABIN); and the Caribbean Global Ocean Observing System (GOOS) with IOCaribe of the Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission (IOC).

180. The secretariat presented the activities of the Education, Training and Awareness (ETA) sub-programme and noted that although there was no designated Programme Officer, ETA activities have been incorporated into all aspects of the other subprogrammes. -.
181. Activities and projects include the promotion of the LBS Protocol through the Cimab and IMA LBS-RACs; promotion of the CEP and its subprogrammes, through the development of a communication and outreach strategy, which will facilitate the design and implementation of a collaborative project in environmental education at the national and regional level; promotion of the development of adapted training programmes in every sector of the society; and increasing awareness of the protection and development of coastal and marine resources. Another ETA project is the development of a distance learning training course with the University of the West Indies and the University of Delaware for graduate students and government officials.
182. The secretariat proceeded to present the draft budget for the proposed activities for 2004-2005. It was explained that the Budget for 2004-2005 reflects an overall increase of approximately 12.6 % over the previous biennium. The amount required from CTF contributions over the period is \$2.7 million, however, member countries will only be required to contribute \$1.9 million as it is anticipated that the shortfall will be made up by countries arrears. Additional funds will come from Sida, which has made a commitment to provide funding over the biennium for the post of a Junior Programme Officer; UNEP HQ, which provides funding for an Administrative Officer and an Administrative Assistant, through the 13% Programme support costs; UNEP's Environment Fund, for programme activities; and extraordinary contributions from the Governments of the United States of America and France respectively.
183. She highlighted the amounts required to reopen the posts of an ETA and a Legal Officer, as well as a Deputy Coordinator, and explained that included in the OCCC budget were coordinating costs for the subprogrammes. Funds within the budgets of each sub-programme are drawn from extra-ordinary contributions from donors for specific activities. Due to financial constraints, the Secretariat has been forced to prioritize, leading to some activities being left without funding, with the hope of raising funds from other sources.
184. She concluded by reminding the meeting that the extensive workplan presented to them was dependent upon the financial contributions of the member countries and appealed to them to assist in achieving the goals set for the successful implementation of the Workplan for the biennium.
185. The Meeting commended the secretariat on the proposed programme of work for the 2004-2005 biennium. Although ambitious, the Meeting noted that the initiative of the secretariat to strategize its activities, developing synergies and fostering linkages with relevant institutions, programmes and conventions was commendable and would contribute to the delivery of the programme despite the limited resources. The usefulness of sharing information among member governments, the secretariat and the Programme in general was highlighted by several delegations as an important aspect of follow-up. While recognizing the additional burden that this places on governments,

several delegations emphasized that it was necessary to ascertain the progress at the national level to provide input to the CEP and the Convention. In this context, the Meeting welcomed UNEP's global initiative of common reporting and agreed to support the secretariat on the further development of this task.

186. The delegates from the SIDS, namely Antigua and Barbuda, Bahamas, Barbados, Cuba, Dominica, Jamaica, Montserrat (UK), Netherlands Antilles, Saint Lucia, St. Kitts and Nevis, and Trinidad and Tobago, expressed the opinion that the post of Deputy Coordinator should be filled within the secretariat, and that a SIDS national should occupy this position provided that he/she has the right qualifications, that funding becomes available and that UN regulations for recruitment are observed in the process. Other delegates expressed that in the case of the availability of financial resources it would be of higher priority to provide an ETA or Legal officer than a Deputy Coordinator considering the financial constraints of the programme and their interest lay in channelling funds directly into programmes for the implementation of the Convention and its activities. These delegates reiterated that if any vacant post is to be filled, the secretariat shall observe the UN regulations for recruitment, and ensure that the person has the right qualifications.
187. It was generally felt that there should be a better balance of expenditures within the CEP and the delegates urged the secretariat to examine the matter of inconsistency of distribution of funds between the sub-programmes. In this regard, some delegates highlighted the importance of strengthening the ETA programme.
188. The delegates further requested that the budget be circulated well in advance of the meeting so that revisions can be made in a timely manner.
189. A number of delegates expressed difficulty in paying their arrears, stating that while they would endeavour to maintain funding at previous levels, they could not commit to paying the increased financial contribution to the Caribbean Trust Fund (CTF) for the upcoming biennium. It was further stressed that this 5% increase in recommended payments to the CTF, should have been consulted on beforehand. The delegation of Colombia expressed that it could not increase its contributions to the CTF. The delegation of Mexico further expressed that it did not approve the increase in budget by 5 % and that they will continue paying US\$40,000 to the CTF.
190. The secretariat proposed to not schedule the next Meeting of the Monitoring Committee during the 2004-2005 biennium in order to save funds and allow the secretariat to dedicate its energy to the execution of the approved workplan. This proposal was approved by the Meeting.
191. Several Parties further supported the suggestion that the Basel Convention and the Cartagena Convention should enter into a partnership.
192. It was requested that the CEP budget be prepared in a more comprehensive format, including the budget of the RACs, thereby reflecting the host country's contribution.

193. With reference to the WW2BW, the delegation of Cuba requested that wherever there are initiatives relevant to the CEP, the secretariat should ensure that participation is open to all parties, (see Annex VIII).
194. The excellent presentation and usefulness of the GloBallast Programme was noted. Many congratulations were given to the RACs and their efforts to facilitate the implementation of the LBS and SPAW Protocols in the region.
195. The delegation of France informed the Meeting of the French Initiative on Coral reefs and that country's willingness to cooperate in this regard. The Government of France also suggested that the Oil Spills Protocol should be coherent with MARPOL. With regard to the request made by the secretariat for potential hosts for meetings, the Government of France informed the secretariat that they were exploring the possibility of hosting the next IGM and would liaise further with the secretariat regarding this matter.
196. The delegation of the United States of America made a number of suggestions aimed at enhancing the implementation and evaluation of the programme. These include the following:
 - Identify successful funding strategies by comparing the past five years of budgetary projections and funds received;
 - Create three different levels of potential financing and accompanying accomplishments to promote with donors what can be achieved with additional resources; and
 - Recommend that all projects in the workplan include a list of accomplishments and target completion dates.
197. The delegation of the United States of America gave their strong support to the updating of the Technical Report Number. 33 and suggested that agencies like the Pan American Health Organization (PAHO) could be interesting collaborators. Finally, the delegation requested that the guidelines to be set up within the "LBS-RAC, IMA classification of waters project" be reviewed by the Member States before submission to the IGM for approval.
198. The delegation of the United States of America referred to the recommendations of the draft report of the IMO Workshop on Marine Pollution in the WCR (UNEP(DEC)/CAR WG.24/INF.4) reviewed by the Second Meeting of the LBS/ISTAC. Following a recommendation of the LBS/ISTAC, the Government of the United States of America led an intersessional working group to prepare suggestions on the recommendations for the 11th IGM (UNEP(DEC)/CAR WG.24/6). The delegation requested that the suggestions be reviewed by the Parties prior to the 3rd Meeting of the LBS/ISTAC and comments be provided to the US LBS focal point.
199. The delegation of the United States of America also announced an agreement between its government and the British Virgin Islands concerning assistance to be rendered during discharge of oil or other hazardous and noxious substances. The agreement provides the British Virgin Islands the capability of responding to major releases with

- US Coast Guard spill response resources on a reimbursement basis. Both governments offered to discuss this type of opportunity with other countries of the WCR.
200. The IOCaribe representative highlighted the partnership between the United Nations Organizations and the international community, and congratulated UNEP for the advances in the implementation of the Memorandum of Cooperation between the Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission (IOC) and UNEP-CAR/RCU. He referred to various activities jointly developed over the last two years and also announced the partnership “Regional Network in Marine Science and Technology for the Caribbean: The Know-Why Network” between IOC, UNEP and Sida. The first project that the partnership supports aims at the strengthening of research centres in the region, starting with the LBS/RACs and the Instituto de Investigaciones Marinas y Costeras (Invemar) of Colombia, that will then serve to develop other centres in the region. He expressed his condolences to countries having suffered the effects of this year’s hurricanes and invited the member governments to consider permanent and long-term programmes to mitigate against the impacts of natural disasters.
 201. Mr Kent Blom from Sida began his statement by conveying his sincere condolences to the countries that suffered losses in life, environment and properties from the hurricanes. He also agreed with others that the issue of addressing the anticipation and prevention of natural disasters by hurricanes must again be given priority as was discussed by the countries after the hurricane Mitch disaster. Other issues which Sida as a donor associate themselves with as being of vital importance for the programmes credibility and which several delegations had already touched upon were, long term sustainable financing, role of the regional seas in a wider context as the roles of the RACs and RANs like a transparent and operationalized strategy. Mr Blom concluded by acknowledging that, in many cases, the priority of the Contracting Parties, may not be the same for donors and cautioned that in such cases recipients of support needed to be forceful regarding their interests so as to avoid a loss of focus of the programme.
 202. The Coordinator welcomed the comments of the delegates and expressed his appreciation for the interest shown by governments for the work of the CEP and the Action Plan.
 203. He stressed the need for more human resources in the secretariat and noted that this need was due to the increased interest in CEP and a growth in its activities and workplan. He stated that he would welcome the idea of having a Deputy Coordinator should the countries contributions reach their optimal level.
 204. The Coordinator further noted that the CEP had had problems preparing the budget for circulation within the prescribed 6-week period prior to the meeting, but was confident that it would be done well in advance of the next IGM. He noted that each sub programme of the CEP should specifically report its budget in order that the expenditure for each one may be monitored.
 205. He encouraged the countries to inform the secretariat of their ability to pay their contributions to the CTF. He asked those that would not be able to meet their pledge to

make this known before the end of October. He also noted the contributions made by the host countries of the RAC s.

206. Regarding Cuba's participation in WW2BW initiative he expressed the desire to see this country included from this point on.

AGENDA ITEM 13: ELECTION OF MEMBERS OF THE MONITORING COMMITTEE ON THE ACTION PLAN FOR THE CARIBBEAN ENVIRONMENT PROGRAMME FOR 2002-2003

207. The Meeting was invited to decide on the composition of the Monitoring Committee for the 2004-2005 period. Seven governments were elected to the membership of the Monitoring Committee. The President of the Bureau of Contracting Parties, elected under Agenda Item 2, will serve as the Chairman of the Monitoring Committee.
208. Following discussions, the following countries are the members of the Monitoring Committee for the 2004-2005 biennium: Venezuela (Chairman), Bahamas, Barbados, Dominica, Dominican Republic, France, Montserrat and Saint Lucia.
209. The Chairperson congratulated the new members of the Monitoring Committee. The secretariat also congratulated the governments in question indicating its willingness to work with them in order to achieve the mandate and objectives of the CEP.

AGENDA ITEM 14: OTHER BUSINESS

210. The Coordinator invited participants to raise any other issues relevant to the objectives of the meeting
211. The Delegation of Cuba presented the document "Implementation of the IUCN Component Programme for the Insular Caribbean, Ministry of Science, Technology and Environment, Cuba (UNEP(DEC)CAR IG.24/CRP.8) to be presented at the World Conservation Congress (WCC) at its 3rd Session in Bangkok, Thailand in November, 2004. The document requested the Director General (DG) of IUCN to promote further strengthening of IUCN's presence in the Insular Caribbean, including the development of an integral regional programme as well as the appointment of at least, an IUCN Regional Officer for the Caribbean. The document further requested the DG to promote better coordination of IUCN's activities in the region and increased collaboration with interested members within the region and internationally.
212. The Delegation of Cuba asked for the Meeting to note the document and endorse the principle of strengthening the presence of IUCN in the Insular Caribbean.
213. The proposal was favourably received, and a number of delegates indicated their intention to encourage their national delegates to support the resolution when it is

presented at the WCC in November. The meeting thanked the delegation of Cuba for this intervention.

214. The Coordinator expressed his support for the establishment of a Regional IUCN office in the Caribbean, and offered to temporarily host the office at the RCU in Kingston until it is decided where the office could be situated, provided that IUCN will cover all costs.
215. Mr. Masamichi Hasebe, Legal Counsel to the International Oil Pollution Compensation Fund (IOPC) expressed appreciation at being afforded the opportunity to present to the Meeting an overview of the Regime on Liability and Compensation. He provided a history of the development of the Fund, its objectives and the process through which the Fund is applied. The current scheme includes the 1992 Civil Liabilities Convention (CLC) and the 1992 Fund Convention. Mr. Hasebe provided a summary of the status of ratifications by member countries of the Wider Caribbean Region. He further stressed that there was no direct financial burden to the Member States, and that significant benefits were to be gained through ratification, given the vulnerability of the Caribbean Region to oil spills. He encouraged all countries to ratify the two Conventions and pledged the assistance of the IOPC Fund in this process. He also highlighted the need for countries who had already ratified the Convention to fulfil their reporting obligations.
216. The Meeting welcomed the presentation with one Delegate requesting further information on the nature of the reporting requirements. Mr. Hasebe informed the Meeting that detailed reporting was only required if there were importers who imported more than 150,000 tonnes of oil per annum in that country and if not, it was necessary only to submit a statement that oil imports were less than this amount. The representative of Saint Lucia also provided an update to the Meeting on its recent ratification of the two Conventions. This was duly noted by the representative from IOPC. The Delegate from Saint Lucia further requested that assistance from the IOPC may be necessary to assist countries who have to deal with unique national circumstances that hinder the ratification process.
217. The representative from Sida, Mr. Johan Sundberg presented Sida's Marine Initiative for the period 2003-2013. He stated that marine environment and coastal zone development are priority issues in Sida's Action Program for Sustainable Development and that support to the CEP was a logical outcome of Sweden's longstanding commitment to international cooperation on oceans and coasts.
218. Mr. Sundberg declared that Sida's objective was to contribute to poverty reduction and sustainable development in the region, by having well-managed and productive coastal areas. He further stressed that in order to achieve the objective, there was need for better cooperation and integration between different sectors within the region, highlighting the fact that trans-boundary pollution for example requires regional cooperation. He stated that Sida's focus lay in building management capacity through an integrated ecosystem approach, institutional strengthening, competence and capacity building of staff and an

enhanced international cooperation, particularly at the regional level and between UN specialized agencies and regional organizations.

219. Delegates and observers praised Sida's effective and useful support. Ms. Vandeweerd expressed gratitude for the Swedish financial and strategic support to UNEP and the Regional Seas Programme, which has been consistent throughout the years.
220. The Regional Coordinator further thanked Sida on behalf of the Caribbean Environment Programme. He noted appreciatively that Sida had continued to support the Programme during its most difficult moments in the past, present, and he hoped that they would support the CEP in the future as well.
221. The secretariat informed the delegates about a M.Sc. thesis of a student on the capacity to evaluate within the UNEP Regional Seas Programme. She visited the CAR/RCU in August 2004 to consult CEP documentation and conducted interviews with the professional staff. Data analysis is underway and is expected to be completed by the end of November.
222. The delegation of the United States of America informed the meeting of two Small Grants for Coral Reef conservation opportunities from NOAA and the National Fisheries and Wildlife Foundation (NFWF), and encouraged the countries to apply for them. International grant information is available at <http://ipo.nos.noaa.gov/coralgrants.html> for the NOAA grant and at <http://www.nfwf.org/programs/coralreef.htm> for the NFWF, and applications are due by December 10, 2004 and January 31, 2005 respectively.
223. The delegation from Venezuela informed the Meeting of the Second Conference of the Interamerican Convention on Marine Turtles to be convened 18 November 2004 in Margarita Island, and extended an invitation to all Governments in the region to participate.
224. The delegate from Anguilla made a declaration requesting that in the future each United Kingdom Overseas Territory (UKOT) be represented at the IGMs of the CEP as individual countries and not together as part of an UK delegation. The Coordinator responded that this was a matter that could not be resolved until the Rules of Procedures have been finalized for the CEP. This declaration appears as Annex 10 to the report. The delegation of the Netherlands Antilles expressed understanding for the concerns of Anguilla and encouraged Anguilla and other Territories to actively participate in the Rules of Procedure Working Group since it would consider the issue of participation of Territories.

AGENDA ITEM 15: ADOPTION OF THE REPORT OF THE MEETING

225. The Rapporteur of the Meeting presented the Draft Report of the Meeting. The Meeting adopted the Report, with amendments and corrections to be introduced in the draft by

the secretariat, as appropriate, and circulated to the participants by the 18 October for review. Comments were to be forwarded to the secretariat within an additional 2 weeks.

AGENDA ITEM 16: CLOSURE OF THE MEETING

226. The Chairman of the Meeting and the secretariat offered closing remarks. In his closing remarks the Chairman thanked all delegates, countries and observers for the interest, support and involvement in this kind of cooperation. The Coordinator thanked the Chair for his cordial and pleasant way of coordinating the Meeting. He also thanked the Rapporteur for her collaboration and commended the Working Groups for their efforts in proposing solutions. He noted that the delegates were dedicated and observed the interest of the SIDS to continue to be part of the secretariat. He highlighted the new allies of the countries and the secretariat, the RACs, also thanked the host government Jamaica for the contributions they provide to CEP. He expressed his gratitude of the assistance provided when needed by the Coordinator of UNEP Regional Seas, as well as by Sida. He further encouraged the countries to consider hosting CEP meetings. Additionally, he noted the challenge for the secretariat to be stronger and he thanked the Meeting for having confidence in the secretariat. He concluded by thanking the translators, secretariat, NGO's and organisations for their support.
227. The Meeting was closed at 1:00 p.m. on Saturday, 2 October 2004 by the Chairman and the secretariat.

ANNEX I: AGENDA

AGENDA

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

1. Opening of the Meeting
2. Organization of the Meeting
 - a. Rules of Procedure
 - b. Election of Officers
 - c. Organization 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 (2002 -2003)
6. Report of the Government of Jamaica on the Host Agreement with UNEP
7. Guidelines for the operations of the Regional Activity Centres (RACs) and the Regional Activities Networks (RANs) of the Caribbean Environment Programme
8. Rules of Procedure and Financial Rules of the Caribbean Environment
9. Strategy for the Sustainable Development of the Caribbean Environment Programme 2005-2009
10. Panel on the regional consultation process of the Barbados Programme of Action in preparation for Mauritius, 10-14 January 2005
11. Ballast water management and future activities in the Wider Caribbean Region
12. Workplan and Budget for the Caribbean Environment Programme for the 2004-2005 Biennium
13. Election of Members of the Monitoring Committee on the Action Plan for the Caribbean Environment Programme for 2004-2005
14. Other Business
15. Adoption of the report of the Meeting
16. Closure of the meeting

ANNEX II: DECISIONS OF THE MEETING

DECISIONS OF THE MEETING

The Meeting:

Having convened the Eleventh Intergovernmental Meeting on the Action Plan for the Caribbean Environment Programme and the Eighth 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 on the Implementation of the Caribbean Environment Programme (2002-2003) as presented in UNEP(DEC)/CAR IG.24/INF.4;

Noting the Reports of the Second Meeting of the Scientific and Technical Advisory Committee (STAC) (UNEP(DEC)/CAR WG.25/6) and of the Second Meeting of the Contracting Parties (UNEP(DEC)/CAR IG.21/INF.3) to the Protocol Concerning Specially Protected Areas and Wildlife in the Wider Caribbean Region;

Having reviewed the decisions of the Third Meeting of the Contracting Parties (COP) to the Protocol Concerning Specially Protected Areas and Wildlife (SPAW) in the Wider Caribbean Region, Montego Bay, Jamaica, 27 September 2004 (UNEP(DEC)/CAR IG.24/CRP.6);

Having reviewed the Report of the Second Meeting of the Interim Scientific, Technical and Advisory Committee of the Protocol concerning Pollution from Land-Based Sources and Activities, Managua, Nicaragua, 12-16 May 2003, as contained in UNEP(DEC)/CAR WG.24/6;

Taking note of the Report of the Second Meeting of the Regional Activity Centre/Regional Marine Pollution Emergency, Training, and Information Centre- Caribbean (RAC/REMPEITC-Carib) Steering Committee as contained in document RAC/REMPEITC-Carib and the results of the Second Extraordinary Meeting of the Steering Committee, convened 26 September 2004 and as contained in UNEP(DEC)/CAR IG.24/CRP.4;

Decides:

DECISION I

Having reviewed the draft Workplan and Budget for the Caribbean Environment Programme for the Biennium 2004-2005 as contained in the document UNEP(DEC)/CAR IG.24/4;

Decides to:

Approve the Workplan and Budget for the Caribbean Environment Programme for the Biennium 2004-2005, taking into account the observations and inputs provided by the Meeting. The Meeting **also requests** the Secretariat to seek additional funds to meet the full requirements of the approved workplan.

DECISION II

Having reviewed the Outline of Strategy for the Enhancing of the Caribbean Environment Programme within the Framework of the Regional Seas Programmes and Sustainable Development for 2005-2009 as contained in the document UNEP(DEC)/CAR IG.24/3;

Decides to:

1. **Approve** the framework and the approach proposed by the Secretariat in the Outline of Strategy for the Enhancing of the Caribbean Environment Programme within the Framework of the Regional Seas Programmes and Sustainable Development for 2005-2009 as amended by the Meeting;
2. **Request** the Secretariat to prepare an outreach plan to promote the Strategy of the Caribbean Environment Programme at the global, regional and national levels to foster concerted actions for the sustainable development of the Wider Caribbean Region; and
3. **Request** the Secretariat to submit the Outline of Strategy for the Enhancing of the Caribbean Environment Programme to the Sixth Global Meeting of the Regional Seas Conventions and Action Plans, Istanbul, Turkey 30th November to 2nd December 2004 to contribute to the review of the Regional Seas Strategic Directions for 2004-2007 (UNEP(DEC)/RS. 6.WP.1)

DECISION III

Taking into account Decision VIII of the Tenth Intergovernmental Meeting on the Action Plan for the Caribbean Environmental Programme and the Seventh Meeting of the Contracting Parties to the Cartagena Convention;

Having examined the Results of the Open Intersessional Drafting Group on the Rules of Procedure for the Caribbean Environment Programme (UNEP(DEC)/CAR IG.22/3), the Proposed Financial Rules for the Cartagena Convention and the Caribbean Environment Programme and Terms of Reference for the Caribbean Trust Fund (UNEP(DEC)/CAR IG.22/4), and the Discussion Paper for the Open Intersessional Drafting Group on the Rules of Procedure presented by the Government of the United States (UNEP(DEC)/CAR IG.24/INF.6); and

Mindful of the concerns expressed by the Meeting during the discussion of Rules of Procedure and Financial Rules of the Caribbean Environment Programme;

Decides to:

1. **Extend** the mandate of the open intersessional working group established at the 13th Meeting of the Monitoring Committee and continued by the Tenth Intergovernmental Meeting on the Action Plan for the Caribbean Environmental Programme and the Seventh Meeting of the Contracting Parties to the Cartagena Convention. The working group shall be open to all Members of Action Plan for the Caribbean Environmental Programme and the Contracting Parties to the Cartagena Convention;
2. **Request** the Secretariat to, within 30 days, ask each government that wishes to participate in the open intersessional working group to designate an appropriate person as a formal contact point for the working group within 45 days of the Secretariat's request, and to keep the Secretariat updated if the contact point changes;
3. **Request** the Secretariat to establish an electronic mailing group of contact points for the working group, and to keep this mailing group updated;
4. **Request** that the Secretariat assist the working group;
5. **Request** the working group to concentrate on the following issues, using, *inter alia*, document UNEP(DEC)/CAR IG.22/3, document UNEP(DEC)/CAR IG.24/INF.6, the Report of the Eleventh Intergovernmental Meeting and Eighth Meeting of the Contracting Parties (UNEP(DEC)/CAR IG.24/5), and the text of the Cartagena Convention as starting points for discussion:
 - **Participation of Territories:** including the desire expressed by the territories for full participation in the activities of the Action Plan and the Convention and ensure consistency with the Convention and international law;
 - **Participation of Non-Party States:** how to address the participation of states that are not parties to the Convention in the activities of the Action Plan and the Convention in a manner that assures broad participation of non-party states and is consistent with the Convention and international law;

- Interaction Between Action Plan and Convention: how to clarify the relationship between the Action Plan and the Convention, including whether to pursue one of the three options outlined in Documents UNEP(DEC)/CAR IG.22/3 and UNEP(DEC)/CAR IG.24/INF.6, or some other option, giving consideration to international law; whether different Rules of Procedure are needed for the Action Plan, the Convention, and the Protocols; and how each option would affect the participation of territories and non-party states;
 - Decision-Making Process: how to craft rules addressing decision-making in the context of the Convention and/or Action Plan;
6. **Request** the working group, once it has completed addressing the above subjects, and if time permits, to address issues relating to the adoption of Financial Rules for the Cartagena Convention and Terms of Reference for the Caribbean Trust Fund;
 7. **Request** the working group to communicate intersessionally every two months under the coordination of the Chair, via electronic communication or a teleconference. In the course of the negotiation of a draft document, a face-to-face meeting is expected to be necessary, and would be called for by the Chair in a location to be determined; and the Secretariat should seek additional resources for the holding of this meeting; and
 8. **Request** the working group to present recommendations to the 12th Intergovernmental Meeting and 9th Meeting of the Contracting Parties addressing how to proceed on the issues delineated in paragraph 5, and, as appropriate, paragraph 6.

DECISION IV

Having reviewed the reports and decisions of the meetings convened under the Caribbean Environment Programme since the Tenth Intergovernmental Meeting;

Decides to:

1. **Approve** the Report of the Second Meeting of the Interim Scientific, Technical and Advisory Committee (ISTAC) to the Protocol Concerning Pollution from Land-Based Sources and Activities (LBS) in the Wider Caribbean Region, Managua, Nicaragua, 12-16 May 2003 (UNEP(DEC)/CAR WG.24/6); and
2. **Take note** of the Report of the Second Meeting of the Scientific and Technical Advisory Committee (STAC) to the Protocol Concerning Specially Protected Areas and Wildlife (SPA) in the Wider Caribbean Region, Willemstad, Curaçao, 3 to 6 June 2003 (UNEP(DEC)/CAR WG.25/6), and **approve** the Decisions of the Third Meeting of the Contracting Parties of the SPAW Protocol, Montego Bay, 27 September 2004.

DECISION V

Having reviewed the reports of the Second Meeting of the Steering Committee for the RAC/REMPEITC-Carib, Willemstad, Curaçao, 12-14 January 2004, the Second Extraordinary Meeting of the Steering Committee for RAC/REMPEITC-Carib, Montego Bay, Jamaica, 26 September 2004; and

Having examined the Final Strategic Plan for the 2004-2005 Biennium of the Regional Activity Centre, REMPEITC-Carib (UNEP(DEC)/CAR IG.24/CRP.3);

Decides to:

1. **Approve** the recommendations of the Second Meeting of the Steering Committee for the RAC/REMPEITC-Carib and of the Second Extraordinary Meeting of the Steering Committee for RAC/REMPEITC-Carib, Montego Bay, Jamaica, 26 September 2004; and
2. **Endorse** the Final Strategic Plan for the 2004-2005 Biennium of the Regional Activity Centre, REMPEITC-Carib;

DECISION VI

Taking note of the voluntary contributions to the Caribbean Trust Fund by the States and Territories of the Wider Caribbean Region for 2004-2005, as presented by the Secretariat in the document UNEP(DEC)/CAR IG.24/CRP.7; and

Having examined the budgetary needs of the Caribbean Environment Programme to complete its workplan for 2004-2005;

Decides to:

1. **Adopt** the table of voluntary contributions to the CTF as reflected in Annex III of this Report, noting that each state or territory is given 45 days to inform the Secretariat of their acceptance of the amounts and **further agrees** that should the Secretariat not be informed otherwise, the amounts in Annex III will be confirmed on 30 October 2004;
2. **Request** the Secretariat to invoice the states and territories of the Caribbean Environment Programme in the amounts expressed in Annex III of this Report, but notes, however that such invoices do not represent a legal obligation to pay;
3. **Request** that the Executive Director of UNEP, make the necessary arrangements to extend the Caribbean Trust Fund until 31 December 2005;
4. **Strongly urge** all Governments, to pay all contributions to both the Caribbean Trust Fund and to UNEP's Environment Fund in a timely manner to ensure the Programme's financial sustainability and continuity;
5. **Strongly urge** all governments to promptly pay their arrears to the Caribbean Trust Fund; and
6. **Request** the Secretariat to continue its efforts to collect contributions and to continue to explore mechanisms with member governments to facilitate payment of their arrears.

DECISION VII

Having reviewed the document on “Guidelines for the Operations of the Regional Activity Centres (RACs) and the Regional Activities Networks (RANs) of the Caribbean Environment Programme” (UNEP(DEC)/CAR IG.24/CRP.9) prepared by the Working Group created by the Chairperson of the Eleventh IGM, under the leadership of the Government of Venezuela;

Taking into account the draft Workplan and Budget for the Caribbean Environment Programme for the Biennium 2004-2005 as contained in the document UNEP(DEC)/CAR IG.24/4 and the presentations made by the Secretariat and by the Regional Activity Centres;

Decides to:

1. **Extend** the mandate of the Open Working Group established at the 11 IGM on the Guidelines for the Operations of the Regional Activity Centres (RACs) and the Regional Activities Networks (RANs) of the Caribbean Environment Programme created at the Eleventh IGM to coordinate the review of the document UNEP(DEC)/CAR IG.24/CRP.9 during the intersession leading to the Ninth Meeting of the Cartagena Convention and the Twelfth IGM;
2. **Submit** the report UNEP(DEC)/CAR IG.24/CRP.9 of the Open Ended Working Group on the Guidelines for the Operations of the Regional Activity Centres (RACs) and the Regional Activities Networks (RANs) to the UNEP-GPA Secretariat for comments by its legal advisor and **request** the Secretariat to assist that Working Group in making the final version available to the member governments in the three official languages of the Caribbean Environment Programme for comments, and also **request** the Secretariat to coordinate with the Intersessional Working Group any further revisions to enable submission of a final version for consideration and possible adoption by the Ninth Meeting of the Contracting Parties and the Twelfth IGM;
3. **Urge** the host governments and the Secretariat, to finalize the Memorandum of Understanding for the establishment and operations of the Regional Activity Centres;

DECISION VIII

Having heard the panelists on the Caribbean SIDS position towards the International Meeting for Full and Comprehensive Review of the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of SIDS (Mauritius, January 2005):

Decides to:

1. **Endorse** the Ten Year Review process of the Barbados Programme of Action (BPOA) scheduled to take place in Mauritius in January 2005;
2. **Encourages** the participation of all Small Islands Developing States of the Caribbean Environment Programme at the highest level in the remaining preparatory process and at the Mauritius meeting;
3. **Further encourages** the representation by the United Nations Environment Programme at the Mauritius Meeting to showcase the activities by UNEP in SIDS of the region; and
4. **Recommends** that the relevant outcomes from the Mauritius process be considered in the future development of UNEP Programmes in the region.

DECISION IX

Having reviewed the progress of the Caribbean Environment Programme during 2002-2003;

Recognizing the need for the continuing development and implementation of the Caribbean Environment Programme for the 2004-2005 biennium and beyond;

Decides to:

1. **Request** the Secretariat and the Governments to continue strengthening the communication between the Secretariat and the Focal Points and **urge** governments to maintain, on a frequent basis, communication with the Secretariat, in order to have active and open exchange of information, in particular during the intersessional period between meetings of the Programme;
2. **Encourage** the governments to ratify the Cartagena Convention and its Protocols, including the Protocol Concerning Pollution from Land-based Sources and Activities to ensure its entry into force as soon as possible;
3. **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, and **encourage** greater involvement and participation of Focal Points in the development of the work programme and implementation of the CEP;
4. **Encourage** the member governments to contribute to the Caribbean Trust Fund and to **request** the Secretariat to look for outside funding so as to obtain the financing to fill the vacant positions in the Secretariat, and in doing so the Secretariat will take into consideration a balanced geographical representation among all levels of the professional staff of the Secretariat.
5. **Request** the Secretariat to continue its efforts at strengthening collaborative relationships with regional agencies and relevant convention secretariats to enable more effective implementation of the workplan of the CEP; and
6. **Commend**, in particular, the Coordinator and staff of the Secretariat for the considerable progress made in implementing the CEP during the period since the Tenth IGM.

DECISION X

Having reviewed the document “Ballast water management and future activities in the Wider Caribbean Region” (UNEP(DEC)/CAR IG.24/INF.8)

Decides to:

1. **Request** that the Secretariat further explore, in collaboration with the International Maritime Organization, the RAC/REMPEITC-Carib and other relevant agencies, the development of project proposals and activities to address the problem of Ballast Water Management and the associated threats of invasive species in the Region; and
2. **Encourage** member governments to become actively involved in the GloBallast Programme that is developed in the region.

DECISION XI

Having reviewed the proposal by the Secretariat for support from the Swedish International Development Agency (Sida) “Draft Proposal for Sida’s Contribution to the WW2BW Initiative through the Caribbean Environment Programme, UNEP-CAR/RCU, 2005-2008” (UNEP(DEC)/CAR IG.24/CRP.7);

Decides to:

1. **Gratefully recognize** the valuable support and generous contribution of the Swedish International Development Agency (Sida) to the Programme, the Secretariat and the member governments of the Caribbean Environment Programme;
2. **Request** that the Secretariat to submit the proposal to Sida for its early consideration and approval; and
3. **Encourage** Sida to continue cooperating in the framework of the CEP.

DECISION XII

Welcoming with appreciation the signing of the Memorandum of Understanding between the Secretariat of the Convention for the Protection of the Marine Environment of the Caribbean and the Secretariat of the Basel Convention on the Transboundary Movement of Hazardous Waste and their Disposal;

Having heard the presentation by the Executive Secretary of the Basel Secretariat; and

Having reviewed the draft Workplan and Budget for the Caribbean Environment Programme for the Biennium 2004-2005 as contained in the document UNEP(DEC)/CAR IG.24/4;

Decides to:

1. **Request** that the level of cooperation between the Secretariat and the Basel Convention Secretariat be strengthened through the promotion of the signed Memorandum of Understanding;
2. **Encourage** the Secretariat to continue to cooperate with, as appropriate, ongoing activities by the Basel Convention in the areas of used oil and used lead acid batteries in the Wider Caribbean Region through the Basel Convention Regional Centres, particularly through the Regional Centres for the Caribbean and Central America located in Trinidad and Tobago and El Salvador respectively, and with the LBS RACs in Trinidad and Tobago and Cuba.
3. **Encourage** the Secretariat in collaboration with the Basel Convention Secretariat, the International Maritime Organization and other interested organizations to further develop the following proposed regional project activity:
 - Development of a Regional approach for the integrated management of hazardous wastes and solid wastes in the Caribbean, in support of the Action Plan, the Cartagena Convention and its Protocols, the Basel Convention, and the MARPOL 73/78 Convention.

DECISION XIII

Taking into account the report of the World Resource Institute on the state of Caribbean Reefs and the project on Caribbean Ecoregional Planning by the Nature Conservancy;

Decides to:

1. **Gratefully recognize** the value of the work of these organizations to the Caribbean Environment Programme and to member governments; and
2. **Encourage** further collaboration and partnerships with these and similar organizations.

**ANNEX III: INDICATIVE LEVEL OF CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE
CARIBBEAN TRUST FUND, 2004-2005**

INDICATIVE LEVEL OF VOLUNTARY CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE CARIBBEAN TRUST FUND, 2004-2005 (in US dollars)

States and Territories of the Wider Caribbean Region	2004*	2005**
ANTIGUA & BARBUDA	10,068	10,571
BAHAMAS	10,068	10,571
BARBADOS	10,068	10,571
BELIZE	9,180	9,639
COLOMBIA***	18,937	18,937
COSTA RICA	10,954	11,501
CUBA	18,937	19,883
DOMINICA, COMMONWEALTH	10,068	10,571
DOMINICAN REPUBLIC	11,841	12,433
FRANCE	229,514	240,989
GRENADA	10,068	10,571
GUATEMALA	10,954	11,502
GUYANA	10,068	10,571
HAITI	10,068	10,571
HONDURAS	10,068	10,571
JAMAICA***	15,301	15,301
KINGDOM OF THE NETHERLANDS		
ARUBA	9,180	9,639
NETHERLANDS ANTILLES	10,068	10,571
MEXICO***	40,000	40,000
NICARAGUA	10,068	10,571
PANAMA	10,954	11,502
ST. KITTS-NEVIS	2,700	2,835
SAINT LUCIA	9,180	9,639
ST. VINCENT & THE GRENADINES	9,180	9,639
SURINAME	10,068	10,571
TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO	11,841	12,433
UNITED KINGDOM		
ANGUILLA	10,068	10,571
CAYMAN ISLANDS	5,589	5,868
BRITISH VIRGIN ISLANDS	5,940	6,237
MONTSERRAT	2,700	2,835
TURKS & CAICOS ISLANDS	4,860	5,103
USA***	205,200	205,200
VENEZUELA	140,768	140,806
TOTAL	907,725	953,104

* Same contribution as of 2003

** Increase of 5% over contributions of 2004 as of Decision VI of the 11th IGM

*** Member States that have indicated their pledge levels

ANNEX IV: LIST OF DOCUMENTS

LIST OF DOCUMENTS

Working Documents

UNEP(DEC)/CAR IG.24/1	Provisional agenda
UNEP(DEC)/CAR IG.24/2	Provisional annotated agenda
UNEP(DEC)/CAR IG.24/3	Outline of Strategy for the Enhancing of the Caribbean Environment Programme within the Framework of the Regional Seas Programmes and Sustainable Development
UNEP(DEC)/CAR IG.24/4	Workplan and budget for the Caribbean Environment Programme for the biennium 2004-2005
UNEP(DEC)/CAR IG.24/5	Report of the Eleventh Intergovernmental Meeting on the Action Plan for the Caribbean Environment Programme and Eighth Meeting of the Contracting Parties to the Convention for the Protection and Development of the Marine Environment of the Wider Caribbean Region (<i>to be prepared during the meeting</i>)

Information Documents

UNEP(DEC)/CAR IG.24/INF.1	List of documents
UNEP(DEC)/CAR IG.24/INF.2	List of participants
UNEP(DEC)/CAR IG.24/INF.3	Report of the Chairperson of the Monitoring Committee and President of the Bureau of Contracting Parties
UNEP(DEC)/CAR IG.24/INF.4	Report of the Executive Director of UNEP on the Implementation of the Caribbean Environment Programme (2002-2003)
UNEP(DEC)/CAR IG.24/INF.5	Report of the Government of Jamaica on the Host Agreement with UNEP
UNEP(DEC)/CAR IG.24/INF.6	Discussion Paper for the Open Intersessional Drafting Group on the Rules of Procedure for the Caribbean Environment Programme, Financial Rules for the Cartagena Convention and the Caribbean Environment Programme, and Terms of Reference for the Caribbean Trust Fund (English only)

UNEP(DEC)/CAR IG.24/INF.7	Results and recommendations of the Open Intersessional Drafting Group on the Guidelines for the operations of the Regional Activity Centres (RACs) and the Regional Activities Networks (RANs) of the Caribbean Environment Programme
UNEP(DEC)/CAR IG.24/INF.8	Ballast water management and future activities in the Wider Caribbean Region (English only)
UNEP(DEC)/CAR IG.24/INF.9	Caribbean Ecoregional Planning Project, The Nature Conservancy (TNC)
UNEP(DEC)/CAR IG.24/INF.10	Caribbean Reefs@Risk, the World Resources Institute (WRI)
UNEP(DEC)/CAR IG.24/INF.11	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
RAC/REMPEITC-Carib	Report of the Second Meeting of the Steering Committee of the Regional Activity Centre, REMPEITC-Carib (RAC/REMPEITC-Carib), Willemstad, Curacao, 12-14 January 2004 (English only)
UNEP(DEC)/CAR WG.25/6	Report of the Second Meeting of the Scientific and Technical Advisory Committee (STAC) to the Protocol Concerning Specially Protected Areas and Wildlife (SPAW) in the Wider Caribbean Region, Curaçao, Netherlands Antilles, 3-6 June 2003
UNEP(DEC)/CAR WG.24/6	Report of the Second Meeting of the Interim Scientific, Technical and Advisory Committee (ISTAC) to the Protocol Concerning Pollution from Land-based Sources and Activities, Managua, Nicaragua, 12-16 May 2003
UNEP(DEC)/CAR IG.22/3	Results of the Open Intersessional Drafting Group on the Rules of Procedure for the Caribbean Environment Programme
UNEP(DEC)/CAR IG.22/4	Proposed Financial Rules for the Cartagena Convention, and the Caribbean Environment Programme, and Terms of Reference for the Caribbean Trust Fund
UNEP(DEC)/CAR IG.22/5	Strategy for the Development of the Caribbean Environment Programme 2002-2006

UNEP(DEC)/CAR IG.22/8	Report of the Tenth Intergovernmental Meeting on the Action Plan for the Caribbean Environment Programme and Seventh 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, 7-11 May 2002
UNEP(DEC)/CAR IG.21/INF.3	Report of the Second Meeting of the Contracting Parties (COP) to the Protocol Concerning Specially Protected Areas and Wildlife (SPAW) in the Wider Caribbean Region, Montego Bay, Jamaica, 6 May 2002
UNEP(OCA)/CAR IG.11/7	Proposed legal framework for the administrative, technical and financial operations of RACs and RANs
UNEP(OCA)/CAR WG.10/3	Concept Paper for Regional Activity Centres and Regional Activity Networks

Conference Room Papers

UNEP(DEC)/CAR IG.24/CRP.1	Report of the Government of Jamaica on the Host Agreement with UNEP
UNEP(DEC)/CAR IG.24/CRP.2	Recommendations of the Second Meeting of the Interim Scientific, Technical and Advisory Committee (ISTAC) to the Protocol Concerning Pollution from Land-Based Sources and Activities (LBS) in the Wider Caribbean Region
UNEP(DEC)/CAR IG.24/CRP.3	Final Strategic Plan for the 2004-2005 Biennium of the Regional Activity Centre, REMPEITC-Carib
UNEP(DEC)/CAR IG.24/CRP.4	Recommendations of the Second Extraordinary Meeting of the Steering Committee of the Regional Activity Centre/Regional Marine Pollution Emergency, Information and Training Centre (RAC/REMPEITC-Carib)
UNEP(DEC)/CAR IG.24/CRP.5	Draft Proposal for Sida's Contribution to the White Water to Blue Water (WW2BW) Initiative through the Caribbean Environment Programme, UNEP-CAR/RCU 2005-2008
UNEP(DEC)/CAR IG.24/CRP.6	Decisions of the Third Meeting of the Contracting Parties (COP) to the Protocol Concerning Specially Protected Areas and Wildlife (SPAW) in the Wider Caribbean Region.
UNEP(DEC)/CAR IG.24/CRP.7	Indicative Level of Voluntary Contributions to the Caribbean Trust Fund, 2004-2005

- UNEP(DEC)/CAR IG.24/CRP.8 Implementation of the IUCN Programme for the Insular Caribbean, Ministry of Science, Technology and the Environment, Cuba
- UNEP(DEC)/CAR IG.24/CRP.9 Guidelines for Establishment and Operation of Regional Activity Centres and Regional Activity Networks for the Caribbean Environment Programme

Reference Documents

- UNEP(DEC)/RS.6.INF.1 A Global Initiative to strengthen Regional Seas Conventions and Action Plans and enhance cooperation – Regional Seas Strategic Directions for 2004-2007
- UNEP, 2004 Directory of Focal Points of the Caribbean Environment Programme. CEP Information Paper (English only)
- UNEP, 2004 UNEP and Small Island Developing States: 1994-2004 and Future Perspectives (English only)
- CARICOM, April 2004 Revised Draft – Caribbean Regional Position on the Implementation of the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States (English only)
- BWM/CONF/36 International Convention for the Control and Management of Ships' Ballast Water and Sediments, 2004
- UNEP, 2001/2004 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 (English, Spanish (2001) and French (2004))
- UNEP, 2003 UNEP's Assistance in the Implementation of the Barbados Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States (SIDS) (English only)
- CARICOM, November 2003 Synthesis of National Assessment Reports on the Implementation in the Caribbean of the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States (English only)
- IOPCF, November 2003 Claims Manual: International oil Pollution Compensation Fund 1992

UNEP(DEC)/CAR IG.22/7	Proposal from the Governments of Cuba and Trinidad and Tobago: Regional Activity Centre Concerning Pollution from Land-based Sources and Activities (English and Spanish only)
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**ANNEX VI: OPENING REMARKS OF THE HON. DELANO FRANKLYN,
MINISTER OF STATE, MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS AND
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**Statement by the Hon. Delano Franklyn, Minister of State
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11th Intergovernmental Meeting on the Action Plan for the Caribbean Environmental
Programme and the 8th Meeting of the Contracting Parties to the Convention for the
Protection and Development of the Marine Environment of the Wider Caribbean
Region**

27th September – Montego Bay

Salutation.

I am pleased to be able to welcome you all to Jamaica, and to address this meeting to review the achievements of the Caribbean Environment Programme and to approve the plan of activities for the upcoming year.

Over the past few weeks we in Jamaica and many of us in the Wider Caribbean have faced great devastation from natural disasters.

We have also seen how, along with the outpouring of assistance from the international community and humanitarian agencies, we within the region can support each other, even in the midst of our own distress.

I must make special mention of Haiti, Grenada, the Bahamas, the Dominican Republic, Cuba and the Cayman Islands in this regard.

JAMAICA

Here in Jamaica we suffered extensive damage in different sections of the island, particularly on the south coast. The fact that this meeting is being held in Jamaica less than three weeks after the ravages of 'Hurricane Ivan' is a testimony to the work which has been undertaken by the entire country to fast track the process of rehabilitation and reconstruction.

While we know that there are communities yet to have electricity returned, already over half of the Jamaica Public Service customers have had power restored. As of this weekend 67% of the National Water Commission's facilities representing 85% of its production capacity were restored.

As of yesterday, 1,039 of 1,252 roads that were reported as blocked, inundated or damaged have been opened. Five hundred and seventy-one of these 1,039 have been totally cleared while 468 have been opened to single lane traffic.

The Prime Minister has established an Office of National Reconstruction and appointed a well-respected Civil Servant, Mr. Danville Walker to ensure that the process of reconstruction is done quickly, efficiently and transparently within the next six months.

There are implications for our economic programme and projects for the current fiscal year.

The objectives of the Government is to get production up and running to previous levels in as short a time as possible in order to maintain the process of economic growth.

REDUCING DISASTER RISK

According to a report on Reducing Disaster Risk, about 75 percent of the world's population live in areas affected at least once by earthquake, tropical cyclone, flood or drought between 1980 and 2000. This report notes that disaster put development at risk and that at the time, the development choices made by individuals, communities and nations can generate new disaster risk. The report underscores that this need not be the case.

On October 2, some countries will observe Inter-American Water Day – the theme of which is Water and Disasters – while October 13, will mark World Disaster Reduction Day. We need to consider this aspect critically, including taking stock of the lessons learned from our experiences with both natural and manmade disasters such as oil spills, and analyzing the state of critical systems.

After 'Hurricane Gilbert' 16 years ago, the Regional Coordinating Unit carried out an ecological assessment in economic terms of the damage and impact of Hurricane Gilbert on the natural resource assets – including coastal and marine resources – of Jamaica.

This very useful assessment reinforced the importance of environmental issues and contributed to the launch of various initiatives such as the projects concerning parks and protected areas. The Government has made a request to the international community for an environmental assessment post Hurricane Ivan.

CLIMATE CHANGE

I note too that from 1989, UNEP through the Caribbean Environment Programme had carried out a pioneering study on the implications of Sea Level Rise associated with Climate Change in the Wider Caribbean Region.

All of us need to understand what is happening and to take the proactive steps to adapt to climate change. Our regional organizations are at the forefront of such activities and I am pleased that they are represented here.

We look forward to the Chairman's presentation of the Strategy for Sustainable Development of the Caribbean Environment Programme which aims to bring the five-year strategy document much more in line with global and regional orientations in the sustainable management of regional seas. I urge you to forge ahead with a new vision on the future of environmental protection and the sustainable development in the Wider Caribbean Region.

It has long been recognized that the most pragmatic approach to the conservation and management of coastal and marine resources is one that is comprehensive, integrated, and multidisciplinary in nature.

A coordinated strategy for integrated coastal zone management, through not yet fully implemented everywhere in the Wider Caribbean region, is the key for ensuring, the survival and sustainable development of the coastal resources in the region.

COUNCIL ON OCEANS AND COASTAL ZONE

Jamaica's National Council on Oceans and Coastal Zone Management fully endorse the need for coordination and the building of linkages. The Council includes not only the Government agencies involved in marine matters, coastal zone and watersheds management, but also representatives of the private sector and non-governmental organizations.

The Council has been involved in reviewing national issues such as the management of our cays, fisheries management as well as in initiatives such as the White Water to Blue Water Initiative.

One of our major areas of focus will be the National Programme of Action for the Protection of the Marine Environment from Land-based Sources and Activities. In this regard, I would like to thank UNEP for their support to Jamaica and others in the Wider Caribbean in the development of capacity related to this programme.

I must congratulate UNEP and the Regional Coordinating Unit, for their promotion of the need for intergovernmental dialogue on the protection of the marine environment in all regions and for their active support of our governments in the management and development of our coastal and marine resources as part of their Regional Seas Programme.

This Meeting also takes on special significance as we will embark upon a review and discussion of the Caribbean position towards the International Meeting for Full and Comprehensive Review of the Barbados Programme of Action (the BPOA) for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States scheduled for Mauritius, in January 2005.

As most of us are aware, the Barbados Programme of Action takes into account the vulnerabilities of Small Island Developing States as first enunciated in Rio, and addresses the special challenges and constraints as we would face in our implementation of sustainable development. I am sure that over the next few days you will make a significant contribution to outlining concrete measures for the further implementation of the Programme of Action.

I wish you a fruitful meeting and wisdom and vision in the review and evaluation process. I trust that you will find time to appreciate Montego Bay as well as meeting the objectives of the conference.

Thank you.

**ANNEX VII: COMMUNICATION OF THE GOVERNMENT OF JAMAICA ON THE
HOST AGREEMENT WITH UNEP-CAR/RCU**

GOVERNMENT OF JAMAICA

Report to the 11th Intergovernmental Meeting on the Action Plan for the Caribbean Environmental Programme, and the 8th Meeting of the Contracting Parties to the Convention for the protection and Development of the Marine Environment of the Wider Caribbean Region

27th September to 2nd October 2004, Montego Bay, Jamaica

THE HOSTING OF UNEP RCU

The Headquarters of the Regional Coordinating Unit (RCU) was established in Kingston in 1985 under the terms of the Headquarters Agreement between the Government of Jamaica (GoJ) and the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP).

The Headquarters Agreement was concluded in November 1983 and under the terms of this Agreement, the Government of Jamaica committed to provide rent-free accommodation to UNEP.

In 1983 the Government of Jamaica and UNEP exchanged letters (constituting a Supplementary Agreement) that confirmed the GoJ's commitment.

In addition to providing rent-free accommodation, over the years, substantive commitments were made by the GoJ to the UNEP to facilitate the establishment of the Unit. This included salaries for 2 staff for the period 1986-1998; the payment also of maintenance for the office space; and other commitments, which varied between supplementary agreements.

The Headquarters Agreement remains in effect, and there has been continuing dialogue between the Government of Jamaica and UNEP in an effort to resolve the outstanding issues and the brokering of a new supplementary agreement.

Since 1999, the Government has been pursuing the decision to establish a United Nations House in Jamaica. The decision arose from the mandate by the United Nations Secretary General to improve efficiency and coherence in the delivery of development assistance provided by the UN system. The Secretary-General also mandated closer coordination among all UN entities and encouraged the housing of UN agencies under one roof to further enhance their collaboration.

In response to this mandate, the Government of Jamaica has offered the premises located at Block 11, 14-20 Port Royal Street, to the UN agencies, as the proposed location for the UN House in Jamaica.

The Headquarters of the International Seabed Authority (ISA), and the United Nations Environment Programme are already located at the Block 11 Building are the United nations

Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO), United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), United Nations Population Fund, World Bank and the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO).

Present Situation

The matter of a new Supplementary Agreement is now under active consideration and is receiving the personal attention of both the Honourable Ministers of Foreign Affairs and Foreign Trade and Land and Environment.

The region has had substantive benefits since the establishment of the unit in Kingston. These include the development of a regional network of marine and coastal information, data through the Internet, and the development of geographic databases on such subjects as marine protected areas.

On the side of the GoJ, a team has been put in place and mandated to negotiate with UNEP with a view to concluding a new Supplementary Agreement.

The Government of Jamaica wishes to take this opportunity to express gratitude to UNEP/RCU for the support given to Jamaica and the rest of the region over the past 20 years. In this context, the Government wishes to reiterate its commitment as host to the UNEP/RCU, to the establishment of a UN House and to the successful conclusion of the Supplementary Agreement.

**ANNEX VIII: STATEMENTS OF THE GOVERNMENT OF CUBA ON THE
PARTICIPATION OF COUNTRIES IN PARTNERSHIPS
INCOPORATED IN THE JOHANNESBURG SUMMIT**

CUBA'S POSITION ON THE PARTICIPATION OF COUNTRIES IN PARTNERSHIPS INCOPORATED IN THE JOHANNESBURG SUMMIT

With a view to encouraging the broadest possible participation of all sectors of society in the area of sustainable development, so-called Type II initiatives, or Partnerships, were incorporated at the World Summit on Sustainable Development as new forms of international cooperation. The guidelines that are to govern the execution of these initiatives were approved at the Summit's Bali Conference. These establish that all initiatives must be developed and implemented in an open and transparent fashion and in good faith.

Decision VII, adopted at the 10th Intergovernmental Meeting on the Action Plan for the Caribbean Environment Programme and the 7th Meeting of the Contracting Parties to the Convention for the Protection and Development of the Marine Environment of the Wider Caribbean Region, establishes: "**Support** in principle the initiative presented to the Meeting by the Government of the United States of America "White Water to Blue Water" which is of special relevance to the CEP Members and the World Summit on Sustainable Development (WSSD) dialogue and **encourage** further consultations in support of its practical implementation".

It is important to draw attention to the fact that, during this Meeting, Cuba's Center for Engineering and the Environmental Management of Bays (CIMAB) was approved as one of the Regional Activity Centers (RAC) of the Protocol Concerning Pollution from Land-based Sources and Activities, whose mission directly relates to the objectives of said initiative.

As a full member of UNEP, the Caribbean Environment Program and the Cartagena Convention, Cuba actively participates in all activities that are developed within this framework and has accumulated important expertise in the different work areas, sharing the latter with all other countries in the region as a matter of course.

At the Conference on the White Water to Blue Water Initiative held in Miami, it was announced that the Government of the United States, following a unilateral and selective policy against Cuba, has decided not to include Cuba as a participant in this initiative.

Cuba expresses the conviction that the spirit of the guidelines agreed to in Johannesburg must be honored, and that full participation by all sectors of the societies of interested nations must be guaranteed.

Cuba condemns this arbitrary decision and voices its dissatisfaction with all such actions, which set a very negative precedent for global efforts toward sustainable development. It ratifies its will to continue contributing to initiatives that favor sustainable development in our region.

COMMENTS OF THE CUBAN DELEGATION ON ITEM 12 OF THE AGENDA

The Cuban delegation regrets having to return to this point; nevertheless, we wish to point out that, at the Tenth Intergovernmental Meeting, the WW2BW initiative was received and seen as an effort of special relevance to the fulfillment of CEP objectives and the Cartagena Convention and its Protocols.

Mr. Chairman:

The CEP is open to the participation of all States in the region and the Cartagena Convention is a binding agreement. Any kind of exclusion within this framework is therefore unacceptable. Cuba wishes to draw attention to the need for the Secretariat to apply measures that will guarantee the complete, future participation of all member States in any regional initiative, in keeping with the non-exclusion principle which defines the CEP and Cartagena Convention.

Mr. Chairman:

The Cuban delegation requests that these comments be included, verbatim, in the final report on the meeting.

**ANNEX IX: PROPOSAL FROM THE GOVERNMENT OF VENEZUELA
REGARDING BALLAST WATER MANAGEMENT IN THE
WIDER CARIBBEAN REGION**

VENEZUELA'S PROPOSAL BALLAST WATER MANAGEMENT IN THE WIDER CARIBBEAN REGION

Considering that:

1. As one of the major oil exporters of the Wider Caribbean Region, Venezuela is one of the countries most seriously affected by inflows of ballast water, reporting a yearly volume exceeding 10 million tons;
2. The Ballast Water Management Convention (BWM 2004) of the International Maritime Organization (IMO) recommends various types of methods to combat ballast water contamination, including ballast water exchange, discharge (at ports or terminals) and treatment (on vessels);
3. The Convention encourages the adoption of national norms, to be applied until the Convention enters into force;
4. The Convention proposes that the possibility of creating ballast water exchange areas be evaluated;
5. The Convention encourages regional technical cooperation, through initiatives such as the GloBallast Programme;
6. The Convention envisages diagnostic procedures based on *in situ*, total or random sampling and analyses of ballast water tanks and compartments and the application of measures beyond those recommended or envisaged;
7. The Diplomatic Conference, where the Convention was signed, also adopted four resolutions:
 - a. Resolution 1: Future work by the Organization pertaining to the International Convention for the Control and Management of Ships' Ballast Water and Sediments.
 - b. Resolution 2: The use of decision-making tools when reviewing the standards pursuant to Regulation D-5.
 - c. Resolution 3: Promotion of technical co-operation and assistance.
 - d. Resolution 4: Review of the Annex to the International Convention for the Control and Management of Ships' Ballast Water and Sediments.
8. The Convention recognizes that the uncontrolled discharge of ballast water and sediments by vessels has resulted in the transfer of harmful aquatic organisms and pathogens which have caused damage to the marine environment, resources and, consequently, human health.

Venezuela is of the opinion that:

1. Designating ballast water exchange areas in the Wider Caribbean Region, as established by conducted out no less than 200 nautical miles away from the nearest coast and at a minimum depth of 200 meters. It is important to bear in mind that the Caribbean is a semi-closed sea.
2. Though ballast water was successfully exchanged in the Atlantic Ocean, there are many questions still surrounding this operation, owing to the safety risks it entails for both crew and vessel and its dependence on oceanographic and meteorological conditions.
3. It is necessary to begin research work and gather data on invasive species as well as ballast water routes and volumes in the Wider Caribbean region.
4. The standardization of regional management schemes in areas such as inspection, sampling, sample analyses, training and ballast water facilities at ports and terminals must be encouraged.
5. Maps with information on vulnerability to the transfer of invasive species must be created, based on risk analyses to be conducted.
6. The need for emergency control plans for massive ballast water spills and the possibility of establishing detection mechanisms for pathogens (i.e. cholera) must be evaluated.
7. As no adequate technologies for ballast water management exist, or because ballast water cannot be recycled in vessels for reasons that are beyond the operation of those vessels, to comply with the Convention's requirements, ballast water reception facilities must be created in the Wider Caribbean Region.

Venezuela has undertaken a number of concrete actions in this area. These are:

- Evaluation of the ballast water reception facilities employed by the national oil company *Petróleos de Venezuela S.A. (PDVSA)*, which came into operation when water ballast used by tankers was not segregated, with a view to adapting them to the new requirements established by the Convention.
- The National Institute of Aquatic and Insular Areas (INEA), as a Maritime Authority, has established a norm to regulate the discharge of ballast water, soon to be implemented as a transitory measure and to remain effective until the Convention enters into force.
- The Maritime University of the Caribbean (UMC) is evaluating the possibility of adapting its new water quality laboratory to meet the needs associated with

ballast water management, with a view to creating training programs on ballast water sampling and analysis and serving as a test laboratory.

In view of the above, Venezuela proposes the following:

- PROPOSAL 1: The creation of a database on invasive species affecting the Wider Caribbean Region, to be structured following the IMO's GloBallast program schemes.

Venezuela has already begun this process, having presented a database and data gathering program proposal for the Secretariat's evaluation. Following meetings between delegations from the Netherlands Antilles and Venezuela, it was agreed that this project will be undertaken with the participation of Maritime Authorities from the Netherlands Antilles and Venezuela.

The actions to be taken by both parties are:

1. Signing of a Memorandum of Understanding by the Directorate of Shipping and Maritime Affairs of the Netherlands Antilles and the National Institute of Aquatic and Insular Areas of Venezuela.
 2. Creation of a joint project to gather data on the ballast water of some 4,500 tankers and of a database on invasive species affecting the regions of the Netherlands Antilles and Venezuela, with GloBallast program aid.
 3. Request and take steps to obtain funding for the project.
 4. With aid from the GloBallast Program, extension of the scope of the project to include the entire Wider Caribbean Region.
- PROPOSAL 2: Adopt the GloBallast Program of the International Maritime Organization (IMO) as the basis for all actions and activities relating to ballast water management to be undertaken in the Wider Caribbean Region.

The aim of this proposal is to standardize ballast water management processes and methods employed in the Wider Caribbean Region as per global standards and to create a pilot center in the region similar to that of Puerto de Spetiba, Brazil, with a view to training personnel in areas relating to sampling, analysis, ballast water reception facilities, monitoring, relevant technologies and risk analyses.

With respect to the creation of the pilot center, Venezuela expresses its interest in being the host country for the project.

**ANNEX X: STATEMENT OF THE GOVERNMENT OF ANGUILLA ON THE
REPRESENTATION OF UNITED KINGDOM OVERSEAS
TERRITORIES (UKOT) AT MEETINGS OF THE CARIBBEAN
ENVIRONMENT PROGRAMME**

STATEMENT FROM THE DELEGATE OF ANGUILLA

The UK Overseas Territory (UKOT) of Anguilla would like to request that in the future each UKOT be represented at these IGMs as individual countries and not together as part of an UK delegation.

The reason being that each of the five Caribbean UKOTs is independent of each other with separate governments and no financial ties to one another. Also each UKOT is at different stages of their environmental protection advancement, and so they each have different issues to address at these meetings.

In addition most of the UKOT's are financially independent of the UK in that they do not receive any direct budgetary aid. Also until recently the UK showed little commitment to or awareness of the UKOTs environmental protection development; and so theoretically should not be representing a diverse group of UKOTs at IGMs such as this one.

The UK itself does not contribute to the Caribbean Trust Fund and each UKOT makes individual contributions themselves, not as part of a group. Therefore, we should be represented individually as well and not as part of an UK delegation.

I thank you.