



UNEP

**United Nations
Environment
Programme**

Distr. Limited

UNEP(DEC)/CAR IG.24/3
1 October 2004

Original: ENGLISH

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

Montego Bay, Jamaica, 28 September - 2 October 2004

**OUTLINE OF STRATEGY FOR THE ENHANCING OF THE
CARIBBEAN ENVIRONMENT PROGRAMME WITHIN THE
FRAMEWORK OF THE REGIONAL SEAS PROGRAMMES AND
SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT
2005–2009**

ACRONYMS

CDC	United States Centers for Disease Control and Prevention
CEP	Caribbean Environment Programme
FAO	Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations
IAEA	International Atomic Energy Agency
IMO	International Maritime Organization
IOC-UNESCO	Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission - United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization
MEA	Multilateral Environmental Agreement
MDG	Millennium Development Goals
PAHO	Pan American Health Organization
POA	Programme of Action
POI	Plan of Implementation
RSCAP	Regional Seas Conventions and Action Plans
RSP	Regional Seas Programme
SIDS	Small Island Developing States
UNEP	United Nations Environment Programme
US EPA	United States Environment Protection Agency
WSSD	World Summit for Sustainable Development
WW2BW	White Water to Blue Water

FOREWORD

Decision I of 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 (Montego Bay, Jamaica, May 7-11 2002) endorsed the Strategy for the Development of the Caribbean Environment Programme 2002-2006 (UNEP(DEC)/CAR IG.22/5), and requested the Secretariat to publish a final document by December 2002 reflecting the inputs and results of the discussions held during the same meeting. This document proposed that the emerging regional and global consensus on the need for broader coordination of efforts to protect regional seas must be taken into account in developing a more effective strategy for the Caribbean Environment Programme.

The proposal thus sets a larger framework for the update of the strategy for 2005-2009 that is submitted to 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. It builds on and complements the strategy initiatives which have informed the current Workplan.

CONTEXT

1. In 1981 the governments of the Wider Caribbean region, with the support of the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) adopted an Action Plan within the context of the Global Regional Seas Programme (RSP) to jointly deal with the main environmental problems of the marine and coastal areas of the region. In addition, in 1983 they signed an Agreement (the Cartagena Convention) that provides the legal framework for all the activities carried out within the region for the protection of its marine and coastal environment. The Action Plan together with the Cartagena Convention forms the framework of the Caribbean Environment Programme (CEP).
2. The progress of the Action Plan and the level of application and implementation of the Convention have been regularly evaluated by the governments participating in the CEP, Successive action plans and programme implementation arrangements have been developed and implemented following the basic format within the constraints of resources and competing priorities. In this context, the governments have agreed to prepare and adhere to a “strategy” that will lend coherence to the provisions contained in the Convention, the Action Plan, and the decisions of the intergovernmental meetings.
3. Over the same period (1981 – present) there has been considerable growth in the appreciation of the need for integrated approaches for the promotion and execution of policies, programmes, action plans and projects to ensure the conservation and sustainable use of global resources and the earth’s natural endowment, including its marine and coastal ecosystems. With that appreciation, new actors, institutions, concepts and capacities related to conservation and sustainability have emerged in the Wider Caribbean as elsewhere.
4. Many of these entities appear ready, willing and able to work in strategic alliances and partnerships with established modalities such as the CEP and its Member States in achieving the targets of major factors in global environmental governance such as:
 - Agenda 21;
 - the Small Island Development States (SIDS) Programme of Action (POA);
 - the Millennium Summit and the related internationally agreed development goals ;
 - the World Summit on Sustainable Development (WSSD) Plan of Implementation (POI); as well as those established in:
 - the Cartagena Convention and its Protocols; and
 - the cluster of Multilateral Environmental Agreements (e.g., CBD, FCCC)
5. An additional challenge facing the CEP as it moves into the 21st Century is to ensure that the Programme is harmonised and rationalised with respect to all its members, critical stakeholders, and potential partners, and that it continues to play a leadership role in its core mandated area, even as it supports and complements the related initiatives of others in the UN System, and appropriate national, sectoral, academic, multilateral and bilateral partners.
6. This strategy review paper reflects the state of the coastal and marine environment, the international policy framework, improved scientific knowledge, other emerging issues as well

as current socio-economic realities and trends. Many of these were considered at the 5th Global Meeting of the Regional Seas Programmes Secretariats held from 26-28 November 2003, in Nairobi, Kenya and the decision taken to recommend the incorporation of appropriate new strategic elements in the programmes of work of all the RSPs, and to energetically bring those elements to the attention of their respective Member States through their governing bodies and other relevant fora. In order to effectively address evolving challenges and the priorities identified in UNEP GC Decision 22/2 III A, and in order to contribute to reaching the relevant targets of Agenda 21, and the WSSD POI, it was agreed that the Regional Seas Programme must be strategically adaptive and proactive.

NEW STRATEGIC ELEMENTS

7. This latest strategy which covers the period 2005 to 2009, is being established to facilitate the assessment, design and delivery of activities for appropriate Convention implementation during that timeframe. It also provides a functional and conceptual framework for integrated action, as required by the regional environmental priorities, linking the local, national, regional and global sustainability priorities identified by the Caribbean societies and governments working alongside the private sector as well as civil society. It therefore takes into account the changes in the evolving global development agenda including those related to the Rio, SIDS and WSSD Processes.
8. This strategy builds on the sound base of previous CEP Strategy Documents but it also incorporates the Strategic Guidelines for the RSPs, as agreed by the representatives of Regional Seas Conventions and Action Plans (RSCAP) Secretariats in their November 2003 meeting.
9. This strategy thus seeks to ensure the development of stronger, more effective ties between the RSPs and UNEP itself as well as with national and multilateral institutions. Particular emphasis is placed on continuing the process of formalising linkages and relationships with the various Secretariats responsible for regional and global instruments (including MEAs) particularly those whose objectives and elements are relevant to the CEP. The RSP guidelines also seek 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 SIDS/Barbados POA, and the WSSD Plan of Action within the context of the Regional Seas mandate. This implies visioning, proactive facilitating and participation in innovative partnerships (such as the International Coral Reef Initiative – ICRI, the White Water to Blue Water Initiative – WW2BW, and the emerging PAHO / US EPA / CDC Partnership linking Health and Environment), in capacity building and advocacy related to innovative approaches, and in developing sustainable long term financing sources.
1. This CEP Strategy for 2005-2009 is therefore pragmatic; being based on both the new strategic elements and directions proposed by the RSCAP Secretariats and the established general CEP vision and mission, which are more programmatic. The CEP organs and team members will establish a process for reviewing and harmonising both the programmatic and higher order elements and the 11th IGM endorses this approach and anticipates its further elaboration in the intersessional period prior to the 12th IGM.

2. It is also noted that the inclusion of more of the valuable 'lessons learnt' and information generated by the member states (for instance in their regular State of the Environment / State of the Coasts Reports) may also further enrich the CEP strategic process. Similarly, the sharing of current information on the mandate, capacity and programmes of partner organisations may prove useful to the member states and partner organisations with whom the CEP may find common cause and lead to the strengthening of the networks and improvement of the functional cooperation critical to the CEP mandate. The Convention and its Protocols, together with inter-governmental decisions, should continue to provide the foundation of the conceptual framework on which the strategy rests.
3. The long-term objective of this enhanced strategy is to provide appropriate direction to achieve [accomplish] the sustainable development of the marine and coastal environment of the Wider Caribbean Region. Thus, the programmatic strategy will continue to include the five inter-dependent implementation elements: legal, institutional, programmatic, training and financial, which represent the tactical and operational options to comply with the goals which were applied to the CEP work plan approved at the 10th IGM for the period 2004-2008 and also the work plan adopted at this 11th IGM in Montego Bay in 2004.
4. The following elements constitute the basis of the enhancement of the current strategy and should play a complementary role in the implementation of the current CEP work plan. The goals are aimed at strengthening the regional legal framework for protecting the marine environment, reducing marine pollution in the region, and improving marine and coastal environment quality within the framework of the Regional Seas Programmes and Sustainable Development. This will therefore assist in reducing the loss of biodiversity and recovering degraded ecosystems, strengthening regional capabilities to adequately manage the ecosystems and conserve marine and coastal resources, strengthening and expanding international technical cooperation and assistance and increasing the health and quality of the regional marine environment.
5. The 11th IGM having duly considered the proposal presented, now accepts this document as discussed and modified by the IGM. It should be noted that the strategy will put the Secretariat in a position to better service the needs of the contracting parties in "taking all appropriate measures to ...inter alia... ensure sound environmental management" (Cartagena Convention Art 4.1) of the Wider Caribbean and through such measures contribute to the sustainable development of the region. The strategy elements will also facilitate the co-operation between contracting parties (Art 4.3) as well their collaboration with "competent international regional and sub regional organisations" and the mutual assistance called for in the Convention (Art 4.5)
6. This enhanced strategy proposed for 2005 – 2009 complements the strategy set out in document (UNEP(DEC)/CAR IG.22/5) covering the period 2002-2006 and after approval at this IGM will be phased in and reflected in future programming and work plans.

STRATEGIC ELEMENTS¹ FOR THE CARIBBEAN ENVIRONMENT PROGRAMME 2005 - 2009

THE ELEMENTS ARE:

- I. Increasing the CEP's formal links with the Sustainable Development community, 'champions' and International Partners and making a more structured contribution to Sustainable Development through:*
 - complementing, enhancing and supporting as appropriate local, national, regional and global cooperation and partnerships with relevant social, economic and environmental stakeholders; and
 - building upon the WSSD POI, and internationally accepted development goals within the context of the Cartagena Convention and Action Plan and as appropriate the SIDS POA.

- II. Enhance sustainability and effectiveness of the CEP through:*
 - increasing member state / country ownership;
 - continuing to promote and facilitate the translating of Cartagena Convention and its protocols into effective implementation through ratification and complementary national legislation;
 - supporting capacity for establishing and promoting compliance and enforcement mechanisms,;
 - engaging and involving civil society and the private sector;
 - building institutional capacities of relevant national official agencies of the parties and other stakeholders;
 - ensuring viable sustainable financial arrangements; and
 - developing indicators and assessment/evaluation procedures where appropriate.

- III. Enhance the CEP's visibility / political impact in global and regional policy setting, through:*
 - establishment of a strengthened consortium of support as 'Regional Seas Alliance' (/Friends of the CEP);
 - addressing through proactive scans, consultations, and expert groups, emerging and priority issues, and publishing regular statements on these;
 - promoting and implementing an effective communication / information policy; and
 - ensuring greater participation in the CEP fora and promotion of the Regional Seas approach in relevant regional and global fora.

¹ The inclusion of the following elements will formalise many innovations which have already been applied in the CEP over its existence. The bureau and secretariat will implement and promote the use of these elements

- IV. *Improve Knowledge on the State of the Caribbean's marine and coastal environment and increase public awareness by promoting, and supporting monitoring and assessment activities and disseminating their results*
- Improving / Enhancing Public Awareness of the Health and Quality of the Marine and Coastal Environment and linkages to livelihoods (such as Fisheries, Tourism)
 - Promoting knowledge-based policy making
 - Contributing to the establishment/strengthening of appropriate regular national, and regional monitoring and periodic assessments of the marine and coastal environment
 - Support the dissemination of Monitoring Reports and Assessments (such as GEO, Reefs at Risk, State of the Environment and State of Marine Resources and Coasts Reports)
- V. *Enhance and increase the use within the mandates of the Cartagena Convention and its protocols as a platform for:*
- developing common regional objectives;
 - promoting synergies; and
 - contributing to the co-ordinating of regional implementation of relevant MEAs, global and regional initiatives and responsibilities of United Nations Agencies, such as IMO, IAEA, IOC of UNESCO, WHO / PAHO and FAO, as well as other international actors as a contribution to the sustainable management of the coastal and marine environment.
- VI. *Promote the ecosystem approach through comprehensive integrated initiatives and the development of:*
- a common vision based on the CBD approach to ecosystems;
 - an integrated management approach, based on the ecosystem approach and covering ocean, marine, coastal and watershed ecosystems;
 - priority setting and documenting of shared concerns related to the coastal and marine environment in Regional Seas Conventions, Protocols and Action Plans; and
 - proactive, creative and innovative partnerships and networks.