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Third Meeting of the Interim Scientific,
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the Protocol Concerning Pollution from Land-
Based Sources and Activities (LBS) in the Wider
Caribbean Region

Mexico City, Mexico, 22–26 August 2005

**WORKGROUP ON RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE MEETING WITHIN THE
FRAMEWORK OF THE THIRD MEETING OF THE INTERIM SCIENTIFIC AND
TECHNICAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE (ISTAC) FOR THE PROTOCOL
CONCERNING POLLUTION FROM LAND-BASED SOURCES AND ACTIVITIES
(LBS) IN THE WIDER CARIBBEAN REGION**

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INTERIM SCIENTIFIC, TECHNICAL AND ADVISORY COMMITTEE (ISTAC) TO THE PROTOCOL CONCERNING
POLLUTION FROM LAND-BASED SOURCES AND ACTIVITIES (LBS) IN THE WIDER CARIBBEAN REGION
22 and 23/Aug/2005**

RECOMMENDATIONS

Considering the need to avail of quantitative information on the status of coastal ecosystems and the quality of their waters, which support decision-making and the adoption of policies by nations of the Caribbean;

Recognizing the existence in the region of capable human resources, analytic infrastructure and experience in environment diagnosis and monitoring activities;

Bearing in mind the existence of asymmetries in technology levels, human resources available, analytic infrastructure and financing capacities among the countries making up the Wider Caribbean;

Considering the importance of coastal zones and seas of the Wider Caribbean as a fundamental source of support for the economies of most of the Caribbean nations;

Recognizing the need to preserve and enhance the Region's ecosystems for the benefit of present and future generations; and

Taking note of the presentations and debates that took place during the course of the Regional Workshop on the National Programmes of Action (NPAs), within the framework of the III Meeting of the ISTAC/LBS, a list of the most important recommendations drawn up by the participants is presented to be submitted for your consideration. These recommendations are:

Prevention of possible environment problems:

1. The Secretariat should include mechanisms to support those actions that make it possible to identify comparative cost analyses that, in turn, make it possible to foresee and determine complex environmental problems and their solutions. It is necessary to channel funds that also support studies and research of this kind. The workshop considered that the diagnoses arising from these studies will help determine general indicators for the region.

Legal and institutional framework:

1. Implement regional mechanisms to guide the countries that may require them in the preparation of an appropriate legal structure for the protection of the marine environment, in addition to strengthening environment management in the municipalities and states bordering in marine coastal environments;
2. Clearly define the role of different institutions in charge of drafting and executing the NPAs.

Participation by Civil Society:

1. The Secretariat should elevate the recommendation of experts to the Member State level in which the participation of the community, private sector, universities and local/regional governments is taken into account in the development of projects associated with economic activities of marine coastal environments as from the initial stage; in addition to promoting the strengthening of each country's decentralization mechanisms, so as to guarantee the use of specific financial resources and actions at these levels;
2. Advise in the preparation of proposals conducive to ecological and territorial regulations in those countries that may require such, taking such advice into account to facilitate the participation of local-level actors and the implementation of measures to curb polluting discharges into the marine environment.

Technology and information:

1. Promote the preparation of a methodology to foster and/or strengthen the exchange of new technologies in the countries of the Wider Caribbean Region, particularly in zones whose geological characteristics do not permit the use of conventional technologies, for example; "the Yucatan Peninsula", a limestone environment that requires the implementation of diverse septic systems and filtration fields;
2. Recompile and assess the data on water quality, human resources and monitoring and analysis infrastructure currently existing in the Caribbean Region;
3. Create a long-term monitoring network of Caribbean coastal waters, with the participation of the United States;
4. Standardize water sampling and analysis strategies, while making use of previous experience and initiatives in the design of simple, affordable and cost/time-efficient protocols;
5. Commence the diagnosis and progressive monitoring of the Wider Caribbean coastal waters that include both physical/chemical parameters and nutrients, heavy metals and organic pollutants;
6. Define indicators for the drafting of programmes, projects and feasibility studies;
7. Prepare a data base of all the current projects related the issue of LBS to be used by the Member States before starting the development programmes, projects and studies, so as avoid duplicating economic and technical resources; and
8. Carry out inter-calibration tests among the laboratories that participate in the preparation of the database, in order to guarantee reliable results.

Making effective use of the Region's human resources:

1. As far as possible, promote, strengthen and make use of the technical capacities of the region's human resources for the preparation of the NPA and to contribute to capitalizing experience and exchanging the lessons learnt in the regional work, as well as the capacities of the region's research centres;
2. Promote the creation of a databank of regional experts and technicians; and
3. Develop a training programme for monitoring activities that guarantees the long-term availability of the human resources required.

Financial resources and proposal of the Forum on Implementation and Financing:

1. Establish the most suitable financing mechanisms for long-term monitoring, especially for the Small Island States.
2. Organize a regional forum focused on the NPA implementation and financing mechanisms; to such end, the forum must meet the following goals:
 - a. Inform the donors about the NPA development process and how these tools can be used to enhance governance capacities in the region; and help the current process of reducing land-based sources of pollution in the Wider Caribbean region; and
 - b. Discuss mechanisms for the implementation and sustainable financing of these NPAs.
3. UNEP/CEP-RAC should identify key donors and meet with them to promote the inclusion of the development and implementation of the NPAs within their work agendas. UNEP/CEP-RAC should present a document on the financing processes and the donors' requirements and goals to be distributed prior to the forum.
4. Prior to the forum, each country should prepare a portfolio to be presented to the donors. This portfolio should include the national plan (either an NPA, NEMS, and/or NEAP), a summary of the current NPA activities, and a list of priorities to be reviewed by the donors prior to the forum. The countries should also show the current strategies and structures within the NPA framework in the document.
5. The GPA will assess the plans presented and discuss with each country the problems that may be detected, with two main purposes: prepare for the Second Inter-governmental Revision of the GPA (2006); and help the donors get a better understanding of the role of NPAs in environment management at a domestic level.
6. During the forum, there should be presentations on the financing mechanisms and opportunities to establish partnerships that are similar to the WW2BW model. Those countries that have not developed plans may also participate and have the opportunity to establish the contacts necessary for the future development of their plans.
7. If the forum is successful, it may be repeated periodically to improve regional co-operation and to promote an exchange of experiences of the countries concerning their national development plans and environment management.

Revisions and evaluations:

1. During the design and development of the NPAs, the countries should have a mechanism and sufficient funding to make an assessment during the different stages of the process of implementing these plans and establishing the procedures that allow plan correction as required. The assessment must be made with the cooperation of the Regional Secretariat.

Technical Assistance

1. In their presentations, Colombia, Trinidad & Tobago and Mexico stated that they were able to support the countries interested in providing technical co-operation in training. In this respect, the Mexican representation reported in the workshop that Mexico was able to offer advisory services to the Member States through the Mexican Institute of Water Technology (IMTA) in the following areas:
 - Water and Drainage in Rural Communities (technologies, methodologies)
 - Appropriate Technologies for small communities
 - Treatment Technologies
 - a. Stabilization of lagoons
 - b. Wetlands
 - c. Activated sludge systems
 - d. Anaerobic treatment of waste waters
 - e. Sludge treatment
 - Specific Consultancy
 - f. Environment diagnosis (water)
2. Considering that Technical Co-operation for the PAHO Nations in reference to the coastal waters derived land-based sources and activities complements that objectives stipulated in the UNEP-CEP concerning the LBS Protocol, so as to strengthen the results and avoid duplication of efforts, the following is recommended:
 - a. Call a meeting between the UNEP-CEP and the PAHO to discuss the above-mentioned mandate and the activities carried out by each agency in this respect;
 - b. Draw up a work plan and budget in collaboration with the UNEP-CEP and the PAHO; and
 - c. Draft a plan for a strategic alliance as economic and technical support for the work plan.