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Protection and Development of the Marine
Environment of the Wider Caribbean Region

St. John's, Antigua, 9 to 12 September 2008

**DRAFT WORKPLAN AND BUDGET FOR THE CARIBBEAN ENVIRONMENT
PROGRAMME FOR THE BIENNIUM 2008-2009**

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Abbreviations

ACS	Association of Caribbean States
ACCOBAMS	Agreement on the Conservation of the Cetaceans of the Black Sea, Mediterranean Sea and Atlantic Contiguous Area
AGRRA	Atlantic and Gulf Rapid Reef Assessment
AMEP	Assessment and Management of Environmental Pollution
CaMPAM	Caribbean Marine Protected Area Managers Network
CANARI	Caribbean Natural Resource Institute
CARICOMP	Caribbean Coastal and Marine Productivity (Programme)
CAR/RCU	Caribbean Regional Coordinating Unit
CBD	Convention on Biological Diversity
CCA	Caribbean Conservation Association
CCA-CaMMP	CCA-Coastal and Marine Management Programme
CCAD	Central American Commission for Environment and Development
CEHI	Caribbean Environmental Health Institute
CEP	Caribbean Environment Programme
CELB	Centre for Environmental Leadership in Business
CEPNET	Information Systems for the Management of Marine and Coastal Resources
CHA-CAST	Caribbean Hotel Association - Caribbean Alliance for Sustainable Tourism
CHM	Clearing House Mechanism
CI	Conservation International
CIMAB	Centro de Ingeniería y Manejo Ambiental de Bahías y Costas
CIT	Interamerican Convention for the Protection and Conservation of Marine Turtles
CITES	Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora
CMS	Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals
COP	Contracting Parties
CREP	Caribbean Regional Environment Programme
CRFM	Caribbean Regional Fisheries Mechanism
CTO	Caribbean Tourism Organization
ECCN	Eastern Caribbean Cetacean Network
FAO	Food and Agriculture Organization
GCFI	Gulf and Caribbean Fisheries Institute
GCRMN	Global Coral Reef Monitoring Network
GEF	Global Environment Facility
GEO	Global Environment Outlook
GIS	Geographic information systems

GISP	Global Invasive Species Programme
GOOS	Global Ocean Observation System
GPA	Global Programme of Action for the Protection of the Marine Environment from Land-based Activities
IABIN	Inter-American Biodiversity Information Network
IBA	Important Bird Area
ICRAN	International Coral Reef Action Network
ICRI	International Coral Reef Initiative
IDB	Inter-American Development Bank
IFAW	International Fund for Animal Welfare
IGM	Inter Governmental Meeting
IMA	Institute of Marine Affairs
IMO	International Maritime Organization
INVEMAR	Centro de Investigaciones Marinas de Colombia
IOC	International Oceanographic Commission
ISTAC	Interim Scientific and Advisory Committee
IUCN	World Conservation Union
IWCAM	Integrating Watershed and Coastal Area Management
LBS	Land-based sources (of pollution)
MACGA	Mesoamerican and Caribbean Geospatial Alliance
MAR	Mesoamerican Reef Alliance
MBRS	Mesoamerican Barrier Reef System
MPA	Marine Protected Area
MoC	Memoranda of Cooperation
NACRI	Netherlands Antilles Coral Reef Initiative
NCA	Western Hemisphere Migratory Species Initiative
NOAA	National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
NPA	National Programme of Action
OECS	Organization of Eastern Caribbean States
OECS-ESDU	OECS – Environment and Sustainable Development Unit
PAHO	Pan American Health Organization
PDF	Project Development Fund
RAC	Regional Activity Centre
Ramsar	Convention on Wetlands
RAN	Regional Activity Network
ROLAC	Regional Office for Latin America and the Caribbean
SIDA	Swedish International Development Agency
SIDS-POA	Small Islands Developing States-Programme of Action
SPAW	Specially Protected Areas and Wildlife

STRAPs	Support existing National Recovery Plans
TOI	Tour Operators Initiative
TNC	The Nature Conservancy
ToT	Training of Trainers Programme
UNDP	United Nations Development Programme
UNEP-DTIE	UNEP-Department of Technology, Industry & Economics
UNF	United Nations Foundation
UWI-NRMP	University of the West Indies-Natural Resources Management Programme
WCPA	World Commission on Protected Areas
WDCS	Whale and Dolphin Conservation Society
WECAFC	Western Central Atlantic Fishery Commission
WHC	World Heritage Convention
WHMSI	Western Hemisphere Migratory Species Initiative
WIDECAST	Wider Caribbean Sea Turtle Conservation Network
WRI	World Resources Institute
WW2BW	White Water to Blue Water Initiative
WWF	World Wildlife Fund

I. INTRODUCTION

1. This workplan covers the biennium 2008-2009 and presents activities to implement the Convention for the Protection and Development of the Marine Environment of the Wider Caribbean Region (Cartagena Convention) and its protocols and the Action Plan of the Caribbean Environment Programme (CEP).
2. During the 2008-2009 biennium, CEP will continue to coordinate with relevant global initiatives, such as the Global Programme of Action for the Protection of the Marine Environment from Land-based Activities (GPA) and related multilateral environmental agreements, such as the BASEL Convention for the Control of the Transboundary Movement of Hazardous Wastes, the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES), the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD), the Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals (CMS), the Ramsar Convention on wetlands and the World Heritage Convention of UNESCO (WHS). This workplan also reflects the close coordination with other agencies of the United Nations such as the International Atomic & Energy Agency (IAEA) International Oceanographic Commission (IOC) and its IOCaribe Secretariat, the International Maritime Organization (IMO), Pan American Health Organization (PAHO), development agencies and other Regional and International Organisations.
3. The secretariat prepared this document with inputs received during working group meetings convened since the Twelfth Intergovernmental Meeting, recommendations of the Fourth Meeting of the Scientific and Technical Advisory Committee of the SPAW Protocol, decisions of the Fourth Meeting of the Contracting Parties to the SPAW Protocol, recommendations of the Fourth Meeting of the Interim Scientific and Technical Committee of the LBS Protocol. The outcomes of relevant global or regional initiatives and previous and ongoing project activities were also taken into account.
4. For the 2008/2009 biennium the CEP will seek to enhance its programmatic strategic options by:
 - a) Working with other Regional Seas programmes with similar Action Plans
 - b) Integrating national and regional marine plans into sub-programmes
 - c) Integrating national and regional socio-economic development plans that include coastal and marine components into sub-programme strategies
 - d) Working to improve and include global and regional monitoring and surveillance plans and programmes into the CEP, including work programmes and agendas for global action plans such as the: Millennium Development Goals (2000), Johannesburg Programme of Implementation (2002), Mauritius Strategy and Declaration (2005), Decisions of the UNEP Governing Council (2008), Convention on Biological Diversity (2005), Regional Seas Strategic Directions (2008-2010), and BALI Strategic Plan for Technology Support and Capacity Building (2004), UNEP Proposed Medium-Term Strategy (2010-2013).
 - e) Working both externally and internally to improve coordination mechanisms within and between sub-programmes.

II. OVERALL COORDINATION AND COMMON COSTS

A. Background

5. CEP was established to provide a mechanism whereby the diverse States and Territories of the Wider Caribbean Region could collectively address the protection and development of their marine and coastal resources as the basis for the region's continued economic development. The achievement of this goal is dependent upon the incorporation of the principles of mutual technical assistance; the development and strengthening of regional and national, institutional and legislative frameworks; the standardization of approaches and methodologies; the encouragement of appropriate research; the joint management of shared resources, and the exchange of relevant information, among others. To provide cohesiveness to the various components of the Programme, and to minimize duplication of effort and wastage of resources, the overall coordination of the Programme's components is centralized and undertaken by the Caribbean Regional Coordinating Unit (CAR/RCU) in Kingston.
6. The CAR/RCU is the secretariat of CEP and is responsible for the coordination and implementation of the Programme. The CAR/RCU carries out the programmatic, administrative, financial, and personnel functions related to the administration of the Action Plan and the Cartagena Convention and its protocols. CAR/RCU operates under the authority of UNEP headquarters through the Division of Environmental Policy and Implementation (DEPI), in cooperation with the UNEP Regional Office for Latin America and the Caribbean (ROLAC) and the Governments of the region through an Intergovernmental and Contracting Parties body and a Monitoring Committee.

B. Objectives

7. The objectives of CEP, through this workplan, are to:
 - a) Provide a consolidated legislative, institutional, and programmatic framework for cooperation among member countries and organizations concerned with the management of marine and coastal resources in the Wider Caribbean Region;
 - b) Provide effective coordination for the implementation of the various components of CEP;
 - c) Convene such meetings as required by the Cartagena Convention and its protocols, to facilitate the implementation of the Programme within the appropriate legislative and technical authority.

C. Caribbean Environment Programme coordination

8. The basic secretariat support of CEP rests on the core staff and operational budget. All staff requirements (salaries and related expenses), office supplies and materials, equipment, intergovernmental meetings, travel, and miscellaneous items are included in the overall coordination and common costs workplan and budget. Single activities and projects appear under the workplans of the subprogrammes.

1. Personnel, Finance and Office Administration

9. During the last biennium, the Secretariat has been successful in soliciting project funds in cash as well as in-kind contributions to host major meeting which helped improve the financial position of the CEP. Besides, it has been encouraging that a number of countries and territories with arrears contributed to the Caribbean Trust Fund (CTF), some for the first time. Nevertheless, compared to the required budget for the overall coordination and common costs component, the total annual income remains far below the optimal level. In 2008-2009, CEP continues to be supplemented by the personnel and the administrative costs of major projects such as GEF. It is utmost importance that the income in 2008-2009 to the CTF will be increased at a pace with the increase in the costs in overall coordination over the last decades.
10. During 2006-2007, most of the vacant posts of CEP including of some project posts had been filled and it is expected that in 2008-2009 the Secretariat will be functioning at its maximum operational capacity. The two G5 Administrative Assistant posts for the GEF Pesticide project and the GEF IWCAM project are expected to be filled during the first quarter of 2008. The selection of the G5 Finance Assistant for the Secretariat is expected to be completed within the latter half of 2008. In addition, some temporary posts at support level will be opened to supplement the fixed-term posts to be able to deliver increased level of activities both for the CEP sub-programmes as well as for the projects financed with external resources. Yet CEP continues to be severely understaffed at Professional level and the situation will be exacerbated if the three temporary posts, i.e. CETA Officer, AMEP Assistant Programme Officer, and AMEP Junior Professional Officer, will be discontinued upon exhaustion of available project funding at the beginning of 2009. The Secretariat continues to explore any opportunities available to obtain additional human resources to the CEP such as through the Junior Professional Officers programmes, assignment of experts from international developmental/environmental organizations, internship, etc. and to solicit in-kind contributions from member governments, other international, regional and national organizations, as well as from CEP's Regional Activity Centers (RACs).
11. During the 2008-2009, CEP will focus on mobilizing funds by submitting project proposals to the donors. At the same time it will further make efforts to implement cost-cutting measures as well as to maximize the use of human resources. In 2007, one of the two office vehicle has been sold to save its maintenance costs including the insurance premium. More and more information is published on the web instead of being printed as hardcopy publication. In order to maximize the existing human resources, staff have been trained to be multi-tasked, work-sharing is implemented within the pool of Secretaries to even out the workload at a peak time, new equipment with improved performance such as computers and scanner were installed to minimize the time spent on using these equipment by the staff. Similar efforts will be expected to be made in 2008-2009.
12. Further, the Secretariat has been actively seeking to rationalize the mechanism to improve its financial situation. It has pointed out that decisions on various proposals for financial rules of the CEP had been repeatedly deferred to subsequent IGMs since 1994. As a matter of urgency the Secretariat has been calling for the need to adopt financial rules concerning; legal justification for issuing invoices, due to the fact that some member countries lacked a legal base to pay contributions and no disbursement from the Caribbean Trust Fund (CTF) could be authorized unless funds were received, and this could jeopardize contracts, projects and other commitments.
13. The Secretariat has also called for a simplification of certain financial rules including the need to combine the financial mechanism for the Convention versus the Action Plan. It has also recommended that no financial mechanism is needed for meetings and conferences, since this was rendered ineffective due to the nature of voluntary contributions. More recommendations can be found in the document presented at the 10th, 11th and 12th IGMs, *Proposed Financial Rules For the*

Cartagena Convention, and the Caribbean Environment Programme, and the Terms of Reference for the Caribbean Trust Fund. Terms of Reference for the CTF are also clearly outlined.

2. Key concerns of the overall coordination and common costs workplan and budget

14. To be added The budget for overall coordination and common costs presented herewith is dependent on:
 - a) The full participation of all CEP member countries in making ordinary contributions to the Caribbean Trust Fund in accordance with the proposed level of contributions.
 - b) The capacity of the secretariat to attract extraordinary contributions. 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.

3. Meetings of the Caribbean Environment Programme

15. Several meetings of CEP are held on an annual or biennial basis. These meetings are necessary for monitoring project implementation, efficient functioning of the Programme, and for administrative purposes of the secretariat. The following meetings are to be convened during the biennium 2008-2009.

(a) Fifth Meeting of the Contracting Parties (COP) to the SPAW Protocol

16. The Fifth Meeting of the Contracting Parties to SPAW will be held in the last quarter of 2008, just prior to the Thirteenth Intergovernmental Meeting on the Action Plan for the Caribbean Environment Programme and Tenth Meeting of the Contracting Parties to the Convention for the Protection and Development of the Marine Environment of the Wider Caribbean Region.

(b) Thirteenth Intergovernmental Meeting on the Action Plan for the Caribbean Environment Programme and Tenth Meeting of the Contracting Parties to the Convention for the Protection and Development of the Marine Environment of the Wider Caribbean Region

17. The joint Intergovernmental and Contracting Party Meetings are convened every two years to provide overall authority to CEP, review progress of the Programme, oversee financial and institutional arrangements, and decide on the biennial workplan and budget of CEP. The next meeting is scheduled to take place during the last quarter of 2008. (c) Fifth Meeting of the Scientific and Technical Advisory Committee to the SPAW Protocol
18. The Fifth Meeting of the SPAW/STAC will be convened in third quarter of 2009 to further the development and implementation of the SPAW Protocol, as well as to develop a workplan and budget for the biennium 2010-2011.

(d) Fifth Interim Scientific, Technical and Advisory Committee Meeting of the LBS Protocol

19. The Fifth Meeting of the LBS/ISTAC will be convened in second quarter of 2009 to further the development and implementation of the LBS Protocol, as well as to develop a workplan and budget for the biennium 2010-2011.

D. Overall coordination and common costs

20. Overall coordination and common costs are set out in Annex I, page 2 of the present report.

III. SUBPROGRAMME WORKPLAN

A. Assessment and Management of Environment Pollution

1. Background

21. This workplan and budget covers ongoing activities and those to be developed under the Assessment and Management of Environmental Pollution (AMEP) sub-programme of UNEP's Caribbean Environment Programme (CEP) for the 2008-2009 biennium. This is in support of the Protocol to the Convention for the Protection and Development of the Marine Environment of the Wider Caribbean Region (Cartagena Convention) Concerning Pollution from Land-based Sources and Activities (LBS Protocol).
22. The goal of AMEP is to assist countries in the Wider Caribbean to control, prevent and reduce pollution of their coastal and marine environments thereby enabling them to meet their obligations under the Land Based Sources of Marine Pollution and Oil Spills Protocols of the Cartagena Convention.
23. The strategic objectives of AMEP are to:
 - a) Promote ratification of, accession to, and implementation of the LBS and Oil Spills Protocols;
 - b) Enhance coordination, collaboration, cooperation, and communication with regional and international organizations in project development and implementation
24. This workplan and budget is presented to the Thirteenth Intergovernmental Meeting on the Action Plan for the Caribbean Environment Programme and Tenth Meeting of the Contracting Parties to the Convention for the Protection and Development of the Marine Environment of the Wider Caribbean Region (13th IGM), for approval. This follows its review and endorsement by the Fourth Meeting of the Interim Scientific Technical and Advisory Committee of the Protocol to the Cartagena Convention Concerning Pollution from Land-based Sources and Activities (LBS/ISTAC) held in Petén, Guatemala in October, 2007.
25. As a subprogramme of the CEP, the AMEP workplan and budget is developed for a two-year period. The following projects and activities are designed to meet the objectives of the LBS and Oil Spills Protocols, support their continued development, and assist countries in overcoming barriers to ratification, accession and/or implementation. Many of the projects presented below are ongoing from the 2006-2007 biennium. This is largely due to the significant AMEP workplan that was approved at the 12th IGM and the projected continuing workload for these projects. In addition, the work plans of the two Regional Activity Centres (RACs) have been incorporated into this proposed workplan.

2. Projects and activities

a) Programme coordination

Objectives

26. The objectives of the AMEP/LBS programme for the 2008/2009 biennium will primarily support two of the UNEP Sub Programme areas: Ecosystem Management and Harmful Substances and Hazardous Wastes.

<i>Ecosystem Management</i>	
Objectives	Indicators of Achievement
To facilitate increased ratification and implementation of the LBS and Oil Spills Protocols through improved knowledge and awareness of the related issues;	Increased number of ratifications of the LBS and Oil Spills Protocols; Increased use of CEP web site as a clearing House for Information; Increased availability and accessibility of information, promotional and awareness material; Increased partnerships and networks for sharing of lessons learnt, experiences and best practices;
To strengthen national and regional capacity to utilize ecosystem management tools and data on pollution hotspots for improved decision making.	Increased number of countries able to identify current state and changes in ecosystem services through integrated monitoring and assessment; Increased scientific information on regional and national pollution hotspots in the wider Caribbean; Improved national and regional laboratory capacities for monitoring and (analysis) assessment;
To strengthen capacity of countries to realign their environmental policies, legislation, programmes and financing to address degradation of selected priority ecosystem services.	Identification of innovative financial mechanisms; Institutional, policy and legislative reforms

<i>Harmful substances and Hazardous Wastes</i>	
Objectives	Indicators of Achievement
To increase capacities and financing of States and other stakeholders to assess, manage and reduce risks to human health and the environment from solid and liquid wastes, chemicals and other hazardous waste.	Increased number of countries and stakeholders demonstrating progress in implementing sound management of solid and liquid waste including but not limited to marine litter, sewage, chemicals and hazardous waste.
To provide policy and technical advice to States and other stakeholders for improving waste management including the use of improved technology and best management practices	Increased number of governments and other stakeholders applying UNEP guidelines and tools to provide scientific and policy advice on assessment, management, replacement of hazardous chemicals and integrated waste management
To reduce total pollutant loadings to the coastal and marine environment of the Wider Caribbean Region	Reduction in pollutant loading to the coastal and marine environment of the Wider Caribbean Region from land and marine based sources. Improvements in coastal and marine water quality.

Activities

27. The AMEP Programme Officer will continue to be responsible for coordination and supervision of the implementation of the programme activities for the next biennium. The Programme Officer for

the CETA subprogramme will provide assistance in public awareness and information management and the Coordinator of CAR/RCU will continue to play a supporting role in promoting ratification and implementation of the Cartagena Convention and its Protocols. The Directors of the LBS and Oil Spills RACs and the Regional Project Managers for the GEF Projects will provide additional programming and technical support. Additional technical support in Information Systems and GIS will be provided by the Sida sponsored Junior Programme Officer (JPO) based at RAC CIMAB in Cuba during 2008.

28. Funds from the two GEF projects will be used to support the AMEP Programme Assistant for 2008. Efforts will be made to identify additional funds that will allow this support to be continued into 2009.
29. The LBS Protocol will continue to serve as the regional instrument for the implementation of the Global Programme of Action (GPA) in the Caribbean. Coordination with other relevant regional and global programmes, organizations, and initiatives will be further promoted. Fund-raising efforts for the programme will continue in coordination with the Coordinator of CAR/RCU, Governments, donors and partner organizations. Efforts will also focus on strengthening coordination of activities between RACs and promote exchanges and collaboration with RACs developed under other Regional Seas Programmes such as the Mediterranean Action Plan and Barcelona Convention.
30. The Secretariat will convene the Fifth Meeting of the LBS/ISTAC where the AMEP Programme Officer will present the AMEP/LBS workplan and budget for the biennium 2010-2011, in keeping with the objectives of the LBS and Oil Spills Protocols.
31. The following provides a summary of new and ongoing projects for the 2008-2009 biennium.

Ongoing Projects

Projects funded by the Global Environmental Facility (GEF)

b) Reducing Pesticide Run-off to the Caribbean Sea (GEF)

Introduction

32. During the next biennium, activities under the various project components will enter full implementation.

Activities

33. The activities for the project will centre around four main components with various subcomponents:

Component 1 - Project Coordination

34. UNEP-CAR/RCU will continue assisting the participating countries in developing the necessary mechanisms needed for strengthening and maintaining stakeholder participation and networking. Nevertheless, the national authorities will carry out the substantive portion of the activities at the national level, thereby intensifying capacity and sustainability.
35. The regional coordinating mechanisms will be maintained, and advisory panels will be established as quickly as possible. An Administrative Assistant will join the Regional Project Coordination Unit at the beginning of 2008. Besides frequent e-mail and telephone contact, two monitoring missions will be undertaken by the Project Coordinator to the participating countries and a Project

Steering Committee meeting will be held at least once per year to guide the activities and to approve workplans.

36. At the national level, activities will take place to strengthen and maintain successful networking and to ensure optimal stakeholder participation. The National Committees will meet regularly and work actively on the development of workplans for the demo projects. Based on the limitations identified during the first year of the project, activities in the second year will seek to strengthen national coordination, supporting the National Project Coordination units with Technical-Administrative Assistants. It is expected that by so doing, national committees will become more dynamic and the process of initiating activities will be energized.

Component 2 - Validation and implementation of Good Agricultural Practices

37. Four demonstration projects will be implemented in each of the three project countries and will focus on improving agricultural practices on different crops, farm types (subsistence, low intensity and high intensity) or examining other useful contrasting conditions (e.g. soil types).
38. The crops and regions towards which the demo projects will be targeted in Nicaragua will be selected early 2008. During the same period, the three countries will select the appropriate alliances (private sector – Agricultural R&D Institutes) to implement the demo projects. By the end of the first semester of 2008, MOUs will have been developed with the implementing agencies. Next, pilot farms will be selected and training of the participants in GAP/BMP (including integrated pest management, integrated waste management) will take place. Training will also be provided in monitoring and assessment to establish a baseline and for site evaluation. The demo projects will be implemented over a two-year period from the second quarter of 2008 onwards. The demonstration farms will be monitored for agronomic, socio-economic and environmental impacts, including but not limited to crop yields, worker safety, pesticide runoff and cost of production compared to control farms. From 2009 a train-the-trainer and a farmer-training programme will be designed. The programme will be implemented as part of the demo projects in the second quarter of 2009. Short progress reports will be submitted to UNEP-CAR/RCU on a quarterly basis and more comprehensive reports will be done annually.

Component 3 - Monitoring Pesticides Use and Runoff

39. The coastal monitoring programme will monitor and assess the status of pesticides runoff into rivers and the Caribbean Sea. The required regional protocols will be developed during the first quarter of 2008. A technical training course on the sampling and analysis of various pesticides and their derivatives in the coastal and marine environment will be organized in the second quarter of 2008. MOUs will also be developed with the implementing agencies by the end of the first quarter of 2008. As part of the monitoring programme, and depending on the diagnoses of the actual infrastructure and capacity, support will be given to local laboratories to increase the capacity for monitoring pesticide runoff.
40. By the end of 2008, the coastal monitoring programme will have been put in place. An assessment (1 sampling) will be done of the presence of pesticides in the marine zone, while coastal areas and watersheds pesticides will be monitored twice a year. Additionally, support will be given to the development of research projects that study the interaction of pesticides with the marine and coastal environment. Short quarterly progress reports will be combined with more extensive annual technical reports. It is expected that by the second quarter of 2009, a data GIS-IMS database will be functional, providing statistics on pesticide runoff.
41. During the first semester of 2008, statistics on pesticides consumption (production, import, export) from 2004 to 2006 will be compiled and published on the project's website. An update will be

produced early 2009. Other relevant information, such as statistics on the use of pesticides for public health or data on the illegal use of pesticides will also be included where available.

Component 4 - Capacity-Strengthening for Reducing Pesticide Runoff

42. The study of legal frameworks will include the analysis of possible incentives for reducing pesticide runoff and the analysis of mechanisms to follow-up the implementation of regulatory frameworks. The activity will start in the second semester of 2009 and will be carried out by specialized legal officers of the Ministries of Environment, Agriculture and Health, combined with external consultants.
43. As part of the information dissemination strategy, the project web page will be regularly updated with status reports on pesticide use in the participating countries, news and results concerning the demo projects, and with the training resources that will be developed as part of the training programme. By the end of 2009, awareness and education materials will be published.

c) Integrating Management of Watersheds and Coastal Areas in Small Island States in the Caribbean (GEF IWCAM)

Introduction

44. During the next biennium, activities under the various project components will enter full implementation.

Activities

45. The main activities to be undertaken under each of the Project Components include:

Component 1 – Demonstration, Capture and Transfer of Best Practices

46. UNEP-CAR/RCU, CEHI and the PCU will continue to assist the national GEF-IWCAM demonstration focal points and their National Project Management Units (NPMU), in managing and reporting on Demo project implementation during the next biennium. A number of countries did not develop demonstration projects and efforts will be made to support these countries in additional areas.
47. The capture of lessons and best practices will be an on-going process, involving desk research and exchange of experiences with other relevant projects and regions. During 2008/2009, interaction with projects, such as the Caribbean Large Marine Ecosystem (CLME) project being implemented by CERMES, and the OECS Protected Areas and Associated Livelihoods (OPAAL) project being implemented by the OECS Environment & Sustainable Development Unit, will be facilitated. Interaction with the South Pacific SIDS, through the Pacific GEF Sustainable Integrated Water Resources and Wastewater Management Project will also take place.
48. A project database will be refined during 2008 and will be a building block for the regional Project Information Management System (PIMS). Components will include a database on GEF-IWCAM contacts and relevant on-going and completed projects. The database will be linked with other relevant databases in order to achieve synergies. It is expected to also be the node for the storage of indicator-related information.

Component 2 – Development of IWCAM Process, Stress Reduction and Environmental Status Indicators Framework

49. Based on the review of the existing indicator mechanisms in the region for the three sets of indicators used in monitoring and evaluating GEF International Waters Projects – Process, Stress Reduction and Environmental Status indicators, the development and dissemination of indicator templates will continue in 2008.
50. Hotspot diagnostic analyses (HSDA) will be conducted with emphasis on the non-demo countries, including identification of priority water-related issues/problems, immediate and root causes and required reforms. Based on the analyses, follow-up activities will be identified. The HSDA will be guided by UNEP CAR/RCU.
51. The development and establishment of a monitoring system for indicators will continue in 2008. Additional training of stakeholders in the application of relevant indicators will take place building on training conducted in 2007. The establishment of a pilot monitoring system using the indicator templates will begin in 2008 in coordination with other CEP activities such as the Know Why Network Partnership Project.

Component 3 – Policy, Legislation and Institutional Reforms

52. Following the review of the national policies and institutional structures related to integrated watershed and coastal area management in 2007, support will be provided for required reforms during the 2008/2009 biennium. The regional programme for amendment of national legislation and policy and improvement of institutional arrangements will be initiated in 2008. Additional activities will include the development of incentives for the ratification of relevant MEAs including the LBS Protocol.
53. Efforts will continue to assist countries in achieving the World Summit on Sustainable Development (WSSD) Directive on IWRM plans and strategies and specifically on developing “Integrated Water Resources Management and Water Efficiency Plans by 2005”.

Component 4 – Regional and National Capacity Building and Sustainability

54. In 2008, national and regional efforts will continue to raise awareness of GEF-IWCAM, both as a project and as an approach. Bulletins, brochures, leaflets, videos and other appropriate information products will be made available to various publics. Bulletins will be prepared eight times per year for electronic distribution, and translated into Spanish. A newsletter will be prepared on a quarterly basis, in both electronic and hard copy. The bulletins and newsletters will also be placed on the project website (www.iwcam.org). These promotional efforts will be consolidated through a regional Communications Strategy for the Project and a broader Communications Strategy for UNEP CAR/RCU.
55. Capacity building will focus at both the national and regional levels. During the next biennium, capacity building for monitoring of the environment, particularly water quality will be the main priority. Training in environmental monitoring and data handling will be conducted for the demo sites and for laboratory personnel in PCs, based on the findings of local needs assessments. The project will also support laboratory development at the national and regional levels. The reference capability of the accredited laboratory within CEHI will be strengthened as well as that of other regional laboratories in PCs.
56. In order to establish the Clearing House, which will be housed within CEHI, a review of all projects of relevance took place during 2007. The findings of the review will form the baseline data

for the Clearing House. The Clearing House will be managed by CEHI, with direct support provided by the Communications, Networking, and Information Specialist within the PCU and in coordination with the CETA Sub-Programme at UNEP CAR/RCU. The Clearing House will form part of the Project Information Management System (PIMS) and will be part of the evolution of the website.

Component 5 - Project Management and Coordination

57. At least one Annual Regional Project Steering Committee (PSC) meeting will be convened. The Regional PSC meetings will focus on reviewing the Annual Work Plans and budgets, and updating the participating countries on the status of national project implementation. The IA/EA Management Group will meet formally, just prior to the Regional PSC meeting.
58. Technical support will be provided to the project through the Regional Technical Advisory Group (RTAG). RTAG meetings will take place prior to the Regional PSC Meetings. The RTAG may review the reports of consultants, endorse selection of pilot countries for testing of the Indicator Mechanism, advise on clearing house functions and IWRM Planning, review/endorse HSDA and the criteria for Hot Spot designation, and endorse lessons learned from the demos. Informal Working Groups, focussing on key technical areas such as GIS, Indicators and Legislation will be utilized as necessary to support the work of the RTAG and the PCU.
59. The demo projects will report on a quarterly basis to the Project Coordinating Unit at CEHI. CEHI, CAR/RCU and UNOPS will also report on a quarterly basis with CAR/RCU to coordinate information flow to UNEP and UNDP. The PCU will prepared detailed half-yearly Status Reports as well. Additionally, a Project Implementation Report (PIR) will be completed and submitted to GEF. As lead IA, UNEP will coordinate the submission of this report with the Project Coordinating Unit, and with support, as required, from UNDP, CEHI, CAR/RCU and UNOPS.

d) Training for Rehabilitation of Contaminated Bays (GEF)

Introduction

60. This regional project is scheduled to end during the next biennium with the completion of the UNDP component of the project- the construction of a wastewater treatment plant in Cuba. The focus for UNEP CAR/RCU will be the identification of appropriate follow up actions, regional baselines studies and a terminal regional workshop for sharing of lessons learnt and best practices.

Activities

61. The main activities to be undertaken include:
 - Identification and conduct of appropriate regional baseline studies for wastewater management in the Wider Caribbean in 2008 to inform any additional projects and interventions for the region.
 - Convening of a terminal regional workshop in 2009 following the completion of the construction of the wastewater treatment plant in Cuba.

Environmental Assessment and Monitoring

e) Assessment of Pollutant Loads and Sources in the Wider Caribbean Region

Introduction

62. This activity represents the continuation of the activities carried out in previous years for updating CEP Technical Report No. 33 and improving the management of pollution data and information by the Secretariat.

Activities

63. The main activities to be undertaken include:
- Production and Dissemination of CEP Technical Report # 33 (TR 33): The Secretariat will work along with the LBS RACs to finalize the TR 33 following submission of the draft report to the Thirteenth Intergovernmental Meeting on the Action Plan for the Caribbean Environment Programme and Tenth Meeting of the Contracting Parties to the Convention for the Protection and Development of the Marine Environment of the Wider Caribbean Region (13th IGM). Once approved, the report will be formally published and disseminated.
 - Development of Pollution Databases: The data obtained from TR 33 and other AMEP projects such as the Know Why Network Partnership Project, the GEF Pesticides Project, and the GEF IWCAM Project will be compiled into an appropriate pollution database by the Secretariat. This will be linked to existing clearing houses with pollution data for the Wider Caribbean Region.
 - Production of Pollution Fact Sheets: In order to improve the dissemination and update of pollution data and information, the Secretariat in collaboration with the LBS RACs proposes the development of a CEP Fact Sheet Series relating to the state of the marine environment of the Wider Caribbean.

f) Regional Network in Marine Science and Technology for the Caribbean: The Know-why Network (KWN)

Introduction

64. The implementation of this project, which began during the 2006/2007 biennium was delayed due to several factors. This included difficulties in obtaining national pollutant inventory data for the update of CEP TR 33 and administrative changes in LBS RAC IMA. However, this delay has allowed the Secretariat to benefit from information gathered from other assessments and baseline studies conducted under related AMEP Projects. Activities for the 2008/2009 biennium can now be designed more effectively to support the needs of the LBS RACs and the member Governments in the areas of pollution monitoring and assessment, laboratory capacity building and GIS strengthening. This project will also form the major framework for cooperation between IAEA and UNEP CAR/RCU following the signing of an MOU between the two agencies in 2006.

65. The following represent the remaining activities to be carried out under the Know Why Partnership Project during 2008. These will be carried out primarily through the work of the two LBS RACs at CIMAB and IMA and with support from INVEMAR and Universidad de Oriente in Venezuela.
66. The two core thematic areas which the project will focus on during 2008 will be:
 - Identification and Monitoring of Regional Hot Spots; and
 - Development and testing of Methodological Guidelines for Classification of Recreational Waters according to the LBS Protocol;
67. The two cross-cutting themes that have been supported by earlier activities under Know Why Network (a) Application of GIS and Information Technology and (b) Increasing awareness of the LBS Protocol and work of the LBS Regional Activity Centres will continue as integral themes within the proposed activities.

Activities

68. The main activities to be undertaken in 2008 include:
 - Development of Selection Criteria for Regional Pollution Hotspots in the Wider Caribbean. This will be done by LBS RACs (CIMAB and IMA) and INVEMAR in coordination with UNEP CAR/RCU and IOCARIBE; The development of the criteria will be followed by the selection of hot spots. This selection will be informed by information provided to update TR 33 report and information generated from the UNDP Large Marine Ecosystem Projects;
 - Finalization of the Methodology for Hot Spot Monitoring. Input will be provided by IAEA, and the GEF -IWCAM and Reducing Pesticides Regional Project Managers. Work done by the World Resources Institute (WRI) and information from previous hot spot diagnostic assessments in the region will also be considered in the final selection of the appropriate methodology.
 - Development of Monitoring Programmes for selected regional “hot spots” in collaboration with IAEA, GEF IWCAM and GEF Pesticide Projects; this will include identification of selected water quality parameters (physical, chemical and microbiological) and mechanisms to ensure the quality of data generated.
 - Identification of the most appropriate procedure for data analysis, interpretation and reporting.
 - Initiation of the Monitoring Programmes at “Regional Hot Spots”. Consideration will be given to conducting a continuous monitoring programme (6-8 months), a rapid monthly assessment at 2-3 different periods of the year, or two separate periods of continuous monitoring (2-3 months). Monitoring Programmes will commence no later than March 2008.
 - Development of guidelines for marine waters classification based on Protocol parameters, into Class I and Class II, according to the LBS Protocol. These guidelines will consider recommendations and approaches used in the sewage needs assessment case studies for marine waters classification and the initial results of the Hot Spot Diagnostic Analysis.
 - Compilation of all monitoring data from the “Regional Hot Spots” to contribute to the establishment of a preliminary environmental baseline. This will be supplemented with data from similar activities implemented under the UNEP CAR/RCU GEF IWCAM and Reducing Pesticides Projects and the work of IAEA;

- Analysis of monitoring data to determine possible major polluting inputs and main causes of pollution of the coastal and marine environment. This will be cross referenced with information provided in the updated Technical Report 33;
- Regional Technical Meeting of agencies responsible for monitoring to review data received, assess preliminary results and make any modifications to the monitoring protocol.
- Regional Training Workshop on the application of the methodological guidelines for marine waters classification, in Class I and Class II; Presentation and Discussion of the preliminary results of the Hot Spot Diagnosis will also be made;
- Preparation, review and approval of Final Report.

g) Capability Development for application of Geographic Information Systems

Introduction

69. The Secretariat has recognized the importance of building up the capacity of the LBS RACs in the use and application of GIS and other spatial decision making tools. Now that this capacity has been built, future focus will be on the use of this improved capacity in adding value to ongoing and new AMEP projects and activities. The Secretariat will also facilitate national and regional capacity building for using GIS to improve environmental decision-making processes. The Sida supported JPO based at RAC CIMAB will provide technical support in this regard.

Activities

70. The main activities to be undertaken include:
- Acquisition of additional hardware and software;
 - Installation of upgraded systems;
 - Identification of Regional and International training opportunities; and
 - Development of GIS based information products for the AMEP sub-programme including an interactive atlas

Sewage and Wastewater Management (Annex III)

h) Sewerage Needs Assessments

Introduction

71. The management of wastewater continues to be a high priority for the countries of the Wider Caribbean Region. The next biennium will see the completion of two national pilot studies on sewage needs assessment in Tobago and Panama. Activities will focus on production of case studies, exchanging of experiences and sourcing of funding for additional pilots.
72. The Secretariat, in collaboration with other UNEP offices will continue its efforts to develop a Caribbean Revolving Fund for Wastewater Management (CreW). It will assist UNEP GPA in the delivery of wastewater management training courses throughout the Wider Caribbean region.

Additional technical support for this training will be provided by the Caribbean Environmental Health Institute (CEHI) and the Pan American Health Organization (PAHO).

Activities

73. The main activities to be undertaken include:
- Completion of pilot projects in Panama and Tobago according to agreed work plans;
 - Preparation and dissemination of case studies from all pilots – Saint Lucia, Panama and Tobago;
 - Mobilization of funding for additional pilot projects; and
 - Development of a GEF proposal for Caribbean Revolving Fund for Wastewater Management

Integrated Watershed Management (Annex IV)

i) Best Management Practices for Agriculture – Small Grants Programme

Introduction

74. As a result of the success of the first AMEP Small Grants Programme for Best Management Practices for Agriculture implemented by Earth University, the Secretariat has mobilized funds from Sida for an additional pilot in Guatemala. Efforts will focus on sharing of the lessons learnt and best practices among the beneficiaries. Linkages will also be established with the Demo Projects for the GEF Reducing Pesticides Project in Colombia, Costa Rica and Nicaragua. Similar pilot projects are being coordinated by WWF as a follow up to the now concluded ICRAN MAR Project. Depending on the availability of funds, the Secretariat will convene a regional workshop to facilitate the sharing of experiences from these projects and will seek additional funds to expand the Small Grants Programme to other countries in the Wider Caribbean Region.

Activities

75. The main activities to be undertaken include:
- Implementation of Pilot project in Guatemala;
 - Translation and Dissemination of all case studies;
 - Identification funding sources to expand Small Grants Programme to other countries;
 - Regional Workshop to support sharing of experiences

Integrated Waste Management

j) Marine Litter Management

Introduction

76. The Secretariat developed a Draft Regional Action Plan for Marine Litter Management for the Caribbean region during the last biennium. Development of this Plan involved a host of international, regional and national experts involved in marine litter marine litter management and

other related conservation issues in the Caribbean Region. These experts included government representatives associated with coastal zone management, environmental protection, fisheries, tourism, solid waste management, and regional and national conservation NGOs that manage marine litter programmes and activities including annual beach cleanups. With the momentum and interest that has been generated in marine litter management in the Caribbean, UNEP CAR/RCU proposes to further assist Caribbean countries in the phased implementation of the Draft Regional Action Plan for Marine Litter Management through a series of pilot projects for which external funding has been sought.

Activities

77. The main activities to be undertaken include:

- Implementation of regional pilot project in 3 SIDS on policy reform, monitoring and assessment, and education and awareness;
- Support to the hosting of the Annual General Meeting of the International Coastal Clean Up by the Ocean Conservancy in April 2008 in Jamaica;
- Development of a web-based interactive database on marine litter as part of the enhancements to the CEP web site.
- Identification of additional financial resources to facilitate implementation of the regional action plan in selected countries.

k) National Programmes of Action (NPAs)

Introduction

78. To reverse the decline in coastal and marine environments from pollution and degradation from land, the 1995 Global Programme of Action for the Protection of the Marine Environment from Land-based Activities (GPA) calls on Governments to develop National Programmes of Action for the protection of the marine environment from land-based activities (NPAs). These NPAs incorporate dynamic and iterative processes that institutionalize the phased implementation of priority activities within a cross-sectoral, participatory framework. The main purpose of an NPA is to develop concrete projects that mobilize both stakeholders and resources, and thus needs to be mainstreamed into relevant budgetary, policy and planning frameworks.

79. UNEP-CAR/RCU and UNEP/GPA will continue to build national capacity to develop and/or implement National Programmes of Action for the protection of the marine environment from land-based activities (NPAs) in the Wider Caribbean Region. The focus will be to strengthen the long-term sustainability of the NPAs through strategic planning, prioritisation, sustainable financing (mainly through domestic resource mobilisation and effective leveraging of international sources), and identify and tackle legislative, institutional and capacity constraints to implementation.

Activities

80. The main activities to be undertaken in collaboration with UNEP GPA and NOAA include:

- supporting the implementation of completed NPAs with a specific focus on strategic planning, priority setting and sustainable financing;
- assessing the willingness and capability of additional countries to develop an NPA;

- supporting willing countries with an initial assessment of ongoing or planned policies, expenditure, legislation and other activities that meet the objectives of the GPA;
- supporting the convening of initial stakeholder consultative meetings at the national level;
- promoting the development of full scale NPAs, including pilot projects, in selected countries;
- integrating pilot projects being developed under GEF funded projects among others within the policy framework of an NPA; and
- Convening two regional workshops for Spanish and English Speaking Countries respectively on strategic planning and sustainable financing of NPAs.

I) Promotion of the LBS Protocol

Introduction

81. The Secretariat will continue to place special emphasis on activities for the promotion of the LBS protocol at the national and regional levels during the 2008/2009 biennium. This will include reproducing existing promotional material, increasing the dissemination of material at national and regional levels, and developing new promotional material. Subject to funding availability, existing material will be translated in to French and all new material will be produced in English, Spanish and French. The Secretariat will continue to support national promotional workshops and will seek to identify funding to convene workshops in countries where they have not yet been held. As with previous national workshops, the LBS RACs will play a major supporting role to the LBS focal points in organizing these workshops and acting as facilitators and resource agencies.

Activities

82. The main activities to be undertaken include:
- Reproduction of existing promotional material including brochures and DVDs;
 - Translation of the LBS Promotional DVD and brochures into French;
 - Convening of national promotional workshops in remaining Spanish and English speaking countries with support from RAC CIMAB and RAC IMA;
 - Production of additional promotional material on the LBS protocol in English, Spanish and French by the Secretariat with support from the two LBS RACs; This will form part of CEP's Communication Strategy;
 - Strengthening of the UNEP CAR/RCU, LBS RACs and GEF Projects web sites to provide more technical information related to AMEP and its projects and activities; and
 - Publication of an AMEP media brief.

m) New Projects: Funding Secured

- **Regional Oil Spill Exercise and Caribbean Workshop to develop a regional cooperation mechanism for responding to oil spills – partners: ARPEL, CCA, Cedre, the IOPC, and ITOPF.**

A. Brief description of the project:

83. To evaluate, enhance and develop mechanisms for enhancing regional cooperation in oil spill response measures in the Caribbean Region.
84. This will provide the basis for:
 - Effective Dissemination of alerts ;
 - Facilitation and harmonization of communication and cooperation during oil spills;
 - Facilitation and strengthening of operational support within the Caribbean Islands (transboundary movement of equipment, definition of a regional oil spill equipment database.)
 - Establishing closer linkages with similar response mechanisms in the Central American Region.
85. The project will involve a regional oil spill simulation exercise between the French Antilles and the Netherlands Antilles to evaluate the Regional Caribbean Island OPRC Plan and to address the essential issue of communication during such an incident.
86. A regional workshop, for participants from the Caribbean islands will be convened to:
 - Present the regional status and share international examples of response mechanisms;
 - Exchange information on national oil spill response measures;
 - Define a range of potential communication mechanisms;
 - Agree on the next steps for the region with regard to regional oil spill response preparedness
87. Time will be allocated to follow the development of the oil spill simulation exercise.
88. The main partners, of this workshop and regional oil spill simulation exercise, are expected to be ARPEL (Regional Association of Oil and Natural Gas Companies in Latin America and the Caribbean), CCA (Clean Caribbean and Americas), Cedre (Centre of Documentation, Research, and Experimentation on Accidental Water Pollution), the IOPC (International Oil Compensation Fund), and ITOPF (International Tanker Owners Pollution Federation Limited).

B. Strategic goals(s) of the Project:

- Promote regional governments' participation in the process of oil spill response preparedness by addressing the issue of Regional Cooperation in case of oil spills.
- Facilitate communication in case of Oil spills
- Facilitate and promote operational support within the Caribbean Islands in case of oil spills
- Promote South-South Cooperation with Central American Countries

C. Problems/issues that the project addresses

89. Following the update of the Regional Caribbean OPRC Plans in 2006 and the development of a gaps analysis within the Caribbean Islands (Azure Seas Project, 2006) several key recommendations for follow up action were identified.
- The need to enhance the exchange of operational information and develop mechanisms for communication within the region.
 - International experience has shown that a good communication regime is an essential element for a successful and constructive response to oil spills, as well as a key element for regional/international support in case of such incidents.
90. The proposed project will address this communications deficiency through a workshop on the development of mechanisms for regional cooperation on operational oil spill response measure

D. Anticipated outcomes

91. The project's development objective, which is linked directly to REMPEITC-Carib's existing Strategic Plan, is to develop the first phase for regional cooperation among Caribbean countries in case of oil spills. A comprehensive approach to regional communication for oil spills with the countries, island States and Territories of the wider Caribbean should allow the identification of a range of possible communication mechanisms.
92. The long-term objectives of the project are to enhance and facilitate regional cooperation in case of oil spill incidents, by establishing a comprehensive communication regime.
93. The experience gained during the workshop will be used and applied to the CAOP project (project for the definition of the Central America OPRC Plan) which was supported by IMO, WW2BW, COCATRAM (supported by SIDA) and ARPEL (supported by CIDA) in 2006/2007

E. Proposed Recipient for Funds, and Proposed Vehicle for Obligating the Money

94. This project will require a US\$35,000 grant for supporting the attendance of 25 representatives from 15 Caribbean Islands and coordinate the organization of the workshop. Funds will be transferred to the Regional Activity Office/ Regional Marine Pollution Emergency, Information and Training Center (RAC/REMPEITC-Carib) in Curacao, Netherlands Antilles. This Center is operated under a memorandum of understanding between the International Maritime Organization, United Nations Environmental Program (Caribbean Environment Programme/ Regional Coordination Unit) and the Government of the Netherlands Antilles. Projects undertaken by the Center are implemented by Secondments (Senior Consultants) from the United States, France and Venezuela.

F. The Role and Resources that Partners will contribute to the Project

Partner	Role	Resources
RAC/REMPEITC-Carib	Overall Project Management	Human resources to oversee the project Administrative support for project administration
UNEP CAR/RCU	Technical support and coordination with relevant organizations	
IMO	Technical support and coordination with relevant regional activities	
ARPEL	Technical expertise and coordination support	
CCA	Technical expertise	
<i>Cedre</i>	Technical expertise and coordination support	
IOPC	Technical expertise	
ITOPF	Technical expertise	

G. Final project report:

Project deliveries will include:

- A report on the activity;
- Final project report:
- Conclusions of the Work Sessions
- A report “lessons learnt” on the regional exercise
- Appropriate recommendations for follow-up

n) New Projects: Funding Required

- **Strengthening the development and application of Geographic Information Systems (GIS) in the Wider Caribbean Region**

(Implementing Agencies: UNEP CAR RCU, Regional Activity Centres for LBS, SPAW and Oil Spills Protocols)

Funding request: US\$ 180,000

Background

95. Geographical Information Systems (GIS) is a globally established application used to assist in the management, analysis and visualization of data. Member states who are Parties to the Convention for the Protection and Development of the Marine Environment in the Wider Caribbean Region, adopted in Cartagena, Colombia on 24 March 1983 and its three Protocols, the Oil Spills Protocol, Specially Protected Areas and Wildlife Protocol (SPAW) and Land-Based Sources of Marine

Pollution (LBS) Protocol have called for greater efforts to be placed on the development of databases and effective use of environmental information in the decision making processes.

96. Unfortunately, within the Wider Caribbean Region the effective use of GIS in an environmental context is limited as a result of the general paucity of baseline data and capacity in GIS at all levels. Although several ongoing UNEP projects have GIS components and activities, an integrated approach has not been established to allow for the sustained use of GIS methodologies. The absence of a regional strategy for GIS usage, and inadequate awareness of the scope of GIS applications are constraints that need to be addressed. Presently, The Secretariat for the Cartagena Convention is improving the capacity of the Regional Activity Centre for the LBS Protocol based in Cuba through the provision of GIS hardware and software and the attachment of a GIS expert for an initial period of two years. This is expected to provide direct assistance and support to member states in the further development and application of GIS technologies.
97. In response to the critical needs and current interventions, this project would establish a regional strategy for the development and application of GIS technology in the Wider Caribbean Region. It will allow for the more effective use of information generated by a range of regional projects and allow for this data to be analyzed and shared among all member countries towards the management and sustainable development of the Wider Caribbean Region.

Objective

98. To develop a Regional Strategy for the increased application of GIS and other spatial decision-making tools in the implementation of the Cartagena Convention and its Protocols through database development, capacity strengthening and pilot assessments.

Expected Accomplishments:

- A GIS compatible regional pollution database to supplement existing databases on marine ecosystems in the Wider Caribbean Region.
- Three (3) completed case studies to identify GIS applications that demonstrate specific economic and social impacts of pollution and habitat destruction.
- Development of national capacity in the use and application of GIS for environmental management including for example development of GIS based models for classification of marine waters under the Cartagena Convention and Protocols.

Output Indicators:

- Pollution database established and populated with marine data from the Wider Caribbean Region.
- Number of Case studies compiled.
- Number of Countries engaged in the use of GIS based models for classification of marine waters under the Cartagena Convention and Protocols.

Primary Activities:

1. Development of Regional Pollutant Data Bases:
 - Needs Assessment: this component will aim to build upon earlier projects in identifying what are the critical environmental parameters needed to make more informed decisions at the national level.
 - Evaluation of Similar Data Bases: this component will aim to evaluate similar regional data bases, and consistent with the data already available for the region, develop a data base that will allow for more effective sharing of environmental data promoting increased collaboration in the management of the Caribbean Sea.
2. Improved National Capacity of the WCR for application of GIS in environmental decision-making:
 - Case Studies: this component will involve the selection of at least 3 demonstration countries and applying GIS technologies to evaluate the social and economic consequences of pollution and habitat destruction.
 - Capacity Building: this component will involve the design and deliver of national and regional workshops in the application of GIS technology aimed at improved decision-making

Relationships:

The outcomes and activities encompassed within this project are in direct fulfilment of priorities set for a variety of global targets and MEAs, including:

- Resolution XVII (b)-(c) of the Mauritius Strategy for further implementation of the Plan of Action for SIDS that specifically highlights the relevance of GIS and database management in the decision-making process.
- Decision 24/6 and 24/9 of the Twenty-fourth session of the Governing Council for UNEP.

Proposed Budget

Duration: June 2008 to December 2009

Programme	2008	2009
Development of Regional Pollutant Data Bases	\$50,000	10,000
National Capacity Building – Regional Workshops	\$30,000	30,000
Implementation of 3 Case Studies	\$20,000	40,000
TOTAL	\$100,000	80,000

(Expressed in USD)

- **Assessment and Evaluation of the Criteria for the classification of the waters of the Caribbean according to the Protocol Concerning Pollution from Land-Based Sources and Activities (LBS Protocol) based on an assessment of risks to recreational water quality and human health.**

(Implementing Agencies: UNEP CAR RCU, Regional Activity Centres for LBS, SPAW and Oil Spills Protocols)

Funding request: US\$ 230,000

Background

99. In 1994, the Caribbean Environment Programme overview of land-based point sources of marine pollution in the Wider Caribbean Region (WCR). The report (UNEP-CEP Technical Report #33) indicated that domestic wastewater was the largest point source contributor by volume to the Caribbean Sea. In developing a classification system for the marine waters of the WCR, the level of anthropogenic impacts on areas listed as Class I waters in Annex III of the LBS Protocol should be taken into consideration together with the potential for reversing these impacts.
100. Domestic wastewater pollution in the WCR results in public health, social, economic and sustainable tourism concerns. At the launch of the WHO Guidelines for Safe Recreational Water Environments in 2002, it was agreed that epidemiological studies should be conducted in Latin America and the Caribbean to evaluate the applicability of the WHO Guidelines to the region. Other beach management interventions which address both public health and sustainable tourism issues are being implemented in the Caribbean Region, for example, the Blue Flag Campaign.
101. UNEP-CAR/RCU working in collaboration with the Regional Activity Centres (RAC) for the LBS Protocol is proposing under this project to assist in the development of safe recreational water environments in countries of the Wider Caribbean Region by undertaking epidemiological trials for the WHO Guidelines on Safe Recreational Water Environments and to use the results to assist the Governments of the WCR in classifying their marine waters so as to facilitate the implementation of the LBS Protocol. Additional cooperation is expected with the Pan American Health organization (PAHO) and the Caribbean Environmental Health Institute (CEHI).

Objective(s)

102. To facilitate the Governments of the WCR in the classification their marine waters as required for the implementation of the LBS Protocol and improving safe recreational aquatic environments.

Expected Accomplishments:

- Regional Guidelines developed for classifying the Convention Area into Class I and Class II waters in accordance with the LBS Protocol Criteria
- Improved awareness of the government and people of the Wider Caribbean Region on the need to classify their marine waters and correlation with human health and ecosystem balance.
- Government personnel from WCR countries trained in the classification of marine waters.

Output Indicators:

- Presence /Absence of Regional Classification Guidelines for the WCR
- Number of persons participating in workshop and outreach activities

- Number of personnel trained/No of countries participated in training workshop

Primary Activities:

- Epidemiological trials and classification exercises conducted at selected beaches in the Wider Caribbean Region
- Guidelines developed for the classification of marine waters in the wider Caribbean according to the criteria for the LBS Protocol.
- Public awareness programme implemented on the importance of classification of marine waters for human health and biodiversity protection.
- Regional/National Training Workshop(s) for personnel from Government Ministries and Agencies responsible for planning and/or environmental management.
- Regional Workshop to enable the participating countries to present and discuss the results of their classification of marine waters exercise and epidemiological trials
- Regional Report on the classification of the Marine Waters and the epidemiological studies in demonstration countries.

Relationships:

The outcomes and activities encompassed within this project are in direct fulfilment of priorities set for a variety of global targets and MEAs, including:

- UNEP Global Plan of Action for the Protection of the Marine Environment from Land Based Sources of Pollution through support to Regional Seas Programmes and Conventions in particular the LBS Protocol of the Cartagena Convention Resolution of the Mauritius Strategy XVI to create regional and national enabling environment that will assist countries in responding to agreed international and regional targets.

Proposed Budget

Duration: October 2008 to December 2009

Programme	2008	2009
Epidemiological Trials (3 countries)	\$10,000	\$50,000
Public Education and Awareness	\$10,000	\$30,000
National/Regional Training Workshops	\$20,000	\$30,000
Marine Water Classification in Pilot Countries (3 countries)	\$10,000	\$20,000
Regional Consultative Workshop and Final Report	0	\$50,000
TOTAL	\$50,000	\$180,000

- **Improving the Quality of Recreational Coastal Waters in the Wider Caribbean**

(Implementing Agencies: UNEP CAR RCU, Regional Activity Centres for LBS, University of the West Indies, Caribbean Environmental Health Institute (CEHI), Ministries of Health, Ministries of Environment)

Funding request: US\$ 180,000

Background

103. Two of the Caribbean's major economic drivers, tourism and fisheries, are highly dependent on the quality of the marine environment, which is at an alarming rate (UENP-CEP/RCU, 2005). Despite the dependence and projected increased reliance on marine resources for growth and development, further degradation is likely if unsustainable practices such as over fishing, unplanned coastal developments, poor land use practices and pollution persist. The tourism product, in particular, is dependent on beautiful beaches and high quality marine recreational waters. In the past few years, there have been increasing concerns expressed by both health officials and the general public on the suitability of coastal water for contact recreational purposes due to the effects of non-point sources and point sources of pollution, in particular sewage discharges, and community and industrial practices on the quality of river water and consequently, sensitive coastal marine waters. Analysis of samples taken randomly from selected countries suggests that a significant percentage of coastal water bathing areas around tourist areas may not meet international standards for contact recreational waters.
104. At present, there is limited data available for making informed assessments of the quality of water of bathing beaches and the extent of pollution as monitoring is done on an ad hoc basis or in response to a health related crisis. Because of the Caribbean's dependence on tourism and the stringent requirements of EU tour operators who are liable in their country for the health and safety of their clients, it is imperative that ongoing surveillance programs be implemented. Before any interventions for improving the quality of the recreational coastal waters can properly and effectively be pursued, baseline data must be collected. However, there is paucity of this data at the national level. This concept note seeks to address the problem of the lack of adequate baseline data.

Overall Objective:

- To assess the quality of coastal bathing water with a view to determining the interventions necessary for meeting and maintaining environmental standards for contact recreational coastal waters. Towards the ultimate outcome of reducing the negative impacts on human health by users of coastal recreational waters in the Caribbean

Expected Accomplishments:

- Improved quality of recreational coastal water for selected representative Caribbean Countries
- Increased confidence by users of recreational coastal water in suitable quality of bathing waters.
- Improved attitude, practices and behaviour of key stakeholders to coastal recreational waters.

Indicators of Achievement:

- 75% of the designated coastal recreational waters meet the World Health Organisation (WHO) standards for recreational waters by year 3
- 50% reduction in related health complaints from bathers at selected sites

Main Project activities:

- Collect baseline data on recreational coastal water quality from selected countries and selected beaches
- Conduct a Knowledge, Attitudes, Practices and Behaviour (KAPB) study on recreational Coastal water improvement in selected countries and communities
- Regional training of environmental health officers and laboratory analysts in the design and implementation of coastal water surveillance programs
- Provide technical support for the development and implementation of national coastal water surveillance programs
- Develop and implement a Public Awareness & Public Education programme for improved coastal recreational waters in the Caribbean
- Provide technical support for developing and implementing interventions for improving coastal recreational water quality in selected countries
- Conduct compliance audits of the national coastal water surveillance programmes.

Proposed Budget

Duration: October 2008 to June 2009

Programme	2008	2009
Collection of baseline data	\$75,000	0
Community Survey	\$20,000	0
Regional Training Programmes	\$30,000	\$30,000
Public Awareness and Education Programme	\$10,000	\$10,000
TOTAL	\$140,000	\$40,000

(Expressed in USD)

Relationships:

- Resolution XVII section (d) of the Mauritius Strategy of the Plan of Action for SIDS that calls for further action in the implementation of targeted health programmes to prevent ill health for SIDS populations including pollution and water quality.
- UNEP Governing Council Decisions 24/6 and the 23/2 relating to SIDS and the management of freshwater and marine resources.
- Blue Flag Campaign and other internationally recognized beach and marina certification programmes
- After the interventions are implemented, there would be a need to generate on-going data for the purpose of monitoring and evaluating the efficiency and effectiveness of these interventions. The data generated through the baseline would be used to assess the effect of mitigation measures and justify any measures (policy, legislative, institutional or

administrative) required to bring about further changes in behaviour required for improvement of water quality at the national level, e.g., enactment of compulsory wastewater effluent standards and beach management regimes.

B. Specially Protected Areas and Wildlife (SPAW)

105. The main activities of the SPAW programme are presented below. The outputs of the programme as well as more detailed information can be found in the document Workplan and Budget for the SPAW Regional Programme for the Biennium 2008-2009 UNEP(DEPI)/CAR WG.31/5.Rev.1.

1. Background

106. This Workplan covers the 2008-2009 biennium, and sets out the priorities for the Regional Programme on Specially Protected Areas and Wildlife in the Wider Caribbean Region (SPAW). During this period, the Workplan will focus on activities to assist with the implementation of the SPAW Protocol, coordination with other regional programmes and institutions dealing with biodiversity conservation and management, particularly regarding protected areas and wildlife, and coordination with relevant global initiatives and multilateral environmental agreements.

107. The SPAW Protocol entered into force on 18 June 2000, and to date, thirteen Governments are Contracting Parties (Barbados, Belize, Colombia, Cuba, Dominican Republic, France, the Netherlands, Panama, Saint Lucia, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Trinidad and Tobago, United States of America, and Venezuela).

108. The objectives of the SPAW Programme are:

- (a) To significantly increase the number and improve the management of national protected areas and species in the Wider Caribbean Region (WCR), including support to national and regional conservation and management strategies and plans, where appropriate.
- (b) To develop strong regional capability for the co-ordination of information exchange, training and technical assistance, in support of national biodiversity conservation efforts.
- (c) To coordinate activities with the secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity, as well as other biodiversity-related treaties, such as the CITES, Ramsar, Bonn and Western Hemisphere Conventions.

109. This Workplan seeks to ensure continuation and expansion of the initiatives and tasks emanating from the 2006-2007 SPAW Workplan. The secretariat prepared this document taking into consideration decisions and recommendations of all previous SPAW meetings (Conference of the Parties and Scientific and Technical Advisory Committee), and pertinent issues (regionally and globally) to the objectives of the SPAW Protocol and Programme. Likewise, it takes into account the recommendations emanating from the latest meeting of the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice (SBSTTA-13) and COP-9 of the CBD.

110. The Workplan consists of six major programme elements (sub-programmes), these being:

- a) Programme Coordination
- b) Strengthening of Protected Areas in the Wider Caribbean Region (including training and capacity building for protected area management)
- c) Development of Guidelines for Protected Areas and Species Management
- d) Conservation of Threatened and Endangered Species

- e) Conservation and Sustainable Use of Coastal and Marine Ecosystems (including ICRI activities), and
- f) Sustainable Tourism.

2. Projects and activities

a) Programme Coordination

Objectives

111. The objectives of the coordination of the SPAW Programme will be to:

- a) Promote the ratification of, accession to, and effective implementation of the SPAW Protocol;
- b) Ensure that the formulation and implementation of programme activities satisfy the requirements and needs of the SPAW Protocol and its Contracting Parties;
- c) Develop coordination, collaboration, and communication mechanisms with other agreements, organizations and programmes relevant to SPAW objectives;
- d) Improve coordination of regional programming for protected areas and wildlife in the Wider Caribbean; and
- e) Oversee the day-to-day activities and general coordination of the various projects and activities of the SPAW Programme.

Activities

112. The day-to-day coordination for implementation of the programme activities will continue to be overseen by the following team:

2.1 PROGRAMME COORDINATION	
Position	Main functions
UNEP-CEP Secretariat, Kingston, Jamaica	
Programme Officer for SPAW	Responsible for overall coordination of the SPAW Programme
Bilingual Secretary (English-Spanish)	Provides support for SPAW
SPAW Regional Activity Centre, Guadeloupe, supported by the Government of France	
The SPAW/RAC is staffed with a Director, a Programme Officer (to be recruited shortly after the departure of incumbent in January 2008), and a part-time Documents Officer, and will continue to support the secretariat in various activities, especially coordination of actions mandated by the STAC and COP, fundraising, and the review and translation of a number of documents into French. At least one meeting will be held annually between the secretariat and staff of the SPAW/RAC, to coordinate and evaluate activities. The SPAW/RAC will cover the costs of these meetings.	

113. The main responsibilities and functions discharged in the implementation of the SPAW Protocol and Programme are:

- a) Coordination with relevant programmes, donors and organizations to develop synergies and collaboration on issues of common interest as appropriate:

- b) Support implementation of existing memoranda of cooperation (MoCs) and of collaborative arrangements with relevant MEAs: Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD); Convention on Migratory Species (CMS); Convention on Wetlands of International Importance (Ramsar); Inter American Convention for Sea Turtles (IAC); Western Hemisphere Migratory Species Initiative (WHMSI)
 - c) Continue implementation of SPAW Protocol and development of its supporting regional Programme through:
 - Formulation of the Workplan and Budget for the 2010-2011 biennium
 - Convening and servicing the Fourth STAC and Fifth COP Meetings in 2008
 - Promotion of the SPAW Protocol through presentations at relevant fora, communication with Governments and public awareness to engage support, additional Parties, and improve implementation
 - Consultation as appropriate, on the format for reporting under SPAW, harmonised with reporting requirements under other MEAs (including enhancement of monitoring and evaluation of regional projects, to gauge their impact). This activity will be implemented as feasible, in keeping with related developments within CEP, UNEP and other MEAs.
 - d) Continuation of fundraising with relevant governments, donors and organizations.
 - e) The secretariat will continue to coordinate and cooperate as appropriate, with other initiatives and projects relevant to coastal and marine ecosystems in the region, including the AMEP projects on Integrating Watershed and Coastal Area Management (IWCAM) in the Small Island Development States (SIDS) of the Caribbean; and Reducing Pesticide Run-off to the Caribbean Sea, approved by the Global Environment Facility (GEF) and being implemented through the CEP.
114. Assistance by the SPAW Regional Activity Centre, Guadeloupe, supported by the Government of France
- a) Joint programming of activities with the CAR/RCU and coordination during implementation of activities will continue as appropriate. During the biennium, the SPAW/RAC will work specifically on: further development and implementation of the marine mammal action plan, support species conservation activities (particularly migratory birds); the guidelines to prevent species from becoming threatened or endangered; as well as fundraising in coordination with the secretariat (and the European Union, in particular).
 - b) Promotion of the SPAW Protocol and its objectives to assist with the ratification by non-Parties, including the European Union.

b) Strengthening of Protected Areas in the Wider Caribbean Region

Objectives

115. The objectives of this sub-programme are:
- a) To strengthen the management of parks and protected areas of the Wider Caribbean, including the communication between parks and protected areas within the region;
 - b) To assist Governments with the identification and establishment of protected areas as appropriate;

- c) To sensitise Governments about the need and importance of financing protected areas, and promote the development of funding mechanisms and strategies for successful park and protected area management; and
- d) To promote protected areas in the context of conservation of important natural resources necessary for the sustainable development of the region.

Activities

116. Strengthening of MPAs through activities of the CaMPAM Network and Forum:

- a) Support a technical session and organizational meeting of MPAs at the annual meetings of the Gulf and Caribbean Fisheries Institute (2008 and 2009), to promote the exchange of information among managers, fishers and scientists
- b) Support six MPAs through the Small Grants Fund (at least US\$8,000 per area) based on relevant criteria developed for this purpose, and focusing on livelihoods for sustainable tourism and sustainable fishing practices (proposals from MPAs within SPAW Contracting Parties and with activities responding to the ecosystem management approach will receive priority).
- c) Enhance communications and exchanges through the existing CaMPAM list serve
- d) Training of Trainers Programme (ToT) in MPA management in collaboration with the CETA Programme of CEP. Finalize the MacArthur Foundation Grant and develop new course in keeping with results of the ToT evaluation completed in 2006. Main activities will include:
 - Oversee, support and assess follow-up local training by participants of the 2007 and 2008-2009 courses in their respective countries.
 - Design, organize and deliver one Training of Trainers course (2008-2009) in English, with an estimated 15 MPA managers. In keeping with emerging issues and the updated module and manual, this course may focus on coral reef issues such as resilience, as well as climate change adaptation and marine invasive species.
 - Dissemination of the revised Manual in English and Spanish, through the Internet, networks such as WW2BW and in CD format, throughout the region and elsewhere.
 - Coordination with similar capacity building activities such as those of the World Heritage and Ramsar Conventions in Latin America and the Caribbean, IABIN and WHMSI.
- e) Enhancement of the regional MPA database:
 - Continue updating and improving the MPA database following its new structure, in collaboration with CETA and in coordination with the World Protected Areas Database of UNEP-WCMC and the IABIN database, SPAW/RAC and CaMPAM partners.

117. Collaboration with CBD on 2012 targets

- a) Initiate process towards development of regional network of MPAs once PA Guidelines have been adopted.
- b) Support efforts of Parties to develop national MPA networks and in strengthening MPAs.
- c) Coordinate with WCPA, TNC and relevant organizations, the regional inputs to contribute to the 2012 targets, in particular regarding the development of the Caribbean Challenge Initiative which seeks to build support, political commitment, and financial sustainability, for protected areas in the region.

c) **Development of Guidelines for the Management of Protected Areas and Species**

118. The objectives of this sub-programme element are:
- a) To promote and assist with the development and implementation of the guidelines on protected area establishment, management, and listing developed under the framework of SPAW;
 - b) To promote national system planning for protected areas as a mechanism for development of relevant legislation and reporting mechanisms; and
 - c) To promote and assist with the development and implementation of guidelines on species conservation and management developed under the framework of SPAW.

Activities

119. Implementation of pilot activity to test the guidelines for the evaluation of protected areas to be listed under the SPAW Protocol (UNEP(DEPI)/CAR WG.31/3.Rev.1):
- a) Collaborate with the SPAW/RAC, the SPAW Parties and regional experts to identify interested Parties for a pilot activity to test the proposed guidelines with a view to develop a cooperation programme and regional MPA network.
 - b) Integrate as appropriate the socio-economic guidelines for coastal managers developed by the University of the West Indies-Natural Resource Management Programme (UWI-NRMP), following the training of MPA staff in socio-economic monitoring with funds from NOAA.
120. Develop criteria for the assessment of exemptions to Article 11 of the SPAW Protocol: Establish as feasible, the Ad Hoc working group to initiate discussion of this issue following the model of the working group established to review the criteria for listing species under the Annexes to the SPAW Protocol, and using the preliminary legal analysis presented in “Legal Review on Interpretation of Exemptions under Article 11(2) of the SPAW Protocol” (UNEP(DEC)/CAR WG.29/INF.5), as a starting point.
121. Develop criteria and guidelines to prevent species from becoming threatened or endangered (UNEP(DEPI)/CAR IG.25/INF.4): Establish the Ad Hoc working group as soon as feasible, to develop the draft criteria and guidelines as per Decision 8 of COP4 in 2006. The working group is to be coordinated by Island Resources Foundation with collaboration from the SPAW/RAC and the secretariat as appropriate. The SPAW/RAC in coordination with Island Resources Foundation, will continue to develop the preliminary draft until such time as the Ad Hoc working group is established. During this interim period, comments to perfect the draft from experts are solicited.
122. Application of the criteria for listing species in the Annexes to the Protocol: Initiate process to update the 1991 Annexes through a consultative review among experts nominated by the Parties, and in coordination with the IUCN Red List process and the Species Survival Commission, with a view to address species conservation issues in the Wider Caribbean, including critically endangered species of regional concern which are not yet included in the original Annexes. An intersessional working group could be established to work on the lists by group of species (e.g. fish, birds, reptiles, etc.).

d) Conservation of Threatened and Endangered Species

Objectives

123. The objectives of this programme element will continue to be:
- a) To build consensus in the region on priorities for the management of endangered and migratory species;
 - b) To implement priority activities of existing species recovery and management plans developed under the framework of SPAW; and
 - c) To develop, as appropriate, adequate management plans and programmes for priority species of regional concern, including those of economic importance.

Activities

124. Conservation of Marine Mammals (in collaboration with ECCN, WDCS, IFAW, IUCN Species Survival Commission and SPAW/RAC).
- a) Finalize and implement the Regional Marine Mammal Action Plan (MMAP) for the Conservation of Marine Mammals in the Wider Caribbean. Focus will be given to the recommendations of the Experts Workshop (Barbados, 2005) and the “MMAP Priority Actions: Five Year Plan” (UNEP(DEPI)/CAR WG.31/4.Rev.1). Proposed activities:
 - Continue updating compilation of information on bibliography, capacities, expertise, marine mammals in captivity, etc. and initiate development of a database.
 - Initiate compilation of existing knowledge of marine mammals in the region (e.g. biology, distribution, seasonal movements, population dynamics, habitat and ecology), especially in poorly studied areas, and make it available to stakeholders.
 - Identify gaps in scientific knowledge and make recommendations for research and monitoring to fill such gaps. At a minimum, it is important to collect baseline population data and catch statistics (both deliberate and incidental).
 - Improve information on takes of marine mammals in fisheries in cooperation with
 - FAO/WECAFC, CRFM, and Fisheries Departments. The SPAW/RAC and CEP secretariat will develop stronger working relationships with fisheries authorities and stakeholders (academia, NGOs etc) in order to address matters relating to fishing-related mortality of marine mammals.
 - Support designation of marine protected areas and other management regimes, that maintain ecological connections (e.g. sister sanctuaries that promote the protection of transboundary assets) with user and stakeholder involvement and participation.
 - Build capacity to address stranding through Regional Stranding Response Training
 - Workshops, using the model of the Eastern Caribbean Marine Mammal Stranding Response Training Workshop held in Trinidad and Tobago (15-18 Nov 2005), and support development of a stranding network and data archives.
 - Convene a regional workshop on best practices for marine mammal watching and improve opportunities for local communities to benefit economically from marine mammal based tourism. This activity will also be used to request that Parties contribute to a regional assessment of marine mammal watching activities, e.g.: by providing

information on the number/location of whale/dolphin watching operations, species involved, guidelines or regulations in place, economic value, associated scientific studies, educational materials.

- Encourage Parties to act in accordance with the SPAW Protocol in relation to captive marine mammals through the development of a process for evaluating and seeking exemptions and provide information on standards for captive marine mammal health and welfare.

125. Conservation of Sea Turtles (in collaboration with WIDECAST and the SPAW/RAC):

- a) Support existing National Recovery Plans (STRAPs) through implementation of national priority actions in particular in SPAW Parties.
- b) Continue to support the Index Monitoring Sites for Critically Endangered hawksbill sea turtles (*Eretmochelys imbricata*), and following a peer-review (ongoing), support publication of sea turtle tagging manual, and best practices for monitoring sea turtle abundance at Index Sites, and a spatial database for sea turtle nesting habitats in the Wider Caribbean.
- c) In collaboration with the Interamerican Convention for the Protection and Conservation of Marine Turtles (IAC), support the regional workshop of experts on hawksbill turtles being planned for 2008, in keeping with CITES and IAC decisions to evaluate population trends and threats to their populations and habitats.

126. Conservation of Birds (in collaboration with SCSCB, BirdLife, SPAW RAC):

- a) Continue supporting the West Indian whistling duck capacity-building efforts as a flagship species for the conservation of wetlands. Training activities planned for Cuba, Dominican Republic and St. Lucia, will be considered for support from SPAW.
- b) Support the production of educational material as feasible, in particular the laminated bird identification cards for land birds in SPAW Parties.
- c) Cooperation with Birdlife International to promote Important Bird Areas (IBAs) in the region, including examining linkages between existing protected areas, IBAs and SPAW listed species and evaluate conservation status, as well as threatened and endangered species which should be listed under the Protocol.
- d) Explore collaboration with BirdLife International, on development (and implementation) of action plans for threatened bird species (e.g. forest thrush).

127. Continue supporting priority actions on queen conch and lobster fisheries management in the region, in coordination with FAO/WECAFC, OSPESCA, and CRFM.

128. Continue collaboration with CABI on further development of GEF Project Proposal: "Mitigating the Threats of Invasive Alien Species in the Insular Caribbean" (2008-2012) (countries: Dominican Republic, Jamaica, St. Lucia, Trinidad & Tobago):

- a) The proposed GEF project aims to establish an extensive framework addressing IAS that threaten aquatic and terrestrial ecosystems and their biodiversity. It will build on existing national measures to strengthen capacity to address biodiversity concerns and to link national and regional stakeholders. It will include:
 - Gap analysis on existing plans and policies, outline national communication and capacitybuilding strategies for the full size project, and define pilot projects in 5 countries

- Proposed final project components include the development of national IAS strategies focusing on increased national capacity and establishment of Caribbean-wide cooperation and strategy to reduce risk posed to biodiversity from invasive alien species.
- b) Collaboration with the SPAW Programme will focus on capacity building through the UNEP/GISP training workshops model.
- c) Coordination will continue with AMEP on the UNEP/IMO Ballast Water Project in the Wider Caribbean, focusing on the transfer of invasive marine species in ballast water.

129. Capacity Building in Wildlife Conservation:

- Potential coordination with U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service on implementation of training activities to increase capacity of professionals, MPA managers and educators on wildlife conservation, utilizing management issues as a point of entry to address species conservation needs, including socio-economic aspects of species conservation. In particular, collaboration with WHMSI in building country capacity to conserve and manage migratory wildlife, through communication on conservation issues of common interest, training areas, exchange of information needed for informed decision-making, and networking to address emerging issues.

e) Conservation and Sustainable Use of Coastal and Marine Ecosystems

Objectives

130. The objectives guiding the activities are:

- a) To assist with the management of the coastal and marine ecosystems of the region on a sustainable basis, particularly through sustainable practices;
- b) To mobilize the political will and actions of Governments and other partners for the conservation and sustainable use of coral reefs and associated ecosystems such as mangroves and seagrass beds;
- c) To effectively communicate the value and importance of coral reefs, mangroves and sea grass beds, including their ecosystem services, the threats to their sustainability, and the actions needed to protect them; and
- d) To promote the ecosystem management approach and the principles and values of good governance for the conservation and management of marine ecosystems in the region.

Activities

131. In collaboration with UNDP and IOCARIBE, support the GEF “Sustainable Management of the Shared Living Marine Resources of the Caribbean Large Marine Ecosystem (CLME) and Adjacent Regions”, through coordination and implementation of its pilot project on *Management and Conservation of Reef Biodiversity and Reef Fisheries*:

- The project will build on the current knowledge of coral reef ecosystems and reef fisheries, at the local, national and regional levels, as well as on relevant global and regional experiences in multisectoral and participatory management and conservation measures. It will follow the ecosystem based management approach, which is holistic, adaptive, multi-sectoral, and will promote wide participation from stakeholders.
- The project will use the best available information, including latest credible science-based assessments, in reviewing and strengthening the management and policy processes at the

local and national levels primarily; likewise, it will target potential strategic interventions, particularly with regard to the Code of Conduct for Responsible Fisheries in the Caribbean.

- The pilot project will focus on strengthening the management capacity of large and transboundary marine areas, primarily in: Colombia, the Dominican Republic, Haiti, Jamaica and St. Vincent and the Grenadines.
- The pilot project will aim to mitigate existing environmental impacts (over-fishing, pollution and habitat degradation as identified by a preliminary Transboundary Diagnostic Analysis (TDA) and strengthen the assessment, management, and governance frameworks required to promote the ecological integrity of the reef and its ability to withstand environmental shocks and stresses.
- The pilot project will develop and foster networking and cooperation among the countries for management of marine resources, focusing on strengthening existing institutions, structures and mechanisms through sharing, collaboration and exchange. Large and remote reef systems in Jamaica (Pedro Bank) and Colombia (Seaflower MPA) will be included as major sites, as they represent highly productive areas subjected to significant fishing pressures. Lessons and experiences learnt in this process will be shared within the lifetime of the project to adjacent countries such as the Dominican Republic and Haiti.
- The pilot project will also extend its activities to more distant countries such as the Bahamas, Belize, Grenada and St. Vincent and the Grenadines, in order to share and replicate achievements, good practices and failures, in the multi-use management of these ecosystems whose services and functions are so critical to the overall health of living marine resources in the Caribbean.
- In all activities proposed, there will be significant community and stakeholder involvement at different levels including the decision-making processes.
Main pilot project activities:
 - Strengthening of existing management frameworks based on the principles of ecosystem approach (assessment, capacity building, monitoring and evaluation). This will include assessment and mapping in selected sites; review and analysis of existing management regulations and enforcement mechanisms at selected sites; stakeholder participatory enforcement; public awareness and education outreach enhancement (regulations and enforcement emphasis); and
 - Transfer of best practices and dissemination of lessons learnt.

132. Continue support to the International Coral Reef Initiative (ICRI)

- a) Promote and support the celebrations for the International Year of the Reef (IYOR), in particular through strategized media efforts and dissemination of targeted information to decision-makers and planners, in collaboration with the CETA Programme of CEP.
- b) Continue to support and/or coordinate with the five sub-regional Caribbean coral reef monitoring nodes for the Southern Tropical America (STA) (coordinated by INVEMAR in Colombia); Eastern Caribbean (coordinated by the CZM Centre in Barbados); Netherlands Antilles Coral Reef Initiative (NACRI); Western Caribbean (primarily coordinated by the MBRS Project); and Northern Caribbean and Atlantic (NCA) (coordinated by UWI-CMS), including support for on-site training, technical assistance and data management and to ensure data contributions from the region to the global ReefBase database and annual GCRMN reef status reports. This includes support to their efforts on AGRRA, CARICOMP and ReefCheck, as feasible.

- c) Support as feasible, training workshops in the region on coral reef “Crime Scene Investigation” (CSI), to provide countries with tools on marine (coral reefs) injury investigation, impact assessment, financial recovery for damages and courtroom preparation. At least 4 workshops are planned with US support for the Dominican Republic, Barbados, Jamaica and Trinidad and Tobago.
- d) Support ongoing efforts by WRI on in-depth economic valuation of coral reefs, possibly for the Dominican Republic and Jamaica. This will include capacity building at the in-country level, to a variety of stakeholders to conduct data collection and analysis, as well as to apply the information as appropriate, for relevant policy and decision-making.
- e) Disseminate widely the lessons-learnt and best practices from the implementation of the ICRAN Caribbean activities during 2000-2004, in particular those involving demonstration sites.
- f) Support as feasible, application of the recently developed “Ecosystem Services, A guide for Decision Makers” of WRI. This tool aims to help public sector decision-makers integrate ecosystem services in their decision-making process toward economic development, and responds to the findings of the Millennium Ecosystem Assessment. Currently, WRI is looking for opportunities to test this tool within development planning efforts.
- g) Attend ICRI meetings as SPAW secretariat and promote and support as feasible, participation of governments and experts from the region in those meetings.

f) Sustainable Tourism

Objectives

133. The objectives of the sustainable tourism programme component are:
- a) To promote sustainable coastal and marine tourism practices, in particular around protected areas and critical or sensitive areas
 - b) To develop effective linkages with UNEP-DTIE, CTO, the Caribbean Alliance for Sustainable Tourism (CAST), and other relevant organizations and initiatives engaged in sustainable tourism in the Wider Caribbean.

Activities

134. Synergies with CTO and CAST in the development and implementation of standards and initiatives for sustainable tourism, including finalization and implementation of CTOs Caribbean Regional Sustainable Tourism Policy Framework.
135. Continued coordination with and promotion of the Caribbean Blue Flag Campaign and other relevant sustainable tourism certification schemes.
136. Continued dissemination of material and tools for capacity building in sustainable tourism practices reef biodiversity
137. Building on the experiences in Mesoamerica from the ICRAN MAR Project, strengthen capacity in sustainable marine recreation practices and environmental performance assessments, while forming alliances with local businesses, MPA managers and local communities. This will include small grants and training workshops in collaboration with CORAL, to further advance implementation of locally developed marine recreation standards, and promote stakeholder dialogue for improved coastal and marine tourism practices.

C. Communication, Education, Training and Awareness (CETA)

1. Background

138. Decision 1 (II) of 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, Montego Bay, Jamaica, 28 November to 2 December 2006 approved the establishment of a Communication, Education, Training and Awareness (CETA) position at a P3/P4 level depending on the availability of financial resources. The IGM also agreed to the merger of the CEPNET and ETA subprogrammes to form the CETA subprogramme.
139. This workplan is the continuation of the projects and activities of the biennium 2006-2007 as presented in the Report of the Executive Director of UNEP on the Implementation of the Caribbean Environment Programme (2006-2007) (UNEP(DEPI)/CAR IG.26/INF.4). The workplan reflects changes in both the nature of activities and mechanisms of implementation following the merger of the CEPNET and ETA subprogrammes, as well as additional needs identified during the biennium 2006-7, and existing human resources. Following the 12th IGM, a CETA Programme Officer post was established at the project level taking into account existing financial resources.

Objectives

140. The objectives of the CETA sub-programme are to:
- a) Transform and improve educational systems to promote positive attitudinal and behavioural changes relating to environmental management by improving the understanding of the value, relevance and importance of marine and coastal resources;
 - b) Develop and implement national and regional technical and managerial training programmes (focusing on “training trainers” to maximise the multiplying effect) for persons responsible for the use and management of marine and coastal resources;
 - c) Support public awareness efforts of the media, private sector, community-based, and non-governmental organizations to demonstrate the economic value of marine and coastal resources to specific sectors and overall national development;
 - d) To increase access to marine and coastal resources information through strengthening of CEP websites, networking mechanisms and database development;
 - e) To disseminate information resulting from the projects and activities of CEP; and
 - f) To assist the regional subprogrammes of CEP in matters related to communication, education, training and awareness information management through the development of tools to organise and disseminate information relevant to the implementation of the Cartagena Convention and its Protocols and support in the areas of data access, information management, (and development and maintenance of a network of expertise and knowledge).

2. Projects and activities

a) Programme Coordination

141. The objectives of the coordination of the CETA sub-programme for the 2008/9 biennium are to:
- a) Enhance coordination, collaboration and communication with donors, programmes and organizations relevant to communication, education, training and awareness activities;
 - b) Mobilize financial resources for expanding current activities and for the development of new communication, education, training and awareness initiatives that build upon or are relevant to the work and mandate of the CEP;
 - c) Oversee the day-to-day activities and general coordination of the programme, within the CEP and to provide support to the other subprogrammes of CEP and coordinator for the implementation of CETA activities;
 - d) Strategize communication and information activities of the CEP and the sub-programmes and coordinate media activities; and
 - e) Coordinate support to regional and national CETA initiatives

Activities

142. The subprogramme will support the AMEP, and SPAW 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, forum, etc.
143. CETA will assist in the dissemination of the CEP products, principally through the Internet where applicable. It also will continue to coordinate responses to requests for information and external surveys on a day-to-day basis.
144. As its major communication tool, the CEP website will be maintained and upgraded making it continuously current to regional and global issues of relevance to the WCR and maintaining links with complementary websites of regional, national and sub national bodies. Depending on human resources, support will be provided for the continued development of related websites. The secretariat will seek means to ensure more regular maintenance to provide up-to-date and useful information to the Member States and Contracting Parties.
145. CETA will provide support to the convening of technical and intergovernmental meetings of the CEP and coordinate the preparation and dissemination of final meeting reports.
146. Fund-raising efforts for the programme will be carried out in consultation with the Coordinator of CAR/RCU and in coordination with relevant Governments, donors and partner organizations to allow for the recruitment of a full-time Programme Officer for the programme and expansion of the same.
147. Coordinate, enhance or develop, and implement capacity building efforts of the CEP and its various sub programmes taking into account relevant international agreements and based on national and/or regional priorities.

b) Promotion of the Caribbean Environment Programme and its subprogrammes

Objectives

148. To promote the work of the Caribbean Environment Programme and its subprogrammes, to sensitize governments of the region of the importance of ratification/accession to and implementation of the Cartagena Convention and its Protocols, and to increase awareness of the need for the protection and sustainable use of coastal and marine resources.

Activities

149. Assist with the implementation of national and regional activities for the promotion of the ratification/accession to the LBS and SPAW Protocols for the Member States of the CEP in collaboration with the AMEP and SPAW Programmes respectively. These activities will continue to gather and prepare CETA materials on CEP and CEP-related themes for dissemination through the Internet or other appropriate mechanisms.
150. Provide the CEP community and the general public with regular updates on the availability of information regarding the protection and development of coastal and marine resources.
151. The promotion of CEP at national, regional and international fora, and through all available media will be undertaken as feasible. Additionally, support will be provided as appropriate and depending on available resources to national and regional communication, education, training and awareness initiatives which support CEP objectives.
152. An inventory will be conducted on CETA material available from CEP and other relevant organisations. Gaps will be identified with regards to the individual programmes and major related issues. Publicity and information material on the CEP, marine environment, conservation and management will then be compiled/developed in consultation with technical staff for dissemination to the Governments, public, schools and media.

c) Development and Implementation of a Communication and Outreach Strategy for the CEP

Objective

153. To facilitate effective communications with all stakeholders on the work of the CEP as the basis for improving the delivery of services by CEP to the region
154. To make CEP known as a prime force in achieving sustainable development in the region.
 - To provide and ensure the effective flow of scientific and management information, updates and key messages, accurately, promptly and effectively packaged, to CEP Parties and stakeholders
 - To enable informed debate among all stakeholders and as such full participation in the further development and implementation of CEP
 - To collect feedback and input from the stakeholders (through the communication activities) to continue improving the implementation of CEP

Activities

155. Incorporate marketing strategies and work towards the finalization of the Communication and Outreach strategy. The Communications and Outreach strategy will contain communication expectations, procedures and general guidelines for the effective communication of UNEP/CEP projects and programmes.
156. Coordination of media activities to increase the visibility of the CEP and pro-actively develop and maintain links with national/regional and, where appropriate, international media, in order to raise awareness within all stakeholder groups and the wider community of the CEP projects and activities and the importance of a healthy marine/coastal environment;
157. Subject to the availability of funding, support capacity building activities and/or sensitisation workshops for environmental journalists in the region to raise the profile of environmental issues in the region;
158. Coordination and updating of the CEP website in collaboration with the sub programmes, and possible absorption of project websites such as the White Water to Blue Water partnership website. The CaMPAM database will be finalized in collaboration with SPAW.
159. CETA will ensure the continuous maintenance of the CEP Experts, Institutions and Focal Points databases.
160. Contact will be established with new partners such as regional airlines and the cruise ship industry for possible dissemination of information via articles in airline magazines and the distribution of short promotional/educational DVDs.

d) Support the implementation of the United Nations Decade of Education for Sustainable Development

Objectives

161. To facilitate the design and implementation of collaborative project in environmental education at the national and regional levels and strengthen national educational systems to promote improved understanding of the value and importance of marine and coastal resources through attitudinal and behavioural change;

Activities

162. The CEP will continue to collaborate with relevant organizations such as the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO). Support will be provided as feasible and appropriate to facilitate further regional discussions on education for sustainable development and its inclusion in national education curriculum.
163. Support will be provided to training activities and development of educational materials for teachers taking existing financial resources into account with a view to making these and other relevant material available to the countries of the WCR.
164. Pro-actively develop and maintain links with Ministries of Education in order to assist with raising awareness within educational groups of the importance of a healthy marine/coastal environment.

e) Support the implementation of the Bali Strategic Plan (BSP) for Technology Support and Capacity-building

165. At the 23rd session of the Governing Council/Global Ministerial Environment Forum held in Nairobi, 21-25 February 2005, the BSP was formally adopted through the GC decision 23/1.

Objectives

166. To provide ongoing training and capacity building to CEP Member States consistent with their national and/or regional needs and priorities and their requirements to effectively implement the obligations of the Cartagena Convention and its Protocols.

Activities

167. Assist in the mobilization of additional financial resources to conduct national and regional capacity building for various stakeholders such as communities, managers and decision-makers based on national and/or regional priorities of the CEP Parties;
168. Assist the SPAW and AMEP Programmes with the development and implementation of specific technical training programmes and capacity building exercises e.g. the Training of Trainers training courses.
169. CETA will assist AMEP with the coordination of a joint project with UNEP/DEWA and GEF IW:LEARN to test the effectiveness of cross focal area networking among a “regional cluster” of ongoing and pipeline GEF projects in the Wider Caribbean. The following activities will promote integration of efforts, capture of synergies, identification of gaps, conflicts and opportunities:
- a) Develop a website as a regional ‘module’ within the GEF-IW:LEARN information system developed by UNEP/DEWA with inputs from UNEP CAR/RCU, and hosted as a sub-website of the www.iwlearn.net. The module will offer supporting information resources to facilitate networking, knowledge-sharing and facilitated dialogue among the regional cluster of GEF projects identified in the Wider Caribbean and will be provided primarily by UNEP CAR/RCU as the process develops.
 - b) Conduct outreach: identify, inform and invite the participation of GEF Implementing Agencies, initially to assist in developing an inventory of GEF projects and their partners in the wider Caribbean region, and to support their projects’ participation; contact GEF project executing agencies and their partners to inform them of the purpose and aims of the regional interfocal consultative process and invite their participation; gain an understanding of issues and needs in the region from which synergies may be identified and from which the structure of the face-to-face meeting may be focused.
 - c) Prepare a background paper: to be used as basis for consultative dialogue.
 - d) Facilitate a moderated e-dialogue: among projects in the regional cluster
 - e) Organize a face-to-face event: plan and conduct a regional cluster consultative workshop (or workshops).
 - f) Document and report outcomes: to GEF projects, agencies and partners within the regional cluster, to GEF-IW:LEARN, and the GEF IW Task Force.

Annex I:

Budget for the Caribbean Environment Programme for the biennium 2008-2009

Please see separate document UNEP(DEPI)/CAR IG.28/3 Annex I