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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

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

**REPORT OF THE MEETING**



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## INTRODUCTION

1. The Thirteenth Intergovernmental Meeting (IGM) 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 is convened 9 – 12 September 2008 in St. John's, Antigua and Barbuda.
  2. This Meeting proposed to review the achievements of the Caribbean Environment Programme (CEP) during the 2006-2007 biennium and to approve the Workplan of the CEP for the 2008-2009 biennium.
  3. The Secretariat, on behalf of the CEP Governments and Contracting Parties to the Cartagena Convention, convened the Meeting to:
    - Evaluate the projects and activities implemented within the framework of the Caribbean Environment Programme during the period 2006-2007;
    - Review the progress made in the implementation of the Decisions of the Twelfth Intergovernmental Meeting and Ninth Meeting of the Contracting Parties, Montego Bay, 29 November to 2 December 2006;
    - Review and adopt the Decisions of the Fifth Meeting of the Contracting Parties (COP) to the Protocol Concerning Specially Protected Areas and Wildlife (SPAW) in the Wider Caribbean Region, Montego Bay, Jamaica, 8 September 2008;
    - Review and endorse, as appropriate, the Recommendations of the Fourth Meeting of the Interim Scientific, Technical and Advisory Committee (ISTAC) to the Protocol Concerning Pollution from Land-based Sources and Activities, Petén, Guatemala, 30 October – 1 November 2007;
  4. Review and endorse, as appropriate, the Recommendations of the Fourth Meeting of the Steering Committee to the Protocol Concerning Cooperation in Combating Oil Spills in the Wider Caribbean Region, Willemstad, Curaçao, 30 June – 1 July 2008;
    - Review and take action, as appropriate, on the Recommendations of the open Intersessional Working Group on the Rules of Procedure and Financial Rules for the Caribbean Environment Programme;
  5. Review and take action, as appropriate, on the Recommendations of the open Intersessional Working Group on the guidelines for the operations of the Regional Activity Centres (RACs) and the Regional Activities Networks (RANs) of the Caribbean Environment Programme;
    - Review and adopt the Workplan and Budget for CEP for the 2008-2009 biennium, including those of the Regional Activity Centres; and
    - Decide on the composition of the Monitoring Committee and the Bureau of Contracting Parties for the 2008-2009 period.
  6. National focal points or their designated representatives of all States and Territories participating in the Caribbean Environment Programme and the Commission of the European Union were invited to attend the Meeting. Other States that have demonstrated concern for the protection of the marine environment of the Wider Caribbean Region (WCR), UN and non-UN regional and international organizations, NGOs, donors and private sector representatives participating or interested in the Caribbean Environment Programme, were also invited to attend the Meeting as observers. Regional and international experts were also invited to make special presentations to the Meeting.
- Agenda Item 1: Opening of the Meeting**
7. The Opening Ceremony of the Meeting was initiated on Tuesday, 9 September 2008 at 9:00 a.m. Opening statements were made by Mr. Christopher Corbin on behalf of Mr. Nelson Andrade Colmenares, Coordinator of the Caribbean Environment Programme and the Executive Secretary of the Cartagena Convention, and by the Honourable Minister of Tourism, Culture and Environment of Antigua and Barbuda.
  8. The Meeting was opened by Mrs. Carol-Faye George representing the Ministry of Tourism, Culture and Environment of Antigua and Barbuda. She welcomed all delegates and participants to Antigua and Barbuda and invited Mr. Christopher Corbin to make his opening remarks on behalf of Mr. Nelson Andrade, Coordinator of the Caribbean Environment Programme. Mr. Christopher Corbin thanked the Permanent Secretary and the Honourable Minister of Tourism, Culture and Environment of Antigua and Barbuda for their welcome. He conveyed the apologies of Mr. Nelson Andrade who was on his way to Antigua and Barbuda and acknowledged the tremendous support that the Meeting had received from the Government of Antigua and Barbuda to host this Meeting, as well as the Meeting of the Conference of Parties for the SPAW Protocol. He then welcomed all delegates, representatives of organizations and colleagues, to the Thirteenth Intergovernmental Meeting.
  9. Mr. Corbin expressed his sympathy in the face of the damage caused recently by natural events in the Caribbean, especially in the Turks and Caicos Islands, and indicated that it was in light of such vulnerabilities that the Secretariat has continued to work with Governments to successfully implement several projects

- and activities in support of the sustainable development of the Caribbean Sea. He highlighted the ratification of the LBS Protocol by the Governments of Belize, France and Saint Lucia and of the SPAW Protocol by the Government of Belize, as a major success and welcomed the verbal commitments to ratification received from others. He also highlighted the importance of the Draft Guidelines on RACs and RANs and the Draft Rules of Procedure and Draft Financial Rules, which were key agenda items of the Meeting, along with the completion of the update of CEP Technical Report No. 33 on pollution loadings. Mr. Corbin acknowledged the support received from the Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency that had enabled an increase in the number of CEP projects and activities over the past biennium and acknowledged the work of Programme Officers, administrative staff of the Secretariat, the GEF Project Managers and their staff, and the Directors and staff of the RACs. He noted the need for the Secretariat to work together with other UNEP and UN partners in the development of six priority programme areas, which have to respond to the changing needs in a changing environment. He noted that climate change was one of the priority areas, particularly in light of the vulnerability of Small Island Developing States to the impacts of this phenomenon. Mr. Corbin also highlighted the increased visibility of the Programme throughout the region through the implementation of the Communication, Education, Training and Awareness (CETA) sub-programme and further expressed the need to ensure long-term financial sustainability of the Secretariat with improved Government contributions to the Caribbean Trust Fund, greater focal point involvement, development of new projects and partnerships and political commitment through ratification. He concluded by confirming the commitment of the CEP and the RACs to continue working with the Member Governments, within the framework of the Cartagena Convention, to achieve economic development and environmental sustainability.
10. The Honourable Minister of Tourism, Culture and Environment, Mr. Harold Lovell thanked the Secretariat and the participants and welcomed them all to Antigua and Barbuda and to the Meeting. He expressed his delight in participating as he had been present 25 years ago at the signing of the Convention in Cartagena and looked forward to seeing further advancements. He acknowledged that climate change and ecosystem management were very relevant to islands and that balance must be sought between short-term and long-term development, noting that a healthy environment was the basis for a healthy economy. He also noted that the common dependency on the Caribbean Sea required proactive approaches and common visions. He concluded by signalling that countries could not attend to certain problems individually as they were interconnected and interdependent on each other and that the spirit of this Meeting should reflect this fact.
11. The Meeting was formally opened by the Hon. Harold Lovell of the Government of Antigua and Barbuda at 9.30 am.
- AGENDA ITEM 2: ORGANIZATION OF THE MEETING**
- a) Rules of Procedure**
12. The Meeting agreed to apply *mutatis mutandis* the Rules of Procedure of the Governing Council of UNEP, as contained in document UNEP/GC/3/Rev.3.
- b) Election of Officers**
13. The Meeting elected from among its participants the following officers: the Chairperson, three Vice-Chairpersons and a Rapporteur. These officers will form the Bureau of Contracting Parties for the period until the Fourteenth Intergovernmental Meeting on the Action Plan for the Caribbean Environment Programme and Eleventh Meeting of the Contracting Parties to the Convention for the Protection and Development of the Marine Environment of the Wider Caribbean Region is convened. The President of the Bureau shall also serve as Chairman of the Monitoring Committee.
14. The Meeting elected from among the experts the following officers of the Meeting:
- Chairperson: Antigua and Barbuda (Mr. Lionel Michael)
  - First Vice-chairperson: Belize (Mr. Jeavon Hulse)
  - Second Vice-Chairperson: Panama (Ms. Yajaira Serrano)
  - Third Vice-Chairperson: France (Mr. Stephane Louhaur)
  - Rapporteur: U.S.A (Mr. Timothy P. Lattimer)
- c) Organization of work**
15. English, French and Spanish were the working languages of the Meeting. The working documents of the Meeting were available in all the working languages.
16. The Secretariat convened the Meeting in plenary sessions, with the assistance of Working Groups established by the Chairperson. Simultaneous interpretation in the three working languages was available for the plenary session.
- AGENDA ITEM 3: ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA**
17. The Meeting was invited to adopt the Agenda of the Meeting as contained in document UNEP(DEPI)/CAR IG.28/1. After adjustments, the Agenda was adopted as presented in Annex I of this Report.

**AGENDA ITEM 4: REPORT OF THE CHAIRPERSON OF THE MONITORING COMMITTEE AND PRESIDENT OF THE BUREAU OF CONTRACTING PARTIES**

18. The outgoing Chairperson of the Monitoring Committee and President of the Bureau of Contracting Parties from the Government of Barbados, presented the report of the 2006-2007 biennium as contained in document UNEP(DEPI)/CAR IG.28/INF.3.
19. He congratulated the Coordinator and the staff of CEP, for their continued efforts in developing and implementing projects and activities, which respond to the needs and priorities of the WCR, acknowledging also the work of the different RACs. He reported no new ratifications to the Cartagena Convention, despite the continued efforts of the Secretariat and encouraged countries that were not yet Parties, to increase their efforts towards ratification. He recognized the ratification of the LBS Protocol by the Governments of France and Saint Lucia and the LBS and SPAW Protocols by the Government of Belize, noting that ratification of the LBS Protocol was very significant as this was the only Protocol of the Convention that had not yet entered into force. He also recognized the work of the Secretariat, Chairpersons and members of the Intergovernmental Working Groups on Rules of Procedure and Financial Rules and Guidelines for Operations of RACs and RANs for producing draft documents and encouraged the Meeting to consider these documents for urgent adoption. He highlighted the active part that the Secretariat was taking in two broader frameworks: UNEP's Medium Term Strategy with its six priority sub-programme areas and the work programme developed by the Association of the Caribbean States to implement the UN resolution on the Caribbean Sea.
20. With regard to *Resource mobilization and sustainability*, he reported a slight increase in contributions to the Caribbean Trust Fund, but indicated that the situation was still less than adequate. He encouraged all Governments to continue their support by paying all outstanding contributions, and extended special recognition to the Government of Guatemala for hosting the Fourth LBS ISTAC and the Government of Antigua and Barbuda for supporting this year's Intergovernmental Meeting. He recommended that other governments adopt a similar approach to offset unpaid contributions to the Trust Fund. He expressed his appreciation to the Government of Sweden, for their contribution to the Programme over the last 5 years. He indicated that the Secretariat was making efforts to mobilize resources in a sustainable way, by supporting the development of the Caribbean Revolving Fund for Wastewater Management and from other extra-regional sources. He acknowledged the tremendous support received from the RACs, reflecting the important contributions from the host Governments: Cuba, France, Trinidad and Tobago, and the Netherland Antilles. He also indicated the Sida support for the Junior Professional Officer at CIMAB and the ongoing support

by the Governments of the United States of America, Venezuela, and France to REMPEITC.

21. With regard to *Programme development* it was noted that with the support of the RACs and though the implementation of the GEF projects, almost all of the member countries had benefited from activities under the Programme. He concluded by highlighting the partnership approach that had been adopted and which has made Governments, Non-Governmental and private sector agencies, active participants in many CEP projects and activities. He congratulated the Secretariat and Parties for their work in this regard.

**AGENDA ITEM 5: REPORT OF THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF THE CARTAGENA CONVENTION ON THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE CARIBBEAN ENVIRONMENT PROGRAMME (2006-2007)**

22. The Chairperson and Mr. Corbin informed the Meeting that the Government of Colombia, depositary for the Cartagena Convention, would aim to provide the Meeting with a report on any ratifications and/or accessions that took place during the 2006-2007 biennium. The Colombian delegation was unable to participate in the Meeting.
23. The Chairperson invited the Secretariat to present the Report of the Executive Director of the Cartagena Convention on the Implementation of the 2006 – 2007 Workplan of the Caribbean Environment Programme as contained in document UNEP(DEPI)/CAR IG.28/INF.4, including the response to the Decisions of the Twelfth Intergovernmental and Ninth Meeting of the Contracting Parties (29 November – 2 December, Montego Bay, Jamaica, 2006). Mr. Christopher Corbin presented on behalf of Mr. Andrade the major activities, achievements, and challenges of the CEP during the 2006-2007 biennium and presented an assessment of the Secretariat's limited resources. He highlighted the ratification by Belize, France and Saint Lucia of the LBS Protocol and Belize to the SPAW Protocol. He encouraged ratification of the Cartagena Convention for the remaining countries of Bahamas, Haiti, Honduras, Guyana and Suriname. He also noted the progress made with the Rules of Procedure and Financial Rules and the Guidelines for RACs and RANs. In conclusion, Mr. Corbin noted the need for long-term sustainable financing.
24. He outlined the Secretariat's responses to and actions taken with respect to the Decisions of the Twelfth IGM and to Decisions/Recommendations of other CEP Intergovernmental and Technical Meetings and requested his fellow Programme Officers to report on the progress of their respective programmes: SPAW, CETA, AMEP and Administration.
25. The Chairman invited Mrs. Alessandra Vanzella-Khoury of the Secretariat to present the "Status of Implementation of the Workplan and Budget for the SPAW Regional Programme for the 2006-2007 Biennium". The Secretariat outlined the process

of development of the current Workplan, indicating that the Workplan had been developed by the Third STAC in Caracas, Venezuela, in October 2005, revised and approved by the Fourth COP in November 2006, and adopted by the Twelfth Intergovernmental Meeting and Ninth Meeting of the Contracting Parties of the CEP and Cartagena Convention, in Montego Bay, Jamaica, in December 2006. It was indicated that most of the activities outlined in the Workplan had been implemented and the rest had been incorporated into the "Draft Workplan and Budget for the SPAW Regional Programme for the 2008-2009 Biennium". Programme Coordination had been carried out by the SPAW Programme Officer with assistance from a Junior Professional Officer (JPO) until January 2007, as well as a Bilingual Secretary. The Director of the SPAW Regional Activity Centre, a Programme Officer and a part-time Documentalist for the RAC in Guadeloupe, as well as a Project Coordinator and Project Assistant for the International Coral Reef Action Network (ICRAN) Mesoamerican Reef Alliance (MAR) in Belize until July 2007, also supported the implementation. Information on the SPAW Programme was promoted via various media, such as its website, SPAW species colouring book in two languages, SPAW fact sheet, which is regularly updated and circulated, and at meetings with various organizations, including the International Coral Reef Initiative (ICRI), for which the Secretariat is the regional focal point. Ratification had been promoted in a number of countries, resulting in the ratification by the Government of Belize in early 2008. Funds were raised for the 2008-2009 biennium to the level of US\$ 1.6 million and included support from the French Government, Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency (Sida), and the Global Environment Facility (GEF) for the Caribbean Large Marine Ecosystem (CLME) Project. The Programme Officer for SPAW mentioned that a major action undertaken was the reactivation of the Caribbean Marine Protected Area Managers Network and Forum (CaMPAM), comprising the redesign and update of the marine protected areas (MPA) CaMPAM database, an evaluation of the internationally-recognized Training of Trainers (ToT) Programme on MPA management, in collaboration with the sub-programme for Communication, Education, Training and Awareness (CETA), and revision of the MPA Training Manual. The Secretariat also noted the finalization of the Guidelines for listing Protected Areas (PA) under SPAW, highlighting the coordinating role of the SPAW RAC and the work of the Electronic Working Group. Preliminary information for the Guidelines to prevent species from becoming threatened or endangered and for the legal analysis for the Criteria to assess Article 11 exemptions, also had been completed in keeping with previous COP Decisions.

26. Under Conservation of Threatened and Endangered Species, activities highlighted included refining the five year Priority Plan for the Marine Mammal Action Plan (MMAP), completion of the priority actions for marine mammal conservation identified at the 2005 Barbados Workshop, revision of the

Regional Manatee Management Plan, and synergy with the Inter-American Sea Turtle Convention and signature of a Memorandum of Cooperation (MoC). Support was provided to sea turtle recovery plans and index monitoring sites in SPAW Parties, in collaboration with WIDECAS. Collaboration with Birdlife International was also noted for the publication of the Important Bird Areas book for the Caribbean. With regard to the Conservation of Major Ecosystems, the secretariat mentioned the focus primarily on coral reef management and conservation.

27. Further support was provided to the sub-regional coral reef monitoring nodes, for publication of the coral reef status report, including the status after the bleaching event and hurricanes of 2005, and for preparations for the International Year of the Reef (IYOR) celebrated in 2008. Additionally, an economic valuation tool for coastal resources was developed with the World Resource Institute (WRI) to aid in ascertaining the economic value of coral reefs. Validation of this tool in St. Lucia and Trinidad and Tobago was supported. The Secretariat highlighted some of the sustainable tourism activities in support of the Caribbean Tourism Organisation (CTO) Regional Policy Framework for Sustainable Tourism and Blue Flag Initiative.
28. The Programme Officer also presented the main achievements of the International Coral Reef Action Network-Mesoamerican Reef Alliance Project (ICRAN/MAR), which was concluded during the biennium (UNEP(DEPI)/CAR WG.31/INF.10). She outlined the funding (US\$3 million) and primary donors (i.e. UNF and USAID) of the ICRAN-MAR Alliance, as well as the major activities. She informed the Meeting that it had been designed in 2003 in recognition of the ecological and socio-economic richness and importance of the Mesoamerican Barrier Reef region (MAR), and to complement activities already underway in the relevant countries. She explained that it had been a three-year initiative to address threats to the MAR under components known for their potential to strongly impact the coastal and marine ecosystems, i.e. watershed management, sustainable fisheries, and sustainable tourism, a growing economic activity in this region. The strategy of the Alliance includes the provision of different tools to promote the voluntary adoption of Better Management Practices (BMP), build partnerships at different levels for capacity building and involve the private sector as a fundamental objective.
29. Leveraged funding from partners and the private sector amounted to over US\$ 1.6 million in support of activities under the three components. These benefit over 1,000 stakeholders from 270 institutions from various sectors, including local communities and the private sector. Some of the major outcomes outlined by the Secretariat were the MoUs that had been signed with agro-businesses for the implementation and promotion of BMPs. Other outcomes include the development of a monitoring protocol for bioaccumulation in marine organisms, as well as regional capacity strengthening, and the development of an Ecosystem Based Fisheries Management (EBFM) methodology for the region. Reef Check ecological and socio-economic centres were established in the MAR countries and

coral reef monitoring manuals developed in English and Spanish. In the sustainable tourism arena, BMPs for marine recreation providers, as well as the creation of tourism conservation alliances and capacity building in selected pilot sites were completed.

30. The Secretariat concluded by reiterating that the reduced staff for SPAW and limited funding had affected delivery and implementation, and that the limited funding provided by the CTF had been compensated by other sources, with key activities remaining under funded. It was stated that despite efforts by the Secretariat during the biennium, only one new Party had joined the SPAW Protocol since 2003. The Programme Officer also emphasized that alliances and partnerships continued to demonstrate their importance for achieving objectives and that the SPAW RAC continued to provide useful support for the implementation of activities.
31. Ms. Heidi Savelli Söderberg of the Secretariat presented activities related to the Communication, Education, Training and Awareness (CETA) sub-programme. She reported that the CETA sub-programme was formed following a Decision by the Twelfth Intergovernmental Meeting through the merger of the ETA and CEPNET sub-programmes. While the establishment of a post was approved at the P3/P4 level, depending on funding availability, the post has so far been a project post co-funded with Sida support. The sub-programme provides support to the technical programmes and the CEP in areas such as coordination of media activities, promotion of the Cartagena Convention and its Protocols, the CEP and its programmes and activities, facilitation of meetings, information production and dissemination, development of awareness raising material for different user groups and implementation of educational and capacity-building activities.
32. Activities supporting ratification/accession to the LBS and SPAW Protocols as well as the CEP, include support to the AMEP promotional activities, and through the development, distribution and multiplication of materials e.g. LBS DVDs, brochures and increased media visibility. The Secretariat indicated that provision of regular updates on the availability of information regarding the protection and development of coastal and marine resources had been performed through the list serves, websites, and various meetings and other fora in the form of articles, presentations, fact sheets, technical reports, external publications, radio programmes, posters, CDs and DVDs targeting various user groups in order to reach as wide an audience as possible. Some of these were showcased or distributed at the Meeting and others would be made available on the CEP website for downloading. The Secretariat participated in various exhibitions at the national, regional and international level, i.e. at the Caribbean Environment Forum to increase awareness of relevant coastal and marine issues and the efforts of the CEP to address these issues. In addition, coordination of media appearances of CEP staff in radio, television and in the press had increased visibility, promotion and awareness-raising, tied to CEP projects and relevant environmental events or international campaigns such as the International Year of Sanitation and International Year of the Reef respectively, Earth Day, International Biodiversity Day, World Environment Day, Oceans Day, and UN Day, among others. Support had also been provided to national and regional CETA initiatives, which supported CEP objectives e.g., International Coastal Clean-up Day.
33. Inventory on CETA material available from the CEP as well as other relevant organisations and gaps identified with regard to the individual sub-programmes and major related issues, upon which the Secretariat has acted. Due to limited financial resources, the strategy has been to promote the use or reproduction of existing information and awareness material for posting on the CEP website and reprinting with the CEP logo. Collaboration with the Institute of Marine Affairs has resulted in a new CEP brochure, translation of the LBS DVD and the corresponding brochure to French, as well as public service announcements for the LBS Protocol. A promotional DVD for the CEP is ongoing and will be finalized in 2008. Awareness material such as "Earth facts" has been supported with JET on marine mammals, corals, wetlands, turtles, climate change, and recycling used for the Schools Environment Programme, and will be translated and made available through the CEP website. Promotion and coordination of the Internship programme has resulted in support provided to SPAW, AMEP and CETA.
34. Development of the Communication and Outreach (C&O) framework has been done through a CEP staff workshop and a draft framework has been prepared. Programme Officers have received training in media techniques, drafting of press releases, language etc. Part of the C&O framework includes coordination of media activities to increase CEP visibility and pro-actively develop links with national/regional, and international media. Media activities have included in-house media training for staff, press conferences, development of media briefs for SPAW and AMEP and ten radio programmes covering various topics. Sensitization activities, including a regional workshop on coastal and marine issues and climate change, were organized for 13 environmental journalists from Antigua and Barbuda, Barbados, Dominica, Grenada, Jamaica, and Trinidad and Tobago, in collaboration with the PANOS Institute. During this workshop, feedback was provided from the participants on the draft media briefings, radio programmes and other material.
35. The delegate of Barbados underscored the work of the Secretariat, particularly in the area of data and information management. Although the current efforts of UNEP in this area were recognised, it was noted that more effort was needed to improve data and information exchange between the member States and UNEP. The delegate highlighted the participation of Barbados in the IOC-led Caribbean Marine Atlas Project and announced her country's production of a similar national marine atlas through the activities undertaken under this project.

36. The representative of ECLAC, in congratulating the Secretariat for the presentations, noted that many work themes of the CEP were similar to those of ECLAC, such as climate change adaptation, disaster adaptation and mitigation, and economic valuation of coral reefs. She requested information on the strategy of the Secretariat for maximizing the use of regional expertise on these matters when creating new partnerships and projects.
37. The delegate of France congratulated the Secretariat and the RACs for their work, and continued outlining the actions taken by the Government of France in the region. He informed the Meeting that the protection of the marine environment and, more particularly, the protection of corals reefs, was a priority issue for France. He highlighted the fact that The French Global Environment Facility (Fonds Français pour l'Environnement Mondial) had invested 5.5 million Euros in seven projects, four of which dealt with the protection of the marine environment in the Caribbean region. Finally, the delegate expressed France's interest in having the Secretariat of CEP play a key role in the coordination and execution of the French GEF in the region.
38. The Secretariat expressed its appreciation for the continued support from the Government of France, and welcomed closer collaboration for the implementation of activities related to protected areas. In response to ECLAC, the Secretariat highlighted the critical importance of partnerships and stated that partnerships were key to the work of the CEP. The Secretariat indicated that while participation in meetings of various regional organisations was important for networking purposes and increased synergies, limited human resources and funding constraints prevented consistent participation. Efforts were however always being made to promote the work of the CEP.
39. The delegate of France highlighted the importance of the CETA sub-programme and strongly encouraged continued support for CETA.
40. The AMEP Programme Officer then presented a detailed overview of the AMEP sub-programme during the 2006-2007biennium. It was indicated that in addition to the Protocol on the Control of Pollution from Land-based Sources and Activities, the Programme also coordinates the Protocol Concerning Cooperation in Combating Oil Spills, the establishment and development of the LBS-RACs, and also works in support of various global Conventions. The primary objective of the AMEP sub-programme is to control, prevent and reduce pollution of the coastal and marine environment from land-based sources, which is achieved through coordination, collaboration, cooperation, and communication with regional and international organizations in project development and implementation. He added that AMEP projects fall within six major thematic areas: National Programmes of Action, Environmental Assessment & Monitoring, Sewage & Wastewater Management, Integrated Watershed Management, Integrated Waste Management and Oil Spills Planning.
41. The AMEP Programme Officer outlined the major Recommendations from the Fourth Meeting of the Interim Scientific and Technical Advisory Committee (ISTAC) in Petén, Guatemala, in October 2007, including the results of a regional survey conducted in 2007 regarding the challenges to ratification of the LBS Protocol. He highlighted the primary challenges expressed by the countries which included: Inadequate human resources, lack of financial resources, uninformed policy makers and public, bureaucratic processes, inadequate coordination and cooperation, as well as the influence of specific national issues. In the area of partnerships, the Programme Officer reported on the successful collaboration with several national, regional and international agencies including the Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency (Sida) the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA), Water Centre for the Humid Tropics of Latin America and the Caribbean (CATHALAC), the Institute of Coastal and Marine Research (INVEMAR), and the MEA Secretariats including the BASEL Convention.
42. The AMEP Programme Officer presented the status of implementation of the AMEP related Decisions from the Twelfth Intergovernmental Meeting of the Contracting Parties to the Cartagena Convention held in Montego Bay, Jamaica, in 2006. He indicated that AMEP was successful in responding to these Decisions with positive results. He outlined the progress made in the implementation of the three GEF Projects being executed by the Secretariat: Major outputs of the Integrating Watershed and Coastal Area Management (IWCAM) Project included the completion of a detailed regional review of national policy, legislative and institutional structures in the IWCAM countries, as well as the review and development of a regional indicator template. He added that a regional Geographical Information Systems Roadmap had been prepared and that there had been increased support to Integrated Water Resource Management in Grenada and Saint Vincent and The Grenadines.
43. The AMEP Programme Officer provided updates on the Reducing Pesticide Contamination of the Caribbean Sea (REPCar) the Contaminated Bays. Major outputs of RepCar include the establishment of regional and national coordination mechanisms and monitoring protocols, capacity building of laboratories and the development of partnerships with IAEA and IWCAM. He added that through support from the GEF Projects, AMEP was able to hire a Programme Assistant in January 2007. He continued by providing a summary of the major project activities undertaken in the areas of pollution prevention and control, capacity building, training and technology transfer, promotion and awareness, and partnership development.
44. The AMEP Programme Officer then invited Mr. Antonio Villasol, Director of the Centro de Investigaciones para el Manejo de Bahías y Costas (CIMAB) to present an update of the Technical Report 33. Mr. Villasol presented a summary of the results for

the update of CEP Technical Report No.33, and mentioned that between 80% and 90% of the marine pollution originated from land-based sources. He highlighted the importance to the environmental authorities of the countries of an updated report in order to ensure that reliable and up-to-date information is available for making informed decisions aimed at preventing, reducing and controlling marine pollution. The lessons learned during the project were presented, and indicate that data is very diffused or nonexistent in some countries and that the difficulty of quantifying the non-point and diffused, sources of pollution affecting the sea. He outlined the need for the environmental authorities of the countries to have in place a system that facilitates the collection and analysis of the information required to estimate the pollutant loads from point and non-point sources to equip them for implementing the LBS Protocol when it enters into force in the near future.

45. The AMEP Programme Officer presented a summary of the co-financing provided by the Regional Activity Centres- The Institute of Marine Affairs and Centro de Investigaciones para el Manejo de Bahias y Costas (CIMAB). He noted the considerable support and roles of the RACs.
46. The Programme Officer concluded his status report with a summary of the expenditure for the AMEP sub-programme. He pointed out the major funding sources in addition to the Caribbean Trust Fund for AMEP, which are primarily from project donor funding sources including the Global Environment Facility, Sida, and the US State Department. He added that the majority of the funding sourced was utilized in environmental monitoring and assessment and integrated waste management. In concluding he thanked the participating countries for their continued support and commitment to the AMEP sub-programme and suggested that member governments could consider submission of an intent to endorse letter stating the need for additional time to review the documentation on the CREW prior to official endorsement.
47. The delegate of Barbados congratulated the Secretariat and Director of the LBS/RAC-CIMAB for the comprehensive presentation on AMEP, and highlighted that the activities undertaken were very relevant to the successful implementation of the LBS Protocol. The delegate welcomed the initiative of the Caribbean Revolving fund for Wastewater Management (CreW) as very relevant and important for countries such as Barbados, considering the fact that wastewater treatment remains a serious challenge to the region. While noting that Barbados had not had sufficient time to acquire official endorsement of the CREW by the deadline of 10 September 2008, the country had endorsed the fund in principle. He concluded by thanking the CEP for the support to the National Promotional Workshop for the LBS Protocol, which had provided a better understanding of LBS issues in Barbados, especially of non-point sources of pollution from the agricultural sector.

48. The delegate from the USA thanked the AMEP Programme Officer for the presentation, and reminded the Meeting that the AMEP sub-programme was accomplishing a lot with limited funding. He encouraged all countries that have not yet submitted data for the update of Technical Report No.33, to do so within the shortest time possible.
49. The delegate of Saint Lucia highlighted the fact that her country had benefited greatly from CEP supported projects and activities in recent years. She further stressed that activities occurring under the GEF IWCAM Project, combined with activities funded by Sida, were assisting the country in meeting its obligations under the LBS Protocol. She delegate concluded by expressing support for the CreW and welcoming the initiative.
50. The delegate of France encouraged the countries present at the Meeting to ratify or accede to the LBS Protocol so that it may enter into force, and highlighted the fact that LBS issues, and implementing the LBS Protocol, was a priority for France. The delegate also reminded the Meeting that, unlike oil spills where pollution was very visible, most land-based sources of pollution were much less visible, therefore making communication and increased awareness crucial.
51. The Secretariat thanked the Meeting for the support expressed towards the CEP and the AMEP sub-programme, and welcomed the encouragement of some countries towards others for ratification of the LBS Protocol. The Secretariat congratulated the Government of Saint Lucia for being the only country to have officially endorsed the CreW, and encouraged Barbados to do likewise in endorsing CreW, in principle, by the deadline of 10 September 2008, indicating that a formal endorsement will be considered at a later stage.

#### **AGENDA ITEM 6: RULES OF PROCEDURE AND FINANCIAL RULES OF THE CARIBBEAN ENVIRONMENT PROGRAMME**

52. The Chairman invited Mr. Matthew Burton, Chairman of the Working Group on the Rules of Procedure and Financial Rules of the Caribbean Environment Programme to present the Chairman's Report: Open Intersessional Drafting Group on the Rules of Procedure for the Caribbean Environment Programme, Financial Rules for the Cartagena Convention and the Caribbean Environment Programme, and Terms of Reference for the Caribbean Trust Fund as contained in document UNEP(DEPI)/CAR IG.28/CRP.2. The Chairman of the Working Group recommended that the Contracting Parties present resolve the language that was not agreed to within the Working Group and adopt the Rules of Procedure and Financial Rules at this Meeting. He then welcomed discussion on Rule 24, paragraph 2, which describes the designation of the Secretariat and the Coordinator.
53. The delegate of Mexico congratulated the Working Group for its position and thanked the Secretariat for a job well done. She

- congratulated Mr. Nelson Andrade Colmenares, who serves as the Executive Secretary for the Secretariat of the Cartagena Convention. Mexico underscored that decisions must be made within the constitution of this Convention and strongly emphasized the need for term limits to the position of the Executive Secretary, asserting that Contracting Parties should have a strong voice in the performance evaluation of the Executive Secretary and a role in decisions related to the renewal of his or her mandate. She reiterated the sentiments on the excellent work the current Executive Secretary was doing and emphasized that the suggestion related to institutions, not individuals. This position was supported by Cuba, the Dominican Republic and France. The delegate of Mexico further provided an example of the International Seabed Authority, where the Executive Secretary is selected by the Contracting Parties. The Secretariat noted that the International Seabed Authority was different in that it was not a part of the United Nations in terms of hiring and recruitment and as such, different rules may apply.
54. The delegation from the United States raised the implications of such a text, especially with regard to recruitment within the UNEP system, which administers the Secretariat for the Cartagena Convention stating that term limits might impact negatively on the quality of applicants to the position. The delegate further stated that the United States has been pleased with its relationship with UNEP and its performance as the Secretariat and was concerned about potential conflict if a new Executive Secretary were to be subject to an approval process and term limits. These remarks were later echoed by the delegates from Barbados and the Netherlands Antilles. Discussion arose regarding recruitment of Executive Secretaries within the UN system through a process of election by the Contracting Parties. The delegation from France indicated that in the case of the Barcelona Convention, a sister Convention to the Cartagena Convention, and which relates to the Mediterranean Sea, the Executive Director is appointed by UNEP. He noted, however, that the Contracting Parties had criticized the lack of transparency of this approach in the past. The delegate of Belize stated that established procedures were not permanent and could change in the spirit of transparency and national priorities. It was stated further, that the Rules of Procedure of the Barcelona Convention procedure did not address this matter fully, but merely stated that UNEP was to perform Secretariat functions, a mandate similar to that of the Cartagena Convention.
  55. A number of Parties suggested that in the interest of time and effort these discussions should not be dealt with in the Rules of Procedure and that Parties should instead address this at a later time after research has been conducted. They also stressed the fact that the Rules of Procedure dealt specifically with the organization of meetings, not with administrative matters such as recruitment and term limits. This approach would delay any decision on this matter, but would allow a more thorough review of relevant legal and administrative procedures.
  56. A number of solutions were suggested such as the addition of a performance evaluation, a term limit, that the Executive Secretary be selected from applicants from the Caribbean region, that Contracting Parties be allowed to participate in the recruitment process by reviewing the candidates being considered by UNEP and that the Executive Secretary be appointed by UNEP, taking into account the views of the Parties. The delegate of the Netherlands Antilles suggested that Contracting Parties could possibly make an input into the selection of the different candidates being considered by UNEP. The Secretariat explained that UNEP has very specific rules for the hiring of candidates and that such interventions would likely be in conflict with such procedures.
  57. The IGM Chairman signaled that this was a management and administrative issue, not part of the Rules of Procedure. He proposed that a Working Group, with Mexico as the Chairperson, be established to deal with this matter outside of the Rules of Procedure. Following informal discussions, the delegate of Mexico highlighted three issues that the Working Group would need to look into and discuss in further detail *UNEP Rules for staff recruitment*: Do the UNEP rules and procedures allow for the consideration of recommendations from Contracting Parties in the selection and evaluation of the Executive Secretary? *Mechanism for Recommendation*: What mechanism exists or could be created to allow for input from Contracting Parties on the selection and evaluation of the Executive Secretary? *Performance Review*: Is the CEP Monitoring Committee able to review the performance of the Executive Secretary on a biannual basis (during the IGM or another Meeting of the Contracting Parties?).
  58. Additionally, the delegate of Mexico noted that the Secretariat would carry out research into the antecedents for the election of an Executive Secretary to a Convention within the UNEP system, and specifically within the Regional Seas Conventions.
  59. Consensus was reached on deletion of rule 24 and having it addressed by the Working Group chaired by Mexico and including Cuba and Venezuela.
  60. The Working Group was also unable to reach consensus on Rule 41 and as such presented the two options (Options 1A and 1B) to the Contracting Parties. The delegation of Mexico presented a third proposal for text (Option 1C), which they felt better ensured the active participation of all Contracting Parties.
  61. Considerable debate and discussion was then dedicated to this Rule, as well as additional text and options. The United States delegation strongly underscored its commitment to deciding all matters by consensus, and as such, its preference for Option 1A. They were supported by Belize, Guatemala, and Saint Vincent and the Grenadines. Saint Vincent and the Grenadines also suggested a potential modification to the text of 1A for all

decisions regarding financial matters to be decided by consensus. Cuba and Mexico supported the suggestion of the delegate from Saint Vincent and the Grenadines in order to avoid any delay in the work of the Secretariat.

62. A number of delegations -Aruba, Barbados, Cuba, Costa Rica, Netherlands Antilles and Panama- favoured the extensive use of consensus, with the default position of a  $\frac{3}{4}$  majority vote, as stipulated in Option 1B, although the Netherlands Antilles later supported 1A, based on the modification suggested by Saint Vincent and the Grenadines.
63. The United States delegation stressed their position that all matters should be decided by consensus. It was noted that, up to this point, the Intergovernmental Meeting had always reached consensus and had never experienced any problems in this regard. The Dominican Republic supported 1A and, specifically, absolute consensus for substantive issues, as did Belize and Guatemala.
64. As consensus was not possible on this matter, the Meeting of the Contracting Parties agreed to leave Options 1A and 1B in brackets and resolve the issue at a later IGM. In the meantime, it was suggested that the Meeting of the Contracting Parties would continue to make decisions via consensus.
65. The Intergovernmental Meeting also discussed the issue of payment of unpaid contributions with in-kind contributions, as addressed in Rule 14. The Working Group Chairperson presented two options: Option 1 suggests that contracting parties may agree otherwise, but as a general rule, should only allow up to 25% of a party's contribution to be made through an agreed in-kind contribution. This option gives guidance and provides more flexibility regarding in-kind contributions. Option 2 deletes language that refers to the percentage cap for in-kind contributions. This speaks to the concern regarding a limit to in-kind contributions. Discussions followed and countries in support of Option 2 appreciated the flexibility it provided Contracting Parties in reducing their unpaid contributions through in-kind contributions, whenever necessary, whereas Option 1 seemed to better secure the needed operating funds for the Secretariat.
66. The Secretariat emphasized that recovery of unpaid contributions was a lengthy and continuous process. However, with regard to the biennial operating costs of the Secretariat, these were set operating costs. If there were an excess of in-kind contributions, the Secretariat would not have the cash required to carry out its basic functions.
67. In the course of the discussion, it was noted by the delegation from Barbados that in-kind contributions have been invaluable throughout the region and that there are times when states are truly unable to make their voluntary contribution. She noted that conventions have provisions, requirements, and legal obligations attached to them to ensure their sustainability and

some consideration must be given to member States in extenuating circumstances. In a similar vein, the delegate from the Netherlands Antilles questioned the need for a cap on in-kind contributions, stating that it could be left to the good sense of the Contracting Parties to balance the circumstances of member States with the budgetary considerations of UNEP-CAR/RCU on a case-by-case basis.

68. The Executive Secretary noted that in 1996 the Secretariat was almost bankrupt due to non-payment of assessed contributions. The Secretariat was able to work with the countries regarding alternative financial mechanisms in order help capitalize the fund. From that point on, the Secretariat entered into direct negotiating processes with the countries. Positive benefits flowed to the CEP countries and up until today, this mechanism has benefited the Secretariat tremendously. He cited the example of Guatemala, which had paid the airfare of all participants to the recent LBS ISTAC. In this regard, the Secretariat expressed its preference for Option 2, which allows for a direct working relationship with member Governments. Based on the intervention of the Secretariat, consensus was reached on the adoption of Option 2.

#### **AGENDA ITEM 7: GUIDELINES FOR THE OPERATIONS OF THE REGIONAL ACTIVITY CENTRES (RACs) AND REGIONAL ACTIVITY NETWORKS (RANs) OF THE CARIBBEAN ENVIRONMENT PROGRAMME**

69. In keeping with Decision VIII of the Tenth Intergovernmental Meeting on the continuity of the open Intersessional drafting group established at the Thirteenth Meeting of the Monitoring Committee, the Chairman asked the Government of the United States of America to present the "Discussion Paper for the Open Intersessional Drafting Group on the Rules of Procedure for the Caribbean Environment Programme, Financial Rules for the Cartagena Convention and the Caribbean Environment Programme, and Terms of Reference for the Caribbean Trust Fund" (UNEP(DEPI)/CAR IG.26/INF.6).
70. Mr. Klaus Essig in his capacity as Chairman of the Intersessional Working Group on Guidelines for the operation of the Regional Activity Centres (RACs) and the Regional Activity Networks (RANs) of the Caribbean Environment Programme, was invited to present the work of the Group, which had resulted in document UNEP(DEPI)/CAR IG.28/INF 5/Rev.1 "Results and Recommendations of the Open Intersessional Drafting Group on the Guidelines for the Operations of Regional Activity Centres (RACs) and Regional Activity Networks (RANs) of the Caribbean Environment Programme".
71. He congratulated the representatives of the Contracting Parties, the Regional Coordinating Unit of UNEP in the Caribbean, the individuals, organizations and institutions which had participated in this Working Group over the last four years, for the enthusiasm and sense of responsibility with which they carried

- out their duties. The Chairman of the Intersessional Working Group provided a chronological summary of the Working Group activities from its inception based on Decision VI of the Eleventh Intergovernmental Meeting on the Action Plan for the Caribbean Environment Programme and Eighth Intergovernmental Meeting of the Contracting Parties to the Convention for the Protection and Development of the Marine Environment in the Wider Caribbean Region, held in Montego Bay, Jamaica, from 28 September to 2 October 2004.
72. Mr. Essig presented an outline of the major improvements to the clarity and focus of the RAC/RAN Guidelines as incorporated in versions UNEP(DEPI)/CAR IG.26/CRP.1 and UNEP(DEC)/CAR IG.24/CRP.9/Rev.1, that had been presented to the Twelfth Intergovernmental Meeting on the Action Plan for the Caribbean Environment Programme. He added that informal consensus was achieved among Working Group members during the Thirteenth Intergovernmental Meeting on the Action Plan for the Caribbean Environment Programme and Tenth Intergovernmental Meeting of the Contracting Parties to the Convention for the Protection and Development of the Marine Environment in the Wider Caribbean Region in St. John's, Antigua and Barbuda. The Chairman of the Working Group concluded his presentation with a request on behalf of the Intersessional Working Group to present the consolidated version, as detailed in UNEP(DEPI)/CAR IG.28/INF 5/Rev.1, as the final document containing the "Standards for the Establishment and Operation of the Regional Activity Centres (RACs) and the Regional Activity Networks (RANs) of the Cartagena Convention", for consideration and adoption at the Thirteenth Intergovernmental Meeting of the Caribbean Action Plan and Tenth Meeting of the Contracting Parties to the Cartagena Convention.
73. The delegate of the USA applauded the hard work of the Working Group in the compilation of an effective document and endorsed the final consolidated version of the RAC/RAN Guidelines. He indicated that he anticipated formal approval of the document during the course of the Meeting.
74. The delegate of France expressed his satisfaction with the negotiations involved in the development of the RAC/RAN Guidelines. He added that the expanded role of non-governmental organizations and civil society in the final version was critically important to the strengthening of the Regional Activity Centres. He indicated that these Guidelines would help to strengthen ongoing negotiations for improvement in legal and local support to the SPAW Regional Activity Centre in Guadeloupe. The delegate of the Netherlands Antilles complimented the Chairman and the members of the Intersessional Working Group, stating that the new document would broaden participation.
75. The RAC/RAN Guidelines were subsequently approved by consensus. The Chairperson congratulated the Meeting on this important decision.
- AGENDA ITEM 8: WORKPLAN AND BUDGET FOR THE CARIBBEAN ENVIRONMENT PROGRAMME FOR THE 2008-2009 BIENNIUM**
76. The Secretariat was invited to present the Draft Workplan and Budget for AMEP for the 2008-2009 biennium. The AMEP Programme Officer presented the projects and activities of the AMEP Programme as contained in document UNEP(DEPI)/CAR WG.30/3. He stated that the Workplan and Budget covered the activities to be developed under the Assessment and Management of Environmental Pollution (AMEP) sub-programme adding that collaboration would continue with the two LBS RAC's (LBS/RAC-CIMAB, Cuba and LBS/RAC-IMA, Trinidad and Tobago) for the 2008-2009 biennium in support of the Protocol Concerning Pollution from Land-based Sources and Activities (LBS Protocol). He stated that AMEP projects and activities would be developed and implemented through a more strategic approach focused on results-based management. He presented the overall goals, secondary objectives and possible indicators for the next biennium. Some of the indicators included national legal and policy reforms, increased awareness of the LBS Protocol, improvement in environmental quality, reduction in pollutant loadings to the Caribbean Sea, increased partnerships in project development and increased ratification/accession to the Protocol. He further suggested that the LBS/RACs and RANs would play an even greater role in providing capacity-building and technical support to member governments, as well as mobilizing additional resources and the decentralizing programme activities at the Secretariat.
77. The AMEP Programme Officer presented a summary of ongoing and proposed projects and activities for the 2008-2009 biennium, within the thematic areas as presented in the Status Report. He also highlighted the geographic scope, range of partners and sources of funding, for these projects. Specific mention was made of significant financial support being provided by Sida for several AMEP activities. Mr. Corbin stated that these new projects had been streamlined and redesigned to be more focused and relevant based on input from regional partners. He concluded by indicating that the grouping of new activities into thematic areas enabled partners to have a better overall picture of the Programme and the level of activity in each thematic area.
78. The AMEP Programme Officer indicated that projects and activities carried out during the biennium would include regional capacity-building activities and small demonstration projects geared to produce concrete results at the local level. He outlined the Secretariat's ongoing efforts in the dissemination of awareness-raising material.
79. Particular mention was made of the GEF Projects and the increased activities during the biennium. The Programme Officer encouraged all participants to take greater ownership of these projects and to maximize the benefits at the national and regional levels. He informed of the difficulty in developing new GEF Project proposals in the International Waters Portfolio, and

confirmed the strong show of support for the initiative to develop a Caribbean Revolving Fund for Wastewater Management in the Wider Caribbean Region.

80. The AMEP Programme Officer also provided an overview of the AMEP budget for the 2008-2009 biennium, indicating funding which had been secured as well as that which was still needed. He noted that with the financial support from Sida coming to an end, the Secretariat and LBS/RACs would need to increase their fundraising efforts. He reiterated the importance of government contributions to the CTF as well as direct contributions from Governments to specific project activities and expressed the hope that the more defined project concepts would assist in this regard. He provided a summary of the main support being provided by the Secretariat through Administration and the CETA sub-programme. The success of the programme could be measured by how effectively information was packaged and disseminated. He summarized the critical cross-cutting areas in the development and implementation of the 2008-2009 Workplan, increased information management for decision-making and sustainability of the AMEP Programme, in terms of human resources, as well as financing and mobilizing additional financial support for national and regional projects.
81. He mentioned the importance of aligning new activities with the global strategic directions being taken by UNEP and agencies such as the Global Environmental Facility, in areas such as climate change, ecosystem management, valuation of ecosystem services and improving baseline analysis, particularly for hot spots in the region. The AMEP Programme Officer concluded by suggesting issues which member Governments may wish to see reflected in the Decisions of Meeting.
82. The delegate from the USA congratulated the AMEP Programme Officer on the tremendous amount of work undertaken by the AMEP sub-programme, and expressed the delegation's appreciation for the inclusion of achievement indicators in the Workplan, proposing that similar indicators be incorporated into the Workplans of the other sub-programmes. She proposed further that these achievement indicators be more related to the operations of the Cartagena Convention and its Protocols, rather than focusing primarily on the UNEP Medium Term Strategy. She concluded by suggesting that linkages between project and overall AMEP indicators be established.
83. The AMEP Programme Officer thanked the delegation from the USA for her observations and comments on the achievement indicators, accepting that these indicators could indeed focus on the Convention and Protocols although some achievement indicators relating to the AMEP thematic areas was needed for reporting to UNEP Headquarters.
84. The delegate from St. Lucia congratulated the AMEP Programme Officer for the draft work programme, noting that it reflected recommendations, priorities and concerns indicated by the Member States at the Fourth ISTAC.
85. The delegate from Barbados congratulated the Secretariat for the draft AMEP Workplan and the inclusion of the performance matrix. She reminded the Meeting that additional efforts to measure performance would require additional human resources if done adequately, and that if the member States requested that such efforts be made, they should also ensure that the Secretariat is adequately supported financially.
86. The delegate of France congratulated the AMEP Programme Officer and AMEP RACs and informed the Meeting of their intent to participate in the Fifth ISTAC. He indicated that representatives from the three French Departments could assist in LBS promotional activities in French, and that the European Directive on Water focuses on the use of existing methodologies, whenever possible, for water quality evaluation. He informed the Meeting that France was supporting an engineer at the RAC for the Oil Spills Protocol.
87. The AMEP Programme Officer thanked the delegate from Barbados for recognizing that measuring performance would indeed require additional resources. He informed the Meeting that as AMEP is becoming more results-based, better performance monitoring was seen as a value-added tool to mobilize funds and attract donors.
88. The Secretariat was invited to present the "Draft Workplan and Budget of the SPAW Regional Programme for the 2008-2009 Biennium" (UNEP(DEPI)/CAR WG.31/5.Rev.1), developed following Recommendations of previous STAC and COP meetings, addressing existing and emerging global and regional issues and initiatives, and continued development of strategic alliances. Programme Coordination will continue to be carried out by SPAW staff, which currently includes a Programme Officer and a Bilingual Secretary, based in Kingston, with the assistance of the SPAW RAC Director and a Documentalist in Guadeloupe. The Secretariat will promote the SPAW Protocol with a view to increasing the number of Parties, and fundraise for activities outlined in the Workplan.
89. Activities under "Strengthening of Protected Areas" include those of the CaMPAM Network and Forum namely: annual meetings for MPA managers at GCFI; small grants for six MPAs focusing on livelihoods and sustainable tourism and fisheries; the Training of Trainers (ToT) Programme and subsequent local training courses; promotion of the MPA database; support the regional network of MPAs and the 2012 target, in synergy with the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD); as well as linkages with the Caribbean Challenge Initiative, and the Western Hemispheric Migratory Species Initiative (WHMSI).
90. With regard to the Guidelines for protected areas and species, the Secretariat and SPAW RAC will undertake a pilot activity for listing PA, and develop a network and cooperation programme as per Decision No. 8 of SPAW COP4 (contained in

- (UNEP(DEC)/CAR IG.25/INF.4). Criteria for assessment of exemptions under Article 11(2) will be explored pursuant to Decisions Nos. 9 and 7 of SPAW COP2 and COP3 respectively, and as contained in UNEP(DEC)/CAR WG.29/INF.5. A Working Group will be created as soon as possible to initiate the process for listing new species not yet included in the Annexes to the Protocol, based on Decision 2(ii) of the COP4 and information documents UNEP(DEPI)CARWG.31/INF.6, UNEP(DEPI)CARWG.31/INF.7 and UNEP(DEPI)/CAR IG.25/INF.5.
91. Under the component "Conservation of Threatened and Endangered Species", the Secretariat proposed to implement the MMAP priority action plan; update marine mammal compilations to improve information; capacity building workshops on stranding response, and best management practice workshops for whale watching and the compilation of related information; and consider development of standards for MM in captivity. Continued support and promotion of various activities, such as manatee conservation and its regional management plan, Sea Turtle Recovery Action Plans (STRAPs), establishment of new Index Monitoring Sites for hawksbill turtles (*Eretmochelys imbricata*) through the Wider Caribbean Sea Turtle Conservation Network (WIDECAST), a hawksbill regional workshop (2008) with the Interamerican Convention for the Protection and Conservation of Sea Turtles (IAC), and continued work on the West Indian whistling duck (*Dendrocygna arborea*) through wetlands conservation. Collaborative efforts and synergies will also continue with BirdLife on the management of important bird areas (IBAs), and with the Western Central Atlantic Fisheries Commission of the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO/WECAFC), the Caribbean Regional Fisheries Mechanism (CRFM) and the Organization for the Fisheries and Aquaculture Sector of the Central American Isthmus (OSPESCA) on management of queen conch (*Strombus gigas*) and spiny lobster (*Panulirus argus*) fisheries, as well as with CABI on invasive alien species management in the Insular Caribbean.
92. Within the "Conservation of Major Ecosystems" component, the Secretariat will participate in the implementation of the Caribbean Large Marine Ecosystem Project of GEF, United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), and the Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission of UNESCO Sub-Commission for the Caribbean and Adjacent Regions (IOCaribe), taking the lead in the reef biodiversity pilot project. The Secretariat will also continue to serve as the regional focal point for ICRI and will support and promote IYOR activities in the 2008-2009 biennium. Collaboration and coordination will continue with CTO, Caribbean Alliance for Sustainable Tourism (CAST), and UNEP-DTIE, on sustainable tourism initiatives, dissemination of CEP and UNEP material on sustainable tourism, continued promotion as appropriate of the Blue Flag Programme, as well as strengthening capacities on sustainable marine recreation practices in other parts of the region based on ICRAN/MAR experiences in Mesoamerica.
93. Following the presentation, various delegations congratulated the Secretariat for the Workplan. The delegate of the United States indicated her country's satisfaction with the adoption of the Guidelines and Criteria for Protected Areas and the Marine Mammal Action Plan (MMAP) by the recently concluded COP5. The United States expressed their desire to see the Workplan focus on on-the-ground implementation of projects rather than undertake additional guideline processes. In this regard, the United States wanted emphasis to be placed on MPA establishment while its priority for MMAP is marine mammal strandings. The U.S. thanked the Secretariat for modifying the SPAW Workplan based on discussions and decisions of the 5<sup>th</sup> COP which retained the project on Guidelines to prevent species from becoming Threatened or Endangered Species, but only when and if resources are available.
94. The delegate of the Netherlands Antilles applauded the fact that many Decisions from previous SPAW meetings were reflected in the Workplan presented. He stated that the Netherlands Antilles was ready to present for consideration by the STAC, several of their protected areas for inclusion in the List under the SPAW Protocol, in keeping with the recently adopted Guidelines.
95. The delegate of St Lucia requested additional information on the SPAW Small Grants Funds (SGFs) for marine protected areas (MPAs) and asked the Secretariat to indicate if collaborative efforts existed with the biodiversity OECS OPAAL Project. The delegate from Cuba affirmed his agreement with the Guidelines adopted and hard work undertaken by Parties in the development of these documents, as well as other efforts concluded by the COP5.
96. The delegate of France reiterated his country's contributions to SPAW and indicated that co-financing should be more substantial for SPAW activities. He congratulated the Dominican Republic and the United States for their combined efforts in the creation of the sister sanctuary for whales, stating that they were in touch with the managers of this sanctuary as they were also considering a similar sanctuary in the French Caribbean Islands, as proposed at the Twelfth Intergovernmental Meeting.
97. The SPAW Programme Officer thanked the Meeting for the positive feedback. She noted that the Guidelines had been developed in response to provisions of the Protocol and following specific requests from Parties. She informed the Meeting of consultations with the OECS on synergies with the OPAAL project and that concrete actions for collaboration were currently being explored. She also stated that Parties and countries were kept informed on project opportunities such as the Small Grants Fund (SGF) of the Caribbean Marine Protected Managers Network (CaMPAM), through the CEP website and the SPAW and CaMPAM listserves, as well as other communication mechanisms within the region. In this

regard, she informed the delegate from St. Lucia that her country was one of the first to benefit from this grant mechanism through support provided to the Soufrière Marine Management Area (SMMA).

98. Ms. Heidi Savelli Söderberg presented the draft Workplan for the Communication, Education, Training and Awareness (CETA) sub-programme for 2008-2009. She indicated that the current CETA staff consists of project-based and short-term staff who, through CETA, provide support to the CEP and the technical sub-programmes. She outlined the objectives.
99. As part of coordination, CETA will support AMEP and SPAW 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, assist with dissemination of the CEP products, coordinate responses to requests for information and external surveys, continue maintenance and upgrade of the CEP website, provide support for the convening of technical and intergovernmental meetings of the CEP and coordinate the preparation and dissemination of final meeting reports. An important area would be fund-raising for recruitment of a permanent CETA Programme Officer and expansion of the Programme itself. Promotion of the CEP and its sub-programmes will continue through the implementation of activities for the promotion of the ratification/accession to the LBS and SPAW Protocols, provision of updates on the availability of information regarding the protection and development of coastal and marine resources; promotion of CEP at national, regional and international fora, and through all available media. In addition, promotion of the International Year of the Reef and the International Year of Sanitation will continue for 2008. Gaps in information material will continue to be filled by the individual programmes and for major related issues for dissemination to various groups.
100. Marketing strategies will be taken into account when finalizing a draft communication and outreach strategy, which will contain communication expectations, procedures and general guidelines for the effective communication of UNEP-CEP projects and programmes. Media activities will be implemented to increase the visibility of the CEP to raise awareness within various groups of CEP projects and activities and the importance of a healthy marine/coastal environment. If funding allowed, support would be provided for additional workshops for environmental journalists to raise the profile of environmental issues in the Caribbean, and the updating of the CEP websites, CaMPAM database, meta-database, photo, and database would continue, and new partners would be approached to further increase the dissemination of information.
101. She indicated that activities for the implementation of educational activities relevant to the CEP themes included facilitation, where feasible, of regional discussions on education for sustainable development. This will be included in national education curriculum and training activities. Educational materials for teachers, taking existing financial resources into account, will be developed with a view to making these and other relevant material available to the countries of the WCR. By developing and maintaining links with Ministries of Education, assistance will be provided for raising awareness within educational groups of the importance of a healthy marine/coastal environment. Fundraising and implementation of specific technical training programmes and capacity building exercises e.g. the Training of Trainers training courses would be implemented. A joint project will be developed with UNEP/DEWA and GEF/IW:LEARN to test the effectiveness of cross-focal area networking among a "regional cluster" of GEF projects in the WCR to promote integration of efforts, capture of synergies, identification of gaps, conflicts and opportunities amongst GEF projects in the WCR through the development of a website, e-dialogue workshop and development of tools to promote increased synergies and exchange of experiences.
102. The delegate of Barbados congratulated the CETA Programme Officer for the activities undertaken and proposed in the Workplan and suggested that one way for CEP to strengthen education and awareness activities at the national level would be to establish links with the National Commissions for UNESCO. She proposed that these activities could be carried out in Barbados.
103. The Administrative/Fund Management Officer of the CEP made a presentation on the administrative operations of the programme, focusing on the human resources management and fund management. She indicated that by the beginning of 2008 all the GEF project posts had been filled and the CEP is expected to be operating at its maximum capacity during the current biennium. However, the CEP continues to face the challenges of staff shortages, especially at the professional level. Some key posts such as the ICRAN MAR Project, Swedish funded projects and the Junior Professional Officer posts have been or will be closed in 2007-2009, and the situation will be further exacerbated.
104. Based on the Decision of the Twelfth Intergovernmental Meeting, the P4 CEPNET post has been merged with ETA and an L3 CETA post created in February 2007 as a temporary project post co-financed with funds received from the Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency (Sida) and the Swedish National Board of Fisheries. However, the projection shows that the CTF funds are insufficient to establish it as a permanent CEP post and the Secretariat may be obliged to close the post by end of December 2008 if payments of contributions from the member Countries and Territories are further delayed.
105. To ease the situation as much as possible, a series of measures were undertaken to maximize the use of existing human resources. Duties of the existing staff have been redistributed and six posts were reclassified to reflect the current needs at the CEP, out of which four posts were upgraded to a higher level

and two staff members were promoted in 2006 and 2007 respectively. In presenting the organizational chart of the CEP, she informed the Meeting that there were currently 26 posts of which 13 were at the professional level and 13 at the support level, including the project-funded posts. The Deputy Coordinator's post has been frozen for years and the SPAW Junior Professional Officer's post has not had a replacement since February 2007. In addition, the three current project posts may be closed due to the lack of funding during the current biennium and the CEP is expected to continue to face severe human resource challenges.

106. The Administrative Officer also indicated that with regard to fund management, CEP continues to face challenges in securing funds to cover its minimum operational costs. Inflation in the region remains high and recent increase in food and fuel costs have been affecting the Secretariat. The inflation rate in Jamaica was 12.5% in 2005, 5.7% in 2007 and 16.8% in 2007 (source: the Statistical Institute of Jamaica Consumer Price Index Bulletin), and the CEP only managed to maintain the level of its operations by having its human and financial resources supplemented by the project personnel and funds in 2006 and 2007. Given the current situation, she indicated that it was essential that the level of annual contributions from the countries/territories to the CTF be increased to sustain the operations of the CEP at the current level.
107. The proposed budget for the biennium is USD15.1 million, including the project budget. The budget proposed for 2008 is USD7.4 million consisting of USD1.7 million from the CTF and USD5.7 million from other sources of funding, of which USD0.3 million is still unfunded. The budget proposed for 2009 is USD7.7 million consisting of USD1.7 million from the CTF and USD5.9 million from other sources of funding. For 2009, USD1.3 million is yet to be collected for the CTF and another USD1.5 million from other sources of funds.
108. The CEP has maintained its staff costs at the same level over the years or with very minimal increases in actual costs, and a substantial part of the CEP operational costs has been supplemented by project funds. However, while the Secretariat is committed to continue soliciting project funds from various donors to supplement the CTF in order to cover its minimum operational costs, implementing cost-saving measures such as reducing the scale of major meetings, selecting less costly options, and exploring the possibility of receiving extraordinary contributions from the governments where possible, the most urgent action has been to request the governments to consider increasing the level of their annual contributions to the CTF.
109. Projections show that with a 10% increase in the level of annual contributions to the CTF from the governments, the secretariat will be able to maintain the expenditure level of 2006-2007, assuming that all the governments pay their contributions to the CTF. This increase would not however be sufficient to cover the proposed CTF allocations under the SPAW sub-programme in 2008-2009, unless extraordinary contributions are paid to the CTF and/or additional project funding is received from other sources. In order to fully finance the proposed budget for 2008-2009, it is projected that an annual increase of at least 30% will be necessary.
110. The Secretariat expressed its gratitude for the recent initiatives taken by a number of governments that have hosted CEP meetings such as the Government of Guatemala, which hosted the ISTAC LBS Meeting in October 2007, which amounted to an equivalent of USD129, 993. It was proposed to the Meeting that this contribution be formally recognized upon the approval of the member Governments and that it be deducted from the unpaid contributions owed by the Government of Guatemala. The Government of Colombia hosted the Rules of Procedures Working Group Meeting in April 2008, which was partially financed by the Government of the United States. Finally, the Government of France hosted the Fourth SPAW/STAC in Guadeloupe, in July 2008. Most recently, the Government of Antigua and Barbuda is hosting the current Meeting of the Fifth SPAW/COP and Thirteenth Intergovernmental Meeting in September 2008, hosted outside of Jamaica for the first time in many years.
111. Some of the implications of insufficient funding are as follows: temporary closure of the CETA post by the end of Dec 2008; closure of one or two support post(s) in 2009; slowing down the implementation of activities under CEP's sub-programmes; less participation by the CEP in international and regional meetings; and further cost-saving measures with regard to future major meetings.
112. The Secretariat urged the Countries and Territories, which had not paid in the past or in recent years to start contributing to the CTF, and for those Countries and Territories already contributing to the CTF, to pay any outstanding unpaid contributions from past years. The Secretariat further requested the Governments to consider the proposed increase of 10% in the level of annual contributions for 2008 and 2009 and encouraged them to make their payments immediately upon receipt of their invoices after the Thirteenth Intergovernmental Meeting, in the agreed amounts. In conclusion, the Secretariat thanked the Governments for their continued support and cooperation with the CEP as it strives to overcome its financial and human resource challenges in the coming years.
113. The delegate of St. Lucia, in applauding the Administrative Officer for her presentation, noted that despite the many challenges facing the Secretariat it had been able nonetheless, to push forward the implementation of so many projects. She informed the Meeting that a technical difficulty relating to her country's payment to the CTF would be corrected as soon as possible.
114. The delegate of Guatemala thanked the Administrative Officer for the presentation and requested that the Meeting accept as a valid in-kind contribution from the Government of Guatemala to

- the CTF, its hosting of the Fourth LBS ISTAC. He invited other Parties to explore similar mechanisms.
115. The delegate of Costa Rica thanked the Administrative Officer and informed the Meeting that some payments to the CTF had been made and that his country was committed to paying the amounts due by the end of the year.
116. The delegate of Cuba expressed his country's interest in hosting a CEP Meeting in 2010, as a way of lowering its unpaid contributions to the CTF. She also informed the Meeting that the country would not be able to contribute to the CTF this year.
117. The delegate of Mexico informed the Meeting that her country was not in a position to accept a 10% increase to the CTF.
118. The delegation of France requested that the document related to financial contributions from the Contracting Parties be circulated well in advance in order to allow for an informed and transparent decision making. The Delegations from U.S and Mexico supported this request.
119. The Coordinator of Caribbean Environment Programme thanked all the Governments for the constructive comments and took note of Mexico's statement concerning the CTF. He reaffirmed that it was difficult to manage the CEP with today's financial constraints and expressed his gratitude to the Governments and to the donors that have made extraordinary payments to CEP. He reminded participants that the Governments could pay through a range of activities such as IGMs, LBS ISTACs, SPAW STACs, COPs, and technical workshops.
120. The Director of the RAC/REMPEITC-Carib presented the summary and recommendations of the Steering Committee Meeting held June 30-July 1, 2008, which are contained in UNEP(DEPI) CAR IG.28/INF.11 - Report of the Fourth Meeting of the Steering Committee of the Regional Activity Centre, REMPEITC-Carib (RAC/REMPEITC-Carib), Willemstad, Curacao, June 30-July 1, 2008. The Meeting endorsed the recommendations of the meeting, with a minor modification proposed by Barbados.
121. The Secretariat presented the decisions reached at the Fifth Conference of Parties of the Specially Protected Areas and Wildlife (SPAW) Protocol, which was held on Monday, 8 September 2008. The Meeting endorsed these recommendations, as contained in UNEP(DEPI)/CAR IG.28/CRP.3.
122. The Secretariat then presented the recommendations of the Fourth Interim Scientific, Technical and Advisory Committee (ISTAC) to the Protocol Concerning Pollution from Land-Based Sources and Activities in the Wider Caribbean (LBS), which are contained in UNEP(DEPI)/CAR WG.30/4, Petén, Guatemala, 30 October to 1 November 2007. The Meeting endorsed these decisions.
123. The delegate from the USA thanked the AMEP Programme Officer for the presentation, and reminded the Meeting that the AMEP sub-programme was accomplishing a lot with limited funding. He encouraged all countries that have not yet submitted data for the update of Technical Report No.33, to do so within the shortest time possible.
124. The delegate of Saint Lucia highlighted the fact that her country had benefited greatly from CEP supported projects and activities in recent years. She further stressed that activities occurring under the GEF IWCAM Project, combined with activities funded by Sida, were assisting the country in meeting its obligations under the LBS Protocol. She delegate concluded by expressing support for the CreW and welcoming the initiative.
125. The delegate of France encouraged the countries present at the Meeting to ratify or accede to the LBS Protocol so that it may enter into force, and highlighted the fact that LBS issues, and implementing the LBS Protocol, was a priority for France. The delegate also reminded the Meeting that, unlike oil spills where pollution was very visible, most land-based sources of pollution were much less visible, therefore making communication and increased awareness crucial.
126. The Secretariat thanked the Meeting for the support expressed towards the CEP and the AMEP sub-programme, and welcomed the encouragement of some countries towards others for ratification of the LBS Protocol. The Secretariat congratulated the Government of Saint Lucia for being the only country to have officially endorsed the CreW, and encouraged Barbados to do likewise in endorsing CreW, in principle, by the deadline of 10 September 2008, indicating that a formal endorsement will be considered at a later stage.

**AGENDA ITEM 9: PANEL DISCUSSION OF REGIONAL EXPERTS ON THE IMPACTS OF CLIMATE CHANGE IN THE WIDER CARIBBEAN AND IMPLICATIONS FOR UNEP'S FUTURE INTERVENTIONS**

127. A panel of regional experts presented to the Meeting the status of climate change related projects and activities taking place in the Region. The experts highlighted the high vulnerability of the Region to the impacts of climate change and variability and recommended that the Meeting consider how climate change concerns may be integrated into the future work of the Secretariat.
128. Several delegations confirmed that climate change was a high priority for the Caribbean and small island developing states and that the Secretariat should seek to develop projects and activities to respond to the impacts of climate change in the Region and in particular issues relating to adaptation.

**AGENDA ITEM 10: ELECTION OF MEMBERS OF THE MONITORING COMMITTEE ON THE ACTION PLAN FOR THE CARIBBEAN ENVIRONMENT PROGRAMME FOR 2008-2009**

129. The Meeting was invited to decide on the composition of the Monitoring Committee for the 2008-2009 period. In addition to the five Government comprising the Bureau, Antigua and Barbuda, Belize, France, Panama, and the U.S.A., seven governments were elected to the membership of the Monitoring Committee namely Aruba, Barbados, Grenada, Mexico, Netherlands Antilles, Saint Lucia and St. Vincent and the Grenadines. The President of the Bureau of Contracting Parties, elected under Agenda Item 2, will serve as the Chairman of the Monitoring Committee. The nominated countries were to confirm acceptance with their respective Governments. It was clarified that countries that were on the committee in the previous biennium had not been considered. The Delegation of Cuba indicated that while they would be interested in serving on the Monitoring Committee, they wished to follow the rules of the committee in terms of selection of countries.
130. The Chairperson congratulated the nominated members of the Monitoring Committee. The Secretariat also congratulated the governments in question indicating its willingness to work with them in order to achieve the mandate and objectives of the CEP.

**AGENDA ITEM 11: OTHER BUSINESS**

131. The Chairman invited participants to raise any other issues relevant to the objectives of the Meeting.
132. A representative of the US EPA Coastal Management Branch made a presentation on the National Estuary Program (NEP) the mission of which to identify, protect and restore estuaries of national significance. She provided an overview of the programme and indicated that there were 28 NEPs in the USA, including Puerto Rico. She highlighted the importance of partnerships in the work of these NEPs, and noted the need to diversify funding sources and raise public support. In conclusion, she highlighted the importance of monitoring as well as data collection and analysis for model development.
133. A representative from the U.S National Estuary Program of San Juan Bay, Puerto Rico made a presentation on the Latin American and Caribbean Federation of Estuaries and Watersheds and the work done in this area. He noted that the focus has primarily been to open channels of communication for the exchange of information and delineation of strategies for ecosystem restoration.
134. A delegate of Barbados made a presentation on an initiative for a Tsunami warning system for the Wider Caribbean. She reported that this was a collaborative effort between numerous

governments and intergovernmental organisations, with support from partners at the global level. The initiative is multifaceted, addressing scientific, capacity, and communication concerns.

135. In his presentation on the Caribbean Challenge supporting protected areas, the delegate of the Bahamas noted that since its launch, a number of Caribbean countries, such as the Dominican Republic, St. Vincent and the Grenadines and Grenada, had already committed to it. He presented the outcomes of a number of GEF projects dealing with marine protected areas, some key opportunities and challenges and highlighted some reasons why the Caribbean Challenge should be supported.
136. A representative from the GEF Secretariat outlined the four Strategic Programmes dealing with restoring and sustaining coastal and marine fish stocks and associated biological diversity, reducing nutrient over-enrichment in coastal waters, balancing overuse and conflicting uses of water resources in transboundary surface and groundwater basins, and reducing persistent toxic substances in water. He clarified the geographical distribution of the Investment Fund and presented the Strategy of the Caribbean revolving Fund for wastewater management and its timeline.
137. The International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) presented its work on nuclear techniques for coastal zone management problems in the Caribbean. He noted that the IAEA was partnering with UNEP CAR-RCU to promote integrated coastal zone management and capacity building at the national and regional levels to reduce degradation to coastal and marine ecosystems. In terms of future support in the wider Caribbean, the IAEA has also prioritized support for national laboratories, safe transport of radioactive materials, and cooperation activities in the areas of radiation protection, food and agriculture practices, natural resource management, and energy planning.
138. The representative of the Association of Caribbean States (ACS), in welcoming future collaboration with the CEP, highlighted the importance of the framework of the UN Resolution on the Caribbean Sea as a Special Area in the context of Sustainable Development and the recent establishment of the Caribbean Sea Commission, of which the Secretariat of CEP is an expert member.
139. The Chairman invited the representative of the Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency (Sida) to make a short presentation on the future strategies of Sida and funding possibilities to the CEP. She gave a brief summary of the support provided to the CEP over the years, including the JPO programme and indicated that any future support to UNEP would be channelled centrally through the UNEP Headquarters in Nairobi. She concluded by congratulating the CEP on its progress and the increased level of implementation that has been shown and informed the meeting of the presence of an evaluation team from the University of Rhode Island. She encouraged the participants to share their experiences

regarding the impact that Swedish funding has had on the ground.

140. The Secretariat thanked the representative from Sida for their support, and encouraged the Meeting delegates to assist the Sida evaluation team with their evaluation exercise undertaken during the IGM.
141. Dr. Leonard Nurse from the Cave Hill Campus of the UWI, Barbados, informed the Meeting that the GEF Caribbean Large Marine Ecosystem Project had been accepted as a full GEF project, and encouraged opportunities for collaboration.
142. The delegate of the Netherlands Antilles informed the Meeting that the Inter-American Sea Turtle Convention was in the process of establishing a permanent Secretariat, currently looking for possible locations, and encouraged the Meeting to consider the option of having this new Secretariat hosted in the same offices as the CEP Secretariat. The delegation of the USA stressed while they could understand the benefits of having the two Secretariats in the same office, this move should not have any financial implications for the CEP. They however endorsed the proposal of the delegation of Netherlands Antilles and were joined in this regard by other delegations.
143. The delegate of Venezuela enquired about the possibility of obtaining Sida funds for Climate Change related activities. The representative of Sida replied that future-funding possibilities would have to be channelled centrally through the various UN Headquarters, such as for UNEP, IMO and FAO.
144. The delegate of the Netherlands Antilles highlighted the 27 years of dedicated and voluntary support to the CEP by Milton M. Kaufmann of Monitor Caribbean (formerly Monitor International), in particular his untiring efforts leading to the adoption of the Protocol Concerning Specially Protected Areas and Wildlife (SPAW Protocol) and subsequently, his active involvement in this Protocol when it came into force. He requested that the Meeting acknowledge this work by awarding Mr. Kaufmann on his retirement, at age 90 (October 3, 2008), the honorific title of: "Friend and Senior Advisor Emeritus of the Caribbean Environment Programme". This was fully endorsed by the Meeting. Mr. Kaufman thanked the Secretariat and the delegates for the recognition of his work. He briefly explained the history of the development of RACs and RANs, congratulated the delegates for the adoption of the Guidelines for the RACs and RANs, and encouraged the delegates to continue to support these entities.
145. The representative from the Caribbean Community Secretariat made a statement on behalf of the Secretary-General of the Caribbean Community, expressing sincere appreciation to UNEP- CEP for continuing to invite the CARICOM Secretariat to key meetings and workshops of the Cartagena Convention. She also underscored for the involvement of the CEP in major CARICOM meetings such as the Meeting of CARICOM

Environment Ministers in April 2008, which recognized the contribution of international, regional, sub-regional, non-governmental and other agencies and institutions to the integrated management of the Caribbean Sea including the work of the CEP. She acknowledged the resource constraints surrounding the implementation of these programmes and expressed gratitude to CEP for working to achieve the objectives of past work programmes. She further lauded the highly comprehensive and ambitious work programme presented during the Meeting. She requested to place on record the Community's appreciation for all the human, financial and other resources, which had been provided to the CEP over the years by numerous institutions and individuals, and in this regard to especially recognise the sterling contribution made by Mr. Milton Kaufman. In conclusion, the CARICOM representative reiterated the Secretariat's support to the programmes of CEP and encouraged all Contracting Parties and supporting organizations, to continue to work together towards the management of the marine resources of the Region.

146. A message of support from the United Nations Convention on Biological Diversity is attached as Annex VII.

#### **AGENDA ITEM 12: ADOPTION OF THE REPORT OF THE MEETING**

147. The Rapporteur of the Meeting presented the draft Report of the Meeting. The Meeting adopted the Report, with amendments and corrections to be introduced in the draft by the Secretariat, as appropriate, and circulated to the participants by 12 October. Comments were to be forwarded to the Secretariat within an additional 4 weeks.

#### **AGENDA ITEM 13: CLOSURE OF THE MEETING**

148. In his closing remarks, the Coordinator noted the spirit of collaboration of the Meeting and conveyed his thanks to the Government of Antigua for its assistance. He further thanked the Chairpersons and the Rapporteur for their assistance and all the participating governments, members as well as non-members of the Convention and Plan of Action for the Caribbean. He expressed his appreciation to the Secretariat staff, the RAC staff and the GEF project staff for their efforts in the realization of the 5<sup>th</sup> COP and the 13<sup>th</sup> IGM Meetings and thanked the translators and interpreters for facilitating the proceedings of the Meeting. In conclusion he emphasised the active participation of all panel members, donors and all partners and thanked them all in assuring that the Cartagena Convention and its protocol will continue to move ahead through cooperation for the sustainability of the Caribbean Sea.
149. The Meeting was closed at 5.40 p.m. on Friday, 12 September 2008 by the Chairman and the Secretariat.



**ANNEX I: AGENDA**



## AGENDA

1. Opening of the Meeting
2. Organization of the Meeting
  - a) Rules of procedure
  - b) Election of officers
  - c) Organization of work
3. Adoption of the Agenda
4. Report of the Chairperson of the Monitoring Committee and President of the Bureau of Contracting Parties
5. Report of the Executive Secretary of the Cartagena Convention on the Implementation of the Caribbean Environment Programme (2006-2007)
6. Report of the Chair of the Working Group on the Rules of Procedure and Financial Rules of the Caribbean Environment Programme
7. Report of the Chair of the Working Group on the Guidelines for the Operations of the Regional Activity Centres (RACs) and the Regional Activities Networks (RANs) of the Caribbean Environment Programme
8. Workplan and Budget for the Caribbean Environment Programme for the 2008-2009 Biennium
9. Panel Discussion of Regional Experts on the Impacts of Climate Change in the Wider Caribbean and Implications for UNEP's future interventions
10. Election of Members of the Monitoring Committee on the Action Plan for the Caribbean Environment Programme for 2008-2009
11. Other Business
12. Adoption of the Report of the Meeting
13. Closure of the Meeting



**ANNEX II: DECISIONS OF THE MEETING**



## DECISIONS OF THE MEETING

### The Meeting:

**Having convened** the Thirteenth Intergovernmental Meeting on the Action Plan for the Caribbean Environment Programme and the Tenth Meeting of the Contracting Parties to the Convention for the Protection and Development of the Marine Environment of the Wider Caribbean Region;

**Taking into account** the Report of the Executive Director of the Cartagena Convention on the Implementation of the Caribbean Environment Programme (2006-2007) as presented in UNEP(DEPI)/CAR IG.28.INF.4;

**Noting** the Reports of the Fourth Meeting of the Scientific and Technical Advisory Committee (STAC) to the SPAW Protocol, Guadeloupe, France (UNEP(DEPI)/CAR WG31/6) and Decisions of the Fifth Meeting of the Contracting Parties to the Protocol Concerning Specially Protected Areas and Wildlife (SPAW), in the Wider Caribbean Region, Antigua and Barbuda, 8 September 2008;

**Having reviewed** the Report of the Fourth Meeting of the Interim Scientific and Technical Advisory Committee of the Protocol Concerning Pollution from Land-Based Sources and Activities, in Petén, Guatemala, as contained in UNEP(DEPI)/CAR WG.30/4;

**Taking note** of the Report of the Fourth Meeting of the Regional Activity Centre/Regional Marine Pollution Emergency, Training, and Information Centre- Caribbean (RAC/REMPEITC-Carib) Steering Committee as contained in document UNEP(DEPI)/CAR IG.28/INF.11;

### Decides:

## DECISION I

**Having reviewed** the draft Workplan and Budget for the Caribbean Environment Programme for the Biennium 2008-2009 as contained in the document UNEP(DEPI)/CAR IG.28/3 ;

**Taking note of** the voluntary contributions to the Caribbean Trust Fund by the States and Territories of the Wider Caribbean Region for 2006-2007;

**Having examined** the budgetary needs of the Caribbean Environment Programme to complete its Workplan for 2008-2009;

### Decides to:

1. **Approve** the Workplan and Budget for the Caribbean Environment Programme for the 2008-2009 biennium, taking into account the observations and inputs provided by the Meeting, **request** that the Secretariat seek additional funds to meet the full requirements of the approved Workplan and **urge** governments to support the Secretariat in this regard.
2. **Gratefully recognize** the generous support provided by the Government of Guatemala in hosting the Fourth ISTAC LBS in Petén, in October 2007 and formally recognize their contribution to the Meeting and deduct USD129, 993 from their unpaid contributions;
3. **Welcome** the offer from the Government of Cuba to host the Fifth STAC SPAW in 2010 as an in-kind contribution towards their unpaid contributions to the CTF;
4. **Adopt** the table of voluntary contributions to the CTF in 2008-2009 as reflected in Annex III of this Report;
5. **Request** the Secretariat to invoice the States and Territories of the Caribbean Environment Programme in the amounts expressed in Annex III of this Report;
6. **Strongly urge** all the governments to pay all contributions to the Caribbean Trust Fund in a timely manner to ensure the Programme's financial sustainability and continuity;
7. **Strongly urge** those governments which have not paid into the CTF in the past and in recent years, to start doing so and those governments which have started, to pay the remaining unpaid contributions promptly;
8. **Request** the Secretariat to continue its efforts to collect and to explore innovative financial mechanisms with member governments to facilitate payment of their unpaid contributions;
9. **Request** that the Executive Director of UNEP, make the necessary arrangements to extend the Caribbean Trust Fund until 2011.

## DECISION II

**Having reviewed** the Reports, Recommendations and Decisions of the Meetings convened under the Caribbean Environment Programme since the Twelfth Intergovernmental Meeting;

**Decides to:**

1. **Approve** the Report and Recommendations of the Fourth Meeting of the Interim Scientific, Technical and Advisory Committee (ISTAC) to the Protocol Concerning Pollution from Land-Based Sources and Activities (LBS) in the Wider Caribbean Region, Petén, Guatemala, 30 October to 1 November 2007, (UNEP(DEPI)/CAR WG.30/4);
2. **Take note** of the Report of the Fourth Meeting of the Scientific and Technical Advisory Committee (STAC) to the Protocol Concerning Specially Protected Areas and Wildlife (SPAW) in the Wider Caribbean Region, Gosier, Guadeloupe, France, 2 to 5 July, 2008 UNEP(DEPI)/CAR WG.31/6); and
3. **Endorse** the Decisions of the Fifth Meeting of the Contracting Parties to the SPAW Protocol held in St. John's, Antigua and Barbuda, on 8 September 2008 as contained in Annex II of the Meeting Report (UNEP(DEPI)/CAR IG.27/6).

### DECISION III

**Having reviewed** the Report of the Fourth Meeting of the Steering Committee for the RAC/REMPEITC-Carib, Willemstad, Curaçao, June 30-July 1, 2008 (UNEP(DEPI)/CAR IG.28/INF.12); and

**Having examined** the Final Strategic Plan for the 2008-2009 Biennium of the Regional Activity Centre, REMPEITC-Carib (UNEP(DEPI)/CAR IG.28/INF.11);

**Noting** the continued contribution of the Governments of France, the United States and Venezuela through the secondments of experts to the Centre;

#### Decides to:

1. **Approve** the Recommendations of the Fourth Meeting of the Steering Committee for the RAC/REMPEITC-Carib with amendments proposed by the Meeting;
2. **Endorse** the Final Strategic Plan for the 2008-2009 Biennium of the Regional Activity Centre, REMPEITC-Carib;
3. **Request** the Secretariat to continue its collaboration with the International Maritime Organization in the further development and implementation of projects and activities within the framework of the Cartagena Convention and its Protocols.

#### DECISION IV

**Having reviewed** the document on “Results and Recommendations of the Open Intersessional Drafting Group on the Guidelines for the Operations of the Regional Activity Centres (RACs) and the Regional Activity Networks (RANs) for the Cartagena Convention” (UNEP(DEPI)/CAR IG.28/INF.5) prepared by the Working Group created by the Chairperson of the Eleventh IGM, and under the leadership of the Government of Venezuela;

**Having reviewed** the document “Guidelines for the Operations of the Regional Activity Centres (RACs) and the Regional Activity Networks (RANs) for the Cartagena Convention” (UNEP(DEPI)/CAR IG.28/INF.5.Rev.1)

**Recognizing** the efforts of the Working Group to revise these Guidelines to incorporate additional comments made during the Thirteenth Intergovernmental Meeting;

**Decides to:**

1. **Adopt** the “Guidelines for the Operations of the Regional Activity Centres (RACs) and the Regional Activity Networks (RANs) for the Cartagena Convention” as modified in this meeting.
2. **Request** the Secretariat, in coordination with the Regional Activity Centres, to finalize outstanding Host Agreements with RAC Host Governments.

## DECISION V

**Recalling** that the Thirteenth Meeting of the Monitoring Committee established the Open Intersessional Drafting Group ("Drafting Group") on the Rules of Procedure for the Caribbean Environment Programme, Financial Rules for the Cartagena Convention and the Caribbean Environment Programme, and Terms of Reference for the Caribbean Trust Fund;

**Recalling** also that the work of the Drafting Group was continued by the Tenth, Eleventh and Twelfth Intergovernmental Meetings of the Action Plan for the Caribbean Environment Programme and the Seventh, Eighth and Ninth Meetings of the Contracting Parties to the Cartagena Convention;

**Having reviewed** the document entitled Chairman's Report, reporting on the progress of the Drafting Group in the last biennium, UNEP(DEPI)/CAR IG.28/CRP.2;

**Commending** the Drafting Group for making great progress on the draft Rules of Procedure and draft Financial Rules, having complied with its terms of reference by producing one set of Rules of Procedure and Financial Rules with little remaining unresolved language;

**Noting** that the Drafting Group recommended to the Contracting Parties to the Cartagena Convention to resolve the few remaining brackets in the draft Rules of Procedure and draft Financial Rules and adopt both sets of rules at the present Meeting;

**Having resolved** at this Meeting, after thorough discussion of outstanding issues, the remaining unresolved language in the draft Financial Rules and having made substantial progress on the remaining unresolved language in the draft Rules of Procedure,

**Aware**, however, that certain Contracting Parties were unable to attend the present meeting and that Article 20 of the Cartagena Convention requires that the Contracting Parties shall unanimously adopt rules of procedure and financial rules,

### **Decides to:**

1. Recommend that the Contracting Parties adopt at the next Meeting of the Contracting Parties the draft Financial Rules for the Cartagena Convention;
2. Recommend that the Contracting Parties resolve remaining brackets in paragraph one of Rule 41 of the Rules of Procedure for the Cartagena Convention at the next Meeting of the Contracting Parties and adopt such document;
3. Authorize the Secretariat to obtain approval and/or views on both sets of Rules from any Contracting Parties not present at this Meeting of the Contracting Parties within 90 days in order to allow final unanimous adoption of the Financial Rules and Rules of Procedure by the Contracting Parties at their next meeting.

## DECISION VI

**Noting** the interest of the Contracting Parties to establish a mechanism to maintain the high quality performance of the Secretariat beyond the tenure of the current Executive Secretary; and

**Taking into account** the recommendation of the Open Intersessional Drafting Group on the Rules of Procedure for the Cartagena Convention and the discussion held by the Contracting Parties on draft Rule 24 of the Rules of Procedure for the Cartagena Convention during the 10<sup>th</sup> meeting of the Contracting Parties to the Cartagena Convention,

### Decides to:

1. **Remove** Draft rule 24 on the Designation of the Executive Secretary from the Rules of Procedure for the Cartagena Convention and that it be included as a independent annex to the report of this meeting;
2. **Welcome** the initiative of the Contracting Parties to create an Intersessional Working Group to be Chaired by the Government of Mexico to analyze the legal and administrative aspects of involving the Contracting Parties in the designation and performance evaluation of the Executive Secretary, through the Monitoring Committee of the Cartagena Convention to serve as a forum for such a purpose;
3. **Request** the Secretariat to provide inputs, as required, to facilitate this analysis;
4. **Further request** the Chair of the Working Group to report to the Fourteenth Intergovernmental Meeting and the Eleventh Meeting of the Contracting Parties to the Cartagena Convention.

## DECISION VII

**Having reviewed** the progress of the Caribbean Environment Programme during 2006-2007;

**Recognizing** the need for the continuing development and implementation of the Caribbean Environment Programme for the 2008-2009 biennium and beyond;

**Welcoming** the recent ratification of the LBS Protocol by the Governments of France, Saint Lucia and Belize and of the SPAW Protocol by the Government of Belize;

### Decides to:

1. **Encourage** other governments to ratify the Cartagena Convention and its Protocols, including the Protocol Concerning Pollution from Land-based Sources and Activities to ensure its entry into force as soon as possible;
2. **Encourage** governments to inform the Secretariat of the status and impacts of the implementation of the Convention for the Protection and Development of the Marine Environment of the Wider Caribbean Region and of its Protocols, and **encourage** greater involvement and participation of Focal Points in the development of the work programme and implementation of the CEP;
3. **Request** the Secretariat to develop a simple reporting template that will enable more effective reporting from countries on the status of implementation of the Convention and its Protocols, to the Secretariat and the IGM for consideration at the Fourteenth Intergovernmental Meeting and Eleventh Meeting of Contracting Parties to the Convention;
4. **Further request** the Secretariat to continue its efforts at strengthening collaborative relationships with regional agencies and relevant convention Secretariats to enable more effective implementation of the CEP Workplan;
5. **Commend**, in particular, the Coordinator and staff of the Secretariat for the considerable progress made in implementing the CEP during the period since the Twelfth Intergovernmental Meeting; and
6. **Encourage** governments to express their appreciation of, and support to, the Caribbean Environment Programme within their national institutions, as well as at the regional and global levels through relevant meetings and fora as appropriate.

## DECISION VIII

**Acknowledging** Decision XI of the Twelfth IGM Meeting and Ninth Meeting of the Contracting Parties to the Cartagena Convention (Montego Bay, December 2006);

**Noting** with concern the existing financial limitations and constraints for countries of the Wider Caribbean Region to implement activities for the conservation of marine and coastal resources;

**Recognizing** the need to make sufficient and timely financial resources available for the implementation of environmental projects in the region;

**Noting** further the various subject areas available for funding under the International Waters portfolio of the Global Environment Facility (GEF); and

**Noting** the opportunities for funding available through the French Global Environment Facility (FFEM);

**Noting** the interest and the offers made by the Bolivarian Government of Venezuela for the timely, adequate and expeditious creation of financial mechanisms for addressing the environmental issues of the Wider Caribbean Region;

### Decides to:

1. **Welcome** the development of the proposal to the GEF Secretariat on the development of a Caribbean Revolving Fund for Wastewater Management to assist countries in meeting the obligations of the Cartagena Convention and in particular the Protocol on Land-based Sources of Marine Pollution;
2. **Request** the Secretariat to communicate to the GEF Secretariat the support of Governments to the further development of this proposal and its implementation in the region;
3. **Request** the Secretariat to explore further collaboration with the FFEM.
4. **Reiterate** the invitation to the Secretariat and the Governments to explore the creation of an Intergovernmental Committee under the Chairmanship of the Government of Venezuela to initiate discussions on the objectives and functions of the proposed Caribbean Environment Bank.

## DECISION IX

**Noting** the presentations by regional experts during the Panel Discussion on Climate Change and the documented impacts of climate change and variability in the Region;

**Recognizing** that issues related to Climate Change and Climate Variability are being considered within other related Global Environmental Conventions and Regional Seas Programmes;

**Recognizing** the high vulnerability of the region to climate change and understanding the cross-cutting and specific nature of environmental and economic activities of the region;

**Recognizing also** that the impact of climate change will have very long term implications;

**Being aware that in the** current situation, when implementing the goals and objectives of the Cartagena Convention the impact of climate change on the region should be taken into account

**Further recognizing** that current resources allocated in many countries and the Secretariat are not sufficient to cover the costs of adaptation to the effects of climate change;

**Further recognizing** the necessity to provide economic sustainability, and that new funding sources might be available to the Secretariat through incorporation of relevant Climate Change issues into the work of the Caribbean Environment Programme;

### Decides to:

1. **Request** the Secretariat to develop synergies and to strengthen partnerships including, *inter alia*, development of Memoranda of Understanding with relevant regional agencies working on climate change projects and activities;
2. **Request** the Secretariat to develop and implement mechanisms through which financial resources available for climate change projects and activities could be accessed to facilitate the implementation of the approved Workplan and Budget for the 2008-2009 biennium.
3. **Request** the Secretariat to promote among donors and funding mechanisms the issue of Climate Change in the Caribbean when developing and implementing projects that address adaptation.
4. **Urge** the Secretariat to develop, as feasible, a plan to coordinate activities continuously within the CEP Workplan for adapting the region to the effects of climate change.
5. **Urge** the Secretariat to actively engage with other international bodies, organizations, and mechanisms, wherever feasible, for the purpose of focussing more attention on the Wider Caribbean Region in order to establish adaptation and cooperation efforts on Climate Change.
6. **Urge** the Secretariat, wherever practical, to create, design and participate in new opportunities to address the effects of climate change and adaptation in the region.

## DECISION X

**Welcoming** the presentations made by governments and observer organizations on the several ongoing and proposed initiatives taking place in the region which can help support the implementation of the Cartagena Convention and its Protocols:

**Noting** the initiative of the Latin American and Caribbean Federation of Estuaries and Watersheds to develop a "Watershed estuary" ...and the "Caribbean challenge" initiative launched at COP9 of the CBD;

**Noting** the opportunities provided for establishing synergies, reducing overlap and maximizing on the use of limited financial and human resources in the region;

**Taking Note of** the UN Resolution on the Caribbean Sea as a Special Area in the context of Sustainable Development and the recent establishment of the Caribbean Sea Commission;

### Decides to:

1. **Request** the Secretariat, along with the Regional Activity Centres, to continue to strengthen partnerships with national, regional and international agencies and initiatives, in areas of relevance to the Cartagena Convention and its Protocols;
2. **Request** the Secretariat as a permanent expert member to the Caribbean Sea Commission, to report to the Fourteenth IGM of the COP on the status of implementation of the work programme of the Commission as it relates to the work of the Secretariat; and
3. **Invite relevant** Governments to consider more active involvement in regional activities including, *inter alia*, those of the IAEA, the Caribbean Challenge, Tsunami Early Warning Systems, Caribbean Community Climate Change Centre and the Latin American and Caribbean Federation of Estuaries and Watersheds and the work of the Association of Caribbean States.

## DECISION XI

**Noting** the existing Memorandum of Cooperation between the CEP Secretariat and the Secretariat of the Inter-American Sea Turtle Convention (IAC) and their plans to establish a more permanent Secretariat;

**Acknowledging** the benefits that may arise from increased collaboration between the CEP and the IAC;

**Recognizing** the financial constraints of the CEP;

### Decides to:

1. **Request** the Secretariat to explore the possibility of hosting the Secretariat for the IAC within the RCU premises with the understanding that this arrangement will not pose any financial or human resource demands on the CEP Secretariat.
2. **Authorize** the Secretariat to take any further action needed if a beneficial agreement with the IAC can be reached taking into account the restrictions specified in the previous paragraph.

## DECISION XII

**Acknowledging** contributions from member Governments for the update of CEP Technical Report No. 33;

**Taking into consideration** the importance of data, data sharing and information systems to inform decision-making on environmental matters;

**Noting** the increase of data being generated through CEP projects;

**Recognising** the importance of disseminating data products in summarized and easily assimilated formats for various groups;

**Acknowledging** the need for increased awareness on the status of the coastal and marine environment of the Wider Caribbean Region;

**Noting** the difficulties for the member States in keeping abreast with data availability and project outputs generated in areas of interest across the region in particular **recognizing** the high cost for the collection and generation of data;

**Recognizing** the efforts by the CEP in developing sound data management and communication strategies;

### Decides to:

1. **Request** that the Secretariat and RACs continue their work to quickly finalize the update of CEP Technical Report No. 33;
2. **Encourage** Governments to provide any additional data to finalise the update of CEP Technical Report No. 33;
3. **Request** the Secretariat to continue its work on the production, management and dissemination of data and related products generated by the CEP, or that supports the objectives of the CEP, with the assistance of its sub-programme for Communication, Education, Training and Awareness (CETA);
4. **Encourage** the CEP to continue its efforts to disseminate existing data and information on coastal and marine issues in the Wider Caribbean Region through linkages to relevant databases and organizations
5. **Encourage** the RACs in their role of providing scientific and technical advice and assistance to the member States by making available existing data and information through the CEP.

### DECISION XIII

**Gratefully acknowledging** twenty-seven years of dedicated and voluntary support to the CEP by Milton M. Kaufmann of Monitor Caribbean (formerly Monitor International), in particular his untiring efforts toward the adoption of the Protocol Concerning Specially Protected Areas and Wildlife (SPAW Protocol) and his subsequent active involvement in the Protocol after it came into force;

**Decides to:**

1. **Award** Milton M. Kaufmann on his retirement at age 90 (3 October 2008), the honorific title of "Friend and Senior Advisor Emeritus of the Caribbean Environment Programme".



**ANNEX III: INDICATIVE LEVEL OF CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE CARIBBEAN TRUST FUND, 2008-2009**

INDICATIVE LEVEL OF VOLUNTARY CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE CARIBBEAN TRUST FUND, 2008-2009 (IN US DOLLARS)

States and Territories of the Wider Caribbean Region	2008*	2009*
ANTIGUA & BARBUDA	11,629	12,791
BAHAMAS	11,629	12,791
BARBADOS	11,629	12,791
BELIZE	10,603	11,663
COLOMBIA	20,831	22,914
COSTA RICA	12,652	13,917
CUBA	21,872	24,059
DOMINICA, COMMONWEALTH	11,629	12,791
DOMINICAN REPUBLIC	13,676	15,044
FRANCE	265,089	291,598
GRENADA	11,629	12,791
GUATEMALA	12,652	13,917
GUYANA	11,629	12,791
HAITI	11,629	12,791
HONDURAS	11,629	12,791
JAMAICA	16,831	18,514
KINGDOM OF THE NETHERLANDS		
ARUBA	10,603	11,663
NETHERLANDS ANTILLES	11,629	12,791
MEXICO**	40,000	40,000
NICARAGUA	11,629	12,791
PANAMA	12,652	13,917
ST. KITTS-NEVIS	3,119	3,430
SAINT LUCIA	10,603	11,663
ST. VINCENT & THE GRENADINES	10,603	11,663
SURINAME	11,629	12,791
TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO	13,676	15,044
UNITED KINGDOM		
ANGUILLA	11,629	12,791
CAYMAN ISLANDS	6,455	7,101
BRITISH VIRGIN ISLANDS	6,861	7,547
MONTSERRAT	3,119	3,430
TURKS & CAICOS ISLANDS	5,613	6,175
USA	237,006	260,707
VENEZUELA	162,587	178,876
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>1,036,645</b>	<b>1,136,309</b>

\* 10% increase from the previous year

\*\* Mexico will pay USD40,000 annually.



**ANNEX IV: LIST OF DOCUMENTS**



## PROVISIONAL LIST OF DOCUMENTS

### Working Documents

UNEP(DEPI)/CAR IG.28/1	Provisional Agenda
UNEP(DEPI)/CAR IG.28/2	Provisional Annotated Agenda
UNEP(DEPI)/CAR IG.28/3	Draft Workplan and Budget for the Caribbean Environment Programme for the biennium 2008-2009
UNEP(DEPI)/CAR IG.28/4	Report of 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 ( <i>to be prepared during the meeting</i> )

### Information Documents

UNEP(DEPI)/CAR IG.28/INF.1	Provisional List of Documents
UNEP(DEPI)/CAR IG.28/INF.2	List of Participants
UNEP(DEPI)/CAR IG.28/INF.3	Report of the Chairperson of the Monitoring Committee and President of the Bureau of Contracting Parties
UNEP(DEPI)/CAR IG.28/INF.4	Report of the Executive Director of the Cartagena Convention on the Implementation of the 2006-2007 Workplan of the Caribbean Environment Programme
UNEP(DEPI)/CAR IG.28/INF.5/Rev.1	Results and Recommendations of the Open Intersessional Drafting Group on the Guidelines for the Operations of the Regional Activity Centres (RACs) and the Regional Activity Networks (RANs) of Caribbean Environment Programme
UNEP(DEPI)/CAR IG.28/INF.6	Results and Recommendations of the Open Intersessional Drafting Group on the Rules of Procedure for the Caribbean Environment Programme and Proposed Financial Rules for the Cartagena Convention, and the Caribbean Environment Programme, and Terms of Reference for the Caribbean Trust Fund
UNEP(DEPI)/CAR IG.28/INF.7	Marine Litter in the Caribbean: A Regional Overview and Action Plan
UNEP(DEPI)/CAR IG.28/INF.8	Regional Overview of Land-based Sources and further support to the development of TR No. 33 – Interim report
UNEP(DEPI)/CAR IG.28/INF.9	Report on the Activities on Global Ballast Partnerships and the MARPOL 73/78 Convention in the Wider Caribbean Region
UNEP(DEPI)/CAR IG.28/INF.10	UNEP-CAR/RCU Media Briefs on AMEP and SPAW Sub-Programmes (English only)
UNEP(DEPI)/CAR IG.28/INF.11	Report of the Fourth Meeting of the Steering Committee of the Regional Activity Centre, REMPEITC-Carib (RAC/REMPEITC-Carib), Willemstad, Curaçao, June 30-July 1, 2008) (English only)

UNEP(DEPI)/CAR IG.28/INF.12	Strategic Plan 2008 – 2009 for the Regional Activity Centre (RAC/REMPEITC-Carib)
UNEP(DEPI)/CAR WG.30/3	Draft Workplan and Budget for the AMEP Programme 2008 – 2008
UNEP(DEPI)/CAR WG.30/4	Report of the Fourth Meeting of the Interim Scientific, Technical and Advisory Committee (ISTAC) to the Protocol Concerning Pollution from Land-based Sources and Activities in the Wider Caribbean Region (LBS) (Peten, Guatemala, 30 October to 2 November 2007)
UNEP(DEPI)/CAR WG.31/6	Report of the Fourth Meeting of the Scientific and Technical Advisory Committee (STAC) to the Protocol Concerning Specially Protected Areas and Wildlife (SPA) in the Wider Caribbean Region (Gosier, Guadeloupe, France, 2 – 5 July 2008)
UNEP(DEPI)/CAR WG.31/3.Rev.1	Revised Final Draft Guidelines and Criteria for the Evaluation of Protected Areas to be Listed under the SPAW Protocol (includes the report of the Working Group)
UNEP(DEPI)/CAR WG.31/4.Rev.1	Revised Final Draft Action Plan for the Conservation of Marine Mammals (MMAP), in the Wider Caribbean Region (includes report of the Working Group)
UNEP(DEPI)/CAR WG.31/INF.4	Report of the Activities of the Regional Activity Centre for SPAW (SPA W RAC) in Guadeloupe for the period 2006 – 2007
UNEP(DEPI)/CARWG.31/INF.5/Rev.1	Revised Draft Regional Management Plan for the West Indian Manatee (English and Spanish)
UNEP(DEPI)/CAR WG.31/INF.9	Update on the new Caribbean Marine Protected Areas Managers Network and Forum (CaMPAM) and its major activities
UNEP(DEPI)/CAR WG.31/INF.10	The Mesoamerican Reef Alliance (MAR) of the International Coral Reef Action Network (ICRAN): Major Achievements (English and Spanish)
UNEP(DEPI)/CAR IG26/4	Report 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, 29 November to 2 December 2006
UNEP(DEPI)/CAR IG25/6	Report of the Fourth Meeting of the Contracting Parties (COP) to the Protocol Concerning Specially Protected Areas and Wildlife (SPA W) in the Wider Caribbean Region, Montego Bay, Jamaica, 28 November 2006

## Reference Documents

GEF UNEP UNDP /IWCAM/1	Final Draft of the IWCAM Indicators Assessment Mechanism
GEF UNEP UNDP /IWCAM/2	Roadmap towards effective mainstreaming of Geographical Information Systems (GIS) in the Caribbean for Watershed Management in the Caribbean
GEF UNEP UNDP /IWCAM/3	Toolkit for Institutional Policy and Legislative Improvements in support of the IWCAM approach in SIDS
UNEP/GCSS.X/10	Proceedings of the Governing Council/Global Ministerial Environment Forum at its Tenth Special Session
UNEP/LAC-IG.XVI/9	Final Report of the Sixteenth Meeting of the Forum of Ministers of the Environment of Latin America and the Caribbean (Santo Domingo, Dominican Republic (27 January to 1 February 2008)
UNEP/GCSS.X/8	Tenth Special Session of the Governing Council/Global Ministerial Environment Forum Monaco, 20 – 22 February 2008, Item 5 of the provisional agenda. Proposed medium-term Strategy 2010 - 2013
UNEP(DEPI)/RS.9/6	Global Strategic Directions for the Regional Seas Programmes 2008 – 2012: Enhancing the Role of the Regional Seas Conventions and Action Plans
UNEP, 2008	Directory of Focal Points of the Caribbean Environment Programme. CEP Information Paper (English only)
UNEP, 2001/2004	Convention for the Protection and Development of the Marine Environment of the Wider Caribbean Region, Protocol Concerning Cooperation in Combating Oil Spills, Protocol Concerning Specially Protected Areas and Wildlife and the Protocol Concerning Pollution from Land-based Sources and Activities (English, Spanish (2001) and French (2004))
UNEP/GC/3/Rev.3, 1988	Rules of Procedure of the Governing Council of UNEP
UNEP, 1983a	Action Plan for the Caribbean Environment Programme. UNEP Regional Seas Reports and Studies No. 26
CEP Technical Report No. 33	Regional Overview of Land-Based Sources of Pollution in the Wider Caribbean Region, 1994
GEF/ IW 1	International Waters Focal Area Strategy and Strategic Programming for GEF4
GEF / IW 2	Biodiversity Focal Area Strategy and Strategic Programming for GEF4



**ANNEX V: LIST OF PARTICIPANTS**



LIST OF PARTICIPANTS

<i>Participants / Participants / Participantes</i>	<i>Title / Titre / Título</i>	<i>Address / Adresse / Dirección</i>	<i>Tel./Fax/E-mail /Website</i>
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<i>Participants / Participants / Participant</i>	<i>Title / Titre / Título</i>	<i>Address / Adresse / Dirección</i>	<i>Tel./Fax/E-mail /Website</i>
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**ANNEX VI: OPENING REMARKS FROM THE GOVERNMENT OF ANTIGUA AND BARBUDA**



OPENING REMARKS BY MINISTER THE HON. HAROLD LOVELL  
Ministry of Tourism, Civil Aviation, Culture and Environment of the  
Government of Antigua and Barbuda, at the  
Thirteenth Intergovernmental Meeting on the Action Plan for the  
Caribbean Environment Programme

As Minister responsible for Tourism and Environment, I am honoured to welcome you to our shores "... *where the beach is just the beginning*". It is with great enthusiasm that I stand to greet you during this, the opening of 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. These important meetings, are geared toward sustaining the Caribbean's marine environment, upon which, many of our economies depend.

Looking at your agenda, I am heartened by what I see. Without a doubt, climate change and ecosystems management appear on the agenda at many fora, in various forms, powered by such realities as the increased frequency of natural disasters along-side man-made disasters which lead to environmental degradation. Similarly, the valuation of environmental goods and services raises ethical issues, which force us not only to consider our current situation and need but also to ponder the intrinsic rights of future generations.

We all share this wonderful resource, the Caribbean Sea, and I know that our common dependence on this resource has brought us to this critical place where we must not only define practical and innovative approaches to its management but there is also the need to identify and implement appropriate responses to the challenges facing us as a Wider Caribbean region. To find this balance requires a common vision and focus. It was Tony Blair who underscored that point when he said that "...at the heart of my politics has always been the value of community, the belief that we are not merely individuals struggling in isolation from each other, but members of a community who depend on each other, who benefit from each other's help, who are obligated to each other. From that everything stems: solidarity, social justice, equality, freedom." I unreservedly adopt this statement and believe that you, participants, with this statement in mind, will find practical solutions to the challenges we face as the Wider Caribbean region; interdependent and interconnected.

Therefore, I look forward to the findings of your deliberations over the next few days, and I am convinced that you will find a way to keep the right balance, that of sustainable usage of our Caribbean marine environment. I like the way Claudine Schneider [U.S. Representative in *The Green Lifestyle Handbook*] sums it up: "A Healthy Ecology is the Basis for a Healthy Economy".

May God bless our Wider Caribbean Region and guide you during your deliberations.



ANNEX VII: STATEMENT BY THE EXECUTIVE SECRETARY OF THE SECRETARIAT OF THE CONVENTION  
ON BIOLOGICAL DIVERSITY



Distinguished Delegates  
Ladies and Gentlemen,

I would like to begin by extending my sincere congratulation to the Government of Antigua and Barbuda for kindly hosting this important meeting. I would also like to congratulate Mr. Nelson Andrade Colmenares for his excellent leadership in mobilizing regional commitment toward the sustainable ocean and coastal development of the Wider Caribbean region.

I would also like to take this opportunity to express my deepest sympathy to the people, families and communities in this region, who were terribly battered by the recent Hurricane Gustav. Through this tragic incident, we have witnessed again the challenges to Small Island Developing States (SIDS) imposed by climate change and increasingly frequent natural disasters.

As you are all aware, the Wider Caribbean region, including 28 islands and continental countries, demonstrates the significant value to the conservation of marine biodiversity provided by coral reefs, mangrove forests and sea-grass beds, which host unique assemblages of marine wildlife. Being one of the areas of greatest marine biodiversity, the region provides a home for 14 per cent of the world's coral reefs. The marine waters in this region also support a diverse range of fish species, from tropical coastal species to pelagic and benthic species. In past decades, this region's important marine habitats and ecosystems have faced a great threat caused by rapid population growth and ever-increasing tourism development, which is now further aggravated by climate change and sea-level rise. Although the coral reefs in this region are the destination of approximately 60 per cent of scuba-diving tours worldwide, 22 per cent of this region's coral reefs have been already lost, and 76 per cent of all endangered species in this region are also threatened by habitat loss. Unfortunately, the destruction of biodiversity value will ultimately affect the very foundation of this region's economic prosperity.

The long-term sustainability and prosperity of the Wider Caribbean region cannot be secured without reversing the serious environmental degradation and concomitant biodiversity loss. In this regard, I would like to commend this region for committing itself to the "Caribbean Challenge", an initiative to protect nearly three million hectares of marine habitat over the next four years, launched by the Prime Minister of the Bahamas at the ninth meeting of the Conference of the Parties (COP 9) in Bonn, Germany, in May this year, with the Dominican Republic, Jamaica, Grenada, and St. Vincent. Other countries considering joining include Antigua and Barbuda, Dominica, St. Kitts and Nevis, and St. Lucia, as well as the French and Dutch Caribbean territories. The signatory countries have all pledged to conserve 20 per cent of their marine and coastal habitats by 2020. This laudable commitment follows similar initiatives in other regions, such as the Micronesia Challenge and Coral Triangle Initiative.

We clearly appreciate that the United Nations Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) and the Caribbean Action Plan and Cartagena Convention share common interests and mandates, with particular respect to the achievement of the 2010 biodiversity target. For example, integrated marine and coastal management (IMCAM), an important element of the CBD programme of work, can provide guiding principles and a management framework for achieving the goals and objectives of your Action Plan and Convention. IMCAM enhances the application of the ecosystem approach, the establishment of marine protected areas, and planning of proper coastal land and watershed use, which were identified as useful approaches and tools to address threats to sustainable ocean development in the Plan of Implementation of the 2002 World Summit on Sustainable Development.

More specifically, for the purpose of contributing to your meeting discussions, in particular those under the Protocol Concerning Specially Protected Areas and Wildlife, I would like to brief you on key highlights from the recent COP 9 meeting in Bonn.

As you may be aware, the Conference of the Parties took a historic step forward for the conservation of marine biodiversity, particularly in marine areas beyond national jurisdiction, by **adopting scientific criteria** for

identifying biologically and ecologically significant marine areas in need of protection in open ocean waters and deep sea habitats, as well as **scientific guidance** for selecting areas to establish representative network of marine protected areas. The scientific criteria and guidance were developed by the CBD Expert Workshop on Ecological Criteria and Biogeographic Classification Systems for Marine Areas in need of Protection, held in the Azores, Portugal, from 2 to 4 October 2007. The results of the Azores Workshop reflect a rigorous consolidation of national, regional and international experiences of more than a decade.

The adoption of these criteria opened a new stage for various actors, including Regional Seas Conventions and Action Plans, to play a more active and consolidated role in safeguarding marine biodiversity, including that in areas beyond national jurisdiction. It also further strengthened the role of the CBD in providing scientific and technical support to the United Nations General Assembly processes relevant to the conservation of marine biodiversity in areas beyond national jurisdiction.

As a next step, the CBD Parties also decided to convene an expert workshop in order to provide scientific and technical guidance on the use and further development of biogeographic classification systems and guidance on the identification of areas beyond national jurisdiction that meet the scientific criteria. The role of indigenous and local communities in the future process was also highlighted, and the Parties were called on to integrate the traditional, scientific, technical and technological knowledge of indigenous and local communities, and to ensure the integration of social and cultural criteria and other aspects for the identification of marine areas in need of protection, as well as the establishment and management of marine protected areas.

Moreover, in the context of United Nations General Assembly processes related to conservation and sustainable use of marine biological diversity beyond areas of national jurisdiction, the Conference of the Parties invited Parties and others to cooperate in further developing scientific and technical guidance for the implementation of environmental impact assessments and strategic environmental assessments for activities and processes under their jurisdiction and control, which may have significant adverse impacts on marine biodiversity beyond national jurisdiction. For this purpose, the Parties also decided to convene an expert workshop to contribute to the development of such scientific and technical guidance, building on ongoing relevant sectoral, regional and national environmental-impact-assessment efforts.

The Parties also sounded a warning on the potential impacts of direct human-induced ocean fertilization on marine biodiversity, and requested Parties and others, in accordance with the precautionary approach, to ensure that ocean-fertilization activities do not take place until there is an adequate scientific basis on which to justify them.

In Bonn, the CBD Secretariat, together with UNEP and key partners, has launched a process for preparing the in-depth review of implementation of the programme of work on marine and coastal biodiversity, which will take place at the tenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties (COP 10) in 2010, in Nagoya, Japan. In this regard, I wish to invite all of you to contribute to this process, as well as to the publication of the third edition of the Global Biodiversity Outlook.

In line with our efforts to strengthen the collaboration with the Regional Seas Programme, as requested by the Conference of the Parties, the CBD Secretariat is ready to actively cooperate with the various actors and stakeholders of the Caribbean region. Therefore, I sincerely hope that you have a fruitful and successful meeting.

I thank you for your kind attention.