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Second Meeting of the Scientific, Technical and Advisory Committee (STAC) to the Protocol Concerning Pollution from Land-Based Sources and Activities (LBS) in the Wider Caribbean

Managua, Nicaragua, 10-13 June, 2014

REPORT OF THE MEETING



ACRONYMS

AMEP..... Assessment and Management of Environmental Pollution

CAR/RCU...... Caribbean Regional Coordinating Unit

CARPHA...... Caribbean Public Health Agency

Cartagena

Convention....... Convention for the Protection and Development of the Marine Environment of the Wider

CaribbeanRegion

CEHI...... Caribbean Environmental Health Institute

CEP..... Caribbean Environment Programme

CIMAB.....Centro de Ingeniería y Manejo Ambiental de Bahías y Costas

CLME...... Caribbean Large Marine Ecosystem Project

CLME+......Catalysing Implementation of Strategic Action Programme for the Sustainable Management of

shared Living Marine Resources in the Caribbean and North Brazil Shelf Large Marine Ecosystems

COP..... Contracting Parties

CETA...... Communication, Education, Training and Awareness

CReW Caribbean Regional Fund for Wastewater Management

GEF..... Global Environment Facility

GPA...... Global Programme of Action for the Protection of the Marine Environment from Land-based Activities

GPO...... Global Partnership for Oceans

IDB..... Inter-American Development Bank

IGM...... Intergovernmental Meeting

IMA..... Institute Marine Affairs

IWCAM...... Integrating Watershed and Coastal Area Management

LBS..... Land-based Sources and Activities

MARPOL...... International Convention for the Prevention of Pollution from Ships

MoU..... Memorandum of Understanding NGO..... Non-Governmental Organization

NOAA...... National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

NPA..... National Programme of Action

PIF..... Project Identification Form

PPG..... Project Preparation Grant
PMU.... Project Management Unit

PSAs..... Public Service Announcements

RACs..... Regional Activity Centres

RAN..... Regional Activity Network

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REMPEITC	Regional Marine	Pollution Emergency,	Information and	Training Centre

REPCar..... Reducing Pesticides Run-off to the Caribbean Sea

SAP..... Strategic Action Plan

SIDS..... Small Island Developing States

SOCAR..... State of the Convention Area Report

SSFA..... Small Scale Funding Agreement

STAC..... Scientific and Technical Advisory Committee

SPAW..... Specially Protected Areas and Wildlife

UNEP..... United Nations Environment Programme

US EPA..... United States Environmental Protection Agency

WCR..... Wider Caribbean Region

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Introduction

- Following the entry into force of the LBS Protocol in August 2010, Article XIV of the LBS Protocol established the LBS STAC.
 Under Article XIII.2.c, the Secretariat of the Cartagena Convention is responsible for providing such assistance that the STAC may require to carry out its functions, as referred to in Article XIV.
- 2. In accordance with the Workplan and Budget for 2013-2014, endorsed by the Fifteenth Intergovernmental Meeting (IGM) and intersessionally, the Second STAC Meeting was held from 10th to 13th June 2014 in Managua, Nicaragua. The objectives of the Second STAC Meeting were to:
 - <u>Evaluate</u> the projects and activities implemented by the Secretariat and the LBS Regional Activity Centres (RACs) within the Assessment and Management of Environmental Pollution (AMEP) sub-programme during the period 2013-2014;
 - Review the progress made in the implementation of the Recommendations of the First LBS STAC Meeting, Decisions of the
 First Conference of Parties to the LBS Protocol and relevant Decisions of the Fifteenth Intergovernmental Meeting and
 Twelfth Meeting of the Contracting Parties to the Cartagena Convention;
 - Review the status of ratification and/or implementation of the LBS Protocol in member countries;
 - Develop the AMEP Work plan and Budget for the 2015-2016 Biennium for subsequent submission to, and approval by, the 2nd Conference of Parties to the LBS Protocol in November, 2014;
 - <u>Provide</u> recommendations concerning the LBS Protocol for consideration by the 2nd Conference of Parties to the LBS Protocol to be held in November 2014.
- 3. The experts invited to the Meeting were nominated by the National Focal Points of the Cartagena Convention. Additionally, representatives of international, regional, intergovernmental, and non-governmental organizations and regional project representatives were invited to attend the Meeting as Observers.

Agenda item 1: Opening of the Meeting

- 4. The meeting started on Tuesday, 10 June 2014 at 2:30 pm. Seated at the head table for the opening of the meeting were Mr. Nelson Andrade Colmenares, Coordinator of CEP, Mr. Christopher Corbin, Programme Officer responsible for the Assessment and Management of Environmental Pollution (AMEP) sub-programme of the Caribbean Environment Programme (CEP) and Mr. Roberto Araguistaín, Vice-Minister of Environment, Nicaragua.
- 5. Mr. Corbin chaired the opening ceremony. He welcomed participants to the 2nd LBS STAC Meeting and then invited Mr. Nelson Andrade Colmenares to deliver opening remarks.
- 6. Mr. Nelson Andrade Colmenares welcomed all participants, Contracting and Non-contracting Parties, observers and important regional partners to the Second (2nd) LBS STAC. He expressed special thanks to the Vice-Minister of Nicaragua who had personally pledged his support for the meeting. He also expressed gratitude to the staff at the Ministry of Environment and Natural Resources (MARENA) for their assistance and support.
- 7. Mr. Andrade further thanked Mr. Jostein Nygard, Marco Alcaraz and other colleagues from the World Bank who agreed to link the Global Partnership of Oceans (GPO) Workshop with the 2nd STAC. He highlighted that the importance of the 2nd LBS STAC had been recognized by United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) Headquarters and acknowledged the presence of Mr. Vincent Sweeney, Coordinator of UNEP Global Programme of Action (GPA), with whom the Secretariat works very closely on many pollution-related projects and activities. Mr. Andrade added that the meeting would not have been possible without the significant financial support of the GEF CReW Project. He further added that this was the second Meeting of the STAC to the LBS Protocol since the entry into force of the Protocol in August 2010.
- 8. Mr. Nelson Andrade expressed that he was extremely pleased that there are now eleven (11) Contracting Parties to the LBS Protocol, and that all Contracting Parties were represented at the Meeting. He highlighted that the most recent ratification was by the Government of the Dominican Republic in September 2012, and noted that many other countries had reported progress in their national ratification process.

- 9. He further highlighted that as the technical and scientific experts for the LBS Protocol, the guidance of participants will be critical to evaluate the projects and activities implemented by the Secretariat and the LBS Regional Activity Centres (RACs) over the last biennium. The LBS STAC Meeting will provide input into the proposed 2015-2016 Workplan and Budget as well as recommendations for consideration at the 2nd Meeting of the Contracting Parties for the LBS Protocol that will take place along with the 16th IGM of the Cartagena Convention in November 2014.
- 10. He noted that during this meeting, priority areas for discussion will include the State of the Convention Area Report and collaboration with the GPA on the implementation of the Global Partnerships on Wastewater, Nutrients and Marine Litter Management.
- 11. He noted that the pace of ratification had slowed, and encouraged all the Non-Contracting Parties to make greater efforts towards ratification. He added that the Secretariat remains committed to assist any Non-Contracting Party with the ratification process. He noted, however, that new projects and activities will prioritize financial support for Contracting Parties to assist them with implementing the obligations of the Protocol. He encouraged participating countries of the GEF CReW and other GEF Projects to take more advantage of the financial and technical support available from these projects to promote ratification of the LBS Protocol, but more importantly implementation in their respective countries.
- 12. In closing, Mr. Andrade thanked the countries for their participation and continued support and he wished for a very productive Meeting.
- 13. Mr. Corbin thanked the Coordinator and then invited the Vice-Minister of Nicaragua to deliver opening remarks.
- 14. Mr. Roberto Araquistaín expressed his gratitude and honour to be in a position to host the 2nd LBS STAC. He welcomed all participants from the Caribbean and Latin America. He noted that convening the meeting and joint cooperation will help to overcome challenges. The Vice-Minister noted that countries are struggling with how to manage their natural resources and minimize environmental degradation. He added that we need to change the way we relate to the environment or it will result in tremendous damage to the Caribbean Sea and the Earth. The Vice-Minister also noted that Nicaragua is in the process of making a change. He added that Nicaragua, with the assistance of UNEP through GEF Projects, worked on the Reducing Pesticide Run-off to the Caribbean Sea (REPCar) Project to protect land and water and increase agricultural productivity. He highlighted that with the reduction in the use of chemicals, people are healthier in central and northern mountain regions. The Vice-Minister reiterated that they have been working with indigenous people whose views are now better understood and were forging an alliance by having 23,000 sq km of land handed over to the indigenous territory to restore the environment.
- 15. In closing, the Vice-Minister noted that indigenous territories have been working in various ways to conserve ecosystems, including marine and coastal, thereby restoring the right of future generations.
- 16. On behalf of the President of Nicaragua, Mr. Jose Daniel Ortega and the first lady, the Vice-Minister declared the Meeting opened at 2:55 pm.

Agenda item 2: Election of Officers

- 17. Mr. Andrade, Coordinator of the CEP, indicated that proposals of nominations for Bureau members were received by the Secretariat. The Meeting had no objections to the proposed nominations and the Bureau was approved by the Meeting by acclamation.
 - Chairperson......Miguel Espinosa (Dominican Rep.)
 - 1st Vice Chair:...Linroy Christian (Antigua & Barbuda)
 - 2nd Vice Chair:.. Steve Morrision/Clement Lewsey (USA.)
 - 3rd Vice Chair: .. Arelys Fuentes Castillo (Panama)
 - Rapporteur:Lavina Alexander (Saint Lucia)

Agenda item 3: Organization of the Meeting

18. The Chairperson outlined the procedures for the conduct of the meeting.

(a) Rules of procedure

- 19. The Rules of Procedure of the Meetings of the Convention for the Protection and Development of the Marine Environment of the Wider Caribbean Region (Cartagena Convention) were applied.
- 20. The Chairperson made reference to Articles 20 and 21 of the Rules of Procedure. He noted that in order to determine the validity of the meeting, three quarters of the Contracting Parties needed to be present. The Contracting parties indicated their presence by raising their hands; all eleven (11) were present.

(b) Organization of the work

- 21. English, French and Spanish were the working languages of the Meeting. Simultaneous interpretation was provided in English and Spanish for the Meeting. The Working Documents of the Meeting were available in all the working languages.
- 22. The Chairperson proposed to convene the Meeting in plenary sessions and invited interested Governments to work with the Secretariat on developing the recommendations of the Meeting. He also noted that other Working Groups may be established if decided by the Meeting.
- 23. The Chairperson also proposed that the past STAC Chairperson should be present at the current STAC for continuity and this be added to the Rules of Procedure or as stand-alone document. For added stability, he recommended that measures be developed for elected members of the Bureau to serve for more than one meeting.

Agenda item 4: Adoption of the Agenda

- 24. The Chairperson introduced the Agenda (document UNEP(DEPI)/CAR WG.35/1) and requested proposals for amendments from the Meeting.
- 25. The delegate from the USA, Mr. Steve Morrison thanked the Government of Nicaragua for hosting the Meeting and the Secretariat for the early release of the meeting documents. He indicated the USA. had proposed to the Secretariat a change to paragraph 1 of the Annotated Agenda (document UNEP(DEPI)/CAR WG.35/2).
- 26. Mr. Christopher Corbin thanked the delegate from the USA. and indicated that the proposed amendment to the Annotated Agenda should have been made by the Secretariat in an updated version of the document but would verify and ensure that the amendment had been made.
- 27. The Agenda of the Meeting was adopted as proposed by the Secretariat in document UNEP(DEPI)/CAR WG.33/1. As requested by the US delegation, the first paragraph of the Provisional Annotated Agenda [UNEP (DEPI)CAR WG.33.2] was corrected prior to the Meeting to reflect the establishment of the STAC and the role of the Secretariat to the Cartagena Convention in supporting the needs of the STAC.

Agenda item 5: Review of AMEP Programme Activities for the 2013-2014 biennium

(a) Review of Status of Ratification and Accession to the LBS Protocol

28. The AMEP Programme Officer, Christopher Corbin, gave an update on the status of the ratification of the LBS Protocol as provided in the report from Colombia. Colombia is the depository nation for the Cartagena Convention. To date, eleven (11) countries have ratified or acceded to the LBS Protocol. He mentioned that the Government of the Dominican Republic was the most recent country to accede to the LBS Protocol which entered into force in September 2012 for them.

(b) Review of Activities

- 29. The AMEP Programme Officer, Christopher Corbin, presented the outputs of the AMEP Sub-programme during the 2013-2014 reporting period, as contained in document UNEP(DEPI)/CAR WG.35/INF.3.
- 30. Mr. Corbin began his overview by outlining the goal and specific objectives of the AMEP sub-programme in support of LBS Protocol implementation that included areas such as pollution prevention and reduction and data and information management.

He highlighted the continued significant contribution to the programme's achievements from the implementation of the GEF-funded projects such as GEF CReW and through the work of the LBS Regional Activity Centres.

- 31. Mr. Corbin outlined what he considered to be the major achievements of the AMEP sub-programme during the biennium including the ratification of the LBS Protocol by the Government of Dominican Republic and ongoing efforts by several other countries including Jamaica, Costa Rica and Nicaragua towards formal ratification. Other achievements included: (1) The further development of the Partnership with the World Bank & GPO; (2) The preparation of the full-sized project proposal for the GEF IWEco Project; (3) New PSAs for LBS Protocol; (4) Increased profile and focus on wastewater achieved mainly through the GEF CReW project; (5) Increase in the number of internal and external publications and fact sheets on pollution; (6) Preparation of a draft updated Action Plan for Marine Litter with support of the Caribbean Youth Environment Network (CYEN); (7) Establishment of Caribbean Platform for Nutrients; and (8) Support to the successful convening of the GEF IW Biennial Conference in Barbados in November 2013.
- 32. Specific mention was then made of fund raising efforts, and that despite the ongoing challenges in mobilizing funds for new activities, the Secretariat had been able to mobilize a total of USD 379,500 for activities. In addition, Mr. Corbin outlined that additional co-financing had been mobilized through partnerships with external agencies through projects such as GEF CReW to conduct joint capacity building activities. These funds go directly to the activity and thus are not reflected in UNEP's budget but can be quite significant.
- 33. Mr. Corbin then reported on some of the major activities carried out as part of overall Programme Coordination. These included: (1) Management & Coordination of all project activities including management of consultants and contracts; (2) Provision of technical and advisory support to Contracting Parties; (3) Coordinate all activities relating to the CETA subprogramme including management of the web site and social media accounts. This has resulted due to the continued lack of a dedicated CETA Programme Officer; (4) Promotion and awareness including the development of calendars; videos; fact sheets; quarterlies; publications; case studies; experience notes and participation at regional and international meetings; (5) Resource mobilization and developing new Partnerships and (6) Responding to the Recommendations and Decisions of the 1st LBS STAC and COP; and 15th IGM. Mr. Corbin ended this section by stating that this coordination included all the preparations for this 2nd LBS STAC and will also involve preparations for the 2nd LBS COP.
- 34. The main outputs from project implementation activities were presented under the specific thematic areas of monitoring and assessment, solid waste/marine litter management, national programmes of action and climate change and disaster risk management. Mr. Corbin highlighted some of the major national and regional achievements in each of these thematic areas. He outlined that work in the thematic area of wastewater management is largely taking place within the GEF CReW Project.
- 35. Mr. Corbin ended the first part of his presentation by highlighting some of the new collaborations that had been established and/or further enhanced with several projects and agencies including the IMO London Convention & Protocol and MARPOL Annex V; GEF IW Learn; the World Bank Global Partnership on Oceans; UNEP and several new initiatives including development of UNEP Live, GEO SIDS; and a new GEF Project on Environmental Indicators for CARICOM countries. Other partnership opportunities with the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) and the development of Phase 2 of the Caribbean Marine Atlas were also mentioned.
- 36. Regarding the activity with IAEA on establishing an early warning network to detect and respond to toxic events affecting the marine environment, the representative from PAHO suggested care be taken when developing this activity given that few countries within the Wider Caribbean Region are member states of the IAEA, and that most countries lack the core capacities as stated under the International Health Regulations (2005) for response to radio nuclear incidents.
- 37. Mr. Corbin then invited the Director of RAC CIMAB, Dr. Antonio Villasol who presented the specific contributions of RAC CIMAB to the projects and activities of the 2013-2014 biennium. He highlighted in particular the support provided under the GEF CReW Project to Guatemala, Honduras, Costa Rica and Panama, as well as their contributions to the discussions of the Monitoring and Assessment Working Group. Other technical support provided to the Secretariat by RAC CIMAB was identified as well as an assessment of the total level of co-financing provided.
- 38. Dr. Beverly Foster-Hinds followed with a presentation on behalf of RAC IMA and the work carried out in support of the 2013-2014 workplan as well as other projects and activities of relevance to the LBS Protocol. She highlighted the collaboration to host the Nutrients workshop that resulted in the launch of the Caribbean Platform on Nutrients Management as well as ongoing

- projects in Trinidad dealing with solid waste national beverage container project as well as a State of Environment/Water Quality Programme for Trinidad and Tobago.
- 39. Both of the LBS RAC representatives highlighted the various meetings and workshops convened by the Secretariat and/or GEF Projects that they both contributed to during the biennium under review.
- 40. The Chairperson invited the Secretariat to introduce the presenters from the GEF funded projects. The Chairperson also requested that the Secretariat provide a background to these presentations.
- 41. Mr. Corbin introduced the presenters from the GEF Projects namely CLME+, CReW, MAR2R and indicated that he would make the presentation on behalf of the IWEco project. He outlined the importance of collaboration between these projects given their focus on pollution prevention.
- 42. He started by giving an overview of the GEF IWEco project and indicated the ten (10) participating countries. While Bahamas is not part of the IWEco, a separate Project Concept or PIF for Bahamas was developed and recently approved. This will be further developed in collaboration with the IWEco project. He provided an overview of the national innovative solutions under component one (1) of the project and pointed out that the IWEco Project aimed in general to promote ecosystem-based management approaches. Mr. Corbin then provided an overview of the Regional Components 2, 3 and 4 and emphasized that a key element of the regional activities will be the development of partnerships for pollution reduction and stakeholder engagement.
- 43. Mr. Corbin informed that the Project proposal had been submitted to UNEP and the GEF Secretariat and that the internal review process could take between 2-8 weeks.
- 44. Mr. Corbin then invited Mr. Alfredo Coello Vazquez, Acting Project Coordinator of the GEF CReW Project to deliver his presentation.
- 45. In his presentation, Mr. Coello Vazquez provided an overview of the GEF CReW Project and highlighted linkages between the project activities and pollution prevention in the Wider Caribbean Region (WCR). He outlined that the maintenance of wastewater treatment plants was very costly and pointed out that many of these plants are not properly maintained. Mr. Coello noted that the GEF CReW Project aims to improve the financing for wastewater infrastructure in the WCR. He also noted that it is hoped that the approach to innovative financing piloted under CReW would be replicated by the GEF in other regions of the World including within the Wider Caribbean.
- 46. Mr. Coello then gave an overview of the five (5) project components of the GEF CReW Project. He indicated that component 1 of the project is managed by the Inter-American Development Bank (IDB) and that Project Management Units were established in the four GEF CReW pilot countries, namely Belize, Guyana, Jamaica and Trinidad and Tobago. He proceeded to provide an overview of the financing mechanism in each of the four pilot countries.
- 47. Mr. Coello continued by presenting an overview of the regional components 2 and 3 of the Project that are being managed by UNEP. He noted the ways in which the GEF CReW Project assists in pollution prevention. He noted that in some countries, the regulations are stricter than what is required under the LBS Protocol. He also discussed the replication of the financing mechanisms and the possibility of a follow up project to GEF CReW. He further discussed the capacity-building activities under the project that included the Small Scale Funding Agreement (SSFA) developed between UNEP-CAR/RCU and the English-speaking GEF CReW countries. He advised that SSFAs would soon be developed for activities in each of the Spanish-speaking countries participating in the GEF CReW Project. Information sharing activities and communication efforts of the GEF CReW Project were also discussed. These activities included the development of the GEF CReW website, Facebook page, newsletters and bulletins, case studies and professional exchanges. He also made note of the Platform Community of Practice of the IDB, which is expected to be launched in June 2014.
- 48. The delegate from Honduras noted that the person who was responsible for the GEF CReW Project in her country is now deceased. She further requested that the GEF CReW Project get in touch with the Government of Honduras to see if someone else could be selected to continue the work under CReW. Mr. Alfredo Coello, Project Manager of the GEF CReW Project expressed his condolences and indicated that the issue would be dealt with.
- 49. Mr. Corbin invited Mr. Patrick Debels to deliver his presentation on the GEF Caribbean Large Marine Ecosystems (CLME) Project. Mr. Debels expressed gratitude to UNEP-CEP on the collaboration for the GEF CLME Project. He further advised that

he would like to see how the CLME+ Project could help with the LBS Protocol. Mr. Patrick Debels provided an overview of the GEF CLME+ Project and opportunities for support to the LBS Protocol. He noted that the CLME+ Project involves two (2) Large Marine Ecosystems (LME): The Caribbean LME and the North Brazil Shelf LME and includes 25 GEF-eligible countries and dependent territories. Mr. Debels indicated that the Project Preparation Grant (PPG) was recently received from the GEF for the development of the full-sized project proposal document.

- 50. Mr. Debels advised that the CLME+ is expected to start in January 2015 and will be a five-year project. It will catalyse the implementation of the ten (10) year Strategic Action Programme (SAP) which was one of the main outcomes of the CLME project. He pointed out that the SAP was signed by 31 ministries from 21 countries. Mr. Debels noted that in the development of the CLME+ Project, the GEF approach for Transboundary Diagnostic Analysis was employed and added that three (3) key problems were identified throughout the CLME+. These were unsustainable fisheries, pollution and habitat degradation. He also noted that it was also necessary to take climate change and societal change into consideration.
- 51. Mr. Debels noted that different ecosystems deliver different ecosystem goods and services and hence these ecosystems would be impacted differently by the three (3) key problems. He discussed the root causes of the three key problems identified through CLME+. He noted the strategies of the CLME SAP and highlighted the components of the CLME+ Project. Mr. Debels discussed the possible catalytic LBS activities under each component of the CLME+ Project and he noted possible linkages to the SOCAR.
- 52. Mr. Corbin invited Ms. Maria Porta of the World Wildlife Fund (WWF) to deliver her presentation on the GEF Integrated Transboundary Ridge to Reef Management of the Mesoamerican Reef (MAR2R) Project. She provided background information on the Mesoamerican reef and noted that the Mesoamerican Reef is the largest transboundary barrier reef in the world. She added that the barrier reef is very rich in different types of biodiversity and indicated that the PIF for the MAR2R project was recently approved by the GEF. She added that the World Wildlife Fund is the implementing agency for the MAR2R project and that funding was received from GEF 5. She also added that the full project proposal will be USD 10 Million. Ms. Porta indicated there were four (4) countries involved in the project, namely Belize, Guatemala, Honduras and Mexico. She highlighted the objectives of the MAR2R project and gave an overview of the components of the project as well as the expected results.
- 53. Ms. Porta also highlighted the linkages of the project to the LBS Protocol and indicated that the project document for the project would be developed within the next few months.
- 54. The Chairperson invited questions or comments from the Meeting in regards to the presentations from the GEF Projects.
- 55. The delegate from the USA., Mr. Steve Morrison, enquired about the timeline for the GEF IWEco Project and wanted to know when the USA. would be involved. Mr. Christopher Corbin advised that approval could be received within one to two (1-2) months after submission. He added that the pre-inception phase could vary between three to six (3-6) months and that during this stage there would be a pre-inception meeting. Mr. Corbin advised that all partner agencies and Governments would be involved in the inception phase. He further advised that he would expect implementation to begin by December 2014 assuming approval by August 2014 and a three to four (3-4) month period for establishing the Project Management Unit (PMU).
- 56. The delegate from the USA, Mr. Steve Morrison noted that mention was made of a follow up project to CReW and asked if phase two of the GEF CReW project would include different countries. Mr. Coello advised that an increase in the number of countries had not yet been determined for the follow up project as it is still in the conceptual phase. Mr. Corbin added that countries which have pilot projects under the existing CReW project had already indicated that further assistance would be needed under any follow up projects. In addition to this, a follow up project could include new countries that are not part of the current GEF CReW project as well as have new pilot countries.
- 57. The delegate from the USA, Mr. Steve Morrison noted that the CLME Project currently seems to actively deal with fisheries and governance issues, but little focus on pollution. In comparison the follow up CLME+ had a much greater pollution focus. He then enquired about the estimated percentage of new CLME+ project that would be dedicated to deal with LBS activities.
- 58. Mr. Patrick Debels advised that it would be quite difficult at this stage for that to be determined. He however advised that a rough estimate would be twenty percent (20%), but this could be expanded.
- 59. The delegate from the USA, Mr. Steve Morrison further noted that he was pleased to hear about linkages between the SPAW and LBS Protocols as this is something that they had been discussing and requesting over the past years. He however

- highlighted that it should be ensured that not too much resources of the Secretariat are invested in activities being to be conducted under the CLME+ project outside of the Convention Area.
- 60. The delegate of the USA, Mr. Steve Morrison asked if the Integrated Transboundary Ridge to Reef Management of the Mesoamerican Reef (MAR2R) project is a continuation of the Mesoamerican Barrier Reef System (MBRS) Project and if the project would be considering the results of the MBRS project. He indicated that NOAA had collaborated on that project. Ms. Maria Porta indicated that MAR2R would build on the MBRS Project and welcomed receipt of any information available from the involvement of NOAA.
- 61. The delegate from Grenada highlighted that based on the presentations, there are strong linkages between LBS and GEF Projects (especially CLME) with the RAMSAR Convention and Caribbean Wetland Initiative (CariWet) especially as related to the conservation of wetland ecosystems, like mangroves, sea grass beds, etc. He added that CLME+ could bring a lot of relevance and should be linked to the control and reduction of land-based sources of pollution.
- 62. Dr. Villasol from RAC Cimab noted that, with regard to the Protocol Concerning Land-based Sources and Activities, especially under the GEF CReW and CLME Projects, point sources of pollution have been stressed. However, there is still a lot of work to be done on pollution from non-point sources, especially for the Mesoamerican reef, for example, as many countries are affected.
- 63. The Chairperson inquired how the pilot countries for the GEF CReW Project had been selected. It was noted in response, that there was quite a long selection process involving IDB, GEF Focal Points and UNEP according to specific criteria. In moving forward, possibilities exist for increasing the number of participating countries and pilot projects, in addition to fostering partnerships with additional partner agencies and the private sector.
- 64. The delegate from Belize advised that the second phase of the MBRS was originally intended to focus on non-point sources of pollution with a focus on water quality monitoring and bioaccumulation and that much of the documentation from the first project and its recommendations still exist and could be shared to inform the development of this new follow up phase.
- 65. The delegate from Panama noted that many countries within Central America are participating in a regional water monitoring network. The delegate added that data is being collected from different points along Caribbean coastlines and that this data could be very useful for informing future activities in this area.
- 66. The delegate from Trinidad and Tobago enquired if industrial wastewater, as noted in Annex III of the LBS Protocol, could be included in future activities of the GEF CReW project, that is, to include pre-treatment of industrial wastewater. Mr. Coello from the GEF CReW project indicated that it is possible and could be included within activities for a follow up project. He mentioned that an initial facilitated consultation took place during the 3rd Project Steering Committee Meeting in January 2014 and that future discussions will take place with stakeholders to inform the development of a Project Concept or PIF for a new follow up project proposal. Such a project would continue to promote a more integrated approach to wastewater management in the region.
- 67. The delegate from the Bahamas inquired if wastewater reception facilities for cruise ship had been considered. He pointed out that there has been conflict with countries with regard to cruise ships, as there is insufficient space for wastewater storage. As a result, waste from the cruise ships may be flushed into the bays and waters along the coast.
- 68. Mr. Corbin advised that this had been considered under UNEP-CEP, but not under the GEF CReW project. He noted that while some initial elements for a new follow up project concept had been received, additional input on scope of possible new activities is welcomed. Therefore, a follow up project could include activities to address both the pre-treatment of industrial wastewater as well as challenges in dealing with wastewater from ships as provided for under MARPOL Annex IV dealing with sewage if countries involved in the new project consider these as priority activities.
- 69. The delegate from Antigua and Barbuda noted that it was mentioned that countries that have not endorsed or expressed interest in the CLME project could still do so. He inquired as to how this could be done, and considering that Antigua has several national projects, how Antigua can build on them through CLME+.
- 70. The endorsement of the CLME+ SAP and PIF remains open for interested parties. Mr. Debels advised that for CLME+, the resources invested will be for transboundary aspects. CLME+ will help countries to participate in transboundary activities which will be independent from other projects already being undertaken by the countries.

- 71. Mr. Debels advised that there may be a possibility through an individual project using project funds to assist individual countries that express an interest. The region-wide effort is dependent on whether neighbouring countries are also interested especially since the project covers transboundary issues. He added that there may be both direct and indirect benefits from CLME investments and that it may be possible to obtain additional financial support from other sources once a country has endorsed CLME+ and its Strategic Action Programme.
- 72. The delegate from Honduras advised that the country is in the process of trying to ratify the LBS Protocol. She advised that oil was found along the Moskitia Coast and sought guidance on what needed to be done so as not to negatively affect the ratification process for the Convention and Protocol.
- 73. Mr. Corbin noted that countries may ratify the Cartagena Convention and Oil Spills Protocol alone or along with the other two Protocols. He advised that all members of the Caribbean Environment Programme financially contribute to the Caribbean Trust Fund and there are no other additional financial obligations by becoming a Contracting Party. He noted that the Secretariat had prepared a guidance document on how to ratify the Protocol and indicated that the Secretariat is committed to assist countries in their ratification process if further support is required. He added that a pollution incident such as oil along the coastline would not negatively affect national efforts at ratification but through ratification, the country would have a framework for seeking technical assistance.
- 74. The Chair requested the Secretariat to provide an introduction to the presenter from UNEP GRID-Arendal, Mr. Wouter Rommens.
- 75. Mr. Rommens presented on "Building Regional and National Capacity for the State of the Marine Environment Reporting using Expert Elicitation". He presented a Methodology based on expert elicitation, essentially a scientific consensus methodology, which is a process that synthesizes existing assessments, data and information in conjunction with the subjective judgment of experts across a broad base of evidence. Mr. Rommens noted that the method has been applied successfully in a range of situations, and has the advantages that it is cost- and time-effective, it utilizes the existing knowledge of marine experts from the target region, and it can incorporate non-conventional knowledge and information. He further noted that in the absence of useful regional or national indicator datasets, the State of Marine Environment Expert Elicitation (SOME-EE) process uses consultation with national and regional experts to gauge expert opinion about the condition of the marine and coastal ecosystems and dependent socio-economic sectors.
- 76. Mr. Rommens provided an overview of the Methodology and of the steps for the identification of experts.
- 77. Ms. Marlen Perez from RAC CIMAB asked Mr. Rommens about his experience in setting up the group of experts. Mr. Rommens noted that the experts were usually country experts, such as heads of laboratories and institutions as well as professors from universities. He advised that it is important that there are no hidden agendas and that everyone can talk freely. He added that the experts need to be knowledgeable on the technical focal areas and parameters covered during the assessment, and may be appointed by country focal points for added transparency.
- 78. The delegate from Panama made note of the classification or scoring system. She inquired on whether this Methodology had been successful for decision-making, and on the effectiveness of qualitative descriptions.
- 79. Mr. Rommens advised that if data and information are available to validate expert judgments that material must be provided in support of the qualitative descriptions. He added that if a lot of data and information are available, one would have high-confidence in the results presented.
- 80. Mr. Rommens advised that the expert should be able to provide responses on the parameters being evaluated and it is best to avoid making conclusions if no expert opinion on any of the parameters can be made.
- 81. Mr. Coello, Acting Project Coordinator of the GEF CReW Project, asked if governments have a role in the research being done. He also asked if there were any instances where the parameters assessed did not have high confidence due to minimal or no data being available, and if such assessments have been able to influence the decision making process.
- 82. Mr. Rommens noted that the methodology is relatively new, and outreach to policy makers still needs to be done as this is very important. He added that if there are parameters where there is little confidence as a result of very little supporting qualitative or quantitative data, then these would not be scored. Scoring is done where experts had greater confidence in the data available.

- 83. The Chairperson then invited Ms. Paulette Kolbusch of the Government of Jamaica to present the report of the Working Group on Environmental Monitoring and Assessment to the Meeting.
- 84. Ms. Paulette Kolbusch, in her presentation, gave an overview of the activities of the Working Group for the 2013-2014 Biennium. She provided background information on to the State of the Convention Area Report (SOCAR), and gave an overview of the proposed objectives of SOCAR. Ms. Kolbusch proceeded to discuss and review the results of the Survey on Water Quality Monitoring Programmes and Data Sharing in the Wider Caribbean Region.
- 85. The delegate from Antigua and Barbuda, noted that if data sensitivity is an issue then maybe countries would be more willing to share information presented as ranges rather than individual data points. He added that countries may also be more willing to share information related to the extent of compliance with regional and/or international standards.
- 86. Mr. Corbin noted that at this stage all recommendations are welcome. He added that over the last two biennia the minimum parameters to be included in the report were discussed as well as the best way to visualize the data. He noted that being able to visualize recreational water quality data according to compliance with standards might be useful as well as using other visual indications of quality. He further noted that all recommendations are welcomed that could help with the further development of SOCAR.
- 87. The representative from CARPHA noted that they had been looking into something very similar due to insufficient information within the CARICOM region specifically in reference to linking environmental data with epidemiological data.. She further advised that they would like to set up a web-based portal where agencies from different countries would be able to enter data with only CARPHA and the owner country able to access the data. This would inform public health action.
- 88. The delegate from Trinidad and Tobago noted that work is still needed to finalise the SOCAR outline with respect to the standards and methodology.
- 89. The delegate from the USA thanked the Government of Jamaica for leading the Working Group and offered to chair the working group in the future. He also noted that the US was pleased with the draft outline of the SOCAR and endorsed the plan to have the red, yellow, green colour coding. He added that for data sensitivity the report would not include values but could use colours instead.
- 90. Mr. Corbin indicated that a possible recommendation would be to work to find a suitable methodology for SOCAR. He added that the Secretariat could be charged with the responsibility to prepare a concept note looking at different methodologies used in developing regional reports in other regional seas programmes.
- 91. Mr. Debels noted that in addition to the indicators for environmental status, it would be necessary to include process indicators. He added that very often changes in such indicators such as institutional, legal or policy changes are the first steps needed to improve the state of the environment. He noted that the five modular approaches for large marine ecosystems used by NOAA and looking at the reflecting information on the impacts of pollution on marine and ecosystem health could enhance the SOCAR and generate greater support. He also noted that there is Ocean Health Index which relates to clean waters in one of its headers and it would be good to liaise with them and see how they are dealing with the lack of data in developing their reports. He further advised of the need to liaise with other related initiatives and see how the draft SOCAR outline could be improved taking into account these other initiatives.
- 92. The delegate from the USA cautioned that in looking at other efforts and methodologies that care should be taken to undertaken only what is relevant and required under the Protocol.
- 93. The delegate from Trinidad and Tobago noted that in terms of addressing the concern of limited data availability, consideration could be given to obtain relevant data generated from marine or research vessels in the Wider Caribbean Region that could help in achieving a more comprehensive report.
- 94. Ms. Marlen Perez indicated that she shared the opinion of the delegate from the USA. She advised that SOCAR should not be overly ambitious and recommended that the template used by UNEP should be disseminated to the Group for further discussions on what it could be used for. She also recommended that the Monitoring and Assessment Working Group should continue to work in the next biennium.

Agenda item 6: Regional and Global Programmes, Projects and Initiatives

(a) World Bank Global Partnership Oceans

- 95. The Chairperson requested the Secretariat to provide background to the presentation and to invite the representative from the World Bank to deliver the presentation on the Global Partnership for Oceans.
- 96. Mr. Jostein Nygard provided an overview of the World Bank GPO. The need for partnerships was discussed. He indicated that the three main focus areas are sustainable fisheries, pollution management, and habitat restoration so as to enable improved integrated management of the marine environment. He advised that the initiative aims at collaborating with different programmes, projects and agencies at both global and regional levels and in different regions. He noted that the priorities of the GPO as it relates to pollution are the same three areas as identified by UNEP GPA wastewater, marine litter, and agricultural runoff. He gave an overview of the activities of the pollution component that included the development of a regional water quality management report, plastic waste management programme and establishment of a GPO pollution working group. He informed that the GPO started with the WCR based on the advice of UNEP. He noted that after the WCR they will move to the African and South China Seas Regions.
- 97. Mr. Nygard further informed that the study for the Wider Caribbean proposes to include 7-9 countries although work has initially started with four (4) countries, Columbia, Costa Rica, Mexico and Jamaica. He added that they plan to continue work with remaining countries to develop national reports. He discussed the main pollution sources and impacts in the WCR as well as the linkages with the LBS Protocol. He also provided an update on the status of preparation of national water quality management reports and the summary of key findings to date. Marco Alcaraz and Kristen Magnussen of the World Bank provided additional detail related to the sources and impacts of pollution in the region as well as the selection of cost-effective interventions. The contributing of the GEF CReW Project and other regional reports done by UNEP CEP was recognized.
- 98. Dr. Villasol from RAC CIMAB congratulated the GPO for their work and asked if they would be able to get access to the reports. He noted the issue of dealing with waste from ships and inquired if there any plans to develop port facilities to receive waste from ships.
- 99. Mr. Corbin highlighted the linkages of the GPO and the plans for developing a Regional Water Quality Management Report with the development of SOCAR. He further advised that in regard to waste from ships, an online interactive map to track ships was developed in collaboration with the IMO and is available on the website of the RAC REMPEITC which can be accessed through the UNEP CEP web site.

(b) GPA Global Partnerships

- 100. The Chair then invited a presentation from Mr. Vincent Sweeney from UNEP GPA.
- 101.Mr. Sweeney made a presentation on the partnerships being managed by the Global Programme of Action for the Protection of the Marine Environment from Land-based Activities (GPA), which link directly to the work being done within the framework of the LBS Protocol. He noted that the objective of the presentation was to update the LBS STAC 2 on the progress made in the development of these partnerships and share experiences in order to catalyze ideas for recommendations and/or decisions by the 2nd LBS STAC. Some of the other Global Partnerships that UNEP were involved in were mentioned but the presentation focused on the three global partnerships of most relevance to the work of the LBS Protocol, namely marine litter, nutrients, and wastewater.
- 102. The presentation looked at the initiatives in which the GPA and the Secretariat for the Cartagena Convention had been collaborating, including outreach on marine litter, the revision of the Regional Action Plan for Marine Litter, and the initiation of a Caribbean Platform for the Global Partnership for Nutrients Management (GPNM). He informed that the GPA provided both financial and technical support for these activities to the Secretariat. Mr. Sweeney also noted on-going activities being conducted by the GPA that are of relevance to the LBS Protocol; these include demonstration projects, technology transfer, economic valuation studies on wastewater and development of a matrix of wastewater treatment technologies under the Global Wastewater Initiative (GWI).

- 103.He noted that the approval of a PIF for a new GEF project on nitrogen management and the nitrogen cycle to complement ongoing work at the GPA is pending. A summary of the lessons learned from the work of the various partnerships was then given. These included particularly that multi-stakeholder involvement in the design, implementation and management of the partnerships was a key to their success. He also noted that the UNEP GPA has recognized the need to package and communicate messages more effectively to a wider media, stimulate scientific discourse, engage the public in the debate, and publish its work more broadly.
- 104. In closing Mr. Sweeney noted that guidance is needed on how to move forward to support the Wider Caribbean region in the areas mentioned, specifically implementing its agenda to address pollution from marine litter and plastics, nutrients management and wastewater. He asked what other activities can be looked at as priorities and indicated that the GPA is ready and willing to support the region.
- 105.Mr. Corbin expressed appreciation for the continued support of the GPA. Reference was made to work in support of the 3 areas mentioned. Mr. Corbin welcomed feedback from the governments and suggested that consistent with the development of the Caribbean Nutrients Platform, the STAC may wish to also consider development of a Caribbean marine litter platform.

Agenda item 7: Draft AMEP Workplan and Budget for the 2015-2016 Biennium

- 106. The Secretariat was invited to present the Draft AMEP Work plan and Budget for the 2015/2016 Biennium in support of the Protocol concerning Pollution from Land-based Sources and Activities (LBS Protocol). The AMEP Programme Officer presented the proposed projects and activities within the programme as contained in document UNEP (DEPI)/CAR WG.35/3. He stated that the work plan and budget covered activities to be developed under the Assessment and Management of Environmental Pollution (AMEP) sub-programme of CEP with the support of the two LBS RACs (Centro de Ingeniería y Manejo Ambiental de Bahías y Costas-CIMAB, Cuba and Institute of Marine Affairs-IMA, Trinidad and Tobago).
- 107.Mr. Corbin highlighted the programme priorities for the biennium including: implementation and development of a GEF CReW Phase 2'; launch and continued implementation of GEF IWEco Project; support to the execution of relevant activities for the GEF CLME+ Project; continued efforts to source funding for a follow-up project to REPCar including re-design of the existing project proposal for resubmission; proceed with the development of the State of Convention Area Report; promote further LBS ratification and support the regional implementation of the GPA and in particular the Global Partnerships on Marine Litter, Nutrients & Wastewater through possible national pilot projects.
- 108.Before describing the specific projects and activities, Mr. Corbin began by outlining the nature of the administrative and technical support that would be required from the Secretariat to ensure the effective implementation of the work programme. This included the support provided by Finance and Administration and the CETA sub programme in areas such as travel, procurement, human resources management, communication, awareness raising and information technology support.
- 109.A description of ongoing and proposed new projects and activities was then provided within the following eight thematic areas: Global Environment Facility funded Projects, Monitoring & Assessment, Wastewater Management, Watershed Management, Waste Management, National Programmes of Action, Climate Change and Disaster Risk Response. He reiterated that where no specific new project activities had been proposed in the work plan, such as in the areas of watershed and wastewater management, support in these areas will be provided through the GEF funded projects.
- 110.In conclusion, Mr. Corbin provided a summary of the overall proposed budget highlighting the amount of funds to be requested from the Caribbean Trust Fund, the level of funding already mobilized and funding still required. While he highlighted that most of the funds listed as unfunded related to the full-sized projects that are under development and which will be submitted to the GEF for consideration, additional funds were still needed for other proposed projects and activities and invited support of countries and partners to mobilize the required funding.
- 111. The delegate from Costa Rica noted that with regard to the presentation on the budget, it was not clear if the follow-up REPCar Project that was noted for inclusion in the GEF-6 cycle was included in the current budget, and asked it if was validated by the countries.
- 112.Mr. Corbin noted that informal discussions were held by the Secretariat with other UNEP colleagues and the GEF Secretariat during the current biennium and it was advised that it would be best to submit any revised or new proposal for a follow up to

- REPCar within the new GEF 6 cycle which has just begun. He advised that during the next biennium, the Secretariat would review the previous PIF, engaged in consultations with countries through their GEF Focal Points and with regional partners for developing a new PIF based on feedback and country priorities so no specific budget allocation has yet been made as this will need to be developed.
- 113. The delegate from France asked about the unfunded amounts in the workplan and budget and requested clarification as to what projects were presently funded and which are still unfunded. She also asked if the workplan would be re-drafted during the Meeting
- 114.Mr. Corbin noted that the budget reflects funds which are confirmed or already received by the Secretariat. The high unfunded amount does relate mainly to the unfunded GEF IWEco project which has not yet been approved and this amounts to a total of USD 6,000,000. Subject to approval, funds required to implement other unfunded projects and activities are in the range of USD 300,000. These include funds for, among other things, the development of SOCAR and would still need to be sourced. Concerning the revision of the Work Plan, while that would not be done during the meeting, the Secretariat welcomes any additional feedback/comments to enable further refinement of the workplan and budget. The Secretariat suggested that Parties submit additional feedback no later than 30th July to enable them to be incorporated by the Secretariat, resent to Parties for their endorsement and then submitted to the 2nd LBS COP for approval.
- 115. The delegate from the USA, Mr. Steve Morrison noted that the workplan was lacking activities to address non-point sources of pollution from agriculture.
- 116. The delegate from Grenada noted that that there were no activities regarding LBS research in the workplan.
- 117.Mr. Sweeney suggested text for a possible recommendation that was accepted and will be reflected in the meeting recommendations.
- 118. The governments of Nicaragua, Columbia, Jamaica, Guatemala, Honduras and Costa Rica indicated that they were in the process of ratifying the LBS Protocol and highlighted the significant process they had made within their respective countries towards ratification.
- 119. The delegate from the USA, Mr. Steve Morrison advised that United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) and NOAA are developing a MOU that will allow the two agencies to work with countries in the region to support projects and activities dealing with nutrients management in particular. The delegate also suggested that consideration be given to convene the LBS COP and LBS STAC in different years so as to allow more time for amendments to the workplan and Budget to be made before submission to the COP.
- 120. The Secretariat thanked the US and noted the importance of having enough time for delegates to provide input to the draft work plan and budget. However, the Secretariat further noted the difficulty of having a STAC meeting in the first year of a biennium where it could report only less than one year of implementation. In addition, the existing timing of meetings had been done to ensure that all intergovernmental meetings were held the year before the new biennium started. The US delegate clarified that this may become an issue when the SOCAR is developed and there is a need to have adequate time to review prior to submission to the COP and it was agreed that a mechanism will have to be developed to address this in the future.
- 121. The delegate from the USA, Mr. Steve Morrison recommended the continuation of the Working Group on monitoring and assessment. He noted that the term for Jamaica to chair the working group comes to an end during this STAC meeting and indicated that the USA would be willing to chair the Group pending internal approval. He suggested that the Group should work to complete the SOCAR outline including assessment values. He also suggested that the Secretariat could explore cost-effective opportunities to have a face-to-face meeting of the Working Group possible along with other planned meetings over the next few months such as for the GEF IWECo project. This would enable a final draft outline for SOCAR to be presented at the next LBS COP.
- 122. The delegate from Antigua and Barbuda expressed his country's interest in contributing to the monitoring survey and the working group.
- 123. The delegate of Trinidad and Tobago mentioned that there was a need to start looking at activities and technical assistance to support remediation of oil contaminated sites including swamps and how to manage the oily waste collected. He added that Trinidad and Tobago was not aware of any experience in the Caribbean for dealing with this.

- 124. The delegate from Guatemala noted that while they had developed a national oil spills contingency plan, they were interested in the use of dispersants to control oil spills and the importance of being able to receive technical guidance on this issue as to their knowledge, the use of dispersants had not been approved in other Central American countries..
- 125. The delegate from Guyana queried as to the extent of data available on nutrient load in wastewater discharges within the region and further recommended that consideration be given for the inclusion of an assessment of nutrient load of agricultural runoffs in the Workplan.
- 126. The Secretariat suggested a closer collaboration between the LBS and Oil Spills RACs based on the comments regarding the concerns with the management and monitoring of oil spills and that the areas identified by delegates would be brought to the attention of the Oil Spills RACs for possible support.
- 127. The delegate from Antigua and Barbuda noted that pollution from ships is a serious problem that needs to be considered along with the issue of air pollution.
- 128. The Government of Nicaragua proposed a study on the use of biosolids in the agricultural industry. She noted that Nicaragua is currently preparing a standard on the use of biosolids as organic fertilizers and enquired if the Secretariat or other countries had laws on the use of biosolids in agriculture that could be shared.
- 129. The delegate from Belize, regarding the GPA, expressed that they would like to be considered for any financial and technical support available that would enable an update of their NPA that was developed in 2008 to reflect new priorities.

Agenda item 8: Other Business

- 130. The Chairperson invited the Government of Nicaragua to deliver their presentation.
- 131. The representative from the Government of Nicaragua presented on the results and achievements of the GEF REPCar Project. She noted the significant reduction in the agricultural production costs and overall savings as a result of the use of natural pesticides and fertilizers, instead of chemical-based products. She noted that the strategies employed under the project are being replicated in other areas and expressed gratitude to UNEP and the Project Manager, Alexandre Cooman.
- 132. The Chairperson invited the Government of Panama to deliver their presentation.
- 133. The Government of Panama presented an overview of the environmental issues in Panama and environmental projects. The effect of hydroelectric plants on eutrophication was discussed, including a project/study involving bio-indicators.
- 134. The Chairperson invited the representative from CARPHA to deliver the presentation.
- 135.Mrs. Alexandra DuBoulay presented an overview of CARPHA. She discussed the projects being undertaken by CARPHA and identified opportunities to support the work of the LBS Protocol.

Agenda item 9: Adoption of the Recommendations of the Meeting and Meeting Report

- 136. The Rapporteur presented the Draft Recommendations to the Meeting. The Recommendations were reviewed, discussed and amended during the Meeting. The updated Recommendations will be sent to the delegates for final approval.
- 137. The Draft Report of the Meeting was reviewed and amendments and corrections were made to the draft report by the Secretariat as indicated by the participants. The participants were advised to send any further input/amendments to the Secretariat within two (2) weeks from receipt of the updated version. The Meeting approved the Report with amendments made.

Agenda item 10: Closure of the Meeting

138. The Chairperson thanked all Contracting Parties, Non-Contracting Parties, and representatives of various organizations for their participation in the Meeting. He invited Mr. Nelson Andrade to bring closing remarks.

- 139.Mr. Andrade in closing noted that it was an excellent Meeting. He expressed gratitude for the participation of representatives from PAHO, CARPHA and UNEP GPA. Mr. Andrade reflected on the signing of the LBS Protocol in 1999 in Aruba, and noted its entry into force in 2010. He pointed out that the pace of ratification is slow because countries are taking it very seriously and added that it was good to see governments expressing commitment to ratify the LBS Protocol. He highlighted the importance of the Protocol in improving living conditions and protecting the marine and coastal environment.
- 140.He thanked Mr. Corbin and his team for their dedication to the work of UNEP CEP and the LBS RACs for their collaboration. He also thanked the interpretation team, the chairperson for his commitment and willingness and the rapportuer for her input to the meeting.
- 141. He expressed thanks to the Vice-Minister from Nicaragua for assisting with the week's proceedings.
- 142.Mr. Andrade advised the Meeting that he will retire from UNEP in February 2015. He added that UNEP CEP will be celebrating 30 years of the Cartagena Convention and expressed satisfaction with a job well done.
- 143. The delegates from the governments of Bahamas, Costa Rica, Guatemala, Honduras, Jamaica, Panama and the USA expressed thanks to the Vice Minister from Nicaragua and expressed gratitude and appreciation to Mr. Nelson Andrade for his excellent work over the years.
- 144. The representatives from RAC CIMAB, UNEP GPA and the GEF CLME project also expressed thanks to the Vice Minister from Nicaragua and expressed gratitude, well wishes and congratulations to Mr. Andrade for his contribution to UNEP and the region on his upcoming retirement.
- 145. The Chairperson invited the Vice Minister to deliver closing remarks.
- 146.In closing the Vice- Minister, expressed appreciation for being given the opportunity to host the Meeting in Nicaragua He thanked UNEP for the opportunity and the participants for accepting the invitation to attend the Meeting in Nicaragua. He recognized the challenge to reconcile with mother earth and biodiversity. He expressed commitment to moving away from a destructive model to a constructive model and added that governments should work together to change the way the earth is treated. The Vice-Minister noted that the people of the region have a right to live well and safely, and to have the education that will help them regain the principles of Indigenous and African people towards conserving the environment. He invited all participants to return to Nicaragua with their families then declared the Meeting closed.
- 147. The Meeting was closed at 12:50 pm.

Annex I: Agenda

- 1. Opening of the Meeting
- 2. Election of Officers
- 3. Organization of the Meeting
 - a) Rules of Procedure
 - b) Organization of Work
- 4. Adoption of the Agenda
- 5. Review of AMEP Programme Activities for the 2013-2014 biennium
- 6. Regional and Global Programmes, Projects and Initiatives
- 7. Draft AMEP Work Plan and Budget for the 2015-2016 biennium
- 8. Other Business
- 9. Adoption of the Recommendations of the Meeting
- 10. Closure of the Meeting

Annex II: Recommendations of the Meeting

The Meeting:

Having convened the Second Meeting of the Scientific, Technical and Advisory Committee to the Protocol Concerning Pollution from Land-based Sources and Activities (LBS STAC) in the Wider Caribbean Region, Managua, 10-13 June 2014;

Making reference to the First Meeting of the LBS STAC held in Oranjestad, Aruba in June 2012;

Recommends to the Second Conference of Parties to the Protocol Concerning Pollution from Land-based Sources and Activities (LBS COP) in the Wider Caribbean Region that:

RECOMMENDATION I

WORKPLAN AND BUDGET

- 1. Contracting Parties submit additional comments on the draft Workplan and Budget for the biennium 2015-2016 by July 30 to enable an updated draft to be prepared for further endorsement and submission to the 2nd LBS COP for approval and the Fifteenth Intergovernmental Meeting on the Action Plan for the Caribbean Environment Programme and Twelfth Meeting of the Contracting Parties to the Cartagena Convention for information.
- 2. The Secretariat continue efforts in collaboration with interested Governments and Partners to develop a follow up proposal to GEF REPCar for submission to the GEF.
- 3. The Secretariat in collaboration with regional and international agencies explore opportunities to implement activities that support the implementation of Article 5 on pollution from ships and Article 9 on Air Borne pollution of the LBS Protocol. These should include activities for the pre-treatment of industrial effluent in accordance with Annex III of the LBS Protocol.
- 4. The Secretariat in collaboration with the LBS and Oil Spills RACs facilitate technical support to countries in the area of oil pollution including use of dispersants and the rehabilitation of oil-contaminated areas.
- 5. The Secretariat explore opportunities to have joint meetings of technical experts from the SPAW and LBS Protocols including the consideration of a joint LBS/SPAW STAC in the future.
- 6. The Secretariat explore mechanisms for providing information relating to the development of future Draft Work Plans and Budgets and the SOCAR in advance of the STAC to enable adequate input by Contracting Parties into the development of the workplan and budget.
- 7. The Secretariat include activities within the Work Plan and Budget for 2015-2016 that focus on the management of non-point sources of marine pollution.

RECOMMENDATION II

ENVIRONMENTAL MONITORING AND ASSESSMENT

1. The Secretariat, jointly with the LBS/RACs, continue to build capacity in the use of decision-making tools and to use these tools to bring added value to the outputs of existing environmental monitoring data being generated by AMEP Projects and activities.

- 2. The Interim Working Group on Monitoring and Assessment continue its work intersessionally prior to the LBS COP2 Meeting in November 2014 and beyond, as necessary.
- 3. The Interim Working Group on Monitoring and Assessment continue under the Chair of the USA for the period leading up to the LBS COP2 meeting as the current chair's term ends after the STAC 2 meeting.
- 4. The existing Interim Working Group finalize the outline of the proposed State of Convention Area Report (SOCAR) to: (1) propose and agree on the data values of the assessment ranges, based on information provided in previous discussions; and (2) present this report to the 2nd LBS COP.
- 5. The Secretariat continue to explore opportunities to support implementation of the LBS Protocol and the development of the SOCAR through participation in discussions relating to the Caribbean Marine Atlas (CMA2), CLME+ Component 5, the World Ocean Assessment and other related initiatives.
- 6. The Secretariat prepare a short concept document showing potential linkages and synergies with these other initiatives to be presented with the SOCAR Outline for consideration at the 2nd LBS COP.
- 7. The Secretariat prepare and submit to the Working Group additional input and methodologies that could be considered to enhance the current SOCAR outline and its subsequent development.

RECOMMENDATION III GEF PROJECTS

- The Secretariat continue to participate in the development of the GEF CLME+ project proposal giving special attention
 to the progressive integration of pollution and habitat/biodiversity issues and the exploration of means for the
 collaboration with, and the involvement of Brazil, in actions leading to reduced LBS pollution inputs in the Convention
 Area.
- 2. The Secretariat participate in the GEF Meso American Barrier Reef project development process providing input in particular on proposed activities for managing non-point run off.,

RECOMMENDATION IV

GLOBAL PROGRAMME OF ACTION

- 1. The Secretariat mobilize funding to support an assessment of nutrient loadings to the Caribbean Sea in order to prioritize future interventions in relation to pollution load reduction, and in order to guide future activities of the Caribbean Platform for Nutrients Management.
- 2. The Secretariat and Contracting Parties strengthen collaboration with the GPNM in order to improve overall nutrient management.
- 3. The Secretariat collaborate with the GPA and the GPNM in the testing of innovative approaches and technologies for improving nutrient management including monitoring, nutrient recovery and nutrient use efficiency.
- 4. The Secretariat continue to ensure close cooperation between the GEF CReW Project and in the future and the Global Wastewater Initiative, with the development of concrete joint activities in priority areas.
- 5. The Secretariat explore the possibilities of establishing a Caribbean node for the Global Partnership on Marine Litter, to assist with the implementation of the revised Regional Action Plan for Marine Litter.
- 6. The Secretariat, in collaboration with the GPA, explore opportunities to support the review and update of National Programmes of Action developed by Contracting Parties to the LBS Protocol.

RECOMMENDATION V

GLOBAL PARTNERSHIP FOR OCEANS

- 1. The Secretariat continue collaboration with the World Bank GPO and with the view to establishing linkages with the development of the SOCAR and by providing relevant information on previous studies on the state of the marine environment of the Wider Caribbean and in particular information relating to the impacts of pollution.
- 2. The Secretariat facilitate sharing of outputs and methodologies used to develop the Regional Water Quality Assessment Report under the GPO with all Contracting Parties.

RECOMMENDATION VI

1. Request Contracting Parties to the LBS Protocol that members of the STAC have the competence and continuity to ensure effective contribution to the development of the activities undertaken by the STAC.

Annex III: LIST OF DOCUMENTS

	Working	Documents
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UNEP(DEPI)/CAR WG.35/1 Provisional agenda

UNEP(DEPI)/CAR WG.35/2 Provisional annotated agenda

UNEP(DEPI)/CAR WG.35/3 Draft Work plan and Budget for the sub-programme on the Assessment and

Management of Environmental Pollution (AMEP) for 2015-2016

UNEP(DEPI)/CAR WG.35/4 Report of the Second Meeting of the Scientific, Technical and Advisory Committee

(STAC) to the Protocol Concerning Pollution from Land-Based Sources and Activities

(LBS Protocol) in the Wider Caribbean Region

Information Documents

UNEP(DEPI)/CAR WG.35/INF.1 Provisional list of documents
UNEP(DEPI)/CAR WG.35/INF.2 List of participants (English only)

UNEP(DEPI)/CAR WG.35/INF.3 Status of Activities for the sub-programme on the Assessment and Management of

Environmental Pollution (AMEP) for 2013-2014

UNEP (DEPI)/CAR WG.35/INF.4 Report of the Activities for the LBS Regional Activity Centres IMA (Trinidad and

Tobago) and Cimab (Cuba) for 2013-2014

UNEP (DEPI)/CAR WG.35/INF.5 Report of the Working Group on Environmental Monitoring and Assessment

UNEP (DEPI)/CAR WG.35/INF.6 Status of ratification of the LBS Protocol (English only)UNEP(DEPI)/CAR WG.

33/INF.7CEP Technical Report 61: Mainstreaming National Programmes of Action in

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