



October - December 2010

Issue 8

The Secretariat to the Cartagena Convention Announces:

The LBS Protocol can now Legally Enter Into Force



Welcome

Dear Readers,

This eighth quarterly continues efforts by the AMEP Secretariat to provide updates on projects and activities in support of the following thematic areas:

- *Programme Coordination*
- *GEF Projects*
- *Environmental Monitoring and Assessment*
- *Wastewater Management*
- *Waste Management*
- *National Programmes of Action*
- *Oil Spills Response Planning, and*
- *Climate Change and Disaster Management*

14th Intergovernmental Meeting(IGM)

During 6-9 October 2010, delegates from countries of the Wider Caribbean Region (WCR) attended the 14th IGM on the Action Plan for the Caribbean Environment Programme and 11th Meeting of the Contracting Parties to the Cartagena Convention. The meeting concluded with several recommendations some of which are summarized below;

- The Secretariat focus its promotional efforts on countries that request specific assistance in facilitating their ratification process.
- The Secretariat explore opportunities for integrating the results of TR33 and other recently completed projects (Know-Why Network, GEF Contaminated Bays, Baseline Assessment on Wastewater Management) into the development of new initiatives focused on monitoring and assessment.
- The Secretariat, jointly with the LBS/RACs, continue to build capacity in the use of GIS, Remote Sensing and other decision-making tools.

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With the recent accession of the Bahamas to the LBS Protocol, this Protocol can now enter into force!

Please view our Web Site!
www.cep.unep.org

and our social media page
<http://cep.coraltv.org/>
<http://unep.coraltv.org/marinebiodiversityanimal6.html>



The look of our CEP website



The look of the Interactive Project Activity Map

- The draft reporting template for the Cartagena Convention and its Protocols and the CEP Technical Report No. 33 be adopted.
- Establish an Interim Working Group to continue work related to monitoring and assessment that could use Technical Report No. 33 as a baseline document.

To see more information on the 14th IGM, visit:

<http://www.cep.unep.org/meetings-events/14th-igm>.

To see the report on the 14th IGM, visit :

http://www.cep.unep.org/meetings-events/14th-igm/draft-14th-igm-report_13oct2010.pdf

Programme Coordination

- The Commonwealth of the Bahamas has announced that documents for accession to the Cartagena Convention, and the Oil Spills and LBS Protocols have been deposited in Colombia. Therefore nine countries have now ratified the LBS Protocol. These are, Trinidad and Tobago, Panama, France, Belize, Saint Lucia, United States of America, Antigua & Barbuda, Guyana and the Commonwealth of the Bahamas. This ninth ratification means that the LBS Protocol can now legally enter into force. Progress is being made for ratification by Jamaica and the Dominican Republic and efforts are ongoing in Barbados, Colombia, Nicaragua and Grenada.
- A final draft of the Reporting Template for the Cartagena Convention was presented for adoption at the 14th IGM of the CEP. The decision was made to adopt the reporting template, taking into consideration the observations and inputs provided by the Meeting.
- AMEP Programme Officer, Mr. Christopher Corbin attended the Global Plastics Association Presidents Meeting, K'2010 Fair, Dusseldorf, Germany, in November. The objectives of the meeting were to share understanding of the scope of the issue of marine litter and actions being taken by regional plastic associations; gain consensus on priority areas to address and identify opportunities for synergies; and discuss the need for a global charter on behalf of the plastics industry. The meeting ended with an agreement to develop a joint "charter" that industry could subscribe to, and to establish an institutional structure among the industry partners for sharing of experiences and best practices.
- There have been further improvements to the Interactive Project and Activity Map (IPAM), with a launch expected by the end of January 2011. The interactive map can be viewed at: <http://www.cep.unep.org/>.

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Hot spots applicable to GEF CReW project (from Baseline Analysis of Domestic Waste Water Management in the Wider Caribbean Region)



GEF IWCAM demonstration project in Haiti.



GTZ Planning Workshop for the project "Improving the management of coastal resources and the conservation of marine diversity of the Caribbean Island States".

- RAC-IMA (Institute of Marine Affairs) held a national consultation/workshop for the UNEP/IMA ProEcoServ Programme for the Caura/Tacarigua Watershed in December. This served to inform the national community about the UNEP ProEcoServ Programme and activities.
- The UN General Assembly (GA) approved three draft resolutions in November, on: the international financial system and development; the specific actions related to the particular needs and problems of landlocked developing countries; and the sustainable development of the Caribbean Sea. Regarding the latter, the GA would call upon the UN system and the international community to help Caribbean countries and their regional organizations protect the Caribbean Sea from degradation caused by pollution from ships, illegal dumping or accidental release of hazardous waste, and pollution from land-based activities. The GA would also call upon Member States to improve their emergency response compatibilities as a matter of priority, in light of the severe destruction caused by recently heightened hurricane activity in the Caribbean.

GEF Projects

- Final endorsement from the CEO of the GEF Secretariat has been received for the GEF CReW Project (Caribbean Regional Fund for Wastewater Management - UNEP/IADB/GEF Partnership Project). Full implementation is expected by January. The CReW is a four year project that will focus on piloting revolving financing mechanisms and related wastewater management reforms in the WCR. It will be managed and implemented by the Inter-American Development Bank (IDB) and the United Nations Environment Program (UNEP). The project is divided into five key components: Investment and Innovative Financing, Reforms for Wastewater Management, Communications, Outreach and Training, Monitoring and Evaluation and Project Management. The project unit is expected to be based at the IDB offices in Kingston, Jamaica.
- A draft management plan, execution memo and budget were developed for the Roseau River Watershed through the GEF IWCAM Pilot Hotspot Assessment Project in Dominica. Other Hotspot Pilot Projects are ongoing in Saint Lucia, Haiti and Grenada.
- GEF IWCAM participated in a workshop to plan a German-funded project, "Improving the management of coastal resources and the conservation of the marine diversity of the Caribbean Island States". This project is scheduled to be implemented in 2011. The workshop took place from December 1-2, 2010 in Barbados and was attended by representatives from the CARICOM Secretariat, the German Technical Cooperation (GTZ) and the Caribbean Environmental Health Institute (CEHI).

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GTZ Planning Workshop for the project "Improving the management of coastal resources and the conservation of marine diversity of the Caribbean Island States".



IWCAM Bio-indicators Seminar



GEF REPCar's Monitoring Programme in Nicaragua (top) and Colombia (bottom)

- GEF IWCAM held its Fifth Regional Steering Committee meeting in Port of Spain, Trinidad on November 11, 2010. The proposed operation plan and accompanying budget for the regional component of the project for 2011 was presented for the consideration and approval of the Steering Committee. The IWCAM Project Steering Committee suggested that the project be extended to the end of 2011.
- Mr. Nelson Andrade Colmenares, Coordinator of UNEP- CAR/RCU, and Mr. Vincent Sweeney from GEF IWCAM attended the 18th Organisation of Eastern Caribbean States/Environment & Sustainable Development Unit (OECS /ESDU) Technical Advisory Committee meeting; and the 14th Environmental Policy Committee Meeting in October. The meetings were held in St. Kitts & Nevis and discussed progress made over the last year by ESDU, the proposed work programme for 2011 was also considered.
- GEF IWCAM, in collaboration with FAO and UNESCO, held a workshop on Coastal Aquifer Management in Small Island Developing States (SIDS) in Saint Kitts and Nevis in October. This workshop discussed critical issues and practices related to coastal aquifers in Caribbean SIDS such as climate change, land use management and zoning and abstraction management. GEF IWCAM also held a Bio-indicators Seminar for Tropical Aquatic Systems in Martinique in December.
- The GEF IWCAM Clearing House Mechanism is still being developed. It is a component of GEF IWCAM's Project Information Management System (PIMS) and will serve as an information platform for GEF - IWCAM projects and activities.
- For more information on the recent activities of GEF IWCAM, please see the project's website and quarterly newsletter at www.iwcam.org
- GEF REPCar's Coastal Monitoring Programme has been extended until March 2011. There will be a regional meeting to summarize the results of Phase 2 of the GEF REPCar's Coastal Monitoring Programme in February 2011. This component evaluated the presence and concentrations of selected pesticide residues in the coastal areas of Colombia, Costa Rica and Nicaragua.
- ARGOS, the online interactive database for GEF REPCar's coastal monitoring programme, will be ready for implementation in January 2011.
- A draft project concept is being developed for the project "Improved Management of Agrochemicals Life Cycles in the Caribbean Region and Central American Region", by Dr. Jorge Illueca. There will be missions to countries of the WCR in order to gain updates for the project concept.

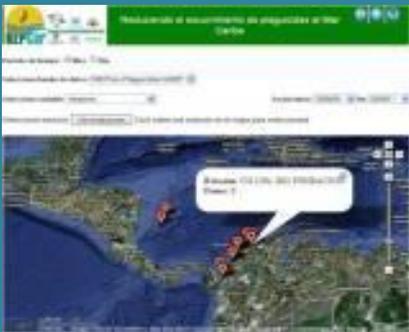
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GEF REPCar meeting in Costa Rica



GEF REPCar in Costa Rica



The multi-thematic ARGOS support system: an online interactive database for GEF REPCar's coastal monitoring programme

This project concept is being developed for submission to the GEF Secretariat by early 2011 as follow up to the GEF REPCar project.

- An interlaboratory comparison exercise was completed between CICA (Costa Rica), INVEMAR (Colombia), CIRA (Nicaragua) and UNAL (Colombia). The labs analyzed pesticide residue samples of predetermined concentrations. The exercise was supervised by Dr. José Sericano of the University of Texas A & M. The report from this interlaboratory comparison exercise will be available by mid-December.
- GEF REPCar Project Manager, Mr. Alex Cooman made a mission to Nicaragua to meet with representatives and other counterparts of Nicaragua's demonstration project as a part of monitoring and evaluation activities.
- For more information on the recent activities of GEF REPCar, please see the project's website and bulletin at <http://cep.unep.org/repcar>

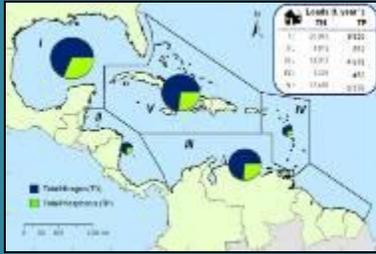
Environmental Monitoring & Assessment

- Technical Report No. 33 was adopted at the 14th IGM, subject to any additional edits received from Contracting Parties. RAC-Cimab is in the process of incorporating these final comments. The final version will be made available by the end of the year.
- Efforts have been initiated in the establishment of an Interim Working Group. This group will continue work related to monitoring and assessment that could use Technical Report No. 33 as a baseline document with the goal to improve effluent reporting and assessment of water quality conditions throughout the Convention Area as will be required under the LBS Protocol.
- RAC-Cimab is in the process of preparing fact sheets with information on TR33, Baseline Analysis and Know-Why Network (KWN). Other fact sheets are also being updated with a view of having current information on the state of the marine environment of the WCR (available on the CEP website).

Wastewater Management

- The Sewage Needs Assessment project in Belize is ongoing and report of activities is to be submitted. The project is investigating the wastewater management practices and ground water use in Caye Caulker while conducting ground and coastal water quality assessment in support of the development of a Sewage Needs Management Plan.

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Nutrients inflow (Total Nitrogen -blue and Total Phosphorous -green) of domestic origin by sub-region in WCR (t.yr⁻¹) (from Technical Report # 33)



Comparative levels of the organic matter (BOD₅) inflow by sub-region in WCR (t.yr⁻¹) reported in CEP Technical Report No. 33 (BOD 1994 in yellow) and BOD 2009 in orange.



Coral reefs threatened by sediments and pollutants in WCR (Red= High levels, Orange = Medium Levels, Blue = Low Levels)(from TR 33)



UNEP GPA pilot project "Ecosystem Management for the Integrated Land and Seascape of Northern Trinidad"

Waste Management

- The abstracts, "Mainstreaming Marine Litter Management in Caribbean SIDS through Government and Civil Society Partnerships" and "Protecting the Caribbean Sea from Marine-Based Pollution: Lessons from the MARPOL Annex V Special Area Designation" that were submitted by the AMEP Secretariat, have been accepted for presentation at the International Marine Debris Conference to be held in March 2011.
- The Marine Litter Programme has been postponed until after the International Marine Debris Conference in 2011, based on the recommendation of the Pilot Countries. This Programme seeks to develop environmental education material for promotion and awareness, and is targeted to children, decision makers and the general public.
- The Regional Ballast Water Management Strategy that was reviewed at the First Regional GloBallast Task Force Meeting led by RAC REMPEITC, was adopted at the 14th IGM.
- RAC REMPEITC held a Regional Workshop on MARPOL Annexes I & V, from October 27-28, in Kingston, Jamaica. The workshop was organized to review regulations for the control of operational discharges from ships regarding oil (MARPOL Annex 1) and garbage (MARPOL Annex V). The workshop covered the aspects of ratification, implementation, and enforcement by the Contracting Parties. The Special Area Provisions for the WCR in MARPOL Annex V were also reviewed. AMEP's Programme Officer, Mr. Christopher Corbin attended this workshop.
- RAC REMPEITC participated in the GloBallast 2nd Global Task Force Meeting from 3-4 October, 2010, in London, UK. This meeting provided an opportunity for the new consultant, Andrew Wood, to meet with international partners.

National Programmes of Action (NPA)

- NPA pilot project for Suriname has been initiated and is ongoing. The project aims to mitigate pollution in the waterways of the Sipaliwini District through the introduction of eco-sanitation toilets. Awareness raising activities on the project and on the use and advantages of eco-toilets were held in seven villages. The project is expected to help in Suriname's efforts to accede to the Cartagena Convention and its Protocols.
- The UNEP GPA pilot project entitled, "Ecosystem Management for the Integrated Land and Seascape of Northern Trinidad" is ongoing. The pilot project seeks to integrate the strategies identified in their NPA and is being supported by RAC IMA. One activity of the pilot project to promote ecosystem management, was the clean up of the upper Caura River Valley. A first round of water quality testing has been undertaken



Oil spill equipment deployment exercise- RAC
REMPEITC Curacao

in the upper river valley and the IMA is awaiting the analysis of the results. Upcoming activities of the project include integrated pest management demonstration workshops and reforestation projects.

- The MOU between UNEP GPA and NOAA is nearing completion and will form the framework for continued cooperation between the Secretariat and NOAA in NPA development and implementation.

Oil Spills Response Planning

- RAC REMPEITC participated in MOBEX Amazonia 2010, in Manaus, Brazil. This was a 3-day oil spill mobilization exercise held from December 1 -3, 2010 organized by the Regional Association of Oil and Natural Gas Companies in Latin America and the Caribbean (ARPEL), Clean Caribbean and the Americas (CCA) and the Government of Brazil. This exercise was preceded by the workshop, “Oil Spill Contingency Planning in Latin America and the Caribbean” held on November 30, 2010.

Climate Change & Disaster Management

- A formal contractual agreement between the European Commission (EC) and UNEP was signed in October for the, “Climate Change Adaptation and Disaster Risk Reduction” project in Jamaica. This project is being jointly managed by UNEP and the Planning Institute of Jamaica (PIOJ).
- The final contractual arrangement is being made between UNEP/CEP and the PIOJ and is expected to be completed by the end of December with the proposed launch of the project in January 2011.
- The First Project Steering Committee Meeting for the Climate Change Adaptation and Disaster Risk Reduction Project took place in November. The members of the Steering Committee included representatives/nominees from; the Planning Institute of Jamaica; United Nations Environment Programme/Caribbean Environment Programme; the European Commission; the Forestry Department; National Environmental and Planning Agency; Meteorological Service of Jamaica; Office of Disaster Preparedness and Emergency Management; University of the West Indies, Mona; Ministry of Finance and the Public Service; Department of Local Government; Office of the Prime Minister.
- Interviews for the position of Project Manager and Administrative Assistant for the Climate Change Adaptation and Disaster Risk Reduction Project in Jamaica were conducted and a successful candidate was selected for the each position.

Major Achievements/Highlights of 2010

- ✚ LBS Protocol - Three countries ratified the LBS Protocol in 2010, this brought the number of countries who have ratified the protocol to date to nine. The LBS Protocol can now legally enter into force.
- ✚ EU Climate Change Project - The project, "Climate Change Adaptation and Disaster Risk Reduction in Jamaica" was approved by the European Union and a contract agreement was signed between the UNEP and the EU in October 2010.
- ✚ GEF CREW project - Received final full endorsement from GEF Secretariat in December 2010.
- ✚ Technical Report No. 33 - Update completed and adopted at 14th IGM

Looking Ahead

- January 2011 : IWRM /LBS Workshop (IMA) - Trinidad (Tentative)
- February 2011 : CARICOM Consortium Meeting (Tentative)
- February 2011 : Training in the use and maintenance of the PIMS & GeoNetwork and Metadata Creation - Jamaica
- February 2011 : MEA Training (CARICOM/ROLAC/CEP) – (Tentative)
- March 2011 : Proposal Writing Workshop - Antigua (Tentative)
- Mar 20-25, 2011: 5th International Marine Debris Conference - Honolulu, Hawaii, USA (please see full announcement on page 9)
- March 2011 : CBRA Train the Trainers (Tentative)
- May 2011 : IWCAM/ IWRM Media Workshop (Tentative)

Contact Information

UNEP CAR/RCU
14-20 Port Royal Street
Kingston
JAMAICA

Tel: 876 -922-9267
Fax: 876- 922-9292

Email:
rcu@cep.unep.org

The AMEP Secretariat wishes to thank you for your contribution to the success of the programme. We wish you, your colleagues, family and friends a Happy Holiday Season.

We hope that you have enjoyed this issue of the AMEP Quarterly and welcome your comments and suggestions.

For further information please contact: Mr. Christopher Corbin, AMEP Programme Officer, UNEP CAR/RCU, 14-20 Port Royal Street, Kingston, Jamaica, Tel.: (876) 922-9267-9; Fax: (876) 922-9292; Email: cjc@cep.unep.org



**The United Nations Environment Programme and the
National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA)
The 5th International Marine Debris Conference**



**20-25 March, 2011
Honolulu, Hawaii, USA**

ANNOUNCEMENT

The **Fifth International Marine Debris Conference** will take place March 20-25, 2011, in Honolulu, Hawaii. The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration and the United Nations Environment Programme are co-organizers of the conference, which will bring together international marine debris researchers, natural resource managers, policy makers, industry representatives, and the nongovernmental community. This conference will highlight research advances, allow sharing of strategies and best practices to assess, reduce, and prevent the impacts of marine debris, and provide an opportunity for the development of specific bilateral or multi-country strategies.

Background

Marine debris is a historical problem that continues to grow. The world's oceans and waterways are constantly polluted with a wide variety of marine debris ranging from soda cans and plastic bags to derelict fishing gear and abandoned vessels. Many animals, such as sea turtles, seabirds, and marine mammals, have been known to ingest marine debris, which may lead to loss of nutrition, internal injury, intestinal blockage, starvation, and even death. Derelict fishing gear, such as fishing nets and lines, poses entanglement hazards for marine life, can smother the living substrate upon which it settles, and can serve as a vector for the introduction of alien species. Marine debris is an international concern not only because it washes up on beaches and shorelines worldwide, but also because debris can be transferred from one country to another via ocean currents and because it impacts commercial fisheries throughout the world. International cooperation is needed to create public awareness while developing ways to decrease the amount of debris in oceans around the globe.

Cooperation and coordination among many countries was fostered through four international marine debris conferences held between 1984 and 2000, as well as through smaller international agreements, meetings, and workshops. Each conference developed a suite of recommendations on how to move forward. Some recommendations were implemented, and many others showed up repeatedly at multiple conferences and meetings over the course of the past 25 years. This conference will allow the sharing of information on the implementation, progress, and obstacles to these recommendations and reviewing their effectiveness.

Conference Objectives

- Share lessons learned on strategies and best practices to reduce and prevent the impacts of marine debris.
- Promote international co-learning and identify possible areas for strengthening international cooperation.
- Exchange innovative ideas, such as market incentives and communications strategies, with a view towards scaling up successful approaches.
- Share the latest research initiatives, results, and methods.

Venue: The 5th International Marine Debris Conference will be held in Honolulu, Hawaii, USA at the Waikiki Beach Marriott Resort & Spa.

For further information on this conference please visit - <http://marinedebris.noaa.gov/projects/intlmdconf.html> and <http://www.5imdc.org/>