



**United Nations
Environment
Programme**



UNEP

Distr. Limited

UNEP(DEC)/CAR IG.24/4
28 September 2004

Original: ENGLISH

Eleventh Intergovernmental Meeting on the
Action Plan for the Caribbean Environment
Programme and Eight Meeting of the
Contracting Parties to the Convention for the
Protection and Development of the Marine
Environment of the Wider Caribbean Region

Montego Bay, Jamaica, 28 September to 2 October 2004

**DRAFT WORKPLAN AND BUDGET FOR THE CARIBBEAN ENVIRONMENT
PROGRAMME FOR THE BIENNIUM 2004-2005**

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Abbreviations

ACS	Association of Caribbean States
AGRRA	Atlantic and Gulf Rapid Reef Assessment
AMEP	Assessment and Management of Environmental Pollution
CaMPAM	Caribbean Marine Protected Area Managers Network
CANARI	Caribbean Natural Resource Institute
CARICOMP	Caribbean Coastal and Marine Productivity (Programme)
CAR/RCU	Caribbean Regional Coordinating Unit
CATIE	Centro Agronómico Tropical de Investigación y Enseñanza
CBD	Convention on Biological Diversity
CCA	Caribbean Conservation Association
CCA-CCAMP	CCA-Coastal and Marine Management Programme
CCAD	Central American Commission for Environment and Development
CEHI	Caribbean Environmental Health Institute
CEP	Caribbean Environment Programme
CELB	Centre for Environmental Leadership in Business
CEPNET	Information Systems for the Management of Marine and Coastal Resources
CFRAMP	Caribbean Fisheries Resource Management Programme
CHA-CAST	Caribbean Hotel Association - Caribbean Alliance for Sustainable Tourism
CHM	Clearing House Mechanism
CI	Conservation International
CIMAB	Centro de Ingeniería y Manejo Ambiental de Bahías y Costas
CITES	Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora
CMS	Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals
COP	Contracting Parties
CORAL	Coral Reef Alliance
CORALINA	Corporation for the Sustainable Development of San Andrés, Old Providence and Santa Catalina
CREP	Caribbean Regional Environment Programme
CRFM	Caribbean Regional Fisheries Mechanism
CTO	Caribbean Tourism Organization
ECCN	Eastern Caribbean Cetacean Network
GCFI	Gulf and Caribbean Fisheries Institute
GCRMN	Global Coral Reef Monitoring Network
GEF	Global Environment Facility
GEO	Global Environment Outlook
GIS	Geographic information systems

GIWA	Global International Waters Assessment
GOOS	Global Ocean Observation System
GPA	Global Programme of Action for the Protection of the Marine Environment from Land-based Activities
GRID	Global Resource Information Database
H ₂ O	Hilltops to Ocean
IABIN	Inter-American Biodiversity Information Network
IBA	Important Bird Area
ICLARM	World Fish Centre
ICM	Integrated Coastal Management
ICRAN	International Coral Reef Action Network
ICRI	International Coral Reef Initiative
IDB	Inter-American Development Bank
IFAW	International Fund for Animal Welfare
IGM	Inter Governmental Meeting
IMA	Institute of Marine Affairs
IMO	International Maritime Organization
IOC	International Oceanographic Commission
ISTAC	Interim Scientific and Advisory Committee
IUCN	World Conservation Union
IWCAM	Integrating Watershed and Coastal Area Management
LBS	Land-based sources (of pollution)
MACGA	Mesoamerican and Caribbean Geospatial Alliance
MAR	Mesoamerican Reef Alliance
MBRS	Mesoamerican Barrier Reef System
MDG	Millennium Development Goal
MER	Marine Education and Research Centre
MPA	Marine Protected Area
NACRI	Netherlands Antilles Coral Reef Initiative
NOAA	National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
NPA	National Programme of Action
OAS	Organization of American States
OECS	Organization of Eastern Caribbean States
OECS-ESDU	OECS – Environment and Sustainable Development Unit
OIE (OESI)/DoS	U.S. Department of State, Bureau of Oceans and International Environmental and Scientific Affairs
PDF	Project Development Fund
RAC	Regional Activity Centre
RAN	Regional Activity Network
RAP	Rapid Assessment Programme
ROLAC	Regional Office for Latin America and the Caribbean
SIDA	Swedish International Development Agency
SIDS-POA	Small Islands Developing States-Programme of Action

SOE	State of the Environment
SPAW	Specially Protected Areas and Wildlife
TNC	The Nature Conservancy
UNDP	United Nations Development Programme
UNEP-DTIE	UNEP-Department of Technology, Industry & Economics
UNEP-WCMC	UNEP World Conservation and Monitoring Centre
UNF	United Nations Foundation
UWI-NRMP	University of the West Indies-Natural Resources Management Programme
WCPA	World Commission on Protected Areas
WECAFC	Western Central Atlantic Fishery Commission
WHC	World Heritage Convention
WIDECAST	Wider Caribbean Sea Turtle Conservation Network
WRI	World Resources Institute
WSSD	World Summit on Sustainable Development
WW2BW	White Water to Blue Water Initiative
WWF	World Wildlife Fund

I. INTRODUCTION

1. This workplan covers the biennium 2004-2005 and sets forward the environmental priorities for the Wider Caribbean Region, as they relate to the implementation of the Convention for the Protection and Development of the Marine Environment of the Wider Caribbean Region (Cartagena Convention) and its protocols and the Action Plan of the Caribbean Environment Programme (CEP). During this period, CEP will focus on activities to support the Protocol Concerning Specially Protected Areas and Wildlife (SPAW Protocol) and the Protocol Concerning Pollution from Land-based Sources and Activities (LBS Protocol). Additionally, this workplan calls for coordination with the Regional Activity Centre for the Oil Spills Protocol with regard to a workplan for the implementation of that Protocol. During the 2004-2005 biennium, CEP will also coordinate with other relevant global initiatives, such as the Global Programme of Action for the Protection of the Marine Environment from Land-based Activities (GPA) and other related multilateral environmental agreements, such as the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES), the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD), the Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals (CMS), the Ramsar Convention on wetlands and the World Heritage Convention of UNESCO (WHS). During this biennium, CEP will closely coordinate with the Headquarters of UNEP to consolidate its action for the sustainable development of the Caribbean SIDS, notably in the preparation process leading to the Mauritius Meeting in January 2005. This workplan also reflects the close coordination with other agencies of the United Nations such as the International Oceanographic Commission (IOC) and its IOCaribe Secretariat, and with many development agencies and other International Organisations.
2. The secretariat prepared this document with inputs received during working group meetings convened since the Tenth Intergovernmental Meeting, the recommendations of the Second Meeting of the Scientific and Technical Advisory Committee of the SPAW Protocol, the decisions of the Third Meeting of the Contracting Parties to the SPAW Protocol, the recommendations of the Second Meeting of the Interim Scientific and Technical Committee of the LBS Protocol, and taking into consideration relevant global or regional initiatives, as well as on the basis of past and ongoing activities.

II. OVERALL COORDINATION AND COMMON COSTS

A. Background

3. CEP was established to provide a mechanism whereby the diverse States and Territories of the region could collectively address the protection and development of the marine and coastal resources of the Wider Caribbean Region, the base for the economic development of the region. The achievement of this goal is dependent upon the incorporation of the principles of mutual technical assistance; the development and strengthening of regional

and national, institutional and legislative frameworks; the standardization of approaches and methodologies and the encouragement of appropriate research; and the joint management of shared resources and the exchange of relevant information, among others. To provide cohesiveness to the various components of the Programme, while minimizing the duplication of effort and maximizing project return, the overall coordination of the Programme's components is centralized and undertaken by the Caribbean Regional Coordinating Unit (CAR/RCU) in Kingston.

4. The CAR/RCU is the secretariat of CEP and is responsible for coordination and implementation of the Programme. The CAR/RCU carries out the programmatic, administrative, financial and personnel functions related to the administration of the Action Plan and the Cartagena Convention and its protocols. CAR/RCU operates under the authority of UNEP headquarters through the Division of Environmental Conventions, in cooperation with the UNEP Regional Office for Latin America and the Caribbean (ROLAC) and the Governments of the region through an Intergovernmental and Contracting Parties body and a Monitoring Committee.

B. Objectives

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

C. Caribbean Environment Programme coordination

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

1. Personnel and office administration

7. In the light of the low level of ordinary contributions to the Caribbean Trust Fund, the secretariat fears that CAR/RCU will operate with a very limited budget for the biennium 2004-2005 for the overall coordination and common costs component. Therefore, the secretariat has compensated by optimising both personnel and office administration costs.
8. The AMEP Programme Officer position was left vacant in June 2003 and the final selection of the replacement Officer was done in the first semester of 2004. The new Programme Officer arrived in post only a few weeks before the Eleventh IGM. During this

transition period, the Coordinator saw to the implementation of the AMEP workplan with the assistance of a short-term Consultant (June to December 2003) and of the CEPNET Programme Officer for certain activities. The previous Programme Officer also acted as Deputy Coordinator. This temporary redistribution of responsibilities within CAR/RCU has constrained the normal implementation of the CEP workplan but the secretariat is confident that its goals were respected, for example with the approval by the GEF Council in May 2004 of the IWCAM Project (see section III A below).

9. The levels of contribution to the Caribbean trust Fund have increased only by the Government of United States and the Government of France. Although some Governments have started to contribute to the Trust Fund, the majority of the Governments are not contributing and there are some whose arrears are extremely high. This jeopardises the functionality of the UNEP-CAR/RCU and the CEP. Nonetheless, the secretariat secured funding for projects from the Swedish Government, GEF, USAID, UNF, the Government of France and the Government of the United States. Support from the Swedish Government through the Swedish International Development Agency, Sida, has allowed for the opening of two posts for Junior Professional Officers for this biennium in support of the SPAW Regional Programme and of the Regional Activity Centre for the LBS Protocol (RAC-Cimab of Cuba). The post of AMEP Programme Officer has been filled in 2004 and the post of Administrator is left vacant after the departure of its incumbent in June 2004. Funds received from United Nations Foundation (UNF) are covering the post of Project Manager for the ICRAN Project until the end of 2004. The post of Education, Training and Awareness Officer is still vacant for lack of funds.

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

10. The budget for overall coordination and common costs presented herewith is dependent on:
 - a) The full participation of all CEP member countries in making ordinary contributions to the Caribbean Trust Fund in accordance with the proposed level of contributions;
 - b) The capacity of the secretariat to attract extraordinary contributions. The secretariat must therefore continue to dedicate time to fund-raising efforts to cover the additional operational costs of the secretariat that exceed the level of ordinary contributions to the Trust Fund.

3. Meetings of the Caribbean Environment Programme

11. Several meetings of CEP are held on an annual or biennial basis. These meetings are necessary for monitoring project implementation, efficient functioning of the Programme, and for administrative purposes of the secretariat. The following meetings are to be convened during the biennium 2004-2005.

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

12. The Third Meeting of the Contracting Parties to SPAW was held on 27 September 2004, in Montego Bay, Jamaica, just prior to the Eleventh Intergovernmental Meeting on the Action Plan for the Caribbean Environment Programme and Eighth Meeting of the Contracting Parties to the Convention for the Protection and Development of the Marine Environment of the Wider Caribbean Region. The Decisions of the Third COP/SPAW were communicated to the Eleventh IGM.

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

13. The joint Intergovernmental and Contracting Party Meetings are convened every two years to provide overall authority to CEP, review progress of the Programme, oversee financial and institutional arrangements and to decide on the biennial workplan and budget of CEP. The meeting was held on 28 September to 2 October 2004, in Montego Bay, Jamaica.

(c) Third Meeting of the Scientific and Technical Advisory Committee to the SPAW Protocol

14. The Contracting Parties to the SPAW Protocol agreed at their Third Meeting (see (a) above) to call the Third Meeting of the Scientific and Technical Advisory Committee (STAC) to the SPAW Protocol. The secretariat will seek support from one government to host the Meeting in the first semester of 2005.

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

15. In May 2003, the Second Meeting of the Interim Scientific, Technical and Advisory Committee to the LBS Protocol (LBS/ISTAC) was convened in Managua, Nicaragua. The Third Meeting of the LBS/ISTAC will be convened in 2005 to further the development and implementation of the LBS Protocol, as well as to develop a workplan and budget for the biennium 2006-2007.

(e) Fourteenth Meeting of the Monitoring Committee on the Action Plan for the Caribbean Environment Programme and Special Meeting of the Bureau of Contracting Parties to the Convention for the Protection and Development of the Marine Environment of the Wider Caribbean Region

16. The Fourteenth MonCom will be held in the second year of this biennium to review the advancement of the implementation of this workplan and budget. The secretariat will seek support from one government to host the Meeting in the first semester of 2005.

D. Overall coordination and common costs

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

III. SUBPROGRAMME WORKPLAN**A. Assessment and Management of Environment Pollution****1. Background**

18. This workplan and budget covers the activities to be developed under the Assessment and Management of Environmental Pollution (AMEP) sub-programme of UNEP's Caribbean Environment Programme (CEP) and the two RAC's (Centro de Ingenieria y Manejo Ambiental de Bahias y Costas-CIMAB, Cuba and Institute of Marine Affairs-IMA, Trinidad and Tobago) for the 2004-2005 biennium in support of the Protocol to the Convention for the Protection and Development of the Marine Environment of the Wider Caribbean Region (Cartagena Convention) Concerning Pollution from Land-based Sources and Activities (LBS Protocol). This workplan and budget was presented to the Second Meeting of the Interim Scientific Technical and Advisory Committee of the Protocol to the Cartagena Convention Concerning Pollution from Land-based Sources and Activities (LBS/ISTAC) for comment and revision. Following endorsement by the LBS/ISTAC this workplan is recommended to the Eleventh Intergovernmental Meeting on the Action Plan for the Caribbean Environment Programme and Eighth Meeting of the Contracting Parties to the Convention for the Protection and Development of the Marine Environment of the Wider Caribbean Region for approval.
19. As a subprogramme of CEP, the AMEP workplan and budget is developed for a two-year period within the context and realities of the Wider Caribbean and considering other relevant initiatives. The following projects and activities are therefore designed to meet the needs of the continuing development of the LBS Protocol, as well as to support its current objectives and the needs of the Governments for ratification and implementation. Many of the projects presented below are projects ongoing from the 2002-2003 biennium. This is largely due to the significant AMEP workplan that was approved at the 10th IGM and the projected continuing workload for these same projects. In addition, the proposed workplans of the two Regional Activity Centres (RACs) are expected to supplement the work of the AMEP Sub-programme in support of the implementation of the LBS Protocol. As such, when reviewing this workplan, the secretariat also suggests that the RAC workplan be taken into consideration.

2. Projects and Activities

(a) Programme coordination

Objectives

20. The objectives of the coordination of the AMEP/LBS programme are:
 - a) To promote ratification of the LBS Protocol by the Contracting Parties to the Cartagena Convention and gain support for the programme in collaboration with the LBS RACs;
 - b) To ensure that the formulation and implementation of the programme activities satisfy the requirements and needs of the LBS Protocol;
 - c) To develop coordination, collaboration and communication with organizations relevant to the AMEP/LBS Protocol objectives;
 - d) To oversee the day-to-day activities and general coordination of the various AMEP projects.
 - e) To coordinate with the Directors of the two LBS RACs to ensure a cohesive and coordinated workplan in support of the LBS Protocol.

Activities

21. The AMEP Programme Officer position was left vacant in June 2003 and the new Programme Officer was due to be located at CAR/RCU in August 2004 (at the time of the drafting of this document). During this transition period, the Coordinator saw to the implementation of the AMEP workplan with the assistance of a short-term Consultant (June to December 2003) and of the CEPNET Programme Officer for certain activities. The new AMEP Programme Officer at CAR/RCU will continue to provide the day-to-day coordination and backstopping to the implementation of the programme activities. The CAR/RCU Programme Officer for the CEPNET subprogramme will also provide assistance in the area of information management. The LBS Protocol will continue to serve as the regional instrument for the implementation of the GPA in the Caribbean. Coordination with other regional programmes and organizations and with existing regional or global initiatives relevant to AMEP/LBS will be promoted and sought. The Coordinator of CAR/RCU will also promote ratification of the Protocol.
22. Fund-raising efforts for the programme will be continued in consultation with the Coordinator of CAR/RCU and in coordination with relevant Governments, donors and partner organizations.
23. Convening of the Third Meeting of the LBS/ISTAC and the development of the AMEP/LBS workplan and budget for the biennium 2006-2007, in keeping with the objectives of the Protocol and within the context of the CEP Strategy.
24. Undertake Regional Projects to Promote Ratification/Accession to the Protocol Concerning Pollution from Land-based Sources and Activities, (LBS) for the countries of the WCR in collaboration with the LBS RACs, offering the member states of the Caribbean Environmental Program the necessary information about the protocol and its annexes.

i. IMA

In collaboration with IMA, a demonstration project of the socio-economic advantages of ratifying/acceding to the LBS Protocol would be undertaken, in which the main consequences for the Caribbean countries in implementing or not implementing the Protocol could be studied. It is hoped that this project will provide decision makers in Government Ministries and Agencies with the scientific, technical and economic knowledge to undertake the decision of ratifying or acceding to the Protocol, so that the Protocol will come into force. Funding is provided from the US Department of State, Bureau of Oceans and International Environmental and Scientific Affairs for the development of guidelines for the ratification and implementation of the LBS Protocol. The project will focus primarily on the legislative, regulatory and technical requirements needed for the English-speaking countries of the Wider Caribbean Region to meet the obligations of the LBS Protocol.

- a) Develop an information brochure on the LBS Protocol, to be published in both English and Spanish and distributed to decision makers in Government Ministries and Agencies in the Wider Caribbean Region.
- b) Establish a Regional Activity Network (RAN) of collaborating institutions in the region to assist the RAC in the implementation of project activities in support of the LBS Protocol;
- c) Two case studies will be carried out, one in Trinidad and Tobago and the other in an island whose economy is dependent on tourism. The case studies will include an assessment of the legislative, regulatory and technical requirements of the two countries for implementing the LBS Protocol particularly as it relates to public health, social and economic development in the context of sustainable tourism;
- d) Organize a Regional Workshop to present the results of the two case studies to decision makers in the Governments of the Region and to the RAN. The Workshop will be utilized to obtain feedback on the Case Studies, so that the Case Studies Report may be finalized and disseminated to the Governments of the Region and to members of the RAN;
- e) Commission a public education and awareness digital video device (DVD) to inform the general public about the LBS Protocol and the public health, social and economic issues related to its implementation and the consequences of non-implementation. This should relate in particular to sustainable tourism. The DVD is to be made with English and Spanish versions.

ii. Cimab

In collaboration with Cimab, a second project focusing on Promoting Ratification/Accession to the Protocol Concerning Pollution from Land-based Sources and Activities, (LBS) in the Spanish speaking countries of the Wider Caribbean Region would be undertaken with funds provided by the Swedish Government.

- a) Cimab will initially carry out coordination missions to the Central American countries Belize, Costa Rica, Guatemala, Honduras, Nicaragua and Panama, to introduce the project and to initiate the development of national plans of work;

- b) Cimab will moreover organize a national workshop in Cuba, and a sub-regional workshop to be undertaken in early 2005 in Panama on the promotion of the LBS protocol. The workshops will offer thorough information on the revised methodology on assessing land based point sources of pollution. Participants in the sub-regional workshop will be Belize, Costa Rica, Guatemala, Honduras, Nicaragua and Panama;
- c) Increase the exchange of information and cooperation among the participants of the workshops to facilitate the future establishment of a Regional Activity Network (RAN), consisting of collaborating institutions in the region to assist the RAC in the implementation of project activities in support of the LBS Protocol;

(b) Reducing Pesticide Run-off to the Caribbean Sea (Global Environment Facility project)

- 25. Agricultural non-point sources have been considered a priority land-based source of pollution in need of regional action and cooperation for its control. Annex IV to the LBS Protocol specifically calls for national plans for the control of agricultural non-point sources of pollution. This project, as a GEF/Project Development Fund (PDF) project was developed beginning in 2000-2001 and involved Colombia, Costa Rica, Nicaragua and Panama at the national level.
- 26. The PDF guided the development of four national plans to improve pesticide management, thereby reducing run-off to the Caribbean Sea. National committees of stakeholders developed these national plans with facilitation by the Ministries of the Environment. A regional workshop concluded with a GEF Project Brief that was approved by the GEF Council in May 2002, including Colombia, Costa Rica and Nicaragua.

Objectives

- 27. This project, expected to begin in 2004, following the submission of letters of commitment from all the countries, will assist in the implementation of Annex IV to the LBS Protocol. Additionally, the subregional nature of the project also assists in Article V (Cooperation and Assistance) of the Protocol. The main objective of the project is to protect the marine environment in the Caribbean Sea by reducing reliance on pesticides in agricultural activities and improving overall pesticide management. The project will (countries already listed above) seek to strengthen pesticide management in each of the three target countries, resulting in a reduction in pesticide run-off. Honduras has also expressed an interest in the project, however a decision is to be made as to when they will be included. A significant portion of the project will involve demonstration projects.

Activities

- 28. The activities for the project will centre around three main components with various subcomponents:

i. Project Coordination

This component will see the establishment of the project steering committee, project management team and project advisory panels on monitoring and evaluation protocols and an education and training subcomponent. This component of the project will also oversee

the development of demonstration project criteria and the approval of the demonstration projects.

ii. Demonstration Projects

Demonstration projects will be implemented in each of the three project countries. Involving improved practices at different size farms (subsistence, low intensity and high intensity) and comparisons to control farms. Once the project sites and activities are selected, training will be conducted to prepare farmers for the employment of practices to be used to reduce pesticide runoff. Such practices will include integrated pest management, good agricultural practices and integrated waste management. Training will also be provided in monitoring and assessment for establishing a baseline and for site evaluation. The demonstration farms will be monitored for crop yields, worker safety, pesticide runoff and cost and comparisons made to the control farms to assess the effectiveness of measures employed.

iii. Institutionalising Improved Pesticide Management and Strengthening Capacity for Reducing Pesticide Runoff

This component contains two subcomponents. The first is designed to sustain the improvements that will have been gained in the project for reducing pesticide runoff. The component will: investigate the relevant legislative and policy changes necessary as incentives for improved practices; establish a crop certification programme; conduct a train the trainers programme; and establish a coastal monitoring programme. The second subcomponent is designed to promote the lessons learnt. This will be accomplished through publication of case studies, a project website, a regional workshop and the development and dissemination of education and awareness materials.

(c) Planning for Rehabilitation, Environmental Management and Coastal Development in the Wake of Hurricane Mitch

Background

29. Improper coastal watershed planning and poor management practices contributed to the extensive impacts of hurricane Mitch, which hit the Caribbean countries of Central America in October 1998. This project is being implemented through the Centro Agronómico Tropical de Investigación y Enseñanza (CATIE) in Costa Rica in the countries of Guatemala, Honduras and Nicaragua.

Objectives

30. This project implements several provisions of the LBS Protocol. However the main provisions addressed are in Article III, General obligations, where Parties are requested to use integrated coastal area management in developing national programmes and measures to prevent, reduce and control marine pollution from land-based sources and activities. In addition, the project will assist in the implementation of Annex III to the Protocol on Domestic Wastewater, through the implementation of sewage treatment technologies.

31. Through this project, CEP proposes to assist the Central American countries impacted by hurricane Mitch in managing and planning for the damaged coastal areas in a sustainable manner. The primary objectives are to:
- a) Identify coastal areas vulnerable to natural disasters;
 - b) Establish local community stakeholder groups to assist in the development and implementation of coastal watershed management plans;
 - c) Develop coastal watershed management plans with a view to increasing protection against future natural disasters, increasing sustainability, and reducing negative impacts on the marine environment;
 - d) Develop investment strategies for each project site;
 - e) Assist in the search for donors to fund the investment strategies.

Activities

32. This project began in 2002 and is expected to be completed in early 2005. Work in 2004-2005 will include:

i. Finalisation of integrated coastal watershed management plans and development of investment plans

In cooperation with the watershed planning and management committees, investment plans will be developed. Various investment options will be explored and evaluated. Sustainable funding plans will be emphasized that maximize local and national funding schemes and that minimize continued reliance on international assistance. Public awareness will be an integral component to the management planning. Guatemala, Honduras and Nicaragua have developed different activities, especially designed for the integrated management of three watersheds and coastal areas, one in each country. A draft of the Management Plan for the Integrated Management of Watershed and Coastal Marine Area of Tela, Honduras is currently being reviewed with a planned completion date set for the end of July 2004. Arrangements are being made to implement various components of the management plan. The first draft of the Integrated Management Plan of the Rio Las Escobas Watershed in the Municipality of Puerto Barrios has been completed and is being revised by CATIE and MARN. In Nicaragua, the watershed has been selected and work will continue on the management plan.

ii. Local construction of sanitation facilities

Consistent with the coastal watershed management plans developed for the identified watersheds in the activities above, funding will be provided for the construction of sanitary facilities in accordance with the requirements and provisions of the LBS Protocol, with particular attention to Annex III to the Protocol.

iii. Implementation of public awareness campaigns

As part of the management plans, a public awareness component will focus on the various sectors of the community.

iv. Subregional workshop

CAR/RCU and CATIE will design and conduct a subregional workshop for the three target countries and invite other national and regional partner agencies and institutions. The workshop, the purpose of which will be to increase the potential for replication in the other

coastal watersheds or other countries at risk of natural disasters, will focus on lessons learned from the projects and include presentations from each of the three watershed management committees on their plans. The second subregional coordination committee meeting will be convened in 2004.

(d) Integrating Management of Watersheds and Coastal Areas in Small Island States in the Caribbean (IWCAM – a Global Environment Facility project)

Background

33. Critical environmental and economic resources are currently at stake within the Caribbean. These include important national and regional fisheries, along with the coral reefs and coral sand beaches, all of which represent an important global biodiversity element, and all of which combine to make the Caribbean a prime vacation destination within the Americas. Each country has provided national reports on water resources and coastal areas as part of the PDF B process. Participating nations were fairly consistent in their identification of the major threats to the management of watersheds and coastal areas. The primary threats are related to pollution, land-use patterns, inappropriate development practices, over-exploitation and poor management of natural resources (particularly freshwater), and the competing interests of different stakeholder groups over such limited resources. Opportunities for economic development in the Caribbean SIDS are often limited and the economic dependence on international tourism and agricultural exports is unusually high.
34. This project was first developed under two GEF/PDF with the Caribbean Environmental Health Institute (CEHI) as a co-executing agency that ended in the first trimester of 2004. The GEF Council has approved the project for funding in May 2004 for the sum of 12,000,000 USD, coupled to around 11,000,000 USD in secured co-financing. Remarks from the Council were extremely supportive for the project. The full project is implemented by the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP). UNEP-CAR/RCU and CEHI are the co-Executing Agencies and a Letter of Agreement between them was signed on 25 June concerning their relative responsibilities for the project implementation and for the management of the Project Coordinating Unit located at CEHI in Saint Lucia.

Objectives

35. The main provisions of the LBS Protocol addressed through this project are in Article III, General obligations, where Parties are requested to use integrated coastal area management in developing national programmes and measures to prevent, reduce and control marine pollution from land-based sources and activities. Additionally, the subregional nature of the project and its consideration of the special characteristics of Caribbean Small Island Developing States, also work towards Article V of the Protocol on Cooperation and Assistance. The main objective of this project is to improve management of water resources by integrating the management of watersheds and coastal areas. The project will provide funding for the implementation of the recommended actions at the national and regional level. The main objectives of the IWCAM Project are:

- a) Overall improvements in coastal and watershed status and related community welfare. Reduced environmental stress on watershed and coastal area resources;
- b) Creation of a long-term mechanism for sustainable development, management and conservation of coastal and watershed resources;
- c) Integration and coordination of resource management and planning process (including institutional realignment);
- d) Demonstration of applied solutions and technology within selected hotspot and sensitive areas; and
- e) Reforms in policy, legislation and institutional arrangements in support of IWCAM.

Activities

36. The project brief submitted to the GEF Council and the two Project Documents for UNDP and UNEP present five components to the IWCAM Project:

- a) Component 1: Project management and coordination
 - Project Management by PCU
 - Project Steering Committee to provide regional project policy level guidance
 - National Intersectoral Committees to capture IWCAM concepts at the national level
 - Implementing Agency/Executing Agency Management Group
 - Regional Technical Advisory Group (IWCAM technical advice to the PSC and PCU)
 - Project Reporting on activities and outputs, and reviews of project work-plan and budget
 - Project Evaluation ensure that indicators are measuring sustainable project success
 - Develop an Information Management System for the project

Outcomes: National/regional Project management. IWCAM Best Practices promoted nationally. Positive project evaluations. Regional information management system.

- b) Component 2: Demonstration, capture and transfer of best practices
 - Implementation and management of demonstration projects in 9 countries (see table below)
 - Capture of lessons, best practices, alternative technologies from Demonstration Projects
 - Development of national, regional and global replication strategies and mechanisms

Sub-component	Country	Title of demonstration project
A: Water Resource Conservation and Management	St. Kitts and Nevis	Rehabilitation and Management of the Basseterre Valley as a Protection Measure for the Underlying Aquifer
	St. Lucia	Protecting and Valuing Watershed Services and Developing Management Incentives in the Fond D'or Watershed Area of St. Lucia
B: Wastewater Treatment and Management	Antigua and Barbuda	Mitigation of Groundwater and Coastal Impacts from Sewage Discharges from St. John
	Bahamas - Exuma	Marina Waste Management at Elizabeth Harbour in Exuma, Bahamas
	Dominican Republic	Mitigation of Impacts of Industrial Wastes on the Lower Haina River Basin and its Coast
C: Land-use Planning, Zoning and Alternative practices	Bahamas - Andros	Land and Sea Use Planning for Water Recharge Protection and Management in Andros, Bahamas
	Trinidad and Tobago	Land-Use Planning and Watershed Restoration as part of a Focused IWCAM Demonstration in the Courland Watershed and Buccoo Reef Area
D: Targeted Model IWCAM	Cuba	Application of IWCAM Concepts at Cienfuegos Bay and Watershed
	Jamaica	An Integrated Approach to Managing the Marine, Coastal and Watershed Resources of east-central Portland

Outcomes: Demonstration of solutions/mitigations to specific threats to IWCAM.
Distribution of best lessons/practices. Model guidelines for reforms.
Replication in other hotspots.

- c) Component 3: Development of IWCAM process, stress reduction and environmental status indicators framework
- Review existing national and regional level indicator frameworks
 - Development of template for national level Indicators
 - Conduct hotspot diagnostic analyses (HSDA) at (non-demo) hotspots in each country
 - Regional centre for storage of Indicator information and for Indicator training
 - Pilot IWCAM process, stress reduction and environmental status indicators (1 country)

Outcomes: Process, stress-reduction, and environmental status indicators framework established. National and regional capacities for indicator monitoring enhanced.

- d) Component 4: Policy, legislative and institutional reform for IWCAM
- Review of national policy, legislation and institutional structures identifying barriers to IWCAM
 - A set of regional guidelines for national policy, legislative and institutional reform
 - Regional programme for amendment of national legislation and policy

Outcomes: National policies, legislation and institutional structures reformed to capture the requirements regional and international MEAs and IWCAM in general.

- e) Component 5: Regional and national capacity building and sustainability for IWCAM
- National workshops on awareness and multisectoral sensitisation to IWCAM issues
 - Stakeholder involvement in regional IWCAM
 - Training and education activities
 - A regional strategy for the sustainable promotion and implementation of IWCAM
 - Project Networking
 - A regional IWCAM Information Clearing House

Outcomes: Improved sensitisation, awareness and capacity toward IWCAM. A regional mechanism supporting IWCAM. Information networking plus a Partnership Forum to build working relationships. Information Clearinghouse. Stakeholders/civil society participation.

(e) Training for Rehabilitation of Contaminated Bays

Background

37. Following preliminary work done by CEP in the early 1990s, the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) received a Project Development Fund grant from GEF to develop pre-feasibility studies for the rehabilitation of four heavily contaminated bays. The studies conducted under the Project Development Facility showed heavy contamination of Havana Bay in Cuba and Kingston Harbour in Jamaica from nutrients, biochemical oxygen demand and suspended solids — mostly from inadequately treated domestic sewage. While work moves ahead at the national level in Cuba, CEP is coordinating a regional component.

Objectives

38. This project is directly linked to Annex III to the Protocol on Domestic Wastewater and accomplishes its objectives through Article XI of the Protocol on Education and Awareness, which calls for the training of individuals involved in the prevention, reduction and control of pollution from land-based sources and activities. The objective of the GEF project is to provide co-financing to the countries of the heavily polluted bays to design and construct appropriate wastewater treatment facilities and nutrient control. Discharges from any facilities designed and constructed under this project are to comply with the provisions of the LBS Protocol.
39. UNDP will manage most of the national aspects of the project with Cuba. CAR/RCU, however, has been asked by UNDP and the GEF Secretariat to provide regional coordination and knowledge sharing of the project for the entire Wider Caribbean Region.
40. The regional activities are included to ensure coordination of effort between the two countries and compliance with the Cartagena Convention and its protocols relevant to the project areas. In addition, the secretariat identified other opportunities for regional participation that were also approved by the GEF Secretariat for funding. In addition to the regional workshops already convened, CAR/RCU will organise a knowledge-sharing workshop at the completion of the national projects.

Activities

Final regional workshop. Following the completion of the Havana project, a regional workshop will be convened by UNEP-CAR/RCU in coordination with the participating national agencies to review lessons learned from the treatment technologies employed at the site. This three to five-day workshop will have regional implications for technology transfer for future activities in the region. (*NB: The actual dates of implementation for this workshop are dependent on the conclusion of the national level project.*)

(f) Second Regional Overview of Land-based Sources and Activities in the Wider Caribbean Region

Background

41. In 1994, CEP concluded the first Regional Overview of Land-based Point Sources in the Wider Caribbean Region. Although 23 countries submitted information on point sources, the lack of a reliable method for measuring non-point source contributions prevented those sources from being included in the overview. Much of the overview data is more than ten years old and is approaching the end of its usefulness to CEP as a current information source.

Objectives

42. This project aims to implement three key articles of the Protocol, namely, Articles VI, VIII, and XII, on Monitoring and Assessment Programmes, Development of Information Systems and Reporting, respectively. The objective of the project is to provide information of point and non-point source discharges into or impacting, the Convention area in collaboration with Cimab.
43. The second overview will confirm or reconfirm priority sources and pollutants in the Wider Caribbean including the heavily contaminated bays, through the identification of source categories and their discharges. Descriptions of source categories will be detailed, as well as new or emerging sources of concern, including urban run-off, solid waste and leachate from solid and hazardous waste landfills. Although the project will, for financial purposes, utilize existing information, the most current data will be sought for the project. Activities will coordinate with other assessments done or being developed.

Activities

- a) *Developing the assessment methodology.* The former methodology used for the point source inventory in the first regional overview will be assessed for necessary modifications as well as a review of other potential assessment methods that could be utilized. A guideline on how to estimate non-point sources of pollution will be incorporated into this project as well. Overall, the methodology most appropriate for the circumstances of the Wider Caribbean Region will be developed in consultation with Regional experts in the area of pollutant load assessment and will be presented to the CEP countries for review and comment;
- b) *Undertake missions of coordination* initially involving visits to Colombia, the Dominican Republic, Jamaica, Trinidad & Tobago and Venezuela, during 2004, to introduce the project and initiate national plans of work;

- c) *Organize a sub-regional workshop* in Venezuela, in early 2005, with participants from Colombia, the Dominican Republic, Jamaica, Trinidad & Tobago and Venezuela, to offer training on the new assessment methodology as well as promoting the LBS protocol;
- d) *Data collection.* Using the developed methodology, new updated data will be collected in consultation with LBS focal points in the region, as well as other regional or global organizations; and
- e) Prepare a first draft report on the actualisation of Technical Report # 33.

(g) Sewage Collection and Treatment: Implementing Annex III

Background

- 44. The prevention, reduction, and control of pollution of the Convention area from domestic wastewater were determined by the Contracting Parties of the Cartagena Convention to be a priority need. As such, Annex III of the LBS Protocol was designed to meet this need. Meeting the provisions of Annex III requires substantial planning and has financial considerations as well. In support of regional priorities and national needs, the secretariat proposes to undertake a two-tiered approach to support this regional priority through the progressive development of sewage management plans and subsequent assistance in seeking funding assistance for these plans.
- 45. Under the AMEP workplan for 2002-2003, the Sewage Needs Assessment Guidance for the Wider Caribbean Region to implement Annex III of the LBS Protocol was developed.

Objectives

- 46. As the title of the project suggests, this project is designed to assist countries in their implementation of Annex III on Domestic Wastewater. First, it would take the assessment and planning process, developed during 2002-2003 workplan, and propose to implement it in four additional countries. Countries will be selected based on expressed interest in the implementation of Annex III, efforts to ratify the LBS Protocol and those making a financial or in-kind contribution to the planning process.
- 47. In addition to the development of plans in new participating countries, funding assistance will be sought for the countries with plans completed according to the Annex III guidance. Project participation will not be limited to the four original countries, but for any country having developed a plan in accordance with the regionally developed guidance and Annex III to the Protocol.

Activities

- 48. *Sewage Needs Assessments and Planning.* Assessment and management plans, based on guidance developed during 2002-2003 will be used to implement sewage treatment needs assessments in four or more countries of the Wider Caribbean Region. The countries themselves will implement these projects such that local priorities are taken into consideration along with the regional priorities as identified in the provisions of the LBS Protocol and in particular Annex III.

49. *Development of a Global Environment Facility project proposal.* A GEF project proposal will be developed to provide financial support to begin implementation of the plans for participating countries (i.e., those with Annex III plans developed according to the guidance). As GEF funds are to provide the incremental amounts necessary for the protection of international waters, participating countries will be required to endorse the project and provide counterpart funding from national budgets or other donors. The secretariat will assist in the identification of suitable donors.
50. *Implementation of Sewage Management Plans.* For those countries approved in the GEF project, CEP will assist as necessary in the implementation of the national plans and coordinate any regional component as may be identified in the GEF project.

(h) Sanitation Plan for Whitehorses, Pamphret and Botany Bay, Jamaica

Background

51. Land-based activities are the main sources of marine pollution in the Caribbean. At the 5 year Intergovernmental Review of the Global Programme of Action for the Protection of the Marine Environment from Land-based Activities (GPA), representatives called on UN agencies to prioritize sewage where appropriate.
52. As part of the Millennium Development Goal (MDG) to “Ensure Environmental Sustainability” the Government of Jamaica is committed to meeting the target set of “halving by 2015 the proportion of people without sustainable access to safe drinking water and basic sanitation”. The Ministry of Water and Housing assumed responsibility for developing a programme that would meet the target set by the MDG.

Objective

53. The overall objective of this project is to improve the health, hygiene, sanitation and environment through education, capacity building and the construction of viable and environmentally friendly sanitation.
54. The project will finance the construction of sanitation systems for single families or groups of families. This, the largest component of the program, contemplates the cost of design, materials, construction, installation, supervision and commissioning of the systems. Emphasis will also be placed on developing the capacity of the Benevolent Society and the WASH Promoters (Waste, Sanitation and Hygiene), given that this strengthening will prepare them to administer a larger water and sanitation programme.
55. The specific objectives of this project are to:
- Contribute towards the efficient and transparent operation of a sanitation programme;
 - Provide sanitation coverage to meet the gaps identified in the Sanitation Plan as well as some of the needs identified by the individual communities;
 - Increase health and hygiene awareness;
 - Build the capacity of the Benevolent Society to administer a larger water and sanitation programme; and
 - Provide effective and environmentally sound sanitation solutions.

Activities

- Construct appropriate systems;
- Conduct community assessments;
- Identify appropriate solutions for construction;
- Establish criteria for selection of beneficiaries;
- Develop community maps of sites;
- Build the operation and maintenance skills of the Benevolent Society;
- Monitor the systems constructed; and
- Conduct training workshops for WASH Promoters and WBPBDS and wider community.

(i) Small Grants Programme — Best Management Practices for Agriculture*Background*

56. Annex IV to the LBS Protocol, on agricultural non-point sources, calls for the development of national plans that include education, training and awareness programmes for agricultural workers on “structural and non-structural best management practices”. The activities already completed or under way by CEP include CEP Technical Report No. 41, which surveyed best management practices currently in use in the region and the GEF project (described above) on reducing pesticide run-off. Nonetheless, as land-based pollution from agricultural non-point sources constitutes a significant threat to the marine environment of the Wider Caribbean, the First Meeting of LBS/ISTAC identified the need for additional activities to address their prevention, reduction and control.

Objectives

57. This project is designed to implement Annex IV to the LBS Protocol, on agricultural non-point sources. In addition to the pilot projects to be implemented under the GEF project on reducing pesticide run-off, this project will implement small-scale demonstration activities on the appropriate use of fertilizers, alternative crop cultivation methods and environmentally friendly livestock management techniques. The objective of such demonstration activities will be to pilot innovative practices through practical application and disseminate the results to other countries and localities of the Wider Caribbean. Under this project, AMEP will operate a small grants programme (maximum amount of US\$5,000), to assist in the development of a demonstration area. Participants will be expected to provide a counterpart contribution (in-kind or cash) and provide a project outline and summary for regional dissemination. At the end of the project period, a summary document will be prepared and the results will be available via the CEP/GPA Clearinghouse node. An MOU was signed in 2003 with EARTH university, a private, international, non-profit university based in Costa Rica to prepare a number of documents as part of the first project phase.

Activities

58. The project implementation phase (phase II) will commence following the arrival of the new AMEP Programme Officer and the approval and translation of the following documents prepared by EARTH University:
 - a) An announcement for newspapers advertising the project and soliciting participants;
 - b) An agreement that could be signed between EARTH and each participant;
 - c) The format for the project proposal;
 - d) A document for reporting the progress of the project;
 - e) A case study guide (in the style of INBio); and
 - f) A guide for evaluating the projects.
59. There will be a continuous review of project proposals and signature of agreements with national project implementing agencies, following which, the national implementing agencies will proceed to develop their projects according to the agreed workplans.
60. Project summaries and results will be submitted by implementing agencies. Results will be compiled and disseminated. The secretariat proposes that it be ongoing, provided that funds are available.

(i) Development of National Programmes of Action (NPAs)*Background*

61. The marine and coastal ecosystems of the wider Caribbean particularly coral reef systems are under increasing threats from pollution, over exploitation, conflicting resource usage and alteration of the coastal environment as a result of current coastal development practices. Caribbean nations have acknowledged the problem of polluted runoff from agriculture and coastal development. Non-point source runoff has been identified as a significant problem in many Caribbean countries. Best management practices (BMP's) have been developed in similar areas that need to be refined to account for steep slopes and tropical climatic conditions. Furthermore, these practices need to be demonstrated to promote their use. Fragmentation of governmental authorities and the competing interests of all sectors (governmental, agricultural, development, tourism) and stakeholders within any given watershed prevent establishment of a common vision for growth and development. This project will demonstrate the viability of using a collaborative approach to the design of NPAs utilizing an integrated watershed management strategy tailored to country needs and to protect sensitive coral reef systems from non-point source runoff.
62. The AMEP Sub-programme recognises the need for research, assessment and management of marine pollution in its efforts to coordinate projects, which implement the LBS Protocol and GPA, as well as research, assessment and control of degradation in the marine and coastal environment in the WCR. Additionally, it recognises the need for integrated planning and strengthened institutional infrastructure for the management of marine and coastal resources. This project reflects these concerns and has been developed to support

the goals of the Global Programme of Action (GPA) that provides for the development of NPAs.

63. The project initiated during the previous biennium is being funded by grants from the United States Department of State and is currently assisting the countries of Jamaica, Saint Lucia and Trinidad and Tobago in the development of demonstration NPA's, and the Wider Caribbean Region (WCR) as a whole through the dissemination of information. In addition, following the White Water to Blue Water Miami Conference (March 2004) and the Hilltops to Ocean Conference of Cairns, Australia (May 2004), a new regional partnerships between UNEP-CAR/RCU, the GPA Secretariat and the GPA Node of NOAA will facilitate the development of NPAs in a potential total of fifteen countries of the Wider Caribbean Region. This partnership allows to merge resources, both financial and human, to develop models and guidelines for the preparation of NPAs. These will be disseminated through regional workshops to promote the replication and increase the national and regional institutional capacity to implement the NPAs within the national agendas for sustainable development of each participating country. With this initiative, the Caribbean will become one of the leading regions of the world in developing NPAs.

Objectives

64. NPAs should be able to serve as a structure for analyzing cross-sectoral linkages, evaluating alternatives, incorporating inputs from diverse stakeholders, and identifying focal points for optimal interventions (GPA, 2003). The overall goal of the project is to build capacity in CEP countries for the development of NPAs to assist in the protection of the Caribbean marine environment from pollution entering from land-based sources and activities.
65. The specific objectives of the NPAs are:
 - a) Designate a coordinating agency which will lead the development of the NPA and coordinate activities among relevant government ministries and agencies and other stakeholders;
 - b) To identify resources and implement actions to address specific causes of environmental degradation or threats from land-based activities;
 - c) Evaluate the existing information, assessments, databases and inventories;
 - d) To provide a flexible mechanism for identifying and addressing priority problems through collaboration and consensus amongst stakeholders;
 - e) To strengthen the public sector's ability to effectively respond to these causes, and to ensure the sustainability of the actions and projects undertaken;
 - f) Define criteria for establishing national priorities;
 - g) Carry out an assessment of relevant policies, legislation and regulations as it relates to pollution from land-based sources and activities;
 - h) To mobilize resources and partners (including the private sector) for the implementation of specific projects;
 - i) To heighten awareness and understanding of the value, benefits and vulnerability of strategic coastal and marine environments;
 - j) Select appropriate strategies and measures for meeting these integrated management objectives;

- k) Develop a financial strategy that mobilizes public-private partnerships which can be used to develop and implement selected projects, including a pilot project; and
- l) Incorporate a strong monitoring and evaluation component in the NPA.

Activities

- 66. In addition to the three countries participating to the current work of the CEP - Jamaica, Saint Lucia and Trinidad and Tobago - interest has been shown by Barbados, Belize, Costa Rica, Dominica, Grenada, Guatemala, Haiti, Honduras, Mexico, Panama, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, and Turks and Caicos.
- 67. The regional coordination proposes the development of NPAs in two phases, starting in the first year of this biennium. The first result of this approach is a side event sponsored by the GPA Node of NOAA at this Eleventh IGM to promote the concept and the development of NPAs between the Member States of the CEP. Phase I and II are described below.
- 68. Phase I: National Reviews, National Consultative Meetings and Regional Dialogue:

Objectives:

- To ascertain the willingness and capability of countries to develop an NPA;
- To support willing countries with an initial assessment of ongoing or planned policies, expenditure, legislation and other activities that meet the objectives of the GPA;
- Convening of an initial stakeholder consultative meeting at the national level;
- To engender national ownership for the development of an NPA;
- To facilitate regional cooperation and sharing of expertise vis-à-vis NPAs; and
- To determine how to allocate phase II funding.

Activities in each new country:

- Obtain expressions of interest from government;
- Establish a core team;
- Assess the adequacy of relevant policies and action plans (both existing and planned) by the government, regional organizations, IFIs or other stakeholders to address land-based sources of marine pollution;
- Prepare for and convene a National Conference for stakeholder consultation; and
- Prepare a report on the findings of the National Conference and recommendations for next steps and possible pilot projects;

- 69. Phase II: NPA Programme Development:

Objectives:

- Develop full scale NPAs, including pilot projects, in selected countries; and
- Integrate pilot projects being developed under GEF funded projects within the policy framework of an NPA.

Activities in each new country:

- Develop a draft comprehensive national programmes of action within the framework of integrated coastal area and watershed management;
- Define specific management objectives, both with respect to source categories and areas affected;

- Ensure that there are administrative and management structures in place necessary to support the national programmes of action;
- Develop specific criteria to evaluate the effectiveness of the strategies and programmes; and
- Develop and implement appropriate outreach and stakeholder participation mechanisms and implement pilot projects.

(k) Joint Regional Project to Assist Governments of the Wider Caribbean Region in Classifying their Waters so as to Facilitate the Implementation of the LBS Protocol (IMA)

70. A capacity building project to facilitate the Governments of the Wider Caribbean Region in implementing the LBS Protocol.

Background

71. In 1994, CEP completed an overview of land-based point sources of marine pollution in the Wider Caribbean Region (WCR). The final report of that study (UNEP-CEP Technical Report #33) indicated that domestic wastewater was the largest point source contributor by volume to the WCR.
72. At the World Summit on Sustainable Development which was held in Johannesburg in 2002, it was reported that waste management has maintained its ranking as one of the major environmental issues in the Caribbean and worldwide.
73. The LBS Protocol is the first regional environmental agreement, where effluent limitations and other obligations are required within a given time frame for specific sources of pollution. Annex III of the LBS Protocol - Domestic Wastewater, provides regional effluent limitations for the control of sewage that discharges into or impacts the marine environment. Annex III also indicates effluent limitations required for discharges into Class I and Class II waters which are further defined in the LBS Protocol.
74. In developing a classification system for the marine waters of the WCR, the level of anthropogenic impacts on areas listed as Class I waters in Annex III should be taken into consideration together with the potential for reversing these impacts. This means that in developing a classification system for the marine waters past, present and future impacting activities must be taken into account. Otherwise implementation of the Protocol will not be seen as practical or realistic.
75. Given the above, this project aims to assist the Governments of the Wider Caribbean Region in classifying their marine waters so as to facilitate the implementation of the LBS Protocol by providing technical assistance to the Contracting Parties as it relates to domestic wastewaters being discharged to the marine environment.

Objective

76. To facilitate the Governments of the WCR in classifying their marine waters into the Classes required for the implementation of the LBS Protocol by e.g. determine criteria and guidelines, develop a public education and awareness programme, train government

personnel in the classification of their marine waters and provide expertise through consultants or technical assistance.

Activities

77. The activities proposed for the project are:
- a) Organize a meeting between the two LBS/RACs (Cimab and IMA) and the Sub-Programme Officers of UNEP-CAR/RCU for the AMEP and SPAW Sub-Programmes, as well as a number of Marine Ecology Experts from the Wider Caribbean Region. The purpose of this meeting is to determine the criteria and guidelines required for classifying the Convention Area into Class I and Class II waters.
 - b) Develop a public education and awareness programme to follow on from the promotional brochure for the LBS Protocol. This programme is to be developed so as to sensitize the government and people of the Wider Caribbean Region as to the need to classify their marine waters to facilitate the implementation of effluent limitations.
 - c) Organize a Regional Training Workshop to train personnel from Government Ministries and Agencies responsible for planning and/or environmental management to carry out the exercise of the classification of their marine waters using the criteria and guidelines established in Activity (a). Members of the Regional Activity Network (RAN) of collaborating organizations should be involved in this exercise either as trainers or trainees.
 - d) Provide consultants and/or technical assistance expertise to the governments participating in the classification exercise, particularly in the areas of GIS and Remote Sensing.
 - e) Organize a Regional Workshop to enable the participating countries to present and discuss the results of their classification of marine waters exercise. The Workshop should also provide countries with guidelines for the implementation of their classification system as it relates to domestic wastewater discharges.
 - f) Compile a Regional Report from the Country Reports on the classification of the Marine Waters exercise and the guidelines for implementation of the classification system.
- (I) Joint Regional Project for the Development of Safe Recreational – Water Environments in the Wider Caribbean Region (IMA)**
78. A project to develop safe recreational-water environments in the countries of the Wider Caribbean Region in both a public health and a sustainable tourism context, with appropriate management interventions. The project will be conducted in Cuba, Trinidad and Tobago and other countries (to be selected).

Background

79. In the Caribbean, pollution by domestic wastewater is not only a public health issue but also relates to social and economic development where sustainable tourism is an important aspect of Caribbean economies. Guidelines concerning recreational use of the aquatic environment have been developed by the World Health Organization and were reviewed at an expert consultation to look into the adequacy and effectiveness of present approaches to monitoring and assessment linked to effective management of microbiological hazards in coastal and freshwater recreational waters. The improved approach to the regulation of recreational water better reflected health risks and provided enhanced scope for effective management interventions, which were considered necessary and feasible. The output of the meeting, which contains the agreed approach, is known as the Annapolis Protocol.
80. The final WHO Guidelines for Safe Recreational-Water Environments was launched globally at the end of 2002. At the launch it was agreed that epidemiological studies should be conducted in Latin America and the Caribbean to evaluate the applicability of the WHO Guidelines to the region. Other beach management interventions which address both public health and sustainable tourism issues are being implemented in the Caribbean Region, for example, the Blue Flag Campaign
81. It is felt that the Regional Activity Centres (RAC) for the LBS Protocol could assist in the development of safe recreational water environments in countries of the Wider Caribbean Region by undertaking epidemiological trials for the WHO Guidelines on Safe Recreational Water Environments.

Objective

82. To assist the countries of the Wider Caribbean Region in attaining safe recreational-water environments in both a public health and a sustainable tourism context, and by undertaking the epidemiological trials for the WHO Guidelines on Safe Recreational-water Environments.
83. The specific objectives are:
 - a) To undertake epidemiological trials using the methodological approach described in the WHO Guidelines on Safe Recreational-water Environments in selected countries of the Caribbean Region with the assistance of the Regional Activity Network (RAN).
 - b) To use the approach in the Annapolis Protocol for a classification scheme through which a beach would be assigned a class based upon health risk, which will provide an incentive to local management actions as well as pollution abatement. The classification scheme provides a generic statement as to the level of risks and indicates the principal management and monitoring actions likely to be appropriate. The RAN would assist the RACs in this exercise.

Activities

84. The activities proposed for this project are:
 - a) Carry out epidemiological trials at selected beaches in Cuba and Trinidad and Tobago. The trials are to be carried out by the respective RACs sited in these countries. Where

possible, epidemiological trials would be carried out in other countries to be chosen by members of the RAN.

- b) Classify beaches based upon health risks using the approach of the Annapolis Protocol. The classification would be undertaken in the same countries as used for the epidemiological surveys.

B. Specially Protected Areas and Wildlife (SPAW)

85. The main activities of the SPAW programme are presented below. The outputs of the programme as well as more detailed information can be found in the document Workplan and Budget for the SPAW Regional Programme for the Biennium 2004-2005 (UNEP)DEC/CAR WG.25/5.Rev.1).

1. Background

86. In 1990, the Governments of the region adopted the Protocol on Specially Protected Areas and Wildlife (SPAW) and, in 1991, its Annexes of species requiring protection. The Protocol entered into force on 18 June 2000, and to date, twelve Governments are Contracting Parties (Barbados, Colombia, Cuba, Dominican Republic, France, the Netherlands, Panama, Saint Lucia, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Trinidad and Tobago, United States of America, and Venezuela). The Protocol contains detailed provisions addressing the establishment of protected areas and buffer zones for *in situ* conservation of wildlife, national and regional cooperative measures for the protection of wild flora and fauna, the introduction of non-native or genetically altered species, environmental impact assessment, research, education, and other topics.
87. This workplan reflects recommendations of meetings of the Interim Scientific and Technical Advisory Committee (ISTAC), the recommendations of the First and Second Meetings of the Scientific and Technical Advisory Committee (STAC) (Havana, Cuba, 27-29 September 2001 and Curaçao, Netherlands Antilles, 3-6 June 2003 respectively), decisions of the First and Second Meetings of the Contracting Parties to the SPAW Protocol (SPAW COP 1 and COP 2) (Havana, Cuba, 24-25 September 2001 and Montego Bay, 6 May 2002 respectively), decisions of the Tenth Intergovernmental Meeting on the Action Plan for the Caribbean Environment Programme and Seventh Meeting of the Contracting Parties to the Convention for the Protection and Development of the Marine Environment of the Wider Caribbean Region (Montego Bay, Jamaica, 7-11 May 2002), as well as recommendations from previous intergovernmental meetings (IGMs).
88. The workplan also incorporates a number of imperatives identified in previous discussions of the SPAW Programme. The SPAW Protocol requires that attention be paid to critical topical issues such as management effectiveness, reporting, and invasive species. Other issues, such as bioprospecting, are linked to wider global initiatives.

2. Projects and Activities

a) Programme Coordination

Objectives

89. The objectives of the coordination of the SPAW programme are:

- a) To promote the SPAW Protocol as appropriate to ensure its ratification and gain support for the programme;
- b) To ensure that the formulation and implementation of the programme activities satisfy the requirements and needs of the SPAW Protocol;
- c) To develop coordination, collaboration, and communication mechanisms with organizations and programmes relevant to SPAW objectives;
- d) Improvement and consistency in the contribution of the Caribbean to the Global Environmental Outlook (GEO) process, and ultimately the development of a State of the Environment (SOE) reporting process for the Caribbean;
- e) To improve coordination of regional programming for protected areas and wildlife;
- f) To oversee the day-to-day activities and general coordination of the various projects; and
- g) To develop and promote an appropriate format for national reporting under SPAW, including the determination and reporting of the impact of the SPAW programme.

Activities

90. A Programme Officer at CAR/RCU will continue to provide the day-to-day coordination for the implementation of the programme activities, assisted by a Junior Professional Officer supported by the Swedish Government. A Project Manager for ICRAN will continue to provide assistance to SPAW during 2004 with the implementation of the ICRAN activities and depend on funding during 2005. In the overall coordination of the SPAW Regional Programme, emphasis will continue to be placed on coordinating with relevant programmes and organizations, such as the Action Plan of the UNEP ROLAC, the Organization of Eastern Caribbean States-Environment and Sustainable Development Unit (OECS-ESDU), the Association of Caribbean States (ACS), the Caribbean Tourism Organization (CTO), the Caribbean Hotel Association-Caribbean Alliance for Sustainable Tourism (CHA-CAST), the Central American Commission for Environment and Development (CCAD), the Western Central Atlantic Fisheries Commission (WECAFC) of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the UN (FAO), the World Conservation Union (IUCN), and the marine programme of the World Commission on Protected Areas (WCPA). In this context the secretariat has offered to IUCN the RCU facilities to serve as the location of the proposed Insular Caribbean IUCN office.
91. Collaborative arrangements will also be developed with existing and emerging regional or global initiatives relevant to SPAW, such as the International Coral Reef Initiative (ICRI), the Programme of Action for the sustainable development of Small Island Developing

States (SIDS-POA), the Caribbean Regional Environmental Programme (CREP) of CARIFORUM, the Caribbean Regional Fisheries Mechanism (CRFM), the Marine Mammal Action Plan of UNEP, the Mesoamerican Barrier Reef Initiative (MBRS), the Caribbean programme of WCPA, the White Water to Blue Water Initiative (WW2BW) launched at the World Summit on Sustainable Development (WSSD) in September 2002, and other similar initiatives.

92. Fund-raising efforts for the programme will be continued in consultation with the Coordinator of CAR/RCU, and in coordination with relevant Governments, donors and partner organizations.
93. The secretariat will develop, in consultation with the Parties to the SPAW Protocol and other Governments, the SPAW workplan and budget for the biennium 2006-2007, in keeping with the objectives of the Protocol and within the context of CEP. It will also organize the Third Meeting of the Parties to SPAW and Third Meeting of STAC in 2004 and 2005 respectively.
94. Further to Decision No. VIII of SPAW-COP 1, and the findings of the report requested by COP 1, joint programming of activities with the SPAW Regional Activity Centre (SPAW-RAC) in Guadeloupe and coordination during implementation of activities will continue as appropriate. Specific activities with the RAC are identified below in the respective programme area.
95. The SPAW/RAC in collaboration with the Government of France and the secretariat will promote the SPAW Protocol and its objectives to assist with the ratification by non-Parties. Given the geographical position of the RAC within a French Department of the Caribbean, a joint process will be initiated in order to have the SPAW Protocol signed and ratified by the European Union.
96. Under the framework of the existing memoranda of cooperation, collaboration with the Secretariat to CBD will be explored on issues of common interest such as MPAs and coral reef conservation in response to the Jakarta Mandate and as per Decision No. II of SPAW COP 1. Efforts will also be made towards strengthening of communication and collaboration with the Convention on Wetlands of International Importance (Ramsar) and with other relevant treaties, such as CITES and CMS, in order to maximize efforts and resources. In particular, the secretariat will collaborate closely with the CBD and CITES Secretariats in the implementation of Decisions Nos. II and V of SPAW-COP 1 as appropriate and as funding becomes available.
97. The secretariat will continue to promote SPAW and its objectives through presentations at relevant forums, communications with Governments, public awareness, and through other relevant mechanisms, including use and dissemination of the brochure on the SPAW Protocol and its supporting programme developed during 2001.
98. Improved communications will be promoted as much as possible between SPAW focal points and the secretariat, in particular through the maintenance of the existing list serve, and by Governments developing more effective communication mechanisms among their focal points to CEP, SPAW, GEF, Ramsar, CBD, CITES, etc. This will require the systematic, continuous and active participation of members of the STAC and Observers in

the listserve, as per Recommendations 2 and 12 of the First Meeting of STAC. In this context, and in keeping with Decision 2(d) of SPAW COP 2, Parties and Observers will use the existing electronic list serve in order to exchange relevant information and discuss SPAW-related issues as appropriate.

99. In this context, the secretariat will also encourage increased participation and reporting by relevant regional institutions at SPAW STAC meetings, in an effort to forge stronger collaboration linkages and promote coordination.
100. With the entry into force of the SPAW Protocol, and as a priority if funds become available, the activity on assistance to Governments with the formulation of national legislation to implement the Protocol will be continued, as per the recommendations of the Workshop to Assist with the Formulation of National Legislation to Implement the SPAW Protocol in the Common Law Countries of the Wider Caribbean Region, held in Ocho Rios, Jamaica, from 6 to 9 December 1993 (see UNEP(OCA)/CAR WG. 13/5). As the Protocol on Land-based Sources of Pollution enters into force, it will be utilized as a tool for fulfilling SPAW objectives, especially in view of the importance of the protection of sensitive ecosystems from land-based sources of pollution.
101. In keeping with Recommendation No. 13 of the First Meeting of STAC, the secretariat will continue to collaborate with the SPAW Regional Activity Centre (RAC) and UNEP-World Conservation Monitoring Centre (UNEP-WCMC) in the completion of an appropriate format for reporting under SPAW, compatible with existing formats of other treaties such as the CBD.
102. In collaboration with the STAC, efforts will be made towards the development of an improved evaluation method for the SPAW programme to focus on more direct measurement of programme impacts at the national level and with the active and regular feedback that must be provided by Governments and their focal points. Additionally, in keeping with Recommendation No. 22 of ISTAC-3, greater efforts will be made to monitor and evaluate regional projects, to gauge their impact.
103. In collaboration with relevant partners such as TNC, CI, BirdLife International, IRF and UNEP-WCMC, the secretariat will explore the development of a mechanism for the sustained collection of selected biodiversity-related datasets for input to regional assessments such as the GEO process, and its periodic production of a Caribbean regional report.

b) Strengthening of Protected Areas in the Wider Caribbean Region

Objectives

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

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

Activities

105. The secretariat will facilitate and promote the development of a regional network of protected areas, as required by Article 7 of the SPAW Protocol. Governments will be invited to nominate protected areas to be included in the network, based on the common guidelines developed for that purpose together with the SPAW/RAC (see activity 3.2 below), as requested by Decisions No. IV and IV to VII of SPAW-COP 1 and COP 2 respectively, and Recommendations 8 and 9 of the First Meeting of STAC.
106. The World Commission on Protected Areas (WCPA), at its Caribbean Regional Planning Meeting of 17-19 October 2002, decided that a main focus of the work of the WCPA in the Caribbean would be to assist the secretariat in the implementation of the SPAW Programme. WCPA-Caribbean will collaborate with the secretariat in the following activities:
 - a) Development of criteria for the selection of protected areas to be listed under the SPAW Protocol;
 - b) Elevate the Caribbean in global policy decisions, particularly through the work of WCPA Task Forces;
 - c) Support the Training of Trainers in MPA management initiative;
 - d) Participate in the SPAW meetings as an Observer; and
 - e) Incorporate SPAW supporting activities in its three-year programme.
107. The secretariat will collaborate with the WCPA-Marine, NOAA, The Nature Conservancy (TNC), and other partners, in the development and implementation of a Regional Coordination Plan (RCP) to advance marine reserves in the Wider Caribbean Region. This initiative known as MAREP and launched in 2002, aims to improve the effectiveness of existing and proposed marine reserves (no-take zones), through the development of specific proposals and to contribute to other relevant initiatives in the region. Areas of focus of the RCP include biophysical and socio-economic research/monitoring; education and training; sustainable financing; management effectiveness, and communication and networking.
108. The secretariat will continue to promote the regional network of Caribbean Marine Protected Areas Managers (CaMPAM) and provide technical assistance to strengthen marine protected area (MPA) management in the region. Following the WW2BW Conference in Miami, the renewed CaMPAM Network and Forum was launched as a regional partnership involving additional partners such as TNC, IUCN, WCPA-Caribbean, the Gulf and Caribbean Fisheries Institute (GCFI) and Environmental Defense. The partnership builds synergy by bringing existing efforts under one umbrella. Specific activities to support CaMPAM will include:

- a) Continued implementation of the small grant fund to provide direct assistance to MPAs granting up to US\$8,000 per area, based upon request and priority needs, and in keeping with the relevant criteria developed for this purpose;
 - b) Continued updating and improving of the MPA database in collaboration with CEPNET, the SPAW/RAC and CaMPAM partners such as TNC. Support from the Swedish Government will allow a consultant to be recruited in collaboration with CEPNET to redesign and update the database to make it more useful and accessible;
 - c) Continuation of the publication of information relevant to MPAs and CaMPAM in existing newsletters such as CEPNews and those of other relevant programmes;
 - d) Continued updating and support of the CaMPAM listserv to serve as an effective tool for MPA managers to communicate among themselves, exchange information and experiences, and to seek advice and help with problem-solving;
 - e) Convening of a meeting of MPA managers to assist with re-activation of the Network and identification of priority needs and issues. As a coordination strategy and cost saving measure, this meeting will be held in conjunction with the 57th GCFI Symposium to be held in St. Petersburg, Florida in November 2004. This meeting's main objective will also be to build linkages among fishers and MPA managers;
 - f) Promotion of the use of CaMPAM towards "twinning" and mentoring between MPAs in the region, as well as towards developing general guidelines for sharing databases and technical studies;
 - g) Organization of a sustainable fisheries symposium held as part of the 57th GCFI conference 2004 and sponsor fishers to attend;
 - h) Selection of 2-3 MPA sites to receive grants for identification and implementation of alternative livelihoods, with funding provided by the Swedish Government; and
 - i) Develop a partnership with IUCN and TNC to incorporate Socio-Economic Monitoring into the work programs.
109. In addition to the close partnership with CaMPAM, the secretariat will strengthen its linkages with the GCFI in order to;
- a) Facilitate improved access of protected areas managers to relevant research;
 - b) Continue promoting the MPA workshops held as part of the GCFI annual conference; and
 - c) Continue supporting the attendance of protected areas managers to the GCFI conferences and MPA workshops, to benefit from, and share relevant knowledge and research.
110. In keeping with the approved 2002-2003 activities for SPAW on MPA effectiveness, the secretariat will continue to collaborate with the UK/DFID Project on Institutional Evaluation of Caribbean MPAs, implemented by MRAG Ltd., the University of the West Indies (UWI-NRMP), and CCA. Through CaMPAM, the secretariat will promote and assist with the dissemination of the project guidelines on co-management effectiveness for improving benefits of MPAs to poorer communities and will assist with the dissemination of the products to countries in the Wider Caribbean.

111. Invasive species management has become one of the major issues faced by protected areas in the Caribbean. The secretariat will cooperate with regional and international institutions, such as the Secretariat to the CBD, the Global Ballast Water Management Programme of IMO, Conservation International (CI), Island Resources Foundation (IRF), BirdLife International and TNC, dealing with invasive species management issues for protected areas.
112. The secretariat will coordinate as appropriate with the Caribbean Conservation Association (CCA), particularly regarding its Coastal and Marine Management Program (CaMMP), and the amenity areas component of the Caribbean Regional Environmental Programme (CREP).
113. The secretariat will explore the development of collaboration with the Secretariat to the World Heritage Convention (WHC). In 2002, UNESCO conducted an international experts consultation process, including experts from the Wider Caribbean, for the purpose of identifying cluster and/or transboundary marine or coastal sites of biodiversity value for nomination as World Heritage Sites, and the WCPA is currently reviewing the nominations. The SPAW secretariat will:
 - a) Assist member countries with their participation in the World Heritage Convention where possible, such as assistance with the preparation of the documentation for nominated sites, if consistent with key sites under SPAW;
 - b) Contribute where feasible to the identification of sites;
 - c) Promote participation of experts from the region on the site assessment teams; and
 - d) Collaborate with other regional institutions on issues and initiatives dealing with the identification, assessment, and establishment of World Heritage Sites.
114. The secretariat will provide follow up for potential collaboration on the implementation of the GEF/UNEP/IUCN Project on Ecosystems, Protected Areas and People (EPP). The three-year project seeks to enable protected area managers, policy makers, and other stakeholders to share lessons learnt in coping with global changes and develop their capacity to manage adaptively in the face of such change. As part of this project, a Protected Area Learning Network (PALNeT) is being established which will be an interactive, web-based knowledge management tool for protected area managers and stakeholders.

c) Development of Guidelines for Protected Areas and Species Management

Objectives

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

Activities

116. The draft guidelines for the evaluation of protected areas to assist with their listing under the SPAW Protocol were reviewed at the experts' workshop in Gosier, Guadeloupe April 2004. The secretariat will continue to collaborate with the SPAW/RAC, the SPAW Parties and regional experts to identify interested member countries for a pilot activity to test the proposed guidelines. The secretariat will also promote among the Parties, the use of the IUCN publication on national system planning for protected areas and the development of the Protected Areas List as per Article 7 of the SPAW Protocol.
117. In keeping with Decision No. 9 of COP-2, and if requested by COP 3 the secretariat could explore the need for development of criteria for the assessment of exemptions to Article 11 of the SPAW Protocol. If recommended by the COP 3, the secretariat could establish an ad hoc working group to initiate discussions on this issue. The SPAW listserv would be used as the communication medium for this activity.
118. The secretariat cooperated with regional institutions such as WCPA-Marine, NOAA, CCA and the University of the West Indies-Natural Resource Management Programme (UWI-NRMP) in the development of socio-economic monitoring guidelines for coastal managers in the Caribbean. The guidelines will be used to assess socio-economic impacts of protected areas within the initiative to establish a long-term, region-wide monitoring system for collecting, analyzing and comparing socio-economic data through collaborating coastal management programmes across the Wider Caribbean, beginning with the training of MPA staff in socio-economic monitoring with funds from NOAA.
119. The information compiled by the SPAW/RAC with the relevant NGOs and partners, regarding steps and processes to prevent species from becoming threatened or endangered will be reviewed. As recommended by the STAC 2, an Ad Hoc working group could be established during 2004-2005 to develop the draft criteria and guidelines for subsequent review by the Parties.
120. The secretariat will support the production of participatory planning guidelines in collaboration with CANARI. The guidelines will be produced in English and Spanish and be widely disseminated in the region.

d) Conservation of Threatened and Endangered Species*Objectives*

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

Activities

122. The activities are based on priorities already identified by Governments during previous meetings, as well as on required follow-up to past or ongoing activities. These include:
- a) Continue updating, maintenance and dissemination, as funding allows, of the SPAW species database through the CEP web page in collaboration with governments and CEPNET. Additionally, collaboration will be explored with Conservation International (CI), to develop SPAW species assessments, as well as to assist with the identification of additional species that need to be included under SPAW.
 - b) In collaboration with governments, selection and implementation of priority actions contained in the national sea turtle recovery plans for interested and committed countries, initially in St. Lucia and St. Vincent and the Grenadines with support from the U.S. Department of State, Bureau of Oceans and International Environmental (DoS/OIE) and Scientific Affairs (OESI) through funds received in 2004;
 - c) Preparation of two additional recovery plans for sea turtles in Costa Rica and Grenada as well as complete the draft sea turtle recovery plan for Panama with support from the U.S. DoS/OIE-OESI, and in collaboration with relevant organizations such as WIDECAST;
 - d) Support a newly established Index Monitoring Site for 'Critically Endangered' hawksbill sea turtles (*Eretmochelys imbricata*) in Central America, and establish at least one new Index Monitoring Site in the Windward Island. WIDECAST experts will be utilized as mentors to promote capacity building for maintaining Index Monitoring Sites for hawksbills in the Wider Caribbean Region;
 - e) Fundraise as appropriate to allow for the continued implementation of the regional manatee management plan and preparation of two national recovery plans for manatees in interested and committed countries and in collaboration with relevant organizations;
 - f) The secretariat will continue to participate as feasible in the Wider Caribbean Hawksbill Turtle Dialogue organised by the CITES Secretariat. Additional activities will include collaborating on the finalization of the regional sea turtle management guidelines with governments and regional partners such as WIDECAST, and facilitation of Caribbean regional consultations on the issue.
 - g) Collaboration with the Caribbean Regional Fisheries Mechanism (CRFM), formerly the CARICOM Fisheries Resources Assessment and Management Programme (CFRAMP) as well as FAO/WECAFC, to participate in relevant actions resulting from the regional review of the fisheries management in the Caribbean, as well as identified in their work plans, and in particular those related to lobster and conch fisheries management. Collaboration will also take place with CITES in regard to the regional management plan for queen conch, which is currently included in the CITES Significant Trade Review Process;
 - h) In collaboration with the SPAW/RAC, Governments and relevant organizations, such as the International Fund for Animal Welfare (IFAW), the Marine Education and Research (MER) Centre and the Eastern Caribbean Cetacean Network (ECCN), the secretariat will continue working on the development of the regional action plan and conservation programme for marine mammals, with emphasis on information gathering

and education. This activity will be supported with funds raised from DoS/OIE and OESI, as well as IFAW. This will include the convening of a regional experts workshop, organised by the SPAW/RAC in early 2005 as agreed during STAC 1 and COP 2.

- i) As funds are raised, preparation and publication of educational materials on conservation of priority species in collaboration with partner organizations, such as the Caribbean Conservation Association (CCA), CORALINA, ECCN, IFAW, the MER Centre, WIDECAS, etc. A prototype colouring booklet for children on endangered species will be developed in cooperation with CORALINA, to be used to attract sponsors amongst airlines, hotels and resorts for publication and distribution; and
- j) The secretariat will continue to coordinate with relevant organisations to support as feasible and appropriate the regional assessments on spawning aggregations and relevant training with the assistance of relevant organizations.
- k) Coordination will continue with the BirdLife International Partnership in the global programme to identify and conserve Important Bird Areas (IBAs). BirdLife International, coordinates the birds RedList Program and serves as the formal IUCN listing authority for birds. IBAs are those sites of importance for globally threatened birds, restricted-range birds, and significant concentrations of breeding, passage, and wintering birds.
- l) In keeping with Article 12 of the Protocol, the secretariat will explore collaboration with relevant partners on the assessment and control of alien and invasive species in the region. Additionally, a funding proposal has been submitted by the Regional Seas Programme and IMO for regional implementation of UNEP/IMO Ballast Water Project in Red Sea and Gulf of Aden, South East Pacific and the Wider Caribbean, focusing on the transfer of invasive marine species in ballast water. The secretariat will follow up on the proposal, and explore ways of collaboration with the Global Ballast Water Programme.

123. The secretariat will collaborate with Conservation International (CI) on other marine species conservation efforts in the Caribbean, specifically, the Rapid Assessment Program (RAP) being undertaken by CI. Through multinational research teams, CI organizes field studies to guide the development of protected areas and corridors. Results and data are deposited in information systems of local institutions, published yearly and provided to the public at no cost. The field studies place emphasis on training in the technologies of biodiversity assessment and monitoring. RAPs are a useful tool for identification of hotspots for conservation. Additional target sites for RAPs could be identified through SPAW and upon request by the countries of the Wider Caribbean.

e) Conservation and Sustainable Use of Coastal and Marine Ecosystems

Objectives

124. The objectives guiding the activities are:

- a) To assist with the management of the coastal and marine ecosystems of the region on a sustainable basis, particularly through sustainable practices;

- b) To mobilize the political will and actions of Governments and other partners for the conservation and sustainable use of coral reefs and associated ecosystems such as mangroves and seagrass beds; and
- c) To collaborate with regional and international institutions and the Secretariats of other conventions, such as Ramsar, in initiatives to design, implement, and learn from interventions focusing on the wise use of coastal and marine resources.

Activities

125. The major part of the ecosystems sub-programme of SPAW is being implemented through the Caribbean component of the International Coral Reef Action Network (ICRAN) project. Primarily funded by the UN Foundation, the ICRAN initiative has been supported by a four-year project established in 2000 through a global partnership for the purpose of implementing elements of the strategic plan of the International Coral Reef Initiative (ICRI), and aimed at facilitating good practices in coral reef management. A major outcome of ICRAN during 2003 was the successful negotiation with USAID of a US\$1.5 million grant for the ICRAN-Caribbean with matching funds from the UN Foundation. A number of organizations including representatives from PROARCA, MBRS/GEF Project and the ICRAN Partners participated in the process. The geographical scope of the project includes primarily the Mesoamerican Caribbean Reef Eco-region (Belize, Guatemala, Honduras & Mexico) and possibly the east coast of Nicaragua. The project components are Watershed Management, Sustainable Tourism, and Sustainable Fisheries. Workplans for the implementation of activities are under development. The project got underway in early 2004 with the official signing ceremony on 3rd February 2004.
126. During 2003, ICRAN underwent an evaluation and financial support for 2004 ICRAN activities was not made available due mainly to the lack of a policy for the provision of matching funds as well as the inability of ICRAN to acquire the necessary matching funds as stipulated by the UN Foundation. The evaluation also provided an opportunity to refocus the efforts of ICRAN on “People, Poverty and Reefs”. ICRAN Partners reviewed the role and functions of ICRAN with a view towards restructuring ICRAN. Subsequently, the completion of ICRAN activities as planned is dependent upon the acquisition of matching funds. In the interim UNEP-CAR/RCU has been fundraising, targeting the European Union, MacArthur Foundation, the Swedish Government, and NOAA to fulfil its obligations to the countries of the WCR. The planned activities of ICRAN in the Caribbean during the biennium, are detailed below in 3.6.
127. In addition to the ICRAN activities, the following activities are also being proposed based on previous recommendations by governments and strategic partnerships:
 - Identify linkages as appropriate, with TNC (and their partner institutions) in the development of an eco-regional plan for the Caribbean and of TNC’s Transforming Coral Reef Conservation (TCRC) Program
 - Support to the sub-regional coral reef monitoring groups organized in 1999 to function as GCRMN nodes will continue to complement, as appropriate, ICRAN funding in this regard

- If funding becomes available, the secretariat in close coordination with the Ramsar Convention and other relevant organizations, will promote activities relating to the conservation and sustainable use of mangroves.
128. The secretariat will collaborate with CBD's Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice (SBSTTA) on issues relevant to SPAW, specifically development of guidelines on biodiversity and tourism to be used for activities related to sustainable tourism development, as well as case studies on the implementation of the guidelines; Information sharing related to marine and coastal biodiversity and protected areas; and development of guidelines for restoration and rehabilitation of degraded ecosystems, and recovery of rare and threatened species.
129. Activities in support of ICRI
- ***Netherlands Antilles Coral Reef Initiative (NACRI)***. An MOU was developed with NACRI to support Reef Check monitoring efforts in the islands of Saba, Saint Maarten, Saint Eustatius, Bonaire and Curaçao. Under this MOU there is a joint initiative with Venezuela to monitor the reefs of Islas de las Aves.
 - ***Atlantic & Gulf Rapid Reef Assessment (AGRRA)***. An MOU was signed with the Ocean Research and Education Foundation Inc. (ORE) that facilitates AGRRA activities in the region. CAR/RCU will support an assessment of the reefs of Hispaniola (Dominican Republic and Haiti). A capacity building component is also included.
 - ***Socioeconomic Monitoring in the WCR***. The GCRMN in conjunction with NOAA and the Centre for Resource Management and Environmental Studies (CERMES) and other Caribbean partners including UNEP-CAR/RCU have embarked on a capacity building exercise in socioeconomic monitoring to collect data that will complement the coral reef monitoring data compiled by the GCRMN in the Status of Coral Reefs of the World.

f) International Coral Reef Action Network (ICRAN) in the Wider Caribbean

Objectives

130. The overall objectives of the project are:
- a) To establish a global network of actively functioning demonstration sites for integrated coastal management (ICM) and marine protected areas to promote good management practices with full involvement of local communities;
 - b) To effectively communicate the value and importance of coral reefs, the threats to their sustainability, and the actions needed to protect them; and
 - c) To create an integrated series of selected global assessment activities to enable efficient management of coral reef areas by providing essential information.

Activities

131. The ICRAN project in the Caribbean will be in Phase 2 during the 2004-2005 SPAW workplan. As mentioned earlier in section 3.5 the implementation of activities planned for 2004-2005 will be dependent on the acquisition of matching funds. The EU, the Swedish Government (Sida), NOAA and MacArthur Foundation have been approached. ICRAN

will continue to provide multi-level technical assistance to selected demonstration sites, and other MPAs or ICM sites to strengthen their capacity in weaker areas of management and bring them from high to low-risk status as per the Reefs at Risk classification. Activities, to be carried out with partners such as UNEP-WCMC, WWF, TNC, and IUCN, once funds are available, include e.g.; Sustainable fisheries management practices; capacity building for MPA managers, fishers and local communities; creating alternative livelihoods in non-destructive industries; changes in fishing gear; compilation and dissemination of lessons learnt and best practices; a practical resource manual for coastal zone managers; exchange programmes; Sustainable tourism practices; and low cost, standardized coral reef monitoring .

132. A major focus of ICRAN during the biennium, once funds become available, will be the implementation of activities within relevant target communities around the MPA or ICM site. This includes best management practices, sustainable financing, coral reef monitoring and assessment, and alternative livelihoods that eliminate or minimize unsustainable use of coral reef resources, etc.
133. Continue to build the management capacity of MPA Managers and staff through training. This will be accomplished through the Training of Trainers Programme in MPA Management.
134. The World Resources Institute (WRI) responsible for Reefs@Risk in the Caribbean, UNEP-WCMC, and the World Fish Center (ICLARM), with support from UNEP-CAR/RCU, have completed the analysis of the threats and value of coastal marine resources, taking into account the threats from coastal development, pollution, sedimentation, and over-fishing, in conjunction with the potential for tourism, fishing and other economic activities within coastal areas. These analyses will provide explicit justification for improved management and protection of coastal resources. The threat modelling and economic valuation analysis are the central components of the project. Reefs@Risk intends to provide information and tools to a wide audience. All project results will be made available over the Internet. The published report and poster will be widely distributed within the region with an official launch at the 3rd SPAW COP and 11th IGM. The GIS planning tool and data sets, in addition to being available over the Internet, will be shared with local partners on CD-ROM.
135. UNEP-CAR/RCU, will review and evaluate existing management practices on MPAs and ICMs with coral reefs and compile case studies of best practices. CAR/RCU will continue to promote the adoption of best practices at selected sites.
136. As noted above, the major activity of ICRAN in the Caribbean will be the implementation of the USAID/UNF US\$3 million dollar project for the Mesoamerican Reef. This involves a comprehensive set of interlinked activities being initiated in collaboration with ICRAN partners and in close coordination with the GEF/Mesoamerican Barrier Reef System (MAR) and the PROARCA Projects. The Mesoamerican Reef Alliance (MAR) project, seeks to provide assistance in the sustainable use and conservation of the coral reefs of Central America, particularly those of the Mesoamerican Barrier Reef System. The Alliance was launched at the WSSD by USAID and the UN Foundation and regionally at the WW2BW Conference, Miami, Florida, March 2004.

The ICRAN MAR project aims to address the following issues:

- a) Assessing the status of activities on land and developing models to assist in best practices in watershed management. This also includes an estimation of dispersion of sediments and nutrients, explicit best practices for watershed management, and developing partnerships with the private sector for their implementation. ICRAN partners in this activity include WRI, WWF and UNEP-WCMC;
- b) Implementing a range of measures for sustainable tourism within coral reef areas that will both benefit local communities and assist in conserving the coral reef base for tourism. This includes the development of a code of conduct scheme for marine recreation providers, linkages between Caribbean and Central American sustainable tourism Initiatives, establishing partnerships with the private sector (e.g. the cruise ship industry), that will benefit all parties involved including the local community. ICRAN partners include CORAL, UNEP-DTIE and WWF; and
- c) Working with local communities to develop sustainable fisheries by assisting communities to monitor and manage their own resources, and undertake a range of income-generating activities. This will be achieved by building alliances between the fisheries and tourism sectors, utilizing fisheries cooperatives to facilitate alternative livelihoods for fisheries and the promotion of sustainable fisheries through demonstration sites. ICRAN partners include Reef Check and WWF. This activity will be partly implemented in other parts of the WCR with expected funds from the Swedish Government.

g) Training in Protected Areas and Wildlife Management

Objectives

137. The objectives to be achieved under this programme component are:

- a) To make training opportunities available for managers of marine and coastal protected areas and wildlife;
- b) To implement the training component of the ICRAN project;
- c) To develop a cadre of MPA managers in the region duly trained in the subject matter and with skills to train others within the local context; and
- d) To provide training opportunities for persons involved in policy formulation and development of legislation governing national frameworks for wildlife and protected areas management, as well as in SPAW implementation.

Activities

138. A major activity for the biennium will be the continuation of the Training of Trainers in MPA management programme initiated in 1999. This will include:

- a) Compilation by Governments of their national training programmes relevant to protected areas and wildlife to assist the secretariat in identifying existing resources and potential technical support;

- b) Two regional courses in Training of Trainers in Marine Protected Areas for English-speaking and Spanish-speaking MPA managers funded and implemented under the ICRAN project;
 - c) Implementation of local training activities by persons trained in the Training of Trainers course, for which nominal financial support will be provided;
 - d) The revision and upgrading of the Training of Trainers manual in both Spanish and English. This will be done in conjunction with TNC and the course facilitators; and
 - e) Identification of “best practices”. MPAs to be selected as sites for future training and internships within the region.
139. Another activity will be to continue and enhance coordination with relevant organizations, such as the Secretariats of CITES and CMS, IUCN, Wider Caribbean Sea Turtle Recovery Network (WIDECAST), and national agencies such as United States Fish and Wildlife Service, to develop collaboration on training activities in wildlife management of relevance to the region.
140. The SPAW secretariat will explore and fund raise to fulfil training on SPAW obligations and requirements in collaboration with governments, and in coordination with other Secretariats.
141. The secretariat will collaborate as appropriate with TNC in their workshops on Site Conservation Planning, which trains site managers to develop methodologies and strategies to reduce threats to protected areas.
142. Training in socio-economic monitoring will be implemented for eight (8) MPAs in the English speaking Caribbean (SIDS). Following the training, a stipend will be given to the selected sites to allow for socio economic data collection as a follow up to the training. This activity will be jointly funded by the US National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) and UNEP-CAR/RCU.

h) Sustainable Tourism

Objectives

143. The objectives of the sustainable tourism programme component are:
- a) To promote sustainable tourism practices;
 - b) To expand the achievements of the Caribbean Environment Network (CEN) project; and
 - c) To effectively develop linkages with CTO, the Caribbean Alliance for Sustainable Tourism (CAST), and other relevant organizations engaged in sustainable tourism in the Wider Caribbean.

Activities

144. Continued support to CTO and CAST in the development and implementation of standards and initiatives for sustainable tourism, specifically:
- a) Provision of general information and guidance on issues of relevance to SPAW;

- b) Coordination and support as appropriate to relevant training workshops;
 - c) Assistance in promoting the establishment of the Caribbean as a Sustainable Tourism Zone, approved by the 33 member countries of the CTO as the primary output of the Regional Tourism Policy Framework, and subsequently agreed by the Association of Caribbean States (ACS) (Cartagena, November 1997);
 - d) Facilitate implementation of the Caribbean Blue Flag Campaign. The third meeting of National Campaign Coordinators for the campaign (Ocho Rios, Jamaica, March 13-15, 2003) agreed to revise the water quality criteria to include coral reef conservation. UNEP-CAR/RCU is part of the Caribbean Blue Flag Regional Jury and will continue to promote the campaign.
145. Strengthening of human capacities for sustainable tourism to include two additional regional training courses using the training manuals developed from the CEN project; publication in Spanish of resource materials from the CEN project (particularly the Green Resource Directory, Case Studies in Best Management Practices in Hotels, Sand Dune Management Manual and the Manual for Sewage Treatment Operators); and support to the development of national strategies for sustainable tourism through the preparation of diagnostics of key tourism areas and national consultation processes with stakeholders in pilot countries where preliminary work was undertaken through CEN (possibly Anguilla, Dominican Republic, and Saint Lucia). Capacity building for the preparation and implementation of programmes in community-based tourism will be encouraged.
146. The secretariat will coordinate as appropriate with the OECS-ESDU in the implementation of the OECS Strategy for Sustainable Tourism. The strategy has a special focus on community-based sustainable tourism activities, and is therefore of particular importance to protected areas. Cooperation between the two institutions would increase the potential lessons to be learned from the demonstration activities under both programmes.
147. The secretariat will negotiate with IUCN to make documents on tourism and protected areas available to member Governments and relevant organizations.
148. The SPAW secretariat will collaborate as feasible with UNEP's Department of Technology, Industry and Economics (UNEP-DTIE) in the following ongoing initiatives:
- a) In partnership with the International Eco-tourism Society, the Rainforest Alliance, the Institute of Policy studies/Stanford University, and the World Tourism Organization (WTO), UNEP-DTIE is reviewing concrete public-private partnership examples on policy development and implementation to generate guidelines and standards for success. SPAW could contribute to the production of the handbook on the development and implementation of eco- and sustainable tourism strategies and policies (implementing the principles of the Quebec Declaration on Ecotourism and the Guidelines of the Convention on Biological Diversity on Sustainable Tourism in Vulnerable Ecosystems).
 - b) Collaboration on the promotion of UNEP's "Local Agenda 21 and Tourism", to provide capacity to local authorities to ensure sustainability of a particular destination and facilitate local tourism businesses arranged as multi-stakeholder initiatives. Work will be undertaken with the International Council of Local Environmental Initiatives and WTO on development of national workshops and experience sharing networks to build

local capacity and to disseminate tools and useful approaches to local destination governance; and

- c) Promote local multi-stakeholder dialogue for addressing key sustainability issues at destinations within the framework of the Tour Operators Initiative (TOI). Local workshops at selected destinations are organized through the TOI for the development of a destination plan, highlighting specific solutions for the key problems identified, proposing remedial actions and the responsibilities of various players.

149. The secretariat will continue communicating with the Center for Environmental Leadership in Business (CELB) of Conservation International (CI) to explore partnership opportunities under their Travel and Leisure Programme, which aims to reduce the risk of biodiversity loss from tourism activity and turn conservation into a source of competitive business advantage. CELB engages the private sector worldwide in creating solutions to critical problems in which industry plays a defining role.

C. Information Systems for the Management of Marine and Coastal Resources (CEPNET)

1. Background

150. CEPNET subprogramme has been evolving during the last biennium in function of the needs and activities of the other substantive subprogrammes of the CEP, mostly by facilitating the development of tools to organise and disseminate information relevant to the implementation of technical activities in support of the Cartagena Convention and its Protocols. The Programme Officer of CEPNET has worked closely with the Programme Officers of SPAW and AMEP, as well as with the Coordinator of CEP. Activities of CEP during the biennium 2002-2003 have evolved to take various opportunities in parallel to new initiatives or others that are continuously developed by the CEP and their partners. CEPNET provides support in the areas of access to data, management of information, development and maintenance of network of expertise and knowledge. CEPNET has the capabilities to design and implement projects and/or support training programme in GIS, remote sensing, Internet-based applications, such as web-GIS, on-line training and clearinghouse mechanisms. Some of those fields were not developed in the past workprogramme but the CEPNET Programme Officer is continuously seeking to promote them.
151. From the previous biennium and well into 2004, the CEPNET Programme Officer provided assistance to the Coordinator in overseeing the workplan and budget of the AMEP subprogramme, since the departure of its previous responsible in June 2003. The Coordinator also delegated the Programme Officer to more inter-agency coordination tasks and responsibilities. These added responsibilities have taken an important share of the workload of the CEPNET Programme Officer so far in 2004, which might have limited the capability of CEPNET to fulfil its workprogramme to the satisfaction of its responsible. However, the secretariat feels that this situation has allowed for a better integration of CEPNET to AMEP for many activities, notably for the implementation of the GPA Programme in the Caribbean and for the successful proposal of the GEF-IWCAM Project.

152. The primary objectives of the CEPNET subprogramme are:
- a) To strengthen capabilities for coastal and marine resources information management in the Wider Caribbean Region and the CEP countries;
 - b) To increase access to marine and coastal resources information through strengthening of networking mechanisms and database development;
 - c) To disseminate information resulting from the projects and activities of CEP; and
 - d) To assist the regional subprogrammes of CEP in matters related to information management.
153. This workplan is the continuation of the projects and activities of the biennium 2002-2003 as presented in the Report of the Executive Director of UNEP on the Implementation of the Caribbean Environment Programme (2002-2003) (UNEP (DEC)/CAR IG.24/INF.4). However, in light of the increased number of issues, activities and demand put on the secretariat as a whole, and specifically on the CEPNET team, some activities were removed from the previous workplan. As new opportunities in environmental information management and dissemination arised during the biennium, CEPNET has optimised its resources in their implementation while respecting the demand of the Member States. The development of the Partnerships website www.wv2bw.org is a good example of a new responsibility for CEPNET that impacts on its workprogramme in a very positive way but that, at the same time, takes an important part of its schedule.

2. Projects and activities

(a) Programme coordination

Objectives

154. Increasingly, CEPNET provide a supportive role to the other subprogrammes of CEP, up to the point where some activities of SPAW and AMEP are completely implemented through the CEPNET Programme as in the case of the CaMPAM database for SPAW and the GPA Clearinghouse for AMEP. In addition, the Coordinator of the CEP relies on CEPNET to coordinate many regional or international partnerships as the importance of a proper management of information or the maintenance of network is becoming crucial for their success and positive impacts.

Activities

155. The subprogramme will support and counsel the AMEP, SPAW and ETA subprogrammes for the design, maintenance and dissemination of the information they required or generate, through the existing tools of the CEP or by developing new instruments such as databases, clearinghouses, forum, etc.
156. CEPNET is either responsible or helps to the dissemination of the CEP products, principally through the Internet where applicable. It also coordinates responses to requests for information and external surveys on a day-to-day basis.

157. CEPNET maintains the CEP website, www.cep.unep.org. A consultant has worked since the beginning of 2004 to redesign the CEP website and it has been inaugurated on 25 June 2004. The new website better follows Internet trends and standards and takes advantage of new computing environment. The database orientation of its structure makes input by the secretariat members much easier. This mechanism will be extended to other partners to improve on the content of the website. In parallel, CEPNET will provide support to the maintenance of partner's websites. Also on 25 June, the Regional Activity Centre has opened its new website at www.rac-rempeitc.org and the personnel of REMPETIC will themselves populate and maintain the site from Curacao, with the guidance of the CEPNET Programme Officer. A website of the SPAW-RAC in Guadeloupe will also be developed using the same process. To improve the management of the websites, the secretariat will seek means to ensure a more permanent maintenance to provide up-to-date and useful information to the Member States and Contracting Parties.
158. The Coordinator of the CEP has delegated the CEPNET Programme Officer to be the UNEP-CAR/RCU focal point for the regional process of preparation to the Mauritius SIDS Conference in January 2005. RCU has been represented in the different regional preparatory meeting and products and initiatives of the CEP are integrated in the global UNEP preparation. UNEP will showcase its action for SIDS globally and the success of the Caribbean under the CEP will be clearly highlighted. The BPOA review and the probable implementation plan coming from Mauritius will be integrated to the five years strategy of the CEP and in the design of its future biennial workplan.

(b) Strengthening of the secretariat's information management capabilities

Objectives

159. CEPNET is responsible for the maintenance and development of the computer network of CAR/RCU. The computing environment serves for the CEP documents storage, communications and other services. The System Analyst of the CEP is part of the CEPNET team and will continue to maintain those services.

Activities

160. CEPNET will ensure the continuous maintenance of the CEP Experts, Institutions and Focal Points database. It will also provide support to the administration of the Unit and the liaison with UNEP Headquarters is also provided. Continuous population of the CEP website and Intranet will continue serving the capabilities of the secretariat.
161. Assistance and one-on-one training is often provided to ensure that all Staff Members of CAR/RCU are able to adequately deliver their services where their computing capabilities are required. The CEPNET team will seek to facilitate this support in the new biennium.
162. The documentation centre of CAR/RCU will also benefit from support of CEPNET to maintain the computerized catalogue of publications.

(c) Caribbean Environment Programme clearinghouse mechanisms*Objectives*

163. This group of activities will become an important part of the workload of CEPNET in this biennium as various global projects implemented in the Caribbean will partner with the CEP and also because long-term initiatives of CEP itself or in partnerships with other organisations will use the services of CEPNET for their implementation

Activities

164. Seed funds from UNEP were made available to further develop the Clearinghouse mechanism of the Global Programme of Action (GPA/CHM). Since the CEPNET Project in the late 1990's, some development has been done for the Caribbean node of the GPA/CHM. However, since a workshop at the GPA Secretariat in September 2003, the network of nodes is being more strongly supported by a new Steering Committee, on which sits the CEPNET Programme Officer. In addition, following the GPA Caribbean Meeting of Panama (12-15 February 2004), the White Water to Blue Water (WW2BW) Conference in Miami (21-26 March 2004) and the Hilltops to Ocean (H₂O) Conference in Cairns, Australia (10-14 May 2004), the role of the GPA/CHM is now seen as critical in supporting both the design and the implementation of the National Programmes of Action (NPAs). A new regional coordination mechanism co-lead by the GPA Secretariat, UNEP-CAR/RCU and the GPA Node of NOAA plans to assist over twelve countries in preparing their NPA in 2004-2005. CEPNET represents CAR/RCU in 2004 on this alliance and will support the subprogramme AMEP in the implementation of those NPAs. The CHM prototype will be reviewed to provide information to the participating countries to share experiences and lessons on the development of NPAs and will also collect information generated by the programmes themselves. Promotion of the NPAs and of their benefits will also be done through the CHM to make the NPAs good decision-making tools at the national and regional levels. The on-going NPAs in Jamaica, Saint Lucia and Trinidad and Tobago will serve as model to develop and test the CHM. The CHM will be presented at regional workshops planned under the AMEP subprogramme on NPAs.
165. The GEF project of AMEP on Integrating Watershed and Coastal Areas Management (IWCAM) has a regional component calling for the development and maintenance of a clearinghouse on best practices of integrated management as well as tool to facilitate the drafting and implementation of policies and strategies for IWCAM on policies. The CHM of IWCAM should also facilitate the monitoring and the evaluation of IWCAM activities, notably of the nine demonstration projects. The project is co-executed by UNEP-CAR/RCU and CEHI. CEPNET will provide support to the development of the IWCAM/CHM and make available the CEP website to increase the dissemination of information, for example through the other CHM like the GPA/CHM.
166. CEPNET develops and maintains since 2003 the Partnerships Website of the White Water to Blue Water Initiative (WW2BW) at www.ww2bw.org. With new funds from the Department of States of the United States of America and from NOAA for 2004 to 2006, CEPNET will further develop the website to support the work of the WW2BW Steering

Committee for the follow-up activities of the Miami Conference (March 2004). The website already has a database of projects and partnerships developed by the Conference co-Chairs, in addition to online tools to develop databases of agencies and experts. In this biennium, the project/partnerships database will become a key instrument to foster exchanges between partners of a project promoted under the umbrella of WW2BW as well as between projects and organisation working to the sustainable development of the Wider Caribbean Region. Forums are being created to prepare guidelines on successful partnerships and other will be created following the demands and the orientation WW2BW takes over the next 2 years. www.ww2bw.org will also showcase poster projects to show success stories on how to implement partnerships. The focus is more on the partnership exercise itself than on the theme or outputs of the projects. The website will act as a clearinghouse as users are able to search information on who, where, when, what, why, how. The website will not be a depositary but a provider of information on partnerships. From these activities, databases on lessons learnt and best practices for good partnerships will be developed.

167. The SPAW regional programme is an important partner in the consolidation of the Caribbean Network of Managers of Marine Protected Areas (CaMPAM). In the framework of a WW2BW partnership, SPAW has requested the support of CEPNET to make the CaMPAM database more accessible and more useful for the network. CEPNET, with funds from the Swedish Government, will work with the network to make the database available on Internet, as a searchable tool to which the network members will be able to provide input to. Coordination with The Nature Conservancy (TNC), the World Resources Institute (WRI), the University of Miami, the University of Puerto Rico and Environmental Defense aims at creating a prototype of database that will be tested by some MPAs in 2004. In 2005, the network will continue the population of the new database that will be oriented to better support not only the management of the MPAs themselves but provide materials for decision-making at the national and regional levels.

(d) Spatial analysis for decision-making

Objectives

168. The project aims to acquire the resources to develop, with relevant institutions and organizations, the tools and knowledge to increase the use of spatial analysis and modelling in the decision-making process of environment management in the Wider Caribbean Region. In 2004-2005, CEPNET will continue in seeking funds and partnerships to develop projects to bring the spatial components in the decision-making process. However, it is believed that CEPNET might join existing initiatives and help in increasing their impacts and the dissemination of their results and experiences instead of developing completely new projects in an independent way. Again, the role of CEPNET is becoming more and more one of facilitator of the CEP activities than the promoter of new initiatives. Its role within the CEP is being strengthened that way and its services are becoming more sustainable.

Activities

169. CEPNET will coordinate with the CaMPAM network to include in the design and development of the CaMPAM database a component or linkages with a geographic base for the MPAs. This will build on the Caribbean Reefs@Risk assessment and others. The capabilities of CEPNET in GIS and remote sensing will support the efforts of the network where applicable
170. The same approach will be used in the development of the IWCAM/CHM where geographic information will be collected or generated by the demonstration projects. CEPNET will also be part of any capacity building initiative on GIS and remote sensing that will take part under the IWCAM project.
171. CEPNET will also coordinate with other regional initiative of management of environmental information that will use, disseminate or catalogue spatial information. Among them:
 - a) Mesoamerican and Caribbean Geospatial Alliance (MACGA): Development of a Geospatial Mechanism in Mesoamerica to Facilitate Access and Dissemination of Spatial Information in Support of Developmental Objectives;
 - b) Inter-American Biodiversity Information Network (IABIN); and the
 - c) Caribbean Global Ocean Observing System (GOOS) with IOCaribe of the International Oceanographic Commission (IOC).

D. Education, Training and Awareness ¹**1. Background**

172. With the venue into force of the SPAW Protocol in 2000 and the first ratification by Trinidad and Tobago of the LBS Protocol in 2003, there is pressing demand from the CEP Member States to increase the visibility and buy-in of these important instruments. To support the activities of the SPAW Regional Programme and of AMEP, the CEP needs to develop promotional materials to increase the awareness on the environmental threats to the Caribbean Sea. In collaboration with the respective Regional Activity Centres for SPAW and LBS, activities to communicate the benefits of those Protocols and the costs of not implementing them are being developed. The strategy behind them aims at the general public, the school children but also at the decision-makers that need to bring those issues on the national environmental agendas.
173. No Programme Officer Position exist for the ETA Programme in the biennium 2004-2005. Most of the activities of the CEP involve ETA component, often in a very important way.

¹ Consistent with the decision taken by the Eighth Intergovernmental Meeting, the ETA subprogramme is not currently being coordinated separately by an ETA Programme Officer. As such the activities have been incorporated into the other subprogrammes as appropriate and relevant. In decision 11 of the Ninth Intergovernmental Meeting, the secretariat was requested to provide a draft ETA workplan for the biennium 2002-2003 and that the subprogramme be reformulated to provide assistance to the Protocols. Consistent with that decision, the following ETA workplan is presented to the Eleventh IGM.

This coordination is ensured by the various professionals of the secretariat through the work of the Programme Officers.

174. The objectives of the ETA programme are:

- a) To transform and improve educational systems for the integration of a consistent and positive behaviour towards the environment, and in particular, an understanding of the value and relevance of marine and coastal resources;
- b) To strengthen training programmes at the national and regional levels, aiming at the improvement of technical and managerial skills of decision makers responsible for the management of marine and coastal resources;
- c) To support the public awareness efforts of the media, community-based and non-governmental organizations geared towards the economic sectors and the general public for a better understanding of and a positive interaction with marine and coastal resources.

2. Projects and activities

(a) Promoting awareness and understanding of the LBS Protocol

Background

175. In 1999 the Protocol Concerning Pollution from Land-based Sources and Activities (LBS Protocol) to the Cartagena Convention was adopted in Aruba. In 2003, the Government of Trinidad and Tobago was the first to become Contracting Parties by acceding to the Protocol. Other countries are in the process of doing the same and the recent agreement between the Government of the United States of America and the Government of France on language issue on the text of the Protocol may bring the entry into force with nine Contracting Parties to a closer horizon. Still, a well-coordinated awareness campaign must strike at all Wider Caribbean stakeholders at both the regional and national level.

Objective

176. This project will develop a communications strategy and materials to raise awareness of the LBS Protocol in the region. The ultimate objective of such a strategy is to promote ratification and implementation of the Protocol at the earliest possible date. Although much of the awareness building at the national level can be facilitated by the LBS Protocol and CEP national focal points, many of the awareness materials should be developed at the regional level to promote uniformity and comprehensiveness of the message.

Activities

177. *Development of Awareness Materials.* Materials will include a general brochure on the LBS Protocol, its objectives, and benefits for the region and individual countries and a checklist of policy, legislative and technical requirements of the Protocol to be used as a needs analysis for ratification and accession by the Contracting Parties as well as DVDs, videos etc. Information material produced will be distributed at the workshops convened in AMEP projects. It is expected that promotional material such as a brochure in English and

DVDs, Videos etc. will be produced by the LBS/RAC in Trinidad, IMA with financial support from the Government of the United States of America. Additional funding for translation, dissemination, and support to the production of the promotional material will be provided by the Swedish Government.

178. *Development of a communications strategy for the LBS Protocol.* The strategy will review materials needed, workshops to be held and other appropriate and relevant means of communication. (The secretariat notes the offer made by the Government of Colombia, during the First Meeting of LBS/ISTAC, to support the development of awareness workshops.)

(b) Promotion of the Caribbean Environment Programme and its subprogrammes

Objectives

179. The project will facilitate the design and implementation of collaborative project in environmental education at the national and regional level; promote the development of adapted training programme in every sector of the society; and increase awareness to the protection and development of coastal and marine resources.

Activities

180. Regional projects for the promotion of the ratification/accession to the Protocol Concerning Pollution from Land-based Sources and Activities for the Member States of the CEP will be implemented by the RAC-Cimab in the Spanish speaking countries of the Wider Caribbean Region and with IMA in the English speaking countries. The projects will gather and prepare ETA materials on CEP and CEP-related themes for dissemination through the Internet or to be distributed by project teams.
181. Liaison with the CEP community and the general public will be maintained by providing indications on information availability regarding the protection and development of coastal and marine resources.
182. Material for the SPAW subprogramme will be gathered and prepared for dissemination through the "MPA Corner" of the CEP website.
183. Promotion of the CEP at regional and national fora, and through available media will be undertaken as feasible. Additionally, CEP will, as feasible and appropriate, provide support to national and regional ETA initiatives. These activities will be implemented with funding provided by the Swedish Government.
184. In order to promote the clearinghouse tools of CEPNET to the governments of the region, a brochure will be produced, which will facilitate the use of the tools available.

(c) Distance learning for integrated coastal management

Background

185. The promotion of best practices in integrated coastal area management (ICM) to reduce coastal use conflicts, in particular between urban wastewater disposal, agricultural

activities, freshwater use, coastal resource conservation and tourism is a focus of the CEP Action Plan, the Cartagena Convention, and more specifically within the Protocol Concerning Pollution from Land-based Activities. CEP is currently working together with IOCARIBE and GTZ in a partnership to assist the Governments in Integrated Coastal Zone Management. The AMEP Programme Officer will revise and reactivate the project outlined below.

Objectives

186. CEP, UWI and the University of Delaware will develop a distance learning training course for graduate students and government officials to strengthen linkages and communication between institutions within Caribbean nations in order to increase the knowledge of and technical base for the Wider Caribbean Region (WCR) in ICM.
187. CEP, UWI and the University of Delaware are each responsible for developing a portion (module or modules) of the course in relation to their area of expertise. Objectives of the course encompassed within the tasks to be completed by CEP include:
 - a) Improving knowledge of countries within the WCR that are involved with ICM and interventions relative to national and regional initiatives;
 - b) Defining stakeholders and their roles at national and regional levels including bilateral, multi-lateral and national level donors, managers and coordinators with regard to the development and implementation phases of ICM
 - c) Understanding the relationship and interconnectivity between international laws and policies with regional and national laws and regulations as well as current and proposed laws governing ICM and related socio-economic initiatives in the WCR on a national and regional basis;
 - d) Comprehending the phases of ICM, its application and related tools and techniques for the development and implementation of ICM projects at the regional, national and local levels;
 - e) Referencing case study examples relative to regional, national and local initiatives in the WCR.

Activities

188. UWI, the University of Delaware and CEP are each developing a course module or modules. Modules are to include lecture notes, PowerPoint presentation, video briefs narrated by a representative of the institution, references for additional reading, practice questions and testing.
189. UWI is focusing on the physical science of ICM. Their topics include the Caribbean coastal environment and major coastal problems in the Caribbean. The University of Delaware will contribute topics detailing ICM policy and social science, and in collaboration with the National Oceanic & Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), the assessment of ICM. Topics include concepts and practices, international agreements and global issues, institutional arrangements and processes and tools for ICM.

190. CEP's contribution to the project involves an overview of ICM at the regional and national levels in the WCR. Under the heading, *ICM in the Caribbean Region*, CEP will complete several lectures embodying:

- Financing ICM in the Caribbean
- National and Regional Initiatives
- Legal and Policy Framework for ICM
- Regional Guidelines for ICM
- Case study: ICM in Barbados
- Case study: ICM in Trinidad and Tobago

Annex I:

Budget for the Caribbean Environment Programme for the biennium 2004-2005

See separate document- UNEP(DEC)/CAR IG. 24/4 Annex I in meeting package.