



Fifth Meeting of the Interim Scientific, Technical and Advisory Committee (ISTAC) to the Protocol Concerning Pollution from Land-based Sources and Activities in the Wider Caribbean Region (LBS Protocol)*
24th – 28th May 2010
Panama City, Panama



Second Announcement
MARK YOUR CALENDARS!

At the invitation of the **Secretariat of the Convention for the Protection and Development of the Marine Environment of the Wider Caribbean Region (Cartagena Convention)**, the Fifth Meeting of the Interim Scientific, Technical and Advisory Committee (ISTAC) to the Protocol Concerning Pollution from Land-based Sources and Activities in the Wider Caribbean Region (LBS Protocol) will be held from **24th -28th May 2010 in Panama City, Panama.**

This LBS ISTAC will take place jointly with a workshop on the London Dumping Convention and the MARPOL Convention with support from the International Maritime Organization (IMO).

***While this Meeting is planned as the 5th ISTAC, the Secretariat is optimistic that the remaining three ratifications required to bring the LBS Protocol into force will occur over the next few months as several countries have indicated they are in the process of final ratification. If this does occur, the Secretariat would then convene the First Meeting of the Scientific, Technical and Advisory Committee (STAC) to the LBS Protocol.**

A. Introduction

The Intergovernmental Meetings: The major legal instrument of the Caribbean Environment Programme (CEP), the Convention for the Protection and Development of the Marine Environment of the Wider Caribbean Region (Cartagena Convention), was adopted at the Second Intergovernmental Meeting, convened at Cartagena de Indias in 1983. The Cartagena Convention provides the framework for the development of its current protocols on Oil Spills, Specially Protected Areas and Wildlife and Land-based Sources of Marine Pollution.

The Secretariat of the Cartagena Convention is further responsible for convening an *Ad Hoc Working Group* of Government-designated Experts to function as an Interim Scientific, Technical and Advisory Committee (ISTAC) on activities for the management and control of marine pollution from land-based sources. This group will function until the Land-Based Sources of Marine Pollution Protocol formally enters into force. The meeting will be the fifth of this *Ad Hoc Working Group*.

The LBS ISTAC Meeting convenes every two years. At the upcoming meeting participating Governments will review the outputs of the work plan from the 2008-2009 biennium and evaluate and endorse the workplan and budget of the Assessment and Management of Environmental Pollution (AMEP) Sub-Programme for 2010-2011. This workplan and budget will be then presented to the 14th Intergovernmental Meeting of the Cartagena Convention for final approval.

B. 5th ISTAC Meeting of the LBS Protocol

This meeting proposes to review the achievements of the AMEP sub-programme during the 2008-2009 biennium and to endorse the workplan of AMEP for the 2010-2011 biennium. The Secretariat, on behalf of the CEP Governments and Contracting Parties to the Cartagena Convention, convenes the Fifth LBS ISTAC Meeting to:

- Evaluate the projects and activities implemented by the Secretariat and the LBS Regional Activity Centres (RACs) within the Assessment and Management of Environmental Pollution (AMEP) sub-programme during the period 2008-2009;
- Review the progress made in the implementation of the Recommendations of the Fourth LBS ISTAC Meeting and the relevant Decisions of the Thirteenth Intergovernmental Meeting and Ninth Meeting of the Contracting Parties;
- Review the status of ratification and/or implementation of the LBS Protocol in member countries;
- Develop the AMEP Workplan and Budget for the 2010-2011 Biennium for subsequent submission to, and approval by, the Fourteenth Intergovernmental Meeting in 2010;
- Identify partner agencies and related projects that will facilitate more effective implementation of the 2010-2011 Workplan; and
- Identify new thematic areas for further project development as part of the AMEP Workplan.

The Meeting will also:

- Discuss key regional challenges and opportunities that could guide the further development and implementation of the obligations of the LBS Protocol; and
- Define practical and innovative approaches to strengthen partnerships with other marine environmental conventions, in particular, those that fall within the purview of the International Maritime Organization (IMO) such as the London Dumping Convention and the MARPOL Convention.

C. Participants

LBS focal points or their designated representatives of all States and Territories participating in the Caribbean Environment Programme and the Commission of the European Union are invited to attend the Meeting.

Other states that have demonstrated concern for the protection of the marine environment of the Wider Caribbean Region, UN and non-UN regional and international organizations, NGOs, donors and private sector representatives participating or interested in the Caribbean Environment Programme are also invited to attend the Meeting as observers. Regional and international experts may also be invited to make special presentations to the Meeting.

Further information will be made available on the UNEP-CAR/RCU website:

www.cep.unep.org

Contact: UNEP-CAR/RCU, Tel.: (876) 922-9267-9, Fax.: (876) 922-9292,
email: rcu@cep.unep.org or cjc@cep.unep.org