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# **Report of the Executive Director of UNEP on the status of the Caribbean Environment Programme (1997-1999)**



***Report of the Executive Director of UNEP on the status of the Caribbean Environment Programme 1997-1999***

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*Ninth Intergovernmental Meeting on the Action Plan for the Caribbean Environment Programme and Sixth Meeting of the Contracting Parties to the Convention for the Protection and Development of the Marine Environment of the Wider Caribbean Region. Kingston, Jamaica, 14-18 February 2000*



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## Report of the Executive Director Executive Summary

1. The period of 1997-1999 has seen many changes in the Caribbean Environment Programme (CEP). Since the Eighth Intergovernmental Meeting (IGM) in December 1996, and the many changes that Meeting brought to CEP, the Secretariat has implemented very significant programmatic and administrative/financial modifications to CEP. These included changes in the financial arrangements and reporting of the CEP to the IGM to provide a more transparent view of CEP finances and management as well as assisting the Secretariat in requests to donors for project funds. Administrative changes include the merging of the CEPOL and IPID Sub-programmes into a single Sub-programme on the Assessment and Management of Environmental Pollution (AMEP).
2. During the 1997-99 period CEP has, for the first time in several years, had consistent co-ordination through maintaining its Coordinator. The Secretariat is also pleased to announce the continuation of the Coordinator's contract through the end of 2001. The Secretariat believes that this continuity will greatly assist the Regional Coordinating Unit (RCU) in maintaining the many programmatic and administrative advances the CEP has made since the Eighth IGM and carry a stronger CEP Secretariat into the next millennium.
3. Other personnel changes have likewise been positive, including the hiring of an AMEP Programme Officer and of three general support staff, Clerk, Driver, and Information Systems Assistant under fixed-term contracts. In addition, a Legal Officer has been seconded to the RCU under the Junior Programme Officer programme of the Swedish government. These new positions have been an asset to the operation of the Secretariat and enable it to better serve the needs of the Caribbean Environment Programme. In mid-1998, the contract of Mr. Kjell Grip ended. Mr. Grip, a seconded Senior Programme Officer from Sweden, was a great asset to CEP. The Secretariat is grateful to Mr. Grip and the Government of Sweden for his service to CEP.
4. These organizational and managerial changes within the RCU, have been met with advances in the organization and implementation of CEP outside of Kingston as well. In 1999, RCU and the Government of France were able to complete the institutional arrangements of the first Regional Activity Centre (for the implementation of the Protocol on Specially Protected Areas and Wildlife (SPAW)).
5. In addition to the actions taken to implement the decisions of the Eighth IGM, the programmatic achievements of CEP have also been significant. During the period of 1997-1998, among the many other achievements of CEP have been the successful completions of two major projects in the CEPNET and SPAW Sub-programmes, in environmental information systems management and sustainable tourism respectively. Additionally, the other projects and activities of the SPAW and AMEP Sub-programmes have, consistent with the decisions of the Eighth IGM, placed a greater focus on linkages to the Cartagena Convention and its Protocols. CEP has also been able to secure funding from the Global Environment Facility for new projects in 1999-2001.
6. Following more than a decade of work by the Contracting Parties to the Cartagena Convention, on 6 October 1999, in Oranjestad, Aruba, the Parties adopted the Protocol Concerning Pollution from Land-based Sources and Activities (LBS Protocol). This new Protocol, with its strong emphasis on pollution prevention, reduction and control, signifies the Parties political commitment to combat this serious threat to the marine and coastal environment of the Wider Caribbean Region.

**7.** Also in the legislative area, after a period of eight years without additional governments acceding to the Cartagena Convention, the Dominican Republic acceded to Convention becoming the 20<sup>th</sup> Contracting Party. In addition, the Dominican Republic also ratified the Oil Spill and SPAW Protocols. As of 15 September 1999, following more than two years of active work by the Secretariat and non-governmental partners; only two additional Parties are needed to ratify the SPAW Protocol for it to enter into force.

**8.** The Financial status of CEP has taken an interesting turn, though far from totally positive. Despite some of the innovative measures taken per the decisions of the Eighth IGM and Fifth Monitoring Committee Meeting, ordinary contributions to the Caribbean Trust Fund (CTF) are still well below the funds needed to adequately staff and operate the Secretariat. Ironically, and despite this continuing trend toward fewer ordinary donations to the CTF, the Secretariat has been able to:

- a) Secure professional staff support from UNEP/Nairobi (cash value of US\$245,000);
- b) Secure a significant level of extraordinary contributions to the CTF and contributions earmarked for specific sub-programmes and projects, totaling more than \$US 1.44 million;
- c) Begin work on the first Block B grant of the Global Environment Facility (GEF) secured by the RCU, total of US\$295,000;
- d) Secured a significant portion of another GEF project in co-ordination with the United Nations Development Programme, total of US\$420,000.

**9.** The total amount of these funds raised by the Secretariat during the reporting period of 1997-1999 is more than US\$2.4 million. (This comes in addition to the US\$1.65 million raised for the CEPNET/IDB and SPAW/USAID sustainable tourism projects in the previous reporting period.) In addition, the RCU has begun work on two other GEF projects and has other major funding proposals out with other donors.

**10.** These tremendous advances in fund-raising and project development must be met with adequate funding of the CTF to ensure the necessary staff is in place to implement these projects crucial to meeting the goals and objectives of the Action Plan and Cartagena Convention, in addition to continuing their successes in fund-raising.

**11.** The Secretariat would like to recognize those donors that over the period 1997-99, have made significant extraordinary contributions to the Caribbean Trust Fund, or through grants, and the hosting of major meetings. These include: the Government of Sweden (SIDA), the Inter-American Development Bank, the Government of the USA (including the State Department, NOAA, EPA, and USAID), the Governments of the United Kingdom and the Republic of Cuba (host of the 4<sup>th</sup> SPAW/ISTAC), and the Government of Aruba (co-host of Conference of Plenipotentiaries for LBS Protocol) and the Coastal Zone Management Centre in the Netherlands.

## **I. Introduction**

**12.** The purpose of this document is to inform the Ninth IGM on the progress made in the implementation of the Caribbean Environment Programme during the period 1997-1999, since the Eighth IGM held in Kingston, 9-13 December 1996, giving special effect to:

- a) Management, administrative, and organizational changes;
- b) Achievements of projects and activities under the CEP and its various Sub-programmes;



- c) Status of the Cartagena Convention; and
- d) The financial arrangements of CEP.

**13.** In addition, specific reference will be made to recommendations and decisions of the following meetings:

- a) Second Meeting of the Legal/Technical/Policy Experts for the Development of a Protocol Concerning Land-Based Activities to the Convention for the Protection and Development of the Wider Caribbean Region, 24-28 February 1997;
- b) Twelfth Meeting of the Monitoring Committee of the Action Plan and Bureau of Contracting Parties, Kingston, 9-12 June 1997;
- c) Meeting of the Contracting Parties to the Cartagena Convention to Negotiate a Final Protocol Concerning Land-Based Activities to the Convention for the Protection and Development of the Wider Caribbean Region, Kingston, Jamaica, 16-18 June 1998;
- d) Fourth Meeting of the Interim Scientific and Technical Advisory Committee (ISTAC) to the Protocol Concerning Specially Protected Areas and Wildlife (SPA) in the Wider Caribbean Region, Havana, Cuba, 3-6 August 1999; and
- e) Conference of Plenipotentiaries to Adopt a Protocol Concerning Land-Based Activities to the Convention for the Protection and Development of the Wider Caribbean Region, Oranjestad, Aruba, 27 September – 6 October 1999.

**14.** This Report reflects the view of the Executive Director concerning the present status and future development of the Caribbean Environment Programme, as well as the objectives of the Ninth IGM.

## **II. Management, Administration, and Organization of the Programme**

**15.** In keeping with the decisions of the 8th IGM, in particular with decision 21, the Secretariat maximized resources in all areas during the reporting period. The most important structural changes in management and administration were in the areas of personnel and delivery of products and services.

### **A. Personnel**

**16.** During the reporting period, the number of professional staff in the Secretariat changed considerably in accordance to the availability of funds. The number of professional staff overall was reduced by five staff persons from 1997 to 1999. This was due mainly to the conclusion of the CEPNET/IDB Project and the staff funded under the project. At the end of 1999, there are three Programme Officers paid out of the Caribbean Trust Fund (CTF) and a Junior Professional seconded by Sweden, plus an Administrative Officer supported by UNEP Nairobi. The number of professional staff will most likely remain constant in the first quarter of the year 2000.

**17.** The Secretariat found temporary solutions to the problem created by a reduced number of professional personnel and the established work plan. During the reporting period, the Secretariat established agreements with the International Institute for Sustainable Development (IISD) of Canada to provide two junior information specialists to maintain and improve CEP's intranet and website. Furthermore, an intern specializing in management of marine resources provided support to the AMEP programme.

18. A summary of the personnel changes at the RCU has been as follows:

- a) Four professional and one support staff (Information Systems Assistant) were paid under the CEPNET project with the Inter-American Development Bank (CEPNET/IDB Project). During the period in which the IDB funds covered the salaries of these professional staff, the Secretariat had did not recruit a CEPNET Officer. In November 1998, in view of the fact that the IDB support was ending in January 1999, the Secretariat initiated a competitive recruitment to cover temporarily the CEPNET post, while simultaneously beginning the process of hiring a fixed-term staff member. This short-term recruitment was to ensure the continuation of activities initiated under the CEPNET/IDB Project as well as the implementation of the CEPNET programme. From February to December 1999 the Secretariat, met the staff needs of the CEPNET sub-programme in this way. Applicants for the fixed-term post of CEPNET Programme Officer have been short-listed and the recruitment could have been completed by November 1999. However, in a review of the current and projected fiscal situation, and considering the low level of contributions to the CTF, the Secretariat has chosen to freeze the recruitment for the CEPNET Post pending a decision of the 9<sup>th</sup> IGM on the work plan and budget for 2000-2001.
- b) As the work of the Secretariat relies more and more on electronic information and the use of computers and other electronics, the Secretariat requested the IGM at its former meeting to approve the creation of a position (Information System Assistant) to maintain the electronic equipment in RCU. During the 97-99 reporting period, the Post of the Information System assistant received funding under the CEPNET/IDB Project for eight months. After this period the post has been charged to the CTF.
- c) One Junior Professional Officer (JPO) in charge of CEPNET supported by the Swedish JPO programme until April 1997 and one Senior Professional Staff in charge of the AMEP programme, Mr. Kjell Grip, paid out the Swedish extraordinary contributions to the CTF until June 1998. CAR/RCU concluded the recruitment of the new Programme Officer for AMEP in May 1998. CAR/RCU was able to staff this post to replace Mr. Grip thanks to the extraordinary contributions of the Government of Sweden. As of the beginning of 2000 this post will depend on ordinary contributions to the CTF.
- d) An Administrative Assistant and an Administrative Officer has been and will continue to be paid by UNEP out of the 13% programme support costs (overhead) levied by UNEP Nairobi on contributions to the CTF.
- e) The temporary post of Acting Deputy Coordinator was charged to the CTF until the recruitment of the Coordinator. The CTF was the source of funding of these posts. (NB: As decided by the 8<sup>th</sup> IGM, the post of Deputy Coordinator has been held vacant.)
- f) Additionally, UNEP Nairobi contributed a Programme Officer from August 1997 through March 1999 to support the SPAW programme. The principal assignment of this Programme Officer was to be in charge of the UNEP/USAID project on sustainable tourism.
- g) As decided by the IGM, the post of Legal Officer was budgeted out of the CTF until April 1997. After this period, this post was frozen until the Government of Sweden seconded a Junior Professional Staff in November 1998.
- h) Five support staff were paid out of the CTF and two vacant posts, Driver and Clerk were staffed at the end of 1998. Furthermore (as mentioned above), the post of the Information System Assistant was charged to the CTF at the conclusion of the IDB support.

19. The level of contributions to the CTF did not allow staffing the ETA position. For the next biennium (2000-2001) the Secretariat envisages that the funds required for this post will still not be available from the CTF, but from counterpart contributions if obtainable.

20. A complete organization chart can be found in Annex I to this report.

## **B. Improvement of the Secretariat's Capacity to Deliver Products and Services**

21. During the reporting period, the Secretariat started developing and making use of more effective means to manage information as a result of the support of the IDB. At the beginning of 1997, most of the internal and external communications were on the bases of fax and paper (hard copies); by the end of 1999 these have been reduced to the minimum, replaced by the email facilities and by the internal electronic network. The increase in the use of these tools required staff training. The training was mainly provided in-house. The need for personnel training has greatly increased as CAR/RCU now requires all personnel to have basic knowledge of Internet, intranet and email applications.

22. In house-training was also addressed to increase individual capacities of the staff to cover a variety of assignments and provide for professional growth. Consequently, support staff now maintains databases, help the administration using accounting software and, prepare documents and presentations using publishing applications.

23. The Secretariat also initiated a study on the effectiveness of the information management practices of the CAR/RCU. This study has resulted in several new improvements including the updating of databases, better use of electronic communication internally, and a new library cataloguing system. Additional information policies such as the distribution of conference documents, technical reports, and CEPnews, all through the CEP web-site, allows CEP to reach a larger audience and has resulted in cost savings in the areas of mailing and printing. The increased capacity of the Secretariat on information management has resulted in more efficient work. To continue this trend, the Secretariat will continue moderate investments in equipment, software, and formal training of staff.

24. The translation of documents continues to be time-consuming and costly. As a cost saving measure to the CTF and another innovative way for CEP member countries to meet their payments to the CTF, the Secretariat is kindly soliciting in-kind contributions of translation services from member countries. The Secretariat looks forward to participation in this new approach to both cut costs and meet countries' obligations to the CTF.

25. Thanks to the support of the Government of Jamaica, the premises of the Secretariat (CAR/RCU) were updated and redesigned to meet the needs of the Secretariat. Among these improvements is a new conference room within the Secretariat capable of hosting meetings and workshops up to 30 people. In the past, such events necessitated the rental of conference facilities.

### III. Programme Achievements

#### A. Secretariat Response to decisions of the Eight IGM

##### *Financial Issues*

**26.** In keeping with the decision of the Contracting Parties, the Secretariat has addressed the need for prompt payment of arrears. Strategies used included *inter alia*:

- a) Reminders sent to all Governments to make prompt payment of arrears and annual contributions to the CTF. Some payment of arrears was received, though many are still outstanding.
- b) Encouraging member governments to host meetings (with cash savings as an alternative to a full cash contribution to the CTF. This proved successful in two meetings held in the 97-99 period.
- c) CAR/RCU was able to augment its workforce at no cost to the CTF by obtaining assistance from interns as well as a Programme Officer on loan from the UNEP Water Branch for the 97-98 timeframe and two secondments from the Government of Sweden. CAR/RCU continues to recruit interns and encourages the secondment of Programme Officers from member countries and others.

**27.** The Eighth IGM (decisions 3 and 4), requested that governments bring the issue of 13 per cent programme support costs to the 1997 meeting of the UNEP Governing Council (GC) and request that these costs be waived. Despite the efforts of some Caribbean governments in this regard, the 13 per cent programme support costs will continue to be levied on contributions to the CTF. Additionally, decision 20/35, from the 20<sup>th</sup> session of the GC, held in February 1999, requests the Executive Director to implement the *charging of the full 13 per cent programme support costs to all the trust-fund expenditures and related expenditures financed from voluntary contributions of counterpart contributions*. The 13 per cent programme support costs will therefore be levied on all CTF contributions (including counterpart contributions) beginning from 1 January 2000. The Secretariat must therefore take this decision into account in any negotiations with potential donors.

**28.** In keeping with decision 5, no reserve funds from UNEP were used as a short-term fix to solve existing budget problems.

**29.** In keeping with the decision 6, the Secretariat's financial management approach has been to use cash contributions to the CTF as the primary funding base of the Programme.

**30.** In keeping with decision 7, the European Commissioner for the Environment has been contacted in view of getting the European Union to ratify the Cartagena Convention and its Protocols as soon as possible. No response has yet been received.

**31.** In keeping with the decision of the Contracting Parties, the Secretariat has also actively developed closer relations with European Union (the EC Representation in Jamaica, in particular) with the support of the African-Caribbean-Pacific (ACP) countries, and the countries of the European Union present in the region, to ensure that the Caribbean Regional Environmental Programme of CARIFORUM be integrated with the Caribbean Action Plan, its sub-programmes, and activities. The Secretariat has approached the European Union on the implementation of this matter and will continue to push this forward.

### ***Management and Administration***

**32.** In keeping with the decision of the Contracting Parties, the Secretariat has developed a new proposal for Rules of Procedure. The Draft Rules of Procedure for the Caribbean Environment Programme will, if approved by the 9<sup>th</sup> Intergovernmental Meeting and the subsequent UNEP Governing Council, establish a more autonomous UNEP-CAR/RCU. The rules are designed to improve the overall administration and management in the areas of staff recruitment, contracting, monitoring and financial management. For ease of reference, the Draft Rules of Procedure are based on the Rules of Procedure of the UNEP Governing Council as well as the Suggested Modifications to the Revised Draft Rules of Procedure for the Meetings and Conferences Convened within the Framework of the Action Plan for the Caribbean Environment Programme (UNEP (OCA)/CAR IG.11/4) and Suggested Modifications to the Proposed Rules of Procedure for the Meetings and Conferences of the Contracting Parties to the Convention for the Protection and Development of the Marine Environment of The Wider Caribbean Region and to its Related Protocols (UNEP(OCA)/CAR IG. 11/5).

**32.** In keeping with the decision of the Contracting Parties, the relationship between UNEP-CAR/RCU and UNEP/Regional Office for Latin America and the Caribbean (ROLAC) has also been more clearly defined. UNEP-CAR/RCU, as always, reports directly to UNEP/Nairobi. Under the new organization of UNEP, with the dissolution of the Water Branch, CAR/RCU is now part of the Division of Environmental Conventions. The Division of Environmental Conventions is distinct from the Division of Regional Representation to which ROLAC reports. Further, the Secretariat is pleased to say that co-ordination between the ROLAC and CAR/RCU has increased and will hopefully lead to increased complementarity between activities of the two offices. CAR/RCU has also increased co-ordination with the UNEP/Regional Office for North America (RONA). RONA supports CAR/RCU on an as requested/needed basis.

### ***Streamlining CEP: 1998 - 1999***

**33.** In keeping with the decision 11, the restructuring of CEP has taken place to focus activities primarily on the direct implementation of the Cartagena Convention and its Protocols. In this regard, sub-programmes have been redesigned to meet this need. See also paragraph below regarding decision 16.

**34.** In keeping with the decision 12 of the Contracting Parties, the post of Deputy Coordinator has been held vacant during the reporting period of 97-99.

**35.** The Secretariat continues to acknowledge the critical importance of the Education, Training and Awareness Programme (ETA) and retains it as an integral part of the CEP. Also, in keeping with the decision 15 of the Contracting Parties, the Secretariat has actively sought funding by for the ETA Programme Officer following discussions with the Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA) and the Department of Foreign International Development (DFID) of the United Kingdom. Though we have not yet been successful in raising the funds, the Secretariat continues its search.

**36.** In keeping with the decision 16, the AMEP programme was created to combine the CEPOL and IPID Programmes into a single sub-programme to meet the objectives of both. AMEP primarily responds to the recently adopted Protocol Concerning Pollution from Land-Based Sources and Activities (LBS Protocol) and the Oil Spill Protocol. AMEP has pursued good working relations with the Global Programme of Action (GPA) for its regional implementation. The new AMEP Programme Officer started his post in May 1998.

**37.** Recognizing the critical importance of the legal component of the CEP for the development and implementation of the Convention and its Protocols and in keeping with decision 17, the Secretariat actively sought and received a secondment from the Swedish Government for a Legal Officer. CAR/RCU will continue to work with Sweden for continuation of this secondment.

**38.** In keeping with decision 21, the revised 1996-1997 workplan and budget was implemented within the bounds of available resources.

**39.** In keeping with decision 22, CEP has deferred adoption of the suggested amendments to the document "Proposed Financial Mechanisms for the Management of the Action Plan and the Cartagena Convention of the Caribbean Environment Programme", (UNEP (WATER)/CAR IG.13/7) until the current 9<sup>th</sup> Intergovernmental and Contracting Parties Meeting.

**40.** In keeping with decision 23, the Secretariat has actively sought ratifications of the Cartagena Convention and its Protocols and provided technical/legal assistance in doing so. The SPAW Protocol was ratified by five states since the 8<sup>th</sup> Intergovernmental Meeting, bringing the total to seven ratifications. The Dominican Republic acceded to the Cartagena Convention and the Oil Spills Protocol on 24 November 1998. The Cartagena Convention has been ratified or acceded to by 20 of the current 28 United Nations Member States in the Wider Caribbean Region.

**41.** In keeping with decision 25, a Memorandum of Co-operation was signed in March 1997 between the Regional Coordinating Unit and the Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity. Consultations have been initiated with the Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity to implement the Memorandum of Co-operation through relevant activities.

**42.** In keeping with decision 26, CEP serves as the regional contact point for the International Coral Reef Initiative (ICRI) in the Wider Caribbean Region and supports the activities of the Global Coral Reef Monitoring Network (GCRMN) of ICRI. The Secretariat developed and implemented a number of activities in keeping with ICRI objectives which included co-ordination with the ICRI secretariat, preparation and dissemination of media packages for the International Year of the Reef (IYOR) preparation in English, Spanish and French and participation at ICRI's Coordinating and Planning Committee Meeting (CPC) and the global conference of ICRI.

**43.** In keeping with decision 27 concerning institutional arrangements and Terms of Reference for REMPEITC, the Secretariat has been working with IMO and the current REMPEITC-Carib partners on the institutionalisation of REMPEITC-Carib. At the writing of this report, the Secretariat was facilitating the development of appropriate institutional mechanisms to establish REMPEITC-Carib as a Regional Activity Centre (RAC) for CEP when the existing MOU (under which REMPEITC-Carib currently operates) expires in June 2001.

**44.** In keeping with decisions 30 and 31, the Secretariat and Sida concluded an agreement outlining Swedish support to the Caribbean Environment Programme. CEP received more than US\$110,000 each year for the 1998-1999 biennium in support to the CTF. The Secretariat also acknowledged the tremendous contribution of the Swedish government, including through the production of a small booklet outlining benefits of their contributions.

## **B. Secretariat Response to decisions of the Twelfth Monitoring Committee Meeting**

**45.** The comments provided by the Third Meeting of the Interim Scientific and Technical Advisory Committee (Kingston, 11-13 October 1995), as well as those provided by governments to the Secretariat, were incorporated in the draft analysis on the CBD, CITES and SPAW Protocol (UNEP (OCA) / CAR WG.19 / 4), prior to its finalisation for adoption by the Twelfth Monitoring Committee and Special Bureau of Contracting Parties Meeting (June 1997). Additionally, the document UNEP (OCA) / CAR WG.19/ 4 was presented as an information document to the Second Conference of the Parties of the CBD (COP2) (Jakarta, 6-17 November 1995), as well as to its preparatory meeting in Argentina (Buenos Aires, 18-19 October 1995). The Secretariat utilized this document to assist with the preparation of the CBD-SPAW Co-operative Programme, developed as requested in decision No. 1 of the

Seventh Intergovernmental meeting of CEP. This co-operative programme was brought to the attention of the COP2 and its preparatory meeting.

**46.** The members of the Programming and Evaluation Committee (PEC) of the Project for Strengthening the Capabilities for Management of Coastal and Marine Environmental Resources in the Wider Caribbean Region (CEPNET/IDB Project) were elected as follows:

- a) Costa Rica
- b) Netherlands Antilles
- c) U.S.A.
- d) IDB Representative
- e) Two CAR/RCU Representatives

**47.** In response to decision 3, the Secretariat completed the Memorandum of Understanding with the Government of France for the establishment of the SPAW Regional Activity Centre (RAC). After having consulted with the French Government and the Legal Unit in Nairobi, the Secretariat has presented a proposal which the Government of France is expected to sign in the near future.

**48.** Decision 4 asked the Secretariat to forward the institutional arrangements for REMEPITC-Carib to the 9<sup>th</sup> IGM. As discussed in paragraph 31 above, the Secretariat is working to develop REMPEITC-Carib as a RAC for CEP.

**49.** In keeping with decision 5, enclosed within the Draft Rules of Procedure, that address the Meetings and Conferences Convened Within the Framework of the Action Plan and Meetings and Conferences of the Contracting Parties, is a discussion on procedural matters relating, *inter alia*, to the selection of Government and Monitoring Committee members to participate in CEP project committees (See under Art. 62 of the said rules, in particular).

**50.** In accordance with decision 9, the chairperson, and other members of the Monitoring Committee, drafted a letter to the Executive Director regarding a waiver of the 13 per cent programme support costs. As requested by the Monitoring Committee, the Secretariat forwarded the letter to the Executive Director of UNEP under the signature of Ms. Marie-Ange Louis, St. Lucia. The letter was mailed during 12<sup>th</sup> Monitoring Committee Meeting in June 1997.

**51.** In keeping with the request of the Parties in decision 11, the Secretariat participated in the meetings of IOCARIBE over the course of 1997-99 to co-ordinate workplans and has invited IOCARIBE to the meetings of CEP. Though the two Secretariats have concluded that there is no overlap of activities at this time, there is still a need to co-ordinate workplans more closely to improve complementarity between the activities of the two organizations.

**52.** In response to decision 12, the Secretariat reports, as stated above, that despite work to secure funding for an ETA Programme Officer, we have not yet achieved the level of funding necessary to open the post necessary to implement this sub-programme.

**53.** During the reporting period, there was intense work by the Association of Caribbean States (ACS) to develop its environmental strategy. In keeping with decision 16, the Secretariat co-ordinated very closely with the ACS to promote complementarity of this strategy with the Action Plan and Cartagena Convention. In addition, the Secretariat is pleased to report that the Cartagena Convention is being reviewed by the ACS as a potential vehicle for carrying out its environmental strategy. The Secretariat has been promoting ACS support for CEP in this regard.

### ***Legal Agreements***

**54.** The Convention for the Protection and Development of the Marine Environment of the Wider Caribbean Region (the Cartagena Convention), which is a legally binding multilateral environmental agreement for the Wider Caribbean Region, has now been ratified by twenty Contracting Parties. The Dominican Republic presented its instruments to be bound by the Cartagena Convention and the Oil Spills Protocol in November 1998.

**55.** The Specially Protected Areas and Wildlife (SPAW) Protocol of the Cartagena Convention establishes regional mechanisms for the development and implementation of guidelines for the conservation and preservation of threatened and endangered species and to protect areas of ecological importance to the health of the coastal and marine environment of the Wider Caribbean Region. During 1998, Cuba, Colombia and the Dominican Republic ratified SPAW, bringing the total number of Parties to seven. Two more ratifications are required for the Protocol to enter into force. Governments in process of ratification are France, the United Kingdom, Jamaica and Trinidad and Tobago.

**56.** A Conference of Plenipotentiaries to Adopt the Protocol to the Cartagena Convention Concerning Pollution from Land-based Sources and Activities was convened, with the kind assistance of the Governments of Aruba and the United States of America (USA). The Conference was held from 27 September to 6 October 1999 in Oranjestad, Aruba. 16 Contracting Parties to the Cartagena Convention signed following seven final days of negotiation, the Final Act to adopt the Protocol. Following its adoption, the Protocol was opened for signature and four Parties signed the Protocol. The Protocol is open for signature until 6 October 2000, in Bogotá, Colombia, by any Contracting Party to the Convention.

## **C. Sub-Programme Workplan Achievements**

### ***C.1. AMEP Sub-programme***

**57.** The AMEP Programme was inaugurated in 1998 with the consolidation of the former CEPPOL and IPID Sub-programmes. As such, the reporting period of 1997-99 covers the completion of former CEPPOL and IPID projects and activities as well as newly initiated or completed AMEP projects and activities.

#### **C.1.1. Land-Based Pollution**

**58.** With financial assistance from the USA, CEP was able to advance two critical projects (resulting in Technical Reports 40 and 41) for the advancement of the technical annexes to the LBS Protocol and to provide further technical assistance in the area of prevention, reduction and control of pollution from land-based sources.

**59.** In January 1998, the CEPPOL project to identify appropriate technologies for sewage treatment and best management practices for agricultural non-point sources held a workshop to discuss the results of the studies and provide advice to the Meeting of the Contracting Parties to Negotiate a Final Protocol to the Cartagena Convention Concerning Land-Based Activities, June 1998. The final reports of this project are available in CEP Technical Reports 40 and 41. (The final documents are now on the CEP website.) In addition to the technical assistance these studies provided to CEP's countries, they also were successful in providing the technological and programmatic input to the Secretariat to enable it to develop annexes for the LBS Protocol on Domestic Sewage and Agricultural Non-point Sources.

**60.** Technical report 40 was followed up by an AMEP training workshop of over 60 participants from the WCR held in Montego Bay, Jamaica in November 1998. The workshop



on Environmentally Sound Technologies for Sewage Treatment was held in collaboration with UNEP's International Environmental Technology Centre (IETC) in Osaka, Japan. The workshop format included presentations and papers from each member country of the Caribbean Environment Programme present at the workshop. These country presentations provided the workshop with the opportunity to review the existing state of domestic wastewater needs and opportunities throughout the Wider Caribbean Region. Many country participants, in addition to providing a status report, described new low-cost, low-tech technologies they are experimenting with. Presentations from regional and extra-regional invited experts (Canada, Australia, and Cape Verde), contributed with other appropriate, innovative wastewater treatment technologies for large and medium-sized urban communities as well as on-site and household systems. This information has been compiled in a joint report of IETC and CAR/RCU and is being translated into Spanish and French. In addition to providing a good reference for the region, it also provides some good baseline information on the current state of sewage treatment in the region.

**61.** This work on sewage treatment and technology exchange is being completed to meet the AMEP objectives and provide technical resources for the implementation of the LBS Protocol. In addition, it is laying the groundwork for collaboration with the UNEP Office of the Global Programme of Action (GPA) and their developing Sewage Strategy for which the AMEP Sub-programme is providing technical assistance.

**62.** Regarding further work on agricultural non-point sources and the relation to Annex IV of the Protocol on Land-based Sources, the AMEP Sub-programme was able to receive approval for the first Block B grant to CEP under the Global Environment Facility (GEF). The project, entitled: Reducing Pesticide Run-off to the Caribbean Sea, has been granted Project Development Funds (PDF) to develop national action plans for the improved management of pesticides in Nicaragua, Costa Rica, Panama, and Colombia. Following the PDF portion of the project, CEP will apply to GEF for funding of the identified action plans. This project has direct implications for inclusion in the National Plans called for under Annex IV to the LBS Protocol. Agricultural non-point sources were also addressed in Technical Report 41 and provide a good technical reference for agriculture in the WCR and the use of best management practices applicable to the Region.

**63.** In addition to the activities to reduce pollution from land-based sources listed above, during the 1997-99 period, the AMEP (and formerly CEPPOL) Sub-programme serviced three meetings of the governments to negotiate the LBS Protocol successfully concluding with the Conference of Plenipotentiaries which adopted the Protocol on 6 October 1999, in Oranjestad, Aruba.

### **C.1.2. Integrated Planning**

**64.** During this reporting period, the CEP project on Heavily Contaminated Bays successfully concluded with diagnostic analyses for four heavily contaminated bays in the region -- Point Lisas, Trinidad and Tobago; Bahia de Pozuelos, Venezuela; Santo Domingo, Dominican Republic; and Bluefields, Nicaragua. These studies were conducted in co-ordination with the Centro de Ingenieria y Manejo Ambiental de Bahias y Costas (CIMAB) in Cuba. Final reports from the four studies were presented in the Fourth Technical Advisory Committee Meeting of the project in July 1998 and CIMAB concluded the project with a final report with recommendations for furthering the development and implementation of management plans. The target countries are now poised to move to the next stage of pre-feasibility studies and action plans to address the problems facing these bays.

**65.** As a follow-up to these studies, and as a means to wrap up this phase of the project, the AMEP Sub-programme, is developing a methodological guide to studies of contaminated bays in the Caribbean. A workshop of experts from the countries that had participated in

the projects (both UNEP and UNDP projects) was convened in June 1999 to review the draft guide. The objective of the guide is for other countries to be able to use the guide for their own studies, based on the experiences learned of the eight countries that had participated in the original studies. This project, also known as the "Tool Box" project, should be printed in the first quarter of 2000.

**66.** CAR/RCU is also working in partnership with the Caribbean Environmental Health Institute (CEHI) on a GEF PDF Block B grant for a project involving coastal and freshwater management in small island developing states (SIDS) of the Wider Caribbean Region. The project, entitled: Integrating Freshwater and Coastal Zone Management in SIDS of the Caribbean, provides funding opportunities to all island countries of CEP interested in participating and will bring together the freshwater expertise of CEHI and the coastal expertise of CAR/RCU. CAR/RCU looks forward to a formal partnership with CEHI and has already received positive word about GEF funding for the project which is expected to begin in the first quarter of 2000.

### **C.1.3. Oil Spills**

**67.** As a follow-up to oil spill response training held in Jamaica in 1996, CAR/RCU in co-ordination with REMPEITC-Carib, sponsored a second course for On-Scene Commanders (OSC) in Ft. Lauderdale, Florida from 22-26 February 1999 for those countries that were unable to attend the 1996 course offered on the topic. Officially, the course is known as "IMO Model Course Level II." The course outline and training materials, developed by IMO, provide information and training for the OSC in the event of an oil spill in marine waters. Oil spill response training is a critical component of implementing the Oil Spills Protocol of the Cartagena Convention. The Model Course Level II provides a mix of classroom instruction, case studies, and simulated exercises in the field. It is a very comprehensive course covering topics from contingency planning, through spill response, clean up and ending with liability/compensation and oil spill response deactivation. The course also included a full-day workshop on the use of oil dispersants. "Homework" was given to each participant to go back to their country and work to improve their national contingency plans as well as training of their colleagues. The course was well received by all participants.

**68.** Of particular note was the co-operation between CAR/RCU, REMPEITC-Carib and Clean Caribbean Co-operative (CCC). CCC is a private co-operative of Caribbean based oil companies that have pooled their resources for oil spill response to CCC member companies in the Caribbean. They have a significant stockpile of oil spill response equipment and oil dispersants and have the capability to mobilise this equipment to anywhere in the Caribbean in a 24-hour period. Their assistance in the delivery of training was crucial to the success of the course. It is not often that we have the opportunity to work side-by-side with the private sector, but it is an area on which the Secretariat is working to improve.

**69.** The AMEP Sub-programme is now working with the REMPEITC-Carib partners about long-term institutionalisation and funding for the Centre with the hope of creating a CEP Regional Activity Centre for Oil Spills when the current institutional arrangements for REMPEITC-Carib expire in June 2001.

### **C.1.4. Hazardous Wastes**

**70.** Regarding the improved management of hazardous wastes, two main themes have been contemplated during previous IGM's: a) the need for a legal instrument (either a new protocol or an annex to the LBS Protocol) and b) technical projects to assist the countries of the region to improve management of their wastes. In response to the discussion of a legal instrument, the IGM has, in the past, urged ratification of the Basel Convention as an interim measure. The Secretariat is pleased to announce that all but a few Parties to the

Cartagena Convention have now become Party to Basel as well, making the Basel Convention applicable throughout most of the Caribbean.

**71.** A project on the management of hazardous wastes has been in the workplan now through two biennia though the Secretariat has not yet been able to secure a donor to fund the project. Nonetheless, in exploring the options and funding possibilities with the Secretariat of the Basel Convention, the Secretariat would like to inform the 9<sup>th</sup> IGM of several activities that are on-going in the Wider Caribbean Region that may preclude the our need for a separate activity in this project area. As a result of the Caribbean Seminar on Environmentally Sound Management of Hazardous Wastes held in St. Lucia in 1996, several activities were undertaken by the Secretariat of the Basel Convention. These include:

- a) Code of Practice for the Environmentally Sound Management of Asbestos Containing Materials in the Caribbean, March 1999;
- b) Technical Report on the Caribbean Asbestos Forum, July 1999; and
- c) Project on "Assistance to developing countries in implementing the Basel Convention and in preparing hazardous waste management plans", (includes a chapter specific to the Caribbean Region and Annexes on "Recommendations and Programme of Action for the Caribbean Region") November 1998.

**72.** In addition to the projects and activities listed above, the Secretariat of the Basel Convention is establishing regional and sub-regional centres for training and technology transfer. For Latin America and the Caribbean, these centres are being established in Argentina, El Salvador and Trinidad (at the Caribbean Industrial Research Institute -- CARIRI). These centres will therefore, move to implement the programmes of action identified by the region and the Secretariat of the Basel Convention. CAR/RCU is coordinating with CARIRI and the Secretariat of the Basel Convention to ensure the concerns of the CEP governments are heard in these forums. At this stage, the Secretariat will continue to co-ordinate with these organizations and is not recommending a separate activity in the AMEP workplan as it would be duplicative of other work ongoing.

## ***C.2. SPAW Sub-programme***

### **C.2.1. Programme Co-ordination**

**73.** The Secretariat, in particular since 1997, has actively promoted the SPAW Protocol at different regional and international fora, as well as during bilateral consultations with governments. The following countries have ratified the SPAW Protocol since 1997: Venezuela (28 January 1997); Colombia (5 January 1998); Cuba (4 August 1998) and Dominican Republic (24 November 1998).

**74.** Additionally, the Governments of France, Jamaica and the U.K. have officially informed the Secretariat that the process of ratification has been initiated in their countries.

**75.** The Fourth Meeting of the Interim Scientific and Technical Advisory Committee (ISTAC) to SPAW was successfully convened in Havana, Cuba, 3-6 August 1999. The Secretariat was successful in raising funds from the Governments of Cuba and the U.K. for the convening of the Meeting. ISTAC reviewed the SPAW achievements and shortcomings, as well as its draft 2000-2001 Workplan and Budget and made relevant recommendations for approval by this Meeting as contained in UNEP (WATER)/CAR WG.22/5.

**76.** Negotiations have continued with the government of France for the establishment of the SPAW Regional Activity Centre (RAC). The final Draft Agreement between the Government of France and UNEP for the Contracting Parties Regarding the Establishment in Guadeloupe of the SPAW RAC for the Wider Caribbean Region, was sent by the UNEP/CAR-RCU to the

French Government on 9 October 1998 for signature. It is envisaged that the RAC will open in December 1999.

**77.** Furthermore, a Memorandum of Co-operation was signed between UNEP and the CBD Secretariat on 17 March 1997. Since then a number of informative exchanges have been undertaken between both Secretariats on possible areas of collaboration, but to date no specific activities have been jointly implemented.

**78.** The Secretariat has strengthened its efforts concerning the co-ordination of activities on coastal ecosystems management undertaken at the regional and sub-regional levels with a number of regional intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations, such as the OECS-NRMU, IUCN, CCAD, CCA, CTO, CHA/CAST, ECCN, IFAW, IUCN, Monitor International, TNC, UWICED and many others. A number of activities were undertaken in collaboration and/or co-ordination with these organizations.

**79.** In this context, it is important to note that through the Secretariat's promotion of SPAW and its Programme, UNEP-CAR/RCU was designated by the 1997 SIDS Caribbean Ministerial Meeting, as the lead agency for biodiversity issues co-ordination in the Caribbean under the SIDS Programme of Action.

**80.** There is also collaboration with other CEP Programmes, in particular CEPNET to maintain and update the SPAW databases on marine protected areas (CaMPAM) and SPAW listed species, as well as for the development of information on SPAW and its activities for incorporation into CEP's Web Page. Furthermore, through CEPNET and CEP's Web Page, the programme developed and hosted until recently the Web Page of the Caribbean Alliance for Sustainable Tourism (CAST) one of the major partners representing the private sector in the regional USAID/UNEP CEN Project. Linkages have been developed with AMEP, in particular regarding land-based pollution and activities and their impact and management on coastal ecosystems.

**81.** In keeping with the efforts to promote the SPAW Protocol and its Programme, the Secretariat participated in, and prepared relevant reports and/or presentations on SPAW for a number of international meetings at no expense to the Programme, including:

- a) The Thirty-first Annual Conference of the Law of the Sea Institute: Building New Regimes and Institutions for the Sea, Law of the Sea Institute, Miami, 30-31 March 1998
- b) OECS Regional Workshop on Treaty Implementation, Antigua, 24-26 June 1998
- c) Annual Meeting of the Association of Caribbean Marine Laboratories (Cayman Islands, 16-17 July 1998)
- d) Caribbean Marine Biodiversity Workshop, Montego Bay, 27-29 October 1998
- e) 51<sup>st</sup> Annual Meeting of the Gulf and Caribbean Fisheries Institute and Special Session on Marine Protected Areas and Fisheries, St. Croix, US Virgin Islands, 8-13 November 1998

### **C.2.2. Strengthening of the Parks and Protected Area Network for the Wider Caribbean and Promotion of Guidelines for Protected Area Management**

**82.** This programme area of SPAW has made considerable progress; in particular in the area of marine protected areas (MPA's) as funding became available from the US Government. With the support of the National Park Service, the Fish and Wildlife Service, and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration as well as US NGO's, a four day workshop was held in Miami, 1-4 December 1997 which assembled over fifty managers, scientists and representatives of governmental, non-governmental and international

organizations concerned with MPA's from twenty-two different countries of the region. After reviewing the great needs of the MPA's in the region, the workshop proposed that a network for marine and coastal protected areas be developed in the Wider Caribbean (i.e. CaMPAM) to assist with information, expertise and equipment sharing as well as to facilitate the problem solving with the objective of achieving the conservation goals for which the areas were established. The workshop developed the over-riding principles for the operation of the network, as well as its priority objectives as contained in a briefing report on CaMPAM to this Meeting (UNEP (WATER) / CAR WG. 22 / INF.9). It was agreed at the meeting that until the functioning of CaMPAM is formalised, Biscayne National Park will serve as facilitator for the network in close co-ordination and collaboration with UNEP-CAR/RCU. The CaMPAM Marine Protected Areas (MPA) Database was developed in collaboration with a number of partners such as the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Biscayne National Park, Environmental Solutions International and other US NGO's. The database, which includes over 300 MPA's from throughout the region, is available in CD-ROM format and was widely disseminated among MPAs of the region and relevant national agencies and regional organizations.

**83.** Following this new development, the Secretariat with very limited financial resources, has continued to work towards the promotion and effective operation of CaMPAM. The Secretariat through Biscayne National Park and IUCN developed an Internet list server to initiate regular communications with MPAs in the region. Through this server MPAs were informed and stimulated to participate in relevant activities, such as meetings related to ICRI and training opportunities. Packages of information including the MPA database in CD-ROM format, coral reef diseases ID booklets, coral reefs teachers guides and other educational material were distributed to all MPAs. Through CEPnews new section "MPA Corner", articles and information specifically targeted to MPA managers and their staff continues to be published. In co-operation with relevant governments and institutions such as CANARI, CCA, IUCN, the WIDECAS and in particular The Nature Conservancy (TNC), the Secretariat finalised the document "Funding Protected Areas in the Wider Caribbean: A Guide for Managers and Conservation Organizations" (UNEP (WATER)/CAR WG.22/Inf.4). In keeping with the recommendations of the Fourth Meeting of ISTAC, the document was reviewed by governments and is being presented to this Meeting for approval.

**84.** MPAs from the region were selected for strengthening of their management capabilities in particular on capacity building relevant to coral reef monitoring and assessment of land-based impacts. Additionally, through earmarked funding provided by the US Government for 1999-2000, a small grants fund will be developed to provide direct assistance to MPAs, upon request, on matters such as development or update of management plans, financial plans, training, small equipment, monitoring, interpretation, public outreach, awareness etc.

**85.** The Secretariat has also initiated preparation of a regional Block B proposal to the GEF on strengthening of MPAs for SIDS in the region, in collaboration with UNEP's Regional Office for Latin America and the Caribbean (ROLAC) and IUCN. The proposal directly responds to needs highlighted in the SIDS Programme of Action for the Caribbean and complements an ongoing regional GEF project on strengthening protected areas in Latin America being implemented by FAO through the Parks and Protected Areas Network for Latin America and the Caribbean.

### **C.2.3. Training in Protected Areas and Wildlife Management**

**86.** This area of SPAW has made considerable progress during the biennium as the Secretariat was successful in raising funds for the MPA component of the SPAW training programme.

**87.** Through funding from the Coastal Zone Management Centre in the Netherlands (CZMC) an Experts Consultation to Review and Finalize Materials for Marine Protected Areas Training

in the Wider Caribbean was held in December 1998, to review relevant existing modules and manuals, in particular those developed for the region under the SPAW Programme, and to make the necessary revisions to the proposed training outline and existing materials for the convening of the first marine protected area training course of the regional training programme.

**88.** The meeting proved successful in that it developed a detailed and comprehensive outline for the MPA Training of Trainers course and manual.

**89.** In this context, the Secretariat has initiated development of the MPA training manual and modules in collaboration with several partners and with funding provided by the CZMC, UNEP and the US Government. The first two-week Training of Trainers Course for English speaking MPA managers was convened in Saba, 2-13 November 1999. The Spanish course is planned for March 2000.

**90.** The Secretariat also raised funds to provide assistance for the implementation of national/local courses during 2000, which will involve the transfer of the newly acquired skills by the trainers in their own countries to protected area personnel, local communities and NGO's as appropriate.

**91.** Funding for the convening of the courses and local training activities is provided by UNEP through the International Coral Reef Action Network (ICRAN) global project, which receives substantial funding from the United Nations Fund for International Partnerships (UNFIP). MPAs from the region will also be selected as "best practices sites" under the project. An assessment of the impact of the training programme and identification of areas requiring further assistance will be carried out as part of the project with a view of expanding and continuing the project after 2000. The total funding received through ICRAN for this SPAW activity is US \$150,000 for 1999-2000.

#### **C.2.4. Conservation of Threatened and Endangered Species and Development and Promotion of Regional Guidelines for Wildlife Management**

**92.** This area of SPAW was under-funded during this biennium and consequently many of the expected activities were not fully implemented. In particular, those relating to sea turtle recovery plan implementation, queen conch management and identification of other priority species.

**93.** National recovery plans for Costa Rica and Belize were finalised by the Caribbean Stranding Network (CSN) in Puerto Rico, under the regional project on the Conservation of the West Indian Manatee.

**94.** With in-kind support and at no cost to the programme, public awareness materials on marine mammals have been developed and widely disseminated in collaboration with the International Fund for Animal Welfare (IFAW) and the Eastern Caribbean Cetacean Network (ECCN). These are the Field Guide entitled "Whales and Dolphins of the Caribbean", as well as French and Spanish versions of the children's books "Whales and Dolphins Inside and Out" and "Jump with Whales".

**95.** In keeping with the need to identify additional priority species for conservation as requested by governments, the Secretariat co-ordinated with IFAW and ECCN to prepare a review paper on marine mammals in the Wider Caribbean to be presented to this Meeting for information (UNEP (WATER)/CAR WG.22/INF.7) and to stimulate further action. This paper was endorsed by the Meeting of ISTAC, which recommended the development of an Action Plan for marine mammals for the Wider Caribbean.

**96.** In an effort to carry forward the work undertaken by the programme during the last 10 years with WIDECAST on the conservation and recovery of sea turtles, the Secretariat joined force with relevant interested partners (e.g., WIDECAST, US NOAA, Centre for Marine Conservation, University of Mexico, WWF etc.) for the convening of a meeting entitled *Marine Turtle Conservation in the Wider Caribbean Region – a dialogue for effective regional management* (Dominican Republic, 16-19 November 1999) to identify current issues and promote best practices for sea turtle management. This consultation will also serve to finalise as appropriate the draft guidelines for sea turtle management in the Wider Caribbean being developed with WIDECAST under the SPAW Programme.

#### **C.2.5. Conservation and Sustainable Use of Major Ecosystems in the Wider Caribbean**

**97.** One of the major achievements in this area was the successful co-ordination and implementation by the Secretariat of the joint USAID/UNEP regional project Caribbean Environmental Network (CEN) in support of ICRI's objectives. The Programme was also successful in raising an additional US\$90,000 during 1997 from the US Government for ICRI related activities implemented during 1998-1999.

**98.** The USAID funded CEN Project aimed at assisting with the management of the coastal and marine resources of the region through sustainable tourism practices. These included the improvement of environmental quality and coastal marine natural resource protection; the promotion and use of environmentally sound practices by the tourism industry; and the reduction of environmental impacts by tourism on coastal and marine resources.

**99.** The CEN Training component included courses in which over 100 participants from the English, Spanish, French and Dutch Caribbean participated on the following subjects:

- a) Integrated Coastal Area Management (ICAM) and Tourism,
- b) Best Management Practices in Water and Solid Waste Management, and
- c) Sitting and Design of Tourist Facilities.

**100.** Training Manuals have been developed for each of the three courses in the three languages and will be widely disseminated. Evaluation of the Training Courses by the participants revealed satisfaction with the outcomes. Major commitment, especially by the private sector, was also demonstrated in the case of countries or institutions, which funded the participation of additional staff willing to attend the courses. Participants are committed to the implementation of related activities in their countries and expressed interest in the follow-up of this course. Some of the participants have already implemented activities in the Dominican Republic and Colombia. Requests for support to planned follow-up training sessions have been received from St. Kitts and Nevis.

**101.** The CEN Project exceeded planned output delivery, as all outputs originally planned were completed and a number of additional activities were successfully implemented. Additionally, the Project has served as a conduit for the dissemination of the experiences and progress achieved in the Wider Caribbean Region towards the sustainability of tourism at the international level, as well as a springboard for the development of relevant activities at both the national and regional levels.

**102.** There was a desirable mix of materials produced from the CEN Project such as reports, manuals and guiding documents, which together represent a useful variety of tools in support of environmentally sound tourism development. The major materials produced under the CEN Project have been compiled in a CD-ROM entitled "UNEP/USAID CEN Project Caribbean Environmental Network" which has also been distributed to governments and organizations in the region and will be made available through the CEP Web Page.

**103.** The CEN Project consolidated essential strategic partnerships for sustainable tourism in the region, which was encouraged among important stakeholders from public, private and academic sectors, particularly in the countries where project activities were undertaken. The project was able to bring together groups of stakeholders that do not usually work together including the private sector (the hotel industry), educational institutions, government agencies, regional institutions (e.g. CEHI, OECS) and global organizations (e.g. Green Globe).

**104.** A better understanding of roles and mandates among key regional organizations has emerged as a result of renewed collaborative efforts stimulated during the implementation of the CEN Project which will improve co-ordination in future actions. The establishment of joint programming opportunities among regional organizations and partners at the national level has emerged from the interactions and collaborative efforts developed during the implementation of the Project.

**105.** The Centre for Environment and Development of the University of the West Indies (UWICED), Jamaica, will be adopting the training materials generated by the CEN Project as a main component of their own Training Certification Programme in Ecotourism for tourism professionals in the region. The Project was also instrumental in establishing an Environmental Desk at the Caribbean Tourism Organisation (CTO).

**106.** More detailed information on the activities and achievements of the CEN project is also contained in document (UNEP)(OCA)/CAR WG.19/5 which is being presented to this Meeting for information.

**107.** With regard to ICRI activities, the Second Regional Report of the Tropical Americas/Caribbean was prepared by the Secretariat and presented at the global ICRI meeting, International Tropical Marine Ecosystems Management Symposium (ITMEMS), Townsville, Australia, 24-31 November 1998. The report gives an overview of the involvement of CEP, as ICRI's regional contact point, on the implementation of ICRI's Regional Agenda for Action since its development in 1995. The report also includes a comprehensive overview of activities implemented in the region by other organizations in support of ICRI, including information on the Global Coral Reef Monitoring Network (GCRMN), the Caribbean Coastal Marine Productivity Network (CARICOMP), International Year of the Reef (IYOR), the Reefs at Risk report and Reef Check. In keeping with ICRI's areas of action, the report divides the information in the areas of integrated management, capacity building, research and monitoring and performance evaluation. This document is presented as an information document to the Meeting (UNEP (WATER)/CAR WG.22/INF.3).

**108.** The Secretariat was successful in promoting the IYOR with very limited resources and in-kind contributions from US NOAA, the South Pacific Environment Programme (SPREP) and the ICRI Secretariat. Media packages and materials were distributed and utilised by a number of governmental, non-governmental and local organizations, in addition to major media houses. Copies of Media packages produced and materials distributed are included as reference documents to this Meeting.

**109.** In support of ICRI and with funding earmarked from the US Government, a number of activities were developed on best management practices and remedial actions for the conservation of coral reefs. These activities were developed in the context of the GCRMN and strengthening of MPA management and include:

- a) Assessment of sediment impacts on coral reefs and the impact of current watershed management practices, with sites in the south coast of St. Lucia and the west coast of Jamaica (Negril watershed and marine area);
- b) Provide training to dive operators of the region on the monitoring of coral reefs in order to contribute towards the sustainable assessment of their status;



- c) Assessment of the impact of nutrients, sediments and heavy metals on coral reefs on the north coast of Colombia (Santa Marta area), as well as supporting the development of the National Coral Reef Monitoring System for Colombia (SIMAC) in particular to ensure the involvement and participation of relevant stakeholder groups such as the private sector and local communities;
- d) Reef Check exercises at various sites in Colombia, St. Lucia and Jamaica;
- e) Promotion and support for the attendance of a mixed group of participants from the region to the ITMEMS conference. Regional participants included representatives from governments, MPAs, CARICOMP Network, NGOs, and the tourism sector who presented relevant case studies from land-based pollution control and coral reef monitoring to community and private sector participation in the conservation of coral reefs;
- f) Support to CARICOMP monitoring sites in Colombia and the Dominican Republic;
- g) Support for participants from the region to receive training on the Atlantic Gulf Rapid Reef Assessment (AGRRA) method, in co-ordination with the Mesoamerican Barrier Reef System.
- h) Support to AGRRA exercises for Mexico, Venezuela and the Bahamas in keeping with proposals received;
- i) Initiation of sub-regional coral reef monitoring groups in the region to stimulate and organize basic coral reef monitoring utilizing any appropriate method of choice to contribute to the Global Coral Reef Monitoring Network (GCRMN) of ICRI and its Reef Base. Limited assistance is being provided for this purpose, as well as relevant training as required. Cost-effective methods such as Reef Check or AGRRA are being promoted, as well as more comprehensive methods such as those of CARICOMP, in keeping with existing capacity and relevant experience. Co-ordination will be developed as well with CARICOMP's data centre. This exercise will not only enhance capacity building and awareness on coral reefs in the region, but will serve to generate information on status of corals and include the region in the global network which is generating support for coral reef conservation efforts world-wide. The GCRMN will produce a Status of Coral Reefs of the World report every two years, which will be a composite of country and regional reports.

**110.** In keeping with its regional coordinating role for ICRI, the Secretariat has maintained close co-ordination with the ICRI Secretariat, including participation and assistance for its Coordinating and Planning Committee (CPC) meetings of ICRI. Particularly, the most recent meeting of CPC was held in the region for the first time (Guadeloupe, 27-29 October 1999), as in 1999 the Government of France assumed the role of Secretariat of ICRI for two years. CAR/RCU promoted the participation at CPC of relevant and active countries from the region and presentations to highlight regional issues. The participation of relevant donors was also promoted to enhance support for the region for ICRI related activities.

**111.** Additionally, co-ordination was established with the GEF funded regional project "Caribbean Planning for Adaptation to Global Climate Change", which includes a coral reef monitoring component in the Bahamas, Belize and Jamaica closely linked to CARICOMP.

**112.** Although the Secretariat believes that there has been great accomplishment regarding promotion of objectives and implementation of ICRI related activities, a number of issues are still encountered by the Secretariat as regional contact point in furthering ICRI's mission in the Wider Caribbean. These include:

- a) Lack of knowledge and information among many countries about the ICRI process, and hence a lack of support from many countries;

- b) Difficulty in securing funding from a variety of donors;
- c) Lack of regular and systematic communication among ICRI partners in the region to ensure co-ordination and avoid duplication; and
- d) Although Brazil is a part of the Tropical Americas as defined by ICRI, it has been out of UNEP-CAR/RCU's mandate for regional activities.

### ***C.3. CEPNET Sub-programme***

**113.** The main achievement of CEPNET during the time period between 1997 and 1999 has been the successful completion of the Project For Strengthening The Capabilities For Managing Coastal And Marine Environmental Resources In The Wider Caribbean Region ("CEPNET/IDB Project"). The project started in November 1996 and ended in the end of January of 1999. After the closing of the CEPNET/IDB Project, the focus of CEPNET has been on ensuring the continuation of the initiatives started during the Project. At the same time, expansion of these ideas and initiatives were also undertaken.

#### **C.3.1. The Project for Strengthening the Capabilities for Managing Coastal and Marine Environmental Resources in the Wider Caribbean Region (CEPNET/IDB Project)**

**114.** The main objective of the Project was to strengthen the coastal and marine resources management capabilities of the 17 Inter-American Development Bank (IDB) member countries participating in the United Nations Caribbean Environment Programme, and to strengthen CAR/RCU and its ability to serve the countries of the region. The Project consisted of several components, which included the development of an Information Management System for the Caribbean Environment Programme, the Pilot Network Programme and the Technical Advisory Services.

#### **C.3.2. Information Management System for CEP**

**115.** This component of the Project helped develop an Information Management System for the CEP, aimed at organizing and disseminating environmental information and databases on coastal and marine issues, and at facilitating the more efficient functioning of the office.

**116.** Both an Intranet and a Web site were implemented during the project period. The development of the Intranet included the acquisition of hardware and software, the installation and configuring of the LAN, and development of maintenance, backup, security and system protection procedures. It also included training CAR/RCU staff in appropriate software, Windows 95 operating system, and the use of the Intranet. The Intranet enables the CAR/RCU to function more efficiently by allowing sharing of files and access to required information by all CAR/RCU staff. Office information, reports, forms, and a calendar of events are examples of some of the features on the Intranet.

**117.** The main function of the Web site (<http://www.cep.unep.org>) is to assist in disseminating and making accessible information relevant to the coastal and marine environment of the Wider Caribbean Region, as well as information relating to the activities of the CAR/RCU. It will be valuable to coastal managers, decision-makers, NGOs, students, researchers and to anyone with an interest in the environment. The Web site contains information on CEP, the CEPNEWS newsletter, environmental and technical reports, metadata, a query engine, and a Web-based GIS.

### **C.3.3. Pilot Network Programme**

**118.** The second component of the Project was the Pilot Network Programme (PNP), which established information systems in six designated environmental agencies (National Focal Points) of Barbados, Dominican Republic, Jamaica, Nicaragua, Trinidad and Tobago, and Venezuela, through pilot programmes.

**119.** The implementation of the Pilot Network Programme (PNP) consisted of the following steps:

- a) Performance of a Needs Assessment
- b) Development of a Country Workplan in collaboration with the Country Implementation Team.
- c) Development and delivery of training courses in metadata and clearinghouses, HTML and Web site development, GIS and Web-based GIS and the development of country "State of the Coasts" reports. This included the development of training materials.
- d) Implementation of the information management system, including the following outputs: country Web sites with environmental information and data; Searchable metadata databases, consisting of metadata developed for each country's key datasets; Web-based GIS; Development of a country-level "State of the Coasts" Report and Development of a Programme Sustainability Plan.

**120.** The major output of the PNP was the establishment of Internet-based Information Management Systems in each of the six countries. The metadata can be queried over the Internet, allowing the users to find out what datasets already exist within a country or an agency. This in turn prevents the duplication of effort in collecting data that is already in existence. The country Web sites also contain a wealth of environmental information as well as the country "State of the Coasts" reports. In addition, metadata standards were adopted for the participating agencies, along with establishment of a metadata 'culture' that will have long-term benefits in the documentation and dissemination of information and data.

### **C.3.4. Technical Advisory Services**

**121.** The development of the Technical Advisory Services was designed to strengthen the capabilities of the CAR/RCU to provide expert assistance in environment and natural resources management to the seventeen participating countries. This assistance was to include program consultation, assistance with a technical Information Management System implementation, training and/or creating a demonstration project.

**122.** Due to time constraints, the Technical Advisory Services could only be initiated in one country, the Bahamas. Training workshops were provided to government agency and NGO representatives for the creation of metadata and Web sites.

**123.** In developing and successfully implementing the PNP, and in initiating the Technical Advisory Services, CEP has put in place a framework to quickly implement similar Information Management Systems in other countries of the Wider Caribbean Region. The Needs Assessment and Workplan templates are developed as are the training courses. The way is now open to incorporate other countries into the CEPNET network. In addition, the central role of the CAR/RCU has been significantly strengthened by these activities. The developments provide mechanisms for the exchange and dissemination of information and data and provide improved communications and increased awareness of the CEP and its activities.

### **C.3.5. CEPNET Activities and Achievements alter the CEPNET/IDB Project**

**124.** CEPNET continues to provide ongoing technical support for the CEPNET/IDB Project participant countries. The technical support includes Web site hosting and troubleshooting, metadata indexing, hosting, and technical assistance in marine and coastal GIS applications.

**125.** Work to convert the existing CEP databases (such as the database of experts and institutions) to new database systems is ongoing, and will be finished in 1999. Work to convert the Marine Protected Areas database to a Web-ready format has started.

**126.** The CEP Web site continues to expand in information content. A majority of CEP Technical reports are now available on-line, with others scheduled to be added this year. In addition, work on a regional-level State of the Coasts report is ongoing.

**127.** The Web site is being used as a tool for disseminating information and documents about upcoming CEP meetings. These meetings include the Fourth Meeting of the Interim Scientific, Technical and Advisory Committee (ISTAC) for the Protocol on Specially Protected Areas and Wildlife (SPAW); the Conference of Plenipotentiaries and Meeting of the Contracting Parties for the Protocol on Land-based Sources of Marine Pollution (LBSMP); and the Ninth Intergovernmental Meeting on the Action Plan for the Caribbean Environment Programme and Sixth Meeting of the Contracting Parties to the Convention for the Protection and Development of the Marine Environment of the Wider Caribbean Region.

**128.** Three separate list servers were set up in order to facilitate communication between the CAR/RCU and partner organizations. These include the CEPNET list server for people interested in the CEPNET/IDB-related activities; the CEO list server for people associated with the Caribbean Environment Outlook meeting hosted by the CAR/RCU, ROLAC and UWICED in Kingston in January 1999; and the UNEP-CEP list server for member countries and focal points of the Caribbean Environment Programme.

**129.** CEPNET continues to co-ordinate the production of the CEPnews newsletter. The production of the newsletter suffers from the lack of staff time and resources. Three issues were produced in 1997, four in 1998 and two in 1999. CEPnews was also made available on the CEP Web site.

## **IV. Financing the Caribbean Environment Programme**

**130.** The Caribbean Trust fund has been, and continues to be, the primary source of funding for the Caribbean Environment Programme. Contributions are made to the CTF as ordinary and extraordinary contributions. Ordinary contributions should consist of an assessed amount according to an established system for each member country during the IGM for each biennium. Extraordinary contributions are funds provided by member countries beyond the amount set at by the IGM and those provisions made by non-member countries. It is however important to remark that since the creation of the CEP Trust Fund, all member countries have considered the contributions as "voluntary contributions" rejecting, in several opportunities, a decision to establish basic financial procedures (and agreed contributions) for the complete financing of the CTF.

**131.** In the absence of a clear accepted ruling by the Parties to CEP over the level of assessed contributions or pledges, UNEP has no legal basis to invoice individual member countries, nor the right to consider annual pledges as anything other than indicative amounts. In line with the UN financial rules, these kinds of contributions are reflected as pledges only when countries deposit funds. In the past this was not a significant issue, however the Secretariat has now taken a closer look at this practice and will no longer

record indicative pledge amounts unless there is an agreed level of contributions. This has now made the situation most difficult even to send reminders to CEP members countries.

**132.** Without a legally fixed level of contributions for each biennium, Governments cannot allocate the required funds to contribute to the CTF, nor does UNEP have the legal right to consider arrears and current pledges as debt in order to produce invoices. The result is that it is almost impossible to programme the work of the CEP Secretariat.

**133.** To solve this dilemma, the Secretariat coined the concept of "indicative contributions". Implying with this, *the ideal*, but not the compulsory, level of contributions that a country should pay. Based on this, the Secretariat prepares "reminders" as an alternative to a formal invoice. This solution however is not consistent with current UN regulations on the administration of Trust Funds -- which establish the need of assessed contributions for each member country.

**134.** One of the decisions of the 8<sup>th</sup> IGM was that the "primary funding base" (i.e., Overall Co-ordination and Common Costs or OCCC) of the programme should be fully funded through the ordinary contributions to the CTF. In other words, the level of ordinary contributions should guarantee the OCCC of the Secretariat). The experience on the level of ordinary contributions provided to the CTF indicates that this has never been achieved. On the contrary, the OCCC of the Secretariat has relied in large measure on extraordinary contributions. Although the received contributions to the CTF have been uneven through the years, during the 97-99 reporting period, contributions were in the order of USD 500,000. This level of funding is insufficient to cover OCCC. The total of salary expenditures alone is significantly higher than the total of ordinary contributions received. Additional OCCC costs such as rental, communications and travel cost aggravates this scenario.

**135.** The following table illustrates the situation (all figures in \$US):

Year	Ordinary Contributions to the CTF	Total OCCC Level of Expenditures (includes 13% overhead)	Salary Expenditures (includes 13% overhead)
1997	485,171	1,541,810	587,600
1998	428,939	1,209,568	643,000
1999	646,599*	1,858,477	695,000

\* The increase in 1999 is a result of some contributions made in 1998, but not recorded until 1999.

**136.** If the CEP is to continue to operate, the member countries must take drastic action to increase both the amount of their contributions to the CTF and their payment.

**137.** The Secretariat would like to note that this low level of funding comes at a very unfortunate time. Over this reporting period the CEP has attracted significant levels of extraordinary earmarked contributions and other outside funding. These include three GEF projects with promise for a fourth; funds from the United Nations Foundation (Ted Turner funding); and a marked increase in earmarked extraordinary funding, to name a few sources. The total amount of funds raised over this reporting period exceeds US\$ 2.4 million (in addition to the funds raised in the previous biennium of US\$ 1.65 million, expended in 1997-1998).

**138.** These funds have provided, and will provide, assistance to all governments of the Wider Caribbean through training and technical assistance with almost 20 countries receiving significant funding and/or pilot projects on a bilateral or sub-regional

basis. Without adequate funding for the operation of the RCU, the implementation of these activities and many others is in jeopardy. These advances in fund-raising and project development must be met with adequate funding of the CTF. If not the Secretariat will not be able to ensure that necessary staffs are in place to implement these projects and provide Secretariat services to the CEP, in addition to continuing their successes in fund-raising.

## V. Proposed Objectives of the Ninth Intergovernmental Meeting

**139.** Having examined the report on the follow-up to decisions of the last meeting, the status of the on-going projects and activities, institutional and financial arrangements, legal agreements as well as the perspectives contained in Section E above, the meeting is invited at first hand to:

- a) Examine the Draft Rules of Procedure for the Caribbean Environment Programme and decide on its adoption;
- b) Examine the Resolution for the Establishment of a Caribbean Environment Program Council (CEP Council) and decide on its adoption.
- c) Decide on forwarding the adopted Resolution to Establish a CEP Council to the upcoming UNEP Governing Council for approval.
- d) Decide about forwarding the approved Rules of Procedure for the Caribbean Environment Programme to the Office of the Controller for review and approval consistent with the use of United Nations funds.
- e) Examine the Draft Financial Strategy for the Sustainability of the Caribbean Trust Fund and decide on its adoption;
- f) Examine the Proposed Workplan and Budget 2000-2001 of the Action Plan for the Caribbean Environment Programme and decide on its adoption;
- g) Examine the proposed pledges to be made by Governments to the Caribbean Trust Fund for the 2000-2001 biennium and decide on their adoption. Furthermore, decide that Governments shall confirm their pledges to UNEP in writing no later than 31 December of the year before which they become due.
- h) Examine the proposed Financial Rules for the Management of the Action Plan and the Cartagena Convention of the Caribbean Environment Programme and decide on their adoption;
- i) Consider the significant number of countries that have not made regular contributions to the Caribbean Trust Fund and advise the Secretariat on the selection of country recipients of CEP projects and activities and decide on linking this selection to those making regular contributions to the CTF and, where appropriate and feasible, to those countries having made the political commitment to the protection and development of the Wider Caribbean Region by ratifying or acceding to the Cartagena Convention and its protocols.

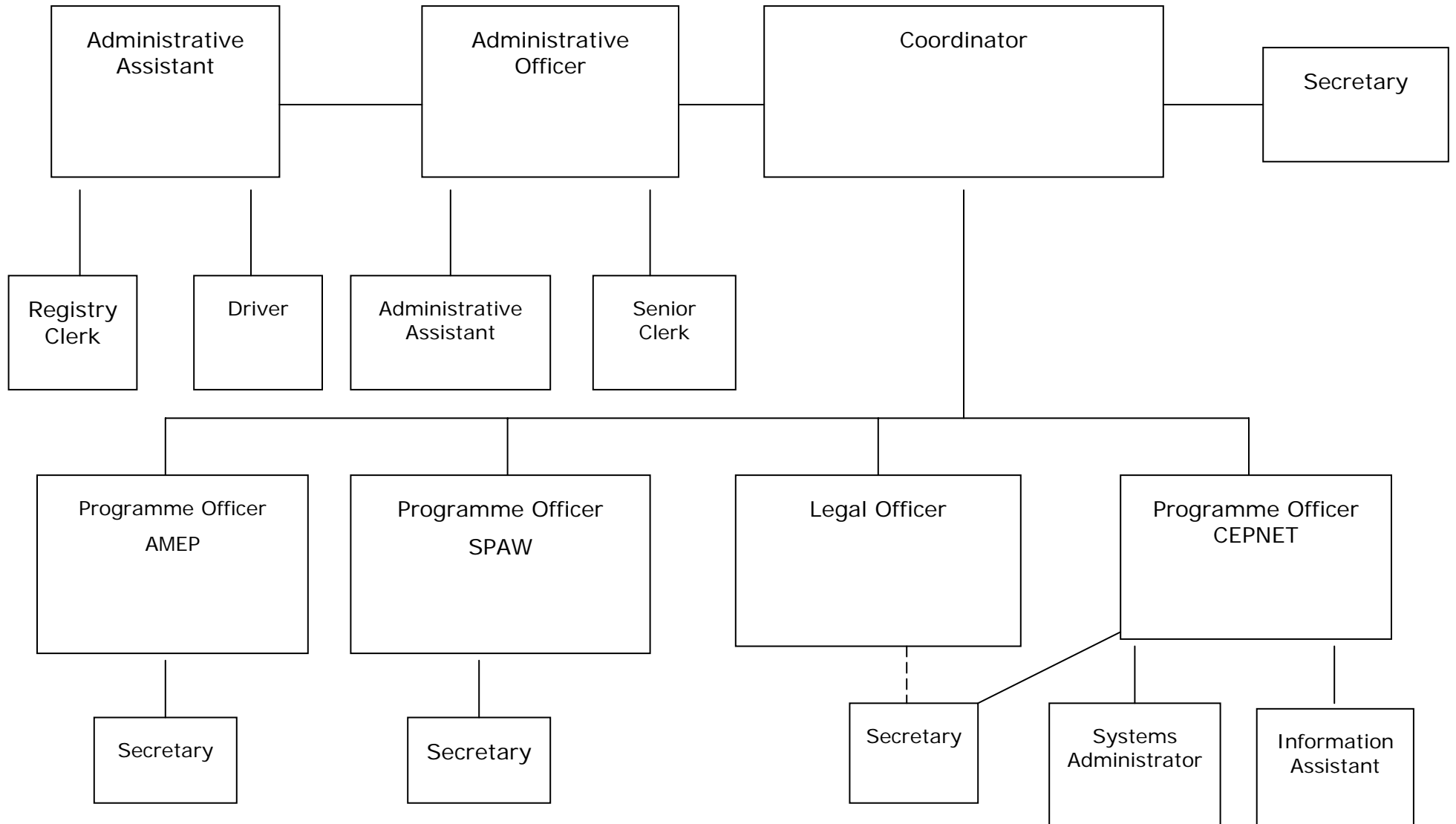
**140.** Further, the Meeting is invited to:

- a) Taking into account the financial situation of the CEP, decide on the convening of the Thirteenth 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 Wider Caribbean Region;

- b) Examine the institutional arrangements to establish the Regional Marine Pollution Emergency and Training Centre (REMPEITC) in the Wider Caribbean Region as a Regional Activity Centre (RAC) and decide on its adoption;
- c) Examine the offer from the Government of Cuba and Draft Document to establish a Regional Activity Centre (RAC) for Marine Pollution from Land Based Sources in the Wider Caribbean Region and decide on further action;
- d) Note the present financial constraints affecting the Caribbean Environment Programme and recommend that Governments seriously explore the secondment of staff to the Regional Coordinating Unit;
- e) Note the slow rate of ratification of the Cartagena Convention and its Protocols and urge Governments to ratify the Convention and its protocols as soon as possible;
- f) Note the large arrears due to the Caribbean Trust Fund by various Governments and invite discussion on proposals for paying these arrears; and
- g) Examine the recommendations of the Fourth Meeting of the Interim Scientific and Technical Advisory Committee (ISTAC) to the Protocol Concerning Specially Protected Areas and Wildlife (SPA), in the Wider Caribbean Region, (UNEP(OCA)/CAR WG.19/6) and decide on their adoption.

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### Annex I CAR/RCU Organisational Chart *(as of October 1999)*





## Annex II

### Status of the Cartagena Convention and Protocols

	Cartagena Convention		Oil Spills Protocol		SPAW Protocol <i>(not yet in force)</i>		LBS Protocol <i>(not yet in force)</i>	
	Date of Signature	Date Ratified/ Acceded	Date of Signature	Date Ratified/ Acceded	Date of Signature	Date Ratified/ Acceded	Date of Signature	Date Ratified/ Acceded
Antigua and Barbuda		11-Sep-86		11-Sep-86	18-Jan-90			
Bahamas								
Barbados	5-Mar-84	28-May-85	5-Mar-84	28-May-85				
Belize								
Colombia	24-Mar-83	3-Mar-88	24-Mar-83	3-Mar-88	18-Jan-90	5-Jan-98		
Costa Rica		1-Aug-91		2-Aug-91			6-Oct-99	
Cuba		15-Sep-88		15-Sep-88	18-Jan-90	4-Aug-98		
Dominica		5-Oct-90		5-Oct-90				
Dominican Rep.		24-Nov-98		24-Nov-98		24-Nov-98		
France	24-Mar-83	13-Nov-85	24-Mar-83	13-Nov-85	18-Jan-90		6-Oct-99	
Grenada	24-Mar-83	17-Aug-87	24-Mar-83	17-Aug-87				
Guatemala	5-Jul-83	18-Dec-89	5-Jul-83	18-Dec-89	18-Jan-90			
Guyana								
Haiti								
Honduras	24-Mar-83		24-Mar-83					

	Cartagena Convention		Oil Spills Protocol		SPAW Protocol <i>(not yet in force)</i>		LBS Protocol <i>(not yet in force)</i>
Jamaica	24-Mar-83	1-Apr-87	24-Mar-83	1-Apr-87	18-Jan-90		
Mexico	24-Mar-83	11-Apr-85	24-Mar-83	11-Apr-85	18-Jan-90		
Netherlands	24-Mar-83	16-Apr-84	24-Mar-83	16-Apr-84	18-Jan-90	2-Mar-92	6-Oct-99
Nicaragua	24-Mar-83		24-Mar-83				
Panama	24-Mar-83	7-Nov-87	24-Mar-83	7-Nov-87	16-Jan-91	27-Sep-96	
St. Kitts & Nevis							
Saint Lucia	24-Mar-83	20-Nov-84	24-Mar-83	30-Nov-84	18-Jan-90		
St. Vincent & the Grenadines		11-Jul-90		11-Jul-90	26-Jul-91	26-Jul-91	
Suriname							
Trinidad & Tobago		24-Jan-86		24-Jan-86	18-Jan-90		
U.K.	24-Mar-83	28-Feb-86	24-Mar-83	28-Feb-86	18-Jan-90		
USA	24-Mar-83	31-Oct-84	24-Mar-83	31-Oct-84	18-Jan-90		6-Oct-99
Venezuela	24-Mar-83	18-Dec-86	24-Mar-83	18-Dec-86	18-Jan-90	28-Jan-97	
EU	24-Mar-83						