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**PROPOSED WORK PROGRAMME FOR
THE CARIBBEAN SEA COMMISSION**

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Abstract

The Caribbean Sea marine ecosystem is the second largest sea in the world covering an area of approximately 2,648,000 km². It is regarded as a fragile marine area shared by several countries that depend on the use of its resources for their economic, social, cultural, climatic, aesthetic, and environmental benefits. The Dutch, Hispanic, Francophone and Anglophone presence as well as the United States interests contribute to the diversity of the region. The Caribbean Sea has been described as a threatened ecosystem that is governed by conservation measures promulgated by the Cartagena Convention and the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea. However a regional approach to its management has not yet been realised.

The Caribbean Sea Commission (CSC) has been mandated by Annex I of the Association of Caribbean States (ACS) Ministerial Agreement 14/07 to prepare a work programme. The Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC), as a permanent member of the Commission and at the request of the ACS, adopted a participatory approach in preparing a proposed work programme through consultations with stakeholders as well as through research of the relevant literature. It is proposed that the work programme, in addressing gaps in existing initiatives, focus on activities in the areas of governance; scientific research and data collection; monitoring, evaluation and reporting; capacity-building, sharing of knowledge and experience and; financing strategies.

More specifically, the need for a regional policy for management of the resources of the Caribbean Sea has been articulated and strengthening of legal and institutional frameworks to facilitate a regional and integrated approach to management has been suggested given the absence of a mechanism for delimitation of boundaries. Collaboration with existing initiatives, such as the Caribbean Sea Ecosystem Assessment and the Caribbean Large Marine Ecosystem Initiative as well as the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) programme on Assessment and Management of Environmental Pollution is also suggested in order to create synergies for greater impact and to efficiently use resources. The importance of a harmonised approach to research is deemed necessary, complete with the ongoing monitoring and evaluation of initiatives. Of utmost importance is the realisation of financing strategies to support the work of the Commission. The promotion of south-south cooperation in sharing of information and in capacity-building is also critical to enhancing a programme to address sustainability of the Caribbean Sea. Finally, support of stakeholders is considered critical to the success of any work programme for the Caribbean Sea and in this regard, the opportunity for participation by users of the resources in the decision-making at the policy level is recommended. It is also recommended that the work programme be pursued on a phased basis.

1. Introduction

The Caribbean Sea marine ecosystem is the second largest sea in the world covering an area of approximately 2,648,000 km² and is included among the large marginal seas and bays on the western side of the Atlantic Ocean. With some 75 per cent of its circumference separated from the open ocean by either continental or insular land masses, the Caribbean Sea provides an excellent example of a semi-enclosed sea. It is regarded as a fragile and complex marine area shared by several countries of varying population size, physical mass and stages of economic development and upon which some 40 countries¹ inclusive of States and territories depend for their economic, social, cultural, climatic, aesthetic, and environmental benefits. These countries also comprise legal archipelagos within the context of the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea ([UNCLOS 1982](#)), as well as littoral States and territories that are separated by straits used for international navigation.

The coastal States constitute a political, cultural and linguistic mosaic (Dutch, Hispanic, Francophone and Anglophone, including United States sectors of the Caribbean). There are colonies (British Virgin Islands and Montserrat); an associated State (Puerto Rico); Overseas Departments of France (Guadeloupe, Martinique); and the Netherlands Antilles (Dutch). Closely linked to this is the presence of metropolitan powers in the subregion, in addition to the Venezuelan presence in relation to Aves Island. There is no documented history of cooperation among the Caribbean Sea coastal States, notwithstanding the existence of the Convention for the Protection and Development of the Marine Environment of the Wider Caribbean (Cartagena Convention; ECLAC 2003) that promotes such integration.

The Caribbean Sea has been critically assessed and ranked by expert consensus as having the highest priority for conservation of any marine eco-region in Latin America and the Caribbean (Sullivan-Sealy and Bustamante 1999). The living and non-living resources form the basis of development strategies and activities of coastal countries from which many of the millions of its inhabitants sustain their livelihoods. However, owing to unsustainable use of the resources as well as the impacts of natural disasters, this ecosystem is threatened, challenging the sustainability of its development and compromising livelihoods.

UNCLOS and the Cartagena Convention address conservation of the coastal and marine environment of the Caribbean but, unfortunately, do not place emphasis on a regional, integrated approach to management nor on the necessary institutional arrangements to support the relevant conventions and agreements. Furthermore, UNCLOS places large marine spaces under the jurisdiction of coastal States so that the countries of the Greater Caribbean, the majority of which comprises Small Island Developing States (SIDS), have authority over maritime spaces in some cases larger than their land areas. These SIDS lack the financial, human and institutional resources to safeguard their rights and fulfill their obligations over this large space while utilizing its resources in a sustainable manner. Additionally, public awareness of the value, yet fragility of the ecosystem

¹ Antigua and Barbuda, The Bahamas, Barbados, Belize, Colombia, Costa Rica, Cuba, Dominica, Dominican Republic, El Salvador, Grenada, Guatemala, Guyana, Haiti, Honduras, Jamaica, Mexico, Nicaragua, Panama, St. Kitts and Nevis, St. Lucia, St. Vincent and the Grenadines, Suriname, Trinidad and Tobago, Venezuela, Aruba, Netherlands Antilles, Martinique, Guadeloupe, French Guiana, Turks and Caicos Islands, Anguilla, Bermuda, Cayman Islands, Puerto Rico, UK and US Virgin Islands, St. Maarten/St. Martin, Montserrat

and the need to strengthen capacity to cooperate in sustainable management of the sea and its resources need to be addressed. More importantly, the exercise of political will by member States would serve to greatly enhance the sustainable management of the Sea.

Given the challenges facing these coastal territories, the Caribbean Ministerial Meeting on the SIDSPOA, held in Barbados from 10-14 November 1997 formulated a proposal for international recognition of the Caribbean Sea as a “*Special Area*” in the context of sustainable development. This became known as the Caribbean Sea Initiative (CSI) that served to develop a framework for cooperation towards effective management of the Caribbean Sea. Despite several attempts, the countries have not yet achieved a resolution from the United Nations General Assembly towards such recognition. Achievement of this resolution would indeed enhance cooperation towards sustainable management of the resources of the Caribbean Sea.

In 2006, further to establishing the CSI, the Ministerial Council of the ACS established the Follow-up Committee to the CSI giving it an intergovernmental and multidisciplinary character. This enabled the United Nations General Assembly to adopt a resolution endorsing the work of the ACS. This Committee prepared the Statutes and Rules of Procedure of a CSC². Annex I of Agreement 14/07 of the ACS Ministerial Council (Appendix I) gives the mandate to the CSC to do strategic planning and technical follow-up work for the advancement of the CSI. Additionally, Rule 3 of the Matrix of the Operating Statute and Rules of Procedure of the CSC (Appendix II) detailed that the CSC should cooperate with member States in the areas of marine science, resources, law, policy and management, tourism, marine transport and other fields relevant to cooperation in marine affairs. The Ministerial Council requested the Commission to present the work programme for the CSC at its next intersessional meeting in July 2007.

Preparation of this work programme is in response to a request made to ECLAC by the ACS ministers. This request neither specifies prioritisation of activities nor indicates a specific time period for conduct and achievement of outputs. This report therefore describes the methodology employed in drafting a proposed work programme for the CSC, an overview of the operational framework that governs use of the Caribbean Sea and presents a range of work programme options under main thematic areas, complete with indicators and outputs, for consideration by the Commission with a view to selection of priorities within agreed time frames. The conduct of a “sound scientific and technical assessment of the present condition of the Sea as an ecosystem” as mandated by Agreement 14/07 of the ACS Ministerial Council has not been addressed in this report since this would necessitate a more comprehensive scope of work than can be accomplished in this limited manner. In this regard, the assessments that have been conducted under the Caribbean Sea Ecosystem Assessment (CARSEA 2006) and the anticipated activities under the Caribbean Large Marine Ecosystem Project (CLME) could, in time, provide a comprehensive analysis of the status of the Caribbean Sea as an ecosystem.

² Barbados and Trinidad and Tobago (CARICOM); Costa Rica and Guatemala (Central America); Cuba and Panama (Non-Grouped Countries); Mexico (G-3); France (in respect of Guadeloupe, Martinique and French Guiana) and Aruba (Associate Members). Senator Angela Cropper, Professor Stephen Vasciannie and the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) also hold seats in the Commission. These members were elected for a two year period from October 2006 until October 2008. The Commission met and was formally constituted on 11 September 2006.

2. Methodology

ECLAC, as the technical arm of the CSC, utilised a participatory approach in development of a proposed work programme for the Commission. This involved the conduct of stakeholder consultations among member countries and regional organizations of the Caribbean Subregion as well as key resource persons. The intention was to obtain the views, opinions and suggestions from as wide a cross-section of stakeholders as possible so as to arrive at consensus in development of the work programme.

ECLAC therefore initially convened a “brainstorming session” of a core group of members and representatives of members of the CSC in which the key areas for conduct of the consultations were addressed (ECLAC 2007). Following this, ECLAC convened technical meetings with relevant persons in order to promote harmonisation of the work programme of the CSC with the CARSEA Assessment and the proposed CLME initiative.

Furthermore, ECLAC developed and conducted a basic and extended survey of member countries of the region as well as other key resource persons (Annex 3) in order to obtain inputs for the preparation of the work programme. The design of this survey was guided by Annex I of Agreement 14/07 of the ACS Ministerial Council as well as Rule 3 of the Matrix of the Operating Statute and Rules of Procedure of the CSC. The survey instruments comprised open-ended questions that allowed participants to freely express their views as well as questions to which pre-conceived responses were suggested. The latter also allowed for open-ended responses. The sample size was 89 with an 8 per cent response rate. Additional information was obtained from relevant documents, such as the CARSEA Assessment, the Integrated Watershed and Coastal Area Management (IWCAM) Project, other Regional Seas Programmes, research publications and first-hand knowledge and experiences obtained from the conduct of relevant research in the region. This information was analyzed and used to identify issues and to design appropriate activities that would promote sustainable management of the Caribbean Sea. The results are presented below.

3. Results

This section comprises an overview of the existing operational framework that governs the use of the Caribbean Sea and the matrix of proposed activities classified into thematic areas that may be used for prioritisation of actions on a phased basis.

3.1 Overview of Existing Operational Framework

The operational framework includes the physical features of the Caribbean Sea as well as its value and the challenges that are encountered in sustainability of the resources; the legal instruments and agreements; the programmatic initiatives that seek to promote sustainable use of the Caribbean Sea, and the institutions that are actively involved in sustainable development of the Sea. The legal framework and the programmes are analysed in terms of their applicability to sustainable management of the Caribbean Sea and the gaps and weaknesses identified have informed development of the proposed work programme.

3.1.1 Physical and Technical Framework

The Caribbean Sea provides a livelihood for several persons in the region and is used for a multitude of activities such as shipping, fishing, extraction of mineral resources, transportation, tourism, recreation, amenity and cultural, that create tensions among the various user groups. The marine environment accounts for approximately 60 per cent of the Gross National Product (GNP) of the region especially from marine-based tourism and fisheries. In 2004, more than 2.4 million people in the Caribbean were employed either directly or indirectly in travel and tourism, accounting for 15.5 per cent of total employment, a proportion nearly twice as high as the global average. The coastal area is the area of greatest population density.

Fishing is also a significant provider of jobs and income in the Caribbean. It is estimated that more than 200,000 people in the region are directly employed, either full-time or part-time, as fishers. In addition, some 100,000 persons work in processing and marketing of fish, with additional job opportunities in net-making, boatbuilding and other associated industries that support fishing. The activity also brings in approximately US\$1.2 billion annually in export earnings, with the United States being the principal destination (CARSEA 2006).

The generally open economies of some of the countries of the Caribbean, in addition to their geographical location between continents, have contributed to the growth of many large ports. The massive transshipment ports in Kingston, Jamaica; and in San Juan, Puerto Rico, are but two of the major ports of call within the Caribbean. Additionally, the existence of the Panama Canal as the main artery of international trade and its planned expansion has facilitated communication between the two largest oceans of the globe. Apart from the economic importance of the ecosystem, the Caribbean Sea shapes the lives of all the inhabitants of the Caribbean. The Sea and its coasts form the stage on which the cultural, spiritual and recreational life of the region is played out.

However, utilisation of the valuable resources of the Sea in an unsustainable manner presents tremendous and varied challenges for the very users within the region and there is consensus among the users of the Sea that the ecosystem is threatened. The political challenges to sustainable development of the Caribbean Sea stem from the mix of entities in the region that bring different mandates and areas of focus. Firstly, there is the Dutch, Hispanic, Francophone, Anglophone and territories belonging to the United States of America, secondly, colonies (British Virgin Islands and Montserrat), an Associated State (Puerto Rico), Overseas Departments of France (Guadeloupe, Martinique and French Guiana) and the Netherlands Antilles (Dutch), thirdly from the manifestation of low levels of interaction among these entities and the independent coastal States and territories and fourthly, from limited interaction among independent States themselves.

The legal challenges arise in part from the geography of the area where the existence of submarine features such as troughs and trenches and strategic straits determine shipping lanes and other sea uses. Additionally, shared features, for example, the Gulf of Paria, which lies between the island of Trinidad and Venezuela brings into focus the challenge of allocation of boundaries that, in turn, determine access to resources. This situation does give rise to border controversies between States which may present certain obstacles to cooperation and which also have the effect of maintaining uncertainty over the precise location of maritime boundaries and therefore access to resources contained therein.

Furthermore, the existence of some 40 coastal States and territories, located in, or bordering a semi-enclosed sea of 2,648,000 square kilometres, implies, in the context of UNCLOS (that sanctions an Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ) of up to 200 nm wide), the availability of perhaps the tiniest (if any at all) area of high seas within the Caribbean Sea. Partitioning of the Caribbean Sea, on the legally permitted basis of delimitation means that the States and territories are unable to enjoy maximum permitted EEZs as there is significant overlap of both EEZs and continental shelves (12 nm width). These geographical characteristics create other complexities, for example, in the fisheries sector with regard to claims to fishery resources inclusive of migratory and straddling species. There are also challenges to sustainable development presented by port development, maritime traffic and marine pollution.

Environmental challenges have a basis in the relatively meagre endowment of living and non-living resources of the Caribbean Sea area. Some of the greater challenges stem from climate change and the anticipated rise in sea levels; coral bleaching as a result of global warming; deforestation and land clearing for intensive tourist development resulting in destruction of coral reefs, mangroves and seagrass beds and resulting in soil loss, fertilizer and pollutant run off leading to increased vulnerability to disasters; accidents from marine oil exploitation and movement of nuclear and hazardous waste shipments; indiscriminate disposal of waste from commercial and domestic vessels; development of port facilities in close proximity to highly fragile ecosystems; increased vulnerability to disasters as a result of global warming; and overfishing.

Despite the many institutions and programmes that address sustainable management of the Caribbean Sea there are several gaps and obstacles that deter progress. In the area of trade and the environment and in so far as the concerns of Caribbean Sea States include both the trade and environment agenda as elements of sustainable development, it is essential that the compatibility between trade and environment agendas be carefully studied to identify gaps and overlaps. Furthermore, given the multiple sovereignties and interests that govern the Caribbean Sea, the need for cooperation in adopting an integrated approach as well as for dispute resolution in the use of its resources is essential. This situation is even more critical given the expansion of the Panama Canal and the anticipated increased passage of larger vessels through the Sea.

The need for public participation in sustainable management of the Caribbean Sea is of utmost importance as users of the resources are more willing to comply with rules if they have been consulted. In addition, there is need for public awareness and education to inform better decision-making and the sharing of information. Associated with this is the allocation of financial resources to support sustainable management of the Caribbean Sea. Countries are also constrained by allocation of scarce financial resources by multilateral and bilateral donors for proposal preparation that is not always in the areas deemed most critical for the region as well as in strict procedures for conduct of research and especially for reporting. These concerns may well be addressed in the work programme of the CSC.

3.1.2 Instruments and Agreements

The 1982 UNCLOS. This sets out the rights and obligations of States with respect to the uses of the oceans. It governs delimitation (by establishing an EEZ of 200 nm), environmental control, marine scientific research, economic and commercial activities, transfer of technology and the

settlement of disputes relating to ocean matters. The Convention states that there should be cooperation among States in the exercise of their rights and in the performance of their duties, but does not provide a mechanism for so doing. Some States also have limited capacity to discharge their responsibilities under the Convention, such as in their inability to patrol and monitor passage of foreign shipments of nuclear and hazardous wastes within the Caribbean Sea as well as the activities of foreign fishing vessels.

The Cartagena Convention. This is a framework Convention with accompanying technical protocols and is the only regional multilateral environmental agreement in the wider Caribbean region. It sets out to protect and manage the marine environment and coastal areas of the wider Caribbean region within a general framework and is effective in providing a legal basis for implementation of the Action Plan for the Caribbean Environment Plan (CEP). In relation to the maritime transport of nuclear materials through the Caribbean Sea the requirements of the Cartagena Convention call for the preparation and dissemination of environmental impact assessments (EIAs) for any development project that may impose harmful impacts on the region. Three Protocols have been developed under the Convention: the 1986 *Protocol Concerning Cooperation in Combating Oil Spills in the Wider Caribbean Region (Oil Spills Protocol)* that calls for regional cooperation in addressing oil spills, *the 2000 Protocol Concerning Specially Protected Areas and Wildlife* and *the 1999 Protocol on Marine Pollution from Land-Based Sources and Activities (LBS Protocol)* that sets regional effluent limitations for domestic wastewater (sewage) and requires specific plans to address agricultural non-point sources. However, the Convention and its Protocols do not directly address the issue of maritime transportation of nuclear materials and therefore do not explicitly detail the duty to prepare environmental impact assessments.

The Basel Convention on the Transboundary Movement of Hazardous Wastes and their Disposal. One of the objectives of the Basel Convention is to ensure that hazardous wastes are disposed of as close as possible to their source of generation. This is reiterated in the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) Code of Practice and Regulations. In meeting this objective State Parties are required to provide prior notification with regard to the movement of such wastes. Article III (3) of the IAEA Code provides that every State has the sovereign right to prohibit the movement of radioactive waste into, from or through its territory. Although voluntary, the IAEA Code can be seen as a measure established by international agreement for the specific purpose of controlling the movement of inherently dangerous matter. The Convention's *Protocol on Liability and Compensation*, rules on liability and compensation should an accidental discharge of hazardous wastes occur. The challenge to Caribbean Sea States is in receiving prior notification of the passage of such vessels as under the IAEA this is voluntary and under the Basel Convention, States could only monitor and report on such activities rather than control their movement.

Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD), 1992. Under the CBD, States are required to protect components of coastal and marine biodiversity within their maritime zones, including their internal waters, territorial sea, archipelagic waters and EEZs. The Convention provides that, with respect to the marine environment, it should be implemented consistently with the rights and obligations of States under UNCLOS. Therefore, for effectiveness in achieving the objectives of the CBD in marine and coastal areas it will be necessary that each State coordinate its actions in its respective maritime zones of jurisdiction as the Convention does not contain any specific provisions

on the conservation of coastal and marine biodiversity. A challenge to a coordinated approach arises in States that are signatory to one Convention but not to the other.

Jakarta Mandate on Marine and Coastal Diversity, 1995. This Mandate encourages the use of Integrated Marine and Coastal Area Management (ICAM) and Marine Protected Areas (MPA) as the most suitable framework for addressing human impacts on marine and coastal biodiversity. Development of such a framework should involve a wide variety of stakeholders in addressing a range of activities and threats, including logging, agriculture, land-use planning, industrial and municipal activities, and fisheries. The application of the Mandate can be effective as a basis for the integrated management of the marine and coastal resources of Caribbean States and in establishing the need for regional cooperation.

United Nations Agreement for the Implementation of the UNCLOS Convention of 10 December 1982 relating to the Conservation and Management of Straddling Fish Stocks (Fish Stocks Agreement), 1995. The *Fish Stocks Agreement* establishes the duty of all States to conserve and manage living resources in the areas of the high seas and elaborates on the fundamental principle for the conduct of international relations in accordance with the United Nations Charter. Thus, for conservation measures to be effective, they must be conducted on a regional basis in that States should cooperate in the development of such measures and promote the objective of optimum utilisation of fisheries resources both within and beyond EEZs.

Caribbean Fisheries Mechanism Agreement and the Castries Declaration on Driftnet Fishing. These mechanisms appear largely to be consultative, and are ineffective in prescribing courses of action for member States or in enforcing compliance. The Agreement, in particular, is of relevance to Caribbean States only to the extent that depletion of high seas species might destroy the economic resource due to overfishing.

Code of Conduct for Responsible Fisheries, 1992. The Code sets out principles and international standards of behaviour for responsible practices with a view to ensuring the effective conservation, management and development of living aquatic resources, with due respect for the ecosystem and biodiversity. States and all those involved in fisheries are encouraged to apply the Code of Conduct and give effect to it for fisheries within their national jurisdiction as well as outside national jurisdiction. The *Agreement to Promote Compliance with International Conservation and Management Measures by Fishing Vessels on the High Seas, 1993* forms part of the Code of Conduct. It addresses the responsibilities of flag States on High Seas and obligates them to take measures to ensure that fishing vessels flying their flag do not engage in activities that undermine the effectiveness of international conservation and management measures. The Agreement is not yet in force but could be very effective in encouraging cooperation among member States that allow other countries to fly their flags.

International Commission for the Conservation of Atlantic Tunas (ICCAT). This is an inter-governmental fishery organization responsible for the conservation of tuna and tuna-like species in the Atlantic Ocean and its adjacent areas. It determines the status of these stocks of the region, inclusive of some billfish species as being either highly or fully exploited. However, although ICCAT covers the resources of the Atlantic Ocean, the Caribbean region only has observer status on

the Commission which is a deterrent to effective participation in decision-making on the status of stocks but yet requires compliance with decisions.

International Plan of Action to Prevent, Deter and Eliminate Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated Fishing, 2001. This plan addresses the serious issue of illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing. This instrument calls for States to take measures to cooperate in respect of State responsibilities, flag State responsibilities, coastal State measures, port State measures, internationally agreed market-related measures, research and regional fisheries. The effectiveness of this Plan of Action is challenged by the lack of a mechanism to promote cooperation, a factor which not only compromises a regional approach but also brings to the fore the problem of access to resources in respect of delimitation of maritime boundaries.

International Convention for the Regulation of Whaling. The primary objective of this Convention is to protect all species of whales from overfishing and ensure sustainability of whale stocks. Additionally, it promotes the establishment of a system of international regulation for whale fisheries to ensure proper conservation and development of whale stocks. An International Whaling Commission is established under the Convention and sets out to encourage research and investigation, to collect and analyse statistical information, and to appraise and disseminate information concerning whaling and whale stocks. This Convention applies to the Caribbean only so far as it sets limits for capture of particular species and may be regarded as effective in addressing conservation.

International Convention for the Prevention of Pollution from Ships (MARPOL 73/78). The provisions of this Convention establish a comprehensive legal regime for the prevention of pollution from ships. The object of MARPOL 73/78 is to prevent pollution of the marine environment by the operational discharge of oil and other harmful substances and to minimise the accidental discharge of such substances. MARPOL allows that certain areas can be designated as “special areas” where all discharges are prohibited. The challenge with this Convention is in monitoring and enforcement.

The International Convention on the Control and Management of Ships Ballast Water and Sediments. This is a proposed new instrument that is being addressed by The Marine Environment Protection Committee that is working on developing draft new regulations for ballast water management to prevent the transfer of harmful exotic aquatic organisms in ballast water. It is estimated that about 10 billion tonnes of ballast water are transferred globally each year, potentially transferring from one location to another species of sea life that may prove ecologically harmful when released in a non-native environment. This phenomenon may well be exacerbated by changes in species distribution that may be a reality with impending climate change.

The Caribbean Memorandum of Understanding on Port State Control, 1996. This Memorandum of Understanding is between Transport Canada and 12 Caribbean States and authorizes these States to use Transport Canada’s software as a basis to store and track information related to their inspections of ships entering Caribbean waters. This will allow them to provide more detailed information on their inspections for inclusion in international databases. This initiative is in its inception stage and, as such, should be monitored for its potential contribution to sustainability of the Caribbean Sea.

International Convention on Oil Pollution Preparedness, Response and Cooperation, 1990 (OPRC). The OPRC is intended to encourage the establishment of oil pollution emergency plans on ships and offshore installations and at ports and handling facilities. It is also intended to encourage the establishment of national and regional contingency plans, and development of a framework for international cooperation in addressing oil spills. Associated with the OPRC is the *International Fund for Oil Pollution Damage (FUND)* that promotes the establishment of a fund to provide additional compensation for damage from oil pollution so that within the limits of the fund's total liability, victims are adequately compensated. Under the *International Convention on Civil Liability for Oil Pollution Damage 1969 (CLC)*, a scheme of liability for oil pollution damage by oil tankers is created. Protocols to these instruments presented in 1992 have been adopted and amend the Conventions to widen their scope and provide higher limits of compensation.

3.1.3 Programmes and Plans

The Global Programme of Action (*GPA*) and *Regional Seas Programme (RSP)*. In 1995, UNEP established these two programmes that provide an essential guide on how to adopt an integrated holistic approach to protect the marine and coastal environment from pollution from land-based activities. The RSP (that includes the wider Caribbean Sea) aims to promote sustainable management and use of the marine and coastal environment through an integrated approach in designing comprehensive and specific actions to protect the shared marine environment. Established under, and patterned after, the UNEP RSP, the *Caribbean Environmental Programme (CEP)*, adopted in 1981, is a regional programme for the wider Caribbean focusing on specific priority problem areas of the participating States³ through an action plan. Its sub-programme, the Assessment and Management of Environmental Pollution (AMEP), addresses the assessment and management of environmental pollution and provides regional coordination for the implementation of Land-Based Sources of pollution (LBS) and the Oil Spills Protocols. AMEP supports the activities required for the establishment of necessary measures to prevent, reduce and control marine pollution and to assist in the development of integrated environmental planning and management of coastal and marine areas. The area of coverage of this programme is identical to that considered in the Caribbean Sea Initiative⁴ and collaboration between these initiatives would certainly improve the extent of pollution of the Sea.

Environmental Management of Coastal Seas (EMECS'90). The 1990 EMECS was conceived to maintain the health of the Seto Inland Sea. It promotes a comprehensive ecosystem perspective that incorporates watersheds, living resources, economic returns and the cultural well-being of mankind as integral components of the systems that are enclosed seas. It therefore embodies sustainable development principles in the management of enclosed seas and promotes governance in terms of comprehensive and joint management of enclosed coastal sea environments. In this regard, EMECS is relevant to conservation of the resources of the Caribbean Sea.

³ Land-based sources of pollution; improved fisheries management and protection of critical habitats; increasing urbanisation and coastal development; unsustainable agricultural and forestry practices; promoting sustainable tourism; preventing and preparing for oil spills; strengthening government and institutional capacity.

⁴ Comprises the insular and coastal States and territories of the Caribbean Sea and the Gulf of Mexico, including the Bahamas, Guyana, Suriname and the French Department of Guiana, as well as the waters of the Atlantic Ocean adjacent to these States and territories.

The Global Environmental Facility (GEF) International Waters Programme. This programme aims to “help countries use the full range of technical, economic, financial, regulatory and institutional measures needed to operationalise sustainable use strategies for transboundary water bodies and contributing basins”. It acts through its implementing agencies United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), UNEP and the World Bank, to assist countries in finding collaborative mechanisms with neighbouring countries to effect change in human activities in various economic sectors that place stress on the water environment so that transboundary conflicts can be resolved. Challenges with the GEF is in meeting the strict eligibility criteria, in project proposal preparation and in accessing significant co-financing that is a necessary requirement.

International Oceanographic Commission (IOC). The IOC, acting through its regional subsidiary body the IOC Sub-Commission for the Caribbean and Adjacent Regions (IOCARIBE), promotes cooperation in marine science and technology and provides regional input to global ocean sciences and observation. It is a partner in the CLME initiative. IOCARIBE reinforces and broadens scientific cooperation regionally, and internationally through networking with organizations operating within the Caribbean, including Non-governmental Organizations (NGOs), United Nations bodies and the scientific community. By establishing cooperative arrangements with IOCARIBE the CSC would gain the support of key regional organizations with which IOCARIBE has already established strong linkages.

Millennium Ecosystem Assessment Project. This initiative has secured significant partnerships with the World Resources Institute, the World Bank, UNDP and UNEP. It emphasises the reliance upon integrated ecosystem assessment as a tool for analysing the capacity of an ecosystem to provide goods and services that are important for human development and, by extension, the transboundary nature of ecosystems and their processes. It also recognises that environmental challenges are interwoven and thus, an integrative assessment process is needed to highlight, for decisionmakers, the linkages among climate, biodiversity, freshwater, marine and forest issues. In common with the practice of the Millennium Ecosystem Assessment of which it is a part, CARSEA first sets out a detailed picture of the condition and trends of the ecosystem; it then develops a number of scenarios aiming to simulate the likely outcome of different plausible future paths for the region; and finally reviews the responses available to decisionmakers. The work programme of the CSC would benefit from the achievements of this project and from cooperation with its priority areas.

IOCARIBE CLME Project. This project is considered valuable in supporting the work programme of the CSC since both initiatives are targeted to similar countries and address sustainable management of the shared living marine resources of the Caribbean LME and adjacent areas through an integrated management approach. More specifically, the project focuses on governance issues and more specifically on strengthening of policy and institutional capacity among institutions in the region to achieve sustainable marine resource management. This is complementary to the mandate of the CSC and collaboration between these initiatives should be encouraged.

The USA White Water to Blue Water (WW2BW) Initiative. This initiative advocates for a cross-sectoral approach to the management of marine resources as a means of ensuring enhanced

coordination among government agencies, NGOs and community groups in the wider Caribbean⁵. Regional cooperation and capacity building were indicated to be critical elements. Issues to be considered include land-based sources of marine pollution; coastal zone management; conservation of the coastal zone; sustainable fisheries; and the transboundary management of ecosystems. The work programme of the CSC may be enhanced by, and may gain momentum from, the WW2BW Initiative. The proposed work programme presents a much broader concept than envisaged by the Initiative. By enlisting the support of significant interests the Initiative extends cooperation on the issues to a broader range of parties including metropolitan countries that at the initial stages of the proposal resisted the need for a new instrument regarding the management of the Caribbean Sea. The proposal can therefore provide the broad framework through which the Initiative may be established.

Ocean Data and Information Network for the Caribbean and South America (ODINCARSA).

ODINCARSA was set up primarily as a mechanism for assessing the current and potential state of development of national data centres and to create the means for mutual capacity-building in South America and the Caribbean. ODINCARSA is a network which is integrated by 196 IOC member States. After five years of activity and limited resources, ODINCARSA has achieved several milestones in putting Ocean Data and Information Management as a relevant issue at the national level in 60 per cent of member countries mostly located in South America; establishing and keeping active a huge regional network integrated by more than 60 national institutions with 237 experts from different sectors related to ocean and marine activities; support in improving the provision of ocean data and information products and services to different users by sharing of expertise, knowledge transference and capacity building, and; becoming a useful partner/platform for other IOC programmes and organizations. However, the level of implementation of ODINCARSA in the Caribbean Subregion is quite modest and it will require partnerships, national involvement and additional funding

The Caribbean Global Ocean Observing System. This is part of a larger initiative that is managed by IOCARIBE for Caribbean SIDS. It is designed to provide descriptions of the present state of the sea and its contents, and forecasts of these as far ahead as possible, for a wide range of users, and to underpin forecasts of changes in climate. It is not solely operational, but includes work to convert research understanding into operational tools. For effectiveness, the system for the Caribbean needs to be improved and this will require financial resources to maintain and extend the observational network, to improve the numerical models used to process data, and to improve the methods by which the data are assimilated into models.

3.1.4 Institutions

The United Nations, through the Pan American Health Organization/World Health

⁵ Governments listed among the Interested Partners are those of the United States, France, Canada, the United Kingdom, Jamaica, Mexico, Spain, and Trinidad and Tobago. International organizations similarly identified were UNEP/GPA, IOCARIBE, CARICOM, OAS, PAHO, IAEA and the IOC. A number of civil society organisations are also partners in the initiative. Support was orally pledged by the representative of the IMO.

⁶ Argentina, Bahamas, Barbados, Belize, Brazil, Colombia, Chile, Cuba, Dominica, Ecuador, Haiti, Jamaica, Mexico, Nicaragua, Panama, Peru, Saint Lucia, Trinidad and Tobago, Venezuela.

Organization (PAHO/WHO), UNDP, UNEP and ECLAC focus on marine pollution studies within the context of the economic, social and sustainable development of the region. As such the United Nations system would be useful in the conduct of studies on the Caribbean Sea and in implementation of projects at the national level. This could be complemented by the work of the *Caribbean Environmental Health Institute (CEHI)* which is the executing agency for the IWCAM Project and the *Caribbean Tourism Organization (CTO)* that promotes sustainable tourism. In support of this, the *Western Central Atlantic Fisheries Commission (WECAFC)* of *Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO)* facilitates the coordination of research, promotes education and training, and assists its members in establishing policies to promote the rational management of resources that are of interest to two or more countries.

Several funding agencies such as The *International Development Research Centre (IDRC) of Canada* (research on fish species in the Caribbean); the *World Bank* (activities towards achievement of the Millennium Development Goals); the *Organization of American States (OAS)* Department of Sustainable Development (formulate policies and execute projects which integrate environmental protection with rural development and poverty alleviation) have been supportive of initiatives geared towards conservation of the Caribbean Sea.

The *ACS* focuses on strengthening of the regional cooperation and integration process with a view to creating an enhanced economic space in the region. The *Caribbean Community (CARICOM)* is involved in the sustainable development and management of the Caribbean Sea through implementation of programmes in marine resource management. Similarly, the *Latin American and Caribbean Economic System (SELA)* is an intergovernmental organization comprising 26 countries⁷. SELA encourages cooperation and integration among the countries through development and coordination of common strategies towards economic growth of its member countries.

⁷ Argentina, Bahamas, Barbados, Belice, Bolivia, Brasil, Colombia, Costa Rica, Cuba, Chile, Ecuador, Guatemala, Guyana, Haití, Honduras, Jamaica, México, Nicaragua, Panamá, Paraguay, Perú, República Dominicana, Suriname, Trinidad y Tobago, Uruguay y Venezuela.

3.2. Areas for Action Towards Sustainable Management of the Caribbean Sea

1. Governance. The work programme in this area could be implemented by the CLME Project.

Thematic Area	Activities	Partners	Resp. Entity	Indicators	Outputs
Policy	i.support to determine policies that are necessary;	Member States	Barbados	i.no. of policies in support of SM of CS clearly defined;	i.strategies to address gaps in policies are developed;
	ii.support to develop policies that govern sustainable management of the Caribbean Sea; strengthen/update existing policies;			ii.increase in no. of relevant policies developed and strengthened, e.g. migratory spp.;	ii.action plans and programmes in support of policies are developed;
	iii.promote cooperation at the policy level in meeting requirements under legal instruments e.g Fish Stocks Agreements;			iii. measurable increase in cooperation, where applicable at policy level;	iii.greater efficiency in use of resources in meeting commitments under legal instruments;
	iv.development of a policy to inform a coordinated approach to Sustainable Management (SM) of the Caribbean Sea (CS) where States are signatory to one Convention but not to another;			iv.all relevant States accept policy that promotes a coordinated approach; EMECS'90 acts as a guide in formulation of such policy;	iv.coordinated approach to SM of the resources of the CS promoted;
	v.promote policies in support of viable, competitive and sustainable economic growth opportunities;			v. measurable improvement in balance between use of 50 % of resources and economic growth achieved;	v.commitment of member States to sustainable use of resources enhanced;
Legal Framework	i.support determination of effectiveness of existing legal instruments for SM of the CS with a view to improving it;	ACS, UWI, Cave Hill	ACS	i.increased knowledge of effectiveness of legal instruments;	i.mechanisms for action in support of effective use of legal instruments developed;
	ii.oversee an assessment of legal instruments to identify possible complementarity to facilitate reporting;			ii.50% of legal instruments analysed and areas of identified;	ii. improved use of resources in promoting more efficient reporting
	iii.support cooperation among members states in development of action plans based on legal instruments (Jakarta Mandate);			iii.action plans for each member State developed after one year;	iii. mechanisms for a regional integrated approach developed among states that ratify legal instruments;
	iv.enforcement of laws governing use of the CS e.g MARPOL in relation to ship pollution;			iv. significant increase in patrol force to ensure enforcement	iv.reduced conflict of users in improved use of the CS;

Thematic Area	Activities	Partners	Resp. Entity	Indicators	Outputs
	v.cooperation to ensure successful convictions of offenders of regulations			v.larger no. of offenders convicted;	v.agreement on strategies to deal with offenders e.g penalties
Institutional/ administrative framework	i.assessment of capacity of existing institutions in supporting SM of the CS;	UWI, Costa Rica	UWI	i.no. of institutions that are adequately equipped;	i.resource needs of institutions identified with a view to having them addressed;
	ii.support in devising strategies to strengthen institutions;			ii.measurable increase in capacity of institutions to support SM of the CS	ii.strategies for institutional strengthening developed and implemented;
	iii. coordinate a strategy for mapping the roles and responsibilities of each institution that “uses” the CS;	UWI, Costa Rica, Mexico	UWI	iii.roles and responsibilities of each institution clearly defined;	iii.enhanced coordination of activities of institutions that function in the CS;
Access to Information	i.determine information necessary for through support in commissioning relevant studies	UWI, ECLAC	UWI	i. gaps in information identified; no. of reports and publications produced	i.enhance the knowledge base and documentation of issues and learning experiences related to sustainability of the Caribbean Sea.
	ii.advocacy in disseminating results of studies;			ii.evaluation reports of relevant projects and thematic reviews;	
	iv.oversee construction of a website for the CSC;			iv.website developed	
Public participation	i.determine assessment of public participation and moreso, civil society, in decision-making for SM of the CS;	The Cropper Foundati on, member States	Cropper Foundation	i.no. of organizations that participate in the decision-making process increased;	i.gaps in public participation in decision-making determined;
	ii.development of strategies to promote a participatory approach;			ii.increase in no. of strategies for promoting a participatory approach;	ii.strategies for increasing civil society participation in SM implemented;
	iii.promotion of youth in strategy development;			iii.measurable increase in the no. of youth involved in SM of the CS;	iii.strategies strengthened through incorporation of the views of youth;
	iv.promote greater equity, social justice and opportunities for all stakeholders;			iv.measurable increase in equality of opportunity in use of the resources of the CS apparent;	iv.a larger cross section of countries derive benefits from use of resources of the CS;

Thematic Area	Activities	Partners	Resp. Entity	Indicators	Outputs
Dialogue among stakeholders	i.public involved in management of the CS as indicated in the Caribbean Fisheries Mechanism and the Castries Declaration on Driftnet Fishing;	SELA, member states	SELA	i.consultations held in each member State to obtain views of stakeholders;	i.management of CS strengthened through the incorporation of public views;
	ii.promote cooperation with other oversight initiatives such as the Regional Coordinating Mechanism (RCM) ;			ii.no. of areas of cooperation in joint initiatives by the CSC and the RCM;	ii.greater efficiency in an integrated approach to SM of CS;
	iii.promote south-south cooperation;			iii.measurable increase in collaboration between South America and CS member States;	iii. joint implementation of projects increased with sharing of resources and best practices;
	v.relevant legal instruments for dispute resolution harmonised using the “best available scientific” data included in dispute resolution			v.measurable reduction in impacts of disputes in use of the CS resources;	v.harmonised approach promoted;
Safety	i.promote safety of users of the Caribbean Sea e.g. fishers, recreational, transport; SOLAS and Caribbean MOU on Port State Control ratified and implemented	ACS, member States	Member States	i.measurable increase in safety of users of the CS;	i.equitable and safe use of CS resources;
Advocacy	i.mandate of the CSC apparent to all members of the CSC;	ACS, member States	ACS	i.all members of the CSC self-educate on the CSC;	i. coordinated approach to implementation of work programme of CSC;
	ii.advocate for support from non-member States;			ii.significant support from non-members States;	ii.non-member States fully involved in implementation;
	iii.advocate for support from regional organizations and national organizations where relevant;			iii.all regional and national organizations in support of the work programme of the CSC.	iii.work programme complements those of regional and national organizations

2. Scientific Research and Data Collection

Thematic Area	Activities	Partners	Resp. Entity	Indicators	Outputs
<p>Scientific research. A mechanism to promote, develop, manage and coordinate all aspects of marine scientific research and by which countries may pool their resources at the regional level.</p>	<p>Natural Resources</p> <p>i.support in identification and endorsement of a regional research agenda for all resources especially fisheries e.g IOCARIBE, CLME; and strengthening existing ones e.g UNEP/CEP;</p>	<p>UNEP, The Cropper Foundation, ECLAC, UWI, member States, IMA</p>	<p>UNEP</p>	<p>i.Elements of a regional research agenda clearly defined and 50% of existing programmes strengthened over a two-year period;</p>	<p>i.Regional research agenda that details priorities for SM of the CS;</p>
	<p>ii.support in commissioning of research, analysis, documentation and case studies, through partner organization or sub-contracts e.g inventory of resources;</p>			<p>ii.measurable increase in the conduct of research and documentation of the results;</p>	<p>ii.results of research used to inform management strategies;</p>
	<p>iii.facilitate actions for the provision of infrastructure, laboratories & equipment for conduct of research;</p>			<p>iii.increased no. of well-equipped research facilities available;</p>	<p>iii.research facilities available and well equipped so that results are robust and are available in a timely manner;</p>
	<p>iv.facilitate strengthening of human resource capacity;</p>			<p>iv.at least three persons from each country are exposed to training at reputable research institutions;</p>	<p>iv.research programme strengthened through enhanced HR capacity;</p>
	<p>v.support in filling identified data gaps through research;</p>			<p>v.decrease in data gaps;</p>	<p>v.availability of accurate data and greater impact of research results to inform policies;</p>
	<p>vi.follow-up with partner organizations to apply the indications and results of research</p>			<p>vii.measurable increase in ongoing collaboration among partner agencies;</p>	
	<p>vii.promote cooperation among States in complying with fisheries agreements;</p>			<p>vii.cooperation by 50% States achieved;</p>	<p>vii.improved management of stocks as a result of reduction in disputes;</p>
	<p>viii.support in establishment of MPAs according to the Jakarta Mandate;</p>			<p>viii.at least two MPAs established in the region after one year;</p>	<p>viii.greater abundance and diversity of resources attained;</p>
	<p>Transport/hazardous substances</p> <p>i. support development of a mechanism for control of passage of foreign vessels within the context of the Basel Convention;</p>	<p>ACS</p>	<p>ACS</p>	<p>i.Basel Convention ratified by all countries and development of patrol fleets by all countries;</p>	<p>i.increased monitoring of passage of nuclear and hazardous substances, pollutants and foreign fishing vessels to reduce damage done by foreign</p>

Thematic Area	Activities	Partners	Resp. Entity	Indicators	Outputs
					interventions;
	ii.support for implementation of the Cartagena Convention;			ii.EIAs conducted prior to passage of vessels bearing nuclear material;	ii.resources protected from nuclear impacts;
	iii. support for entry into force of LBS Protocol and use of GPA;			iii.50% countries ratify Protocol and use information in GPA;	iii.Caribbean on way to ratification of LBS protocol;
	iv.Support mechanisms for compensation from oil spills;			iv.all States agree on mechanism;	iv.States are adequately compensated in event of damage from oil spills;
	Eutrophication i.support for determining the most cost-effective measures to reduce eutrophication in the different sub areas of the CS based on assessment of most important pollution sources;	UNEP, ACS, CEHI	UNEP	i.attain 50% reduction target in nutrient load for 2008;	i. nutrient reduction strategies established and improved health of resources of CS results;
	ii.facilitate the establishment and implementation of national programmes to reduce nutrients inputs to the CS e.g. with IWCAM;			ii.hotspots of high nutrient loads identified;	
	Tourism i.facilitate a determination of the impacts of tourism on the quantity and quality of resources;	ACS, ECLAC	ACS	i.economic assessment of resources completed;	i.strategies to reduce negative impacts of tourism developed and implemented;
	Maritime Boundaries i.cooperation in delimitation of maritime boundaries within the context of UNCLOS;	ACS, UNEP	ACS	i.measurable reduction in border conflicts and equitable sharing of transboundary resources;	i.mechanism developed for delimitation of boundaries where EEZs overlap;
	ii.facilitate development of a mechanism within UNCLOS to improve access to transboundary resources;			ii.clear mechanism for sharing of resources	ii.equity in access to transboundary resources;
	Socio-economic Studies i.identification of users of the resources and assessment of their impacts – both positive and negative	ECLAC	ECLAC	i.users in all States identified and their impacts assessed;	i.sustainable practices and livelihoods identified;

3. Monitoring, Reporting and Evaluation

Thematic Area	Activities	Partners	Resp. Entity	Indicators	Outputs
A. Monitor and assess the CS marine Environment;	i. Coordinate and implement all environmental monitoring programmes of the CSC according to, <i>inter alia</i> assessment requirements, guidelines and scientific knowledge in Contracting Parties	UNEP, ACS, ECLAC	UNEP	i.inventory of all monitoring programmes developed;	i.monitoring programmes greatly enhanced to determine status of resources of the CS;
B. Develop tools for the Assessment of the resources of CS;	ii. support development of assessment tools and assessment criteria and procedures for assessing impacts of eutrophication, hazardous substances on biodiversity (species and habitats)	Member countries	Barbados	ii.checklists, status reports developed to monitor state of the CS;	ii.development of sustainable programmes based on identified needs;
C.Indicators. Develop a framework of indicators for determining state of resources of the CS	iii.support updating of indicator Fact Sheets; support in building on the existing work on indicators e.g IWCAM for monitoring use of the resources of the Caribbean Sea;	Member countries	Barbados	iii. frameworks of indicators from all agencies clearly defined;	iii.indicators are rationalised, coordinated and streamlined for greater efficiency in measuring the status of the resources of the CS;
	iv.preparation of indicator reports and thematic reports on specific topics e.g fisheries, corals, mangroves;	UNEP, ECLAC, member countries	UNEP	iv. present state of the marine environment report that assesses human activities and their impact on the ecosystem e.g. long term trends in the pollution load;	iv.enhanced monitoring of the use of the resources of the CS through access to reports and use of information;
Evaluation of impacts of management strategies	i.collaborate with interested partners to support thematic evaluations and documentation of project activities;	ECLAC, member States	ECLAC	i.at least six thematic evaluation reports prepared;	i.lessons learnt from evaluations used to improve research agenda;

4. Capacity-building / Sharing of Knowledge and Experiences

Thematic Area	Activities	Partners	Resp. Entity	Indicators	Outputs
Capacity-building of national authorities	i.support in convening workshops and seminars in programme management inclusive of financial management;	UWI, member States	UWI & Haiti	i.increased capacity of two individuals from each country in project management;	i.enhanced expertise in project management available
	ii.support in identification of opportunities for training abroad;			ii.a member of each country trained in relevant courses abroad;	
	iii.facilitate the design of short courses in collaboration with relevant academic institutions;			iii.one course in project management designed specifically for marine resource personnel;	
Capacity enhancement of public to contribute to SM of the CS	i.raise public awareness through the media;			i.measurable increase in public awareness achieved;	i.state of the CS improved through increased public awareness;
Best practice and lessons learnt. Enhanced management of the CS through the use of best practices as well as lessons learnt from other Sea Commissions	i.facilitate knowledge transfer through establishment of a clearing house mechanism;	UWI, ECLAC	UWI	i.increased knowledge of the work programmes of other Sea Commissions and their relevance to the work of the CSC	i.increased ability to conceptualise and implement relevant programmes towards SM of the CS
	ii.facilitate sharing of data through the Global Ocean Observing System and ODINCARSA;			ii.50% improvement in data sharing after two years;	ii.SM of the CS improved through strengthening of databases and data sharing;
	iii.support benchmarking /documenting best practices;			iii. the CSC becomes a model for other regions	iii.work programmes of other Sea Comm. strengthened;
	iii.facilitate observer status on other Sea Commissions (SC)			iii.at least one country has observer status on other Sea Commissions	iii.Status of the Caribbean Sea enhanced through lessons learnt from other SC;
	iv.Establish technical cooperation agreements with other Sea Commissions			iv.technical cooperation agreements established with Black Sea, Med., Baltic and North Sea Commissions;	iv.more effective and efficient use of resources in implementation of technical cooperation agreements;

5. Financing Strategies

Thematic Area	Activities	Partners	Resp. Entity	Indicators	Outputs
Development of a resource mobilisation (RM) strategy and sustainability	i.compile examples of local/regional financing of marine environmental initiatives;	ACS, ECLAC, UWI, UNEP, Member States	ACS & Barbados	i.a list of potential sources of donor funding identified and prioritised thematically;	i.RM strategy informed by results of research;
	ii. discussions with potential donors e.g GEF, EU, DFID;			ii.at least one source of funding for start-up implementation of work programme identified;	
	iii.support in preparation of project proposals for financing;			iii.at least five project proposals prepared;	iii.project proposals for Phase I of work programme funded by donors;
	iv.develop a mechanism for project management;			iv.elements of a project management strategy developed	iv.implementation of strategy leads to greater efficiency in project implementation;
	v.support in design of a mechanism to reduce human resource demands by national and regional authorities made by international organizations in accessing information;			v. measurable reduction in time allocated to accessing reports of international meetings	v.greater efficiency in use of human resources at national and regional levels;
	vi.support in access to international funding;			vi.significant increase in access to the GEF and other sources of international funding;	vi.increase in participation by member States in global projects;

4. Conclusions and Recommendations

The Caribbean Sea Initiative seeks to declare the Caribbean Sea as a “special area in the context of sustainable development”. The present United Nations General Assembly resolution 61/197 has recognized the need for conserving the Sea for present and future generations including “the further development of their concept of the designation of the Caribbean Sea as a special area in the context of sustainable development...”. The Secretary General of the ACS has been requested by the United Nations General Assembly to report on this resolution at the Sixty-third Session and, as such, has requested ECLAC to provide support in the preparation of a work programme for the Commission. ECLAC has therefore organized a consultative process that sought to obtain views, suggestions and opinions of relevant stakeholders both directly and through a review of the relevant literature.

The consultative process resulted in classification of the Caribbean Sea as a threatened ecosystem, which could become endangered if attention is not afforded to its sustainability. Some policies are in place at the national level to guide action plans and programmes but, given the contiguous nature of the Caribbean Sea and the potential for transboundary movement of substances, an integrated approach to management is highly desirable. This would require formulation of regional policies that would facilitate utilisation of resources to stimulate economic growth while ensuring availability for future generations.

Although the legal and institutional frameworks that govern the use of the Caribbean Sea exist and States are signatory to a large number of conventions and agreements, some deficiencies in them have been identified and should be addressed. One example is the delimitation of maritime boundaries by UNCLOS that has implications for access to shared resources where EEZs overlap. The absence of such a mechanism has given rise to disputes over access to and use of transboundary resources especially straddling and migratory stocks. It has also resulted in uncontrolled access to resources, in neighbouring jurisdictions and has threatened the safety of users of the resources. Despite efforts and extensive research, the articulation of an appropriate mechanism is still to be agreed upon. The rich experiences of UNEP and the ACS may be significant in facilitating the design and articulation of such a mechanism. Enforcement of laws is also a challenge for many member States as they lack the capacity to do so and this threatens their national jurisdictions by the intrusion of foreign fishing fleets and from the passage of hazardous waste. Consensus in the adoption of a regional approach to law enforcement is necessary and this would require the building of institutional and human resource capacity of national authorities and raising of awareness of threats to sustainability of the Sea among users of the resources.

The ongoing programmatic initiatives that seek to assess the status of the Sea are having impact but there again needs to be a cohesive approach among the proponents of these initiatives and rationalisation of objectives especially where financial resources are difficult to access and are also scarce. There is optimism in this regard with the joining of forces of CLME and CARSEA and the active involvement of UNEP through its CEP. However, the activities of the CEP could well benefit from updating within the context of the Mauritius Strategy for Further Implementation of the Barbados Programme of Action for Small Island Developing States (MSI). Furthermore, the proposed Regional Coordinating Mechanism (RCM) that seeks to oversee activities of the MSI

among Caribbean Development and Cooperation Committee (CDCC) member countries would qualify as a partner in sustainable management of coastal and marine resources and biodiversity of the Sea.

The harmonising of marine research is another area that needs to be addressed as it is clear that various aspects of the Sea and its resources, living as well as non-living, have been researched but there appears to be a large measure of individual/institutional ownership of research agendas. It is necessary for the CSC to promote a harmonised research programme that would create synergies among relevant institutions in making an attempt to streamline related initiatives. This could be supported through development of a system of monitoring of research programmes and also through scrutiny of evaluations that are documented in reports that serve to inform future strategies. Furthermore, in order to enhance the research agenda, building of human resource capacity is critical both in quantity and quality. The region could well benefit from investment in training and education at reputable academic institutions and from scholarships that are occasionally offered by agencies such as the Japanese International Cooperation Agency. Complementing capacity-building initiatives and streamlining of marine research is the need for strengthening the infrastructure of research facilities to position them in keeping abreast of innovative developments in science and technology.

The importance of financing strategies to realise the work of the CSC cannot be overstated. Of utmost importance to the work programme agenda, is the support that is needed by member States so that financial resources could be used efficiently and in a timely manner for conservation purposes. Donor agencies from developed countries contribute to different aspects of marine research but their reporting requirements are sometimes deemed demanding and time-consuming and classified by national and regional reporting authorities as prohibitive in advancing the research agenda. Also, research agendas sometimes have to adapt to the interests of donors. This however, should not be limiting as south-south cooperation could be promoted and, in the case of fisheries research and management of coastal zones, Brazil and Chile, among others, offer a wealth of experiences and expertise. In support of this is the sharing of information that is critical to sustainable management of the Sea and in this regard, the establishment of clearing house mechanisms should be considered.

Finally, the success of any programme that seeks to promote sustainable management of the Caribbean Sea would need to have the support of stakeholders and in this regard, decision-making needs to be participatory as it has been well documented (see [Soufriere Marine Management Area \(SMMA\)](#)) that when users of a resource feel a part of policy-making decisions, greater consensus has occurred and support has been elicited while the need for dispute resolution has been minimised.

Annex 1

Developing a Work Programme for the Commission

1. Scientific and Technical Dimension

Based on its agreed priority areas of focus, the Commission in collaboration with ECLAC, UNEP, the Cropper Foundation and other relevant entities should initiate a broad consultative process involving stakeholders from the public and private sectors, academia and NGOs during the first half of 2007. It is envisaged that this consultative process will result in:

- A sound scientific and technical assessment of the present condition of the Caribbean Sea as an ecosystem - Leads – United Nations Environmental Program (UNEP), Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC), Caribbean Sea (CARSEA), Food and Agriculture Organisation of the United Nations (FAO), University of the West Indies (UWI), University of Havana, etc.
- An assessment of the effectiveness of existing instruments programmes and plans at the national, regional and international levels to conserve and protect the Caribbean Sea and its resources. To identify gaps, obstacles to implementation and advice as to how they may be improved and better coordinated.
- The identification of priority areas for action including specific projects, as well as expected outcomes.
- An inventory of existing institutions, initiatives, laws and agreements in the Caribbean region as well as available resources relevant for the work of the Commission.

2. Legal Dimension

The Commission and the Secretariat would seek to collaborate with UN Department of Ocean Affairs and Law of the Sea. The Commission would also seek to organize a meeting of ACS oceans legal experts.

3. Communications Strategy

4. Budgeting and Fundraising

5. Cooperation Projects

- University of Havana
- Government of Chile

- Caribbean Large Marine Ecosystems Project

Annex 2

Rule 3 of the Matrix of the Operating Statute and Rules of Procedure of the CSC

ACS/2007/CARIB.SEA.III/WD.001

Rule 3
Fields of co-operation

Mexico

Rule 3
Fields of co-operation

Fields of co-operation in the following areas:

**Trinidad
and
Tobago**

Rule 3
Fields of co-operation

The Commission shall prioritize action in the fields set out hereunder:

- (a) marine science, ocean services and marine technology;
- (b) living resources;
- (c) non-living resources;
- (d) ocean law, policy and management
- (e) tourism, marine transport and communications;
- (f) marine environment; and
- (g) other fields relevant to cooperation in marine affairs

Annex 3

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