

## Linking the Region

In a region made up of numerous islands, coastal continental countries, a multitude of people, language and ethnic groups, fluctuating economies and contrasting ecologies, the Wider Caribbean presents a huge challenge for co-ordination and cooperation.

Guided by the Caribbean Action Plan, the CEP works across the Wider Caribbean to:

- share environmental information
- provide access to technology and expertise
- assist in obtaining funding for environmental projects and activities
- support national and regional development priorities
- foster regional collaboration and exchange of best practices
- promote improved environmental management
- improve environmental policies and legislation
- educate the general public on environmental issues

The CEP helps to strengthen the ties that bind the Caribbean within an environment of regional cooperation which offers the greatest hope for future sustainable development. CEP facilitates programmes across the Wider Caribbean for:

- Assessment and Management of Environmental Pollution (AMEP)
- Specially Protected Areas and Wildlife (SPAW)
- Communication, Education, Training and Awareness (CETA).



## Funding Hope

The CEP operates via the Caribbean Trust Fund administered through UNEP headquarters in Nairobi, Kenya. Voluntary contributions from Caribbean Governments provide long term financial support. Additional project funding comes from:

- special contributions from member and non-member countries
- development agencies
- non-governmental organisations
- the private sector

CEP is the catalyst in the Wider Caribbean Region that helps to forge novel co-financing agreements to address environmental issues. It provides new financial partnerships to enable countries to transform challenging plans and goals into real actions on the ground.

CEP's long term goal remains  
to achieve sustainable development of marine and coastal resources  
in the Wider Caribbean Region through effective integrated management  
that allows for increased economic growth.

### CEP achievements:

The CEP was established by the governments of the region with the common objective of using and maintaining marine and coastal resources in a sustainable manner. In so doing, the results are economic, environmental and social benefits for the region. The complex mosaic of the region has made the CEP an excellent regional coordination mechanism for facilitating international negotiations. Important legal instruments for the protection of the marine environment such as the Cartagena Convention and its three Protocols on Oil Spills (1983), Biodiversity (1990) and Land-based Sources of Pollution (1999), were successfully developed, and today continue to be the only legal environmental instruments on which the region depends.

Joint partnerships with governmental institutions, NGOs, the scientific community and civil society including the private sector, and coordination with the international donor community, allow for implementation of activities that respond to the concrete needs of countries in the region. The creation and maintenance of Regional Activity Centres further support the countries of the Wider Caribbean in their work.



## The Caribbean Environment Programme

serves

Antigua and Barbuda
Bahamas, Barbados, Belize
Colombia, Costa Rica, Cuba
Dominica, Dominican Republic
France including Martinique, Guadeloupe and French Guyana
Grenada, Guatemala
Guyana, Haiti, Honduras
Jamaica, Mexico
Kingdom of the Netherlands, including Aruba
Nicaragua, Panama
Saint Kitts and Nevis
Saint Lucia, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines
Suriname, Trinidad and Tobago
United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland including Anguilla, the British Virgin Islands, the Cayman Islands and Turks and Caicos Islands
United States of America including the United States Virgin Islands
Venezuela



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# IN TO THE BLUE

Beautiful, bejewelled, the Caribbean Sea is the lure to millions who come to its waters to fish, to play, to boat, to seek pleasure or find the means to make a living. Loved by many, abused by some, this little patch of blue amongst our planet's great oceans is ours to cherish, wisely use - to protect and enjoy.



The Caribbean Environment Programme brings together the numerous islands and coastal areas of the Caribbean. These regions differ in their histories, people, culture, language and ethnic groups, in subtle ecological variations and stark contrasts of economics but they all have one thing in common – the importance of the Caribbean Sea to the economic development of their peoples.

**CEP - Caretaker of the Wider Caribbean**

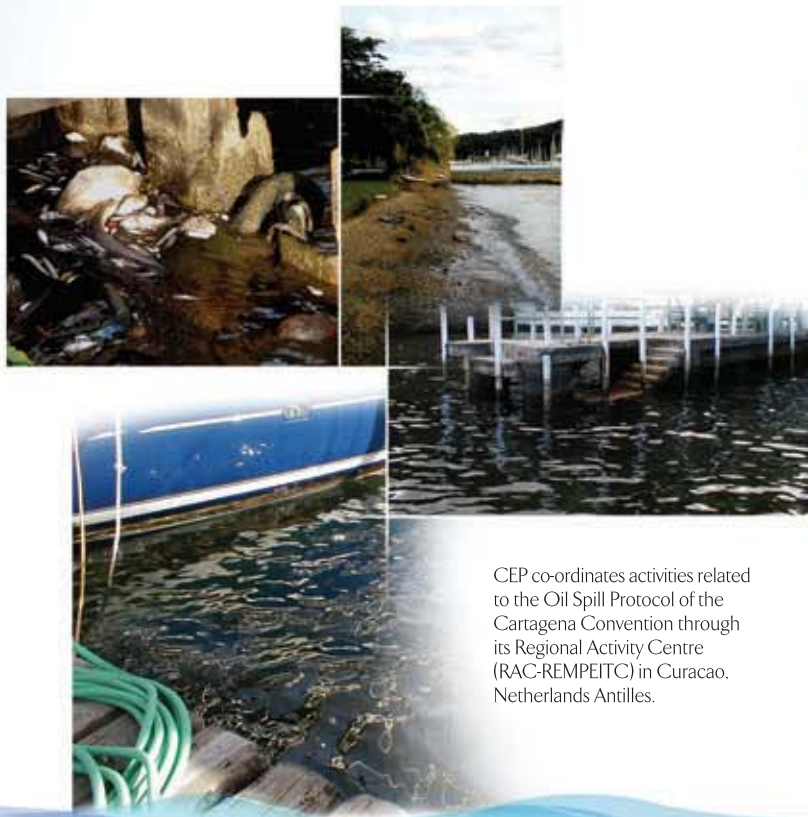
# From the Wide World to our Caribbean Sea

The Evolution of UNEP's Caribbean Environment Programme

- Stockholm, Sweden, 1972 was the venue of the historic United Nations Conference on the Human Environment that led to the formation of the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP).
- In 1974, UNEP launched its Regional Seas Programme with the Caribbean Sea identified as one of its most important regions.
- In 1976, at the request of Governments of the Wider Caribbean, UNEP initiated the development of the Caribbean Action Plan.
- In 1981, at Montego Bay, Jamaica, the Caribbean Action Plan was adopted.
- In 1983 at Cartagena de Indias, Colombia, Governments of the Wider Caribbean Region adopted the *Convention for the Protection and Development of the Marine Environment of the Wider Caribbean Region* known also as the *Cartagena Convention*.
- In 1986 the Caribbean Regional Coordinating Unit was established in Kingston, Jamaica and is hosted by the Government of Jamaica. This Unit is the Secretariat for the CEP. It works in conjunction with a number of national agencies as well as through its Regional Activity Centres (RACs): Centre of Engineering and Environmental Management of Coasts and Bays (Cimab) in Cuba, Institute of Marine Affairs (IMA) in Trinidad and Tobago, Regional Marine Maritime Pollution Emergency Information and Training Centre (REMPEITC- Caribe) in Curacao, and the SPAW RAC in Guadeloupe, France.

## Beloved Threat

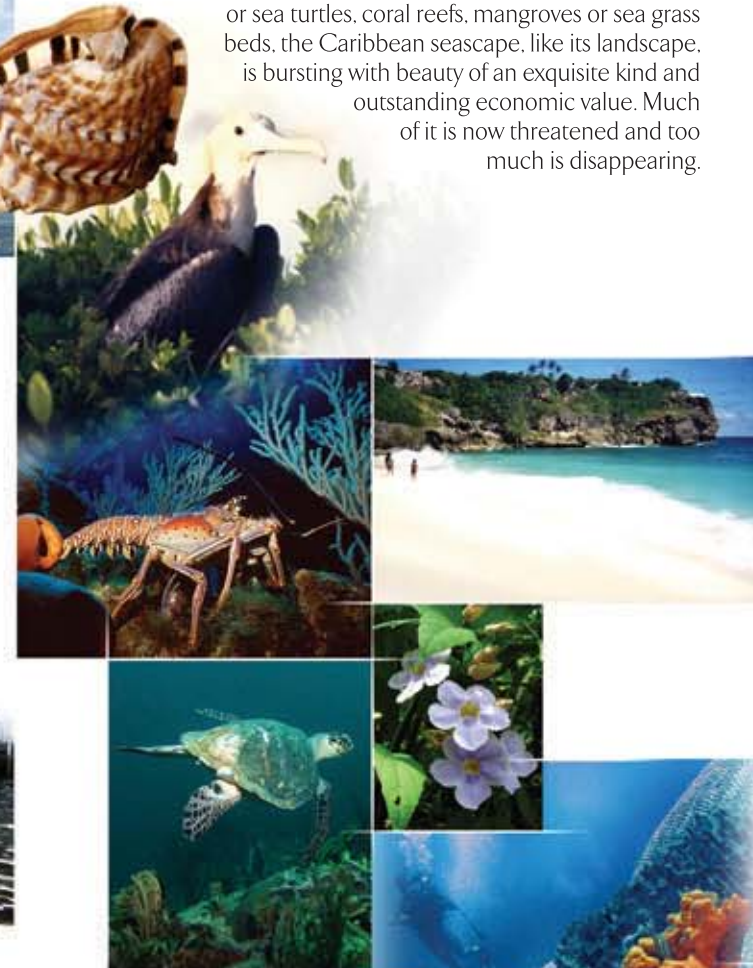
Oil and its by-products are precious commodities that fetch high prices on world trade markets and fuel modern day necessities. Ships, aircraft and motor vehicles as well as our national electricity supplies depend on oil. But when oil seeps into our waterways and spills in our seas it becomes a hazard of huge proportions. Fish kills follow, marine life is compromised and entire habitats on which fishing, tourism and recreation depend are threatened, if not permanently destroyed.



CEP co-ordinates activities related to the Oil Spill Protocol of the Cartagena Convention through its Regional Activity Centre (RAC-REMPEITC) in Curacao, Netherlands Antilles.

## Cherished Seascapes

Whether the West Indian manatee, the tasty spiny lobster and conch that are over-harvested delicacies, sea-birds or sea turtles, coral reefs, mangroves or sea grass beds, the Caribbean seascape, like its landscape, is bursting with beauty of an exquisite kind and outstanding economic value. Much of it is now threatened and too much is disappearing.



CEP provides training, technical expertise and supports national efforts in developing new policies and legislation related to the Specially Protected Areas and Wildlife (SPAW) Protocol of the Cartagena Convention, through its Regional Activity Centre in Guadeloupe, France.

## Death on the Tides

Sewage, pesticides, fertilizers, eroded soil, used oil and dangerous industrial chemicals, sunscreen, simple throw aways like styrofoam containers and plastic bags from seaside picnics and regular household garbage... all these find their way into the sea. Though the horizon seems limitless and ocean depths beyond measure, our finite seas and fragile sea creatures are being slowly poisoned. After a storm or hurricane, the things we thought that we had thrown "away" stare back at us. The garbage piled on sandy beaches by the last high tide is strewn amongst the tell-tale signs of damaged coral reefs and threatened wildlife.

Changing our attitudes and behaviour on land can turn again the tide of death that threatens our coastal waters.

CEP through its Regional Activity Centres in Cuba and Trinidad and Tobago urges Caribbean Governments to sign on to the Land-based Sources of Marine Pollution Protocol of the Cartagena Convention NOW and take action to prevent and reduce pollution in the Wider Caribbean!

