

	<p><b>Central American Commission for Maritime Transport</b></p> <p><b>COCATRAM</b></p>	<p>Document: <b>COCATRAM/NEP/IG.3/7</b></p> <p>November 10, 2005</p> <p>Original: Spanish</p> <p>Distribution: Limited</p>
<p><b>THIRD INTERGOVERNMENTAL MEETING OF THE ACTION PLAN OF THE CONVENTION ON COOPERATION FOR THE PROTECTION AND SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT OF THE MARINE AND COASTAL ENVIRONMENT OF THE NORTHEAST PACIFIC THE ANTIGUA GUATEMALA CONVENTION</b></p> <p><b>Guatemala City, Guatemala, November 8, 9 and 10, 2005</b></p> <p><b>Panama, Guatemala, El Salvador, Honduras, Costa Rica, Nicaragua, Colombia y Mexico</b></p>		

**REPORT OF THE THIRD INTERGOVERNMENTAL MEETING OF THE  
ACTION PLAN OF THE CONVENTION ON COOPERATION FOR THE  
PROTECTION AND SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT OF THE MARINE  
AND COASTAL ENVIRONMENT OF THE NORTHEAST PACIFIC**

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## **Introduction**

According to the institutional stipulations of the Action Plan for the Protection and Sustainable Development of the Marine and Coastal Environment of the Northeast Pacific (NEP) (Doc: UNEP(DEC)/NEP/ Plenipot./4), and according to dispositions of the Second Intergovernmental Meeting (Doc UNEP(DCA)/COCATRAM/NEP/IG.2/10), Third Intergovernmental Meeting (IG.3), was convoked by the Dependence of Regional Coordination (DCR) COCATRAM, in consultation with the Governments participant in the Plan, in Guatemala city, November 8, 9 and 10, 2005.

The IG.3 was held, in Guatemala City, Guatemala, at the Convention Centre of the Hotel Westin Camino Real. It counted on the financial support of the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) and it was graciously hosted by the Government of Guatemala.

## **Purposes of the meeting**

As established in the Action Plan, the IG.3 was convoked with the following purposes:

- To know and analyze the advance reached in the instrumentation/complementation of the Plan, along the period 2002-2005.
- To know, analyze and decide about the state of ratifications of the Convention on Cooperation for the Protection and Sustainable Development of the Marine and Coastal Environment of the Northeast Pacific (the Antigua Guatemala Convention).
- To know, analyze and decide about the state of the national contributions from the Governments to the Fiduciary Fund and to know about other sources and modalities of financing for the Action Plan.
- To know, analyze and approve the Plan of Work for the period 2005-2007 and its budget.
- To inform about the permanent head office for the Dependence of Regional Coordination of the Plan.
- To know other matters of common interest, about which the IG.3 should analyze and decide.
- To estimate the possible international cooperation needed to implement the Plan.

## **Participants**

20 Representatives from Costa Rica, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, Nicaragua, Panama, Colombia and México attended the meeting. Furthermore, the following international organizations attended the meeting: United Nations Environment Programme with a representative from its Regional Office for Latin America and Caribbean UNEP-ROLAC, and a delegate of its Global Programme of Action for the Protection of the Marine Environment from Land-Based Activities (GPA); RAC/REMPEITC-Carib and the International Maritime Organization (IMO); Central American Commission for Environment and Development (CCAD); Swedish Agency for International Development

(SIDA) and National Direction Fisheries of Sweden, and Central American Commission for Maritime Transport (COCATRAM). The list of participants is presented in the **Annex 1** of this report.

### **Opening of the Meeting**

The Opening of the Meeting has placed on November 8<sup>th</sup>, 2005 at 09:30 hours, in the Room Las Ceibas of the Convention Centre of the Hotel Westin Camino Real, in the city of Guatemala. Mr. José Antonio Presa, Vice Minister of Communications and Infrastructure of Guatemala, in behalf of the Director Board of COCATRAM, welcome the participants. In his speech, Mr. Presa emphasized the importance of the Convention and the Action Plan, as instruments of regional cooperation to protect the marine and coastal environment of the Northeast Pacific and the dedicated and engaged way how COCATRAM has fulfilled and will continue the coordination of the Plan.

Mr. Marco Antonio Gonzalez, Executive Director for the Central American Commission for Environment and Development (CCAD), said that for CCAD are a pleasure and an obligation to participate in this meeting. He pointed that the objective of CCAD is to promote the regional mandate of environment inter agencies cooperation. He also said that they have many activities connected to marine corridors into their programs and in the quinquennial plan; they have activities for management of sewage waters and conservation of ecosystems and species of regional importance. In addition, CCAD applies cross-sector policies and works in alliance those subjects related to the sea, in three large areas: sustainable tourism, artisan and sport fishery and maritime transport. In this sense, he emphasized the joint activities with COCATRAM, as natural ally in the subject of sea and coastal environment. These joint activities have been dating for more of eight years, and among other products he mentioned as example the Project for Environmental Protection and Control of the Contamination originated by the maritime transport in the Gulf of Honduras.

Mr. Julio Calderon, in representation of UNEP said that for UNEP is important to support initiatives as NEP, like it makes with the Great Caribbean and the South-East Pacific. He enlightened the work conducted by COCATRAM in its coordinating activity of the NEP. He indicated that this coordination has been very important and coincident, with the Latin American and Caribbean Initiative for the Sustainable Development, where it is emphasized the fulfilment of the objective 7 of the Millennium Goals, which indicates that the environment should consider in a cross-sectoral way.

Finally, Mrs. Roxana Sobenes, Vice-minister of Environment and Natural Resources of Guatemala and President of the National Commission of Areas of Conservation, expressed the political endorsement of its Government to the Plan, emphasizing that the Third Intergovernmental Meeting represents the practice starting point to initiate the operative phase of the Plan. She confirmed the desire of its government to constitute itself in geographic seat of the Plan. She indicated the activities carried out in the application of the agenda of the plan agree with the integration policies of the region, emphasizing the work made by COCATRAM in fulfilling the mandates of the intergovernmental meetings

celebrated prior to this one. She indicated that her country has had knowledge of the offer of the Government of Sweden to support financially the institutionalization of the Plan, and interpreting the feelings of the other Governments, she expressed to name of these and of Guatemala, its gratefulness to the Swedish Agency for International Development. Before finalizing, she declared formally installed the III Intergovernmental Meeting.

Copy of the interventions appears in Annex 2 of this report.

### **Election of President and Rapporteur**

The IG.3 chose like its President Vice-minister Sobenes, delegated by Guatemala and as Rapporteur Mr. Luis Molina, Head of the delegation of Nicaragua.

The Presidency designated a committee ad-hoc for verification of credentials, integrated by the heads of the delegations of Honduras and Guatemala. Report presented appears as follows: "the Committee of Credential, in fulfilment of the mandate granted by the Presidency of the ***III Intergovernmental meeting of the Action Plan for the Protection and Sustainable Development of the Marine and Coastal Environment of the Northeast Pacific***, held in the City of Guatemala on the 8th to the 10th of November of the this year, to Lawyer Leila Carolina Villatoro Rodriguez, First Secretary of the Sub direction of Multilateral policy of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Guatemala and to the Engineer Oscar René Godoy Torres, Assistant of the Direction of Waters and International Limits of the Secretariat of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Honduras, we declared that we have given fulfilment to the granted mandate and we are pleased in notifying that it has been approved the revision of Credentials for the civil employees governmental delegates for ***III Intergovernmental Meeting of the Action Plan for the Protection and Sustainable Development of the Marine and Coastal Environment of the Northeast Pacific***". The report was presented by Lawyer Leila Villatoro Rodríguez and Eng. Oscar Godoy Torres.

To make her functions in the direction of the Meeting, the President let in duty to Ms. María Isabel Fernández, member of the delegation of Guatemala.

### **Adoption of Agenda y Schedule**

The presidency submitted to the plenary the approval of the agenda, document COCATRAM/NEP/IG.3/2 and the schedule, document COCATRAM/NEP/IG.3/3. The Guatemala delegation requested elimination of the point 4, considering that the Note of UNEP should be contained in the point 8 of the agenda. The Agenda was approved with this modification. The modified agenda and schedule are presented in the annex 3.

Furthermore, the meeting agreed to work in plenary and on the base of the documents prepared by the DCR.

### **Report of intersession activities 2002-2005**

The President of the Meeting requested the Coordinator to make a presentation on the attainments reached in the development of the Action Plan, according to the mandates conferred by I and II intergovernmental Meeting (IG.1 and IG.2). Mr. Juan Alberto Manelia, Coordinator of the Plan, presented a summary of the document COCATRAM/NEP/IG.3/4, Report of Intersession Activities 2002-2005. The complete document was given to each of the participants.

In the summary Mr. Manelia mentioned, among others:

- The DCR prepared and distributed to the governments the document: “Orientating Guide to help the Governments in the Designation of National Focal Points for the Action Plan for the protection and Sustainable Development of the Northeast Pacific”, according to decisions of the IG.1. The guide is found as document COCATRAM/NEP/IG.3/ informative 1 of this Meeting. Up to now, two countries, Panama and Guatemala have designated their Focal Points. In Nicaragua, the coordination of the activities of the Plan is made through the Ministry of Environment and Natural Resources.
- On the base of dispositions of the IG.2, COCATRAM prepared an update of the Strategy of Mangrove Forests that was presented as document UNEP-COCATRAM/NEP/IG.3/ informative 4 to this Meeting. Additionally, he informed that, due to the lack of economic resources, the group ad-hoc for perfecting the Strategy, as agreed in the IG.2, could not be convoked.
- Based on the recommendation 2 of the IG.2 and in the decision 1/1 of the IG.1, the DCR with the support of UNEP and IMO carried out in Managua, Nicaragua, a workshop of experts for the Regionalization of the Contingency Plans, on April 29 and 30, 2004. 24 experts of the region were present. They are representatives of the maritime and environmental authorities and experts of OMI, CEDRE and REMPEITC-Carib. The workshop recommended formulating a strategy to fortify the capacity of response and a technical-juridical process for the regionalization of the contingency plans, in parallel to a program of training. The report of the workshop is presented to the IG.3 as document UNEP-IMO-COCATRAM/ WG.1/1.
- With the environmental program of ARPEL Phase 1, to develop an “OPRC Plan in Central America”, RAC/REMPEITC-Carib and COCATRAM organized and conducted a workshop on the 13 and 14<sup>th</sup> of April 2005, in Balboa, Panama. The workshop was financed with resources of the Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA), as well as the contributions of ARPEL, RAC/REMPEITC-Carib (UNEP and IMO) and COCATRAM and it counted on the support of the Panama Canal Authority and the Maritime Authority of Panama. 30 experts from maritime and port authorities of the countries of Central America and representatives of the IMO, UNEP (Apell system of answer in situations of emergency), CIDA, ARPEL, REMPEITC-Carib, COCATRAM and UNEP/CAP (International Oil Pollution Compensation Fund) participated. The meeting concluded with a Route Map for the regionalization of the Response against

the operative contamination with oil in Central America and with recommendations for its implementation. A copy of the Route Map was distributed in the IG.3.

- Fulfilling the recommendations 3 of the IG.2 and 1 of the IG.1, the DCR completed the Profile of the Capacity of Response against the Operative Pollution from Oil in the Northeast Pacific, elaborated through a short-term consulting, with the support of UNEP. The profile has been used as base document for the updating and perfecting of the mechanisms of regionalization of the Response before mentioned. The profile was presented as document UNEP-COCATRAM/NEP/IG.3/ informative 5 to this Meeting.
- Bearing in mind the recommendation 4 of the IG.2, the DCR with financial support from UNEP and through a short-term consulting, elaborated a draft copy of a project for the Prevention, Reduction and Control of the Pollution from Land Sources in the Northeast Pacific. The project is a PDF proposal to be presented to the Global Environment Fund (GEF). The draft copy of the project was sent to UNEP for comments and suggestions.
- The Interagency meeting for consultation, decided in the IG.2, to explore and define the possible support to be obtained from international organisms for the priority projects of the Action Plan of the Northeast Pacific, could not be convoked due to the lack of resources and to the absence of formulated projects on the identified topics for the governments as priority. Notwithstanding, the Secretariat sent notes to all pertinent intergovernmental organizations with the documentation of the Plan, and it invited them to collaborate with the Plan, once the technical and economic proposals of priority programs will be ready and with their respective plans of work. A total of 24 invitations were sent by the DCR.
- COCATRAM prepared and sent to the UNEP a proposal addressed to obtain the support from SIDA for the “Institutionalization of the Plan”. It was prepared on the base of the projects that match the problems selected as priority by the governments in the IG.1 and IG.2. These projects are also part of the programmatic component of the Plan. This proposal is contained in the document presented to this Meeting COCATRAM/NEP/IG.3/Informativo 3. The proposal also answers the decision I of the IG.1 on the preparation of profiles and projects in order to search financing funds.
- The Coordinator stood out that the Plan has priorities identified by the governments, but it misses formulated projects, indispensable to start the operations of the Plan and to address the international cooperation. The funds of support from SIDA, as a whole with those from UNEP, those from the Governments and other organizations would alleviate this need and facilitate the implementation of the Plan, once the programs will be duly formulated.
- The Coordinator concluded indicating that the development of the Plan in the phase of implementation has been slow but sure, with very little but necessary activities that could be carried out with the limited resources the Plan has counted on. He pointed out that it is required bigger efforts from the Governments in front of the needs of the

programs, with contributions to the fiduciary fund and with the ratification of the Convention. Up to now, all the costs of coordination, logistic and personnel have been covered by COCATRAM, but it is sure that in the phase of implementation of the Plan it will be required to derive resources to support the costs of coordination. A larger commitment is also required from some international organizations, to include not only technical but also economic support. It is undoubted that while Plan lacks of projects formulated, it is very difficult to know how far the needs are extended and how much the necessary budget is. For this reason, the primary interest must be addressed towards the formulation of theses programs that will set the way of the institutionalization as well. The participation of the institutions in their own programs constitutes the base of the sense of belonging of the Plan.

- Furthermore, the Coordinator indicated that the Plan must be developed in a gradual form, just as it has been foreseen, but in form sustained and at the time that more experience is acquired and new capacities are built. For this reason, the active participation of the most qualified national institutions must be permanent, as well as their interest in the Plan. The DCR could, as the funds permitted it, activates some of the decisions of the Plan. These decisions, from the IG.1 and the IG.2, point towards the development of the institutional and financial devices of the Plan. On the other hand, he pointed out that the Plan prepares to start the phase of operations, where it will be required to count on the documents of the programs duly formulated, and the institutions identified, committed and lined up in an operative system. The concepts must be unified and the common techniques and methods adopted. The international cooperation must be committed and the funds must be available and opportune.

Once the presentation concluded, the presidency requested to the plenary to express its opinion on the report. The representative of the UNEP-GPA congratulated to COCATRAM for the report. The delegation of El Salvador joined to this reconnaissance, as well as other delegations, that encouraged the Secretariat to continue working with the same dedication in the necessary coordination for the application of the Plan

Moreover, the representative of the UNEP-GPA requested to Secretariat to resend to this office the PDF expressing her excuses for not having reacted in the proper moment.

Accordingly to the abovementioned, the IG.3 agreed the Decision No. 1.

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