

## PROJECT BACKGROUND

The Regional Coordinating Unit of the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP-CAR/RCU) with support from UNEP's Regional Seas Programme, has initiated a pilot project on the development of a **“Regional Action Plan on the Sustainable Management of Marine Litter in the Wider Caribbean” (RAPMaLi)**.

The objective of the RAPMaLi project is to assist in the environmental protection and sustainable development of the Wider Caribbean region.

Some of the expected outputs of the project, which is expected to be completed by January 2007 are:

- (a) A Review Document on the existing status, data and information on marine litter in the Wider Caribbean region, including the status of regional and national legal instruments, programmes and institutional arrangements covering ML in the region, as well as proposals for changes and recommendations.
- (b) A report on technical/programmatic proposals for national and regional monitoring and evaluation programmes, including appropriate methodologies for the assessment of quantities, compositions, distribution patterns and trends on marine litter in the region.
- (c) A 'Framework Document' for a Regional Action Plan on the Sustainable Management of Marine Litter in the Wider Caribbean.
- (d) A Report of a Regional Meeting of national authorities and experts on Marine Litter, which will provide an assessment of the regional situation.
- (e) A Report on the participation of Caribbean Countries in the Regional Beach Cleanup Day, in which the countries of the Wider Caribbean will participate, within the framework of the International Coastal Cleanup 2006 Campaign to promote awareness and education campaigns.

The results of this project, which will involve both regional and pilot country activities, are expected to form the basis for the development of a larger Medium Grant Proposal for submission to the Global Environment Facility (GEF). We are in the process of recruiting a regional consultant who will work with national project focal points (in all countries), local coordinators (in the pilot countries) and relevant regional organizations to compile all the necessary information and prepare the reports.