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Fourth Meeting of the Scientific, Technical and Advisory Committee (STAC) to the Protocol Concerning Pollution from Land-Based Sources and Activities in the Wider Caribbean.

Panama City, Panama, 18 – 20 July 2018

**THE GEF CARIBBEAN LARGE MARINE ECOSYSTEM (CLME+) PROJECT
AND ITS JOINT IMPLEMENTATION THROUGH THE
AMEP AND SPAW SUBPROGRAMMES**

For reasons of economy and the environment, Delegates are kindly requested to bring their copies of the Working and Information documents to the Meeting, and not to request additional copies.

Table of Contents

ACRONYMS ii

INTRODUCTION 1

PROJECT COMPONENTS..... 4

 Project Component 1..... 4

 Project Component 2..... 6

 Project Component 3..... 11

 Project Component 4..... 15

 Project Component 5..... 19

SPAW/AMEP COLLABORATION 19

ANNEX I:THEORY OF CHANGE FOR UN Environment-CEP 24

ACRONYMS

AMEP	Assessment and Management of Environmental Pollution
CaMPAM	Caribbean Marine Protected Areas Managers Network and Forum
CANARI	Caribbean Natural Resources Institute
CEP	Caribbean Environment Programme
CERMES	Centre for Resource Management and Environmental Studies
CLME ⁺	Caribbean and North Brazil Shelf Large Marine Ecosystems
COP	Conference of Parties
CReW	Caribbean Regional Fund for Wastewater Management
CReW ⁺	An integrated approach to water and wastewater management in the Wider Caribbean Region using innovative solutions and sustainable financing mechanisms
CReWSIP	Climate Resilience and Water Security Investment Framework and Financing Plan
DSS	Decision Support System
EAF	Ecosystem Approach to Fisheries
EBM	Ecosystem-based Management
GCFI	Gulf and Caribbean Fisheries Institute
GEF	Global Environment Facility
GWP-C	Global Water Partnership-Caribbean
IGM	Inter-Governmental Meeting
IUCN	International Union for the Conservation of Nature
IWC	International Whaling Commission
IWEco	Implementing Integrated Land, Water & Ecosystem Management in Caribbean SIDS
IWRM	Integrated Water Resources Management
LBS	Pollution from Land-Based Sources and Activities
M&E	Monitoring and Evaluation
MMAP	Action Plan for the Conservation of Marine Mammals in the Wider Caribbean Region
MPA	Marine Protected Area
NPA	National Programme of Action
Ramsar	Convention on Wetlands of International Importance
RAPMaLi	Regional Action Plan on Marine Litter
REPCar	Reducing the Pesticides Runoff to the Caribbean Sea
SAP	Strategic Action Programme
sLMR	Shared Living Marine Resources
SOCAR	State of the Convention Area Report
SOMEE	State of the Marine Environment and Associated Economies
SPAW	Specially Protected Areas and Wildlife
STAC	Scientific and Technical Advisory Committee
ToT	Training of Trainers
UNDP	United Nations Development Programme
UNEP	United Nations Environment
UNOPS	UN Office of Project Services

WCMC
WCR

World Conservation Monitoring Centre
Wider Caribbean Region

INTRODUCTION

The United Nations Environment Programme's Caribbean Environment Programme (UN Environment-CEP) was established in 1981 to protect and develop the Wider Caribbean Region's marine environment.

The adoption of the Convention for the Protection and Development of the Marine Environment of the Wider Caribbean and its Protocols (Cartagena Convention) in 1983, provides the only comprehensive regional legal framework for the protection of the Wider Caribbean Region's coastal and marine environment.

The objectives of the Convention are accomplished through the implementation of activities under three Protocols. These are the Protocols concerning:

- Co-operation in Combating Oil Spills;
- Specially Protected Areas and Wildlife (SPA) and
- Pollution from Land-Based Sources and Activities (LBS).

The activities under the LBS and Oil Spill Protocols are implemented under the Assessment and Management of Environmental Pollution (AMEP) Sub-Programme. The SPA Protocol's objectives are implemented under the SPA Sub-Programme. While many of the activities implemented under these two Sub-Programmes often complement each other, human and financial resource constraints, donor demands and differing mandates have not enabled strategic joint implementation of AMEP and SPA projects and activities.

This disconnect between the two sub-programmes was recognized in recent recommendations of the Scientific and Technical Advisory Committees (STACs) and Decisions of Conference of Parties (COPs) for the SPA and LBS Protocols and the Cartagena Convention.

Recommendation I of the 2nd LBS STAC regarding the Work Plan and Budget, called for opportunities to be explored to have a joint meeting of technical experts from the SPA and LBS Protocols, including considerations for a joint LBS/SPA STAC. This was echoed in the Decisions of the 2nd LBS COP where a more integrated approach between LBS and SPA activities was recommended both within the context of the UNDP/GEF CLME⁺ project and for the broader execution of activities that support their respective workplans and priorities.

These decisions and recommendations for greater integration of LBS and SPA activities, were also reflected in Decision VII of the 16th IGM which called for enhanced coordination among the two Sub-Programmes using resources under the CLME⁺ and the development of a roadmap for collaborative action.

The first ever joint meeting of the LBS and SPA Technical Focal Points (STACs) was convened in Miami USA from 31 October -4 November 2016 (3rd LBS STAC and 7th SPA STAC) where a draft Roadmap for greater integration of SPA and LBS activities was presented.

This Roadmap was subsequently approved and adopted at the respective Conference of Parties (Decision VIII of 3rd LBS COP and Recommendation I of the 7th SPA STAC as well as the Fourteenth (14th) Meeting of the Contracting Parties to the Cartagena Convention held in French Guiana held from 13-17 March 2017 in French Guiana. This approval is reflected in Decision II of that IGM.

The UNDP/GEF CLME⁺ project, through the Strategic Action Programme for the Sustainable Management of the Shared Living Marine Resources of the Caribbean and North Brazil Shelf Large Marine Ecosystems (CLME⁺ SAP), has provided financial resources to directly support the integration of the AMEP and SPAW Sub-Programmes for joint implementation of UNDP/GEF CLME⁺ project components and the development and implementation of a longer term Road Map for the AMEP and SPAW Sub-Programmes that enables closer integration and coordination.

The SAP developed under the UNDP/GEF “CLME Project” (2009-2014), is a 10-year programme (2015-2025) which has, to date, been politically endorsed by 25 countries and outlines short- and medium-term priority actions for improved ocean governance and management in the CLME⁺ region.

With countries and individuals heavily reliant on the goods and services provided by marine ecosystems, the SAP aims to improve transboundary governance and the management of shared living marine resources (sLMR) through the protection of coral reef, continental shelf and pelagic ecosystems across the 4.4 million km² that cover the CLME⁺ region. This will ensure the sustainable and climate-resilient provision of goods and services from sLMR.

The focus will be on the three transboundary problems inherent across the region: unsustainable fisheries, habitat degradation and pollution. The SAP aims to implement activities and achieve outcomes that will promote the implementation of six strategies:

- Strategy 1: Protecting the marine environment;
- Strategy 2: Achieving sustainable fisheries;
- Strategy 3: Integrated ocean governance, through inter-sectoral policy coordination;
- Strategy 4: Ecosystem-based management (EBM) for reefs and associated ecosystems;
- Strategy 5: An ecosystem approach to fisheries (EAF) for the pelagic ecosystem; and
- Strategy 6: EBM/EAF for the Guianas-Brazil continental shelf ecosystem, with special emphasis on shrimp and groundfish fisheries.

UN Environment-CEP, through its SPAW and AMEP Sub-Programmes, is responsible for the implementation of activities in support of Strategy 1. More specifically, under the UNDP/GEF CLME⁺ Project, “Catalyse the Implementation of the SAP for the Sustainable Management of Shared Living Marine Resources in the CLME⁺ Region” (2015-2020), UN Environment -CEP is implementing project activities to address the root causes of environmental degradation. The five project components/outcomes which form the framework for these activities are presented in Table 1.

Table 1: Aims and Outcomes of Phase 1 of the CLME⁺ Project Components

Project Component	Aims	Outcome
1	Strengthening the region’s governance arrangements – consistent with the EBM/EAF	Integrative governance arrangements for sustainable fisheries and for the protection of the marine environment, in line with the endorsed CLME ⁺ SAP

Project Component	Aims	Outcome
2	Enhancing the capacity of key institutions and stakeholders to effectively implement knowledge-based EBM/EAF for sustainable shared living marine resources use in the CLME ⁺ region	Enhanced institutional and stakeholder capacity for sustainable and climate-resilient sLMR management at regional, sub-regional, national and local levels (with special attention to regional and sub-regional organisations with key roles in SAP implementation)
3	Further institutionalize ecosystem based approaches towards the management of key fisheries and ecosystems within the CLME ⁺	Progressive reduction of environmental stresses (with particular attention to socially just solutions and the enhancement of livelihoods) demonstrated, across the thematic and geographic scope of the CLME ⁺ SAP
4	Delivering enhanced insights and understanding on high-priority investment needs and defining medium-and-long term investment plans to: (a) halt and reverse, at the regional scale, the loss of ecosystem goods and services; and to (b) stimulate sustainable, ocean-linked businesses and economic growth	Financing catalysed for the up-scaling of priority actions for the protection of the marine environment and for ensuring sustainable, climate-resilient livelihoods and socio-economic development from sLMR use in the CLME ⁺
5	Improve communication, coordination and information exchange among primary CLME ⁺ SAP stakeholders and among the myriad of existing and planned projects, activities and initiatives in the region	Regional socio-economic benefits and global environmental benefits from SAP implementation are maximised through enhanced collaboration, planning and adaptive management

Between 2016 and 2019, UN Environment-PAC is implementing activities under a UN Inter-Agency Agreement between UNOPS and UN Environment, for selected components of the UNDP/GEF CLME⁺ Project. This paper will discuss UNEP-CEP's responsibilities under the UNDP/GEF CLME⁺ Project and the status of implementation by the respective SPAW and AMEP Sub-Programmes.

For further information on the initiatives that will be implemented during the 2019-2020 biennium, please refer to the Draft AMEP Workplan for the 2019-2020 biennium.

PROJECT COMPONENTS

Project Component 1

Activity	Implementation Status
	CEP
<p>Formal agreement between Brazil and the Cartagena Convention Secretariat for the coordination of actions relevant to the Cartagena Convention and its Protocols</p>	<p><i>In Progress</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Discussions with the Government of Brazil are ongoing, with indications of interest and support received from the Government. The Government of Brazil was invited and attended the 7th SPAW and 3rd LBS Scientific and Technical Advisory Committee (STAC) Meetings and the 9th SPAW and 3rd LBS Conferences of Parties (COPs) as well as the 14th Meeting of Contracting Parties to the Cartagena Convention held in French Guiana from 13-17 March 2017) • Ongoing Engagement with UN Environment’s Regional Office for Latin America and the Caribbean, as well as the sub-regional office for Brazil to assist in coordination; • Mission was conducted to Brazil by the Cartagena Convention Secretariat and UNDP GEF/CLME+ Regional Project Coordinator to have high level discussions with officials of the Government of Brazil. Several areas of common interest were identified that formed the basis for a more formal agreement (MOU). • Review was conducted by the Secretariat of similar bilateral agreements and recommendations were made to the 16th IGM on possible modalities to formalize the proposed agreement with the Government of Brazil; <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Decision VII of the 16th IGM called for the Secretariat to establish such a cooperation agreement with Brazil through a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU); • Representatives of Brazil participated in the IMA/FAO & CLME+ Inception Workshop for the Ecosystem-Based Management Project for the North Brazil Shelf (Trinidad and Tobago, 20-24 November 2017) and have agreed to take part in that sub-project. • Areas of cooperation to be reflected in the MOU were discussed and agreed between the Secretariat and the Government of Brazil. The draft MOU which was scheduled to be signed in June 2018 is still awaiting formal feedback and approval by the Government of Brazil. These continued delays have resulted from a combination of personnel changes within the Government of Brazil including changing priorities following the recent national elections. The deadline is being extended to June 2019 to allow further high level discussion with representatives of Brazil at the upcoming COP and IGM.

Activity	Implementation Status
	CEP The development of such an agreement with Brazil will provide coordinated management of the ecosystems within the CLME ⁺ region. This will help ensure the joint management of this region and the reduction of anthropogenic activities occurring in one region that may affect the health of ecosystems in other areas.

<p>A decision on a modality for the coordinated implementation of actions under the SPAW and LBS Protocols under the Cartagena Convention</p>	<p>Ongoing</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The first joint LBS and SPAW STAC meeting was held in Miami, Florida from 31st October – 4th November 2016 and included the harmonized development of agendas and workplans. • Both the LBS and SPAW Sub-Programmes collaborated with the Gulf and Caribbean Fisheries Institute (GCFI) to develop its Research Output under the CLME+. The Programme Officers of both Sub-Programmes assisted in the identification of resource persons and attended meetings on pollution during the 69th GCFI Conference in Grand Cayman from 7th-11th November 2016. These discussions identified priority pollution areas for future work under the CLME+ project. • The development of a joint information paper with recommendations for the development of a more detailed LBS and SPAW Roadmap was completed and this will be incorporated into a broader Sustainable Development Strategy for the Cartagena Convention Secretariat. • SPAW and AMEP sub-programmes provided input into the design of the CEP Sustainable Development Strategy including preparing a survey questionnaire which was disseminated to all national, technical and protocol focal points in September 2018. • The approved expanded LBS/SPAW Roadmap will form an integral part of the revised CEP Strategy to be presented to the 18th IGM in June 2019 for approval. A draft of the updated Strategy is initiated with support of POTSDAM University is provided as an Information document (UNEP(DEPI)CAR.IG.42/6) for the upcoming IGM for further discussion and/or approval. • SPAW and AMEP have collaborated in the coordinated contribution to the further development of the SOME as well as the Research Strategies for Pollution and Habitat under the CLME+ Project. • There were discussions between the Secretariat and UN Environment HQ and the Bureau for the Contracting Parties of the possibility of convening an integrated Conference of Parties for the Cartagena Convention and its three Protocols to foster further integration at the decision-making level. • As part of this Expanded Roadmap and broader strategy, UN Environment -CEP will: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Define joint performance indicators and targets linked to the Sustainable Development Goals and Harmonized Regional Seas Indicators; - Identify opportunities for joint project development and/or implementation; - Identify opportunities for joint training/ capacity building, future joint STACs/COPs and exchanges between SPAW and LBS Focal Points; <p>The continued integration of SPAW and LBS at the programme, project and activity levels has been reflected in the approach taken to the development and implementation of the EBM Sub-Project and in the development</p>
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Activity	Implementation Status
	CEP
	of the State of Pollution and Habitats Reports, and the Research Strategies being developed under the CLME+ project by GCFI. Other activities implemented include sargassum monitoring and marine litter management. The coordinated implementation of the UNDP/GEF CLME+ project between the AMEP and SPAW Sub-Programmes will also form a model that will facilitate a more integrated and holistic approach to ecosystem protection for UN Environment-CEP's overall work programme as reflected in Annex I.

Project Component 2

Activity	Implementation Status	
	SPAW	AMEP
A Regional Action Plan for the reduction of impacts from excess nutrient loads on marine ecosystems	<p>Under the SPAW 2017-2018 Draft Workplan, a campaign to collect biopsies from marine mammals was considered to determine contaminant levels in marine mammals.</p> <p>The collection of biopsy samples from marine mammals found within the WCR would help to identify some of the contaminants affecting their populations. The identification of these contaminants would then allow for the development of mitigation measures, for those specific contaminants, and allow for their inclusion in the Action Plan.</p> <p>However, there remains a lack funding and under the new 2019-2020 workplan efforts will focus on increased preparedness and response to anthropogenic impacts on marine mammal populations in the WCR through new projects such as CARI'MAM. This will aid in improved awareness of, and response to marine pollutants, and other impacts throughout the WCR.</p> <p>Additional efforts will also include development of a strategy to sign and initiate implementation of a Memorandum of Cooperation (MoC) between the UN Environment/ Secretariat to the Cartagena Convention</p>	<p>The following activities have been completed:</p> <p>Convening of a regional workshop in collaboration with GEF IW Learn, GEF CReW and GEF IWeco Projects to discuss the development of the Regional Nutrients Strategy and Action Plan held in Belem, Brazil from 8-13 May 2017;</p> <p>Convening of the Technical Workshop on Pollution related matter prior to the LBS STAC4, the Regional Nutrients Strategy concept paper centred on the reduction of impacts from excess nutrient loads on priority marine ecosystems in the region was developed and endorsed by the 4th LBS STAC.</p> <p>Teleconferences and meetings with various regional partners and the GEF CLME+ PCU, RAC CIMAB, RAC IMA, CARPHA and INVEMAR were held to discuss the scope and content of the Regional Nutrients Strategy and Action Plan;</p> <p>Identification of potential opportunities to submit a proposal to the Green Climate Fund and development of a two-page financing concept.</p>

Activity	Implementation Status	
	SPAW	AMEP
	<p>and the International Whaling Commission (IWC) to further the objectives of the MMAP.</p>	<p>Preparation of a progress report related to the expanded concept paper for finalization of the Regional Nutrients Strategy by July 2019 :</p> <p><i>In Progress</i> Projects and activities outlined in the 2019-2020 Draft Workplan which further contribute to the achievement of this outcome include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Further strengthening of synergies between the UNDP/GEF CLME⁺ and GEF IWeco Projects to support lab strengthening, capacity building for the development and use of indicators, and data and information management. • Compilation and sharing of lessons learned and best practices from the GEF CReW project. • Use of the recently established Caribbean Platform for Nutrients Management as a framework for the future work on nutrient reduction. <p>Beyond contributing to the development of the action plan, these efforts will complement the work of the SPAW Sub-Programme. By addressing nutrient-based pollution there will be reduced algal bloom and growth on coral reefs; reduced threat to biological diversity; and minimized changes in the structure of the aquatic community.</p>

<p>A Regional Strategy and Action Plan for the valuation, protection and/or restoration of key marine habitats in the CLME</p>	<p>Ongoing Since the inception of SPAW, activities have been implemented that have strengthened capacity building throughout the WCR and supported the conservation of important marine ecosystems. The key activities that will help form the basis of the Strategy and Action Plan include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Promote the ratification of the SPAW Protocol in CLME+ countries • Delivering of training courses on Marine Protected Area (MPA) management; • Development of Training of Trainers workshops/seminars for the management and protection of wetlands; • Liaise with non-government, government and inter-governmental organizations to identify existing ecosystem conservation/restoration projects and complement and support these projects were appropriate; • Liaise with UNEP’s World Conservation Monitoring Centre (WCMC) and the International Union for the Conservation of Nature (IUCN) to collaborate on projects designed to protect seagrass beds; • Coordinate with the Convention on Wetlands of International Importance (Ramsar) to identify threats to wetlands within the WCR and mitigation measures that need to be implemented; • Ongoing implementation of a Small Grants Programme to address specific MPA needs; • Providing MPA practitioners with access to scientists and other technical experts through mentorship programmes and participation in meetings; 	<p>Ongoing Several projects and activities implemented during the previous and current biennium, as well as collaborative efforts with multiple partners, contribute to the achievement of this outcome. These include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Development and application of a Resource Valuation Methodology for decision making for wastewater projects developed under the GEF CReW project in 2015. • Completion of resource valuation studies at three sites in two GEF CReW participating countries which were compiled and disseminated as a report, <i>Valuing the Costs and Benefits of Improved Wastewater Management: An Economic Valuation Resource Guide for the Wider Caribbean Region</i>. • Participation in conferences and learning events which facilitate cross-sectoral and portfolio-wide learning and experience sharing such as the 8th GEF International Waters Conference in May 2016 with learning tracks devoted to catalyzing transformation and scaling up investments as well as strengthening governance processes to sustain project interventions. • Promotion of innovative and sustainable approaches to protect marine habitats and reduce the negative impact of waste by converting waste into a renewable resource. This was the focus of the first Waste-to-Energy Expo and Conference attended by the AMEP Programme officer and GEF CReW representatives in January 2016 where SIDS-appropriate technologies were discussed as opportunities to address the waste management challenges of the WCR, improve environmental protection and strengthen coastal resilience to climate change impacts. Collaboration with the Global Water Partnership-Caribbean (GWP-C) for development of an expertise
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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Providing access to databases and fora to discuss emerging marine issues; • Continued support to the protection of critical habitat areas, including addressing emerging threats such as <i>Sargassum</i> and the lionfish invasion; • Implementation of the Blue finance project to establish sustainable financing mechanisms; and • Reactivation of the Caribbean coral reef monitoring network and the implementation of the Regional Guidelines for Biophysical Coral Reef Monitoring <p>These activities will help to strengthen the protection of critical ecosystems within, and outside of, MPAs in the WCR through the:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • implementation of projects designed to improve capacity building; • identification of, and mitigation against, threats to ecosystem health; • promotion of regional collaborations; and • ensure the long-term sustainability of regional MPAs <p>The outputs from these activities will form the basis of the Regional Strategy and Action Plan and will identify threats, emerging issues and best practices that need to be emphasised in the regional document.</p>	<p>database on Caribbean Integrated Water Resources Management (IWRM) which provides detailed information on the technical focus area/s of agencies, including staff with technical skill sets pertinent to IWRM. Information from this resource, which also lists UN Environment -CEP as a partner agency, can be accessed to find experts who could be involved in the development of a regional strategy and action plan.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • New partnerships and contracts (SSFAs/MoUs) have been finalized to facilitate stakeholder engagement and finalize a workplan based on the key habitats identified (coral reefs, mangroves and sea grass beds). The Caribbean Natural Resources Institute (CANARI) having previous experience with UN Environment and through submitting a favourable expression of interest against the requisite ToR, was selected as the executing partner to spearhead this activity. • A draft “Table of Contents” was prepared and presented at a workshop organized in conjunction with the 8th SPAW enabling stakeholders/Contracting Parties to review and provide feedback in December 2018 (Panama City, Panama). • A follow-up workshop was held 13 - 14 March 2019 (Panama City, Panama) for presentation of a final draft to the SPAW COP and IGM for review in June 2019. • Further application of resource valuation in the water and wastewater sector is expected to take place within the GEF CReW+ proposal which will be submitted to the GEF for consideration by June 2019.
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Project Component 3

Activity	Implementation Status	
	SPA W	AMEP
Demonstrating the transition to an EBM approach at the sub-regional/site level in the CLME+	<p><i>In Progress</i></p> <p>The SPAW sub-programme decided to reallocate efforts under this output in keeping with existing EBM projects already underway in the region and within the wider UN Environment Framework, particularly through the sub-programme’s Regional EBM Project which will end in April 2019.</p> <p>Under this project <i>Biodiversity for Sustainable Development in the Caribbean</i> (funded by the Government of Italy), the MPA database enhancement is currently in progress with a ToR drafted towards hiring a dedicated database technician for eight weeks. Consequently, support to EBM in the Eastern Caribbean is now channelled through specific SPAW mechanisms within its approved workplan and other funded EBM initiatives which will be adequate to address this output. By extension CaMPAM activities also serve as the primary mechanism for supplementing activities in support of Marine Protected Areas.</p> <p>There was further advancement following the 2 regional workshops in late 2017 supported by this project (during the 70th GFCI and in Panama respectively) and the 71st GCFI in 2018, to actively incorporate Marine Spatial Planning (MSP)/Decision Support Systems (DSS) (alongside the SOMEE/CLME+ and SOCAR processes on the status of the WCR marine environment).</p> <p>This was primarily through the SSFA with the Centre for Resource Management and Environmental Studies (CERMES) linked with a small grants initiative which was slated for completion in September 2018 and</p>	<p><i>In Progress</i></p> <p>The AMEP and SPAW Sub-programmes are jointly implementing the Ecosystem-Based Management Project for the Guiana Shelf in the North Brazil Large Marine Ecosystem. For more information on the joint project, please refer to the <i>In Progress</i> section in the row below.</p>

Activity	Implementation Status	
	SPAW	AMEP
	<p>extended until February 2019. Both elements have been identified as important tools for implementing Ecosystem Based Management which is needed for the promotion and enhancement of sustainable livelihoods in the Wider Caribbean Region in the context of the CLME+.</p> <p>Plans are underway for additional contracts with partners working in the Dutch Caribbean and Spanish speaking Caribbean countries to further promote EBM approaches in the region through extension of the project (Phase 2).</p> <p>With 2018 dubbed Year of the Coral Reef, opportunities were explored to incorporate this habitat and marine protected area management/pilot sites of relevance under CLME+ (primarily via GCRMN-Caribbean). This has been supported by the assessment of the key habitat areas identified under the Regional Action Plan (coral reefs, mangroves and sea grass beds) which play critical roles in buffering or regulation of pollution from nutrients.</p>	

<p>Demonstrating the transition to an EBM approach at the sub-regional/site level in the CLME+</p>	<p><i>In progress</i></p> <p>A joint pilot project for collaborative action between the SPAW and LBS Protocols, within the Guiana Shelf in the North Brazil Large Marine Ecosystem was developed and began implementation in 2018. The activities to date include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All LBS / SPAW and CLME+ Focal Points were contacted regarding the development of the pilot project in the Southern Caribbean. This assisted with facilitating the link with ongoing, SPAW-led EBM projects in the Eastern Caribbean. • Government officials have been provided with guidelines and overview presentations. • A TOR was developed for the recruitment of an EBM consultant and selection was made in November 2016. • Dr. Marie Louise Felix was recruited and prepared a draft sub-project proposal based on country missions and discussions with national stakeholders as well as input from regional partners. • A 2-day workshop to discuss the draft proposal and implementation arrangements was convened on March 10th and 11th in French Guiana. This involved representation from Brazil, French Guiana, Guyana, Suriname, Trinidad and Tobago, partner agencies including FAO, UWI – CERMES, WWF, CI and the Secretariat. The UNDP GEF/CLME+ project was also in attendance. • Further Dialogue on the implementation of the joint project took place during the joint LBS/SPAW STAC, as well as the 3rd LBS and 9th SPAW COPs and 16th IGM. • The project proposal was finalized and approved by the countries and the CLME+ PCU in 2017. • A joint inception workshop for the project was convened in Trinidad and Tobago from 20-24 November 2017 that formed the basis for identification of project focal points and finalization of the proposed work plans and budgets; • Contracts with each of the countries are being finalized and implementation is scheduled to commence in the second half of 2018. • Activities in 2018 focused mainly on the finalization of national work plans and contracts with the Governments of Guyana, Trinidad and Tobago, Suriname and Brazil respectively. • The Small-Scale Funding agreements (SSFAs) were reviewed, approved and signed by the Secretariat and representatives of the Governments of Guyana and Trinidad and Tobago in October 2018. The SSFA for Suriname was finalized in April 2019 following delays with work plan and providing the requisite information to the Secretariat. The proposed national EBM intervention for Brazil seems unlikely to take place and a possible reallocation being identified to another activity. <p>This project will enhance collaborative efforts between the two regions to improve the health of marine and coastal ecosystems as well as the goods and services they provide. This may lead to socio-economic</p>
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Activity	Implementation Status	
	SPAW	AMEP
	benefits to both regions through the sustainable use of fish stocks and the protection of natural resources. It is also expected to directly support the development of the MOU between Brazil and the UN Environment-CEP.	

Project Component 4

Activity	Implementation Status	
	SPAW	AMEP
(Pre-)Feasibility Assessments undertaken for the two priority problems of habitat degradation and pollution	<p><i>In progress</i></p> <p>The current activities being implemented that will help with the completion of this activity are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Utilise the cadre of experts within SPAW to provide guidance for the development/review/approval of a workplan and timeline; • Implementation of the Regional Guidelines for Integrated and Biophysical Coral Reef Monitoring developed under SPAW for the GCRMN Caribbean network; • Development of Guidelines for Coral Reef Environmental Impact Assessment and Compensation Schemes; • Support habitat restoration initiatives within the context of EBM and DSS application and continue networking and coordinating to develop synergies with the Coral Reef Restoration initiative currently being established; and • Liaise with government, non-government and inter-governmental organisations to identify threats and develop monitoring and valuation guidelines for critical ecosystems within the WCR. <p>The implementation of these projects will allow for the development of feasibility assessments through the involvement of scientists, MPA managers and other experts in the design of feasibility reports. The projects will also facilitate the identification of criteria for, and costs associated with, the rehabilitation of critical ecosystems</p>	<p><i>In Progress</i></p> <p>This outcome will be supported by projects and activities of the previous and current biennium. These include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Identification of capacity building and training needs to support laboratory strengthening under GEF IWeco, which will support activities to be undertaken in the proposed follow up to the GEF CRew project, GEF CRew+ and Green Climate Funding • Strengthening of sustainable land management, ecosystems monitoring and indicators framework under the GEF IWeco project, as well as enhancing knowledge exchange, best practices and replication. • Development and application of the Resource Valuation Methodology for decision making for wastewater projects developed under the GEF CRew project in 2015. • Further application of resource valuation in the water and wastewater sector is expected to take place within the GEF CRew+ proposal which will be submitted to the GEF for consideration by June2019. • The Cartagena Convention Secretariat is developing a Regional Strategy and Action Plan for the reduction of impacts from excess nutrient loads on marine ecosystems in the Caribbean Sea and the adjacent North Brazil Shelf Large Marine Ecosystems. The strategy that is drafted and is to be further developed, identifies areas for high-priority action to address nutrient pollution - including most critically affected ecosystem

Activity	Implementation Status	
	SPAW	AMEP
		types as well as those with significant socioeconomic impacts for the region.
Development of investment plans that addresses the two transboundary issues of pollution and habitat degradation	<p><i>In Progress</i> The current activities, implemented either under the Blue finance or “Biodiversity for Sustainable Development in the Caribbean” projects, that will help with the completion of this activity are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The establishment of sustainable financing mechanisms for marine managed areas in Barbados and possibly St. Kitts and Nevis, Antigua and The Bahamas; • Development of a co-management structure based on public-partnership agreements and a Payment for Ecosystem Services scheme for finance management; and • Development and application of a DSS which will assist with marine resource protection and decision making. <p>These projects will provide the basis for the development of integrated investment plans that will ensure the long-term sustainability of marine managed areas which will take into consideration private and public stakeholder partnerships.</p> <p>Phase 1 of the Blue Finance Project (originally executed through the SPAW-RAC) was completed. A second phase is now under development for direct execution through the SPAW subprogramme to further complement EBM/DSS and CaMPAM project activities at selected sites.</p>	<p><i>In Progress</i> Project activities outlined in the previous and current biennium which support the achievement of this outcome include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Piloting of revolving financing mechanisms under the GEF CReW project that could later be established as feasible and sustainable financing instruments for the implementation of environmentally sound and cost-effective wastewater management. • Establishment of four pilot financing mechanisms under GEF CReW which improved access to financing for wastewater management and thereby addressed one of the greatest challenges faced by governments of the WCR in meeting their obligations to reduce pollution to terrestrial and coastal waters due to the discharge of untreated wastewater. • Identification of additional innovative funding mechanisms and technological solutions that are sustainable and replicable under the follow-up GEF CReW+ project. • The Caribbean Platforms for Nutrients and Wastewater Management will, facilitate the continued strengthening of partnerships and co-ordination of activities which can also be steered towards catalysing financing for the reduction of pollution and habitat degradation.

Activity	Implementation Status	
	SPAW	AMEP
	<p>At a regional level, a MoU has been signed between Blue Finance and the Caribbean Biodiversity Fund to develop the approach in selected Caribbean countries. Blue Finance is also participating in the development of a Blue Economy Facility with UN Environment and investors.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provision of fora for discussion of investment to address challenges and opportunities for improving wastewater management in the WCR through the joint hosting of meetings Annual High-Level Session Ministerial Forum for Water and Waste organized by the Caribbean Water and Wastewater Association. <p>The AMEP Sub-Programme is also engaged in several collaborative activities with Global Water Partnership-Caribbean (GWP-C) which will contribute to the development of investment plans to address issues of pollution and habitat degradation. These include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Development of a database under the GWP-C's Water, Climate and Development Programme (WACDEP), which, among other things, identifies funding opportunities for future interventions that address climate resilience and water security. • Development of a portfolio of investment project proposals under the GWP-C initiative, "Climate-Proofing Water Investment in the Caribbean". A coordinated and programmatic approach to identifying, prioritising and sourcing finance for actions to enhance the climate resilience of the Caribbean through improved water resources management will be facilitated through the associated Climate Resilience and Water Security Investment Framework and Financing Plan (CReWSIP) which was developed under the initiative. • Involvement with three of GWP-C's Thematic Programmes of Action (TPAs) to establish a regional framework for investment towards Caribbean water security and climate resilience, namely: (1) TPA B –

Activity	Implementation Status	
	SPAW	AMEP
		<p>Water efficiency re-use and augmentation; (2) TPA E – Resilient and healthy water resources systems; and (3), TPA F – Integrated flood management.</p> <p>Marine litter, especially plastics and microplastics, is another priority action area for which funding has been catalysed during the previous and current biennium to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Facilitate the implementation of the updated Regional Action Plan on Marine Litter (RAPMaLi) which was developed in 2007 and updated in 2010. • Implement a Trash Free Waters in the Caribbean Initiative to identify the most appropriate and cost-effective solutions to reduce and prevent trash from entering waterways and the Caribbean Sea. The project is currently ongoing in Panama and Jamaica and is being implemented through a 3-phased approach: (1) Assessment; (2) Dialogue and Planning; and (3) Project Implementation. • Further strengthening of the Caribbean Node for Marine Litter which serves as a platform that facilitates the establishment of partnerships and co-ordination of activities which can also be steered towards catalysing financing for the control and sustainable management of marine litter.

Project Component 5

Activity	Implementation Status	
	SPA W	AMEP
<p>Table of Contents for the “State of CLME+” report and structure for the (network of) web portal(s)</p>	<p><i>In Progress</i></p> <p>Under the 2017-2018 SPAW Workplan, the following web portals, which may be used as templates, have either already been designed/currently being constructed:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Development of a region-wide DSS under the “Biodiversity for Sustainable Development in the Caribbean” project • Ongoing use of the listing of protected areas web portal; • Support for a regional repository on marine mammal stranding data; and • Development of a regional database and clearing house for marine mammal watching data <p>These portals / databases will act as the templates for the web portal(s) that need to be designed under the UNDP/GEF CLME+ project, through the identification of best practices and models. This will help to streamline and standardise the reporting process used during the UNDP/GEF CLME+ project and beyond.</p> <p>The information stored in these repositories may also be used to inform the UNDP/GEF CLME+ project’s decision-making process as well as help provide the necessary information for the “State of the CLME+” as well as the State of the Habitat report that will be developed, and funded under the UNDP/GEF CLME+</p>	<p><i>In Progress</i></p> <p>Indicators and Monitoring Frameworks for State of Pollution Report (SOCAR) were defined.</p> <p>Table of Contents for State of Pollution Report was approved at the 3rd LBS COP.</p> <p>The Draft SOCAR was presented to 4th LBS STAC on July 18-20, 2018 in Panama with the final report being presented to the 4th LBS COP and 17th IGM for approval. Detailed technical discussions and verification of the data in SOCAR took place during a pre-LBS STAC technical workshop on the 17th July.</p> <p>Activities outlined in the 2017-2018 and 2019-2020 Draft AMEP Workplan for development of the first State of the Convention Area Report (SOCAR), will directly contribute to the achievement of Output 5.2 which calls for the development of a prototype CLME+ ecosystem status and SAP implementation Monitoring and Evaluation (M&E) mechanism. This will consist of the following three distinctive yet complementary elements:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Common or compatible approaches and/or protocol(s) for the joint monitoring and assessment of overall SAP implementation (and CLME+ status and conditions); • “CLME+ SAP Monitoring & Evaluation” and “State of the Marine Ecosystems and shared Living

Activity	Implementation Status	
	SPAW	AMEP
	<p>project, by the SPAW Sub-Programme and integrated within the State of the Cartagena Convention Report.</p> <p>The State of the Habitat Report will contribute directly to the State of the Marine Environment and Associated Economies (SOME E) report to be produced under the UNDP/GEF CLME+ project.</p> <p>In collaboration with CERMES (with support from IUCN-Biopama Programme, GCFI and CaMPAM), the XII edition of the Training the Trainers (ToT) regional MPA course in Barbados (2018) was used as a vehicle for stakeholder collaboration, training and capacity building by interconnecting linkages with countries within the CLME able to <i>facilitate targeted stakeholder trainings in data management, ecosystem services and valuation methods</i>, and specific outputs which overlap with the CLME+ Projects.</p> <p>An extension of the ToT via the small grants initiative to interested islands which was facilitated through the SSFA with CERMES, enabled additional data collection and processing which were used to aid in the preparation of the draft for the State of the Habitat report</p>	<p>Marine Resources in the CLME+” web portal(s) and reporting outline; and</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sustainability strategy/plan for the periodic updating of the report/portals beyond the CLME+. <p>The SOCAR is being developed through collaboration with regional and international agencies and will present key information on the state of coastal and marine ecosystems within the WCR in terms of their current condition. The SOCAR is expected to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Serve as an operational tool to determine baseline conditions and priorities to be addressed in the WCR and to set targets for region-wide action. • Be a useful reference for CLME+ on how consensus can be reached on issues such as sensitivity of data, classification of waters and monitoring parameters based on discussions, decisions and recommendations which emerged from regional meetings of experts and the SOCAR Working Group. <p>Funding to support the refinement and finalization of the SOCAR during the biennium was provided by the UNDP/GEF CLME+ and GEF IW Eco projects.</p> <p>This will facilitate greater integration with the State of the Habitat Report under the SPAW Sub-Programme initiated in 2018.</p> <p>The SOCAR report will contribute directly to the SOME E report produced under the UNDP/GEF CLME+ project.</p>

Activity	Implementation Status	
	SPAW	AMEP
<p>Content developed and online for CLME+ Status and SAP Monitoring and Evaluation web portal(s) beyond 2017 as well as first “State of the Marine Ecosystems and Associated Economies” Report (SOMEE)</p>	<p><i>Pending</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Like the SOCAR, some of the content regarding the CLME region that will need to be provided to UN Environment-CEP to inform the development of the State of the Marine Ecosystems and Associated Economies Report, will include: (1) the current environment of the coastal and marine ecosystems; (2) the pressures and the drivers of those pressures; and (3) an assessment of current environmental management initiatives. • Based on the information collected, and the identified priorities in the other activities, the web portal(s) will be designed and developed • The development of the web portal(s) will help standardise and streamline the reporting process in order to facilitate the creation of the “State of the Marine Ecosystems” reports. • This will also help to facilitate communication and the exchange of information amongst project partners. • Following a recommendation of the 4th LBS STAC, an integrated data set on pollution and habitat will be developed in coordination with the CLME+ Project and the work for the Caribbean Marine Atlas (Phase 2). • The redesigned CEP website was launched in early 2019 will also be used along with a Communications Strategy to showcase the results of SOCAR, State of Habitat and SOMEE. • Further linkages have been developed through institutional collaborations with affiliates such as the Mesoamerican Reef Fund (MAR Fund) which although not directly within the CLME region, can serve as a source for existing baseline/correlational regional information and stakeholder connectivity for LME data. This is being validated through an existing MoU with MAR Fund and SSFA under the ICRI/UN Environment Grants Project "<i>Innovative financing and legal mechanisms for reef restoration and emergency response in selected sites of the MAR Region</i>" • In connection with the CANARI partnership and outputs outlined under the SSFA, a desk review towards development of the State of the Habitat report was completed with a first draft presented at the 8th SPAW STAC 	

SPAW/AMEP COLLABORATION

Based on the activities that will be implemented under both the SPAW and AMEP Workplans, the two sub-programmes will continue to integrate activities across various subject areas. These include:

- **The continued promotion and ratification of the SPAW, LBS and Oil Spills Protocols**
 - The Programme Officers for each sub-programme will continue to support and recommend the ratification of all the Cartagena Convention's Protocols to their respective Member States. This will seek to: (1) increase the number of countries that ratify the Protocols; and (2) extend the benefits that accompany protocol ratification to additional countries in the WCR. This has been evidenced in the recent decisions by the Governments of Haiti and Honduras to ratify the Cartagena Convention and all its Protocols.
- **The dissemination of information on SPAW and AMEP activities**
 - Quarterly newsletters are distributed by both the SPAW and AMEP Sub-Programmes. To promote the work conducted by both Sub-Programmes, a joint newsletter is being sent monthly to UN Environment Headquarters. Brief information on projects relevant to both LBS and SPAW Focal Points are being now included in both newsletters. In addition, information shared on the UN Environment CEP Website and through social media and in the commemoration of Environmental days is more integrated and serves to increase awareness of the activities of both Sub-programmes and forge greater connection between their stakeholders.
- **Improved water quality monitoring**
 - Water quality parameters under the Regional Guidelines for Biophysical Coral Reef Monitoring (UNEP(DEPI)/CAR WG.38/INF.17) could be expanded to include the identification of types of contaminants present in the water at coral reef monitoring sites. The current guidelines only examine the concentration of particulate matter in the water column. The identification of additional types of contaminants could be included to determine the concentration of chemical compounds such as organochlorines, nitrates and phosphates. This information could then be shared with both LBS and SPAW Focal Points through relevant fora. The State of Pollution Report (SOCAR) focusses specifically on the impact of recreational water quality on ecosystem goods and services.
- **Increased collaboration between AMEP and SPAW on the influx of *Sargassum* in the WCR**
 - The excessive nutrient loads in the Caribbean waters could contribute to the increased presence of *Sargassum* in the WCR. Collaboration between the two Sub-Programmes has taken place in the participation in a IOC UNESCO Pilot Project for the Caribbean and Adjacent Regions assessing *Sargassum* and Oil Spills Monitoring. This will lead to increased understanding of the causes for the *Sargassum* influx as well as improved management and mitigation efforts.
- **Support to the SPAW Sub-Programme through the implementation of AMEP's National Programmes of Action**
 - The National Programmes of Action (NPAs) being implemented by the AMEP Sub-programme could support the objectives of the SPAW Sub-programme. The NPAs' focus of applying innovation to reduce nutrient pollution from wastewater and agricultural discharges in waterways (see UNEP(DEPI)/CAR WG.37/INF.15), could reduce degradation of marine ecosystems and contaminant loads in marine organisms. The project components that would help deliver these results would be C1.2: Agricultural run-off diversion; and, C1.3: Nutrient-use efficiency (fertilization and recycling).

- **Improved collaboration on projects designed to protect coastal and marine ecosystems**
 - Synergies between the two Sub-programmes will continue through the implementation of coral reef conservation and mangrove projects under the SPAW Workplan; and the Global Environment Facility funded Integrating Water, Land and Ecosystems Management in Caribbean Small Island Developing States (GEF IWECO) Project, under the AMEP Workplan and Budget. Components 2-4 of the GEF IWECO project, which focus on strengthening ecosystems monitoring, capacity for ecosystems services management, and knowledge exchange, will help deliver results such as coastal reforestation, prevention of habitat destruction and protection of mangroves. The implementation of the GEF IWECO project will help to meet SPAW objectives, through the provision of support for the sustainable management of coastal and marine ecosystems. Activities under the SPAW Protocol that may support the GEF IWECO project include the implementation of the coral reef monitoring guidelines to standardise coral reef monitoring and help determine threats to reefs around the region; the implementation of projects under the BEST Initiative which funds projects that support the conservation of biodiversity and the sustainable use of ecosystem services; and the development of Training of Trainers workshops on the management and protection of wetlands.

ANNEX I: THEORY OF CHANGE FOR UNEP-CEP



Note: Key deliverables in the theory of change are related to either a single output or a group of outputs

