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Nineteenth Intergovernmental Meeting on the Action Plan for the Caribbean Environment Programme and Sixteenth Meeting of the Contracting Parties to the Convention for the Protection and Development of the Marine Environment of the Wider Caribbean Region

Virtual 26 to 30 July 2021

**REPORT OF THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR ON THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE 2019-2020
WORKPLAN AND BUDGET OF THE CARIBBEAN ENVIRONMENT PROGRAMME**

For reasons of public health and safety associated with the COVID-19 pandemic, this meeting is being convened virtually. Delegates are kindly requested to access all meeting documents electronically.

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

1. In accordance with established practice, UNEP Secretariat for the Cartagena Convention presents the implementation of its 2019-2020 work programme and related financial status of the Secretariat to the Nineteenth Intergovernmental Meeting on the Action Plan for the Caribbean and the Sixteenth Meeting of the Contracting Parties to the Convention for the Protection and Development of the Marine Environment of the Wider Caribbean Region, held virtually during the period 26-30 July 2021.
2. This report spans two years, each with very different modalities of Secretariat operations. The COVID-19 pandemic resulted in some delays in implementation of national programmes and projects. Additionally, some national projects were revised to support Contracting Parties in recovery and resilience, while ensuring that the original objectives of the projects were met.
3. The Secretariat's projects and activities continued to support and promote regional co-operation for the protection and development of the Wider Caribbean Region (WCR) and the long-term objective of achieving sustainable development of marine and coastal resources in the WCR, through effective, integrated management that allows for economic growth and sustainable livelihoods.
4. The report also outlines actions taken by the Secretariat related to the Decisions of the Seventeenth Intergovernmental Meeting and other CEP intergovernmental or technical meetings implemented as part of the work programme for 2019-2020 (Annex I).
5. The Secretariat's core work programme is largely funded by the Contracting Parties through assessed contributions to the Caribbean Trust Fund (CTF), for which the total bi-annual level of pledges is US\$2,528,616. Total contributions received from 2013 through 2020 have consistently been below the bi-annual level of assessed contributions and as a result, the Secretariat employed varying strategies to address the long-standing financial constraints. Governments with unpaid pledges were strongly encouraged to make regular and timely payments to the CTF to allow for efficient and effective programme implementation that meets the needs of the Parties.
6. The Secretariat acknowledges with appreciation Governments that have provided support and extraordinary contributions to facilitate the implementation of the 2019-2020 work programme. During 2019 the Government of the Netherlands in recognition of the challenges faced by the Secretariat provided an additional voluntary contribution to the CTF, which supported the fifteenth COP. Noted is the continued support provided by the Governments of Cuba, France, Trinidad and Tobago and Curaçao for hosting the CEP Regional Activity Centres (RACs) and the Government of Jamaica which hosts the Secretariat's Office since its inception.
7. Implementation of the workplan's projects and activities was facilitated through a growing number of partnerships with governmental institutions, non-governmental organizations, academic, scientific and research communities and civil society, including the private sector. Increased cooperation also occurred with international, regional and sub-regional agencies. The Secretariat executed activities directly and through the RACs, in addition to activities linked to GEF funded projects. There was continued collaboration with CARICOM, OECS, UNEP-ROLAC, UNEP GPA, and the Inter-American Development Bank on activities related to the implementation of the 2019-2020 workplan on taking steps toward achieving the overarching mission of environmental protection and development in the Wider Caribbean Region.
8. The Secretariat is co-executing agency for the GEF Integrating Water, Land and Ecosystem Management in Caribbean Small Island Developing States (SIDS) or IWeco project, which was

approved in 2015. It is also an implementing partner for the GEF Catalysing implementation of the Strategic Action Programme (SAP) for the sustainable management of shared Living Marine Resources in CLME+ region (UNDP/GEF CLME+) where activities had been integrated into the delivery of the workplan.

9. The following are new Memoranda of Cooperation with MEA secretariats and partner regional and international agencies to facilitate increased cooperation:
 - An MOU to establish the interim Inter-Agency Coordination Mechanism for the UNDP GEF CLME+Project.
 - The Ocean Foundation, Gulf and Caribbean Fisheries Institute (GCFI), Water Center for the Humid Tropics of Latin America (INVEMAR) and the Caribbean (CATHALAC).
 - An MoU was finalized with the OSPAR Commission, approved at the Heads of Department meeting in May 2021. A final draft will be presented to OSPAR Parties in October 2021 for endorsement. The MOU was developed to further inter-regional corporation on marine protected areas (MPAs), marine litter and ecosystem-based management.
 - An MoU with the Caribbean Marine Environment Protection Association (CARIBMEPA) was waiting additional due diligence information.
10. Several workshops and meetings were convened during the biennium and are reflected in Annex VI.
11. The major achievements of the Secretariat in the implementation of the 2019-2020 work programme are:
 - Ratification of the LBS Protocol by the Government of Barbados;
 - Mobilization of new sources of funding and technical assistance;
 - Increased awareness and involvement by Member Countries in CEP activities through enhanced activities of the Communications, Education, Training and Awareness Sub-Programme (CETA);
 - Improved synergies with other UNEP programmes, projects and activities in the Wider Caribbean Region;
 - Increased collaboration between the SPAW and LBS Sub-programmes through the implementation of the UNDP GEF CLME+ Project, ACP MEA Project and ongoing work on Sargassum, Ocean Acidification and Marine Plastics.and
 - Improved knowledge of the state of the marine environment in the Wider Caribbean Region and identification of priority areas for further action through the State of Marine Pollution and State of Marine Biodiversity Reports.
12. Despite these achievements, development and implementation of new projects and activities continued to be limited by various factors, including lack of financial and human resources at the Secretariat and the RACs. Financial challenges often resulted from the lack of timely contributions by Member Governments to the CTF and the continued accumulation of arrears. This lack of financial resources negatively impacted on the ability of the Secretariat to coordinate its activities and the need for financial sustainability remained a very high priority for the Secretariat. This was reflected in the proposed resource mobilization strategy that formed part of the updated CEP Strategy.
13. While the work of the Secretariat was developed within the framework of the Action Plan for the CEP and the obligations of the Cartagena Convention and its Protocols, implementation had been informed by UNEP's Medium-Term Strategy 2018-2021, its Regional Seas Strategic Directions 2017-2020, and

current and emerging priorities and recommendations of the Member Governments of the WCR. This resulted in a 2019-2020 work programme that continued to fulfil the obligations of the Cartagena Convention and its Protocols, while also responding to national and regional priorities within the scope and mandate of the Caribbean Environment Programme.

14. Activities during the 2021-2022 biennium will continue to focus on increasing the number of ratifications of the Cartagena Convention and, in particular, the LBS and SPAW Protocols, improving the data and information management capacity at the Secretariat and the RACs, expanding resource mobilization efforts, building new partnerships and enhancing the impact of CEP projects and activities at the national and local levels.
15. Additional focus will be on the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals, particularly Goal 14 on Oceans and Goal 6 on Water and Sanitation.
16. At the core of these new activities were efforts to optimize efficiency through regular monitoring and evaluation of all projects and activities which contribute to the delivery of a coordinated programme by UNEP in the Wider Caribbean Region. This would consider the new strategic directions for Regional Seas 2022-2025, the new Oceans Strategy for UNEP, the decisions of the third and fourth United Nations Environment Assemblies, the Samoa Pathway for Small Island Developing States (SIDS) and the Post 2015 Development Agenda.

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REPORT OF THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR ON THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE 2019-2020 WORKPLAN AND BUDGET OF THE CARIBBEAN ENVIRONMENT PROGRAMME

I. FINANCIAL MANGEMENT, BUDGET AND ADMINISTRATION

1. Total bi-annual pledges to the CTF in the amount of US\$2,528,616 remained unchanged since 2015. The status of assessed contributions and payments to the CTF on 31 December 2020 is reflected in Annex II. The Secretariat continued to face adverse financial challenges in meeting CEP's work programme and activities in response to region-specific needs and global demands. Contracting Parties which made their assessed contributions to the CTF were commended and those with outstanding pledges were strongly encouraged to make their contributions in a timely manner.
2. The Secretariat acts as executing and co-implementing agency for several regional GEF projects, including project preparation grants for Catalysing Implementation of the Strategic Action Programme (CLME+) and an Integrated Approach to water and Wastewater Management with IDB/UNEP (CREW+). In addition, the execution of the full size GEF project, Integrating Water, Land and Ecosystem Management in Caribbean Small Island Developing States – (IWeco) is hosted within the Secretariat.
3. The staffing composition of CEP at year end 2020, included a total of twelve staff positions. In addition to the Principal Coordination Officer (1 D-1), there are two full time Programme Management Officers (2 P-4), and nine locally recruited staff positions (3 G-6; 3 G-5; 2 G-4; 1 G-2) supported by the CTF. The Secretariat's Administration/Funds Management Officer position (1 P-4) is funded by the 13 percent programme support costs levied on the CTF and other non-GEF projects implemented by The Secretariat. In addition, CEP hosts and administers the IWeco project coordination unit, which funds five (5) staff positions (1 P-5; 1 P-3; 1 P-2; 1 G-6; 1 G-5). The organizational chart, effective 31 December 2020, may be found in Annex III.
4. To build capacity in young professionals, while supporting the work of the Secretariat, three unpaid interns were engaged by the CEP programme from 1 January 2019 through 30 November 2019, providing much needed assistance. In addition, six interns were engaged between January and July 2020. No interns had been engaged since August 2020 due to the impact of COVID-19, travel restrictions and work from home orders; however, interns will be engaged remotely during 2021. There were no resource changes resulting from the mandatory COVID-19 work from home orders, which came into effect March 2020.

II. ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT AND POLLUTION PREVENTION

Programme Coordination

5. This report presents the status of activities for the sub-programme on the Assessment and Management of Environmental Pollution (AMEP) for the biennium 2019-2020.
6. The goal of this sub-programme is to assist countries of the Wider Caribbean to control, prevent and reduce pollution of their coastal and marine environments enabling them to meet their obligations under the Land-based Sources of Marine Pollution (LBS) and Oil Spills Protocols of the Cartagena Convention.

7. The objectives of the Sub-programme were to:
 - Coordinate and oversee the implementation of AMEP projects and activities within the framework of the Cartagena Convention;
 - Ensure that the formulation and implementation of projects and activities satisfy the obligations of the LBS and Oil Spills Protocols;
 - Promote ratification of, accession to, and effective implementation of the LBS and Oil Spills Protocols; and
 - Enhance coordination, collaboration and communication with Regional Activity Centres (RACs), members of the Regional Activity Network (RAN), and relevant regional and international organizations in the development and implementation of the AMEP workplan.

8. Specific activities for this biennium fell under the following major areas:
 - **Watershed Management-GEF Projects:**
 - i. Upscaling and enhancing the experience of the Caribbean Regional Fund for Wastewater Management to the Wider Caribbean promoting through an integrated approach of innovative technical solutions and financing mechanisms (CReW+).
 - ii. Integrating Water, Land and Ecosystems Management in Caribbean SIDS (GEF IWeco);
 - **Monitoring and Assessment:**
 - i. State of the Convention Area in the Wider Caribbean Region (WCR);
 - **Waste Management:**
 - i. Support to the Caribbean Node for Marine Litter Management
 - ii. Trash Free Partnership Initiatives
 - **National Programmes of Action (NPAs):**
 - i. Support to the Caribbean Platform for Nutrients Management

9. The following is an overview of the highlights of the pollution sub-programme.

Programme Overview

10. The AMEP Programme Officer (PO) coordinated the implementation of programme activities for 2019-2020 with support from the AMEP Programme Assistant and the CETA Team Assistant. The Directors and staff of the LBS Regional Activity Centres provided additional technical support. The AMEP Programme Assistant separated from the Secretariat in December 2020 and a temporary Project Management Assistant was recruited.

11. The sub-programme continued to develop and strengthen relationships with regional and international organizations including through participation at various conferences. Contributions included oral and poster presentations, exhibition booths with displays of videos, promotional material, posters and technical discussions on pollution through national, regional and global committees. These meetings were held virtually during March to December 2020.

12. In June 2019, the Government of Barbados became the 15th country to ratify the Protocol Concerning Pollution from Land-Based Sources and Activities. Through continuous work with LBS focal points to promote and facilitate the ratification of the LBS Protocol in the Wider Caribbean Region, St. Kitts and Nevis prepared and submitted a request for formal ratification to its Cabinet of Ministers. The importance of ratification of the LBS Protocol was promoted during the biennium through new outreach products including infographics, publications and fact sheets.
13. Discussions are on-going between the Secretariat and the Government of Cuba regarding their host agreement which would formalize the Centre of Engineering and Environmental Management of Coasts and Bays (CIMAB) as the second LBS RAC.
14. The open-ended Ad-Hoc Working Group on Environmental Monitoring and Assessment continued to oversee the finalization and dissemination of the State of the Convention Area Report (SOCAR) and provide technical support to the Secretariat. The final report would be launched at the Meeting of Ministers of Environment in Latin America and the Caribbean in February 2021.
15. In coordination with the Specially Protected Areas and Wildlife Sub-Programme, Memoranda of Understanding (MOU) were signed between the Cartagena Convention Secretariat and the Gulf and Caribbean Fisheries Institute (GCFI), Water Center for the Humid Tropics of Latin America and the Caribbean (CATHALAC), Institute of Marine and Coastal Research (INVEMAR), and the Caribbean Natural Resources Institute (CANARI).
16. The GEF-funded project 'Integrating Water, Land and Ecosystems Management in Caribbean Small Island Developing States' (IWeco) convened its Third and Fourth Project Steering Committee Meetings in April 2019 and July 2020, respectively. The Mid-Term evaluation of the project was completed and included as a Reference Document for the meeting.
17. The GEF CReW+ full sized project proposal was submitted to the Global Environment Facility in March 2019 and received formal approval in November 2019. The Inception Workshop and the first Project Steering Committee meeting were successfully convened virtually in November 2020.
18. The sub-programme provided input to the GEF IWeco Quarterly Newsletter to provide regular updates of activities and achievements of the project. The most recent edition covered the impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic on the execution of activities by national and regional project partners. This is available in an online ([Click here](#)).
19. Technical input was provided to several regional and global reports relating to UN Resolutions on Oceans, Small Island Developing States (SIDS) and the Sustainable Development Goals, as well as various technical UN reports on pollution-related issues such as marine litter, plastics, wastewater and nutrients. Of specific reference to the LBS Protocol is the Research Strategy on Pollution published by the Gulf and Caribbean Fisheries Institute (GCFI) under the UNDP/GEF CLME+ Project.
20. The AMEP Sub-Programme continued to work closely with the SPAW Sub-Programme in the implementation of the GEF-funded Caribbean Large Marine Ecosystem Project (GEF CLME+) and the European Union funded 'Capacity-Building Related to Multilateral Environmental Agreements in Africa, Caribbean, and Pacific Countries' Phase 3 Project (ACP MEA).
21. As a follow up to the voluntary commitment registered by the OSPAR Commission (OSPAR) and the Cartagena Convention Secretariat, an MOU was developed and signed to further inter-regional corporation on marine protected areas (MPAs), marine litter and ecosystem-based management.

22. With support from the UN Jamaica Human Security project ‘Strengthening Human Resilience in Northern Clarendon and West Kingston, Jamaica’, the Secretariat continued to implement activities for improving water and sanitation and reducing pollution in vulnerable local communities in Jamaica. The Secretariat developed a training tool on rainwater harvesting and in 2021 will complete the development of a model for participatory management and operation of community-based water systems for possible replication and upscaling in the Wider Caribbean Region.
23. Collaboration between the AMEP Sub-Programme and the UNEP Regional and Caribbean Subregional Offices continued to focus on solid waste including plastics and microplastics and chemicals management. Support was provided for the development of the Central American Regional Marine Litter Action Plan, finalization of the Caribbean Regional Action Plan on Solid Waste, and development of joint proposals on solid waste, marine litter and plastics.

III. BIODIVERSITY AND PROTECTED AREAS

Programme Overview

24. This segment of the report presents the priorities of the Regional Biodiversity Programme on Specially Protected Areas and Wildlife in the Wider Caribbean Region (SPAW Programme) and the status of activities for the 2019-2020 biennium.
25. During the period 2019-2020, activities focused on assisting countries with:
 - (a) Strengthening the management and networking of marine protected areas (MPAs) and protected species;
 - (b) Promoting and integrating the principles of the ecosystem based management approach in order to address the degradation of selected priority ecosystem services and likewise, respond through biodiversity conservation and sustainable use of coastal resources with support of the Catalysing Implementation of the Strategic Action Plan for the Sustainable Management of Shared Living Marine Resources in the Caribbean and North Brazil Shelf Large Marine Ecosystems (CLME+) Project and the Biodiversity for Sustainable Development in the Caribbean through Ecosystem Based Management (EBM-DSS) project from the Italian Cooperation Agency;
 - (c) Acknowledging the inter-dependency and multidimensional aspects of ecological and social systems. This approach was supported by other Multilateral Environmental Agreements (MEAs) such as CBD and the Ramsar Convention.
26. Activities during the period promoted coordination with other environmental agreements and programmes dealing with issues relating to the conservation of biodiversity of particular relevance to the SPAW Protocol such as the [United Nations Environment Programme’s \(UNEP’s\) Regional Seas Programme Strategy](#), [Abidjan Convention](#), the [International Whaling Commission \(IWC\)](#), the International Union for the Conservation of Nature’s (IUCN) Caribbean Strategy and [Biodiversity and Protected Areas Management Programme \(BIOPAMA\)](#), the IAC, [the CLME+ Project](#), [the Western Central Atlantic Fishery Commission of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations \(FAO-WECAFC\)](#), the Caribbean Regional Fisheries Mechanism (CRFM), ICRI, [the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime \(UNODC\)](#) and the [Oslo and Paris Conventions \(OSPAR\) Commission](#).

27. Specific activities for the 2019-2020 Workplan fell under five major programme elements (sub-programmes):
- (a) Programme Coordination;
 - (b) Strengthening of Protected Areas in the Wider Caribbean Region (including training and capacity building for protected area management);
 - (c) Development of Guidelines for Protected Areas and Species Management;
 - (d) Conservation of Threatened and Endangered Species; and
 - (e) Conservation and Sustainable Use of Coastal and Marine Ecosystems (including coral reef, mangroves and seagrasses using the ecosystem-based management (EBM) approach).
28. During the period 2019-2020 the day-to-day coordination for implementation of the programme activities continued to be overseen by the SPAW Programme Officer, who is responsible for the overall coordination of the SPAW Programme, with support from the SPAW Programme Assistant.
29. Additional support to meet the objectives of this sub-programme were received from the [SPAW Regional Activity Centre \(SPAW-RAC\)](#), which is located in Guadeloupe and supported by the Government of France (*see UNEP(DEPI)/CAR WG.42/INF.3 Page 3 and UNEP(DEPI)/CAR WG.42/INF.4* for details on the funds provided by the French Government through SPAW-RAC for implementation of SPAW activities). The operational costs of the SPAW-RAC are covered by the French Ministry of Environment, including salaries for three (3) French officers/civil servants: one (1) Executive Director, one (1) Programme Officer, a Project Manager and one (1) Administrative Assistant. In March 2019 the post of Programme Officer was filled, and the team was also supported by two (2) civil service volunteers, and other fixed-term contract staff, currently three (3).
30. The RAC continued to support the Secretariat with various activities, especially the coordination of actions mandated by STAC8 and COP10 which included the establishment and activation of the four (4) STAC working groups related to species, protected areas, exemptions and sargassum (*see UNEP(DEPI)/CAR WG.42/4, UNEP(DEPI)/CAR WG.42/5, UNEP(DEPI)/CAR WG.42/6 and UNEP(DEPI)/CAR WG.42/7*) and activities under the [Global Coral Reef Monitoring Network \(GCRMN\)](#) (*see UNEP(DEPI)/CAR WG.42/INF.26*) and with WIDECAST (*see UNEP(DEPI)/CAR WG.42/INF.17*).
31. Additional programmatic support was facilitated through the RAC's key role in the implementation of two (2) significant projects funded by the European Union (EU) (2017-2021): 1) the [Caribbean Marine Mammals Preservation Network \(CARI'MAM\)](#) Project on marine mammal protected area networks (€2,903,178.24) including the assessment and implementation of the Action Plan for the Conservation of Marine Mammals in the Wider Caribbean Region (MMA) (*see UNEP(DEPI)/CAR WG.42/INF.29 and UNEP(DEPI)/CAR WG.42/INF.29 Addendum 1*); and 2) [the Caribbean network for coastal risks related to climate change \(CARIBCOAST\) Project](#) on coral reef, mangrove and seagrass beds ecosystems (€3,286,345) (*see UNEP(DEPI)/CAR WG.42/INF.37*).
32. In keeping with the objectives of developing synergies, promoting the Protocol and optimizing resources, the following activities were completed or initiated:
- [A Memorandum of Understanding \(MoU\) was signed with The Ocean Foundation \(TOF\)](#) in September 2019, to address ocean acidification as a regional topic of common concern, in support of Target 3 of Sustainable Development Goal 14 which aims to “minimize and address

the impacts of ocean acidification, including through enhanced scientific cooperation at all levels”.

- Extension of the existing [Memorandum of Cooperation \(MoC\) with MAR Fund until May 2026](#).
 - Implementation of activities under the new EU funded project “[Enforcing Environmental Treaties in African, Caribbean and Pacific \(ACP\) Countries – ACP-MEAs Phase III](#)” (USD1,961,264). The four-year project (2020-2024) would result in the development of a functional network of SPAW-listed protected areas that cover interconnected marine habitats and ecosystems for restoring and sustaining the health of the oceans.
 - Development of an MoU with GCFI to “formally recognize GCFI as part of the Regional Activity Network (RAN) of the Cartagena Convention Secretariat and strengthen cooperation on regional environmental projects and activities. Within the framework of the SPAW Protocol, GCFI would collaborate on areas of common interest.
 - Development of a draft MoU with the IWC to provide a framework for cooperation and facilitate collaborations between the Parties in areas of common concern and interest by increasing consultations and cooperation between both Parties in order to:
 - ✓ improve information and data sharing on the status and abundance of marine mammal species;
 - ✓ promote and encourage the conservation and management of key species and populations; and
 - ✓ enhance collaborations on research, prevention of, and response to anthropogenic threats.
 - Development of a draft MoU with the Secretariat of the OSPAR Commission to promote the:
 - ✓ prevention of marine pollution;
 - ✓ protection of the marine environment; and
 - ✓ sustainable use and conservation of marine resources.
 - Development of a draft MoU with the Institute of Marine and Coastal Research (INVEMAR) which will recognize INVEMAR as part of the Cartagena Convention Secretariat’s RAN and strengthen its cooperation in regional environmental projects. This included the development and implementation of joint regional workshops and the writing of technical reports.
 - Strengthened partnerships with the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) to address emerging regional issues such as SCTLTD, Sargassum citizens’ science data sharing and ocean acidification.
 - Established partnerships with universities, research entities and international organizations working in areas/on topics of common interest (e.g. George Washington University, Florida International University, the University of South Florida, the Centre for Research and Advanced Studies of the National Polytechnic Institute (CINVESTAV) and IUCN).
33. Several activities were undertaken by/or implemented in collaboration with the SPAW-RAC in Guadeloupe. See UNEP(DEPI)/CAR WG.42/INF.4 for further details.
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Projects and activities

(i) Strengthening of Protected Areas in the Wider Caribbean

Region Background

34. The objectives of this sub-programme were to:
- (a) Strengthen the management of parks and protected areas of the Wider Caribbean, including the communication between parks and protected areas within the region;
 - (b) Assist Governments and Non-Government Organizations (NGOs) with the development of human capacity to increase the effectiveness of Marine Protected Areas (MPAs), both sites and national system;
 - (c) Sensitize Governments of the need and importance of financing protected areas, and to promote the development of funding mechanisms and strategies for successful park and protected area management; and
 - (d) Promote protected areas in the context of the conservation of important natural resources necessary for the sustainable development of the region.

Summary Status Report and Results

35. During the reporting period, activities were implemented through a number of projects approved under the SPAW sub-programme which aimed to strengthen capacity building initiatives in MPAs throughout the WCR. The period also marked substantial changes to the management and operation of CaMPAM which included the resignation of Ms. Georgina Bustamante as coordinator (now overseen by the SPAW Programme Officer), and steps to enhance and assess the network's effectiveness with funding from the ACP-MEAs III project. The initiatives implemented, and the activities conducted, are described below.
36. Strengthening of MPAs under CaMPAM was addressed through the implementation of the EBM-DSS project (UNEP(DEPI)/CAR WG.42/INF.13). The €1,350,000 four (4) year project (2015-2019 and extended to April 2020) was funded by the Directorate for the Environment within Italy's Ministry of Foreign Affairs, with an overall objective to "enhance the livelihoods of the populations of the WCR by contributing to the conservation and sustainable management of coastal and marine biodiversity through the application of the EBM approach". Other initiatives concluded during the biennium included:
- Evaluation and restructuring of [the CaMPAM database](#) which was officially launched at the Third Latin America and Caribbean Congress of Protected Areas (14–17 October 2019) in Lima, Peru.
 - Conclusion of the Project Cooperation Agreement (PCA) with the Ministry of Environment and Natural Resources of the Dominican Republic (MARENA) (signed in September 2016 for USD350,000) for the implementation of activities relating to the application of the ecosystem-based approach to two (2) selected pilot sites (Montecristi and Puerto Plata), representing two (2) distinct areas – Montecristi was identified as an important fisheries site and Puerto Plata was recognised for its focus on tourism.

- MPA capacity building initiatives continued under the recently launched ACP-MEAs III project via specific activities focused on developing a functional network of SPAW-listed protected areas that cover interconnected marine habitats. Activities implemented thus far through work from a team of consultants included:
 - ✓ Steps to establish a SPAW MPAs Networking Group to lead the inter-regional network of MPAs through a coordination mechanism for MPA management effectiveness and improved MPA networking (including CaMPAM enhancement).
 - ✓ Development of a plan to link SPAW-listed MPAs based on the ecological connectivity between the sites. A report on ecological connectivity in the Caribbean and a proposal to form a network to conserve and enhance the connectivity was drafted and circulated within the MPA working group for further feedback, and would be presented for endorsement at STAC9 (*see UNEP(DEPI)/CAR WG.42/INF.10*).
 - ✓ Additional outputs already completed include: 1) a Protected Areas Management Effectiveness (PAME) report containing tables, charts and narrative for the 35 SPAW Listed PAs (including survey/responses) (*UNEP(DEPI)/CAR WG.42/INF.19*); 2) a report with an analysis of proposed species for inclusion within the proposed ecological network development for the SPAW Listed PAs and the Gulf of Mexico (GoM) MPAs; 3) SPAW MPA booklet (*UNEP(DEPI)/CAR WG.42/INF.18*) and protected areas brochure; and 4) a Caribbean MPA Network brochure.
37. Support continues to be provided for the project “Cooperation and Common Strategy Between MPA Networks of Managers in the Atlantic Region (Networks twinning)”. The project aimed to build partnerships between managers of MPAs throughout the Atlantic and contribute to better MPA management effectiveness for improved conservation of marine ecosystems. Project partners include CaMPAM, MedPan, RAMPAM, NAMPAM, the French Agency for Biodiversity and the Biodiversity Foundation in Spain.

(ii) *Development of Guidelines for Protected Areas and Species Management*

38. The objectives of this sub-programme were to:
- (a) Promote and assist with the development and implementation of the guidelines on protected area establishment, management, and listing developed under the framework of the SPAW Protocol;
 - (b) Promote national system planning for protected areas as a mechanism for development of relevant legislation and reporting mechanisms; and
 - (c) Promote and assist with the development and implementation of guidelines on species conservation and management developed under the framework of the SPAW Protocol.

Summary Status Report and Results

39. Several activities were undertaken by/implemented in collaboration with the SPAW-RAC in Guadeloupe (*see UNEP(DEPI)/CAR WG.42/INF.4 for further details*). The activities implemented during 2019-2020 to meet these objectives included:
- Following SPAW STAC8, Terms of Reference (ToR) were [finalised for the SPAW STAC Ad Hoc Working Groups in July 2019](#) (protected areas for listing; evaluation of species for listing

under the annexes; exemptions to the Protocol; and Sargassum influx). The ToR provided the framework under which the four working groups will operate (see UNEP(DEPI)/CAR WG.42/INF.12). This resulted in the revitalisation of the Working Groups and nomination of regional experts according to the rules of the finalized ToR. Each Party was invited to nominate up to two (2) experts in each group and Observers were invited to nominate one (1) expert.

- Additional protected areas (The Mount Scenery National Park of Saba Island in the Caribbean Netherlands, the National Natural Reserve of Kaw-Roura and the National Natural Reserve of Amana, both in French Guiana) were listed under the Protocol bringing the total to 35 with a view to enhance their effectiveness, and share lessons learnt with other protected areas. In 2019, the Dominican Republic submitted a proposal to list the Cotumabana National Park, which would be presented to the STAC9 and COP11 (see UNEP(DEPI)/CAR WG.42/INF.22 (Addendum 1)).
- Under the ACP-MEAs III project, there were planned activities (some already underway) to enhance this subprogramme through the development of a regionally representative network of MPAs with the expected result being a functional network(s) of SPAW-listed Protected Areas covering interconnected marine habitats and ecosystems for restoring and sustaining the health of the oceans.

40. The major outputs of this sub-programme were:

- An updated list of protected areas under the SPAW Protocol
- Reports from Parties using the voluntary Format for presenting exemptions under Article 11(2) and reporting on their implementation
- A revised list of protected species under Annexes I-III of the SPAW Protocol

(iii) Conservation of Threatened and Endangered Species Background

41. The objectives of this sub-programme were to:

- Build consensus in the region on priorities for the management of endangered and migratory species;
- Implement priority activities of existing species recovery and management plans developed under the framework of the SPAW Protocol;
- Develop, as appropriate, adequate management plans and programmes for priority species of regional concern, including those of economic importance; and
- Address the growing threat of invasive alien species (IAS) that could negatively impact SPAW species and WCR habitats, especially marine or coastal IAS.

Summary Status Report and Results

42. New partnerships and areas of focus were fostered during the biennium specific to other emerging issues such as those concerning the conservation of herbivorous fish (especially the Parrotfish). Funding was not available to adequately support sea turtle conservation activities, which the Protocol hopes will improve for the new biennium
43. Support for the implementation of the MMAP included efforts to conclude an MoU with the IWC to facilitate enhanced cooperation relating to collaboration on research, prevention of, and response to, anthropogenic threats (such as, but not limited to, small-scale fishery bycatch [especially [IWC's Bycatch Mitigation Initiative \(BMI\)](#)], whale watching guidelines, [ship strikes](#), strandings and entanglement response/training). The agreement is still under review for signature and dialogue would continue in this regard.
44. As per the 2019-2020 Workplan, the Secretariat supported initiatives to address the management of Sargassum throughout the WCR. To that end, the Sargassum *Ad Hoc* Working Group was launched in March 2020 and the Secretariat's White Paper (UNEP(DEPI)/CAR WG.40/INF8 Rev.1) continues to be updated and disseminated. There was also increased synergies with the Abidjan Convention Secretariat and through cross-linkages with the Secretariat's Assessment and Management of Environment Pollution (AMEP) Sub-programme and Integrating Water, Land and Ecosystems Management in Caribbean Small Island Developing States (IWEco) project to support in-depth research (e.g. the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) focused on a current overview of Sargassum blooms in the Caribbean Sea and basic training on nuclear and isotopic applications to address the Sargassum challenge – stable isotopes, radionuclides and contaminant monitoring [metals, organic pollutants, radionuclides and microplastics]). The sub-programme also continued to enhance and explore partnerships with the academic community (e.g. the University of South Florida, Southern Mississippi, and George Washington University). A [toolbox for reporting Sargassum sightings](#) has been completed, with support from the ACP-MEAs III project.
45. Regional and international meetings on Sargassum were also organised / attended by SPAW-RAC to collaborate with strategic partners on management, as well as initiate concrete regional actions; particularly the:
 - **1st International Conference and Trade Show on Sargassum Management** (Baie-Mahault, Guadeloupe, 24–26 October 2019) which resulted in the first ever regional declaration (in English, Spanish and French) on a commitment for the region to collaborate on Sargassum management.
46. UNEP, together with partners International Oceanic Commission-UNESCO (IOC-UNESCO), and the Abidjan Convention also organized, in collaboration with [the Global Partnership on Nutrient Management \(GPNM\)/Global Programme of Action \(GPA\)](#), a webinar series (launched in May 2020) to highlight key scientific, societal and ecological challenges, responses to prevent impacts and transdisciplinary and trans-institution collaboration around Sargassum in the context of the Caribbean and West African seas.
47. AIDA, in collaboration with the SPAW Secretariat, had been working towards the regulation of herbivorous fish species associated with critical marine ecosystems. As a result of the collaboration, and AIDA's participation at STAC meetings, recommendations for the protection of spawning aggregations and the banning of spearguns and traps were included in the RSAP.

48. The outputs produced under the CLME+ project continued to support the objectives of this subprogramme. The reports produced identify strategies that will protect and sustainably manage key coastal and marine habitats, which would ensure the protection of the threatened species found within these ecosystems.
49. In June 2020 SPAW-RAC issued a Call for Proposals for small, short-term grants (*UNEP(DEPI)/CAR WG.42/INF.27*). Fifteen (15) conservation proposals were approved and included efforts to conserve the West Indian Whistling Duck (*Dendrocygna arborea*), an assessment of parrotfish populations in Anguilla, and support for a Belize turtle nesting beach monitoring programme.
50. The Secretariat via the SPAW-RAC continues to support initiatives under WIDECAS (T *UNEP(DEPI)/CAR WG.42/INF.17*) which included a presentation on protected species under the SPAW Protocol at the 2019 Annual WIDECAS Meeting (Paramaribo, Suriname, March 2019). Work begun on the creation of a sea turtle sightings recording application for the WCR in collaboration with WIDECAS, with funding provided under the ACP-MEAs III project.
51. [Guidelines for Wildlife Enforcement Networks were developed by the International Consortium on Combating Wildlife Crime \(ICWC\)](#) in English, French and Spanish to help member states/regions to either strengthen existing Wildlife Enforcement Networks (WENs) or support the establishment of new WENs. It is hoped that this could help to resuscitate dialogue and efforts for the Caribbean Wildlife Enforcement Network (CaribWEN).
52. Several activities were undertaken by, or implemented in collaboration with, the SPAW-RAC in Guadeloupe. See UNEP(DEPI)/CAR WG.42/INF.4 for further details. The activities implemented during 2019-2020 to meet these objectives were:

(iv) Conservation and Sustainable Use of Coastal and Marine Ecosystems Background

53. The objectives of this sub-programme were to:
- Assist with the management of the coastal and marine ecosystems of the region on a sustainable basis, particularly through sustainable practices;
 - Mobilise the political will and actions of Governments and other partners for the conservation and sustainable use of coral reefs and associated ecosystems such as mangroves and seagrass beds;
 - Effectively communicate the value and importance of coral reefs, mangroves and seagrass beds, including their ecosystem services, the threats to their sustainability, and the actions needed to protect them; and
 - Promote the ecosystem management approach and the principles and values of good governance for the conservation and management of marine ecosystems in the region.

Summary Status Report and Results

54. Under this sub-programme, primary activities were carried out via the coordination and implementation of the recently completed CLME+ project.

55. The five (5) year (2015-2020) USD12.5 million project funded by UNDP/GEF project sought to facilitate ecosystem based management/an ecosystem approach to fisheries (EBM/EAF) within the CLME+ region, to ensure that a sustainable and climate resilient provision of goods and services from the region's living marine resources could be secured (*see documents UNEP(DEPI)/CAR WG.37/INF.7 Rev.3, UNEP(DEPI)/CAR WG.37/INF.10, and CLME+ SAP v1.6.3*).
56. The activities implemented under the CLME+ project during this biennium resulted in the production of four (4) innovative regional reports, all of which would be submitted for review and approval to the STAC9:
- **State of Nearshore Marine Habitats in the Wider Caribbean (SoMH)** (See document UNEP(DEPI)/CAR WG.42/INF.5). Prepared by the Caribbean Natural Resources Institute (CANARI) in collaboration with the Secretariat and the CLME+ Project Coordinating Unit (PCU), the report examines the status of three (3) key habitats – coral reefs, mangrove forests and seagrass beds – across the WCR. It highlights the status and trends of these habitats; identifies the drivers and pressures affecting them; summarises the interventions implemented to address these pressures; identifies gaps in response and emerging challenges; and proposes actions to improve the management of these target habitats.
 - **Regional Strategy and Action Plan for the Valuation, Protection and/or Restoration of Key Marine Habitats in the Wider Caribbean 2021-2030 (RSAP)** (*See document UNEP(DEPI)/CAR WG.42/INF.6*). The RSAP aims to strengthen national and collective action by Member States to manage coastal ecosystems, particularly mangroves, seagrass beds and coral reefs, in order to maintain the integrity of these habitats, and to ensure the continued flow of ecosystem goods and services. The RSAP was structured around four (4) interdependent strategic pillars: ecosystem health and resilience, sustainable use, governance and partnerships and enabling systems and capacity.
 - **Integrated Large-Scale Action on Habitat Restoration and Pollution in the CLME+ Region: A Baseline and Feasibility Assessment Report on the Needs and Opportunities** (*See document UNEP(DEPI)/CAR WG.41/INF.13*). This baseline and pre-feasibility assessment report on the needs and opportunities for investments in order to ensure the protection and restoration of key habitats, particularly mangroves, seagrass beds and coral reefs would help to inform future coral, seagrass and mangrove restoration efforts, as well as efforts to reduce pollution in the CLME+ region.
 - **A Regional Mangrove Restoration Manual** (*See document UNEP(DEPI)/CAR WG.42/INF.16*). This was produced with joint funding from the CLME+, MAR Fund and the Integrated Management Project from the Basin to the Reef of the Mesoamerican Reef Ecoregion, in collaboration with CINVESTAV.
57. Coral reef conservation initiatives are on-going. Activities dedicated to the conservation of coral reefs have included:
- **Continued coordination of the regional node for GCRMN with support from the SPAW-RAC** (*see document UNEP(DEPI)/CAR WG.42/INF.26*) through:
 - ✓ Gathering of coral reef monitoring data for the Caribbean. The data was submitted to the global network for inclusion in the 2020 “Global coral reef status and trends” report.

- ✓ **Revitalisation of the Global Coral Reef Partnership Steering Committee.** In 2014 the Global Coral Reef Partnership was formed to promote and demonstrate EBM management practices in coral reef areas. The annual partnership meeting was held 18 November 2020 to revitalise the Steering Committee and identify opportunities for collaboration.

IV. COMMUNICATION, EDUCATION, TRAINING AND AWARENESS

58. This report presents the status of activities for the communications sub-programme, which supports the Secretariat in the design, maintenance and dissemination of information products.
59. The objectives of CETA were to:
 - Disseminate information relevant to the implementation of the Cartagena Convention and its Protocols.
 - Promote improved understanding of the value and importance of marine and coastal resources.
 - Facilitate training and capacity building of Contracting Parties including enhancing access to information on marine and coastal resource management.
60. Communications and technical support were provided for the convening of CEP Intergovernmental Meetings and various programmes and project workshops.
61. The CEP Communications Strategy was updated and was being used as the framework for communication activities. These fell under four main pillars:
 - Corporate Communications and Public Relations: Raising the visibility of the Caribbean Environment Programme and promoting the projects and activities of the Secretariat;
 - Data Information and Management: Providing data, information, and technical support to Contracting Parties and Partners;
 - Environmental Education and Public Awareness: Implementing activities to inform the public about specific environmental issues;
 - Participatory Communication for Development: Engaging stakeholders and project partners in project-based communication efforts to document and provide evidence of behavioural change.
62. Six (6) interns assisted with public awareness activities, social media posts, drafting of reports, presentations, LBS/SPAW activities and website updates. An article highlighting the experience was posted on the CEP website to commemorate International Youth Day 2020 – <https://www.unep.org/cep/news/blogpost/voices-youth-internship-experience-remember-celebrating-international-youth-day-2020>.
63. Programme and project documents and reports continued to be uploaded to UNEP Programme's Document Repository where they would conform to the UN's document nomenclature. This would enable documents to be discovered more easily through search engines.
64. Several videos were produced including the SOCAR report launch video highlighting the findings of the final SOCAR report, A Breaking up with Plastics produced by the Secretariat and coordinated through the GEF IWEco project highlighted the importance of abandoning single use plastics. Other videos included a GEF CReW+ introductory video, Trash Free Video produced by Sandals

Foundation as part of the Trash Free International Project of the Secretariat. This video showcases the main activities of the Whitehouse and Bluefields Solid Waste Reduction Project. All videos were posted on the Cartagena Convention Secretariat's YouTube channel, and posted on social media and the Cartagena Convention website.

65. Several activities were undertaken to raise awareness on environmental issues and the importance of protecting coastal and marine resources. These were associated mainly with the commemoration of environmental days such as World Wetlands Day, World Water Day, Earth Day, World Health Day, World Wildlife Day, International Biodiversity Day, UN Day, World Oceans Day, World Environment Day, World Maritime Day and International Coastal Clean-up Day. These activities included posts on social media sites, workshops and outreach activities including press releases, radio broadcasts and television appearances.
66. Other Public Education and Awareness-raising efforts included the:
 - Design and production of promotional items such as infographic posters and fact sheets on plastic pollution, marine litter and wastewater. A Children's activity book, Young Marine Adventurer Workpack was created to coincide with Marine Mammals Awareness Month.
 - Development of communication material on Sargassum including on: 1) Sargassum Influx Update for Entrepreneurs and Small and Medium Enterprises, 2) Sargassum Influx Update for Policy Makers, and 3) Sargassum Influx Champions – Civil Society on the frontline.
 - Making further updates to the online Interactive Map showing the status of bans on single use plastics and styrofoam in the Wider Caribbean Region. This can be viewed at <https://bit.ly/2GuRi8i>.
 - Production and distribution of six (6) press releases. Environmental news items and updates were posted to the Cartagena Convention website and on social media regarding the work of Contracting Parties, partners and other UN and UNEP offices.
 - The Secretariat continued to use Facebook, Twitter, Instagram and LinkedIn to share programme updates and highlight relevant national, regional and global environmental news. Our Facebook followers have increased by 33.5% from a total of 7,083 at the beginning of 2019 to 9,454 at the end of 2020. Twitter followers grew from 4,941 to 5,555. Our total number of followers on Instagram at the end of the biennium stands at 1,637 followers.
67. Several databases and briefs were managed including Country Focal Points database, Country Information Page, Photo Database and Gallery, and the Lab Capacity Database. Contracting Parties to the Cartagena Convention, partner agencies and the general public were also provided with updates on the availability of data and/or information regarding the protection and development of coastal and marine resources in the Wider Caribbean Region.
68. Support to the convening of virtual meetings and webinars with Remote Simultaneous Interpretation (RSI). These are:
 - UNEP Regional Office Lunch Time Webinars on Environmental issues
 - GEF IWeco Project Steering Committee Meeting (2020)
 - GEF CRew+ Inception Workshop and Project Steering Committee Meeting (2020)
69. Thirteen (13) new Technical Reports were prepared and would be uploaded on the Cartagena Convention Website by the first quarter of 2021.

ANNEX I: Status of CEP Meeting Recommendations and Decisions Matrix

Status of Relevant Decisions of the Eighteenth (18th) Intergovernmental Meeting on the Action Plan for the Caribbean Environment Programme and Fifteenth (15th) Meeting of the Contracting Parties to the Convention for the Protection and Development of the Marine Environment of the Wider Caribbean

DECISIONS OF 18th IGM (2019)	STATUS OF DECISIONS (2019-2020)
<i>Decision I – Workplan and Budget</i>	
I.2. Secretariat to identify partnership opportunities to enable implementation of the 2019-2020 Work Plan.	New partnership opportunities developed with Government of Germany, SSFAs with the Ocean Foundation, IMA, CIMAB, FADESP, CANARI, GCFI, CATHALAC, CARPHA, TNC, RAC REMPEITC have supported work plan implementation including added co-financing. Secretariat identified as support implementing agency in other projects - GEF Plastics, GEF Procaribe, GEF Islands, and GEF GoM.
I.3. Secretariat to strengthen collaboration with regional agencies and other Convention Secretariats to enable implementation of the 2019-2020 Work Plan.	MOUs developed with OSPAR Commission, Ocean Foundation, CATHALAC, GCFI, CARPHA, NAMEPA/CARIBMEPA and INVEMAR. Enhanced collaboration with BASEL Convention Secretariat as Member of Plastics Working Group and with UNEP HQ to define a UNEP Strategy on Plastics. Cooperation with GPA and Global Partnerships, Ecosystems Branch and Regional Seas enabled additional support from Government of Sweden among others.
I.4. Secretariat to facilitate greater participation of the Bureau, Monitoring Committee and Focal Points in the development and implementation of the work programme including participation at meetings of the Secretariat.	POs in contact with programme focal points for information sharing. Coordinator has held regular meetings with Bureau Virtual meeting with LBS Focal Points held end of July Focal Point Contact List updated and shared with CLME Hub Webinars designed and implemented by the Secretariat in collaboration with UNEP CSRO, GPA, GEF IWECO, and other regional partners on Sargassum, SOCAR, Marine Litter and Wastewater which enabled the Secretariat and the RACs to highlight ongoing activities. Focal Points invited to webinars and to be members of working groups.
<i>Decision II – Financial Arrangement</i>	
II.2. Secretariat to work with each Contracting Party in arrears to the CTF to agree on individual debt payment plans based on the ability of each country to meet their obligations.	Coordinator in discussions with countries for payment of arrears. Update to be presented to COP as part of budget presentation.
II.3. Secretariat to work with each Contracting Party in arrears to the CTF to agree on individual debt payment plans based on the ability of each country to meet their obligations.	As per decision. No further action required.
<i>Decision III – Open-Ended Working Group on Monitoring & Assessment</i>	
III.1. Secretariat to establish an Open-Ended Working Group (OEWG) for Monitoring and Assessment to support the work of the LBS Protocol including the finalization of SOCAR for formal dissemination.	As per decision. No further action required.

DECISIONS OF 18th IGM (2019)	STATUS OF DECISIONS (2019-2020)
III.6. OEWG to provide a report of its work to the Fifth LBS STAC and as appropriate, to the Fifth LBS COP and Sixteenth Meeting of Contracting Parties to the Cartagena Convention.	Two meetings of the working group were held to discuss finalization of SOCAR and its dissemination. Future meetings to focus on SOCAR Launch and preparation for 5th LBS STAC and COP. Next meeting scheduled for Jan 2021.
<i>Decision IV – CEP Strategy</i>	
IV.3. Secretariat to circulate an abbreviated version of the revised CEP strategy to Contracting and Non-Contracting Parties by 15 July 2019 to assist in this review process	Abbreviated version of CEP Strategy was prepared and circulated to all Parties & RACs requesting feedback by December 2019 following extension of original July deadline. Additional comments received and incorporated in the final revision
IV.4. Secretariat to provide a revised draft of the CEP Strategy for intersessional endorsement no later than 15 February 2020.	Comments from Contracting Parties compiled into a summarized report. Funds mobilized from ACP MEA Project to recruit consultant in Dec to finalize strategy. Bureau requested Secretariat to delay until a COVID-19 Strategy was put in place. TORs for Consultant finalized and consultant recruited in December 2020 with completion of Strategy by mid-February 2021.
IV.5. Secretariat to take action on the following key issues: ocean acidification, sargassum, the new coral disease Stony Coral Tissue Loss Disease (SCTLD), and invasive species, and consider how these issues can be incorporated into the new CEP Strategy.	These topics have been included on the agenda of Working Groups. New fact sheets and updated Sargassum White Paper prepared. Collaboration with IMO and RAC REMPEITC to raise awareness of SCTLD. Collaboration with IAEA on Ocean Acidification. Several Webinars on Sargassum convened and presentations and recordings circulated through website and social media.
IV.6. Secretariat to work with regional agencies and Contracting Parties to gain a better understanding of ongoing blue economy initiatives in the Wider Caribbean Region.	Secretariat contributed two Chapters to Caribbean Blue Economy Book. Work ongoing with ROLAC to develop TORs for new Working Group on Blue Economy. Funds allocated under ACP MEA project to facilitate national and regional consultation on this issue. AMEP PO delivered paper on waste and the Blue economy at the CWWA Annual Conference based on acceptance of submitted Abstract. Discussions initiated with IDDDC on potential blue tourism project.
<i>Decision V – Decision of the COPs</i>	
V.3. Secretariat to further integrate the AMEP and SPAW Sub-Programmes through joint STACs, COPs and/or full representation of all Contracting Parties at meetings of the Protocols.	Joint STACs planned for Mar 2021. Recent MOUs and activities under CLME+ and ACP MEA reflect integration of SPAW and AMEP Sub-Programmes. New CEP Strategy also reflects such integration.
<i>Decision VI – RAC REMPEITC-Caribe</i>	
VI.2. RAC REMPEITC-Caribe to share information with Contracting Parties of the Cartagena Convention on expertise available and to continue to focus on practical regional response measures and training in this area.	The Secretariat is promoting the work of RAC REMPEITC-Caribe through social media and website. Secretariat facilitated the participation of RAC REMPEITC in Webinars organized the UNEP CSRO.

DECISIONS OF 18th IGM (2019)	STATUS OF DECISIONS (2019-2020)
VI.3. RAC REMPEITC-Caribe disseminates information on their capabilities to countries in the Wider Caribbean Region.	Secretariat promoting work of RAC REMPEITC through social media and website. Webinars being used to further highlight the work of REMPEITC.
VI.4. Secretariat and RAC/REMPEITC to explore potential partnership opportunities with the Caribbean Marine Environment Protection Association (CARIBMEPA).	NAMEPA/CARIBMEPA validated in the Partners Portal. Due diligence completed. Draft MOU shared with partner and awaiting feedback before signature.
VI.5. Secretariat to explore with RAC-REMPEITC how Stony Coral Tissue Loss Disease (SCTLD) and other potential ballast water borne invasive species or diseases may be addressed through the regional maritime sector and ballast water regulations.	Funds mobilized from Government of Sweden to support this activity through SSFAs with RAC REMPEITC and GCFI respectively. Information Papers on this will be presented to STACs and/or COPs. Webinar and Training planned by REMPEITC for first quarter of 2021.
<i>Decision VII – Cartagena Reporting Template</i>	
VII.3. Secretariat to make available all country reports on the Cartagena Convention through the UNEP CEP website.	Existing Reports being uploaded to new CEP Website. All reports should be uploaded by end of 2020.
VII.4. Secretariat to develop a system that would enable online reporting and electronic submission of reports	UNEP HQ has supported the development of online reporting tool. Some revision of flow of questions took place and will be completed by end of December 2020.
VII.5. Secretariat to amend the reporting template to include relevant parameters of the SOCAR.	Monitoring and Assessment Working Group to advise on what parameters from SOCAR and State of Marine Habitat report could be included in new online form. An information paper will be prepared showing the proposed new reporting template for discussion at 5th LBS STAC.
<i>Decision VIII – State of the Convention Area Report</i>	
VIII.2. Secretariat to promote the integration of the SOCAR and State of Habitat reports with State of the Marine Environment and Associated Economies (SOMEE) report.	SOMEE Report from CLME+ currently delayed. Savings and support from IWeco used to engage CANARI to develop joint knowledge management products in 3 working languages based on SOCAR and State of Habitat.
VIII.3. Secretariat to continue to collaborate and coordinate with the Contracting Parties, the CLME+ Project Coordination Unit and members of the SAP ICM to align the Convention's mandate with that of SOMEE, SOCAR-Land-based Sources and State of Marine Habitats reports and the SOMEE approach for the 2019-2020 work plan.	Secretariat supporting CLME+ Hub and providing input to the new Procaribe proposal. New CEP Strategy reflects support to implementation of CLME+ SAP and relevance of Regional Strategies and State of Reports.
<i>Decision IX – Permanent Policy Coordination Mechanism (PPCM)</i>	
IX.2. Secretariat to continue to participate, inter alia through virtual discussions involving the Bureau, Monitoring Committee and/or all Contracting Parties of the Cartagena Convention, in the process towards the establishment of the Coordination Mechanism and the development of a Sustainable Financing Plan for Ocean Governance.	Feedback received from USA, Trinidad and Tobago and Suriname with legal and technical opinions from UNEP HQ. Additional input provided in preparation for June CLME+ Project Steering Ctee Meeting. Revised MOU sent to HQ for legal opinion and awaiting feedback. Secretariat participated in PSC and ICM meetings organized in October and November 2020 and continue to serve as Vice Chair of the Interim Coordination Mechanism.

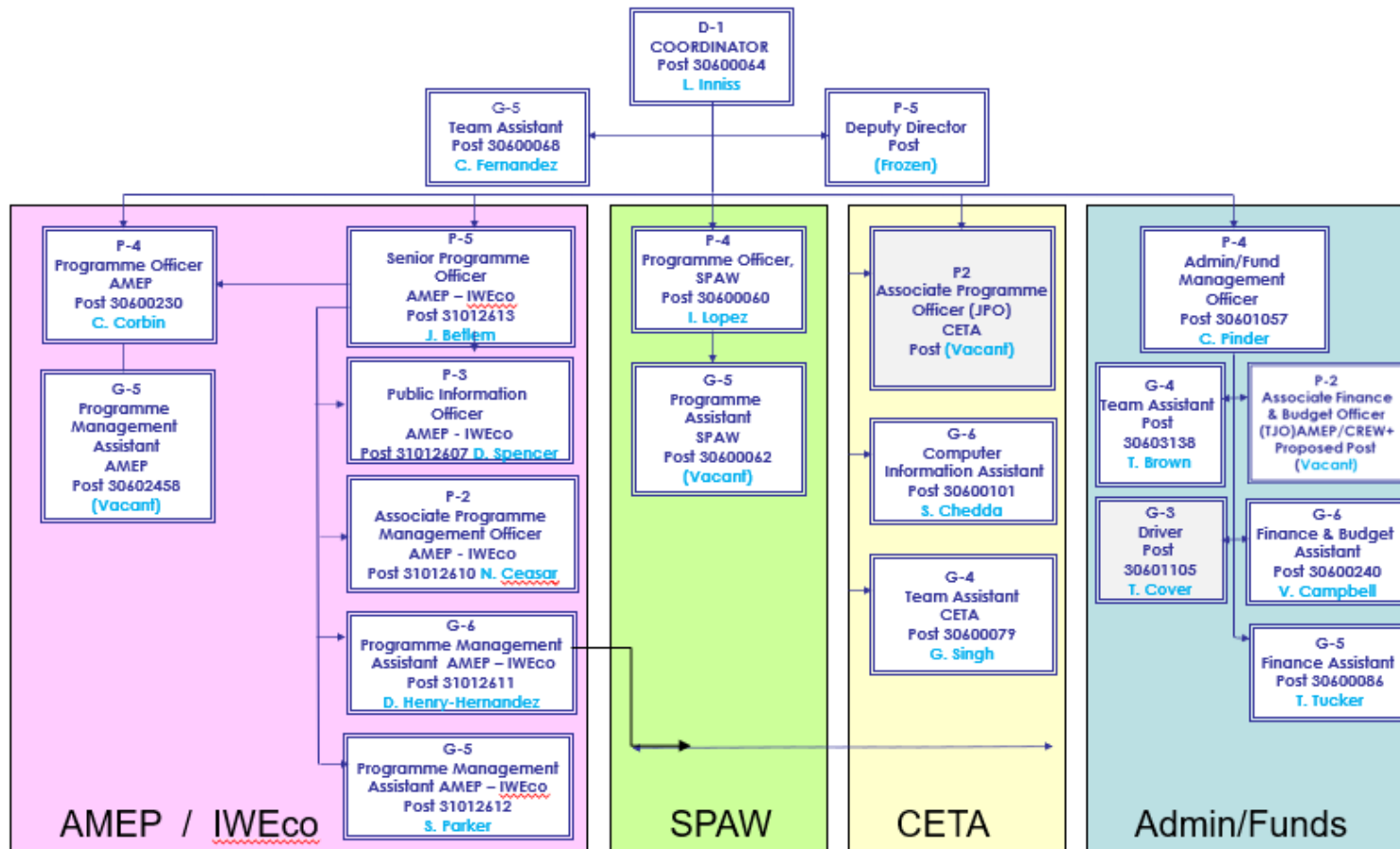
DECISIONS OF 18th IGM (2019)	STATUS OF DECISIONS (2019-2020)
IX.3. Secretariat to undertake further investigations with the CLME+ Project Coordination Unit and members of the SAP Interim Coordination Mechanism, regarding the possibility of the Secretariat hosting the Coordination Mechanism including an analysis of all financial and legal implications and note that no final commitment will be made without the endorsement of the Contracting Parties.	The Secretariat and Contracting Parties continue to be involved in the process of creating a Coordination Mechanism to support Integrated Ocean Governance in the Caribbean and North Brazil Shelf Large Marine Ecosystems. In June 2020 during a Project Steering Committee Meeting in Panama, Committee Members reiterated the importance of a Coordination Mechanism and endorsed in principle core aspects of the Mechanism. Initial analysis completed of legal and financial implications of hosting of the PCM by Secretariat. Discussions continued on host and structure of PCM. Coordinator participated as part of MOU Working Group. During CLME+ Project Steering Committee in October 2020, Committee made advancements towards consensus of the Coordination Mechanism and the proposed Memorandum of Understanding (MoU). The CLME+ Project Steering Committee also indicated their intent “to further engage towards achieving consensus on the Coordination Mechanism and MoU text by CLME+ Project End.”
IX.4. Secretariat to engage in the development and implementation of projects and initiatives related to the implementation of the CLME+ SAP.	Several ongoing and new projects support implementation of CLME+ SAP including IWeco, CReW+, Procaribe, Coral Reef Project for Belize, ACP MEA, German Plastics Project for Caribbean SIDS, GEF Gulf of Mexico, Regional Marine Litter Node Activities
<i>Decision X – Ocean Acidification</i>	
X.1. Secretariat to work with The Ocean Foundation including through the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding that facilitates collaboration on addressing ocean acidification and related issues within the Wider Caribbean Region (WCR).	Signed MoU in Sept 2019. No further action required.

ANNEX II: Status of Contributions to the CTF as at 31 December 2020

States and Territories of the Caribbean Region	Indicative Contributions 2019	Outstanding Contributions (previous years incl. 2019)	Rec'd 2019	Balance as at 31-Dec-2019	Indicative Contributions 2020	Outstanding Contributions (prev. years incl. 2020)	Rec'd 2020	Balance
ANGUILLA	12,791.00	63,955.00	-	63,955.00	12,791.00	76,746.00	-	76,746.00
ANTIGUA & BARBUDA	12,791.00	115,101.00	-	115,101.00	12,791.00	127,892.00	12,791.00	115,101.00
ARUBA	11,663.00	23,326.00	23,326.00	-	11,663.00	11,663.00	11,663.00	-
BAHAMAS	12,791.00	25,582.00	25,582.00	-	12,791.00	12,791.00	-	12,791.00
BARBADOS	12,791.00	12,791.00	12,791.00	-	12,791.00	12,791.00	12,791.00	-
BELIZE	11,663.00	58,315.00	-	58,315.00	11,663.00	69,978.00	-	69,978.00
BRITISH VIRGIN ISLANDS	7,547.00	7,547.00	7,547.00	-	7,547.00	7,547.00	7,547.00	-
CARIBBEAN NETHERLANDS	6,000.00	12,000.00	12,000.00	-	6,000.00	6,000.00	6,000.00	-
CAYMAN ISLANDS	7,101.00	56,540.00	-	56,540.00	7,101.00	63,641.00	14,202.00	49,439.00
COLOMBIA	22,914.00	114,569.06	-	114,569.06	22,914.00	137,483.06	-	137,483.06
COSTA RICA	13,917.00	13,302.39	13,362.00	-59.61	13,917.00	13,857.39	14,751.73	-894.34
CUBA	24,059.00	421,349.35	-	421,349.35	24,059.00	445,408.35	-	445,408.35
CURACAO	10,000.00	10,000.00	10,000.00	-	10,000.00	10,000.00	10,000.00	-
DOMINICA - COMMONWEALTH	12,791.00	204,179.00	3,023.61	201,155.39	12,791.00	213,946.39	-	213,946.39
DOMINICAN REPUBLIC	15,044.00	38,088.08	39,747.61	-1,659.53	15,044.00	13,384.47	-	13,384.47
FRANCE	291,597.00	291,597.00	291,597.00	-	291,597.00	291,597.00	291,597.00	-
GRENADA	12,791.00	293,567.00	12,791.00	280,776.00	12,791.00	293,567.00	-	293,567.00
GUATEMALA	13,917.00	55,668.00	-	56,531.56	13,917.00	70,448.56	-	70,448.56
CO-OP REPUBLIC OF GUYANA	12,791.00	25,110.85	25,110.85	-	12,791.00	12,791.00	-	12,791.00
HAITI	12,791.00	12,791.00	12,791.00	-	12,791.00	12,791.00	-	12,791.00
HONDURAS	12,791.00	24,729.00	26,866.00	-2,137.00	12,791.00	10,654.00	14,750.00	-4,096.00
JAMAICA	18,514.00	33,707.00	-	33,707.00	18,514.00	52,221.00	37,030.31	15,190.69
MEXICO	40,000.00	80,000.00	80,000.00	-	40,000.00	40,000.00	40,000.00	-
MONTSERRAT	3,430.00	13,720.00	10,290.00	3,430.00	3,430.00	6,860.00	-	6,860.00

States and Territories of the Caribbean Region	Indicative Contributions 2019	Outstanding Contributions (previous years incl. 2019)	Rec'd 2019	Balance as at 31-Dec-2019	Indicative Contributions 2020	Outstanding Contributions (prev. years incl. 2020)	Rec'd 2020	Balance
NICARAGUA	12,791.00	280,737.00	-	280,737.00	12,791.00	293,528.00	-	293,528.00
PANAMA	13,917.00	40,655.00	-	40,655.00	13,917.00	54,572.00	-	54,572.00
ST KITTS-NEVIS	3,430.00	3,430.00	-	3,430.00	3,430.00	6,860.00	-	6,860.00
ST LUCIA	11,663.00	53,334.80	11,663.00	41,671.80	11,663.00	53,334.80	-	53,334.80
ST VINCENT & GRENADINES	11,663.00	116,495.00	-	116,495.00	11,663.00	128,158.00	-	128,158.00
SURINAME	12,791.00	89,537.00	-	89,537.00	12,791.00	102,328.00	-	102,328.00
TRINIDAD & TOBAGO	15,044.00	15,044.00	15,044.00	-	15,044.00	15,044.00	-	15,044.00
TURK & CAICOS ISLANDS	6,174.00	6,174.00	6,174.00	-	6,174.00	6,174.00	-	6,174.00
USA	393,975.00	393,975.00	-	393,975.00	393,975.00	787,950.00	793,975.00	-6,025.00
VENEZUELA	170,375.00	1,363,000.00	-	1,363,000.00	170,375.00	1,533,375.00	-	1,533,375.00
TOTAL	1,264,308.00	4,369,916.53	639,706.07	3,731,074.02	1,264,308.00	4,995,382.02	1,267,098.04	3,728,283.98

**ANNEX III: Organizational chart of the Secretariat of the Cartagena Convention and Caribbean Environment Programmes 31
December 2020**



ANNEX IV: Status of pledges and expenditure (US\$)

Year	2017	2018	2019	2020
Pledged (<i>a</i>)	1,264,308.00	1,264,308.00	1,264,308.00	1,264,308.00
Pledges Received (<i>b</i>)	947,928.00	1,094,040.14	639,706.07	1,267,098.04
Shortfall in pledges (<i>a-b=c</i>)	-316,380.00	-170,267.86	-624,601.93	2,790.04
Actual Expenditure (<i>d</i>)	997,228.42	1,032,393.16	1,044,352.32	949,674.03
Diff. pledges vs Expenditure (<i>b-d=e</i>)	-49,300.42	61,646.98	-404,646.25	317,424.01

ANNEX V: Budget and expenditure by commitment class (US\$)

Budget Component	2017 Actual Budget US\$	2017 Exp.	2018 Actual Budget US\$	2018Exp.	2019 Actual Budget US\$	2019 Exp.	2020 Actual Budget	2020 Exp.
Travel	35,000	9,207.01	23,000	19,288.93	164,371	79,789.65	51,750	3,508
Staff Personnel	927,000	802,206.48	954,810	789,948.43	925,000	831,538.43	910,000	817,433
Contractual Services	14,000	19,301.24	14,000	28,435.14	13,500	2,531.62	10,125	10,975
Supplies & Material	2,500	4,415.47	1,500	1,287.13	1,500	790.90	1,125	22
Operational Costs	82,000	68,407.11	80,000	78,115.81	76,500	59,134.87	75,000	48,719.91
Equipment & Furniture	5,000	60.24	3,500	164.81	3,500	3,600.34	9,000	5,636
<i>Sub-Total</i>	1,065,500	903,597.55	1,076,810	917,240.25	1,184,371	977,385.81	1,057,000	886,091.10
PSC (13%)	138,515	93,630.87	115,152.91	115,152.91	144,218	66,966.51	104,625.00	63,583
<i>Total</i>	1,204,015	997,228.42	1,191,962.91	1,032,393.16	1,328,589	1,044,352.32	1,161,625.00	949,674.03

1/ 2019 budget includes voluntary contribution earmarked for COP/IGM meeting held in Roatan, Honduras

ANNEX VI: Participation in High Level Meetings and Key Technical Forums in 2019-2020 (including RACs and GEF Projects)

Event Number	Office	Title	Venue	Date
1	Coordinator	Ambassador of Japan and Representative of JICA	Kingston, Jamaica	03 February 2020
2	Coordinator	High Forest Cover Low Deforestation Conference on Climate Finance Mobilization; Meeting with Suriname Government Officers to discuss the roadmap of Suriname's ratification of the Cartagena Convention	Paramaribo, Suriname	12-15 February 2019
3	Coordinator	UN Environment Assembly IV	Nairobi, Kenya	11-15 March 2019
4	Coordinator	Global Regional Seas Retreat	Nairobi, Kenya	28 February - 1 March 2019
5	Coordinator	G7 Marine Litter Workshop	Metz, France	6-7 May 2019
6	Coordinator	Ecosystems Senior Management Retreat	Nairobi, Kenya	28 October - 03 November 2019
7	Coordinator	Meetings with Barbados Minister of Blue Economy and Maritime Affairs of Barbados; Meeting with UN Resident Coordinator Barbados and the OECS; Meeting with UNDP Resident Representative	Barbados	5-8 January 2020
8	Coordinator	Meeting with Grenada Minister and Permanent Secretary of Environment to discuss hosting the 19th IGM/COP in 2021 and to discuss logistics of the 4th Steering Committee Meeting of IWEco	Grenada	8-10 January 2020
9	Coordinator	Open-ended Committee of Permanent Representatives	Nairobi, Kenya	4-8 March 2019
10	Coordinator	Preparatory Meeting for the Blue Economy Summit	Tegucigalpa, Honduras	4-5 April 2019
11	Coordinator	EU LAC Preparatory Meeting and Dialogues	Virtual	10, 15-16 & 19 March 2020
12	Coordinator	Meeting with the Ambassador of Brazil	Kingston, Jamaica	6 February 2019
13	Coordinator	Marine Regions Forum Workshop on 'Ocean Governance and COVID-19 – Building resilience for marine regions'	Virtual	28 January 2021

Event Number	Office	Title	Venue	Date
14	Coordinator	Meeting with the Representative of the World Bank Jamaica	Kingston, Jamaica	4 February 2020
15	Coordinator	Meeting with the EU Ambassador to Jamaica	Kingston, Jamaica	15 July 2020
16	Coordinator	Meeting with the Minister of Health and the Environment of Antigua & Barbuda	Virtual	21 December 2020
17	Coordinator	Meeting with the US State Department and Focal Points	Virtual	20 December 2019
18	Coordinator	Meeting with the US State Department and Focal Points	Virtual	22 April 2020
19	Coordinator	Meeting with the Government of The Netherlands	Virtual	27 May 2020
20	Coordinator	OECS 7th Meeting of the Council of Ministers on Environmental Sustainability	Virtual	24 June 2020
21	Coordinator	Meeting of the Cartagena Convention and the US Focal Points	Virtual	19 August 2020
22	Coordinator	Meeting with National Focal Point of France	Virtual	11 September 2020
23	Coordinator	High Level meeting with the Government of Mexico	Virtual	23 July 2020
24	Coordinator	Meeting with the Minister of Environment of Anguilla	Virtual	17 September 2020
25	Coordinator	Meeting with the Minister of Environment of Montserrat	Virtual	26 November 2020
26	Programme	2 nd Regional Workshop on Development of the Report on the “State of Marine Ecosystems and Shared Living Marine Resources in the Wider Caribbean (SoMH)” and the “Regional Strategy and Action Plan for the Valuation, Protection and/or Restoration of Key Marine Habitats in the Wider Caribbean 2021-2030 (RSAP)”	Panama City, Panama	13-14 March 2019
27	Programme	4 th Joint Meeting of the Sargasso Sea Commission	Bermuda	15 March 2019
28	Programme	4 th Meeting of the Project Executive Group (PEG) for the United Nations Development Programme/Global Environment Facility (UNDP/GEF) CLME+	Florida, USA	15-16 April
29	Programme	10 th SPAW / 4 th Protocol Concerning Land-Based Sources of Marine Pollution (LBS) and the 15 th COP to the Cartagena Convention	Roatán, Honduras	3-6 June 2019
30	Programme	Inception Meeting for ACP-MEAs III	Brussels, Belgium	11-14 June 2019

Event Number	Office	Title	Venue	Date
31	Programme	Mid-Atlantic Marine Debris Summit	Arlington, Virginia, USA	17-19 June 2019
32	Programme	“Cooperation and Common Strategy Between MPA Networks of Managers in the Atlantic Region (Networks twinning)” meeting	Portugal	10-13 September 2019
33	Programme	Workshop on the Development of a Regional Strategy for the Conservation and Restoration of Mangroves in the Mesoamerican Reef	Guatemala City, Guatemala	18-20 September 2019
34	Programme	3 rd Latin America and Caribbean Protected Areas Congress	Lima, Peru	14-17 October 2019
35	Programme	1 st International Conference and Trade Show on Sargassum Management	Baie-Mahault, Guadeloupe,	24-26 October 2019.
36	Programme	72 nd Annual Conference of GCFI	Punta Cana, Dominican Republic	4-8 November 2019
37	Programme	Final Conference (Phase II) on Cooperation with Northern and Southern Transatlantic Dimension-Marine Protected Areas and Meeting of Phase III	Brussels, Belgium	18-20 November 2019
38	Programme	GCRMN – Caribbean Steering Committee Meeting	Kralendijk, Bonaire	28-30 January 2020
39	Programme	GCRMN Workshop on the Status of Coral Reefs of the World 2020	Bangkok, Thailand	18-20 February 2020
40	Programme	Coral Reef Consortium Meeting	San José, Costa-Rica	2-7 March 2020
41	Programme	First Meeting of the Basel Plastic Waste Partnership Working Group	Seychelles	2-5 March 2020
42	Programme	RAC/REMPEITC-Caribe’s 10th Ordinary Steering Committee Meeting	Curacao	9-10 June 2020
43	Programme	Webinar on “Addressing Marine Litter in the Caribbean: Experiences from the Regional Node of the Global Partnership on Marine Litter”	Virtual	29 May 2020
44	Programme	Meeting of LBS Contracting Parties	Virtual	30 July 2020
45	Programme	Global Fund for Coral Reefs (GFCR) High-Level Event of the 75th UN General Assembly	Virtual	16 September 2020
46	Programme	Annual Meeting of the (global) Community of Practitioners on Large Marine Ecosystems (“LME COP”)	Colombia	16-20 September 2019

Event Number	Office	Title	Venue	Date
47	Programme	Evolving and Sustaining Ocean Best Practices IV – Ocean Best Practices System Workshop	Virtual	18, 21-25 & 30 September 2020
48	Programme	First Marine Regions Forum Conference	Berlin, Germany	30 September to 2 October 2019
49	Programme	21st Annual Global Meeting of Regional Seas Programme	Berlin, Germany	3-5 October 2019
50	Programme	28th Annual Conference and Exhibition of the Caribbean Water and Wastewater Association	St. Kitts and Nevis	14-18 October 2019
51	Programme	Lighthouse Lofoten Global Conference on Marine Litter	Norway	17-18 October 2019
52	Programme	Workshop on Policy and Action on Plastic in the Arctic Ocean	Massachusetts, USA	30-31 October 2019
53	Programme	72 nd Annual Conference of GCFI	Punta Cana, Dominican Republic	4-8 November 2019
54	Programme	4th Meeting of the WECAFC/Caribbean Fishery Management Council (CFMC)/Central American Fisheries and Aquaculture Organization (OSPESCA)/CRFM Working Group on Spawning Aggregations	Virtual	9-10 November 2020
55	Programme	ACP-MEAs III Stakeholders' Meeting	Virtual	17-18 November 2020
56	Programme	Global Coral Reef Partnership Steering Committee Meeting	Virtual	18 November 2020
57	Programme	Partners' Coordination Meeting for the Twinning Project "Cooperation and Common Strategy Between MPA Networks of Managers in the Atlantic Region"	Virtual	18 November 2020