



STATUS OF ACTIVITIES OF THE SPAW SUB-PROGRAMME FOR THE 2019–2020 BIENNIUM

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Celebrating 35 years since the entry into force of the Cartagena Convention.



11th Conference of Contracting Parties to the Protocol Concerning Specially Protected Areas and Wildlife
Virtual Meeting. 27th July 2021

Section title Introduction

The Workplan and Budget of the SPAW Programme for 2019-2020 was approved COP-10 to the Protocol Concerning Specially Protected Areas and Wildlife (SPAW) in the WCR (Roatán, Honduras 3 June 2019).

Eighteenth Intergovernmental Meeting (IGM) on the Action Plan for the Caribbean Environment Programme/Fifteenth Meeting of the Contracting Parties to the **Convention for the Protection and Development of the Marine Environment of the WCR** (Roatán, Honduras, 5–6 June 2019).

Objectives of the SPAW Programme

A

Increase and improve the management of protected areas and species;

B

Support conservation of threatened and endangered species and sustainable use of natural resources;

C

Develop strong regional capability coordination of information exchange, training and technical assistance;

D

Coordinate activities with international biodiversity treaties and initiatives.



Status of sub-programmes and activities

- 2.1** Programme Coordination
- 2.2** Strengthening of Protected Areas in the Wider Caribbean Region
- 2.3** Development of Guidelines for Protected Areas and Species Management
- 2.4** Conservation of Threatened and Endangered Species
- 2.5** Conservation and Sustainable Use of Coastal and Marine Ecosystems

***Additionally, the Secretariat focused on fundraising by strategizing and streamlining SPAW activities as financial contributions and human resources, to fulfil programmatic execution, continued to be limited. Therefore, interventions were opportunistic and strategic in nature.



2.1

Programme Coordination

Objectives

- Promote ratification of, accession to, and implementation of SPAW Protocol;
- Ensure formulation and implementation of activities to satisfy requirements of the SPAW Protocol and its Contracting Parties;
- Develop coordination, collaboration, and communication mechanisms with other agreements, organizations and;
- Improve coordination of regional programming;
- Oversee activities and coordination of projects and activities.



2.1

Programme Coordination

Outputs

- SPAW COP 10th Meeting convened
- 2019-2020 SPAW Workplan developed
- MoU/Cs concluded with TOF, Mar Fund, GCFI and INVEMAR.
- **MoUs** with the IWC and OSPAR prepared
- Creation of Ad Hoc **Expert Working Groups** on Species, Protected Areas, Exemptions and Sargassum
- Greater involvement by Governments in SPAW activities and additional Parties joining the SPAW Protocol.



2.1 Programme Coordination

10th Meeting of the SPAW Contracting Parties convened



Funds raised in support of SPAW objectives



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Resilient nations.



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Government Offices of Sweden
Ministry of the Environment



Collaborations and synergies with relevant organizations and initiatives within and outside the region

Stakeholders & Civil Society

Sargasso Sea Commission

CCAD **CARICOM** **CRFM**

Organisation of Eastern Caribbean States

OSPAR COMMISSION
Protecting and conserving the North-East Atlantic and its resources

GEO GROUP ON EARTH OBSERVATIONS

WIDECAST
Wider Caribbean Sea Turtle Conservation Network

GCRMN

UNDP **INODC**
United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime

AGENZIA ITALIANA PER LA COOPERAZIONE ALLO SVILUPPO

gef **WCMC**

Network of Experts

SPAW RAC Working Groups:

- Species (coral, mammals, invasive species, etc.)
- MPAs
- Sargassum

Other logos include: Convention on Biological Diversity, MAR FUND, GCFI GULF AND CARIBBI FISHERIES INSTITUTE, NOAA, THE OCEAN FOUNDATION, USF UNIVERSITY OF SOUTH FLORIDA, GW, INTERNATIONAL WHALING COMMISSION, FIU, MBON Marine Biodiversity Observation Network, IUCN, Cinvestav, The Nature Conservancy, VVAITT INSTITUTE, WIDECAST, GCRMN, OSPAR COMMISSION, GEO GROUP ON EARTH OBSERVATIONS, UNDP, INODC, AGENZIA ITALIANA PER LA COOPERAZIONE ALLO SVILUPPO, gef, WCMC, UN environment programme, CAR-SPAW-RAC, ECOSYSTEM RESTORATION.



2.2

Strengthening of Protected Areas in the WCR

Objectives

- Strengthen management of parks and protected areas, including communication between parks and protected areas;
- Assist Governments and NGOs developing human capacity to increase the effectiveness of MPAs;
- Sensitize Governments of the need of financing protected areas, and to promote the development of funding mechanisms and strategies;
- Promote protected areas as important natural resources necessary for sustainable development.



2.2

Strengthening of Protected Areas in the WCR

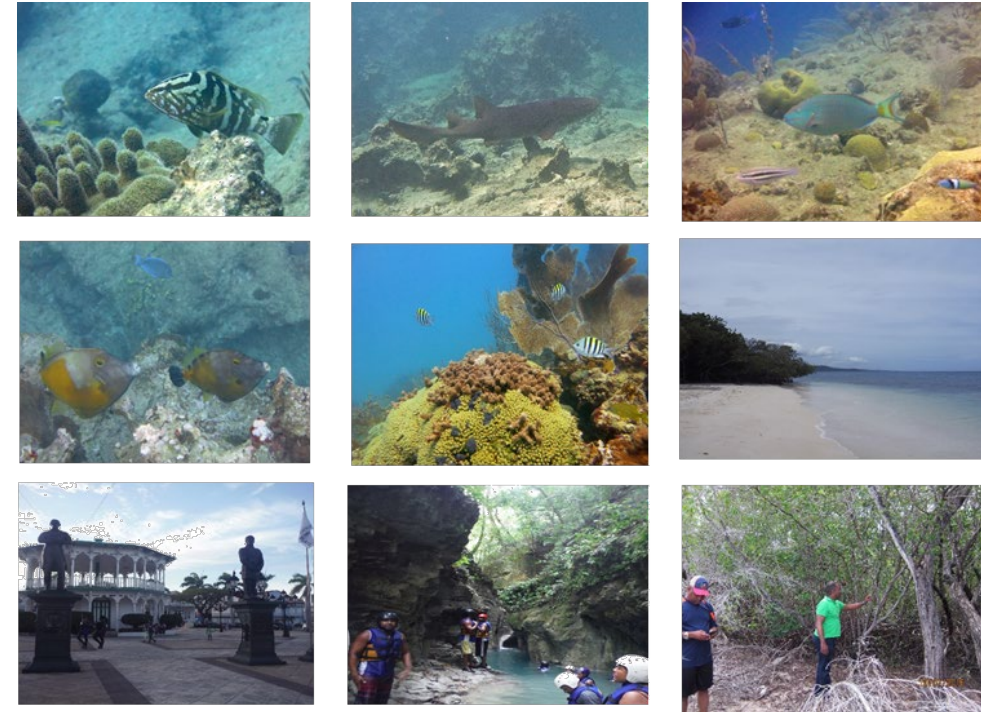
Outputs

- Support MPA technical session at GCFI / MPAs participation
- Restructuring of the CaMPAM Regional Database
- Under the EBM-DSS project, two (2) DSS pilot projects in Montecristi and Puerto Plata, Dominican Republic



Main Goal

To develop capacities and information systems (and pilot test their application) that can be used by governments and NGOs to make decisions on planning and managing coastal resources with an ecosystem based management (EBM) approach.



Decision 3

Urge the Secretariat to allocate funds or seek funding sources for the management of protected areas listed as SPAW sites.

UNEP(DEPI)/CAR
WG.42/INF.7

Update on The Caribbean Marine Protected Areas Management Network and Forum (CAMPAM) and its Major Activities During the 2019-2020 Biennium

UNEP(DEPI)/CAR
WG.42/INF.7
Addendum 1

Assessment of the Impact and Effectiveness of the Caribbean Marine Protected Area Network and Forum (CaMPAM)

UNEP(DEPI)/CAR
WG.42 /INF.8

Strategic Directions and Plan for CaMPAM

UNEP(DEPI)/CAR
WG.42/INF.9

CaMPAM Database and Citizens Science Monitoring

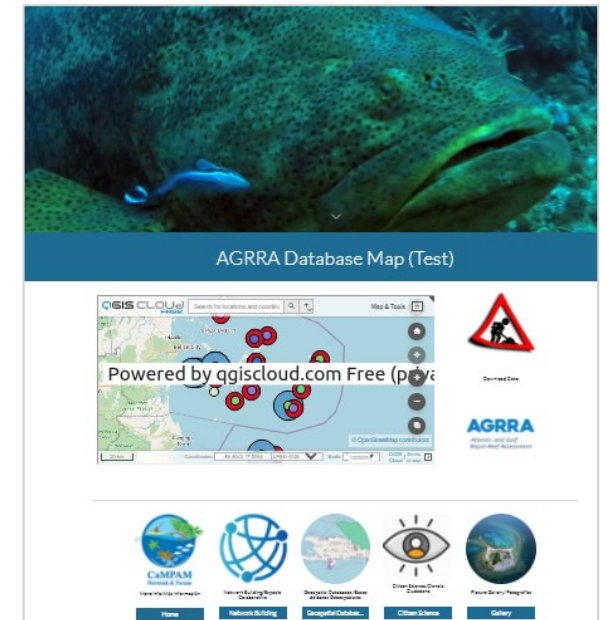
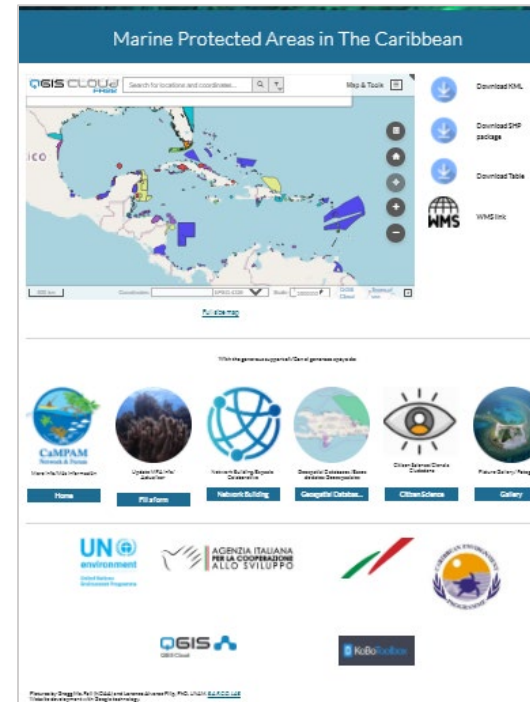
UNEP(DEPI)/CAR
WG.42/INF.10

Developing an Ecological Network between the SPAW-listed MPAs of the Wider Caribbean

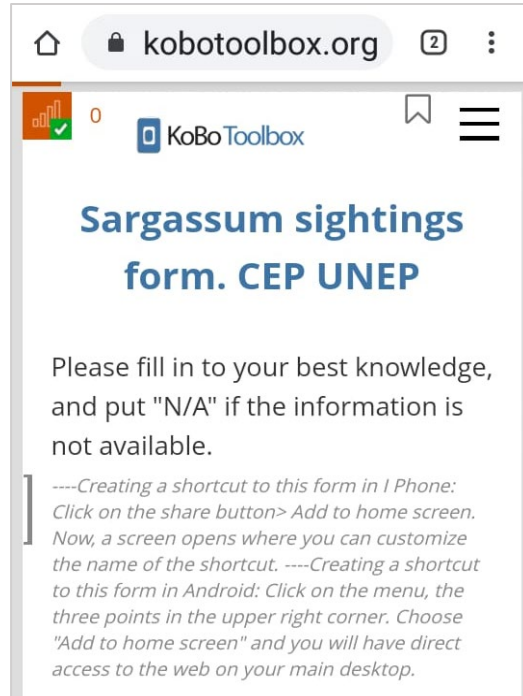


CaMPAM network new website and Geospatial Databases development

- Databases and interactive maps (Caribbean MPA's, AGRRRA) in a new and completely revamped [website](#).
- Networking digital environment
- Citizen Science projects



Citizen Science Pilot Projects



I-See Turtle

I-See Turtle

Global recording of sea turtle sightings, even in remote locations without an internet connection, from any device.

I- See Parrot

I-See Parrot

Parrotfish are very important to preserve the reef function and coastal dynamics. Please share a record if you find a specimen. Your observations are very important!

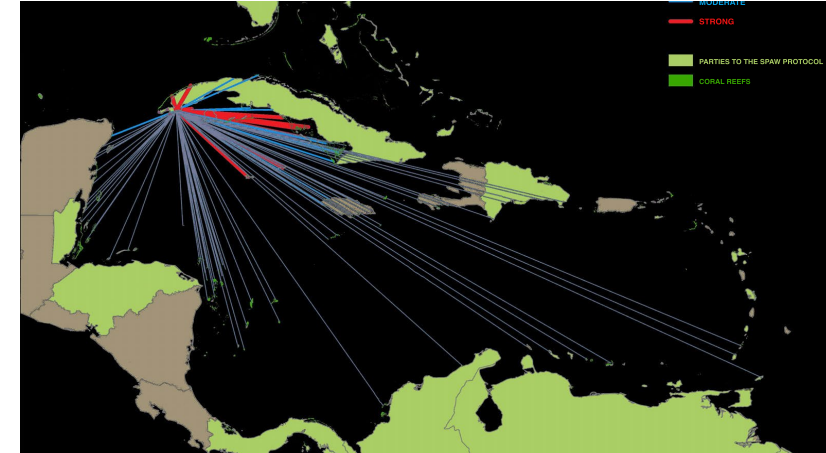
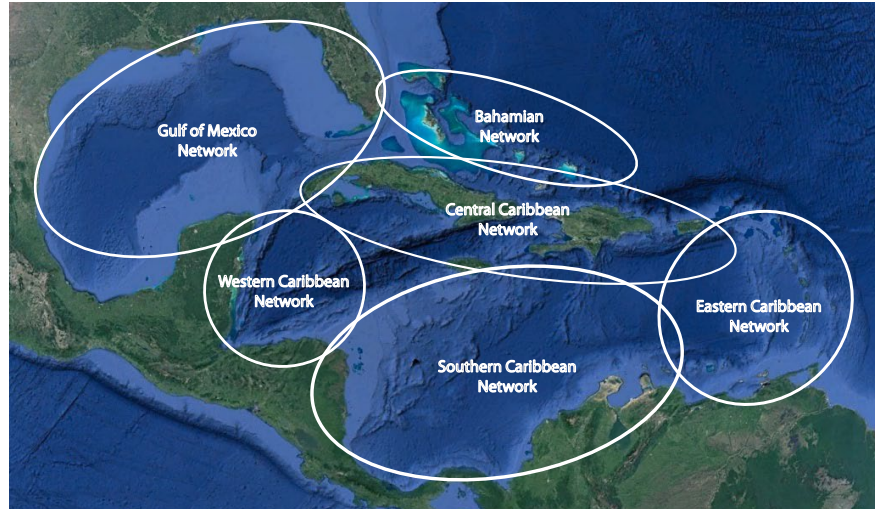


An Evaluation of Connectivity Between the SPAW-Listed Protected Areas to Guide the Development of a Functional Ecological Network of Protected Areas in the WRC

By William Kiene

COMPONENTS OF THE ANALYSIS

1. Atlas of SPAW sites
2. Habitats represented by SPAW sites
3. Inventory of listed species at SPAW sites
4. Connectivity of SPAW sites through sea turtle nesting and migration
5. Connectivity of SPAW sites through models of larvae distribution
6. Connectivity of ecosystem threats



RECOMMENDATIONS

1. Establish sub-regional protected area networks
2. Fill gaps in species inventories
3. Prepare an atlas of protected habitats
4. Invest in the science of ecosystem connectivity, species corridors and ecological impact of MPAs
5. Develop a network ecosystem condition evaluation
6. Build effective communication and outreach mechanisms

SPAW MPA BOOKLET

35
SPAW listed PAs

9
No of countries



MOST FREQUENTLY OCCURING IUCN RED-LISTED SPECIES

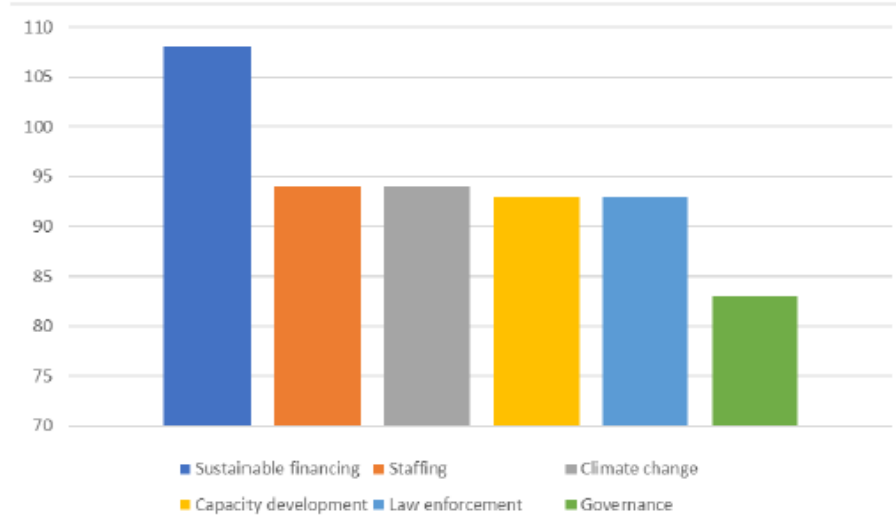
1. Green Sea Turtle
2. Hawksbill Turtle
3. Leatherback Turtle
4. Loggerhead Turtle
5. Elkhorn Coral
6. West Indian Manatee
7. Staghorn Coral
8. Nassau Grouper



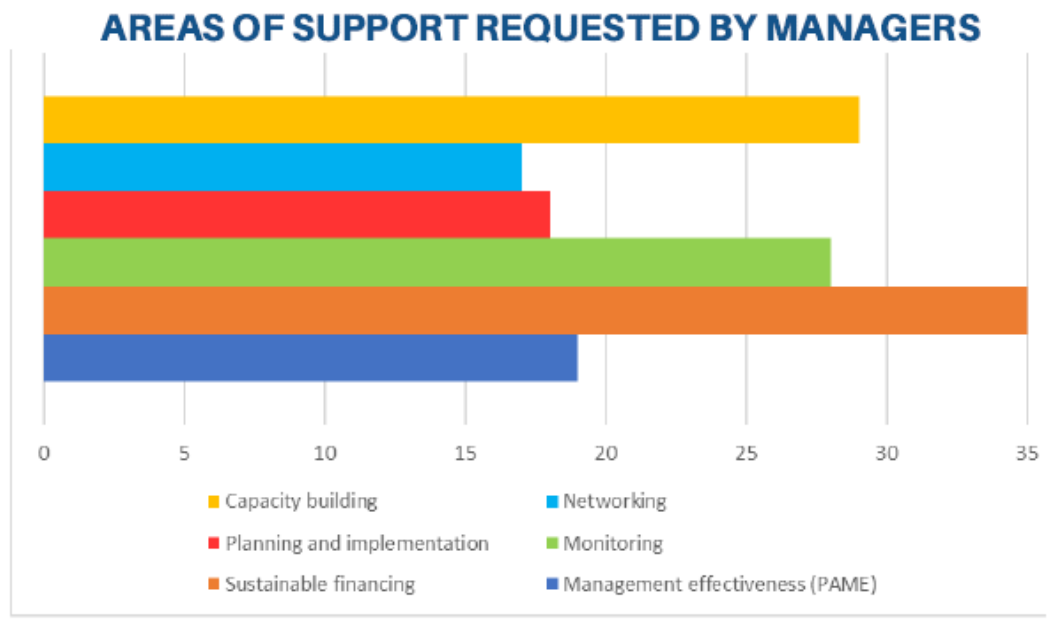
SIZE WISE DISTRIBUTION OF PA



MPA MANAGEMENT EFFECTIVENESS



CHALLENGES FACED FOR EFFECTIVE MANAGEMENT



RECOMMENDATIONS RECEIVED FOR IMPROVEMENT

1. A more uniform and continuous assessment tool
2. Standard indicators for assessment
3. A more participatory assessment process
4. Regular PAME assessments
5. A more easier process and better sources for funding



Development of Guidelines for Protected Areas and Species Management

PROMOTE:

- Guidelines on protected area establishment, management, and listing developed;
- National system planning for protected areas as a mechanism to develop relevant legislation and reporting mechanisms; and
- Guidelines on species conservation and management

Development of Guidelines for Protected Areas and Species Management

- Activities were undertaken in collaboration with the SPAW-RAC in Guadeloupe ([UNEP\(DEPI\)/CAR WG.42/INF.4](#)).
- Following SPAW STAC8, Terms of Reference 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 provides the framework under which the four working groups will operate ([UNEP\(DEPI\)/CAR WG.42 /INF.12](#)).

Development of Guidelines for Protected Areas and Species Management

- Updated list of protected areas under the SPAW Protocol completed for 2019-2020 biennium
- In progress for 2021-2022 biennium a call to Parties for the listing of additional protected areas done during the biennium.
- Development of a CaMPAM – MPA profile form using a toolbox supported under the ACP-MEAs III
- Proposed PAs will be reviewed at STAC9 with recommendations made for their listing by COP11. [\(UNEP\(DEPI\)/CAR WG.42/5\)](#)

Development of Guidelines for Protected Areas and Species Management

- Reports from Parties using the voluntary Format for presenting exemptions under Article 11(2), and reporting on their implementation
- Completed for 2019-2020 biennium in progress for 2021-2022 biennium
- Consideration of exemption reports submitted by Parties at STAC9 and COP11 as appropriate. ([UNEP\(DEPI\)/CAR WG.42/6](#))
- Revised list of protected species under Annexes I-III of the SPAW Protocol
- Completed for 2019-2020 biennium
- Species Working Group prepared draft short list of species proposed for protection under the SPAW Protocol – to be presented to STAC 9 for review and for Parties to consider approval for inclusion in the Annexes by COP11 as appropriate. ([UNEP\(DEPI\)/CAR WG.42/INF.15](#), [UNEP\(DEPI\)/CAR WG.42/INF.24](#) (Addenda 1-5))

Conservation of Threatened and Endangered Species

- Build consensus on priorities for management of endangered and migratory species;
- Implement priority activities of existing species recovery and management plans developed;
- Develop and management plans and programmes for priority species of regional concern; and
- Address the growing threat of invasive alien species that could negatively impact SPAW species and WCR habitats..

Conservation of Threatened and Endangered Species

- Priority activities concerning the **MMAP** and the **Sargassum influx**
- Fostering new partnerships and areas of focus, specific to other emerging issues such as conservation of herbivorous fish (especially the **Parrotfish**). Funding was not available to adequately support **sea turtle conservation activities**, which the Protocol hopes will improve on the new biennium.
- Support implementation of the MMAP has included efforts to conclude an MoU with the IWC
- MMAP were largely supported under the EU funded CARI'MAM project, headed by the AGOA Sanctuary and the French Biodiversity Agency (see document UNEP(DEPI)/CAR WG.42/INF.28).

Marine Mammals Action Plan





Herbivores fishes in coral reefs



SPECIES WORKING GROUP

- **Task 2:** Evaluate the status of parrotfish and other herbivores associated with coral reefs, seagrass beds and mangroves to determine whether any species or group of species may warrant listing in the SPAW.
- Protocol Annexes, with due consideration to socio-cultural-economic and ecological dimensions, and provide results of reviews to the STAC.

Proposed - New SPAW Species

Annex II Strictly Protected



Annex III Regulation of Exploitation



Conservation of Threatened and Endangered Species

Marine Mammals Action Plan

Assessment of initiatives implemented under the MMAP – an analysis of activities, since its approval in 2008 was commissioned to assess current threats to marine mammals in the region, evaluate the progress of Parties towards achieving the objectives of the MMAP, and provide recommendations for enhanced regional cooperation ([UNEP\(DEPI\)/CAR WG.42/INF.29](#)).

Launch of “[Marine Mammal Month](#)” social media campaign.

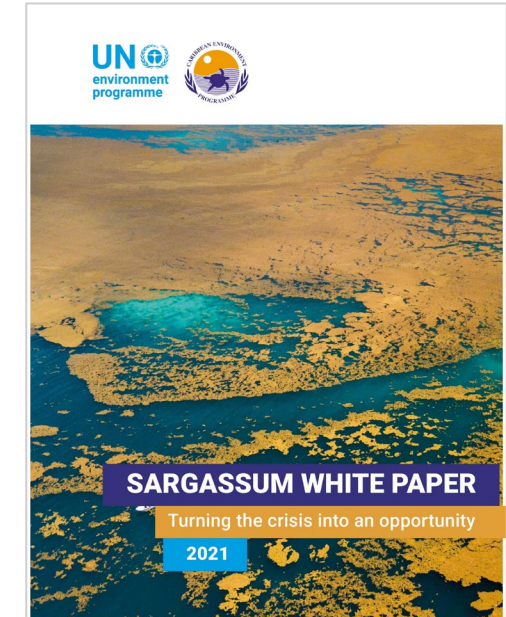
Conservation of Threatened and Endangered Species

Sargassum

As per the 2019-2020 Workplan, the Secretariat supported initiatives to address the management of **Sargassum** throughout the WCR. 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](#)) was updated

[UNEP\(DEPI\)/CAR WG.42/INF.35](#)

Sargassum White Paper 2021: Turning the Crisis into an opportunity.





**SARGASSUM:
SPAW RAC Regional Working Group
Regional action plan**



Conservation of Threatened and Endangered Species

Sargassum

Through funding provided by the Swedish Ministry of the Environment, a consultant was contracted to develop:

- Updated Sargassum White Paper;
- A summary report, in collaboration with the Atomic Energy Commission, assessing the impacts of heavy metals on Sargassum; and
- Summaries of the Sargassum White Paper for relevant stakeholders and policy makers in English, French and Spanish
- Foresight Brief
- Concept Note

Conservation and Sustainable Use of Coastal and Marine Ecosystems

- Assist with sustainable management of the coastal and marine ecosystems;
- Mobilise political will and actions of Governments and other partners for the conservation and sustainable use of coral reefs and associated ecosystems;
- 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;
- Promote the ecosystem management approach and the principles and values of good governance.

Conservation and Sustainable Use of Coastal and Marine Ecosystems

- State of Nearshore Marine Habitats in the Wider Caribbean (SoMH) [UNEP\(DEPI\)/CAR WG.42/INF.5](#)
- Regional Strategy and Action Plan for the Valuation, Protection and/or Restoration of Key Marine Habitats in the Wider Caribbean 2021-2030 (RSAP) ([UNEP\(DEPI\)/CAR WG.42/INF.6](#)).
- Integrated Large-Scale Action on Habitat Restoration and Pollution in the CLME+ Region: A Baseline and Feasibility Assessment Report on the Needs and Opportunities ([UNEP\(DEPI\)/CAR WG.41/INF.13](#)).
- A Regional Mangrove Restoration Manual ([UNEP\(DEPI\)/CAR WG.42/INF.16](#)).
- The EBM-DSS project ([UNEP\(DEPI\)/CAR WG.42/INF.13](#)),

Decision 14

The Secretariat continues progress towards completing the draft State of Habitat and the 2020-2030

Regional Strategy and Action Plan and Investment Plan, supported by the CLME+ Project, for consideration at COP11. RECOMMENDATION VII STAC-8

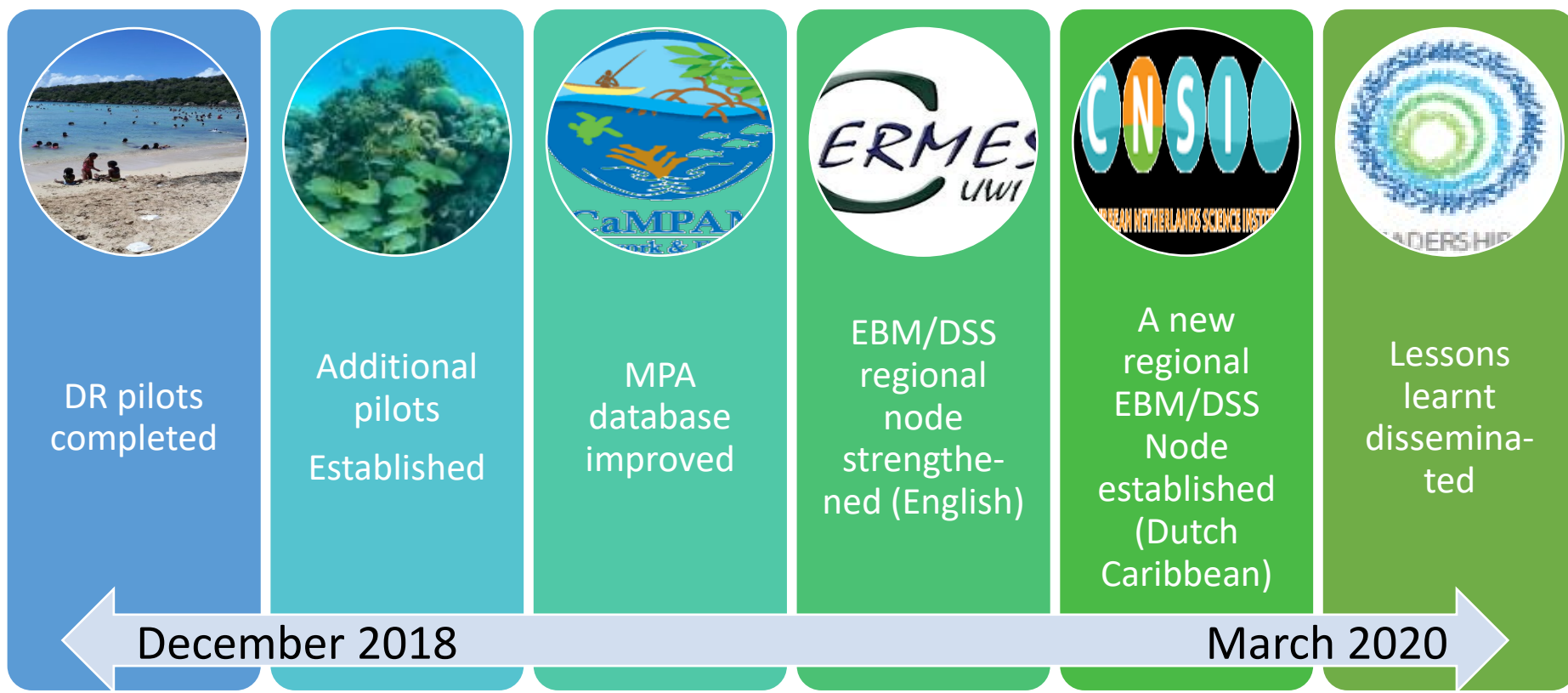
UNEP(DEPI)/CAR
WG.42/INF.5

UNEP(DEPI)/CAR
WG.42/INF.6

The State of Nearshore Marine Habitats in the Wider Caribbean

Regional Strategy Action Plan for the Valuation, Protection and/or Restoration of Key Marine Habitats in the Wider Caribbean 2021–2030





The State of Nearshore Marine Habitats in the Wider Caribbean

United Nations Environment Programme - Caribbean Environment Programme (UNEP-CEP) Caribbean Natural Resources Institute (CANARI), Technical Report No. 1



Catalyzing implementation of the Strategic Action Programme for the Caribbean and North Brazil Shelf LME's (2015-2020)

Regional Strategy and Action Plan for the Valuation, Protection and Restoration of Key Marine Habitats in the Wider Caribbean
United Nations Environment Programme - Caribbean Environment Programme (UNEP-CEP) Caribbean Natural Resources Institute (CANARI), Technical Report No. 02



© Anna Giro

Catalyzing implementation of the Strategic Action Programme for the Caribbean and North Brazil Shelf LME's (2015-2020)

Integrated Large-Scale Action on Habitat Restoration and Pollution Reduction in the CLME+ Region: Baseline and Pre-Feasibility Assessment of the Needs and Opportunities for Investment - Caribbean Environment Programme (UNEP-CEP) and The Ocean Foundation
Technical Report No. 03



Catalyzing implementation of the Strategic Action Programme for the Caribbean and North Brazil Shelf LME's (2015-2021)

Ecological Mangrove Restoration Guide of the Mesoamerican Reef System and the Wider Caribbean



Harnessing a Movement in the Caribbean:



Advancing Coral Reef Restoration with Tourism Leaders

By working closely with the tourism industry create guidelines to restore reefs, identify pilot projects and capacity building opportunities across the region.



CARIBBEAN
HOTEL & TOURISM
ASSOCIATION

Coral Reefs



Credit: Ana Giro ©

- Red de Monitoreo Regional Global del Caribe
- Consorcio de Restauración de Corales

UNEP(DEPI)/CAR WG.42/INF.26)



Programme Costs

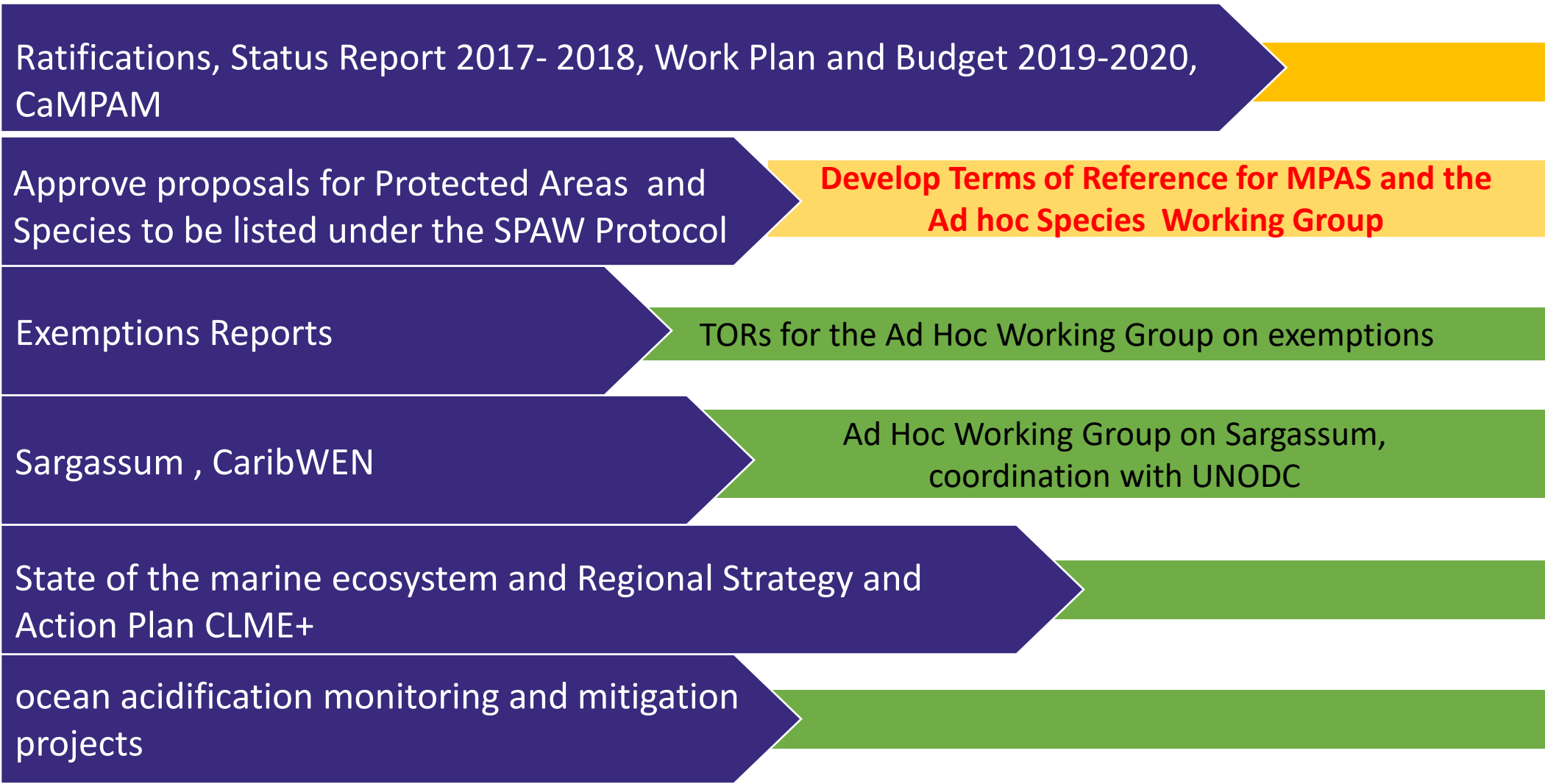
Activity / Year	2019	2020
Programme Coordination	663,530	745,071
Strengthening of Protected Areas	7,402	64,600
Development of Guidelines	0	24,000
Conservation of Species	37,901	39,000
Conservation and Sustainable Use of Ecosystems	19,148	136,610
Subtotal	104,987	231,284
Programme support costs (13%)	80,288	158,153
Total	697,889	1,374,718



Status of the Decisions of the 10th Conference of Parties (COP10) and 8th STAC Meeting



**STAC -8 Status
Recommendations**



COP 10 Status Decisions

<p>SPAW Contracting Parties Decision 1 COP 10 / STAC 8 Recommendation 1</p>	<p>ONGOING</p>
<p>Approve SPAW Workplan and Budget 2019-2020 Decision 2 Attention to SCTL D ** Ballast Water</p>	<p>COMPLETED</p>
<p>Allocate Funding for SPAW Listed MPAs Decision 3</p>	<p>COMPLETED</p>
<p>Include of SCTL D during STAC-9 / COP-11 Decision 4</p>	<p>ONGOING</p>
<p>Review CaMPAM to determine impact and guide future work Decision 5</p>	<p>COMPLETED</p>
<p>Urge participation in Working Groups Decision 6</p>	<p>COMPLETED</p>



COP 10 Status Decisions

<p>Work closely with Inter-American Sea Turtle Commission Decision 7</p>	<p>ONGOING</p>
<p>Adopt STAC-8 Recommendations Decision 8 / ToRs working Groups STAC meetings not the COP</p>	<p>COMPLETED</p>
<p>Comply with Cetaceans and reinstate experts WG Decision 9 Report No of Cetaceans, Improve collaboration</p>	<p>ONGOING</p>
<p>Contribute CLME+ and Network of data platforms, policy coordination mechanism, SoH and RSAP Decisions: 10, 11, 14 and 15</p>	<p>COMPLETED</p>
<p>Sargassum WG include LBS, IAEC and CARICOM Decision 13</p>	<p>COMPLETED</p>
<p>Welcome offer to host STAC-9</p>	<p>INCOMPLETE</p>





Celebrating 35 years since the entry into force of the Cartagena Convention.



UNITED NATIONS DECADE ON ECOSYSTEM RESTORATION 2021-2030





*Celebrating 35 years since the entry into force of the
Cartagena Convention*

THANK YOU / GRACIAS / MERCI

**United Nations Environment Programme
Caribbean Environment Programme
and Cartagena Convention Secretariat**

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