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Eleventh Meeting of the Contracting Parties (COP) to  
the Protocol Concerning Specially Protected Areas  
and Wildlife (SPAW) in the Wider Caribbean Region

Virtual, 27 July 2021

## **REPORT OF THE MEETING**



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## Acronyms

ACP MEA	African, Caribbean and Pacific countries
AMEP	Assessment and Management of Environmental Pollution
AWI	Animal Welfare Institute
BIOPAMA	Biodiversity and Protected Areas Management Programme
BEST Initiative	The Voluntary Scheme for Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services in Territories of European Overseas
CaMPAM	Caribbean Marine Protected Areas Managers Network and Forum
CARICOM	Caribbean Community
CANARI	Caribbean Natural Resources Institute
CARI'MAM	Caribbean Marine Mammals Preservation Network
CARIB-COAST	Caribbean Coastal Risks related to climate change for a monitoring and prevention network
CBD	Convention on Biological Diversity
CEP	Caribbean Environment Programme
CLME <sup>+</sup>	Caribbean and North Brazil Shelf Large Marine Ecosystems
COP	Conference of Parties
CTF	Caribbean Trust Fund
DCNA	Dutch Caribbean Nature Alliance
DSS	Decision Support System
EBM	Ecosystem Based Management
EU	European Union
FDPI	Foundation for Development Planning, Inc..
GCFI	Gulf and Caribbean Fisheries Institute
GCRMN	Global Coral Reef Monitoring Network
GEF	Global Environment Facility
IAC	Inter-American Convention for the Protection and Conservation of Sea Turtles
ICRI	International Coral Reef Initiative
IGM	Intergovernmental Meetings
IMA	Institute of Marine Affairs
IMO	International Maritime Organization
INVEMAR	Institute of Marine and Coastal Investigations
IUCN	International Union for the Conservation of Nature
IWC	International Whaling Commission
LBS	Protocol Concerning Land-Based Sources of Pollution
LME	Large Marine Ecosystems
MARFund	Mesoamerican Reef Fund
MEA	Multilateral Environmental Agreement

MMA	Marine Managed Area
MMAP	Action Plan for the Conservation of Marine Mammals in the Wider Caribbean Region
MoC	Memorandum of Cooperation
MoU	Memorandum of Understanding
MPA	Marine Protected Area
NAMPAN	The North American Marine Protected Areas Network
NFWF	National Fish and Wildlife Foundation
NGO	Non-Government Organizations
NOAA	National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
OAS	Organisation of American States
OFB	French Office for Biodiversity
OSPAR	Convention for the Protection of the Marine Environment of the North-East Atlantic
PA	Protected Area
RAC	Regional Activity Centre
RAN	Regional Activity Network
RSAP	Regional Strategy and Action Plan
ROLAC	Regional Office for Latin America and the Caribbean
RSP	Regional Seas Programme
SAP	Strategic Action Programme
SCTLD	Stony coral tissue loss disease
SDG	Sustainable Development Goals
SIDS	Small Island Developing States
SOMEE	State of the Marine Environment and associated Economies
SoMH	The State of Nearshore Marine Habitats in the Wider Caribbean
SMM	Society for Marine Mammology
SPAW	Specially Protected Areas and Wildlife in the Wider Caribbean Region
STAC	Scientific and Technical Advisory Committee
TNC	The Nature Conservancy
TOF	The Ocean Foundation
UNDP	United Nations Development Programme
UN Environment Programme	United Nations Environment Programme
US	United States
WCR	Wider Caribbean Region
WEN	Wildlife Enforcement Network ( <i>e.g. CaribWen – Caribbean Wildlife Enforcement Network</i> )
WIDECAST	Wider Caribbean Sea Turtle Conservation Network

## INTRODUCTION

1. The Conference of Plenipotentiaries on Specially Protected Areas and Wildlife (SPAW) in the Wider Caribbean Region held in Kingston, 15 to 18 January 1990, adopted the SPAW Protocol to the Cartagena Convention, which came into force on 18 June 2000. Article 23 of the SPAW Protocol provides for the convening and functioning of the Meetings of the Parties and calls for these ordinary meetings to be held in conjunction with the Ordinary Meetings of the Parties to the Cartagena Convention. In light of the above, this Meeting is convened by the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) Cartagena Convention Secretariat by means of a virtual meeting, on 27 July 2021 preceding the Nineteenth Intergovernmental Meeting (IGM) on the Action Plan for the Caribbean Environment Programme and the Sixteenth Meeting of the Contracting Parties to the Convention for the Protection and Development of the Marine Environment of the Wider Caribbean, Virtual Meeting 21-23 July 2021.
2. The main objectives of this Eleventh Meeting of the Contracting Parties (COP10) to the SPAW Protocol were to:
  - **Review** and **adopt** the Recommendations of the Ninth Meeting of the Scientific and Technical Advisory Committee (STAC9) to the Protocol Concerning Specially Protected Areas and Wildlife (SPAW) in the Wider Caribbean Region held virtually;
  - **Review** and **approve** the 2021-2022 Workplan and Budget of the SPAW Subprogramme for subsequent approval by the Nineteenth Intergovernmental Meeting on the Action Plan for the Caribbean Environment Programme and Fifteenth Meeting of the Contracting Parties to the Convention for the Protection and Development of the Marine Environment of the Wider Caribbean Region;
  - **Review** and **approve** the reports on protected areas presented by Parties for listing under the SPAW Protocol;
  - **Review** and **adopt** the SPAW STAC9 recommendations on the species proposed for listing under the SPAW Protocol;
3. The seventeen (17) Contracting Parties to the SPAW Protocol were invited to nominate their respective representatives to participate in the Meeting. Representatives of governments that are Non-Contracting Parties and of international, regional, inter-governmental and non-governmental organizations were also invited to attend the Meeting as Observers. The Provisional List of Participants is included in [Annex IV](#) of this report.

## AGENDA ITEM 1: OPENING OF THE MEETING

4. The Meeting was opened by the Secretariat, Ms. Ileana Lopez, Programme Officer of the SPAW Protocol, on Tuesday, 27 July 2021, at 8:00 am via the virtual platform, Zoom. Delegates were welcomed to the meeting and appreciation expressed for all in attendance, and the speakers Ms. Kerstin Stendahl (Head of Ecosystems Division, United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) Headquarters), Ms Lorna Inniss (Principal Coordination Officer, UNEP Cartagena Convention Secretariat) and Hon. Minister Romauld Ferreira of Bahamas.
5. Ms. Lopez also welcomed the Government of Barbados and expressed gratitude for hosting the meeting virtually. The Secretariat acknowledged with appreciation the support of the UNEP Ecosystem Division for sponsoring the meeting and the United Nations on a whole for their support.
6. Ms. Lopez invited Ms Lorna Inniss, Principal Coordination Officer, to give the opening remarks on behalf of the Secretariat.

7. Ms. Inniss welcomed all participants to the Meeting and expressed thanks for their support to the SPAW Sub-Programme over the last biennium. On behalf of UNEP, Ms Inniss acknowledged the Republic of France for its invaluable support to the implementation of the Cartagena Convention through the SPAW Regional Activity Centre (RAC) based in Guadeloupe.
8. She indicated that despite the challenges posed by COVID-19, she appreciated the time taken by all to participate in the meeting. She also acknowledged the government of Barbados for graciously agreeing to host the meeting. With 2021 being 21 years since the entry into force of the SPAW Protocol, she stated that maturity signaled more SPAW and SPAW-related activities. Given the rich marine biodiversity of the region, the Secretariat appreciated the support of partners and experts in the region. She pointed out that the LBS Protocol evolved quite differently from the SPAW Protocol, due to the rich ecosystems and organisms, highlighting that it was imperative to work with partners as SPAW could not have achieve its objectives alone. She added that with the maturity of the Protocol there was need for reform then expressed appreciation to the government of France for its support through the RAC. She also indicated that a discussion between the Secretariat and the Government of France was underway regarding the work of the RACs.
9. Ms. Inniss mentioned that Memoranda of Understanding (MoU) with the International Whaling Commission (IWC) and the Ospar Commission aiming to reduce harm to marine species should be finalised by the end of 2021. The Contracting Parties to the protocol were highlighted and full ratification of the Protocol during the biennium was encouraged. She expressed hope that all countries would engage with the SPAW programme to protect and conserve the assets of the Caribbean then concluded by wishing for a fruitful and enlightening meeting, and the protection of the rich biodiversity of the region.
10. Ms. Lopez thanked Ms. Inniss and welcomed Ms. Kerstin Stendahl, Head of UNEP's Ecosystems Integration Division to give opening remarks on behalf of Ms. Inger Anderson, Executive Director of UNEP.
11. Ms Stendahl welcomed all participants to the Meeting and highlighted the role UNEP had played in leading the development of several international conventions and regional agreements in various areas in the environmental arena, including regional seas instruments. The UNEP Medium-Term Strategy for 2022–2025 focused on People and Planet to tackle climate change, loss of nature and pollution. These three interconnected crises were putting global economic and social well-being at risk and undermining opportunities to reduce poverty, improve lives, thereby complicating the response to the COVID-19 crisis.
12. The 2021-2030 UN Decade of Ocean Science for Sustainable Development started during the last biennium. It has supported efforts to reverse the cycle of decline in ocean health and gather ocean stakeholders worldwide behind a common framework that will ensure that ocean science will fully support countries in creating improved conditions for sustainable development of the Ocean.
13. In parallel, the 2021-2030 UN Decade on Ecosystem Restoration offered unparalleled opportunities for job creation, food security and addressing climate change. The sustainable use of marine resources was cited as being essential to maintaining and protecting thriving national and local economies throughout the Wider Caribbean Region to reverse the decline in ocean health and prevent degradation of the planet. A key component of that, was enabling people around the world to play a part in ocean science by increasing opportunity and sustainable development through the strengthening of connections and partnerships among all stakeholders.
14. UNEP would also promote and reinforce ecosystem-based ocean governance based on the Regional Seas Programme (RSP) and implement its organizational mandate as a custodian of several Sustainable Development Goals. It would assist all Member States with protecting and restoring freshwater ecosystems and the wealth of freshwater biodiversity they contain. Ms. Stendahl thanked



the participants and wished for successful outcomes and harmonic agreements during the deliberations.

15. Ms. Lopez thanked Ms. Stendahl and invited Minister Romauld Ferreira, Minister of Housing and Environment of the Bahamas to give opening remarks.
16. Minister Ferreira acknowledged the challenges experienced by Small Island Developing States (SIDS) as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic and the impact on their economies. 116 million people from 39 countries rely on the Caribbean Sea for their food and livelihoods. He said that over 12,000 marine species have been recorded in the Caribbean Region and coral reefs alone cover approximately 26,000 km<sup>2</sup> and seagrass over 60,000 km<sup>2</sup>. Therefore, protecting these communities and ecosystems was essential to the achievement of SDG14, Life Below Water.
17. He highlighted the effects of Sargassum on the Caribbean throughout the last biennium and welcomed the Sargassum White Paper 2021, recently published by SPAW. While natural disasters such as the volcanic eruption in St. Vincent and the Grenadines in 2021 and Hurricane Dorian in 2019 posed further economic threats to SIDS, providing support to SIDS was an important task that would be carefully considered throughout COP11.
18. Minister Ferreira thanked the Secretariat for staging the SPAW COP11 Meeting. He urged countries that had not ratified the SPAW Protocol to ensure that it was an important priority in their environmental agenda for the current biennium. Countries that had arrears to the Caribbean Trust Fund were also called on to address the issue.
19. Ms. Lopez thanked Minister Ferreira and expressed appreciation for his opening remarks. She invited Contracting Parties that had not taken the floor earlier to do so at this time.
20. The delegates of Honduras, Panama and the Bahamas provided brief opening remarks.
21. Ms Lopez informed the meeting that the quorum was attained then highlighted the objectives of the meeting as indicated in the annotated agenda. She asked for one minute of silence for mindfulness, joy and appreciation for work invested by the countries, the RAC, donors, regional partners and persons behind the scenes. The one-minute silence was also to acknowledge the work of the late Paul Hoetjes from the Netherlands Caribbean who was a champion in the region for biodiversity.

## **AGENDA ITEM 2: ORGANISATION OF THE MEETING**

### 2.1 Rules of Procedure

22. The Rules of Procedure for the Meetings of the Convention for the Protection and Development of the Marine Environment of the Wider Caribbean Region (Cartagena Convention) (UN Environment, 2012) were applied, *mutatis mutandis*, for the conduct of the Meeting.

### 2.2 Election of Officers

23. The Meeting was invited to elect from among the representatives of the Contracting Parties to the SPAW Protocol: Chairperson, Vice-Chairpersons and Rapporteur for the conduct of the Meeting. Nominations were received as follows:

Chairperson:	Kim Downes-Agard (Barbados)
1 <sup>st</sup> Vice-Chairperson:	Gonzalo Cid (United States)
2 <sup>nd</sup> Vice-Chairperson:	Jean Vermot (France)
3 <sup>rd</sup> Vice-Chairperson:	Yeori de Vries (The Netherlands)
Rapporteur:	Wilber Sabido (Belize)

24. France, the US, the Netherlands, Bahamas and Cuba supported the nomination of the Vice-Chairperson. The Netherlands supported the nomination of the US as 1<sup>st</sup> Vice Chairperson. The US and Netherlands supported the nomination of Belize as Rapporteur. Colombia supported the nomination of all representatives.
25. The Chairperson thanked the meeting for the nomination and stated that she was counting on all Parties to ensure a successful meeting.

### 2.3 Organisation of Work

26. English, French and Spanish were the working languages of the Meeting. Simultaneous interpretation in these languages was provided for the Meeting, and the Working Documents were available in all the working languages. The Provisional List of Documents of the Meeting was presented in UNEP(DEPI)/CAR IG.44/INF.1 and is included in [Annex III](#) of this report.
27. The Secretariat proposed to convene the Meeting in plenary sessions, with the assistance of working groups, if necessary, which may be established by the Chairperson. No simultaneous interpretation was available for the working groups. Participants were reminded that, given the length of the Meeting, breaking into working groups might not be feasible. Participants were therefore expected to come prepared, having reviewed all working documents as appropriate, in order to provide concrete inputs during the discussions.
28. The delegate of the United States (US) welcomed the participation of the Kingdom of the Netherlands on the Bureau. Clarification was requested from the Secretariat on whether the Rules of Procedure indicated if it was possible to have a third Vice Chairperson.
29. Ms. Inniss thanked the US for the request for clarification and confirmed that Rules of Procedure did not specify the number of Vice-Chairpersons that were needed for a particular biennium. The decision was left up to the Parties making the nominations. She recalled past biennia where only one or two Vice-Chairpersons were nominated for the main COP IGM in one case and had up to three in another. She stated that this upcoming biennium may require a large bureau due to the issues on the SPAW agenda and that of the Cartagena COP due to Strategic and Functional Review.
30. The US expressed satisfaction with the explanation provided and stated that they supported the Netherlands' being a member of the Bureau.

## **AGENDA ITEM 3: ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA**

31. The Meeting was invited to adopt the Provisional Agenda, prepared by the Secretariat, as contained in presented in UNEP(DEPI)/CAR IG.44/1, based on inputs received from the Contracting Parties during preparations for the Meeting, on relevant Recommendations and Decisions from previous STAC and COP Meetings of the SPAW Protocol, as well as on emerging issues of relevance to the biodiversity of the Wider Caribbean Region.
32. The proposed agenda was adopted with no amendments and is included in [Annex I](#) of this report.

## **AGENDA ITEM 4: STATUS OF ACTIVITIES OF THE SPAW SUBPROGRAMME FOR 2019-2020, INCLUDING ACTIVITIES OF THE REGIONAL ACTIVITY CENTRE FOR SPAW (SPAW-RAC) IN GUADELOUPE**

33. Ms Ileana Lopez, SPAW Programme Officer, presented the "Status of Activities of the SPAW Subprogramme for 2019-2020" (UNEP(DEPI)/CAR WG.40/INF.3), including a brief presentation by the SPAW-RAC of the "Report of the SPAW Regional Activity Centre (SPAW-RAC) in Guadeloupe with regard to RAC operations and budget for the period 2019-2020"

(UNEP(DEPI)/CAR WG.42/INF.4). During the presentations the Secretariat also briefly referred to the following documents:

- The State of Nearshore Marine Habitats in the Wider Caribbean (SoMH) (UNEP(DEPI)/CAR WG.42/INF.5) and Regional Strategy 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);
  - Assessment of the Impact and Effectiveness of the Caribbean Marine Protected Area Network and Forum (CaMPAM) (UNEP(DEPI)/CAR WG.42/INF.7 Add.1) and Strategic Directions and Plan for CaMPAM (UNEP(DEPI)/CAR WG.42/INF.8); and
  - Developing an Ecological Network between the SPAW-listed MPAs (Marine Protected Areas) of the Wider Caribbean (UNEP(DEPI)/CAR WG.42/INF.10).
  - Review of the Dominican Republic’s proposal for listing of the “Cotubamana National Park” under the SPAW Protocol (UNEP(DEPI)/CAR WG.42/INF.22)
  - Summary report on the update of the Marine Mammals action plan and implementation of the Action Plan for the Conservation of Marine Mammals (MMAP) in the Wider Caribbean: A Scientific and Technical Analysis (UNEP(DEPI)/CAR WG.42/INF.29 Add.1);
34. The Workplan and Budget of the SPAW Programme for 2019-2020 was approved by COP 10 to the Protocol Concerning Specially Protected Areas and Wildlife (SPAW) in the Wider Caribbean Region (Roatan, Honduras 3, June 2019) and the Eighteenth Intergovernmental Meeting on the Action Plan for the Caribbean Environment Programme. A summary of the objectives of the SPAW Programme was provided.
35. The specific activities of the 2019-2020 Workplan which fell under five (5) major programme elements (sub-programmes), implemented in close collaboration and partnership with the SPAW-RAC in Guadeloupe, were highlighted:
- a) Programme Coordination
  - b) Strengthening of Protected Areas in the Wider Caribbean Region (WCR)
  - c) Development of Guidelines for Protected Areas and Species Management
  - d) Conservation of Threatened and Endangered species
  - e) Conservation and Sustainable use of Coastal and Marine Ecosystems
36. Achievements under *Programme Coordination* included the convening of the COP10 meeting in Roatan, Honduras (3 June 2019). The SPAW Workplan and Budget was also developed, and synergies were created with the AMEP/LBS Protocol. Four (4) Memoranda of Understanding (MOUs) were concluded with The Ocean Foundation (TOF), Mar Fund, Gulf and the Caribbean Fisheries Institute (GCFI) and INVEMAR. The MOUs with GCFI and INVEMAR were also recently updated and MOUs were prepared and finalized with International Whaling Commission (IWC) and OSPAR with a launch expected at the end of the year.
37. Fundraising continued in support of activities and the implementation of the decisions over the last biennium. Appreciation was expressed for the support provided by the Italian Cooperation Agency with the Ecosystem Based Management (EBM) project and more recently, the ongoing Asian Caribbean and Pacific Multilateral Environmental Agreements Project (ACP MEAs).
38. The project focused on aspects of governance as an overall issue for the region, Marine Protected Areas (MPAs), pollution and communications. The Caribbean Large Marine Ecosystems project was finalized with funding from the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and GEF. The Ministry of Environment of the Government of Sweden also provided support for the implementation

of activities at the end of last year.

39. Ms Lopez expressed appreciation for the collaborations, and partners who contributed to the successful implementation of the SPAW projects. She highlighted the synergies created with the conventions and multi-lateral agreements focused on biodiversity. New MOUs were developed with The Ocean Foundation, MarFund, GCFI and INVEMAR. Support for the development of activities was provided by partners; they included the National Oceanic Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) and the universities which were engaged on issues related to monitoring and restoration. Appreciation was expressed for having these partners as part of the subprogrammes.
40. *Strengthening of Protected Areas in the WCR* included the support of MPAs through the GCFI/MPAs participation which provided training for MPA Managers in the management of protected areas in collaboration with other partners and networks of MPAs, for example MPA Connect. The CAMPAM regional database was restructured making it more accessible to the different protected areas of the SPAW Protocol as well as to Contracting Parties and Non-Contracting Parties.
41. Two (2) pilot projects in MonteChristi and Puerto Plata in the Dominican Republic under the Ecosystem Based Management Decision Support System (EBM DSS) were funded by the Government of Italy. The main goal was to enhance capacities and information systems to better manage decisions for management of ecosystem resources. Information on available updated documents were provided. Delegates were invited to read the documents, visit the new CAMPAM website to review and update the information, if needed.
42. Citizen Science Pilot projects were underway to include the participation of community members to identify sea turtle species that existed in the countries. A cell phone application was developed for the parrotfish. These tools were available through UNEPs website.
43. Reference was made to the *Evaluation of Connectivity between the SPAW-Listed Protected Areas to Guide the Development of a Functional Ecological Network of Protected Areas in the Wider Caribbean Region* and was aligned to one of the articles of the SPAW Protocol to fulfill the obligations of Contracting Parties. The components and recommendations of the evaluation were outlined.
44. The SPAW MPA Booklet for the 35 protected areas was also updated. Additionally, during the biennium work was done on MPA Management Effectiveness with practitioners of the 35 Protected Areas answering questions on the main challenges faced regarding effective management, areas of support needed and provided recommendations for improvement. Regarding areas of support requested by Managers, sustainable financing monitoring and capacity building were high on the list. These activities which will be implemented through the ACP MEAs project and guidance was expected.
45. Achievements under *Development of Guidelines for Protected Areas and Species Management* included activities undertaken in collaboration with the SPAW-RAC. Following SPAW STAC8, Terms of Reference were finalized for the SPAW STAC *Ad Hoc* Working Groups in July 2019 (being reviewed and updated). The TOR provides the framework under which the four (4) working groups will operate (UNEP(DEPI)/CAR WG.42/INF.12). The Working Groups were active for the first time during the biennium and the initiative was welcomed as it would build synergies.
46. An updated list of protected areas under the SPAW Protocol was completed for the 2019-2020 biennium. There was a call to Parties for listing of additional protected areas done during the biennium. A CAMPAM-MPA profile form using a toolbox supported under the ACP MEAs III was developed and additional proposals were requested for the listing of endangered species.
47. Outputs for the *Conservation of Threatened and Endangered Species* included the priority activities under the Marine Mammal Action Plan (MMAP) and the Sargassum Influx. The Sargassum White

Paper as well as the Stony Coral Tissue Loss Disease (SCTLD) was finalized and shared. Good recommendations emanated from the MMAP.

48. Since its approval in 2008, assessment of initiatives for the MMAP was conducted under the CARIMAM project. The consultants produced a comprehensive analysis and produced conclusions which were excellent guidelines for the region on how to follow up the management of marine mammals. A “Marine Mammal Month” social media campaign was launched and was replicated in 2021 with the support of CETA.
49. The new version of the Sargassum White Paper would be upscaled with the introduction of new partners. A summary report which assessed the impacts of heavy metals on Sargassum was being developed in collaboration with the Atomic Energy Commission and a Foresight Brief (FB) was done in collaboration with the UNEP Science Division and Ecosystem Division which Delegates were encouraged to disseminate.
50. Under the *Conservation and Sustainable Use of Coastal and Marine Ecosystem Project*, a brief summary was provided on the information papers available and the EBM project. Regarding the CLME+ project, three (3) documents were produced, namely the State of the Nearshore Marine Habitats on the Wider Caribbean, Regional Strategy and Action Plan and a combined option between AMEP and SPAW to identify relevant hotspots in the region for restoration purposes and an analysis of benefits following the restoration. Some partners had already started using the criteria for the selection of sites. The programme costs for 2019 and 2020 were also briefly outlined.
51. Regarding the Status of Decisions of the COP10 and STAC8 Meetings, a summary was provided on how the programmes supported the decisions taken by Contracting Parties. New ratifications as recommended by STAC8 were not achieved despite efforts made, however there was advancement with some countries, for example, Guatemala which was expected to ratify both the LBS and SPAW Protocols soon. Work was done with Mexico; however, they were not politically ready for ratification, nevertheless discussions continued.
52. For Protected Areas, the group responsible for proposals was very active and one (1) proposal approved for a protected area in the Dominican Republic, Cotubanama National Park was being developed. As it related to Exemptions Reports, awareness continued for bringing exemptions which was one of the recommendations from STAC9. A summary was provided on the status of COP10 decisions that were ongoing, completed and not completed.
53. The Secretariat, Ms Lopez, invited the Director of the SPAW- RAC, Ms. Sandrine Pivard, to present the Report of the SPAW-RAC for 2019– 2020.
54. Ms. Pivard thanked the Secretariat, the delegates and the observers for the opportunity to present the work of the SPAW-RAC done during the last biennium. She gave an overview of the creation, staffing and financing. The SPAW-RAC, located in Guadeloupe, was created in 2000 via an agreement between UN Environment and the Government of France. SPAW-RAC’s team, composed of three (3) permanent staff (1 director, 1 programme officer and 1 assistant and 5 or 6 short term staff which consisted of 3 or 4 fixed-term project officers and 2 volunteers as one-year contract support officers.
55. She explained it was thus a dynamic team but under a permanent high staff turn-over. The functioning costs of the RAC were covered by the French Government, that she thanked for, including salaries for the 3-permanent staff. The salaries for the rest of the staff was mostly covered by the EU through projects. No funding for the RAC was received from the CEP. She alerted that full team, especially fixed-term project officers, was only secured up to the end of 2021.
56. Ms. Pivard highlighted that the RAC continually supported the Secretariat by contributing to programme coordination, through joint programming and fundraising of relevant activities,

representation at various fora (Sargasso Sea Commission, International Initiative on Coral Reef, Coral Restoration Consortium, GCRMN, WIDECAST ...), renewed communication and organizational tools (website, newsletters, activity report, tables...) and the consolidation of the RAC administration framework.

57. Upon SPAW STAC8 and COP10 decision to re-endorse the three historical STAC ad hoc Working Groups on Protected areas, Species and Exemptions, and the establishment of a fourth one dedicated to Sargassum, the SPAW-RAC supported the SPAW Parties to ensure that the formulation and implementation of programme activities satisfied their requirements and needs. This was done through the coordination of new terms of reference for the Working Groups with volunteer Parties and observers (UNEP(DEPI)/CAR WG.42/INF.12), later of their activities and quality work along 2020- early 2021, and finally the preparation for the intergovernmental meetings (including the preparation and translation of about forty (40) documents requested for the STAC and the COP and the organization of four (4) pre-sessions to introduce the work and the documents).
58. Mrs Pivard also emphasized the strengthening of the work with LBS and the regional coordinator on transversal subjects (sargassum, oil spills,...) but also with all stakeholders, national and international organizations (e.g. on fish/fisheries...), networks (turtles, marine mammals, coral reefs...) and of course SPAW focal points, Ms. Pivard thanked all for their hard work and invited the meeting to read all the prospects in the SPAW-RAC report and the Working Groups reports and documents.
59. The SPAW-RAC also promoted the Protocol in funding activities such as the Caribbean coordination for the EU BEST initiative (28 projects for 3,98 M€) in the Caribbean until 2019, and throughout a regional call for proposals launched in 2020 (15 projects for 115 000 €). Within its external projects like Cari'Mam and Carib-Coast, it established and enhanced collaboration with partners through the Wider Caribbean Region.
60. Regarding the 'Protected Areas' sub-program, the SPAW-RAC played a minor role in CaMPAM and the specific activities conducted by the Secretariat under the ACP MEA III funded program but was very involved through the participation to and coordination of the STAC ad hoc Protected Areas Working Group, and the implementation of the Cari'Mam project implemented with a special attention to Protected Areas as decided by the previous COPs.
61. Regarding, the 'Guidelines' sub-programme, the two (2) major tasks of the PA Working Group were to review the proposal from the Dominican Republic to nominate the Cotubanama National Park as a new Protected Area listed under SPAW and produce a draft framework for cooperation. The first task was conducted successfully in collaboration with the Government of the Dominican Republic, leading to a positive recommendation by the STAC. The second one is still on-going and may be continued if the STAC recommends doing so.
62. The SPAW-RAC also contributed and chaired the Species Working Group in its major mandated tasks: (i) to evaluate the status of parrotfish to determine whether any species or group of species may warrant listing in the SPAW Protocol Annexes and address as priority and review the species proposed by France for the previous STAC (five species of sharks and rays), and (ii) to develop priorities and strategies for regional collaboration on and implementation of management measures to improve protection of species already listed under the Annexes of the Protocol (Nassau grouper, sawfish, listed species of sharks and rays, turtles and marine mammals were addressed).
63. Marine mammals experts also kindly reviewed some documents produced in the frame of Cari'mam and in particular produced a recommendation document for implementing the marine mammal watching guidelines in the wider Caribbean region. They also reviewed and completed the marine mammals species list and highlighted that the Scientific and Technical Analysis of the 2008 SPAW Marine Mammal Action Plan which was drafted in the frame of Cari'mam is a major piece of work

with a good global structure and qualitative information.

64. The Exemptions Working Group had also two (2) main tasks, namely, review the proposals submitted by the Contracting Parties and encourage Parties to use of the adopted Reporting Format for Exemptions under Article 11(2) of the SPAW Protocol. As no new or updated reports were submitted, the existing ones (Curacao's and the US') were used to provide recommendations to facilitate and encourage reporting.
65. Finally, it also chaired the ad hoc Working Group on Sargassum, which tasks agreed by STAC 8 were to "Develop clear objectives and responsibilities" and to "Establish coordination and collaboration with relevant regional and global initiatives in order to promote maximum impact of synergies and solutions to the Sargassum outbreaks". Two documents were produced.
66. Ms. Pivard expressed appreciation to the experts of all the Working Groups for their intensive work and encouraged the meeting to read the documents available.
67. On species conservation, Ms. Pivard outlined the objectives and outputs of the Marine Mammals–Cari'Mam Project. Through the Cari'Mam project, SPAW-RAC was very involved on marine mammals issues, developing an active and functional network and producing various important documents to update the Caribbean Marine Mammals Action Plan, and to frame some cetaceans related activities under the SPAW Protocol. In relation to the next biennium Ms. Pivard alerted on the fact that staff contracts were coming to an end with the finalization of Cari'mam. New funds/activities/projects must be built to be able to conduct the work requested in the workplan (if approved).
68. Regarding sea turtle protection, activities were conducted in collaboration with WIDECASST for the protection of sea turtles. Projects on other species (birds, fish, invertebrates...) were also funded.
69. In general, focus was placed on the improved management of fish and the coordination work of fisheries bodies; it was recommended for this to continue in the next biennium.
70. On sargassum issues, SPAW-RAC had represented the Secretariat in two major events in Mexico (High Level Summit for Sargasso Care in the Caribbean – June 26th-29th 2019) and Guadeloupe (International Conference on Sargasso Sarg'Coop + Sarg'Expo – October 23rd-26th 2019) and contributed to the white paper.
71. Regarding the 'Sustainable use of coastal and marine ecosystems of the Protocol', SPAW-RAC was specially involved in the activities of the Global Coral Reef Monitoring Network (GCRMN) and coordinated the data collection and analysis of the Caribbean content of the global report to be published in 2021. On this occasion, it highlighted the need to consider socioeconomic features in this report. In the same spirit, and under the aegis of the GCRMN-Caribbean, it organized and held a regional workshop on socioeconomic aspects of the coral reefs in the Mesoamerican region in 2019 with NFWF funding.
72. SPAW-RAC invigorated the Caribbean node of the GCRMN and organized with the Dutch Caribbean Nature Alliance, a meeting of the Caribbean members of this global network in 2020. It participated with the Caribbean Coordination Team on SCTLD, and ensured to liaise with AGGRA, ICRI, UNEP Coral Reef Unit, the Coral Restoration Consortium, and many other Caribbean stakeholders.
73. SPAW-RAC also continued to implement the Carib-Coast project that aims to develop a Caribbean coastal risks prevention and monitoring network related with climate change. Recommended by STAC8 and adopted by the COP, this 3-year project targets marine and coastal ecosystems (Coral Reefs, Seagrass, Mangroves, and Upper beach vegetation) in six Caribbean countries. Progress have been made in this framework, especially the finalization of syntheses on each ecosystem, the launch of "pilot sites" to protect/restore these ecosystems, and creation of communications tools.

74. The SPAW-RAC conducted a call for proposals for short-term small grants in 2020. Thirty-eight (38) proposals were received and fifteen (15) were awarded with the approval of focal points. The process was currently underway for 2021 and the SPAW-RAC requested possible co-funders to collaborate with them to replicate or upscale the small grants programme.
75. Ms. Pivard provided a summary of the budget for the current period. Funding was provided mainly by the Government of France. Most of the staff of the RAC were EU-funded by external projects coming to their end end of 2021 and no funds came from relayed by CEP since 2018. As such the SPAW-RAC had designed HAMMAC as a way to find resources while implementing priorities of the workplan. As the HAMMAC project did not meet approval, the SPAW-RAC is in dire need to have proposals from countries to keep staff and competencies on board.
76. She brought their attention to the fact that external projects were challenging to design, launch and implement as they were not necessary on the same timing as the SPAW protocol. Even if they had been recommended and approved by previous STAC and COP but that as of now, they were the only way to secure a reliable and accountable team to accomplish the STAC recommendations and COP mandates on technical SPAW topics.
77. To conclude, Ms. Pivard invited the participants to read the RAC activity report in which they would find all the information on the tasks carried out in line with the previous COP decisions. All the team put in extra time to the task and she used that opportunity to announce that she planned to step from her post as SPAW-RAC Director by 2022, so likely before the next COP Meeting. She concluded by expressing gratitude for having had the opportunity of this position over the last five years and thanked all the persons with whom she had the pleasure to work.
78. The Secretariat, Ms. Lopez, thanked Ms. Pivard for her presentation on the work of the SPAW-RAC.
79. The Chairperson thanked the Secretariat and the SPAW-RAC for their presentations on the significant work undertaken during the last biennium. Work was done on partnerships and building partnerships, not only with existing donors, but also with new donors, agencies and entities that worked on the conservation of the environment biodiversity. The main donor for the SPAW-RAC, France was recognized and thanked for their support.
80. Stakeholders were engaged through the citizen science and other environmental awareness projects. The Secretariat and the SPAW-RAC were commended for their work and donors were thanked for their continued support of the SPAW Protocol.
81. The Meeting was invited to provide comments on the activities implemented during 2019–2020 and to make pertinent recommendations. Contracting Parties were also requested to complement the information provided by the Secretariat and inform the Meeting on the activities within their countries in support of SPAW objectives, including SPAW workplan activities in which they had participated and their impact. Contracting Parties were invited to submit proposals or recommendations to the Secretariat in writing via e-mail or by placing it in the chat.
82. The Head of delegation of France warmly thanked the Secretariat and the SPAW-RAC for their work during this biennium and their presentations as well as all the members of the different working groups. France reasserted its position that its nomination of the five (5) *elasmobranchs* species concerned, some of which were critically endangered, such as the whitetip shark, and all of which played a vital role in the ecosystems of our region, the Wider Caribbean were valid. France contended that this was recalled by several parties and confirmed by the legal division of UNEP Nairobi.
83. France regretted that, despite repeated requests from several Parties and following various major dysfunctions, during the STAC held in March and again in April, consideration of the proposal for inclusion in Annex II was refused. It was therefore more important to discuss a subject that did not gain consensus.



84. He stated that this kind of dysfunction was an issue for the various Parties and the Rules of Procedure were not adhered to. He said that the species protection proposals could be presented and discussed at the next STAC and then at the next COP. He requested that the Secretariat ensure that this was done.
85. The delegate of Colombia thanked the Secretariat for the work and efforts carried out during the 2019-2020 biennium amid the difficult global circumstances. She also acknowledged and thanked the SPAW-RAC and the Secretariat for the preparation of the report which showed the significant work that had been done.
86. This included fundraising through the development of strategies and the rationalization of the SPAW activities for the achievement of its activities; considering that financial contributions and human resources continued to be limited. In that sense, the work for the management of collaborations with partner organizations/countries and donor agencies for the successful execution of SPAW projects was highlighted.
87. In relation to the efforts to increase the number of regional and international collaborations and initiatives developed that facilitated the exchange of data, education and awareness about the environment and capacity building, Colombia requested that the efforts made with their Institute of Marine and Coastal Investigations (INVEMAR), be carried out with the support of the SPAW National Focal Points.
88. Regarding the main elements of *Strengthening Protected Areas in the Greater Caribbean Region*, Colombia observed that they had been limited to activities with English and Dutch-speaking countries. Beyond completing surveys, attention was drawn to the need for the Secretariat to further involve other Spanish-speaking Party countries.
89. Colombia expressed appreciation for the work of the entire SPAW-RAC team and would like, for processes or initiatives to be carried out in a timely manner so that the Contracting Parties could react more actively at the national level. There was significant commitment to the issues associated with the call for proposals for small short-term grants (2020 and 2021), however by 2020 the process was finalized early and by 2021 Colombia still had not known if there were proposals from their country.
90. Colombia called on the Secretariat and the SPAW-RAC to maintain strict compliance with the official communication channels with the countries by informing all the Parties of the calls and activities to be carried out to guarantee transparency of the information and make the participation of all countries in the activities of the Protocol possible.
91. The delegate of the US thanked the Secretariat and the SPAW-RAC for the comprehensive overview of the status of activities and their efforts over the last biennium. It expressed its deepest appreciation to the Government of France for their continued support of the SPAW-RAC and indicated its amazement at the depth and breadth of work achieved during the last biennium.
92. While remarkable progress had been made collectively, there were a number of elements of the SPAW Protocol and Cartagena Convention where work still had work to be done. Moving forward, the US encouraged the SPAW community to think about what it needed to do to effectively implement the SPAW Protocol and to set realistic expectations based on what could be achieved before the next STAC and COP.
93. The US also thanked the Government of France and Colombia for their interventions and noted France's intention to resubmit the species nomination proposals and supporting documentation for consideration by SPAW STAC10 and COP12. The importance of a process driven by Contracting Parties, which was discussed in depth over the past few months, was also emphasized.
94. To prevent future confusion regarding the species nomination process, STAC9 requested that the Secretariat actively inform Contracting Parties of deadlines for submitting proposals to list species

under the SPAW Protocol, and to make resources such as the 2014 "Procedure for the submission and approval of nominations of species for inclusion in, or deletion from Annexes I, II and III" available in advance of the submission deadline.

95. The US recognized and supported the need for sustainably managing and conserving the species in question, recognizing that regional cooperation was critical for the conservation of highly migratory species in particular. Credible listings based on consistent standards a key foundation for ensuring that the SPAW Protocol operated as a functional and well-respected treaty body that effectively advanced conservation goals in the region. .
96. The Head of delegation of the Dominican Republic stated that despite the limitations of the pandemic and the financial situation, there was no doubt the Secretariat and the SPAW-RAC produced great work during the biennium. Efforts must be continued to implement new actions and the issue of ecological restoration should be emphasized in this biennium and the next. Taking into account that the United Nations declared the decade of restoration, efforts should be made by the Convention to promote this initiative and protected areas that were involved with the Protocol.
97. As mentioned in the reports, great effort was made on connectivity issues, however, more could be done to generate connectivity actions and work exchange experiences in the 35 protected areas under the SPAW Protocol. Many areas were declared but the issue of management effectiveness to ensure the conservation of biodiversity and environmental services had limitations which were reflected in the report "Protected Areas and Management Effectiveness" hence more efforts must be made on the issue of management effectiveness. Greater efforts must be made to disseminate the information in this publication so that it was better utilized by Contracting Parties.
98. Continued strengthening was needed on the issue of invasive species. France's support of the SPAW-RAC was welcomed; work would not have been possible without it. During the next STAC and COP, as raised by France, the issue of the species should be discussed. Insufficient discussions took place in the technical meetings however effort should be made to ensure that the species were included. The delegate of the Dominican Republic thanked the Working Group for the work carried out to make Cotubanama National Park a SPAW site.
99. The delegate of the Netherlands thanked France, Colombia, the US and the Dominican Republic for their interventions. The Secretariat and the SPAW-RAC were commended for the tremendous and quality of work done over the 2019-2020 biennium, especially amidst the COVID-19 pandemic. Previous comments which took into consideration the financial challenges in the workplan for the next biennium were stressed. The need to be realistic on what could and could not be done as well as providing clarity in the roles and responsibilities were also stressed.
100. The delegate stressed the importance of species nominations and regretted that a decision could not have been made at the current COP and expressed hope that a decision on the species could be made at the next COP. He supported the comments made by the US, France and the Dominican Republic on the need to keep the processes in line with the Rules of Procedure. A request for guidance and outreach by the Secretariat on the Rules of Procedures in the coming biennium, stressing the importance of outreach to and inclusion of Spanish-speaking countries.
101. He noted that the Protocol may benefit from more clarity and agreed-upon guidelines in the Rules of Procedures, in particular the Working Groups regarding the use of the three (3) languages of the Convention given that sometimes there was lack of clarity on what was agreed on between Contracting Parties when it came to languages spoken within the working groups. More guidance was needed from other UNEP bodies and Regional Seas programmes for transparency and guidelines on the languages spoken.
102. The delegate of Panama highlighted the work done within the framework of monitoring activities of the Cartagena Convention and congratulated the Secretariat. He said the work done was very

important and hope was expressed for an end to the pandemic. Panama called for action on the of the conservation of invasive species and the issue of sargassum influx and thanked the government of France for supporting the SPAW-RAC.

103. The Chairperson opened the floor for additional comments from Contracting Parties. Given that there were no additional comments from Contracting Parties, the floor was opened to Observers.
104. Mr Gerald Mannaerts, in this capacity as Coordinator of the CARI'MAM network gathering the NGOs, scientists and MPA managers working on marine mammal's conservation in the Wider Caribbean Region, expressed appreciation to the Chairperson, the Secretariat, and the SPAW RAC for the opportunity to participate in the meeting.
105. Regarding the implementation of the Action Plan for the Conservation of Marine Mammals, he said more than 20 regional experts from 16 territories had signed a common statement acknowledging the numerous threats that marine mammals face in waters of the region. Recognized experts join forces to call upon the governments and policy makers to prioritize their actions to address the ongoing threats to the conservation and welfare of marine mammals in the region.
106. The threats included but were not limited to bycatch and entanglement, direct hunting and take, oil exploitation or marine traffic, causing increase in noise and chemical pollution or vessel collisions. All these closely intertwined with the good status of global ecosystem and human health.
107. It was sincerely hoped that the unprecedented call would be heard by all the Contracting Parties present. A document providing more information was shared and would be presented before the end of the year, to several world conferences such as the GCFI and the SMM conference and disseminated to the general public and later to the press.
108. The Chairperson thanked the delegates for their interventions then requested that the Secretariat address some of the issues presented with regards to communication.
109. The Secretariat, Ms Lopez, thanked the Contracting Parties that acknowledged the work of SPAW-RAC and the collaboration of different donors, highlighting the support from the Government of France and the work of the Secretariat. The Secretariat also took note of the comments made to enhance its work by focusing on increased collaboration directly with the National Focal Points. The hosting of the meeting of National Focal Points for Contracting Parties to provide guidance on the different projects and proposals would continue.
110. The comments from the Dominican Republic regarding their request for support for their work on invasive species and to continue specific aspects of the work of the Secretariat were noted. They also made a proposal that was in line with the language of a decision where they requested the Secretariat to highlight the UN Decade of Ocean Science and Ecosystem Restoration. The Secretariat took note of it and it would be included in the draft decisions for discussion.
111. Contracting Parties were encouraged to send their additional inputs on the decisions to the Secretariat or place them in the chat ahead of the discussion. Ms Lopez indicated that two main key roles would be required during the next biennium, namely collaboration and transparency. Engagement of Contracting Parties would also be required. Contracting Parties were invited to play an active role in supporting the Wider the Caribbean Region and in sharing the work of the Secretariat by means of increased capacity building and dissemination of the efforts.

#### **AGENDA ITEM 5: WORKPLAN AND BUDGET OF THE SPAW SUBPROGRAMME FOR THE 2021-2022 BIENNIUM**

112. On behalf of the Secretariat, Ms. Lopez presented the Draft Workplan and Budget of the SPAW Subprogramme for the 2021-2022 Biennium" (contained in document UNEP(DEPI)/CAR WG.42/3

Rev. 1) which was developed based on Decisions of previous COP Meetings, to address relevant and emerging global and regional biodiversity issues and initiatives, and to continue the development of strategic alliances.

113. Ms. Lopez called to the attention of the Meeting that the Secretariat convened several meetings to discuss the content of the Workplan and Budget following the STAC9 meeting in March 2021. According to the Rules of Procedures and the mode of working of the Secretariat, the Workplan and Budget was presented, and it was observed that some changes were needed before it was presented to the COP. The Secretariat noted that one of the draft decisions, which was also one of the recommendations of STAC9, requested that a detailed review of the Workplan and Budget be done.
114. The SPAW Secretariat personnel is composed of the SPAW Programme Officer, , the Programme Management Assistant, the Interns and the Secretariat works in close cooperation with the SPAW-RAC. Both SPAW and AMEP co-share personnel, specifically the Programme Management Assistants. Ms Lopez noted that the position had been vacant for the first three (3) months of 2021. Appreciation was expressed for the Interns. SPAW currently had one (1) Intern from the United Kingdom.
115. The main aspects under *Programme Coordination* would focus on 1) promoting ratification; 2) increased collaboration and communication; 3) Improve MPA and PA regional coordination; and 4) coordination as a whole.
116. A summary of the major outputs and indicators of achievement under the sub-programme was provided. Outputs completed included the convening of the STAC9 and COP11 meetings. A strategic and streamlined 2023-2024 workplan will be developed, funds raised in support of SPAW objectives and enhanced participation of donors and relevant funding agencies.
117. Indicators of achievement included the successful convening of meetings with appropriate recommendations, a roadmap for full implementation, a workplan with the full participation of all Contracting Parties in advance of meetings and increased regional collaboration and initiatives in support of the SPAW Protocol.
118. With regards to the workplan of activities for programme coordination will include the following: 1) coordination with relevant programmes, donors and organizations to develop synergies and collaboration; 2) support the implementation of existing MoUs and of collaborative arrangements with existing MEAs and initiatives, the Secretariate noted from the comments of Colombia that there was a need to liaise more with the Focal Points for the participation of INVEMAR, for example; and 3) joint programming with the SPAW-RAC, similar to AMEP and its RACs, to have a more efficient programme of activities and greater fluidity and transparency in bilateral exchanges.
119. A summary of the 2021-2022 Workplan activities and the budget for Programme Coordination was provided.
120. For the *Strengthening of Protected Areas*, the Secretariat was pleased that the Dominican Republic was focused on enhancing the management effectiveness of Protected Areas. Support from the ACP MEAs project will focus on enhancing the management effectiveness through the RANs and through peer-to-peer learning and exchange/mentorship. Capacity building was in line with the aforementioned in collaboration with the IUCN and other partners. There was also a toolbox for management effectiveness and PAs organized by the UN Ecosystem Division. A small grant initiative will be launched with several partners to enhance the ecological network of PAs.
121. A summary of the major outputs and indicators of achievement under the sub-programme was provided. The output on improved CAMPAM delivery and management capacity was highlighted. The indicator of achievement, increased number of MPA practitioners involved in capacity building, was in line with the biodiversity framework and would help to enhance the ecosystems in the region.

122. One of the results of the ACP MEAs III project was to build a functional network(s) of SPAW-listed Protected Areas covering interconnected habitats and ecosystems for restoring and sustaining the health of the oceans. Over the last biennium, a consortium of networks of MPA managers was developed. The network included CAMPAM, NAMPAN, DCNA, MPA Connect, BIOPAMA and RedGolfo. With the guidance of Contracting Parties, efforts would be made to work together to identify the subregions each of these networks would cover and resources would be invested in a coordinated manner.
123. Regarding MPA networks, specifically the core function of the consortium of networks of managers of MPAs, the RAC could work with the species, projects and working groups in collaboration with partners such as GCFI and universities on how to build synergies and a framework of cooperation in support of the decisions of the different multilateral environmental agreements, but more importantly the SPAW Protocol. MPA sponsors for 2021-2022 were acknowledged. The ongoing projects were expected to be concluded in the months ahead.
124. For *Strengthening Protected Areas in the Wider Caribbean Region*, SPAW-RAC will continue to work with the MPA list, species annexes and the voluntary exemptions report. The budget was presented and summarized. The funding source for the PAs was from the ACP MEA III project. Ms. Lopez explained that there was a challenge with the project due to COVID, the European Union (EU) had a policy which required partners to submit their reports to receive the disbursement of the next tranche of funding. The funds for this year were not yet allocated.
125. There was no funding available for the *Development of Guidelines for the Management of Protected Areas and Species* for the biennium.
126. Efforts for the *Conservation of Threatened and Endangered Species* focus would continue on 1) marine mammals 2) sea turtles (enhance the work with WIDECASST); 3) invasive species (Stony Coral Tissue Loss Disease and Sargassum); 4) sharks and rays enhancement; and 5) mangroves, corals and seagrasses. A summary of the budget per activity per year was provided.
127. In regard to *Conservation and Sustainable Use of Coastal and Marine Ecosystems*, work would continue under 1) coral reefs; 2) sargassum; 3) ecosystem-based management and other approaches aimed to enhance the management of ecosystems and the sustainable use of the oceans; and 4) wetlands and mangroves.
128. The workplan distribution of the Swedish project were outlined. The allocated funds were finalized. The GEF CLME+ project was concluded successfully, and no funds remained. The ACP MEAs III project would be extended until 2024 while CARIB COAST and CARI'MAM projects would be finalized at the end of 2021. Two (2) projects were the pipeline namely the GEF Gulf of Mexico Large Marine Environment project and the GEF PROCARIBE project. The former will focus on Mexico, the United States and Cuba, and the proposal development for the latter had begun was expected to start in 2023.
129. The project on *Harnessing a Movement in the Caribbean: Advancing Coral Reef Restoration with Tourism Leaders* project worked closely with the tourism industry to create guidelines to restore reefs, identify pilot projects and capacity building opportunities across the region. This was done in collaboration with the UNEP Ecosystem Division. Another project was expected to come on stream to support Belize and Honduras. A summary of the budget per activity per year was provided as well as the budget of the SPAW Programme for the 2021-2022 biennium.
130. The Chairperson thanked the Secretariat for the comprehensive presentation on the Workplan and Budget and invited Contracting Parties to provide comments.
131. The delegate of the US indicated that the US greatly appreciated the presentation of the Workplan and Budget. Consequently, the Secretariat and SPAW-RAC were thanked for having compiled the

- document, for presenting it to the STAC, and for continuing to engage with Focal Points to revise and update the document.
132. The delegate of the US offered a number of suggestions at STAC9 in an effort to improve the transparency of SPAW operations, including the reformulation of the Workplan and Budget. They were very grateful that the Secretariat and SPAW-RAC had already implemented several suggestions, which they believed had notably improved SPAW processes.
  133. The delegate highlighted that recommendation III (5) from STAC9 asked the Secretariat and SPAW-RAC to solicit input from Contracting Parties and Observers during the development of the next Workplan and Budget. Recommendation VIII (4) also asked the Secretariat to consult with Working Groups on the development of priorities for the next Workplan. They believed this would greatly improve transparency, clarity, and cohesiveness of SPAW processes moving forward.
  134. The workplan was viewed as being very ambitious, however as noted earlier, the US encouraged all present at the meeting to continue to focus on effective implementation of the SPAW Protocol. Additionally, as mentioned by Ms. Lopez, during the LBS COP the United States proposed that the Cartagena Convention Secretariat should consider virtual STAC and COP meetings for the next biennium.
  135. While they recognized the drawbacks of virtual meetings, the US believed that it may be a necessity due to the dire financial circumstances. During the LBS COP meeting the day before, they learnt that if the STACs and COPs for the next biennium were held virtually savings could be around \$200,000. While virtual meetings may not be ideal, savings of this magnitude certainly merited consideration. The matter was raised for the SPAW COP's consideration and would also be raised in the context of the IGM.
  136. Finally, the US congratulated the Dominican Republic on the nomination of Cotubanama National Park.
  137. The delegate of Colombia stated that Colombia considered the activities carried out by the SPAW sub-Programme to be of the highest importance and usefulness. This was not only for the fulfillment of the objectives and scope of the SPAW Protocol and the Cartagena Convention, but for other instruments, such as the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) which contributed greatly and valuably in the protection, conservation, and sustainable use of marine biodiversity, as well as addressing the causes or drivers that threaten it.
  138. For this reason, Colombia invited the Secretariat and the SPAW-RAC to be much more active and to participate in other processes of the multilateral environmental agenda where an adequate defense and incorporation of the interests of the Caribbean region in other processes was necessary. Also, the dissemination and participation of a greater number of countries in the activities and progress of the Subprogramme.
  139. The Head of delegation of the Dominican Republic thanked the Secretariat for the presentation on the workplan and budget. He was pleased to see activities in the projects which ensured the effectiveness of the protocol and the implementation of the objectives. Regarding the financial issues, it was stated in the LBS COP meeting that the possibility of continuing virtual meetings should be considered for a while. He was also pleased to see the work planned for the management of protected areas.
  140. The Head of delegation of France, thanked the Secretariat for the presentation as well as Colombia and the Dominican Republic for their interventions. Ms Inniss was also thanked for her kind word of introduction. The delegate then recalled that the review conducted by UNEP identified difficulties with the SPAW programme both from a financial and governance point of view.
  141. The request for clarification of the programme deliverables and the respective roles of the Secretariat

and the SPAW-RAC was expressed during the various preSTACs, the STAC and WGs by several Parties including France. The delegate of France was also pleased that the requests had made it into the programme for the next biennium with additional clarifications, even if efforts in that area had to be continued.

142. The delegation of France congratulated the Secretariat and the SPAW-RAC for their efforts to clarify the deadlines, deliverables, and their respective roles and recalled the need to continue efforts at clarifying the respective roles of the Secretariat and the SPAW-RAC, which it welcomed and encouraged.
143. The observer from the Inter-American Convention for the Protection and Conservation of Sea Turtles made an intervention in the chat. She stated that the Sea Turtle Convention Secretariat was looking forward to strengthening the collaboration with the SPAW Protocol, through participation on the species working group, with a view to bringing attention to and working together to address the situation of concern of the Northwest Atlantic leatherback turtle.
144. The Chairperson thanked the Contracting Parties for their interventions. He pointed out that the Parties provided salient points especially regarding the hosting of virtual meetings.
145. The delegate of the Dominican Republic stated that she endorsed the comments previously expressed by the head of delegation for the Dominican Republic. The presentation of project activities included the diversity of topics that were being covered both by the committee within their groups and subgroups, and the Secretariat within the projects of its programmes. Her thoughts regarding greater effectiveness was aligned with those of the delegate of France. It would take time to adjust to new conditions however this was necessary to improve.
146. Improvement was needed for coordination and synergies on actions, plans, platforms and different initiatives. Although the Protocol included high working expectation, focus should be on the marine environment and oceans. The national focus should be on marine biodiversity in marine protected areas. She said that greater support was needed from the Protocol on issues related to MPAs. There was a lack of management effectiveness, and that it was useless to declare new areas with no management in place.
147. She advised the meeting that the Ministry of the Environment and Natural Resources had two representatives for the SPAW Protocol, one for protected areas and the other for coastal and marine environment.
148. The observer of the Animal Welfare Institute (AWI) in reference to the monthly meetings with Contracting Parties that Ms Lopez mentioned, suggested that observers should also organize themselves to hold regular virtual meetings to share information, expertise and to network. This was especially important given the existing lack of ability to meet in-person. She offered the services of the Animal Welfare Institute, along with those of Monitor Caribbean to make the virtual meetings happen. She also encouraged persons interested to contact her at [susan@awionline.org](mailto:susan@awionline.org).
149. The Secretariat, Ms Lopez, thanked the Meeting for the comments and recommendations received. She noted support for one of the recommendations from the LBS COP for hosting virtual meetings, a cost-saving measure due to the financial constraints. She added that COVID-19 was no longer a pandemic but an epidemic, therefore in the future one would have to learn to adjust to a new way of life. However, she stated that the Secretariat recognized that the virtual meetings do not provide the same type of interaction as the face-to-face meetings.
150. Ms Lopez requested Contracting Parties to provide guidance on the way forward and reminded them that the aim was to support fieldwork, as mentioned by the delegate of the Dominican Republic. The comments from France regarding room for improvement between SPAW and SPAW-RAC in terms of defining roles and responsibilities was welcomed. The Secretariat acknowledged the importance

of meeting once a month with the National Focal Points. Ms Lopez added that as a part of her workplan, the aim was to connect bilaterally individually with one of the National Focal Points to receive inputs and find out if they were going in the direction that the SPAW Protocol intended.

151. The comments from the Dominican Republic on their support of management effectiveness were well received and were in line with the objectives of the ACP MEA Project, as mentioned previously. Comments were welcomed from Colombia on participation in the national agenda to enhance biodiversity as well as its sustainable use and management. Ms Lopez also acknowledged and expressed appreciation to Ms Susan Milward from AWI for the constant support to the Cartagena Convention over the years.
152. The delegate of the Netherlands thanked the Secretariat for the clarifying remarks. He said it was important to get back into the correct rhythm of the Conference of Parties as it was challenging to have a discussion half-way through 2021.
153. The delegate of the US strongly supported the intervention by the Netherlands via the chat.
154. The delegate of Cuba thanked the Secretariat for inviting them to participate and indicated that they had technological challenges due to the platform being used for the meeting. It was requested that the Secretariat consider the modality for hosting future meetings and provide financial support in this regard for countries that may need it.
155. The Chairperson thanked Cuba for the intervention and provided a suggestion where the Secretariat could explore the modalities of hosting future meetings, taking into consideration the concerns raised by the Parties. She pointed out that there were advantages and disadvantages of hosting virtual and face-to-face meetings.
156. The Secretariat, Ms Inniss, responded that the Secretariat made every effort to ensure that all the countries were able to comfortably participate in the meeting via the platform chosen. In April 2021, a survey was submitted to all countries asking about the platforms that were allowed nationally or which were simpler to access. Based on the responses received and given the level of funding available for the meeting a decision was made to use the Zoom platform.
157. The Secretariat only recently discovered that the Zoom platform was challenging for some countries. The significant improvement in the operations of the platform based on the SPAW STAC in March and April was noted. The aim was to minimize the technical challenges previously experienced using two (2) platforms simultaneously for the meeting.
158. The Secretariat recognized that going forward there was still more work to be done considering the possible decision by Contracting Parties to host the next set of meetings virtually. Ms Inniss stated that the Secretariat would continue to work with Contracting Parties to that ensure the most convenient platform was available.
159. Ms. Inniss urged countries to recognize that the Caribbean Trust Fund (CTF) was the core funding support of the Secretariat and encouraged countries to ensure that their contributions were up-to-date and made in a timely manner, preferably at the beginning of the year when they were due. Adequate funding in the CTF would allow the Secretariat to satisfy the requests of all the countries for the meeting platform.
160. She pointed out that the Kudo platform was three (3) times more expensive than the other platforms reviewed (Zoom and Microsoft Teams) The Secretariat understood that most countries would benefit from the use of Kudo, however there was no funding available (US\$93,000) for the use of KUDO for these meetings. The Secretariat recognizes that countries still have connectivity challenges and will make an effort during this biennium to solve those issues. Ms Inniss emphasized that the countries would therefore have to work together to accomplish this.
161. The Director of SPAW-RAC, Ms Sandrine Pivard, in response to Ms. Lopez's comment regarding



the CARIB COAST project, said that it was extended to 2022, due to COVID-19, with no additional funding. Regarding the intervention from Colombia on the call for proposal, the SPAW-RAC took into consideration improvements on the proposal based on their experience the previous year. Efforts were being made to ensure that Focal Points would be informed of the call well in advance this year (including contributing to the draft. The SPAW-RAC would provide Parties with the list of proposals that required approval and formal acceptance from the National Focal Point was needed for funding to be approved. No proposal was received concerning Colombia in 2021.

162. The Meeting was invited to approve the Draft SPAW Workplan and Budget as revised by SPAW STAC9 and provide specific comments and recommendations as needed. Subsequently, the Workplan and Budget would be presented to the 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 as part of the Workplan and Budget for the Caribbean Environment Programme for the 2021-2022 biennium, for its final adoption.

#### **AGENDA ITEM 6: RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE NINTH MEETING OF THE SCIENTIFIC AND TECHNICAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE (STAC9) TO THE SPAW PROTOCOL**

163. The Chairperson presented the Recommendations of the SPAW STAC9 for review and approval (virtual meetings 17-19 March and 14-15 April 2021) contained in documents UNEP(DEPI)/CAR WG.42/9 and/8. The Secretariat called to the attention of the Meeting the relevant documents, as follows, in support of the STAC9 Recommendations:
- Review of the Dominican Republic’s proposal for listing of the “Cotubamana National Park” under the SPAW Protocol (UNEP(DEPI)/CAR WG.42/INF.4 and UNEP(DEPI)/CAR WG.44/INF.22 and Proposal of the “Cotubamana National Park” by the Dominican Republic for Listing Under the SPAW Protocol (UNEP(DEPI)/CAR WG.42/INF.22 Add.1) regarding **STAC9 Recommendation V(2)**.
  - The Report of the Working Group on the Listing of Species under the Annexes to the SPAW Protocol (UNEP(DEPI)/CAR WG.42/INF.34 **STAC9 Recommendation XI (1)**;
  - The State of Nearshore Marine Habitats in the Wider Caribbean (SoMH) (UNEP(DEPI)/CAR WG.42/INF.5) and Regional Strategy 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) **STAC9 Recommendation IX (1)**;
  - Assessment of the Impact and Effectiveness of the Caribbean Marine Protected Area Network and Forum (CaMPAM) (UNEP(DEPI)/CAR WG.42/INF.7 Add.1) and Strategic Directions and Plan for CaMPAM (UNEP(DEPI)/CAR WG.42/INF.8) **STAC9 Recommendation V (6)**;
  - Developing an Ecological Network between the SPAW-listed MPAs (Marine Protected Areas) of the Wider Caribbean (UNEP(DEPI)/CAR WG.42/INF.10) **STAC9 Recommendation V (8)**.
  - Sargassum White Paper 2021: Turning the Crisis into an opportunity (UNEP(DEPI)/CAR WG.42/INF.35) **STAC9 Recommendation VII (2 and3)**.
  - Summary report on the update of the Marine Mammals action plan and implementation of the Action Plan for the Conservation of Marine Mammals (MMAP) in the Wider Caribbean: A Scientific and Technical Analysis (UNEP(DEPI)/CAR WG.42/INF.29 Addendum 1) **STAC9 Recommendation XI (7)**.
164. The Head of delegation of France provided comments on the documents mentioned. Regarding

*Developing an Ecological Network between the SPAW-listed MPAs (Marine Protected Areas) of the Wider Caribbean (UNEP(DEPI)/CAR WG.42/INF.10) STAC9 Recommendation V (8).* France underlined the interest of this action, the need to fully involve the SPAW-RAC, the importance and the diversity of French MPAs in the region including the Agoa Marine Mammal Sanctuary and the know-how of its office for biodiversity (OFB) in this area.

165. France, as in other areas, was at the disposal of the SPAW programme to move forward in this direction and reiterated their wish to be fully associated with this action, including the steering committee. During a previous working meeting on the work program, it was noted with satisfaction that the steering committee for this action, which at the time only involved one party, would be open to more Parties.
166. France declared itself in favor of the effective protection of 30% of the world's marine surface, which constituted a minimum threshold for the international scientific community. France recalled that they were joining with Costa Rica on a coalition of more than sixty (60) states in favor of the objective stated and hoped that all the States of the region would join it (the High Ambition Coalition for Nature and People) in view of the COP15 of the Convention on Biological Diversity. France thanked the delegation of Colombia, the Dominican Republic, Grenada, Guatemala, Mexico, Nicaragua and Panama for joining this ambitious coalition in favor of marine protected areas.
167. Regarding the *Report of the Working Group on the Listing of Species under the Annexes to the SPAW Protocol (UNEP(DEPI)/CAR WG.42/INF.34 STAC9 Recommendation XI (1)*, France congratulated the working groups, in particular the species working group composed of leading experts and scientists based on the most current state of research, for the high quality of their work during the previous biennium.
168. France recalled the unanimously welcomed importance of the existence of the working groups to contribute to increased effectiveness of the SPAW Protocol and to greater ownership by the parties. France regretted that the full exploitation of this work had been made impossible, despite its great interest, because of the various dysfunctions of the STAC in March and April which were not very conducive to mobilizing the experts and the Parties for the next biennium.
169. Regarding the *Review of the Dominican Republic's proposal for listing of the "Cotubanama National Park" under the SPAW Protocol (UNEP(DEPI)/CAR WG.42/INF.4 and UNEP(DEPI)/CAR WG.44/INF.22 and Proposal of the "Cotubanama National Park" by the Dominican Republic for Listing Under the SPAW Protocol (UNEP(DEPI)/CAR WG.42/INF.22 Add.1) in response to STAC9 Recommendation V(2)*, France congratulated the Dominican Republic for the inclusion of Cotubanama National Park in the list of protected areas labeled SPAW.
170. Regarding the *Sargassum White Paper 2021: Turning the Crisis into an opportunity (UNEP(DEPI)/CAR WG.42/INF.35) in response to STAC9 Recommendation VII (2 and 3)*, France recalled the importance of the fight against the influx of Sargassum and the importance of international cooperation on this subject.
171. Regarding the *Summary report on the update of the Marine Mammals action plan and implementation of the Action Plan for the Conservation of Marine Mammals (MAMAP) in the Wider Caribbean: A Scientific and Technical Analysis (UNEP(DEPI)/CAR WG.42/INF.29 Addendum 1) STAC9 Recommendation XI (7)*, France congratulated the SPAW-RAC for the high-quality work carried out with funding from the European Union within the framework of the CARIMAM project. The importance of developing the new action plan based on that work would be emphasized.
172. The Chairperson and the US joined with France in congratulating the Dominican Republic on their inclusion of the protected area to the SPAW list of marine protected areas.
173. Regarding the *State of Nearshore Marine Habitats in the Wider Caribbean (SoMH)*

(UNEP(DEPI)/CAR WG.42/INF.5) and Regional Strategy 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) STAC9 Recommendation IX (1). France welcomed the Action Plan as a regional strategy for key marine habitats (*via chat*). It underlined the importance for the survival of these different ecosystems of large predators such as *elasmobranchs* and for the survival of coral reefs, the crucial nature of herbivorous coral fish, as well as the various international commitments and international findings in this area (IUCN resolution, ICRI recommendations for the Caribbean).

174. Ms Lopez, on the behalf of the Secretariat, acknowledged the delegate of France for his remarks reminding Parties to congratulate the experts and the working groups for their excellent work and achievements. She said the Secretariat was looking forward to strengthening the proposals within the required guidelines and deadlines. Appreciation was expressed for the importance of Cotubanama.
175. The delegate of Colombia expressed her appreciation and gratitude for the work carried out by the Protected Areas working group and the great commitment of the Dominican Republic in presenting the Cotubanama National Park on the list of Protected Areas under the SPAW Protocol. The effort was supported by Colombia. In addition, she highlighted the work carried out by the species working group and the important discussions around the species and issues related to herbivorous fish. The role of the countries of the region in the group was also highlighted and they were encouraged to continue participating constructively.
176. Due to the lack of clarity and certainty of the procedural rules of the Protocol experienced with the group, Colombia called for the need to be clear and find alternatives that allowed for the moving forward of the review of the proposals to avoid setting a negative precedent on the procedures or what was established in the text of the Protocol.
177. To avoid discrepancies that would interrupt and hinder the progress of the Parties' proposals, the Secretariat and the SPAW-RAC reviewed the Rules of Procedure in order to be clear about:
  - Who could present proposals,
  - The functions and scope of the working group,
  - Who had the power to request amendments to the text of the Protocol and its procedural rules,
  - The times and each of the steps that must be taken, and other aspects that allowed the Secretariat, the working group, and the Parties to have certainty and clarity about the procedures to be carried out.
178. The delegate of the US thanked the Secretariat for facilitating Contracting Parties' exchanges regarding the recommendations, both via email and via virtual meetings. Appreciation was also expressed to fellow Contracting Parties, who provided thoughtful input and dedicated a great deal of time to the process. The US delegation was of the belief that the recommendations accurately reflected the STAC9 discussion and continued to advance the collective work under the SPAW Protocol.
179. The US delegate drew the attention of the COP to STAC9 recommendation IV on the SPAW Protocol and Sub-Programme. The fourth recommendation in this section was to establish a committee or working group to monitor progress in implementing the recommendations. They believed that this was a point that required further consideration from the COP, therefore if the COP wished to proceed to establish such a committee or Working Group, then the path forward should be elaborated.
180. The Head of delegation of the Dominican Republic expressed appreciation for the immeasurable work carried out by the Protected Areas Working Group with respect to the proposal that they presented for the Cotubanama National Park to be included as a SPAW listed site. The Cotubanama National Park not only held first-rate terrestrial and marine biological wealth but also historical and

cultural resources important mangroves and wetlands.

181. The delegate of the of the Netherlands supported the intervention of the US regarding recommendation IV, on the committee to be established to monitor progress. A question was asked of the Secretariat and Contracting Parties on whether implementation of this decision would be possible given the implementation of the monitoring committee. He said it was not clear if the monitoring committee was active in the past and that said it was believed that it had not been active during the past biennium. The Netherlands also congratulated the Dominican Republic on the listing of their Protected Area.
182. The Head of delegation of France, via chat, he welcomed the recent initiative of the Secretariat to bring together the Focal Points every month and to call for a regular meeting of the bureau. France recalled the need to reserve, as planned, part of the future work for the protection and better management of *elasmobranchs* already present in Annex III of the protocol and of herbivorous coral fish, particularly parrot fish, and other fish, without forgetting marine mammals and turtles.
183. The observer of Lightkeepers USA made an intervention in the chat. She said that as a longtime observer and supporter of the Protocol, she wanted to note their concern that observers were not invited to participate in SPAW monthly meetings regarding the drafting of the STAC9 Recommendations. Under normal procedures and at in-person meetings, observers had the opportunity to comment and participate in the review of STAC recommendations and outcomes. Understanding that it was not possible this time due to time or other constraints, while virtual meetings and formats were be contemplated for the future, she encouraged the Secretariat to return to consistent procedures.
184. The observer of Foundation for Development Planning Inc (FDPI) made an intervention in the chat supporting the comment made by the Lightkeepers Foundation representative regarding inclusion of observers in the drafting of recommendations of the meetings.
185. The Secretariat, Ms Lopez, agreed that clarity was needed on the monitoring committee then added that Contracting Parties were invited to provide the language on the decisions. She welcomed Colombia's comments regarding clarity in the procedure for submission of proposals, as well as specific deadlines and benchmarks are welcome and mentioned the availability of a document, provided by the US, which outlined the different guidelines and Terms of Reference.
186. She stated that there was the possibility that a working group could be established, or a consultant hired to prepare very clear guidelines on submitting proposals. Ms Lopez congratulated the Dominican Republic and the Protected areas Working Group for the nomination of the Cotubanama National Park.
187. The United States delegation thanked the Netherlands for their intervention, via the chat. They expressed curiosity regarding how such a new committee under SPAW would relate to the overarching Monitoring Committee. Ms. Lopez responded that it would be discussed later. She also noted some comments from observers and groups who wished to be a part of the monthly meetings.
188. Regarding the Working Groups and revision of the Terms of the Reference, the Director of the SPAW-RAC, Ms. Sandrine Pivard, mentioned that there was ongoing work with focal points and observers. She proposed a short discussion between the Working Groups of the SPAW and LBS Protocol, if agreed by Contracting Parties benefit from the LBS experience. She requested the input of Stephanie Adrian, Chair of the open-ended working group, or the SPAW community on the working mode.
189. The Secretariat, Ms. Lopez, welcomed the comments of Ms. Pivard.

## **AGENDA ITEM 7: OTHER BUSINESS**

190. Participants were invited to raise any other issues not covered by the preceding Agenda items, but relevant to the scope of the Meeting.
191. The delegate of the Netherlands reiterated the intervention made at the start of the meeting regarding the languages of the Protocol. He said the use of the three official languages within other bodies of the Convention and Protocol, for example the working groups and the bureau, was unclear. Contracting Parties were urged to agree on the guidelines for the working languages of the Protocol within these bodies. The Secretariat was asked to provide guidance and clarity on what was possible given the financial constraints.
192. The observer of FDPI thanked the Secretariat for the invitation to participate in the meetings. He recommended that the SPAW Protocol adopt clear and detailed guidelines for establishing baselines for listed protected areas. These guidelines should cover ecological, social or public use and management capacity. He pointed out that assessment of protected areas by countries and initiatives focused on management effectiveness, but the ecological performance of the sites should also be evaluated.
193. He stated that if SPAW listed sites are supposed to form an ecological network, then the baselines should reflect the ecological conditions at the time the sites are established, as establishing baselines periodically would not allow for accurate determination of the degree of change under shifting environmental conditions. Care should be taken on how the changing conditions of sites and the systems around them are monitored and assessed.
194. The US supported the intervention of the Netherlands regarding the importance of clarifying working languages in Working Groups and other informal meetings. While the Terms of Reference of the Working Group identified the working language for Working Groups to be English, expectations were not clear for other types of informal meetings.
195. Additionally, as Colombia and other delegates indicated that even when the working language was specified, it was very difficult for many Contracting Parties to participate when there was no interpretation and they were limited to English. While the US recognized that the Secretariat might not have had the budget for consistent interpretation and translation outside of official meetings, there was a need to think critically about how to encourage participation and increase representation, especially for Spanish-speaking countries.
196. The Chairperson called on Ms. Pivard to speak on the issue she raised earlier.
197. The Director of SPAW-RAC, Ms. Pivard stated that it was up to Contracting Parties to decide if they wished to discuss the organization of the revision of the Terms of Reference during the agenda item.
198. The Chairperson asked the Meeting if they supported the proposal to have a five-minute discussion on the TORs.
199. The Secretariat, Ms. Lopez, stated that the issues required recommendation and analysis from Contracting Parties. She stated that the lack of participation of some Contracting Parties had been previously mentioned and may have been a reflection of the language used, mainly in English. Challenges and the lack of resources resulted in interpretation not being provided for all the meetings.
200. Regarding the drafting the Road Map for the TOR as mentioned by Ms. Pivard, Ms Lopez stated that a meeting of Contracting Parties would be held on September 1 and that time was allotted to discuss the TOR and the Working Groups. Ms Lopez welcomed the recommendation by FDPI regarding the setting of the SPAW baseline and requested continued guidance from Parties.
201. Ms Pivard, suggested that the two (2) issues be divided, one focusing on the update of the Terms of Reference which provided the rules of the Working Groups and the other on the tasks for the next

biennium. She proposed that during the discussion on the decisions of the COP, the recommendations of the STAC, decisions of the COP and the tasks of the working groups be connected. She suggested that the TOR could be discussed at a later date given that it was not relevant to the COP.

#### **AGENDA ITEM 8: ADOPTION OF THE DECISIONS OF THE MEETING**

202. The Rapporteur presented the draft [Decisions of the Meeting](#) (UNEP(DEPI)/CAR IG.44/3). The Meeting was invited to adopt the decisions, with amendments and corrections to be introduced, as appropriate.
203. The decisions would be made available to the 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 (COP16) for adoption.

#### **AGENDA ITEM 9: CLOSURE OF THE MEETING**

204. The Rapporteur presented a summary of the Meeting. He expressed appreciation for the nomination of Belize as Rapporteur for the Meeting.
205. The Secretariat, Ms. Lopez, expressed appreciation to the Contracting Parties, Experts, Non-Contracting Parties and Observers for their support and commitment. She also thanked the staff of the Cartagena Convention for their work organizing the meeting.
206. Ms. Inniss commended Contracting Parties for the spirit of agreement and compromise approached during the meeting. The amicable nature of the meeting went well with the changes and reforms that the Secretariat needed to work on during the next biennium to take SPAW to the next level. She also thanked all participants, the Chairperson, Ms Downes-Agard and the Bureau for guiding the meeting.
207. The Government of France was acknowledged for their continued support of the SPAW Protocol. She thanked the SPAW-RAC for their continued support to the Secretariat as well as the staff of the Secretariat for their hard work. The stage was set by the LBS and SPAW Meetings for amicable negotiations.
208. The Meeting was closed on Tuesday, 27 July 2021 at 4:50 p.m. by the Secretariat.

**ANNEX I**

**AGENDA**





## **AGENDA**

1. Opening of the Meeting
2. Organisation of the Meeting
  - 2.1. Rules of Procedure
  - 2.2. Election of Officers
  - 2.3. Organisation of Work
3. Adoption of the Agenda
4. Status of Activities of the SPAW Subprogramme for 2019-2020, including activities of the Regional Activity Centre for SPAW (SPAW-RAC) in Guadeloupe
5. Workplan and Budget of the SPAW Subprogramme for the 2021-2022 Biennium
6. Recommendations of the Ninth Meeting of the Scientific and Technical Advisory Committee (STAC) to the SPAW Protocol (17-19 March and 14-15 April 2021)
7. Other Business
8. Adoption of the Decisions of the Meeting
9. Closure of the Meeting



## **ANNEX II**

### **DECISIONS OF THE MEETING**



## DECISIONS OF THE MEETING

The Contracting Parties:

**Having convened** the Eleventh Meeting of the Contracting Parties (COP) to the Protocol Concerning Specially Protected Areas and Wildlife (SPAW) in the Wider Caribbean Region;

**Recalling** the adoption by the United Nations General Assembly of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and its Sustainable Development Goals, and **welcoming** Goal 14 calling for the conservation and sustainable use of the oceans, seas and marine resources for sustainable development;

**Recognizing** that ecosystem restoration is a complement to conservation activities and that priority should be given to conserving biodiversity and preventing the degradation of natural habitats and ecosystems by reducing pressures and maintaining ecological integrity and the provision of ecosystem services,

**Noting** the invitation to the United Nations General Assembly by the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity at its fourteenth meeting, in its decision 14/30, to designate the decade 2021–2030 the United Nations Decade on Ecosystem Restoration,

**Taking note** of the Assessment of the Impact and Effectiveness of the Caribbean Marine Protected Area Network and Forum (CaMPAM) and Strategic Directions and Plan for CaMPAM (UNEP(DEPI)/CAR WG.42/INF.7 Addendum 1 and UNEP(DEPI)/CAR WG.42/INF.8 Rev1);

**Taking note** of the Implementation of the Action Plan for the Conservation of Marine Mammals (MMAP): A Scientific and Technical Analysis (UNEP(DEPI)/CAR WG.42/INF.29 Add.1);

Taking note of the “Status of Activities of the SPAW Sub-programme for 2019-2020” (includes status of STAC8 Recommendations and COP10 Decisions)” (UNEP(DEPI)/CAR WG.42/INF.3) and “Report of the SPAW Regional Activity Centre (SPAW- RAC) in Guadeloupe: Operations and Budget for the period 2019-2020” (UNEP(DEPI)/CAR WG.42/INF.4);

**Acknowledging** the work of the Secretariat and SPAW-RAC to address emerging issues such as Sargassum influx, as well as the continued work on conservation of coral reefs, mangroves, seagrasses, herbivorous fishes, sharks and marine mammals;

**Considering** the significant work carried out by the four SPAW Scientific and Technical Advisory Committee (STAC) Working Groups and thanking SPAW-RAC as chair and the experts appointed in the groups for their important commitment;

**Having reviewed** the “Recommendations of the Ninth Meeting of the Scientific and Technical Advisory Committee to the SPAW Protocol (STAC9)”, Virtual, 17-19 March and 14-15 April 2021 contained in the Report of the Meeting (UNEP(DEPI)/CAR WG.42/8);

**Having reviewed** the “Draft Workplan and Budget of the Specially Protected Areas and Wildlife (SPAW) Sub-programme for the 2021-2022 Biennium” (UNEP (DEPI)/CAR WG.42/3 Rev.1.);

**Considering** the current budgetary challenges, the Secretariat and SPAW-RAC is facing that must be considered in implementing the 2021-2022 Workplan and taking particular note of the alert from the Secretariat and the SPAW-RAC regarding the funding gap in 2022 for the maintenance of a number of SPAW-RAC staff and the activities necessary for the implementation of unfunded sections of the 2021-2022 workplan;

Decide to:

1. Encourage the governments of the region, which have not yet done so, to become Contracting Parties to the SPAW Protocol in particular the Mesoamerican Region.
2. Urge all Contracting Parties and others in a position to do so to increase voluntary contributions to the Regional Trust Fund for Implementation of the Action Plan for the Caribbean Environment Programme.
3. Request the Secretariat and the RACs to strengthen the integration between the Protocol Concerning Pollution from Land-Based Sources and Activities (LBS) and the SPAW Protocol including cross-representation of experts between Working Groups, as appropriate, and in accordance with the relevant Terms of Reference.
4. Approve the “Workplan and Budget of the Specially Protected Areas and Wildlife (SPAW) Sub-programme for the 2021-2022 Biennium” (UNEP (DEPI)/CAR WG.42/3 Rev.1) as presented to the meeting, including the amendments proposed by the Working Group.
5. Urge Contracting Parties to respond to the requests of the Secretariat to nominate experts to the Working Groups established by the Contracting Parties as according to the Terms of Reference.
6. Adopt the Recommendations of the Ninth Meeting of the Scientific and Technical Advisory Committee to the SPAW Protocol as contained in UNEP/(DEPI)/CAR WG.42/8.
7. Request the SPAW Bureau to consider, as appropriate, the need, role and opportunity to create a new Committee or Working Group as referenced in SPAW STAC9 Recommendation IV (4), and that the Bureau report to STAC10 and COP12.
8. Welcome the designation by the United Nations General Assembly of the UN Decade on Ecosystem Restoration (2021-2030) and Decade of Ocean Science for Sustainable Development (2021-2030) and encourage Parties to actively participate and support the Secretariat in the implementation of activities in this regard.
9. Welcome offers from Governments to explore with the Secretariat the possibility of hosting the SPAW STAC10 and the COP12 Meetings in 2022.
10. Request the Secretariat to consider the relative merits of convening SPAW STAC10 and COP12 Meetings in 2022, in person or virtually, taking into account the financial situation of the Secretariat.
11. Urge States to continue their efforts and meet their commitments in terms of the protection of areas, species and ecosystems. In particular, to strengthen and better coordinate efforts in terms of protection of important species such as elasmobranchs and parrotfish and also to provide, when applicable, reports of exceptions to the protection of species in compliance with the Protocol.
12. Request the Secretariat and the SPAW-RAC to systematically inform the Contracting Parties in advance of the activities, MoU / MoC and projects envisaged to encourage their participation, as appropriate.

**ANNEX III**

**LIST OF DOCUMENTS**





## LIST OF DOCUMENTS

Symbol	Title	Agenda Item
<b><u>Working Documents</u></b>		
UNEP(DEPI)/CAR IG44/1	Provisional Agenda	3
UNEP(DEPI)/CAR IG44/2	Provisional Annotated Agenda	3
UNEP(DEPI)/CAR WG.42/5	Draft Workplan and Budget of the Specially Protected Areas and Wildlife (SPAW) Sub-programme for the 2021-2022 Biennium	5
UNEP(DEPI)/CAR WG.42/9	Report of the Ninth Meeting of the Scientific and Technical Advisory Committee (STAC) to the Protocol Concerning Specially Protected Areas and Wildlife (SPAW) in the Wider Caribbean Region ( <i>to be prepared after the meeting</i> )	5,6
UNEP(DEPI)/CAR WG.42/8	Recommendations of the Ninth Meeting of the Scientific and Technical Advisory Committee (STAC) to the Protocol Concerning Specially Protected Areas and Wildlife (SPAW) in the Wider Caribbean region ( <i>to be prepared during the meeting</i> )	6
UNEP(DEPI)/CAR IG44/3	Decisions of the Eleventh Meeting of the Contracting Parties (COP) to the Protocol Concerning Specially Protected Areas and Wildlife (SPAW) in the Wider Caribbean Region, ( <i>to be prepared during the meeting</i> )	8
UNEP(DEPI)/CAR IG.44/4	Report of the Meeting ( <i>to be prepared after the meeting</i> )	
<b><u>Information Documents</u></b>		
UNEP(DEPI)/CAR IG.44/INF.1	Provisional List of Documents	
UNEP(DEPI)/CAR IG.44/INF.2	Provisional List of Participants ( <i>to be finalised during the meeting</i> )	
UNEP(DEPI)/CAR WG.42/INF.3	Status of Activities of the SPAW Subprogramme for 2019-2020 ( <i>includes status of STAC8 Recommendations and COP10 Decisions</i> )	4
UNEP(DEPI)/CAR WG.42/INF.4	Report of the SPAW Regional Activity Centre (SPAW-RAC) in Guadeloupe: operations and budget for the period 2019-2020	4
UNEP(DEPI)/CAR WG.42/INF.5	The State of Nearshore Marine Habitats in the Wider Caribbean	4,5
UNEP(DEPI)/CAR WG.42/INF.6	Regional Strategy Action Plan for the Valuation, Protection and/or Restoration of Key Marine Habitats in the Wider Caribbean 2021–2030	4
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	4,5
<b>Symbol</b>	<b>Title</b>	<b>Agenda Item</b>

UNEP(DEPI)/CAR WG.42/INF.7 Add.1	Assessment of the Impact and Effectiveness of the Caribbean Marine Protected Area Network and Forum (CaMPAM)	4,5
UNEP(DEPI)/CAR WG.42 /INF.8	Strategic Directions and Plan for CaMPAM	4,5
UNEP(DEPI)/CAR WG.42/INF.9	CaMPAM Database and Citizens Science Monitoring	4,5
UNEP(DEPI)/CAR WG.42/INF.10	Developing an Ecological Network between the SPAW-listed MPAs of the Wider Caribbean	4,5
UNEP(DEPI)/CAR WG.42/INF.11	Proposal of Parke Marine Aruba for Listing Under the SPAW Protocol	
UNEP(DEPI)/CAR WG.42/INF.12	Terms of Reference of the SPAW STAC Ad Hoc Working Groups	
UNEP(DEPI)/CAR WG.42/INF.13	Ecosystem-based Management and the application of a Decision Support System in the Wider Caribbean: Lessons learnt from EBM Application in the Wider Caribbean: concept to action	
UNEP(DEPI)/CAR WG.42/INF.14	NOAA Strategy for Stony Coral Tissue Loss Disease Response and Prevention.	
UNEP(DEPI)/CAR WG.42/INF.15	Proposal for potential inclusion of all parrotfishes (Perciformes: Scaridae) in Annex III of the Protocol on Specially Protected Areas and Wildlife in the Wider Caribbean Region of the Convention for the Protection and Development of the Marine Environment in the Wider Caribbean Region (SPAW Protocol)	
UNEP(DEPI)/CAR WG.42/INF.16	Manual for the Ecological Restoration of Mangroves for the Wider Caribbean Region	
UNEP(DEPI)/CAR WG.42/INF.17	Report of WIDECAS T Activities – WIDECAS T: Expanded conservation network of Caribbean Sea Turtles	
UNEP(DEPI)/CAR WG.42/INF.18	SPAW Protected Areas of the Wider Caribbean: A comprehensive Booklet	
UNEP(DEPI)/CAR WG.42/INF.19	Protected Areas Management Effectiveness (PAME) of SPAW Sites	
UNEP(DEPI)/CAR WG.42/INF.20	"The U.S. National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration's Efforts to Address Ocean Acidification in the Caribbean."	
UNEP(DEPI)/CAR WG.42/INF.21	Exemptions Ad Hoc Working Group – Compliance to the SPAW Protocol (including Reports on Exemptions under Article (2) of the format from Curaçao and the United States)	
UNEP(DEPI)/CAR WG.42/INF.22	Review of the Dominican Republic's proposal for listing of the "Cotubamana National Park" under the SPAW Protocol	
UNEP(DEPI)/CAR WG.42/INF.22 Add.1	Proposal of the "Cotubamana National Park" by the Dominican Republic for Listing Under the SPAW Protocol	

**Symbol**

**Title**

**Agenda  
Item**

UNEP(DEPI)/CAR WG.42/INF.23	Information paper on Establishing a Marine Mammal Regional Activity Network in the Wider Caribbean Region
UNEP(DEPI)/CAR WG.42/INF.24	Effective national legal protection and regionwide management of sharks and rays
UNEP(DEPI)/CAR WG.42/INF.24 Add.1	Proposal for the inclusion of the Oceanic whitetip shark <i>Carcharhinus longimanus</i> in Appendix II of the Protocol concerning Specially Protected Areas and Wildlife (SPAW Protocol)
UNEP(DEPI)/CAR WG.42/INF.24 Add.2	Proposal for the inclusion of the whale shark <i>Rhincodon typus</i> in Appendix II of the Protocol concerning Specially Protected Areas and Wildlife (SPAW Protocol)
UNEP(DEPI)/CAR WG.42/INF.24 Add.3	Proposal for the inclusion of the Giant manta ray species <i>Manta birostris</i> in Appendix II of the Protocol concerning Specially Protected Areas and Wildlife (SPAW Protocol)
UNEP(DEPI)/CAR WG.42/INF.24 Add.4	Proposal for the inclusion of the great hammerhead shark <i>Sphyrna mokarran</i> in Appendix II of the Protocol concerning Specially Protected Areas and Wildlife (SPAW Protocol)
UNEP(DEPI)/CAR WG.42/INF.24 Add.5	Proposal for the inclusion of the smooth hammerhead shark <i>Sphyrna zygaena</i> in Appendix II of the Protocol concerning Specially Protected Areas and Wildlife (SPAW Protocol)
UNEP(DEPI)/CAR WG.42/INF.25	Recommendations for preventing sawfish extinction
UNEP(DEPI)/CAR WG.42/INF.26	Report of GCRMN – Caribbean network activities for the period 2019-2020
UNEP(DEPI)/CAR WG.42/INF.27	SPAW-RAC 2020 Call for proposals: Interim Reports ( <i>including feedbacks and lessons learned</i> )
UNEP(DEPI)/CAR WG.42/INF.27 Add.1	Call for proposals Short-term Small Grants – year 2020 - Information note for the SPAW Protocol Scientific and Technical Advisory Committee
UNEP(DEPI)/CAR WG.42/INF.28	Cari’Mam: an interim report
UNEP(DEPI)/CAR WG.42/INF.29	Implementation highlights of the Action Plan for the Conservation of Marine Mammals (MMAP) in the Wider Caribbean and recommendations
UNEP(DEPI)/CAR WG.42/INF.29 Add.1	Implementation of the Action Plan for the Conservation of Marine Mammals (MMAP): A Scientific and Technical Analysis
UNEP(DEPI)/CAR WG.42/INF.29 Add.2	Current status of national legislation on Marine mammals in countries and territories of the wider caribbean region report.
UNEP(DEPI)/CAR WG.42/INF.30	Inclusion of marine mammals in the MPA management plans: regional study, tools and recommendations for an improved consideration

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UNEP(DEPI)/CAR WG.42/INF.31	Recommendations to support sustainable marine mammal watching in the Wider Caribbean Region
UNEP(DEPI)/CAR WG.42/INF.31 Add.1	Recommendations for a regional label/certificate for a sustainable commercial marine mammals observation activity in the Wider Caribbean Region
UNEP(DEPI)/CAR WG.42/INF.31Add.2	Synthesis report of the legal study prior the implementation of a regularly instrument for marine mammal touristic activities in the wider Caribbean region
UNEP(DEPI)/CAR WG.42/INF.32	Tool kit for implementing marine mammal watching guidelines in the Wider Caribbean Region
UNEP(DEPI)/CAR WG.42/INF.33	Raising awareness and promoting a natural heritage for the conservation of marine mammals in the Caribbean area through online games, for smartphones and tablets and identity cards
UNEP(DEPI)/CAR WG.42/INF.34	Report of the STAC Working Group on the Listing of Species under the Annexes to the SPAW Protocol
UNEP(DEPI)/CAR WG.42/INF.35	Sargassum White Paper 2021: Turning the Crisis into an opportunity.
UNEP(DEPI)/CAR WG.42/INF.36	Report of the STAC Working Group on Marine Protected Areas
UNEP(DEPI)/CAR WG.42/INF.37	Carib-coast: an interim report
UNEP(DEPI)/CAR WG.42/INF.38	Recommendations for conserving the Nassau Grouper
UNEP(DEPI)/CAR WG.42/INF.39	Recommendations for the protection and recovery of the Caribbean Sea turtles
UNEP(DEPI)/CAR WG.42/INF.40	Report of the STAC Exemptions Working Group
UNEP(DEPI)/CAR WG.42/INF.41	Report of the STAC Sargassum Working Group
UNEP(DEPI)/CAR WG.41/INF.11	The GEF Caribbean Large Marine Ecosystem (CLME+) Project – Final Report (Secretariat to provide based on narrative)
UNEP(DEPI)/CAR WG.41/INF.12	Collaborative Development and Institutionalization of A Regional Integrated SOMEER Reporting Mechanism and Its Contributions to Socio-Economic Development in The Wider Caribbean Region: An Update (CLME+ to provide)
UNEP(DEPI)/CAR WG.41/INF.13	Regional Spatial Data Infrastructure Coordination and Collaboration Supporting Integrated Ocean Governance in the Caribbean and North Brazil Shelf Large Marine Ecosystems (CLME+ to provide)
UNEP(DEPI)/CAR WG.41/INF.14	“Integrated Large-Scale Action on Habitat Restoration and Pollution in the CLME+ Region: A Baseline and Feasibility Assessment Report on the Needs and Opportunities for Investment.” (CLME+ to provide)

<b>Symbol</b>	<b>Title</b>	<b>Agenda Item</b>
UNEP(DEPI)/CAR IG.40/4	Report of the Tenth Meeting of the Contracting Parties (COP) to the Protocol Concerning Specially Protected Areas and Wildlife (SPAW) in the Wider Caribbean Region (Roatán, Honduras, 3 June 2019)	
UNEP(DEPI)/CAR IG.40/INF.8	Action Document for Capacity Building Related to Multilateral Environmental Agreements in ACP Countries – Phase III (ACP MEAs 3)	
UNEP(DEPI)/CAR WG.40/7	Report of Eighth Meeting of the Scientific and Technical Advisory Committee (STAC) to the Protocol Concerning Specially Protected Areas and Wildlife (SPAW) in the Wider Caribbean Region (Panama City, Panama, 5 - 7 December 2018)	
UNEP(DEPI)/CAR WG.40/INF.8 Rev.1	Sargassum White Paper - Sargassum Outbreak in the Caribbean: Challenges, Opportunities and Regional Situation	
UNEP(DEPI)/CAR WG.40 /INF.9	United States Exemptions Report to the Specially Protected Areas and Wildlife Protocol of the Cartagena Convention for 2017	
UNEP(DEPI)/CAR WG.40/INF.10	Updating CaMPAM MPA Database - Product of a consultant agreement with GCFI	
UNEP(DEPI)/CAR WG.40/INF.11	Caribbean Wildlife Enforcement Network (CaribWEN) Briefing	
UNEP(DEPI)/CAR WG.38/3 Rev.1	Draft Reporting Format for Exemptions under Article 11(2) of the Specially Protected Areas and Wildlife Protocol (SPAW) - Annex (includes case study from the Government of Curaçao)	
UNEP(DEPI)/CAR WG.38/ INF.10	Agoa Caribbean Marine Mammals Preservation Network (CARI'MAM) White Paper: Strengthen Regional Cooperation for The Conservation of Marine Mammals within the Caribbean Region and Beyond	
UNEP(DEPI)/CAR WG.38/ INF.13	Overarching Principles and Best Practice Guidelines for Marine Mammal Watching in the Wider Caribbean Region (WCR)	
UNEP(DEPI)/CAR WG.38/ INF.16	The Sister Sanctuaries Program for Marine Mammals in the Wider Caribbean – A US/NOAA, Dominican Republic, France and the Netherlands Initiative	
UNEP(DEPI)/CAR WG.38/ INF.17	GCRMN-Caribbean Guidelines for Coral Reef Biophysical Monitoring	
UNEP(DEPI)/CAR WG.37/INF.7 Rev.3	The GEF Caribbean Large Marine Ecosystem (CLME+) Project and its joint implementation through the AMEP and SPAW Subprogrammes	
UNEP(DEPI)/CAR WG.37/INF.10	Annex A and C (Agreement) – CLME+: Catalysing Implementation of Strategic Action Programme for the Sustainable Management of shared Living Marine Resources in the Caribbean and North Brazil Shelf Large Marine Ecosystems	

<b>Symbol</b>	<b>Title</b>	<b>Agenda Item</b>
UNEP(DEPI)/CAR IG.36/INF.7	Report on the Ratification of the Convention for the Protection and Development of the Marine Environment of the Wider Caribbean Region and its Protocols (Cartagena Convention)	
UNEP(DEPI)/CAR IG.37/3	Guidance document - Criteria and process to assess exemptions under Article 11(2) of the Specially Protected Areas and Wildlife Protocol (SPAW) (includes draft format for reporting exemptions)	
UNEP(DEPI)/CAR WG.39/INF.11	OSPAR and Caribbean Environment Programme Cooperation Project Document	

### **Reference Documents**

<b>EU/UNEP/2018</b>	Applying Marine and Coastal Area-based Management Approaches to Achieve Multiple Sustainable Development Goal Targets Summary for Policy Makers	
UNEP/RSRS/205/2018	The Contributions of Marine and Coastal Area-based Management Approaches to Sustainable Development Goals and Targets - UN Environment Regional Seas Reports and Studies No. 205	
CLME+-PCM-SFP Phase II Report	Proposals for a permanent Coordination Mechanism and a Sustainable Financing Plan for Ocean Governance in the Wider Caribbean region	
SOMEE: Booklet	An Information Booklet - State of the Marine Environment and associated Economies CLME+ SOMEE in the Wider Caribbean (a collaborative, integrated long-term reporting mechanism)	
SOMEE: Booklet	An Information Booklet - State of the Marine Environment and associated Economies CLME+ SOMEE in the Wider Caribbean (a collaborative, integrated long-term reporting mechanism)	
CLME+ SAP v1.6.3	CLME+ Strategic Action Programme (SAP) Information Booklet (v1.6.3), June 2019	
MTS 2018-2021	UNEP Medium Term Strategy 2018-2021	
UNEP(DEPI)/CAR WG.40/5 Rev.1	Draft Workplan and Budget of the Specially Protected Areas and Wildlife (SPAW) Sub-programme for the 2019-2020 Biennium	
UNEP(DEPI)/CAR IG.42/7	Report of the Meeting Eighteenth Intergovernmental Meeting of the Action Plan for the Caribbean Environment Programme and Fifteenth Meeting of the Contracting Parties to the Convention for the Protection and Development of the Marine Environment of the Wider Caribbean Region Roatan, Honduras, 5- 6 June 2019	
UNEP(DEPI)/CAR IG.42/3	Workplan and Budget for the Caribbean Environment Programme for the Biennium 2019-2020	

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UNEP(DEPI)/CAR IG. 42/6	Decisions of the Meeting - Eighteenth Intergovernmental Meeting on the Action Plan for the Caribbean Environment Programme and Fifteenth Meeting of the Contracting Parties to the Convention for the Protection and Development of the Marine Environment of the Wider Caribbean Region, Roatan, Honduras, 5-6 June 2019	
UNEP(DEPI)/CAR WG.38/INF.6	Evaluation of CaMPAM Activities and Recommendations for Improvement - An analysis of the last 15 years	
UNEP(DEPI)/CAR WG.36/INF.10	Report on the Workshop of Global Coral Reef Monitoring Network (GCRMN) for the Wider Caribbean: Review, improve and revitalize the network and the nodes for more effective coral reef monitoring and data management, Curacao, 6 - 8 August 2014	
UNEP(DEPI)/CAR WG.36/INF.9	Report of the First Meeting of Managers of the Protected Areas Listed under the SPAW Protocol of the Cartagena Convention at the 66 <sup>th</sup> Gulf and Caribbean Fisheries Institute (GCFI) Conference, Corpus Christi, Texas, USA, November 5, 2013	
UNEP(DEPI)/CAR WG.36/INF.8	Report on the LifeWeb-Spain UNEP-CEP Meeting on Scenarios for Transboundary Marine Mammal Management in the Wider Caribbean, San Juan, Puerto Rico, 23 - 24 April 2014	
UNEP(DEPI)/CAR WG.36/INF.6	Update on the Implementation of Activities in Support of the Action Plan for the Conservation of Marine Mammals (MMAP), including the Government of Spain-UNEP Lifeweb project " <i>Protecting Habitats and Migration Corridors for Marine Mammals in the South and Northeast Pacific and the Wider Caribbean through Marine Protected Area Networks</i> "	
UNEP(DEPI)/CAR WG.34/INF.9	Report of the Regional Workshop on Marine Mammal Watching in the Wider Caribbean Region (Panama City, Panama, 19-22 October 2011)	
UNEP(DEPI)/CAR WG.31/INF.6	IUCN Caribbean Red List of Threatened Species – A Proposal	
UNEP(DEPI)/CAR WG.29/INF.5	Exemptions to the SPAW Protocol Under Article 11(2): A Legal Review	
UNEP(DEPI)/CAR WG.32 INF.9 Rev.3	Template for National Reporting on the Cartagena Convention and its Protocols	
UNEP(DEC)/CAR WG.26/4	Draft Grid for the Objective Evaluation of Proposals for Inclusion in the SPAW Protected Areas List	
UNEP(DEC)/CAR IG.20/4	Structure and Scope of the Scientific and Technical Advisory Committee (STAC) of the SPAW Protocol	
UNEP(OCA)/CAR IG.11/7	Proposed Legal Framework for the Administrative Technical and Financial Operations of RACs and RANs	

<b>Symbol</b>	<b>Title</b>	<b>Agenda Item</b>
UNEP(DEPI)/CAR IG.36 CRP.1	Amendment to the Financial Rules for the Cartagena Convention	
UNEP, 2010	Rules of Procedure for the Convention for the Protection and Development of the Marine Environment of the Wider Caribbean Region (Cartagena Convention)	
UNEP, 2008	Action Plan for the Conservation of Marine Mammals (MMAP) in the Wider Caribbean Region. United Nations Environment Programme – Caribbean Environment Programme, Kingston, Jamaica. 2008. (English and Spanish)	
UNEP, 1991	Final Act of the Conference of Plenipotentiaries for the Adoption of the Annexes to the Protocol Concerning Specially Protected Areas and Wildlife in the Wider Caribbean Region	
UNEP, 1990	Final Act of the Conference of Plenipotentiaries Concerning Specially Protected Areas and Wildlife in the Caribbean Region	
UNEP, 2012	Convention for the Protection and Development of the Marine Environment of the Wider Caribbean Region, Protocol Concerning Cooperation in Combating Oil Spills, Protocol Concerning Specially Protected Areas and Wildlife and the Protocol Concerning Pollution from Land-Based Sources and Activities	



**ANNEX IV**

**LIST OF PARTICIPANTS**



**List of Participants**

<b>CONTRACTING PARTIES</b>				
	<b>Participant</b>	<b>Country</b>	<b>Title /Address</b>	<b>Tel/Email</b>
1.	<b>Gisbert Boekhoudt</b>	Aruba	Director Directorate for Nature & Environment Bernhradstraat 75 San Nicolas, Aruba	Tel: 297- 592-9272 Email: <a href="mailto:gisbert.boekhoudt@dnm-aruba.org">gisbert.boekhoudt@dnm-aruba.org</a>
2.	<b>Oriana Wouters</b>	Aruba	Policy Advisor Nature & Environment Bernhradstraat 75 San Nicolas, Aruba	Tel. E-mail: <a href="mailto:oriana.wouters@dnm-aruba.org">oriana.wouters@dnm-aruba.org</a>
3.	<b>Rochelle Newbold (Head of Delegation)</b>	Bahamas	Acting Director BEST Commission The Department of Environmental Planning & Protection Ministry of Housing and Environment Ground Floor, Charlotte House Charlotte and Shirley Streets, P.O. Box N-7132 Nassau, Bahamas	Tel: 242-322-4546 Email: <a href="mailto:rwnewbold@depp.gov.bs">rwnewbold@depp.gov.bs</a>
4.	<b>Minister Romauld Ferreira</b>	Bahamas	Minister Ministry of Housing and Environment Ground Floor, Charlotte House Charlotte and Shirley Streets P.O. Box N-7132 Nassau, Bahamas	Tel: Email:
5.	<b>Danielle Cartwright</b>	Bahamas	IWECO Bahamas Biological Field Consultant The Department of Environmental Planning & Protection Ministry of Housing and Environment Ground Floor, Charlotte House Charlotte and Shirley Streets, P.O. Box N-7132 Nassau, Bahamas	Tel: 242-322-4546 Email: <a href="mailto:dcartwright@depp.gov.bs">dcartwright@depp.gov.bs</a>
6.	<b>Herbert Pinder</b>	Bahamas	ABS Project Consultant The Department of Environmental Planning & Protection Ministry of Housing and Environment Ground Floor, Charlotte House Charlotte and Shirley Streets, P.O. Box N-7132 Nassau, Bahamas	Tel: 242-322-4546 Email: <a href="mailto:hpinder@depp.gov.bs">hpinder@depp.gov.bs</a>

CONTRACTING PARTIES				
	Participant	Country	Title /Address	Tel/Email
7.	<b>Melissa Ingraham</b>	Bahamas	National Project Coordinator The Department of Environmental Planning & Protection Ministry of Housing and Environment Ground Floor, Charlotte House Charlotte and Shirley Streets P.O. Box N-7132 Nassau, Bahamas	Tel: 242-322-4546 Email: <a href="mailto:mingraham@depp.gov.bs">mingraham@depp.gov.bs</a>
8.	<b>Nicholas Archer</b>	Bahamas	Biological Field Consultant The Department of Environmental Planning & Protection Ministry of Housing and Environment Ground Floor, Charlotte House Charlotte and Shirley Streets P.O. Box N-7132 Nassau, Bahamas	Tel: 242-322-4546 Email: <a href="mailto:narcher@depp.gov.bs">narcher@depp.gov.bs</a>
9.	<b>Kim Downes Agard (Head of Delegation)</b>	Barbados	Senior Environmental Officer Ministry of Environment and National Beautification 10 Floor Warrens Tower II Warrens, St. Michael Barbados	Tel: 1 246-535-4385 Email: <a href="mailto:kim.downesagard@barbados.gov.bb">kim.downesagard@barbados.gov.bb</a>
10.	<b>Anthony Headley</b>	Barbados	Director Environmental Protection Department Ministry of Environment and National Beautification L.V Harcourt Lewis Building NUPW Complex Dalkeith, St. Michael, Barbados	Tel: 1 246-535-4601 Email: <a href="mailto:anthony.headley@epd.gov.bb">anthony.headley@epd.gov.bb</a>
11..	<b>Fabian Hinds</b>	Barbados	Coastal Planner Coastal Zone Management Unit 8th Floor, Warrens Tower II Warrens, St. Michael Barbados	Tel: 1 246- 233-8317 Email: <a href="mailto:fhinds@coastal.gov.bb">fhinds@coastal.gov.bb</a>
12.	<b>Adrian Bellamy</b>	Barbados	Assistant Project Coordinator Ministry of Environment and National Beautification 10 Floor Warrens Tower II Warrens, St. Michael Barbados	Tel: 1 246- 843-7420 Email: <a href="mailto:adrian.bellamy@barbados.gov.bb">adrian.bellamy@barbados.gov.bb</a>

**CONTRACTING PARTIES**

	<b>Participant</b>	<b>Country</b>	<b>Title /Address</b>	<b>Tel/Email</b>
13.	<b>Rohan Payne</b>	Barbados	Assistant Project Coordinator Ministry of Environment and National Beautification 10 Floor Warrens Tower II Warrens, St. Michael Barbados	Tel: 1 246-535-4391 Email: <a href="mailto:rohan.payne@barbados.gov.bb">rohan.payne@barbados.gov.bb</a>
14.	<b>Vivian Belisle-Ramnarace</b>	Belize	Fisheries Officer Belize Fisheries Department Princess Margaret Drive, Belize City, Belize	Tel. 501-224-4552 Email: <a href="mailto:vivian.ramnarace@fisheries.gov.bz">vivian.ramnarace@fisheries.gov.bz</a>
15.	<b>Wilber Sabido</b>	Belize	Chief Forest Officer Forest Department Belmopan, Belize	Tel: 501-822-1524 Email: <a href="mailto:cfo@forest.gov.bz">cfo@forest.gov.bz</a>
16.	<b>Sonia Angelica Caicedo Jurado (Head of Delegation)</b>	Colombia	Environmental Affairs Coordination Advisor Ministry of Foreign Affairs	Tel: 57 3214834045 Email: <a href="mailto:sonia.jurado@cancilleria.gov.co">sonia.jurado@cancilleria.gov.co</a>
17.	<b>Ana Maria González-Delgadillo</b>	Colombia	Professional Directorate of Marine, Coastal and Aquatic Resources Affairs Ministry of Environment and Sustainable Development	Tel: 3162796022 Email: <a href="mailto:amgonzalez@minambiente.gov.co">amgonzalez@minambiente.gov.co</a>
18.	<b>Heins Clayton Bent Hooker</b>	Colombia	Specialized Professional / Head of Delegation Support Ministry of Environment and Sustainable Development	Tel: 3107681125 Email: <a href="mailto:hbent@minambiente.gov.co">hbent@minambiente.gov.co</a>
19.	<b>Juliett González Méndez</b>	Cuba	Principal Marine Biodiversity Specialist National Center for Protected Areas Ministry of Science, Technology and Environment	Tel: Email: <a href="mailto:juliett.mendez@snap.cu">juliett.mendez@snap.cu</a>
20.	<b>Yadira González Colombie</b>	Cuba	Principal Multilateral Specialist Directorate of International Relations Ministry of Science, Technology and Environment	Tel: Email: <a href="mailto:Yadira.gonzalez@citma.gob.cu">Yadira.gonzalez@citma.gob.cu</a>

CONTRACTING PARTIES				
	Participant	Country	Title /Address	Tel/Email
21.	<b>Jose Manuel Mateo Feliz (Head of Delegation)</b>	Dominican Republic	Director of Biodiversity Ministry of the Environment and Natural Resources Calle Cayetano Germosen, esq. Luperon Avenue, El Pedregal Sector National District, R.D..	Tel: 809-501-4182 Email: <a href="mailto:Jose.Mateo@ambiente.gob.do">Jose.Mateo@ambiente.gob.do</a>
22.	<b>Nina Lysenko</b>	Dominican Republic	Director of Marine Resources Ministry of the Environment and Natural Resources	Tel: 809- 567-4300 EXT.7156 Email: <a href="mailto:nina.lysenko@ambiente.gob.do">nina.lysenko@ambiente.gob.do</a>
23.	<b>Juan Luis Gonzalez</b>	Dominican Republic	Professional Directorate of Marine, Coastal and Aquatic Resources Affairs Head of the Marine Resources Management Department	Tel: 829-853-2754 Email: <a href="mailto:juan.gonzalez@ambiente.gob.do">juan.gonzalez@ambiente.gob.do</a>
24.	<b>Antony De Oleo</b>	Dominican Republic	Environmental Compliance Analyst Ministry of Environment and Natural Resources	Tel: 809-299-5043 Email: <a href="mailto:Antony.DeOleo@ambiente.gob.do">Antony.DeOleo@ambiente.gob.do</a>
25.	<b>Jean Vermot (Head of Delegation)</b>	France	Marine Officer Ministry of Ecological Transition MTES-DEB-MI, Tour Sequola, 92 La Defense Cedex	Tel: 33698292548 Email: <a href="mailto:jean.vermot@developpement-durable.gouv.fr">jean.vermot@developpement-durable.gouv.fr</a>
26.	<b>Benoît Rodrigues</b>	France	Marine Protection Policy Advisor Ministry for an Ecological Transition / Ministry of the Sea	Tel: 33667582560 Email: <a href="mailto:benoit.rodrigues@developpement-durable.gouv.fr">benoit.rodrigues@developpement-durable.gouv.fr</a>
27..	<b>Diana Fernandes</b>	Guyana	Multilateral Environmental Agreements Coordinator, Department of Environment, Ministry of the Presidency	Tel: +592 225-5467 Email: <a href="mailto:dianafernandes2300@gmail.com">dianafernandes2300@gmail.com</a>
28..	<b>Karen Small</b>	Guyana	Senior Environmental Officer Environmental Protection Agency	Tel: +592 225-5467 Email: <a href="mailto:ksmall@epaguyana.org">ksmall@epaguyana.org</a>
29.	<b>Stacy Lord</b>	Guyana	Senior Environmental Officer. Multilateral Environmental Agreements Programme Area.	Tel: +592 225 5467 9 ext 2328: Email: <a href="mailto:slord@epaguyana.org">slord@epaguyana.org</a>

**CONTRACTING PARTIES**

	<b>Participant</b>	<b>Country</b>	<b>Title /Address</b>	<b>Tel/Email</b>
30.	<b>Marnie Xiomara Portillo Rodriguez</b> (Head of Delegation)	Honduras	Technical assistant Secretary of Natural Resources and Environment	Tel: +50488362986 Email: <a href="mailto:portillomarnie@yahoo.com">portillomarnie@yahoo.com</a>
31.	<b>Sara Isabel Zelaya Landa</b>	Honduras	Head Department of Marine Environment Protection General Directorate of Merchant Marine Boulevard Suyapa, Edificio Pietra Contiguo a ALUPAC Apdo. Postal 3625 Tegucigalpa, M.D.C. Honduras, C.A.	Tel: +50498273483 Email: <a href="mailto:szelaya@marinamercante.gob.hn">szelaya@marinamercante.gob.hn</a>
32.	<b>Carlos Alberto Thompson Flores</b>	Honduras	CESSCO Director Secretary of Natural Resources and Environment CESSCO building, Paseo Juana Lainez 50 mts. South of the National Stadium, Tegucigalpa, Honduras	Tel: +50488008892 Email: <a href="mailto:carlosalbertothompson@yahoo.com">carlosalbertothompson@yahoo.com</a>
33.	<b>Brenda Darlenne Flores Bustillo</b>	Honduras	Environmental Analyst My environment Colonia Los Robles Block B Honduras	Tel: 504 89225762 Email: <a href="mailto:bdarlaflares@gmail.com">bdarlaflares@gmail.com</a>
34.	<b>Scarlett Julissa Inestroza Colindres</b>	Honduras	Environmental Analyst General Directorate of Biodiversity, Secretary of Natural Resources and Environment	Tel: Email: <a href="mailto:caly_2_3@hotmail.com">caly_2_3@hotmail.com</a>
35.	<b>Rene Castellon</b>	Nicaragua	DIRECTOR OF BIODIVERSITY MINISTRY OF THE ENVIRONMENT AND NATURAL RESOURCES	Tel: (505) 85409995 Email: <a href="mailto:rcastellon@marena.gob.ni">rcastellon@marena.gob.ni</a>
36.	<b>Marino Eugenio Abrego</b>	Panama	Head of Department Conservation of Coastal and Marine Resources Ministry of Environment Panama	Tel: 507 6150-2101 Email: <a href="mailto:meabrego@miambiente.gob.pa">meabrego@miambiente.gob.pa</a>
37.	<b>Lavina Alexander</b>	Saint Lucia	Sustainable Development and Environment Officer Department of Sustainable Development	Tel: 7587234998 Email: <a href="mailto:lalexander@sde.gov.lc">lalexander@sde.gov.lc</a>
38.	<b>Yoeri de Vries</b>	The Netherlands (Caribbean Netherlands)	Policy Officer Ministry of Agriculture, Nature and Food Quality National Office for the Caribbean Netherlands, P.O. Box 357, Kralendijk, Bonaire, Caribbean Netherlands	Tel. 599 715 8395 Email: <a href="mailto:yoeri.devries@rijksdienstcn.com">yoeri.devries@rijksdienstcn.com</a>

CONTRACTING PARTIES				
	Participant	Country	Title /Address	Tel/Email
39.	<b>Darryl Banjoo</b> (Head of Delegation)	Trinidad and Tobago	Acting Director Institute of Marine Affairs Hilltop Lane Chaguaramas	Tel: (868) 634-4291 Email: <a href="mailto:dbanjoo@ima.gov.tt">dbanjoo@ima.gov.tt</a>
40.	<b>Rhonda Sookwah</b>	Trinidad and Tobago	Forester I Forestry Division Ministry of Agriculture, Land and Fisheries Long Circular St. James, PoS	Tel: Email:
41.	<b>Van Reidhead</b> (Head of Delegation)	United States of America	International Relations Officer U.S. Department of State	Tel: Email: <a href="mailto:ReidheadVE@state.gov">ReidheadVE@state.gov</a>
42.	<b>Stephanie Adrian</b>	United States of America	Senior Marine Specialist US Environmental Protection Agency 1200 Pennsylvania Ave NW MC2660R Washington, DC 20004	Tel: 202-564-6444 Email: <a href="mailto:adrian.stephanie@epa.gov">adrian.stephanie@epa.gov</a>
43.	<b>Nina Young</b>	United States of America	Foreign Affairs Specialist National Marine Fisheries Service National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA)	Tel: 301-427-8383 Email: <a href="mailto:Nina.Young@noaa.gov">Nina.Young@noaa.gov</a>
44.	<b>Samantha Dowdell</b>	United States of America	International Relations Specialist National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA)	Tel : Email: <a href="mailto:samantha.dowdell@noaa.gov">samantha.dowdell@noaa.gov</a>
45.	<b>Gonzalo Cid</b>	United States of America	International Act. Coordinator NOAA Office of National Marine Sanctuaries, Marine Protected Areas Center, 1305 East Hwy. Room 11606, Silver Spring, MD 20910 United States of America	Tel. 1 240-533-0644 E-mail: <a href="mailto:Gonzalo.Cid@noaa.gov">Gonzalo.Cid@noaa.gov</a>
46.	<b>Iris Lowery</b>	United States of America	Attorney-Advisor National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA)	Tel: Email: <a href="mailto:iris.lowery@noaa.gov">iris.lowery@noaa.gov</a>
47.	<b>Angela Somma</b>	United States of America	Chief, Endangered Species Division National Marine Fisheries Service National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA)	Tel: Email: <a href="mailto:angela.somma@noaa.gov">angela.somma@noaa.gov</a>



**CONTRACTING PARTIES**

	<b>Participant</b>	<b>Country</b>	<b>Title /Address</b>	<b>Tel/Email</b>
48.	<b>Xiaofang 'Bonnie' Zhu</b>	United States of America	Physical Scientist/Oceanographer National Environmental Satellite, Data, and Information Service National Oceanic & Atmospheric Administration (NOAA)	Tel: Email: <a href="mailto:xiaofang.zhu@noaa.gov">xiaofang.zhu@noaa.gov</a>
49.	<b>Kristen Koyama</b>	United States of America	Endangered Species Recovery Coordinator National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) National Marine Fisheries Service	Tel: 301-427-8456 Email: <a href="mailto:kristen.koyama@noaa.gov">kristen.koyama@noaa.gov</a>
50.	<b>Emily Pierce</b>	United States of America	Attorney-Advisor U.S. Department of State	Tel: Email: <a href="mailto:PierceER@state.gov">PierceER@state.gov</a>
51.	<b>Betzabey Motta</b>	Venezuela	Director of Prevention of Threats to Biological Diversity Ministry of Popular Power for Ecosocialism	Tel: 58 04142540161 Email: <a href="mailto:prevencion.dgdb.ve@gmail.com">prevencion.dgdb.ve@gmail.com</a>
52.	<b>Carlos González</b>	Venezuela	Professional II Ministry of Popular Power for Ecosocialism	Tel: +584140279718 Email: <a href="mailto:carlosgonzalez.oiai@gmail.com">carlosgonzalez.oiai@gmail.com</a>

<b>NON - CONTRACTING PARTIES</b>				
	<b>Participant</b>	<b>Country</b>	<b>Title &amp; Organization</b>	<b>Contact Information</b>
53.	<b>Melissa Meade</b>	Anguilla	Chief Natural Resources Officer Department of Natural Resources	Tel: 2644970217 Email: <a href="mailto:melissa.meade@gov.ai">melissa.meade@gov.ai</a>
54.	<b>Argel Horton</b>	British Virgin Islands	Marine Biologist Ministry of Natural Resources Labour and Immigration	Tel: 284-468-2163 Email: <a href="mailto:aahorton@gov.vg">aahorton@gov.vg</a>
55.	<b>Mervin Hastings</b>	British Virgin Islands	Sr Marine Biologist Ministry of Natural Resources Labour & Immigration	Tel: (284) 468-2702 Email: <a href="mailto:mhastings@gov.vg">mhastings@gov.vg</a>
56.	<b>Luisa Fernandez</b>	Guatemala		Tel: Email:
57.	<b>Gabriela Castellanos</b>	Guatemala	Head of the Ecosystems Department Ministry of Environment and Natural Resources	Tel: (502)5511-5343 Email: <a href="mailto:gabrielacastellanos.marn@gmail.com">gabrielacastellanos.marn@gmail.com</a>
58.	<b>Brenda ILiana Pocasangre Pérez</b>	Guatemala	Ministry of Environment and Natural Resources Non-Advisory International Cooperation Unit	Tel: 50256155399 Email: <a href="mailto:bipocasangre@marn.gob.gt">bipocasangre@marn.gob.gt</a>
59.	<b>Richard Nelson</b>	Jamaica	Senior Manager National Environment & Planning Agency 10 & 11 Caledonia Avenue, Kingston 5, Jamaica	Tel: 876 754 7540 Email: <a href="mailto:nelson@nepa.gov.jm">nelson@nepa.gov.jm</a>
60.	<b>Lisa Kirkland</b>	Jamaica	Manager Pollution Monitoring & Assessment National Environment & Planning Agency 10 & 11 Caledonia Avenue, Kingston 5	Tel: 876 754 7540 Email: <a href="mailto:lkirkland@nepa.gov.jm">lkirkland@nepa.gov.jm</a>
61.	<b>Luz María Ortiz</b>	Mexico		Tel: Email: <a href="mailto:luz.ortiz@semarnat.gob.mx">luz.ortiz@semarnat.gob.mx</a>
62.	<b>Ildiko Gilders</b>	Sint Maarten	Policy Advisor Nature and Environment Government of Sint Maarten	Tel: +1 (721) 553-4840 Email: <a href="mailto:Ildiko.Gilders@sintmaartengov.org">Ildiko.Gilders@sintmaartengov.org</a>

<b>OBSERVERS</b>				
	<b>Participant</b>	<b>Organization</b>		<b>Contact Information</b>
63.	<b>Alicia Cheripka</b>	United States of America	Program Analyst National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) USA	Tel: 240-234-0684 Email: <a href="mailto:alicia.cheripka@noaa.gov">alicia.cheripka@noaa.gov</a>
64.	<b>Courtney Vail</b>	Lightkeepers Foundation	Director, Principal Consultant United States of America	Tel: (480) 747 5015 Email: <a href="mailto:courtney@lightkeepersfoundation.com">courtney@lightkeepersfoundation.com</a>
65.	<b>Fausto D. Diaz</b>			
66.	<b>Gérald Mannaerts</b>	CARI'MAM	Project manager French Biodiversity Agency France	Tel: +596(0)696331703 Email: <a href="mailto:gerald.mannaerts@ofb.gouv.fr">gerald.mannaerts@ofb.gouv.fr</a>
67.	<b>Hyacinth Armstrong-Vaughn</b>	IUCN/BIOPAMA	Regional Coordinator Barbados	Tel: Email: <a href="mailto:hyacinth.armstrongvaughn@iucn.org">hyacinth.armstrongvaughn@iucn.org</a>
68.	<b>Justin Springer</b>	IUCN/BIOPAMA	Technical Assistant Barbados	Tel: Email: <a href="mailto:justin.springer@iucn.org">justin.springer@iucn.org</a>
69.	<b>Kareem Sabir</b>	CARICOM Secretariat	Senior Project Officer	Tel: 592-222-0001 Email: <a href="mailto:kareem.sabir@caricom.org">kareem.sabir@caricom.org</a>
70.	<b>Lloyd Gardner</b>	Foundation for Development Planning, Inc.	President 2369 Kronprindsens Gade Suite 8-301 St. Thomas, VI 00802, U.S.A."	Tel: (1) 340-513-3562 Email: <a href="mailto:president@fdpi.org">president@fdpi.org</a>
71.	<b>Maria Jose Gonzalez-Bernat</b>	AIDA	Scientific Advisor for the Marine Program Colombia	Tel: +5735046456778 Email: <a href="mailto:mjgonzalezbernat@aida-americas.org">mjgonzalezbernat@aida-americas.org</a>

72.	<b>Monica Borobia</b>	Monitor Caribbean	Collaborator Canada	Tel: 1-604-997-0805 Email: <a href="mailto:m_borobia@yahoo.com">m_borobia@yahoo.com</a>
73.	<b>Nicole Brown</b>	Consultant/Caribbean Natural Resources Insitute	Senior Technical Officer/Caribbean RIT Manager Critical Ecosystem Partnership Fund Jamaica	Tel: (876) 818-4285 Email: <a href="mailto:nicolebrown@canari.org">nicolebrown@canari.org</a>
74.	<b>Olga Koubrak</b>	SeaLife Law	Legal advisor Canada	Tel: 902-223-89999 Email: <a href="mailto:okoubrak@sealifelaw.org">okoubrak@sealifelaw.org</a>
75.	<b>Pamela Ordoñez</b>	UCEMR		Tel: Email:
76.	<b>Respaldo Lorena Tobon</b>			Tel: Email: <a href="mailto:pautaenentrenimientotonight@gmail.com">pautaenentrenimientotonight@gmail.com</a>
77.	<b>Rosa de la Cruz</b>			Tel: Email:
78.	<b>Susan Millward Tomiak</b>	Animal Welfare Institute	Director Marine Programmes 900 Pennsylvania Ave, SE Washington DC 20003 United States of America	Tel: (202) 446-2123 Email: <a href="mailto:marineteamzoom@awionline.org">marineteamzoom@awionline.org</a>
79.	<b>Veronica Caceres</b>	Inter-American Convention for the Protection and Conservation of Sea Turtles - IAC	Secretary United States of America	Tel: 571-403-4474 Email: <a href="mailto:secretario@iacseaturtle.org">secretario@iacseaturtle.org</a>

**REGIONAL ACTIVITY CENTERS**

	<b>Participant</b>	<b>Organization</b>		<b>Contact Information</b>
80.	<b>Darryl Banjoo</b>	RAC IMA Trinidad and Tobago	Acting Director Institute of Marine Affairs Hilltop Lane Chaguaramas	Tel: 868-634-4291 Email: <a href="mailto:dbanjoo@ima.gov.tt">dbanjoo@ima.gov.tt</a>
81.	<b>Lukas Rodriguez</b>	RAC REIMPEITC Curaçao	IMO Consultant Aviation & Meteorology Building	Tel: +1-409-749-7676 Email: <a href="mailto:lrodriguez@cep.unep.org">lrodriguez@cep.unep.org</a>
82.	<b>Sandrine Pivard</b>	SPAW-RAC Guadeloupe	Director Regional Activity Centre for Specially Protected Areas and Wildlife Parc national de la Guadeloupee -	Tel: + 590 (0)5 90 99 46 86 Email: sandrine.pivard@developpement- durable.gouv.fr
83.	<b>Fabien Barthelat</b>	SPAW-RAC Guadeloupe	Program Manager Regional Activity Centre for Specially Protected Areas and Wildlife Parc national de la Guadeloupe	Tel: +590-590 99 46 90 Email: <a href="mailto:fabien.barthelat@developpement-&lt;br/&gt;durable.gouv.fr">fabien.barthelat@developpement- durable.gouv.fr</a>
84.	<b>Geraldine Conruyt</b>	SPAW-RAC Guadeloupe	CARI'MAM Project Coordinator Regional Activity Centre for Specially Protected Areas and Wildlife Parc national de la Guadeloupe	Tel: +590 (0)5 90 99 43 43 Email: <a href="mailto:geraldine.conruyt@developpement-&lt;br/&gt;durable.gouv.fr">geraldine.conruyt@developpement- durable.gouv.fr</a>
85.	<b>Marius Dragin</b>	SPAW-RAC Guadeloupe	Assistant Regional Activity Centre for Specially Protected Areas and Wildlife Parc national de la Guadeloupe	Tel. + 590 (0)5 90 99 43 43 Email: <a href="mailto:marius.dragin@developpement-&lt;br/&gt;durable.gouv.fr">marius.dragin@developpement- durable.gouv.fr</a>
86.	<b>Marine Didier</b>	SPAW-RAC Guadeloupe	Project officer Regional Activity Centre for Specially Protected Areas and Wildlife Parc national de la Guadeloupe	Tel. + 590 (0)5 90 99 43 43 Email: <a href="mailto:marine.didier@developpement-&lt;br/&gt;durable.gouv.fr">marine.didier@developpement- durable.gouv.fr</a>
87.	<b>Elizabeth Fries</b>	SPAW-RAC Guadeloupe	Support Officer Regional Activity Centre for Specially Protected Areas and Wildlife Parc national de la Guadeloupe	Tel. + 590 (0)5 90 99 43 43 Email: <a href="mailto:elizabeth.fries@developpement-&lt;br/&gt;durable.gouv.fr">elizabeth.fries@developpement- durable.gouv.fr</a>

UN ENVIRONMENT PROGRAMME				
	Participant	Organization		Contact Information
88.	<b>Kerstin Stendahl</b>	UN Environment Programme Headquarters	Head of Branch Ecosystems Division	Tel: Email: <a href="mailto:Kerstin.stendahl@un.org">Kerstin.stendahl@un.org</a>
89.	<b>Leticia Carvalho</b>	UN Environment Programme Headquarters	Head of Branch Marine and Freshwater	Tel: Email: <a href="mailto:leticia.carvalho@un.org">leticia.carvalho@un.org</a>
90.	<b>Nancy Soi</b>	UN Environment Programme Headquarters	Programme Management Officer	Tel: 254 020 7624763 Email: <a href="mailto:nancy.soi@un.org">nancy.soi@un.org</a>
91.	<b>Vincent Sweeney</b>	UN Environment Programme Caribbean	Head, Caribbean Sub-Regional Office	Tel: 876 922 9267/69 Ext 6242 Email: <a href="mailto:vincent.sweeney@un.org">vincent.sweeney@un.org</a>

<p style="text-align: center;"><b>SECRETARIAT</b>  <b>United Nations Environment Programme</b>  <b>Cartagena Convention</b>  <b>14-20 Port Royal Street</b>  <b>Kingston, Jamaica</b>  <b>Tel: +876-922-9267 / Fax: +876-922-9292</b>  <b>E-mail: <a href="mailto:unep-cartagenaconvention@un.org">unep-cartagenaconvention@un.org</a></b></p>				
92.	<b>Lorna Inniss</b>	Secretariat	Coordinator	<a href="mailto:lorna.inniss@un.org">lorna.inniss@un.org</a>
93.	<b>Christopher Corbin</b>	Secretariat	Programme Management Officer (AMEP)	<a href="mailto:christopher.corbin@un.org">christopher.corbin@un.org</a>
94.	<b>Ileana Lopez</b>	Secretariat	Programme Management Officer (SPAW)	<a href="mailto:ileana.lopez@un.org">ileana.lopez@un.org</a>
95.	<b>Clementiene Pinder</b>	Secretariat	Administrative/Funds Management Officer	<a href="mailto:pinderc@un.org">pinderc@un.org</a>
96.	<b>Jan Betlem</b>	Secretariat	Regional Project Coordinator (GEF IWECO Project)	<a href="mailto:Jan.betlem@un.org">Jan.betlem@un.org</a>
97.	<b>Donna Sue Spencer</b>	Secretariat	Communications Specialist (GEF IWECO Project)	<a href="mailto:Donna.spencer@un.org">Donna.spencer@un.org</a>
98.	<b>Donna Henry-Hernandez</b>	Secretariat	Programme Management Assistant, (GEF IWECO Project)	<a href="mailto:donna.hernandez@un.org">donna.hernandez@un.org</a>
99.	<b>Shamene Parker-Millen</b>	Secretariat	Programme Management Assistant (GEF IWECO Project)	<a href="mailto:Shamene.parker@un.org">Shamene.parker@un.org</a>
100.	<b>Tamoy Singh</b>	Secretariat	Programme Management Assistant (SPAW)	<a href="mailto:Tamoy.singh@un.org">Tamoy.singh@un.org</a>
101.	<b>Jhenelle Barrett</b>	Secretariat	Programme Management Assistant (AMEP)	<a href="mailto:Jhenelle.barrett@un.org">Jhenelle.barrett@un.org</a>
102.	<b>Terrike Brown</b>	Secretariat	Team Assistant	<a href="mailto:Terrike.brown@un.org">Terrike.brown@un.org</a>
103.	<b>Georgina Singh</b>	Secretariat	Team Assistant	<a href="mailto:Georgina.singh@un.org">Georgina.singh@un.org</a>
104.	<b>Sean Chedda</b>	Secretariat	Information Technology Assistant	<a href="mailto:Sean.chedda@un.org">Sean.chedda@un.org</a>
105.	<b>Tracey Tucker</b>	Secretariat	Finance Assistant	<a href="mailto:tracey.tucker@un.org">tracey.tucker@un.org</a>
106.	<b>Susanna Keim</b>	Secretariat	Consultant (Crew+ Project)	<a href="mailto:Susanna.keim@un.org">Susanna.keim@un.org</a>
107.	<b>Beas Banerjee</b>	Secretariat	Intern	<a href="mailto:bea.banerjee@un.org">bea.banerjee@un.org</a>
108.	<b>Barbara Ramonda</b>	Secretariat	Intern	<a href="mailto:barbara.ramonda@un.org">barbara.ramonda@un.org</a>
109.	<b>Shivani Patel</b>	Secretariat	Intern	<a href="mailto:shivani.patel@un.org">shivani.patel@un.org</a>
110.	<b>Shavonne Stanek</b>	Secretariat	Intern	<a href="mailto:Shavonne.stanek@un.org">Shavonne.stanek@un.org</a>
111.	<b>Niamh Thorne</b>	Secretariat	Intern	<a href="mailto:Niamh.thorne@un.org">Niamh.thorne@un.org</a>
112.	<b>Devika Rose</b>	Secretariat	Intern	<a href="mailto:Devika.rose@un.org">Devika.rose@un.org</a>
113.	<b>Lioui Benhamou</b>	Secretariat	Intern	<a href="mailto:Lioui.benhamou@un.org">Lioui.benhamou@un.org</a>







