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

Panama City, Panama, 18th to 20th July 2018

**OSPAR COMMISSION &
CARIBBEAN ENVIRONMENT PROGRAMME
COOPERATION PROJECT DOCUMENT**

OSPAR & CEP Cooperation Project in 2018

1. Project background

The Regional Seas Programme¹ (RSP) has established a global network of management platforms where contracting parties work together to ensure sustainable use of the oceans, including as reflected in the UN Sustainable Development Goals. The Secretariat to the Cartagena Convention/Caribbean Environment Programme (CEP) – the Regional Seas Programme for the Wider Caribbean Region, is administered by UN Environment while OSPAR is administered by its Contracting Parties for the North-East Atlantic.

RSCs provide a stable platform for developing cooperation and collaboration that can benefit all regionally involved actors by disseminating the information regionally and ensuring longevity of generated knowledge. Additionally, RSPs also serve as a vehicle to assist Member Countries in meeting their obligations towards their respective regional conventions and actions plans, related international agreements, as well as global initiatives and targets, such as the UN Sustainable Development Goals (UN SDG).

The Secretariats of the [Convention for the Protection of the Marine Environment of the North-East Atlantic \(OSPAR\)](#) and the [Cartagena Convention for the Protection and Development of the Marine Environment of the Wider Caribbean Region \(CEP\)](#) have made a voluntary commitment to collaborate across the Atlantic as a contribution to fulfilling SDG14 **#OceanAction17198**².

Subsequent work has identified the significance and importance of Marine Protected Areas (MPAs) and the prevention, reduction and control of marine litter pollution as areas for initial focused efforts to develop such cooperation. Funds have been generously provided by the Government of the Netherlands and the Government of Sweden to carry out project activities during 2018.

The Gulf and Caribbean Fisheries Institute (GCFI) is selected as a partner based on the long-lasting collaboration with UN Environment, 65 years of experience hosting region-wide meetings focused on marine resource conservation and being comprised of a membership that includes an extensive network of marine resource professionals and other stakeholders throughout the Wider Caribbean Region.

1.1 Marine protected areas

Marine Protected Areas (MPAs) as a tool for conserving marine resources and their effective management is a topic of shared work of the two RSCs. Bilateral sharing of experiences and knowledge on a variety of issues such as management methods, assessments of management and the status of the MPAs and regional database management is a relevant topic for cooperation.

Challenges to information exchange in the Caribbean are caused by the regions geographic, socioeconomic, and cultural complexities. The Caribbean Marine Protected Area Management

¹ <https://www.unenvironment.org/explore-topics/oceans-seas/what-we-do/working-regional-seas/regional-seas-programmes>

² <https://oceanconference.un.org/commitments/?id=17198>

Network and Forum ([CaMPAM](#)) has provided for over 20 years, a platform for capacity building through training activities, communication tools, and small grants to expedite transfer of knowledge and lessons learned, as well as financial resources across the Wider Caribbean region. An important point of contact for the dissemination of information and which should be engaged in project activities is the Regional Activity Centre (RAC) for the Protocol Concerning Specially Protected Areas and Wildlife (SPA-W-RAC), based in Guadeloupe, established and supported via the gracious financial assistance of the Government of France. The SPAW-RAC has the mandate to assist CEP in the regional implementation of the SPAW Protocol and its associated SPAW subprogramme, including CaMPAM as its key network and forum pertaining to MPAs. An additional partnership has been fostered with the Gulf and Caribbean Fisheries Institute (GCFI) which has hosted the CaMPAM webpage and email distribution list, served on the CaMPAM leadership and Resources Team, hosted technical sessions on MPAs management and science at the annual GCFI meeting, and funded projects related to sustainable fishing and alternative livelihoods in MPAs.

OSPAR's work on MPAs is reflected in the North East Atlantic Strategy 2010-2020³ thematic strategy on Biodiversity and Ecosystems. The objective (§1.2 b) is to ensure the MPA network is ecologically coherent and well managed. To this end, OSPAR is working on i.e. assessing ecological coherence of the network, the management effectiveness as well as aiming to identify if there are gaps in the network that needs to be attended to in future work.

Sharing best practices and lessons learned is an important means of benefiting enhanced management from ongoing work and generate new initiatives. MPA managers in the Caribbean and North-East Atlantic can already draw on a regional pool of information, and this project initiative is intended to further enhance the knowledge pool and thus increase management capacity by enabling information exchange across the Atlantic. The currently available funds are to be used for two aspects, firstly as 'seed-money' to develop a more substantial project proposal, focussing on enhancing management capacity. Secondly to enhance the CEP/CaMPAM MPA database, as well as to increase the available information in the database on the MPAs that is managed through implementation of the CEP SPAW protocol. These activities are intended to build capacity for future activities where OSPAR and CEP can both mutually and beneficially work together.

1.2 Marine litter

The Cartagena and OSPAR Convention Regions sit at opposite sides of the North Atlantic Ocean, which is one of the 5 main ocean gyres that have been identified as major sinks for both macro and micro litter. Therefore both Conventions have a common obligation to address sources of marine litter. Both CEP⁴ and OSPAR⁵ have adopted Regional Action Plans on marine litter to try and address deficiencies in existing institutional, policy and legislative frameworks relating to marine litter and also to address monitoring and assessment on a regional scale.

³ <https://www.ospar.org/convention/strategy>

⁴ <http://www.cep.unep.org/publications-and-resources/technical-reports/technical-reports>

⁵ <https://www.ospar.org/documents?v=34422>

Whilst the policy framework for implementing the RAP might be different for CEP and OSPAR, the solutions to addressing marine litter are not and focus on the four main themes outlined in the Honolulu Strategy: Land-based sources, sea-based sources, removal actions and education and outreach. In order to address these sources it is also important to have consistent marine litter monitoring in place so that the effectiveness of any measures can be assessed in the medium to long term.

The UN Environment Programme-Caribbean Environment Programme (UN Environment CEP) in collaboration with the GCFI have also established a Caribbean Regional Node for the Global Partnership on Marine Litter (GPML). The GPML is a cooperation between authorities, industry and civil society to address the issue of marine litter on a global scale, coordinated by UNEP. GCFI has completed projects that surveyed stakeholders regarding their experience with marine debris to identify the existing local capacity to achieve marine litter control. Subsequently, GCFI has managed projects on marine litter with local partners in several Caribbean countries with a resulting increase in the local capacity for marine litter control. Together, this enables them to work effectively together with CEP to achieve the objectives of the GPML and the Caribbean Regional Action Plan for Marine Litter (RAPMaLi).

Marine Litter monitoring is an area that is a priority for both organisations. The CEP RAPMaLi includes the design and implementation of a strategy to develop national marine litter monitoring pilot projects in the wider Caribbean Region, including standardised methods for data collection and reporting, and the development of a regional, web-based database as a high priority. In OSPAR marine Litter monitoring is mostly driven by the EU Marine Strategy Framework Directive, which specifies monitoring requirements and parameters. Microplastics are an area of increasing concern for both organisations with research on the environmental impact of marine litter in both the CEP RAPMaLi and the OSPAR Science Needs Agenda.

2. Project activities

The project activities on MPAs and marine litter are organised under four project themes, namely 1) Data and information management, 2) Public awareness and outreach, 3) Capacity building and training and 4) On the group projects (Table 1).

Table 1. The project consists of four themes under which the project activities are grouped.

Theme	Activity	Concrete actions to be taken and lead
1. Data and information management		
1.1	CEP/CaMPAM MPA database refinement and structure enhancement	SPAW-RAC in consultation with the CaMPAM Coordinator
1.2	Enhancement of information content for ca 40 SPAW MPAs in the CEP/CaMPAM MPA database and EBM project	SPAW-RAC in consultation with the CaMPAM Coordinator A contractor is to input data into the CEP/CaMPAM database for the specified MPAs. OSPAR is to share experiences on the data fields used in the OSPAR database and how these are intended to be



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Theme	Activity	Concrete actions to be taken and lead
		used as support for assessments of the OSPAR MPA network.
1.3	1.3 Marine litter database	Development of a marine litter (beach litter) database for CEP, including consideration of the suitability of the OSPAR ML database structure for CEP; including data format, assessment functions, technical solutions. Online meetings to be held with OSPAR database hosts. Discussions to be held in the sidelines of OSPAR ICG-ML if feasible.
2. Public awareness and outreach		
2.1	Developing means for “branding” MPAs included in RSC networks	This activity is linked to 1.2. A CEP/CaMPAM “soft paper” on branding is a starting point. Information to be circulated and experiences to be shared between CEP/CaMPAM and OSPAR ICG-MPA.
2.2	Linking GCFI Participants Special Session on Coral Reefs: MPAs, Fisheries, EBM, Pollution, Marine Litter: Lessons Learned and Sharing of Experiences (CLME+)	The GCFI organises an Annual Conference, which in 2018 will be held in San Andres, Colombia. This this support will allow specific sessions to focus on Marine Litter and MPA issues and engage a broader audience. Preparatory work to be facilitated through CaMPAM coordinator (identification of potential participants, dissemination of invitations, key travel logistics) in consultation with the GCFI.
3. Capacity building and training		
3.1	Exchange through travel (ca 5 x1person x1week)	CEP participation in CollArr CEP participation in OSPAR ICG-ML CEP participation in OSPAR ICG-MPA OSPAR participation in CEP STAC OSPAR participation in GCFI Conference
3.2	Development of full size project proposal on MPA management capacity building	CaMPAM consultant to develop the project proposal. The work will include substantiation of proposed capacity building training visits. If feasible, identify proposals for funding. The consultant will benefit from the established drafting group, including NL, UK, FR delegates as well as CEP and OSPAR Secretariat staff. The consultant will engage the drafting group for feedback in the drafting of the proposed future project activities, including the collation of information on nationally previously completed projects and activities of relevance. The consultant will schedule at least one online meeting with the drafting group.
3.3	Expert workshop on a harmonized approach to monitoring marine litter	Development of an expert workshop on harmonised approaches to monitoring marine litter in different environmental compartments. This would bring together experts from the OSPAR and CEP regions to



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Theme	Activity	Concrete actions to be taken and lead
		<p>share best practice on monitoring strategies to allow the effectiveness of measures to be assessed.</p> <p>Online meetings to be held in advance to set agenda, agree practical arrangements and define participant list and speakers.</p>
4. On the ground projects		
4.1	Follow up/Building on Projects on Marine Litter/Microplastics through Marine - Litter Node - GCFI (Linking to CRFM and OSPESCA)	<p>1. Compilation of lessons learned, best practices and recommendations from pilot projects on marine litter and microplastics, in relation to the regional action plans, in the Wider Caribbean and OSPAR Regions, with the aim to transfer best practice in the regions.</p> <p>2. Identify specific opportunities to enhance and upscale work with a priority focus on microplastics in fish and involving collaboration between GCFI, CEP and Regional Fisheries bodies such as the Caribbean Regional Fisheries Mechanism (CRFM) and Central America Fisheries and Aquaculture Organization (OSPESCA). The specific activities to be implemented will be guided by the initial assessment and discussions with the Fisheries Bodies.</p>

5. Project deliverables

1.1 and 1.2 Improved functionality of the CEP/CAMPAM database on MPA and improved information content on the MPAs where the CEP SPAW protocol is implemented.

1.3 A proposal for a CEP database on beach litter, including data format and assessment functionalities to be presented for consideration to CEP CPs.

2.2 Sessions on MPAs and Marine Litter at the 71st GCFI Annual Conference to engage a broad audience.

3.2 Project proposal on MPA capacity building.

3.3 Expert workshop on marine litter monitoring with 8-10 participants. The outcome of the workshop will be a draft beach litter monitoring strategy to be presented for consideration by CEP CPs. The strategy will propose collection of monitoring data that is compatible with the database structure and can support regional assessments. The strategy will be developed so it can be implemented in a stepwise approach.

4.1 Compilation of lesson learned based on marine litter and microplastic pilot projects in both the wider Caribbean and OSPAR regions.

6. Project management

6.1 Financial responsibilities

OSPAR is responsible for managing and reporting the funds of 10,000 EUR provided by the Netherlands, as a voluntary contribution to OSPAR to implement this activity.

CEP and GCFI are responsible for managing and reporting the funds of 1,000,000 SEK provided by Sweden in accordance with the financial agreement signed by the parties.

6.2 Deliverable responsibilities

The responsibility for the project is shared by the Executive Secretaries of Lorna Innis, CEP, and Susana Salvador, OSPAR.

The implementation of the project will be managed through a project board. The project board will be made up of CEP Secretariat representative responsible for marine litter and biodiversity, the GCFI lead, the OSPAR Deputy Secretaries for the BDC and EIHA Committees. A monthly online meeting will be held for the duration of the project activities starting in May 2018, and can be held more regularly if required. The online meetings will be used to follow up on progress of the project. Depending on the ongoing activity, leads for taking forward project activities will be invited to join the meeting. The meetings can be cancelled if there is no availability and no issues to discuss.

7. Budget

The Government of the Netherlands have provided 10,000 EUR as a voluntary contribution to OSPAR.

The Government of Sweden have provided 1,000,000 SEK through SIDA as a contribution to CEP. The funds are managed by GCFI, management cost are internalised in the themes below.

The funds available for the project can be distributed among the project themes, irrespective of the funding source.

Theme	Budget
1. Data and information management	40,000 EUR
2. Public awareness and outreach	15,000 EUR
3. Capacity building and training	35,000 EUR
4. On the ground projects	20,000 EUR
Total of budgeted means	110,000 EUR



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8. Timeline

The implementation of the project will follow the project timeline as outlined in Table 2.

Table 2. Project timeline. Milestone meetings are indicated in blue. Periods of implementation of activities is marked in orange.

Action	2018										2019
	Month										
	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	1-3	
Development of MPA capacity building project proposal											
CEP/CAMPAM MPA database refinement and structure enhancement											
<i>OSPAR CollArr18, Berlin; CEP participation</i>		7-8									
Enhancement of information content for ca 40 SPAW MPAs											
<i>OSPAR ICG-ML, Berlin; CEP participation</i>			13-14								
Marine litter node building on projects on marine litter with GCFI (linking to CRFM and OSPESCA)											
<i>CEP 4th LBS STAC, Kingston; OSPAR participation</i>				16-20							
CEP marine litter database development											
Preparation of regional expert workshop on marine litter monitoring											
<i>OSPAR ICG-MPA; CEP participation</i>							30.9-1.11				
Preparations for special session on lessons learned and sharing experiences on MPAs, Fisheries, EBM, pollution, marine litter (CLME+) at 71 st GCFI conference											
<i>71st GCFI Annual conference; OSPAR participation</i>								11-16			
GCFI/CEP reporting to SIDA											