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Ninth Meeting of the Scientific and Technical
Advisory Committee (STAC) to the Protocol
Concerning Specially Protected Areas and Wildlife
(SPA)W) in the Wider Caribbean Region

Virtual meeting, 17 - 19 March 2021

SPA-W-RAC 2020 CALL FOR PROPOSALS: Interim Reports

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

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Related document: Interim reports (UNEP(DEPI)-CAR WG.42-INF.27 Addendum 1)

ACRONYMS

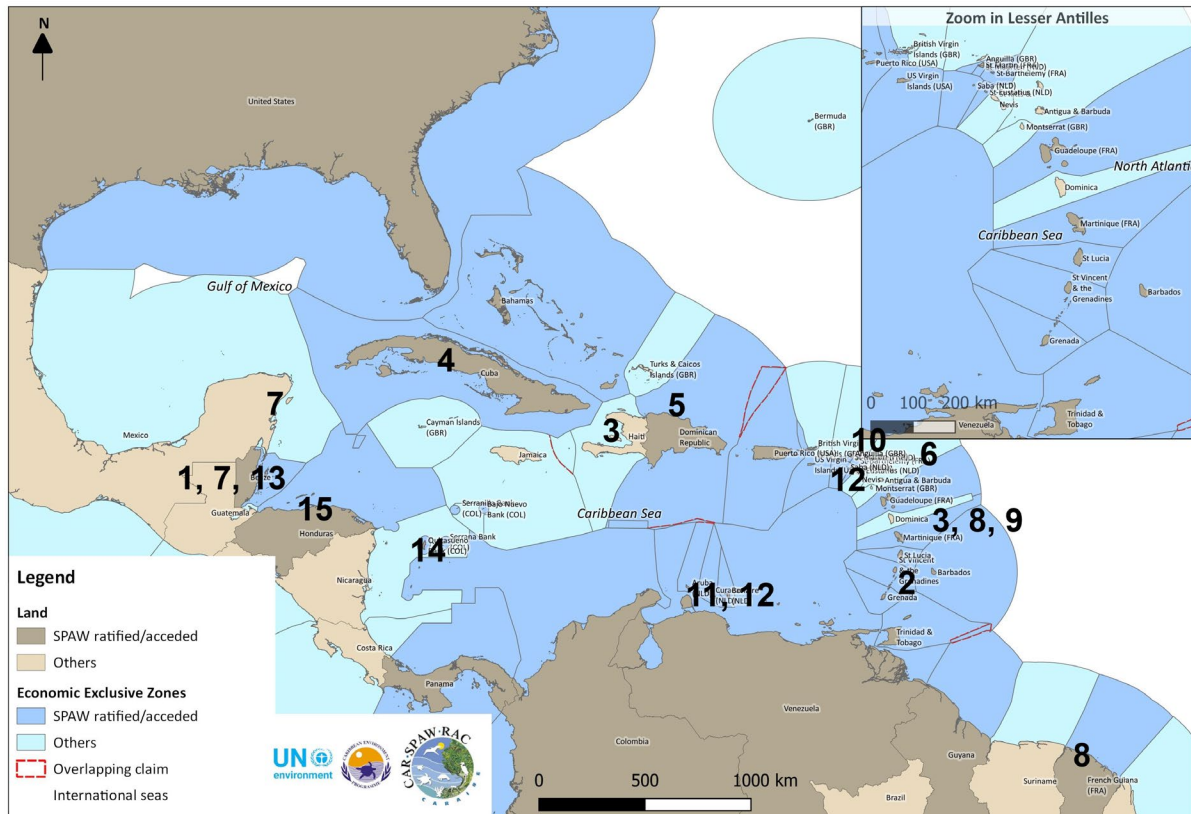
AFD	French Development Agency
BEST	Voluntary Scheme for Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services in EU Territories
CEP	Caribbean Environment Programme
DNA	Deoxyribonucleic Acid
EU	European Union
GIZ	German International Cooperation Agency
RAC	Regional Activities Center
SPAW	Specially Protected Areas and Wildlife
SPAW-RAC	Regional Activity Centre for Specially Protected Areas and Wildlife
STAC	Scientific and Technical Committee
UNEP	United Nations Environment Programme

SPAW-RAC 2020 CALL FOR PROPOSALS: Interim Reports

1. In 2020, the Regional Activity Centre for Specially Protected Areas and Wildlife (SPAW-RAC) launched a call for proposals for small short-term grants. 15 projects have been supported, representing more than 115,000 euros with funding from SPAW-RAC and the French Ministry of Environment.

I. BACKGROUND

2. Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, 2020 has seen many conservation projects halted, funding withdrawn, and organizations weakened, more generally non-governmental organizations.
3. In this regard and in order to strengthen the capacities of regional actors and to fund projects for the Caribbean biodiversity, the Regional Activity Center for Specially Protected Areas and Wildlife launched a call for proposals for small short-term grants (up to 10,000 euros / 4 months to 1 year). The call has been launched on 22nd June with a deadline for submission on July 31st.



(c) SPAW-RAC, 2020. Sources: GIS layers downloaded from <https://www.marineregions.org>

Figure 1. Location of the projects funded within the 2020 SPAW RAC call for proposals

4. In the framework of the SPAW Protocol, a particular attention has been paid to projects in countries and territories, preferentially signatories of the SPAW protocol, that do not easily benefit from traditional funding sources. The proposals concerning plants, birds, fishes, including elasmobranchs,

and sea turtles annexed to the SPAW Protocol have been appreciated, but did not rule out other proposals. A diversity of criteria was taken into account, in particular the innovative aspect of the operation, the convergence of the project with the political topicality of the protocol, the status of the leading structure and its partners or even sometimes the implementation schedule.

II. IMPLEMENTATION AND RESULTS

- 38 proposals have been received, several of which are of high quality, and 15 have been accepted in 2020 for a total amount of about 115,000 euros.
- During September and October, the agreements have been prepared and signed, the grant incurred, and the projects have started to be implemented. However due to the persistent COVID-19 crisis, and to the hurricanes Eta and Iota, but also due to administrative and financial issues, the implementation of several projects has been delayed and they will be finalized in 2021.

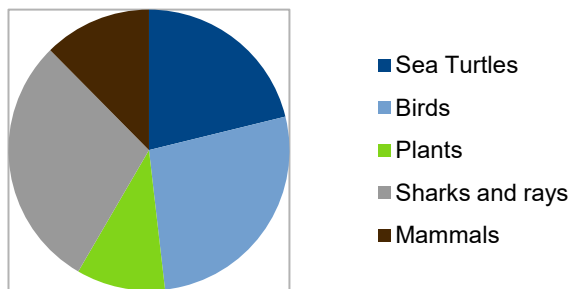


Figure 2. Diversity of the projects funded within the within the 2020 call related to axis 4«Conservation of threatened and endangered species » of the SPAW work plan

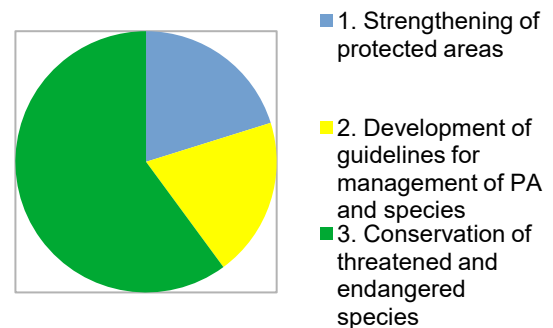


Figure 3. Comparison between the budget invested in the framework of the call and the axes of the SPAW work plan

III. CONCLUSION AND FUTURE PROSPECTS

- The success of this call highlights the need of Caribbean organizations for funding to implement small projects or to supplement budget for larger operations. It has made it possible to support operations on quite varied subjects, some of which are very linked with the current issues of the SPAW sub-programme, other definitively constitute the base of future topics.
- Other proposals received deserve to be supported and SPAW-RAC is currently looking for solutions to enable their implementation. Given its success and the needs of Caribbean actors, it is planned to renew such call for proposals in the future.

Highlights

- It is very relevant to support small organizations and regional stakeholders who are focused on local issues and need easily accessible fundings for concrete actions, particularly when these contribute to the achievement of the objectives of the protocol.
- SPAW-RAC will renew such call for proposals in the future and can be the regional relay for international donors interested in such an approach as done in the past (AFD, GIZ, EU BEST programme...).

ANNEX 1. Call for proposals flyer



A call for proposal from the SPAW-RAC for Short-term Small Grants is opened until 31st July 2020.

The main objective of this call for proposals is the implementation of the SPAW Protocol by encouraging concrete actions for the conservation of biodiversity in the countries and territories of the Wider Caribbean Region that have signed the SPAW Protocol of the Cartagena Convention (<https://car-spaw-rac.org/>).

The specific objectives are to provide financial support, in entirety or by co-funding, concrete actions aiming at:

- effectively improving the status of conservation of endangered species in the Wider Caribbean Region, particularly those listed in the annexes of the SPAW protocol;
- implementing management measures for endangered species and for the listed protected areas, in particular if they involve civil society actors;
- and producing restoration actions as a priority within the protected areas listed of the protocol.

For this call for proposals, particular attention will be paid to projects in countries and territories, preferentially signatories of the SPAW protocol, that do not easily benefit from traditional funding. The initiatives concerning the groups of plants, birds, fish including elasmobranchs and sea turtles annexed to the SPAW protocol will be appreciated, but do not rule out other proposals.

Eligibility: Governmental and non-governmental organizations, protected area managers...

Grant amount: between 5,000 and 10,000 € (higher if exceptional)

Deadlines for completion: supported operations must at least start in 2020 and if possible be fully completed in 2020.

Conditions for payment of the grant: an advance is paid upon signature of the agreement, a mid-term payment is possible, and the balance is paid upon acceptance by the CAR of a technical and financial report.

Content of the application: concept note of the project presenting the framework of the operation, its objectives, its main stages and the expected results / completed grant application form

Contact: carspaw@developpement-durable.gouv.fr

Closure date: Friday July 31th 2020 at 5pm in Guadeloupe (UTC-4)

This call for proposals is intended to be renewed in 2021.



ANNEX 2. List of the 15 projects supported in 2020

SPAW sub-programme activity	Beneficiaries	Projects	Countries and territories	Species targeted
Conservation of threatened and endangered species	Environmental Conservation Organization	Belize Turtle Nesting Beach Monitoring Program	Belize	Sea turtles
	Ocean Spirits	Mobilizing citizen scientists for biodiversity monitoring and threat mitigation at remote Grenadine Islands	Grenada and Saint-Vincent-and-the-Grenadines	Sea turtles, birds
	BirdsCaribbean	Teaching youth to know and appreciate Caribbean Birds - Production of Endemic Birds of the West Indies Colouring Book in Spanish and French	Spanish and french speaking countries and territories	Birds
	BirdsCaribbean	Conservation of West Indian Whistling-Ducks (<i>Dendrocygna arborea</i>) in Cuba through a status assessment	Cuba	Birds
	Sociedad Ornitológica de la Hispaniola	Conservation and restoration of Bicknell's Thrush habitat in eastern Bahoruco	Dominican republic	Birds
	Environmental Awareness Group	Assessment of Newly Discovered <i>Leptocereus</i> Population on Antigua to Determine Taxonomic and Conservation Status	Antigua-and-Barbuda	Plants
	Fundación Internacional para la Naturaleza y la Sustentabilidad	How the Neotropical otters are doing in the Mesoamerican Caribbean?	Mexico and Belize	Neotropical Otter
	Des requins et des hommes	TIDENT, First evaluation of sawfish status and management in French Guiana and French Antilles	French Guiana and French West Indies	Sharks and rays
	Kap Natirel	Rékin-ADNe : toward a standardized monitoring chondrichthyans populations in the Caribbean by using environmental DNA	French West Indies	Sharks and rays
Development of guidelines for management of PA and species	Department of Fisheries and Marine Resources of Anguilla	An investigation of the state of Anguilla's parrotfish populations, for improved management of the species	Anguilla	Parrotfish
	Stichting Internos – Mangrove Maniacs	Regional Mangrove Restoration Workshop	Bonaire (with attendees from various countries)	Mangrove
	Nature 2 / Park work	Using management effectiveness to strengthen species conservation in the Caribbean	Dutch caribbean	All species
Strengthening of protected areas	Fragments of Hope	Expanding Reef Replenishment Efforts with the Critically Endangered Caribbean Acroporid Corals to northern Belize	Belize	Corals
	Fundación Providence and Parques nacionales de Colombia	Coral restoration in the Parque Nacional Natural Old Providence McBean Lagoon Caribe colombiano	Colombia	Corals
	Roatan Marine Park	Promoting Responsible Seafood Choices by Enhancing Ecological and Social Responsibility Management of Lobsters within Roatan Bay Islands	Honduras	Lobsters