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

17–19 March 2021

**STATUS OF ACTIVITIES OF THE SPA SUB-PROGRAMME FOR THE
2019–2020 BIENNIUM**
(includes status of STAC8 Recommendations and COP10 Decisions)

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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ACRONYMS

5C	Caribbean Community Centre on Climate Change
ACP-MEAs III	Enforcing Environmental Treaties in African, Caribbean and Pacific Countries-ACP-MEAs Phase III
ACS	Association of Caribbean States
AGRRA	Atlantic and Gulf Rapid Reef Assessment Program
AIDA	InterAmerican Association of Environmental Defense
AMEP	Assessment & Management of Environmental Pollution
BEST Initiative	Voluntary Scheme for Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services in Territories of European Overseas
BIOPAMA	Biodiversity and Protected Areas Management Programme
BMI	Bycatch Mitigation Initiative
CaMPAM	Caribbean Marine Protected Areas Management Network and Forum
CANARI	Caribbean Natural Resources Institute
CARI'MAM	Caribbean Marine Mammals Preservation Network
CARIB-COAST	Caribbean Network for Coastal Risks Related to Climate Change
CaribWEN	Caribbean Wildlife Enforcement Network
CARICOM	Caribbean Community
CBD	Convention on Biological Diversity
CEP	Caribbean Environment Programme
CERMES	Centre for Resource Management and Environmental Studies
CETA	Communication, Education, Training and Awareness
CFMC	Caribbean Fishery Management Council
CINVESTAV	Centre for Research and Advanced Studies of the National Polytechnic Institute
CITES	Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora
CLME+	Caribbean and North Brazil Shelf Large Marine Ecosystems
CMS	Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals
COP	Conference of Parties
CRCP	Coral Reef Conservation Program
CRFM	Caribbean Regional Fisheries Mechanism
CROP	Caribbean Regional Oceanscape Project
CTF	Caribbean Trust Fund
DCNA	Dutch Caribbean Nature Alliance
DSS	Decision Support System
EAF	Ecosystem Approach to Fisheries
EBM	Ecosystem Based Management
ERDF	European Regional Development Fund
EU	European Union
FAO	Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations
FSAFMP	Regional Fish Spawning Aggregation Fishery Management Plan
GEF	Global Environment Facility

GCFI	Gulf and Caribbean Fisheries Institute
GCRMN	Global Coral Reef Monitoring Network
GESAMP	Group of Experts on the Scientific Aspects of Marine Environmental Protection
GFCR	Global Fund for Coral Reefs
GoM	Gulf of Mexico
GPA	Global Programme of Action
GPNM	Global Partnership on Nutrient Management
GPS	Global Positioning System
IAC	Inter-American Convention for the Protection and Conservation of Sea Turtles
IAEA	International Atomic Energy Agency
IAS	Invasive Alien Species
ICCWC	International Consortium on Combating Wildlife Crime
ICRI	International Coral Reef Initiative
IGM	Intergovernmental Meeting
INVEMAR	Institute of Marine and Coastal Research
IOC	International Oceanic Commission
IOCARIBE	Inter-governmental Oceanographic Commission's Sub-Commission for the Caribbean and Adjacent Regions
IUCN	International Union for the Conservation of Nature
IUCN-ORMACC	International Union for the Conservation of Nature - Regional Office for Mexico, Central America and the Caribbean
IWC	International Whaling Commission
IWEco Project	Integrating Water, Land and Ecosystems Management in Caribbean Small Island Developing States
LBS	Protocol Concerning Land-Based Sources of Marine Pollution
MARENA	Ministry of Environment and Natural Resources of the Dominican Republic
MAR Fund	Mesoamerican Reef Fund
MEA	Multilateral Environmental Agreement
MedPAN	Mediterranean Network of Protected Area Managers
MMAP	Action Plan for the Conservation of Marine Mammals in the Wider Caribbean Region
MoC	Memorandum of Cooperation
MoU	Memorandum of Understanding
MOW	Mapping Ocean Wealth
MPA	Marine Protected Area
MSP	Marine Spatial Planning
NAMPAM	North American Marine Protected Areas Network
NOAA	National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
NGO	Non-Government Organisation
NWO-I	Royal Netherlands Institute for Sea Research
OBPS	Ocean Best Practices System
OCCC	Overall Coordination and Common Costs
OCTs	Overseas Countries and Territories

OCTO	Open Communications for the Ocean
OECS	Organisation of Eastern Caribbean States
OSPAR	Oslo and Paris Conventions
OSPESCA	Central American Fisheries and Aquaculture Organization
PA	Protected Areas
PAME	Protected Areas Management Effectiveness
PCA	Project Cooperation Agreement
PCU	Project Coordinating Unit
PEG	Project Executive Group
RAC	Regional Activity Centre
RAMPAO	West Africa Network of Marine Protected Areas
Ramsar	Convention on Wetlands of International Importance
RAN	Regional Activity Network
RedGolfo	Gulf of Mexico Marine Protected Area Network
ROLAC	Regional Office for Latin America and the Caribbean
RSAP	Regional Strategy and Action Plan for the Valuation, Protection and/or Restoration of Key Marine Habitats in the Wider Caribbean 2021-2030
SAP	Strategic Action Programme/Plan
SCTLD	Stony Coral Tissue Loss Disease
SOMEE	State of the Marine Environment and associated Economies
SoMH	State of Marine Habitat
SPAW	Specially Protected Areas and Wildlife
SSFA	Small Scale Funding Agreement
STAC	Scientific and Technical Advisory Committee
TNC	The Nature Conservancy
TOF	The Ocean Foundation
ToR	Terms of Reference
ToT	Training of Trainers
UNDP	United Nations Development Programme
UNODC	United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime
UNEP	United Nations Environment Programme
UNESCO	United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization
WCMC	World Conservation Monitoring Centre
WCPA	World Commission on Protected Areas
WCR	Wider Caribbean Region
WECAFC	Western Central Atlantic Fishery Commission of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations
WEN	Wildlife Enforcement Network
WIDECAST	Wider Caribbean Sea Turtle Conservation Network

STATUS OF IMPLEMENTATION OF THE WORKPLAN AND BUDGET FOR THE SPAW REGIONAL PROGRAMME FOR 2019 - 2020

1. INTRODUCTION

1. The Workplan and Budget of the SPAW Programme for 2019-2020 was approved by the Tenth Meeting of the Conference of Parties (COP10) to the Protocol Concerning Specially Protected Areas and Wildlife (SPAW) in the Wider Caribbean Region (Roatán, Honduras 3 June 2019) and the Eighteenth Intergovernmental Meeting (IGM) on the Action Plan for the Caribbean Environment Programme/Fifteenth Meeting of the Contracting Parties to the Convention for the Protection and Development of the Marine Environment of the Wider Caribbean Region (Roatán, Honduras, 5–6 June 2019).
2. The SPAW Protocol entered into force on 18 June 2000, and since the Sixth Meeting of the Conference of Parties (COP6), with the accession of Honduras in 2018, there are to date seventeen (17) Governments that are Contracting Parties (Belize, Colombia, Cuba, Dominican Republic, France, Grenada, Guyana, Honduras, The Netherlands, Panama, Saint Lucia, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, The Bahamas, Trinidad and Tobago, United States of America and Venezuela). Discussions are currently ongoing with Guatemala, Costa Rica, Mexico and the territories of the United Kingdom regarding their ratification of the SPAW Protocol. A full list of the SPAW Contracting Parties and their dates of ratification may be found in Annex III.
3. The objectives of the SPAW Programme are to:
 - (a) Significantly increase the number, and improve the management, of national protected areas and species in the Wider Caribbean Region (WCR);
 - (b) Support the conservation of threatened and endangered species and the sustainable use of natural resources to prevent them from becoming threatened and endangered;
 - (c) Develop a strong regional capability for the coordination of information exchange, training and technical assistance in support of national biodiversity conservation efforts; and
 - (d) Coordinate activities with the relevant international biodiversity treaties and initiatives such as the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD), the Convention on Wetlands of International Importance (Ramsar), Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals (CMS), the Convention on the International Trade of Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES), the Inter-American Convention for the Protection and Conservation of Sea Turtles (IAC), and the International Coral Reef Initiative (ICRI) and its global networks.
4. During the period 2019-2020, activities focused on assisting countries with:
 - (a) Strengthening the management and networking of marine protected areas (MPAs) and protected species;
 - (b) Promoting and integrating the principles of the ecosystem approach in order to address the degradation of selected priority ecosystem services, and likewise respond through biodiversity conservation and sustainable use of coastal resources with support of the Catalysing Implementation of the Strategic Action Plan for the Sustainable Management of Shared Living Marine Resources in the Caribbean and North Brazil Shelf Large Marine Ecosystems (CLME+) Project and the Biodiversity for Sustainable Development in the Caribbean through Ecosystem Based Management (EBM-DSS) project from the Italian Cooperation Agency;
 - (c) Acknowledging the inter-dependency and multidimensional aspects of ecological and social systems. This approach was supported by other Multilateral Environmental Agreements (MEAs) such as the CBD and the Ramsar Convention.
5. Activities were also aimed at coordinating with other environmental agreements and programmes dealing with issues relating to the conservation of biodiversity of particular relevance to the SPAW Protocol such as the United Nations Environment Programme's (UNEP's) Regional Seas Programme Strategy, Abidjan Convention, the International Whaling Commission (IWC), the International Union for the Conservation of Nature's (IUCN) Caribbean Strategy and Biodiversity and Protected Areas Management Programme (BIOPAMA), the IAC, the

CLME+ Project, the Western Central Atlantic Fishery Commission of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO-WECAFC), the Caribbean Regional Fisheries Mechanism (CRFM), ICRI, the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) and the Oslo and Paris Conventions (OSPAR) Commission.

6. Specific activities for the 2019-2020 Workplan fell under five major programme elements (sub-programmes):
 - (a) Programme Coordination;
 - (b) Strengthening of Protected Areas in the Wider Caribbean Region (including training and capacity building for protected area management);
 - (c) Development of Guidelines for Protected Areas and Species Management;
 - (d) Conservation of Threatened and Endangered Species; and
- (e) Conservation and Sustainable Use of Coastal and Marine Ecosystems (including coral reef, mangroves and seagrasses using the ecosystem-based management (EBM) approach).
7. Additionally, the Secretariat focused on fundraising by strategizing and streamlining SPAW activities as financial contributions and human resources, to fulfil programmatic execution, continued to be limited. Therefore, interventions were opportunistic and strategic in nature.

2. STATUS OF SUB-PROGRAMMES AND ACTIVITIES

8. The following sections provide a summary of the main activities implemented, and the major accomplishments achieved, under the various sub-programmes between 2019 and 2020. Annex I provides a summary of costs and expenditures for this period.

2.1 Programme Coordination

9. The objectives of this sub-programme are to:
 - (a) Promote the ratification of, accession to, and effective implementation of the SPAW Protocol;
 - (b) Ensure that the formulation and implementation of programme activities to satisfy the requirements and needs of the SPAW Protocol and its Contracting Parties;
 - (c) Develop coordination, collaboration, and communication mechanisms with other agreements, organizations and programmes relevant to SPAW's objectives;
 - (d) Improve coordination of regional programming for protected areas and wildlife in the WCR; and
 - (e) Oversee the day-to-day activities and general coordination of the various projects and activities of the SPAW Programme.

2.1.1 Status of Sub-Programme Activities

10. During the period 2019-2020, the day-to-day coordination for implementation of programmatic activities continued to be overseen by the SPAW Programme Officer, who is responsible for the overall coordination of the SPAW Programme, with support from the SPAW Programme Assistant.
11. Between 2019 and 2020, the Secretariat experienced a record number of active six (6) month internships. These interns were able to assist with project implementation in both the SPAW and AMEP Sub-Programmes thereby greatly enhancing productivity and programmatic outputs.
12. Additional support to meet the objectives of this sub-programme were received from the SPAW Regional Activity Centre (SPAW-RAC), which is located in Guadeloupe and supported by the Government of France (*see*

UNEP(DEPI)/CAR WG.42/INF.4 for details on the funds provided by the French Government through SPAW-RAC for implementation of SPAW activities).

13. The functioning costs of the SPAW-RAC are covered by the French Ministry of Environment, including salaries for three (3) French officers/civil servants: one (1) Executive Director, one (1) Programme Officer, a Project Manager and one (1) Administrative Assistant. In March 2019 the post of Programme Officer was filled, and the team was also supported by two (2) civic service volunteers, and other fixed-term contract staff, currently three (3).
14. The RAC continued to support the Secretariat with various activities, especially the coordination of actions mandated by STAC8 and COP10 which included the establishment and activation of the four (4) STAC working groups related to species, protected areas, exemptions and sargassum (see *UNEP(DEPI)/CAR WG.42/4*, *UNEP(DEPI)/CAR WG.42/5*, *UNEP(DEPI)/CAR WG.42/6* and *UNEP(DEPI)/CAR WG.42/7*) and activities under the Global Coral Reef Monitoring Network (GCRMN) (see *UNEP(DEPI)/CAR WG.42/INF.26*) and with WIDECAST (see *UNEP(DEPI)/CAR WG.42/INF.17*).
15. Additional programmatic support was facilitated through the RAC's key role in the implementation of two (2) significant projects funded by the European Union (EU) (2017-2021): 1) the Caribbean Marine Mammals Preservation Network (CARI'MAM) Project on marine mammal protected area networks (€2,903,178.24) including the assessment and implementation of the *Action Plan for the Conservation of Marine Mammals in the Wider Caribbean Region (MMAP)* (see *UNEP(DEPI)/CAR WG.42/INF.29* and *UNEP(DEPI)/CAR WG.42/INF.29 Addendum 1*); and 2) the Caribbean network for coastal risks related to climate change (CARIB-COAST) Project on coral reef, mangrove and seagrass beds ecosystems (€3,286,345) (see *UNEP(DEPI)/CAR WG.42/INF.37*). On an *ad hoc* basis, the RAC also kindly reviewed and translated a number of documents (See 2.1.3 below and UNEP(DEPI)/CAR WG.42/INF.4).
16. Coordination and communication with other organisations were further strengthened on various matters of common interest (see subsequent sections of the report), and in keeping with collaborative arrangements established with many of them:
 - CRFM
 - Caribbean Community (CARICOM) Secretariat
 - Centre for Resource Management and Environmental Studies (CERMES)
 - CBD
 - CMS
 - Gulf and Caribbean Fisheries Institute (GCFI)
 - Inter-governmental Oceanographic Commission's Sub-Commission for the Caribbean and Adjacent Regions/United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (IOCARIBE/UNESCO)
 - ICRI
 - IUCN
 - IWC
 - Mesoamerican Reef Fund (MAR Fund)
 - National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA)
 - OSPAR Commission
 - Organisation of Eastern Caribbean States (OECS)
 - ReefCheck
 - Sargasso Sea Commission
 - The Nature Conservancy (TNC)
 - The Voluntary Scheme for Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services in Territories of European Overseas (BEST Initiative)
 - UNEP - Regional Office for Latin America and the Caribbean (ROLAC) Action Plan
 - UNODC
 - World Commission on Protected Areas (WCPA)
 - FAO-WECAFC
 - Wider Caribbean Sea Turtle Conservation Network (WIDECAST)

17. In keeping with the objectives of developing synergies, promoting the Protocol, and optimizing resources, the following activities were completed or initiated:

- A Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) was signed with The Ocean Foundation (TOF) in September 2019, to address ocean acidification as a regional topic of common concern, in support of Target 3 of Sustainable Development Goal 14 which aims to “*minimize and address the impacts of ocean acidification, including through enhanced scientific cooperation at all levels*”. This collaboration will also support the realisation of outputs for a number of regional and international collaborations and the development of initiatives that will facilitate data sharing, environmental education and awareness and capacity building.
- Input provided to UNEP’s Administrative Secretary’s Report to the 46th Annual Session of the Joint Group of Experts on the Scientific Aspects of Marine Environmental Protection (GESAMP), 9-12 September 2019, UN Headquarters New York.
- Extension of the existing Memorandum of Cooperation (MoC) with MAR Fund until May 2026. The extension will allow for the continued development of collaborative actions for sustainable coastal and marine resources conservation and management in the Wider Caribbean.
- Implementation of activities under the new EU funded project “Enforcing Environmental Treaties in African, Caribbean and Pacific (ACP) Countries – ACP-MEAs Phase III” (USD1,961,264). The four (4) year project (2020-2024) will result in:
 - ✓ The reinforcement of Regional Seas Conventions’ Governance Frameworks and associated protocols;
 - ✓ A functional network of SPAW-listed Protected Areas covering interconnected marine habitats and ecosystems for restoring and sustaining the health of the oceans;
 - ✓ The reduction of the influx of waste entering the marine environment of the WCR; and
 - ✓ Documentation of best practices and lessons learnt in marine litter management, at the community level.
- Development of an MoU with GCFI to “formally recognize GCFI as part of the Regional Activity Network (RAN) of the Cartagena Convention Secretariat and strengthen cooperation on regional environmental projects and activities. Within the framework of the SPAW Protocol, GCFI will collaborate on areas of common interest, including:
 - ✓ Fish spawning aggregations;
 - ✓ Sustainable fishing communities;
 - ✓ Existing or emerging invasive/genetically altered species and diseases in the wild that may cause harmful impacts to the region’s biodiversity (e.g. lionfish and Stony Coral Tissue Loss Disease (SCTLD));
 - ✓ The Sargassum influx; and
 - ✓ Climate change impacts on regional biodiversity and advancing mechanisms enabling coastal and fishing communities to adapt to climate change.
- Developed a draft MoU with the IWC to provide a framework for cooperation and facilitate collaborations between the Parties in areas of common concern and interest by increasing consultations and cooperation between both Parties in order to:
 - ✓ improve information and data sharing on the status and abundance of marine mammal species;
 - ✓ promote and encourage the conservation and management of key species and populations; and
 - ✓ enhance collaborations on research, prevention of, and response to anthropogenic threats.
- Developed a draft MoU with the Secretariat of the OSPAR Commission to promote the:
 - ✓ prevention of marine pollution;
 - ✓ protection of the marine environment; and
 - ✓ sustainable use and conservation of marine resources.
- Developed a draft MoU with the Institute of Marine and Coastal Research (INVEMAR) which will recognize INVEMAR as part of the Cartagena Convention Secretariat’s RAN and strengthen its cooperation in regional

environmental projects. This includes the development and implementation of joint regional workshops and the writing of technical reports

- Strengthened partnerships with the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) to address emerging regional issues such as SCTL, Sargassum citizens' science data sharing and ocean acidification.
- Established partnerships with universities, research entities and international organizations working in areas/on topics of common interest (e.g. George Washington University, Florida International University, the University of South Florida, the Centre for Research and Advanced Studies of the National Polytechnic Institute (CINVESTAV) and IUCN).

18. A number of meetings were organised and/or attended in order to continue promoting the sub-programme and develop synergies. Due to the onset of the coronavirus (Covid-19) pandemic in March 2020, subsequent meetings were via virtual participation.

19. Major meetings for SPAW implementation included:

- Regional Symposium on Ocean Acidification, Santa Marta, Colombia, 21-24 January 2019.
- United Kingdom's Overseas Territories Coral Reef Initiative, Anguilla, 4-7 February 2019.
- 2nd Regional Workshop on Development of the Report on the "*State of Marine Ecosystems and Shared Living Marine Resources in the Wider Caribbean (SoMH)*" and the "*Regional Strategy and Action Plan for the Valuation, Protection and/or Restoration of Key Marine Habitats in the Wider Caribbean 2021-2030 (RSAP)*" in Panama City, Panama, 13-14 March 2019.
- 4th Joint Meeting of the Sargasso Sea Commission, Bermuda, 15 March 2019
- 2019 Annual WIDECAS Annual Meeting, Paramaribo, Suriname, 19-21 March 2019.
- 4th Meeting of the Project Executive Group (PEG) for the United Nations Development Programme/Global Environment Facility (UNDP/GEF) CLME+ Project in Florida, USA, 15-16 April 2019.
- Determine the Scope of the Partnership with The Ocean Foundation, Washington D.C., USA, 1-2 May 2019.
- 2nd CARI'MAM Project Meeting, Gosier, Guadeloupe, 8-9 May 2019.
- 1st Global Coral Reef Monitoring Network (GCRMN) Steering Committee Meeting, Thailand, 15-16 May 2019.
- 4th Caribaea Initiative Research and Conservation Conference, Santo Domingo, Dominican Republic, 15-17 May 2019.
- Regional Training in Ecosystem Services Assessment and Valuation and Carbon Sequestration Workshop, St. Lucia, 20-22 May 2019.
- 10th SPAW / 4th Protocol Concerning Land-Based Sources of Marine Pollution (LBS) and the 15th COP to the Cartagena Convention, Roatán, Honduras, 3-6 June 2019.
- Inception Meeting for ACP-MEAs III, Brussels, Belgium, 11-14 June 2019.
- International Meeting on the Situation of Sargassum in the Greater Caribbean, Quintana Roo, Mexico, 27 June 2019.
- 2nd Workshop of the MPA Networks Twinning Project, Santo Domingo, Dominican Republic, 16-18 July 2019.
- Regional Forum on Sargassum, Kingston, Jamaica, 26 July 2019.
- "Cooperation and Common Strategy Between MPA Networks of Managers in the Atlantic Region (Networks twinning)" meeting, Portugal, 10-13 September 2019.
- Workshop on the Development of a Regional Strategy for the Conservation and Restoration of Mangroves in the Mesoamerican Reef, Guatemala City, Guatemala, 18-20 September 2019.

- 2nd Steering Committee of the CARIB'COAST Project, Kingston, Jamaica, 8-10 October 2019.
 - 3rd Latin America and Caribbean Protected Areas Congress, Lima, Peru, 14-17 October 2019.
 - 1st International Conference and Trade Show on Sargassum Management, Baie-Mahault, Guadeloupe, 24-26 October 2019.
 - Passive Acoustic Monitoring Training Workshop, La Romana, Dominican Republic, 31 October – 1 November 2019.
 - 3rd CARI'MAM Project Meeting, La Romana, Dominican Republic, 2-3 November 2019.
 - 72nd Annual Conference of GCFI, Punta Cana, Dominican Republic, 4-8 November 2019.
 - Interregional Workshop on the Use of Nuclear Technologies to Address Sargassum, Kingston, Jamaica. 5-7 November 2019.
 - Final Conference (Phase II) on Cooperation with Northern and Southern Transatlantic Dimension-Marine Protected Areas and Meeting of Phase III, Brussels, Belgium, 18-20 November 2019.
 - World Bank Report Launch “Forces of Nature: Assessment and Economic Valuation of Coastal Protection Services Provided by Mangroves in Jamaica”, Kingston, Jamaica, 20 November 2019.
 - 34th International Coral Reef Initiative General Meeting, Townsville, Australia, 2-7 December 2019.
 - 19th World Marine Mammal Science Conference (WMMC'19), Barcelona, Spain, 7-12 December 2019.
 - 1st Coral Reef and Human Dimensions Monitoring in the Mesoamerican Reef Socio-Economic Assessment Workshop, Roatán, Honduras, 9-13 December 2019.
 - GCRMN – Caribbean Steering Committee Meeting, Kralendijk, Bonaire, 28-30 January 2020.
 - GCRMN Workshop on the Status of Coral Reefs of the World 2020, Bangkok, Thailand, 18-20 February 2020.
 - Coral Reef Consortium Meeting, San José, Costa-Rica, 2-7 March 2020.
 - CLME+ Joint Project Executive Group (PEG) and 7th SAP Interim Coordination Mechanism (ICM) Meeting 18-20 March 2020.
 - Global Fund for Coral Reefs (GFCR) High-Level Event of the 75th UN General Assembly, Virtual, 16 September 2020.
 - Evolving and Sustaining Ocean Best Practices IV – Ocean Best Practices System Workshop, Virtual, 18, 21-25 & 30 September 2020.
 - 4th Meeting of the WECAFC/Caribbean Fishery Management Council (CFMC)/Central American Fisheries and Aquaculture Organization (OSPESCA)/CRFM Working Group on Spawning Aggregations, Virtual, 9-10 November 2020.
 - ACP-MEAs III Stakeholders' Meeting, Virtual, 17 – 18 November 2020
 - Global Coral Reef Partnership Steering Committee Meeting, Virtual, 18 November 2020.
 - Partners' Coordination Meeting for the Twinning Project “Cooperation and Common Strategy Between MPA Networks of Managers in the Atlantic Region, Virtual, 18 November 2020.
 - 4th CARI'MAM Project Meeting, Virtual, over a one (1) month period between 29 October–26 November 2020.
 - Bycatch Mitigation Initiative Workshop, Virtual, 23-25 November 2020
20. Major meetings where significant input was provided may be found below. Meetings sponsored by other organisations were attended, for the most part, at the cost of the inviting organisation/ virtually after March 2020.

Meeting	Purpose	Date and Venue	Relation to Programme Objectives
<p><u>2nd Regional Workshop on Development of the Report on the SoMH and RSAP in the CLME+”</u></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Agree on key criteria to guide focus and scope of these reports • Define the key target audiences, uses and desired outline for the RSAP • Agree on a process for final review of the draft SoMH and RSAP • Promote and assist the development/ implementation of guidelines on species conservation and management under the SPAW Protocol framework • Develop management plans and programmes for priority species of regional concern, including those of economic importance 	<p>13-14 March 2019 Panama City, Panama</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Coordination/synergies with relevant institutions / legislations • Strengthening of protected areas in the WCR • Conservation of threatened and endangered species • Conservation and sustainable use of coastal and marine ecosystems
<p><u>2019 Annual WIDECAST Meeting</u></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To share information on implementation of the SPAW Protocol as it relates to management and conservation of sea turtles • Learn from peer experiences and facilitate networking and partnerships • Extend collaboration with regional and national coordinators of WIDECAST and develop projects 	<p>19–21 March 2019 Paramaribo, Suriname</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Coordination/synergies with relevant institutions • Conservation of threatened and endangered species
<p>4th Meeting of the Project Executive Group (PEG) for the UNDP/GEF CLME+ Project</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Contribute to the consolidation of the Regional Framework for Ocean Governance by supporting the process for the identification and adoption of a Permanent Policy Coordination Mechanism and Sustainable Financing Plan • Contribute to the development and institutionalization of the “State of the Marine Environment and associated Economies (SOMEE)” reporting mechanism • Contribute to the promotion and expansion of the global CLME+ Alliance and Partnership • Support the region in the delivery of SDG 14 and other relevant international commitments • Collaborate to harmonize coherent communication, data and information sharing, outreach and dissemination of information in the region 	<p>15-16 April 2019 Florida, USA</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Coordination/synergies with relevant institutions / legislations • Conservation and sustainable use of coastal and marine ecosystems

Meeting	Purpose	Date and Venue	Relation to Programme Objectives
Collaboration between TOF and the SPAW Protocol	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Define the thematic scope of the collaboration and develop an action plan with short term interventions Identify ways to promote the sustainability of the SPAW Protocol's Caribbean Marine Protected Areas Management Network and Forum (CaMPAM). Understand the objectives of the Carbon Trust and identify potential avenues for collaboration which will support Parties to the SPAW Protocol Dialogue with NOAA on matters relevant to the sub-programme 	1-2 May 2019 Washington, D.C., USA	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Coordination/synergies with relevant institutions / legislations
2 nd , 3 rd , and 4 th CARI'MAM Project Meetings	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Build synergies with MPA managers envisaged to support Articles 6-9 of the SPAW Protocol Share assessments and identify gaps and potential mitigation action plan on bycatch. Define the potential contents and meaning of a possible regional label for Whale Watching Share the output of regional studies and linked between the regional, national, local or marine protected area's level (scale articulation). Develop scientific surveys led in the Caribbean, research methods developed. 	8-9 May 2019 Gosier, Guadeloupe 2-3 November 2019 La Romana, Dominican Republic October/November 2020 Virtual	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Coordination/synergies with relevant institutions / legislations Strengthening of protected areas in the WCR Conservation of threatened and endangered species
<u>4th Caribaea Initiative Research and Conservation Conference</u>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Raise awareness on coastal erosion and climate change issues Develop new partnerships within the WCR Promote the work of the SPAW Secretariat 	15-17 May 2019 Santo Domingo, Dominican Republic	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Coordination/synergies with relevant institutions / legislations Conservation and sustainable use of coastal and marine ecosystems
Regional Training in Ecosystem Services Assessment and Valuation and Carbon Sequestration Workshop,	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Understand the Mapping Ocean Wealth (MOW) component of the Caribbean Regional Oceanscape Project (CROP) and its linkages to other CROP components Identify and understand coastal and marine ecosystem services (ES) and how to integrate ES into policy, coastal master planning, and marine spatial planning (MSP) development Become familiar with the MOW Data Explorer including the types of data and models that are tool inputs 	20-22 May 2019 St. Lucia,	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Coordination/synergies with relevant institutions / legislations Conservation and sustainable use of coastal and marine ecosystems

Meeting	Purpose	Date and Venue	Relation to Programme Objectives
	<p>and how products can be used for coastal master planning and MSP</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Discuss how stakeholders can engage and collaborate in the development of the MOW component of CROP. • To understand the latest scientific guidance on how terrestrial and blue carbon sequestration can be measured and utilized to promote conservation as well as restoration of ecosystems. 		
10 th SPAW / 4 th LBS COPs and 15 th COP to the Cartagena Convention	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Organise/convene the meetings according to rules of Procedure for the Cartagena Convention and its Protocols • Decisions generated to guide programme of work for the biennium 	3-6 June 2019 Roatán, Honduras	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Coordination/synergies with relevant institutions / legislations
Inception meeting for the 3 rd Phase of the ACP-MEAs Project	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Define priorities, identify actions and agree on project implementation strategies based on available resources • Review lessons learnt from previous ACP phases • Enhance ocean governance 	11-14 June 2019 Brussels, Belgium	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Coordination/synergies with relevant institutions / legislations • Enhancement of CaMPAM activities • Strengthening of protected areas in the WCR • SPAW Articles 6-11
International Meeting on the Situation of Sargassum in the Greater Caribbean	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Develop / strengthen partnerships with other agencies and stakeholders 	27 June 2019 Quintana Roo, Mexico	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Coordination/synergies with relevant institutions / legislations • Conservation of threatened and endangered species
2 nd Workshop of the MPA Networks Twinning Project	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Build synergies with Transatlantic MPA networks in Europe (Mediterranean Network of Protected Area Managers (MedPAN), West Africa Network of Marine Protected Areas (RAMPAO), North American Marine Protected Areas Network (NAMPAM), and CaMPAM)) • To foster cooperation between managers of MPAs in countries and territories around the Atlantic Ocean, thereby bringing both sides of the Atlantic together through twinning thematic projects 	16-18 July 2019 Santo Domingo, Dominican Republic	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Strengthening of protected areas in the WCR • Enhancement of CaMPAM activities • SPAW Articles 6-11

Meeting	Purpose	Date and Venue	Relation to Programme Objectives
Regional Forum on Sargassum	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Develop/strengthen partnerships with other agencies and stakeholders on the issue of Sargassum Discuss management strategies and challenges 	26 July 2019 Kingston, Jamaica	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Coordination/synergies with relevant institutions Conservation of threatened and endangered species
Workshop on the Development of a Regional Strategy for the Conservation and Restoration of Mangroves in the Mesoamerican Reef	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To identify priorities for conservation, restoration and the sustainable use of mangroves along the Mesoamerican Reef To develop inputs for the elaboration of a Regional Strategy and Action Plan for the conservation, restoration and sustainable use of the Mesoamerican Reef's mangroves 	18–20 September 2019 Guatemala City, Guatemala	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Coordination/synergies with relevant institutions / legislations Conservation and sustainable use of coastal and marine ecosystems
2 nd and 3 rd Steering Committee Meetings for CARIB-COAST project	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Assess the progress of activities under the CARIB-COAST project. 	8–10 October 2019 Kingston, Jamaica 27 November 2020 Virtual	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Coordination/synergies with relevant institutions / legislations Conservation and sustainable use of coastal and marine ecosystems
3 rd Latin America and Caribbean Congress of Protected Areas	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Evaluate and disseminate CaMPAM database for marine protected areas Communicate the results of the <u>EBM-DSS Project</u> and build synergies with other agencies and stakeholders Promote the best management practices for protected areas Evaluate and strengthen the contribution of protected areas to international conservation commitments to ensure sustainable development Strengthen and renew support for the management of protected areas 	14–17 October 2019 Lima, Peru	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Coordination/synergies with relevant institutions / legislations Enhancement of CaMPAM activities Strengthening of protected areas in the WCR SPAW Articles 6-9
1 st International Conference and Trade Show on Sargassum Management	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Develop / strengthen partnerships with other agencies and stakeholders Draft regional Sargassum Declaration Identify management strategies that sustainably address the Sargassum influx in the WCR 	24–26 October 2019 Baie-Mahault, Guadeloupe	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Coordination/synergies with relevant institutions Conservation of threatened and endangered species
3 rd CARI'MAM Project Meeting and Passive Acoustic Monitoring Training Workshop	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Support region-wide conservation initiatives for marine mammals using technology Promote synergies between marine/natural resource managers 	31 October–1 November 2019 La Romana, Dominican Republic	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Coordination/synergies with relevant institutions Conservation of threatened and endangered species

Meeting	Purpose	Date and Venue	Relation to Programme Objectives
<u>72nd Annual Conference of the Gulf and Caribbean Fisheries Institute (GCFI)</u>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Contribute and support the session on Marine Protected Areas, Science and Management • Identify and support the implementation of effective management strategies for conservation, increased resiliency, and sustainable use of coral ecosystems. • Establish partnerships and disseminate information relating to the Cartagena Convention Secretariat and its Protocols on topics such as marine protected areas, spatial planning, marine mammals, climate change, corals, marine litter and plastics. • Identify opportunities for future partnerships in the implementation of the Secretariat's 2019/2020 Work Plan with specific focus on marine litter, sargassum and marine protected area. 	4–8 November 2019 Punta Cana, Dominican Republic	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Coordination/synergies with relevant institutions/ legislations • Enhancement of CaMPAM activities • Strengthening of protected areas in the WCR • Conservation of threatened and endangered species • Conservation and sustainable use of coastal and marine ecosystems
<u>Interregional Workshop on the Use of Nuclear Technologies to Address Sargassum</u>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Present the work of the Secretariat on Sargassum • Develop / strengthen partnerships with other agencies and stakeholders • Identify management strategies that sustainably address the Sargassum influx in the WCR 	5–7 November 2019 Kingston, Jamaica	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Coordination/synergies with relevant institutions • Conservation of threatened and endangered species
Final Conference (Phase II) on Cooperation with Northern and Southern Transatlantic Dimension- MPAs and Meeting of Phase III	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To foster cooperation between managers of MPAs in countries and territories around the Atlantic Ocean • Build synergies with the current ACP-MEAs III Project implemented by the Caribbean Environment Programme (CEP) over the next 4 years 	18–20 November 2019 Brussels, Belgium	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Coordination/synergies with relevant institutions / legislations • Enhancement of CaMPAM activities • Strengthening of protected areas in the WCR • SPAW Articles 6-9
<u>34th ICRI General Meeting</u>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Share the work of the GCRMN-Caribbean node • Support the implementation of initiatives for the protection of coral reef ecosystems • Identify opportunities for collaborations / partnerships with regional and international partners. 	2–7 December 2019 Townsville, Australia,	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Coordination/synergies with relevant institutions/ legislations • Conservation and sustainable use of coastal and marine ecosystems

Meeting	Purpose	Date and Venue	Relation to Programme Objectives
1 st Coral Reef and Human Dimensions Monitoring in the Mesoamerican Reef Socio-Economic Assessment Workshop	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Support coral reef monitoring and conservation in the Mesoamerican Reef Region 	9–13 December 2019 Roatán, Honduras,	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Conservation and sustainable use of coastal and marine ecosystems
<u>GCRMN-Caribbean Steering Committee Meeting</u>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Support further development of coral reef indicators, regional assessments, data homogenization and data acquisition Bring up-to-date information since the last official steering committee meeting taking place in Mexico, 2017 and the last unofficial steering committee meeting in San Andres, 2018 during the 71st GCFI Conference. Propose and approve GCRMN's biennial work plan. Disseminate CLME+ outputs for feedback and enhancement. Disseminate the work of the Cartagena Convention Secretariat and its protocols and request support from the Ministry of Agriculture, Nature and Food Quality of the Netherlands. 	28–30 January 2020 Kralendijk, Bonaire	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Strengthening of protected areas in the WCR Conservation and sustainable use of coastal and marine ecosystems SPAW Articles 10 and 11
Global Coral Reef Monitoring Network Workshop on the Status of Coral Reefs of the World 2020	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Present the results of the data collected for the WCR and prepare the global report, which will be released in 2021 	18–20 February 2020 Bangkok, Thailand	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Coordination/synergies with relevant institutions/ legislations Conservation of threatened and endangered species Conservation and sustainable use of coastal and marine ecosystems
CLME+ Joint Project Executive Group (PEG) and 7 th SAP Interim Coordination Mechanism (ICM) Meeting	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Discussion on the way forward on matters concerning the Coordination Mechanism Review Expressions of Interest received for hosting the Secretariat of the proposed Coordination Mechanism Implementation status and main results of overall CLME+ Project Execution/the Co-Executing Agreements 	18-20 March 2020 Virtual	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Coordination/synergies with relevant institutions / legislations Conservation and sustainable use of coastal and marine ecosystems

Meeting	Purpose	Date and Venue	Relation to Programme Objectives
<p><u>Global Fund for Coral Reefs (GFCR) High-Level Event (Leveraging new finance to protect and restore the world's coral reefs)</u> of the 75th UN General Assembly</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Officially launch the GFCR • To identify potential partners/resources for coral reef conservation initiatives in the WCR especially as it relates to investment plans under the CLME+ 	<p>16 September 2020</p> <p>Virtual</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Coordination/synergies with relevant institutions/ legislations • Conservation and sustainable use of coastal and marine ecosystems
<p><u>Evolving and Sustaining Ocean Best Practices IV - Ocean Best Practices System (OBPS) Workshop (Sargassum Working Group)</u></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Address the impacts and opportunities presented by Sargassum influx events • Discuss appropriate responses and how to translate science into action • Collaboratively address best practices as well as recommendations for the OBPS to meet community needs for advanced method development in ocean observations and applications • Secretariat presentation on “<i>A Regional Perspective on the Management and Governance of Sargassum</i>” 	<p>18, 21-25 & 30 September 2020</p> <p>Virtual</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Coordination/synergies with relevant institutions • Conservation of threatened and endangered species
<p><u>4th Meeting of the WECAFC/CFMC/OSPESCA/CRFM Working Group on Spawning Aggregations</u></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Address comments on the draft Regional Fish Spawning Aggregation Fishery Management Plan (FSAFMP) • Determine actions needed to implement the Communications Strategy for Spawning Aggregations • Identify appropriate recommendations and measures for the conservation and management of parrotfish • Strengthen collaboration of the species working group with fisheries bodies 	<p>9–10 November 2020</p> <p>Virtual</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Conservation of threatened and endangered species
<p>ACP-MEAs III Stakeholders' Meeting</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Discuss the regional hubs, regional seas and FAO objectives and work, their strategic priorities, stakeholder mapping and activities in specific countries • Review the status of implementation of activities of the third phase of ACP-MEAs III, challenges and possible solutions to achieve positive results • Review the workplan and budget for planned year 2 activities • Identify complementary and synergistic activities with MEAs 	<p>17 – 18 November 2020</p> <p>Virtual</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Coordination/synergies with relevant institutions • Strengthening of protected areas in the WCR

Meeting	Purpose	Date and Venue	Relation to Programme Objectives
Global Coral Reef Partnership Steering Committee Meeting	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Revitalise the Project Steering Committee Identify potential areas for partnership 	18 November 2020 Virtual	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Coordination/synergies with relevant institutions/ legislations Conservation and sustainable use of coastal and marine ecosystems
Partners' Coordination Meeting for the Twinning Project "Cooperation and Common Strategy Between MPA Networks of Managers in the Atlantic Region"	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To foster cooperation between managers of MPAs in countries and territories around the Atlantic Ocean Review the 2020 Twinning Action Plan and the activities implemented in 2020 Identify key activities for implementation in 2021 	18 November 2020	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Coordination/synergies with relevant institutions/ legislations Strengthening of protected areas in the WCR

21. A number of webinars were also organised/attended in order to continue promoting the sub-programme and develop synergies.

22. Major webinars where significant input was provided may be found below.

Webinar	Purpose	Date	Relation to Programme Objectives
How to Use the CaMPAM Database (<u>English</u> and <u>Spanish</u>)	To orient new and existing users on how to access, use and update the CaMPAM geospatial database	28 February 2020 2 March 2020	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Strengthening of protected areas in the WCR
<u>Herbivorous fish in coral reefs: regional regulatory measures for their management</u> (Spanish) <i>Organized in collaboration with the InterAmerican Association of Environmental Defense (AIDA) – pt. 1 of 2 in series</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Present the monitoring and regulation measures in countries and regions of the WCR with respect to the conservation of herbivorous fish species which are essential to the ecological functions of coral reefs Create regional cooperation to learn about monitoring and regulatory framework experiences from those working on the conservation of coral reefs 	22 May 2020	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Strengthening of protected areas in the WCR Conservation of threatened and endangered species SPAW Articles 10 and 11
<u>Sargassum in the Caribbean and West Africa: Key Challenges, Responses and Collaboration</u> (<i>Webinar 1</i>)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Highlight key challenges, responses and collaboration of Sargassum in the context of the Caribbean and West Africa, as well as efforts of the <u>GESAMP Working Group</u> on Sargassum Build on outcomes of the <u>Sargassum International Conference</u> 	26 May 2020	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Conservation of threatened and endangered species SPAW Article 12

Webinar	Purpose	Date	Relation to Programme Objectives
<u><i>Biodiversity We're Interconnected – UNEP Caribbean: lunchtime webinar on biodiversity</i></u>	Commemorate World Environment Day and disseminate the role of the Cartagena Convention in the protection of biodiversity	27 May 2020	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Coordination/synergies with relevant institutions/ legislations • Conservation of threatened and endangered species
<u><i>Herbivorous Fish in Coral Reefs: Science and regional regulatory measures</i></u> (English) <i>Organized in collaboration AIDA – pt. 2 of webinar series</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Commemoration of the International Day for Biological Diversity • Present the monitoring and regulation measures in countries and regions of the WCR with respect to the conservation of herbivorous fish species which are essential to the ecological functions of coral reefs • Create regional cooperation to learn about monitoring and regulatory framework experiences from those working on the conservation of coral reefs (experiences were focused on the Mesoamerican Reef System, Bonaire /other territories in the Greater Caribbean Region) 	25 June 2020	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Strengthening of protected areas in the WCR • Conservation of threatened and endangered species • SPAW Articles 10 and 11
<u><i>Sargassum in the Caribbean and West Africa: Key Challenges, Responses and Collaboration (Webinar 2)</i></u>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Focus on available scientific knowledge and challenges in understanding and assessing Sargassum occurrences. • Outcomes will contribute to the development of a white paper to feed into <u>the Open Science Meeting</u>. 	21 July 2020	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Conservation of threatened and endangered species • SPAW Article 12
<u><i>Reef health and climate change impacts / Caribbean and Mesoamerican Reef Region. How are coral reefs responding to climate change? (In collaboration with Healthy Reefs Initiative)</i></u>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Present UNEP's perspective and actions on Coral Reefs and Climate Change • Disseminate the role of the SPAW Protocol in the region 	28 July 2020	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Conservation and sustainable use of coastal and marine ecosystems
<u><i>GFCR (Viewing 2) (hosted by the Reef Resilience Network)</i></u>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provide background on the fund's desired outcomes and criteria (including its innovative and growing partnerships/ and planning its implementation) • Explain the funds' blended finance model that supports businesses and finance mechanisms that improve the health and sustainability of coral reefs and associated ecosystems, • How to propose a business or coral reef site to be considered for investment. 	1 September 2020	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Coordination/synergies with relevant institutions/ legislations • Conservation and sustainable use of coastal and marine ecosystems

Webinar	Purpose	Date	Relation to Programme Objectives
<p><u>Sargassum challenges, responses, and collaboration in West Africa – (Webinar 3) Organized by UNEP’s Global Program of Action (GPA)</u></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Focus on the West Africa region, where Sargassum has negatively impacted aquatic resources, fisheries, waterway, and shorelines – share information, build knowledge, promote best practices and develop an ocean governance arrangement in combating the phenomenon in West Africa • Highlight key challenges, responses and collaborations in the context of the Caribbean and West Africa • Highlight efforts of the GESAMP Working Group on Sargassum, and build on outcomes of the <u>Sargassum International Conference</u> 	<p>22 September 2020</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Conservation of threatened and endangered species • SPAW Article 12
<p><u>Connecting Our Blue Planet: Building Ecologically Connected Marine Protected Area Networks (organized by NOAA’s National MPA Centre, IUCN Marine Connectivity Working Group, Centre for Large Landscape Conservation, and Open Communications for the Ocean (OCTO)).</u></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provide an overview of the reports from IUCN “<u>Guidelines for conserving connectivity through ecological networks and corridors</u>” and the National MPA Centre brief “<u>Ecological Connectivity for Marine Protected Areas</u>”. Serve to stimulate discussions and actions that lead to greater protection of ecological connectivity as part of marine conservation. 	<p>14 October 2020</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Strengthening of protected areas in the WCR • Coordination/synergies with relevant institutions
<p><u>Impact of massive sargassum influx on Caribbean reef systems. organized by the Florida International University.</u></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provide information on the impacts of Sargassum in the WCR. 	<p>21 October 2020</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Conservation of threatened and endangered species • SPAW Article 12
<p><u>"El Caribe Contra el Tiempo" 20 años de la Reserva de la Biosfera Seaflower</u> ("The Caribbean against time": 20 years of the Seaflower Biosphere Reserve)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sharing the role and mandate of the Secretariat/SPAW Protocol in the WCR • Collaboration with regional entities and current partners managing protected areas listed under the Protocol • Knowledge sharing on the conservation of corals in the greater Caribbean region, highlighting the SeaFlower Biosphere Reserve, Colombia. 	<p>10 November 2020</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Coordination/synergies with relevant institutions/ legislations • Conservation and sustainable use of coastal and marine ecosystems

Webinar	Purpose	Date	Relation to Programme Objectives
<u>Sargassum challenges, responses, and synergies In the Wider Caribbean Region (Webinar 4)</u>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Focus on the Caribbean and contribute to the Secretariat's White paper • Build synergies between UN agencies and stakeholders to address the issue using the integrated approach in line with the 2030 Agenda, Paris Agreement and other international multilateral agreements 	25 November 2020	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Conservation of threatened and endangered species • Coordination/synergies with relevant institutions/ legislations • SPAW Article

23. Several activities were undertaken by/or implemented in collaboration with the SPAW-RAC in Guadeloupe. See UNEP(DEPI)/CAR WG.42/INF.4 for further details.

2.1 PROGRAMME COORDINATION	
Activities	Status
Continue the listing process of Protected Areas under the SPAW Protocol with relevant Contracting Parties, as appropriate, with the web-based tool and further develop the cooperation for listed protected areas	On-going (see section 2.3 for more information)
Support SPAW in enhancing activities under CaMPAM	On-going (see section 2.2 and UNEP(DEPI)/CAR WG.42/INF.7, UNEP(DEPI), CAR WG.42/INF.7 Addendum I, UNEP(DEPI)/CAR WG.42/INF.8 UNEP(DEPI)/CAR WG.42/INF.9, for more information)
Support the implementation of the MMAP with specific emphasis on the update of the MMAP and continuation of the CARI'MAM Project with SPAW-RAC	On-going (see section 2.3 for more information) UNEP, 2008 UNEP(DEPI)/CAR WG.38/INF.10 UNEP(DEPI)/CAR WG.42/INF.28 UNEP(DEPI)/CAR WG.42/INF.29, UNEP(DEPI)/CAR WG.42/INF.29 (Addendum I), UNEP(DEPI)/CAR WG.42/INF.29 (Addendum II), UNEP(DEP)/CAR WG.42/INF.30, UNEP(DEPI)/CAR WG.42/INF.31, UNEP(DEPI)/CAR WG.42/INF.31 (Addendum I), UNEP(DEPI)/CAR WG.42/INF.31 (Addendum II), UNEP(DEPI)/CAR WG.42/INF.32, UNEP(DEPI)/CAR WG.42/INF.33 UNEP(DEPI)/CAR WG.42/INF.36
Support species conservation, with particular emphasis on sea turtles, in collaboration with WIDECAS	On-going (see section 2.3 for more information) UNEP(DEPI)/CAR WG.42 /INF.17 UNEP(DEPI)/CAR WG.42/INF.39

2.1 PROGRAMME COORDINATION	
Activities	Status
Continue to provide guidance on the use of the Guidelines to Assess Exemptions under Article 11(2)	On-going (UNEP(DEPI)/CAR WG.38/3 Rev.1 and UNEP(DEPI)/CAR IG.37/3) UNEP(DEPI)/CAR WG.42/INF.21
Continue to cooperate with relevant institutions on the Invasive Alien Species (IAS) issue, as well as with the relevant partners to assess and merge information and best practices on combating the <i>Sargassum</i> influx	On-going (see section 2.3 for more information) UNEP(DEPI)/CAR WG.40/INF.8 UNEP(DEPI)/CAR WG.42/INF.34
Continue the process of review of the species listed under Annexes I-III of the SPAW Protocol, in collaboration with relevant organisations as appropriate	On-going UNEP(DEPI)/CAR WG.42/INF.15 UNEP(DEPI)/CAR WG.42/INF.24 (Addenda 1 – 5)
Prepare and disseminate quarterly releases of the SPAW newsletter and as well as Notification to SPAW Parties on status of activities, and regularly update the SPAW-RAC website with information on, and the outputs of, SPAW activities, all in English, Spanish and French	On-going
Participate in and/or support regional projects of relevance for the SPAW Workplan	On-going
Promotion of the SPAW Protocol and its objectives to assist with further developments as mandated by the Parties, fundraising and the ratification by non-Parties	On-going
Support the preparation and translation of documents for the 9 th Scientific and Technical Advisory Committee (STAC9) Meeting under the Protocol	Completed

2.1.2 Sub-Programme Outputs

24. The major outputs of Programme Coordination were:

Outputs	Indicators of Achievement	
<u>10th Meeting of the SPAW Contracting Parties convened</u>	Successfully convened with appropriate decisions and recommendations made to support the protection of important coastal and marine habitats and threatened species of wild fauna and flora.	Completed 3 June 2019
A strategic and streamlined 2019-2020 SPAW Workplan developed	Comprehensive Workplan developed that included wide-ranging, inclusive and sustainable activities to meet SPAW objectives.	Completed (UNEP(DEPI)/CAR WG.40/5 Rev.1)
Funds raised in support of SPAW objectives	Increased number of collaborations with partner organizations/countries and donor agencies for the successful implementation of SPAW projects attained e.g. TOF.	On-going
Enhanced participation of donors and relevant funding agencies in SPAW activities		On-going

Outputs	Indicators of Achievement	
<p>Collaborations and synergies with relevant organizations and initiatives within and outside the region</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • MoU/Cs concluded with TOF and Mar Fund. • MoUs with the IWC, OSPAR and INVEMAR prepared 	Increased number of regional and international collaborations and initiatives developed that facilitated data sharing, environmental education and awareness, and capacity building.	On-going Particularly with the CBD, CITES, CMS, CERMES, CFRM, IUCN-Regional Office for Mexico, Central America and the Caribbean (IUCN-ORMACC), GCFI, GCRMN/ICRI, FAO-WECAFC, UNODC, OSPAR Commission
Greater involvement by Governments in SPAW activities and additional Parties joining the SPAW Protocol.	Ongoing discussions with non-Contracting Parties to ratify the SPAW Protocol.	On-going Efforts increased with Guatemala, Costa Rica and Mexico
<u>Creation of Ad Hoc Expert Working Groups on Species, Protected Areas, Exemptions and Sargassum</u>	Regional experts have been nominated for 4 Ad Hoc Working Groups.	On-going <i>UNEP(DEPI)/CAR WG.42/INF.12</i> <i>UNEP(DEPI)/CAR WG.42/INF.12 (Addendum 1),</i> <i>UNEP(DEPI)/CAR WG.42/INF.21</i>

25. The Secretariat continued to coordinate and cooperate, as feasible, with other initiatives and projects relevant to coastal and marine ecosystems in the region, including:

- The BEST 2.0 Caribbean Hub Programme led by the SPAW-RAC, ended in December 2019. The project, which was funded through a facility supported by the European Commission, aimed to pilot an innovative financing mechanism for biodiversity conservation and sustainable development in the European Union Overseas Countries and Territories (OCTs) for small/medium-scale field activities on the ground.

2.1.3 Sub-Programme Budget

26. The costs associated with the coordination of the SPAW Sub-Programme were as follows:

Activity	2019			2020		
	CTF	Other Sources*	Total Raised	CTF	Other Sources*	Total Raised
Salaries / Operational Costs **	196,219	467,311	663,530	196,219	533,852	730,071
COP and STAC preparations (including travel)	0	0	0	0	15,000	15,000
TOTAL (USD)	196,219	467,311	663,530	196,219	548,852	745,071

*Includes funds from capacity building related to Multilateral Environmental Agreements in African, Caribbean and Pacific (ACP) Countries – Phase III (ACP-MEA)

** Includes funds from the French Government and the European Union through CARI'MAM and Carib-Coast projects

2.2 Strengthening of Protected Areas in the Wider Caribbean Region

27. The objectives of this sub-programme are to:

- (a) Strengthen the management of parks and protected areas of the WCR, including the communication between parks and protected areas within the region;
- (b) Assist Governments and Non-Government Organisations (NGOs) with the development of human capacity to increase the effectiveness of MPAs, both sites and national systems;
- (c) Sensitize Governments of the need and importance of financing protected areas, and to promote the development of funding mechanisms and strategies for successful park and protected area management; and
- (d) Promote protected areas in the context of the conservation of important natural resources necessary for the sustainable development of the region.

2.2.1 Status of Sub-Programme Activities

28. During the reporting period, activities were implemented through a number of projects approved under the SPAW sub-programme which aimed to strengthen capacity building initiatives in MPAs throughout the WCR. The period also marked substantial changes to the management and operation of CaMPAM which included the resignation of Ms. Georgina Bustamante as coordinator (now overseen by the SPAW Programme Officer), and steps to enhance and assess the network's effectiveness with funding from the ACP-MEAs III project. The initiatives implemented, and the activities conducted, are described below.

29. Strengthening of MPAs under CaMPAM was addressed through the implementation of the EBM-DSS project (UNEP(DEPI)/CAR WG.42/INF.13). The €1,350,000 four (4) year project (2015-2019 and extended to April 2020) was funded by the Directorate for the Environment within Italy's Ministry of Foreign Affairs, with an overall objective to "*enhance the livelihoods of the populations of the WCR by contributing to the conservation and sustainable management of coastal and marine biodiversity through the application of the EBM approach*". Other initiatives concluded during the biennium included:

- Evaluation and restructuring of the CaMPAM database which was officially launched at the Third Latin America and Caribbean Congress of Protected Areas (14–17 October 2019) in Lima, Peru. The database originally consisted of 320 MPAs from 33 Caribbean countries and territories, and has now been updated to include data on 1069 MPAs from 44 countries (along with two (2) webinars in early 2020 to guide access and navigation). Further updates and improvements continue under the ACP-MEAs III project which, once completed (*see supporting activities below*), will enable utilization by the MPA community and marine resource managers throughout the WCR, capturing a wider array of data while providing a comprehensive profile of each MPA. It will also complement similar initiatives within the wider UNEP-World Conservation Monitoring Centre (UNEP-WCMC) via the launch of its Protected Planet and UN List of Protected Areas which facilitates global access and visibility to SPAW Protected Areas.
- Conclusion of the Project Cooperation Agreement (PCA) with the Ministry of Environment and Natural Resources of the Dominican Republic (MARENA) (signed in September 2016 for USD350,000) for the implementation of activities relating to the application of the ecosystem-based approach to two (2) selected pilot sites (Montecristi and Puerto Plata), representing two (2) distinct areas – Montecristi was identified as an important fisheries site and Puerto Plata was recognised for its focus on tourism. The project aimed to apply Decision Support System (DSS) methodology and tools for the two (2) sites, in consultation with stakeholders in order to: 1) generate a management plan for each area; 2) update existing plans as required; and 3) enhance capacities to integrate EBM tools and concepts within management through trainings and technical assistance. Four (4) EBM cards summarizing priority actions for each of the sites were produced along with a user manual for future applications, and capacity building training workshops convened for stakeholders. An analysis of the EBM cards produced for each site resulted in the development of management options for at least two (2) ecosystems in each area and included an analysis of the ecosystems' current state and changes over time, and priority actions for monitoring, conservation and evaluation/feedback.

- Establishment of the EBM-DSS regional nodes for English and Dutch-speaking countries via two (2) Small Scale Funding Agreements (SSFAs) with: 1) CERMES identified as the lead institution for the English-speaking node (2017-2019 for USD126,500); 2) the Royal Netherlands Institute for Sea Research (NWO-I) identified for the Dutch Caribbean Islands (2019-2020, for USD131,775). Discussions are ongoing for the establishment of a regional node for Spanish-speaking countries.
 - Social media campaign launched in May 2019, in collaboration with the Secretariat's Communication, Education, Training and Awareness Sub-Programme (CETA) to highlight the importance of marine biodiversity and the work done under the EBM-DSS project. This was in response to a recommendation made during a special project session held on the eve of SPAW STAC8 (Panama City, Panama, December 2018) to "*Make noise about EBM-DSS by enhancing social media use and dissemination with due regard to linking dissemination to policy decision fora/meetings of importance to the region and globally*". Further dialogue was facilitated via the Teamwork platform monitored by the SPAW-RAC.
 - Participation at the 72nd Annual Conference of the Gulf and Caribbean Fisheries Institute (Punta Cana, Dominican Republic 4-8 November 2019) with sponsorship for the attendance and participation of one (1) participant. Nine (9) oral presentations were also made during the session on MPAs.
30. MPA capacity building initiatives have continued under the recently launched ACP-MEAs III project via specific activities focused on developing a functional network of SPAW-listed protected areas that cover interconnected marine habitats. Activities implemented thus far through work from a team of consultants include:
- Steps to establish a SPAW MPAs Networking Group to lead the inter-regional network of MPAs through a coordination mechanism for MPA management effectiveness and improved MPA networking (including CaMPAM enhancement). The first coordination meeting with identified MPA regional network stakeholders (NOAA, MPACConnect, BIOPAMA, the SPAW-RAC) and other experts on MPA networks was held virtually in September 2020 and provided a platform for suggestions on how to restructure CaMPAM through an assessment of its effectiveness and ensure its financial sustainability. The suggested measures will be presented during the STAC9 and COP11 meetings for recommendations and potential endorsement (*UNEP(DEPI)/CAR WG.42/INF.7 Addendum 1* and *UNEP(DEPI)/CAR WG.42/INF.8*). The decision was also made to integrate with the current working group established for PAs under the Protocol (which already included most of these experts). The second experts meeting (November 2020) facilitated follow-up discussions on the way forward within the parameters of the MPA working group towards establishing this functional network and further review of the draft CaMPAM assessment.
 - Development of a plan to link SPAW-listed MPAs based on the ecological connectivity between the sites. A report on ecological connectivity in the Caribbean and a proposal to form a network to conserve and enhance the connectivity have been drafted and circulated within the MPA working group for further feedback and will be presented for endorsement at STAC9 (*see UNEP(DEPI)/CAR WG.42/INF.10*). Additional outputs which have since been completed include: 1) a Protected Areas Management Effectiveness (PAME) report containing tables, charts and narrative for the 35 SPAW Listed PAs (including survey/responses) (*UNEP(DEPI)/CAR WG.42/INF.19*); 2) A report with an analysis of proposed species for inclusion within the proposed ecological network development for the SPAW Listed PAs and the Gulf of Mexico (GoM) MPAs; 3) SPAW MPA booklet (*UNEP(DEPI)/CAR WG.42/INF.18*) and protected areas brochure; and 4) a Caribbean MPA Network brochure.
31. Support continues to be provided for the project "*Cooperation and Common Strategy Between MPA Networks of Managers in the Atlantic Region (Networks twinning)*". The project aims to build partnerships between managers of MPAs throughout the Atlantic and contribute to better MPA management effectiveness for improved conservation of marine ecosystems. Project partners include CaMPAM, MedPan, RAMPAO, NAMPAM, the French Agency for Biodiversity and the Biodiversity Foundation in Spain.

32. Several activities were undertaken/supported with funding from the EMB-DSS and ACP -MEA III projects as outlined below:

2.2 STRENGTHENING OF PROTECTED AREAS IN THE WIDER CARIBBEAN REGION	
Activities	Status
Support MPA technical session at GCFI / MPAs participation	<p>Completed</p> <p>One person's attendance was sponsored, and nine (9) presentations were made during the MPA session of the 72nd GCFI Conference. 4–8 November 2019, Punta Cana, Dominican Republic.</p>
Restructuring of the CaMPAM Regional Database	<p>Completed for 2019-2020 biennium</p> <p>Through the EBM-DSS project, the CaMPAM database was converted from an Excel spreadsheet to an online interactive map which allows stakeholders to upload videos, photos, and audio files. The database is also capable of generating reports and statistics. The launch of the database occurred at the 3rd Latin America and Caribbean Congress of Protected Areas, 14–17 October 2019 in Lima, Peru.</p> <p>In progress for 2021-2022 biennium</p> <p>Enhancements to the new platform along with the <u>toolbox</u> continue under the ACP-MEA III project.</p>
Technical assistance for strengthening MPAs	<p>Completed for 2019-2020 biennium</p> <p>Under the EBM-DSS project, two (2) DSS pilot projects in Montecristi and Puerto Plata, Dominican Republic were concluded, with the development of management options for at least two (2) ecosystems at each site.</p> <p>EBM-DSS regional nodes developed for the English and Dutch-Speaking Caribbean. The establishment of a Spanish-speaking node is still underway with the planned Phase 2 of the project.</p> <p>In progress for 2021-2022 biennium</p> <p>Under the ACP-MEAs III project, five (5) MPAs listed under the SPAW Protocol will be assessed. The assessments will detail the capacity building needs within these MPAs.</p>
Support national MPA initiatives and efforts	<p>On-going</p> <p>CaMPAM continues to contribute, as feasible, to national MPA initiatives related to marine conservation science, management and policy, and exchanges that improve MPA effectiveness and in support of SPAW Protocol objectives. It also continues to improve the electronic CaMPAM List with 1000 subscribers (now moderated by SPAW-RAC) and drawing upon the members of the CaMPAM Expert Group to enhance the network and its capacity building programme.</p> <p>This will be further strengthened under the ACP-MEAs III project through capacity building support based on the identification of specific MPA needs. CaMPAM will also be better equipped to address MPA needs once the recommendations identified under its effectiveness assessment are implemented.</p>

33. Through CaMPAM and/or SPAW-RAC the following meetings were attended and/or supported to enhance coordination with partners and explore synergies with regards to strengthening protected areas:

Meeting	Purpose	Date and Venue	Relation to Programme Objectives
<p><u>2nd Regional Workshop on Development of the Report on the SoMH and RSAP in the CLME+”</u></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Agree on key criteria to guide focus and scope of these reports • Define the key target audiences, uses and desired outline for the RSAP • Agree on a process for final review of the draft SoMH and RSAP • Promote and assist the development/ implementation of guidelines on species conservation and management under the SPAW Protocol framework • Develop management plans and programmes for priority species of regional concern, including those of economic importance 	<p>13-14 March 2019 Panama City, Panama</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Coordination/synergies with relevant institutions / legislations • Strengthening of protected areas in the WCR • Conservation of threatened and endangered species
<p>2nd, 3rd, and 4th CARI’MAM Project Meetings</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Build synergies with MPA managers envisaged to support Articles 6-9 of the SPAW Protocol and initiate the implementation of ACP-MEAs III project/identify stakeholders and countries for participation • Provide feedback on the CARI’MAM project, including the scientific surveys led in the Caribbean, research methods developed, and the workshops dedicated to awareness raising and the identification of management tools • Promote synergies with stakeholders for Geospatial Planning specific to marine mammals under the <u>EBM-DSS Project</u> 	<p>8–9 May 2019 Gosier, Guadeloupe</p> <p>2–3 November 2019 La Romana, Dominican Republic</p> <p>29 October–26 November 2020 Virtual</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Coordination/synergies with relevant institutions / legislations • Strengthening of protected areas in the WCR • Conservation of threatened and endangered species

Meeting	Purpose	Date and Venue	Relation to Programme Objectives
Inception meeting for the 3 rd Phase of the ACP-MEAs Project	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Define priorities, identify actions and agree on project implementation strategies based on available resources • Review lessons learnt from previous ACP phases • Enhance ocean governance 	11–14 June 2019 Brussels, Belgium	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Coordination/synergies with relevant institutions / legislations • Enhancement of CaMPAM activities • Strengthening of protected areas in the WCR • SPAW Articles 6-11
2 nd Workshop of the MPA Networks Twinning Project	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Build synergies with Transatlantic MPA networks in Europe (Mediterranean Network of Protected Area Managers (MedPAN), West Africa Network of Marine Protected Areas (RAMPAO), North American Marine Protected Areas Network (NAMPAM), and CaMPAM)) • To foster cooperation between managers of MPAs in countries and territories around the Atlantic Ocean, thereby bringing both sides of the Atlantic together through twinning thematic projects 	16–18 July 2019 Santo Domingo, Dominican Republic	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Strengthening of protected areas in the WCR • Enhancement of CaMPAM activities • SPAW Articles 6-11
<u>3rd Latin America and Caribbean Congress of Protected Areas</u>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Evaluate and disseminate the CaMPAM database for marine protected areas • Communicate the results of the EBM-DSS project and build synergies with other agencies and stakeholders • Promote the best management practices for protected areas • Evaluate and strengthen the contribution of protected areas to international conservation commitments to ensure sustainable development • Strengthen and renew support for the management of protected areas 	14–17 October 2019 Lima, Peru	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Coordination/synergies with relevant institutions / legislations • Implementation of CaMPAM activities and Workplan • Strengthening of Protected Areas in the WCR • SPAW Articles 6-9

Meeting	Purpose	Date and Venue	Relation to Programme Objectives
<p>The 72nd Annual GCFI Meeting – <i>technical sessions on MPAs Science / Management</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Contribute and support the session on Marine Protected Areas, Science and Management • Identify and support the implementation of effective management strategies for conservation, increased resiliency, and sustainable use of coral ecosystems. • Establish partnerships and disseminate information relating to the Cartagena Convention Secretariat and its Protocols on topics such as marine protected areas, spatial planning, marine mammals, climate change, corals, marine litter and plastics. • Identify opportunities for future partnerships in the implementation of the Secretariat’s 2019/2020 Work Plan with specific focus on marine litter, sargassum and marine protected area. 	<p>4–8 November 2019 Punta Cana, Dominican Republic</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Coordination/synergies with relevant institutions • Implementation of CaMPAM activities and Workplan • Strengthening of protected areas in the WCR • Conservation and sustainable use of coastal and marine ecosystems
<p>Final Conference (Phase II) on Cooperation with Northern and Southern Transatlantic Dimension-MPAs and Meeting of Phase III</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To foster cooperation between managers of MPAs in countries and territories around the Atlantic Ocean • Build synergies with the current ACP-MEAs III Project implemented by the Caribbean Environment Programme (CEP) over the next 4 years 	<p>18–20 November 2019 Brussels, Belgium</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Coordination/synergies with relevant institutions / legislations • Enhancement of CaMPAM activities • Strengthening of protected areas in the WCR • SPAW Articles 6-9
<p><u>GCRMN-Caribbean Steering Committee Meeting</u></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Support further development of coral reef indicators, regional assessments, data homogenization and data acquisition • Provide updates since the last official steering committee meeting (Mexico, 2017) and the last unofficial steering committee meeting (San Andres, 2018) • Propose and approve GCRMN’s biennial work plan 	<p>28–30 January 2020 Kralendijk, Bonaire</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Strengthening of protected areas in the WCR • Conservation and sustainable use of coastal and marine ecosystems • SPAW Articles 10 and 11

Meeting	Purpose	Date and Venue	Relation to Programme Objectives
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Disseminate CLME+ outputs' Report on SoMH and RSAP for feedback and enhancement. • Disseminate the work of the Secretariat and its protocols and request support from the Ministry of Agriculture, Nature and Food Quality of the Netherlands 		
<p>Technical workshop for the implementation of a regional EBM-DSS node in the Dutch Caribbean</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Improve MPA management capacity within the Dutch Caribbean • Enhance MPA management synergy within the WCR 	<p>17–21 February 2020 Sint Maarten</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Promotion of SPAW/CaMPAM and the EBM-DSS Project with a view of furthering existing cooperation • Coordination/synergies with relevant institutions • Strengthening of protected areas in the WCR
<p>ACP-MEAs III Stakeholders' Meeting</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Discuss the regional hubs, regional seas and FAO objectives and work, their strategic priorities, stakeholder mapping and activities in specific countries • Review the status of implementation of activities of the third phase of ACP-MEAs III, challenges and possible solutions to achieve positive results • Review the workplan and budget for planned year 2 activities • Identify complementary and synergistic activities with MEAs 	<p>17 – 18 November 2020 Virtual</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Coordination/synergies with relevant institutions • Strengthening of protected areas in the WCR
<p>Partners' Coordination Meeting for the Twinning Project "Cooperation and Common Strategy Between MPA Networks of Managers in the Atlantic Region"</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To foster cooperation between managers of MPAs in countries and territories around the Atlantic Ocean • Review the 2020 Twinning Action Plan and the activities implemented in 2020 • Identify key activities for implementation in 2021 	<p>18 November 2020 Virtual</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Coordination/synergies with relevant institutions/ legislations • Strengthening of protected areas in the WCR

34. Through CaMPAM and/or SPAW-RAC the following webinars were attended and/or supported to enhance coordination with partners and explore synergies with regards to strengthening protected areas:

Webinar	Purpose	Date	Relation to Programme Objectives
<u>How to Use the CaMPAM Database (English Version)</u>	To orient new and existing users on how to access, use and update the CaMPAM geospatial database	28 February 2020	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Strengthening of protected areas in the WCR
<u>How to Use the CaMPAM Database (Spanish Version)</u>	To orient new and existing users on how to access, use and update the CaMPAM geospatial database	2 March 2020	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Strengthening of protected areas in the WCR
<u>Herbivorous fish in coral reefs: regional regulatory measures for their management</u> (Spanish) <i>Organized in collaboration with the InterAmerican Association of Environmental Defense (AIDA) – pt. 1 of 2 in series</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Present the monitoring and regulation measures in countries and regions of the WCR with respect to the conservation of herbivorous fish species which are essential to the ecological functions of coral reefs Create regional cooperation to learn about monitoring and regulatory framework experiences from those working on the conservation of coral reefs 	22 May 2020	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Strengthening of protected areas in the WCR Conservation of threatened and endangered species SPAW Articles 10 and 11
<u>Herbivorous Fish in Coral Reefs: Science and regional regulatory measures</u> (English) <i>Organized in collaboration AIDA – pt. 2 of webinar series</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Commemoration of the International Day for Biological Diversity Present the monitoring and regulation measures in countries and regions of the WCR with respect to the conservation of herbivorous fish species which are essential to the ecological functions of coral reefs Create regional cooperation to learn about monitoring and regulatory framework experiences from those working on the conservation of coral reefs (experiences were focused on the Mesoamerican Reef System, Bonaire /other territories in the Greater Caribbean Region) 	25 June 2020	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Strengthening of protected areas in the WCR Conservation of threatened and endangered Species SPAW Articles 10 and 11
<u>Connecting Our Blue Planet: Building Ecologically Connected Marine Protected Area Networks</u> (organized by NOAA's National MPA Centre, IUCN Marine Connectivity Working Group, Centre for Large Landscape Conservation, and OCTO).	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Provide an overview of the reports from IUCN "<u>Guidelines for conserving connectivity through ecological networks and corridors</u>" and the National MPA Centre brief "<u>Ecological Connectivity for Marine Protected Areas</u>". Serve to stimulate discussions and actions that lead to greater protection of ecological connectivity as part of marine conservation. 	14 October 2020	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Strengthening of protected areas in the WCR Coordination/synergies with relevant institutions

2.2.2 Sub-Programme Outputs

35. The major outputs of this sub-programme are:

Outputs	Indicators of Achievement	
Improved CaMPAM delivery and management capacity in several MPAs of the WCR	Increased number of MPA practitioners presenting at/ attending the MPA Science and Management session at GCFI.	On-going Attendance facilitated on an annual basis
Improved dissemination of information on marine conservation science and management within the region	Increased number of MPA practitioners, policy makers, scientists and other stakeholders engaging with, and contributing to the CaMPAM internet forum and MPA database, as well as other regional and international initiatives that facilitate information sharing.	On-going Contribution to the new CaMPAM MPA database by MPA practitioners. Regional DSS application and development continues in the Dutch Caribbean, and efforts to identify a lead institution for the Spanish-speaking Caribbean. Implementation of recommendations to improve CaMPAM.
Stronger relationships and collaborations between MPA practitioners, scientists, fishers, other stakeholders, as well as with international/regional experts	Increased participation in activities designed to support and strengthen PA management throughout the WCR.	On-going Restructuring of CaMPAM and its database will allow for improved data sharing. Transformation of the Training of Trainers (ToT) and small grants programme under the ACP-MEAs III project.

2.2.3 Sub-Programme Budget

36. The costs associated with the implementation of activities under this sub-programme were:

2019			2020		
CTF Raised	Other *	Total Raised	CTF Raised	Other **	Total Raised
0	7,402	7,402	0	64,600	64,600

* Includes funds from the Government of Italy under the EBM-DSS Project

**Includes funds from capacity building related to Multilateral Environmental Agreements in African, Caribbean and Pacific (ACP) Countries -Phase III (ACP- MEA)

*and ** Includes funds from the French Government

2.3 Development of Guidelines for Protected Areas and Species Management

37. The objectives of this sub-programme are to:

- (a) Promote and assist with the development and implementation of the guidelines on protected area establishment, management, and listing developed under the framework of the SPAW Protocol;

- (b) Promote national system planning for protected areas as a mechanism for the development of relevant legislation and reporting mechanisms; and
- (c) Promote and assist the development and implementation of guidelines on species conservation and management under the framework of the SPAW Protocol.

2.3.1 Status of Sub-Programme Activities

38. Several activities were undertaken by and/or implemented in collaboration with the SPAW-RAC in Guadeloupe (see *UNEP(DEPI)/CAR WG.42/INF.4 for further details*). The activities implemented during 2019-2020 to meet these objectives included:

- Following SPAW STAC8, Terms of Reference (ToR) were finalised for the SPAW STAC Ad Hoc Working Groups in July 2019 (protected areas for listing; evaluation of species for listing under the annexes; exemptions to the Protocol; and Sargassum influx). The ToR provides the framework under which the four working groups will operate (see *UNEP(DEPI)/CAR WG.42 /INF.12*).

This resulted in the revitalisation of the Working Groups and nomination of regional experts according to the rules of the finalized ToR. Each Party was invited to nominate up to two (2) experts in each group and Observers were invited to nominate one (1) expert.

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

2.3 DEVELOPMENT OF GUIDELINES FOR PROTECTED AREAS AND SPECIES MANAGEMENT	
Activities	Status
Additional protected areas listed under SPAW using the revised Annotated Format which was presented by STAC7.	<p>Completed</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Following the call launched by the Secretariat in 2018/2019 for Parties to nominate additional sites for listing, <u>there are now 35 Protected Areas listed under the SPAW Protocol</u>, after the inclusion of the Kaw-Roura and Amana National Nature Reserves(French Guyana), and Mount Scenery National Park (Saba Island in the Caribbean Netherlands) following adoption during COP10. • The process of listing PAs is made easy for managers since they are able to create a presentation report using the interface <u>on the SPAW-RACs website (http://palisting.car-spaw-rac.org/)</u>. • A brochure in <u>English, Spanish and French</u> on the SPAW listing process and <u>updated maps</u> of SPAW listed MPA sites are available to assist Parties with the submission of their reports.

2.3 DEVELOPMENT OF GUIDELINES FOR PROTECTED AREAS AND SPECIES MANAGEMENT	
Activities	Status
Listing process and revitalization of cooperation programme for Protected Areas under the SPAW Protocol	<p>On-going</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Work continues on this initiative, encouraging future submission of MPAs by Parties, as well as resubmission of previous MPAs with additional information to the process. • The revitalization of the Ad Hoc Working Group for protected areas will assist with the review of proposed protected areas for listing. • Implementation of the ACP-MEAs III project will support the creation of a functional network of SPAW-listed protected areas
Support the use of the voluntary format for presenting exemptions under Article 11(2) by Contracting Parties and reporting on their implementation – following its finalization and adoption by COP9 (<i>available in <u>English</u>, <u>Spanish</u>, <u>French</u></i>)	<p>On-going</p> <p>Further to COP10 decision to encourage Parties <u>to report exemptions</u> in a format that includes the required/relevant information.</p> <p>(See UNEP(DEPI)/CAR WG.38/3 Rev.1 for details)</p>
Application of the criteria for listing species in the Annexes to the Protocol	<p>On-going</p> <p>The status of species, or groups of species, and the assessment of species have continued in collaboration with the IUCN's Red List for the Caribbean to allow for any necessary modifications to the list, should species' status change (See UNEP(DEPI)/CAR WG.42/4 for details).</p>

2.3.2 Sub-Programme Outputs

39. The major outputs of this sub-programme are:

Output	Indicators of Achievement
An updated list of protected areas under the SPAW Protocol	<p>Completed for 2019-2020 biennium</p> <p>In progress for 2021-2022 biennium</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A call to Parties for the listing of additional protected areas done during the biennium. • <u>Development of a CaMPAM – MPA profile form using a toolbox supported under the ACP-MEAs III</u> <p><i>Proposed PAs will be reviewed at STAC9 with recommendations made for their listing by COP11.</i> (See UNEP(DEPI)/CAR WG.42/5)</p>

Output	Indicators of Achievement
Reports from Parties using the voluntary Format for presenting exemptions under Article 11(2), and reporting on their implementation	<p>Completed for 2019-2020 biennium</p> <p>In progress for 2021-2022 biennium</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Consideration of exemption reports submitted by Parties at STAC9 and COP11 as appropriate. <p>(See UNEP(DEPI)/CAR WG.42/6)</p>
A revised list of protected species under Annexes I-III of the SPAW Protocol	<p>Completed for 2019-2020 biennium</p> <p>The species Working Group has prepared a draft short list of species proposed for protection under the SPAW Protocol – to be presented to STAC 9 for review and for Parties to consider approval for inclusion in the Annexes by COP11 as appropriate.</p> <p>(See UNEP(DEPI)/CAR WG.42/INF.15, UNEP(DEPI)/CAR WG.42/INF.24 (Addenda 1-5))</p>

2.3.3 Sub-Programme Budget

40. The costs associated with the implementation of activities under this sub-programme were:

2019			2020		
CTF Raised	Other *	Total Raised	CTF Raised	Other *	Total Raised
0	0	0	0	39,000	39,000

*Includes funds from the French Government

2.4 Conservation of Threatened and Endangered Species

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

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

2.4.1 Status of Sub-Programme Activities

42. In keeping with decisions by the Contracting Parties and available funding, activities concerning the MMAP and the Sargassum influx were prioritised. New partnerships and areas of focus were fostered during the biennium specific to other emerging issues such as those concerning the conservation of herbivorous fish (especially the Parrotfish). Funding was not available to adequately support sea turtle conservation activities, which the Protocol hopes will improve for the new biennium.

43. Support for the implementation of the MMAP has included efforts to conclude an MoU with the IWC to facilitate enhanced cooperation relating to collaboration on research, prevention of, and response to, anthropogenic threats (such as, but not limited to, small-scale fishery bycatch [especially IWC's Bycatch Mitigation Initiative (BMI)], whale watching guidelines, ship strikes, strandings and entanglement response/training). The agreement is still under review for signature and dialogue will continue in this regard.
44. Additional activities for the MMAP were largely supported under the EU funded CARI'MAM project, headed by the AGOA Sanctuary and the French Biodiversity Agency (*see document UNEP(DEPI)/CAR WG.42/INF.28*). The project was slated to end in 2020 but has been extended for an additional year. Initiatives implemented under the project during the 2019-2020 biennium included:

- **Assessment of initiatives implemented under the MMAP** – an analysis of the activities implemented under the MMAP, since its approval in 2008 was commissioned to assess current threats to marine mammals in the region, evaluate the progress of Parties towards achieving the objectives of the MMAP, and provide recommendations for enhanced regional cooperation (*see UNEP(DEPI)/CAR WG.42/INF.29*).
- **Synthesis report on the national regulations for marine mammals in the Caribbean and regional study/tracking tool to increase the consideration of marine mammals in the MPA management plans** – focal points across countries were contacted to assess current national legislations for marine mammals in WCR. The SPAW RAC also participated in the development of a tracking tool for use by regional MPA managers with responsibilities for marine mammals. The tool and its user manual was shared with more than 400 MPA managers and government representatives in the WCR. The tool was also shared on the CaMPAM network and the Teamwork platform of the CARI'MAM project (*see UNEP(DEPI)/CAR WG.42/INF.29 (Addendum 2) and UNEP(DEPI)/CAR WG.42/INF.30*).
- **Implementation of the passive acoustic monitoring programme** – the CARI'MAM project, in collaboration with countries/territories across the WCR and the University of Toulon, will be deploying twenty (20) hydrophones to provide a year-long assessment of marine mammals and ambient noises within the region. Countries participating in this initiative include Bermuda, The Bahamas, Jamaica, the Dominican Republic, Saint Martin, Saint Barthélemy, the Turks and Caicos Islands, Sint Eustatius, Guadeloupe, Martinique, Barbados, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Bonaire and Aruba. A preliminary study was conducted in 2019 with two (2) hydrophones deployed in St. Barthélemy and Saba for continuous recording sessions over ten (10)-days. A Passive Acoustic Monitoring training workshop was also held with project partners between 31 October – 1 November 2019 in La Romana, Dominican Republic to provide technical training on the use of the hydrophones before their deployment. While hydrophone deployment across the region was originally slated for January 2020, this was postponed until December 2020.
- **Support collaborations and capacity building within the WCR** – the 2nd, 3rd and 4th Meetings of the CARI'MAM network were held 8–9 May 2019 (Gosier, Guadeloupe), 2–3 November 2019 (La Romana, Dominican Republic) and October/November 2020 (virtually), respectively. The meetings brought together researchers, government, and non-government representatives to discuss marine mammal research initiatives across the region. Further capacity building support and collaborations continue with the establishment of a Teamwork platform for the CARI'MAM network to share documents, as well as a LinkedIn and WhatsApp group to facilitate ongoing discussions.

As a result of COVID-19 the 4th CARI'MAM workshop was held remotely over a one (1) month period between 29 October–26 November 2020. Various topics were discussed each week with presentations posted for review, followed by a two (2) hour online discussion later in the week. Topics discussed included knowledge acquisition and scientific monitoring; threats, protection and awareness raising; marine mammal watching; MPAs and management plans; and outlooks and expectations for the Caribbean marine mammal network. The meeting enabled the participation of regional MPA/sanctuary managers and scientists, along with international organisations (e.g. IWC and IUCN).

- **Poster presentation at the 72nd Annual Gulf and Caribbean Fisheries Institute Conference, 4–8 November 2019, Punta Cana, Dominican Republic.** The poster presented at the conference outlined the projects currently being implemented and the project's next steps.

- **Launch of “Marine Mammal Month” social media campaign** – the campaign took place during the month of May 2020 and was designed to raise awareness on threats to marine mammals, particularly those listed under the Annexes of the SPAW Protocol, and to highlight the Secretariat’s conservation initiatives to protect these species. Posts were made on various social media platforms (Facebook, [Twitter](#) and [Instagram](#)) using the hashtag *#marinemammalsmatter* and highlighted various themes (e.g. species characteristics/distribution, and the social, cultural, economic and ecological roles of marine mammals throughout the WCR).
 - **Creation of a regional whale watching label** – in accordance with the MMAP, [the 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.34/INF.9) and the Workplan and Budget for the SPAW Sub-programme (2019-2020) (UNEP(DEPI)/CAR WG.40/5 Rev.1), a regional whale watching label (certification) will be created to identify sustainable whale watching operators with good practices. This will help encourage and facilitate the creation of a sustainable whale watching industry within the WCR (*see UNEP(DEPI)/CAR WG.42/INF.31 (Addendum 1)*).
45. As per the 2019-2020 Workplan, the Secretariat supported initiatives to address the management of Sargassum throughout the WCR. To that end, the Sargassum Ad Hoc Working Group was launched in March 2020 and the Secretariat’s White Paper (*UNEP(DEPI)/CAR WG.40/INF8 Rev.1*) continues to be updated and disseminated. There has also been increased synergies with the Abidjan Convention Secretariat and through cross-linkages with the Secretariat’s Assessment and Management of Environment Pollution (AMEP) Sub-programme and Integrating Water, Land and Ecosystems Management in Caribbean Small Island Developing States (IWeco) project to support in-depth research (e.g. the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) focused on a current overview of Sargassum blooms in the Caribbean Sea and basic training on nuclear and isotopic applications to address the Sargassum challenge – stable isotopes, radionuclides and contaminant monitoring [metals, organic pollutants, radionuclides and microplastics]). The sub-programme also continued to enhance and explore partnerships with the academic community (e.g. the University of South Florida, Southern Mississippi, and George Washington University). A [toolbox for reporting Sargassum sightings](#) has been completed, with support from the ACP-MEAs III project.
46. A ToR has been drafted to support activities designed to provide up to date and relevant information on the Sargassum influx in the WCR. Through funding provided by the Swedish Ministry of the Environment, a consultant was contracted between December 2020 and February 2021 to develop the following outputs:
- Updated Sargassum White Paper;
 - A summary report, in collaboration with the Atomic Energy Commission, assessing the impacts of heavy metals on Sargassum; and
 - Summaries of the Sargassum White Paper for relevant stakeholders and policy makers in English, French and Spanish
47. Regional and international meetings on Sargassum were also organised / attended by SPAW-RAC in order to collaborate with strategic partners on management, as well as initiate concrete regional actions; particularly the:
- **1st International Conference and Trade Show on Sargassum Management** (Baie-Mahault, Guadeloupe, 24–26 October 2019) which resulted in the first ever regional declaration (in [English](#), [Spanish](#) and [French](#)) on a commitment for the region to collaborate on Sargassum management.
48. UNEP, together with partners International Oceanic Commission-UNESCO (IOC-UNESCO), and the Abidjan Convention also organized, in collaboration with [the Global Partnership on Nutrient Management \(GPNM\)/Global Programme of Action \(GPA\)](#), a [webinar series](#) (launched in May 2020) to highlight key scientific, societal and ecological challenges, responses to prevent impacts and trans-disciplinary and trans-institution collaboration around Sargassum in the context of the Caribbean and West African seas.

49. AIDA, in collaboration with the SPAW Secretariat, has been working towards the regulation of herbivorous fish species associated with critical marine ecosystems. As a result of the collaboration, and AIDA's participation at STAC meetings, recommendations for the protection of spawning aggregations and the banning of spearguns and traps were included in the RSAP.
50. AIDA has also been integral in the creation of the UNEP-CEP fact sheet titled "*Framework to Regulate the Protection of Herbivorous Fish and Coral Reefs of the Greater Caribbean (see UNEP(DEPI)/CAR WG.42/INF.15 (Addendum 1))*". They have also helped facilitate the hosting of virtual seminars and have held discussions with FAO-WECAFC on how to improve regulations concerning parrotfish. Future projects include the nomination of 16 species of parrotfish for potential inclusion under Annexes II and III of the SPAW Protocol as part of an initiative of the STAC Species Working Group (see *UNEP(DEPI)/CAR WG.42/INF.15*).
51. The outputs produced under the CLME+ project continue to support the objectives of this sub-programme. The reports produced identify strategies that will protect and sustainably manage key coastal and marine habitats, which will ensure the protection of the threatened species found within these ecosystems (*See Section 2.5 for more information*).
52. In June 2020 SPAW-RAC issued a Call for Proposals for small, short-term grants (*UNEP(DEPI)/CAR WG.42/INF.27*). Fifteen (15) conservation proposals were approved and included efforts to conserve the West Indian Whistling Duck (*Dendrocygna arborea*), an assessment of parrotfish populations in Anguilla, and support for a Belize turtle nesting beach monitoring programme.
53. The Secretariat via the SPAW-RAC continues to support initiatives under WIDECAS (see *UNEP(DEPI)/CAR WG.42/INF.17*) which included a presentation on protected species under the SPAW Protocol at the 2019 Annual WIDECAS Meeting (Paramaribo, Suriname, March 2019). Work has begun on the creation of a sea turtle sightings recording application for the WCR in collaboration with WIDECAS, with funding provided under the ACP-MEAs III project.
54. Guidelines for Wildlife Enforcement Networks were developed by the International Consortium on Combating Wildlife Crime (ICWC) in English, French and Spanish to help member states/regions to either strengthen existing Wildlife Enforcement Networks (WENs) or support the establishment of new WENs. It is hoped that this can help to resuscitate dialogue and efforts for the Caribbean Wildlife Enforcement Network (CaribWEN).
55. Several activities were undertaken by, or implemented in collaboration with, the SPAW-RAC in Guadeloupe. See UNEP(DEPI)/CAR WG.42/INF.4 for further details. The activities implemented during 2019-2020 to meet these objectives are:

2.4 CONSERVATION OF THREATENED AND ENDANGERED SPECIES	
Activities	Status
Support transboundary cooperation, marine mammal monitoring efforts and networking among protected sites, education, and awareness in the region	On-going Through implementation of the CARI'MAM Project which will facilitate improved networking across protected areas, and monitoring of marine mammal species
Develop MoU between the Secretariat and the IWC	On-going Discussions continue. A draft document has been produced and is being reviewed
Support the establishment of CaribWEN	On-going Advancements stalled during the biennium. However, guidelines for the WENs have been developed under the ICCWC of CITES

2.4 CONSERVATION OF THREATENED AND ENDANGERED SPECIES	
Activities	Status
Support the management of, and the regional sharing of data on, Sargassum in the Wider Caribbean Region	<p>On-going</p> <p>Parties and Observers invited to nominate experts to participate in recently established Ad Hoc Working Group on Sargassum</p> <p>Constant update of Secretariat's Sargassum White Paper (<i>UNEP(DEPI)/CAR WG.40/INF.8 Rev 1</i>) to reflect the most recent scientific findings and management recommendations</p>

56. Meetings involved in the successful implementation of this sub-programme were:

Meeting	Purpose	Date and Venue	Relation to Programme Objectives
<u>2nd Regional Workshop on Development of the Report on the SoMH and RSAP in the CLME+²</u>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Agree on key criteria to guide focus and scope of these reports • Define the key target audiences, uses and desired outline for the RSAP • Agree on a process for final review of the draft SoMH and RSAP • Promote and assist the development/ implementation of guidelines on species conservation and management under the SPAW Protocol framework • Develop management plans and programmes for priority species of regional concern, including those of economic importance 	<p>13-14 March 2019</p> <p>Panama City, Panama</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Coordination/synergies with relevant institutions / legislations • Strengthening of protected areas in the WCR • Conservation of threatened and endangered species
4 th Joint Meeting of the Sargasso Sea Commission	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Develop/strengthen partnerships with other agencies and stakeholders 	<p>15 March 2019</p> <p>Bermuda</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Coordination/synergies with relevant institutions
<u>2019 Annual WIDECAST Meeting</u>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To share information on implementation of the SPAW Protocol as it relates to management and conservation of sea turtles • Learn from peer experiences and facilitate networking and partnerships 	<p>19–21 March 2019</p> <p>Paramaribo, Suriname</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Coordination/synergies with relevant institutions • Conservation of threatened and endangered species

Meeting	Purpose	Date and Venue	Relation to Programme Objectives
2 nd , 3 rd , 4 th CARI'MAM Project Meetings	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Build synergies with MPA managers envisaged to support Articles 6-9 of the SPAW Protocol and initiate implementation of ACP MEAs III project/identify stakeholders and countries for participation • Provide feedback on the CARI'MAM project, including the scientific surveys led in the Caribbean, research methods developed, and the workshops dedicated to awareness raising and the identification of management tools • Promote synergies with stakeholders for Geospatial Planning specific to marine mammals under the <u>Biodiversity for Sustainable Development in the Caribbean through Ecosystem Based Management (EBM-DSS) Project</u> 	<p>8–9 May 2019 Gosier, Guadeloupe</p> <p>2–3 November 2019 La Romana, Dominican Republic</p> <p>October/November 2020 Virtual</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Coordination/synergies with relevant institutions / legislations • Strengthening of protected areas in the WCR • Conservation of threatened and endangered species
International Meeting on the Situation of Sargassum in the Greater Caribbean	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Develop / strengthen partnerships with other agencies and stakeholders • Discuss management strategies and challenges 	<p>27 June 2019 Quintana Roo, Mexico</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Coordination/synergies with relevant institutions / legislations • Conservation of threatened and endangered species
Regional Forum on Sargassum	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Develop / strengthen partnerships with other agencies and stakeholders • Discuss management strategies and challenges 	<p>26 July 2019 Kingston, Jamaica</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Coordination/synergies with relevant institutions • Conservation of threatened and endangered species
1 st International Conference and Trade Show on Sargassum Management	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Develop / strengthen partnerships with other agencies and stakeholders • Draft regional Sargassum Declaration • Identify management strategies that sustainably address the Sargassum influx in the WCR 	<p>24–26 October 2019 Baie-Mahault, Guadeloupe</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Coordination/synergies with relevant institutions • Conservation of threatened and endangered Species
Passive Acoustic Monitoring Training Workshop	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Support region-wide conservation initiatives for marine mammals using technology • Promote synergies between marine/natural resource managers 	<p>31 October–1 November 2019 La Romana, Dominican Republic</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Coordination/synergies with relevant institutions • Conservation of threatened and endangered species

Meeting	Purpose	Date and Venue	Relation to Programme Objectives
<u>Interregional Workshop on the Use of Nuclear Technologies to Address Sargassum</u>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Present the work of the Secretariat on Sargassum • Develop / strengthen partnerships with other agencies and stakeholders • Identify management strategies that sustainably address the Sargassum influx in the WCR 	5–7 November 2019 Kingston, Jamaica	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Coordination/synergies with relevant institutions • Conservation of threatened and endangered species
<u>72nd Annual Conference of the Gulf and Caribbean Fisheries Institute (GCFI)</u>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Contribute and support the session on Marine Protected Areas, Science and Management • Identify and support the implementation of effective management strategies for conservation, increased resiliency, and sustainable use of coral ecosystems. • Establish partnerships and disseminate information relating to the Cartagena Convention Secretariat and its Protocol's on topics such as marine protected areas, spatial planning, marine mammals, climate change, corals, marine litter and plastics. • Identify opportunities for future partnerships in the implementation of the Secretariat's 2019/2020 Work Plan with specific focus on marine litter, sargassum and marine protected area. 	4–8 November 2019 Punta Cana, Dominican Republic	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Coordination/synergies with relevant institutions/ legislations • Enhancement of CaMPAM activities • Strengthening of protected areas in the WCR • Conservation and sustainable use of coastal and marine ecosystems
<u>Evolving and Sustaining Ocean Best Practices IV - Ocean Best Practices System (OBPS) Workshop (Sargassum Working Group)</u>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Address the impacts and opportunities presented by Sargassum influx events • Discuss appropriate responses and how to translate science into action • Collaboratively address best practices as well as recommendations for the OBPS to meet community needs for advanced method development in ocean observations and applications • Secretariat presentation on “<i>A Regional Perspective on the Management and Governance of Sargassum</i>” 	18, 21-25 & 30 Sep 2020 Virtual	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Coordination/synergies with relevant institutions • Conservation of threatened and endangered species

Meeting	Purpose	Date and Venue	Relation to Programme Objectives
4 th Meeting of the WECAFC/CFMC/OSPESCA/CRFM Working Group on Spawning Aggregations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Address comments on the draft Regional Fish Spawning Aggregation Fishery Management Plan (FSAFMP) Determine actions needed to implement the Communications Strategy for Spawning Aggregations Identify appropriate recommendations and measures for the conservation and management of parrotfish 	9–10 November 2020 Virtual	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Conservation of threatened and endangered species

57. The following webinars were attended and/or supported to enhance coordination with partners and explore synergies with regards to conserving threatened or endangered species:

Webinar	Purpose	Date	Relation to Programme Objectives
<u>Herbivorous fish in coral reefs: regional regulatory measures for their management</u> (Spanish) <i>Organized in collaboration with AIDA – pt. 1 of 2 in series</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Present the monitoring and regulation measures in countries and regions of the WCR with respect to the conservation of herbivorous fish species which are essential to the ecological functions of coral reefs Create regional cooperation to learn about monitoring and regulatory framework experiences from those working on the conservation of coral reefs 	22 May 2020	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Strengthening of protected areas in the WCR Conservation of threatened and endangered species SPAW Articles 10 and 11
<u>Sargassum in the Caribbean and West Africa: Key Challenges, Responses and Collaboration</u> (<i>Webinar 1</i>)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Highlight key challenges, responses and collaboration of Sargassum in the context of the Caribbean and West Africa, as well as efforts of the <u>GESAMP Working Group</u> on Sargassum Build on outcomes of the <u>Sargassum International Conference</u> 	26 May 2020	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Conservation of threatened and endangered species Coordination/synergies with relevant institutions/ legislations SPAW Article 12
<u>Biodiversity We're Interconnected – UNEP Caribbean: lunchtime webinar on Biodiversity</u>	Commemorate World Environment Day and disseminate the role of the Cartagena Convention to protect biodiversity	27 May 2020	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Coordination/synergies with relevant institutions/ legislations Conservation of threatened and endangered species

Webinar	Purpose	Date	Relation to Programme Objectives
<p><u>Herbivorous Fish in Coral Reefs: Science and regional regulatory measures</u> (English) <i>Organized in collaboration AIDA – pt. 2 of webinar series</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Commemoration of the International Day for Biological Diversity • Present the monitoring and regulation measures in countries and regions of the WCR with respect to the conservation of herbivorous fish species which are essential to the ecological functions of coral reefs • Create regional cooperation to learn about monitoring and regulatory framework experiences from those working on the conservation of coral reefs (experiences were focused on the Mesoamerican Reef System, Bonaire /other territories in the Greater Caribbean Region) 	<p>25 June 2020</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Strengthening of protected areas in the WCR • Conservation of threatened and endangered species • SPAW Articles 10 and 11
<p><u>Sargassum in the Caribbean and West Africa: Key Challenges, Responses and Collaboration</u> (<i>Webinar 2</i>)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Focus on available scientific knowledge and challenges in understanding and assessing Sargassum occurrences. • Outcomes will contribute to the development of a white paper to feed into <u>the Open Science Meeting</u>. 	<p>21 July 2020</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Conservation of threatened and endangered species • Coordination/synergies with relevant institutions/ legislations • SPAW Article 12
<p><u>Sargassum challenges, responses, and collaboration in West Africa</u> – (<i>Webinar 3</i>)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Focus on the West Africa region, where Sargassum has negatively impacted aquatic resources, fisheries, waterway, and shorelines • Share information, build knowledge, promote best practices and develop ocean governance arrangement in combating the phenomenon in West Africa • Highlight key challenges, responses and collaboration in the context of the Caribbean and West Africa • Highlight efforts of the GESAMP Working Group on Sargassum, and build on outcomes of the <u>Sargassum International Conference</u> 	<p>22 September 2020</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Conservation of threatened and endangered species • Coordination/synergies with relevant institutions/ legislations • SPAW Article
<p><u>Impact of massive sargassum influx on Caribbean reef systems, organized by the Florida International University.</u></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provide information on the impacts of Sargassum in the WCR. 	<p>21 October 2020</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Conservation of threatened and endangered species • SPAW Article 12

Webinar	Purpose	Date	Relation to Programme Objectives
<p><u>Sargassum challenges, responses, and synergies in the WCR (Webinar 4)</u></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Focus on the Caribbean and contribute to the Secretariat’s White paper • Build synergies between UN agencies and stakeholders to address the issue using the integrated approach in line with the 2030 Agenda, Paris Agreement and other international multilateral agreements 	<p>25 November 2020</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Conservation of threatened and endangered species • Coordination/synergies with relevant institutions/ legislations • SPAW Article

2.4.2 Sub-Programme Outputs

58. The major outputs of this sub-programme are:

Outputs	Indicators of Achievement
<p>MoU with the IWC to promote the implementation of the MMAP</p>	<p>On-going Renewed negotiation with the IWC Secretariat</p>
<p>Improved marine mammal networking throughout the Wider Caribbean Region</p>	<p>Completed Revised and updated MMAP</p> <p>On-going Increased collaboration amongst marine mammal researchers throughout the WCR through the CARI’MAM project</p>
<p>Sustainable marine mammal watching in the Wider Caribbean Region</p>	<p>On-going Development of sustainable whale watching label under the CARI’MAM project.</p>
<p>Increased collaboration amongst regional and international partners to combat the spread of Sargassum in the Wider Caribbean Region</p>	<p>Completed <i>Regional declaration in three (3) languages (English, Spanish and French)</i></p> <p>On-going Development of new partnerships and strategies to sustainably manage Sargassum influx</p>
<p>Provide information on critical species/ecosystems and their threats.</p>	<p>On-going Co-hosting of webinars and the creation of educational materials on critical species such as parrotfish and marine mammals continues.</p>

2.4.3 Sub-Programme Budget

59. The costs associated with the implementation of activities under this sub-programme were:

2019			2020		
CTF Raised	Other *	Total Raised	CTF Raised	Other *	Total Raised
0	37,901	37,901	0	136,610	136,610

*Includes funds from the French Government and the European Union through the CARI-MAM and Carib-Coast projects

2.5 Conservation and Sustainable Use of Coastal and Marine Ecosystems

60. The objectives of this sub-programme are to:

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

2.5.1 Status of Sub-Programme Activities

- Under this sub-programme, primary activities were carried out via the coordination and implementation of the recently completed CLME+ project.
- The five (5) year (2015-2020) USD12.5 million project funded by UNDP/GEF project sought to facilitate ecosystem based management/an ecosystem approach to fisheries (EBM/EAF) within the CLME+ region, to ensure that a sustainable and climate resilient provision of goods and services from the region's living marine resources can be secured (*see documents UNEP(DEPI)/CAR WG.37/INF.7 Rev.3, UNEP(DEPI)/CAR WG.37/INF.10, and CLME+ SAP v1.6.3*).
- The activities implemented under the CLME+ project during this biennium have resulted in the production of four (4) innovative regional reports, all of which will be submitted for review and approval to the STAC9:
 - State of Nearshore Marine Habitats in the Wider Caribbean (SoMH)** (*See document UNEP(DEPI)/CAR WG.42/INF.5*). Prepared by the Caribbean Natural Resources Institute (CANARI) in collaboration with the Secretariat and the CLME+ Project Coordinating Unit (PCU), the report examines the status of three (3) key habitats – coral reefs, mangrove forests and seagrass beds – across the WCR. It highlights the status and trends of these habitats; identifies the drivers and pressures affecting them; summarises the interventions implemented to address these pressures; identifies gaps in response and emerging challenges; and proposes actions to improve the management of these target habitats. The report also provided the background information and context needed to develop a regional strategy and action plan (see below) to conserve the three habitats.
 - Regional Strategy and Action Plan for the Valuation, Protection and/or Restoration of Key Marine Habitats in the Wider Caribbean 2021-2030 (RSAP)** (*See document UNEP(DEPI)/CAR WG.42/INF.6*). The RSAP aims to strengthen national and collective action by Member States to manage coastal ecosystems, particularly mangroves, seagrass beds and coral reefs, in order to maintain the integrity of these habitats, and to ensure the continued flow of ecosystem goods and services. The RSAP is structured around four (4) interdependent strategic pillars: ecosystem health and resilience, sustainable use, governance and partnerships and enabling systems and capacity.

- **Integrated Large-Scale Action on Habitat Restoration and Pollution in the CLME+ Region: A Baseline and Feasibility Assessment Report on the Needs and Opportunities** (See document UNEP(DEPI)/CAR WG.41/INF.13). This is a baseline and pre-feasibility assessment report on the needs and opportunities for investments in order to ensure the protection and restoration of key habitats, particularly mangroves, seagrass beds and coral reefs which will help to inform future coral, seagrass and mangrove restoration efforts, as well as efforts to reduce pollution in the CLME+ region. The baseline report will be used to develop at least two (2) public and private sector investment plans for investments in at least 40% of the CLME+ countries. The plans will seek to facilitate larger infrastructure loans and investments to address at least two (2) of the following three (3) priorities under the Strategic Action Programme (SAP): habitat protection/restoration, pollution prevention/mitigation; and sustainable fisheries. Investment opportunities are being explored through the newly launched GFCR.
 - **A Regional Mangrove Restoration Manual** (See document UNEP(DEPI)/CAR WG.42/INF.16). This was produced with joint funding from the CLME+, MAR Fund and the Integrated Management Project from the Basin to the Reef of the Mesoamerican Reef Ecoregion, in collaboration with CINVESTAV.
64. The EBM-DSS project (UNEP(DEPI)/CAR WG.42/INF.13), whose activities were reported under Section 2.2 also contributed to the objectives of this sub-programme with activities concluded during the 2019-2020 biennium, contributing directly to the conservation and sustainable use of coastal and marine ecosystems through:
- **Application of the EBM-DSS tool to two (2) pilot sites in the Dominican Republic** which resulted in the development of management plans and priority actions for each pilot site to improve the conservation of key ecosystems.
 - **Establishment of regional nodes for English and Dutch-speaking countries/territories in the WCR.** These regional nodes will allow for the identification of new DSS pilot sites and priority actions to conserve key ecosystems. This may result in the:
 - ✓ cataloguing of biodiversity;
 - ✓ conducting of data gap analyses;
 - ✓ identification of critical stakeholders and ecosystems;
 - ✓ development of scenario analyses;
 - ✓ development or updating of management plans; and the
 - ✓ provision of management options.
65. **Launch of the CARIB-COAST project** in January 2019 and piloted by the French Geological Survey Office under the auspices of SPAW-RAC and the Interreg Caribbean Programme (see document UNEP(DEPI)/CAR WG.42/INF.37). The project aims to initiate a Caribbean network of coastal risk crisis prevention and management practitioners in relation to climate change. It encompasses the insular Caribbean with special emphasis on Guadeloupe, Martinique, Saint Martin, Trinidad and Tobago, Jamaica and Puerto Rico. Project outputs will include the development of a digital marine submersion modelling platform, a coastal erosion monitoring and prevention network based on nature-based solutions, and operational risk coastline management tools. The project is supported by the Association of Caribbean States (ACS) and the Caribbean Community Centre on Climate Change (5Cs) and is co-financed by the Interreg Caribbean Programme under the European Regional Development Fund (ERDF). Activities implemented during the biennium included:
- Presentation at the 4th Caribaea Initiative Research and Conservation Conference (Santo Domingo, Dominican Republic, 15–17 May 2019) under the session “*Enhancing coastal resilience through ecosystem restoration*”. Attendance aimed to raise awareness on coastal erosion and climate change issues, engaging new partners and exploring new opportunities for CARIB-COAST.

- Hosting the project's 2nd and 3rd Steering Committee Meetings (Kingston, Jamaica [8–10 October 2019], and .27 November 2020 [virtual] respectively). These meetings aimed to review progress of the project partners and to address potential issues.
- Presenting a poster titled “*Caribbean network for the prevention of coastal risks related with climate change*” at the 72nd Annual GCFI (Punta Cana, Dominican Republic, 4–8 November 2019).
- Deployment of twelve (12) current meters for 100 days around the islands of Martinique and Guadeloupe to measure currents in the water column. Additionally, twelve (12) buoys equipped with Global Positioning System (GPS) beacons were deployed off the coasts of both islands to track surface currents. There will be on-going/real-time monitoring of the buoys from a dedicated online platform.
- Reducing shoreline erosion in Guadeloupe in collaboration with the island's National Forest Office. Regeneration enclosures were placed around two (2) sites to support the regrowth of vegetation along the upper beach which will help reduce erosion in the area.

66. The project has been extended to October 2022.

67. **Conclusion of the BEST 2.0 Programme** which promoted biodiversity conservation and the sustainable use of ecosystem services, built local capacity, and sought to increase public awareness on environmental issues in specific OCTs. A regional capitalization workshop and regional factsheets on project results are currently being finalised.

68. Coral reef conservation initiatives are on-going. Activities dedicated to the conservation of coral reefs have included:

- **Continued coordination of the regional node for GCRMN with support from the SPAW-RAC** (see document UNEP(DEPI)/CAR WG.42/INF.26) through:
 - ✓ Gathering of coral reef monitoring data for the Caribbean. The data was submitted to the global network for inclusion in the 2020 “Global coral reef status and trends” report.
 - ✓ Attendance at the 34th ICRI General Meeting (Townsville, Australia, 2–7 December 2019).
 - ✓ Organisation of the 1st Coral Reef and Human Dimensions Monitoring in the Mesoamerican Reef Socio-Economic Assessment Workshop (Roatán, Honduras, 9–13 December 2019). The meeting aimed to increase capacity for effective integrated coral reef monitoring among GCRMN-Caribbean countries through the use of socio-economic data, and improved standardised and strategic reporting at the regional level. Participants included natural resource managers and practitioners from Belize, Guatemala, Honduras and Mexico.
 - ✓ Co-organisation of the biannual GCRMN-Caribbean Steering Committee Meeting (Kralendijk, Bonaire, 28-30 January 2020). The meeting was organized and funded by the SPAW-RAC, the Ministry of Agriculture, Nature and Food Quality of the Netherlands with the support of the Dutch Caribbean Nature Alliance (DCNA) to approve the GCRMN-Caribbean Rules of Procedure and ToR, along with defined objectives and the four (4) -year workplan.
 - ✓ **Provision of a small grant under the ICRI and UNEP Grants Programme** for the one (1) year project “*Innovative financing and legal mechanisms for reef restoration and emergency response in selected sites of the Meso-American Reef Region*”. This project (USD67,800) executed by MAR Fund was completed in September 2019 having an intervention in the four (4) countries of the MAR Region (Mexico, Belize, Guatemala and Honduras) serving as **a**) a model project to initiate discussions on the governance framework to implement catastrophe derivative insurance and rapid response actions amongst key stakeholders (i.e. private sector, government agencies), and **b**) promoting a viable and replicable financing initiative throughout the MAR Region, the Caribbean and beyond.
 - ✓ **Revitalisation of the Global Coral Reef Partnership Steering Committee.** In 2014 the Global Coral Reef Partnership was formed to promote and **demonstrate** EBM management practices in coral reef areas. The annual partnership meeting was held 18 November 2020 to revitalise the Steering Committee and identify opportunities for collaboration.

69. **Addressing Stony Coral Tissue Loss Disease in the Caribbean.** The SPAW-RAC has also been actively addressing SCTLD in the French West Indies. To date, they have attended four (4) meetings which addressed impacts throughout the WCR with a special focus on the islands of Guadeloupe, St. Martin, and Martinique. In September 2020 they joined NOAA’s Caribbean Cooperation Team and will collaborate with regional groups to disseminate information on the disease. Action plans have also been drafted for each territory in the French West Indies.

70. GCFI through its MPACConnect initiative in collaboration with NOAA’s Coral Reef Conservation Program (CRCP) and the Atlantic and Gulf Rapid Reef Assessment Programme (AGRRA), has been actively involved in promoting SCTLD treatment and monitoring throughout the WCR. Activities to date include:

- 8th Peer2Peer Learning Exchange on SCTLD, Key West, Florida, 1 – 2 August 2019. The learning exchange was funded by the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation and provided thirty-four (34) participants from seventeen (17) countries/territories in the WCR with capacity building support for countries and territories, either currently affected by SCTLD, or susceptible to its transmission.
- SCTLD Posters. Posters on how to identify and prevent the spread of SCTLD have been developed in English, Spanish and French.
- Template monitoring and response action plan for Caribbean marine natural resource managers. The action plan was developed to provide marine natural resource managers with the information needed to create site specific monitoring and response to aid in their response to SCTLD.
- SCTLD Dashboard. An interactive dashboard for the Caribbean was developed in collaboration with AGRRA and NOAA in both English and Spanish. The dashboard provides summary information on the SCLD outbreak in the Caribbean and the regional efforts implemented to respond to the disease.
- SCTLD Webinar. A webinar on how to identify SCTLD was held on 15 September 2020 in collaboration with NOAA, AGRRA and the Florida Keys National Marine Sanctuary.

71. In June 2020 the SPAW-RAC issued a *Call for Proposals* for small, short-term grants (*see document UNEP(DEPI)/CAR WG.42/INF.27*). Fifteen (15) conservation proposals were approved and included the hosting of a regional mangrove restoration workshop and the conservation and restoration of the Bicknell’s Thrush’s (*Catharus bicknelli*) habitat in eastern Bahoruco in the Dominican Republic.

72. Meetings involved in the successful implementation of this sub-programme were:

Meeting	Purpose	Date and Venue	Relation to Programme Objectives
<u>2nd Regional Workshop on Development of the Report on the SoMH and RSAP in the CLME+”</u>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Agree on key criteria to guide focus and scope of these reports • Define the key target audiences, uses and desired outline for the RSAP • Agree on a process for final review of the draft SoMH and RSAP Promote and assist the development/ implementation of guidelines on species conservation and management under the framework of the SPAW Protocol • Develop management plans and programmes for priority species of regional concern, including those of economic importance 	<p>13–14 March 2019</p> <p>Panama City, Panama</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Coordination/synergies with relevant institutions / legislations • Strengthening of protected areas in the WCR • Conservation of threatened and endangered species • Conservation and sustainable use of coastal and marine ecosystems

Meeting	Purpose	Date and Venue	Relation to Programme Objectives
4 th Meeting of the PEG for the UNDP/GEF CLME+ Project	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Contribute to the consolidation of the Regional Framework for Ocean Governance by supporting the process for the identification and adoption of a Permanent Policy Coordination Mechanism and Sustainable Financing Plan • Collaborate in the development and institutionalization of the “State of the Marine Environment and associated Economies (SOMEE)” reporting mechanism • Contribute to promote and expand the global CLME+ Alliance and Partnership • Support the region in the delivery of SDG 14 and other relevant international commitments • Collaborate to harmonize coherent communication, data and information sharing, outreach and dissemination of information in the region 	<p>15–16 April 2019</p> <p>Florida, USA</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Coordination/synergies with relevant institutions / legislations • Conservation and sustainable use of coastal and marine ecosystems
<u>4th Caribaea Initiative Research and Conservation Conference</u>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Raise awareness on coastal erosion and climate change issues • Develop new partnerships within the Wider Caribbean Region • Promote the work of the SPAW Secretariat 	<p>15–17 May 2019</p> <p>Santo Domingo, Dominican Republic</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Coordination/synergies with relevant institutions / legislations • Conservation and sustainable use of coastal and marine ecosystems
Workshop on the Development of a Regional Strategy for the Conservation and Restoration of Mangroves in the Mesoamerican Reef	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To identify priorities for conservation, restoration and the sustainable use of mangroves along the Mesoamerican Reef • To develop inputs for the elaboration of a Regional Strategy and Action Plan for the conservation, restoration and sustainable use of the Mesoamerican Reef’s mangroves 	<p>18–20 September 2019</p> <p>Guatemala City, Guatemala</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Coordination/synergies with relevant institutions / legislations • Conservation and sustainable use of coastal and marine ecosystems
2 nd and 3 rd Steering Committee Meetings for CARIB-COAST project	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Assess the progress of activities under the CARIB-COAST project. 	<p>8–10 October 2019 Kingston, Jamaica</p> <p>27 November 2020 Virtual</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Coordination/synergies with relevant institutions / legislations • Conservation and sustainable use of coastal and marine ecosystems

Meeting	Purpose	Date and Venue	Relation to Programme Objectives
<u>72nd Annual Conference of the Gulf and Caribbean Fisheries Institute (GCFI)</u>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Contribute and support the session on Marine Protected Areas, Science and Management • Identify and support the implementation of effective management strategies for conservation, increased resiliency, and sustainable use of coral ecosystems. • Establish partnerships and disseminate information relating to the Cartagena Convention Secretariat and its Protocol's on topics such as marine protected areas, spatial planning, marine mammals, climate change, corals, marine litter and plastics. • Identify opportunities for future partnerships in the implementation of the Secretariat's 2019/2020 Work Plan with specific focus on marine litter, sargassum and marine protected area. 	<p>4–8 November 2019</p> <p>Punta Cana, Dominican Republic</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Coordination/synergies with relevant institutions/ legislations • Enhancement of CaMPAM activities • Strengthening of protected areas in the WCR • Conservation and sustainable use of coastal and marine ecosystems
<u>34th ICRI General Meeting</u>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Support the implementation of initiatives for the protection of coral reef ecosystems • Identify opportunities for collaborations / partnerships with regional and international partners. 	<p>2–7 December 2019</p> <p>Townsville, Australia,</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Coordination/synergies with relevant institutions/ legislations • Conservation and sustainable use of coastal and marine ecosystems
<u>1st Coral Reef and Human Dimensions Monitoring in the Mesoamerican Reef Socio-Economic Assessment Workshop</u>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Support coral reef monitoring and conservation in the Meso-American Reef Region 	<p>9–13 December 2019</p> <p>Roatán, Honduras,</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Conservation and sustainable use of coastal and marine ecosystems
<u>GCRMN-Caribbean Steering Committee Meeting</u>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Support further development of coral reef indicators, regional assessments, data homogenization and data acquisition • Bring up-to-date information since the last official steering committee meeting taking place in Mexico, 2017 and the last unofficial SC Meeting in San Andres, 2018 in the margins of GCFI. • Propose and approve GCRMN's biennial work plan. 	<p>28–30 January 2020</p> <p>Kralendijk, Bonaire</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Strengthening of protected areas in the WCR • Conservation and sustainable use of coastal and marine ecosystems • SPAW Articles 10 and 11

Meeting	Purpose	Date and Venue	Relation to Programme Objectives
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Disseminate CLME+ outputs Report on the State of Marine Habitats in the Wider Caribbean & Regional Strategy and Action Plan for the Valuation, Protection and/or Restoration of Key Marine Habitats in the Wider Caribbean 2020 – 2030 for feedback and enhancement. Disseminate the work of the Cartagena Convention Secretariat and its protocols and request support from the Ministry of Agriculture, Nature and Food Quality of the Netherlands. 		
GCRMN Network Workshop on the Status of Coral Reefs of the World 2020	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Present the results of the data collected for the WCR 	18–20 February 2020 Bangkok, Thailand	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Conservation and sustainable use of coastal and marine ecosystems
<u>Global Fund for Coral Reefs High-Level Event (Leveraging new finance to protect and restore the world's coral reefs) of the 75th UN General Assembly</u>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Officially launch the GFCR Identify potential partners/resources for coral reef conservation initiatives in the WCR especially as it relates to investment plans under the CLME+ 	16 September 2020 Virtual	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Coordination/synergies with relevant institutions/ legislations Conservation and sustainable use of coastal and marine ecosystems
Global Coral Reef Partnership Steering Committee Meeting	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Revitalise the Project Steering Committee Identify potential areas for partnership 	18 November 2020 Virtual	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Coordination/synergies with relevant institutions/ legislations Conservation and sustainable use of coastal and marine ecosystems

73. The following webinars were attended and/or supported to enhance coordination with partners and explore synergies with regards to conserving and sustainably using coastal and marine resources:

Webinar	Purpose	Date	Relation to Programme Objectives
<u>Reef health and climate change impacts / Caribbean and Mesoamerican Reef Region. How are coral reefs responding to climate change? – in collaboration with Healthy Reefs Initiative</u>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Present UNEP's perspective and actions on coral reefs and climate change Disseminate the role of the SPAW Protocol concerning the conservation of coral reefs in the WCR. 	28 July 2020	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Coordination/synergies with relevant institutions/ legislations Conservation and sustainable use of coastal and marine ecosystems

Webinar	Purpose	Date	Relation to Programme Objectives
<u>GFCR (Viewing 2) (hosted by the Reef Resilience Network)</u>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provide background on the fund's desired outcomes and criteria (including its innovative and growing partnerships/ and planning its implementation) • Explain the funds' blended finance model that supports businesses and finance mechanisms that improve the health and sustainability of coral reefs and associated ecosystems, • Guide on how to propose a business/coral reef site to be considered for investment. 	1 September 2020	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Coordination/synergies with relevant institutions/ legislations • Conservation and sustainable use of coastal and marine ecosystems
<p><u>"El Caribe Contra el Tiempo" 20 años de la Reserva de la Biosfera Seaflower</u> ("The Caribbean against time": 20 years of the Seaflower Biosphere Reserve)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sharing the role and mandate of the Secretariat/SPAW Protocol in the WCR • Collaboration with regional entities and current partners managing protected areas listed under the Protocol • Knowledge sharing on the conservation of corals in the greater Caribbean region, highlighting the SeaFlower Biosphere Reserve, Colombia. 	10 November 2020	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Coordination/synergies with relevant institutions/ legislations • Conservation and sustainable use of coastal and marine ecosystems

2.5.2 Sub-programme Outputs

74. The major outputs of this sub-programme are:

Outputs	Indicators of Achievement
Strengthen the GCRMN Regional Nodes within the WCR	<p>Completed</p> <p>Countries ability to monitor and protect coral reef ecosystems enhanced through the use of standardised data collection and reporting methods.</p> <p><i>UNEP(DEPI)/CAR WG.42/INF.26</i></p> <p>Contribution to <i>2020 Global Report on the Status of Coral Reefs</i></p>

Outputs	Indicators of Achievement
Conservation of critical ecosystems	<p>On-going</p> <p>Threats to coral reefs, mangroves and seagrass beds have been identified and proposed actions suggested to improve the management of these critical ecosystems.</p> <p>New funding opportunities identified (e.g. GCRF) along with reports and manuals produced to guide effective conservation.</p> <p>See documents: <i>UNEP(DEPI)/CAR WG.41/INF.13</i> <i>UNEP(DEPI)/CAR WG.42/INF.5</i> <i>UNEP(DEPI)/CAR WG.42/INF.6</i> <i>UNEP(DEPI)/CAR WG.42/INF.16</i></p>
Improved resilience to climate change	<p>In progress</p> <p>Pilot sites identified and adaptation projects initiated.</p> <p>New funding opportunities identified (e.g. GCRF) along with reports and manuals produced to guide effective conservation.</p> <p>See documents: <i>UNEP(DEPI)/CAR WG.41/INF.13</i> <i>UNEP(DEPI)/CAR WG.42/INF.5</i> <i>UNEP(DEPI)/CAR WG.42/INF.6</i> <i>UNEP(DEPI)/CAR WG.42/INF.16</i></p>

2.5.3 Sub-programme Budget

75. The costs associated with the implementation of activities under this sub-programme were:

2019			2020		
CTF Raised	Other * & **	Total Raised	CTF Raised	Other **	Total Raised
0	104,987	104,987	0	231,284	231,284

*Includes funds from the French Government and the European Union through the CARIMAM and Carib-Coast projects

**Includes funding through the CLME+ project and SPAW-RAC

Annex I: Status of Budget for the SPAW Programme for 2019-2020 Biennium

Activity	2019					2020				
	CTF	Other Contributions	Total Raised	Budgeted ¹	Required Balance ²	CTF	Other Contributions	Total Raised	Budgeted	Required Balance
2.1 Programme Co-ordination (salary costs/COP and STAC meetings covered by Overall Coordination and Common Costs (OCCC))	196,219	467,311	663,530	428,000	0	196,219	548,852	745,071	463,000	0
2.2 Strengthening of Protected Areas in the Wider Caribbean Region	0	7,402	7,402	215,000	207,598	0	64,600	64,600	505,000	440,400
2.3 Development of Guidelines for Management of Protected Areas and Species	0	0	0	29,000	29,000	0	39,000	39,000	24,000	0
2.4 Conservation of Threatened and Endangered Species	0	37,901	37,901	245,000	207,099	0	136,610	136,610	245,000	108,390
2.5 Conservation and Sustainable Use of Coastal and Marine Ecosystems	0	104,987	104,987	894,001	789,014	0	231,284	231,284	478,268	246,984
Subtotal	196,219	617,601	813,820	1,811,001	1,232,711	196,219	1,020,346	1,216,565	1,715,268	795,774
Programme support costs ^{13%} (amount subject to change based on source of funds)	25,508	80,288	105,797	235,430	160,252	25,508	132,645	158,153	222,985	103,451
TOTAL SPAW	221,727	697,889	919,617	2,046,431	1,392,963	221,727	1,152,991	1,374,718	1,938,253	899,225

*Includes funds from the Government of France and from the European Union through SPAW-RAC

** Includes funds from the Government of Italy under the EBM project, the CLME+ project and funds from the ECMANN project through SPAW-RAC

¹Budgeted reflects the amount of expenditure projected from the 2019-2020 SPAW Workplan UNEP(DEPI)/CAR WG.40/5 Rev 1.14

² Required Balance reflects any shortfalls between Total Raised from the CTF & Other Contributions that materialized during the biennium and Budgeted amounts

Annex II: Summary of Funds Provided by the French Government through SPAW-RAC for the Implementation of SPAW Activities

Programme Component	2019	2020
1. Programme Coordination	24,037	12,296
2. Strengthening of Protected Areas	7,402	6500
3. Development of Guidelines for Management of Protected Areas or Species	0	39,000
4. Conservation of Threatened and Endangered Species	9,688	89,219
5. Conservation and Sustainable Use of Coastal and Marine Resources	7,918	1,008
TOTAL	49,045	148,023

Note: Salaries not included.

Annex III: Status of the Protocol Concerning Specially Protected Areas and Wildlife (SPAW Protocol)

Contracting Party	Date of Signature	Date of Ratification	Entry into Force
1. The Bahamas		8 March 2012	7 April 2012
2. Barbados		14 October 2002	13 November 2002
3. Belize		4 January 2008	4 February 2008
4. Colombia	18 January 1990	5 January 1998	17 June 2000
5. Cuba	18 January 1990	4 August 1998	17 June 2000
6. Dominican Republic		24 November 1998	17 June 2000
7. France	18 January 1990	5 April 2002	May 2002
8. Grenada		5 March 2012	4 April 2012
9. Guyana		14 July 2010	August 2010
10. Honduras		13 October 2018	13 October 2018
11. The Netherlands	18 January 1990	2 March 1992	17 June 2000
12. Panama	16 January 1991	27 September 1996	17 June 2000
13. St. Lucia	18 January 1990	18 May 2000	17 June 2000
14. St. Vincent and the Grenadines		26 July 1991	17 June 2000
15. Trinidad and Tobago	18 January 1990	10 August 1999	17 June 2000
16. United States of America	18 January 1990	16 April 2003	
17. Venezuela	18 January 1990	28 January 1997	17 June 2000

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

10th Conference of Parties	
Decisions	Status
<p>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.</p>	<p>On-going</p> <p>The Secretariat has actively engaged with relevant Governments such as Guatemala, Costa Rica and Mexico and the United Kingdom territories.</p>
<p>2. Approve the proposed SPAW Workplan and Budget for 2019-2020 as presented to the meeting, including the amendments proposed by the STAC8; while noting that in addition to marine mammals and sea turtles, attention and resources for the conservation of other listed species in the Protocol should be considered in future workplans and budgets; that additional attention is needed for invasive species other than lionfish; as well as illegal traffic of species listed in the protocol and the new coral disease Stony Coral Tissue Loss Disease (SCTLD) and its spread through the Caribbean (possibly through ballast water); and work with the LBS Protocol and the regional Caribbean Memorandum of Understanding on Port State Control (CMOU) to take measures against ballast water exchange in coastal waters.</p>	<p>Completed</p> <p>SPAW Workplan and Budget 2019-2020 approved by COP10 and adopted by IGM18 and implemented by the Secretariat (<i>See UNEP(DEPI)/CAR WG.40/5 Rev.1</i>)</p>
<p>3. Urge the Secretariat to allocate funds or seek funding sources for the management of protected areas listed as SPAW sites</p>	<p>On-going</p> <p>Funding has been identified under the ACP MEA III Project. Four (4) consultants, in collaboration with the SPAW MPAs Working Group, delivered outputs in support of the SPAW MPAs throughout the WCR.</p>
<p>4. Recommend that the STAC consider the inclusion of SCTLD as a subject of discussion and review at the next meeting, reflecting the seriousness of this threat to the region's economy, food security and environmental integrity</p>	<p>On-going</p> <p>SPAW-RAC has been assisting territories within the French West Indies with the development of action plans to combat the disease, as well as liaising with NOAA's Caribbean Cooperation Team.</p>
<p>5. Recommend that the Secretariat undertake a comprehensive review to determine the impact of CaMPAM activities thus far, envisaged to evaluate effectiveness and guide future work with a view towards ensuring activities linked to overall SPAW Protocol activities/goals</p>	<p>On-going</p> <p>A SWOT analysis was undertaken to determine CaMPAM effectiveness via funding identified under the ACP MEA III Project.</p> <p>Partnerships developed with other MPA networks, such as NAMPAN, MPACONnect, the Gulf of Mexico Marine Protected Area Network (RedGolfo) and BIOPAMA.</p>

10th Conference of Parties	
Decisions	Status
<p>6. Urge Contracting Parties to respond to the requests of the Secretariat and to participate more actively in the Working Groups established by the Parties</p>	<p>Completed</p> <p>The Working Groups have been finalised and commenced work in their respected areas.</p>
<p>7. Secretariat work closely with the Inter-American Sea Turtle Convention (IAC) and call on key countries and territories (Trinidad and Tobago, French Guiana, Guyana, Suriname and Canada) to cooperate with the SPAW Protocol and IAC to identify and address the threats to the North-West Atlantic leatherback population.</p>	<p>On-going</p> <p>SPAW-RAC funded part of the Annual WIDECAS Meeting (2020) with a specific meeting dedicated to the conservation of the leatherback turtle. Progress currently hampered by COVID-19. SPAW-RAC is currently developing alternatives with IAC and WWF and WIDECAS.</p>
<p>8. Adopt the Recommendations of the Eighth Meeting of the Scientific and Technical Advisory Committee to the SPAW Protocol as contained in UNEP(DEPI)/CAR WG40/6 with the following amendment:</p> <p>i. Consider that according to the decisions of the first Conference of Parties and first Scientific and Technical Advisory Committee, the Recommendations of STAC8 regarding the terms of reference (recommendations II.4, III.3, IV.1 and V.1) are to be submitted for the STAC assembly's approval and not to the COP's.</p>	<p>Completed</p> <p>The recommendations of 8th SPAW STAC were adopted.</p>
<p>9. Call upon all Parties to the SPAW Protocol of the Wider Caribbean region in regards to cetaceans to:</p> <p>i. Comply with the Protocol by implementing national legislation prohibiting the hunting of cetaceans and taking enforcement and conservation measures to aid their protection and recovery;</p> <p>ii. Report the numbers and species of cetaceans taken in hunts or involved in other prohibited activities;</p> <p>iii. Improve collaboration with the Secretariat, Scientific and Technical Advisory Committee (STAC), other parties and experts to identify research needs and opportunities to collect and share data relating to the distribution and status of cetaceans in the Region.</p> <p>iv. Reinstate the experts working group on marine mammals and charge it with overseeing the assessment of populations of exploited small cetacean species in the Wider Caribbean.</p>	<p>On-going</p> <p>The MMAP has been updated. The updates will help to guide legislative processes and changes in the region.</p> <p>Parties continue to be encouraged to report their exemptions in order to ensure appropriate monitoring and reporting.</p> <p>The new species Working Group will continue to liaise with the STAC and the Secretariat to identify research needs. There are also ongoing efforts to develop relationships with marine mammal researchers and coordinate research initiatives throughout the region.</p> <p>The SPAW RAC will continue to follow-up on the reinstatement of the Marine Mammals Working Group.</p>

10th Conference of Parties	
Decisions	Status
<p>10. The Secretariat prepare a proposal for consideration by the COP and IGM on a formal network of data platforms for internalization of Geospatial information relevant to the SPAW Protocol (including the outputs of the State of Habitats report) and consider the trial use of the Caribbean Marine Atlas Phase 2 Geonode as one of such platforms. This information paper should consider issues such as sustainability, financial implications, data sharing and data sensitivities and how such a platform could be formalized for use as a possible regional database or platform (preliminary information paper: UNEP(DEPI)/CAR IG.40/INF.10)</p>	<p>On-going</p> <p>In collaboration with the CLME+ Project Coordination Unit (PCU), which acts as the Secretariat to the Interim Coordination Mechanism, of which the Cartagena Convention Secretariat is a member, ToRs are being defined to support a consultancy to develop a regional spatial data infrastructure system. Once the consultancy is secured under the CLME+ Project, work will largely address the development and adoption of a regional policy for data and information harmonization and sharing. A proposal of a “best-fit” solution scenario for improved regional spatial data infrastructure coordination and collaboration supporting the functions of the proposed Coordination Mechanism to support Integrated Ocean Governance in the Caribbean and North Brazil Shelf Large Marine Ecosystems is an expressed deliverable. Requirements being requested of the consultant include a commitment to offering sustainable solutions and a clear understanding of what such would encompass, including financing, human resources, stakeholder buy-in, inter-agency cooperation and arrangements. The Caribbean Marine Atlas is a relevant platform in this arena and its role will be considered in the development of a "best-fit" solution for the region.</p>
<p>11. The Secretariat and Contracting Parties continue to contribute to the process developed by the CLME+ Project to identify a Permanent Policy Coordination Mechanism (PPCM) and a Sustainable Financing Plan (SFP) for consolidation of an integrated ocean governance framework in the WCR as appropriate.</p>	<p>On-going</p> <p>The Secretariat and Contracting Parties continue to be involved in the process towards the creation of a Coordination Mechanism to support Integrated Ocean Governance in the Caribbean and North Brazil Shelf Large Marine Ecosystems. In June 2020 during a Project Steering Committee Meeting of the UNDP/GEF CLME+ Project, Steering Committee Members reiterated the importance of proceeding with the setting up of a Coordination Mechanism and endorsed in principle core aspects of the Coordination Mechanism. During another Meeting of the CLME+ Project Steering Committee, which took place in October 2020, the Steering Committee made advancements towards consensus of the Coordination Mechanism by reviewing and revising the text of the draft Coordination Mechanism Memorandum of Understanding (MoU). The CLME+ Project Steering Committee also indicated their intent “to further engage towards achieving consensus on the Coordination Mechanism MoU text, and requests the CLME+ PCU to support this process aiming to achieve a technically and legally cleared document by CLME+ Project End.”</p> <p>In relation to the Sustainable Financing Plan, the proposal was shared with CLME+ Project Steering</p>

10th Conference of Parties	
Decisions	Status
	Committee Members in December 2019, as part of the document titled, “ <i>Proposals for a permanent Coordination Mechanism and a Sustainable Financing Plan for Ocean Governance in the Wider Caribbean Region Final Report</i> ”
12. Encourage Parties to report exemptions in a format in which all relevant information is included. A possibility is the Reporting Format for Exemptions accepted at STAC7 and emphasize that the reporting of exemption is a critical component of the SPAW Protocol which enables Parties to confirm their compliance with the obligations they have taken on as Parties to the SPAW Protocol as appropriate	On-going The Exemptions Working Group continues to liaise, and follow-up, with Parties reporting exemptions.
13. Recommend that the SPAW Ad Hoc Working Group on Sargassum also include members/experts of the LBS protocol; look into potential health risks from heavy metals and liaise with the International Atomic Energy Agency and CARICOM, building synergies with other national and regional groups or initiatives working on this issue in this area.	Not Started This Decision is currently pending.
14. The Secretariat continues progress towards completing the draft State of Habitat and the 2020-2030 Regional Strategy and Action Plan and Investment Plan, supported by the CLME+ Project, for consideration at COP11 and further relevant action, taking into account the comments and inputs received by Parties and partners during the deliberations at the above Regional Workshop, the recommendations contained in Information Paper UNEP(DEPI)/CAR IG.40/INF.7 and other consultations as appropriate.	On-going Feedback on the draft documents were received from the Contracting Parties in April 2020. The documents are currently being finalised and translated for review and approval at the STAC9 and COP11.
15. The Secretariat and Contracting Parties ensure that efforts are undertaken to communicate on and highlight the relevance of the State of the Habitat Report for supporting sustainable socio-economic development in the Wider Caribbean.	On-going This will occur once the final document has been published.
16. The Secretariat to strengthen and enhance cooperation links with international instruments adopted by the International Maritime Organisation (IMO) aiming to promote cooperation and integrity with the SPAW Protocol and the Convention in general, as well as with maritime issues affecting marine biodiversity, including among others, the transfer of invasive species and diseases as a result of the discharge of ballast water, physical damage to the coral reefs or threats to marine mammals due to navigation, shipwrecks, pollution and noise from ships and wrecks, among others. (Secretariat and RACs to strengthen cooperation accordingly).	On-going SPAW continues to liaise closely with the LBS Secretariat and new MOUs with IWC, GCFI, INVEMAR have been drafted for their signature/signed.
17. Welcome offers from Governments to explore with the Secretariat the possibility of hosting the 9 th SPAW STAC Meeting in 2020.	On-going The Secretariat continues to work to identify a possible host. Efforts have been hampered by the current COVID-19 pandemic.