



9th Scientific and Technical Advisory Committee (STAC)

Virtual meeting,

March 18th 2021

ITEM 5: REPORT OF THE PA WORKING GROUP

SPAW STAC9 UNEP(DEPI)CAR WG.42.5



Sandrine Pivard, Director, Regional Activity Center for the SPAW Protocol (SPAW-RAC)



SPAW subprogramme

Axis 1

Programme Coordination

Axis 2

Creation and strengthening of Protected Areas in the Wider Caribbean Region

Axis 3

Development of guidelines for the management of protected areas and species

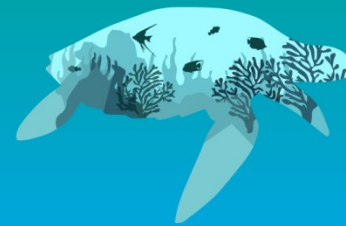
Axis 4

Conservation of threatened and endangered species

Axis 5

Conservation and Sustainable Use of Coastal and Marine Ecosystems





Establishment and strengthening of MPAs

Ecosystem based management, spatial marine planning, networking



Development of guidelines for the management of MPAs and species

Assessment and completion of the existing listings, develop cooperation between SPAW sites



REGIONAL COOPERATION

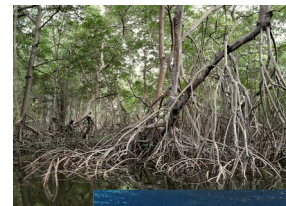
Preservation of threatened and endangered species

Marine mammals, (CARI'MAM), turtles (WIDECAST), sharks, birds



Preservation and sustainable use of coastal and marine ecosystems

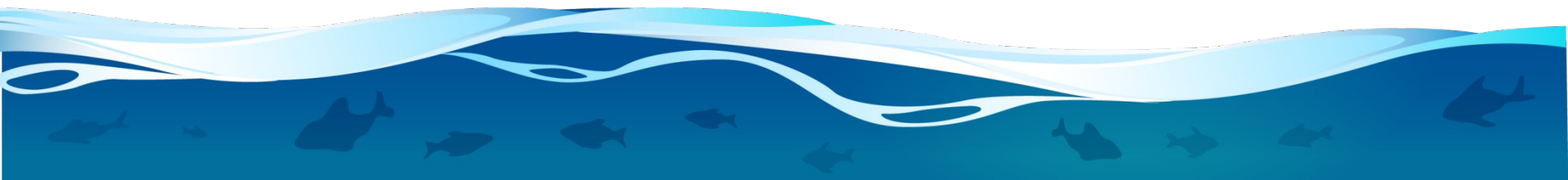
Coral reefs mangroves, seagrass coastal resilience, invasive species, sargassum control, sustainable development, BEST and Carib-Coast



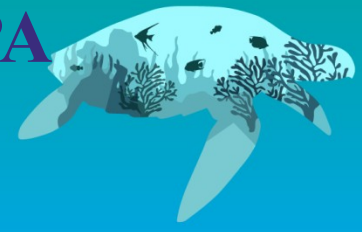


STAC Gouvernance strengthened and parties more involved though of the working groups => Ensure that the formulation and implementation of programme activities satisfy the requirements and needs of the SPAW Parties

Terms of Reference of the SPAW STAC Ad Hoc Working Groups: SPAW STAC9
UNEP(DEPI)CAR WG.42INF.12



36 SPAW listed PA throughout the Caribbean





PREVIOUS WORKS OF THE WG

2001: Parties agreed to develop guidelines and criteria for the evaluation of PA to be listed under the SPAW Protocol

2004 listing of PA under the SPAW Protocol, as identified under Article 7 of the Protocol, has been made a priority since 2004 by successive COPs

2008: Guidelines and Criteria for the Evaluation of PA to be Listed under the SPAW Protocol

2010: Annotated format for presentation reports/guidelines and criteria for evaluation of PA to be listed under the SPAW Protocol

2012-2018: 35 PA listed in 9 countries

(Last listed PA: KAW and Roura Natural Reserves in French Guiana and Mt Scenery NP in Saba)

2020: Terms of reference

NOWADAYS

What are the main focuses of the experts of the WG on PA management?

Activities should be facilitated as much as possible by a coordinating body to relieve the additional burden on PA managers.

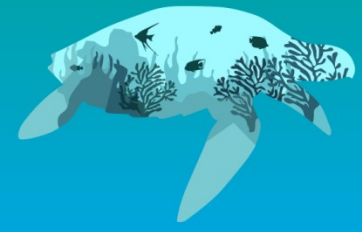
facilitate access to donors and to funding opportunities independently of the political context in the country.

bottom-up approach based on needs of site level managers.

Implementing follow-up of management of Protected Areas.

Steady review of management plan and the follow-up of management plans and their adaptation (to contracting Parties).





1.1. Historically present tasks:

1- Review and provide the basis for recommendations on proposals from contracting parties to add new PA to the SPAW protocol annexes.

2- Review when needed the procedure through which contracting parties can propose new PA to be listed as SPAW sites

1.2. Additional tasks from the priorities discussed during STAC 8 (not limited to):

3- The development of a co-operation programme in support of listed PA and in keeping with the comments provided by the STAC, with particular attention to the review of gaps and needs, in order to analyse ecological connectivity among sites, and strengthen networking and capacities

4- On proposition from the chair and in keeping with Article 19 and the para. 25 of the approved Guidelines and Criteria for listing PA, a reporting format on the status of the listed sites to Contracting Parties.



TASK 1



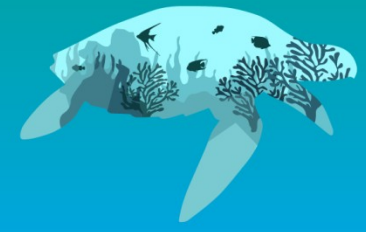
TASK 1 - Review and provide the basis for recommendations on proposals from contracting parties to add new protected areas to the SPAW protocol annexes



THE COTUBANAMA NATIONAL PARK: LISTING PROPOSAL

UNEP(DEPI)CAR WG.42/INF.22

UNEP(DEPI)/CAR WG.42/INF.22 Add.1



Main feedbacks

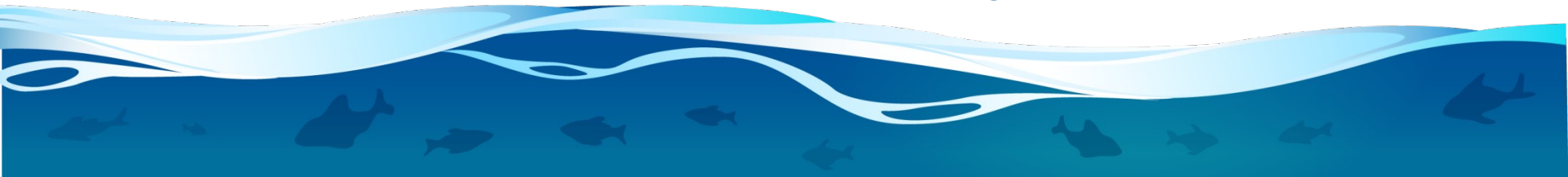
Cotubanama National Park fulfils the general PA criteria of both Article 4 of the SPAW Protocol and the UNEP-CEP General Guidelines for SPAW-listed sites.

A couple of transversal areas could benefit from additional informations to substantiate Dominican Republic's application on topics such as adaptations measures to climate change, communication strategy, relationship with monitoring institutions, or further development of small scale fisheries.

There is missing information that, if completed, could contribute to reinforcing Dominican Republic's argumentation. *e.g. The park could demonstrate several key management efforts to make sure it meets the general SPAW listed sites criteria.*

EXPERTS' DECISION

Experts recommend giving full support to the proposal from the Dominican Republic to include the Cotubanama National Park into the SPAW listing sites.





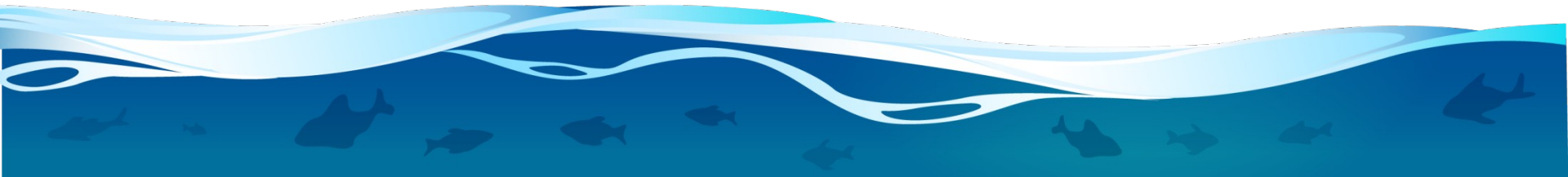
Further considerations

Experts support that effective management criteria, including (self-) **evaluation of the management** action, should be stressed on as they are key aspects of the PAs.

Experts suggest to have further discussions on revising the PA listing process to have a stronger emphasis on **management effectiveness**, and less of an "inventory" approach describing the resources. Opportunities to **streamline the process** must be considered.

Experts support a strong focus on capacity development for SPAW sites to help address management effectiveness needs.

They also recommended that all new applications must include a **current management plan** and **performance evaluation** report in order to be considered for listing.





TASK 3

Cooperation programme

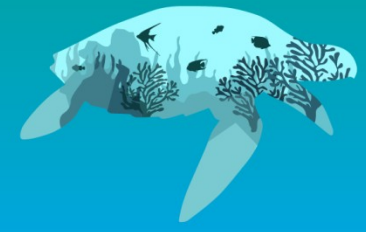


TASK 3 - The development of a co-operation programme in support of listed protected areas and in keeping with the comments provided by the STAC, with particular attention to the review of gaps and needs, in order to analyse ecological connectivity among sites, and strengthen networking and capacities



TASK 3

Cooperation programme



1st meeting

- Sharing of the workload
- Setting up working methods and sharing tools

June
2020

1st Draft of a Cooperation program (draft)

- Set the underlying principles of the program
- Used the main principles of this note to move on to the later cooperation program rationale.
- No consensus on the proposal

Meetings with ACP consultants

- Overview of 3 documents produced in parallel and agreement on further development of a cooperation program undertaken by a volunteer expert.

January
2021

2nd Draft of a Cooperation Framework

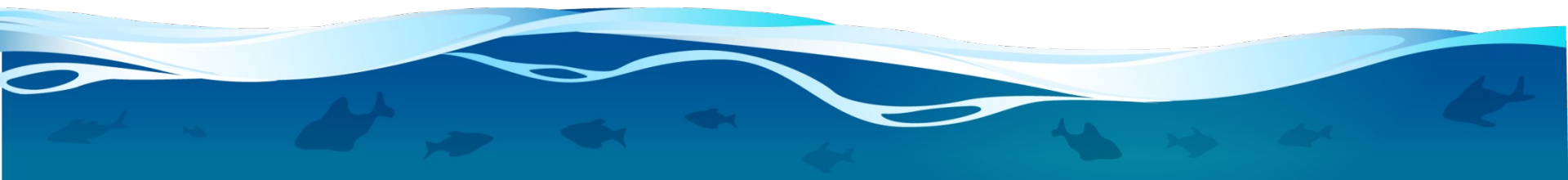
- Suggest a comprehensive scope for a cooperation program
- Did not receive enough feedbacks- No consensus neither

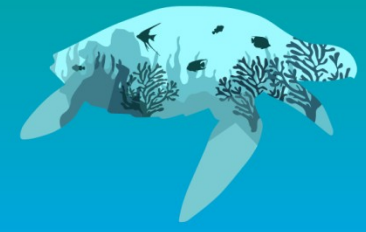
- Last interventions and share of ultimate suggestions and comments.
- Decision not to validate

March
2020

October
2020

February
2021



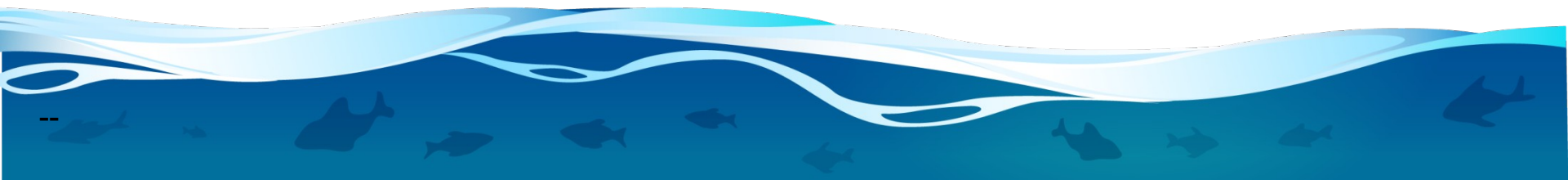


1st draft

- The adoption of a bottom-up approach based on the needs of site level managers.
- Activities should be facilitated as much as possible by a coordinating body.
- This document directly corresponded to the task discussed by STAC 8 and included in the Terms of Reference.
- The major elements one would expect to see (purpose, scope, contents/strategy) were there.

2nd draft

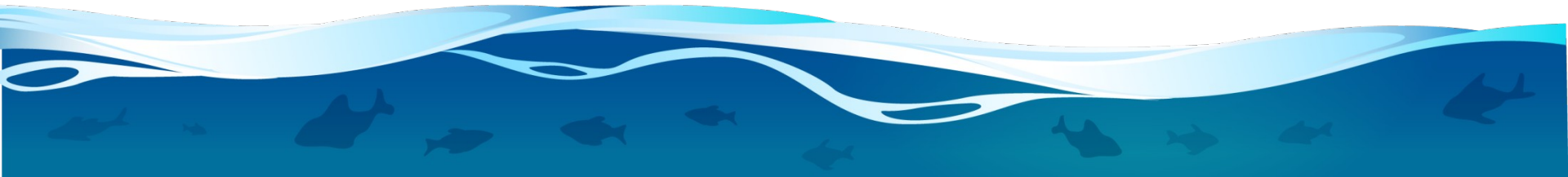
- Aims to identify the need for a cooperation framework, and suggests the scope of such a framework.
- Concerns of a scope going beyond STAC discussions.
- Need to reframe the scope of the cooperation framework.
- Need to address Protected Areas most pressing needs.





The STAC may wish to recommend to:

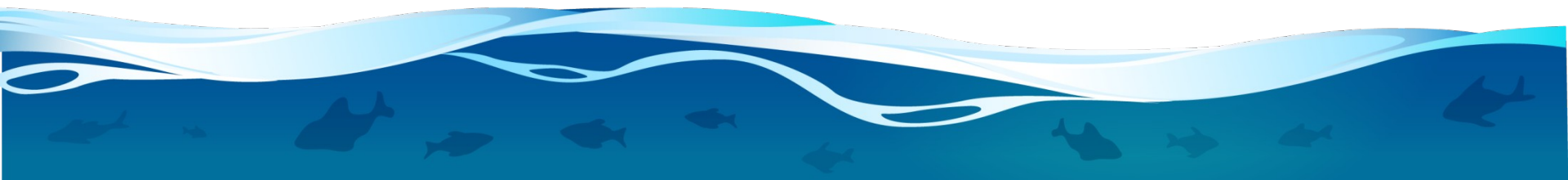
- give full support to the proposal from the Government of Dominican Republic and recommend the COP 11 to approve to include the Cotubanama National Park into the SPAW listing sites.
- request Countries to include a current management plan and performance evaluation report in their upcoming applications and to have further discussions about effective management criteria.
- request its Working Group to develop those criteria and revise the protected area listing process in the frame of task 2.
- request its Working Group to go on with its task 4, finish a reporting format on the status of the listed sites to Contracting Parties.
- encourage its Working Group to continue the development of a cooperation program in support of listing protected areas and listed protected areas, outlining options in support of listing protected areas and listed protected areas as outlines above.





The STAC may wish to recommend to:

- request the Secretariat and SPAW-RAC to consider opportunities for increased collaboration with existing MPA networks and capacity building initiatives in the region.
- SPAW-RAC recommend the STAC to convince Parties and in particular Signatory Parties to the SPAW protocol to nominate experts in order to diversify skills and expertise, and ensure the most exhaustive geographical and political representation but also as an efficient way to be involved in the SPAW implementation and better voice their needs and wishes in the SPAW protocol.
- improve the RAC and the Working Group involvement in the ACP MEAs project and other (M)PA activities (CamPAM?), for a better integration coordination of the (M)PA actions, possibly support of a small part of the RAC activity, and link with the other sub-programs.
- if deemed necessary, revise the ToR and it in particular the Annex (update the current tasks of the working group).





9th Scientific and Technical Advisory Committee (STAC)

Virtual meeting,
March 18th, 2021

Thank you,
Muchas gracias,
Merci

SPAW-RAC

DEAL Guadeloupe

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<https://www.car-spaw-rac.org/?Key-documents>