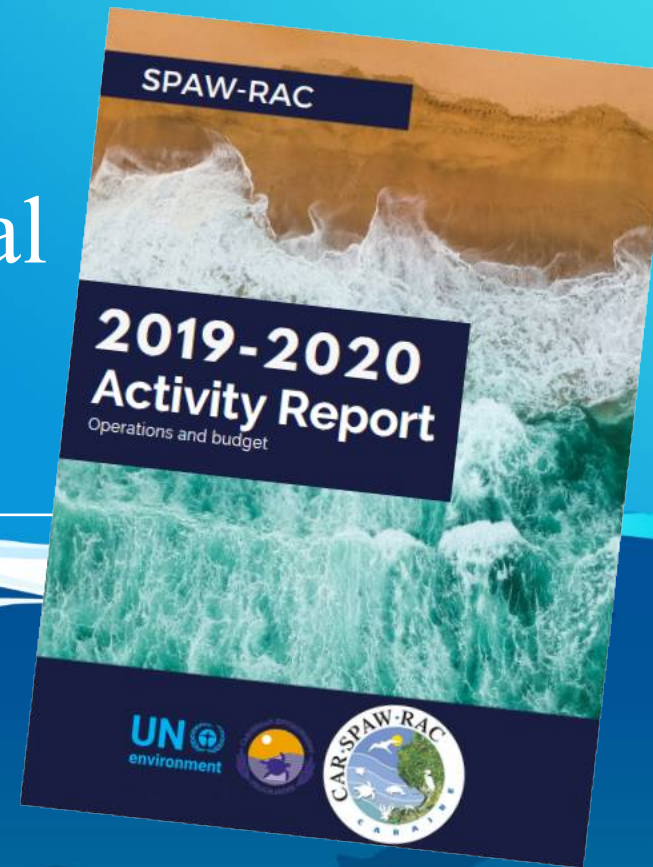




9th Scientific and Technical Advisory Committee (STAC)
Virtual meeting,
17th March 2021

Report of the SPAW Regional Activity Center: 2019-2020

SPAW STAC9 UNEP(DEPI) CAR WG.42 INF.4



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



The Cartagena Convention as a regional agreement addresses several different coastal & marine environmental threats affecting the countries of the Wider Caribbean Region. Adopted in 1983, Entered into force 1986

28 Parties

Pollution from Oil Spills



Adopted in 1983
Entered into force in 1986
25 Parties



Specially Protected Areas & Wildlife (SPAW)



Adopted in 1990
Entered into force in 2000
17 Parties



Land Based Sources and Activities of Marine Pollution (LBS)



Adopted in 1999
Entered into force in 2010
13 Parties



The three Protocols to the Convention identify additional obligations for the protection and development of the Caribbean Sea and are supported by REGIONAL ACTIVITY CENTRES (RAC)



SPAW parties and sites





The team



2000: agreement between UNEP and France
 - Located in Guadeloupe, staff integrated to the Direction of Environment, Spatial Planning and Housing since January 2019



- Staff: 3 permanent staff (1 director, 1 program officer, 1 assistant + 5/6 short-term staff (2 volunteers as one-year contract support officers + 3 or 4 fixed-term contract project officers and one coordinator staff). A dynamic team but a large turn-over.
- Functioning costs covered by the French government, including the permanent staff. Funds mostly from EU (CARI'MAM, Carib-coast, BEST), no project through CEP since end of ECCMAN project, CaMPAM and coral reef SSFAs... Staff fund secured until 2021, only partially after.





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

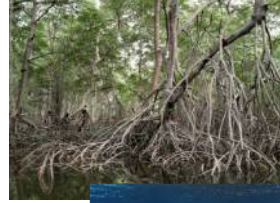
REGIONAL COOPERATION

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 Caribbean Coast





Activities developed by SPAW-RAC: axis 1

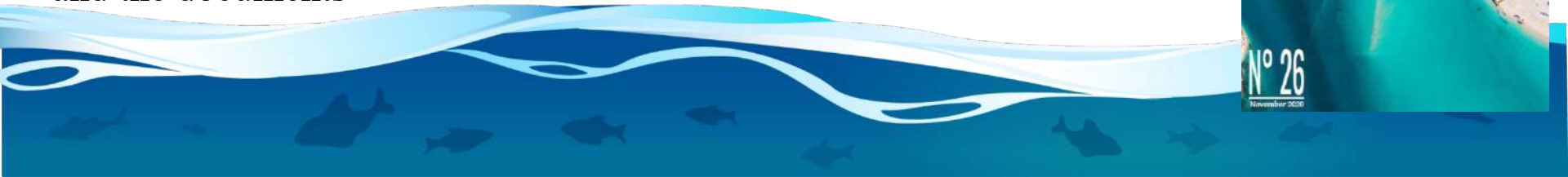


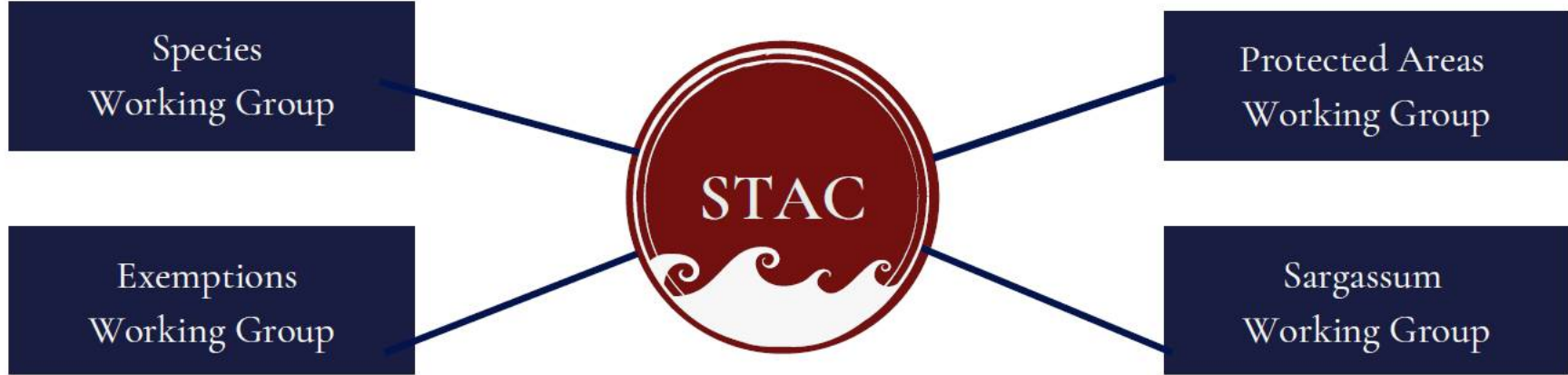
- ✓ Contribution to program coordination
 - Representation of the SPAW Protocol
 - Assistance to UNEP-CAR/RCU (STAC, COP...)
 - Trilingual website and SPAW newsletter (3/yr)
 - Joint programming and fundraising of relevant activities and coordination (could be developed)
 - Consolidation of RAC administration framework

<http://www.car-spaw-rac.org>



- ✓ Ensure that the formulation and implementation of program activities satisfy the requirements and needs of the SPAW Pa
 - strengthening of the work with LBS
 - preparation of the STAC : 41 documents prepared, all translated almost simultaneously in Spanish and French and available at <https://www.car-spaw-rac.org/?Key-documents>
 - organisation of 4 pre-sessions/ 4 hours each to introduce the work and the documents





STAC Gouvernance strengthened and parties more involved through the working groups
→ Terms of reference

PRODUCED DOCUMENT

Terms of reference of the STAC *Ad Hoc* Working Groups (UNEP(DEPI)/CAR WG.42/INF.12)

Future prospects

- 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 preparation of the next official assemblies
- Improve the working groups functioning collectively
- Strengthen direct communication with Parties through the Teamwork platform and bilateral meetings with focal points



Activities developed by SPAW-RAC: axis 1



AXIS 1 PROGRAMME COORDINATION OBJECTIVES

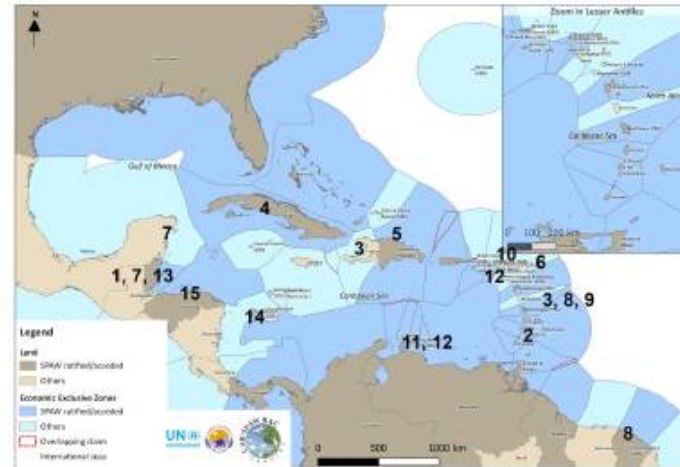
Other SPAW-RAC cooperative actions

In the framework of the Caribbean activities of the GCRMN, new links have been made with organizations from Belize (University of Belize, World Conservation Society), Guatemala (Mundo Azul, FundaEco), Honduras (AMATELA, Bay Islands Conservation Association, Coral Reef Alliance, Roatan Marine Park, Zamorano University) and Mexico (UNAM-BarCoLab).



The BEST initiative (Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services in the European overseas Territories) has been implemented to its end on December 31 2019. During the various calls for projects of this program funded by the European Union, twenty-eight (28) projects were selected and implemented within the EU's overseas territories of the Caribbean for a total amount of € 3,98 millions.

Within the call for proposals (UNEP(DEPI)/CAR WG.42/INF.27) launched in 2020, SPAW-RAC has awarded more than fifteen (15) organizations throughout the Caribbean, with french funds .



Through the two (2) main projects implemented by SPAW-RAC, the CARIMAM and Carib'Coast Projects, the RAC was able to establish new partnerships and enhance collaboration with organizations throughout the Wider Caribbean Region.



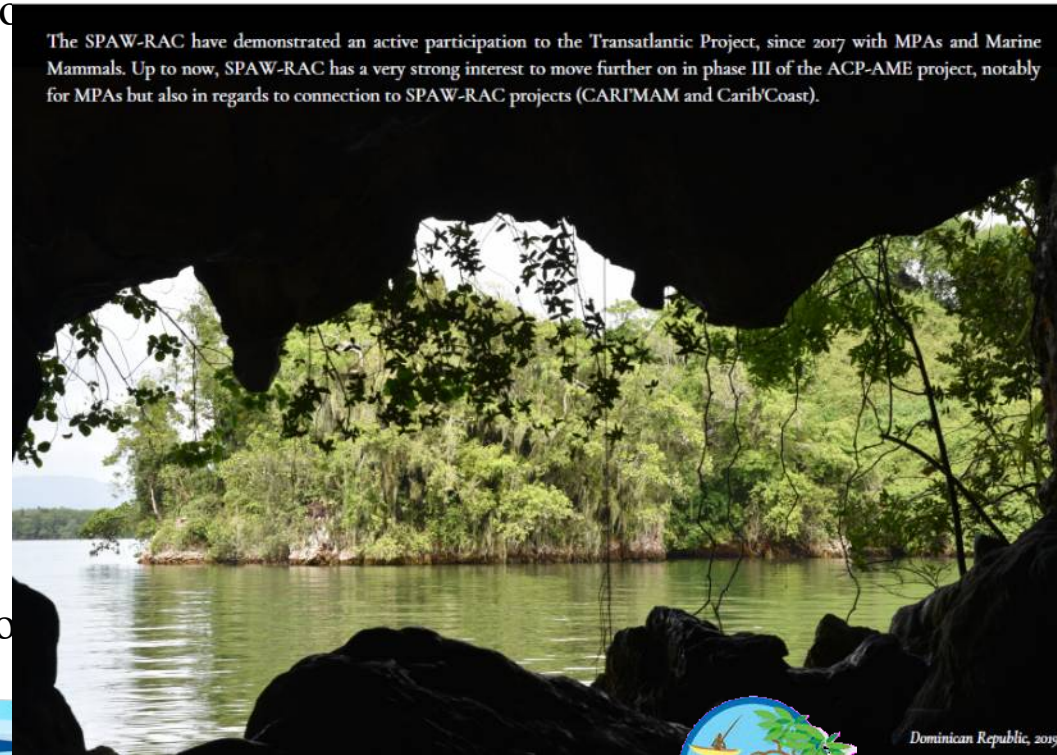


STRENGTHENING OF PROTECTED AREAS

- Minor role in CaMPAM (moderation of the CaMPAM listserv)
- Contribution to ACP / coordination with the PA WG
- Transatlantic North-South Cooperation Project on MPA : SPAW-RAC went on participating in MPAs network and Marine Mammals twinning projects
- Cari'Mam project with special attention to PA
- Fund projects through BEST & the 2020 call for proposals

CREATE SYNERGY BETWEEN INITIATIVES ON PAs

The SPAW-RAC have demonstrated an active participation to the Transatlantic Project, since 2017 with MPAs and Marine Mammals. Up to now, SPAW-RAC has a very strong interest to move further on in phase III of the ACP-AME project, notably for MPAs but also in regards to connection to SPAW-RAC projects (CARI'MAM and Carib'Coast).



Dominican Republic, 2019





PROTECTED AREAS WORKING GROUP

Number of experts: Fifteen (15)

including 12 experts nominated by 7 Countries

Meetings held: Four (4)

- April 23rd 2020 / Cooperation programme
- September 30th 2020 / MPAs network
- October 10th 2020 / "Ecological" network
- October 15th 2020 / "Management" network

Focus during the biennial

Cotubanama NP

Cooperation programme

Assigned tasks

Mandatory tasks:

- Review and provide the basis for recommendations on proposals from contracting parties to add new protected areas to the SPAW protocol annexes
- Review when needed the procedure through which contracting parties can propose new protected areas to be listed as SPAW sites

Additional tasks from the priorities discussed during STAC 8 :

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

COTUBANAMA NATIONAL PARK PROPOSAL

The proposal of the Dominican Republic for inclusion of the Cotubanama National Park into the SPAW listing sites was submitted to SPAW secretariat for review on the 24th of May 2019.

The proposal has been submitted to a series of reviews, carried out by the five (5) experts. Final version of the review was translated in Spanish and sent to the Dominican Republic's Government on October 10th, 2020. A final version of the proposal with comments and justifications from the Dominican Republic was submitted on November 3rd, 2020.



Keeping in mind some comments relative to the lacks in the implementation of the management, management criteria and monitoring and evaluation of the site, as well as the need to foster the focus on education and climate change, the experts unanimously recommend the inclusion of the National Park into the SPAW list of PAs.

The Cotubanama National Park represents an important coastal-marine ecosystem (land-sea interaction) in the southeast end of the Dominican Republic. The area has the characteristics of a protected area - natural, cultural and social value - and represents one of the oldest national parks of the Dominican Republic.

Suggestions :

- Experts recommend giving full support to the DR's proposal – Effective management criteria, including (self) evaluation of the management should be stressed on ;
- Revise the PA listing process to have a stronger emphasis on management effectiveness

All new applications must include a **current management plan and performance evaluation report**

- Draft framework for cooperation is on stand-by – waiting for more **precisions on the scope and capacity of the WG**

Outcomes :

UNEP(DEPI)/CAR WG.42/INF.22 – Review of the Dominican Republic's proposal for listing of the Cotubanama National Park under the SPAW Protocol

UNEP(DEPI)/CAR WG.42/INF.22 Addendum 1 – Submission for inclusion in SPAW listed sites : Cotubanama National Park- Dominican Republic

UNEP(DEPI)/CAR WG.42/5 – Report of the STAC PA Working Group



SPECIES WORKING GROUP

Number of experts: Twenty-three (28) including 13 experts nominated by 8 Countries

Meetings held: Nine (9)

- April 14th, December 15th 2020; January 25th 2021 / Parrotfish
- May 7th, December 16th 2020; January 27th 2021 / Sharks & Rays
- April 21st, June 6th & October 8th 2020 / Marine mammals
- April 29th, December 15th 2020, January 26th 2021 / Regional priorities and Management

Many discussions on the Teamwork dedicated platform and contributions on online documents.

Assigned tasks

Mandatory tasks:

- Review, evaluate, and provide recommendations (including the basis for any recommendations) on proposals from contracting parties to add new species to the SPAW Protocol annexes or change the listing status of species.

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

- Evaluate the status of parrotfish and other herbivores associated with coral reefs, seagrass beds and mangroves to determine whether any species or group of species may warrant listing in the SPAW Protocol Annexes, with due consideration to socio-cultural-economic and ecological dimensions, and provide results of reviews to the STAC;
- Address as priority the whale shark *Rhincodon typus* and the giant manta ray *Manta birostris*, as well as other species deemed a priority by the STAC. Part of this assessment could include an evaluation of the current listing of species (evaluate whether they are in the appropriate Annex, identify management needs of the species).
- Develop priorities and strategies for regional collaboration on and implementation of management measures to improve protection of species listed under the Annexes of the Protocol.
- Discuss options for a simplified procedure for the listing of Critically Endangered and Endangered species

STAC8 recommended to revitalize the Working Groups by giving them flexibility to work in sub-groups on specific issues depending on the expertise and availability of experts.

The activities of the Species Working Group done during this biennial can be split into two (2) categories, and the experts were not necessary the same in each issue.

- Preparation of the addition of new species to the appendices and uplisting of species (Parrotfish, and Sharks and Rays)
- Regionwide management of species protected under the SPAW protocol (Nassau Grouper, Sea Turtles, and Sawfish)



Species Working Group

* SPAW STAC9 UNEP(DEPI)CAR WG.42.4 Species working group report

Species

- * SPAW STAC9 UNEP(DEPI)CAR WG.42-INF.15 Proposal for potential inclusion of all parrotfishes in Annexes of the SPAW Protocol
- * SPAW STAC9 UNEP(DEPI)CAR WG.42-INF.24 Add 1- Proposal for the inclusion of Oceanic whitetip shark in Annex II of the SPAW Protocol
- * SPAW STAC9 UNEP(DEPI)CAR WG.42-INF.24 Addendum 2 Proposal for the inclusion of the Whale Shark in Annex II of the SPAW Protocol
- * SPAW STAC9 UNEP(DEPI)CAR WG.42INF.24 add3-Giant Manta Ray Proposal Annex II
- * UNEP(DEPI)CAR WG.42INF.24 add4- great hammerhead shark Annex II

* SPAW STAC9 UNEP(DEPI)CAR WG.42INF.24- Recommendations for Effective management_Sharks and Rays

- * SPAW STAC9 UNEP(DEPI)CAR WG.42-INF.25 Recommendations for preventing sawfish extinction
- * SPAW STAC9 UNEP(DEPI)CAR WG.42-INF.38 Recommendations for conserving the Nassau Grouper
- * SPAW STAC9 UNEP(DEPI)CAR WG.42-INF.39- Recommendations for the protection and recovery of the Caribbean sea turtles
- * SPAW STAC9 UNEP(DEPI)CAR WG 42-INF.32 Toolkit for implementing marine mammal watching guidelines in the

Focus on five (5) species and groups of species:

- Parrot Fish
- Sharks and Rays
- Nassau Grouper
- Sea Turtles
- Sawfish



- Strengthening the implementation of management measures of the species listed under the Annexes of the Protocol whether on annex II or annex III and in particular developing priorities and strategies for regional collaboration on and implementation of **management measures** to improve protection of migratory of largely ranged species. As such they choice to focus in particular on

- **Nassau grouper** (annex III),
- **Sawfish** (annex II),
- **Marine turtles** (annex II),
- Species of **sharks and rays** (annex III)
- not forgetting **marine mammals** (annex II)

and in all case strongly advocate on the necessity of engaging in adapted management measures

- Address as priority species deemed a priority by the STAC and evaluate the status of those species to determine whether species or group of species may warrant listing in the SPAW Protocol Annexes and provide results of reviews to the STAC. They focus on fish : **parrotfish** and species of **sharks and rays**.

- drafting the proposals

- answering the final assessments : between 14 and 17 experts considered that the proposals built collectively follow the requirements of the guidelines and commend their quality to take a decision.

→ need to be adopted by countries for formal nomination



EXEMPTION WORKING GROUPS



Number of experts: Twelve (12)

- 9 experts nominated by 6 members states
- 2 experts nominated by observers

Meeting held

- May 5th 2020 / Encouraging the use of the adopted Reporting Format
- Additional discussions on the Teamwork dedicated platform and contributions on online documents.

Focus

Curaçao Exemption Report

USA Exemption Report

Format

Assigned tasks

Mandatory tasks :

- Review for recommendation the exemptions reports submitted by contracting parties

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

- Encouraging the use of the adopted Reporting Format for Exemptions under Article 11(2) of the Specially Protected Areas and Wildlife Protocol (SPAW) (UNEP(DEPI/CAR WG 38/3)
- Review the United States Exemptions Report (2017) and report to the STAC on their findings, as well as the Curacao Exemptions Report (2016) and any additional information that may be provided by the Government of Curacao since the original exemption report submission.

Species Working Group

* SPAW STAC9 UNEP(DEPI)CAR WG.42.5 Exemptions working group report

* SPAW STAC9 UNEP(DEPI)CAR INF 21



STAC 8 recommended to:

- « cooperate with relevant partners to assess and merge information and best practices on managing the Sargassum influx impacting Caribbean countries” (i.e. MoC concluded with the Sargasso Sea Commission) »;

Outcomes : UNEP(DEPI)/CAR WG.42/7

Main challenges :

- Coordination issues
- Precising objectives and role of the WG
- Merge the WG work with other initiatives in the caribbean on sargassum

SARGASSUM WORKING GROUP

Number of experts: Eighteen (18)

- including 9 experts nominated by 7 Countries-

Meeting held

- April 20th 2020 / Setting objectives and workload

Assigned Tasks:

Mandatory tasks agreed by STAC 8:

- Develop clear objectives and responsibilities for the Working Group
- Establish coordination and collaboration with relevant regional and global initiatives in order to promote maximum impact of synergies and solutions the Sargassum outbreaks.



Focus

Best practices on Sargassum

Improve collaboration with relevant partners

Liaise with the AEC and CARICOM



SUSTAINABLE FINANCING AND WORKPLAN

Due to the breadth of Sargassum influx in the Wider Caribbean Region for the past eight (8) years, this issue took an extent large enough to be discussed at STAC 8. The conclusion of this was the creation of a Sargassum Working Group at the initiative of the STAC.

Therefore, mandatory tasks were proposed, discussed and settled. These objectives, described above, exist through three (3) main guidelines, being:

- Best practices on Sargassum;
- Improve collaboration with relevant partners; and
- Liaise with the AEC and CARICOM.





AXIS 4
CONSERVATION OF THREATENED
AND ENDANGERED SPECIES

MARINE MAMMALS -CARI'MAM PROJECT

Objective : to develop a marine protected area network dedicated to marine mammals conservation in the caribbean with specific emphasis on the mmmap's priorities. The CARI'MAM network is composed of managers, scientists and others partners from around the Wider Caribbean Region.

Notification of the project: 25th april 2018

End of the project : 30th november 2021

European interreg project : 2 727 000 €



Majors outputs :

-Identifying key priority areas for marine mammals conservation : UNEP(DEPI)CAR WG 42INF.29 ; INF.29-addendum 1 and addendum 2

-Inclusion of marine mammals in the wider caribbean region MPA management plans: tools and recommendations for an improved consideration. UNEP(DEPI)CAR WG 42INF.30



Activities developed by SPAW-RAC: axis 4



AXIS 4
CONSERVATION OF THREATENED AND ENDANGERED SPECIES

MARINE MAMMALS -CARI'MAM PROJECT-MAJOR OUTPUTS

-Support sustainable marine mammal watching in the WCR . UNEP(DEPI)CAR WG 42/INF.31 ; INF.31 addendum 1 and INF.31 addendum 2.

-Support marine mammal networking among protected sites, education, and awareness : organize and facilitate workshops on Whale Watching, and to work on legislation related to marine mammal conservation and bycatch Meeting : 2019, Guadeloupe ; 2019 Dominican Republic, 2020 The month of CARI'MAM. A part of SPAW RAC website dedicated to marine mammals.

More information : UNEP(DEPI)CAR WG 42/INF.31 CARI'MAM: AN INTERIM REPORT

Communication tools

<http://www.moncolembaleine.org/lesjeux.html>



MARINE MAMMALS OF THE CARIBBEAN

The Wider Caribbean Region has over 25 species of marine mammals, making it one of the areas on the planet where this group is the most diverse. These are nearly very mobile species, which can move between different territories. This is why several projects have been carried out to better understand these animals and bring together the actors working to protect them in this space.

The latest project is the CARI'MAM project, which aims to network partners from the Greater Caribbean Region working to improve the knowledge and preservation of marine mammals.

Discover them
The numerous species of marine mammals present in the Caribbean are particularly beautiful animals. This chapter presents more information about these animals and how to observe them in the wild.



<https://www.car-spaw-rac.org/?Marine-Mammals-999>

Activities developed by SPAW-RAC: axis 4



AXIS 4 CONSERVATION OF THREATENED AND ENDANGERED SPECIES

IMPROVED MANAGEMENT

The STAC8 entrusted the Species Working Group with the following task: "Develop priorities and strategies for regional collaboration on and implementation of management measures to improve protection of species listed under the Annexes of the Protocol".

During the biennium 2019-2020, the Species Working Group has elaborated several documents to improve the conservation status of the threatened species of Nassau Grouper, Sea turtles, Sawfish and other Rays and Sharks. In particular, they have worked on the following aspects of their conservation:

- Develop and implement national actions plans and fisheries management measures, with precautionary catch limits, actions to prevent bycatch, elimination of harmful fisheries subsidies, and accidental ship strikes;
- Coordinate work with the Inter-American Sea Turtle Convention for the Protection and Conservation of Sea Turtles, CITES and CMS to compile information, and encourage the Parties to report to the COP, and non compliant ones to be compliant with the SPAW Protocol;
- Protect their critical habitats and demonstrate the importance of Marine Protected Areas;
- Improve communication, education and capacity building.



Petite Terre, Guadeloupe, 2018

Through its 2020 Call for Projects, SPAW-RAC supports the improvement of management measures of threatened and listed species throughout the Caribbean.

In addition to the above supported projects on the management and conservation of Parrotfish, Sharks and Rays, and those relating to Sea Turtles on the next page, SPAW-RAC has funded an Honduran MPA's manager to promote responsible seafood choices by enhancing ecological and social responsibility management of lobsters within the Roatan Marine Park.



Future prospects

→ Improve coordination with regional fisheries management organizations (WECAFC, OSPESCA, CRFM, CFMC, ...) and other international organizations involved (CITES, CMS ...)

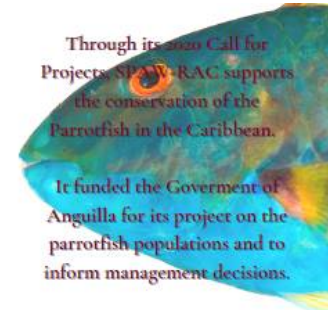
- Protection of parrotfish nursery habitats (mangroves, seagrass);
- Maintenance of water quality;
- Improved harvesting measures that are the result of consensus from most fisheries and environmental stakeholders (minimum and maximum size restrictions, closed seasons...);
- Encourage governments to fulfill their commitment to stop investing public money in activities that fund overfishing, produce illegal, unreported, and unregulated (IUU) fishing, and degrade the ocean.

Furthermore, discussions are underway to recommend whether to list the species in the Annexes II or III of the SPAW Protocol, with some experts advocating the listing of *Scarus coeruleus*, *S. guacamaia* and *S. coelestinus* in Annex II due to their Near Threatened IUCN's status.



Through its 2020 Call for Projects SPAW-RAC supports the conservation of the Parrotfish in the Caribbean.

It funded the Government of Anguilla for its project on the parrotfish populations and to inform management decisions.



In collaboration with CEP and SPAW-RAC, Interamerican Association for Environmental Defense (AIDA) elaborated a "Factsheet of herbivorous fish".

AIDA also organized several awareness raising webinars on the role of parrotfish and their importance for coral reef ecosystems (in English and Spanish).

Future prospects

- Encourage data production and gathering, especially on size of population, evidence of decline, range of distribution and population fragmentation.
- Further work on harmful subsidies (subvention of non-specific fuel subsidies, vessel modernization that makes it possible to cross EEZ etc...)
- Regional management





SEA TURTLES PROTECTION



Suriname, 2019

In 2019-2020, WIDECAST, the SPAW Regional Activity Network (RAN) dedicated to marine turtles focused on:

- Atlas of Sea Turtle Nesting Beaches in the Wider Caribbean Region
- Northwest Atlantic Leatherback Sea Turtle Status Assessment
- Consequences of COVID-19
- Oil spills

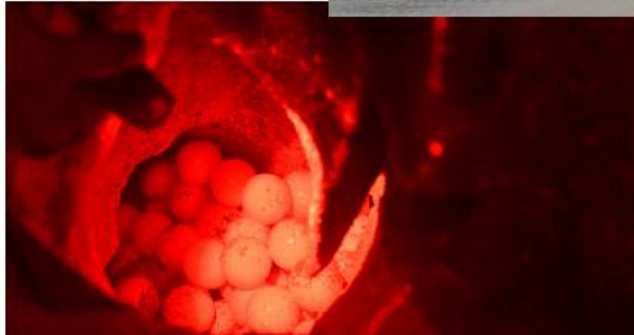


Every year, SPAW-RAC participate to the WIDECAST's annual general meetings and contribute to the network. Organised in Suriname in 2019, it was to happen in Colombia in 2020 with the financial support of SPAW-RAC but had to be canceled to the covid outbreak. The funding, including Status assessment of the NW Atlantic leatherback and a workshop on bycatch is rescheduled for the next biennial.

Importantly SPAW-RAC developed with the French Office for Biodiversity and other partners from the Caribbean, a new project dedicated to large migratory species including turtles. Pending funding approval, it aims to be very operational and strongly link with fisheries and territories

Trinidad and Tobago, 2018

Through its 2020 Call for Projects, SPAW-RAC supported three (3) NGO dedicated to Sea Turtles conservation in Belize, Granada and Saint-Vincent-and-the Grenadines.



AXIS 4 CONSERVATION OF THREATENED AND ENDANGERED SPECIES

OTHER TAXONOMIC GROUPS OF THREATENED SPECIES

In order to diversify its activities under the SPAW protocol, SPAW-RAC has made new and hopeful linkages with BirdsCaribbean, PlantOfTheAntilles, and, through the 2020 Call for Proposals, with many other stakeholders throughout the Caribbean.

Through its 2020 Call for Projects, SPAW-RAC supports actions on threatened species, sometimes listed in the appendices of the protocol, and for which few actions are currently carried out.

These are for example:

- *Leptocercus aff. grantianus* (Appendix I) in Antigua and Barbuda
- Bicknell's Thrush (Appendix II) in Dominican republic
- West Indian Whistling-Duck (Appendix III) in Cuba
- Caribbean spiny lobster (Appendix III) in Honduras
- Neotropical otter (Appendix III) in Mexico and Belize



SPAW-RAC also funded with other donors the production of an Endemic Birds of the West Indies Colouring Book in Spanish and French, edited by BirdsCaribbean, and intended to be used by teachers of the whole Caribbean as a support for school education and to raise awareness.





Activities developed by SPAW-RAC: axis 4



AXIS 4
CONSERVATION OF THREATENED AND ENDANGERED SPECIES

MARINE MAMMALS -CARI'MAM PROJECT-MAJOR OUTPUTS

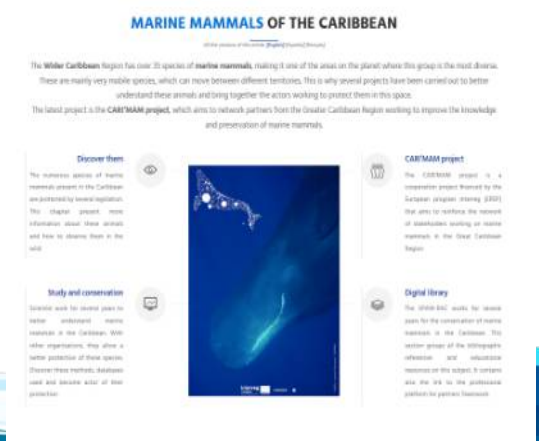
-Support sustainable marine mammal watching in the WCR . UNEP(DEPI)CAR WG 42/INF.31 ; INF.31 addendum 1 and INF.31 addendum 2.

-Support marine mammal networking among protected sites, education, and awareness : organize and facilitate workshops on Whale Watching, and to work on legislation related to marine mammal conservation and bycatch Meeting : 2019, Guadeloupe ; 2019 Dominican Republic, 2020 The month of CARI'MAM. A part of SPAW RAC website dedicated to marine mammals.

More information : UNEP(DEPI)CAR WG 42/INF.31 CARI'MAM: AN INTERIM REPORT

Communication tools

<http://www.moncolembaleine.org/lesjeux.html>



<https://www.car-spaw-rac.org/?Marine-Mammals-999>



● GCRMN-Global:

- - **Coordinate the data collection and analysis of the Caribbean content of the Global report** => share the unanimous observation: a diminution of corals and an increase of algae is observed. Exposed the following threats : Lionfish invasion, sargassum, upcoming of the SCTLD ...

- - **Highlighted** => the need to take into account socioeconomic features in the next Global Report.

● GCRMN- Caribbean:

- - **Integrated monitoring** => guidelines to better understand biophysics aspects of coral reefs in the Caribbean and provided keys for an efficient monitoring that takes into account socioeconomic features.

- - **Improved data collection**, analysis and reporting/ link with AGGRA

- - **Develop advocacy/ Ensuring liaise** with ICRI, UNEP Coral Reef Unit, CRC, NOAA (Post Hurricane effort, SCTLD, etc)

- - **Looking for funding opportunities**

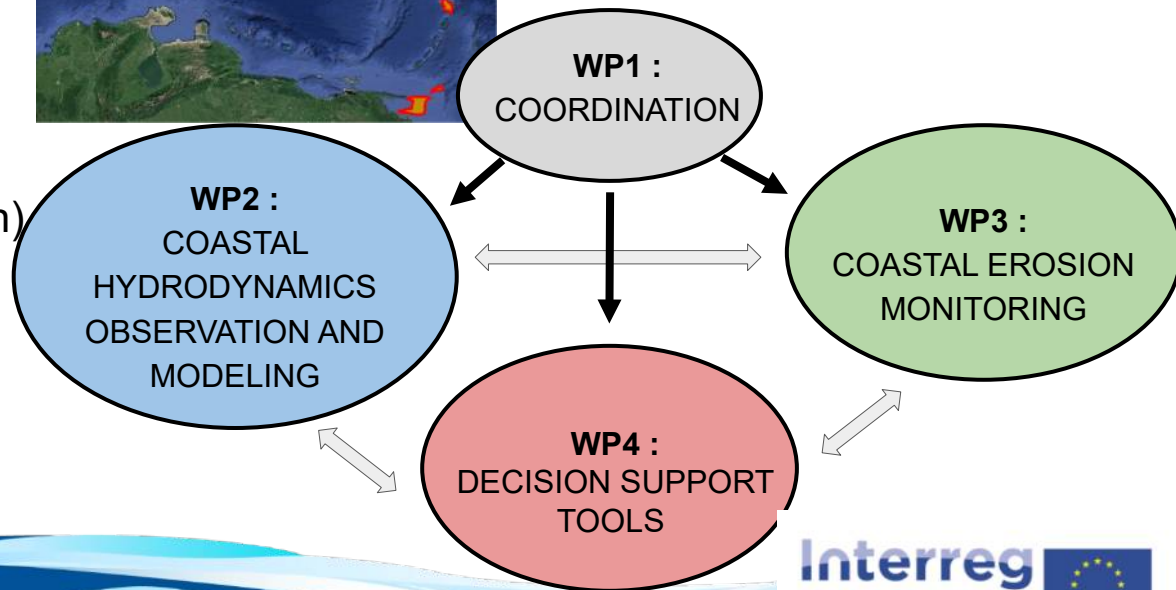
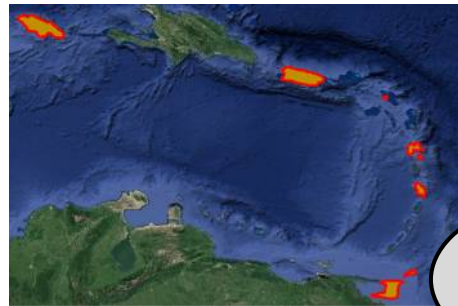




CARIB-COAST

Caribbean coastal risks prevention and monitoring network related with climate change

- Led by the french Geological and mining research bureau
- 6 Caribbean territories
- 11 Caribbean partners
- 3 years long (+1 year extension)
- Interreg Caribbean funds
- 3 021 890, 59 €





AXIS 5
CONSERVATION
AND SUSTAINABLE USE OF COASTAL
AND MARINE ECOSYSTEMS

Target: Marine and coastal ecosystems

- Coral Reefs, Seagrass beds, Mangroves,
Upper beach vegetation -

- **Syntheses** on each ecosystem (status, trends, protection and/or restoration activities in the Caribbean)
- **Implementation of pilot sites**, to protect/restore each ecosystem in a specific area in the Caribbean
- Creation of **posters and awareness videos** about these ecosystems capacities regarding coastal protection





GCRMN biophysical and SocMon Training Sessions in the Wider Caribbean Region (NFWF funded)

Mesoamerica

- 2019 to 2020
- **2 training workshops**
- **5 days of training each**
- 2 trainers per topic
- Data collection during the WS to help local monitoring

- Due to the impossibility of organizing in-person meetings in due time, the award was rescinded, and the continuation of such as actions is for the moment postponed





IMPLEMENTATION OF THE 2019-2020 WORKPLAN BY THE SPAW-RAC (Staff not included)

Programme component	2019				2020			
	Gov. of France	CTF / CEP	External funds (EU...)	TOTAL	Gov. of France	CTF	External funds (EU...)	TOTAL
1. Programme coordination				31 018				14 741
Preparation STAC / COP, translations, communication...	31 018	0	0	31 018	14 741	0	0	14 741
2. Strengthening of protected areas				7 402				6 500
CaMPAM / GCFI	7 402	0	0	7 402	0	0	0	0
PA Management effectiveness	0	0	0	0	6 500	0	0	6 500
3. Development of guidelines for management of PA and species				0				39 600
Marine resources management	0	0	0	0	15 500	0	0	15 500
Restoration of ecosystem / Nature based solutions	0	0	0	0	23 500	0	0	23 500
4. Conservation of threatened and endangered species				37 961				136 610
Marine mammals	26 151	0	8 213	34 364	33 719	0	37 391	71 110
Sea turtles	3 497	0	0	3 497	20 000	0	0	20 000
Sharks and rays	0	0	0	0	20 000	0	0	20 000
Birds	0	0	0	0	18 500	0	0	18 500
Plants	0	0	0	0	7 000	0	0	7 000
5. Conservation and sustainable use of coastal and marine ecosystems				48 347				32 734
Coral reef	39 362	0	3 430	42 792	10 680	0	21 726	32 406
Sargassum	1 687	0	0	1 687	0	0	0	0
Miscellaneous (IAS, CLME+, Lion fish...)	868	0	0	868	328	0	0	328
TOTAL	110 025	0	11 643	121 668	179 468	0	59 117	229 586

GLOBAL SPAW-RAC BUDGET BREAKDOWN BY CATEGORIES (staff included)

	2019				2020			
	Gov. of France	CTF / CEP	External funds (EU...)	TOTAL	Gov. of France	CTF / CEP	External funds (EU...)	TOTAL
Running costs	39 030	0	3 649	42 679	27 625	0	3 692	31 317
Benefiting to the Parties	48 994	0	3 955	52 949	135 400	0	11 005	146 405
External expenses	22 000	0	4 040	26 040	7 443	0	44 421	51 864
Salaries and staff costs	320 618	0	104 699	425 317	347 968	0	160 165	508 133
TOTAL	430 643	0	116 343	546 985	518 436	0	219 282	737 719

Running costs includes purchases, rentals, travels, communication, overhead costs... / Benefiting to the Parties includes grants, sponsorships... / External expenses includes consultancies, meetings organization... / Salaries and staff costs corresponds to 3 french civil servants and 2 volunteers supported by the French Government, and 2-3 project officers and 0-2 interns covered by external funds.





PROVISIONAL FUNDING FOR THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE 2021-2022 WORKPLAN BY THE SPAW-RAC

Programme component	2021				2022			
	Gov. of France	CTF / CEP	External funds (EU...)	TOTAL	Gov. of France	CTF	External funds (EU...)	TOTAL
1. Programme coordination				30 000				30 000
Preparation STAC / COP, translations, communication...	30 000	0	0	30 000	30 000	0	0	30 000
2. Strengthening of protected areas				30 000				30 000
RAC actions for PA strengthening (call for proposals, PAME...)	24 000	0	0	24 000	24 000	0	0	24 000
RAC support MPA Sessions Conferences (2019 and 2020)	6 000	0	0	6 000	6 000	0	0	6 000
3. Development of guidelines for management of PA and species				0				0
4. Conservation of threatened and endangered species				220 000				120 000
RAC actions for species conservation (Call for proposals...)	50 000	0	0	50 000	50 000	0	0	50 000
Marine mammals (Cari'Mam)	0	0	170 000	170 000	0	0	0	0
Megafauna (Hammac)*	0	0	0	0	0	0	70 000	70 000
5. Conservation and sustainable use of coastal and marine ecosystems				130 000				110 000
RAC actions for Ecosystems conservation (Call for proposals, restoration...)	30 000	0	0	30 000	30 000	0	0	30 000
Coral reef and associated habitats (Carib-Coast)	0	0	100 000	100 000	0	0	80 000	80 000
TOTAL	140 000	0	270 000	410 000	140 000	0	150 000	290 000

RAC salaries	2021				2022			
	Gov. of France	CTF / CEP	External funds (EU...)	TOTAL	Gov. of France	CTF	External funds (EU...)*	TOTAL
	340 000	0	170 000	510 000	340 000	0	70 000	410 000

→ Some external funds for 2022 and thus part of the team and some of the actions are not secured. How to secure a sufficient task force with the fundings already obtained by SPAW remains to be discussed.

SPAW-RAC Call for proposals



- In order to support regional initiatives and stakeholders during this period, SPAW-RAC launched last year a call for proposals for small short-term grants (5,000 to 10,000 euros / 4 months to 1 year)
- 38 proposals have been received, most of them of high quality, and 15 have already been accepted in 2020

Name of the organization: **Department of Fisheries and Marine Resources**
 Name of the project: **An investigation of the health of parrotfish nearshore coral reef habitats, parrotfish landings and population densities to inform management decisions.**



Total budget of the project: € 10,000.00
 SPAW-RAC grant: € 7,000.00

Name of the organization: **Mangrove Maniacs**
 Name of the project: **Workshop Mangrove Restoration**

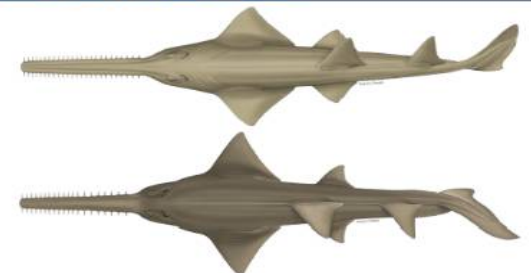


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Total budget of the project: \$ 25,195
 SPAW-RAC grant: € 9,000

Name of the organization: **Des Requins et Des Hommes**
 Name of the project: **TIDENT**



**Call for proposals
 Short-term Small Grants
 - year 2020 -**

*Information note
 for the SPAW Protocole
 Scientific and Technical Advisory Committee*

Name of the organization: **Fragments of Hope**

Name of the project: **"Expanding Reef Replenishment Efforts with the Critically Endangered Caribbean Acroporid Corals to northern Belize"**

Name of the organization: **Parques Nacionales Naturales de Colombia**
 Name of the project: **Restauracion de formaciones coralinas en el Parque Nacional Natural Old Providence McBean Lagoon-Caribe colombiano.**



Total budget of the project: 24.100 Euros

Name of the organization: **Kap Natirel**

Name of the project: **" Rékin-ADNe " Towards a standardized monitoring of chondrichthyan populations in the Caribbean by the eDNA method**



00 Euros
 entation: 1 de novembre 2021

SPAW-RAC Call for proposals



BEST INITIATIVE



BEST (Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services in European Overseas Territories) Commission within the framework of the B4Life initiative, designed to support the European Union working in conservation. The International Union for the Conservation of Nature (IUCN) is the general coordinator of this European program and SPAW-RAC was the co-coordinator.

The Caribbean region benefited from three (3) calls for proposals:

- 1 for Medium Grant (from € 100,000 to € 400,000)
- 2 for Small Grant (from € 50,000 to € 100,000)

During the various calls for projects, 28 projects were selected and implemented for a total amount of 3.98 million since 2014.

CALL FOR PROPOSALS

UNEP(DEPI)/CAR WG.4.2

In 2020, the Regional Activity Centre for Specially Protected Areas and Wildlife launched a call for proposals on its own funds and with french governmental funds.

In order to strengthen the capacities of regional actors and to fund pre-projects, the Regional Activity Center for Specially Protected Areas and Wildlife launched a call for proposals (10,000 euros / 4 months to 1 year). The call has been launched on 22nd June 2020.

In the framework of the SPAW protocol, a particular attention has been paid to projects in countries and territories, preferentially signatories of the SPAW protocol, that do not easily benefit from traditional funding sources. The proposals concerning plants, birds, fishes, including elasmobranchs, and turtles annexed to the SPAW protocol has been appreciated, but did not rule out other proposals. A diversity of criteria were taken into account, particularly the innovative aspect of the operation, the convergence of the project with the political topicality of the protocol, the status of the lead structure and its partners or even sometimes the implementation schedule.

Thirty eight (38) proposals have been received, several of which are of high quality, and 15 have been accepted in 2020 for a total amount of about 115,000 euros.





Future prospects : HAMMAC



MARINE MEGAFUNA INTERACTIONS AND HUMAN ACTIVITIES IN THE CARIBBEAN (HAMMAC)

Submitted in the framework of the second Call for Expression of Interest for the INTERREG CARIBBEAN 2014-2020, extended to 2022.

Led by the Agoa Sanctuary and its partners, SPAW RAC, GEPOG, CNRS, and Sustainable Grenadine Inc.

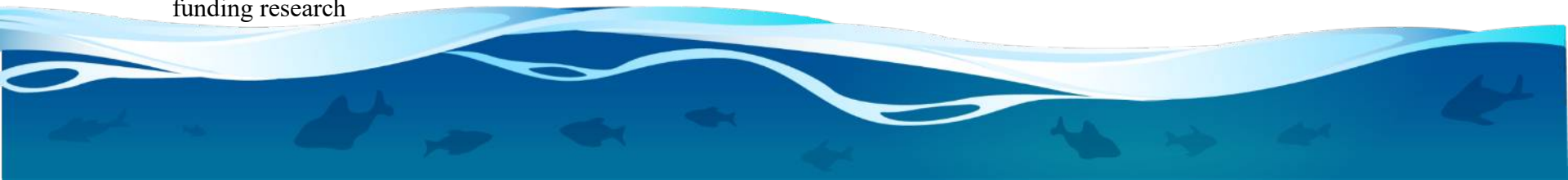
Two objectives:

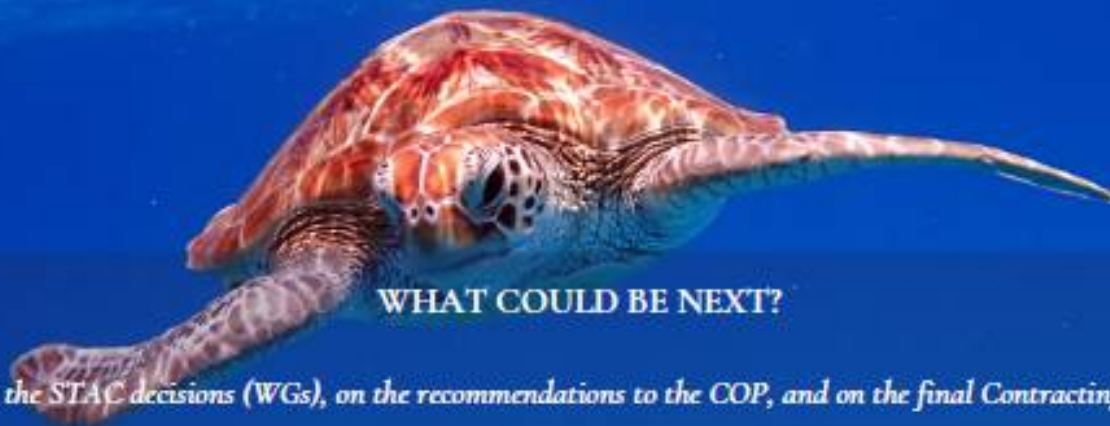
- 1) **Enhancing knowledge on the marine megafauna in the WCR and on the anthropogenic impacts on these group of species and**
- 2) **Strengthen collaboration between organizations involved in marine megafauna conservation and organizations involved in activities with potential impact on these groups of species.**

Project pre-selected during the first funder's committee in October 2020. Final selection committee planned for April 2021.

The SPAW RAC could be lead 2 work-packages:

- **WP1: Megafauna interaction with offshore activities, led by the SPAW RAC**
 - Action 1: Assess marine mammal interaction with Navigation (noise and collision), from spatial analyses
 - Action 2: Assess bycatch of marine mammals, turtles, sharks and rays, from interview surveys, in collaboration with RFMO
 - Action 3: Strengthen WCR stranding networks capacity in marine mammals and sea turtles data and samples collection and analysis.
- **WP3: Experts networking, with one action led by SPAW RAC and one by Agoa**
 - Action 2: Develop a guide to support organizations involved in marine megafauna study and conservation in the WCR in their funding research





WHAT COULD BE NEXT?

(depending on the STAC decisions (WGs), on the recommendations to the COP, and on the final Contracting Parties decisions)

AXIS 1 – PROGRAMME COORDINATION

- Convince Parties and in particular Signatory Parties to the SPAW protocol to nominate experts to the WGs 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 preparation of the next official assemblies
- Improve the WGs functioning collectively
- Strengthen direct communication with Parties through the Teamwork platform and bilateral meetings with focal points
- Strengthen exchanges and actions with LBS Programme Officer and other RACs on various issues in particular on joint concerns (SCTLD, IAS, oilspills...)/ revigorate Invasive Alien Species' networks and initiatives in the Caribbean
- Find funders interested in helping SPAW-RAC to supporting and up-scaling efficient small grants programmes for the stakeholders of the WCR/ Launch a second small grant call for proposals in 2021
- Develop more links with fisheries industry and regional fisheries management organisations

AXIS 2 – STRENGTHENING OF PROTECTED AREAS IN THE WIDER CARIBBEAN REGION

- Improve RAC involvement in the ACP MEAs III project, for a better integration coordination of the MPA actions, possibly support of a part of the RAC activity and link with the other axis and sub-programs (working groups, guidelines, species, ecosystems,...)
- Strengthen RAC involvement in the coordination of the "Ocean Governance" project (ex-Transatlantic project)
- Involve relevant partners in Protected Areas networking projects





AXIS 4 – CONSERVATION OF THREATENED AND ENDANGERED SPECIES

- Perennize the network and the actions undertaken through Cari'mam/ develop a RAN
- Implement the MMAP recommendations/ update the MMAP
- Implement HAMMAC, a new project on bycatch assessments (in link with fisheries) and vessel strikes study, if funds approved
- Develop common initiatives on marine pollution impacts on marine mammals with relevant partners (LBS, RAC REMPEITC, IMO...)
- Improve the knowledge of species
- Develop biodiversity assessments initiatives at the Caribbean level (e.g. Regional Red List of species, migratory species...)
- Continue developing regional management plans and recommendations for species listed in the appendices of the SPAW protocol
- Improve coordination with regional fisheries management organizations (WECAFC, OSPESCA, CRFM, CFMC, ...) and other international organizations involved (CITES, CMS ...)
- Encourage and support conservation projects which aim to improve the state of conservation of threatened species listed under the SPAW protocol and for which few actions are currently carried out (plants, fish, birds, reptiles, mammals...).

AXIS 5 – CONSERVATION AND SUSTAINABLE USE OF COASTAL AND MARINE ECOSYSTEMS

- Go-on with the implementation of Carib-coast/ Selection and implementation of three new "pilot" sites in order to market projects and allocate funding, trainings and monitoring to enhance conservation on each ecosystem
- Finish the educational film series, with a video about the parrot fish
- Co-chair of GCRMN-Caribbean, link with the main regional and international initiatives on coral reefs (GCRMN-global, ICRI, CRC...)
- Finalize the list of coral species associating the GCRMN-Caribbean in order to assess their status (IUCN Red List ...)
- Continue to organize workshops and training sessions on biophysical and socio-economic monitorings of coral reefs and associated habitats, by using and disseminating GCRMN-Caribbean guidelines
- Help to structure, bank and promote data on coral reefs at the regional level with strategic partners
- Explore fundraising opportunities for coral reefs related activities both internally as for regional stakeholders

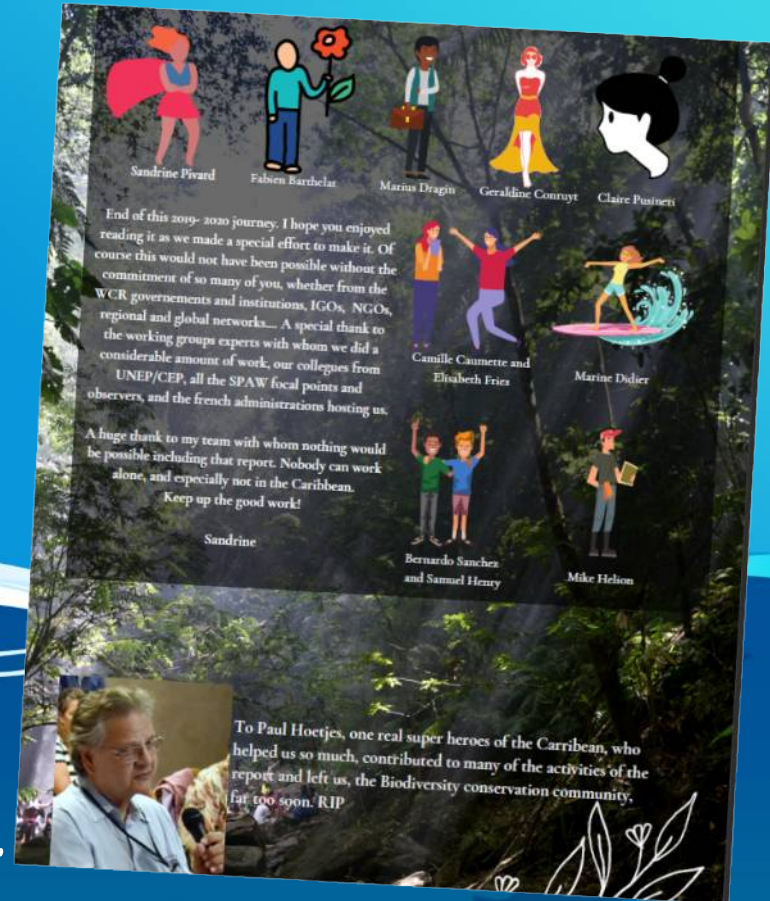


Thank you, Muchas Gracias, Merci,

9th Scientific and Technical Advisory Committee (STAC)

Virtual meeting,

17th March 2021



SPAW-RAC

DEAL Guadeloupe

Site de Saint-Phy

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

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