

# STATUS OF ACTIVITIES OF THE SPA W SUB-PROGRAMME FOR THE 2019–2020 BIENNIUM

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

17-19<sup>th</sup> March 2021

Includes status of STAC8 Recommendations and Tenth Meeting of the Contracting  
Parties (COP) to the Protocol Concerning Specially Protected Areas and Wildlife  
(SPA W) in the Wider Caribbean Region

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**UN**  
environment  
programme



# Introduction

The Workplan and Budget of the SPAW Programme for 2019-2020 was approved COP-10 to the Protocol Concerning Specially Protected Areas and Wildlife (SPAW) in the WCR (Roatán, Honduras 3 June 2019).

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 WCR (Roatán, Honduras, 5–6 June 2019).



# Objectives of the SPAW Programme

A

Increase and improve the management of protected areas and species;

C

Develop strong regional capability coordination of information exchange, training and technical assistance;

B

Support conservation of threatened and endangered species and sustainable use of natural resources;

D

Coordinate activities with international biodiversity treaties and initiatives.



# Status of sub-programmes and activities

- 2.1 Programme Coordination
- 2.2 Strengthening of Protected Areas in the Wider Caribbean Region
- 2.3 Development of Guidelines for Protected Areas and Species Management
- 2.4 Conservation of Threatened and Endangered Species
- 2.5 Conservation and Sustainable Use of Coastal and Marine Ecosystems

\*\*\*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.



## Programme Coordination

### Objectives

- Promote ratification of, accession to, and implementation of SPAW Protocol;
- Ensure formulation and implementation of activities to satisfy requirements of the SPAW Protocol and its Contracting Parties;
- Develop coordination, collaboration, and communication mechanisms with other agreements, organizations and;
- Improve coordination of regional programming;
- Oversee activities and coordination of projects and activities.

## Programme Coordination

- SPAW COP 10<sup>th</sup> Meeting convened
- 2019-2020 SPAW Workplan developed
- MoU/Cs concluded with TOF, Mar Fund, GCFI and INVEMAR.
- **MoUs** with the IWC and OSPAR prepared
- Creation of Ad Hoc **Expert Working Groups** on Species, Protected Areas, Exemptions and Sargassum
- Greater involvement by Governments in SPAW activities and additional Parties joining the SPAW Protocol.



## 2.1

# Programme Coordination

10<sup>th</sup> Meeting  
of the SPAW  
Contracting  
Parties  
convened



# Funds raised in support of SPAW objectives



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Resilient nations.



[www.theGEF.org](http://www.theGEF.org)



**Government Offices of Sweden**  
Ministry of the Environment





# Collaborations and synergies with relevant organizations and initiatives within and outside the region



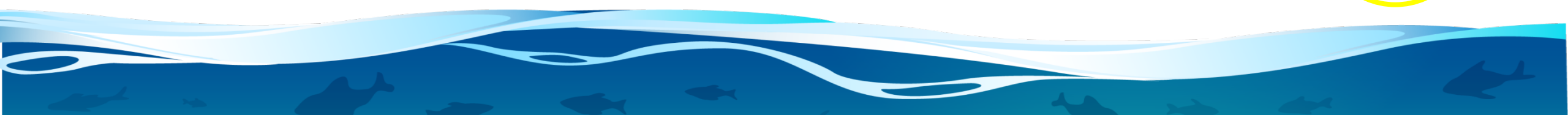
Stakeholders & Civil Society  
Sargasso Sea Commission



Protecting and conserving the North-East Atlantic and its resources



**Network of Experts**  
SPAW RAC Working Groups:  
*Species (coral, mammals, invasive species, etc.)*  
*MPAs*  
*Sargassum*



## Strengthening of Protected Areas in the WCR

- Strengthen management of parks and protected areas, including communication between parks and protected areas;
- Assist Governments and NGOs developing human capacity to increase the effectiveness of MPAs;
- Sensitize Governments of the need of financing protected areas, and to promote the development of funding mechanisms and strategies;
- Promote protected areas as important natural resources necessary for sustainable development.



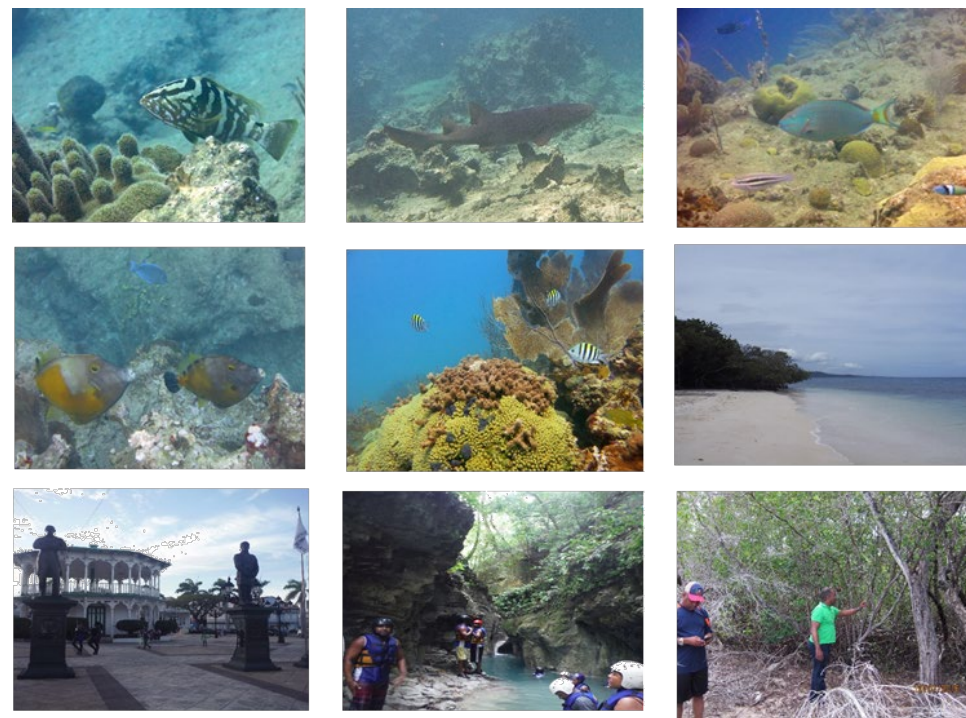
## Strengthening of Protected Areas in the WCR

- Support MPA technical session at GCFI / MPAs participation
- Restructuring of the CaMPAM Regional Database
- Under the EBM-DSS project, two (2) DSS pilot projects in Montecristi and Puerto Plata, Dominican Republic



# Main Goal

To develop capacities and information systems (and pilot test their application) that can be used by governments and NGOs to make decisions on planning and managing coastal resources with an ecosystem based management (EBM) approach.





### Decision 3

Urge the Secretariat to allocate funds or seek funding sources for the management of protected areas listed as SPAW sites.

UNEP(DEPI)/CAR  
WG.42/INF.7

Update on The Caribbean Marine Protected Areas Management Network and Forum (CAMPAM) and its Major Activities During the 2019-2020 Biennium

UNEP(DEPI)/CAR  
WG.42/INF.7  
Addendum 1

Assessment of the Impact and Effectiveness of the Caribbean Marine Protected Area Network and Forum (CaMPAM)

UNEP(DEPI)/CAR  
WG.42 /INF.8

Strategic Directions and Plan for CaMPAM

UNEP(DEPI)/CAR  
WG.42/INF.9

CaMPAM Database and Citizens Science Monitoring

UNEP(DEPI)/CAR  
WG.42/INF.10

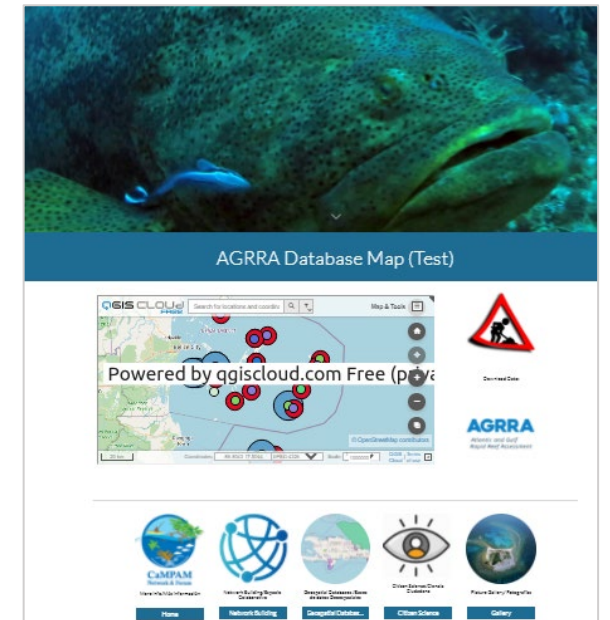
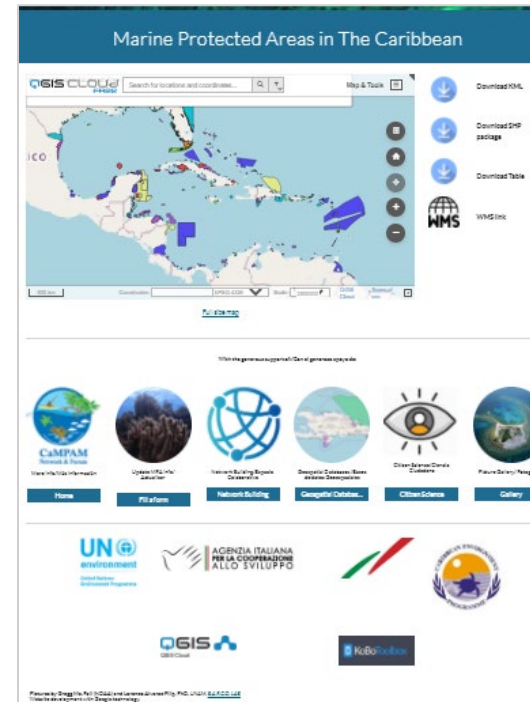
Developing an Ecological Network between the SPAW-listed MPAs of the Wider Caribbean



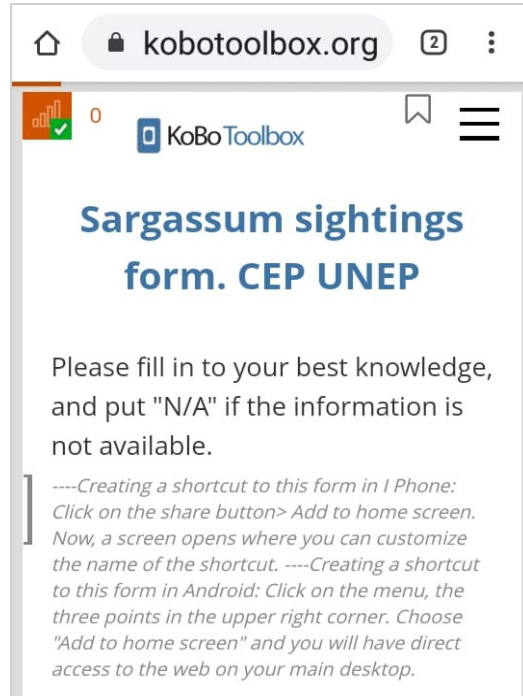


# CaMPAM network new website and Geospatial Databases development

- Databases and interactive maps (Caribbean MPA's, AGRRRA) in a new and completely revamped [website](#).
- Networking digital environment
- Citizen Science projects



# Citizen Science Pilot Projects



The banner for the 'I-See Turtle' project features the logos of the African, Caribbean and Pacific Group of States, the European Union, the UN Environment Programme, and the Caribbean Environment Programme. The title 'I-See Turtle' is prominently displayed above an illustration of a sea turtle swimming in the ocean. Below the banner, the text reads: 'I-See Turtle' and 'Global recording of sea turtle sightings, even in remote locations without an internet connection, from any device.'

The banner for the 'I-See Parrot' project features the logos of the African, Caribbean and Pacific Group of States, the European Union, the UN Environment Programme, and the Caribbean Environment Programme. The title 'I-See Parrot' is prominently displayed above an illustration of a colorful parrotfish swimming in the ocean. Below the banner, the text reads: 'I-See Parrot' and 'Parrotfish are very important to preserve the reef function and coastal dynamics. Please share a record if you find a specimen. Your observations are very important!'

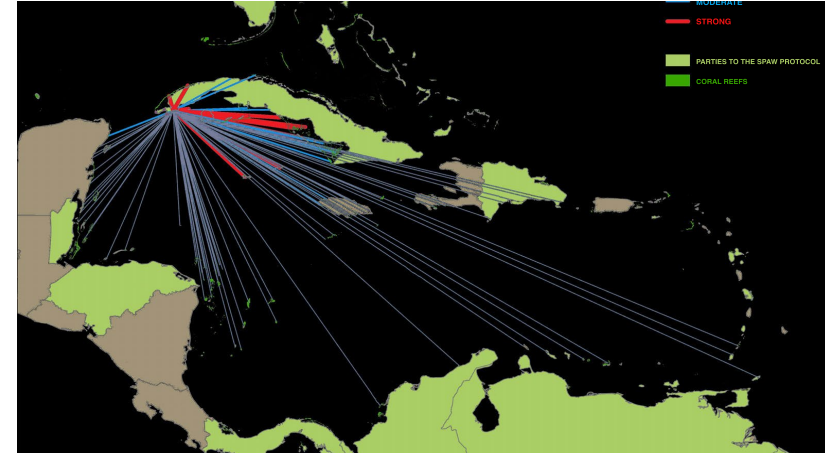
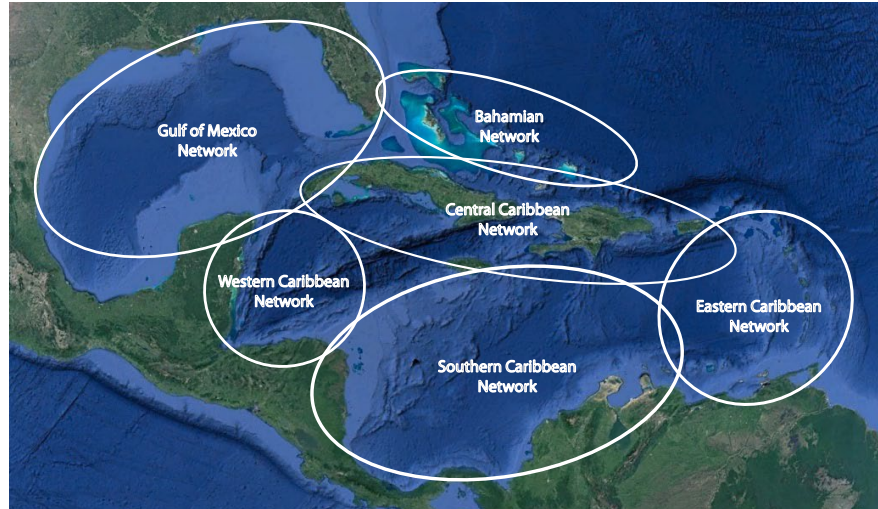


# An Evaluation of Connectivity Between the SPAW-Listed Protected Areas to Guide the Development of a Functional Ecological Network of Protected Areas in the WRC

By William Kiene

## COMPONENTS OF THE ANALYSIS

1. Atlas of SPAW sites
2. Habitats represented by SPAW sites
3. Inventory of listed species at SPAW sites
4. Connectivity of SPAW sites through sea turtle nesting and migration
5. Connectivity of SPAW sites through models of larvae distribution
6. Connectivity of ecosystem threats



## RECOMMENDATIONS

1. Establish sub-regional protected area networks
2. Fill gaps in species inventories
3. Prepare an atlas of protected habitats
4. Invest in the science of ecosystem connectivity, species corridors and ecological impact of MPAs
5. Develop a network ecosystem condition evaluation
6. Build effective communication and outreach mechanisms



# SPA MPA BOOKLET

**35**  
SPA listed PAs

**9**  
No of countries



## MOST FREQUENTLY OCCURING IUCN RED-LISTED SPECIES

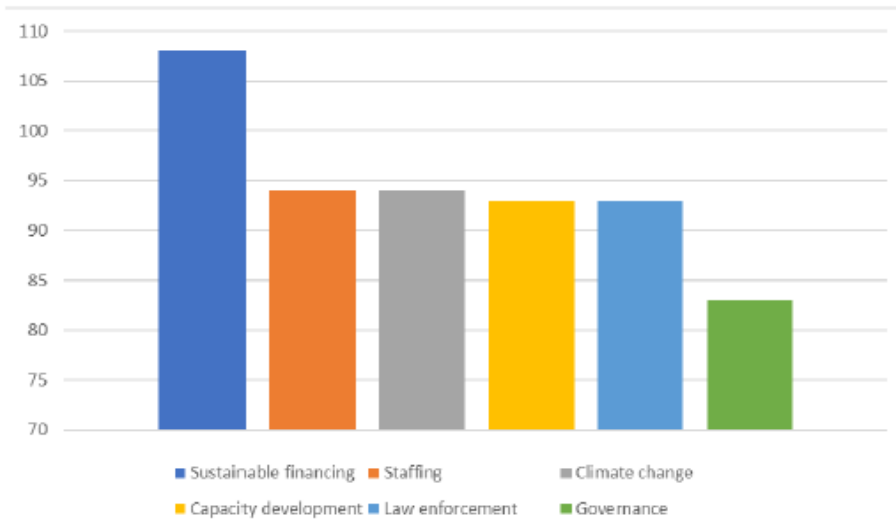
1. Green Sea Turtle
2. Hawksbill Turtle
3. Leatherback Turtle
4. Loggerhead Turtle
5. Elkhorn Coral
6. West Indian Manatee
7. Staghorn Coral
8. Nassau Grouper



## SIZE WISE DISTRIBUTION OF PA

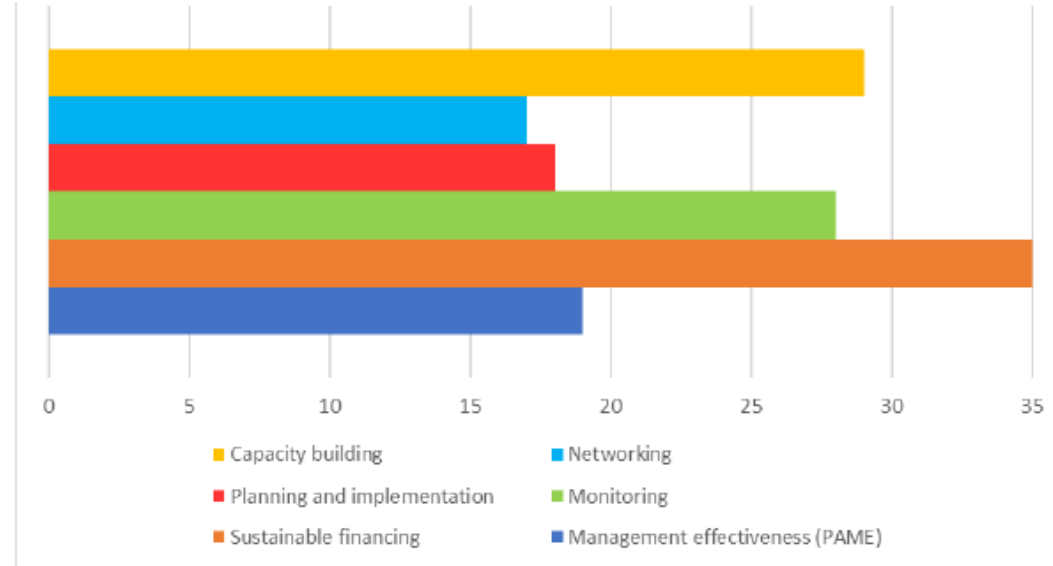


# MPA MANAGEMENT EFFECTIVENESS



## CHALLENGES FACED FOR EFFECTIVE MANAGEMENT

## AREAS OF SUPPORT REQUESTED BY MANAGERS



## RECOMMENDATIONS RECEIVED FOR IMPROVEMENT

1. A more uniform and continuous assessment tool
2. Standard indicators for assessment
3. A more participatory assessment process
4. Regular PAME assessments
5. A more easier process and better sources for funding

## Development of Guidelines for Protected Areas and Species Management

### PROMOTE:

- Guidelines on protected area establishment, management, and listing developed;
- National system planning for protected areas as a mechanism to develop relevant legislation and reporting mechanisms; and
- Guidelines on species conservation and management



## Development of Guidelines for Protected Areas and Species Management

- Activities were undertaken in collaboration with the SPAW-RAC in Guadeloupe ([UNEP\(DEPI\)/CAR WG.42/INF.4](#)).
- Following SPAW STAC8, Terms of Reference 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 ([UNEP\(DEPI\)/CAR WG.42 /INF.12](#)).





## Development of Guidelines for Protected Areas and Species Management

- Updated list of protected areas under the SPAW Protocol completed for 2019-2020 biennium
- In progress for 2021-2022 biennium a call to Parties for the listing of additional protected areas done during the biennium.
- Development of a CaMPAM – MPA profile form using a toolbox supported under the ACP-MEAs III
- Proposed PAs will be reviewed at STAC9 with recommendations made for their listing by COP11. ([UNEP\(DEPI\)/CAR WG.42/5](#))



## Development of Guidelines for Protected Areas and Species Management

- Reports from Parties using the voluntary Format for presenting exemptions under Article 11(2), and reporting on their implementation
- Completed for 2019-2020 biennium in progress for 2021-2022 biennium
- Consideration of exemption reports submitted by Parties at STAC9 and COP11 as appropriate. ([UNEP\(DEPI\)/CAR WG.42/6](#))
- Revised list of protected species under Annexes I-III of the SPAW Protocol
- Completed for 2019-2020 biennium
- Species Working Group prepared 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. ([UNEP\(DEPI\)/CAR WG.42/INF.15](#), [UNEP\(DEPI\)/CAR WG.42/INF.24 \(Addenda 1-5\)](#))

## Conservation of Threatened and Endangered Species

- Build consensus on priorities for management of endangered and migratory species;
- Implement priority activities of existing species recovery and management plans developed;
- Develop and management plans and programmes for priority species of regional concern; and
- Address the growing threat of invasive alien species that could negatively impact SPAW species and WCR habitats..



## Conservation of Threatened and Endangered Species

- Priority activities concerning the **MMAP** and the **Sargassum influx**
- Fostering new partnerships and areas of focus, specific to other emerging issues such as conservation of herbivorous fish (especially the **Parrotfish**). Funding was not available to adequately support **sea turtle conservation activities**, which the Protocol hopes will improve on the new biennium.
- Support implementation of the MMAP has included efforts to conclude an MoU with the IWC
- 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).





# Marine Mammals Action Plan



# Herbivores fishes in coral reefs



## SPECIES WORKING GROUP

- **Task 2:** 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.



# Proposed - New SPAW Species

## Annex II Strictly Protected



## Annex III Regulation of Exploitation



# Conservation of Threatened and Endangered Species

## Marine Mammals Action Plan

Assessment of initiatives implemented under the MMAP – an analysis of activities, 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 ([UNEP\(DEPI\)/CAR WG.42/INF.29](#)).

Launch of “[Marine Mammal Month](#)” social media campaign.



# Conservation of Threatened and Endangered Species

## Sargassum

As per the 2019-2020 Workplan, the Secretariat supported initiatives to address the management of **Sargassum** throughout the WCR. 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](#)) was updated

[UNEP\(DEPI\)/CAR WG.42/INF.35](#)

Sargassum White Paper 2021: Turning the Crisis into an opportunity.







**SARGASSUM:**  
**Grupo de Trabajo Regional SPAW RAC**  
**Plan de acción regional**





# Conservation of Threatened and Endangered Species

## Sargassum

Through funding provided by the Swedish Ministry of the Environment, a consultant was contracted to develop:

- 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
- Foresight Brief
- Concept Note

## Conservation and Sustainable Use of Coastal and Marine Ecosystems

### Objectives

- Assist with sustainable management of the coastal and marine ecosystems;
- Mobilise political will and actions of Governments and other partners for the conservation and sustainable use of coral reefs and associated ecosystems;
- 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;
- Promote the ecosystem management approach and the principles and values of good governance.





## Conservation and Sustainable Use of Coastal and Marine Ecosystems

- State of Nearshore Marine Habitats in the Wider Caribbean (SoMH) [UNEP\(DEPI\)/CAR WG.42/INF.5](#)
- Regional Strategy and Action Plan for the Valuation, Protection and/or Restoration of Key Marine Habitats in the Wider Caribbean 2021-2030 (RSAP) ([UNEP\(DEPI\)/CAR WG.42/INF.6](#)).
- Integrated Large-Scale Action on Habitat Restoration and Pollution in the CLME+ Region: A Baseline and Feasibility Assessment Report on the Needs and Opportunities ([UNEP\(DEPI\)/CAR WG.41/INF.13](#)).
- A Regional Mangrove Restoration Manual ([UNEP\(DEPI\)/CAR WG.42/INF.16](#)).
- The EBM-DSS project ([UNEP\(DEPI\)/CAR WG.42/INF.13](#)),



## Decision 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. RECOMMENDATION VII STAC-8

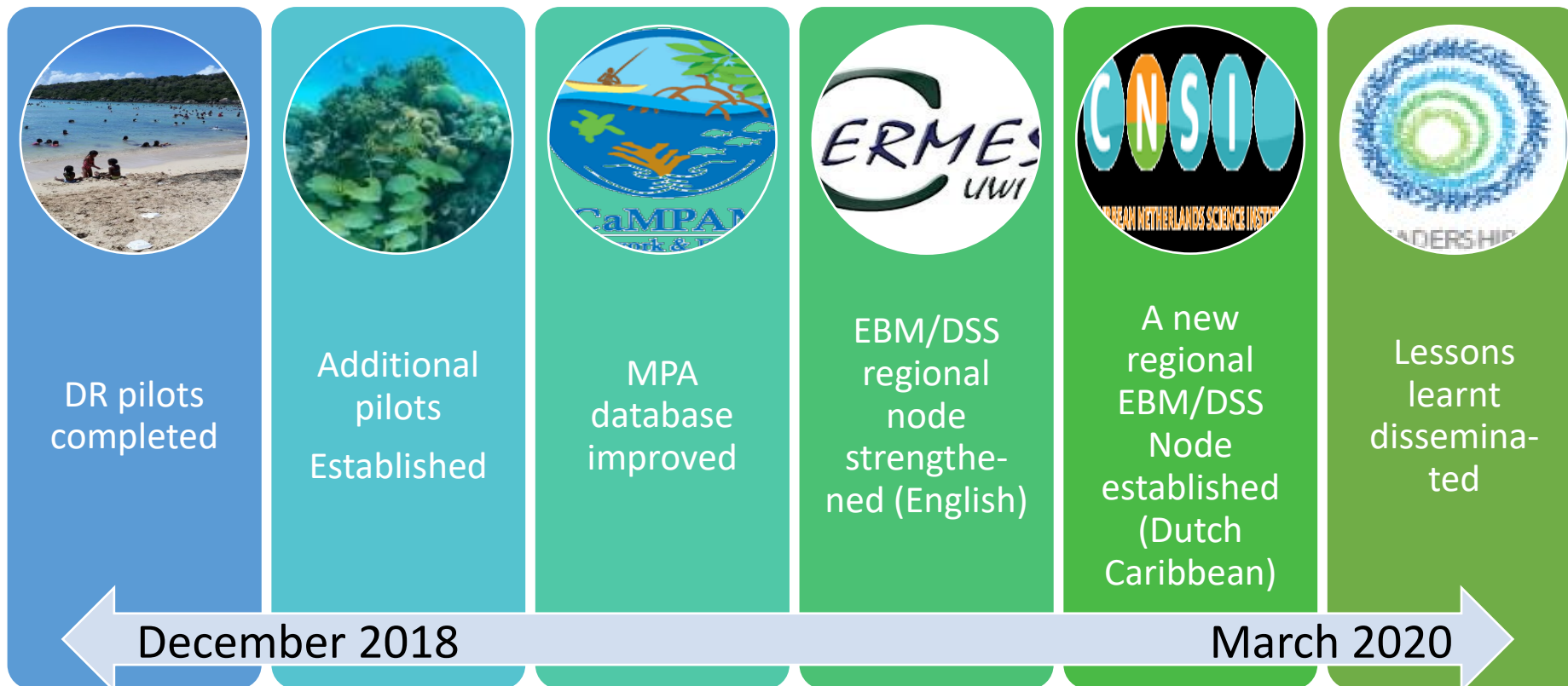
UNEP(DEPI)/CAR  
WG.42/INF.5

UNEP(DEPI)/CAR  
WG.42/INF.6

The State of Nearshore Marine Habitats in the Wider Caribbean


Regional Strategy Action Plan for the Valuation, Protection and/or Restoration of Key Marine Habitats in the Wider Caribbean 2021–2030









AGENZIA ITALIANA  
PER LA COOPERAZIONE  
ALLO SVILUPPO



UN environment programme  2020


The State of Nearshore Marine Habitats in the Wider Caribbean United Nations Environment Programme - Caribbean Environment Programme (UNEP-CEP) Caribbean Natural Resources Institute (CANARI), Technical Report No. 01





Catalyzing Implementation of the Strategic Action Programme for the Caribbean and North Brazil Shelf LME's (2016-2020)   

UN environment programme  2020

Regional Strategy and Action Plan for the Valuation, Protection and/or Restoration of Key Marine Habitats in the Wider Caribbean 2021 – 2030 United Nations Environment Programme - Caribbean Environment Programme (UNEP-CEP) Caribbean Natural Resources Institute (CANARI), Technical Report No. 02



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Catalyzing Implementation of the Strategic Action Programme for the Caribbean and North Brazil Shelf LME's (2016-2020)   

UN environment programme  2021

Integrated Large-Scale Action on Habitat Restoration and Pollution in the CLME+ Region: Baseline and Pre-Feasibility Assessment Report on the Needs and Opportunities for Investment - Caribbean Environment Programme (UNEP-CEP) and The Ocean Foundation Technical Report No. 03



Catalyzing Implementation of the Strategic Action Programme for the Caribbean and North Brazil Shelf LME's (2016-2021)   





**Ecological  
Mangrove  
Restoration Guide  
of the  
Mesoamerican  
Reef System and  
the Wider  
Caribbean**





# Harnessing a Movement in the Caribbean: *Advancing Coral Reef Restoration with Tourism Leaders*

By working closely with the tourism industry create guidelines to restore reefs, identify pilot projects and capacity building opportunities across the region.



CARIBBEAN  
HOTEL & TOURISM  
ASSOCIATION



# Coral Reefs

Credit: Ana Giro ©

- Red de Monitoreo Regional Global del Caribe
- Consorcio de Restauración de Corales

**UNEP(DEPI)/CAR WG.42/INF.26)**



## Programme Costs

Activity / Year	2019	2020
Programme Coordination	663,530	745,071
Strengthening of Protected Areas	7,402	64,600
Development of Guidelines	0	24,000
Conservation of Species	37,901	39,000
Conservation and Sustainable Use of Ecosystems	19,148	136,610
Subtotal	104,987	231,284
Programme support costs (13%)	80,288	158,153
<b>Total</b>	<b>697,889</b>	<b>1,374,718</b>



# Status of the Decisions of the 10th Conference of Parties (COP10) and 8th STAC Meeting





**STAC -8 Status  
Recommendations**

Ratifications, Status Report 2017- 2018, Work Plan and Budget 2019-2020, CaMPAM

Approve proposals for Protected Areas and Species to be listed under the SPAW Protocol

**Develop Terms of Reference for MPAS and the Ad hoc Species Working Group**

Exemptions Reports

TORs for the Ad Hoc Working Group on exemptions

Sargassum , CaribWEN

Ad Hoc Working Group on Sargassum, coordination with UNODC

State of the marine ecosystem and Regional Strategy and Action Plan CLME+

ocean acidification monitoring and mitigation projects



# COP 10 Status Decisions

SPAW Contracting Parties

Decision 1 COP 10 / STAC 8 Recommendation 1

ONGOING

Approve SPAW Workplan and Budget 2019-2020

Decision 2 Attention to SCTL D \*\* Ballast Water

COMPLETED

Allocate Funding for SPAW Listed MPAs

Decision 3

COMPLETED

Include of SCTL D during STAC-9 / COP-11

Decision 4

ONGOING

Review CaMPAM to determine impact and  
guide future work

Decision 5

COMPLETED

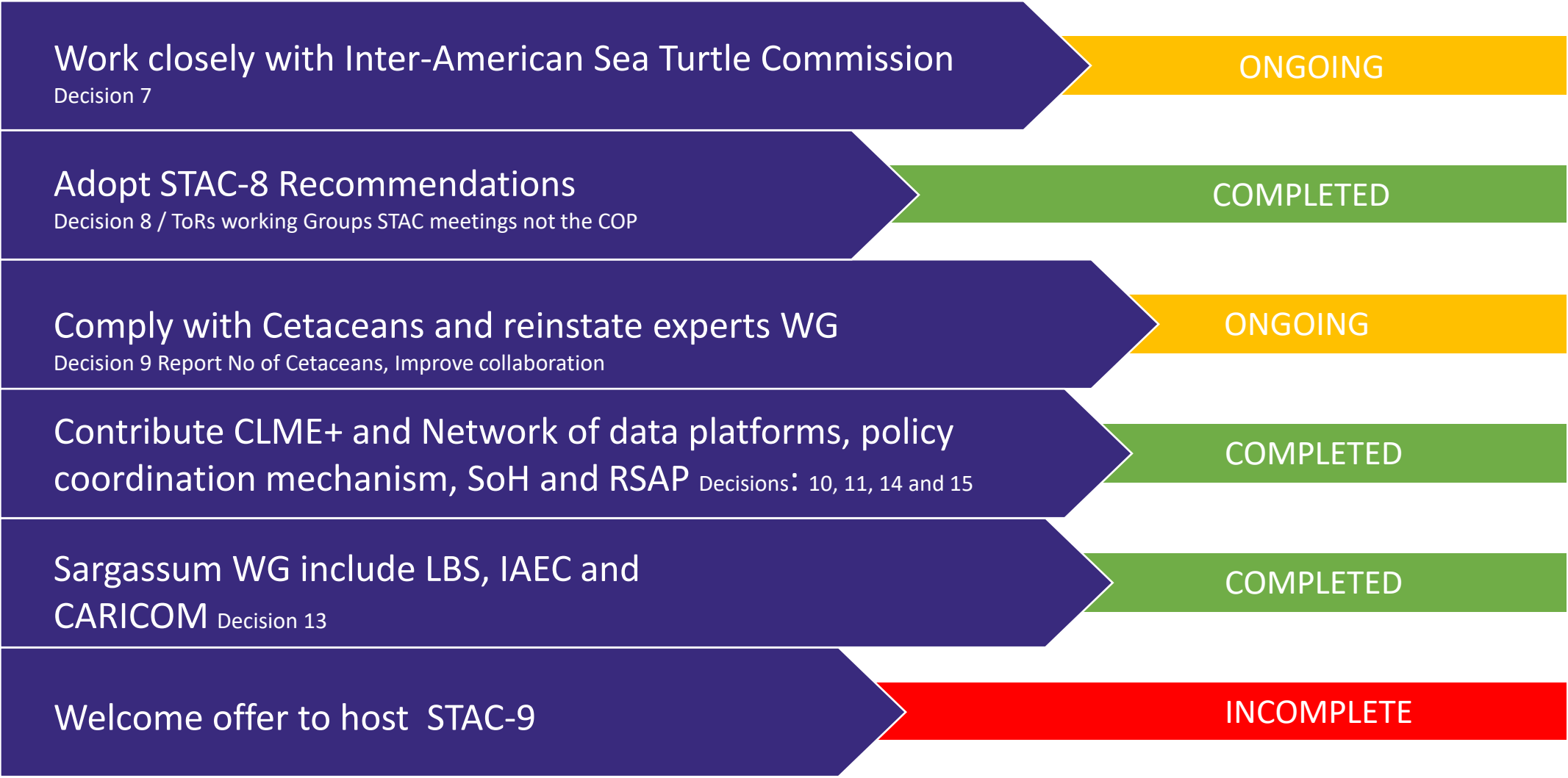
Urge participation in Working Groups

Decision 6

COMPLETED



# COP 10 Status Decisions







Muchas gracias  
Thank you  
Merci beaucoup

