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

Virtual Meeting, 30 January – 1 February 2023

DRAFT
**STATUS OF ACTIVITIES OF THE PROTOCOL CONCERNING SPECIALLY PROTECTED
AREAS AND WILDLIFE (SPAW) SUB-PROGRAMME FOR THE 2021–2022 BIENNIUM**

This meeting is being convened virtually. Delegates are kindly requested to access all meeting documents electronically for download as necessary.

TABLE OF CONTENTS

ACRONYMS	ii
1. INTRODUCTION	1
2. STATUS OF SUB-PROGRAMMES AND ACTIVITIES	2
2.1 Programme Coordination.....	2
2.2 Strengthening of Protected Areas in the Wider Caribbean Region	6
2.3 Development of Guidelines for Protected Areas and Species Management	9
2.4 Conservation of Threatened and Endangered Species	12
2.5 Conservation and Sustainable Use of Coastal and Marine Ecosystems.....	15
Annex I: Summary of Funds Provided by the French Government through SPAW-RAC for the Implementation of.....	20
SPAW Activities	20
Annex II: Status of the Protocol Concerning Specially Protected Areas and Wildlife (SPAW Protocol)	20
Annex III: List of meetings organized and/or attended	23
Annex IV: List of webinars organized and/or attended.....	32
Annex V: Status of the Decisions of the 11 th Conference of Parties (COP11) and 9 th STAC Meeting (STAC9).....	35

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
AMEP	Assessment & Management of Environmental Pollution
BIOPAMA	Biodiversity and Protected Areas Management Programme
BMI	Bycatch Mitigation Initiative
CAMAC	Caribbean Marine and Megafauna Anthropologies
CaMPAM	Caribbean Marine Protected Areas Management Network and Forum
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
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
DSS	Decision Support System
EBM	Ecosystem Based Management
ERDF	European Regional Development Fund
EU	European Union
FAO	Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations
GCFI	Gulf and Caribbean Fisheries Institute
GCRMN	Global Coral Reef Monitoring Network
GESAMP	Group of Experts on the Scientific Aspects of Marine Environmental Protection
IAC	Inter-American Convention for the Protection and Conservation of Sea Turtles
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
LBS	Protocol Concerning Land-Based Sources of Marine Pollution
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
MPA	Marine Protected Area
NOAA	National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

NGO	Non-Government Organisation
OCCC	Overall Coordination and Common Costs
OECS	Organisation of Eastern Caribbean States
OSPAR	Oslo and Paris Conventions
PA	Protected Areas
PAME	Protected Areas Management Effectiveness
RAC	Regional Activity Centre
Ramsar	Convention on Wetlands of International Importance
RAN	Regional Activity 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
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
ToT	Training of Trainers
UNODC	United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime
UNEP	United Nations Environment Programme
UNESCO	United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization
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

DRAFT STATUS OF IMPLEMENTATION OF THE WORKPLAN AND BUDGET FOR THE SPAW REGIONAL PROGRAMME FOR 2021 - 2022

1. INTRODUCTION

1. The Workplan and Budget of the SPAW Programme for 2021-2022 was approved by the Eleventh Meeting of the Conference of Parties (COP11) to the Protocol Concerning Specially Protected Areas and Wildlife (SPAW) in the Wider Caribbean Region (virtual, 27 July 2021) and the Nineteenth 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 (virtual, 28-30 July 2021).
2. The government of Nicaragua acceded to the SPAW Protocol in 2021, bringing the total number of Governments that are Contracting Parties to eighteen (18) (The Bahamas, Barbados, Belize, Colombia, Cuba, Dominican Republic, France, Grenada, Guyana, Honduras, The Netherlands, Nicaragua, Panama, Saint Lucia, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Trinidad and Tobago, United States of America, and Venezuela). Discussions have been ongoing with Guatemala, Costa Rica, Jamaica, Mexico, Suriname, Saint Kitts and Nevis 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 II.
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), the International Whaling Commission (IWC) and the International Coral Reef Initiative (ICRI) and its global networks.
4. During the period 2021-2022, 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-based approach in order to address the degradation of selected priority ecosystem services, and likewise respond through biodiversity conservation and sustainable use of coastal resources to development issues with support of the ‘Enforcing Environmental Treaties in African, Caribbean and Pacific (ACP) Countries – ACP-MEA III project’;
 - (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 Strategic Directions 2022-2025, 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 Inter-American Convention for the Protection and Conservation of Sea Turtles (IAC), the Caribbean and North Brazil Shelf Large Marine Ecosystems (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), International Convention for the Regulation of Whaling (ICRI), the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) and the Oslo and Paris Conventions (OSPAR) Commission.

6. Specific activities for the 2021-2022 Workplan fall 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 needed 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 2021 and 2022.

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 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 2021-2022, 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 Junior Programme Officer (JPO) and SPAW Programme Assistant. In March 2022, the SPAW Programme Officer resigned and the post for a replacement was advertised. The overall coordination of SPAW was overseen by the JPO and SPAW Programme Assistant for the interim period.
11. Between 2021 and 2022, the Secretariat hired a number of active three (3) to six (6) month internships. These interns worked on site and remotely and 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 was 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.43/INF.6* 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) Deputy Director and Programme Officer, and one (1) Administrative Assistant. In July 2022, the Executive Director of SPAW-RAC resigned after six years and the successor Executive Director position was filled in September 2022. The team is supported by two staff funded by European Union projects and two (2) civic service volunteers as support officers.
14. The SPAW-RAC continued to support the Secretariat with various activities, especially the coordination of actions mandated by STAC9 and COP11 which included the establishment and activation of the three (3) STAC working groups related to species, protected areas and exemptions (see *UNEP(DEPI)/CARWG.43/INF.6*, *UNEP(DEPI)/CARWG.43/INF.12*, *UNEP(DEPI)/CAR WG.43/INF.16* and *UNEP(DEPI)/CAR WG.43/INF.33*), as well as activities under the Global Coral Reef Monitoring Network (GCRMN) (see *UNEP(DEPI)/CAR WG.43/INF.27* and with WIDECAST (see *UNEP(DEPI)/CAR WG.43/INF.11*).
15. Additional programmatic support was facilitated through the SPAW-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.43/INF.29* and *UNEP(DEPI)/CAR WG.43/INF.31*); 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.43/INF.30*). On an *ad hoc* basis, the RAC also kindly reviewed and translated a number of documents.
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:
 - Caribbean Regional Fisheries Mechanism (CRFM)
 - Caribbean Community (CARICOM) Secretariat
 - Centre for Resource Management and Environmental Studies (CERMES)
 - Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD)
 - Centre for Marine Science (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)
 - International Coral Reef Initiative (ICRI)
 - International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN)
 - International Whaling Commission (IWC)
 - Mesoamerican Reef Fund (MAR Fund)
 - National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA)
 - OSPAR Commission
 - Organisation of Eastern Caribbean States (OECS)
 - Sargasso Sea Commission
 - The Nature Conservancy (TNC)
 - UNEP - Regional Office for Latin America and the Caribbean (ROLAC) Action Plan
 - United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC)
 - Food and Agricultural Association-Western Central Atlantic Fishery Commission (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 OSPAR Commission in 2021 and ended in November 2022. The purpose of this MOU was to provide a framework of cooperation and understanding, and to facilitate collaboration between the Cartagena Convention and OSPAR Secretariats to further shared goals and objectives regarding the mutual protection and enhancement of the marine environment in the Atlantic. The MOU promoted the:
 - prevention of marine pollution;
 - protection of the marine environment; and
 - sustainable use and conservation of marine resources.
 - Ratification of the SPAW Protocol by the Government of Nicaragua in May 2021. Support was provided to the governments of Guatemala, Costa Rica, Jamaica, Mexico, Suriname, Saint Kitts and Nevis and the territories of the United Kingdom to assist them with becoming Parties to the SPAW Protocol which they have not yet ratified. The Governments of Saint Kitts and Nevis are reviewing cabinet submissions for the ratification of SPAW.
 - Input provided to the following reports:
 1. UNEP's Administrative Secretary's Report to the 48th Annual Session of the Joint Group of Experts on the Scientific Aspects of Marine Environmental Protection (GESAMP), 3-10 September 2021 UN Headquarters New York.
 2. UNEP's Secretary-General's Report as mandated by the United Nations General Assembly Resolution A/76/72 of 9 December 2021, entitled "Oceans and the law of the sea"
 3. UNEP's Secretary-General Report 75/214. Towards the sustainable development of the Caribbean Sea for present and future generations
 4. UNEP's 2021 Annual Report
 - Implementation of activities under the EU funded project "Enforcing Environmental Treaties in African, Caribbean and Pacific (ACP) Countries – ACP-MEAs Phase III" (USD1,961,264) continued (UNEP(DEPI)/CAR WG.43/INF.43). 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.
 - Two White Papers were launched:
 - 2021 Sargassum White Paper: Turning the crisis into an opportunity (update)
 - 2021 Stony Coral Tissue Loss Disease (SCTLD) White Paper
 - Development of a draft workplan with the IWC is in progress after several exchanges and IWC's decision in 2022 to not establish a formal MoU with the Secretariat. The workplan will outline activities 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 cetacean species and populations; and
 - enhance collaborations on research, prevention of, and response to anthropogenic threats.
 - Continued to strengthen partnerships with the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) to address emerging regional issues such as SCTLD, Sargassum citizens' science data sharing and ocean acidification.
 - Continued to enhance synergies with the LBS and Oil Spills Protocol through participation and contribution to activities under the AMEP Programme.
 - Established partnerships with the CBD, universities, research entities and international organizations working in areas/on topics of common interest).
18. A number of meetings and webinars 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 from March 2020, some meetings were organised

via virtual participation. Major meetings and webinars where input was provided can be found in [Annex III](#) and [IV](#) for list of meetings and webinars.

19. Several activities were undertaken by/or implemented in collaboration with the SPAW-RAC in Guadeloupe. See UNEP(DEPI)/CAR WG.43/INF.6 for further details. Ongoing activities include:

- 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;
- Continue the process of review of the species listed under Annexes I-III of the SPAW Protocol, in collaboration with relevant organisations as appropriate
- Support species conservation, with particular emphasis on sea turtles, in collaboration with WIDECAST
- Continue to provide guidance on the use of the Guidelines to Assess Exemptions under Article 11(2)
- 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 through participation in over 30 meetings.
- Prepare and disseminate quarterly releases of the SPAW and UNEP CEP 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
- 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 Sargassum influx
- Continue to improve Regional Coordination and Programming

Completed activities include:

- Revision and update of the SPAW Marine Mammal Action Plan (MMAP) and completion of the CARI'MAM Project with SPAW-RAC
- Support the preparation and translation of documents for the 10th Scientific and Technical Advisory Committee (STAC10) Meeting under the Protocol

2.1.2 Sub-Programme Outputs

20. The major outputs of Programme Coordination were:

Outputs	Indicators of Achievement	
<u>9th Meeting of the SPAW Technical Advisory Committee convened (SPAW STAC9)</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 17-19 March 2021 and 14 -15 April 2021
<u>11th Meeting of the SPAW Contracting Parties convened (SPAW COP11)</u>		27 July 2021
A strategic and streamlined 2021-2022 SPAW Workplan and Budget developed	Comprehensive Workplan and Budget developed that included wide-ranging, inclusive and sustainable activities to meet SPAW objectives.	Completed (UNEP/DEPI)/CAR WG.42 /3 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 .	On-going
Enhanced participation of donors and relevant funding agencies in SPAW activities		On-going
Collaborations and synergies with relevant organizations and initiatives within and outside the region MoU/Cs concluded with OSPAR	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

Outputs	Indicators of Achievement	
		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.	Ratification of the SPAW Protocol by Nicaragua in May 2021 Ongoing discussions with non-Contracting Parties to ratify the SPAW Protocol.	On-going Efforts increased with Guatemala, Costa Rica, Jamaica, Mexico, Suriname, Saint Kitts and Nevis and the territories of the United Kingdom
<u>Continuation of Ad Hoc Expert Working Groups on Species, Protected Areas and Exemptions</u>	Regional experts have been nominated for 3 Ad Hoc Working Groups. The Sargassum Working Group for STAC 10 was not convened	On-going <i>UNEP(DEPI)/CAR WG.43/INF.12</i> <i>UNEP(DEPI)/CAR WG.43/INF.16</i> , <i>UNEP(DEPI)/CAR WG.43/INF.33</i>

21. The Secretariat and SPAW-RAC continued to coordinate and cooperate, as feasible, with other initiatives and projects relevant to coastal and marine ecosystems in the region, including:
- Partnership with the Ocean Governance project, which aimed at protecting and restoring marine ecosystems as catalysts for building peace and security and fostering sustainable economies in South-East Asia and the Atlantic Ocean basin. In 2021 and 2022, the SPAW-RAC team participated in their meetings and communicated on its tools and results, notably during CARI'MAM meetings and workshops, via social networks and our website.

2.1.3 Sub-Programme Budget

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

Project Period	Source of Funds	Project Budget (\$US)*	Expenditure (\$US)**
2021-2022	CTF and Other	1,385,000	1,418,367

**Includes salaries for SPAW PO (until resignation March 2022), SPAW PMA and SPAW-RAC.

Note: 1) No SPAW PO since March 2022;

Note: 2) The Operational costs of the SPAW-RAC (8 persons) are covered directly by the Government of France and projects

Note 3) Approximate amount converted from Euros to USD using the conversion rate €1:US\$0.939

*COP and STAC preparations were included in the 2021-2022 budget, but expenses are expected to be incurred in 2023

2.2 Strengthening of Protected Areas in the Wider Caribbean Region

23. 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*

24. During the reporting period, activities were implemented through the EU funded project “Enforcing Environmental Treaties in African, Caribbean and Pacific (ACP) Countries – ACP-MEAs Phase III” approved under the SPAW sub-programme which aimed to strengthen capacity building initiatives in MPAs throughout the WCR (UNEP(DEPI)/CAR WG.43/INF.43). The main objective was to “develop a functional network of SPAW-listed protected areas that cover interconnected marine habitats and ecosystems for restoring and sustaining the health of the oceans”. Steps to enhance and assess the effectiveness of the Caribbean Marine Protected Areas Management Network and Forum (CaMPAM) continued and the implementation of a Small Grants Programme to address specific MPA needs. Support for CaMPAM and activities to strengthen capacity building initiatives in MPAs was also provided by the SPAW-RAC through their funded projects. Additional details of SPAW-RACs activities in MPAs can be found in *Section 2.4.1 and 2.5.1*. The initiatives implemented, and the activities conducted, are described below.
- Development of two Options Papers which explored the reactivation of CaMPAM (UNEP(DEPI)/CAR WG.43/INF.8 and the development of a Functional Ecological Network of Protected Areas UNEP(DEPI)/CAR WG.43/INF.9) for presentation to and further review by the 10th SPAW STAC and 12th Conference of Parties to the SPAW Protocol. A Rationale and Information Paper on CaMPAM and Development of an Ecological Network of SPAW-listed Protected Areas (UNEP(DEPI)/CAR WG.43/INF.10) was also developed. During SPAW STAC9 (UNEP(DEPI)/CAR WG.42/8), the Contracting Parties requested that the feasibility of implementing the recommendations of the “Assessment of the Impact and Effectiveness of CaMPAM” (UNEP(DEPI)/CAR WG.42/INF.7 Addendum 1) and the “Evaluation of Connectivity Between the SPAW-Listed Protected Areas to Guide the Development of a Functional Ecological Network of Protected Areas in the Wider Caribbean” (UNEP(DEPI)/CAR WG.42/INF.10) in the short, medium and long term be explored. The documents were developed in conjunction and under the overall guidance of the SPAW STAC Ad Hoc Protected Areas Working Group (PA WG), in collaboration with the Secretariat and SPAW-RAC. In tandem with the review of CaMPAM, and as part of the ACP-MEAs III project, the SPAW Programme is working towards delivering a functional ecological network of SPAW-listed MPAs covering interconnected marine and associated habitats and ecosystems for restoring and sustaining the health of the oceans.
 - Coordination and synergies with MPA initiatives and efforts were established through learning exchanges at international meetings (see [Annex III](#)). Specifically, at the Mediterranean Protected Areas Network (MedPAN) regional experience-sharing (virtual and in-person) workshop held in Petrovac, Montenegro in October 2022, a case study on CaMPAM and a summary of the above options for its future reactivation were presented in order to gain insight from experiences from other MPA networks.
 - “[How to conduct Protected Areas Management Effectiveness Assessment \(PAME\)](#)” was finalized in English, French and Spanish. The publication was developed in collaboration with the 11th European Development Fund through the Biodiversity and Protected Areas Management (BIOPAMA) Programme.
 - Participation at the 75th Annual Conference of the Gulf and Caribbean Fisheries Institute (Fort Walton Beach, Florida, USA, 7-11 November 2022) with sponsorship for the attendance of one (1) participant. Five (5) presentations were also made on MPAs during the poster session on Protected Areas and Species, two of which were from the SPAW-RAC.
 - Enhancement of the network of MPA practitioners continued through improving communication and dissemination of material. SPAW-RAC continued to moderate the CaMPAM forum (Listserv) which has gathered over 1,000 subscribers throughout the Wider Caribbean Region and beyond. Regular input is provided to different networks for e.g. the GCRMN Caribbean Forum or the CARI’MAM project collaborative network in order to maximise targeted outreach to protected areas managers.
25. Several MPA capacity building initiatives were supported by the ACP MEA III project and included the signing of an agreement with the Gulf and Caribbean Fisheries Institute (GCFI) to implement a small grants programme. The programme will support effective marine protected areas management through its MPACoconnect and GPML-Caribe initiatives. GCFI

supported the development of criteria for a small grants programme in partnership with the Cartagena Convention Secretariat. The call for proposals was widely distributed with a total of 26 proposals being submitted with 15 proposals being shortlisted and 9 proposals being selected for funding. Six small grants were awarded for MPA management effectiveness, capacity assessments and other management priorities in 2022. Three of the six grants are hybrid grants which include both MPA and marine litter initiatives to enhance synergies with the LBS Protocol/AMEP sub-programme. All the small grants are currently being implemented and are expected to be completed in 2023. Management capacity building materials will feature lessons learned by SPAW priority MPAs participating in the MPACoconnect network. Lessons on MPA management capacity from these sites will come from updated MPACoconnect management capacity assessments compared with past findings from capacity assessments in 2011 and 2017 (UNEP(DEPI)/CAR WG.43/INF.42). The SPAW-RAC also provided capacity building for MPAs through their funded projects outlined in *Section 2.4.1 and 2.5.1*.

26. Several activities were undertaken/supported with funding from the ACP -MEA III project 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>Five (5) presentations were made on MPA's during the poster session of the 75th GCFI Conference, 7–11 November 2022, Fort Walton Beach, Florida, USA. The SPAW-RAC was also present at the meeting.</p>
Restructuring of the CaMPAM Regional Database	<p>Completed for 2021 -2022 biennium</p> <p>An options paper was developed to assess the feasibility of implementing the recommendations of the “Assessment of the Impact and Effectiveness of CaMPAM” (UNEP(DEPI)/CAR WG.42/INF.7 Addendum 1) in the short, medium and long term. The options will be presented to SPAW STAC10 as well as SPAW COP12 and are subject to further review and decisions by Contracting Parties on CaMPAM's future reactivation and restructuring.</p>
Technical assistance for strengthening MPAs	<p>In progress for 2023-2024 biennium</p> <p>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>Continued to improve the electronic CaMPAM List with 1,000 subscribers (now moderated by SPAW-RAC) and drawing on 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, subject to decisions by Contracting Parties.</p> <p>In progress for 2023-2024 biennium GCFI and MPACoconnect Small Grants programme currently being implemented. To be finalised in 2023.</p>

2.2.2 Sub-Programme Outputs

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

Outputs	Indicators of Achievement	
Restructured CaMPAM delivery and management capacity in several MPAs of the WCR	Implementation of the recommendations provided in the two Options Papers developed under the ACP MEA Project	On-going Monitoring of implemented recommendations to reactivate/restructure CaMPAM.
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. 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

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

Project Period	Source of Funds	Project Budget (\$US)	Expenditure (\$US)
2021-2022	ACP MEA Project	430,838	123,540

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

2.3 Development of Guidelines for Protected Areas and Species Management

29. 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 planning for protected areas including the development of relevant legislation and reporting mechanisms where appropriate; 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

30. Several activities were undertaken by and/or implemented in collaboration with the SPAW-RAC in Guadeloupe (see *UNEP(DEPI)/CAR WG.43/INF.6 for further details*). The activities implemented during 2021-2022 to meet these objectives included:

- Following SPAW STAC9, Terms of Reference (ToR) were updated and finalised for the SPAW STAC Ad Hoc Working Groups. This revision and update of the terms of reference of the ad hoc working groups takes into account the suggestions made during STAC9 and clarifies the structure, tasks and participation to the species working group. It was validated by the STAC through a remote consultation in January 2022 (see *UNEP(DEPI)/CAR WG.42 /INF.12/Rev.1*). Each Party was invited to nominate up to two (2) experts in each group and Observers were invited to nominate one (1) expert.
- One additional protected area (The Cotubanama National Park in the Dominican Republic) was listed under the SPAW Protocol bringing the total to thirty-six (36) with a view to enhance their effectiveness, and share lessons learnt with other protected areas. In 2021, Aruba submitted a proposal to list the Parke Marine Aruba. This proposal was presented to STAC9, however, it was not received in the required timeframe to be considered by the STAC and COP. The Contracting Parties subsequently proposed that it be presented in the following biennium, STAC10 and COP12. In 2022, France submitted a proposal to list “Parc Naturel Marin de Martinique” which will be presented to STAC10 and COP12 (see *UNEP(DEPI)/CAR WG.42 /INF.22 (Addendum 1)*).

31. Several activities were undertaken as outlined below:

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 2021/2022 for Parties to nominate additional sites for listing, <u>there are now 36 Protected Areas listed under the SPAW Protocol</u>, after the inclusion of the Cotubanama National Park (Dominican Republic) following adoption during COP11. ● 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>. However, the SPAW-RAC noted that MPA managers opted to send the form directly to SPAW-RAC by email rather than using the online database. ● 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.
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

2.3 DEVELOPMENT OF GUIDELINES FOR PROTECTED AREAS AND SPECIES MANAGEMENT	
Activities	Status
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>)	On-going Further to COP10 decision to encourage Parties <u>to report exemptions</u> in a format that includes the required/relevant information. (<i>See UNEP(DEPI)/CAR WG.38/3 Rev.1 for details</i>)
Application of the criteria for listing species in the Annexes to the Protocol	On-going 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 (<i>See UNEP(DEPI)/CAR WG.43/INF. 16 for details</i>).

2.3.2 Sub-Programme Outputs

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

Output	Indicators of Achievement
An updated list of protected areas under the SPAW Protocol	Completed for 2021-2022 biennium <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Development of a CaMPAM – MPA profile form using a toolbox supported under the ACP-MEAs III In progress for 2023-2024 biennium <ul style="list-style-type: none"> A call to Parties for the listing of additional protected areas done during the biennium. <i>Proposed PAs will be reviewed at STAC10 with recommendations made for their listing by COP12.</i> <i>(See UNEP(DEPI)/CAR WG.43/INF.12, UNEP(DEPI)/CAR WG.43/INF.13, UNEP(DEPI)/CAR WG.43/INF.14)</i>
Reports from Parties using the voluntary Format for presenting exemptions under Article 11(2), and reporting on their implementation	Completed for 2021-2022 biennium In progress for 2023-2024 biennium <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Consideration of exemption reports submitted by Parties at STAC10 and COP12 as appropriate. (<i>See UNEP(DEPI)/CAR WG.43/INF.33</i>)
A revised list of protected species under Annexes I-III of the SPAW Protocol	Completed for 2021-2022 biennium The species Working Group has prepared a draft short list of species proposed for protection under the SPAW Protocol – to be presented to STAC 10 for review and for Parties to consider approval for inclusion in the Annexes by COP12 as appropriate. <i>(See UNEP(DEPI)/CAR WG.43/INF.16, UNEP(DEPI)/CAR WG.43/INF.17, UNEP(DEPI)/CAR WG.43/INF.18, UNEP(DEPI)/CAR WG.43/INF.19, UNEP(DEPI)/CAR WG.43/INF.20, UNEP(DEPI)/CAR WG.43/INF.21, UNEP(DEPI)/CAR WG.43/INF.22, UNEP(DEPI)/CAR WG.43/INF.23)</i>

2.3.3 Sub-Programme Budget

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

Project Period	Source of Funds*	Project Budget (\$US)	Expenditure (\$US)*
2021-2022	Other	223,452	N/A

*In-kind support from partners

2.4 Conservation of Threatened and Endangered Species

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

- Promote awareness and action in the region on priorities for the management of endangered and migratory species to increase the level of national and regional protection; ;
- 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

35. In keeping with the priorities identified by the Contracting Parties at STAC9 and COP11 and the progress made with activities under the CARI'MAM project (*UNEP(DEPI)/CAR WG.42/INF.28* and *UNEP(DEPI)/CAR WG.43/INF.29*), the following activities were implemented through the Secretariat and under the CARI'MAM project during the 2021-2022 biennium. The CARI'MAM project was slated to end in 2020 but was extended for an additional year to the end of 2021.

- Support networking** – In response to STAC 9 recommendation XI(8) (*UNEP(DEPI)/CAR WG.42/8*), the SPAW-RAC in consultation with a group which included SPAW Focal Points and country representatives drafted a proposal to consider the potential costs, benefits, and operational framework of a Marine Mammal Regional Activity Network (RAN), taking into account the good results of the CARI'MAM project and network (*UNEP(DEPI)/CAR WG.43/INF.32*) to be presented to STAC10.
- Support revision and implementation of the MMAP** - Following STAC 9 recommendation IX(7) (*UNEP(DEPI)/CAR WG.42/8*), which requested the marine mammal experts of the Species Working Group to revise and update the MMAP, the group decided to build on the 2008 MMAP the following way: 1) make some format modifications, so that the reviewed version is more tangible and user-friendly; 2) enlarge the scope of the MMAP to include river and estuarine species listed in SPAW Annexes; 3) update the information from the following STAC 9 documents. The general goal of the revised MMAP is to identify i) the priority threats to marine mammals in the region, ii) actions that governments and organizations from the WCR should take to develop and improve marine mammal conservation policies and practices in a 5-year timeframe, and iii) the available resources and expertise of marine mammal networks established by the SPAW Program. (For more details see *UNEP(DEPI)/CAR WG.43/INF.16*).
- Enhance knowledge and monitoring of marine mammal populations in the WCR** - Online trainings (MOOCs) were developed on Photo-identification and CMR method, acoustic identification of cetaceans, managing marine mammals in case of oil spill, project building and financing. They are available for free and to anyone on the eLearning of the French Biodiversity Office (OFB): go to elearning.ofb.fr, create an account, and subscribe to CARI'MAM courses. Development of a dematerialized educational kit for whale watching professionals, to adapt to the health context. The objective of this kit is to train and support commercial marine mammal watching operators to develop a sustainable and responsible whale watching activity and to promote a quality tourism offer. The kit was presented during the final conference of CARI'MAM held in November 2021. The website dedicated to Caribbean marine mammals was finalized in 2021 and is included as

part of the SPAW-RAC website. This website aims to become the reference website for marine mammal conservation in the Caribbean region: general and specific information, link to major programs, stranding metadata.

- **Follow-up to stranding workshops** - A stranding workshop was also organized on November 17, 2021, to present the CARI'MAM training tools for stranding and discuss regional collaboration projects. Development of an online training course in 2021 to support actors who wished to strengthen the marine mammal stranding monitoring network in their territory or to develop one from the WCR region. The material is available on the SPAW-RAC website: <https://www.car-spaw-rac.org/?Training>. A mailing list dedicated to strandings was created on the project's collaborative platform, and a table with the focal points' contacts is now available on the CARIMAM website. In addition, a dedicated strandings webpage has been created, on which have been compiled: an introduction to strandings; downloadable guides that present best practices for responding to strandings; some links to other useful websites <https://www.car-spaw-rac.org/?Good-practice-guides>. Fourteen packages of basic materials and equipment to respond to strandings were purchased for networks that requested them in the Wider Caribbean Region (Barbados, Belize, Dominican Republic, Haiti, St Eustatius, Nicaragua, Guadeloupe, St Martin, Mexico, Martinique and St Lucia).
- **Support sustainable marine mammal watching in the Wider Caribbean Region** - CARI'MAM "Caribbean Marine Mammals Preservation Network" project, a major output was to support the development of sustainable whale watching, with:
 - the organization of a best practices workshop,
 - a study for a regional whale-watching regulatory instrument,
 - the development of a toolkit for a sustainable and responsible whale-watching activity.Although the project has concluded, the network is still active with 273 participants from 78 organizations and 31 Caribbean territories.
- **Poster presentation at the 75th Annual Gulf and Caribbean Fisheries Institute Conference, 6-11th November 2022, Fort Walton Beach, Florida, USA.** The poster was presented on the SPAW-RAC activities in the framework of the CARI'MAM project and outlined the project results.
- **Launch of "Marine Mammal Month" social media campaign** – Second and third edition of the marine mammal social media campaign was launched on World Oceans Day, June 2021 and 2022. It 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). It also produced a [factsheet](#) which summarises interesting facts about 30 marine species found in the Wider Caribbean Region.
- **Finalize and initiate implementation of a Memorandum of Cooperation (MoC) between UNEP/Secretariat to the Cartagena Convention and the International Whaling Commission (IWC)** - The Secretariat in collaboration with the IWC submitted an MOU to the IWC Commission at the 68th meeting (IWC68) in October 2022. The MOU was not accepted by the Commission due to the dispute settlement clause 13. The Commission proposed that a workplan be drafted in lieu of the MOU. The Secretariat will draft a workplan with input from the SPAW-RAC and submit it to the IWC for review and validation in the next biennium. This is 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).

36. As per the 2021-2022 Workplan, the Secretariat continued to support initiatives to address the management of Sargassum throughout the WCR. The Secretariat's 2021 Sargassum White Paper was updated with funding provided by the Swedish Ministry of Environment and launched in June 2021 at the All-Atlantic 2021 Sargassum Side Event (*UNEP(DEPI)/CAR WG.42/INF.35/Rev.1*). The White Paper also formed the basis of a draft concept note for the SargCollab programme which will be led by the Secretariat and will target the key issues identified. Summary briefs were additionally produced for entrepreneurs and small- and medium-sized businesses, civil society, women and youth. The 24th edition of UNEP's Foresight Brief, 'brown tide or golden jewel' focused on sargassum and aimed to support a paradigm shift from sargassum being described as a hazard to being considered an opportunity. Synergies continued with the Abidjan Convention Secretariat and

through cross-linkages with the Secretariat's Assessment and Management of Environment Pollution (AMEP) Sub-programme through the hosting of a regional workshop on the Index of Coastal Eutrophication Potential (ICEP) and Harmful Algal Blooms (HABs) led by the RACs of the LBS Protocol in July 2022. The workshop was also supported and attended by the SPAW-RAC. The Integrating Water, Land and Ecosystems Management in Caribbean Small Island Developing States (IWeco) project supported work on marine debris, coastal eutrophication and harmful algal blooms. The IWECO project also finalized an outreach video series which will contribute to enhancing public education and awareness on the sargassum issue.

37. In June 2021, SPAW-RAC issued a Call for Proposals for small, short-term grants (*UNEP(DEPI)/CAR WG.43/INF.28 and UNEP(DEPI)/CAR WG.43/INF.28 Add. 1*). Thirteen (13) conservation proposals were approved and included efforts to restore coral reefs in Honduras, awareness for the conservation of cetaceans, the impact of seagrass invasion on queen conch depletion and support for Antillean manatees and sea turtles in Belize.
38. The Secretariat via the SPAW-RAC continues to support initiatives under WIDECAST (*UNEP(DEPI)/CAR WG.43/INF.11*) which included a presentation on protected species under the SPAW Protocol at the 2022 Annual WIDECAST Meeting (Virtual March 2022).
39. The SPAW-RAC/Secretariat supported Contracting Parties in strengthening conservation and sustainable management of parrotfish including through discussions in the Species Working Group as appropriate. The Species WG reviewed one proposal for the inclusion of all parrotfishes (Perciformes: Scaridae) in Annex III of the SPAW Protocol (*UNEP(DEPI)/CAR WG.43/INF.17*)
40. Several activities were undertaken by, or implemented in collaboration with, the SPAW-RAC in Guadeloupe. See UNEP(DEPI)/CAR WG.43/INF.6 for further details. The activities implemented during 2021-2022 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 the recently submitted Caribbean Marine Megafauna and Anthropogenic Activities (CAMAC) Project which will provide the governing bodies of the Caribbean and environmental stakeholders with recommendations and tools to reduce the impacts of human activities on the marine megafauna in the region (<i>See UNEP(DEPI)/CAR WG.43/INF.36</i>).
Develop Workplan between the Secretariat and the IWC	On-going Discussions continue. A draft document is in progress
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
Support the management of, and the regional sharing of data on, Sargassum in the Wider Caribbean Region	On-going Parties and Observers invited to nominate experts to participate in recently established Ad Hoc Working Group on Sargassum Constant update of Secretariat's Sargassum White Paper (<i>UNEP(DEPI)/CAR WG.42/INF.35 Rev 1</i>) to reflect the most recent scientific findings and management recommendations

41. Meetings involved in the successful implementation of this sub-programme and webinars attended and/or supported to enhance coordination with partners and explore synergies with regards to conserving threatened or endangered species can be found in [Annex III](#) and [IV](#):

2.4.2 Sub-Programme Outputs

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

Outputs	Indicators of Achievement
Improved marine mammal networking throughout the Wider Caribbean Region	Completed Revised and updated MMAP On-going Increased collaboration amongst marine mammal researchers throughout the WCR through the upcoming CAMAC project
Sustainable marine mammal watching in the Wider Caribbean Region	Completed Development of sustainable whale watching label under the CARI'MAM project.
Increased collaboration amongst regional and international partners to combat the spread of Sargassum in the Wider Caribbean Region	On-going Development of new partnerships and knowledge sharing to sustainably manage Sargassum influx
Provide information on critical species/ecosystems and their threats.	On-going Co-hosting of webinars and the creation of educational materials on critical species such as parrotfish and marine mammals continues.

2.4.3 Sub-Programme Budget

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

Project Period	Source of Funds	Project Budget (\$US)	Expenditure (\$US)*
2021-2022	Other	395,000	53,459

*Expenditure from Cari'mam project

2.5 Conservation and Sustainable Use of Coastal and Marine Ecosystems

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

- (a) Assist with the management of the coastal and marine ecosystems of the region on a sustainable basis, particularly through sustainable practices;
- (b) Raise awareness and encourage actions of Governments and other partners for the conservation and sustainable use of coral reefs and associated ecosystems such as mangroves and seagrass beds;
- (c) 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
- (d) 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

45. Under this sub-programme, activities were carried out via the coordination and implementation of the recently concluded CARIB Coast project (through SPAW-RAC) and through collaboration with the CBD on the Sustainable Ocean Initiative (SOI) and GCFI on Stony Coral Tissue Loss Disease (SCTLD). Additionally, promotion of the results of the CLME+ project, completed in 2020, took place within the biennium.
46. The Secretariat in collaboration with the UNEP Caribbean Sub Regional Office (CSRO) hosted a webinar entitled *Towards Ecosystem Based Management in the Caribbean* in July 2021 in recognition of the UN Decade on Ecosystem Restoration. The aim of the webinar was to present the successes and lessons learnt of the CLME+ project in the three project countries, Suriname, Trinidad and Guyana.
47. The following regional reports produced under the concluded CLME+ project were presented to STAC 9 March 2021 and endorsed by the Contracting Parties to the Cartagena Convention in July 2021:
 - **State of Nearshore Marine Habitats in the Wider Caribbean (SoMH)** (See document 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)** (See document 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** (See document UNEP(DEPI)/CAR WG.41/INF.13).
 - **A Regional Mangrove Restoration Manual** (See document UNEP(DEPI)/CAR WG.42/INF.16).
 - A combined summary of the SOMH and State of the Convention Area report (SOCAR) reports was also developed, along with summaries of the RSAP for policy makers, civil society and private sector.
48. **The CARIB-COAST project launched** in January 2019, concluded in December 2022. The project was piloted by the French Geological Survey Office under the auspices of SPAW-RAC and the Interreg Caribbean Programme (see document UNEP(DEPI)/CAR WG.43/INF.30) and aimed to initiate a Caribbean network of coastal risk crisis prevention and management practitioners in relation to climate change. It encompassed 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 was 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:
 - Development of a best practices guidebook on coastal risks management for the Caribbean region in collaboration with French Geological Survey (BRGM) and National Office for Forests (ONF).
 - Participation in six (6) Project Steering Committee meetings between January 2021 and October 2022. All meetings were virtual with the exception of the final meeting in October 2022 which was held in person in Guadeloupe. These meetings aimed to review progress of the project partners and to address potential issues.
 - Presentation of key results of the Carib Coast project at the 75th Annual GCFI (Fort Walton Beach, Florida, 7–11 November 2022).
 - Syntheses written about three targeted ecosystems (coral reefs, seagrasses and mangroves).
 - Identification and implementation of three pilot sites to address coral, mangrove and seagrass restoration in Trinidad and Tobago (coral restoration, May - July 2021), Puerto Rico (seagrass restoration, August 2021-July 2022), Bahamas (mangrove restoration, July 2021- September 2022).

- Collaboration with the Adaptom Project for knowledge and experience sharing on ecological restoration in June 2022.
49. The Secretariat in collaboration with the Convention on Biological Diversity actively participated in several meetings for the Sustainable Ocean Initiative. *The Sustainable Ocean Initiative (SOI) emerged from the Conference of Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity (COP 10, Nagoya, Japan, October 2010) COP 10, in collaboration with various partners who were willing to provide the necessary expertise, technical and financial resources. COP 10 emphasized the need for training and capacity-building of developing country Parties through workshops that contribute to sharing experiences and knowledge related to the conservation and sustainable use of marine and coastal biodiversity:*
- **Meeting on Preliminary Concepts on “Other Effective Area-Based Conservation Measures (OECMs)** - The Secretariat organized a meeting in October 2021 in collaboration with the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) to present to SPAW National Focal Points on the preliminary concepts on “Other Effective Area-Based Conservation Measures (OECM)” as part of the ongoing negotiations of the CBD Global Biodiversity Framework 2022-2030. This was also in preparation for the “Sustainable Ocean Initiative (SOI) Capacity-Building Workshop for the Wider Caribbean and Central America on Other Effective Area-Based Conservation Measures in the Marine Fishery Sector” held in April 2022
 - **Virtual Intersessional Workshop for the SOI Global Dialogue with Regional Seas Organizations and Regional Fisheries Bodies** – September-October 2021. The workshop provided an update on the status of regional-scale coordination and collaboration including the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic, roles of, and opportunities for, regional organisations and regional collaboration in the development and implementation of the post-2020 global biodiversity framework, as well detailed discussion on the next steps.
 - **Virtual Capacity-Building workshop for the Wider Caribbean and Central America on Other Effective Area-Based Conservation Measures (OECMs) in the Marine Fishery Sector** held in April 2022. The main objective of the workshop was to enhance the capacity of countries in the region to identify, designate and report on OECMs in the marine fishery sector. It aimed to provide the participants with an understanding of what OECMs were, introduced the criteria and types as well as presented examples of how OECMs could be applied in various contexts in the region. The Secretariat presented an overview of the work of the Cartagena Convention and its Protocols with a focus on the objectives of the Specially Protected Areas and Wildlife (SPAW) Protocol and the important role it plays in improving ocean governance. Collaboration with partners on projects was also highlighted with particular focus on the conservation of Marine Protected Areas (MPAs) as well as ecosystem-based management and the implementation of an ecosystem approach to fisheries (insert link).
 - **SOI Global Dialogue with Regional Seas Organizations and Regional Fisheries Bodies** (in person) - October 2022, Busan, South Korea. Under the theme “*Forging a new era of regional leadership in the post-2020 world*”, Participants comprised of representatives of regional seas organizations (RSOs), regional fishery bodies (RFBs), other global and regional organizations and initiatives, national governments and non-governmental organizations met to consider updates on activities to advance cooperation at the regional scale since the second meeting of the SOI Global Dialogue in 2018. The meeting focused on specific timely issues of relevance, including OECMs, the post-2020 GBF, developments in relation to ABNJ, and an international legally binding instrument on plastic pollution. A joint presentation for the WCR was held by the Secretariat, FAO-WECAFC, OSPECS, CRFM and the CLME+ Interim Coordination Mechanism Secretariat. The meeting also provided an opportunity for the region to jointly develop concrete actions and milestones towards roadmaps for implementing the post-2020 global biodiversity framework. The regional group for the Wider Caribbean agreed that the long-term CLME+ vision should be supported by: (i) targeting common areas of focus, such as sargassum proliferation, ocean acidification, invasive species, and disaster risk reduction; (ii) addressing root causes of weak governance by strengthening institutional cooperation and improving financing and technical capacity; and (iii) operationalizing the Ocean Coordination Mechanism in the region, and, through this tool, adopting a common blueprint for the regional data and information landscape.
50. The Secretariat participated in the monthly virtual meetings of the Ocean Acidification in the Caribbean Task Team (OA in the Caribbean TT). The meetings were led by the NOAA Ocean Acidification Program and promoted collaboration and

networking within and outside the OA community. It also provided an opportunity to include input to relevant documents and activities.

51. Coral reef conservation initiatives are on-going through the SPAW-RAC. Activities dedicated to the conservation of coral reefs have included:
- **Launch of the Coral Reef Restoration Guidelines for Tourism Sector** in June 2022 in collaboration with The Nature Conservancy (TNC), and the Caribbean Hotel & Tourism Association (CHTA). The guidelines were designed specifically for the tourism sector.
 - **Continued reactivation of the Caribbean coral reef monitoring network under GCRMN (GCRMN-Caribbean) (UNEP(DEPI)/CAR WG.36/INF.10 and UNEP(DEPI)/CAR WG.42/INF.26)**. The activities conducted by SPAW-RAC include (*see document UNEP(DEPI)/CAR WG.43/INF.27*) through:
 - Leading on requesting and gathering of coral reef data, insights and trends for the Caribbean region from members of the network. The collected data and analyses were used to develop chapter 12 of the 2020 GCRMN Status of Coral Reefs of the World Report. GCRMN and ICRI officially launched the report in February 2022.
 - Participation in the Meeting of the GCRMN Steering Committee (Monaco, March, 2022).
 - Contribution to and participation in GCRMN virtual trainings for the United Kingdom Overseas Territories (UKOTs) in March 2022. The training events were on biophysical GCRMN monitoring and introduction to SocMon monitoring.
 - Organisation of a GCRMN Steering Committee virtual meeting in August 2022. The meeting included three technical presentations from experts on the SocMon monitoring programme, ongoing work done to develop solutions to set up a regional database for the Caribbean region and current work done by the Global Ocean Acidification Observing Network (GOA-ON) to set up a Caribbean Hub.
 - SPAW-RAC continued its effort to develop and fund coral reefs activities, also to liaise with the main global and regional organizations working on coral conservation
 - Ongoing discussions on finding the most suitable option to host the GCRMN-Caribbean data on a platform.
52. **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 five (5) meetings which addressed impacts throughout the WCR with a special focus on the islands of Guadeloupe, St. Martin, and Martinique. In July 2022, SPAW-RAC facilitated the organization of a session focused on the status of SCTLD and efforts to respond to the outbreak in the French Caribbean, specifically the reefs of Guadeloupe, Martinique, Saint Barthelemy and Saint Martin).
53. GCFI, through its MPAConnect initiative in collaboration with NOAA's Coral Reef Conservation Program (CRCP), the Atlantic and Gulf Rapid Reef Assessment Programme (AGRRA) and SeaGrant, has been actively involved in promoting SCTLD treatment and monitoring throughout the WCR. Activities to date include:
- Launch of the SCTLD White Paper in collaboration with the Secretariat in October 2021. The White Paper was developed to help regional partners to make informed decisions about coral disease monitoring and response to SCTLD and can be accessed here.
 - Peer2Peer Learning Exchange on SCTLD, Key Largo, Florida, 26 September 2022. The learning exchange brought together fifty (50) managers and experts from 15 countries to plan rescue and restoration efforts for stony corals due to the devastation caused by the disease.
 - SCTLD Posters. No new posters were developed but are continued to be used to promote awareness of the SCTLD issue. Posters are available in English, Spanish and French.
 - SCTLD Webinars. Three (3) webinars on SCTLD were held :
 - Monitoring Reefs for SCTLD, 16 January 2021
 - Workshop on SCTLD treatment and intervention approaches, 14 June 2021
 - Caribbean coral rescue in the face of SCTLD, 14 March 2022

54. The SPAW-RAC continued to develop activities designed to promote the conservation and sustainable use of mangroves. In June 2022, the SPAW-RAC issued a *Call for Proposals* for small, short-term grants (see document *UNEP(DEPI)/CAR WG.43/INF.6*). Fifteen (15) conservation proposals were approved through its 2022 Call for Projects. SPAW-RAC supported projects from two NGOs involved in mangrove restoration to recover important habitats for marine species. In Haiti, *Mouvement Haïtien pour le Développement Rural* is restoring 30 ha of mangroves in order to improve fishing conditions for the conservation of biodiversity in Belle-Anse Bay and in Belize, Clearwater Marine Aquarium is implementing a mangrove restoration project to support local manatee populations by reducing coastal erosion and replanting manatee foraging and sheltering areas within Gales Point.
55. Meetings involved in the successful implementation of this sub-programme and webinars attended and/or supported to enhance coordination with partners and explore synergies with regards to conserving and sustainably using coastal and marine resources can be found in [Annex III](#) and [IV](#):

2.5.2 *Sub-programme Outputs*

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

Outputs	Indicators of Achievement
Continued reactivation of the Caribbean Coral Reef Monitoring Network (GCRMN-Caribbean)	Completed Recognition of the state of coral reefs in the WCR through a dedicated chapter in the <i>2020 Global Report on the Status of Coral Reefs</i> <i>UNEP(DEPI)/CAR WG.43/INF.27</i>
Conservation of critical ecosystems	On-going Threats to coral reefs have been identified and proposed actions suggested to improve the management of these critical ecosystems. See documents: <i>UNEP CEP 2021 White Paper on Stony Coral Tissue Loss Disease</i>
Improved resilience to climate change	Completed Development of a best practices guidebook on coastal risks management. See documents: <i>UNEP(DEPI)/CAR WG.43/INF.30</i>

2.5.3 *Sub-programme Budget*

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

58.

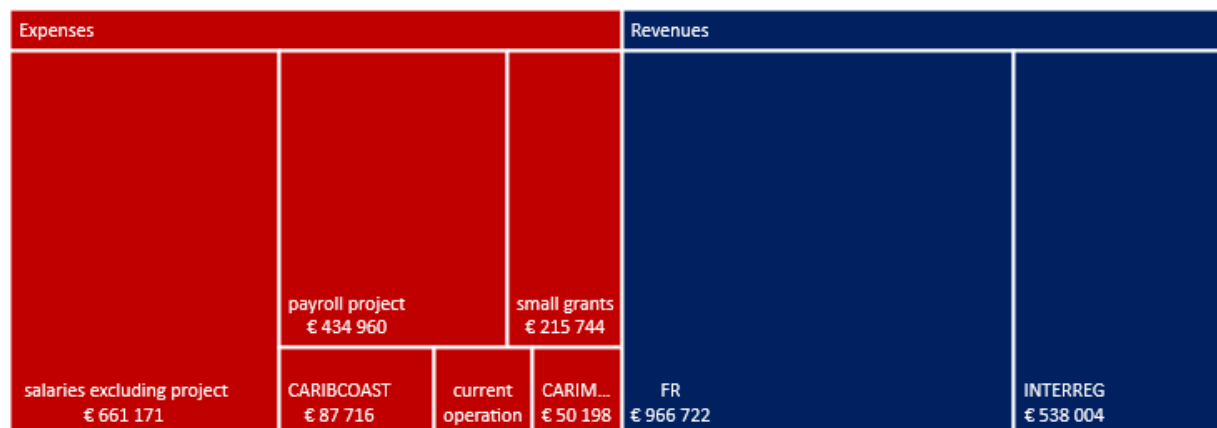
Project Period	Source of Funds	Project Budget (\$US)	Expenditure (\$US)*
2021-2022	Other	345,000	93,414

*Expenditure CaribCoast Project

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

Project-Period	Source-of-Funds	Budget (\$US)	Expenditure (\$US)
2021-2022	Other	1,602,477	1,543,971

2021-2022



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

<i>State</i>	Cartagena Convention		Oil Spill		SPAW		LBS	
	Date of Signature	Ratified / Acceded	Date of Signature	Ratified / Acceded	Date of Signature	Ratified / Acceded	Date of Signature	Ratified / Acceded
<i>Antigua and Barbuda</i>		11-Sep-86		11-Sep-86	18-Jan-90			13-July -10
<i>Bahamas</i>		24-Jun-10		24-Jun-10		24-Jun-10		24-Jun-10
<i>Barbados</i>	5-Mar-84	28-May-85	5-Mar-84	28-May-85		14-Oct-02	29 Jun-19	29 Jun-19
<i>Belize</i>		22-Sep-99		22-Sep-99		4-Jan-08		4-Feb-08
<i>Colombia</i>	24-Mar-83	3-Mar-88	24-Mar-83	3-Mar-88	18-Jan-90	5-Jan-98	2-Oct-00	
<i>Costa Rica</i>		1-Aug-91		1-Aug-91			6-Oct-99	26-May-16
<i>Cuba</i>		15-Sep-88		15-Sep-88	18-Jan-90	4-Aug-98		
<i>Dominica</i>		5-Oct-90		5-Oct-90				
<i>Dominican Republic</i>		24-Nov-98		24-Nov-98		24-Nov-98	3-Aug-00	6-Sep-12
<i>France</i>	24-Mar-83	13-Nov-85	24-Mar-83	13-Nov-85	18-Jan-90	5-Apr-02	6-Oct-99	4-May-07
<i>Grenada</i>	24-Mar-83	17-Aug-87	24-Mar-83	17-Aug-87		5-Mar-12		5-Mar-12
<i>Guatemala</i>	5-Dec-83	18-Dec-89	5-Dec-83	18-Dec-89	18-Jan-90			
<i>Guyana</i>		14-Jul-10		14-Jul-10		14-Jul-10		14-Jul-10
<i>Haiti</i>								
<i>Honduras</i>	24-Mar-83	13-Oct-18	24-Mar-83	13-Oct-18		13-Oct-18		13-Oct-18
<i>Jamaica</i>	24-Mar-83	1-Apr-87	24-Mar-83	1-Apr-87	18-Jan-90			5-Nov-15
<i>Mexico</i>	24-Mar-83	11-Apr-85	24-Mar-83	11-Apr-85	18-Jan-90			
<i>Netherlands</i>	24-Mar-83	16-Apr-84	24-Mar-83	16-Apr-84	18-Jan-90	2-Mar-92	6-Oct-99	
<i>Nicaragua</i>	24-Mar-83	25-Aug-05	24-Mar-83	25-Aug-05		4-May-21		
<i>Panama</i>	24-Mar-83	6-Nov-87	24-Mar-83	6-Oct-87	16-Jan-91	27-Sep-96		9-Jul-03

<i>St. Kitts and Nevis</i>		15-Jun-99		15-Jun-99				
<i>Saint Lucia</i>	24-Mar-83	30-Nov-84	24-Mar-83	30-Nov-84	18-Jan-90	18-May-00		30-Jan-08
<i>St. Vincent and the Grenadines</i>		11-Jul-90		11-Jul-90	26-Jul-91	26-Jul-91		
<i>Suriname</i>								
<i>Trinidad and Tobago</i>		24-Jan-86		24-Jan-86	18-Jan-90	10-Aug-99		28-Mar-03
<i>United Kingdom</i>	24-Mar-83	28-Feb-86	24-Mar-83	28-Feb-86	18-Jan-90			
<i>United States of America</i>	24-Mar-83	31-Oct-84	24-Mar-83	31-Oct-84	18-Jan-90	16-Apr-03	6-Oct-99	13-Feb-09
<i>Venezuela</i>	24-Mar-83	18-Dec-86	24-Mar-83	18-Dec-86	18-Jan-90	28-Jan-97		
<i>European Economic Commission</i>	24-Mar-83							

Annex III: List of meetings organized and/or attended

Meeting	Purpose	Date and Venue	Relation to Programme Objectives
Workshop: Citizen Science Pilot Projects of the collaborative network CaMPAM	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Discussion on Citizen Science Pilot Projects of the collaborative network CaMPAM 	<p>May 2021</p> <p>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
Launch of Cartagena Convention White Paper on Sargassum at All-Atlantic 2021 Conference Side Event	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Address the challenges, solutions and opportunities behind the spread of Sargassum across the Tropical Atlantic ● Introduction to the Sargassum Information Hub and the UNEP 2021 Sargassum White Paper ● Catalyse linkages actions and coordination across the Atlantic Ocean 	<p>2 June 2021</p> <p>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 ● Conservation and sustainable use of coastal and marine ecosystems
Eleventh SPAW Conference of Parties Meeting (COP11)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● To discuss the following: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – emerging issues which threaten marine biodiversity in the region, – the establishment of working groups to enhance the conservation of marine mammals, sea turtles, corals and herbivorous fishes, among others 	<p>27 July 2021</p> <p>Virtual</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Coordination/synergies with relevant institutions / legislations ● Strengthening of protected areas in the WCR ● Development of guidelines for protected areas and species management ● Conservation of threatened and endangered species ● Conservation and sustainable use of coastal and marine ecosystems

Meeting	Purpose	Date and Venue	Relation to Programme Objectives
<p>Promoting the Collaboration of Regional Partners in Advancing Sargassum Influx Management and Governance in the Caribbean Sea (SARG'COLLAB) Consultation Meeting</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Introduction to the Draft Concept Note ● Provide feedback and discussion ● Present opportunities for collaboration and financing 	<p>21 September 2021 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 ● Conservation and sustainable use of coastal and marine ecosystems
<p>Virtual Intersessional Workshop for the Sustainable Ocean Initiative (SOI) Global Dialogue with Regional Seas Organizations and Regional Fisheries Bodies</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Provide updates on the status of: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – regional-scale coordination and collaboration, – impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic on regional-scale coordination and collaboration, – roles of, and opportunities for, regional organisations and regional collaboration in the development and implementation of the post-2020 global biodiversity framework ● Detailed discussion on the next steps ● Presentation of and detailed discussions on the future opportunities for regional collaboration in the targets of the Post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework. 	<p>29 September – 1 October 2021</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Coordination/synergies with relevant institutions / legislations ● Strengthening of protected areas in the WCR ● Conservation and sustainable use of coastal and marine ecosystems

Meeting	Purpose	Date and Venue	Relation to Programme Objectives
Meeting on Preliminary Concepts on “Other Effective Area-Based Conservation Measures (OECMs)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To present to SPAW National Focal Points on the preliminary concepts on “Other Effective Area-Based Conservation Measures (OECM)” as part of the ongoing negotiations of the CBD Global Biodiversity Framework 2022-2030. 	6 October 2021 Virtual	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Coordination/synergies with relevant institutions / legislations Strengthening of protected areas in the WCR Conservation and sustainable use of coastal and marine ecosystems
UN Decade of Ocean Science for Sustainable Development 2021-2030 Tropical Americas Co-Design Workshop series (#7): <i>Co-existing Opportunities and Synergies: Exploring Opportunities for a sustainably harvested and productive ocean in the WTA</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To collaborate, co-design and submit Regional Ocean Decade Actions for endorsement as part of the global collective effort of the Ocean Decade 	7 October 2021 Virtual	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Coordination/synergies with relevant institutions / legislations Strengthening of protected areas in the WCR Conservation and sustainable use of coastal and marine ecosystems
Mangrove Restoration Workshop	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Build local and regional capacities on mangrove restoration Strengthening of the network of researchers, conservationists, park authorities or anyone passionate about nature restoration Exchange of lessons learnt and ideas and tips on mangrove restoration techniques 	October 25 th -28 th , 2021 Bonaire Virtual & In person	<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
Inception Meeting of the Regional Activity Centres of the Caribbean Environment Programme (CEP)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To enhance collaboration among the Caribbean Environment Programme (CEP) Regional Activity Centres (RACs) 	16 November 2021 Virtual	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Coordination/synergies with relevant institutions / legislations

Meeting	Purpose	Date and Venue	Relation to Programme Objectives
CARI'MAM Stranding Workshop	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Present the CARI'MAM training tools for stranding ● Discuss regional collaboration projects 	17 November 2021 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
Launch of the Manual for the Ecological Restoration of Mangroves in the MesoAmerican Region and the Wider Caribbean	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Introduce/promote the Manual for the Ecological Restoration of Mangroves in the MesoAmerican Region and the Wider Caribbean 	1 December 2021 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 ● Conservation and sustainable use of coastal and marine ecosystems
ACP MEA III 2 nd Project Steering Committee Meeting (PSC2)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Review of implementation status of the programme ● Define strategic priorities, identify cross-cutting issues based on available resources ● Review lessons learnt from previous ACP phases ● Enhance South-South Exchange and Alignment of actions among implementing partners using emerging opportunities 	7-8 December 2021 Virtual	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Coordination/synergies with relevant institutions / legislations ● Strengthening of protected areas in the WCR
<u>2022 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 	23–25 March 2022 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
Capacity-Building workshop for the Wider Caribbean and Central America on Other Effective Area-Based Conservation Measures (OECMs) in the Marine Fishery Sector	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● To enhance the capacity of countries in the region to identify, designate and report on OECMs in the marine fishery sector. ● To provide the participants with an understanding of what OECMs were, introduced the criteria and types ● To present examples of how OECMs could be applied in various contexts in the region. ● To present an overview of the work of the Cartagena Convention and its Protocols with a focus on the objectives of the Specially Protected Areas and Wildlife (SPAW) Protocol and the important role it plays in improving ocean governance. 	20-21 April 2022 (Part I) 27-28 April 2022 (Part II) Virtual	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Coordination/synergies with relevant institutions / legislations ● Strengthening of protected areas in the WCR ● Conservation and sustainable use of coastal and marine ecosystems
Regional Stakeholder Workshop on Capacity Building and Technology Transfer in the Context of the New Legally Binding Agreement for the Biodiversity Beyond National Jurisdiction (BBNJ)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● To discuss existing capacity building and technology transfer frameworks ● To discuss the general capacity requirements of the region to implement the proposed provisions of the agreement 	28 April 2022 Virtual	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Coordination/synergies with relevant institutions / legislations ● Strengthening of protected areas in the WCR ● Conservation and sustainable use of coastal and marine ecosystems

Meeting	Purpose	Date and Venue	Relation to Programme Objectives
Twenty-Second Global Meeting of the Regional Seas Programme	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To launch the new Regional Seas Strategic Directions 2022 – 2025 and kickstart its implementation. • To discuss the role of the Regional Seas Programme; Ocean Governance; Regional Seas Programme input to the June 2022 UN Ocean Conference; Western Indian Ocean Marine Regions Forum in 2023; among others 	25-27 May 2022 Seychelles	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To enhance collaboration with other Regional Seas Programmes • To further integrate AMEP and SPAW sub-programmes and thematic focus areas • To link Blue Economy with Biodiversity conservation, pollution, livelihoods and the Global Biodiversity Framework
COM:ES "The ninth meeting of the OECS Council of Ministers on Environmental Sustainability"	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To facilitate the coordination and alignment of projects and programmes to be undertaken at the national and regional level in the Eastern Caribbean under the theme “Shifting to more Integrated Approaches for Sustainability, Resilience and Prosperity in OECS SIDS.” 	31 May to 1 June 2022 Saint Vincent and the Grenadines	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Promote ratification of the SPAW Protocol • To enhance partnership with UNEP including through possible signing of a MoU with the OECS Commission
Regional Workshop on the Index of Coastal Eutrophication of Potential and Harmful Algal Blooms	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Improve capacities to understand major sources and impacts of nutrient contamination and to learn how the region can improve SDG 14 reporting on ICEP. 	25 – 27 July 2022 Trinidad and Tobago	<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
<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 ● 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>August 2022</p> <p>Virtual</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
<p>GCRMN coral reef monitoring training events for the United Kingdom Overseas Territories (Anguilla, the British Virgin Islands, Montserrat, and the Turks and Caicos Islands)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● GCRMN coral reef monitoring training events organized by JNCC. ● SPAW RAC gave an introduction to the GCRMN Caribbean hub 	<p>August 2022</p> <p>Virtual</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
<p>6th, 7th, 8th, 9th, 10th and 11th Steering Committee Meeting for the CARIB COAST Project</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Assess the progress of activities under the CARIB-COAST project. 	<p>January 2021 June 2021 January 2022 June 2022 September 2022</p> <p>Virtual</p> <p>October 2022</p> <p>Guadeloupe</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
ACP MEA III 3 rd Project Steering Committee Meeting (PSC3)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Review of implementation status of the programme ● Define strategic priorities, identify cross-cutting issues based on available resources ● Review lessons learnt from previous ACP phases ● Enhance South-South Exchange and Alignment of actions among implementing partners using emerging opportunities 	18 - 21 October 2022 Brussels, Belgium	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Coordination/synergies with relevant institutions / legislations ● Strengthening of protected areas in the WCR
Regional experience-sharing workshop of the MedPAN network	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● To enable MPA managers and stakeholders to pool and share information, skills and experiences ● Take stock of best practices and approaches to improve and evaluate the effectiveness of MPA management to achieve tangible conservation outcomes. 	25-27 October 2022 Petrovac, Montenegro (Virtual and in person)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Strengthening of protected areas in the WCR ● SPAW Articles 6-11
Third Meeting of the SOI Global Dialogue with Regional Seas Organizations and Regional Fisheries Bodies	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● To advance dialogue on key issues of common interest across regional organization ● To identify tangible roles and opportunities and regional collaboration in the implementation of the forthcoming post-2020 global biodiversity framework and other key global ocean goals. 	25-28 October 2022 Busan, South Korea	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Coordination/synergies with relevant institutions / legislations ● Strengthening of protected areas in the WCR ● Conservation and sustainable use of coastal and marine ecosystems

Meeting	Purpose	Date and Venue	Relation to Programme Objectives
<p>The 75th Annual GCFI Meeting – <i>technical sessions on Fisheries, Sargassum Science / Management and Emerging Issues</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Contribute and support the session on, Fisheries, Marine Protected Areas, Sargassum and emerging issues ● 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 2021 /2022 Work Plan with specific focus on marine litter, sargassum and marine protected area. 	<p>7–11 November 2022 Fort Walton Beach, Florida, USA</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Coordination/synergies with relevant institutions ● Strengthening of protected areas in the WCR ● Conservation and sustainable use of coastal and marine ecosystems
<p>Ocean Acidification in the Caribbean Task Team Meetings</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● To coordinate and collaborate on ocean acidification activities in the region 	<p>25 February 2022 25 March 2022 29 April 2022 23 June 2022 28 July 2022 25 August 2022 22 September 2022 17 November 2022</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

Meeting	Purpose	Date and Venue	Relation to Programme Objectives
CARICOM/CRFM Preparatory Consultation on Marine Species Proposed for Listing at CITES CoP19	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To discuss the 6 listing proposals submitted to CITES concerning commercially exploited aquatic species, with a view to ensuring that the views of regional and national policymakers, officials responsible for management, conservation and sustainable use of the living marine and other aquatic resources, and regional stakeholders with an interest in fisheries are taken into account in the CITES CoP 19 decision-making process. 	14-25 November 2022 Panama City, Panama	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Coordination/synergies with relevant institutions / legislations Conservation and sustainable use of coastal and marine ecosystems Conservation of threatened and endangered species
COP15 Side Event on Sargassum	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To highlight some national strategies implemented in the area to fight against sargassum (France - Barbados - Mexico) To encourage the mobilization of Caribbean States to accentuate regional cooperation, particularly within the Cartagena Convention, for a better consideration of the problem of sargassum in its work program 	16 December 2022	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Coordination/synergies with relevant institutions / legislations Strengthening of protected areas in the WCR Conservation and sustainable use of coastal and marine ecosystems

Annex IV: List of webinars organized and/or attended

Webinar	Purpose	Date	Relation to Programme Objectives
Sargassum Watch (NOAA) Data Collecting Tools	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To present the different tools to record sargassum sightings as well as the products and services offered by the Caribbean and Gulf of Mexico Regional Node (NOAA's) Ocean Watch programme. 	21 January 2021	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Strengthening of protected areas in the WCR Conservation of threatened and endangered species SPAW Articles 10 and 11

Webinar	Purpose	Date	Relation to Programme Objectives
The Sargassum Challenge: Opportunities for Collaboration Between West Africa and the Wider Caribbean Region (<i>Webinar 5</i>)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Provide an update on the Sargassum situation from countries in the region ● Build synergies amongst countries, UN Agencies and other stakeholders on Sargassum 	10 June 2021	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Coordination/synergies with relevant institutions/ legislations ● Conservation of threatened and endangered species
Towards Ecosystem Based Management in the Caribbean	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● To highlight the successes and lessons learnt from the CLME+ Ecosystem Based Management (EBM) project (Guyana, Suriname and Trinidad) 	9 July 2021	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Coordination/synergies with relevant institutions/ legislations ● Conservation and sustainable use of coastal and marine ecosystems
Launch of Stony Coral Tissue Loss Disease (SCTLD) White Paper	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● To present the findings on SCTLD in the Wider Caribbean Region 	25 October 2021	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Coordination/synergies with relevant institutions/ legislations ● Conservation and sustainable use of coastal and marine ecosystems
Closing the Circle Programme: Marine Debris, Sargassum and Marine Spatial Planning	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Engage with experts and stakeholders on marine debris, sargassum and marine spatial planning ● Establish an interactive learning and knowledge sharing platform 	17 November 2021	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Strengthening of protected areas in the WCR ● Conservation of threatened and endangered species ● SPAW Articles 10 and 11

Webinar	Purpose	Date	Relation to Programme Objectives
SAR'COOP Programme: Webinar Sargassum Collection and Valorization	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Provide an update on the theme of collection and valorization according to the following: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ A institutional approach to highlight the national and/or regional strategies in the area on the subject ○ The point of view of the fundamental research ○ An overview of the latest established processes in research and development ○ Elements related to finance 	7 April 2022	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Conservation of threatened and endangered species ● Coordination/synergies with relevant institutions/ legislations ● SPAW Article 12
Launch of Coral Reef Restoration Guidelines for the Tourism Sector	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● To promote the <i>Guide to Coral Reef Restoration for the Tourism Sector</i> which presents coral restoration best practices backed by scientific research, practitioner experience and stakeholder input. ● To reveal key opportunities for the tourism industry on coral restoration 	22 June 2022	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Coordination/synergies with relevant institutions / legislations ● Conservation and sustainable use of coastal and marine ecosystems

Annex V: Status of the Decisions of the 11th Conference of Parties (COP11) and 9th STAC Meeting (STAC9)

9th SPAW STAC	
Recommendations	Action(s) Taken/Status
III - PROGRAMME OF WORK & BUDGET 2021-2022	
<i>3.2 The implementation of the Workplan and Budget take into account synergies with the work of the Parties and other agencies to achieve the objectives of the Protocol.</i>	Ongoing Synergies with NOAA: Ocean Acidification, Sargassum and SCTLD; IUCN Protected Areas; Mangroves, CINVESTAV; GCFI SCTLD; UNESCO IOC Ocean Acidification, 2020-2030 Ecosystems Restoration. Partnered with SOI on OECMs
<i>3.3 The Secretariat continue to integrate activities under the Assessment and Management of Environmental Pollution (AMEP) and SPAW Work Programmes, as appropriate, and further recommends that Contracting Parties encourage greater integration of the sub-programmes in the implementation of work plans for the 2021-2022 biennium.</i>	Ongoing Ongoing joint Sub-Programmes meetings and work plan implementation as appropriate. Dedicated ACP MEA UNV and JPO working on AMEP and SPAW nexus. Integration of AMEP and SPAW in the ACP MEA Workplan (e.g. SSFA with GWP-C and GCFI)
<i>3.4 The SPAW Secretariat and SPAW RAC enhance and maintain collaboration and communication with clearly defined roles, activities and funding related to the workplan.</i>	Ongoing Based on the STAC recommendations and COP decisions, the Secretariat and SPAW RAC must draft an action plan detailing provisional budget, resources (or lack of resources), and a schedule.
<i>3.5 The SPAW Secretariat and SPAW RAC solicit input from Contracting Parties during the development of the SPAW Workplan and Budget for 2023-2024, with an opportunity for review and comment in advance of STAC10.</i>	Completed A summary document was prepared and shared with the Contracting Parties in November 2022 for their input
IV - SPAW PROTOCOL & SUB-PROGRAMME	
<i>4.4 A Committee or Working Group be established to monitor progress in implementing the recommendations of the STAC, the decisions of the COP, and the SPAW Workplan and Budget, and to provide guidance to the Secretariat, as appropriate, with the objective of achieving effective and efficient implementation of the Convention and Protocol.</i>	Ongoing The SPAW Bureau wishes to continue their role to provide oversight to the SPAW Protocol. The Bureau meeting is scheduled for the first quarter of 2023.
V - PROTECTED AREAS	
<i>5.5 The Secretariat continue to identify synergies between the ACP MEAs III Project and the implementation of the SPAW Protocol including projects and work done by the SPAW RAC and the Protected Areas Working Group.</i>	Completed
<i>5.6 Contracting Parties request that the Protected Areas Working Group, in collaboration with the Secretariat and SPAW-RAC, as appropriate, review the recommendations presented in the "Assessment of the Impact and Effectiveness of CaMPAM" (UNEP(DEPI)/CAR WG.42/INF.41 Add.1) and the "Evaluation of Connectivity Between the SPAW-Listed Protected Areas to Guide the Development of a Functional Ecological Network of Protected Areas in the Wider Caribbean" (UNEP(DEPI)/CAR WG.42/INF.10) and present an options paper to STAC10 that assesses the feasibility of</i>	In response to the STAC 9 recommendation, A consultant worked with the support of the SPAW RAC and the MPA working group to produce two documents and a synthesis to support discussions during the STAC 10.

<i>implementing the recommendations and suggests possible means of doing so in the short, medium-, and long-term.</i>	
VII - SARGASSUM	
7.2 <i>The Secretariat continue coordination and collaboration with relevant regional and global initiatives to study the causes of and promote synergies and solutions to coastal Sargassum influxes, within the scope of the SPAW Protocol and the Cartagena Convention.</i>	<p>Ongoing</p> <p>The Secretariat initiated collaboration with World Maritime University to work on Sargassum. Among others to produce the 3rd version of the Sargassum White Paper.</p>
VIII – WORKING GROUPS	
<p>8.1 <i>The Secretariat, through the SPAW-RAC, with the participation from interested Contracting Parties, review and update the Terms of Reference for the Ad Hoc Working Groups, as appropriate and taking into account the suggestions made during STAC9, including clarifying the structure of, tasks of, and participation in the Species Working Group.</i></p> <p>8.2 <i>The Secretariat, through the SPAW-RAC, circulate the revised Terms of Reference to the STAC Assembly for intersessional approval by Contracting Parties.</i></p>	<p>Completed</p> <p>An intense and collaborative work was led by SPAW-RAC first with Contracting Parties and observers and later only Contracting Parties to revise the ToRs and current tasks of the WGs. Several Contracting Parties were strongly involved in the revision in the text, with an active participation to dedicated working sessions and online consultations.</p> <p>The revised terms were circulated from Dec 17 to Jan 10. ToRs were approved January 11.</p> <p>A reverse schedule was prepared to facilitate discussion and put perspective to the WGs work and constraints</p>
X - EMERGING ISSUES	
10.1 <i>The Secretariat and SPAW-RAC respond to Stony Coral Tissue Loss Disease capacity-building needs and work with partners in the region to facilitate information sharing and implement training programs, as appropriate, to promote the prevention of, detection of and response to this new threat to Caribbean coral reef ecosystems.</i>	<p>Completed</p> <p>The United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) Cartagena Convention Secretariat and the Gulf and Caribbean Fisheries Institute (GCFI) launched a white paper designed to help regional partners make informed decisions about coral disease monitoring and response to the newly identified Stony Coral Tissue Loss Disease (SCTLD). The document was launched on 25 October 2021.</p>
XI - SPECIES	
11.6 <i>The SPAW Sub-Programme, including the Secretariat and SPAW-RAC, enhance coordination and communication with regional fisheries bodies to enhance conservation and management of species listed in the Annexes of the SPAW Protocol.</i>	<p>Ongoing</p> <p>The Secretariat nominated SPAW-RAC to participate to in the FAO/WECAFC sharks task force.</p> <p>Within its 2021 call for proposals programme, SPAW RAC supports 2 programmes on conservation of fish aggregation (incl. Nassau grouper) in Belize and Porto-Rico, and 1 in Dominican Republic on selective fish traps. see also project developed in Annex 2 of the workplan</p>
11.7 <i>The STAC, through the Marine Mammal Experts of the Species Working Group, revise and update the MMAP, considering new information and developments since 2008, including the “Scientific and Technical Analysis of the Implementation of the Action Plan for the Conservation of Marine Mammals (MMAP) in the Wider Caribbean,” and present the updated MMAP to STAC10 for its review and consideration.</i>	<p>Completed</p> <p>The Species Working Group reviewed the MMAP and will present an updated MMAP to STAC 10</p>

11th SPAW Conference of Parties	
Decisions	Status/Action(s) Taken
<i>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.</i>	On-going Regional Workshops convened with Non-Contracting Parties in Dec. 2021 and bilateral discussions and outreach took place to identify how best this support could be provided. Workshop Reports and Needs Assessment Matrix available. Outreach made CCAD, MesoAmerican Barrier Reef Project and ELAW to support ratification of Mesoamerican countries
<i>2. Urge all Contracting Parties and others in a position to do so to increase voluntary contributions to the Regional Trust Fund.</i>	On-going Secretariat has engaged in communication and/or discussions with countries regarding contributions including Anguilla, Dominica, Dominican Republic, Cuba France, Grenada and USA.
<i>3. Request the Secretariat and the RACs to strengthen the integration between the LBS and SPAW Protocols including cross-representation of experts between Working Groups.</i>	On-going A representative of SPAW-RAC participated in the Regional ICEP Workshop hosted by the LBS RACs in July 2022. Limited capacity impacted the ability to have comprehensive cross participation but there was greater integration across the two programme areas
<i>4. Approve the “Workplan and Budget of the Specially Protected Areas and Wildlife (SPAW) Sub-programme for the 2021-2022 Biennium” (UNEP (DEPI)/CAR WG.42/3 Rev.1) as presented to the meeting, including the amendments proposed by the Working Group.</i>	Completed SPAW Workplan and Budget 2021-2022 approved by COP11 and adopted by IGM19 and implemented by the Secretariat (See UNEP (DEPI)/CAR WG.42/3 Rev.1)
<i>5. Urge Contracting Parties to respond to the requests of the Secretariat to nominate experts to the Working Groups established by the Contracting Parties.</i>	Completed Terms of Reference was finalised in January 2022. Experts for the Working Groups were nominated and meetings were convened from June 2022 onwards. No further action.
<i>6. Adopt the Recommendations of the Ninth Meeting of the Scientific and Technical Advisory Committee to the SPAW Protocol as contained in UNEP/(DEPI)/CAR WG.42/8.</i>	Completed
<i>7. Request the SPAW Bureau to consider the need, role and opportunity to create a new Committee or Working Group as referenced in SPAW STAC9 Recommendation IV (4), and that the Bureau report to STAC10 and COP12.</i>	On-going A proposal was sent to the SPAW Bureau by Secretariat regarding the role of the SPAW Bureau to provide oversight to the SPAW Protocol and recommending that it be placed under the Convention Bureau. Responses received from all Bureau members and initial discussions held during Convention Bureau Meeting in December 2022.

11th SPAW Conference of Parties	
Decisions	Status/Action(s) Taken
<p>8. Welcome the designation by the United Nations General Assembly of the UN Decade on Ecosystem Restoration (2021-2030) and Decade of Ocean Science for Sustainable Development (2021-2030) and encourage Parties to actively participate and support the Secretariat in the implementation of activities in this regard.</p>	<p>Completed</p> <p>The Secretariat launched the guidelines for Mangrove Restoration in December 2021 and the CORAL REEF RESTORATION GUIDELINES FOR TOURISM SECTOR in June 2022, both were promoted through the UN Decade on Ecosystem Restoration Website and Library</p>
<p>9. Welcome offers from Governments to explore with the Secretariat the possibility of hosting the SPAW STAC10 and the COP12 Meetings in 2022.</p>	<p>On-going</p> <p>The Kingdom of the Netherlands has expressed interest in hosting the next COP and information regarding expected costs was shared in May 2022. Discussions are ongoing for possible hosting of all the COPs in 2023. The SPAW STAC 10 will be convened virtually.</p>
<p>10. Request the Secretariat to consider the relative merits of convening SPAW STAC10 and COP12 Meetings in 2022, in person or virtually, taking into account the financial situation of the Secretariat.</p>	<p>On-going</p> <p>As a result of the cost of convening the STACs in person, it will be held virtually as no hosting offer was received.</p>
<p>11. Urge States to continue their efforts and meet their commitments in terms of the protection of areas, species and ecosystems. In particular, to strengthen and better coordinate efforts in terms of protection of important species such as elasmobranchs and parrotfish and also to provide, when applicable, reports of exceptions to the protection of species in compliance with the Protocol.</p>	<p>Ongoing</p> <p>Contracting Parties were reminded to meet their commitments and submit their exemption reports and nominations of species and protected areas to the SPAW Protocol for review by the Working Groups.</p>
<p>12. Request the Secretariat and the SPAW-RAC to systematically inform the Contracting Parties in advance of the activities, MoU / MoC and projects envisaged to encourage their participation, as appropriate.</p>	<p>On-going</p> <p>Contracting Parties were informed in advance of new Projects and possible MoUs.</p>