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

Virtual, 30 January – 1 February 2023

## **SPA W-RAC 2021 CALL FOR PROPOSALS REPORT**

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



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## ACRONYMS

AFD	French Development Agency
BEST	Voluntary Scheme for Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services in EU Territories
CEP	Caribbean Environment Programme
DNA	Deoxyribonucleic Acid
EU	European Union
GIZ	German International Cooperation Agency
RAC	Regional Activities Center
SPAW	Specially Protected Areas and Wildlife
SPAW-RAC	Regional Activity Centre for Specially Protected Areas and Wildlife
STAC	Scientific and Technical Committee
UNEP	United Nations Environment Programme

## 1) INTRODUCTION

1. In 2021, the Regional Activity Centre for Specially Protected Areas and Wildlife (SPAW-RAC) launched a call for proposals for small short-term grants. 13 projects have been supported, representing more than 97,000 euros with funding from SPAW-RAC and the French Ministry of Environment.

## 2) BACKGROUND

2. Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, 2020 has seen many conservation projects halted, funding withdrawn, and organizations weakened, more generally non-governmental organizations. Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, 2020 has seen many conservation projects halted, funding withdrawn and organizations weakened, most notably non-governmental organizations. In this context and in order to strengthen the capacities of regional actors and to fund projects in favor of Caribbean biodiversity, the Regional Activity Centre for Specially Protected Areas and Wildlife has launched a call for proposals for small short-term grants (up to 10,000 euros / 4 months to 1 year). This first call for proposals was very successful and allowed to support many projects. The SPAW RAC decided to re-launch a call for proposals in 2021.
3. The call has been launched on June 7 with a deadline for submission on July 20 in 2021.

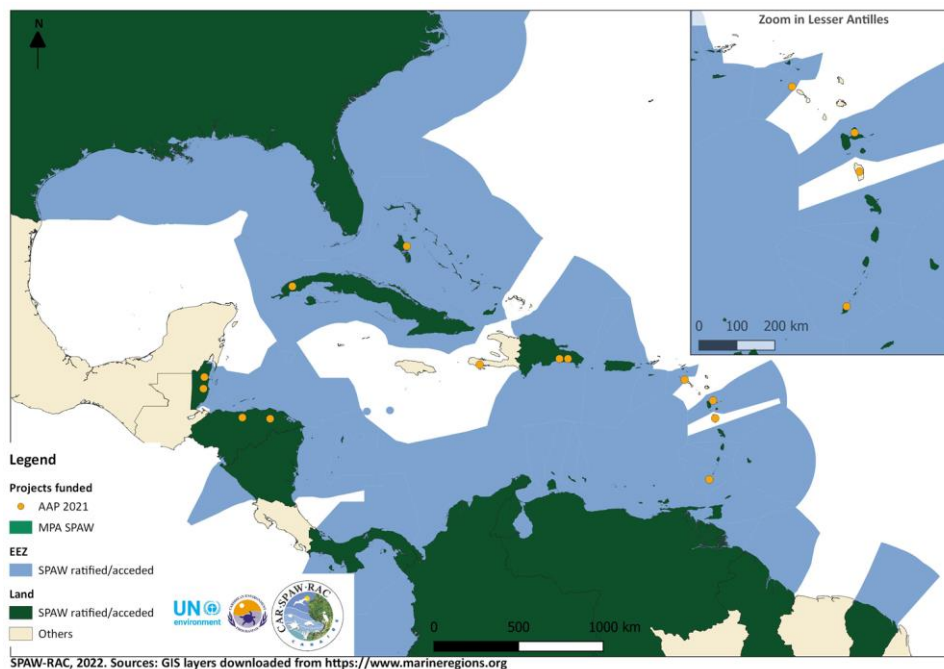


Figure 1. Location of the projects funded within the 2021 SPAW RAC call for proposals

4. In the framework of the SPAW protocol, a particular attention has been paid to projects in countries and territories, preferentially signatories of the SPAW protocol, that do not easily benefit from traditional funding sources. The specific objectives are to provide financial support, in entirety or by co-funding, concrete actions aiming at:

- effectively improving the status of conservation of threatened species in the Wider Caribbean Region, particularly those listed in the annexes of the SPAW protocol;
  - implementing management measures for threatened species and for the listed protected areas, in particular if they involve civil society actors;
  - and implementing restoration actions as a priority within the protected areas listed of the protocol.
5. The proposals concerning plants, birds, fishes, including elasmobranchs, and sea turtles annexed to the SPAW protocol has been appreciated, but did not ruled out other proposals. A diversity of criteria were taken into account, in particular the innovative aspect of the cooperation, the convergence of the project with the political topicality of the protocol, the status of the leading structure and its partners or even sometimes the implementation schedule.

### 3) IMPLEMENTATION AND RESULTS

6. 26 proposals have been received, several of which are of high quality, and 13 have been accepted in 2021 for a total amount of about 97,000 euros.
7. During August, September and October, the agreements have been prepared and signed, the grant incurred, and the projects have started to be implemented. However, due to the ongoing covid19 crisis, and other unforeseen problems (theft of equipment, delivery delays, hurricanes, etc.), as well as administrative and financial issues, the implementation of several projects has been delayed and will be finalized in 2022.

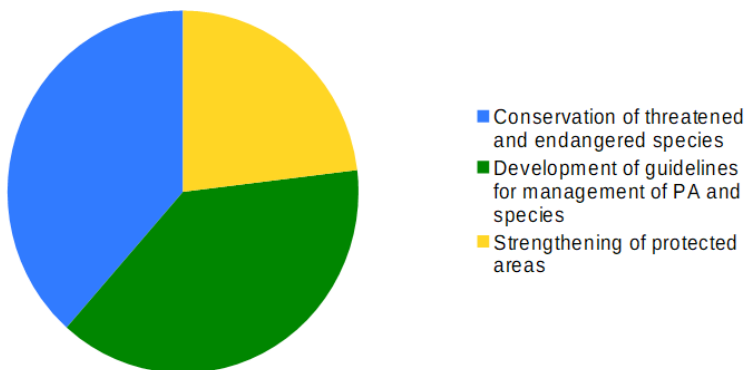


Figure 2. Comparison between the budget invested in the framework of the call and the axes of the SPAW work plan

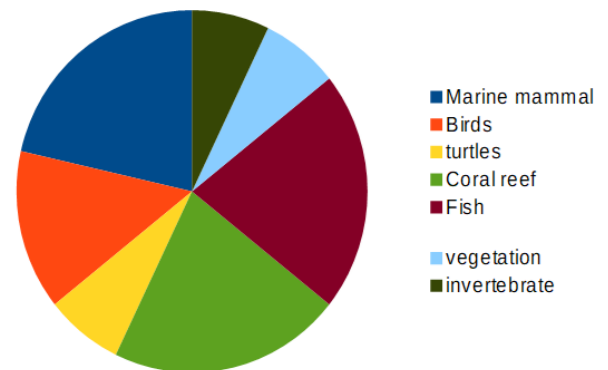


Figure 3. Diversity of the projects funded within the 2021 call related to axis 4 « Conservation of threatened and endangered species » of the SPAW work plan

#### 4) CONCLUSION AND FUTURE PROSPECTS

8. The success of this call highlights the need of Caribbean organizations for funding to implement small projects or to supplement budget for larger operations. It has made it possible to support operations on quite varied subjects, some of which are very linked with the current issues of the SPAW sub-programme, other definitively constitute the base of future topics.
9. Other proposals received deserve to be supported and SPAW-RAC is currently looking for solutions to enable their implementation. Given its success and the needs of Caribbean actors, it is planned to renew such call for proposals in the future.

##### **Highlights**

- It is very relevant to support small organizations and regional stakeholders who are focused on local issues and need easily accessible fundings for concrete actions, particularly when these contribute to the achievement of the objectives of the protocol.
- Depending on the available funds, the SPAW-RAC will renew such call for proposals in the future and can be the regional relay for international donors interested in such an approach as done in the past (AFD, GIZ, EU BEST programme...).





## ANNEX 1. Call for proposal flyer 2021



**A call for proposals from the SPAW-RAC for Short-term Small Grants is opened until 20<sup>th</sup> June 2021.**

The **main objective of this call for proposals is the implementation of the SPAW Protocol** by encouraging concrete actions for the conservation of biodiversity in the countries and territories of the Wider Caribbean Region that have signed the SPAW Protocol of the Cartagena Convention (<https://car-spaw-rac.org/>).

The **specific objectives** are to provide financial support, in entirety or by co-funding, concrete actions aiming at:

- effectively improving the **status of conservation of threatened species** in the Wider Caribbean Region, particularly those listed in the annexes of the SPAW protocol;
- implementing **management measures for threatened species and for the listed protected areas**, in particular if they involve civil society actors;
- and implementing **restoration actions** as a priority within the protected areas listed of the protocol.

For this call for proposals, particular attention will be paid to projects in countries and territories, preferentially signatories of the SPAW protocol, that do not easily benefit from traditional funding. The initiatives concerning species of plants, terrestrial mammals, reptiles, birds, and fish annexed to the SPAW protocol will be appreciated, but do not rule out other proposals.

Eligibility: Governmental and non-governmental organizations, protected area managers...

Grant amount: between 5,000 and 10,000 € (higher if exceptional)

Deadlines for completion: supported operations must at least start in 2021 and if possible be fully completed in 2021.

Conditions for payment of the grant: an advance is paid upon signature of the agreement, a mid-term payment is possible, and the balance is paid upon acceptance by the SPAW-RAC of a final technical and financial report.

Content of the application: concept note of the project presenting the framework of the operation, its objectives, its main stages and the expected results / completed grant application form / full bank wire transfers instructions for international transfers in euros

Contact: [carspaw@developpement-durable.gouv.fr](mailto:carspaw@developpement-durable.gouv.fr)

Closure date: Sunday June 20<sup>th</sup> 2021 at 12pm in Guadeloupe (UTC-4)

Such call for proposals is intended to be renewed in 2022.

**ANNEX 2. List of the 13 projects supported in 2021**

<b>SPAW sub-programme activity</b>	<b>Beneficiaries</b>	<b>Projects</b>	<b>Countries and territories</b>	<b>Species targeted</b>
Conservation of threatened and endangered species	clearwater marine aquarium research institute	Protecting the endangered antillean manatee & sea turtles within gales point wildlife sanctuary through conservation interventions and community engagement	Belize	Marine mammal and turtles
	Environmental Protection In the Caribbean	offsetting impacts of black-capped petrel collision and grounding hazards in the dominican republic	Dominican republic	Birds
	Fondation Haiti Ocean Project	Conserving Haiti's Endangered Marine Megafauna	Haiti	Marine mammal
	Mon école ma baleine	Awareness and realization of educational tools for the protection of cetaceans in the Caribbean.	Guadeloupe	Marine mammal
	Asociación para la Conservación Ecológica de las Islas de la Bahía	Empowering communities to restore coral reefs	Honduras	Coral reef
Development of guidelines for management of PA and species	Science and Conservation of Reef Fish Aggregations (SCRFA)	Big Fish Radio	Cuba & Porto Rico	Fish
	Reef Check Dominican Republic	Ecologically-Sustainable and Increased Profitability : An experiment on fish traps to be used outside MPAs.	Dominican republic	Fish
	Wildlife Conservation Society	Conservation of critical fish spawning aggregations at Glover's Reef Atoll, Belize	Belize	Fish
	Ocean Spirit Inc.	Biodiversity Inventories of Remote Uninhabited Grenadine Islands	Grenada and SVG	Reptile, invertebrate, avian, vegetation
	Caribbean Netherlands Science Institute	Seagrass Invasion may exacerbate Queen Conch Depletion	Netherland	Seagrass
Strengthening of protected areas	Local Area Management Authority of the Soufriere Scotts Head Marine Reserve	Improving the Soufriere Scotts Head Marine Managed Area for Conservation and Sustainability	Dominica	Coral reef
	Fundación Antonio Núñez Jiménez de la Naturaleza y el Hombre	Evaluación del grado de perturbación y capacidad de adaptación de la cresta arrecifal Los Congris. Parque Nacional Cayos de San Felipe. Sitio SPAW. Propuestas para su Restauración.	Cuba	Coral reef
	Secretaría de Recursos Naturales y Ambiente	Concientización ambiental y Preservación de espacios marino costeros y continentales, para conservar especies de interés del SPAW	Honduras	all

### **ANNEX 3. Reports**