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

Panama City, Panama  
30 June – 3 July 2025

**STATUS OF ACTIVITIES OF THE PROTOCOL CONCERNING SPECIALLY  
PROTECTED AREAS AND WILDLIFE (SPA) SUB-PROGRAMME FOR THE  
2023–2024(2025) BIENNIUM**

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



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**ACRONYMS**

ACP	African, Caribbean and Pacific
AMEP	Assessment and Management of Environmental Pollution
CAMAC	Caribbean Marine Mammals and Anthropogenic Activities
CaMPAM	Caribbean Marine Protected Areas Network and Forum
CARICOM	Caribbean Community
CBD	Convention on Biological Diversity
CBF	Caribbean Biodiversity Fund
CBC	Caribbean Biological Corridor
CC4FISH	Climate Change Resilience in the Caribbean Fisheries Sector Project
CERMES	Centre for Resource Management and Environmental Studies
CITES	Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora
CMS	Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals
COP	Conference of the Parties
CPAG	Caribbean Protected Areas Gateway
CRFM	Caribbean Regional Fisheries Mechanism
DCNA	Dutch Caribbean Nature Alliance
EBM	Ecosystem-Based Management
FAO	Food and Agriculture Organization
GCFI	Gulf and Caribbean Fisheries Institute
GBF	Global Biodiversity Framework
GCRMN	Global Coral Reef Monitoring Network
GoM LME	Gulf of Mexico Large Marine Ecosystem
IAC	Inter-American Convention for the Protection and Conservation of Sea Turtles
IAC CCE	IAC Consultative Committee of Experts
ICRI	International Coral Reef Initiative
IGM	Intergovernmental Meeting
INVEMAR	Institute for Marine and Coastal Research (Colombia)
IOC	Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission
IOCARIBE	IOC Sub-Commission for the Caribbean and Adjacent Regions
IUCN	International Union for Conservation of Nature
IUCN-ORMACC	IUCN Regional Office for Mexico, Central America and the Caribbean
IWC	International Whaling Commission
Kalanbio	Kalanbio (NGO in Mexico)
LBS	Land-Based Sources of Pollution
LOI	Letter of Intent
MAR Fund	Mesoamerican Reef Fund
MEA	Multilateral Environmental Agreement
MMAP	Marine Mammal Action Plan
MoU	Memorandum of Understanding
MPA	Marine Protected Area
MPACConnect	Network of MPA Practitioners
MSP	Marine Spatial Planning
NAMPAM	North American Marine Protected Areas Network

NBSAP	National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan
NOAA	National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
OECS	Organisation of Eastern Caribbean States
OSPAR	OSPAR Commission (Oslo and Paris Conventions)
PA	Protected Area
PCA	Project Cooperation Agreement
PROCARIBE+	Protecting and Restoring the Ocean's natural Capital in the Caribbean
RAC	Regional Activity Centre
RAN	Regional Activity Network
REBYC	Strategies, technologies, and social solutions to manage bycatch in tropical Large Marine Ecosystem Fisheries
ROLAC	Regional Office for Latin America and the Caribbean
SARGCOOP	Sargassum Regional Cooperation Programme
SIMAR	Marine and Coastal Information System
SIDS	Small Island Developing States
SOI	Sustainable Ocean Initiative
SPAW	Specially Protected Areas and Wildlife
STAC	Scientific and Technical Advisory Committee
TNC	The Nature Conservancy
ToT	Training of Trainers
UN	United Nations
UNDP	United Nations Development Programme
UNEP	United Nations Environment Programme
UNESCO	United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization
UNOPS	United Nations Office for Project Services
USA	United States of America
WECAFC	Western Central Atlantic Fishery Commission
WCR	Wider Caribbean Region
WIDECAST	Wider Caribbean Sea Turtle Conservation Network



## DRAFT STATUS OF IMPLEMENTATION OF THE WORKPLAN AND BUDGET FOR THE SPAW REGIONAL PROGRAMME FOR 2023 – 2024(2025)

### I. INTRODUCTION

1. The Workplan and Budget of the SPAW Programme for 2023–2024 was approved by the Twelfth Meeting of the Conference of the Parties (COP12) to the Protocol Concerning Specially Protected Areas and Wildlife (SPAW) in the Wider Caribbean Region (held in hybrid format on 3 and 5 October 2023), and by the Twentieth Intergovernmental Meeting (IGM) on the Action Plan for the Caribbean Environment Programme / Seventeenth Meeting of the Contracting Parties to the Convention for the Protection and Development of the Marine Environment of the Wider Caribbean Region (hybrid, 5 October 2023).
2. Considering the various adjustments required following the COVID-19 pandemic to resume normal operations, as well as internal restructuring within the Secretariat and the onboarding of new staff, the biennium was extended through 2025 to ensure continuity and effective implementation of the work programme.
3. The Government of St. Kitts and Nevis acceded to the SPAW Protocol in 2024, bringing the total number of Contracting Parties to nineteen (19): The Bahamas, Barbados, Belize, Colombia, Cuba, Dominican Republic, France, Grenada, Guyana, Honduras, The Netherlands, Nicaragua, Panama, Saint Lucia, Saint Kitts and Nevis, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Trinidad and Tobago, United States of America, and Venezuela.
4. Discussions are ongoing with Antigua and Barbuda, Dominica, Haiti, Costa Rica, Guatemala, Jamaica, Mexico, Suriname, and the United Kingdom regarding their ratification of the SPAW Protocol. A complete list of Contracting Parties and their ratification dates is available in Annex II.
5. The objectives of the SPAW Subprogramme are to:
  - (a) Significantly increase the number, and improve the management, of protected areas in the Wider Caribbean Region (WCR);
  - (b) Support the conservation of threatened and endangered species, and promote the sustainable use of natural resources to prevent them from becoming threatened or endangered;
  - (c) Develop strong regional capacity 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 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.
6. During the period 2023-2024(2025), activities focused on assisting countries with:
  - (a) The strengthening of the regional networks of marine protected areas (MPAs) and the conservation of species listed in the Annexes of SPAW, through technical cooperation, small grants, and capacity-building efforts in collaboration with regional partners and national authorities.
  - (b) Promoting ecosystem-based management (EBM) principles and integrating them into national and regional planning processes, including technical assistance for enhancing cross-sectoral ocean governance, strengthening biodiversity policies, and supporting nature-based solutions for coastal resilience.
  - (c) Reinforce regional coordination through the continued work of the *ad hoc* working groups of experts on Sargassum, species, protected areas, and exemptions, resulting in concrete outputs such as the draft Regional Sargassum Action Plan and updated species conservation recommendations.

7. Specific activities for the 2023-2024 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 reefs, mangroves and seagrasses using the ecosystem-based management (EBM) approach).

## II. STATUS OF SUB-PROGRAMMES AND ACTIVITIES

8. The following sections provide a summary of the main activities implemented and the significant accomplishments achieved, under the various sub-programmes between 2023 and 2025.

### 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 2023–2025, the day-to-day coordination of programmatic activities was overseen by the SPAW Programme Officer, who was onboarded in June 2023 and assumed responsibility for the overall coordination of the SPAW Programme, working in close collaboration with the SPAW Programme Assistant.
11. The SPAW Regional Activity Centre (SPAW-RAC), located in Guadeloupe and supported by the Government of France, supported the Secretariat to achieve this subprogramme's objectives. Further details on the financial contributions provided by the French Government through SPAW-RAC for implementing SPAW activities, including staffing support, are available in document UNEP(DEPI)/CAR WG.45/INF.5.
12. The SPAW-RAC supported the Secretariat in implementing various activities, particularly those mandated by STAC10 and COP12. This included the establishment and activation of the four (4) STAC working groups on species, protected areas, exemptions, and Sargassum (see UNEP(DEPI)/CAR WG.45/INF.10, UNEP(DEPI)/CAR WG.45/INF.14, UNEP(DEPI)/CAR WG.45/INF.19, and UNEP(DEPI)/CAR WG.45/INF.25), the coordination of the SPAW protected area manager network (UNEP(DEPI)/CARWG.45/INF.11) as well as contributions to activities under the Global Coral Reef Monitoring Network including the coordination of a regional report (GCRMN) (see UNEP(DEPI)/CAR WG.45/INF.28) and collaboration with WIDECAS (see UNEP(DEPI)/CAR WG.45/INF.29).

13. Additional programmatic support was facilitated through SPAW-RAC's key role in the implementation of the Caribbean Marine Mammals and Anthropogenic Activities (CAMAC) project (€2,903,178.24), funded by the European Union which supported the implementation of the Action Plan for the Conservation of Marine Mammals in the Wider Caribbean Region (MMAP) (see UNEP(DEPI)/CAR WG.45/INF.30 and UNEP(DEPI)/CAR WG.43/INF.31);
14. Coordination and communication with other organisations were further strengthened on various matters of common interest (see subsequent sections of the report):
- Caribbean Regional Fisheries Mechanism (CRFM)
  - Caribbean Community (CARICOM) Secretariat
  - Centre for Resource Management and Environmental Studies (CERMES)
  - Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD)
  - Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES)
  - Centre for Marine Science (CMS)
  - Gulf and Caribbean Fisheries Institute (GCFI)
  - Inter-American Convention for the Protection and Conservation of Sea Turtles (IAC)
  - 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)
  - Ramsar Convention on Wetlands
  - Sargasso Sea Commission
  - The Nature Conservancy (TNC)
  - UNEP - Regional Office for Latin America and the Caribbean (ROLAC) Action Plan
  - Food and Agricultural Association-Western Central Atlantic Fishery Commission (FAO-WECAFC)
  - Wider Caribbean Sea Turtle Conservation Network (WIDECAS)
15. In keeping with the objectives of developing synergies, promoting the Protocol, and optimizing resources, the following activities were completed or initiated:
- Implementation of activities under the following projects:
    - EU funded project "Enforcing Environmental Treaties in African, Caribbean and Pacific (ACP) Countries – ACP-MEAs Phase III" (USD 1,961,264) continued (UNEP(DEPI)/CAR WG.45/INF.23). The four (4) year project (2020-2024) was extended to December 2025.
    - GEF Funded UNOPS-UNEP: Collaborative Execution of some activities of the GoM LME Project: "Implementation of the Strategic Action Program (SAP) of the Gulf of Mexico Large Marine Ecosystem" (USD 382,000) (UNEP(DEPI)/CAR WG.43/INF.39) UNtoUN agreement with UNOPS signed in August 2024 – December 2025.
    - GEF Funded UNOPS-UNDP: Collaborative Execution of some activities of the PROCARIBE+ Project: Protecting and Restoring the Ocean's natural Capital, building Resilience and supporting region-wide Investments in sustainable Blue Socio-Economic development (USD 957,085) (UNEP(DEPI)/CAR WG.45/INF.36).UNtoUN agreement with UNOPS signed in January 2025 – September 2027.
  - Continued partnership with the Gulf and Caribbean Fisheries Institute and participating in GCFI 76 (Bahamas 2023) and GCFI 77 (Guadeloupe, 2024).
  - Continued collaborating with civil society through the SPAW Consortium established during (SPAW STAC 10). Development and adoption of the SPAW Consortium Workplan 2024-2025 and elaboration of a briefing paper on 'Expanding Civil Society Participation in the Caribbean Environment Programme' (UNEP(DEPI)/CAR WG.45/INF.17).
  - Letter of Intent (LOI) signed in 2024 with:
    - Inter-American Convention for the Protection and Conservation of Sea Turtles (IAC) (see UNEP(DEPI)/CARWG.45/INF.32) and

○ International Whaling Commission (IWC) (see UNEP(DEPI)/CARWG.45/INF. 33) in 2024.  
The purpose of the LOIs is to promote collaboration and enhance synergies with these organizations.

- Development of a draft workplan with the IWC completed in 2025 (UNEP(DEPI)/CAR WG.45/INF.34) after several exchanges and the IWC’s decision in 2022 not to establish a formal MoU with the Secretariat. The work plan outlines activities and facilitates collaborations between the Parties in areas of common concern and interest by increasing consultations and cooperation between the Parties of both the SPAW Protocol and the IWC.
- Continued to enhance synergies with the AMEP Programme. Collaboration with AMEP on the Joint meeting of the Monitoring and Assessment Open Ended Working Group and the SPAW Sargassum Working Group in Trinidad and Tobago, March 2025.
- Contributed to the BBNJ ratification process by disseminating relevant information and participating in regional events that highlighted synergies between the SPAW Protocol and the BBNJ Agreement.
- Initial discussions were started to provide support to Parties for integrating blue carbon ecosystems into their Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs), through engagement with partners such as the Pew Charitable Trusts.
- Enhanced regional data and information platforms in preparation for the next State of the Convention Area Report, which was proposed to follow a more integrated approach in collaboration with the AMEP subprogramme.
- Developed multifocal project proposals integrating biodiversity, climate, and socio-economic objectives. Additional funds were secured from UNEP Headquarters to support the implementation of ecosystem-based management (EBM), restoration initiatives, and—upon request from countries—support for the update of National Biodiversity Strategies and Action Plans (NBSAPs).

16. Several meetings and webinars were organised and/or attended to continue promoting the sub-programme and develop synergies. Major meetings and webinars where input was provided can be found in Annex III.

17. Several activities were undertaken by/or implemented in collaboration with the SPAW-RAC in Guadeloupe. See UNEP(DEPI)/CAR WG.45/INF.5 for further details on ongoing and completed activities.

**2.1.2. Sub-Programme Outputs**

18. The major outputs of Programme Coordination were:

<b>Outputs</b>	<b>Indicators of Achievement</b>	
<u>10<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the SPAW Technical Advisory Committee convened (SPAW STAC10)</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.	<b>Completed</b> 30 January - 1 February 2023
<u>12<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the SPAW Contracting Parties convened (SPAW COP12)</u>		3 and 5 October 2023
A strategic and streamlined 2026-2027 SPAW Workplan and Budget developed	Comprehensive Workplan and Budget developed that included wide-ranging, inclusive and sustainable activities to meet SPAW objectives.	<b>Completed</b> <i>(UNEP(DEPI)/CAR WG.45/3)</i>
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.	<b>On-going</b>
Enhanced participation of donors and relevant funding agencies in SPAW activities		<b>On-going</b>

<p>Collaborations and synergies with relevant organizations and initiatives within and outside the region</p> <p>LOIs signed with IAC and IWC</p> <p>MOU Signed with the Ocean Coordination Mechanism.</p>	<p>Increased number of regional and international collaborations and initiatives developed that facilitated data sharing, environmental education, awareness, and capacity building.</p>	<p><b>On-going</b></p> <p>Particularly with the CBD, CITES, CMS, CERMES, CFRM, IUCN-Regional Office for Mexico, Central America and the Caribbean (IUCN-ORMACC), GCFI, GCRMN/ICRI, FAO-WECAFC, OSPAR Commission, Barcelona Convention</p>
<p>Greater involvement by Governments in SPAW activities and additional Parties joining the SPAW Protocol.</p>	<p>Ratification of the SPAW Protocol by St. Kitts and Nevis in September 2024</p> <p>Ongoing discussions with non-Contracting Parties to ratify the SPAW Protocol.</p>	<p><b>On-going</b></p> <p>Efforts increased with Antigua and Barbuda, Dominica, Costa Rica, Guatemala, Haiti, Jamaica, Mexico, Suriname, and the United Kingdom.</p>
<p>Continuation of <i>Ad Hoc</i> Expert Working Groups on Species, Protected Areas, Sargassum and Exemptions</p>	<p>Regional experts nominated for the four <i>Ad Hoc</i> Working Groups.</p>	<p><b>On-going</b></p> <p>UNEP(DEPI)/CAR WG.45/INF.10, UNEP(DEPI)/CAR WG.45/INF.14, UNEP(DEPI)/CAR WG.45/INF.19, UNEP(DEPI)/CAR WG.45/INF.25</p>

### 2.1.3. Sub-Programme Expenditure

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

Activity	2023			2024 (2025)			Total
	CTF (\$US)	Other contributions (\$US)	Expenditure (\$US)	CTF (\$US)	Other contributions (\$US)	Expenditure (\$US)	
Salary of Programme Officer/ Assistant (SMs) and other supporting costs	240,800.00		240,800.00	383,400.00		383,400.00	<b>624,200.00</b>
COP12 and STAC10 meeting preparations <sup>1</sup>		218,365.00	218,365.00			0.00	<b>218,365.00</b>
<b>TOTAL (USD)</b>	<b>240,800.00</b>	<b>218,365.00</b>	<b>459,165.00</b>	<b>383,400.00</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>383,400.00</b>	<b>842,565.00</b>

1) Includes support for SPAW COP12 provided by the Government of the Kingdom of the Netherlands

## 2.2. Strengthening of Protected Areas in the Wider Caribbean Region

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

- (a) Strengthen the management of parks and protected areas in the Wider Caribbean Region (WCR), including enhancing communication and collaboration among these areas across the region.
- (b) Support governments and non-governmental organizations (NGOs) in developing human capacity to improve the effectiveness of marine protected areas (MPAs), at both the site and national system levels.
- (c) Raise awareness among governments about the need for and importance of sustainable financing for protected areas, and promote the development of funding mechanisms and strategies to ensure effective park and protected area management.
- (d) Promote protected areas as essential for the conservation of critical natural resources necessary for the sustainable development of the region.

### 2.2.1. Status of Sub-Programme Activities

21. 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. This initiative aimed to strengthen capacity-building efforts in marine protected areas (MPAs) throughout the Wider Caribbean Region (WCR) (UNEP(DEPI)/CAR WG.45/INF.7, UNEP(DEPI)/CAR WG.45/INF.31 and UNEP(DEPI)/CAR WG.45/INF.32). The main objective of the project 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.

22. To achieve this, the following key activities (specific objectives) were carried out:

- Develop an operational network of SPAW MPAs according to existing guidelines.
- Establish a SPAW MPA Networking Group to lead the Inter-Regional Network of MPAs
- Strengthen CaMPAM.
- Develop Management Effectiveness Guidelines for SPAW Regional MPA Networks.
- Provide technical support, monitoring, and research to governments to enable the establishment of new SPAW MPAs.
- Deliver capacity building and training for selected government officials and MPA managers/staff through national and regional workshops to improve MPA management.

23. The Project Cooperation Agreement (PCA) signed with the SPAW-RAC in the previous biennium in the framework of the ACP-MEAs Project, remained in effect and supported the implementation of activities, particularly through the continued development of the SPAW-listed MPA Manager Network Group. Additional information on SPAW-RAC’s MPA-related activities can be found in UNEP(DEPI)/CAR WG.45/INF.5. The initiatives implemented and activities conducted are described below.

- SPAW-RAC coordinated the development of the SPAW Protected Area Managers Network through the creation of management effectiveness guidelines, bilateral consultations with SPAW site managers, the organization of the first in-person meeting (2023), a series of technical webinars (2024), and a second in-person meeting (2024). Coordination with other MPA networks in the Wider Caribbean Region was ensured to avoid duplication and promote collaboration.
- The SPAW Programme Officer and the SPAW-RAC attended the 76th Gulf and Caribbean Fisheries Institute (GCFI) Annual Meeting, held in Nassau, Bahamas (6–10 November 2023) and in Guadeloupe, French West Indies (4–8 November 2024). The ACP MEA III project supported the participation of three representatives from government and NGOs in the GCRMN Steering Committee Meeting and the GCFI76 meeting in 2023.
- Within the framework of GCFI 76, a Marine Protected Areas (MPAs) session was organized and facilitated by the SPAW-RAC, bringing together key stakeholders from across the Wider Caribbean Region. As part of this event, a dedicated meeting with existing MPA networks was held to explore opportunities for collaboration. This initiative led to the establishment of a coordination group, followed by three virtual meetings aimed at fostering dialogue and planning joint actions. A second in-person meeting occurred during GCFI 77 to further strengthen coordination, identify synergies, and advance a shared agenda for MPA management. The networks involved in this collaborative effort included:
  - SPAW Protected Area Managers Network

- Dutch Caribbean Nature Alliance (DCNA)
  - CaMPAM
  - MPACconnect
  - RedGolfo
  - MAR Fund
  - NAMPAM
  - RedParques
  - Sustainable Grenadines
- In addition, SPAW-RAC also participated in knowledge exchanges at IMPAC5 and the Ocean Governance Conference in 2023, as well as the Sixteenth Meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD COP 16) in 2024.
  - An updated edition of the publication “Creating a Marine Protected Area Network in the Wider Caribbean” was released, emphasizing the relevance of the SPAW Protocol and providing up-to-date information on MPAs across the region.
  - In collaboration with GCFI, several partner organizations carried out MPA-related initiatives in various countries. MPA management activities were conducted in Cuba and Honduras; marine litter issues were addressed in Belize, Saint Lucia, and Colombia; and hybrid projects integrating multiple MPA themes were implemented in Cuba, Honduras, and Jamaica. Additionally, three management capacity assessments were carried out, with case studies developed by MPA Connect for Belize, Caribbean Netherlands (Saba), and Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, focusing on sustainable financing, benefit sharing, enforcement, and communications.
  - The 14th edition of the Training of Trainers (ToT) Course on MPA Management was held in Barbados in November 2024. The course aimed to build the capacity of junior professionals by equipping them with practical and theoretical knowledge for effective MPA management. It also promoted peer learning and networking to share best practices across the region. A follow-up component will be implemented, requiring participants to replicate the training in their home countries, thereby ensuring local application of the knowledge and contributing to the broader goal of improved MPA management.
  - SPAW-RAC designed a long-term regional support programme to enhance capacity and resilience among SPAW site managers. The programme aims to foster experience sharing, improve climate change adaptation, integrate civil society in biodiversity protection, elevate MPA priorities beyond the Caribbean, and ensure the sustainability of the network’s efforts beyond 2030.
24. The UN2UN agreement with UNOPS for implementing some activities of the GoM LME project was signed, incorporating adjustments requested by the implementing agencies in Mexico and the United States. The agreement aims to:
- Improve trilateral coordination and cooperation among Mexico, the United States, and Cuba by strengthening MPA networks within the Gulf of Mexico Large Marine Ecosystem (GoM-LME).
  - Standardize monitoring protocols for coral reef ecosystems in MPAs to support shared baselines and connectivity assessments.
  - Enhance oceanographic and biological monitoring systems and promote regional information exchange between MPAs.
  - Assess coral reef vulnerability and resilience to bleaching and climate change to inform early warning systems and adaptation strategies in MPAs.
25. Following a request by the implementing agencies of Mexico and the United States—and recognizing that Cuba is a Party to the Cartagena Convention and its SPAW Protocol—a formal invitation was extended to Cuba to participate in the project as an observer. Cuba accepted the invitation and will join the project’s activities in this capacity.
26. The formalization of additional agreements to implement the UN2UN was initiated with other key partners. These include CONABIO and Kalanbio in Mexico and the SPAW-RAC.
27. The UN2UN agreement with UNOPS for the implementation of selected activities under the PROCARIBE+ project was signed. The agreement aims to:
- Create new MPAs and strengthen an existing one in Colombia
  - Create fishery reserves recognized as Other Effective Area-Based Conservation Measures (OECMs) and support an existing MPA in the Dominican Republic

- Support follow-up activities from the 14th edition of the Training of Trainers (ToT) Course on MPA Management and implement the 15th edition of the ToT Course on MPA Management.

28. The formalization of additional agreements with other key partners is ongoing. Partners identified so far include:

- The Institute for Marine and Coastal Research (INVEMAR) in Colombia
- The Ministry of Environment and Natural Resources of the Dominican Republic
- Reef Check Dominican Republic.

**2.2.2. Sub-Programme Outputs**

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

<b>Outputs</b>	<b>Indicators of Achievement</b>	
Development of a proposal for the creation of a network for SPAW-listed protected areas that would address the needs of SPAW-listed protected areas managers, including a strategic vision, workplan, institutional structure, and budget	Number of SPAW-listed protected areas managers involved in the process of creation of the SPAW-listed protected areas network.	<b>Completed</b>
Improved regional and bilateral cooperation, as well as collaboration with national and international MPA initiatives	Increased number of joint action with regional or subregional protected areas networks or other relevant initiatives	<b>On-going</b>
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.	<b>On-going</b>

**2.2.3. Sub-Programme Expenditure**

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

<b>Activity</b>	<b>2023</b>			<b>2024 (2025)</b>			<b>Total</b>
	<b>CTF (\$US)</b>	<b>Other contributions (\$US)</b>	<b>Expenditure (\$US)</b>	<b>CTF (\$US)</b>	<b>Other contributions (\$US)</b>	<b>Expenditure (\$US)</b>	
Develop an operational network of SPAW MPAs <sup>1</sup>	0.00	32,650.00	32,650.00	0.00	39,706.00	39,706.00	<b>72,356.00</b>
Establish SPAW MPAs Networking Group (including collaboration with other Caribbean MPA Networks) <sup>1</sup>	0.00	40,073.00	40,073.00	0.00	91,052.00	91,052.00	<b>131,125.00</b>
Support MPA Management Effectiveness <sup>1</sup>	0.00	89,132.00	89,132.00	0.00	122,269.00	122,269.00	<b>211,401.00</b>

Technical support to Governments to establish new MPAs <sup>1</sup>	0.00	47,620.00	47,620.00	0.00	86,332.00	86,332.00	<b>133,952.00</b>
Capacity building for Government officials and MPA Managers (including the CaMPAM ToT 14th Edition) <sup>1</sup>	0.00	96,300.00	96,300.00	0.00	129,165.00	129,165.00	<b>225,465.00</b>
Support to the functioning of the PA Working Group <sup>2</sup>	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	2,000.00	2,000.00	<b>2,000.00</b>
Strengthen cooperation through improved MPA networks, standardized monitoring, and shared climate resilience strategies <sup>3</sup>	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	55,000.00	55,000.00	<b>55,000.00</b>
<b>TOTAL (USD)</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>305,775.00</b>	<b>305,775.00</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>525,524.00</b>	<b>525,524.00</b>	<b>831,299.00</b>

1) Includes funds from the project *Strengthening Environmental Governance and Supporting Multilateral Environmental Agreements In the Africa, Caribbean and the Pacific regions (ACP MEAs III)*

2) Includes funds from bilateral contributions by the Governments of France and the Kingdom of the Netherlands

3) Includes funds from the GoM LME project

### 2.3. Implementation of Guidelines for the Management of Protected Areas and Species

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

- (a) Promote and support the implementation of the guidelines for the establishment, management, and listing of protected areas developed under 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 in the development and implementation of guidelines for species conservation and management under the SPAW Protocol.

#### 2.3.1. Status of Sub-Programme Activities

32. Several activities were undertaken by and/or implemented in collaboration with the SPAW-RAC in Guadeloupe (see UNEP(DEPI)/CAR WG.45/INF.5 for further details). The activities implemented during 2023-2024(5) to meet these objectives included:

- The Protected Areas Working Group, chaired by SPAW-RAC reviewed and simplified the procedure and the document “Guidelines and Criteria for the Evaluation of Protected Areas to be Listed under the SPAW Protocol.”
- The Exemptions Working Group, chaired by SPAW-RAC reviewed the reports on exemptions submitted by Contracting Parties, assessed their relevance, and developed recommendations for the SPAW STAC11.

- Together, the Working Group on Protected Areas and Species, chaired by the SPAW-RAC undertook the task of formulating recommendations to improve the management and protection of MPAs, relevant to the conservation of Nassau grouper (*Epinephelus striatus*) and reported on progress made in this regard.
- The SPAW RAC increased cooperation with WECAFC and local fisheries bodies on the bycatch topic in the framework of the CAMAC project. SPAW RAC are a part of the WECAFC technical groups. Additionally, WECAFC participated, when needed, at the species working group.
- The SPAW RAC through funding received by the ACP MEA Project developed a document entitled ‘Guidelines for management effectiveness for the SPAW protected area manager network’.
- In 2024, the Secretariat and SPAW RAC requested parties to submit protected area nomination proposals; however, no new proposals were received. The proposal of the Parke Marino Aruba was previously presented to STAC 10; however, due to the request for additional information, including a management plan as requested by STAC 10, the Government of Aruba submitted these documents in 2025 for submission to STAC11.

### 2.3.2. Sub-Programme Outputs

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

Output	Indicators of Achievement	
An updated procedure for listing protected areas under the SPAW Protocol and an updated list of protected areas under the SPAW Protocol, as well as the reactivation of cooperation programmes among sites	Increased number of PAs listed under the SPAW Protocol.	<b>Completed for 2023-2024 (2025) biennium</b> No new protected areas nominated.  Additional documents submitted for review of Parke Marino
Format for presenting exemptions under Article 11(2) is disseminated and its implementation reported on	Improved submissions and examination of exemptions under Article 11(2) of the SPAW Protocol in order to ensure the continued survival of the species	<b>On-going</b> Consideration of exemption reports submitted by Parties at STAC11 and COP13 as appropriate. (See UNEP(DEPI)/CAR WG.45/INF.19)
Technical assistance, tools, and information products that support Contracting Parties' implementation of the SPAW Protocol for species listed under Annexes I-III, as well as support for preparation of species nomination proposals, in line with the "Procedure for the submission and approval of nominations of species for inclusion in, or deletion from Annexes I, II and III"	Increased understanding, monitoring and cooperation on management of species listed under Annexes I - III of the SPAW Protocol, as well as the implementation of activities designed to ensure the survival of these species	<b>Completed</b> No new species nominated. UNEP(DEPI)/CAR WG.45/INF.14, UNEP(DEPI)/CAR WG.45/INF.15, UNEP(DEPI)/CAR WG.45/INF.16, UNEP(DEPI)/CAR WG.45/INF.18

### 2.3.3. Sub-Programme Expenditure

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

Activity	2023			2024 (2025)			Total
	CTF (\$US)	Other contributions (\$US)	Expenditure (\$US)	CTF (\$US)	Other contributions (\$US)	Expenditure (\$US)	
Assessment to the functioning of the working groups <sup>1</sup>	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	26,312.50	26,312.50	26,312.50

Support to the functioning of the Exemptions working groups <sup>1</sup>	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	1,000.00	1,000.00	<b>1,000.00</b>
Listening session on Exemptions/Compliance <sup>1</sup>	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	727.00	727.00	<b>727.00</b>
Update of the Guidelines for the establishment and functioning of the RACs and RANs <sup>1</sup>	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	7,500.00	7,500.00	<b>7,500.00</b>
<b>TOTAL (USD)</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>35,539.50</b>	<b>35,539.50</b>	<b>35,539.50</b>

1) Includes funds from bilateral contributions by the Governments of France and the Kingdom of the Netherlands

#### 2.4. Conservation of Threatened and Endangered Species

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

- (a) Promote awareness and action across the region on priorities for the management of threatened, endangered, and migratory species, to enhance national and regional protection measures.
- (b) Implement priority activities identified in existing species recovery and management plans and recommendations developed under the SPAW Protocol.
- (c) Develop, as appropriate, adequate management plans and programmes for priority species of regional concern, including those of economic significance.
- (d) Address the growing threat posed by invasive alien species (IAS) that could adversely affect SPAW-listed species and habitats in the Wider Caribbean Region (WCR), particularly marine and coastal ecosystems.

##### 2.4.1. Status of Sub-Programme Activities

36. In keeping with the priorities identified by the Contracting Parties at STAC10 and COP12, the following activities were implemented through the Secretariat and SPAW RAC.

##### *Marine Mammals*

37. SPAW-RAC actively worked to enhance knowledge and monitoring of marine mammal populations in the Wider Caribbean Region (WCR) and to raise awareness about the threats affecting these species. Regional networking and collaboration were promoted through the coordination of the regional WhatsApp group “CARI’MAM,” where scientific information, event announcements, sightings, visual data, and other relevant resources were shared among members.
38. Following Recommendation IX(10) of SPAW STAC10 (UNEP(DEPI)/CAR WG.43/4), which called for a review of the legal and institutional mechanisms for establishing a Regional Activity Network (RAN)—using marine mammals as a pilot case—a consultant was hired to develop the Final Guidelines for the Establishment and Operation of a Marine Mammal RAN, including its legal and institutional structure. This document is available as UNEP(DEPI)/CAR WG.45/INF.8.
39. A Letter of Intent (LOI) was finalized and adopted at the 69th Meeting of the International Whaling Commission (IWC) in September 2024, following UNEP legal review and endorsement by the IWC Executive Secretary. This LOI, developed in light of IWC’s 2022 decision not to pursue a formal MoU, was designed to foster collaboration without creating legal or financial obligations. After the LOI’s adoption, the Secretariat and SPAW-RAC, in collaboration with IWC, developed a joint workplan and background document outlining proposed areas for cooperation (UNEP(DEPI)/CAR WG.45/INF.34).

40. Collaboration was also strengthened with the Marine Pollution Subprogramme and its Land-Based Sources (LBS) and Oil Spills Protocols, particularly to assess the potential impacts of oil exploration and exploitation on marine mammals and associated habitats. Coordination among the Secretariats and RACs was promoted.

### ***Sea Turtles***

41. The Secretariat recognized the value of its long-standing collaboration with WIDECAS and took steps to further strengthen the partnership. Discussions were initiated around the signature of a potential Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) that would designate WIDECAS as a RAN, to be signed by either the Secretariat or SPAW-RAC, to support implementation of priority activities outlined in UNEP(DEPI)/CAR WG.43/INF.24.
42. Efforts were also made to renew collaboration with the Inter-American Convention for the Protection and Conservation of Sea Turtles (IAC). A draft MoU was presented at the 17th Meeting of the IAC Consultative Committee (CCE17) in February 2024. However, some Contracting Parties expressed concerns regarding the binding legal language of the MoU. In response, a simplified Letter of Intent (LOI) was developed and presented at the IAC COP11 in June 2024, where it was adopted. The LOI now serves as the basis for implementing joint activities on sea turtle conservation under the SPAW Workplan.

### ***Invasive Alien Species***

43. The Secretariat continued to support regional efforts to address Invasive Alien Species (IAS) in collaboration with relevant partners and initiatives, including links with the LBS Protocol and other RACs. A webinar on *Unomia stolonifera*—an invasive coral species—was organized in collaboration with the Caribbean Biological Corridor and the AGRRA initiative.

### ***Regional Projects and Cooperation***

44. As a continuation of the Interreg CARIMAM project, which had established regional cooperation mechanisms to improve marine mammal conservation, SPAW-RAC actively participated in the Interreg CAMAC project. The main objective of CAMAC was to enhance understanding of interactions between marine megafauna (including marine mammals, seabirds, sharks, and turtles) and human activities.
45. The SPAW Programme Officer also participated in the 33rd Meetings of the CITES Animals and Plants Committees, where they emphasized the importance of strengthening collaboration between CITES and Regional Seas Programmes. A meeting was also held with the CITES Secretariat to discuss the possibility of reviewing and aligning the SPAW Protocol annexes with the CITES appendices, where appropriate and feasible.
46. 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 regard to conserving threatened or endangered species can be found in [Annex III](#).

#### **2.4.2. Sub-Programme Outputs**

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

<b>Output</b>	<b>Indicators of Achievement</b>	
Enhanced knowledge and monitoring of marine mammal populations and raised awareness of threats.	Regional coordination through CARIMAM network and dissemination of relevant data.	<b>Completed</b>
Developed guidelines for the establishment and operation of a Marine Mammal Regional Activity Network (RAN).	Revised document prepared as UNEP(DEPI)/CAR WG.45/INF.8.	<b>Completed</b>
Formalized cooperation with IWC through a Letter of Intent (LOI).	LOI adopted at IWC69 and joint workplan developed (UNEP(DEPI)/CAR WG.45/INF.34).	<b>Completed</b>

Output	Indicators of Achievement	
Initiated discussions for MoU with WIDECAST to designate it as a RAN.	Draft MoU proposed, pending finalization.	Ongoing
Formalized collaboration with IAC through a Letter of Intent.	LOI adopted at IAC COP11 in June 2024.	Completed
Supported regional efforts to address Invasive Alien Species (IAS).	Webinar on Unomia stolonifera conducted with regional partners.	Completed

### 2.4.3. Sub-Programme Expenditure

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

Activity	2023			2024 (2025)			Total
	CTF (\$US)	Other contributions (\$US)	Expenditure (\$US)	CTF (\$US)	Other contributions (\$US)	Expenditure (\$US)	
Support the functioning of the Species Working Group <sup>1</sup>	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	2,000.00	2,000.00	2,000.00
Revision of the legal and governance structure for a new Marine Mammals RAN <sup>1</sup>	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	5,000.00	5,000.00	5,000.00
Support for collaboration with other MEAs (CITES, CBD, CMS) <sup>1</sup>	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	12,500.00	12,500.00	12,500.00
<b>TOTAL (USD)</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>19,500.00</b>	<b>19,500.00</b>	<b>19,500.00</b>

*1) Includes funds from bilateral contributions by the Governments of France and the Kingdom of the Netherlands*

### 2.5. Conservation and Sustainable Use of Coastal and Marine Ecosystems

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

- (a) Support the sustainable management of coastal and marine ecosystems in the Wider Caribbean Region through the promotion of sustainable practices and the development of nature-based solutions.
- (b) Raise awareness and mobilize action by governments and partners for the conservation, sustainable use, and restoration of coral reefs, mangroves, and seagrass beds.
- (c) Communicate the ecological and socio-economic value of coral reefs and associated ecosystems, highlighting their ecosystem services, their threats, and the measures needed for their protection, management, and restoration.
- (d) Promote the application of ecosystem-based management and principles of good governance for the conservation and sustainable use of marine ecosystems.

- (e) Support and promote global initiatives such as the UN Decade on Ecosystem Restoration and the UN Decade of Ocean Science to enhance regional understanding and stewardship of coastal and marine environments.

### **2.5.1. Status of Sub-Programme Activities**

#### ***GCRMN Caribbean Node and Coral Reefs***

50. SPAW-RAC co-chaired the Caribbean node of the Global Coral Reef Monitoring Network (GCRMN), leading regional data collection, collation, and reporting efforts. The preparation of the "Status Report of Coral Reefs of the Caribbean" was initiated with support from UNEP Headquarters and the Secretariat. A data analysis workshop was convened, and consultants were contracted to develop the report. SPAW-RAC coordinated the activities of the Steering Committee and led the Data Task Force.
51. SPAW-RAC and the Secretariat participated in the 37 and 38 annual meetings of ICRI, respectively, and contributed to the GCRMN Global Steering Committee meetings. Regional data were submitted for inclusion in the 2025 GCRMN Global Status Report, and participation in at least one review workshop was ensured.

#### ***Sargassum Monitoring and Management***

52. The SPAW Sargassum Working Group, chaired by SPAW-RAC, focused on addressing priority actions aligned with regional needs. In response to requests from Contracting Parties and acknowledging the cross-cutting nature of sargassum-related impacts, the Working Group was expanded during the 2023–2025 biennium to include representatives from all Contracting Parties to the Cartagena Convention. Invitations were extended accordingly, and the updated composition incorporated experts from both the SPAW Sargassum Working Group and the LBS Open-Ended Working Group, fostering stronger integration and cooperation between the two protocols.
53. To better understand the impacts of sargassum influxes, a survey was launched targeting Contracting Parties and members of the Sargassum Working Group to assess how these events were affecting national capacities to meet obligations under the Cartagena Convention and its Protocols. The results of the survey were compiled into a report (UNEP(DEPI)/CAR WG.45/INF.26) and served as the basis for the update of the Regional Sargassum Action Plan, coordinated by the Sargassum Working Group (UNEP(DEPI)/CAR WG.45/INF.27). This revised Action Plan aims to enhance regional cooperation, improve governance, and strengthen response capacity across the Wider Caribbean Region.
54. Furthermore, synergies with the AMEP Subprogramme were strengthened through the joint convening of the Monitoring and Assessment Open-Ended Working Group and the SPAW Sargassum Working Group, held in Trinidad and Tobago in March 2025. The meeting provided a valuable platform for cross-sectoral dialogue and enabled the alignment of monitoring and management priorities for Sargassum inundations. During the meeting, participants proposed the expansion of the Sargassum Working Group into a Convention-level group to include members from both the SPAW and LBS Protocols formally. Additionally, the Regional Sargassum Action Plan was finalized to be presented to both SPAW and LBS STACs, setting the foundation for enhanced governance and coordinated regional response to sargassum influxes.

#### ***SPAW Small Grants Programme***

55. A new source of funding was secured to sustain and expand the SPAW small grants mechanism. SPAW-RAC supported the implementation of local conservation and restoration projects and compiled a report on lessons learned and best practices from funded initiatives.

### 2.5.2. Sub-Programme Outputs

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

Output	Indicators of Achievement	
Co-chaired the GCRMN-Caribbean node and led regional coordination efforts	Regular meetings and outputs coordinated under the GCRMN-Caribbean node	Ongoing
Participated in the GCRMN Global Steering Committee and ICRI General Meeting	Regional priorities and contributions presented at global forums	Completed
Survey conducted on the impacts of sargassum influxes on national obligations under the Convention and Protocols	Survey responses compiled and analyzed in official report (UNEP(DEPI)/CAR WG.45/INF.26)	Completed
Updated Regional Sargassum Action Plan based on survey results and expert input	Revised Action Plan addressing regional cooperation, governance and response capacity (UNEP(DEPI)/CAR WG.45/INF.27)	Completed
Joint Meeting of the SPAW Sargassum Working Group and the Monitoring and Assessment OEWG organized in Trinidad and Tobago	Joint meeting held with participation from both SPAW and AMEP member of the working groups	Completed

### 2.5.3. Sub-programme Expenditure

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

Activity	2023			2024 (2025)			Total
	CTF (\$US)	Other contributions (\$US)	Expenditure (\$US)	CTF (\$US)	Other contributions (\$US)	Expenditure (\$US)	
Support to the Sargassum WG (including the Joint meeting of the SPAW Sargassum WG and the LBS OEWG) <sup>1</sup>	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	37,800.00	37,800.00	37,800.00
Participation in regional Sargassum fora <sup>1</sup>	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	20,000.00	20,000.00	20,000.00
Support for the development of the Caribbean Coral Reef Status Report <sup>2,3</sup>	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	66,800.00	66,800.00	66,800.00
<b>TOTAL (USD)</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>124,600.00</b>	<b>124,600.00</b>	<b>124,600.00</b>

1) Includes funds from bilateral contributions by the Governments of France and the Kingdom of the Netherlands

2) Includes funds from the GFCR

3) Includes funds from the GoM LME project

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

Thematic areas	2023			2024 (2025)			Total
	CTF (\$US)	Other contributions (\$US)	Expenditure (\$US)	CTF (\$US)	Other contributions (\$US)	Expenditure (\$US)	
Programme Coordination	240,800.00		240,800.00	383,400.00		383,400.00	<b>624,200.00</b>
Strengthening of PAs	-	305,775.00	305,775.00	-	525,524.00	525,524.00	<b>831,299.00</b>
Guidelines for PAs and Species Management	-	-	-	-	35,539.50	35,539.50	<b>35,539.50</b>
Conservation of Threatened and Endangered Species	-	-	-	-	19,500.00	19,500.00	<b>19,500.00</b>
Conservation and Sustainable Use of Coastal and Marine Ecosystems using the EBM approach	-	-	-	-	124,600.00	124,600.00	<b>124,600.00</b>
<b>TOTAL (USD)</b>	<b>240,800.00</b>	<b>305,775.00</b>	<b>546,575.00</b>	<b>383,400.00</b>	<b>705,163.50</b>	<b>1,088,563.50</b>	<b>1,635,138.50</b>

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

<i>State</i>	<b>Cartagena Convention</b>		<b>Oil Spill</b>		<b>SPA</b>		<b>LBS</b>	
	<b>Date of Signature</b>	<b>Ratified / Acceeded</b>	<b>Date of Signature</b>	<b>Ratified / Acceeded</b>	<b>Date of Signature</b>	<b>Ratified / Acceeded</b>	<b>Date of Signature</b>	<b>Ratified / Acceeded</b>
<i>Antigua and Barbuda</i>		11-Sep-86		11-Sep-86	18-Jan-90			13-Jul-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
<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		10-Oct-2024		10-Oct-2024
<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							
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**Annex III: List of meetings organized and/or attended**

<b>Meeting/Conference Title</b>	<b>Date(s) Attended</b>	<b>Name of Organizing/Sponsoring body</b>	<b>Participation (In person / virtual)</b>
SPAW STAC10	Jan 30-Feb 1-23	UNEP CEP	Virtual
8th Our Ocean Conference	2 -3 March-23	U.S. Department of State	In person
SOI National Workshop for Jamaica - Other effective area-based conservation measures in the marine fishery sector	17-19 May-23	Convention on Biological Diversity	In person
Tropical Restoration Workshop	6-8 June-23	UNEP CEP via ACP MEA III Project	In person
Wider Caribbean Regional Conference on Sargassum	15-Jun-23	EU-LAC	In person
CAR-WEN Working Group Meeting	15-Jun-23	CAR-WEN	Virtual
Gulf of Mexico Inception Workshop UNEP/GEF Project “Implementation of the Strategic Action Program of the Gulf of Mexico Large Marine Ecosystem” (GoM SAP Project)	12-Jul-23	UNOPS, GoM SAP PMU	Virtual
Virtual meeting MPA networks twinning partners	17-Jul-23	EU Ocean Governance	Virtual
Global Alliance for Marine Protection meeting	25-Jul-23	EU Ocean Governance	Virtual
Bilateral meeting with Costa Rica SPAW Contact	28-Jul-23	UNEP-CEP	Virtual
Virtual Intersessional Workshop of the Sustainable Ocean Initiative (SOI) Global Dialogue with RSOs and RFBs	1 - 3 Aug-23	Convention on Biological Diversity	Virtual
CRFM Scientific Conference - SPAW Presentation	28-31 Aug-23	CRFM	Virtual
Bilateral meeting with Mexico SPAW Contacts	5-Sep-23	NOAA	Virtual
Bilateral meeting with the United States SPAW Focal Points	7-Sep-23	UNEP CEP	Virtual
Informal Preparatory Discussions - SPAW COP 12	21-Sep	UNEP CEP	Virtual
SPAW COP 12, LBS COP6 and IGM 20	3-5 Oct	UNEP CEP	In person
High Level Ministerial Session	6-Oct	UNEP CEP	In person
GCRMN-Caribbean Steering Committee Meeting	5-Nov	SPAW-RAC	In person
GCFI 76th Annual Meeting	6 - 10 Nov	GCFI	In person
Caribbean MPA Networks Meeting	8-Nov-23	SPAW-RAC	In person
UNEP SIDS Working Group Meeting	13-Nov-23	UNEP HQ	Virtual
EU-Caribbean workshop on marine scientific cooperation	14-15 Nov-23	EU-Caribbean	Virtual

Caribbean Protected Areas Gateway Transition Training Session	15-Nov-23	CPAG	Virtual
ICM meeting	15-Nov-23	ICM Secretariat / PROCARIBE+ PMU	Virtual
First Meeting of the TAC Ocean Decade Task Force Members	17-Nov-23	IOC-UNESCO	Virtual
Twenty-third Global Meeting of the Regional Seas Programme	20-23 Nov-23	UNEP HQ	In person
Virtual Resumption of the IGM20/COIP17 Conference of Parties (COPs) of the Cartagena Convention	28 Nov-23 and 1 Dec-23	UNEP CEP	Virtual
Climate Change Resilient Livelihoods Workshop- Jamaica	12-Dec-23	Caribbean Biological Corridor	In person
UNEP SIDS Working Group meeting	17-Jan-24	UNEP HQ	Virtual
Bilateral meeting with Venezuela SPAW Focal Point	17-Jan-24	UNEP-CEP	Virtual
Caribbean GOA-ON Hub - SPAW meeting	18-Jan-24	UNEP-CEP	Virtual
REBYC-III CLME+ Inception Workshop & First Project Steering Committee Meeting	22-23-Jan-24	FAO and UWI	Virtual
EAF4SG Inception Workshop & First Project Steering Committee Meeting	25-26-Jan-24	FAO and UWI	Virtual
Bilateral meeting with Mexico SPAW Contacts	17-Jan-24	UNEP-CEP	Virtual
ICM-OCM Virtual Regional Consultation & Planning Meeting	12-Feb-24	PROCARIBE+ project	Virtual
Procaribe+ Inception Workshop and First Steering Committee Meeting	19-22 Feb-24	PROCARIBE+ project	In person
The Unomia Learning Exchange: A learning session and briefing alert on the potentially invasive soft coral, <i>Unomia stolonifera</i> , in the Caribbean.	23-Feb-24	SPAW-RAC, CBC, AGRRA, UNEP-CEP	Virtual
17th Meeting of the IAC Consultative Committee of Experts	27-28 Feb-24	IAC	Virtual
Meeting of Caribbean MPA Networks	1-Mar-24	UNEP-CEP	Virtual
IPMR Training for MEAs	4-8 Mar-24	UNEP HQ	In person
CITES-SPAW bilateral meeting	6-Mar-24	UNEP-CEP	In person
CBD-SPAW bilateral meeting	7-Mar-24	UNEP-CEP	In person
Cartagena Convention + Pew Meeting	20-Mar-24	UNEP-CEP	In person
C-COT Meeting -SPAW presentation	23-Apr-24	C-COT	Virtual
UNEP CEP Bilateral Meeting with Barbados SPAW Focal Point	26-Apr-24	UNEP-CEP	Virtual
SPAW Consortium/Secretariat/SPAW-RAC Meeting	2-May-24	SPAW-Consortium	Virtual
Second meeting of the Implementation Coordination Group and the Synergies Workshop between the three components of the GoM LME project	6-8 May-24	GoM LME project	In person

CBC Marine Forum	3-7 Jun-24	CBC	In person
Scientific Technical Committee Meeting of the CBC	19-20 Jun-24	CBC	In person
Cooperation Cartagena Convention Secretariat - ECOP	2-Jul-24	UNEP-CEP	Virtual
UNEP CEP - TOF	2-Jul-24	UNEP-CEP	Virtual
CITES Animal Committee Meeting	12-19 Jul-24	CITES	In person
CMS -UNEP CEP Bilateral meeting	16-Jul-24	UNEP-CEP	In person
Meeting Sargasso Sea Commission	22-Jul-24	UNEP-CEP	Virtual
IAC Reunion Comite Cientifico CC21	21-Aug-24	IAC	Virtual
UNEP Cuba virtual team	27-Aug-24	UNEP	Virtual
Caribbean Regional Data Portal Meeting	28-Aug-24	REMDAP	Virtual
Plantae Webinar - World Policies in Plant Science -SPAW Presentation	29-Aug-24	American Society of Plants Biologist	Virtual
Invitation to Kick-off Meeting for OBPS Ocean Policy Task Team	3-Sep-24	OBPS ADAPT	Virtual
CBF Technical workshop for GBF Caribbean vision declaration	5-Sep-24	CBF	Virtual
ICRI 38 General Meeting	6-5 Sept-24	ICRI	In person
Grenada - 2nd EU Caribbean Global Gateway Conference on Sargassum	29 Sept - 4 Oct-24	EU and Government of Grenada	In person
Courtesy Visit with Colombian Ambassador to Jamaica, Her Excellency, Mrs. Emiliana Bernard Stephenson	25-Sep-24	UNEP-CEP	In person
Meeting UNEP-CEP and NEPA - SPAW Presentation	10-Oct-24	NEPA	In person
Latin American Workshop on the BBNJ Agreement	13-19 Oct-24	UN-DOALOS	In person
Webinar Enhancing Ocean Governance Through Best Practices - SPAW Presentation	16-Oct-24	OBPS ADAPT	Virtual
CBD COP16	26 Oct-1 Nov-24	CBD	In person
GCFI 77th Annual Meeting and Caribbean MPA Networks meeting	1-9 Nov-24	GCFI	In person
14th Edition CAMPAM ToT on MPA management (English Edition)	11-15 Nov-24	UNEP-CEP,CRFM,IUCN BIOPAMA, CERMES	In person
1st Project Executive Group Meeting of the PROCARIBE+	4-5 Dec-24	PROCARIBE+ project	In person
Climate Change Resilience in the Caribbean Fisheries Sector Project (CC4FISH-II) Project Preparation Grant (PPG) - Virtual Validation Meeting	14-Jan-25	FAO	Virtual
Cartagena Convention - Barcelona Convention Meeting	16-Jan-25	UNEP-CEP	Virtual
Cartagena Convention - OSPAR Commission Meeting	17-Jan-25	UNEP-CEP	Virtual
Roadmap MPA 30X30	27-Jan-25	CBF	Virtual

Consultation on the RAC RAN Guidelines Update	29-Jan-25	UNEP-CEP	Virtual
Caribbean Regional BBNJ Conference	30-Jan-25	High Seas Alliance and UNEP-CEP	Virtual
Meeting with French National and SPAW Focal Points	31-Jan-25	UNEP-CEP	Virtual
Collaboration meeting JNCC	4-Feb-25	UNEP-CEP	Virtual
Virtual Launch of OECS 30x30 Transformation Programme in collaboration with SPACES	10-Feb-25	OECS	Virtual
SPAW Focal Point Listening Session (Webinar) on Compliance	11-Feb-25	UNEP-CEP	Virtual
2nd UNEP BBNJ Working Group Meeting	12-Feb-25	UNEP HQ	Virtual
GCRMN-Caribbean Steering Committee	13-Feb-25	SPAW-RAC	Virtual
Marine Spatial Planning Training	18-19 Feb-25	UNESCO -MSPGlobal	In person
Marine Spatial Planning Forum - SPAW Presentation	22-23 Feb-25	UNESCO -MSPGlobal	In person
First OCM Executive Group Meeting	24-Feb-25	PROCARIBE+ - OCM Secretariat	Virtual
Consultation Session for "Conservation and Management of the Marine and Coastal Ecosystem Through the Regional Seas Programme" and MPA Roadmap	26-Feb-25	UNEP HQ	Virtual
Greater Caribbean Manatee Workshop: Building a Regional Alliance for Conservation	27-Feb-25	Clearwater Marine Aquarium	Virtual
CBF EMPAC: Actioning Blue - 1st meeting of the High Level Caribbean Policy Working Group	10-Mar-25	CBF	Virtual
Global Network of MPA Manager Networks-Coordination meeting	11-Mar-25	EU Ocean Governance	Virtual
Joint meeting of the SPAW Sargassum WG and LBS OEWG	17 -22 Mar-25	UNEP-CEP	In person
Virtual Forum for Civil Society: SPAW Protocol	9-Apr-25	SPAW Consortium	Virtual
Saltwatta Initiative - Caribbean Transboundary Biosphere Reserve	10-Apr-25	Saltwatta Initiative	Virtual
Global Coral Reef Red List of Ecosystems - Proposal for the Caribbean	11-Apr-25	IUCN	Virtual
Actioning Blue: 2nd meeting of the high-level Caribbean policy working group	14-Apr-25	CBF	Virtual
Consultation Meeting on the Proposal for the Revision of the Legal and Governance Structure for a New Marine Mammals Regional Activity Network (RAN)	16-Apr-25	UNEP-CEP	Virtual

Eighteenth Intergovernmental Session of the IOC Sub-Commission for the Caribbean and Adjacent Regions (SC-IOCARIBE-XVIII) - Technical Science Meeting: “A Warming Ocean in the Tropical Americas and Caribbean Region”	22 --25 Apr-25	IOCaribe-UNESCO	Virtual
Caribbean Marine Conservation Forum	7-8 May-25	CBF	In person

**Annex IV: Status of the Decisions of the 12th Conference of Parties (COP12) and 10th STAC Meeting (STAC10)**

<b>SPAW COP-12 DECISIONS</b>	<b>Status (for the biennium) and Actions(s) Taken</b>
<b>DECISION I. WORKPLAN AND BUDGET</b>	
1. Adopt the Workplan and Budget of the Specially Protected Areas and Wildlife (SPAW) Sub-programme for the 2023-2024 Biennium (UNEP(DEPI)/CARWG.43/3 Rev.1) as presented to the meeting.	Completed
2. Request the Secretariat and SPAW-RAC, as appropriate, with guidance from the Bureau, in the implementation of the Workplan and Budget, to prioritize activities that provide direct support to strengthen implementation of the Protocol.	Completed
3. Urge the Secretariat to identify and strengthen synergies with other relevant developments in the Wider Caribbean Region	Completed - Collaboration with IUCN and IUCN BIOPAMA, Caribbean GOA-ON Hub, CBC, CBF, AGRRRA, HRI, GCFR, TNC, TOF, Pew Trust, CAF, JNCC, UNESCO, MSP Global, UNEP ROLAC, HSA,OECS, CRFM, FTI, WIDECAS, GRID Arendal, INVEMAR, ReefCheck. SPAW-RAC coordinates the Caribbean node of the GCRMN.
4. Urge Contracting Parties to contribute through their relevant institutions to the extent possible for the implementation of the Workplan and Budget of the SPAW Sub-programme	Completed - Continued follow-up and exchanges with the CP about their work supporting the WP.
<b>DECISION II. PROTECTED AREAS AND SPECIES</b>	
1. Adopt the Recommendations of the Tenth Meeting of the Scientific and Technical Advisory Committee (STAC) to the SPAW Protocol including:	Completed
i.To approve the inclusion of Parc Naturel Marin de Martinique, proposed by the Government of France, in the list of protected areas under the SPAW Protocol.	Completed
2. Uplist the Oceanic Whitetip Shark and Lesser Antillean Iguana, Whale Shark and the Giant Manta Ray from Annex III to Annex II.	Completed
3. List all Parrotfishes and the Caribbean reef shark in Annex III.	Completed

<p>4. Invite the Scientific and Technical Advisory Committee, through the species working group, to develop conservation and management recommendations for the Whale Shark, Giant Manta Ray and Hammerhead Sharks to be presented to the 11th meeting of the Scientific and Technical Advisory Committee</p>	<p>Completed</p>
<p><b>DECISION III. ADOPTION OF DOCUMENTS</b></p>	
<p>1. Adopt the SPAW Regional Activity Centre Strategic Plan 2023-2028 (UNEP(DEPI)/CAR WG.43/INF.7).</p>	<p>Completed</p>
<p>2. Adopt the Action Plan for the Conservation of Marine Mammals in the Wider Caribbean Region (UNEP(DEPI)/CAR WG.43/INF.31).</p>	<p>Completed</p>
<p><b>DECISION IV. RATIFICATION</b></p>	
<p>1. Encourage increased ratification of the SPAW Protocol and implementation of its obligations.</p>	<p>Completed - The following meetings/discussions were held:  - Cartagena Convention Focal Points from Mexico in July 2023 and Feb 2024. Costa Rica in Sept 2023 and Oct 2024.  - Civil society representatives from Guatemala and a representative of NEPA (Monique Curtis) from Jamaica at the GCFI Annual Meeting in Nov 2023.  - Antigua and Barbuda and St. Kitts and Nevis in January 2024. Follow-up emails were sent to the FPs as well.  - Meeting with NEPA in Oct 2024 to present on the SPAW Protocol and follow up on Jamaica's ratification of SPAW  - Guatemala Contact points in Oct 2024 and Feb 2025  - Haiti Govt reps in Oct 2024 and Feb 2025  - Several meetings held with UK OT in 2024 and 2025  - Several meetings held with Suriname in 2024 and 2025  - Antigua and Barbuda in Nov 2024 at the GCFI and discussed the ratification of SPAW.  St. Kitts and Nevis ratified SPAW and LBS in 2024</p>
<p><b>DECISION V. WORKING GROUPS</b></p>	
<p>1. Encourage Contracting Parties to designate experts with scientific and/or technical competence to the SPAW STAC Ad Hoc Working Groups.</p>	<p>Completed</p>
<p>2. Request the Secretariat/and or SPAW RAC perform an assessment on the functioning of the Working Groups with the participation of the Contracting Parties and identify possible mechanisms for strengthening the technical and scientific basis on which the STAC can make recommendations.</p>	<p>Completed - A consultant conducted the assessment.</p>

<p>3. Request the Secretariat and the RACs to strengthen the integration between the AMEP and SPAW subprogrammes in the 2023-2024 biennium</p>	<p>Completed - SPAW RAC reviewed and provided comments on a draft proposal received from RAC Rempeitec related to ballast water management e.g. the list of species that should be included as invasive species, areas of concern, warning system that could be put in place. SPAW has been invited and has joined to the RAC Rempeitec Community of Practice The LBS OEWG members are included as members in the SPAW Sargassum WG The LBS Open Ended WG and the SPAW Sargassum WG hosted a joint meeting on Sargassum in Trinidad and Tobago (March 2025). The SPAW RAC, RAC CIMAB and RAC IMA along with members of the WGs were present</p>
<p><b>DECISION VI. PROGRAMME COORDINATION AND MANAGEMENT</b></p>	
<p>1. Recognize the contribution of non-governmental organisations to the implementation of the Cartagena Convention, in particular to the SPAW Protocol and welcome the establishment of the SPAW Consortium.</p>	<p>Completed - The Secretariat participates in monthly meetings of the SPAW Consortium which began in February 2024. Feedback was provided to the SPAW Consortium Workplan 2024-2025. Planned actions in the Workplan.</p>
<p><b>DECISION VII. GOVERNANCE</b></p>	
<p>1. Request that the Bureau, with the support of the Secretariat and SPAW-RAC if needed, conduct active outreach to Contracting Parties on the contents and decision-making of Bureau meetings, with the aim to reflect the positions of all Contracting Parties in meetings of the Bureau. The Bureau should, in its first meeting, decide on the manner in which it will decide to inform and include other Contracting Parties, taking into account the Terms of Reference of the Bureau.</p>	<p>Completed - Information was periodically shared with FPs on the work of the Bureau</p>
<p>2. Urge the Secretariat to facilitate the collaboration of the SPAW COP, LBS COP and the Cartagena Convention COP Bureaus</p>	<p>Completed - Creation of the Expanded Bureau</p>
<p><b>DECISION VIII. SARGASSUM</b></p>	

<p>1. Encourage the Secretariat and the SPAW RAC to improve knowledge and support Contracting Parties to tackle the consequences of Sargassum inundation in collaboration with RACs and other UN conventions and agencies</p>	<p>The Secretariat and SPAW-RAC have been engaging in regional initiatives including SARGCOOP, OECS project, CBF project, SIMAR, among others.</p> <p>The Secretariat in collaboration with the SPAW RAC, Govt of DR and France held a Sargassum side event entitled Sargassum: Turning the Golden Tide – Crisis or Opportunity for Caribbean SIDS at the SIDS4 Conference in Antigua and Barbuda on 29 May 2024. The side event showcased the four Sargassum videos developed through the IWeco project and included panelists representing, CRFM, OECS, Rum and Sargassum, Flora and Fauna and Sarg'Coop. Over 40 persons attended. A summary of the event which included key issues discussed and possible actions was shared with the SPAW Focal Points.</p> <p>The Secretariat and SPAW-RAC met with GEO Blue Planet to explore synergies with the SPAW Protocol. As a result, actions were agreed to participate in both the SPAW and GEO Blue Planet Sargassum Working Groups and to promote collaboration on related initiatives</p> <p>The LBS open ended Working Group and the SPAW Sargassum WG will host a joint meeting on Sargassum in Trinidad and Tobago (March 2025). The SPAW RAC, RAC CIMAB and RAC IMA along with members of the WGs will be present</p>
<p><b>SPAW STAC-10 RECOMMENDATIONS</b></p>	<p><b>Status (for the biennium) and Actions(s) Taken</b></p>
<p><b>RECOMMENDATION I. REVIEW OF DOCUMENTS</b></p>	
<p>1. Contracting Parties provide additional comments on the “Draft Work Plan for the Specially Protected Areas and Wildlife Sub-Programme for the 2023-2024 biennium” (UNEP(DEPI)/CAR WG.43/3), no later than February 15, for submission to SPAW COP12 for approval.</p>	<p>Completed</p>
<p>2. If needed, the Secretariat convene Contracting Parties in a drafting group to review and address the comments submitted on the Draft Work Plan and circulate the revised Draft Work Plan to Contracting Parties prior to submission to SPAW COP12.</p>	<p>Completed</p>
<p>3. Contracting Parties provide comments on the “SPAW Regional Activity Centre Strategic Plan 2023-2028” (UNEP(DEPI)/CAR WG.43/INF.7) to the SPAW-RAC by, 28th February 2023, to be addressed prior to the submission of the Strategic Plan to SPAW COP12 for approval.</p>	<p>Completed</p>

<p>4. Contracting Parties provide comments to the Secretariat on the Update of the Action Plan for the Conservation of Marine Mammals in the Wider Caribbean Region (UNEP(DEPI)CAR WG.43/INF.31) by February 15 for review, revision, and submission to SPAW COP12 for approval</p>	<p>Completed</p>
<p>5. The Secretariat convene Contracting Parties in a drafting group to review and address the comments submitted on the Update of the Action Plan for the Conservation of Marine Mammals in the Wider Caribbean Region (UNEP(DEPI)CAR WG.43/INF.31) and circulate the revised Action Plan to Contracting Parties prior to submission to SPAW COP12.</p>	<p>Completed</p>
<p>6. Resubmitt the Parke Marino Aruba proposal, to SPAW STAC10</p>	<p>Completed - Postponed to be submitted to STAC11. Updated information submitted subject to review of STAC11</p>
<p><b>RECOMMENDATION II. PROGRAMME COORDINATION AND MANAGEMENT</b></p>	
<p>1. SPAW STAC10 notes the SPAW Consortium Concept Brief as presented in (UNEP(DEPI)/CAR WG.43/CRP.1) and recognize the contribution of non-governmental organizations to the implementation of the Cartagena Convention, in particular to the SPAW Programme, and further recommends SPAW COP12 notes the same</p>	<p>Completed</p>
<p>2. SPAW COP12 notes with interest the Information Paper on Protecting Blue Corridors (UNEP(DEPI)/CAR WG.43/CRP.1) and the importance of the information for the Wider Caribbean Region.</p>	<p>Completed</p>
<p><b>RECOMMENDATION III. PROGRAMME OF WORK AND BUDGET 2023-2024</b></p>	
<p>1. SPAW COP12 acknowledge the involvement of the SPAW-RAC in the CAMAC project (UNEP(DEPI)/CAR WG.43/INF.36), which promotes the implementation of the SPAW programme and the achievement of the SPAW objectives</p>	<p>Completed</p>
<p>2. SPAW COP12 encourage the SPAW-RAC to include interested Contracting Parties in the CAMAC project</p>	<p>Ongoing</p>
<p><b>RECOMMENDATION IV. PROTECTED AREAS</b></p>	
<p>1. The Secretariat and SPAW-RAC, as appropriate, work with Contracting Parties, including managers of SPAW-listed protected areas, and other relevant partners, as appropriate, to develop a proposal for the creation of a network for SPAW-listed protected areas</p>	<p>Completed - With funding from the ACP-MEA project, efforts focused on establishing the basis for the planning and operation of the SPAW-listed MPA network and promoting cooperation among network members through the development of a draft strategic vision, work plan, network structure and budget.</p>

2. SPAW COP12 recognize that the creation or establishment of additional protected areas in the Wider Caribbean Region may contribute to achieving Target 3 of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework.	Completed
3. The SPAW-RAC continue to maintain, improve and update the database related to the protected areas listed under the SPAW Protocol directly on the SPAW-RAC website ( <a href="https://www.car-spawrac.org/?Protected-Areas">https://www.car-spawrac.org/?Protected-Areas</a> )Parties of upcoming procedural deadlines.	Completed - The data base and an interactive map of protected area is updated and available online on SPAW RAC website. <a href="https://www.car-spawrac.org/?Protected-Areas">https://www.car-spawrac.org/?Protected-Areas</a>
4. The Secretariat invite Contracting Parties to prepare and submit nominations of Protected Areas to be Listed Under the SPAW Protocol	Completed
5. SPAW COP12 approve the inclusion of Parc Naturel Marin de Martinique, proposed by the Government of France, in the list of protected areas under the SPAW Protocol.	Completed
6. The Protected Areas Working Group review the “Guidelines and Criteria for the Evaluation of Protected Areas to be Listed Under the SPAW Protocol” (2010 Guidelines), building on earlier discussions and preliminary recommendations, and prepare suggestions to simplify and streamline the process, including possible modifications to the 2010 Guidelines, for consideration at SPAW STAC11 and COP13	Completed
7. Contingent upon intersessional review and positive advice by the STAC, SPAW COP12 include Parke Marino Aruba in the list of protected areas under the SPAW Protocol.	Completed - Postponed to be submitted to STAC11. Updated information submitted subject to review of STAC11
<b>RECOMMENDATION V. EXEMPTIONS REPORTS</b>	
1. SPAW COP12 endorse the recommendations of the Report of the Exemptions Working Group (UNEP(DEPI)/CAR WG.43/INF.33)	Completed
2. The Secretariat and SPAW-RAC support capacity building for improved reporting of exemptions including through Peer-to-Peer exchanges and assessments of Contracting Parties’ needs.	Completed - SPAW Focal Point Listening Session (Webinar) on Compliance, in collaboration with the Barcelona Convention, the OSPAR Commission, and the SPAW Consortium. This session initiated discussions on the possibility of establishing a compliance mechanism or compliance committee for the Cartagena Convention and the SPAW Protocol.
<b>RECOMMENDATION VI. SARGASSUM</b>	

<p>1. Contracting Parties engage in and contribute to relevant fora, as appropriate, including the Sargassum Information Hub and the Sargassum Working Group coordinated by the Group on Earth Observations (GEO) Blue Planet Initiative, as well as the IOC of UNESCO Sub-Commission for the Caribbean and Adjacent Regions (IOCARIBE), as well as, as appropriate, the SARGCOOP Program.</p>	<p>The Secretariat and SPAW-RAC have been engaging in regional initiatives including SARGCOOP, OECS project, CBF project, SIMAR, among others. The Secretariat in collaboration with the SPAW RAC, Govt of DR and France held a Sargassum side event entitled Sargassum: Turning the Golden Tide – Crisis or Opportunity for Caribbean SIDS at the SIDS4 Conference in Antigua and Barbuda on 29 May 2024. The side event showcased the four Sargassum videos developed through the IWeco project and included panelists representing, CRFM, OECS, Rum and Sargassum, Flora and Fauna and Sarg'Coop. Over 40 persons attended. A summary of the event which included key issues discussed and possible actions was shared with the SPAW Focal Points. The Secretariat and SPAW-RAC met with GEO Blue Planet to explore synergies with the SPAW Protocol. As a result, actions were agreed to participate in both the SPAW and GEO Blue Planet Sargassum Working Groups and to promote collaboration on related initiatives The LBS open ended Working Group and the SPAW Sargassum WG will host a joint meeting on Sargassum in Trinidad and Tobago (March 2025). The SPAW RAC, RAC CIMAB and RAC IMA along with members of the WGs will be present</p>
<p>2. Upon request, the Secretariat and SPAW-RAC, as appropriate, 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, and provide information on SPAW and its work to such fora</p>	<p>Completed</p>
<p>3. The Sargassum Working Group survey Contracting Parties on their needs related to managing Sargassum influx and how such influx may affect their implementation of obligations under the SPAW Protocol and Cartagena Convention, as well as the LBS Protocol, as appropriate.</p>	<p>Completed</p>
<p>4. The Sargassum Working Group update and prioritize the proposed action plan of the Sargassum Working Group in UNEP(DEPI)/CAR WG.42/7 for consideration by SPAW STAC11 and COP13</p>	<p>Completed</p>
<p><b>RECOMMENDATION VII. WORKING GROUPS</b></p>	
<p>1. The SPAW-RAC invite Contracting Parties to designate experts with scientific and/or technical competence to the SPAW STAC Ad Hoc Working Groups</p>	<p>Completed</p>
<p><b>RECOMMENDATION VIII. EMERGING ISSUES</b></p>	
<p>1. The Secretariat and SPAW-RAC, as appropriate, continue to engage with the Ocean Acidification Community of Practice and communicate with the regional sub commission of the Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission (IOCaribe)</p>	<p>Completed - Meetings held with the chairs of Caribbean GOA-ON Hub (Amber Packard and Debbie-Ann Gordon Smith). Meeting held with The Ocean Foundation to participate in the International Alliance to Combat Ocean Acidification promoted in collaboration with the UN Foundation. Periodic meetings with IOCARIBE</p>

<p>2. With regard to the issue of Deep Seabed Mining and potential implications for Contracting Parties, Contracting Parties and the Secretariat are encouraged to share relevant information about the SPAW Protocol through the existing mechanisms for the ongoing International Seabed Authority negotiations</p>	<p>Completed - Information has been provided to the ISA about the Convention and its protocols</p>
<p><b>RECOMMENDATION IX. SPECIES</b></p>	
<p>1. SPAW COP12 decide on the proposals for the uplisting of the whale shark, giant ray manta and hammerhead sharks from Annex III to Annex II of the SPAW Protocol, noting the lack of consensus of the Contracting Parties on the submitted proposals</p>	<p>Completed</p>
<p>2. SPAW COP12 adopt the recommendations for the conservation of Sawfishes (Pristidae) and requests the Species Working Group to assist the Secretariat and SPAW-RAC with implementation of the recommendations, as appropriate</p>	<p>Completed</p>
<p>3. SPAW COP12 request the Secretariat and SPAW-RAC to report to STAC 11 on the progress implementing the recommendations for the conservation of Sawfishes (Pristidae)</p>	<p>Completed</p>
<p>4. SPAW COP12 adopt the recommendations in UNEP(DEPI)CAR WG.43/INF.26, paragraphs 12- 14, for the conservation of Nassau Grouper (<i>Epinephelus striatus</i>), and invite Contracting Parties, the Secretariat, and SPAW-RAC to report on progress implementing these recommendations to STAC 11</p>	<p>Completed</p>
<p>5. The Species Working Group and Protected Areas Working Group undertake the joint task in UNEP(DEPI)CAR WG.43/INF.26, paragraph 15, for the conservation of Nassau Grouper (<i>Epinephelus striatus</i>), and report progress and make recommendations, as appropriate, to STAC 11</p>	<p>Completed</p>
<p>6. SPAW COP 12 adopt the recommendations in UNEP(DEPI)CAR WG.43/INF.24, paragraphs 4- 12, and request the Secretariat and SPAW-RAC to work with WIDECAS and other experts, as appropriate, to implement the recommendations, subject to availability of resources</p>	<p>Completed - The Secretariat has been engaging with WIDECAS to resume collaboration through the renovation of the MOU between WIDECAS and the Secretariat or starting a new one with SPAW-RAC.</p>
<p>7. SPAW COP12 requests the Secretariat and SPAW-RAC to report to STAC 11 on the progress implementing the recommendations in UNEP (DEPI) CAR WG.43/INF.24</p>	<p>Completed</p>

<p>8. SPAW COP12 adopt the endorsed submitted proposals on the uplisting of the Oceanic Whitetip Shark and Lesser Antillean Iguana from Annex III to Annex II and the inclusion of all Parrotfishes and the Caribbean reef shark in Annex III.</p>	<p>Completed</p>
<p>9. The Species Working Group develop a set of prioritized recommendations for the conservation and management of parrotfish in the Caribbean; the Secretariat and SPAW-RAC support interested Contracting Parties in the implementation of conservation and management measures for parrotfish, as appropriate. In the development of recommendations and implementation of conservation and management measures, the Secretariat, SPAW-RAC and Species Working Group could consider, inter alia:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>i. The possible development of a regional management plan for parrotfish in the Caribbean.</li> <li>ii. Developing recommendations to protect and enhance existing populations by reducing the negative effects of overexploitation and unsustainable fishing methods.</li> <li>iii. Developing recommendations to improve the status of the marine habitats on which parrotfish depend and prevent further degradation of these habitats.</li> <li>iv. Opportunities to improve the understanding of the status of parrotfish by supporting fisheries-independent research into the physiology, life history and ecology of parrotfish.</li> <li>v. The possible creation of a fishery-dependent data collection programme to better record fisheries and landings data to determine the effects of fishing on parrotfish populations.</li> <li>vi. Conducting socio-economic assessments to understand the role of parrotfish in local economies.</li> </ul>	<p>Not initiated - At the request of SPAW-RAC, the Secretariat sent several reminders to the members of the Species Working Group regarding their participation in this task, as well as to the SPAW Protocol focal points concerning this recommendation. However, no response was received from the Working Group experts or the focal points on how to proceed, which prevented the task from being initiated.</p>

<p>9. The Secretariat work with Contracting Parties, with input from the SPAW-RAC as appropriate, to further elaborate and evaluate the legal and institutional mechanisms to establish a potential Marine Mammal Regional Activity Network (RAN), taking into consideration the various options outlined in UNEP(DEPI)/CAR WG.43/INF.32, including the proposed RAN architecture described in section 3.2. The resulting report should be prepared within one year of SPAW COP12 and should include a review of the legal and institutional considerations related to a potential RAN's governance structure</p>	<p>Completed - The Secretariat hired a consultant to review and update the legal and institutional mechanisms to establish a Regional Activity Network (RAN), using as an example</p>
<p>10. The updated Marine Mammal Action Plan for the Conservation of Marine Mammals in the Wider Caribbean Region, taking into account comments made during STAC10 and during the subsequent review period referenced in recommendation I, be presented to SPAW COP12 for adoption as a set of recommended actions and compilation of relevant resources to address the priority threats to marine mammals in the region</p>	<p>Completed</p>
<p>11. Subject to the adoption of the updated Marine Mammal Action Plan for the Conservation of Marine Mammals in the Wider Caribbean Region, that STAC10 recommends that, upon request, the Secretariat and SPAW-RAC assist SPAW Contracting Parties in its implementation, as appropriate and subject to the availability of resources.</p>	<p>Completed</p>
<p>12. The Secretariat and SPAW-RAC report to STAC11 on their activities in support of implementation of the Action Plan</p>	<p>Completed</p>
<p>13. SPAW COP Invite the Scientific and Technical Advisory Committee, through the species working group, to develop conservation and management recommendations for the Whale Shark, Giant Manta Ray and Hammerhead Sharks to be presented to the 11th meeting of the Scientific and Technical Advisory Committee.</p>	<p>Completed</p>