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Caribbean Region

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DRAFT WORK PLAN FOR THE SPECIALLY PROTECTED AREAS AND WILDLIFE (SPAW) SUB-PROGRAMME FOR THE 2026 – 2027 BIENNIUM

Prepared by the Secretariat and SPAW-RAC based on the SPAW STAC10 and SPAW COP12 Meetings recommendations and decisions, and on the outcome of activities of the 2023 – 2024 (2025) Work Plan for SPAW and other relevant emerging regional and international issues.

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

ACS	Association of Caribbean States
ADEME	French Environment and Energy Management Agency
AMEP	Assessment and Management of Environmental Pollution
BE-CLME+	Blue Economy – Caribbean and North Brazil Shelf Large Marine Ecosystems Project
BIP	Biodiversity Indicators Partnership
BBNJ	Biodiversity Beyond National Jurisdiction
CaMPAM	Caribbean Marine Protected Area Management Network and Forum
CANARI	Caribbean Natural Resources Institute
CARICOM	Caribbean Community
CARDIQUE	Regional Autonomous Corporation of the Canal del Dique
CAR-SUCRE	Regional Autonomous Corporation of Sucre
CBD	Convention on Biological Diversity
CBF	Caribbean Biodiversity Fund
CCAD	Central American Commission on Environment and Development
CERMES	Centre for Resource Management and Environmental Studies
CMS	Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals
CONABIO	National Commission for the Knowledge and Use of Biodiversity (Mexico)
COP	Conference of the Parties
CRFM	Caribbean Regional Fisheries Mechanism
DEAL	Directorate of Environment, Planning and Housing (Guadeloupe)
EMPAC	Effective MPA Activities Project
ECOP	Early Career Ocean Professionals
EU	European Union
FiTI	Fisheries Transparency Initiative
GCRMN	Global Coral Reef Monitoring Network
GEF	Global Environment Facility
GFCR	Global Fund for Coral Reefs
GoM LME	Gulf of Mexico Large Marine Ecosystem
IAC	Inter-American Convention for the Protection and Conservation of Sea Turtles
ICRI	International Coral Reef Initiative
IOCARIBE	Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission for the Caribbean and Adjacent Regions
IUCN	International Union for Conservation of Nature
IWC	International Whaling Commission
KM-GBF	Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework
LAC	Latin America and the Caribbean
LBS RAC	Regional Activity Centre for Land-Based Sources of Marine Pollution
MAR Fund	Mesoamerican Reef Fund
MoU	Memorandum of Understanding
MSP	Marine Spatial Planning
NAM-PAM	North America Marine Protected Area Network
NBSAP	National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan
NGO	Non-Governmental Organization

NOAA	National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
OBPS	Ocean Best Practices System
OECS	Organisation of Eastern Caribbean States
OEWG-LBS	Open-Ended Working Group on Land-Based Sources of Marine Pollution
OECM	Other Effective Area-based Conservation Measure
OCM	Ocean Coordination Mechanism
OFB	French Office for Biodiversity
OSPESCA	Central American Fisheries and Aquaculture Organization
PA	Marine and Coastal Protected Area
PROCARIBE+	Project on Protecting and Restoring the Ocean's Natural Capital in the Caribbean
RAN	Regional Activity Network
RLE	Red List of Ecosystems
RSSD	Regional Seas Strategic Directions
SIDS	Small Island Developing States
SIMAR	Marine and Coastal Information System
SPAW	Specially Protected Areas and Wildlife
SPAW-RAC	Regional Activity Centre for SPAW
STAC	Scientific and Technical Advisory Committee
ToT	Training of Trainers
TNC	The Nature Conservancy
UWI	University of the West Indies
UN	United Nations
UNEA	United Nations Environment Assembly
UNEP	United Nations Environment Programme
UNOPS	United Nations Office for Project Services
UNV	United Nations Volunteers
WCR	Wider Caribbean Region
WECAFC	Western Central Atlantic Fishery Commission
WESR	World Environment Situation Room
WIDECAST	Wider Caribbean Sea Turtle Conservation Network
WWF	World Wide Fund for Nature

DRAFT WORK PLAN FOR THE SPECIALLY PROTECTED AREAS AND WILDLIFE (SPA) SUB-PROGRAMME FOR THE 2026-2027 BIENNIAL

1. INTRODUCTION

1. This work plan covers the 2026–2027 biennium and outlines the priorities for the Regional Programme on Specially Protected Areas and Wildlife in the Wider Caribbean Region (SPA). During this period, the work plan will focus on activities that support the implementation of the SPA Protocol, the recommendations of the SPA STAC, and the decisions of the SPA COP, as well as its coordination with other regional programmes and organizations involved in biodiversity conservation and management — particularly in relation to protected areas and wildlife — and with relevant global initiatives and multilateral environmental agreements (MEAs).
2. It reflects ongoing efforts to integrate the SPA and AMEP subprogrammes further, strengthen coordination with the SPA-RAC and align with the Regional Strategy and Action Plan for the Valuation, Protection and/or Restoration of Key Marine Habitats in the Wider Caribbean 2021 – 2030 adopted by the Contracting Parties. The Workplan contributes to the Medium-Term Strategy of the Cartagena Convention (2023–2030), the SPA-RAC Strategic Plan 2023-2028, the updated Regional Seas Strategic Directions 2026-2029 (RSSD 2026-2029), as well as the UNEP Medium-Term Strategy (2026–2029).
3. The SPA Protocol entered into force on 18 June 2000. With the most recent accession by Saint Kitts and Nevis in 2024, a total of nineteen (19) Governments are currently Contracting Parties to the Protocol: The Bahamas, Barbados, Belize, Colombia, Cuba, Dominican Republic, France, Grenada, Guyana, Honduras, The Netherlands, Nicaragua, Panama, Saint Kitts and Nevis, Saint Lucia, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Trinidad and Tobago, United States of America, and Venezuela.
4. The objectives of the SPA Sub-Programme are to:
 - a) Increase the coverage and strengthen the effective management of marine and coastal protected areas and species under national and regional frameworks across the Wider Caribbean Region (WCR);
 - b) Promote the recovery and long-term conservation of threatened and endangered marine and coastal species, and foster the sustainable use of biodiversity to prevent further decline and loss;
 - c) Enhance regional capacity for coordination, information exchange, training, and technical assistance in support of national efforts to conserve marine and coastal biodiversity; and
 - d) Foster synergies and cooperation with relevant international biodiversity-related treaties and initiatives, including the *Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD)*, *Ramsar Convention*, *Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals (CMS)*, *Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES)*, *Inter-American Convention for the Protection and Conservation of Sea Turtles (IAC)*, *International Whaling Commission (IWC)*, and the *International Coral Reef Initiative (ICRI)* and its global networks.

5. This Workplan seeks to ensure the realistic continuation and strategic expansion of initiatives and tasks initiated under the 2023–2024 (2025) SPAW Workplan (UNEP(DEPI)/CAR WG.43/3 Rev.1), based on the availability of expected human and financial resources. It has been prepared by the UNEP Cartagena Convention Secretariat and the SPAW-RAC, taking into account the decisions and recommendations from previous meetings of the SPAW Protocol — including the Conferences of the Parties (COPs) and Scientific and Technical Advisory Committees (STACs) — as well as regionally and globally relevant issues aligned with the objectives of the SPAW Protocol and Programme, and inputs received from partners.
6. In this context, the work plan also aims to promote and integrate the ecosystem-based management (EBM) approach to address the degradation of priority ecosystem services. This will be pursued, in part, through enhanced collaboration with the Assessment and Management of Environmental Pollution (AMEP) Sub-Programme of the UNEP Cartagena Convention Secretariat, recognizing the interconnected nature of biodiversity loss and pollution-related pressures in coastal and marine environments.
7. The Workplan further seeks to contribute to biodiversity conservation and the sustainable use of coastal and marine resources, while responding to broader sustainable development challenges and acknowledging the interdependence and multidimensional nature of ecological and social systems. This approach is also supported by other multilateral environmental agreements (MEAs), such as the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) — in particular, through the implementation of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework (GBF) — and the Ramsar Convention on Wetlands.
8. The work plan consists of four (4) major thematic areas:
 - a) **Programme Coordination and Strategic Partnerships:** Oversight of the overall implementation of the SPAW Work plan, including coordination with contracting parties and partners, reporting, resource mobilization, and communication.
 - b) **Strengthening Protected Areas in the WCR:** Including the creation of new protected areas (PAs) and other effective area-based conservation measures (OECMs), the expansion and strengthening of existing areas, and the reinforcement of regional PA networks such as the SPAW-listed PAs Network and CaMPAM, as well as collaboration with other regional and global PA networks. Activities also include training and capacity building for PA management, and the development of regional guidelines to promote effective, science-based, and harmonized protected area practices.
 - c) **Conservation of Threatened and Endangered Species:** Including the development and dissemination of species-specific management guidelines, and the implementation of measures to support species recovery, protection, and sustainable use, where applicable.
 - d) **Conservation, Restoration and Sustainable Use of Coastal and Marine Ecosystems:** Including coral reefs, mangroves, and seagrasses, through the application of an ecosystem-based management (EBM) approach to address ecosystem threats, build resilience, and maintain essential ecosystem services, as well as to address the impacts and management of sargassum influxes.

2. THEMATIC AREAS

9. The following sections provide a summary of the strategic objectives, targets, main activities, expected deliverables and dedicated budget of the four Thematic

Areas of the SPAW Subprogramme for the 2026–2027 biennium, including key actions under major projects and cross-cutting coordination efforts.

2.1. Programme Coordination and Strategic Partnerships

10. The Programme Coordination and Strategic Partnerships component is central to the effective implementation of the SPAW Protocol and its associated sub-programme. This theme encompasses the day-to-day operational coordination, strategic engagement with Contracting Parties and partners, resource mobilization, and support to regional and global environmental processes. It also includes oversight of the SPAW Programme's planning, reporting, communications, and stakeholder involvement mechanisms, which are essential for achieving the Protocol's objectives and enhancing its visibility and impact in the Wider Caribbean Region.
11. For the 2026–2027 biennium, activities under this theme will focus on promoting the ratification of the SPAW Protocol, maintaining strong coordination across all programme components, aligning national biodiversity strategies with global frameworks such as the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework, and strengthening collaboration with existing and new regional partners. This includes enhanced cooperation with SPAW-RAC, the AMEP Subprogramme, SPAW Regional Activity Networks (RANs), civil society, and global biodiversity-related organizations, as well as securing new funding sources to ensure the sustainability and effectiveness of SPAW's operations.

2.1.1. Strategic objectives, targets, main activities, and expected deliverables

THEME A. Programme Coordination and Strategic Partnerships				
Strategic objectives:				
1. Promote the ratification of the SPAW Protocol by Non-Contracting Parties				
2. Oversee the day-to-day activities and coordination of projects and activities of the SPAW Sub- Programme.				
3. Strengthen regional and national governance mechanisms, resource availability, and capacity for the implementation of and compliance with the SPAW Protocol, and approved national and regional strategies and action plans for marine and coastal biodiversity conservation, sustainable use, and the promotion of ocean-based economies and blue economy principles.				
4. Mobilize additional resources for implementation of unfunded SPAW Projects and Activities.				
5. Strengthen synergies and collaboration with SPAW-RAC, the AMEP Subprogramme, SPAW RANs (existing and new), relevant international and regional partners, and organizations active in the Wider Caribbean Region on coastal and marine biodiversity conservation and sustainable use.				
2026-2027 Targets:				
1. Promote the ratification of the SPAW Protocol of at least one country by conducting targeted outreach and sharing updated information on ratification with all nine non-Contracting Parties by end of 2027.				
2. Ensure effective coordination of the SPAW Subprogramme by implementing and reporting on at least 80% of the activities outlined in the 2026–2027 Workplan.				
3. Strengthen governance and capacity for SPAW implementation by supporting at least three Contracting Parties in aligning national biodiversity strategies or frameworks with the Protocol and the Kunming-Montreal GBF.				
4. Mobilize additional resources for unfunded SPAW activities through the development and submission of at least two funding proposals or concept notes in collaboration with partners by 2027.				
5. Enhance collaboration with SPAW-RAC, AMEP, RANs, and other partners by implementing at least ten joint initiatives and promoting stakeholder participation across the Wider Caribbean Region.				
Main Activities	Project(s)	Lead	Partners	Expected Deliverables

Promote ratification of the SPAW Protocol by Non-Contracting Parties.	Subject to the availability of funding	UNEP Cartagena Convention Secretariat	SPAW-RAC	a) At least one new ratification of the SPAW Protocol supported through targeted engagement activities.
		UNEP Cartagena Convention Secretariat	SPAW-RAC	b) Presented the SPAW Protocol in at least three regional or international forums.
		UNEP Cartagena Convention Secretariat	SPAW-RAC	c) One outreach package to promote ratification developed, including technical guidance and communication materials, and disseminated to all nine non-Contracting Parties.
Continue implementation of the SPAW Protocol and development of its supporting regional sub-programme.	Subject to the availability of funding	UNEP Cartagena Convention Secretariat	SPAW-RAC	a) 12th SPAW STAC convened with official reports and recommendations finalized and circulated within 6 months post-meeting.
	Trust Fund (subject to countries contributions)	UNEP Cartagena Convention Secretariat	SPAW-RAC	a) 14th SPAW COP convened with official reports and decisions finalized and circulated within 6 months post-meeting.
	Subject to the availability of funding	UNEP Cartagena Convention Secretariat	SPAW-RAC, Contracting Parties	a) Developed at least four outreach products (e.g., factsheets, short videos) annually targeting decision-makers and civil society.
		UNEP Cartagena Convention Secretariat	SPAW-RAC	b) Secured at least one new funding partner and submit two proposals.
		UNEP Cartagena Convention Secretariat	SPAW-RAC	c) Secretariat's website updated every month with information on SPAW projects, activities, and their outputs.
		SPAW-RAC	UNEP Cartagena Convention Secretariat	d) Depending on member activity, weekly posts maintained on the CaMPAM ListServ throughout the period. e) Quarterly issues of the SPAW newsletter prepared and disseminated, and SPAW-RAC's website updated every three months with information on SPAW projects, activities, and their outputs.
Provide UNEP Cartagena Convention Secretariat support to the SPAW Working Groups on Protected Areas, Species, Exemptions and Sargassum.	SPAW-RAC operational funds	SPAW-RAC	Contracting Parties, Working Group Members, UNEP Cartagena Convention Secretariat	a) At least four working group meetings (per working group) held and minuted
			Working Group Members	b) Reports finalized and circulated within 1 month of each meeting.
			Contracting Parties, Working Group Members	c) Reviewed and analyzed PA and species submissions from Contracting Parties
Facilitate the flow of national data and information from Contracting Parties to regional and global databases, including to support reporting on multilateral environmental agreements (e.g. UNGA and UNEA Resolutions), as well as contribute to the regional knowledge bases (e.g. WESR Cartagena Convention, GCRMN, SIMAR).	Subject to the availability of funding	UNEP Cartagena Convention Secretariat	GRID Geneva, SPAW-RAC, LBS RACs, IO-CARIBE, GCRMN Caribbean Node, CONABIO, national focal points	a) Mechanism and guidance developed to support data sharing from Contracting Parties to relevant regional and global databases
				b) Identification of priority datasets for reporting and indicators under UNGA, UNEA, and SDG frameworks
				c) Contribution to regional platforms (e.g., WESR, BIP, SIMAR, GCRMN) with updated national data
				d) At least 2 countries supported in aligning their marine data reporting with global frameworks

Promote visibility and integration of SPAW priorities within key regional governance frameworks and decision-making bodies (e.g., OECS, CARICOM, ACS, CCAD, LAC, OCM).	PROCARIBE+	UNEP Cartagena Convention Secretariat	SPAW-RAC, CARICOM, OECS, ACS, CCAD, OCM, National Focal Points	a) Participation in at least three high-level or technical meetings of regional organizations to present SPAW-related priorities and foster alignment. b) At least two coordination mechanisms or joint actions explored or formalized (e.g., MoUs, agenda items, joint work plans). c) SPAW and Cartagena Convention featured or referenced in policy or outcome documents of at least two regional intergovernmental processes.
Initiate the process for the development of a SPAW Compliance Mechanism through inter-governmental consultation.	SPAW	UNEP Cartagena Convention Secretariat	SPAW-RAC, Contracting Parties, Legal and Technical Experts	a) Concept note and roadmap for the development of a compliance mechanism prepared for discussion at SPAW STAC12. b) Terms of Reference for the Working Group on Compliance drafted and adopted.
Support contracting parties (upon request) to update and enhance the implementation of Regional and/or National Biodiversity Strategies and Action Plans (NBSAPs), incorporating marine biodiversity conservation, sustainable use, and alignment with the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework.	Subject to the availability of funding	UNEP Cartagena Convention Secretariat	SPAW-RAC, SPAW Consortium	a) Support provided to update NBSAPs in at least two countries, with final documents submitted and aligned with KM-GBF targets.
Ensure timely and coordinated project development, implementation, monitoring of progress against targets and indicators, periodic evaluation and reporting.	PROCARIBE+	UNEP Cartagena Convention Secretariat	SPAW-RAC, Partner Executing Agencies	a) UN2UN timely implemented.
				b) Follow-up with national and regional partners conducted.
				c) Quarterly progress narrative and financial reports timely submitted.
				d) Project Coordination Group meetings attended.
	GoM LME	UNEP Cartagena Convention Secretariat	SPAW-RAC, Partner Executing Agencies	a) UN2UN timely implemented.
				b) Follow-up with national and regional partners conducted.
				c) Quarterly progress narrative and financial reports timely submitted.
				d) Project Coordination Group meetings attended.
	CAMAC	SPAW-RAC	Regional partners	a) Project activities involving SPAW-RAC timely implemented.
				b) Follow-up with national and regional partners conducted.
				c) Quarterly progress narrative and financial reports timely submitted.
				d) Project Coordination Group meetings attended.
	SARGCOOP	SPAW-RAC	Regional partners	a) Project activities involving SPAW-RAC timely implemented.
				b) Follow-up with national and regional partners conducted.
				c) Quarterly progress narrative and financial reports timely submitted.
				d) Project Coordination Group meetings attended.
	SPAW Small Grants Programme - Subject	SPAW-RAC	UNEP Cartagena Convention Secretariat	a) At least one new funding contribution to support the SPAW small grants mechanism raised.
				b) At least one call for proposals launched

	to the availability of funding			c) Selection and contracting process of at least 4 local or regional projects finalized.
				d) At least two rounds of technical follow-up with all funded partners during implementation conducted.
	Regional support program for SPAW-listed protected area managers' network in the Wider Caribbean Region - Subject to the availability of funding	SPAW-RAC	Regional partners	a) Fundraising completed.
				b) Follow-up with regional, national and local selected partners conducted.
				c) Progress narrative and financial reports timely submitted.
		UNEP Cartagena Convention Secretariat	SPAW-RAC	a) Preparation of new GEF Project Proposals on topics related to MPAs, Marine Biodiversity Conservation, GBF, BBNJ, Sargassum, Sand management, among others, supported.
Provide technical assistance and guidance to Contracting Parties for the implementation of the Cartagena Convention and the SPAW Protocol.	N/A	UNEP Cartagena Convention Secretariat	SPAW RAC, RANs	a) Quarterly updates submitted to SPAW Bureau summarizing progress on STAC and COP decisions.
				b) Guidance on the national implementation of the Contracting Parties and the SPAW Protocol provided through briefs and model cabinet papers.
Undertake periodic reviews of bilateral cooperation with partner organizations to enhance synergies and impact on the implementation of the SPAW Protocol in the countries.	Subject to the availability of funding	UNEP Cartagena Convention Secretariat	Global MEAs, Regional Partners, SPAW-RAC	a) At least three cooperation frameworks (e.g., MoUs, LoIs, joint work plans, or collaborative activities) signed or renewed, or joint activities with regional and/or global biodiversity-related organizations and MEAs (CBD, CITES, Ramsar, BBNJ, CMS, IAC), including other RSCAPs.
				b) At least one joint activity with CRFM and the BE-CLME+ project to advance marine spatial planning and MPA management.
				c) At least two joint technical or policy initiatives implemented in collaboration with regional integration bodies (e.g., CARICOM, OECS, ACS) to strengthen alignment with marine biodiversity priorities.
				d) One annual MoU review conducted, covering at least three cooperation frameworks.
Facilitate reporting on relevant marine ecosystems targets and indicators.	PROCARIBE+	UNEP Cartagena Convention Secretariat	SPAW-RAC, Contracting Parties	a) Development of the next State of Convention Areas Report initiated using an Integrated Assessment approach, and at least three Contracting Parties supported to report on marine ecosystems in line with regional and/or global reporting requirements (SDG 14).
Support Contracting Parties in integrating marine biodiversity and ecosystem services into national Blue Economy and ocean-based development strategies.	PROCARIBE+, SPAW	UNEP Cartagena Convention Secretariat	SPAW-RAC, LBS RACs, OECS, CARICOM, Contracting Parties	a) At least two technical exchanges or workshops conducted on marine biodiversity integration in Blue Economy planning.
				b) At least one case study or best practice document produced on ecosystem-based approaches supporting ocean-based economies.
Facilitate cooperation with relevant projects and coordinating mechanisms relating to marine biodiversity.	PROCARIBE+	UNEP Cartagena Convention Secretariat	SPAW-RAC, Regional Partners	a) Participation in the Ocean Coordination Mechanism (as alternate to the Coordinator) ensured.
				b) Participation in relevant UNEP HQ committees and working groups on marine biodiversity, SIDS ensured.

Promote and strengthen cooperation with existing and new RANs.	N/A	UNEP Cartagena Convention Secretariat and SPAW-RAC	RANs and Regional Partners, SPAW Consortium	a) Consultations supported for the establishment of a Marine Mammal Regional Activity Network (RAN), based on recommendations from STAC10. b) WIDECAST's role recognized as a Regional Activity Network (RAN) for sea turtles, following the mechanism suggested by the STAC and endorsed by the COP.
Strengthen collaboration with civil society organizations (CSOs), particularly by promoting continued engagement with the SPAW Consortium.	Subject to the availability of funding	SPAW Consortium	UNEP Cartagena Convention Secretariat, SPAW-RAC	a) At least two joint webinars or technical exchanges with CSOs on marine biodiversity themes conducted.
			UNEP Cartagena Convention Secretariat, SPAW-RAC, Contracting parties and CBD	b) Analysis on the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework targets integration in NBSAPs, and how it supports to the SPAW Protocol coordinated, with results presented at STAC12 and COP14. c) Desk studies on 1) Sustainable tourism and ecosystems and 2) Climate change impacts and ecosystems, with results presented at STAC13 and COP15.

2.1.2. SPAW Programme Personnel

12. During the period 2026–2027, the day-to-day coordination for the implementation of the SPAW Sub-Programme will continue to be overseen by the SPAW Programme Officer, who is responsible for the overall coordination of the SPAW Programme and Protocol Secretariat functions. The Programme Officer will be supported by the SPAW Programme Assistant, Junior Professional Officers (JPOs), United Nations Volunteers (UNVs), and interns, when applicable and available.
13. Additional technical and operational support will continue to be provided by the Regional Activity Centre for SPAW (SPAW-RAC), located in Guadeloupe and supported by the Government of France. SPAW-RAC operates under the institutional framework of “DEAL” Guadeloupe (*La Direction de l'Environnement, de l'Aménagement et du Logement*), the local representative of the French Ministry in charge of the environment. SPAW-RAC is dedicated to supporting the implementation of the SPAW Protocol. Its full-time staff includes one (1) Executive Director, one (1) Deputy Director, Program Coordinator, and one (1) Administrative Assistant funded by the French Ministry for an Ecological Transition. The team is further supported by project officers whose roles depend on available project funding. In 2025, the team includes three (3) additional contract staff supported through EU, French Ministry funding and UNEP, working on key areas such as marine megafauna, marine ecosystems (coral reefs and Sargassum), and PAs. Details of the division of responsibilities between the SPAW team at the UNEP Cartagena Convention Secretariat and the SPAW-RAC team regarding project coordination are outlined in Annex I.

2.1.3. Proposed Budget (indicative)

Activity	2026 Budgeted			2027 Budgeted		
	CTF	Other Contributions	Total cost	CTF	Other Contributions	Total Cost

Salary of Programme Officer/ Assistant (SMs) and other supporting costs	419,800.00	132,000.00 ¹	551,800.00	419,800.00	67,800.00 ¹	419,800.00
Salary of Director/Deputy director/ Assistant (SMs) and other supporting costs of the SPAW-RAC	-	456,500.00 ²	456,500.00	-	456,500.00 ²	456,500.00
COP14 and STAC12 meeting preparations	-	-	-	79,656.00		147,456.00
TOTAL (USD)	419,800.00	588,500.00	1,008,300.00	499,456.00	524,300.00	1,023,756.00

¹ Includes funding from the Gulf of Mexico (GoM LME) and the PROCARIBE+ projects

² Includes funding from France through SPAW-RAC

14. Annex II provides the consolidated budget covering all thematic areas and activities under the SPAW Protocol Workplan, offering an overview of the resources required for implementation. Activities without assigned funding are listed in Annex III, identifying them as priorities for resource mobilization, while also underscoring that funding will be required not only to implement the activities themselves but also to support the short-term staffing needs at the Secretariat and SPAW-RAC essential for their execution. Annex IV outlines current and potential synergies and collaborations with institutions, projects, and initiatives that, while not explicitly included as workplan activities, contribute to the Protocol's objectives by supporting marine and coastal biodiversity conservation through technical cooperation, data sharing, policy support, capacity building, and regional coordination. These ongoing and emerging collaborations are key to enhancing the effectiveness, visibility, and reach of the SPAW Protocol, strengthening implementation through coordinated initiatives, joint project development, and shared platforms for knowledge and capacity exchange.

2.2. Strengthening Marine and Coastal Protected Areas (PAs) in the Wider Caribbean Region

15. The thematic area of Strengthening Protected Areas in the WCR focuses on enhancing the creation, management, and effectiveness of Protected Areas (PAs) and Other Effective Area-based Conservation Measures (OECMs) across the Wider Caribbean Region. These area-based tools are essential for conserving marine biodiversity, maintaining ecosystem services, and supporting sustainable livelihoods. The SPAW Sub-Programme contributes by providing technical assistance, promoting the use of regional guidelines, and facilitating collaboration among stakeholders at local, national, and regional levels.
16. For the 2026–2027 biennium, activities will prioritize the designation and reinforcement of PAs and OECMs, capacity building for site managers and institutions, and strengthening regional cooperation through exchanges and peer learning. Particular attention will be given to strengthening the activities of the Caribbean Marine Protected Area Management Network and Forum (CaMPAM), and the SPAW-listed PA Network, which play a critical role in facilitating knowledge sharing, training, and technical support throughout the region. Efforts will also support the update of regional guidelines, implementation of site-based planning and restoration projects, and increased engagement with global PA networks to ensure the Caribbean's active participation in international biodiversity dialogues and platforms.

2.2.1. Strategic objectives, targets, main activities, and expected deliverables

Strategic objectives:				
1. Support Governments in the creation of Marine and Coastal Protected Areas (PAs) and Other Effective Conservation Measures (OECMs), and the strengthening of existing ones in the Wider Caribbean Region (WCR), including enhanced communication and cooperation among sites in the region.				
2. Assist Governments and NGOs in building and strengthening human capacity to improve the effectiveness of PAs and OECMs, both at individual sites and within national systems.				
3. Support the implementation of the guidelines for the establishment, planning, management, and listing of PAs developed under the SPAW Protocol.				
4. Foster collaboration and knowledge exchange among PA networks at the Caribbean and global levels.				
2026-2027 Targets:				
1. Facilitate the creation or expansion of at least two Marine and Coastal Protected Areas (PAs) and/or Other Effective Conservation Measures (OECMs), and support capacity-building and cooperation among at least five existing sites in the Wider Caribbean Region by 2027.				
2. Deliver at least two regional training or capacity-building activities for PA/OECM practitioners across the Wider Caribbean Region by 2027.				
3. Support the nomination process of at least two new PAs for inclusion under the SPAW Protocol, providing technical assistance to national authorities throughout the process by 2027.				
4. Facilitate at least two joint initiatives or exchanges between Caribbean and global PA networks by 2027 to promote knowledge sharing, coordination, and visibility of PAs in the Wider Caribbean Region.				
Main Activities	Project(s)	Lead	Partners	Expected Deliverables
Support the operationalization of the SPAW-listed Protected Area Managers Network (contingent on review of the proposal at the SPAW STAC), including exchanges, trainings, and peer-to-peer collaboration.	Subject to the availability of funding	SPAW-RAC	NatureXpairs, SPAW Protected Area Network, Regional Partners	a) At least one companionship program implemented, two regional webinars delivered, and one exchange visit organized for protected area managers. b) Climate adaptation methodology tested at least in two SPAW-listed pilot sites, and site-specific coastal erosion management plans developed. c) Educational protected areas deployed and call for micro projects launched. d) Participation in the dynamics of supra-regional protected area networks ensured. e) Draft post-2030 roadmap developed and preliminary economic model for the long-term sustainability of the network proposed.
Deliver capacity building on MPA management through the CaMPAM Training of Trainers (ToT) programme.	GEF PROCARIBE+ / Subject to the availability of funding	UNEP Cartagena Convention Secretariat	UNOPS, Reef Check Dominican Republic, SPAW-RAC	a) CaMPAM ToT course curriculum updated and digitized. b) At least five follow-up activities from the 14th CaMPAM ToT edition implemented in English-speaking countries. c) 15th CaMPAM ToT edition for Spanish-speaking countries delivered, with participation from at least eight countries and 20 MPA practitioners. d) At least five follow-up activities from the 15th CaMPAM ToT edition implemented in Spanish-speaking countries.
Support the establishment and strengthening of PAs and OECMs, in collaboration with national and local partners.	GEF PROCARIBE+	UNEP Cartagena Convention Secretariat	UNOPS, CARDIQUE, CARSUCRE	a) Two new MPAs established in Colombia.
			UNOPS, INVEMAR, Colombia National Parks	b) One existing MPA strengthened in Colombia.
			UNOPS, MENR	c) One existing marine sanctuary strengthened in the Dominican Republic.
		National Center of Protected Areas of Cuba	UNOPS, UNEP Cartagena Convention Secretariat	d) Pilot Fishing Closure or Restoration Zones (OECMs) implemented in the Dominican Republic. a) Two new MPAs established in Cuba.

	Subject to the availability of funding	SPAW-RAC	UNEP Cartagena Convention Secretariat, Contracting Parties	a) Newly created and existing PAs supported to be included in the SPAW list of PAs
Strengthen environmental monitoring and coral reef management within MPAs through standardized indicators, early warning systems, and data sharing platforms.	GEF GoM LME	UNEP Cartagena Convention Secretariat	National authorities (Cuba, Mexico, USA), SPAW-RAC, UNOPS, CONABIO, Kalanbio	a) Coordination mechanisms between national MPAs and MPA networks in Cuba, Mexico, and the USA improved.
			UNOPS, CONABIO	b) MPA monitoring data integrated into SIMAR for at least two participating countries.
Support the operationalization of the SPAW-listed Protected Area Managers Network (contingent on review of the proposal at the SPAW STAC), including exchanges, trainings, and peer-to-peer collaboration.	Subject to the availability of funding	SPAW-RAC	NatureXpairs, SPAW Protected Area Network, Regional Partners	a) At least one companionship program implemented, two regional webinars delivered, and one exchange visit organized for protected area managers.
				b) Climate adaptation methodology tested at least in two SPAW-listed pilot sites, and site-specific coastal erosion management plans developed.
				c) Educational protected areas deployed and call for micro projects launched.
				d) Participation in the dynamics of supra-regional protected area networks ensured.
				e) Draft post-2030 roadmap developed and preliminary economic model for the long-term sustainability of the network proposed.
Review and update the 1996 “Common Guidelines and Criteria for Protected Areas in the Wider Caribbean Region” in line with Articles 4, 5, 6, 8, and 13 of the SPAW Protocol (subject to STAC and COP approval).	Subject to the availability of funding	UNEP Cartagena Convention Secretariat	SPAW-RAC	a) 1996 Guidelines reviewed and updated to align with Articles 4, 5, 6, 8, and 13 of the SPAW Protocol.
			SPAW-RAC, Contracting Parties, Working Group experts	b) Feedback from Contracting Parties and Working Group experts incorporated during the consultation process.
			SPAW-RAC	c) Updated guidelines submitted for endorsement at STAC 12 (2027), following consultations.
Support national implementation of the SPAW Protocol (PA planning and management at the local level).	SPAW Small Grants Programme - Subject to the availability of funding	SPAW-RAC	UNEP Cartagena Convention Secretariat, SPAW Consortium	a) At least one new funding source secured to sustain and expand the small grants mechanism supporting SPAW-listed sites.
			Local NGOs, community organizations	b) Support the implementation of at least three site-based projects to update or implement management plans in SPAW-listed PAs supported.
			Local NGOs, community organizations	c) Report on lessons learned and best practices from funded projects compiled and published.
Enhance synergies and joint initiatives with other Caribbean and global PA networks to promote shared tools, best practices, and coordinated actions.	Subject to the availability of funding	UNEP Cartagena Convention Secretariat	SPAW-RAC, CaM-PAM, SPAW-listed MPANetwork, MPA-Connect, MARFund, RedParques, DCNA, Sustainable Grenadines, NAMPAM	a) Joint activities and knowledge exchange between regional PA networks facilitated.
			SPAW-RAC	b) Collaboration with the global PA network of PA networks formalized through a joint work plan.

			SPAW-RAC, MPA-Connect, MARFund, NAMPAM, Red-Parques, Global MPA Network	c) Caribbean representation ensured in at least two international biodiversity events or platforms.
Promote sustainable tourism practices to strengthen PA management, support biodiversity conservation, and encourage the sustainable use of coastal and marine ecosystems in the Wider Caribbean Region.	Subject to the availability of funding	UNEP One Planet Sustainable Tourism Programme	UNEP Cartagena Convention Secretariat, SPAW-RAC, SPAW Consortium	a) Initial discussions and coordination efforts initiated to develop Regional Standards on Sustainable Tourism for the Wider Caribbean Region.
		Reef-World Foundation and UNEP Cartagena Convention Secretariat	SPAW-RAC, PA managers	a) Adoption of the Green Fins Code of Conduct promoted in at least two additional PAs.
				b) Two regional training sessions on Green Fins standards for tourism operators and PA practitioners conducted.
				c) Communication materials linking Green Fins practices with SPAW biodiversity targets produced.

2.2.2. Proposed budget (indicative)

Activity	2026 Budgeted			2027 Budgeted		
	CTF	Other Contributions	Total cost	CTF	Other Contributions	Total Cost
Deliver capacity building on MPA management through the CaMPAM Training of Trainers (ToT) programme.	-	55,330.00 ¹	55,330.00	-	-	-
Support the establishment and strengthening of MPAs and OECMs, in collaboration with national and local partners.	-	250,018.50 ¹	250,018.50	-	45,333.34 ¹	45,333.34
Strengthen environmental monitoring and coral reef management within MPAs through standardized indicators, early warning systems, and data sharing platforms.	-	65,000.00 ²	65,000.00	-	-	-
Support the operationalization of the SPAW-listed Protected Area Managers Network (contingent on review of the proposal at the SPAW STAC), including exchanges, trainings, and peer-to-peer collaboration.	-	-	103,400.00	-	-	-
Review and update the 1996 “Common Guidelines and Criteria for Protected Areas in the Wider Caribbean Region” in line with Articles 4, 5, 6, 8, and 13 of the SPAW Protocol (subject to STAC and COP approval).	-	-	-	-	-	-
Support national implementation of the SPAW Protocol (MPA planning and management at the local level).	-	40,000.00 ³	40,000.00	-	-	-
Enhance synergies and joint initiatives with other Caribbean and global MPA networks to promote shared tools, best practices, and coordinated actions.	-	-	-	-	-	-
Promote sustainable tourism practices to strengthen MPA management, support biodiversity conservation, and encourage the sustainable use of coastal and marine ecosystems in the Wider Caribbean Region.	-	-	-	-	-	-
TOTAL (USD)	-	410,348.50	513,748.50	-	45,333.34	45,333.34

¹ Includes funds from the PROCARIBE+ project

² Includes funds from the GoM LME project

³ Includes funding from SPAW-RAC

2.3. Conservation of Threatened and Endangered Species

17. Conservation of Threatened and Endangered Species is a core component of the SPAW Protocol, supporting Contracting Parties in strengthening their national and regional efforts to protect species at risk. This thematic area focuses on improving awareness, coordination, and technical support for the conservation and management of threatened, endangered, and migratory species, including those of ecological and economic importance. It also promotes the development and implementation of recovery plans, management guidelines, and conservation measures based on SPAW Protocol provisions and regional priorities.
18. During the 2026–2027 biennium, the SPAW Sub-Programme will prioritize actions that build on existing species conservation networks and partnerships, support field-level implementation, and improve access to information and tools. Particular emphasis will be placed on strengthening cooperation for marine megafauna, including sea turtles, and manatees, as well as advancing awareness-raising campaigns and the development of regional guidelines. The Programme will also continue supporting Contracting Parties in aligning their national legislation and species management plans with SPAW provisions and broader regional frameworks.

2.3.1. Strategic objectives, targets, main activities, and expected deliverables

Strategic objectives:				
1. Promote regional awareness and action on priorities related to the management of threatened, endangered, and migratory species, to enhance national and regional protection efforts.				
2. Support Contracting Parties to implement priority actions identified in existing species recovery and management plans, as well as recommendations developed under the SPAW Protocol.				
3. Promote and support contracting parties on the development and implementation of species conservation and management guidelines within the framework of the SPAW Protocol.				
4. Support contracting parties to develop, where appropriate, effective management plans and programmes for priority species of regional concern, including species of economic significance.				
2026-2027 Targets:				
1. Implement at least three regional awareness-raising initiatives (e.g., communication campaigns, webinars, educational materials) focused on the conservation of threatened, endangered, and migratory species by 2027.				
2. Support at least two Contracting Parties in the implementation of priority actions identified in national or regional species recovery and management plans aligned with SPAW Protocol provisions by 2027.				
3. Finalize and validate one updated or new regional guideline for species conservation and management under the SPAW Protocol, and provide technical support for its application in at least two countries by 2027.				
4. Support the development or update of at least two species management plans for priority species of regional concern, including those of economic importance, with endorsement from national authorities by 2027.				
Main Activities	Project(s)	Lead	Partners	Expected Deliverables
Support the conservation of endangered marine megafauna (e.g. whale shark, manta ray, hammerhead sharks, sawfish, sea birds). sea turtle bycatch. marine mammal protection.	CAMAC	SPAW-RAC	OFB-Agoa, WWF, local NGO, UNEP Cartagena Convention	a) Marine mammal regional stranding network maintained and strengthened through the creation of a focal point list and tools for data sharing.

			WECAFC, CRFM, Birds Caribbean, Widecast, OFB-Agoa, WWF, Cari'mam Network	b) Socio-economic and environmental assessment on fisheries interactions with marine megafauna developed and in collaboration with at least two fisheries organizations.
		WIDECAST	SPAW-RAC	c) WIDECAST supported in establishing a regional sea turtle stranding response network in at least five countries.
Support national implementation of the SPAW Protocol (species monitoring and conservation activities).	SPAW Small Grants Programme - Subject to the availability of funding	SPAW-RAC	UNEP Cartagena Convention Secretariat, the SPAW Consortium	a) At least one new funding source secured to sustain and expand the small grants mechanism supporting SPAW-listed species.
			National/local partners (civil society, NGOs)	b) Implementation of at least three site-based projects to support local initiatives for species monitoring and conservation supported.
				c) Report on lessons learned and best practices from funded projects compiled and published.
Communication and information on species listed in SPAW Annexes of the SPAW protocol.	CAMAC	SPAW-RAC	CARI'MAM members	a) Active communication maintained through the CARI'MAM network by sharing at least 2 updates or relevant materials per year via WhatsApp and by promoting informal knowledge exchange among members.
	Subject to the availability of funding		UNEP Cartagena Convention Secretariat	b) At least 12 species-related posts or updates published per year on the Cartagena Convention Secretariat and SPAW-RAC websites and social media, including updates, articles, maps, and data (e.g., species distribution models, migratory corridors).
			UNEP Cartagena Convention Secretariat	SPAW-RAC, SPAW Consortium
Promote regional collaboration for the protection of manatee populations.	Subject to the availability of funding	Clearwater Marine Aquarium	UNEP Cartagena Convention Secretariat, SPAW-RAC	a) Technical and coordination support provided for the development of a regional manatee conservation alliance, by participating in partner-led initiatives, facilitating knowledge sharing, and supporting the drafting of a joint vision or action outline.

2.3.2. **Proposed Budget (indicative)**

Activity	2026 Budgeted			2027 Budgeted		
	CTF	Other Contributions	Total cost	CTF	Other Contributions	Total Cost
Support the conservation of endangered marine megafauna (e.g. whale shark, manta ray, hammerhead sharks, sawfish, sea birds). sea turtle bycatch. marine mammal protection.	-	260,260.00 ¹	260,260.00	-	202,441.80 ¹	202,441.80
Support national implementation of the SPAW Protocol (species monitoring and conservation activities).	-	-	-	-	-	-

Communication and information on species listed in SPAW Annexes of the SPAW protocol.	-	-	-	-	-	-
Promote regional collaboration for the protection of manatee populations.	-	-	-	-	-	-
TOTAL (USD)	-	260,260.00	260,260.00	-	202,441.80	202,441.80

¹ Includes funds from the CAMAC project

2.4. Conservation, Restoration and Sustainable Use of Coastal and Marine Ecosystems

19. Conservation, Restoration and Sustainable Use of Coastal and Marine Ecosystems addresses the urgent need to protect and restore key ecosystems such as coral reefs, mangroves, and seagrasses, which provide critical services for biodiversity, climate resilience, and human well-being. This thematic area promotes ecosystem-based management and nature-based solutions as guiding approaches to ensure the long-term health and productivity of coastal and marine habitats across the Wider Caribbean Region. The SPAW Sub-Programme is key in supporting conservation and restoration actions, facilitating regional monitoring systems, and promoting knowledge exchange to inform effective policy and management.
20. During the 2026–2027 biennium, particular emphasis will be placed on strengthening regional platforms such as GCRMN-Caribbean, expanding small-scale restoration efforts, and enhancing collaboration on blue carbon strategies and vulnerability assessments. Actions will also focus on addressing emerging threats such as Sargassum influxes by promoting regional coordination, supporting field studies, and incorporating biodiversity considerations into action plans. The Sub-Programme will continue to engage with partners at all levels to mobilize resources, share knowledge, and advance integrated, science-based approaches to coastal and marine ecosystem management.

2.4.1. Strategic objectives, targets, main activities, and expected deliverables

2026-2027 Targets:				
1. Support the implementation of at least four ecosystem-based or nature-based pilot projects for the restoration or sustainable management of coral reefs, mangroves, or seagrasses in the Wider Caribbean Region by 2027.				
2. Enhance the functionality and content of at least two regional platforms (e.g., GCRMN-Caribbean, SIMAR) by integrating updated datasets, publishing one regional status report, and expanding participation from at least five additional national institutions by 2027.				
3. Deliver at least two awareness or cooperation initiatives (e.g., webinars, policy briefs, stakeholder dialogues) on the value of marine ecosystems and the impacts of Sargassum influxes by 2027.				
4. Facilitate at least two regional or national ecosystem restoration initiatives supported or coordinated under SPAW, including knowledge exchange activities, technical assistance, or partnerships to enhance restoration outcomes for priority marine and coastal ecosystems, by 2027.				
Main Activities	Project(s)	Lead	Partners	Expected Deliverables
Continue co-chairing GCRMN Caribbean node and support coral reef conservation.	GEF GoM LME	SPAW-RAC	UNEP Cartagena Convention Secretariat, ICRI, GCRMN Global, GCRMN National Experts and institutions	a) At least five thematic coral reef data products or policy briefs shared via GCRMN. b) 2025 GCRMN-Caribbean Coral Reef Status Report finalized and promoted. c) Caribbean contributions submitted to the GCRMN Global Report and participation ensured in at least one review workshop.
		UNEP Cartagena Convention Secretariat	SPAW-RAC, UNOPS, Kalanbio, CONABIO, NOAA, CNAP	d) National and regional networks for the assessment, monitoring, and restoration of coral reefs, including those affected by coral bleaching and/or SCTLDD strengthened in at least two countries. e) Visibility and policy-level communication of reef monitoring results in the Wider Caribbean enhanced, including dissemination through platforms like SIMAR.
Enhance understanding and awareness of Sargassum's ecological impacts and value,	Subject to the availability of funding	SPAW-RAC	UNEP Cartagena Convention Secretariat,	a) Implementation of at least three actions from the Sargassum Regional Action Plan supported, in collaboration with the

promoting good management practices, and integrating biodiversity considerations into a Sargassum regional action plan.			Region Guadeloupe, OECS, AEC, sargassum working group, RAC-IMA, RAC-CIMAB, OEWG-LBS, Abidjan Convention	Sargassum working group (contingent on review of the draft Action Plan at the SPAW STAC, SPAW COP, and COP/IGM).
	SARGCOOP II-	SPAW-RAC	SPAW-listed MPA network, University of Antilles Geo Blue Planet	a) At least one field study conducted and results published on the biodiversity impacts of sargassum in SPAW-listed MPAs by 2027. b) Development or integration of at least one ecosystem vulnerability forecasting tool into regional data systems supported.
Enhance coral reef conservation and resilience in coral reefs of MPAs of the Gulf of Mexico.	GEF GoM LME	UNEP Cartagena Convention Secretariat	SPAW-RAC, UNOPS, Kalanbio, CONABIO, NOAA, CNAP	a) A set of at least four common coral reef indicators for the Gulf of Mexico MPAs agreed upon and published. b) At least one early warning protocol for coral bleaching or coral diseases developed in coordination with national partners of the Gulf of Mexico countries. c) At least two data integration exercises within SIMAR conducted.
Promote regional cooperation and knowledge exchange on ecosystem restoration efforts focused on coral reefs, mangroves, and seagrass beds.	Subject to the availability of funding	UNEP Cartagena Convention Secretariat	SPAW-RAC, LBS RACs, Regional Fisheries bodies (e.g., CRFM, OSPESCA), ICRI, GCRMN-Caribbean, Saint Lucia Restoration Flagship, Regional Projects	a) At least one regional exchange or webinar organized to showcase restoration guidelines and case studies on coral, mangrove, and seagrass restoration. b) At least one joint activity or proposal developed with AMEP or fisheries organizations linking restoration to pollution reduction and habitat protection. c) Inventory or repository of existing regional and national restoration guidelines and protocols developed and disseminated.
Support national implementation of the SPAW Protocol (marine and coastal ecosystems conservation, monitoring and restoration).	SPAW Small Grants Programme - Subject to the availability of funding	SPAW-RAC	UNEP Cartagena Convention Secretariat, National/local partners (PAs civil society, NGOs)	a) At least one new funding source secured to sustain and expand the small grants mechanism supporting local initiatives for ecosystem conservation and restoration. b) Implementation of at least three site-based projects to support local initiatives for ecosystem conservation and restoration supported. c) Report on lessons learned and best practices from funded projects compiled and published.
Contribute to the inclusion of blue carbon ecosystems in national climate strategies.	PROCARIBE+ / Blue Carbon Ecosystem Capacity Building Initiative	Pew Charitable Trust	UNEP Cartagena Convention Secretariat, SPAW-RAC, national governments	a) Contribution provided to national capacity-building efforts on blue carbon ecosystems by supporting at least two workshops led by partners such as Pew or national authorities. b) Integration of blue carbon into Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) supported in at least three countries by sharing technical resources, promoting peer exchange, and participating in partner-led coordination meetings. c) Regional exchange of experiences and good practices on blue carbon facilitated through collaboration in at least one regional event or knowledge-sharing initiative.
	Subject to the availability of funding			d) Technical guidance developed and support provided for the formulation or updating of at least two national policies or regulations incorporating blue economy and blue carbon ecosystem conservation.

Contribute to the development and validation of a Red List of Ecosystems (RLE) assessment for Caribbean coral reefs.	IUCN funds	IUCN	UNEP Cartagena Convention Secretariat, SPAW-RAC	a) Contribution provided to the Caribbean Red List of Ecosystems (RLE) assessment process for at least two subregions by providing technical inputs and facilitating expert validation.
				b) Development of a technical report identifying priority reef areas and recommended conservation actions supported through data sharing, peer review participation, and consultations with partners.
				c) Dissemination of final RLE outputs promoted and facilitated through at least three regional or global platforms or policy processes (e.g., CBD, ICRI, GCRMN), in collaboration with IUCN and other relevant actors.

2.4.2. Proposed Budget (indicative)

Activity	2026 Budgeted			2027 Budgeted		
	CTF	Other Contributions	Total cost	CTF	Other Contributions	Total Cost
Continue co-chairing GCRMN Caribbean node and support coral reef conservation.	-	-	-	-	-	-
Enhance understanding and awareness of Sargassum's ecological impacts and value, promoting good management practices, and integrating biodiversity considerations into a Sargassum regional action plan.	-	388,568.54 ¹	388,568.54	-	489,084.40 ¹	489,084.40
Enhance coral reef conservation and resilience in coral reefs of MPAs of the Gulf of Mexico.	-	103,192.00 ²	103,192.00	-	-	-
Promote regional cooperation and knowledge exchange on ecosystem restoration efforts focused on coral reefs, mangroves, and seagrass beds.	-	-	-	-	-	-
Support national implementation of the SPAW Protocol (marine and coastal ecosystems conservation, monitoring and restoration).	-	-	-	-	-	-
Contribute to the inclusion of blue carbon ecosystems in national climate strategies.	-	-	-	-	-	-
Contribute to the development and validation of a Red List of Ecosystems (RLE) assessment for Caribbean coral reefs.	-	-	-	-	-	-
TOTAL (USD)	-	491,760.54	491,760.54	-	489,084.40	489,084.40

¹ Includes funds from the EU INTERREG SARGCOOP II project and France

² Includes funds from the GoM LME project

3. CONCLUSION

21. The 2026–2027 Workplan of the SPAW Protocol sets forth a comprehensive and strategic framework to advance marine and coastal biodiversity conservation in

the Wider Caribbean Region. It reflects regional priorities while aligning with global biodiversity commitments, such as the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework. Through its thematic areas and activities, the Workplan seeks to strengthen governance, enhance the management of protected areas and species, promote ecosystem restoration and sustainable use, and foster collaboration and partnerships across sectors and stakeholders. This Workplan integrates the activities of the UNEP Cartagena Convention Secretariat and the SPAW-RAC in support of the SPAW Subprogramme, as well as contributions from other partners, projects, and initiatives that collectively advance the Protocol's implementation.

22. Successful implementation of the Workplan will depend on sustained cooperation among Contracting Parties, regional partners, and the broader stakeholder community, as well as the mobilization of adequate resources. By working together, leveraging synergies, and building on existing initiatives, the SPAW Protocol aims to maximize its impact, visibility, and contribution to the region's sustainable development and resilience.

ANNEX I: OVERVIEW OF PROJECTS SUPPORTING SPAW PROTOCOL IMPLEMENTATION, OUTLINING THE RESPONSIBILITY OF THE SECRETARIAT AND THE SPAW-RAC

Project	Deliverables	Information / Endorsement / Approval	Funds	Project Partners	Responsible	Timeline
GEF PROCARIBE+: Protecting and Restoring the Ocean's Natural Capital, Building Resilience, and Supporting Region-wide Investments for Sustainable Blue Socio-Economic Development in the Caribbean and North Brazil Shelf Large Marine Ecosystems (CLME+ region)	a) CaMPAM ToT curriculum digitized and made accessible online.	Information (endorsed and approved at SPAW COP11)	GEF (via UNDP)	UNDP, UN-OPS, SPAW-RAC, National Authorities	Cartagena Convention Secretariat	2025-2027
	b) Delivery of the 15th ToT edition for Spanish-speaking countries and implementation of follow-up activities from the 14th edition for English-speaking countries.					
	c) In Colombia: establishment of two new MPAs and strengthening of one existing MPA.					
	d) In the Dominican Republic: establishment of pilot OECMs and strengthening of one existing marine sanctuary.					
GEF GoM LME: Implementation of the Strategic Action Program of the Gulf of Mexico Large Marine Ecosystem	a) Agreement on at least four standardized coral reef indicators for MPAs in the Gulf of Mexico.	Information (endorsed and approved at SPAW COP11)	GEF (via UNEP)	UNEP, UN-OPS, SPAW-RAC, National Agencies of Mexico, USA and Cuba	Cartagena Convention Secretariat	2024-2026
	b) Development of at least one early warning protocol for coral bleaching or coral disease events, in collaboration with national partners.					
	c) Integration of national MPA monitoring data into SIMAR for improved regional data sharing and decision-making.					
	d) Contribution of technical input and data to the 2025 Caribbean Coral Reef Status Report.					
CAMAC Phase II: Caribbean Marine Megafauna and Anthropogenic Activities	a) Marine mammal regional stranding network maintained and strengthened through the creation of a focal point list and tools for data sharing.	Information (endorsed and approved at SPAW COP11)	EU Interreg Caribbean + various from project partners	OFB, SPAW-RAC, WWF-NL, WIDECAST, Birds Caribbean, Other local NGO	SPAW-RAC	2025-2027
	b) Socio-economic and environmental assessment on fisheries interactions with marine megafauna developed and in collaboration with at least two fisheries organizations.					
	c) WIDECAST supported in establishing a regional sea turtle stranding response network in at least five countries.					
	d) Continued contribution to the CARI'MAM network and support to the implementation of the Marine Mammal Action Plan (MMAP) in the Wider Caribbean Region.					
SARGCOOP II: Strengthening Regional Governance and Environmental Cooperation on Sargassum Management in the Wider Caribbean	a) At least one field study conducted and results published on the biodiversity impacts of sargassum in SPAW-listed MPAs by 2027.	Information (endorsed and approved at SPAW COP11)	EU Interreg Caribbean + various from project partners	Conseil regional de Guadeloupe, University of Antilles, Geo blue Planet, OECs Other local NGO	SPAW-RAC	2025-2027
	b) Development or integration of at least one ecosystem vulnerability forecasting tool into regional data systems supported.					

Regional Support Program for SPAW-listed MPAs	a) Organization of at least one exchange visit, two regional webinars, and a peer mentoring programme among managers of SPAW-listed MPAs.	Information	Funding being sought	NatureXpairs, Reserves Naturelles de France	SPAW-RAC	2026-2030
	b) Development of a draft strategy to ensure the long-term sustainability and financing of the SPAW-listed MPA Network beyond 2030.					
	c) Implementation of climate adaptation planning in at least two pilot SPAW-listed MPAs, including the development of site-specific coastal erosion risk management plans.					
SPAW Small Grant Program	a) Launch of a call for proposals and selection of at least four civil society-led projects focused on biodiversity conservation by 2027.	Information	Funding being sought	Local NGOs, National Authorities	SPAW-RAC	2026-2027
	b) Implementation of site-based ecosystem restoration and species conservation activities in SPAW-listed areas.					
	c) Compilation and publication of a regional best practices and lessons learned report based on the outcomes of the funded projects.					

ANNEX II. BUDGET OF THE SPAW SUB-PROGRAMME FOR THE 2026-2027 BIENNIUM

Thematic Areas	2026 Budgeted			2027 Budgeted			Total
	CTF	Other Contributions	Total cost	CTF	Other Contributions	Total Cost	
Programme Coordination and Strategic Partnership	419,800.00	588,500.00	1,008,300.00	499,456.00	524,300.00	1,023,756.00	2,032,056.00
Strengthening Marine Protected Areas in the WCR	-	410,348.50	410,348.50	-	45,333.34	45,333.34	455,681.84
Conservation of Threatened and Endangered Species	-	260,260.00	260,260.00	-	202,441.80	202,441.80	462,701.80
Conservation, Restoration and Sustainable Use of Coastal and Marine Ecosystems	-	491,760.54	491,760.54	-	489,084.40	489,084.40	980,844.94
TOTAL (USD)	419,800.00	1,750,869.04	2,170,669.04	499,456.00	1,261,159.54	1,760,615.54	3,931,284.58

ANNEX III: LIST OF UNFUNDED ACTIVITIES

Thematic Area	Proposed Activity	Deliverables	Estimated Budget
Programme Coordination and Strategic Partnerships	Promote ratification of the SPAW Protocol by Non-Contracting Parties.	Presented the SPAW Protocol in at least three regional or international forums.	15,000.00
		One outreach package to promote ratification developed, including technical guidance and communication materials, and disseminated to all nine non-Contracting Parties.	5,000.00
	Continue implementation of the SPAW Protocol and development of its supporting regional sub-programme.	Developed at least four outreach products (e.g., factsheets, short videos) annually targeting decision-makers and civil society.	5,000.00
	Support contracting parties (upon request) to update and enhance the implementation of Regional and/or National Biodiversity Strategies and Action Plans (NBSAPs), incorporating marine biodiversity conservation, sustainable use, and alignment with the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework.	Support provided to update NBSAPs in at least two countries, with final documents submitted and aligned with KM-GBF targets.	60,000.00
	SPAW Small Grants Programme - Subject to the availability of funding	At least one call for proposals launched	230,000.00
		At least two rounds of technical follow-up with all funded partners during implementation conducted.	20,000.00
	Facilitate the flow of national data and information from Contracting Parties to regional and global databases, including to support reporting on multilateral environmental agreements (e.g. UNGA and UNEA Resolutions), as well as contribute to the regional knowledge bases (e.g. WESR Cartagena Convention, GCRMN, SIMAR).	Mechanism and guidance developed to support data sharing from Contracting Parties to relevant regional and global databases	10,000.00
		Identification of priority datasets for reporting and indicators under UNGA, UNEA, and SDG frameworks	10,000.00
		Contribution to regional platforms (e.g., WESR, SIMAR, GCRMN) with updated national data	20,000.00
		At least 2 countries supported in aligning their marine data reporting with global frameworks	30,000.00
	Promote visibility and integration of SPAW priorities within key regional governance frameworks and decision-making bodies (e.g., OECS, CARICOM, ACS, CCAD, LAC, OCM).	Participation in at least three high-level or technical meetings of regional organizations to present SPAW-related priorities and foster alignment.	15,000.00
	Initiate the process for the development of a SPAW Compliance Mechanism through intergovernmental consultation.	Concept note and roadmap for the development of a compliance mechanism prepared for discussion at SPAW STAC12.	15,000.00
		Terms of Reference for the Working Group on Compliance drafted.	15,000.00
	Undertake periodic reviews of bilateral cooperation with partner organizations to enhance synergies and impact on the implementation of the SPAW Protocol in the countries.	At least one joint activity with CRFM and the BE-CLME+ project to advance marine spatial planning and MPA management.	30,000.00
		At least two joint technical or policy initiatives implemented in collaboration with regional integration bodies (e.g., CARICOM, OECS, ACS) to strengthen alignment with marine biodiversity priorities.	60,000.00
	Provide technical assistance and guidance to Contracting Parties for the implementation of the Cartagena Convention and the SPAW Protocol.	Guidance on the national implementation of the Contracting Parties and the SPAW Protocol provided through briefs and model cabinet papers.	10,000.00

	Strengthen collaboration with civil society organizations (CSOs), particularly by promoting continued engagement with the SPAW Consortium.	At least two joint webinars or technical exchanges with CSOs on marine biodiversity themes conducted.	1,000.00
		Desk studies on sustainable tourism, ecosystems, climate change impacts, and the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework targets integration in NBSAPs, coordinated, with results presented at STAC12 and COP14.	1,000.00
Strengthening Protected Areas in the WCR	Deliver capacity building on MPA management through the CaMPAM Training of Trainers (ToT) programme.	15th CaMPAM ToT edition for Spanish-speaking countries delivered, with participation from at least eight countries and 20 MPA practitioners.	80,000.00
		At least five follow-up activities from the 15th CaMPAM ToT edition implemented in Spanish-speaking countries.	50,000.00
	Support the establishment and strengthening of MPAs and OECMs, in collaboration with national and local partners.	Newly created and existing MPAs supported to be included in the SPAW list of MPAs	15,000.00
	Support the operationalization of the SPAW-listed Protected Area Managers Network (contingent on review of the proposal at the SPAW STAC), including exchanges, trainings, and peer-to-peer collaboration.	One companionship program implemented, two regional webinars delivered, and one exchange visit organized for protected area managers.	190,000.00
		Climate adaptation methodology tested at least in two SPAW-listed pilot sites, and site-specific coastal erosion management plans developed.	150,000.00
		Educational protected areas deployed and call for micro projects launched.	100,000.00
		Participation in the dynamics of supra-regional protected area networks ensured.	20,000.00
		Draft post-2030 roadmap developed and preliminary economic model for the long-term sustainability of the network proposed.	50,000.00
	Enhance synergies and joint initiatives with other Caribbean and global MPA networks to promote shared tools, best practices, and coordinated actions.	Joint activities and knowledge exchange between regional MPA networks facilitated.	20,000.00
		Collaboration with the global MPA network of MPA networks formalized through a joint work plan.	5,000.00
		Caribbean representation ensured in at least two international biodiversity events or platforms.	10,000.00
	Promote sustainable tourism practices to strengthen MPA management, support biodiversity conservation, and encourage the sustainable use of coastal and marine ecosystems in the Wider Caribbean Region.	Initial discussions and coordination efforts initiated to develop Regional Standards on Sustainable Tourism for the Wider Caribbean Region.	10,000.00
		Adoption of the Green Fins Code of Conduct promoted in at least two additional MPAs.	10,000.00
		Two regional training sessions on Green Fins standards for tourism operators and MPA practitioners conducted.	20,000.00
		Communication materials linking Green Fins practices with SPAW biodiversity targets produced.	5,000.00
	Communication and information on species listed in SPAW Annexes of the SPAW protocol.	Regional legislative review on species listed in SPAW Annexes I–III completed, covering at least five Contracting Parties.	40,000.00

Conservation of Threatened and Endangered Species	Promote regional collaboration for the protection of manatee populations.	Technical and coordination support provided for the development of a regional manatee conservation alliance, by participating in partner-led initiatives, facilitating knowledge sharing, and supporting the drafting of a joint vision or action outline.	50,000.00
Conservation, Restoration and Sustainable Use of Coastal and Marine Ecosystems	Promote regional cooperation and knowledge exchange on ecosystem restoration efforts focused on coral reefs, mangroves, and seagrass beds.	a) At least one regional exchange or webinar organized to showcase restoration guidelines and case studies on coral, mangrove, and seagrass restoration.	2,000.00
		b) At least one joint activity or proposal developed with AMEP or fisheries organizations linking restoration to pollution reduction and habitat protection.	200,000.00
		c) Inventory or repository of existing regional and national restoration guidelines and protocols developed and disseminated.	5,000.00
	Contribute to the inclusion of blue carbon ecosystems in national climate strategies.	Technical guidance developed and support provided for the formulation or updating of at least two national policies or regulations incorporating blue economy and blue carbon ecosystem conservation.	60,000.00
Total			1,309,000.00

ANNEX IV: CURRENT AND POTENTIAL COLLABORATIONS AND SYNERGIES WITH INSTITUTIONS, PROJECTS, AND INITIATIVES SUPPORTING THE SPAW PROTOCOL

Institution / Project / Initiative	Scope	Alignment with SPAW	Current / Potential Collaboration or Synergies
CAF	Sustainable financing for conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity and marine resources	Support to Sargassum management and GBF implementation	Potential collaboration for Sargassum management and GBF implementation
CANARI	Community-based conservation and governance	Local stakeholder engagement	Current and potential collaboration on governance research, reporting, and capacity building
CBF	Sustainable financing for conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity and marine resources	Actioning the Blue MPA roadmap (30x30) and MPA Facility – EMPAC project, BuEFin project, national trust funds, and Sargassum actions.	Current collaboration on Actioning the Blue MPA roadmap (30x30)
CERMES, UWI	Academic research and capacity building	Capacity building and Sargassum research and management	Ongoing collaboration in CaMPAM ToT and on Sargassum
Conseil Regional de Guadeloupe	Regional government agency (regional council of Guadeloupe)	Sargassum management	Current collaboration through SARGCOOP II project
CRFM	Regional fisheries policy coordination in the Caribbean	Fisheries governance, habitat protection	Current collaboration through SOI, OCM, PRO-CARIBE+ and the BE CLME+
ECOP	Youth engagement in ocean governance	Capacity building and intergenerational equity	Ongoing collaboration on youth engagement and visibility
EU / Euroclima+	Climate resilience and marine adaptation	Sargassum management and NbS	Potential collaboration on funding and regional coordination
FiTI	Fisheries transparency and governance	Sustainable fisheries, Data management, listed species management	Potential collaboration on outreach and awareness
GCFI	Fisheries science and training in the Gulf and Caribbean	MPA management, EBM promotion	Current joint participation in annual meetings and outreach, Support to the implementation of CaMPAM.
GFCR	Financing coral reef resilience	Coral reef conservation and restoration	Current support in Bahamas, MAR, and San Andres
GRID-Arendal	Global marine data visualization and assessments	Support to regional reporting and visualization	Current collaboration on regional assessments on ICZM, BBNJ, and MSP
GRID-Geneva	Environmental data and reporting tools	Support to Cartagena Convention reporting	Ongoing collaboration on data flows
ICRI	Global coral reef conservation partnership	Coral reef monitoring (GCRMN), conservation and restoration	Ongoing collaboration coral reefs policies, monitoring (GCRMN-Caribbean node), conservation and restoration
MAR Fund	Reef and coastal conservation financing	Support for MPAs, coastal and marine ecosystems conservation.	Ongoing collaboration through joint activities and existing MoU
MSP-Global	Marine Spatial Planning processes	Integration of MPAs into national MSP	Current collaboration through IOCARIBE and MSPGlobal
NatureXpairs	The French Hub for Protected Areas and people	Strengthen PA networks and managerial capacity	Current collaboration through the development of a project to support the SPAW PA network
OBPS	Open data and best practices	Policy harmonization and transparency	Current collaboration through the OBPS Policy Task Team and the OBPS ADAPT project

OFB-Agoa Sancturay	Marine mammals sanctuary	Protection, knowledge and awareness on marine mammals conservation	Current collaboration through CAMAC project
OSPESCA	Regional fisheries policy coordination in Central America	Fisheries governance, habitat protection	Current collaboration through SOI, OCM, and PROCARIBE+
Saltwatta Roots	Traditional knowledge and MPA expansion	Community-based MPAs and cultural integration	Potential collaboration on transboundary site governance
SOI (CBD)	Global platform to build partnerships and enhance capacity to conserve and sustainably use marine and coastal biodiversity.	Technical exchange and regional implementation	Ongoing engagement through workshops and dialogues
TNC	Regional conservation planning and data platform development for 30x30	Supports science-based marine conservation and spatial planning.	Current collaboration through the 30x30 Caribbean Science Data Platform, including data integration, regional analyses, and joint communication efforts
UNESCO IOCARIBE	Caribbean-wide ocean science and policy coordination	Marine Spatial Planning, data sharing, policy dialogue	Current collaboration through OCM and PROCARIBE+
WECAFC-FAO	Regional fisheries policy coordination in the WCA	Sustainable fisheries, regional assessments	Ongoing collaboration through WECAFC working groups, SOI, OCM, and PROCARIBE+. Potential collaboration on Fish Spawning Aggregation Plan
WIDECAST	Wider Caribbean Sea Turtle Conservation Network	Support sea turtle conservation (annexe II)	Current collaboration through CAMAC
WWF Netherland	World Wide Fund for Nature	Support megafauna conservation	Current collaboration through CAMAC