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

Panama City, Panama
30 June – 3 July 2025

SPA-W-RAC 2022 and 2023 CALL FOR PROPOSALS

Report

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

SPAW-RAC CALL FOR PROPOSALS



Context

This annual call for proposals is a Caribbean funding program set up in 2020 and initiated by the SPAW-RAC. The aim of this call for proposals is to offer unique and accessible funding for organizations to take action and strengthen regional collaboration and the protection of species and biodiversity in the Wider Caribbean Region.

Strategic goal

- The main objective is to implement the SPAW Protocol by encouraging concrete actions for the conservation of biodiversity.
- Promote regional cooperation and strengthen the capacities of regional organizations and local actors and communities working in the field to protect biodiversity.

Key figures

- **2023:** 15 projects supported for a total of 94 000 euros
- **2024:** 16 projects supported for a total of 121 000 euros
- **Since 2020:**
 - SPAW-RAC has been supported **75 projects for a total of 600,800 euros.**
 - **69 organizations in 40 territories** and 26 countries have been supported.
 - 80% of beneficiary countries have ratified the SPAW protocol.
 - 71 species concerned are listed in the SPAW protocol
 - The projects cover a wide range of SPAW themes and have contributed to the preservation of 26 family of species and 16 protected areas.
 - 42 of the 75 projects (average 56%) include awareness-raising programs such as training, workshops and community awareness campaigns.

Role of the SPAW-RAC

SPAW-RAC funds and manages these calls for projects, including by monitoring the projects and evaluate the results achieved (the deliverables) by the beneficiaries.

Beneficiaries

The majority of the beneficiaries of calls for projects (64%) are local NGO or associations and foundations.

Topics

- improve efficiently the conservation status of threatened species;
- support MPA managers to improve the effectiveness of MPA management;
- implement actions to restore ecosystems or species populations;
- raise awareness and promoting a natural heritage for the conservation of marine biodiversity;
- empower communities and support sustainable resources management ;
- Support capacity-building programs.
- involving collaboration between Caribbean territories;

Agenda

Between 1 and 3 years

Budget SPAW-RAC

The budget depends on funding SPAW-RAC obtains, but should be part of a more sustainable funding scheme

TABLE OF CONTENT

I. INTRODUCTION1

II. BACKGROUND1

III. IMPLEMENTATION AND RESULTS2

IV. A LOOK BACK AT 5 YEARS OF CALLS FOR PROPOSALS FOR SHORT-TERM SMALL GRANTS6

V. CONCLUSION AND FUTURE PROSPECTS.....16

ANNEX 1. Call for proposals flyer 202317

ANNEX 2. New document presenting and promoting calls for projects.....18

ANNEX 3. List of the 31 projects supported in 2022 and 2023 23

ACRONYMS

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

I) INTRODUCTION

1. In 2022, the Regional Activity Centre for Specially Protected Areas and Wildlife (SPAW-RAC) launched a call for proposals for small short-term grants. 15 projects have been supported, representing more than 94 000 euros with funding from SPAW-RAC and the French Ministry of Environment.
2. In 2023, the Regional Activity Centre for Specially Protected Areas and Wildlife (SPAW-RAC) launched a call for proposals for small short-term grants. 16 projects have been supported, representing more than 121 000 euros with funding from SPAW-RAC and the French Ministry of Environment.

II) BACKGROUND

3. Due to the CoViD19 pandemic, 2020 has seen many conservation projects halted, funding withdrawn, and organizations weakened, more generally non-governmental organizations. Due to the CoViD19 pandemic, 2020 has seen many conservation projects halted, funding withdrawn and organizations weakened, most notably non-governmental organizations. In this context and in order to strengthen the capacities of regional actors and to fund projects in favor of Caribbean biodiversity, the Regional Activity Center for Specially Protected Areas and Wildlife has launched a call for proposals for small short-term grants (up to 10,000 euros / 4 months to 1 year). This first call for proposals was very successful and allowed to support many projects. The SPAW-RAC has decided to re-launch a call for proposals each year when funds are available.
4. The call has been launched with a deadline for submission on May, 15 in 2022 and April 3, in 2023. See Appendix 1 for the 2023 call for proposals document distributed on our social networks and website.
5. The map below provides an overview of the distribution of projects across the Wider Caribbean Region over the last two years.

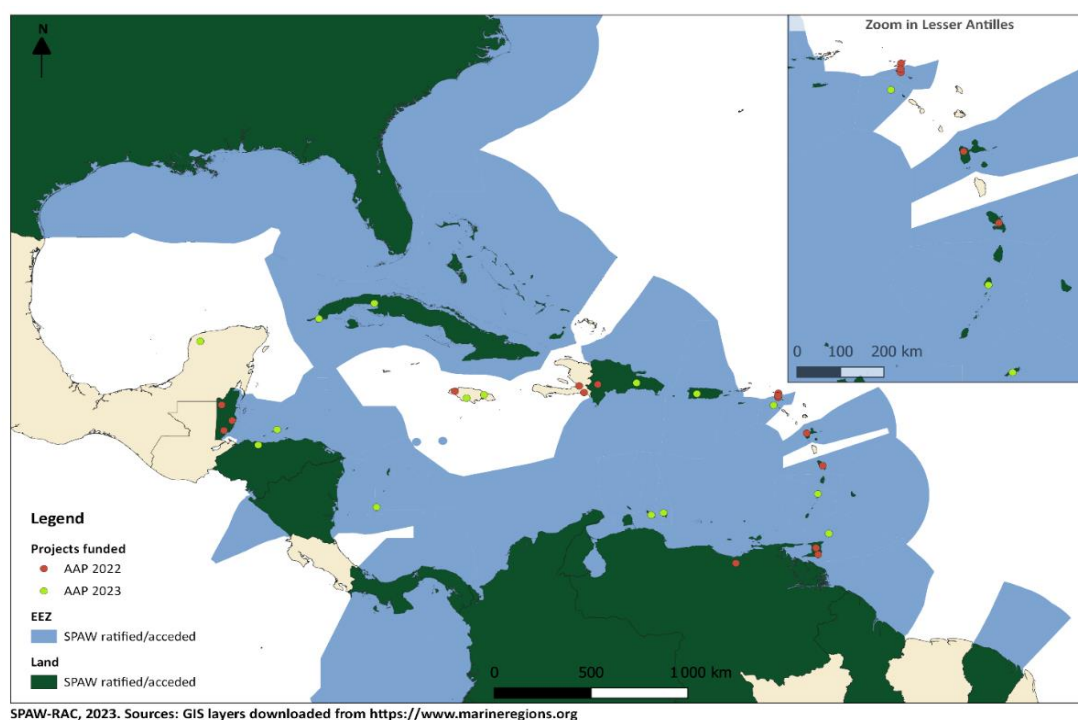


Figure 1. Location of the projects funded within the 2022 and 2023 SPAW-RAC call for proposals

6. The objective of the SPAW-RAC call for proposals programme is to provide financial support to support concrete actions aiming at:
 - effectively improving the status of conservation of threatened species in the Wider Caribbean Region, particularly those listed in the annexes of the SPAW protocol;
 - implementing management measures for threatened species and for the listed protected areas, in particular if they involve civil society actors;

- and implementing restoration actions as a priority within the protected areas listed of the protocol.

7. A particular attention has been paid to projects in SPAW Contracting Parties and countries that do not easily benefit from traditional funding sources (figure 1).
8. The proposals concerning plants, birds, fishes, including elasmobranchs, and sea turtles annexed to the SPAW protocol has been appreciated, but did not rule out other proposals. A diversity of criteria was taken into account, in particular the innovative aspect, the cooperation, the convergence of the project with the political topicality of the protocol, the status of the leading structure and its partners or even sometimes the implementation schedule.

III) IMPLEMENTATION AND RESULTS

Implementing the calls for projects program requires human resources, and it can take up to 3 years to complete a call cycle. The various stages include shaping and then launching calls for projects, then monitoring and managing, and finally sharing the results and communication actions.

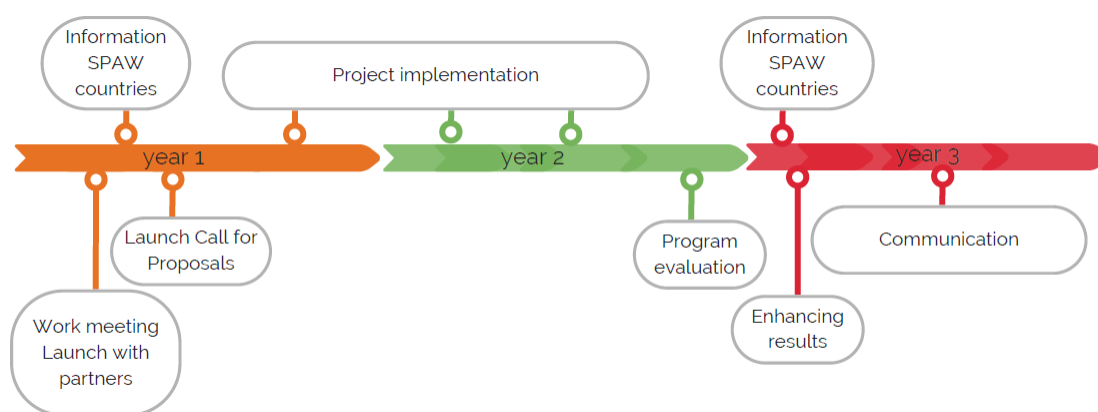


Figure 2. Timeline of small grants

9. 30 proposals have been received, several of which are of high quality, and 15 have been accepted in 2022 for a total amount of about 101 769 euros.
10. 27 proposals have been received, several of which are of high quality, and 16 have been accepted in 2023 for a total amount of about 121 862 euros.
11. Each project met the objectives of the SPAW work plan and was selected based on its relevance to the implementation of the SPAW protocol, its sustainability and its relevance to the territory in which the actions were implemented. This biennial, in line with our mission to promote the SPAW protocol, special attention and additional gratification was given to projects in SPAW Contracting Parties Through its 2022 and 2023 Call for proposals, SPAW-RAC supported 23 (twenty-three) projects on SPAW territories. This represents 74% of projects.

Through these calls for projects, SPAW-RAC provides concrete support for actions to restore ecosystems and protect endangered species, particularly those listed in the annexes to the protocol.

The two diagrams below (Figure 3, 4 and 5) show the distribution of the species targeted in the projects for the past two years.

We have observed that sea turtles and marine mammals are the most represented species, as these are the species for which we receive the most project applications.

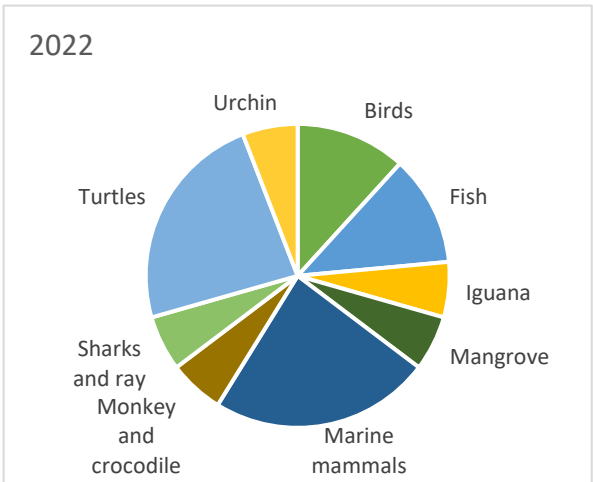


Figure 3. Distribuion of species or groups of species directly targeted by the actions of project leaders supported under the SPAW-RAC calls for projects programme.

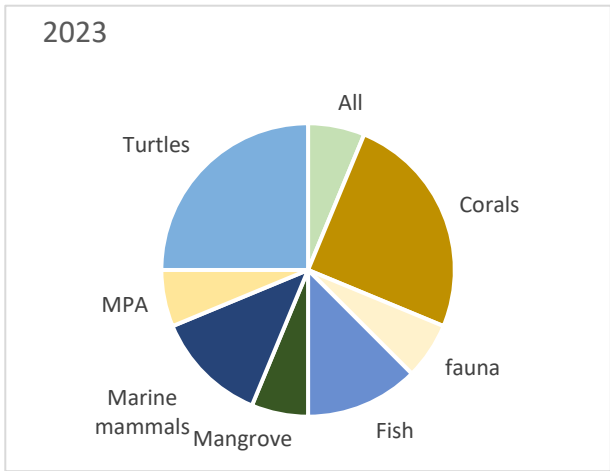


Figure 4. Distribution of protected species within the 2022 and 2023 SPAW-RAC call for proposals

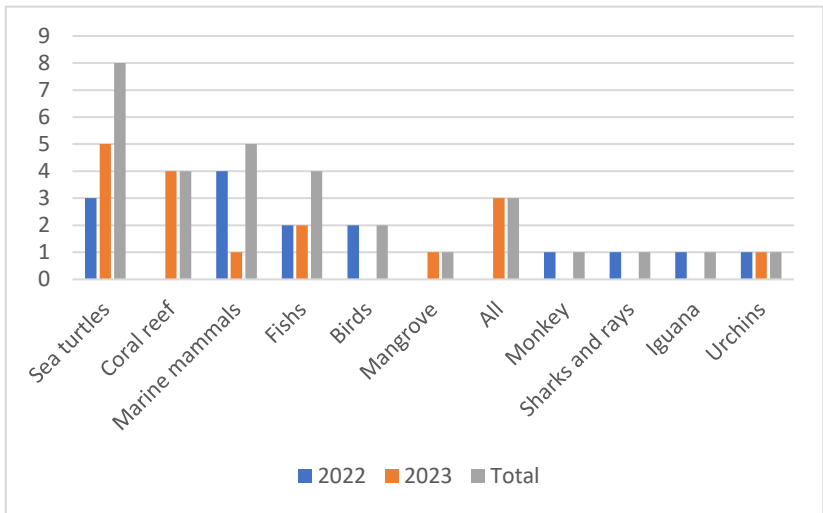


Figure 5. Distribution in figures of protected species within the 2022 and 2023 SPAW-RAC call for proposals

1. Corals

Through its 2023 Call for proposals, SPAW-RAC supported four (4) projects all on SPAW territories, on Coral *Acropora cerviconis* and *Acropora palmata* species (Annex III and annex II), another regarding action plan and guidelines against coral tissue loss disease (LCTLD), and restoration with nurseries. These projects have been implemented in Honduras, Cuba, Curacao and in the San Andres archipelago in Colombia.

2. Fishes and Marine mammals

As part of its 2022 and 2023 call for proposals, SPAW-RAC supported six (6) projects on this theme for small cetaceans, Pilot whales distribution, Manatee, Sharks, Rays and Dolphins were targeted in these projects.

3. Sea turtles

Through its 2022 and 2023 Call for proposals, SPAW-RAC supported five (6) NGO and two (2) foundation dedicated to Sea Turtles conservation throughout the Caribbean zone, such as in Mexico, Jamaica, Cuba, Trinidad and Tobago and Venezuela.

4. Mangrove restauration

SPAW-RAC supported one (1) mangrove project. Stitching Internos organized a workshop on tropical restoration in Costa Rica.

These projects cover a large part of the topics of interest in the SPAW protocol, which we have divided into 3 categories such as: Development of guidelines for management of PA and species, Conservation of threatened and endangered species and Strengthening of protected areas.

The table below (figure 6) shows the distribution and evolution of the topics covered in the calls for projects.

	Dvp of guidelines for management of PA and species		Conservation of threatened and endangered species		Strengthening of protected areas		Total
	Nb	%	Nb	%	Nb	%	Nb
2022	2	13%	11	73%	2	13%	15
2023	6	38%	9	56%	1	6%	16
Total	8	26%	20	65%	3	10%	31

Figure 6. Evolution of SPAW programs concerned by the SPAW-RAC call for proposals in 2022 and 2023

The majority of projects target species protection with an average of 65% over two years. In 2023 we observe an increase of projects related to the development of guidelines for management of PA and species. In 2023, this topic indeed concerned 38% of the projects (figure 5).

Inside these 3 categories, projects have various objectives: restoration, research, creation of a Digital Toolkit, Trainings, Improved data collection rehabilitation and conservation programs and local community awareness raising action. Always focused on conservation within the framework of the SPAW protocol. For more details on the content of the projects, you can refer to the summary table of the 2022 and 2023 projects in Annex 3.

IV) A LOOK BACK AT 5 YEARS OF CALLS FOR PROPOSALS FOR SHORT-TERM SMALL GRANTS

SPAW-RAC's small grants is a success story. We are proud to support the work done by NGOs, scientists, conservationists and public entity through the Wider Caribbean region.

This program well known and recognized by user and Contracting Parties as useful and successful has become a showcase for the SPAW program and an excellent source of public awareness.

1) Key figures: small grants program since 2020

To begin with and to place this program in a quantified context, here are some key figures to illustrate and summarize 5 years of financing and monitoring inspiring projects.

This last 5 years, through the small grant call for proposals, the SPAW-RAC has been supported 75 projects for a total of €600,800. This represents an average of 15 projects/year for an average of €120,160 per year (figure 7 and 8).

Budget per year in €	
2020	130 789
2021	97 968
2022	101 769
2023	121 862
2024	148 412
Total budget since 2020	600 800
Average	120 160

Figure 7 Evolution of the budget allocated to small grants since 2020

Projects financed per year	
2020	17
2021	13
2022	15
2023	16
2024	14
Total projects funded since 2020	75
Average	15

Fig 8 Number of projects selected since 2020

The projects cover a wide range of SPAW themes and have contributed to the **preservation of 26 family of species and 16 MPAs.**

42 of the 75 projects include awareness-raising programs such as training, workshops and community awareness campaigns. The popularity of this topic has risen sharply, reaching 93% in 2024.(Figure 9)

Year	number of project with Awareness topic	%
2020	7	41%
2021	6	46%
2022	8	53%
2023	8	50%
2024	13	93%
Total	42	
Average %		56%

Figure 9. 1 Evolution of small grants including awareness programs in their projects

We have supported 69 organizations in 40 territories and 26 countries (figure 10).

Of these 69 organizations, 15 received grants twice and two 3 times. This demonstrates the loyalty and commitment to this program.

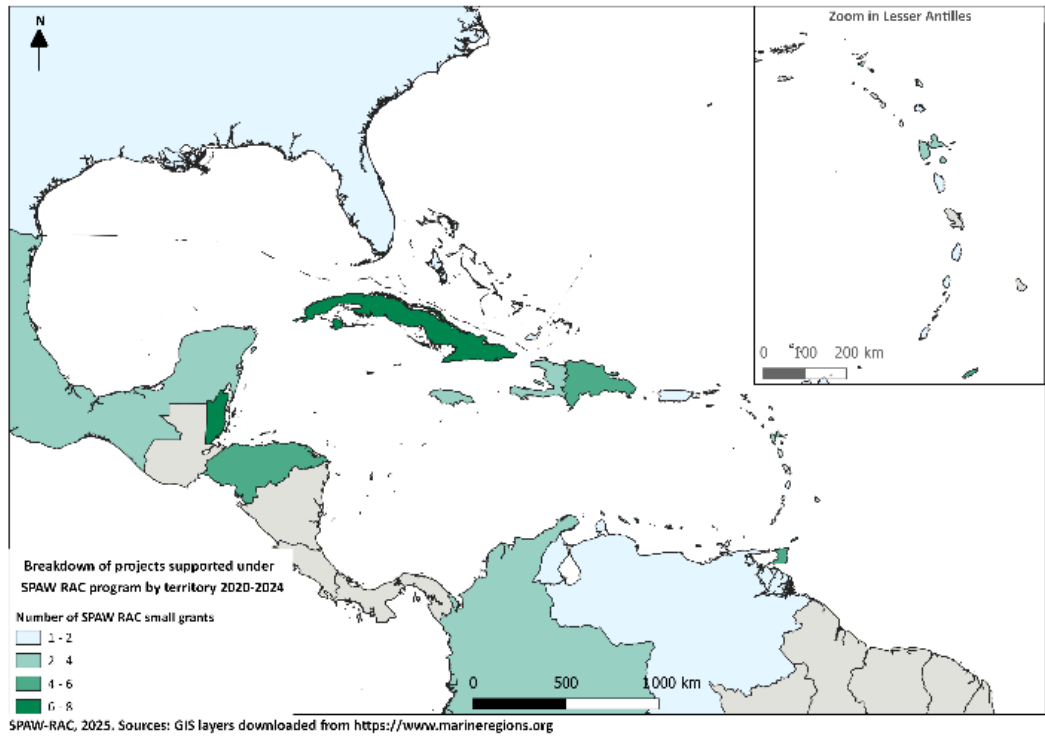


Figure 10. Map showing the number of small grants awarded per territory in the Wider Caribbean

2) The small grant program Improve the effectiveness of PA management

Among the validated projects, four (4) are being implemented to strengthening protected areas in the Caribbean and are being carried out by PAs managers and/or in listed Pas in the Caribbean. In 2023 and 2024, the -SPAW-RAC supported: Seaflower Marine Biosphere Reserve, (Colombia), Parc national de Cayos De San Felipe and Parque Nacional Guanahacabibes (Cuba), St Eustatius National Parks in St Eustatius, Protection of Yarari Marine Mammal and Shark Sanctuary (Bonaire) and preparatory work to update the management plans of a dozen SPAW protected areas.

3) The call for proposals is an opportunity to promote protocol

Focusing on actions in favor of SPAW protocol species and protected areas, these calls for proposals offer significant publicity and positive, concrete visibility in the field in all Caribbean territories. **The small grant program is a concrete field application of the protocol supporting concrete actions mainly undertaken by civil society and local population. This program is an opportunity to raise awareness of biodiversity conservation and SPAW’s stakes and objectives. In supporting conservation actions build and made by locale population, the SPAW-RAC small grant program is becomes a real showcase for the SPAW protocol.**

On average, 80% of PAA beneficiary countries have ratified the SPAW protocol. With the exception of 2022, this percentage has remained fairly stable over the years (figure 11). The SPAW-RAC small grant program support the organization from the SPAW contracting parties.

Number of beneficiary territories that have ratified the SPAW Protocol		En %
2020	15	88,2%
2021	11	84,6%
2022	10	66,7%
2023	13	81,3%
2024	11	78,6%
Average		12,0 79,9%

Figure 11. Number of beneficiary territories that have ratified the SPAW protocol since 2020

4) Calls for proposals are an effective way of protecting species

As the diagram (figure 9) below shows, The SPAW program most in demand is the one for the conservation of threatened and endangered species which represent 60% of the projects target supported.

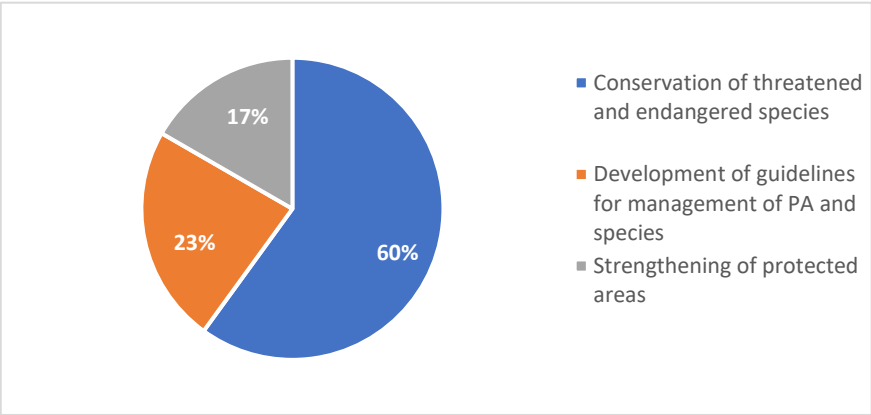


Figure 12. Distribution of projects according to the SPAW programs since 2020

Regarding protected species, the diagram below (Figure 13) shows the top 3 species most targeted by the projects are in first position sea turtles, corals and then marine mammals.

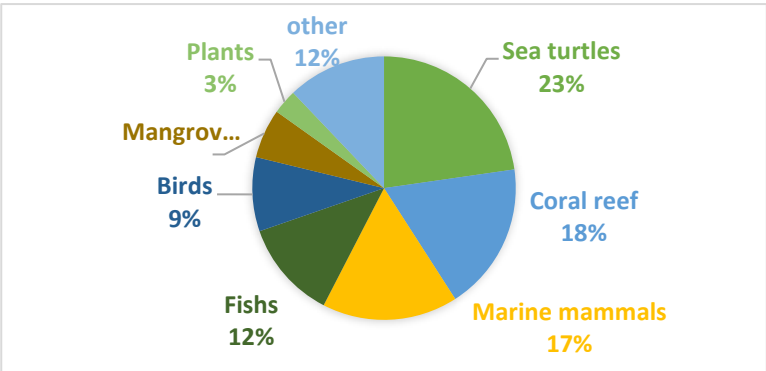


Figure 13. Distribution of species concerned by the projects since 2020

The projects have thus contributed to the preservation of more than 16 group of species (Sea Turtles, Coral reef, Marine mammals, Fishes, Birds, Mangrove, Sharks and rays, Plants, Conch, Iguana, Crocodile, Lobster, Monkey, Otter, Seagrass and Urchins).

Of these species, **71 are protected by the SPAW protocol**, 57 of which are listed in (Appendix II) and 14 are listed in (Appendix III)

5) An original, unique and solidarity-based funding

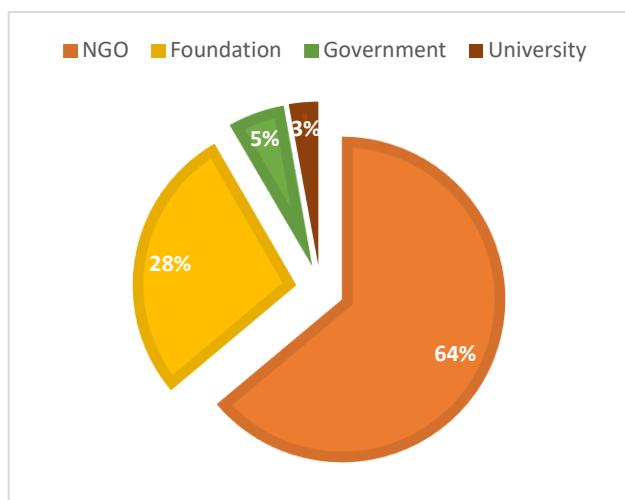


Figure 14. Distribution of beneficiaries since 2020

The SPAW-RAC calls for projects program is accessible to organizations that do not easily benefit from the usual sources of funding and therefore have a solidarity-based scope. Indeed, **the majority of the beneficiaries of our calls for projects (64%) are local NGO or associations and foundations** that do not always have access to international funding. (Figure 14).

By supporting the implementation of conservation programs and the construction of projects by civil society, the SPAW-RAC calls for projects help to improve the capacity of NGOs in terms of action and project management. The projects contribute to improving quality of life by supporting fisheries resources, ecosystem health and conservation of the common heritage.

6) The small grant program is developing international cooperation and strengthening community involvement

Six (6) then ten (10) projects in 2023 and 2024 involved local communities through educational workshops, training and awareness campaigns. We note that over 70% of projects include a communication and training component. The importance of sharing and positive community integration is an issue that has been considered. Developing innovative communication and education strategies is seen as a key to the success of environmental protection missions in the medium and long term.



photos credits : Capacity building for sea turtle protection and monitoring at the SPAW site in Cayos de San Felipe National Park, Restoration of Acropora Corals in Guanahacabibes National Park to Enhance Climate Change Resilience in Cuba, Historias desde el borde del mar in Honduras, Sea turtle biomonitoring in the yucatan peninsula.

7) Focus on our partners' experience feedback

a) Studio Canek's online course project

Studio Canek realised in 2023 a very original project “Historias desde el borde del mar » with the local community in Honduras consisting on a training program for journalists on protected species.

The project aimed at creating a series of in-person workshops on radio journalism, and an online course to teach journalists to gather facts about endangered species and protected areas.

As a result, through an online course, 22 people were made aware of the SPAW and the role of protected areas in the Wider Caribbean, and how to research information about these and endangered species. Approximately 35 people, all of whom work in the protection of natural protected areas on the coast of Honduras, received training in how to communicate about environmental issues and progress made to mitigate them.

Beneficial effects for all

For Studio Canek, it has helped us take steps towards our long-term goal of helping environmental organizations in Latin America.

For the partner, Centro de Estudio Marinos, it has helped them create communication products that explain their activities to the public and other practitioners.

For the local volunteer participants, it has given them pride in their work and a voice. It was personally very satisfying to write a radio script alongside local people, many with not much formal education, and seeing them realize how amazing their work is as soon as they put it into their own words.

Below is the feedback from Conrad Fox, project manager:

“The project we participated in (2023/2024) allowed our local partner the Honduran marine conservation organization Centro de Estudios Marinos to promote their work through podcasts, a novel media channel that allowed them to stand out on socail media. They report that this not only brought them a new audience outside the organization, but stimulated greater participation and excitement from within, especially among children. The project help our organization, Studio Canek, to strengthen our work in online education and communication in marine conservation.”

2025, Conrad Fox, Studio Canek, studiocanek.com

To find out more about this inspiring project, you can visit the website to discover the online courses.

<https://studiocanek.com/spawproject/dashboard/>

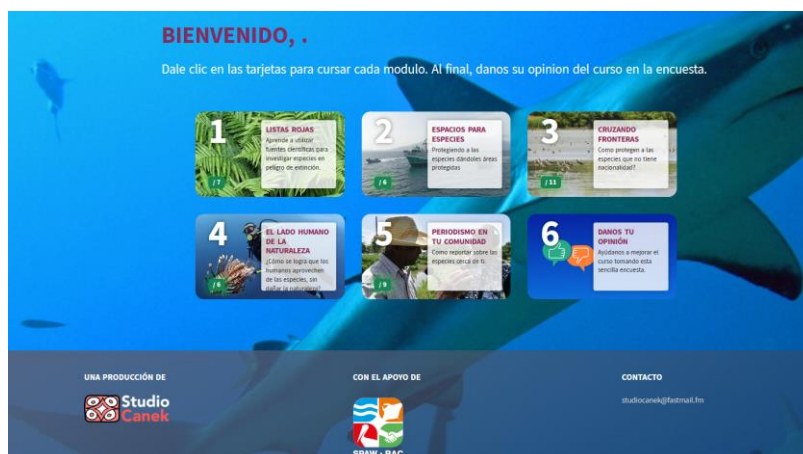


Figure 8. Studio Canek online courses home page

And on the next page, discover the summary sheet of the project report:

STUDIO CANEK

"HISTORIAS DESDE EL BORDE DE LA EXTINCIÓN" STORIES FROM THE EDGE OF EXTINCTION

Media

Introduction

NAME OF THE ORGANIZATION: STUDIO CANEK
Country : Honduras
Dates of the project: 2023
SPAW grant : 7 000 €





Presentation of the organizations

Studio Canek is a small multimedia company based in Canada exploring new ways to use digital media in journalism and education, with a focus on parts of the world that don't always get a lot of either.

The local partner was **the Centro de Estudios Marinos (CEM)** a Honduran NGO that works to preserve coastal environments through environmental education, remediation such as garbage cleanup and mangrove planting, artisanal fishing and sustainable economic development. Centro de Estudios Marinos works closely with several agencies attached to the Ministry of the Environment.

Presentation of the project (Major threats, challenges outcomes...)

"Historias desde el borde de la extinción" is a media project implemented in different regions of Honduras. The participants targeted belongs to communities around Mazca and La Ceiba Honduras, in or bordering the Refugio de la Vida Silvestre Cuyamel and Parque Nacional Marina Islas de la Bahia.

The project consisted of two distinct initiatives:
a series of in-person workshops on radio journalism (radio workshop), and **an online course** in how to gather facts about endangered species and protected areas.

Through our online course, 22 people were made aware of the SPAW and the role of protected areas in the Greater Caribbean, and how to research information about these and endangered species. Approximately 35 people, all of whom work in the protection of natural protected areas on the coast of Honduras, received training in how to communicate about environmental issues and progress made to mitigate them.

The 6 podcasts episodes produced will be distributed through social network and will allow CEM to share those lessons with other practitioners in the region. Furthermore, they have expressed a commitment to continue producing podcasts about the issues they face, which can only help to further the spread of information about marine conservation.

Despite their long experience with marine conservation, none of the participants were aware of the SPAW. Our online course helped fill that gap, and turn their attention to cross-border issues of conservation in the Greater Caribbean.

<https://studiocanek.com/>

b) Focus on Big Fish Initiative's radio project

In 2021, SPAW-RAC allocated a small grant to The Big Fish Initiative through the SCRFA organization for a highly original project to raise awareness of species protection through radio communication. The specific objectives of this project were to inform mariners and fishing-dependent communities about the protection of reef fish and to encourage them to take account of aggregations periods in the fishing calendar in order to preserve the renewal of species, in particular the Nassau-grouper and the Snapper-grouper.

Over 3 years this participatory campaign and project called "Big Fish Radio" took place in Belize, then in the Bahamas, and in view of its success was then developed and implemented throughout the Caribbean.

The podcasts and PSAs were broadcasted during the spawning seasons of Nassau grouper and mutton snapper in Belize and The Bahamas. Additionally, partners of the Big Fish Initiative in English speaking countries distributed the Radio kit through their respective channels and social media platforms. The podcasts and PSAs were also distributed by fishers of the Big Fish Network through their WhatsApp groups.

The radio kit has also been shared and/or promoted in international congresses, and meetings and workshops in both countries (Belize & The Bahamas), as well as the US, Puerto Rico, US Virgin Islands.

Note: The Belizean's Blue Economy Ministry has been using the radio kit in their outreach activities.

RADIO KIT

Nassau Grouper PSA

Big fish Hub: <https://bigfishinitiative.com/.../2151/nassau-grouper-psa/>

Spotify: <https://open.spotify.com/episode/1osm4ku9XjiQk4dDexaXRA...>

Fish Smart / Podcast

Big Fish Hub:

<https://bigfishinitiative.com/.../2134/fish-smart-podcast/>

Spotify:

<https://open.spotify.com/episode/5gcGhSi8Cmb26vbUiwimjl...>

SPAW's small grants have been key for the Big Fish Initiative, which just received two Anthem awards; one of them was best international campaign on "Community Engagement". It's precisely this aspect of our regional campaign that SPAW helped develop. By contributing to the radio production of our campaign, we were able to reach fishing communities in the wider Caribbean through the channels that they use the most: radio, social media and WhatsApp. The podcasts and Public Service Announcements that we produced with SPAW's small grant informed fishing communities (and decision-makers, as well) of the fishing bans during the reproductive seasons of two important species in the region: mutton snapper and nassau grouper (the latter a critically endangered species by the IUCN). We also engaged target audiences with (digital and live) discussions around two key messages: the benefits of protecting spawning fish to recover these commercial species and the importance of having a fishing community organized and connected throughout the region.

2025, Ana Salceda, Big Fish Initiative, Campaign Manager, Impact Strategist, Filmmaker

And on the next page, discover the summary sheet of the project report:



Introduction :

Name of the organization : SCRFA
Country : Belize and Bahamas
Dates of the project: 2021
SPAW grant : 8000 €



Presentation of the organization :

Science and Conservation of Fish Aggregations (SCRFA) is a United States registered 501(c)(3) organization that seeks to raise awareness about the vulnerabilities of fish spawning aggregations, and improve their protection and management.

Presentation of the project (Major threats, challenges outcomes...)

Major threats : Overfishing/fishing during spawning season of the species within the snapper-grouper complex and limited management.

"Big Fish Radio" project raises awareness about reef fish aggregations, including Nassau grouper (*Epinephelus striatus*) and mutton snapper (*Lutjanus analis*). The implementation of this communication project and its participatory campaign "Big Fish" over three years, first in Belize and the Bahamas, then throughout the Caribbean.

The specific objectives of this project are to inform mariners and fishery-dependent communities :

- the benefits generated by the protection of these species during their spawning periods ;
- and the periods of prohibition of fishing of these two species.

To this end, a communication toolkit in English is being developed for dissemination through marine radio and social networks.

This project promotes regional management plans on aggregations of WECAFC (Western Central Atlantic Fishery Commission), and is supported by the Caribbean Fishery Management Council (CFMC).



Website : www.scrfa.org

Social media:



SCRFA
SCIENCE AND CONSERVATION
OF FISH AGGREGATIONS

c) Haiti Ocean Project

Since 2007, the primary mission of Fondation Haiti Ocean Project (HOP) is the conservation and protection of high-profile marine species and critical habitat, including a focus on marine mammals, sea turtles, sharks and stingrays, through education of youth, research and data collection, community outreach, public policy, and ecotourism. HOP is also a leader in advocacy between Haiti and the world, to guide communities, fishermen, youth, and policies, in order to bring about positive change in the way marine species are viewed and utilized in Haiti. At its core, HOP's goals are to build relationships and tackle the root causes of poverty, which endangers local marine species, and promote protection of ecologically important marine life in Haiti.



photos credits : Haiti Ocean Project

We officially started our project to protect manatees and sea turtles along the southern border of Haiti and the Dominican Republic (DR) a few months ago. It started off very successful, as we have already translated educational materials about both species in Spanish and Creole, with the help of our project partner FUNDEMAR in the DR. We recently traveled to Anse a Pitres, Haiti, where the Haiti Ocean Project (HOP) team conducted drone surveys, education workshops with youth and fishers, and recruited volunteers to train for sea turtle nesting beach monitoring. The newly formed Wider Caribbean Manatee Alliance is holding a workshop this week in Punta Cana, DR, and invited HOP president/founder Jamie Aquino and FUNDEMAR director Rita Sellares, who have emphasized the importance of our SPAW-RAC project toward protecting manatees and sea turtles in both countries.

Jamie Aquino, president/founder Haiti Ocean Project
Haitioceanproject.org

V) CONCLUSION AND FUTURE PROSPECTS

The calls for projects and their successes and highlights the need of Caribbean organizations for funding to implement small projects or to supplement budget for larger operations. It has made it possible to support operations on quite varied subjects of interest for the SPAW.

Furthermore, recently, thanks to the results of the survey on “interest in and implementation of the SPAW protocol” among the contracting parties, we have received very positive feedback on this operational and concrete program.

Every year, we receive proposals that deserve to be supported and which the SPAW-RAC would like to implement, but for which we cannot give a favorable response due to a lack of resources. **The SPAW-RAC is currently looking for solutions and urgently seeking financial support to enable their implementation.**

The benefits of this program in terms of efficiency of action and visibility in the field are undeniable. By continuing to provide concrete support to operators in the field, managers and civil society, we are supporting, by extension, the SPAW Contracting Parties to achieve the objectives of the SPAW protocol.

Given the success of the call for proposals program, the SPAW-RAC would like to continue and make the call for proposals program sustainable. Until now, these programs have been financed by our own funds and are therefore subject to annual renewal. This instability is detrimental to the proper process and to the respect of the schedules for the implementation of calls for projects and the SPAW-RAC is no longer able to support financially this program on its own budget.

SPAW-RAC is currently looking for solutions **to enable their implementation in a more sustainable manner and to establish this program in the Wider Caribbean on a long-term basis.** (Promotional leaflet for the SPAW calls for projects program in appendix 2).

ANNEX 1. Call for proposals flyer 2023

CALL FOR PROJECTS

CAR SPAW SUBSIDIZES YOUR PROJECT

A call for projects is open until April 3, 2023 by the Regional Activity Center for the Specially Protected Areas and Wildlife Protocol of the Wider Caribbean Region (SPAW-RAC) for small grants for short-term projects.

Closing date: April 3, 2023 at midnight in Guadeloupe (UTC-4))

MAIN OBJECTIVES

The main objective of this call for projects is the implementation of the SPAW Protocol by promoting concrete actions for the conservation of biodiversity in the countries and territories of the Greater Caribbean Region that have signed the SPAW (Specially Protected Areas and Wildlife) Protocol of the Cartagena Convention.

The specific objectives are to provide financial support, in full or through co-financing, for actions aimed at

- effectively improve the conservation status of threatened species in the Caribbean region, especially those listed in the annexes of the SPAW Protocol;
- Generate information to enable civil society actors to improve the implementation of protected area management plans (with priority to SPAW protected areas) and management measures for threatened species;
- Implement ecosystem or population restoration actions in priority within protected areas listed in the SPAW Protocol.

For this call for projects, **special attention will be paid to projects in countries and territories, preferably signatories of the SPAW protocol and/or territories that do not easily benefit from traditional funding.**

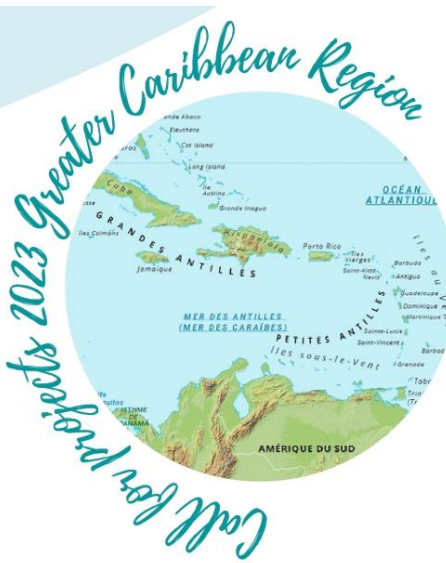
Projects involving collaboration between one or more other Caribbean territories will also be favored.

Initiatives concerning marine/terrestrial species of plants, mammals, reptiles, birds and fishes listed in the annexes of the SPAW Protocol will be appreciated, which does not exclude other proposals.

Projects with a medium (2-5 years) and/or long term (+5 years) effectiveness monitoring will be favored during the analysis of the submissions.


YOUR APPLICATION IN DETAIL




<p>Eligibility: Governmental and non-governmental organizations, associations, protected area managers, research centers, etc.</p> <p>Grant amount: between €5,000 and €10,000 (may be increased in exceptional cases)</p> <p>Terms of payment of the grant: a maximum advance of 50% of the amount can be paid at the signature of the agreement if necessary and upon request. The balance will be paid upon delivery of a final technical and financial report.</p> <p>Deadline for completion of the project: the selected projects must be completed by 2023 if possible.</p>	<p>Content of the application:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Project concept note presenting the framework of the operation, its objectives, its main steps and expected results• Completed grant application form• Complete bank instructions (see Annex 1) for receiving international transfers in Euros.• The project must be known by the authorities of your country, and supported if possible by the National Focal Point(s) of the SPAW Protocol that SPAW-RAC can help you identify.
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Greater Caribbean Region

Call for projects 2023



Contact: carspaw@developpement-durable.gouv.fr
Social medias :   

ANNEX 2. New document presenting and promoting calls for projects



PROGRAM CALL FOR PROPOSALS SPA W



REGIONAL ACTIVITY CENTER FOR THE PROTOCOL CONCERNING SPECIALLY
PROTECTED AREAS AND WILDLIFE FOR THE WIDER CARRIBEAN REGION

WIDER CARIBBEAN AND SPAW

The vocation of SPAW-RAC is to support SPAW(*) signatory countries (18) in developing actions and promote regional cooperation for the protection of the biodiversity in the Wider Caribbean Region. SPAW-RAC is also the reference agency for biodiversity protection, working under the aegis of UNEP and in charge of networks of Caribbean biodiversity experts and managers (CARIMAM, WECAFC, WIDECAS, GCRMN-Caribbean, etc.).

DEPENDENCE ON MARINE AND COASTAL ENVIRONMENTS

Made up of diverse territories and different cultures, the wider Caribbean region faces common economic and ecological challenges: its territories share a close dependence on their marine and coastal environments, which provide subsistence and well-being for their populations.

HOT SPOT OF BIODIVERSITY

While the high number of endemic species is one of the factors that make the Caribbean a biodiversity hotspot, the region is also characterized by massive habitat loss and high vulnerability to extinctions.

Human population growth, particularly in coastal areas, environmental pressures and climate change pose major challenges for the conservation of the region's marine ecosystems and biodiversity.



SPAW-RAC CALL FOR PROPOSALS

Due to the CoViD-19 pandemic many conservation projects halted, funding withdrawn and organizations weakened. In order to strengthen the capacities of regional organization in favor of Caribbean biodiversity, the SPAW-RAC experimented with a call for proposals for short-term small grants (up to 10,000 euros / 4 months to 1 year).

CONCRETE AND OPERATIONAL PROJECTS

Given the success of this first Call for Proposals, which has supported numerous NGOs in implementing concrete conservation projects in all Caribbean territories, SPAW RAC has decided to re-launch a Call for Proposals in 2021, 2022, 2023 and 2024.

(*) Of the three protocols to [the Cartagena Convention](#), the SPAW (Specially Protected Areas and Wildlife) Protocol is the one dedicated to the protection of biodiversity, ratified by 18 countries in the Wider Caribbean Region.

OBJECTIVES AND RESULTS

The main objective is to **implement the SPAW Protocol** by encouraging concrete actions for the conservation of biodiversity in the Wider Caribbean Region.

More specifically, the program provides financial support for actions aimed :

- improve efficiently the **conservation status of threatened species** ;
- support MPA managers to improve the **effectiveness of MPA management** ;
- implement actions to **restore** ecosystems or species populations ;
- Raise **awareness** and promoting a natural heritage for the conservation of marine biodiversity ;
- **Empower communities** and support sustainable resources mangement ;
- Support **capacity-building** programs.



Particular attention is paid to projects :

- focus on countries and territories that are signatories to the **SPAW Protocol** and/or territories that do not easily benefit from traditional funding (**SIDS** - Small Island Developing States) ;
- involving **collaboration** between Caribbean territories ;
- backed by medium **effectiveness monitoring**.

Since 2020, SPAW-RAC program of calls for proposals has supported over **50 projects** in more than **25 countries and 35 territories**.



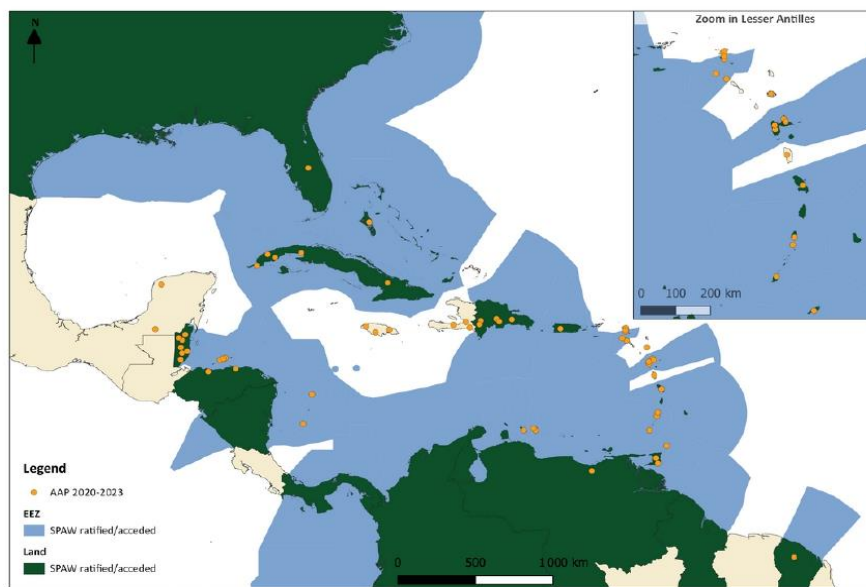
50 projects



375 000€



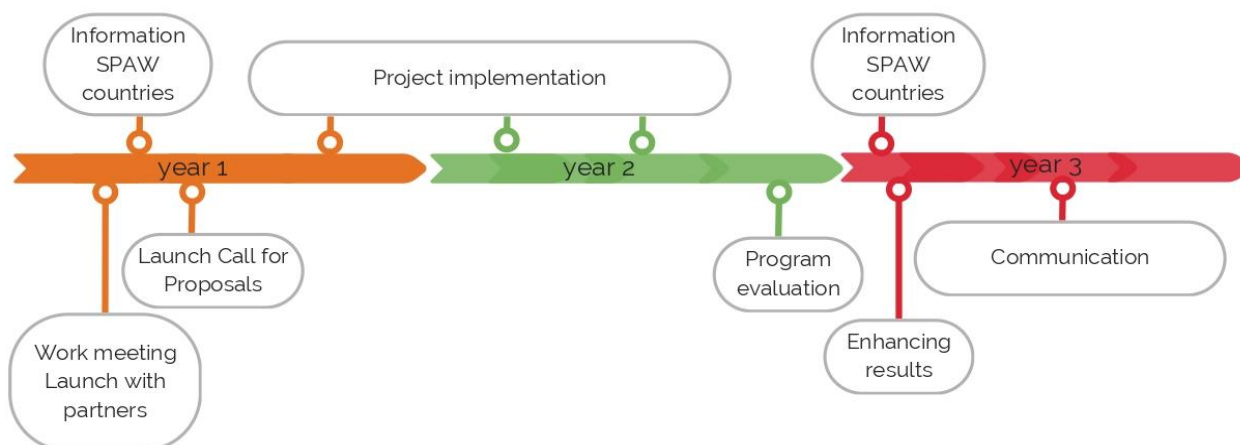
25 countries
35 territories



SPAW-RAC, 2023. Sources: GIS layers downloaded from <https://www.marinerregions.org>

p.2

BUDGET AND TIMETABLE



The benefits of this program in terms of effective action and visibility in the field are undeniable. In view of the need expressed by countries and conservation organizations and to support the SPAW countries to reach their international target such as the Kunming-Montreal Global objectives,

SPAW-RAC wishes to continue the call for projects program for the next 5 years by continuing to provide concrete support to field operators, managers and civil society. They work every day to conserve the natural and cultural heritage of the Caribbean, essential for the survival of local populations. We are supporting the signatory states of the SPAW protocol to achieve the objectives of the **Cartagena Convention** and in response to the **2030's Kunming-Montreal Global objectives**.

The projects supported will be evaluated and the results of the program will be presented to the **COP SPAW, UN Ocean Conference and the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) in 2030**.

In order to support the cost of each call for projects, which would be 500,000 euros per y but above all to promote and support the sustainability of Caribbean organizations, SPAW-RAC is looking for partners and funders to collaborate in the success of this SPAW protocol for the protection of biodiversity in the Caribbean.

Provisional global budget (euros)	2025	2026	2027	2028	2029	2030
staff	60,000	60,000	60,000	60,000	60,000	60,000
Small Grants	200,000	200,000	200,000	200,000	200,000	
Middle Grants	200,000	200,000	200,000	200,000	200,000	
communication	10,000	5,000	5,000	5,000	5,000	10,000
functionning	5,000	5,000	5,000	5,000	5,000	5,000
total	475,000	470,000	470,000	470,000	470,000	75,000

p.4

PROGRAM OPERATORS



Lucile ROSSIN

Director of SPAW-RAC, Lucile specializes in management control and performance management. She is an expert in international project management and financing procedures.



Lucie LABBOUZ

In charge of SPAW protected areas, Lucie is the key contact for protected area managers in the Caribbean. She is an excellent expert, recognized by managers, who knows the challenges of MPAs in the Caribbean.



Géraldine CONRUYT

Ecologist and deputy director of CAR-SPAW, Géraldine has extensive expertise in conservation biology and an excellent knowledge of Caribbean stakeholders.



Auriane Petit

In charge of ecosystem, Auriane has been working on integrated approach of conservation and coordinating international network of experts on : mangroves, corals and seagrass beds, . She's in lead of the GCRMN Caribbean



Julie Jouitteau

With extensive experience in assisting international projects in major companies, Julie provides support and follow-up for project leaders at administrative and budgetary level.

PARTNERS

The institutional partners are involved in regional and international cooperation. and in the SPAW grant program.



Regional Fishery Bodies Summary Descriptions
Western Central Atlantic Fishery
Commission (WECAFC)



FOR MORE INFO

<https://www.car-spaw-rac.org/>

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ANNEX 3. List of the 15 and 16 projects supported in 2022 and 2023

Page 20

Year	Beneficiaries	Project title	Species targeted	Country	SPAW sub-programme activity
2022	Department of Fisheries and Marine Resources of Anguilla	Sea urchin conservation response project	Urchins	Anguilla	Development of guidelines for management of PA and species
2022	Wildlife Conservation Society	Conservation of critical fish spawning aggregations at Glovers Reef Atoll, Belize 2022	Mangrove and Fish	Belize	Conservation of threatened and endangered species
2022	Clearwater marine aquarium research institute	Protecting Belize's Endangered Species Through Scientific Research, Community Outreach, and Habitat Restoration.	Marine mammals	Belize	Conservation of threatened and endangered species
2022	Foundation for Wildlife Conservation	Conservation and management of two protected species (<i>Alouatta pigra</i> and <i>Crocodylus moreletii</i>) through research at Runaway Creek Nature Reserve in Belize	Monkey and crocodile	Belize	Strengthening of protected areas
2022	BirdsCaribbean	Advancing Seabird Conservation through Training and Coordination of Partners	Birds	Caribbean	Conservation of threatened and endangered species
2022	Grupo Jaragua	Restoring dry forest habitats for the critically endangered Ricord's iguana (<i>Cyclura ricordii</i>)	Iguana	Dominican Republic	Strengthening of protected areas
2022	Caribbean Cetacean Society	Pilot whales distribution and movement analysis between the Agoa sanctuary and St Lucia.	Marine mammals	France	Conservation of threatened and endangered species
2022	Megaptera	Les sentinelles de Tintamare	Marine mammals	France	Conservation of threatened and endangered species
2022	Kap natirel	Towards new conservation measures for sharks and rays in the Caribbean	Sharks and rays	France	Development of guidelines for management of PA and species
2022	Mouvement Haïtien pour le Développement Rural (MHDR)	Improve fishing conditions to conserve biodiversity in la Baie de Belle-Anse	Fish	Haïti	Conservation of threatened and endangered species
2022	Fondation Haiti Ocean project	Establishment of manatee conservation, education and research programs	Marine mammals	Haïti	Conservation of threatened and endangered species
2022	Treasure Beach Turtle Group	Enhancement of conservation efforts for the hawksbill turtle through digitised survey data management	Sea turtles	Jamaica	Conservation of threatened and endangered species
2022	Environmental Protection in the Caribbean (EPIC) Foundation	An investigation of the state of Sint Maarten's brown pelican population, for improved management of the species and its habitat	Birds	Netherlands	Conservation of threatened and endangered species
2022	SpeSeas	Sea turtle citizen science in Trinidad and Tobago	Sea turtles	Trinidad and Tobago	Conservation of threatened and endangered species
2022	WIDECAS, Inc.	Sea Turtle Research and Conservation in Venezuela	Sea turtles	Venezuela	Conservation of threatened and endangered species

ANNEX 3. List of the 15 and 16 projects supported in 2022 and 2023

Page 20

2023	Perry Institute PIMS et CORALINA	Development of an action plan against coral tissue loss disease (LCTLD) in the San Andres archipelago	Coral reef	Colombia	Development of guidelines for management of PA and species
2023	The Ocean Foundation	Restoration of Acropora spp. populations in Guanahacabibes National Park to increase resilience to climate change.	Coral reef	Cuba	Conservation of threatened and endangered species
2023	Fundación Antonio Núñez Jiménez de la Naturaleza y el Hombre (FANJ)	Capacity building for sea turtle protection and monitoring at the SPAW site in Cayos de San Felipe National Park.	Sea turtles	Cuba	Development of guidelines for management of PA and species
2023	Wildlife conservation society (WCS)	Capacity building for sea turtle protection and monitoring at the SPAW site in Cayos de San Felipe National Park	Sea turtles	Cuba	Development of guidelines for management of PA and species
2023	Fundación Deep Green y RAD (Red Arrecifal Dominicana)	Parrotfish guardians	Fish	Dominican Republic	Conservation of threatened and endangered species
2023	Studio Canek-Radio progreso	Stories from the edge of extinction	All	Honduras	Conservation of threatened and endangered species
2023	Bay Island Conservation Association (BICA)	Promoting the restoration of A. cerviconis and A. palmata through the diversification of intervention methodologies in Utila, Bay Islands.	Coral reef	Honduras	Conservation of threatened and endangered species
2023	Treasure Beach Turtle Group	Drone Surveillance in Treasure Beach Sea Turtle Conservation	Sea turtles	Jamaica	Conservation of threatened and endangered species
2023	Asociación Mexicana de Veterinarios de Tortugas/Menos Plastico es Fantstico	Biomonitoreo de Tortugas Marinas en la Península de Yucatán	Sea turtles	Mexico	Conservation of threatened and endangered species
2023	Nature 2	Implementation of marine protected area management plans on Saba and Bonaire	All	Netherlands	Strengthening of protected areas
2023	Carmabi Foundation	Marine assessment of decadal changes in benthic and fish community composition in Curaçao	Coral reef	Netherlands	Conservation of threatened and endangered species
2023	Stichting Internos (Bonaire)	Tropical Restoration Workshop 2023	Mangrove	Netherlands	Development of guidelines for management of PA and species
2023	Florida International University	Assessing the extent of small cetacean exploitation in Saint Vincent and the Grenadines through capacity building and international cooperation	Marine mammals	St-Vincent and the Grenadines	Conservation of threatened and endangered species
2023	Sustainable Innovation Initiatives, Inc (SII)	Digital Toolkit and Trainings for Responsive Wildlife Regulation	All	Trinidad and Tobago	Development of guidelines for management of PA and species
2023	Turtle Village Trust	National Sea Turtle Conservation Project	Sea turtles	Trinidad and Tobago	Conservation of threatened and endangered species
2023	Isla Mar Research Expeditions, LLC	Improved data collection for length frequency analysis RTA Nassau Grouper in Puerto Rico	Fish	USA	Development of guidelines for management of PA and species