



Distr. LIMITED

UNEP(DEPI)/CAR WG.45/INF.23
16 May 2025

Original: ENGLISH

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

Report of the ACP MEAs III Programme 2023 and 2024

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



EDF/2019/410-697

ENFORCING ENVIRONMENTAL TREATIES' IMPLEMENTATION IN AFRICA,
CARIBBEAN, AND PACIFIC (ACP) COUNTRIES-ACP MEAS III

TECHNICAL PROGRESS REPORT
(J ANUARY - DECEMBER 2023)

UNITED NATIONS ENVIRONMENT PROGRAMME & PARTNERS



1. Introduction

The Programme on capacity building related to Multilateral Environmental Agreements (MEAs) in the African, Caribbean, and Pacific (ACP) countries is a partnership between the European Commission (EC), the Secretariat of the Organization of African, Caribbean and Pacific Group of States (OACPS), and the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP).

The primary objective of the programme is to promote environmental sustainability in ACP countries by strengthening governance and the implementation of MEAs. Specifically, the project aims to achieve the following;

- Improved enforcement of and compliance with MEAs related to biodiversity (CBD,CITES,CMS) and chemicals and waste (Basel, Rotterdam, Stockholm and Minamata).
- Improved ACP countries capacities for the management of coasts and oceans in line with the related regional seas conventions.
- Enhanced mainstreaming of biodiversity and of the sound management of chemicals and waste in Agriculture in ACP countries in line with related MEAs.

UNEP Law Division coordinates the implementation of the first two specific objectives. This report provides an update on the implementation of the two strategic objectives from January - December 2023. It is based on the inputs from all the program's implementing partners and highlights the main achievements in the implementation of the ACP MEAs 3 Programme activities.

2. Assessment of implementation of Action

Expected output 2.1: Strengthened Governance Frameworks for Regional Seas Conventions and associated protocols. Under this output, the Secretariat's existing governance mechanisms will be reinforced to strengthen support to Contracting Parties and encourage ratification of the Convention and its Protocols by Non-Contracting Parties. The major highlights for the reporting period are:

- a) **2.1.1:** Non-Contracting Parties to the Cartagena Convention and its Protocols were engaged during the following meetings and encouraged to ratify the Conventions and its Protocols, as appropriate: [The Tenth Meeting of the Scientific and Technical Advisory Committee \(STAC\) to the Protocol Concerning Specially Protected Areas and Wildlife \(SPAW\) in the Wider Caribbean](#) (January 30th – February 1st), [The Sixth Meeting of the Scientific and Technical Advisory Committee \(STAC\) of the Protocol Concerning Pollution from Land-Based Sources and Activities in the Wider Caribbean](#) (February 1st – February 3rd).

The [Twelfth Conference of Parties to the Protocol Concerning Specially Protected Areas and Wildlife \(SPAW\) of the Wider Caribbean Region](#) (SPAW COP12), The [Sixth Meeting of the Contracting Parties \(CoP\) to the Protocol Concerning Pollution from Land-Based Sources and Activities \(LBS\) in the Wider Caribbean](#) (LBS COP6) and [The Twentieth Intergovernmental Meeting on the Action Plan for the Caribbean Environment Programme and the Seventeenth Conference of Parties to the Convention for the Protection and Development of the Marine Environment of the Wider Caribbean Region](#) (COP17) were convened from 03-05 October in Oranjestad, Aruba. The following Decisions were adopted to support the ratification of the Convention, its Protocols, and related Multilateral Environmental Agreements (MEAs).

- Decision IV of the SPAW COP12 encouraged increased ratification of the SPAW Protocol and implementation of its obligations.

- Decision IV of the LBS COP-6 urges Non-Contracting Parties to the LBS Protocol to expand their efforts towards ratification and to take advantage of external project funding and outreach materials available to support national ratification processes.
- Decision VII of the COP17 calls upon eligible Non-Contracting Parties to the Cartagena Convention and/or its Protocols to accelerate their efforts towards ratification and, as appropriate, to request assistance from the Secretariat and/or the RACs to assist in their national ratification processes and invite Non-Contracting Parties to provide an update during the next meetings of the Cartagena Convention Conference of Parties on their domestic ratification efforts, including any impediments identified.

In addition, Contracting Parties were invited to establish close collaboration between Convention focal points and the focal points of other relevant MEAs to align approaches in implementation, as appropriate and within respective mandates, to increase efficiency and effectiveness.

- b) **2.1.2:** The consultancy to update the [2021-2030 Regional Strategy for the Caribbean Environment Programme \(CEP\)](#) has been completed and the Strategy was translated in Spanish and French. The Strategy aims to improve the overall governance of the Secretariat.
- Decision IV of the COP17 has requested that the Secretariat convene an Open-Ended Working Group of Contracting Parties to conduct a final review of the Draft Regional Strategy for the Cartagena Convention (2023-2030), focusing on additional recommendations received during the meetings of the LBS and SPAW Protocol Conference of Parties and COP17 and subsequently request the Secretariat to present a revised version to Contracting Parties for intercessional review and approval.
- c) **2.1.2:** A consultant has been onboarded, through co-financing support, to develop a study on options for integrated financing mechanisms and approaches that can support actions to deal with climate change impacts, conserve biodiversity and reduce pollution. The focus of the study will be on achieving the environmental goals and targets relating to climate change, biodiversity conservation, and pollution reduction in the Wider Caribbean Region through development of integrated financing options and mechanisms. An initial workshop was held on November 6-7, in Jamaica, where participants shared at least 4 principles and 3 approaches that can be utilized integrated financing in SIDS. The overall study is expected to be completed by February 2024.
- d) **2.1.3:** An extension has been granted to the consultant supporting the Government of the Dominican Republic with their implementation of the International Convention for the Prevention of Pollution from Ships (MARPOL). The government is now expected to receive the technical and legal content of the draft Regulation by January 2024.
- e) **2.1.3:** An extension was granted to the Oil Spills Consultant providing technical support to the Government of Barbados. The Government of Barbados received and approved the revised [National Oil Spills Contingency Plan](#) and the [National Dispersant Use Policy](#) in December 2023.

Expected output 2.2: Development of regionally representative network of Marine Protected Areas.

The Secretariat continued to work towards establishing a functional ecological network of SPAW-listed protected areas (MPAs) covering interconnected marine and associated habitats and ecosystems for restoring and sustaining the health of oceans.

Ecological networks of protected areas present opportunities for scaling up and enhancing conservation actions and building resilience across interconnected ecosystems and habitats.

Finalising the development of an ecological network of MPAs in the Wider Caribbean marks an important step towards fulfilling the aims of the Cartagena Convention and UNEP's Regional Seas Programme for the Wider Caribbean.

The major highlights for the reporting period are:

- a) **2.2.1, 2.2.2, 2.2.3, 2.2.4 and 2.2.5:** Agreement signed with the Regional Activity Centre for the SPAW Protocol (SPAW RAC) to assist with the implementation of activities under 2.2 through the continued development of a SPAW MPA Networking Group. The partnership aims to implement the ACP MEA III project, focusing on better coastal and ocean management and implementing the Cartagena Convention and its protocols, while actively promoting closer cooperation with the RACs to ensure seamless delivery of the work plan. This will also support the creation of regionally representative networks of Marine Protected Areas to strengthen ecosystem health and coral reef monitoring in the Wider Caribbean Region.
- b) **2.2.1, 2.2.2, 2.2.3, 2.2.4 and 2.2.5:** The Network of SPAW-listed MPAs was officially launched, and the first managers meeting was held online in June, followed by an in-person workshop in October 10-12, 2023, in La Romana (Dominican Republic). Twenty-five MPA managers out of the 37 SPAW-listed protected areas attended the meeting.
- c) **2.2.2:** Four participants attended the [Gulf and Caribbean and Fisheries Institute Annual Meeting \(GCFI76\)](#) held in Nassau, Bahamas, 6-10 November 2023. The funded participants included a representative of the Secretariat, a representative of the Government of Barbados and two representatives from regional environmental non-profit organizations focused on marine biodiversity.
- d) **2.2.3:** A publication on '[Creating A Marine Protected Area Network in the Wider Caribbean](#)' is being updated to highlight the importance of the SPAW Protocol and provide updates on the Marine Protected Areas (MPAs) across the region.
- e) **2.2.4:** Four participants attended the [GCRMN-Caribbean Steering Committee Meeting](#) held in Nassau, Bahamas, 5 November 2023. The funded participants included a representative of the Secretariat, a representative of the Government of Barbados and two representatives from regional environmental non-profit organizations focused on marine biodiversity.
 - [Decision II \(1\) of the 12th SPAW COP](#) adopted recommendation of STAC 10 to approve the inclusion of Parc Naturel Marin de Martinique, proposed by the Government of France, in the [list of protected areas](#) under the SPAW Protocol.
- f) **2.2.4 and 2.2.5:** Nine groups, in collaboration with the GCFI, completed initiatives within various countries, geared towards the management of marine protected areas and marine litter. This activity also supported implementation of 2.3.6. Activities to address MPA management were conducted in Cuba and Honduras. Marine Litter was addressed in Belize, Saint Lucia and Colombia. Hybrid projects were implemented in Cuba, Honduras and Jamaica. Three management capacity assessments were completed, and case studies developed by MPA Connect for [Belize](#), [Caribbean Netherlands](#) (Saba) and [St. Vincent and the Grenadines](#). The case studies addressed issues on MPA sustainable financing and sharing benefits with local communities, enforcement and communications.

Expected output 2.3: Measures for reducing the influx of waste (plastics and other forms of human and industrial liquid and solid waste) entering the marine environment in the four regions developed.

The Secretariat has been supporting countries in the Wider Caribbean in reducing their plastic and solid waste generation and implementing measures to prevent the influx of waste from entering the region's marine environment.

Activities during the reporting period were specific to Activities 2.3.1 to 2.3.6. Major highlights reflect preparatory activities and those initiated including through co-financing by the Secretariat:

- a) **2.3.1:** Co-Financing support was mobilized through the GEF CReW+ project to develop recommendations for amendments to the LBS Protocol to facilitate increased reuse of domestic wastewater including the adoption of new [criteria or standards for domestic wastewater discharges](#). This initiative, under the GEF CReW+ project, will build on the previous work of the State of the Cartagena Convention Area (SOCAR) report and the Regional Nutrients Pollution Reduction Strategy. This work is ongoing, and an interim report of progress was presented at the 6th LBS Scientific and Technical Advisory Meeting (STAC) held virtually from February 1st to 3rd and the 6th LBS Conference of Parties held on October 4th in Aruba.
- Decision II on Nutrient Management and Wastewater Discharges adopted during the LBS COP6, encourages Contracting Parties and Non-Contracting Parties to the LBS Protocol to participate in ongoing activities by the LBS RACs relating to Nutrient Management and classification of receiving waters as required under the LBS Protocol. Additionally, the LBS RACs were encouraged to continue their work in the ongoing activities and report to the LBS STAC7 and LBS COP7 for further review, recommendation, and decision as appropriate.
 - Regarding SOCAR, Decision II of the LBS COP6 also requests that the Secretariat, subject to funding availability, begin developing an updated SOCAR on Marine Pollution, focusing on pollution issues facing the convention area. With a more integrated portion of the environmental assessment report, in collaboration with the SPAW Sub-Programme.
- b) **2.3.2:** Cabinet Ministers in Saint Lucia approved the National Marine Litter/Plastics Reduction Strategy and Action Plan, which was launched in January 2023 with support from the project. The Strategy and Action Plan is now being used as a guide for developing new projects and resource mobilization.
- c) **2.3.2:** The Institute of Marine Affairs (IMA) and the Centre for Research and Environmental Management of Transport (CIMAB), Regional Activity Centers for the LBS Protocol, are conducting a study to establish a [regional criterion for Nitrogen \(N\) and Phosphorus \(P\) contained in wastewater discharges](#) and other effluents from both domestic and industrial sources. This research builds on work carried out in Jamaica and Barbados on [nutrient valuation methodology with case studies](#). These activities support the Secretariat's work under the GEF CReW+ Project and is co-financed by the Swedish Government (SIDA grant).
- d) **2.3.3:** The Secretariat signed an agreement with the Government of Suriname in April 2023 and is finalizing same with the Government of Guyana, to build on and replicate the successful implementation of previous ecosystem-based management (EBM) activities under the UNDP GEF CLME+ project and support the implementation of activities under their national pollution prevention plans and strategies.
- e) **2.3.4:** Through financial support from the GEF CReW+ Project, the Government of Saint Lucia- Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries, Food Security and Rural Development in partnership with the Water Resource Management Agency has developed draft wastewater management guidelines for onsite and small-scale treatment facilities. The guidelines aim to provide guidance, education, and solutions to users on the island, enabling them to benefit and understand the precise actions required for different functional groups involved in wastewater management.

Additionally, the Ministry of Environment, Climate Action and Constituency Empowerment in Saint Kitts and Nevis has contracted a consultant to support the development of a draft National Policy on Wastewater and Sludge Management under the GEF CReW+ project.

- f) **2.3.5:** 50 vulnerable households in Charlotteville, Trinidad and Tobago have been supplied with 450-gallon water tanks with an additional 173 septic tanks retrofitted with access plugs to facilitate pumping under the agreement signed with the Environment Research Institute Charlotteville (ERIC). Global Water Partnership Caribbean (GWP-C) will continue to implement national activities in support of this output until the end of 2024. Case Studies for community-based interventions in four countries are being finalized.
- g) **2.3.6:** As a result of the joint agreement signed with the GCFI, 3 projects chosen to address the issue of marine litter management were completed in Columbia, Saint Lucia and Belize. Three other projects utilizing a Hybrid approach, which include a focus on both MPA and marine litter were completed in Cuba, Jamaica and Honduras. This activity also supported the implementation of Activities 2.2.4 and 2.2.5. A Plastic Camp Manual, a resource for educators, community leaders, and environmental advocates was also developed under this agreement.

Expected output 2.4: Document best practices and lessons learnt in marine litter management at community level. The Secretariat, through its Communication, Education, Training and Awareness (CETA) Sub-Programme aims to improve environmental awareness and sensitivity in the Wider Caribbean on the importance and value of the region's coastal and marine resources. This will be implemented through public awareness and education activities, capacity-building sessions and greater access to data and information. The major highlights for the reporting period are:

- a) **2.4.1:** A Technical Brief was developed to support the intergovernmental negotiating committee (INC) process under the UNEA 5.2 landmark resolution to end plastic pollution and forge an internationally legally binding agreement. After completion of a peer review, the final document was shared with Government focal points involved in the negotiation process and other relevant national and regional partners.
- b) **2.4.2:** Continued contributions to the ACP MEAs III newsletter
- c) The Secretariat continues to publish its [quarterly newsletter](#) which features updates on the overall work of the Secretariat, with dedicated sections for country news, activities implemented by the Regional Activity Centres, and updates on the ACP MEAs III and other projects.
- d) **2.4.2:** In June 2023, the Secretariat as a co-executing agency to the GEF CReW+ project, signed an Agreement with RARE to support capacity-building initiatives around water and wastewater management.

Impact Matrix for 2023

Description of Activity ¹	Gender response	Policy link ²	Impact ³	Communication action ⁴	Links to overall institutional issue(s) and focus
Result 2.1: Reinforcement of Regional Seas Conventions Governance Frameworks and associated protocols					
2.1.1 Convene national promotional consultative workshops on the Cartagena Convention, its Protocols and related MEAs.	Language used during meetings was gender sensitive	Ratification of the Convention and its SPAW and LBS Protocols	<p>Government of Suriname has prepared submission to their Cabinet of Ministers for ratification of the Cartagena Convention and its Protocols.</p> <p>Technical support provided to the Governments of Saint Kitts and Nevis, as well as St. Vincent and the Grenadines, assisted with the ratification of the SPAW and LBS Protocols. St. Kitts –Nevis has prepared a Cabinet submission. St. Vincent and Grenadines received Cabinet approval and is in the process of submitting instruments of ratification with the depositary in Colombia.</p> <p>Discussions with Guatemala, Costa Rica, Jamaica, Mexico and the territories of the United Kingdom will support their ratification of the SPAW</p>		International Environmental Governance

¹ From table above.

² Reference to specific contribution made, e.g., inputs to post-2020 CBD framework.

³ Short description. E.g., the CBD SBI 3 meeting helped informed participation of focal points in CBD meeting.

⁴ Details of web updates, tweets, social media reach, publications made etc. PLEASE describe and quantify.

Description of Activity ¹	Gender response	Policy link ²	Impact ³	Communication action ⁴	Links to overall institutional issue(s) and focus
			Protocol.		
2.1.2 Regional/regional consultative workshops to inform the development of a regional strategy/ approach and road map for enhancing oceans governance		Options paper will provide inputs to post-2020 CBD framework.	Updated CEP Strategy will improve overall governance of the Secretariat Study to aid in enhancing Blue Economy work amongst Regional Seas Conventions	One Regional Strategy translated into French and Spanish	Sustainable blue economy issues
2.1.3 Provide consultancy support to draft and/or update national legislation and regulations for countries that have not yet ratified relevant International Maritime Organization (IMO) Conventions	Gender consideration applied in the review of applications	Support to MARPOL ratification	Implementation of the MARPOL and OPRC Conventions by the Governments of the Dominican Republic and Barbados respectively.		Support to Global MEAs
Result 2.2 Development of regionally representative networks of Marine Protected Areas					

Description of Activity ¹	Gender response	Policy link ²	Impact ³	Communication action ⁴	Links to overall institutional issue(s) and focus
2.2.1 Develop an operational network of SPAW MPAs according to existing guidelines	Gender consideration applied in the review of consultancy applications.	Protected Areas Working Group Support to the Convention on Biological Diversity – Aichi Biodiversity Target 11	Basis for planning and operation of the network of SPAW MPAs and to promote cooperation between network its members Partnership with the SPAW RAC maximized the overall impact and strengthened the capacity within the region.	Bilateral interviews with managers of the SPAW listed protected areas Two online meetings were held with 23 SPAW protected area managers One in-person workshop was held from the October 10-12, 2023, in La Romana (Dominican Republic). Twenty-five MPA managers out of the 37 SPAW-listed protected areas attended the meeting Establishment of a Draft strategic vision, workplan, structure and budget. The document will finalized in 2024	Support to Other Effective Area Based Conservation Measures (OECMs)
2.2.2 Establish SPAW MPAs Networking	Gender consideration applied in the creation of		Strategic partnership with governments (contracting and non-contracting parties	Participation in several meetings relevant to the work of the Cartagena Convention	Regional representative network of MPAs

Description of Activity ¹	Gender response	Policy link ²	Impact ³	Communication action ⁴	Links to overall institutional issue(s) and focus
Group to lead the Inter-Regional network of MPAs and for enhancing CaMPAM Network of MPAs.	partnership agreement.		<p>to the Cartagena Convention and SPAW Protocol), regional conservation efforts, MPAs of the region, Academia, IGOs and NGOs promoted coordinated actions and avoided duplication of efforts guaranteeing the launch of the Network.</p> <p>Joint work with the SPAW RAC maximized overall impact and strengthen capacity within the region</p>	<p>and SPAW Protocol with members of governments and Cartagena Convention and SPAW Protocol focal points, representatives of MPAs in the region, academics and researchers, and members of IGOs and NGOs.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • GCRMN Caribbean-node Steering Committee meeting, Nassau, Bahamas • Meeting for Establishing the Fish Spawning Aggregations Management Plan Technical Coordination Committee, GCFI76, Nassau, Bahamas • MPA special session on "MPA networks as tools to implement ecosystems monitoring programs.", GCFI76, Nassau, Bahamas 	

Description of Activity ¹	Gender response	Policy link ²	Impact ³	Communication action ⁴	Links to overall institutional issue(s) and focus
				<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Meeting of the Caribbean MPA Networks, GCFI76, Nassau, Bahamas MPA Connect round table “Catalytic architecture for MPA capacity building and networking in the Caribbean.”, GCFI76, Nassau, Bahamas Regional Seas Annual meeting, Bridgetown, Barbados 	
2.2.3 Develop Management Effectiveness Guidelines for SPAW Regional MPA Networks		SPAW Protocol	<p>The publication “Creating A Marine Protected Area Network in the Wider Caribbean -Strengthening Connections and Collaboration to Conserve the Caribbean Ecosystem” is currently being updated. The updated publication will help to enhance knowledge on the SPAW Protocol and MPAs in the region.</p> <p>Partnership with the SPAW RAC maximized overall impact and strengthen</p>	<p>Meeting held with relevant partners (IUCN, Ocean governance project) to create a roadmap for the development of management effectiveness guidelines for SPAW network</p> <p>Collaboration initiated with IUCN-BIOPAMA to implement PAME in</p>	Support to effective MPA management

Description of Activity ¹	Gender response	Policy link ²	Impact ³	Communication action ⁴	Links to overall institutional issue(s) and focus
			<p>capacity within the region</p> <p>Financial support provided for translation for 10th SPAW STAC and the 12th SPAW COP allowed for the wide sharing of documents during the meeting.</p>	selected SPAW MPAs	
2.2.4 Provide technical support, monitoring and research to Governments to enable their establishment of new SPAW MPAs	Gender consideration applied in the review of group proposals		<p>The Agreement signed with the GCFI has supported the implementation of community-based projects for MPA management. These contributed to the capacity building in the communities and MPAs associated.</p> <p>Partnership with the SPAW RAC maximized overall impact and strengthen capacity within the region</p>	<p>Activities to address MPA management were conducted in Cuba, Honduras and Jamaica.</p> <p>Support provided to Governments through ongoing information with SPAW focal point, including during SPAW Conference of Parties held in October 2023</p> <p>Establishment of a Working Group dedicated to Capacity-building for the GCRMN-Caribbean network</p> <p>Organization of in-person meeting of the GCRMN-Caribbean Steering Committee members (November</p>	<p>State of Nearshore Marine Habitat Report</p> <p>Regional Strategy Action Plan for the Valuation, Protection and/or Restoration of Key Marine Habitats in the Wider Caribbean 2021–2030</p> <p>UN Decade on Ecosystem Restoration (2021-2030)</p> <p>Decade of Ocean Science for Sustainable Development (2021-2030)</p>

Description of Activity ¹	Gender response	Policy link ²	Impact ³	Communication action ⁴	Links to overall institutional issue(s) and focus
				<p>2023) to discuss the organization of the regional workshop on reef monitoring</p> <p>Needs assessment survey on capacity-building within the GCRMN-Caribbean network (identify countries/territories, MPAs and stakeholders to train)</p> <p>Parc Naturel Marin de Martinique approved, during SPAW COP 12, to be listed as a protected area under the SPAW Protocol.</p>	

Description of Activity ¹	Gender response	Policy link ²	Impact ³	Communication action ⁴	Links to overall institutional issue(s) and focus
2.2.5 Provide capacity building and training for selected Government officials as well as MPA Managers and staff through national and regional workshops to improve the MPA Management	Gender consideration applied in the review of group proposals		The Agreement signed with the GCFI has supported the implementation of community-based projects for MPA management. These contributed to the capacity building in the communities and MPAs associated. Partnership with the SPAW RAC maximized overall impact and strengthen capacity within the region.	Three case studies were developed for Belize, Caribbean Netherlands (Saba) and St. Vincent and the Grenadines. The case studies addressed issues on MPA sustainable financing and sharing benefits with local communities, enforcement and communications.	State of Nearshore Marine Habitat Report Regional Strategy Action Plan for the Valuation, Protection and/or Restoration of Key Marine Habitats in the Wider Caribbean 2021–2030 UN Decade on Ecosystem Restoration (2021-2030) Decade of Ocean Science for Sustainable Development (2021-2030)
Result 2.3 Reduction of the influx of waste (plastics and other forms of human and industrial liquid and solid waste) entering the marine environment of the four regions.					
2.3.1 Convene national/regional capacity building meetings & workshop(s) involving at least 10 non-Contracting Parties to the LBS Protocol on pollution.		LBS Protocol	Guidelines under development for domestic wastewater classifications and recommendations for amendments to the LBS Protocol will facilitate increased reuse of domestic wastewater. Increased commitment received to address land-based sources of marine pollution through ratification		Amendments to the LBS Protocol as recommended from the recent State of Pollution Report.

Description of Activity ¹	Gender response	Policy link ²	Impact ³	Communication action ⁴	Links to overall institutional issue(s) and focus
2.3.2 Develop national pollution reduction action plans for at least 5 Contracting Parties to the LBS Protocol with a priority focus on national marine litter/plastics reduction (at least two), domestic wastewater and nutrients reduction strategies and action plans.	Language used during meetings was gender sensitive.	National pollution prevention action plans.	<p>of the LBS Protocol</p> <p>Support was provided to Jamaica and Barbados to develop national strategies on nutrients management. This supported the development of new regional quantitative discharge standards for nitrogen, and possibly phosphorus. Support will be provided to the countries to implement strategies.</p> <p>St. Lucia has launched a Marine Litter/Plastic Reduction Strategy and Action Plan</p>	<p>Two case studies developed on Nutrient Management Valuation in Jamaica and Barbados</p> <p>One National Strategy developed</p>	<p>Global Partnership on Nutrient Management (GPNM)</p> <p>Regional Nutrients Pollution Reduction Strategy and Action Plan</p>
2.3.3 Implement local/national Ecosystem-based Management (EBM) projects promoting an integrated approach to pollution reduction and habitat	In Suriname, a pilot on gender-based climate change action is planned.	National pollution prevention plans and strategies.	The activities currently being planned in Suriname and Guyana to build on and replicate the successful implementation of previous Ecosystem-Based Management activities under the UNDP GEF CLME+ project will result in capacity building among community members and stakeholders, establish networks focused on pollution reduction and		Support to Ecosystem-based Management approaches

Description of Activity ¹	Gender response	Policy link ²	Impact ³	Communication action ⁴	Links to overall institutional issue(s) and focus
restoration in at least two selected countries who are parties to both the LBS and SPAW Protocols.			marine habitat restoration.		
2.3.4 Develop/Update national legislation and/or regulations on wastewater effluent discharges in at least 6 Contracting Parties to the LBS Protocol in compliance with the Cartagena Convention - Annex III thus assisting them in complying with their targets under the protocol as well as those under Sustainable Development Goal 6 on Water and Sanitation.			Activities planned by the Governments of Saint Lucia and St. Kitts and Nevis under the GEF CReW+ project will result in the development of wastewater guidelines and/or national policies on wastewater management.		Integrated Water and Wastewater Management Global Wastewater Initiative Sustainable Development Goal 6

Description of Activity ¹	Gender response	Policy link ²	Impact ³	Communication action ⁴	Links to overall institutional issue(s) and focus
2.3.5 Implement innovative decentralized, rural community-based interventions for wastewater management in at least 4 Contracting Parties working with Civil Society/NGOs and in partnerships with larger GEF Funded Projects on Wastewater			Support being provided to several Contracting Parties through the GEF CReW+ Project to support the implementation of small-scale and replicable solutions to improve water and wastewater management. GWP-C, ERIC (TnT), the governments of St. Lucia, St. Vincent and the Grenadines, Guyana and St. Kitts and Nevis through funding by GEF CReW+ has begun implementation of small-scale IWRM and IWWM projects.		
2.3.6 Design and Implement at least four community-based projects with a focus on plastic reduction, reuse and recycling as part of the Global Marine Litter Partnership, the Caribbean Node for Marine Litter	Gender consideration applied in the review of group proposals		The Agreement signed with the GCFI has supported the implementation of community-based projects for marine litter management.	Jamaica, Cuba, St. Lucia, Columbia, Belize and Honduras all benefitted from the development of curriculum and workshop series, which included educational lectures, technical training, field experiences, peer to peer exchange and other networking opportunities. Two studies on Solid	Regional Marine Litter Strategy Objectives of the Global Partnership on Marine Litter UNEP Medium Term Strategy

Description of Activity ¹	Gender response	Policy link ²	Impact ³	Communication action ⁴	Links to overall institutional issue(s) and focus
and the Trash Free International Programme.				Waste Characterization in Honduras One children's book published to create awareness, and stewardship of the environment	
2.3.7 Conduct a feasibility study on the implementation of a Regional Port Reception Facilities Plan for the Wider Caribbean Region to reduce pollution from ships with focus on plastics reduction.				Not yet initiated	Management of ship-generated waste and compliance with the MARPOL Convention.
Result 2.4: Document best practices and lessons learnt in marine litter management at community level.					
2.4.1 Engage industry and major users of plastic to identify and implement appropriate	Gender consideration applied in the review of consultancy applications.	Support to the INC process under the UNEA 5.2 landmark	Increased awareness on plastic pollution and its impacts in the region.	One Technical Brief developed to support national officials involved in INC process	

Description of Activity ¹	Gender response	Policy link ²	Impact ³	Communication action ⁴	Links to overall institutional issue(s) and focus
alternatives to single-use plastic and other packaging material like Styrofoam		resolution			
2.4.2 Deliver a targeted and dedicated education and awareness raising program on pollution and marine biodiversity	Social media posts use gender sensitive language		Several national and regional meetings provided the opportunity to share various public awareness materials produced by the Secretariat.	Webpage updated for consistency with other Convention and to upload the ACP MEA Digest and Newsletters.	<p>Guided by the Secretariat's Communications Strategy and strategic objectives of the CEP Strategy</p> <p>Support to the UN Decades on Ocean Science and Ecosystem Restoration</p> <p>Support to efforts for greater communication and advocacy in UNEP's Medium-Term Strategy, to communicate scientific information in a language that is accessible to all and can influence and stimulate decision-making as well as environmental action.</p>

3. Updated workplan

Please provide an updated workplan for year 2024 in the format below

Activity No.	Activity description (including actual activities to be undertaken in 2024)	Budget for 2024
2.1.1	<p>Convene national promotional and consultative workshops to support ratification by Caribbean countries of the Cartagena Convention and its Protocols, as well as the cluster of related Biodiversity (MEAs CBD, CITES and CMS) and Chemicals (Minamata, BRS) Conventions including coordinating responses by Regional Seas Conventions to common issues such as Ocean Acidification, Marine Litter and Sargassum.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Conduct a subregional activity for countries within the region who are close to ratification. - Participate in national & regional workshops 	\$18,000
2.1.2	<p>Convene Sub-regional/regional consultative workshops to inform the development of a regional strategy/approach and road map for enhancing oceans governance in the Wider Caribbean region including through the use of Blue Economy, Ecosystem Based Management and other spatial planning and governance tools and approaches and facilitate exchanges between Regional Seas Programmes on common issues of concern.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Design a Resource Mobilization Strategy to support the implementation of the 2021-2023 Regional Strategy for the Cartagena Convention Project updated with support of the ACP MEA project. - Finalize the Regional Strategy for the Cartagena Convention and seek intersessional approval during the first half of 2024. 	\$6,500
2.1.3	<p>Provide consultancy support to draft and/or update national legislation and regulations for countries that have not yet ratified relevant International Maritime Organization (IMO) Conventions in particular MARPOL and OPRC and to facilitate increased ratification of those instruments. (completed)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Disseminate and promote outputs/products from consultancy completed in 2023 	\$0
2.2.1	<p>Develop an operational network of SPAW MPAs according to existing guidelines</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - To be completed through partnership with SPAW RAC 	\$100,000
2.2.2	<p>Establish SPAW MPAs Networking Group to lead the Inter-Regional network of MPAs and for enhancing CaMPAM Network of Marine Protected Areas.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - To be completed through partnership with SPAW RAC - A 3-day working group PA network workshop will be conducted to include the working group members 	\$80,000
2.2.3	<p>Develop Management Effectiveness Guidelines for SPAW Regional MPA Networks</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Update MPA database - Conduct Management Effectiveness Assessment 	\$88,000

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Conduct learning exchange among Network Managers 	
2.2.4	<p>Provide technical support, monitoring and research to Governments to enable their establishment of new SPAW MPAs</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - To be completed through partnership with SPAW RAC - Identify a list of sites (reef and local communities) from non-SPAW listed MPAs in the Caribbean to carry out integrated monitoring associating biophysical and socio-economic monitoring. - Implement a training program focused on integrated reef monitoring - Conduct an in-person integrated reef monitoring train the trainers workshop, mainly for MPA managers and practitioners from non-SPAW listed MPAs 	\$116,000
2.2.5	<p>Provide capacity building and training for selected Government officials as well as MPA Managers and staff through national and regional workshops to improve the MPA Management</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - To be completed through partnership with SPAW RAC 	\$165,000
2.3.1	<p>Convene national/regional capacity building meetings & workshop(s) involving at least 10 non-Contracting Parties to the LBS Protocol on pollution. This will assist in their ratification and subsequent implementation of the LBS Protocol in the Wider Caribbean region. The primary focus will be on reducing environmental and human health impacts of marine litter including plastics, untreated domestic wastewater and nutrient discharges into the Caribbean Sea including discussion on possible new Annexes and/or Amendments to the LBS Protocol as recommended from the recent State of Pollution Report.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Convene sub-regional workshops to promote Blue Economy in collaboration with the OECS and the UK Overseas Territories - Conduct Subregional Workshops for Spanish/English speaking countries 	\$60,000
2.3.2	<p>Develop national pollution reduction action plans for at least 5 Contracting Parties to the LBS Protocol with a priority focus on national marine litter/plastics reduction (at least two), domestic wastewater and nutrients reduction strategies and action plans.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Support at least 2 additional countries in developing National Action Plans 	\$10,000
2.3.3	<p>Implement local/national Ecosystem-based Management (EBM) projects promoting an integrated approach to pollution reduction and habitat restoration in at least two selected countries who are parties to both the LBS and SPAW Protocols. This will build on lessons learned from EBM pilot projects implemented under the GEF CLME+ Project and support countries in implementing activities under their national pollution prevention plans and strategies.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Conduct a community-based diagnosis of climate change effects and gender - Design and implement formal and non-formal 	\$90,000

	<p>education and training for community members</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Implement ecosystem-based management practices to restore and sustain the mangrove ecosystem - Design infrastructure support for ecotourism 	
2.3.4	<p>Develop/Update national legislation and/or regulations on wastewater effluent discharges in at least 6 Contracting Parties to the LBS Protocol in compliance with the Cartagena Convention - Annex III thus assisting them in complying with their targets under the protocol as well as those under Sustainable Development Goal 6 on Water and Sanitation.</p>	\$20,000
2.3.5	<p>Implement innovative decentralized, rural community-based interventions for wastewater management in at least 4 Contracting Parties working with Civil Society/NGOs and in partnerships with larger GEF Funded Projects on Wastewater. Focus will be on nature-based solutions and use of wastewater as a resource</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Participate in national & regional workshops - Facilitate exchange of experiences 	\$15,000
2.3.6	<p>Design and Implement at least four community-based projects with a focus on plastic reduction, reuse and recycling as part of the Global Marine Litter Partnership, the Caribbean Node for Marine Litter and the Trash Free International Programme. These projects should demonstrate enhanced partnerships between national governments, civil society and the private sector and promote circular economy approaches to waste and plastics management.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Support youth and community-based activities related to plastic and marine litter 	\$20,000
2.3.7	<p>Conduct a feasibility study on the implementation of a Regional Port Reception Facilities Plan for the Wider Caribbean Region to reduce pollution from ships with focus on plastics reduction.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - To be completed through partnership with RAC REMPEITC, the joint UNEP/IMO Regional Activity Centre for the Oil Spills Protocol based in Curacao. 	\$20,000
2.4.1	<p>Engage industry and major users of plastic to identify and implement appropriate alternatives to single-use plastic and other packaging material like Styrofoam</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Promote project outputs 	\$0
2.4.2	<p>Deliver a targeted and dedicated education and awareness raising program on pollution and marine biodiversity</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Support national & regional youth activities - Consideration being given to partnership with the CSRO 	\$15,000

4.0 Visibility

The Secretariat continued to maintain its webpage on the programme and provided periodic updates. Two articles were also submitted to the ACP MEAs III newsletter on the outcomes of the GCFI partnership and small grants, as well as the support of the Secretariat to the recent GCFI 76th annual conference. This has also been shared with LBS and SPAW focal points and through the CaMPAM network. Plans are currently underway to expand on the Secretariat's use of social media to promote the activities and results of the programme, alongside the enhanced use of the website and other public forums.

The ACP MEAs III programme's social media pages were supported through retweets and resharing of announcements. Copies of outputs and programme updates were also provided to LBS and SPAW focal points of the Convention. Communications guidelines are shared with consultants and partners to ensure the appropriate use of the project logo on all project outputs.

5. Conclusion

The activities of the UNEP Cartagena Convention Secretariat are being executed under Component 2 of the overall project which focuses on better management of coasts and oceans and effective implementation of the related Regional Seas Conventions. The National United Nations Volunteer, who joined the Secretariat on 1 June 2022 has continued to provide programmatic and administrative support to the project, however, there has been some implementation challenges that has affected the project during the period:

- a) The facilitation of national and regional face-to-face meetings has become challenging due to the rising costs of necessary resources (travel, accommodation etc.). This resulted in scheduling more online or hybrid meetings to facilitate greater participation from parties. However, technical issues and accessibility to online platforms continue to challenge this method of interaction.
- b) There have also been recent challenges with establishing agreements with partners who do not have direct management of their banking accounts.
- c) The delayed receipt of a formal notice of project extension, as well as project funds, has also affected the commencement and completion of several partnership sub-projects, whilst also threatening the confidence of some partners, in our agreement.

6. Annex: Log frame

Please provide updates on the status of implementation of the activities as per the table below.

e.g Specific Objective One: Enforcement of and compliance with MEAs related to biodiversity and chemicals and waste

Activity No	Activity description	Objectively verifiable indicator of achievement	Status of implementation	Remarks
2.1: Reinforcement of Regional Seas Conventions Governance Frameworks and associated protocols:				
2.1.1	Convene national promotional and consultative workshops to support ratification by Caribbean countries of the Cartagena Convention and its Protocols, as well as the cluster of related Biodiversity (MEAs CBD, CITES and CMS) and Chemicals (Minamata, BRS) Conventions including coordinating responses by Regional Seas Conventions to common issues such as Ocean Acidification, Marine Litter and Sargassum.	At least 4 national promotional and consultative workshops convened.	Ongoing	Given the number of non-contracting Parties, the Secretariat may consider sub-regional workshops in partnership with other IGOs combined with high level political missions to promote ratification as well as exchanges among Contracting and Non-Contracting Parties. This will enable more effective use of funds.
2.1.2	Convene Sub-regional/regional consultative workshops to inform the development of a regional strategy/approach and road map for enhancing oceans governance in the Wider Caribbean region including through the use of Blue Economy, Ecosystem Based Management and other spatial planning and governance tools and approaches and facilitate exchanges between Regional Seas Programmes on common issues of concern.	At least 2 sub-regional/regional consultative workshops convened	Ongoing	The Secretariat will develop a Resource Mobilization Strategy to support the implementation of the 2023-2030 Regional Strategy for the Cartagena Convention Project, which was updated with support of the ACP MEA project.
2.1.3	Provide consultancy support to draft and/or update national legislation and regulations for countries that have not yet ratified relevant International Maritime Organization (IMO) Conventions in particular MARPOL and OPRC and to facilitate increased ratification of those instruments.		Ongoing	Ongoing focus will be placed on promoting outputs that have been achieved (National Dispersant Use Policy and National Oil Spills Contingency Plan for Barbados and the draft Regulation for the implementation of the International Convention for the Prevention of Pollution from Ships (MARPOL) in the Dominican Republic .

2.2: Develop functional Network(s) of Specially Protected Areas and Wildlife (SPA) -listed Marine Protected Areas (MPAs) covering interconnected marine habitats and ecosystems for restoring and sustaining the health of the oceans.				
2.2.1	Develop an operational network of SPA MPAs according to existing guidelines	An operational network of SPA MPAs	Ongoing	There have been some delays in implementation due to the delays with funds receipt. A strategic vision, workplan, institutional & structure for the SPA PA network has been drafted and will be finalized in 2024.
2.2.2	Establish SPA MPAs Networking Group to lead the Inter-Regional network of MPAs and for enhancing CaMPAM Network of Marine Protected Areas.	At least 3 face-to-face coordination meetings with participation of 5 MPA regional networks main stakeholders conducted	Ongoing	There have been some delays in implementation due to the delays with funds receipt, the SPA COP and nomination of SPA expert
2.2.3	Develop Management Effectiveness Guidelines for SPA Regional MPA Networks	2 Training of Trainers (5 days) on PAME and MPA management conducted and at least to 15 MPA practitioners networked to enhance capacity in the Wider Caribbean Region and promote sustainability after the project	Ongoing	The Secretariat will update the MPA database and conduct a Management Effectiveness assessment.
2.2.4	Provide technical support, monitoring, and research to Governments to enable their establishment of new SPA MPAs	Learning Exchange in at least 4 regional and international meetings established.	Ongoing	There will be primary focus on the communication strategy and capacity building for Government leaders
2.2.5	Provide capacity building and training for selected Government officials as well as MPA Managers and staff through national and	5 (five) Small Grants provided to enhance PAME in at least 5	Ongoing	

	regional workshops to improve the MPA Management	SPAW-listed Protected Areas		
2.3: Reduction of the influx of waste (plastics and other forms of human and industrial liquid and solid waste) entering the marine environment of the Wider Caribbean Region.				
2.3.1	Convene national/regional capacity building meetings & workshop(s) involving at least 10 non-Contracting Parties to the LBS Protocol on pollution. This will help with their ratification and implementation of the LBS Protocol in the Wider Caribbean region. The primary focus will be on reducing environmental and human health impacts of marine litter including plastics, untreated domestic wastewater and nutrient discharges into the Caribbean Sea including discussion on possible new Annexes and/or Amendments to the LBS Protocol as recommended from the recent State of Pollution Report.		Ongoing	The Secretariat will support Blue Economy work in member states, as part of efforts to promote ratification of the Cartagena Convention and its Protocols and related Global MEAs including through participation at relevant regional and global fora where the opportunity to promote ratification is presented e.g. UNEA and Regional Ministerial Meetings.
2.3.2	Develop national pollution reduction action plans for at least 5 Contracting Parties to the LBS Protocol with a priority focus on national marine litter/plastics reduction (at least two), domestic wastewater and nutrients reduction strategies and action plans. This will support national implementation of the Regional Marine Litter Action Plan and Strategy for the Wider Caribbean Region and the Regional Nutrients Reduction Strategy (under development through the UNDP GEF CLME+ Project).	National pollution reduction action plans developed for at least 5 Contracting Parties to the LBS Protocol	Ongoing	There has been a lack of request from member states for support in this area. Bilateral Meetings will be held with each country to confirm needs and/or interest.
2.3.3	Implement local/national Ecosystem-based Management (EBM) projects promoting an integrated approach to pollution reduction and habitat restoration in at least two selected countries who are parties to both the LBS and SPAW Protocols. This will build on lessons learned from EBM pilot projects implemented under the GEF CLME+ Project and support countries in implementing activities under their	Ecosystem-based Management (EBM) projects implemented in at least 2 countries who are parties to both the LBS and SPAW Protocols.	Ongoing	There has been a delay in implementation due to the uncertainty of project extension and delay in receipt of funds.

	national pollution prevention plans and strategies.			
2.3.4	Develop/Update national legislation and/or regulations on wastewater effluent discharges in at least 6 Contracting Parties to the LBS Protocol in compliance with the Cartagena Convention - Annex III thus assisting them in complying with their targets under the protocol as well as those under Sustainable Development Goal 6 on Water and Sanitation.	National legislation and/or regulations on wastewater effluent discharges in at least 6 Contracting Parties to the LBS Protocol developed/updated	Ongoing	There has been minimal response from contracting parties, however, initial capacity building needs have been identified. Bilateral discussions will be conducted to determine whether support is needed at a national level or whether it will be more cost effective to develop a regional model legislation and/or guidelines.
2.3.5	Implement innovative decentralized, rural community-based interventions for wastewater management in at least 4 Contracting Parties working with Civil Society/NGOs and in partnerships with larger GEF Funded Projects on Wastewater. Focus will be on nature-based solutions and use of wastewater as a resource.	Community-based interventions for wastewater management implemented in at least 4 Contracting Parties	Ongoing	Late disbursements and slow start up in St. Vincent and the Grenadines and Saint Lucia has resulted in delayed implementation.
2.3.6	Design and Implement at least four community-based projects with a focus on plastic reduction, reuse and recycling as part of the Global Marine Litter Partnership, the Caribbean Node for Marine Litter and the Trash Free International Programme. These projects should demonstrate enhanced partnerships between national governments, civil society and the private sector and promote circular economy approaches to waste and plastics management.	4 community-based projects with a focus on plastic reduction, reuse and recycling designed and implemented	Ongoing	
2.3.7	Conduct a feasibility study on the implementation of a Regional Port Reception Facilities Plan for the Wider Caribbean Region to reduce pollution from ships with focus on plastics reduction. This will support the implementation of the MARPOL 73/78 Convention and the Annex V Special Area Status for the Caribbean Sea. This will be done in coordination with the Joint UN Environment/IMO Regional Activity Centre for Oil Spills RAC REMPEITC based in Curacao	Feasibility study on the implementation of a Regional Port Reception Facilities Plan for the Wider Caribbean Region conducted	Not Yet Started	Initial discussions have been held and a meeting is planned after the onboarding of the new AMEP Project Officer to discuss implementation plans.

2.4: Improved communication, networking and outreach by the Secretariat for the Cartagena Convention and associated Regional Activity Centres (RACs) and Regional Nodes and Platforms.

2.4.1	Engage industry and major users of plastic to identify and implement appropriate alternatives to single-use plastic and other packaging material like Styrofoam	Identification and implementation of appropriate alternatives to single-use plastic and other packaging material by industry and major users	Ongoing	
2.4.2	Deliver a targeted and dedicated education and awareness raising program on pollution and marine biodiversity	Targeted education and awareness raising program on pollution and marine biodiversity delivered	Ongoing	

Approved by:



.....

Mr. Christopher Corbin
 Coordinator
 Cartagena Convention Secretariat
 United Nations Environment Programme
 Kingston, Jamaica



EDF/2019/410-697

**ENFORCING ENVIRONMENTAL TREATIES' IMPLEMENTATION IN AFRICA,
CARIBBEAN, AND PACIFIC (ACP) COUNTRIES-ACP MEAS III**

**TECHNICAL PROGRESS REPORT
(JANUARY - JUNE 2024)**

UNITED NATIONS ENVIRONMENT PROGRAMME & PARTNERS



1. Introduction

The Programme on capacity building related to Multilateral Environmental Agreements (MEAs) in the African, Caribbean, and Pacific (ACP) countries is a partnership between the European Commission (EC), the Secretariat of the Organization of African, Caribbean and Pacific Group of States (OACPS), and the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP).

The primary objective of the programme is to promote environmental sustainability in ACP countries by strengthening governance and the implementation of MEAs. Specifically, the project aims to achieve the following;

- Improved enforcement of and compliance with MEAs related to biodiversity (CBD, CITES, CMS) and chemicals and waste (Basel, Rotterdam, Stockholm, and Minamata).
- Improved ACP countries capacities for the management of coasts and oceans in line with the related regional seas conventions.
- Enhanced mainstreaming of biodiversity and of the sound management of chemicals and waste in Agriculture in ACP countries in line with related MEAs.

UNEP Law Division coordinates the implementation of the first two specific objectives. This report provides an update on the implementation of the two strategic objectives from January – June 2024. It is based on the inputs from all the program's implementing partners and highlights the main achievements in the implementation of the ACP MEAs 3 Programme activities.

2. Assessment of implementation of Action

Result 2.1: Reinforcement of Regional Seas Conventions Governance Frameworks and associated protocols.

Activity 2.1.1: Convene at least 4 national promotional and consultative workshops to support ratification by Caribbean countries of the Cartagena Convention and its Protocols, as well as the cluster of related Biodiversity (MEAs CBD, CITES and CMS) and Chemicals (Minamata, BRS) Conventions including coordinating responses by Regional Seas Conventions to common issues such as Ocean Acidification, Marine Litter and Sargassum.

During this reporting period, the Cartagena Convention Secretariat participated in several activities to engage with biodiversity-related MEAs. Notably, we visited the CBD Secretariat and took part in the 33rd Animals Committee meeting of CITES, where we held productive discussions with members of both the CBD and CITES Secretariats. We also organized collaborative meetings with the CMS Secretariat to enhance cooperation on shared goals. Furthermore, we participated in the SOI meeting, engaging with other Regional Seas Programmes and Regional Fisheries Bodies worldwide to foster collaboration and address common challenges. To promote the ratification of the Cartagena Convention and its Protocols, we conducted several bilateral meetings with various countries, including Antigua and Barbuda, Costa Rica, Dominica, Guatemala, Haiti, Jamaica, Mexico, St. Kitts and Nevis, Suriname and United Kingdom. St. Kitts and Nevis indicated that they were in the process of ratifying the Land Based Sources of Marine Pollution (LBS) Protocol and the Specially Protected Areas and Wildlife Protocol (SPAW) of the Cartagena Convention and expected to deposit instruments of ratification in the second half of 2024.

Activity 2.1.2: Convene at least 2 sub-regional/regional consultative workshops to inform the development of a regional strategy/approach and road map for enhancing oceans governance in the Wider Caribbean region including through the use of Blue Economy, Ecosystem Based Management and other spatial planning and governance tools and approaches and facilitate exchanges between Regional Seas Programmes on common issues of concern

Given the multiple activities involving this topic in the region, the Secretariat focused on identifying strategic opportunities to partner with other regional agencies to support the implementation of this Activity. In that regard, a partnership was established with the Organization of Eastern Caribbean States (OECS) to support a Blue Economy Workshop scheduled to take place in the second half of 2024. The agenda for the workshop has been finalized and participants confirmed. In addition, collaboration is expected to take place on Marine Spatial Planning through the GEF funded Procaribe+ Project.

Activity 2.1.3: Provide consultancy support to draft and/or update national legislation and regulations for countries that have not yet ratified relevant International Maritime Organization (IMO) Conventions in particular MARPOL and OPRC and to facilitate increased ratification of those instruments.

The Government of the Dominican Republic received technical support for their implementation of the International Convention for the Prevention of Pollution from Ships (MARPOL). The support resulted in the finalization of a draft Regulations for MARPOL which is to be considered for formal adoption by the Government. An informal request was received for technical support to update existing maritime legislation in Saint Lucia and a formal request is still pending before it can be considered.

Result 2.2: Develop functional Network(s) of Specially Protected Areas and Wildlife (SPAW) -listed Marine Protected Areas (MPAs) covering interconnected marine habitats and ecosystems for restoring and sustaining the health of the oceans.

An agreement was signed with the Regional Activity Centre for the SPAW Protocol (SPAW RAC) to assist with the implementation of all activities under 2.2 through the continued development of a SPAW MPA Networking Group. The partnership aims to implement the ACP MEA III project, focusing on better coastal and ocean management and implementing the Cartagena Convention and its protocols, while actively promoting closer cooperation with the RACs to ensure seamless delivery of the work plan. This will also support the creation of regionally representative networks of Marine Protected Areas to strengthen ecosystem health and coral reef monitoring in the Wider Caribbean Region.

Activity 2.2.1: Develop an operational network of SPAW MPAs according to existing guidelines

&

Activity 2.2.2: Establish SPAW MPAs Networking Group to lead the Inter-Regional network of MPAs and for enhancing CaMPAM Network of Marine Protected Areas.

Given the nature of these two activities which compliment each other, the following presents a summary of actions taken in support of both 2.2.1 and 2.2.2.

SPAW MPAs Networking group was established and a draft strategic vision, workplan, institutional structure, and budget for the SPAW PA managers network was developed. This strategy will be aligned with the Options Papers which considered the reactivation of the Caribbean Marine Protected Area Management Network and Forum (CaMPAM) and the feasibility of developing a Functional Ecological Network of Protected Areas reviewed by the 10th SPAW STAC. It will also take into consideration various prevalent issues, such as the place of youth, women or the consideration of indigenous peoples in the management of protected areas. The draft operational plan will be reviewed by the SPAW Protected Areas Working Group for submission to SPAW STAC 11 and COP 13 in 2025.

Activity 2.2.3: Develop Management Effectiveness Guidelines for SPAW Regional MPA Networks

Following its initial launch, nine meetings have been held of the SPAW Protected Areas Working Group (March to September 2024) to facilitate the creation of a roadmap for the development of management effectiveness guidelines for the SPAW network.

A publication on 'Creating A Marine Protected Area Network in the Wider Caribbean' has been updated to highlight the importance of the SPAW Protocol and provide updates on the Marine Protected Areas (MPAs) across the region.

Activity 2.2.4: Provide technical support, monitoring and research to Governments to enable their establishment of new SPAW MPAs

Following a recommendation of SPAW STAC10 and to improve support to governments to enable their establishment of new PAs under SPAW, a review of the 'Guidelines and Criteria for the Evaluation of Protected Areas to be Listed Under the SPAW Protocol' (2010 Guidelines) document is currently underway by the SPAW Protected Areas Working Group. The final version is expected at the end of 2024.

Activity 2.2.5: Provide capacity building and training for selected Government officials as well as MPA Managers and staff through national and regional workshops to improve the MPA Management

During the reporting period, the 14th edition of the Training of Trainers on Marine Protected Areas (MPAs) Management course was organized and will be held in November 2024 in Barbados. This course aims to equip junior professionals with essential skills and knowledge to effectively manage MPAs. By focusing on both practical and theoretical components, the training seeks to enhance management capabilities across the region and promote sustainable practices. Additionally, it fosters collaboration among participants, creating networks for sharing experiences and best practices that can lead to improved management strategies. Furthermore, the program includes a follow-up activity where each participant will have the opportunity to replicate what they learned in their own countries,

ensuring that the knowledge gained is applied locally and contributes to the broader goal of effective MPA management.

The second in person meeting of the Network of MPA managers of the SPAW-listed MPAs was also planned during this period and will be held in November, 2024 in the Everglades National Park in Florida, USA. By working together, the managers aim to develop and harmonize strategies that address common challenges, ultimately improving the effectiveness of MPA management in the region. In line with one of the decisions from COP12 of SPAW, this event will also focus on finalizing a suggested strategic vision, workplan, institutional structure, and budget, which will be presented to SPAW STAC11 and COP13 in 2025 for consideration and possible decision. This collaborative effort will help ensure that the network's goals are aligned with broader conservation objectives and receive the necessary support for implementation.

Result 2.3: Reduction of the influx of waste (plastics and other forms of human and industrial liquid and solid waste) entering the marine environment of the Wider Caribbean Region.

Activity 2.3.1: Convene national/regional capacity building meetings & workshop(s) involving at least 10 non-Contracting Parties to the LBS Protocol on pollution. This will assist in their ratification and subsequent implementation of the LBS Protocol in the Wider Caribbean region. The primary focus will be on reducing environmental and human health impacts of marine litter including plastics, untreated domestic wastewater and nutrient discharges into the Caribbean Sea including discussion on possible new Annexes and/or Amendments to the LBS Protocol as recommended from the recent State of Pollution Report.

In February 2024, one of the Regional Activity Centers (CIMAB) for the LBS Protocol convened a National Workshop entitled "Challenges and perspectives of Cuba before the Protocol Concerning Pollution from Land-Based Sources and Activities (LBS Protocol)". Additional workshops are to be convened by RAC CIMAB in the second half of 2024 in Nicaragua and Guatemala.

Activity 2.3.2: Develop national pollution reduction action plans for at least 5 Contracting Parties to the LBS Protocol with a priority focus on national marine litter/plastics reduction (at least two), domestic wastewater and nutrients reduction strategies and action plans. This will support national implementation of the Regional Marine Litter Action Plan and Strategy for the Wider Caribbean Region and the Regional Nutrients Reduction Strategy (under development through the UNDP GEF CLME+ Project).

The Secretariat has engaged with Contracting Parties regarding the advancement of national pollution strategies and action plans.

The Secretariat also supported the development of a study to support the development of new regional quantitative discharge standards for nitrogen and phosphorus and is intended to promote and instigate improved management in the region. It is anticipated that the study

will stimulate and incentive cost effective action and contribute to broader environmental benefits and will support countries seeking to develop national nutrient reduction plans.

Activity 2.3.3: Implement local/national Ecosystem-based Management (EBM) projects promoting an integrated approach to pollution reduction and habitat restoration in at least two selected countries who are parties to both the LBS and SPAW Protocols. This will build on lessons learned from EBM pilot projects implemented under the GEF CLME+ Project and support countries in implementing activities under their national pollution prevention plans and strategies.

The Secretariat has reinitiated discussions with the Governments of Suriname and Guyana, to build on and replicate the successful implementation of previous ecosystem-based management (EBM) activities under the UNDP GEF CLME+ project and support the implementation of activities under their national pollution prevention plans and strategies. Activities are expected to begin in October 2024.

Activity 2.3.4: Develop/Update national legislation and/or regulations on wastewater effluent discharges in at least 6 Contracting Parties to the LBS Protocol in compliance with the Cartagena Convention - Annex III thus assisting them in complying with their targets under the protocol as well as those under Sustainable Development Goal 6 on Water and Sanitation.

Activity 2.3.5: Implement innovative decentralized, rural community based interventions for wastewater management in at least 4 Contracting Parties working with Civil Society/NGOs and in partnerships with larger GEF Funded Projects on Wastewater. Focus will be on nature-based solutions and use of wastewater as a resource.

This activity has been successfully completed and a final report available.

Activity 2.3.6: Design and Implement at least four community-based projects with a focus on plastic reduction, reuse and recycling as part of the Global Marine Litter Partnership, the Caribbean Node for Marine Litter and the Trash Free International Programme. These projects should demonstrate enhanced partnerships between national governments, civil society and the private sector and promote circular economy approaches to waste and plastics management.

This activity was successfully concluded and a final report is available.

Activity 2.3.7: Conduct a feasibility study on the implementation of a Regional Port Reception Facilities Plan for the Wider Caribbean Region to reduce pollution from ships with focus on plastics reduction. This will support the implementation of the MARPOL 73/78 Convention and the Annex V Special Area Status for the Caribbean Sea. This will be done in coordination with the Joint UN Environment/IMO Regional Activity Centre for Oil Spills RAC REMPEITC based in Curacao

The Secretariat has initiated discussions with RAC REMPEITC to facilitate implementation of this activity. In that regard, a working group was set up of Maritime Focal Points and a survey was conducted by RAC REMPEITC was conducted to determine how best to conduct this assessment. The results of the survey will be compiled in the second half of 2024 and will inform the development of Terms of Reference for this activity. This consultancy is expected to begin in the first quarter of 2025.

Result 2.4: Document best practices and lessons learnt in marine litter management at community level.

Activity 2.4.1: Engage industry and major users of plastic to identify and implement appropriate alternatives to single-use plastic and other packaging material like Styrofoam

Activity 2.4.2: Deliver a targeted and dedicated education and awareness raising programme on pollution and marine biodiversity

The Secretariat continues to feature updates on the overall work of the Secretariat, with dedicated sections for country news, activities implemented by the Regional Activity Centres, and updates on the ACP MEAs III and other projects on its social media platforms.

The Training of Trainers on MPA Management program has been resumed, and the 14th edition of the course will be developed on this occasion for English-speaking countries. This program is crucial for building capacity among marine protected area junior managers and stakeholders, equipping them with the necessary skills and knowledge to manage MPAs effectively.

Impact Matrix for 2024

Description of Activity ¹	Gender response	Policy link ²	Impact ³	Communication action ⁴	Links to overall institutional issue(s) and focus
2.1.1: Convene at least 4 national promotional and consultative workshops to support ratification by Caribbean countries of the Cartagena Convention and its Protocols, as well as the cluster of related Biodiversity (MEAs CBD, CITES and CMS) and Chemicals	Gender perspectives incorporated in the discussions.	Support to the Kunming Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework Target 1 to 8 and 20	Strengthened collaboration among biodiversity-related MEAs, enhancing awareness and understanding of the Cartagena Convention and its Protocols. Promoted capacity building and encouraged commitments to ratification through participation in key meetings and bilateral discussions.		Support to Cartagena Convention, SPAW and LBS COPs decisions.

¹ From table above.

² Reference to specific contribution made, e.g., inputs to post-2020 CBD framework.

³ Short description. E.g., the CBD SBI 3 meeting helped informed participation of focal points in CBD meeting.

⁴ Details of web updates, tweets, social media reach, publications made etc. PLEASE describe and quantify.

Description of Activity ¹	Gender response	Policy link ²	Impact ³	Communication action ⁴	Links to overall institutional issue(s) and focus
(Minamata, BRS) Conventions including coordinating responses by Regional Seas Conventions to common issues such as Ocean Acidification, Marine Litter and Sargassum.					
2.1.3 Provide consultancy support to draft and/or update national legislation and regulations for countries that have not yet ratified relevant International Maritime Organization	Gender consideration applied in the review of applications	Support to MARPOL ratification	Implementation of the MARPOL and OPRC Conventions by the Governments of the Dominican Republic and Barbados respectively.		Support to Global MEAs

Description of Activity ¹	Gender response	Policy link ²	Impact ³	Communication action ⁴	Links to overall institutional issue(s) and focus
(IMO) Conventions					
2.2.1 Develop an operational network of SPAW MPAs according to existing guidelines	Gender consideration applied in the review of consultancy applications.	Support to the Kunming Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework Target 2, 3 and 4	Enhanced Biodiversity Conservation and Management Efficiency by improving the protection of marine ecosystems and facilitating the sharing of best practices, leading to more effective management strategies. Increased Collaboration and Community Engagement by fostering collaboration among stakeholders, promoting shared responsibility in conservation efforts while also providing socio-economic benefits to local communities through		Support to SPAW COP decisions.

Description of Activity ¹	Gender response	Policy link ²	Impact ³	Communication action ⁴	Links to overall institutional issue(s) and focus
			sustainable livelihoods.		
2.2.3 Develop Management Effectiveness Guidelines for SPAW Regional MPA Networks		Support to the Kunming Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework Target 3	Enhanced conservation outcomes and standardised best practices, leading to improved management of marine biodiversity, informed decision-making, and increased stakeholder engagement in marine conservation efforts.		Support to SPAW COP decisions.
2.2.4 Provide technical support, monitoring and research to Governments to enable their establishment of new SPAW MPAs			The 2010 'Guidelines and Criteria for the Evaluation of Protected Areas to be Listed Under the SPAW Protocol' is being reviewed. The updated guidelines will aid in improving the range of support given to the		Support to SPAW COP decisions.

Description of Activity ¹	Gender response	Policy link ²	Impact ³	Communication action ⁴	Links to overall institutional issue(s) and focus
			Protected Areas under the SPAW Protocol		
2.2.5 Provide capacity building and training for selected Government officials as well as MPA Managers and staff through national and regional workshops to improve the MPA Management	Gender consideration applied in the review of course applications.	Support to the Kunming Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework Target 3 and 20	Junior professionals equipped with the necessary skills to effectively manage MPAs within their own countries and by extension the WCR. Fostered collaboration among participants which may lead to improved management strategies.		Support to SPAW COP decisions.
2.3.2 Develop national pollution reduction action plans for at least 5 Contracting Parties to the LBS Protocol with a priority focus on national marine		National pollution prevention action plans.	Support was provided to Jamaica and Barbados to develop national strategies on nutrients management. This supported the development of new regional quantitative discharge standards	Two case studies developed on Nutrient Management Valuation in Jamaica and Barbados	Global Partnership on Nutrient Management (GPNM)

Description of Activity ¹	Gender response	Policy link ²	Impact ³	Communication action ⁴	Links to overall institutional issue(s) and focus
litter/plastics reduction (at least two), domestic wastewater and nutrients reduction strategies and action plans.			for nitrogen, and possibly phosphorus.		
2.3.3 Implement local/national Ecosystem-based Management (EBM) projects promoting an integrated approach to pollution reduction and habitat restoration in at least two selected countries who are parties to both the LBS and SPAW Protocols.	In Suriname, a pilot on gender-based climate change action is planned.	National pollution prevention plans and strategies.	The activities currently being planned in Suriname and Guyana to build on and replicate the successful implementation of previous Ecosystem-Based Management activities under the UNDP GEF CLME+ project will result in capacity building among community members and stakeholders, establish networks focused on pollution reduction and marine habitat restoration.		Support to Ecosystem-based Management approaches
2.4.2 Deliver a	Social media posts use gender sensitive		Several national and		Guided by the

Description of Activity ¹	Gender response	Policy link ²	Impact ³	Communication action ⁴	Links to overall institutional issue(s) and focus
targeted and dedicated education and awareness raising program on pollution and marine biodiversity	language		regional meetings provided the opportunity to share various public awareness materials produced by the Secretariat.		<p>Secretariat's Communications Strategy and strategic objectives of the CEP Strategy</p> <p>Support to the UN Decades on Ocean Science and Ecosystem Restoration</p> <p>Support to efforts for greater communication and advocacy in UNEP's Medium-Term Strategy, to communicate scientific information in a language that is accessible to all and can influence and stimulate decision-making as well as environmental action.</p>

3. Updated workplan

Please provide an updated workplan until the end of the project in the format below

Activity No.	Activity description (including actual activities to be undertaken until the end of the programme)	Budget from July 2024 to December 2025 (or project end date for partners concluding the project sooner)
2.1.1	<p>Convene national promotional and consultative workshops to support ratification by Caribbean countries of the Cartagena Convention and its Protocols, as well as the cluster of related Biodiversity (MEAs CBD, CITES and CMS) and Chemicals (Minamata, BRS) Conventions including coordinating responses by Regional Seas Conventions to common issues such as Ocean Acidification, Marine Litter and Sargassum.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Conduct a subregional activity for countries within the region who are close to ratification. - Participate in national & regional workshops 	\$0
	<p>Convene Sub-regional/regional consultative workshops to inform the development of a regional strategy/approach and road map for enhancing oceans governance in the Wider Caribbean region including through the use of Blue Economy, Ecosystem Based Management and other spatial planning and governance tools and approaches and facilitate exchanges between Regional Seas Programmes on common issues of concern.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Design a Resource Mobilization Strategy to support the implementation of the 2021-2023 Regional Strategy for the Cartagena Convention Project updated with support of the ACP MEA project. - Finalize the Regional Strategy for the Cartagena Convention and seek intersessional approval during the first half of 2024. 	\$6,500
2.1.3	<p>Provide consultancy support to draft and/or update national legislation and regulations for countries that have not yet ratified relevant International Maritime Organization (IMO) Conventions in particular MARPOL and OPRC and to facilitate increased ratification of those instruments. (completed)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Disseminate and promote outputs/products from consultancy completed in 2023 	\$0

2.2.1	Develop an operational network of SPAW MPAs according to existing guidelines <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - To be completed through partnership with SPAW RAC 	\$0
2.2.2	Establish SPAW MPAs Networking Group to lead the Inter-Regional network of MPAs and for enhancing CaMPAM Network of Marine Protected Areas. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - To be completed through partnership with SPAW RAC - A 3-day working group PA network workshop will be conducted to include the working group members 	\$28,000
2.2.3	Develop Management Effectiveness Guidelines for SPAW Regional MPA Networks <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Update MPA database - Conduct Management Effectiveness Assessment - Conduct learning exchange among Network Managers 	\$11,000
2.2.4	Provide technical support, monitoring and research to Governments to enable their establishment of new SPAW MPAs <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - To be completed through partnership with SPAW RAC - Identify a list of sites (reef and local communities) from non-SPAW listed MPAs in the Caribbean to carry out integrated monitoring associating biophysical and socio-economic monitoring. - Implement a training program focused on integrated reef monitoring - Conduct an in-person integrated reef monitoring train the trainers workshop, mainly for MPA managers and practitioners from non-SPAW listed MPAs 	\$3,300
2.2.5	Provide capacity building and training for selected Government officials as well as MPA Managers and staff through national and regional workshops to improve the MPA Management <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - To be completed through partnership with SPAW RAC 	\$0
2.3.1	Convene national/regional capacity building meetings & workshop(s) involving at least 10 non-Contracting Parties to the LBS Protocol on pollution. This will assist in their ratification and subsequent implementation of the LBS Protocol in the Wider Caribbean region. The primary focus will be on reducing environmental and human health impacts of marine litter including plastics, untreated domestic wastewater and nutrient discharges into the Caribbean Sea including	\$131,000

	<p>discussion on possible new Annexes and/or Amendments to the LBS Protocol as recommended from the recent State of Pollution Report.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Convene sub-regional workshops to promote Blue Economy in collaboration with the OECS and the UK Overseas Territories - Conduct Subregional Workshops for Spanish/English speaking countries 	
2.3.2	<p>Develop national pollution reduction action plans for at least 5 Contracting Parties to the LBS Protocol with a priority focus on national marine litter/plastics reduction (at least two), domestic wastewater and nutrients reduction strategies and action plans.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Support at least 2 additional countries in developing National Action Plans 	\$18,500
2.3.3	<p>Implement local/national Ecosystem-based Management (EBM) projects promoting an integrated approach to pollution reduction and habitat restoration in at least two selected countries who are parties to both the LBS and SPAW Protocols. This will build on lessons learned from EBM pilot projects implemented under the GEF CLME+ Project and support countries in implementing activities under their national pollution prevention plans and strategies.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Conduct a community-based diagnosis of climate change effects and gender - Design and implement formal and non-formal education and training for community members - Implement ecosystem-based management practices to restore and sustain the mangrove ecosystem - Design infrastructure support for ecotourism 	\$98,500
2.3.4	<p>Develop/Update national legislation and/or regulations on wastewater effluent discharges in at least 6 Contracting Parties to the LBS Protocol in compliance with the Cartagena Convention - Annex III thus assisting them in complying with their targets under the protocol as well as those under Sustainable Development Goal 6 on Water and Sanitation.</p>	\$109,600
2.3.5	<p>Implement innovative decentralized, rural communitybased interventions for wastewater management in at least 4 Contracting Parties working with Civil Society/NGOs and in partnerships with larger GEF Funded Projects on Wastewater. Focus will be on nature-based</p>	\$18,800

	solutions and use of wastewater as a resource <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Participate in national & regional workshops - Facilitate exchange of experiences 	
2.3.6	Design and Implement at least four community-based projects with a focus on plastic reduction, reuse and recycling as part of the Global Marine Litter Partnership, the Caribbean Node for Marine Litter and the Trash Free International Programme. These projects should demonstrate enhanced partnerships between national governments, civil society and the private sector and promote circular economy approaches to waste and plastics management. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Support youth and community-based activities related to plastic and marine litter 	\$31,000
2.3.7	Conduct a feasibility study on the implementation of a Regional Port Reception Facilities Plan for the Wider Caribbean Region to reduce pollution from ships with focus on plastics reduction. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - To be completed through partnership with RAC REMPEITC, the joint UNEP/IMO Regional Activity Centre for the Oil Spills Protocol based in Curacao. 	
2.4.1	Engage industry and major users of plastic to identify and implement appropriate alternatives to single-use plastic and other packaging material like Styrofoam <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Promote project outputs 	\$0
2.4.2	Deliver a targeted and dedicated education and awareness raising program on pollution and marine biodiversity <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Support national & regional youth activities - Consideration being given to partnership with the CSRO 	\$17,800

4 Visibility

The Secretariat continued to maintain its webpage on the programme and provided periodic updates. Plans are currently underway to expand on the Secretariat's use of social media to promote the activities and results of the programme, alongside the enhanced use of the website and other public forums.

The ACP MEAs III programme's social media pages were supported through retweets and resharing of announcements. Copies of outputs and programme updates were also provided to LBS and SPAW focal points of the Convention. Communications guidelines are shared with consultants and partners to ensure the appropriate use of the project logo on all project outputs..

5. Conclusion

The activities of the UNEP Cartagena Convention Secretariat are being executed under Component 2 of the overall project which focuses on better management of coasts and oceans and effective implementation of the related Regional Seas Conventions. The National United Nations Volunteer, who joined the Secretariat on 1 June 2022 has continued to provide programmatic and administrative support to the project, however, there has been some implementation challenges that has affected the project during the period:

- a) The delayed receipt of a formal notice of project extension, as well as project funds, has also affected the commencement and completion of several partnership sub-projects, whilst also threatening the confidence of some partners, in our agreement

7. Annex: Log frame

Please provide updates on the status of implementation of the activities as per the table below.

e.g Specific Objective One: Enforcement of and compliance with MEAs related to biodiversity and chemicals and waste

Activity No	Activity description	Objectively verifiable indicator of achievement	Status of implementation	Remarks
-------------	----------------------	---	--------------------------	---------

2.1: Reinforcement of Regional Seas Conventions Governance Frameworks and associated protocols:				
2.1.1	Convene national promotional and consultative workshops to support ratification by Caribbean countries of the Cartagena Convention and its Protocols, as well as the cluster of related Biodiversity (MEAs CBD, CITES and CMS) and Chemicals (Minamata, BRS) Conventions including coordinating responses by Regional Seas Conventions to common issues such as Ocean Acidification, Marine Litter and Sargassum.	At least 4 national promotional and consultative workshops convened	Ongoing	Given the number of non-contracting Parties, the Secretariat may consider subregional workshops in partnership with other IGOs combined with high level political missions to promote ratification as well as exchanges among Contracting and Non-Contracting Parties. This will enable more effective use of funds.
2.1.2	Convene Sub-regional/regional consultative workshops to inform the development of a regional strategy/approach and road map for enhancing oceans governance in the Wider Caribbean region including through the use of Blue Economy, Ecosystem Based Management and other spatial planning and governance tools and approaches and facilitate exchanges between Regional Seas Programmes on common issues of concern.	At least 2 subregional/regional consultative workshops convened	Ongoing	The Secretariat will develop a Resource Mobilization Strategy to support the implementation of the 2023-2030 Regional Strategy for the Cartagena Convention Project, which was updated with support of the ACP MEA project. A consultant has been hired and is expected to complete the strategy in the second half of 2024.
2.1.3	Provide consultancy support to draft and/or update national		Ongoing	Ongoing focus will be placed on promoting outputs that

	legislation and regulations for countries that have not yet ratified relevant International Maritime Organization (IMO) Conventions in particular MARPOL and OPRC and to facilitate increased ratification of those instruments.			have been achieved (National Dispersant Use Policy and National Oil Spills Contingency Plan for Barbados and the draft Regulation for the implementation of the International Convention for the Prevention of Pollution from Ships (MARPOL) in the Dominican Republic.)
2.2: Develop functional Network(s) of Specially Protected Areas and Wildlife (SPA) -listed Marine Protected Areas (MPAs) covering interconnected marine habitats and ecosystems for restoring and sustaining the health of the oceans.				
2.2.1	Develop an operational network of SPA MPAs according to existing guidelines	An operational network of SPA MPAs	Ongoing	A strategic vision, workplan, institutional & structure for the SPA PA network has been drafted and will be finalized in 2024
2.2.2	Establish SPA MPAs Networking Group to lead the Inter-Regional network of MPAs and for enhancing CaMPAM Network of Marine Protected Areas.	At least 3 face-to-face coordination meetings with participation of 5 MPA regional networks main stakeholders conducted	Ongoing	Nine meetings have been held, following the launch of the SPA Protected Areas Working Group. A roadmap for the development of management effectiveness guidelines for the SPA network will be created.
2.2.3	Develop Management Effectiveness Guidelines for SPA Regional MPA Networks	2 Training of Trainers (5 days) on PAME and MPA management conducted and at least to 15 MPA practitioners networked to enhance capacity in the Wider Caribbean Region	Ongoing	One training of trainers (10 days) on PAME and MPA management will be conducted in Nov 2024 with 20 MPA practitioners networked to enhance

		and promote sustainability after the project		capacity in the Wider Caribbean Region and promote sustainability after the project
2.2.4	Provide technical support, monitoring, and research to Governments to enable their establishment of new SPAW MPAs	Learning Exchange in at least 4 regional and international meetings established.	Ongoing	There will be primary focus on the communication strategy and capacity building for Government leaders
2.2.5	Provide capacity building and training for selected Government officials as well as MPA Managers and staff through national and 5 (five) Small Grants provided to enhance PAME in at least 5 Ongoing 26 regional workshops to improve the MPA Management	5 (five) Small Grants provided to enhance PAME in at least 5 SPAW-listed Protected Areas	Ongoing	The SPAW-RAC will support the evaluation of the current status of <i>A. cervicornis</i> populations affected by intense bleaching events in the Guhanacabibes National Park in Cuba and the conduction of a training and lessons learned workshop on the restoration programs implemented in the national park.
2.3: Reduction of the influx of waste (plastics and other forms of human and industrial liquid and solid waste) entering the marine environment of the Wider Caribbean Region.				
2.3.1	Convene national/regional capacity building meetings & workshop(s) involving at least 10 non-Contracting Parties to the LBS Protocol on pollution. This will help with their ratification and implementation of the LBS Protocol in the Wider Caribbean region. The primary focus will be on reducing	At least 10 Contracting Parties engaged in national/regional capacity building workshops.	Ongoing	The Secretariat will support Blue Economy work in member states, as part of efforts to promote ratification of the Cartagena Convention and its Protocols and related Global MEAs including through participation at relevant regional and global fora

	environmental and human health impacts of marine litter including plastics, untreated domestic wastewater and nutrient discharges into the Caribbean Sea including discussion on possible new Annexes and/or Amendments to the LBS Protocol as recommended from the recent State of Pollution Report.			where the opportunity to promote ratification is presented e.g. UNEA and Regional Ministerial Meetings.
2.3.2	Develop national pollution reduction action plans for at least 5 Contracting Parties to the LBS Protocol with a priority focus on national marine litter/plastics reduction (at least two), domestic wastewater and nutrients reduction strategies and action plans. This will support national implementation of the Regional Marine Litter Action Plan and Strategy for the Wider Caribbean Region and the Regional Nutrients Reduction Strategy (under development through the UNDP GEF CLME+ Project).	National pollution reduction action plans developed for at least 5 Contracting Parties to the LBS Protocol	Ongoing	There has been a lack of request from member states for support in this area. Bilateral Meetings will be held with each country to confirm needs and/or interest. If not, it will be proposed that these funds be allocated to support on the ground community-based activities.
2.3.3	Implement local/national Ecosystem-based Management (EBM) projects promoting an integrated approach to pollution reduction and habitat	Ecosystem-based Management (EBM) projects implemented in at least 2 countries who are parties to both the LBS and SPAW Protocols.	Ongoing	Discussions continue with the governments of Suriname and Guyana. However, there has been a delay in implementation due to the

	restoration in at least two selected countries who are parties to both the LBS and SPAW Protocols. This will build on lessons learned from EBM pilot projects implemented under the GEF CLME+ Project and support countries in implementing activities under their national pollution prevention plans and strategies.			uncertainty of project extension and delay in receipt of funds.
2.3.4	Develop/Update national legislation and/or regulations on wastewater effluent discharges in at least 6 Contracting Parties to the LBS Protocol in compliance with the Cartagena Convention - Annex III thus assisting them in complying with their targets under the protocol as well as those under Sustainable Development Goal 6 on Water and Sanitation.	National legislation and/or regulations on wastewater effluent discharges in at least 6 Contracting Parties to the LBS Protocol developed/updated	Ongoing	There has been minimal response from contracting parties, however, initial capacity building needs have been identified and bilateral discussions have indicated a need for support at a national level. This is being done in collaboration with the GEF CReW+ Project.
2.3.5	Implement innovative decentralized, rural community-based interventions for wastewater management in at least 4 Contracting Parties working with Civil Society/NGOs and in partnerships with larger GEF Funded Projects on	Community-based interventions for wastewater management implemented in at least 4 Contracting Parties	Completed	

	Wastewater. Focus will be on nature-based solutions and use of wastewater as a resource.			
2.3.6	Design and Implement at least four community-based projects with a focus on plastic reduction, reuse and recycling as part of the Global Marine Litter Partnership, the Caribbean Node for Marine Litter and the Trash Free International Programme. These projects should demonstrate enhanced partnerships between national governments, civil society and the private sector and promote circular economy approaches to waste and plastics management.	4 community-based projects with a focus on plastic reduction, reuse and recycling designed and implemented	Completed	
2.3.7	Conduct a feasibility study on the implementation of a Regional Port Reception Facilities Plan for the Wider Caribbean Region to reduce pollution from ships with focus on plastics reduction. This will support the implementation of the MARPOL 73/78 Convention and the Annex V Special Area Status for the Caribbean Sea. This will be done in coordination with the Joint UN Environment/IMO Regional	Feasibility study on the implementation of a Regional Port Reception Facilities Plan for the Wider Caribbean Region conducted	Initiated	Initial discussions have been held and an agreement is being drafted to facilitate implementation

	Activity Centre for Oil Spills RAC REMPEITC based in Curacao			
2.4: Improved communication, networking and outreach by the Secretariat for the Cartagena Convention and associated Regional Activity Centres (RACs) and Regional Nodes and Platforms.				
2.4.1	Engage industry and major users of plastic to identify and implement appropriate alternatives to single-use plastic and other packaging material like Styrofoam	Identification and implementation of appropriate alternatives to single use plastic and other packaging material by industry major users	Completed	Focus is currently being placed on promotion of deliverables and decisions with regards to reduced use of single-plastic materials.
2.4.2	Deliver a targeted and dedicated education and awareness raising program on pollution and marine biodiversity	Targeted education and awareness raising program on pollution and marine biodiversity delivered	Ongoing	Discussions are ongoing with partners to aid in capacity building initiatives within schools and youth organizations. The Training of Trainers on MPA Management program has been resumed, and the 14th edition of the course will be developed on this occasion for English-speaking countries. This program is crucial for building capacity among marine protected area junior managers and stakeholders, equipping them with the necessary skills and knowledge to manage MPAs effectively.