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(SPA W) in the Wider Caribbean Region

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**REVIEW OF FRANCE'S PROPOSAL FOR LISTING
MARTINIQUE'S MARINE NATURE PARK UNDER THE SPA W
PROTOCOL**

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ACRONYMS

CaMPAM	Caribbean Marine Protected Areas Management Network and Forum
CEP	Caribbean Environment Programme
EEZ	Exclusive Economic Zone
FPNA	Fundacion Parke Nacional Aruba
MNMP	Martinique Marine Nature Park
MP	Management plan
MPA	Marine Protected Area
NGO	Non-Governmental Organization
OFB	Office Français de la Biodiversité
PA	Protected Area
RAC	Regional Activity Center
SPAW	Specially Protected Areas and Wildlife
STAC	Scientific and Technical Advisory Committee
UNEP	United Nations Environment Programme
WG	Working Group

**REVIEW OF THE PROPOSAL OF THE MARTINIQUE MARINE NATURE PARK
FOR LISTING UNDER THE SPAW PROTOCOL**

CORE GROUP OF EXPERTS

Ana Maria Gonzalez Delgadillo, *Colombia, Ministry of the Environment and sustainable development;*

Lloyd Gardner, *Foundation for Development Planning, Inc.*

INTRODUCTION

1. The proposal of France for the inclusion of the Martinique Marine Nature Park (MMNP) in the SPAW listing sites was submitted to the SPAW Secretariat for review on the 29th of July 2022 (UNEP(DEPI)/CAR WG 43/INF 15). Acknowledgement of receipt was sent on the 01st of August by the SPAW-RAC.
2. Based on previous reviews, the SPAW-RACs proceeds as follow in order to evaluate proposals:
 - i. PA Working Group experts review the proposal;
 - ii. A report is done including the points deemed lacking;
 - iii. Remarks and comments from experts are sent to the country for additional information;
 - iv. The information received is communicated to experts for final review;
 - v. The experts group makes recommendations on the proposal.
3. The review of this proposal by the experts of the PA Working Group has been mentioned at the first Working Group meeting, on the 31st of May 2022.
4. SPAW-RAC made a courtesy translation (French to English) of the Annexes of the proposal
5. As of 01st of August 2022, a core group of two (2) experts chose to focus on the proposal's review and completed an evaluation table
6. The proposal and its draft evaluation table were submitted for review to the other experts of the PA WG and a meeting to consolidate and validate the evaluation was organised online on 6th September 2022. This evaluation was supported by the completion of an evaluation table (see Annex).
7. Comments and justifications from France by OFB were sent on 20th of September 2022.

SUMMARY OF OBSERVATIONS

8. In general, the experts recognize the great interest of the nomination of the Marine Natural Park of Martinique and support its inscription as a SPAW site.
9. However, the experts indicate that the proposal deserves further development/completion in the following points:
 - The proposal could more clearly state the objective of the park's creation. Clarification of the relationship between the conservation objectives of the Martinique park and those of the various protected areas it hosts would provide a better understanding of how the strong protection objectives of these MPAs are met and maintained over time.
 - The proposal contains several major ecological information and the ecological interest of the park. More ecological detail would be needed to justify the rarity, naturalness, diversity, connectivity and resilience of the park to play an important role as part of a network of SPAW listed areas.

I. REVIEW BY THE EXPERTS

Review of the proposal of the Martinique Marine Nature Park for listing under the SPAW Protocol

SPAW STAC Protected Areas Ad Hoc Working Group

Reviewers

Ana Maria Gonzalez Delgadillo, *Colombia, Ministry of the Environment and sustainable development;*
Lloyd Gardner, *Foundation for Development Planning, Inc*

INTRODUCTION

10. First and foremost, we would like to thank the Government of France for submitting the Martinique Marine Nature Park (MMNP) for inclusion in the SPAW list and for its renewed efforts to comply with the Cartagena Convention - SPAW Protocol.
11. We would also like to thank the experts who were involved in the evaluation of the proposal
12. The MMNP was created by Decree No. 2017-784 of May 5th 2017 in order to address the many issues involved in preservation of natural and cultural heritage and practices at sea.
13. It is the most recent and the 2nd largest of the eight Marine Nature Parks managed by the Office Français de la Biodiversité (OFB – French Biodiversity Agency) (Article L334-2), whose objectives are to preserve the marine environment, improve knowledge and contribute to sustainable development of maritime activities. A team of OFB personnel implements the annual action programmes through actions carried out in-house or in collaboration with local partners.
14. Its Management Plan was the subject of broad consultation of local stakeholders and major mobilisation on the part of the Management Board. It was voted on by the Management Board on February 24th 2021 and adopted by the OFB on June 30th 2021. The Institution's Objectives and Performance Contract presents the priority operational objectives pursued for the Protected Areas and specifically for Overseas French territories.
15. The territory of the MMNP covers all the waters under the jurisdiction of Martinique, including its Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ) which represents an area of 48,900 km²
16. The MMNP is composed of a variety of habitats (mangroves, seagrass beds, corals, sands and deep-sea habitats, etc.) and is home to many highly endangered marine species including 21 species of marine mammals, 5 species of sea turtles, elasmobranchs, coral species, over 300 species of coastal fish and many large pelagic fish, 200 species of seaweed, over 100 species of sponges, gorgonians, molluscs, crustaceans and echinoderms, and 35 species of migratory and pelagic limicolous birds are present in

Martinique's waters. Certain species and habitats listed in Article III-C are subject to more management/recovery/protection measures than others.

17. The park is also home to several human maritime activities which play an important part in socio and cultural aspects of Martinique. The main activities identified are professional fishing, aquaculture, recreational fishing, goods transport, cruises, activities relating to port infrastructures, yachting, nautical events, excursions, passenger transport, underwater leisure activities and water sports activities. Impacts and threats affecting the park were identified and are addressed in the management framework by measures to sustainably use the resource measures. Monitoring and evaluation programmes are in place to meet the objectives of the park including achieving the good-quality environment objective.
18. In principle, the proposed area fulfils the general protected area criteria of both Article 4 of the SPAW Protocol and the UNEP-CEP General Guidelines for SPAW-listed sites. The ecological and socio-economical aspects of the MMNP are well covered and illustrated by the proposal and supporting documents as part of the dossier.
19. Protection, planning and management aspects are also generally well described by the dossier which indicate elements of stability, maturity and operationality of the park to implement its management framework. However, the overall purpose and objectives of the park are not fully clear concerning the conservation and protection of biodiversity and habitats in contrast with the management of human activities having clear impacts on the marine environment.
20. The dossier is in line with the listing procedure with regard to the list of elements and documents to be submitted

CRITICAL REVIEW:

21. The Martinique's application to list the MMNP as SPAW Area is valuable and a lot of work and effort was done to write the proposal and provide supporting information. In general, the proposal has merits for the site to be listed as a SPAW site.
22. The Ecological, Cultural and Socio-Economic Criteria are mostly in line with the requirements/criteria for the listing process. The information in the application shows that the MMNP is of local ecological value, but the case was not made for the site as having outstanding or unique ecological value. Local ecological value does not necessarily translate to regional ecological value.
23. The legal and management frameworks listed in the proposal are comprehensive and show that the park benefits from a strong support of the French Government as well as management body with necessary means to implement the framework
24. The proposal has a comprehensive list of metrics or measures to help evaluate the management addressing its goals as well as list of institutions partnering with the MMNP to conduct these evaluations
25. The proposal does not clearly explain how the listed conservation objectives are aligned with any nature reserve or specific habitat, threat reduction, or ecological process.

KEY ACTION ITEMS

26. The proposed addition of Martinique Marine Nature Park to the SPAW listed protected areas overall has merit. However, a couple of transversal areas could benefit from additional information to substantiate the application:
- a) **Rarity:** the dossier generally lacks information regarding species endemism, unique habitats and ecosystems justifying the rarity of the parks on those aspects. This criteria would need further detail too be fully satisfied
 - b) **Naturalness:** Noting in the application the relative high level of disturbance, the park would be recommended to seek for stronger protection measures to limit the impacts of human activities
 - c) **Connectivity:** The dossier generally lacks information regarding ecological connectivity within the area covered by the park as well as ability to contribute to maintaining the ecological integrity of the Wider Caribbean Region with other SPAW listed sites and protected areas
 - d) **Resilience:** The dossier does not sufficiently address the resilience potential of the park. Resilience is mainly looked at from an ecosystem perspective but nothing is mentioned regarding the resilience of species populations against direct and indirect impacts of human activities.

CONCLUSION

27. In principle, the proposed area fulfils the general protected area criteria of both Article 4 of the SPAW Protocol and the UNEP-CEP General Guidelines for SPAW-listed sites. However, as detailed above, there is missing information that, if completed, could contribute to reinforcing the argumentation. Moreover, the Martinique Marine Nature Park could demonstrate several key management efforts to make sure it meets the general SPAW listed sites criteria.
28. France could reinforce its proposal by answering comments and questions from experts

II. FEEDBACK FROM FRANCE

It appears that the main objective of the creation of the MMNP is not entirely clear in the application. The information presented suggests that the objective is general environmental management and not targeted conservation (which is the typical objective of marine protected areas or marine nature parks). The application does not indicate, or does not sufficiently indicate, how the listed conservation objectives are aligned with the issues of managing a specific nature reserve or critical habitat, reducing threats or maintaining ecological processes. Can you clarify this?

29. The status of a marine nature park (like the AGOA Sanctuary, another MPA managed by the OFB and awarded a SPAW label) aims to conserve species and is based on a specific methodology: the leadership of a management council that brings together all the stakeholders; this makes it possible to activate several levers:
- The fundamental levers of species conservation (inventories, scientific monitoring and protection measures), which are part of the "hard" sciences;

- Levers that are more related to the "human and social sciences": citizen mobilisation, enhancement of natural and cultural heritage, creation of training and development of skills, territorial anchoring;
- Levers more related to the economic field: aid for the structuring of nautical/maritime industries so that they are eco-compatible with biodiversity issues.

The management body of the Martinique Marine Nature Park is structured to provide infrastructure support and policing. Environmental quality monitoring and ecological assessments appear to be carried out by other organisations (Annex III). The application does not seem to sufficiently address the nature of the cooperation agreements for carrying out monitoring and assessments (species, habitats, ecological processes, etc.). Could you please elaborate on these cooperation agreements in the context of the implementation of the management plan?

30. OFB was not able to provide more information for the application which already contains all the elements in their possession. OFB invited the experts to refer to the current application, especially the Annexes, Management Plan as well as Activity Report and Plan of Actions

Do you have any references/additional documents to justify the ecological criteria "Connectivity" (link between the MMNP with other protected areas in the rest of Martinique and protected areas in the Caribbean, existing ecological corridors) and "Resilience" (role of the MMNP in terms of resilience capacity for populations of marine species and habitats to recover from disturbances within a reasonable period of time or natural resistance to threats)?

31. OFB was not able to provide more information for the application which already contains all the elements in their possession. OFB invited the experts to refer to the current application, especially the Annexes, Management Plan as well as Activity Report and Plan of Actions

III. CONCLUSION

32. Experts recommend giving full support to the proposal from France to include the Martinique Marine Nature Park into the SPAW listing sites.

Further considerations:

33. The overlap of the EEZ and MMNP boundary suggest that the conservation value of the MMNP is not the primary reason for site designation. However, the MMNP provides a unique opportunity to learn what happens when a State places its entire coastal area under active management. If the latter reason for approving the application for listing is accepted, experts recommend that the SPAW secretariat work closely with Martinique to record the development process, assess management effectiveness, and evaluate site ecological performance.

34. Experts suggest having further discussions on revising the protected area listing process to have a stronger emphasis on management effectiveness, and less of an "inventory" approach describing the resources. They recommended that all new applications must include a current management plan and performance evaluation report in order to be considered for listing. Opportunities to streamline the process must be considered.

35. Experts also suggest that the evaluation process should focus more on the aspects related to the role that the proposed site can play as marine protected area model for the rest of the wider Caribbean Region (WCR), being integrated into a SPAW listed protected areas network. This remark is something to consider for the overall evaluation of newly proposed sites to be listed under the SPAW protocol. In the exercise of comparing sites between them, it is important to have access to a tool within the SPAW Protocol guidelines to be able to compare sites with clear set goals and objectives and expectations.
36. Experts support a strong focus on capacity development for SPAW sites to help address management effectiveness needs, e.g., through CaMPAM.

Annex:**Evaluation table of the Martinique's proposal completed by the Protected Areas Working Group experts and SPAW-RAC**

Evaluation of criteria for the protected area: Martinique Marine Nature Park, France							
		Focal Point / Manager: Aude Brador, Director of the Marine Nature Park of Martinique					
		Submission Date: 29 / 07 / 22					
SPAW Articles	Criteria Articles	Criteria	Criteria description	Presence of the information in the proposal	Information details	Expert opinions	Validation of the criteria
B. Ecological, Cultural and Socio-Economic Criteria							
Articles - 10-12 Ecological Criteria							
17 – 18	(a)	Representativeness	Physiographic features	yes	In the format it is related, but the information is very general The information presented in the application dossier refers to the terrestrial instead of underwater features.	All the information that is in the 210608_Plan_de_gestion_PNMM_vCA_OFB, can help complete or expand the information in the Overview, especially that related to criteria B. Ecological, Cultural and Socio-Economic Criteria If the physiographic information is contained in one of the studies noted in the dossier, that report should be cited in the application.	Criteria generally satisfied but with basic information given in the proposal and completed with the management plan. Physiographic features, species and habitats are covered.
			Populations of species	yes	In the format it is related, but the information is very general Species are identified but population data are absent from the application dossier.	All the information that is in the 210608_Plan_de_gestion_PNMM_vCA_OFB, can help complete or expand the information in the Overview, especially that related to criteria B. Ecological, Cultural and Socio-Economic Criteria The references to studies suggest the data are available in other publications. The applicant should confirm data availability.	However, the dossier does not detail enough ecological processes

SPA Articles	Criteria Articles	Criteria	Criteria description	Presence of the information in the proposal	Information details	Expert opinions	Validation of the criteria
17 – 18	(a)	Representativeness	Habitats and ecosystem types	yes	In the format it is related, but the information is very general	<p>All the information that is in the 210608_Plan_de_gestion_PNMM_vCA_OFB, can help complete or expand the information in the Overview, especially that related to criteria B. Ecological, Cultural and Socio-Economic Criteria</p> <p>The application notes the loss of habitats and the presence of an invasive species of seagrass. Given the concerns of competitiveness of the invasive species, more information should be provided by the applicant.</p>	
			Ecological processes	no	None provided in the application dossier.	If habitats are being degraded, it is important to know if the ecological processes are intact or whether habitats have to be restored in order to maintain ecological processes.	
	(b)	Conservation value	Species / Sub-species / Populations of flora and fauna ; permanent residents ; preventing from becoming threatened or endangered	yes	In the format it is related, but the information is very general and minimal	<p>All the information that is in the 210608_Plan_de_gestion_PNMM_vCA_OFB, can help complete or expand the information in the Overview, especially that related to criteria B. Ecological, Cultural and Socio-Economic Criteria</p> <p>The MMNP seemed to have been established primarily to coordinate management of the marine space, not for its conservation value.</p>	The criteria is generally satisfied in the proposal and completed with the management plan given more information about endangered species and their habitats
	(c)	Rarity (Conserves unique or rare species)	Species (rare, endemic, threatened or endangered species that are geographically restricted in their distribution)	yes but limited	<p>No information in the application but the management plan makes reference to the level of endemism in Martinique for species and is mainly illustrated with seabirds</p> <p>Threatened species are identified but geographic distribution to Martinique was not cited.</p>	<p>All the information that is in the 210608_Plan_de_gestion_PNMM_vCA_OFB, can help complete or expand the information in the Overview, especially that related to criteria B. Ecological, Cultural and Socio-Economic Criteria</p> <p>The existence of several threatened species is a positive feature of the park.</p>	<p>The dossier generally lacks information regarding species endemism, unique habitats and ecosystems justifying the rarity of the parks on those aspects.</p> <p>This criteria would need further detail too be fully satisfied</p>
			Habitats (existing in a limited area)	no	<p>Too limited to be useful as a criterion.</p> <p>Habitats noted, but specific locations not specified in the application dossier.</p>	All the information that is in the 210608_Plan_de_gestion_PNMM_vCA_OFB, can help complete or expand the information in the Overview, especially that related to criteria B. Ecological, Cultural and Socio-Economic Criteria	

SPAW Articles	Criteria Articles	Criteria	Criteria description	Presence of the information in the proposal	Information details	Expert opinions	Validation of the criteria
			Ecosystems (unique or rare)	no	The ecosystems are commonly found in the Caribbean. No information was presented to suggest any unique feature of linked systems.	All the information that is in the 210608_Plan_de_gestion_PNMM_vCA_OFB, can help complete or expand the information in the Overview, especially that related to criteria B. Ecological, Cultural and Socio-Economic Criteria	
	(d)	Naturalness (Level of disturbance)	The area has to a high degree been protected from or has not been subjected to human-induced change. Relatively free from biophysical disturbance caused by human influence	no	High level of disturbance noted in the application.	All the information that is in the 210608_Plan_de_gestion_PNMM_vCA_OFB, can help complete or expand the information in the Overview, especially that related to criteria B. Ecological, Cultural and Socio-Economic Criteria	This criteria is not fully satisfied despite the information provided on the different human activities happening within the park and measures to limit their impacts
	(e)	Critical Habitats (Contains populations, habitats or ecosystems that are critical to the survival and/or recovery of endangered, threatened or	Critical Species Populations	yes	In the format it is related, but the information is very general Important species listed, but population data estimates are missing.	All the information that is in the 210608_Plan_de_gestion_PNMM_vCA_OFB, can help complete or expand the information in the Overview, especially that related to criteria B. Ecological, Cultural and Socio-Economic Criteria	Criteria generally satisfied by the proposal with the complementary information in the management plan especially with regard to critical habitats and ecosystems

SPA Articles	Criteria Articles	Criteria	Criteria description	Presence of the information in the proposal	Information details	Expert opinions	Validation of the criteria
		endemic species, or to species listed in SPA Protocol)	Critical Habitats	yes	<p>There are reserves within the MMNP, but the information is too general to know which sites are critical habitats.</p> <p>The MP provides detail about critical habitats (coral reefs, mangrove, sea grasses) are their locations (p 164 – 172) as well as sites used by critical species in the MP for turtles (p 175-176, 191-192), sea birds (p 178), for marine mammals (p 191), sharks (p 192)</p>	<p>All the information that is in the 210608_Plan_de_gestion_PNMM_vCA_OFB, can help complete or expand the information in the Overview, especially that related to criteria B. Ecological, Cultural and Socio-Economic Criteria</p>	<p>More information would be needed regarding population of critical species</p>
			Critical Ecosystems	yes	<p>Information on status and location missing.</p>	<p>All the information that is in the 210608_Plan_de_gestion_PNMM_vCA_OFB, can help complete or expand the information in the Overview, especially that related to criteria B. Ecological, Cultural and Socio-Economic Criteria</p>	

SPAW Articles	Criteria Articles	Criteria	Criteria description	Presence of the information in the proposal	Information details	Expert opinions	Validation of the criteria
	(f)	Diversity (Biological, genetic..., with a focus on endangered, threatened, endemic and/or migratory species, and species listed in the Annexes to the Protocol)	Variety of species, communities	yes	<p>In the format it is related, but the information is very general</p> <p>Reports generated by the studies mentioned in the application should be cited.</p> <p>MP provides detailed list of Marine Mammals (p 173), sea turtles (p 175), sea birds (p 178)</p>	<p>All the information that is in the 210608_Plan_de_gestion_PNMM_vCA_OFB, can help complete or expand the information in the Overview, especially that related to criteria B. Ecological, Cultural and Socio-Economic Criteria</p>	<p>Criteria not fully satisfied in the dossier despite information on species diversity. The dossier lacks detail on the variety of ecosystems and landscapes</p>
			Variety of ecosystems, landscapes	no	The section on physical characteristics does not provide information on landscapes or seascapes.	<p>All the information that is in the 210608_Plan_de_gestion_PNMM_vCA_OFB, can help complete or expand the information in the Overview, especially that related to criteria B. Ecological, Cultural and Socio-Economic Criteria</p>	
	(g)	Connectivity (Coherence)	The area is adjacent to or ecologically connected to another protected area or is within an ecological or biological corridor	no	Merely stating that Martinique is in a biodiversity hotspot is not enough to prove connectivity.	<p>All the information that is in the 210608_Plan_de_gestion_PNMM_vCA_OFB, can help complete or expand the information in the Overview, especially that related to criteria B. Ecological, Cultural and Socio-Economic Criteria</p> <p>Though not suggested by the application, it may be useful in the case of the MMNP to consider connectivity within the area covered by the park.</p> <p>Some information provided in the MP about the links between the Park and the regional cooperation in the WCR</p> <p>Some information mentioned in the management plan about the Agoa Sanctuary</p>	<p>Criteria not satisfied</p> <p>Not enough supporting information/ documentation available to justify sub-regional and regional connectivity</p>

SPAW Articles	Criteria Articles	Criteria	Criteria description	Presence of the information in the proposal	Information details	Expert opinions	Validation of the criteria
			Ability to contribute to maintaining the ecological integrity of the Wider Caribbean Region	no	Stating that the site is in a biodiversity hotspot is not, by itself, enough to establish the case for site contribution to regional ecological integrity.	All the information that is in the 210608_Plan_de_gestion_PNMM_vCA_OFB, can help complete or expand the information in the Overview, especially that related to criteria B. Ecological, Cultural and Socio-Economic Criteria	
	(h)	Resilience (biological components : habitats, species populations)	Ability to recover from disturbances in a reasonable timeframe, or are naturally resistant to threats	yes	<p>Resilience is addressed in the Management plan with the support of services provided by marine and coastal ecosystems (e.g; mangroves) to adapt the territory to climate change and related impacts (coastal erosion, carbon sink)</p> <p>The dossier makes reference to the National Strategy for the sea and coastal areas which is implemented in Martinique as well as objectives to adapt the territory to carbon-free energy sources.</p> <p>The dossier makes reference projects and initiatives about ecosystem based adaptation and ecological restoration in impacts sites to illustrate effort made towards resilience of ecosystems</p>	All the information that is in the 210608_Plan_de_gestion_PNMM_vCA_OFB, can help complete or expand the information in the Overview, especially that related to criteria B. Ecological, Cultural and Socio-Economic Criteria	<p>Criteria partly satisfied with examples given on benefits from ecosystem services against climate change</p> <p>More detail about the resilience of species populations is needed</p>
Articles 10-12 - Cultural and Socio-Economic Criteria							
	(a)	Productivity	Conserves / maintains / restaures natural processes that contribute to increasing the abundance of natural resources used	yes	<p>In the format it is related, but the information is very general</p> <p>The dossier and annexes include objectives for maintaining resource flows, but relevant strategies are</p>	All the information that is in the 210608_Plan_de_gestion_PNMM_vCA_OFB, can help complete or expand the information in the Overview, especially that related to criteria B. Ecological, Cultural and Socio-Economic Criteria	Criteria generally satisfied in the proposal and management plan presenting the strategy for sustainable management of local resources

SPA W Articles	Criteria Articles	Criteria	Criteria description	Presence of the information in the proposal	Information details	Expert opinions	Validation of the criteria
			by humans, and consequently contribute to regional sustainable development		not identified. The concept to be applied is “rational exploitation’ of living and non-living resources (page 11 of dossier).		
	(b)	Cultural and traditional use	Conserves / maintains / restores the productivity and biological integrity of natural resources that provide for sustainable traditional or cultural activities (e.g indigenous communities)	yes	<p>Not enough information to distinguish cultural/traditional uses from all current uses (including those specific to the tourism sector).</p> <p>Information mainly about the historical wrecks off Martinique and types of boats developed by Ameridians and European settlers which is well documented</p> <p>More information available about cultural aspects and traditional fisheries in the Management plan (p 74-76 and 87)</p>	All the information that is in the 210608_Plan_de_gestion_PNMM_vCA_OFB, can help complete or expand the information in the Overview, especially that related to criteria B. Ecological, Cultural and Socio-Economic Criteria	Criteria generally satisfied in the proposal and management plan
	(c)	Socio-economic benefits	Conserves / maintains / restores the productivity and biological integrity of natural resources that provide for economic or social benefits for user groups (e.g. fishermen, local communities) or economic sectors (e.g tourism)	yes	<p>In the format it is related, but the information is very general</p> <p>More information about socio-economic benefits of traditional fisheries, different technics used (p87-91) and associated business (fisheries and aquaculture, algae) + consumption (p93-96)</p>	All the information that is in the 210608_Plan_de_gestion_PNMM_vCA_OFB, can help complete or expand the information in the Overview, especially that related to criteria B. Ecological, Cultural and Socio-Economic Criteria	Criteria generally satisfied in the proposal and management plan even if general information

SPAW Articles	Criteria Articles	Criteria	Criteria description	Presence of the information in the proposal	Information details	Expert opinions	Validation of the criteria
C. Protection, Planning and Management Measures							
3 – 4 – 5 – 6	13	Legal framework,	Guaranteeing its effective long-term protection, in conformity with the Party’s national legislation and international law, and consistent with the SPAW Protocol	<p>yes</p> <p>Martinique Marine Nature Park was created by Decree No. 2017-784 of May 5 th 2017. The "Marine Nature Park" tool was created in 2007 in the Environmental Code, which describes its organisation and operation. Marine Nature Parks are Marine Protected Areas under Article L334-1 of the Environmental Code.</p> <p>Certain species and habitats listed in Article III-C are subject to more management/recovery/ protection measures than others.</p> <p>The legal framework is clear</p>	<p>The territory of the Marine Nature Park covers all the waters under the jurisdiction of Martinique, an area of 48,900 km2</p> <p>. This makes it the 2nd th largest marine natural park in the area.</p> <p>Ministerial and local protections: - Ministerial Order regulating approach of cetaceans in waters under French jurisdiction in the West Indies (15 March 2017) - Ministerial Order establishing the list of marine mammals protected on national territory, and methods of protection (10 May 2019) - Ministerial Order establishing the list of protected corals in Guadeloupe, Martinique and SaintMartin, and methods of protection (25 April 2017) - Ministerial Order establishing the list of sea turtles protected on national territory and methods of protection (14 October 2005). Sea turtles are the subject of a National Action Plan for the French West Indies (currently being validated for the period 2020-2030). - Prefectural Order regulating professional sea fishing in Martinique (25 April 2019) - Prefectural Order regulating recreational sea fishing in Martinique (April 8, 2019)</p>	Detailed Information in the proposal and supporting documents including the management plan	Criteria satisfied. There is a comprehensive legal framework but clarifications are needed to better understand the overall purpose and objectives of

SPAW Articles	Criteria Articles	Criteria	Criteria description	Presence of the information in the proposal	Information details	Expert opinions	Validation of the criteria
					<p>However, the purpose of the declaration of the MMNP is unclear in the application dossier. The information presented suggests that general environmental management is the objective, not targeted conservation (which is the typical objective of MPAs or marine nature parks).</p>		
6	14 (a)	Management framework	Presence of a management framework adopted by the Party	<p>yes</p> <p>The objectives of the 2021-2026 Management Plan adopted in February 2021 are organised into 9 concerns, 20 goals and no fewer than 140 levels of requirement.</p>	<p>The plan has 7 chapters and two annexes.</p> <p>chapter 1: martinique marine natural park</p> <p>chapter 2: the “sea-ritory”: martiniquais territory, maritime by essence</p> <p>chapter 3: strategy towards sustainable development</p> <p>chapter 4: accompanying change and looking towards the sea</p> <p>chapter 5: making the sea a valued resource</p> <p>chapter 6: respect for our marine environment and marine ecosystems</p> <p>chapter 7: vocations map</p> <p>appendix 1: decree creating the martinique marine nature park</p>	<p>management framework adopted by the Party fully addressed in the proposal and MP in terms of objectives and levels of requirements</p>	<p>Criteria mainly satisfied, especially in terms of adoption by the Party, existence of an operational management body with means to implement the framework. The management framework seems well integrated in the broader French planning framework and management objectives are clearly stated and are in relation with general information on local knowledge (traditional and scientific)</p> <p>It would be good to clarify how the listed conservation objectives are aligned with any nature reserve or specific habitat, threat reduction, or ecological process</p>

SPA Articles	Criteria Articles	Criteria	Criteria description	Presence of the information in the proposal	Information details	Expert opinions	Validation of the criteria
					<p>appendix 2: relationship charter of the management board</p> <p>The fact that the MMNP covers the EEZ (page 13- conservation value) and the relatively small size of the nature reserves suggests that the primary purpose of the MMNP is not conservation.</p> <p>If the foregoing is true, the management strategy will reflect a focus on social and economic benefits. That possibility is underscored by the adoption of a compliance strategy that “is based on a strong mobilisation of the Martiniquan population and all stakeholders” (page19- final paragraph), the very population whose actions are degrading the marine environment.</p>		
	14 (b)		Presence of a management body with authority and means to implement the framework	yes	Park agents are public officials, public employees or contract employees. the so-called “permanent” positions can be supported by recruiting agents temporary contracts allowed by various mechanisms: support contracts employment, apprenticeship, voluntary civic service, etc. various sources of external funding can also supplement the Park budget and allow the hiring of agents within the framework of	<p>The park benefits from a well structured and recognised management body with human resources and facilities and equipment to implement the framework (see rapport d’activités p 9, programme d’actions p 3).</p> <p>Sources of funding allow recruitment of operational staff. Presence of a Board to decide and drive the management of the park</p>	

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					<p>projects financed by these funds external sources (European structural funds in particular). At the time of this writing, the projected size of the Park team in Martinique in 2023 there are 14 permanent agents.</p> <p>The Park facilities are organized around two poles, one in the heart of Fort de France in the district of Texaco, and one in the commune of Trois îlets. And The Martinique Marine Natural Park Management Council</p> <p>The composition of the board of directors of the Marine Natural Park of Martinique is fixed by its decree of creation. It is therefore composed of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 7 representatives of the State services and its public establishments • 14 representatives of local authorities and their groups • 1 representative of the Martinique Natural Park • 15 representatives of organisations that represent professionals of the sea • 5 representatives of local sea user organizations • 5 representatives of environmental protection associations • 6 qualified personalities <p>With the exception of the members of the College of State Representatives,</p>		

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					<p>the representatives are appointed by order of the prefect of Martinique upon proposal of its representative bodies for a period of 5 years.</p> <p>The management body can implement the framework, but can the framework accomplish the objectives? The body is structured to provide infrastructure support and policing. Environmental quality monitoring and ecological assessments will be conducted by other organisations. The application dossier does not address the nature of the cooperative arrangements. Those arrangements should be elaborated in the management plan.</p>		
5.2	14 (c)		Clearly identified : Conservation Objectives / Documentation / Management Guidelines + Management Framework implemented through Compliant Actions	yes	<p>1° To contribute to greater knowledge of natural heritage, including river mouths, mangroves, seagrass beds and reefs, its biodiversity and functionality, and maritime cultural heritage; 2° To raise awareness, among as many people as possible and as early as possible, of the specificity and preservation of Martinique's maritime space, and share these initiatives in the Caribbean; 3° To propose the protection, restoration and enhancement of marine species and environments, such as corals and bay seabeds and</p>	<p>Objectives of the Park are clearly stated , including knowledge improvement of natural heritage, raising awareness for preservation of maritime space, advocate for protection and restoration of marine species and ecosystems, support to local cultural/ traditional use of resources (fisheries and aquaculture), encourage stakeholder engagement in the sustainable management processes (local communities, tourism industry, etc.). The Management Plan highlights the strong reliance on people engagement (Martinican population and stakeholders) However, the application dossier does not state how the listed conservation objectives are aligned with any nature reserve or specific habitat, threat reduction, or ecological process.</p>	

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					<p>coordinate their management; 4° To support small-scale coastal fishing and aquaculture; 5° Taking account of the strong land-sea link, to support innovative, participatory management in development projects aiming to reconcile the various uses, improve water quality and integrate the services provided by marine ecosystems; 6° To engage tourism, sports, nautical leisure activities and ports and anchorages in responsible practices by training the actors concerned and providing suitable facilities; 7° To contribute to the planning of uses, prevention of conflicts, and effectiveness of the marine environment police.</p> <p>The list of objectives can be applied to any site or activity.</p>		
	14 (d)		Integrated management framework within a broader planning framework of the Party	yes	<p>More implied than stated. The correlation of the MMNP with the EEZ implies a broader economic focus than is stated in the application.</p> <p>The Management Plan presents the existence of different management measures at local level which have a certain level of integration with broader national planning framework, as well as international regulations (Unesco Man of Biosphere and Ramsar)</p>	Integrated management is well covered in the proposal and supporting documents	

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	14 (e)		Planning, management and enforcement based on scientific, traditional, technical and management-oriented knowledge + Implementation of knowledge improvement programs	yes	The information presented is too general to determine whether actions are based on scientific knowledge or agreements based on stakeholder input.		
6.2(c)	15	Evaluation	Framework including indicators of management success	yes	The information contained in the application dossier is insufficient to determine the utility of the indicators, particularly in the context of my earlier comments on the likely influence of economic considerations in the delineation of site boundaries and structure of the management body.	The proposal with its Annex 3 provides an inventory of monitoring programme with list of indicators to implement and evaluate the management framework	Criteria covered by the dossier as there is an inventory of monitoring
7	16	Stakeholders	Cooperation promotion by demonstrating that the Party concurs with participation of the listed area in cooperation programme	yes	There was a wide consultation of the local stakeholders in the Park creation and drafting of the Management plan as well as in the decision making process. Regarding the governance aspects, there is also a good representation of the different types of local stakeholders in the Board of the Park		Criteria well satisfied with the proposal and supporting documents Local Stakeholders are strongly part of the different steps of the existence of the park
	17		Involvement of stakeholders and local communities: inclusive / participatory	yes	idem above		

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			procedures + Institutional measures strengthening the participation of local parties and communities				
5.2	(a)	Implementation Mechanisms	Management Framework provides the measures referred to in SPAW Article 5.2	yes Partially	Provisions not covered: a, b, c, f, h,k		
	(b)		Management Framework provides awareness / education programmes for the general public / users / decision makers + integrate their participation in planning and management where appropriate	yes		Sub-criteria well covered in the dossier	
	(c)		Research / Monitoring programme for assessment of effectiveness in conservation goals. Use of appropriate indicators to evaluate impact of conservation measures for species / habitats / Ecological	no	Monitoring and assessment of species, habitats, and ecological processes will be left to other institutions. Measures in place (monitoring programmes) to protect and conserve sea turtles, marine mammals, sea birds, fish, benthic communities, other parameters (hydrodynamisms, marine litter, awareness effectiveness) p 33 of the	The management plan should provide more information on the collaborative arrangements.	

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			processes within PA and with local communities		proposal and Various systems in place to implement the Management plan p 33-36 Recognition that support and interaction with other SPAW PAs will be beneficial for higher effectiveness and more coherent The Programme of action 2022, provides information on the different activities implemented by the park to implement the Management Plan and meet objectives (ecological, socio, education, awareness etc;)), monitoring (environmental threats like sargassum, marine litter)		
	18	Effectiveness of management	Demonstration of appropriate Management framework to the bio-physical and socio-economic objectives that the Party has established for this area	no		?	Criteria not fully satisfied
D. Listing procedure							
7.3	19	Inventory	Inventory of protected areas under the jurisdiction of the Party that may be included in the	yes	The SPAW Protocol may provide for preparation of an inventory, but the guidelines for listing do not include such as a requirement for listing.		

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			list of SPAW PA		List of areas are provided in the management plan (p31-33)		
19.2	20	Documentation (includes Annexes listed below)	Information from the SPAW Article 19(2) specifying boundaries with supporting maps	yes		Satisfied	Criteria satisfied as the application includes most of the documentation
			"Annotated Format for the Presentation Reports for the Areas Proposed for Inclusion in the SPAW List "(UNEP(DEC)/CAR WG.29/4Rev,1) completed	yes		Satisfied	
			Detailed presentation of the criteria for which the site is presented referring to Section B	yes		Satisfied	
			File summary of the proposal provided by the Party for the evaluation of the documents	no		Not included	
	21						
	23	Agreement	Agreement of the Party concerned	yes		Satisfied	Criteria satisfied

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	3.7 (from Annotated Format)	Requested annexes	Copies of legal texts	yes	Copy of the legal document for the creation of the Park available in the MP (p 220 – 2021)	Satisfied	
			Copies of planning and management documents	yes		Satisfied	
			Maps as appropriate: administrative boundaries, zoning, land tenure, land use, and distribution of habitats and species, GIS shape files, etc.	yes	Maps available in the proposal and management plan	Satisfied	
			Existing inventories of flora and fauna species (with Latin names)	yes	There is no exhaustive inventory of flora and fauna species but the management plan includes species list for turtles (p 175-176, 191-192), sea birds (p 178), for marine mammals (p 191), sharks (p 192)	Partially satisfied	
			List of the main publications and copies of the main ones concerning the site, and any relevant information available	yes	Detailed list of publications available in the Management Plan (p 216 – 218)	Satisfied	
			Copies of photos, slides, videos or other visual materials.	yes		Satisfied	
							Criteria mainly satisfied

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<p>Overall evaluation of the proposal by experts (complete one of the following options)</p>			<p>The proposal is approved (explain the reasons)</p>				
			<p>Some elements still need to be addressed in order to meet all the criteria and approve the proposal (list your comments and missing elements)</p>	<p>Taking into account the format “OVERVIEW REPORT FOR INCLUSION ON THE SPAW LIST OF THE MARINE NATURE PARK OF MARTINIQUE”, we are able to complete the evaluation table of the proposal of the Park National Marin de Martinique</p> <p>- The work done by the Republic of France is very valuable. We congratulate them.</p> <p>- All the information that is in the 210608_Plan_de_gestion_PNMM_vCA_OFB, can help complete or expand the information in the Overview, especially that related to criteria B. Ecological, Cultural and Socio-Economic Criteria.</p> <p>Most comments are based solely on the information included in the application (with annexes) in English. The information in the application shows that the MMNP is of local ecological value, but the case was not made for the site as having outstanding or unique ecological value. Local ecological value does not necessarily translate to regional ecological value. We suspect that the case could be made, and the applicant should be given the opportunity to provide additional information to satisfy the criteria for SPAW listing.</p> <p>In our opinion, the overlap of the EEZ and MMNP boundary suggest that the conservation value of the MMNP is not the primary reason for site designation. However, the MMNP provides a unique opportunity to learn what happens when a state places its entire coastal area under active management.</p> <p>If the latter reason for approving the application for listing is accepted, the SPAW secretariat would necessarily work closely with Martinique to record the development process, assess management effectiveness, and evaluate site ecological performance.</p>			
			<p>The proposal is rejected (explain the reasons)</p>				