



Distr. LIMITED

UNEP(DEPI)/CAR WG.43/INF.6
11 January 2023

Original: ENGLISH

Tenth 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

Virtual, 30 January – 1 February 2023

**REPORT OF THE SPA W REGIONAL ACTIVITY CENTRE (SPA W-RAC)
OPERATIONS AND BUDGET FOR THE PERIOD 2021-2022**

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

TABLE OF CONTENTS

1.	BACKGROUND	1
2.	ACTIVITIES IMPLEMENTED BY THE SPAW RAC DURING THE PERIOD 2021-2022	2
3.	PROGRAMME COORDINATION	3
3.1-	To consider the potential costs, benefits, and operational framework of a Marine Mammal Regional Activity Network (RAN)	4
3.2-	GCRMN-Caribbean, Stony coral tissue loss disease (SCTLD) and <i>Diadema</i> die offs	4
3.3-	Other SPAW-RAC cooperative actions	6
3.4-	Promotion of the ratification of the protocol	7
3.5-	On-line communication and coordination	8
3.6-	Improve Regional Coordination and Programming	8
4.	STRENGTHENING OF PROTECTED AREAS IN THE WIDER CARIBBEAN REGION	10
4.1-	The SPAW MPA database	10
4.2-	Strengthening of Marine Protected Areas	11
5.	DEVELOPMENT OF GUIDELINES FOR PROTECTED AREAS AND SPECIES MANAGEMENT	12
5.1-	Settlement and implementation of STAC <i>AD HOC</i> WORKING GROUPS	13
6.	CONSERVATION OF THREATENED AND ENDANGERED SPECIES	21
6.1-	SPAW Species working group work	22
6.2-	WIDECAST (UNEP(DEPI)/CAR WG.43/INF.11)	26
6.3-	SPAW RAC call for projects (UNEP(DEPI)/CAR WG.43/INF.28)	26
6.4-	CARIMAM project (UNEP(DEPI)/CAR WG.43/INF.29)	27
6.5-	Sargassum	28
7.	CONSERVATION AND SUSTAINABLE USE OF COASTAL AND MARINE ECOSYSTEMS	28
7.1-	CARIB-COAST (UNEP(DEPI)/CAR WG.43/INF.30)	28
7.2-	OTHER ECOSYSTEM RESTORATION ACTIVITIES	30
7.3-	GCRMN-CARIBES (UNEP(DEPI)/CAR WG.43/INF.27)	31
8.	BUDGET	32
	APPENDIX 1	35

ACRONYMS

AGRRA	Atlantic and Gulf Rapid Reef Assessment
BRGM	<i>Bureau de Recherches Géologiques et Minières</i> (French Geological Agency)
CAMAC	Caribbean Marine Megafauna and Anthropogenic Activities
CaMPAM	Caribbean Marine Protected Areas network and forum
CARIB-COAST	Caribbean network for coastal risks prevention related with climate change
CARI'MAM	Caribbean Marine Mammals Preservation Network
CEP	Caribbean Environment Programme
EU	European Union
GCRMN	Global Coral Reef Monitoring Network
INTERREG	Europe territorial cooperation programme
IWC	International Whaling Commission
MMAP	Action plan for the Conservation of Marine Mammals
MPA	Marine Protected Area
NGO	Non-Governmental Office
ONF	<i>Office National des Forêts</i> (French national forest agency)
PA	Protected Area
RAC	Regional Activity Center
RAN	Regional Activity Network
SARG'COOP	Cooperative programme to control sargassum influx
SCTLD	Stony coral tissue loss disease
SPAW	Specially Protected Areas and Wildlife protocol
STAC	Scientific and Technical Advisory Committee of the SPAW protocol

ToR	Terms of Reference
UNEP	United Nations Environment Programme
US	United States of America
WCR	Wider Caribbean Region
WECAFC	Western Central Atlantic Commission (FAO)
Widecast	Wider Caribbean Sea Turtle Conservation Network



REPORT OF THE SPAW REGIONAL ACTIVITY CENTRE (SPAW-RAC)

OPERATIONS AND BUDGET FOR THE PERIOD 2021-2022

1. BACKGROUND

1. The Regional Activity Center for Specially Protected Areas and Wildlife (SPAW-RAC) based in Guadeloupe is the technical center dedicated to supporting the Secretariat of the Cartagena Convention under the United Nations Environment Programme (UN Environment-CEP), and the signatory Caribbean countries and territories in implementing their commitments regarding biodiversity under the Convention.
2. For the last years, the SPAW-RAC was only supported through the contribution from France and projects funded by European Union funds.
3. The SPAW RAC is integrated into the Direction of Environment, Planning and Housing (Direction de l'Environnement, de l'Aménagement et du Logement, DEAL), which is the local representation of the French Ministry in charge of the environment.
4. The SPAW-RAC team currently consists of three (3) French Officers/civil servants: Lucile Rossin, executive director since September 2022, Géraldine Conruyt, deputy director and programme officer since January 2022 and Julie Jouitteau, our administrative assistant in the team since September 2022. They are supported by staff dependent on the SPAW-RAC's capacity to secure funding for specific projects. Claire Pusineri is biodiversity project officer since September 2020, Christophe Blazy is ecosystems project officer since April 2022. Currently, the team had also two (2) civic service volunteers as support officers with one-year contracts, Célié Nazical and Lucas Génévé.

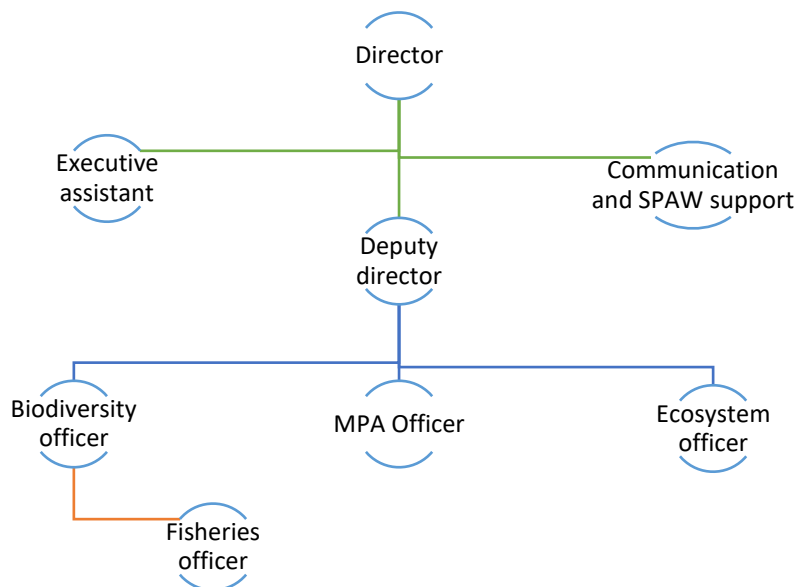


Figure 1 : SPAW-RAC organizational chart

2. ACTIVITIES IMPLEMENTED BY THE SPAW RAC DURING THE PERIOD 2021-2022

5. In July 2021, the Conference of the Parties (COPs) under the LBS/SPAW Protocols and Cartagena Convention respectively, and the 19th Intergovernmental Meeting (IGM) on the Action Plan for the Caribbean Environment Programme (CEP) were held virtually due to the COVID 19 health crisis.
6. The section below provides a summarized overview of the activities implemented by the SPAW-RAC during the period 2021-2022. The appendix allows to see the compliance with the Decisions of the SPAW COP11 (UNEP(DEPI)/CAR IG.44/3) and the activities of the SPAW Workplan for the period 2021-2022 (UNEP(DEPI)/CAR WG.42/3 Rev.1). Side Activities or related activities are briefly summarized at the end of each sub-section. This report complements information provided in the Status of Activities of the SPAW Subprogramme for 2021-2022 (UNEP(DEPI)/CAR WG.43/INF.5).
7. Each chapter of this report focuses on a sub-programme and starts with a reminder of the general objectives of the SPAW sub-programme. The recommendations made by STAC 9 to meet these objectives, and a table presents the relevant corresponding actions from the 2021-2022 work plan are detailed in appendix. The subsequent paragraphs describe the main activities implemented by the SPAW-RAC in 2021-2022 to meet these objectives and recommendations.

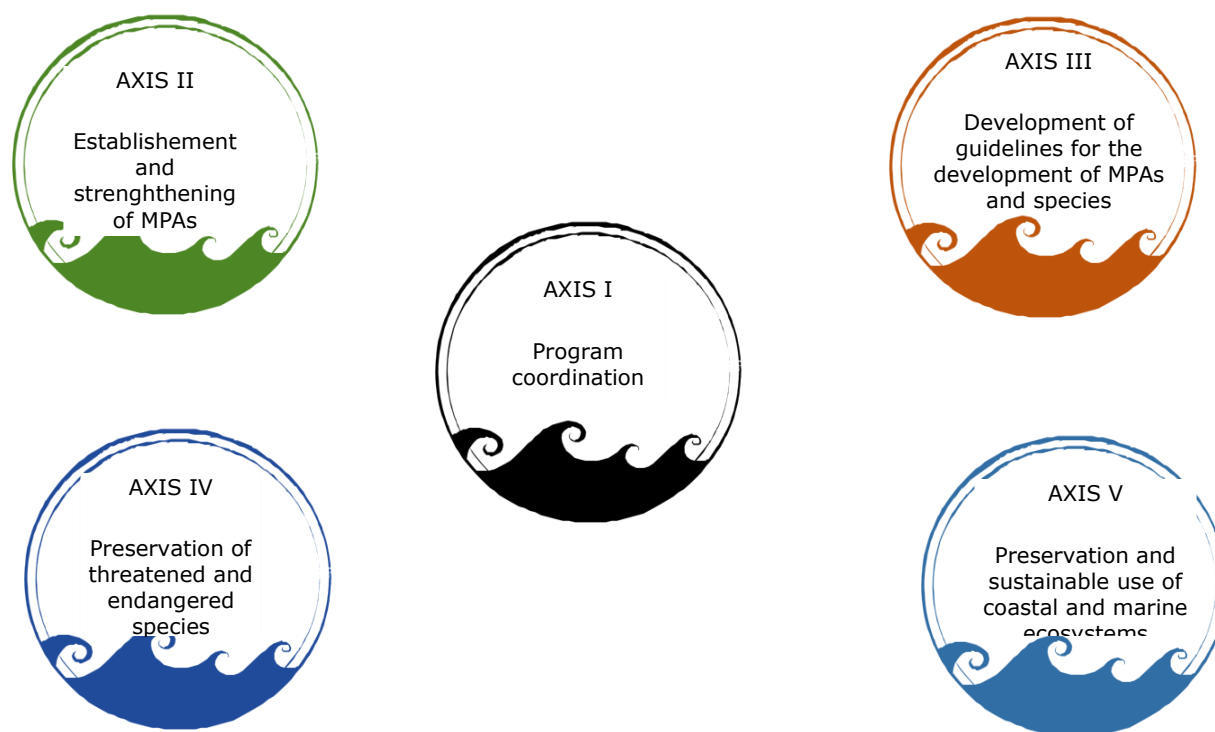
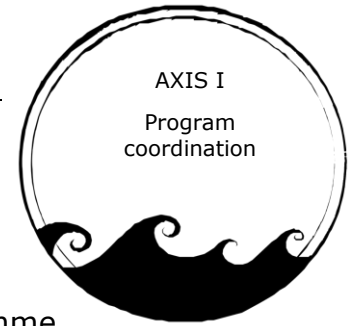


Figure 2: the five programme elements (sub-programmes) of the SPAW Workplan for the period 2021--2022

3. PROGRAMME COORDINATION



8. The objectives of this sub-programme are to:
 - (a) Promote the ratification of, accession to, and effective implementation of the SPAW Protocol;
 - (b) Ensure that the formulation and implementation of programme activities satisfy the requirements and needs of the SPAW Protocol and its Contracting Parties;
 - (c) Develop coordination, collaboration, and communication mechanisms with other agreements, organizations and programmes relevant to SPAW objectives;
 - (d) Improve coordination of regional programming for protected areas and wildlife in the WCR; and
 - (e) Oversee the day-to-day activities and general coordination of the various projects and activities of the SPAW Programme.

9. Following STAC 9, during the 2nd Semester of 2021, new terms of reference for the working groups were developed in close collaboration between SPAW RAC/Secretariat and Contracting Parties. This revision and update of the terms of reference of the ad hoc working groups takes into account the suggestions made during STAC9 and clarifies the structure, tasks and participation to the species working group. It was validated by the STAC through a remote consultation in January 2022. A formal call for experts was published in 2021 and promoted on a recurring basis by the SPAW-RAC Director.

10. The Working Groups started at different stages during 2022: in May for the Protected Areas Working Group, in June for the Species Working Group and August for the Exemption Working Group. The Sargassum Working Group was not launched because no recommendation was made by STAC 9.

11. The work was carried out all over 2022 with the strong involvement of the experts and the support from SPAW-RAC.

12. Four (4) dedicated Teamwork platforms were set up in order to enhance transparency and communication, allowing people to join in and to catch up with exchanges and previous work.

13. Additionally, various exchanges were initiated and developed with focal points (messages, calls, meetings...).

14. The tasks of the Working Groups were defined according to STAC 9 recommendations and were added to the terms of reference. The SPAW-RAC and the Working Groups collaboratively defined the workplan according to the recommendations.
15. The SPAW-RAC consulted the Working Groups on the development of priorities for the SPAW Workplan and Budget for 2023-2024 in August 2022.
16. From the production of new terms of reference (UNEP(DEPI)/CAR WG.42/INF.12/Rev.1) to the consequent amount of work produced within the Working Groups, including the numerous calls and exchanges to motivate experts to join, a lot of additional multilateral exchanges and work was generated. It also allowed to develop a real dynamic in the implementation of SPAW protocol and thematic sub-programmes. The chairing of the working groups by SPAW RAC, according to the STAC decision, fulfilled a coordinating role with focal points and experts toward the fulfillment of the STAC9 recommendations (UNEP(DEPI)/CAR WG42/8.).
17. The working group meetings exclusively realized virtually are a good means for the Parties to work together during the intersessions.

3.1- To consider the potential costs, benefits, and operational framework of a Marine Mammal Regional Activity Network (RAN)

18. Following a call for contributors sent in June, a group of 10 SPAW focal points and country representatives was set up. A document was prepared by SPAW RAC, and the group had several opportunities to discuss and amend it (4 online meetings and as many online reviews). A final call for online review was sent to all the SPAW focal points in mid-September to validate the content of the document.
19. The final version of the document, submitted for discussion at SPAW STAC (UNEP(DEPI)/CAR WG.43/INF.32), presents some background information (institutional framework, how the project has emerged, examples of networks working in close collaboration with SPAW RAC), some recommendations for the constitution of a marine mammal RAN Institution, and a proposed architecture for the RAN (mission, geographic scope of activities, status, executive team, budget and funding).

3.2- GCRMN-Caribbean, Stony coral tissue loss disease (SCTLD) and *Diadema* die offs

20. In the framework of the GCRMN-Caribbean activities, the SPAW-RAC participated virtually in March to GCRMN coral reef monitoring training events for the United Kingdom Overseas Territories (Anguilla, the British Virgin Islands, Montserrat, and the Turks and Caicos Islands). SPAW-RAC provided an introduction video on the GCRMN-Caribbean and its importance to report on coral status at regional and global level.

21. At each coral reef event/conference, a few words about the Stony coral tissue loss disease (SCTLD) were mentioned as well as the ongoing work done on the Atlantic and Gulf Rapid Reef Assessment (AGRRA) [website](#) to track the evolution of the disease in the Caribbean.
22. SPAW-RAC supported the promotion of AGGRA's [Coral Disease Resources](#) by sharing it on social media and translating certain documents in French.
23. Since 2020, SPAW-RAC has been involved in the SCTLD Caribbean Cooperation Team and participates at each monthly meeting to discuss about progress made to tackle the spread of the disease. In July 2022, SPAW-RAC facilitated the organization a specific session focused on the French Caribbean islands (Guadeloupe, Martinique, Saint Barthélemy and Saint Martin) regarding the status of SCTLD on their reefs as well as their efforts to respond to the outbreak.
24. Since February 2022, SPAW-RAC has been also involved in monitoring the extensive *Diadema* die offs in the Caribbean, attending webinars, reporting mortality events on the AGGRA's [website](#) and sharing information on social media.
25. Through the 2022 call for project funding, the SPAW-RAC supported the Department of Natural Resources- Fisheries and Marine Resources Unit from Anguilla to implement a sea urchin conservation response project meant to safeguard and restore local *Diadema* population from the ongoing disease.

3.3- Other SPAW-RAC cooperative actions

26. Within the call for proposals (UNEP(DEPI)/CAR WG.43/INF.28) launched in 2021, SPAW-RAC has awarded more than fifteen (15) organizations throughout the Caribbean, with French funds.

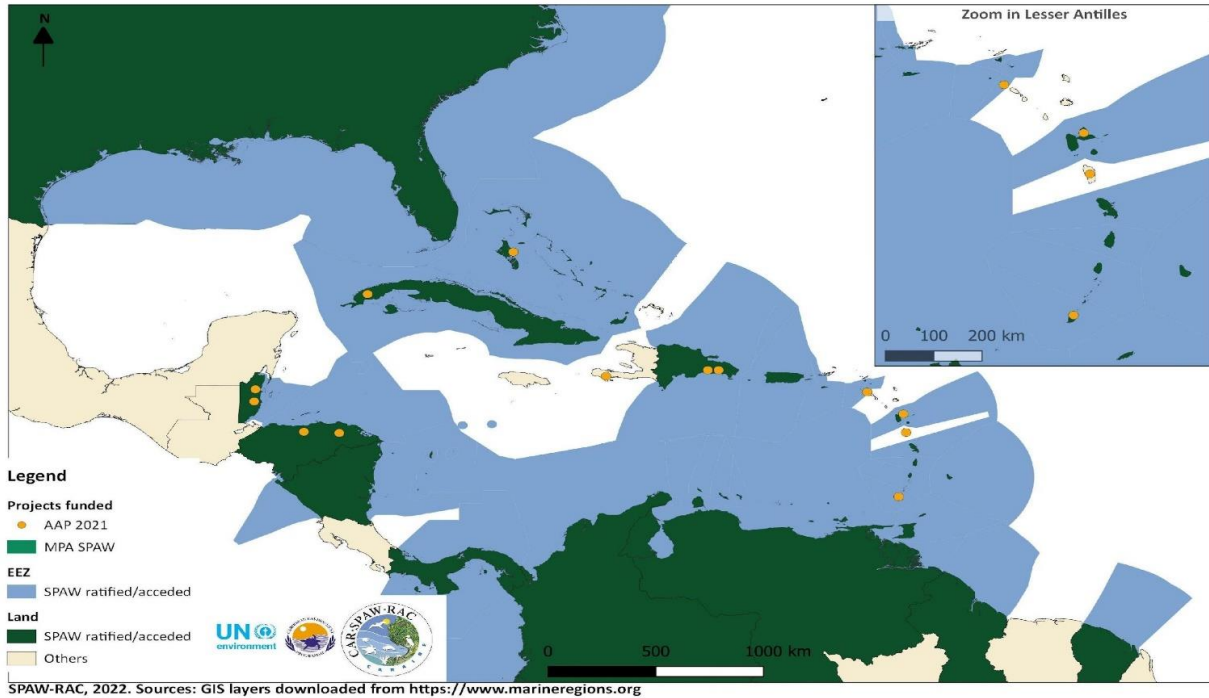


Figure 2: Location of the projects funded within the 2021 SPAW RAC call for proposals

27. Through the two (2) EU-funded projects implemented by SPAW-RAC, the [CARI'MAM](#) and [Carib-Coast](#) Projects, the RAC was able to establish new partnerships and enhance collaboration with organizations throughout the Wider Caribbean Region.

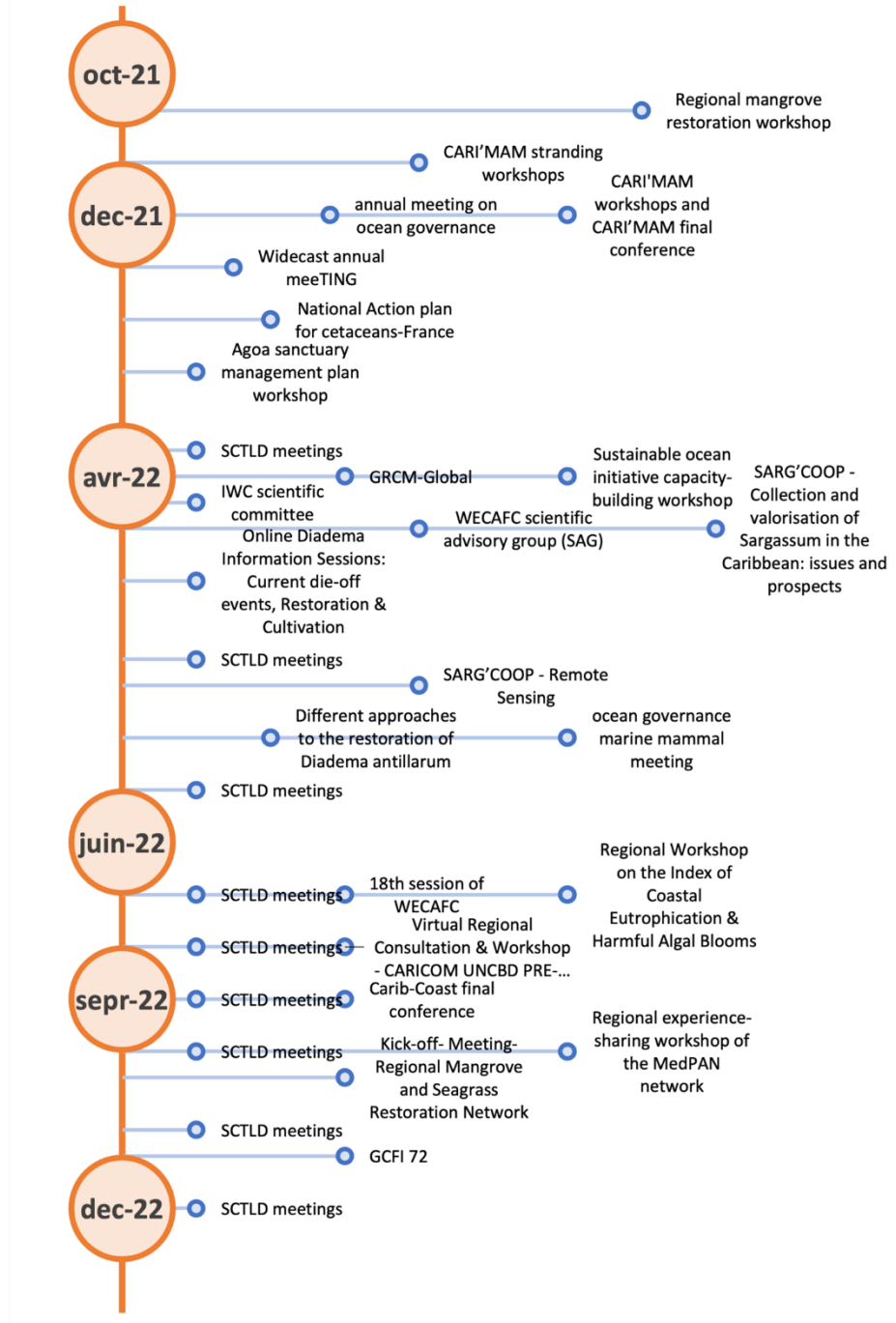
3.4- Promotion of the ratification of the protocol

28. Working closely with the Secretariat, SPAW-RAC has represented and endeavored to promote the SPAW/Cartagena Protocol to the best of its ability and, where possible, to meet with representatives of governments and national and international bodies.

29. Although since March 2020 no face-to-face meetings have been possible, virtual exchanges have been maintained through multilateral meetings (see CARI'MAM month) and specific calls.

30. By the end of 2020, SPAW-RAC also contributed to the development of briefing notes for countries on concluded and ongoing activities, priorities and messages to be conveyed.

31. SPAW-RAC also participated, represented and promoted the SPAW protocol and its activities at different conferences at regional and international level. The main objective is to



communicate on the SPAW protocol and its actions, but above all to establish or strengthen collaborations with partners, scientists and decision makers in the Caribbean.

32. SPAW-RAC (co-)organized numerous virtual meetings between 2021 and 2022.

3.5- On-line communication and coordination

33. SPAW-RAC's new trilingual website (<https://www.car-spaw-rac.org/>) has helped raise awareness and promote the RAC's activities and goals and to promote the SPAW Protocol and its objectives for the whole period 2021-2022. The updated marine mammal page provides access to a wealth of new knowledge and conservation tools.
34. The social networks of the SPAW-RAC, Indeed, Facebook and LinkedIn, are regularly used. Fifty-five (55) posts were made on our Facebook account and seventy-nine (79) on our LinkedIn since January 2021 to inform about the SPAW-RAC projects and the activities and share News of partner organizations. The visibility of our accounts has been reinforced. Each account reaching respectively 269 followers and 393 followers by the end of October 2022.
35. Two newsletters were published in December and May 2021, and another was published in October 2022. They provide more detail on the implementation of the SPAW protocol and associated activities. These newsletters promote information about current projects and calls for proposals.

3.6- Improve Regional Coordination and Programming

1) CARI'MAM (UNEP(DEPI)/CAR WG.43/INF.29)

36. The four years regional cooperation project "Caribbean Marine Mammals Preservation Network" (CARI'MAM) (2018-2022) was presented during the 2018 Scientific and Technical Advisory Committee (Panama, December 2018) and the 2019 Conference of the Parties of the Specially Protected Areas and Wildlife Protocol (SPAW, Roatan, June 2019). CARI'MAM was co-funded by the EU INTERREG funding for regional cooperation projects. It was led by the Agoa sanctuary (French Antilles) and the SPAW RAC. Its aim was to strengthen marine mammal conservation in the Wider Caribbean Region through an enhanced cooperation among countries and territories. SPAW RAC led 3 work packages (WP):
 - WP1, review of threats and legislation on marine mammals in the Caribbean;
 - WP5, facilitate the development of a sustainable and wildlife-friendly commercial whale watching activities;
 - WP6, facilitate the development of management plans for marine protected areas with "marine mammal" responsibility.

37. A project manager was employed from July 2019 and a CARI'MAM project officer joined her in September 2020. The project ended in December 2021.

2) CARIB-COAST (UNEP(DEPI)/CAR WG.43/INF.30)

38. The project three-year "Caribbean network for coastal risks prevention related with climate change" (Carib-Coast) Project (2019-2021) was presented during the 9th Scientific and Technical Advisory Committee (online, March 2021) and the 2019 Conference of the Parties of the Specially Protected Areas and Wildlife Protocol (SPAW, Roatan, June 2019).
39. Carib-Coast was extended by one year (until December 2022) and was co-funded by the EU INTERREG funding for regional cooperation projects. It was led by the French Geological Survey (BRGM) which closely worked with 10 other Caribbean partners including the SPAW-RAC. Six Caribbean territories were directly involved in the project (Guadeloupe, Jamaica, Martinique, Puerto Rico, Trinidad and Tobago, Saint Martin).
40. The Carib-Coast Project was composed of four (4) work packages led by different partners as detailed below:
- WP 1. Coordination and Management of the Project, led by BRGM
 - WP 2. Coastal Hydrodynamics Observation and Modeling, led by BRGM
 - WP 3. Coastal Erosion Monitoring, led by ONF
 - WP 4. Decision Support Tools, led by SPAW-RAC
41. SPAW-RAC took the lead on the work package n°4 and was also strongly involved in the work package n°3.
42. Three Project Officers were recruited and successively managed the project: Mike Hélión, July 2019 - November 2020, Marine Didier, December 2020 - November 2021 then Christophe Blazy, April -December 2022. The project ended in december 2022.

3) CAMAC

43. SPAW RAC, in collaboration with other Caribbean organizations, has developed and submitted a project called CAMAC (for Caribbean Marine Megafauna and Anthropogenic Activities) to INTERREG Caribbean call for projects. INTERREG Caribbean is a cooperation programme aiming at strengthening Caribbean cooperation between European French territories and other Caribbean territories and states, notably for protecting and promoting the natural and cultural environments.
44. The CAMAC project is a response to a need clearly identified in several SPAW recommendation documents drafted in recent years to strengthen knowledge and regional collaboration in order to act together effectively for the conservation of the threatened Caribbean marine megafauna (marine mammals, sea turtles,

elasmobranchs and seabirds). The general objective of this 5 years project is to provide the governing bodies of the Caribbean and environmental stakeholders with tools and recommendations aimed at reducing the impacts of human activities on large marine fauna in the region. The first year of the project will be dedicated to the cooperation and construction of the project with the SPAW Contracting Parties and stakeholders.

45. Further details can be found in the information document dedicated to the project (UNEP(DEPI)/CAR WG.43/INF.36).

4. STRENGTHENING OF PROTECTED AREAS IN THE WIDER CARIBBEAN REGION



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

(a) Strengthen the management of parks and protected areas of the WCR, including the communication between parks and protected areas within the region;

(b) Assist Governments and NGOs with the development of human capacity to increase the effectiveness of Marine Protected Areas (MPAs), both sites and national system;

(c) Sensitize Governments of the need and importance of financing protected areas, and to promote the development of funding mechanisms and strategies for successful park and protected area management; and

(d) Promote protected areas in the context of the conservation of important natural resources necessary for the sustainable development of the region.

4.1- The SPAW MPA database

47. SPAW-RAC continues to maintain, improve and update the database of protected areas listed in the SPAW protocol. However, the PAW-RAC noted that MPA managers prefer to send the form directly to SPAW-RAC by email rather than using the [online database](#).
48. The SPAW-RAC website is still under development to provide to MPA managers specific tools, information and link to major regional conservation programmes.

4.2- Strengthening of Marine Protected Areas

49. Under CARI'MAM funded project, the SPAW-RAC and partners developed in 2021 an online training course to support actors who wish to strengthen the marine mammal stranding monitoring network on their territory or to develop one (PA managers and conservationists) from all the region. The material is freely available on the SPAW-RAC website: <https://www.car-spaw-rac.org/?Training>
50. Under the EU-funded Carib-Coast project, SPAW-RAC co-organized and participated in a hybrid international workshop on mangrove restoration (Bonaire, October 2021) following a call for proposals launched by SPAW RAC in 2020. This workshop aimed to build local and regional capacities on mangrove restoration and related topics. This event involved more than 60 mangrove experts, PA managers, conservationists and practitioners from over 40 different countries from the Caribbean, Europe and US.
51. A stranding workshop was also organized on November 17, 2021, to present the CARI'MAM training tools for stranding and discuss regional collaboration projects.

a) Partnership with the Ocean Governance project

52. The Ocean Governance Project aims at protecting and restoring marine ecosystems as catalysts for building peace and security and fostering sustainable economies in South-East Asia and the Atlantic Ocean basin.
53. SPAW-RAC has demonstrated an active participation in the project, since 2017, notably on MPAs and marine mammals' issues. In 2021 and 2022, the SPAW-RAC team worked closely with the Ocean Governance project, participating in their meetings and communicating on its tools and results, notably during CARI'MAM meetings and workshops, via social networks and our website.

b) Ongoing implementation of the Small Grants Programme to address specific MPA needs

54. Through its 2021 and 2022 Call for Projects, SPAW-RAC supports Protected Areas in the Caribbean.
55. In order to strengthen the capacities of regional actors and to fund projects for the Caribbean biodiversity, the SPAW-RAC launched a self-funded call for proposals for small short-term grants in 2021 (UNEP(DEPI)/CARWG.42/INF.28) and 2022. In the framework of the SPAW protocol, a particular attention has been paid to projects in countries and territories, preferentially signatories of the SPAW protocol, that do not easily benefit from usual funding sources. A diversity of criteria were taken into account, in particular the innovative aspect of the operation, the convergence of the project with the political topicality of the protocol, the status of the leading structure and its partners or even sometimes the implementation schedule. 13 projects have

been awarded in 2021 and 15 in 2022, among those several are implemented by PAs managers and/or in listed PAs.

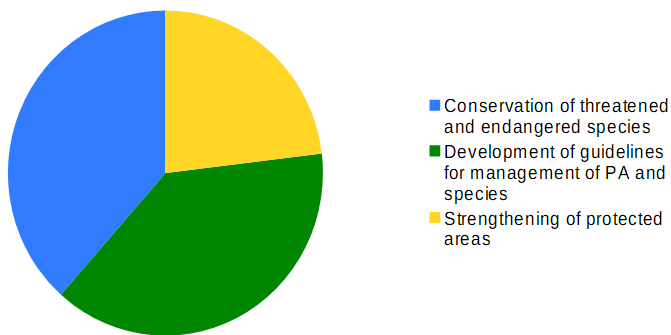


Figure 3 :Comparison between the budget invested

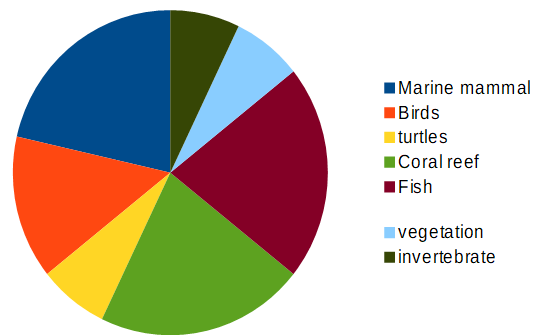


Figure 4 : Diversity of the projects funded within the 2021 call - axis 4 "Conservation of threatened and endangered species"

- c) Enhance the network of MPA practitioners by improving communication and the dissemination of information

56. Since the retirement of the previous CaMPAM coordinator in 2019, the SPAW-RAC has been moderating the CaMPAM forum (Listserv) which gathers more than 1,000 people throughout the Caribbean and beyond. The SPAW RAC provides regular inputs (conference, webinar, website, scientific paper, etc.) into different region activity networks for a such as the GCRMN-Caribbean Forum or the CARI'MAM Project collaborative work Forum, in which many PAs' managers participate.

5. DEVELOPMENT OF GUIDELINES FOR PROTECTED AREAS AND SPECIES MANAGEMENT

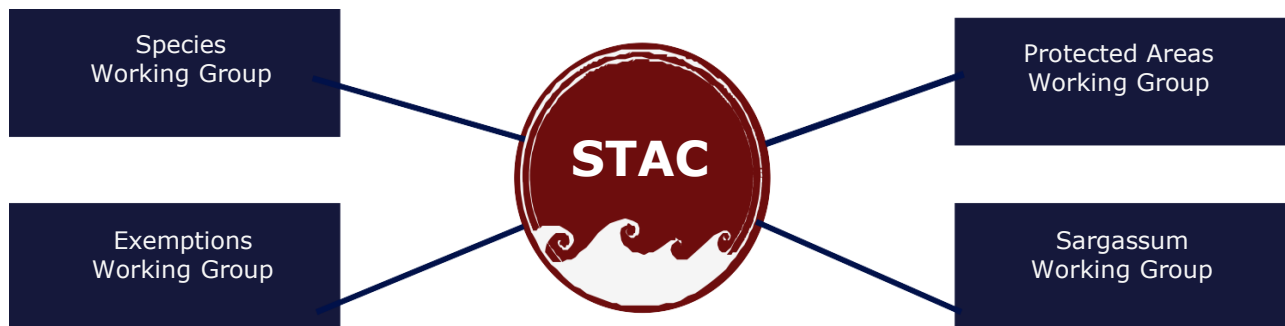
57. The objectives of this sub-programme are to:

- (a) Promote and assist with the development and implementation of the guidelines on protected area (PA) establishment, management, and listing developed under the framework of the SPAW Protocol;
- (b) Promote national system planning for protected areas as a mechanism for the development of relevant legislation and reporting mechanisms; and
- (c) Promote and assist the development and implementation of guidelines on species conservation and management under the framework of the SPAW Protocol.



5.1- Settlement and implementation of STAC AD HOC WORKING GROUPS

58. Established by the STAC, the Working Groups facilitate ongoing discussions on topics of interest to Contracting Parties and observers, and delivery recommendations on request by the STAC on preparation of the working documents for STAC assemblies.
59. Following the recommendations of STAC 9, the SPAW-RAC organized the revision of the Terms of Reference (ToR) of the Working Group through several meetings and formal consultations (from July to December 2021).
60. Since January 2022, the Working Groups have followed the approved ToR (UNEP(DEPI)/CAR WG.42/INF.12/Rev 1).
61. Implemented on the recommendations from the STAC9 and COP10, four (4) working groups were settled, each of them touching upon a SPAW sub-thematic

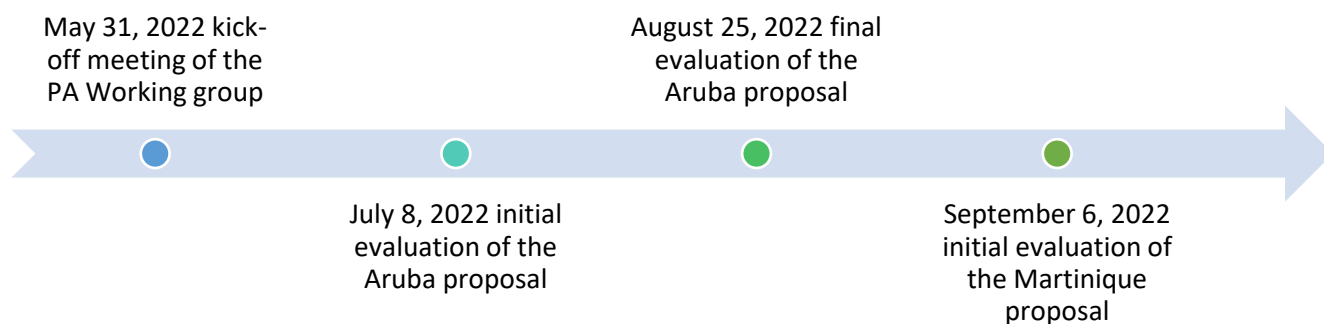


62. **Membership:** Each Contracting party may designate up to two (2) experts to a working group. Observers (Civil society organizations, non-member States or independent experts) can also nominate an expert to a working group as long as the total number of observer participants does not exceed the number of Parties to the SPAW Protocol (18 as of January 2022). Experts are designated for their acknowledged scientific and technical competence, their availability and readiness to be responsive, and to cover as much as possible the geographical and thematic scope of the subject matter. Once designated, they participate in their individual capacities, and do not represent the official views or positions of the Contracting Parties and observers that designate them.
63. **Tasks:** Working Groups address issues or topics clearly identified by the STAC to facilitate continued discussions on topics of interest to the STAC. Specific tasks of the Working Group are determined by the STAC, and the tasks of existing Working Groups may be revised by the STAC, as it deems appropriate

64. **Way of working:** Working Groups accomplish their work in English and virtually. They are overseen by the Chair of the Working Group and assisted by the Secretariat/the SPAW-RAC if the chair is from a contracting Party. For this biennium the SPAW-RAC chaired and organized all the SPAW working groups.
65. **Output:** Working Groups always report back to the STAC. The results of the Working Group's work depend on the topic and charge of the group and may be recommendations on documents submitted to the STAC and the COP, or recommendations on specific issues requested by the STAC 9.
66. In June 2022, at the first meeting of each working group, the SPAW-RAC presented to the participants the terms of reference, the tasks decided at STAC 9 and the work plan until STAC 10.

(a) Protected areas working group

67. The current protected areas working group is composed of 18 experts, 16 nominated from 8 countries, 2 nominated from observers.
68. The PA working group experts met 7 times:
69. Task 1: *Review and provide the basis for recommendations on proposals from contracting parties to add new protected areas to the SPAW Protocol annexes*



70. Task 2: *In collaboration with the Secretariat and the SPAW-RAC, as appropriate, review the recommendations presented in the "Assessment of the Impact and Effectiveness of CaMPAM" (UNEP(DEPI)/CAR WG42/INF.41 Add.1) and "Evaluation of Connectivity Between the SPAW-Listed Protected Areas to Guide the Development of the Functional Ecological Network of Protected Areas in the Wider Caribbean" (UNEP(DEPI)/CAR WG.42/INF.10) and present an options paper to STAC10 that assesses the feasibility of implementing the recommendations and suggests possible means of doing so in the short, medium-, and long-term.*

July 6, 2022 virtual kick-off meeting



September 2, 2022 online meeting

71. Task 3: *Review the procedure through which Contracting Parties may nominate new protected areas to be listed as SPAW sites and prepare suggestions to simplify and streamline the process for consideration during the next biennium for future discussions at STAC10 and subsequent consideration at COP12.*

October 6, 2022 virtual kick-off meeting



72. **Mandatory tasks:**

- Review and provide the basis for recommendations on proposals from Contracting Parties to add new Protected Areas to the SPAW Protocol annexes.

2 (two) proposed protected areas were analyzed by the protected areas working group :

- The proposal of France to the inclusion of the "Parc naturel marin de Martinique" under the SPAW Protocol
 - The proposal of Aruba to the inclusion of the "Parke Marino Aruba" under the SPAW Protocol
- Review as needed the procedure through which Contracting Parties can propose new Protected Areas to be listed as SPAW sites.

73. **Specific tasks, as mandated by STAC9:**

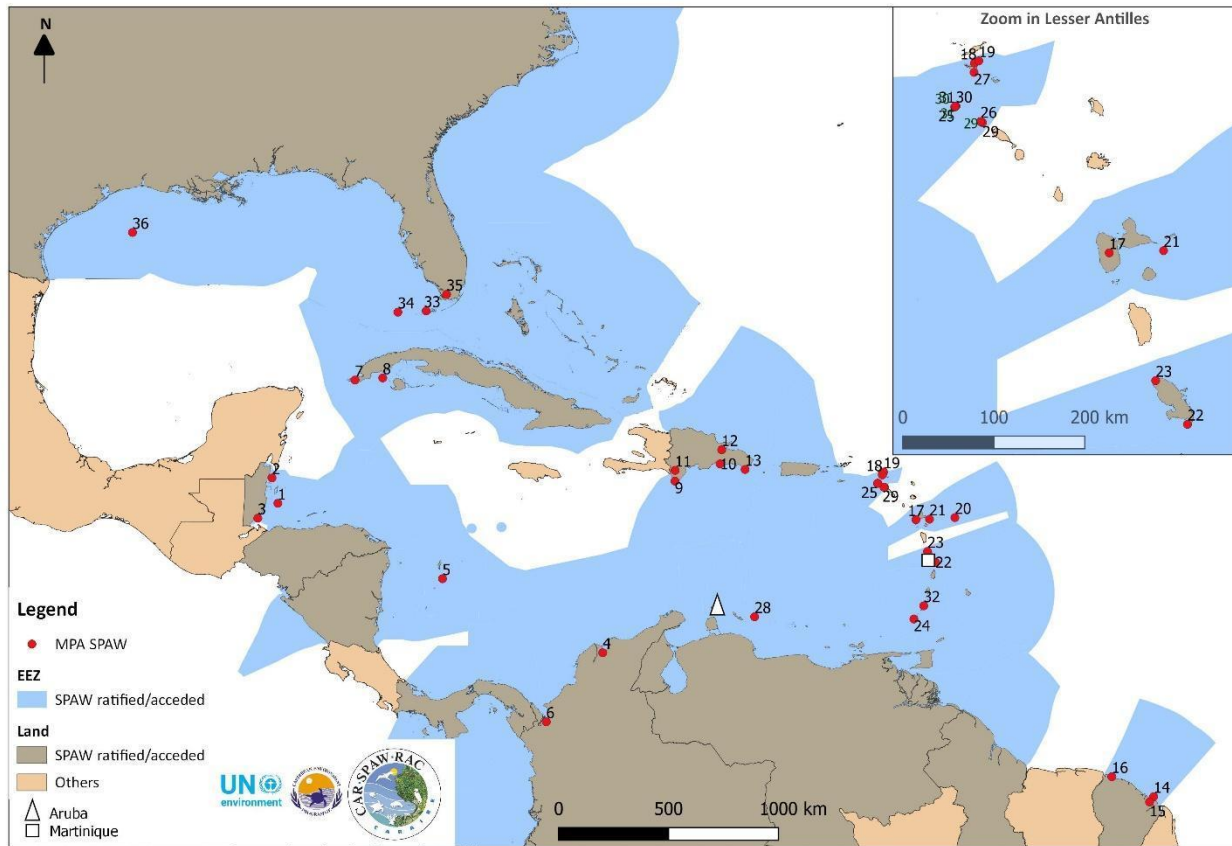
- Review the proposal of the Government of Aruba as part of the Kingdom of the Netherlands to include *Parke Marino Aruba* in the SPAW list of Protected Areas for future discussions at STAC10 and subsequent consideration of COP12.
- In collaboration with the Secretariat and the SPAW-RAC, as appropriate, review the recommendations presented in the "Assessment of the Impact and Effectiveness of CaMPAM" (UNEP(DEPI)/CAR WG.42/INF.41 Add.1) and the "Evaluation of Connectivity Between the SPAW-Listed Protected Areas to Guide the Development of a Functional Ecological Network of Protected Areas in the Wider Caribbean" (UNEP(DEPI)/CAR WG.42/INF.10) and present an options paper to STAC10 that assesses the feasibility of implementing the

recommendations and suggests possible means of doing so in the short, medium, and long-term.

- Review the procedure through which Contracting Parties may nominate new protected areas to be listed as SPAW sites and prepare suggestions to simplify and streamline the process for consideration during the next biennium for future discussions at STAC10 and subsequent consideration at COP12.

74. Produced documents :

- Report of the STAC Working Group on the Protected Areas under the Annexes to the SPAW Protocol (UNEP(DEPI)/CAR WG.43/INF.12)
- Review Aruba proposal for listing of the "Parke Marino Aruba" under the SPAW Protocol (UNEP(DEPI)/CAR WG.43/INF.13)
- Review France proposal for listing of the "Parc naturel marin de Martinique" under the SPAW Protocol (UNEP(DEPI)/CAR WG.43/INF.14)
- Exploring the feasibility of implementing recommendations identified in CaMPAM effectiveness assessments (UNEP(DEPI)/CAR WG.43/INF.8)
- Exploring the feasibility of implementing recommendations identified in the evaluation of the connectivity among MPAs of the Wider Caribbean (UNEP(DEPI)/CAR WG.43/INF.9)



SPAW-RAC, 2021. Sources: GIS layers downloaded from <https://www.marineregions.org>

Name	Country	Number	Name	Country	Number
Port Honduras Marine Reserve	Belize	3	Moliniere_Beausejour Reserve	Grenada	24
Glover's Reef Marine Reserve	Belize	1	Dry Tortugas National Park	USA	34
Hol Chan Marine Reserve	Belize	2	Florida Keys National Marine Sanctuary	USA	33
De Los Humedales Entre Los Rios Leon Y Suriqui	Colombia	6	Everglades National Park	USA	35
Sanctuary Ciénaga Grande De Santa Marta	Colombia	4	Flower Garden Banks National Marine Sanctuary	USA	36
Regional Seaflower Marine Protected Area	Colombia	5	Tobago Cays-Mayreau Marine Park	Saint Vincent and the Grenadines	32
Parque Nacional Guanahacabibes	Cuba	7	Bonaire National Marine Park	Caribbean Netherlands	28
Parque Nacional Cayos de San Felipe	Cuba	8	Saint Eustatius Marine Park	Caribbean Netherlands	26
Los Haitises National Park	Dominican Republic	12	Saba National Marine Park	Caribbean Netherlands	25
Submarino La Caleta	Dominican Republic	10	The Quill and Boven National Park St Eustacius	Caribbean Netherlands	29
Parque Nacional Jaragua	Dominican Republic	9	Saba Bank National Park	Caribbean Netherlands	30
Parque Nacional Sierra de Bahoruco	Dominican Republic	11	Mont Scenery National Park, Saba	Caribbean Netherlands	31
Cotubamana	Dominican Republic	13	Man o War Shoal Marine Park	Caribbean Netherlands	27
Guadeloupe National Park	French West Indies	17			
Iles De La Petite Terre	French West Indies	21			
Ile du Grand Connetable	French West Indies	14			
Marais De Kaw-Roura	French West Indies	15			
Etangs lagunaires de Saint-Martin	French West Indies	18			
Saint-Martin National Natural Reserve	French West Indies	19			
Versant Nord_Ouest De La Montagne Pelee	French West Indies	23			
Etang des Salines	French West Indies	22			
Sanctuaire Agoa	French West Indies	20			
Reserve de l'Amana	French West Indies	16			

Figure 5 : listed protected areas under SPAW protocol in 2021

(b) Species working group

75. The current species working group is composed of 29 experts, 16 nominated from 9 countries, 13 nominated from observers.

76. The working group species met nine times:

June 3, 2022 kick off meeting

		May	June	July	August	September	October	November
Task 1 : Review proposals to add new species or change the listing status of species	States submit their proposals				June 28, 2022 Organization meeting			
	WG meets to validate the evaluations of the proposals*					16	26	6
	Final version of proposals						10	
Task 2 : Strengthen work on the conservation and management of species listed	Experts submit their proposals to the whole WG							
	WG meetings to validate the proposals**					17	22	25
	Final version of proposals						10	
Task 3: Revise and update the MMAP	Experts submit their proposal to the whole WG					20		
	WG meetings to validate the proposal					1		
	Final version of proposals						10	
Processing final Documents by SPAW-RAC	Deadline to finalize WG report					20		
	Translation of species WG documents and report f						28	
	Publish species WG documents and report							16
	STAC 10							

*
 Task 1 : Review proposals to add new species or change the listing status of species
 August 16 Iguana delicatissima and parrotfishes
 August 26 Oceanic whitetip shark and reef shark
 September 6 Giant manta ray, Hammerhead sharks, Whale shark

**
 Task 2 : Strengthen work on the conservation and management of species listed
 August 17 Nassau grouper
 August 22 sawfish
 August 25 sea turtles

77. **Mandatory tasks:**

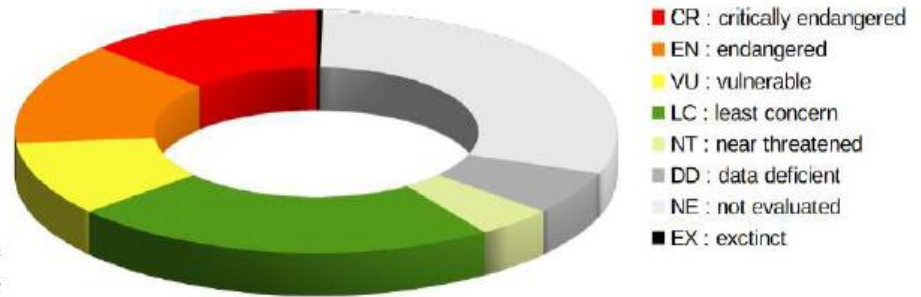
- review, evaluate, and provide recommendations on proposals from Contracting Parties to add new species to the SPAW Protocol Annexes or change the listing status of species currently on the Annexes.

Seven (7) proposals were analyzed by the working group species in 2022:

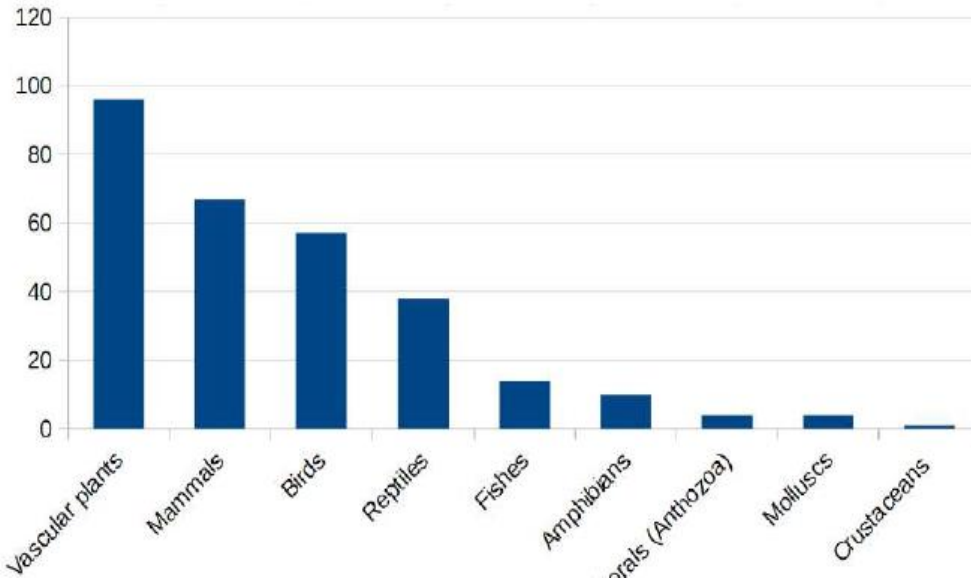
- o Proposal by the Republic of France and the Kingdom of Netherlands for the inclusion of all parrotfishes (Perciformes: Scaridae) in Annex III of the SPAW Protocol
- o Proposal by the Republic of France and the Kingdom of Netherlands for the uplisting of Oceanic whitetip shark (*Carcharhinus longimanus*) from annex III to annex II of the SPAW protocol
- o Proposal by the Kingdom of Netherlands for the listing of the Caribbean Reef Shark (*Carcharhinus perezii*) in annex III the SPAW protocol
- o Proposal of the Republic of France and the Kingdom of Netherlands for the inclusion of the whale shark (*Rhincodon typus*) in Appendix II of the Protocol concerning Specially Protected Areas and Wildlife (SPAW Protocol)

- Proposal of the Republic of France and the Kingdom of Netherlands for the inclusion of 3 hammerhead shark (*Sphyrna mokarran*) in Appendix II of the SPAW Protocol
- Proposal by the Kingdom of Netherlands for the uplisting of the Lesser Antillean (*Iguana delicatissima*) from Appendix III to Appendix II of the SPAW Protocol.
- Proposal by the Republic of France and the Kingdom of Netherlands for the inclusion of the Giant manta ray species (*Manta birostris*) in Appendix II of the SPAW Protocol

Distribution in percentage of species listed under the SPAW Protocol by their IUCN Red List category



NB: Classes Hydrozoa and Anthozoa included in Annex III aren't represented here



Tally of species listed under the SPAW Protocol by their class

NB: These statistics doesn't include the species of the following groups Hydrozoa et Anthozoa listed under the SPAW Protocol and mentioned as "all spp"

78. Specific tasks, as mandated by STAC9:

- Strengthen work on the conservation and management of species listed in the Annexes of the Protocol considering the recommendations in paragraph 4 of UNEP(DEPI)/CAR WG.42/INF.25, paragraphs 8-10 of UNEP(DEPI)/CAR WG.42/INF.38, and paragraph 8 of UNEP(DEPI)/CAR WG.42/INF.39, and paragraphs 50-56 of UNEP(DEPI)/CAR WG.42/INF.24, as appropriate.

79. After the June 28, 2022 Organization meeting, that allowed to identify active leaders, the experts have worked remotely by using a dedicated online platform (google drive) and have been invited to virtual meetings to complete this task. During the biennium 2021-2022, the Species Working Group has elaborated several documents to improve the conservation status of the threatened species of Nassau Grouper, Sea turtles and Sawfish.

- Revise and update the MMAP, considering new information and developments since 2008, including the "Scientific and Technical Analysis of the Implementation of the Action Plan for the Conservation of Marine Mammals (MMAP) in the Wider Caribbean," and present the updated MMAP to STAC10 for its review and consideration.

80. After the organizational meeting on 28 June 2022, which identified the active leaders, the experts worked remotely using a dedicated online platform (google drive). They also met virtually to complete this task.

81. Produced documents:

- Report of the STAC Working Group on the Listing of Species under the Annexes to the SPAW Protocol (UNEP(DEPI)/CAR WG.43/INF.16)
- Recommendations for the protection and recovery of the Caribbean sea turtles (UNEP(DEPI)/CAR WG.43/INF.24)
- Recommendations for preventing sawfish extinction in the Wider Caribbean Region (UNEP(DEPI)/CAR WG.43/INF.25)
- Recommendations for conserving NASSAU Grouper in the Wider Caribbean Region (UNEP(DEPI)/CAR WG.43/INF.26)
- Updated of the Action Plan for the Conservation of Marine Mammals (MMAP) in the Wider Caribbean and recommendations (UNEP(DEPI)/CAR WG.43/INF.31)

(c) Exemption working group

82. The current exemptions working group is composed of 15 experts from 8 countries, 2 nominated from observers.

83. The working group species met once (September 9, 2022, virtual validation meeting)

84. Mandatory tasks:

- review the exemptions reports submitted by Contracting Parties.

One (1) proposal was analyzed by the exemption working group in 2022 :

- o United States Exemptions Report to the Specially Protected Areas and Wildlife Protocol of the Cartagena Convention for 2018-2021

85. Specific tasks, as mandated by STAC9:

- with the assistance of the Secretariat and/or the SPAW-RAC, consider ways to facilitate reporting of exemptions and make recommendations for consideration during the next biennium for the future discussions at STAC10 and subsequent consideration at COP12.

86. The experts worked remotely using a dedicated online platform (google drive). They also met virtually to complete this task.

87. Produced documents:

- Report of the STAC Exemption Working Group UNEP(DEPI)/CAR WG.43/INF.33)
- Report for considering ways to facilitate reporting of exemptions (UNEP(DEPI)/CAR WG.43/INF.35)

6. CONSERVATION OF THREATENED AND ENDANGERED SPECIES

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

- (a) Build consensus in the region on priorities for the management of endangered and migratory species;
- (b) Implement priority activities of existing species recovery and management plans developed under the framework of the SPAW Protocol;
- (c) Develop, as appropriate, adequate management plans and programmes for priority species of regional concern, including those of economic importance; and
- (d) Address the growing threat of invasive alien species (IAS) that could negatively impact SPAW species and WCR habitats, especially marine or coastal IAS.



6.1- SPAW Species working group work

89. **STAC 9 recommendations**

90. The STAC9 entrusted the SPAW Species Working Group with the following task:

- (a) Revise and update the MMAP, considering new information and developments since 2008, including the "Scientific and Technical Analysis of the Implementation of the Action Plan for the Conservation of Marine Mammals (MMAP) in the Wider Caribbean," and present the updated MMAP to STAC10 for its review and consideration."
- (b) Strengthen work on the conservation and management of species listed in the Annexes of the Protocol taking into account the recommendations in paragraph 4 of UNEP(DEPI)/CAR WG.42/INF.25: recommendations of the species WG for preventing sawfish extinction, with a priority for the protection and recovery of small-tooth sawfish (*Pristis pectinate*, Annexe II) and large-tooth sawfish (*Pristis pristis*, Annexe II);
- (c) Strengthen work on the conservation and management of species listed in the Annexes of the Protocol taking into account the recommendations in paragraph 4 of UNEP(DEPI)/CAR WG.42/INF.25: paragraphs 8-10 of UNEP(DEPI)/CAR WG.42/INF.38: recommendations of the species WG for conserving the Nassau Grouper (*Epinephelus striatus*, Annex III);
- (d) Strengthen work on the conservation and management of species listed in the Annexes of the Protocol taking into account the recommendations in paragraph 8 of UNEP(DEPI)/CAR WG.42/INF.39: recommendations of the species WG for the protection and Recovery of Caribbean Sea Turtles (Annexe II);
- (e) Strengthen work on the conservation and management of species listed in the Annexes of the Protocol taking into account the recommendations in paragraph paragraphs 50-56 of UNEP(DEPI)/CAR WG.42/INF.24: recommendations of the species WG for and effective management of shark and ray species listed in Annex III;

91. SPAW experts worked on this task from June to September 2022 and produced several recommendation documents.

Revision of the SPAW Marine Mammal Action Plan (UNEP(DEPI)/CAR WG.43/INF.31)

92. The marine mammal experts of the Species Working Group decided to build on the 2008 MMAP the following way: 1) make some format modifications, so that the reviewed version is more tangible and user-friendly; 2) enlarge the scope of the

MMAP to include river and estuarine species listed in SPAW Annexes; 3) update the information from the following STAC 9 documents.

93. The general goal of the revised MMAP is to identify:
- 1) the priority threats to marine mammals in the region,
 - 2) actions that governments and organizations from the WCR should take to develop and improve marine mammal conservation policies and practices in a 5-year timeframe, and
 - 3) the available resources and expertise of marine mammal networks established by the SPAW Programme.
94. While the original MMAP focused on eleven 'threat' categories, the priority threats have been recategorized as: fisheries bycatch, directed hunts and captivity, habitat degradation, pollution and marine mammal health, whale watching and associated activities, acoustic disturbance, vessel strikes, and climate change.
95. Within each priority threat category, action areas may contain assessment, which includes increased scientific knowledge and enhanced public understanding; mitigation, which includes protective measures and policy development, and improvement of law and its application; capacity building, which includes efforts to develop regional networks, infrastructure, and information and technology sharing to achieve the conservation outcomes necessary to mitigate the threat.
96. For each threat, a short summary of available information is presented, followed by a table identifying objectives, actions, and potential partners, and a second table presenting expertise and other resources available in the region.

Nassau Grouper (UNEP(DEPI)/CAR WG.43/INF.26)

97. Building upon the recommendations for conserving the Nassau Grouper made during STAC 9 (UNEP(DEPI)/CAR WG.42/INF.38), and following the discussion that took place during the validation meeting, the experts proposed the following actions, to prevent extinction and promote recovery of Wider Caribbean Nassau Groupers:
- SPAW Contracting Parties assist WECAFC in the implementation of the Regional Fish Spawning Aggregation FMP by supporting and ensuring their fisheries or other appropriate departments or ministries implement and enforce harmonized seasonal closures for all commercial and recreational fishing of Nassau Grouper, at least for the period 1 December-31 March. A harmonized regional closed season is essential to protect spawning Nassau grouper and is vital for the species survival and securing sustainable fishing outside the closed seasons.
 - SPAW Contracting Parties implement additional measures to seasonal closure deemed appropriate at the national level. Contracting parties should be mindful

to apply the precautionary principle to national management strategies in order to account for information gaps, especially given the critically endangered status of this species and ongoing population decline. National management plans complement actions at the regional level and are needed to guide resource management among countries with different regulatory frameworks. Those plans should include increased monitoring and evaluation of the adequacy of fishery management measures and enforcement.

- The SPAW Secretariat and SPAW-RAC can assist in the implementation of the FMP by seeking opportunities to collaborate and cooperate with the WECAFC Secretariat and other regional fisheries organizations, such as the GCFI (Gulf and Caribbean Fisheries Institute) and the CRFM (Caribbean Regional Fisheries Mechanism), as appropriate, to support capacity building and communication and outreach efforts, including the development of communication and outreach tools.
- The STAC should request the SPAW Species Working Group and Protected Areas Working Group to undertake a joint task for submission to the next STAC meeting to consider opportunities to improve MPA management and protection for Nassau grouper, including in SPAW-listed MPAs, which are known to protect important spawning aggregation sites, taking into account proposed action #16 in the Regional Fish Spawning Aggregation FMP.

Sea Turtles (UNEP(DEPI)/CAR WG.43/INF.24)

98. Building upon the recommendations for conserving Sea Turtles made during STAC 9 (UNEP(DEPI)/CAR WG.42/INF.39), and following the discussion that took place during the validation meeting, the experts proposed the following actions, to prevent extinction and promote recovery of Wider Caribbean Sea Turtles:

- Encourage compliance with the SPAW Protocol, preparing an information paper that summarizes the regulatory framework and requesting that the SPAW protocol initiate a dialogue with non-compliant Parties.
- Compile information on the type (e.g., gear type, fishing practices) of nearshore fisheries for each country and any existing sea turtle protection measures related to those fisheries and develop a strategy to address bycatch in nearshore fisheries.
- Coordinate with the Inter-American Convention for the Protection and Conservation of Sea Turtles (IAC) to develop a cooperative mechanism to facilitate implementation across the species' range of Decision 6 UNEP(DEPI)/CAR IG.40/3, and IAC-COP9-2019-R2 "Conservation of the Northwest Atlantic Leatherback Turtle (*Dermochelys coriacea*)", based on the findings of the Northwest Atlantic Leatherback Working Group (2018) relating to the need to reduce bycatch.
- Request that Parties with indigenous harvest meeting the traditional subsistence and cultural needs of their local populations (including egg collection), under Article 14 of the SPAW Protocol, provide information and

justification on these activities (e.g., harvest data, management measures) and submit an exemption format if necessary.

- Develop and administer a questionnaire to SPAW Parties and observers looking at issues concerning national level enforcement to help identify gaps and barriers to effective enforcement. Potential areas of investigation include: available enforcement personnel and resources; evidence laws; officer, prosecutor and judicial training in environmental crimes; penalties; successful and unsuccessful prosecutions of sea turtle law violations.
- Support Parties in developing, reviewing, and/or updating their Sea Turtle Recovery Action Plans (STRAP) (developed in partnership with SPAW and WIDECAS) and/or other national recovery planning processes and documents. Emphasis should be given to mobilising resources, implementation, and identification of strategic local initiatives to address bycatch and other threats. WIDECAS is playing a major role here.
- Ensure that future Parties to the SPAW Protocol, if they sanction direct or indirect sea turtle take, indicate how they intend to comply with the Protocol, including legal protections to sea turtles, regulation of “activities having adverse effects on such species or their habitats and ecosystems”, and taking “appropriate actions to prevent species from becoming endangered or threatened” (Article 10).

Sawfish (UNEP(DEPI)/CAR WG.43/INF.25)

99. Building upon the recommendations for conserving Sawfish made during STAC 9 (UNEP(DEPI)/CAR WG.42/INF.25), and following the discussion that took place during the validation meeting, the experts proposed the following actions, to prevent extinction and promote recovery of Wider Caribbean Sawfish:

- national regulations to explicitly and specifically prohibit sawfish fishing, killing, retention, sale, and trade, particularly in Panama, Honduras, and Colombia;
- Bahamas national regulations to explicitly and specifically prohibit sawfish fishing, killing, retention, and domestic sale;
- education and enforcement programmes, particularly in the above five priority countries, to implement protections and promote safe sawfish release;
- fishery management measures, particularly in priority countries, aimed at minimising sawfish encounters as well as resulting mortality;
- research and protections for critical sawfish habitats, particularly mangroves, throughout the region;
- a Regional Plan of Action (RPOA) for Sawfish Recovery to raise the species’ profile and facilitate alignment, cooperation, information sharing, and capacity building among SPAW Parties.

6.2- WIDECAST (UNEP(DEPI)/CAR WG.43/INF.11)

100. Every year, SPAW-RAC participate to the WIDECAST's annual general meetings and contribute to the network. Due to the COVID the 2021 meeting was cancelled and WIDECAST convened an Annual Meeting from 23-25 March 2022.
101. In 2021-2022, WIDECAST, the SPAW Regional Activity Network (RAN) dedicated to marine turtles focused on:
 - Threat Assessment: Northwest Atlantic Leatherback Sea Turtles, *Dermochelys coriacea*, with Special Emphasis on Trinidad & Tobago and the Guianas (2021)
 - A Northwest Atlantic Leatherback (*Dermochelys coriacea*) Regional Action Plan for the Wider Caribbean Region (2022)
 - The WIDECAST network has been active on multiple fronts during this past biennium, these activities include maintaining a Regional Marine Turtle Tagging Centre at the UWI Cave Hill Campus in Barbados, the translation of sea turtle research and conservation documents to ensure broader access across the WCR, the development of "apps" for data collection related to conservation and management objectives, publication of a children's coloring book in Venezuela, and the piloting of innovative approaches to lighting, bycatch reduction, habitat restoration, and public awareness. WIDECAST experts have contributed active service to inter-governmental forums, including Ramsar, IAC, and SPAW, and published more than a dozen peer-reviewed research papers.
102. Through its 2021 and 2022 Call for Projects, SPAW-RAC supported four (4) NGO dedicated to Sea Turtles conservation in Belize, Jamaica, Trinidad and Tobago and Venezuela.
103. Importantly SPAW-RAC developed with the French Office for Biodiversity and other partners from the Caribbean, a new project dedicated to large migratory species including turtles. Pending funding approval, it aims to be very operational and strongly link with fisheries and territories

6.3- SPAW RAC call for projects (UNEP(DEPI)/CAR WG.43/INF.28)

104. In order to diversify its activities under the SPAW protocol, SPAW-RAC has made new and hopeful linkages with BirdsCaribbean through the 2021 and 2022 Call for Proposals, with many other stakeholders throughout the Caribbean.
105. Through its 2021 and 2022 Call for Projects, SPAW-RAC supports actions on threatened species, sometimes listed in the appendices of the protocol, and for which few actions are currently carried out.

106. These are for example: Brown pelican (*Pelecanus occidentalis*), Ricord's iguana (*Cyclura ricordii*) in Dominican republic, Morelet's crocodiles (*Crocodylus moreletii*) in Belize

6.4- CARIMAM project (UNEP(DEPI)/CAR WG.43/INF.29)

107. CARI'MAM "Caribbean Marine Mammals Preservation Network" was a regional cooperation project funded by the EU and covering the period 2018-2021. It was led by the Agoa sanctuary (French Antilles) and the SPAW RAC. Its aim was to strengthen marine mammal conservation in the Wider Caribbean Region through an enhanced cooperation among countries and territories. Its major outputs were:

- Networking, with the development of a:
 - networking platform, called Teamwork, which facilitates email and document exchanges as well as task planning.
 - online website and hub dedicated to the study and conservation of marine mammals in the Caribbean.
 - workshops to share ideas and practices.
- A technical analysis of the 2008 SPAW marine mammal action plan to identify priority objectives for the coming years: enhance quantitative knowledge on marine mammal populations and anthropogenic impacts; elaborate an up-to-date SPAW marine mammal action plan, in the framework of SPAW protocol; establish a sustainable and coordinated regional mechanism, build upon CARI'MAM, such as a Regional Activity Network.
- Knowledge enhancement, with:
 - the deployment of a hydrophone network (20 hydrophones in 15 Caribbean territories, deployed for 12 months),
 - some boat-based campaigns (4,232 km of effort; 5 territories surveyed).
- Support the development of sustainable whale watching, with:
 - the organization of a best practices workshop,
 - a study for a regional whale-watching regulatory instrument,
 - the development of a toolkit for a sustainable and responsible whale-watching activity.
- Capacity building, with:
 - The development of an MPA self-assessment tool (SAT) to enhance the inclusion of marine mammals in management plans,
 - the development of free MOOCs (Photo-identification and CMR method, acoustic identification of cetaceans, managing marine mammals in case of oil spill, project building and financing),

- the organization of field trainings for data collection (distance sampling with ObsEnMer application, and photoID).

108. More information on these outputs can be found in the CARI'MAM dedicated for information document (UNEP(DEPI)/CAR WG.43/INF.29). The project is now concluded but the network is still active, with 273 participants, from 78 organizations and 31 Caribbean territories.

6.5- Sargassum

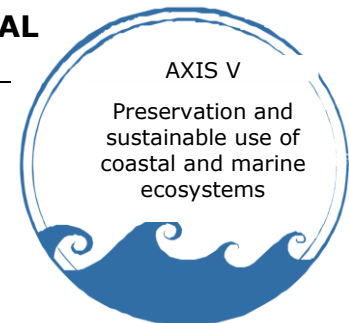
109. SPAW-RAC participated in two webinars in the framework of the Caribbean Programme on Sargassum (SARG'COOP), dealing with Collection and valorization of Sargassum in the Caribbean as well as Remote sensing.

110. As the STAC didn't propose to go on, le SPAW-CAR didn't convene the working group.

7. CONSERVATION AND SUSTAINABLE USE OF COASTAL AND MARINE ECOSYSTEMS

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

- (a) Assist with the management of the coastal and marine ecosystems of the region on a sustainable basis, particularly through sustainable practices;
- (b) Mobilize the political will and actions of Governments and other partners for the conservation and sustainable use of coral reefs and associated ecosystems such as mangroves and seagrass beds;
- (c) Effectively communicate the value and importance of coral reefs, mangroves and seagrass beds, including their ecosystem services, the threats to their sustainability, and the actions needed to protect them; and
- (d) Promote the ecosystem management approach and the principles and values of good governance for the conservation and management of marine ecosystems in the region.



7.1- CARIB-COAST (UNEP(DEPI)/CAR WG.43/INF.30)

112. The Carib-Coast Project "Caribbean network for coastal risks prevention related with climate change" was a regional cooperation project funded by the EU and covering the period 2019-2022. It was led by the French Geological Survey (BRGM) which

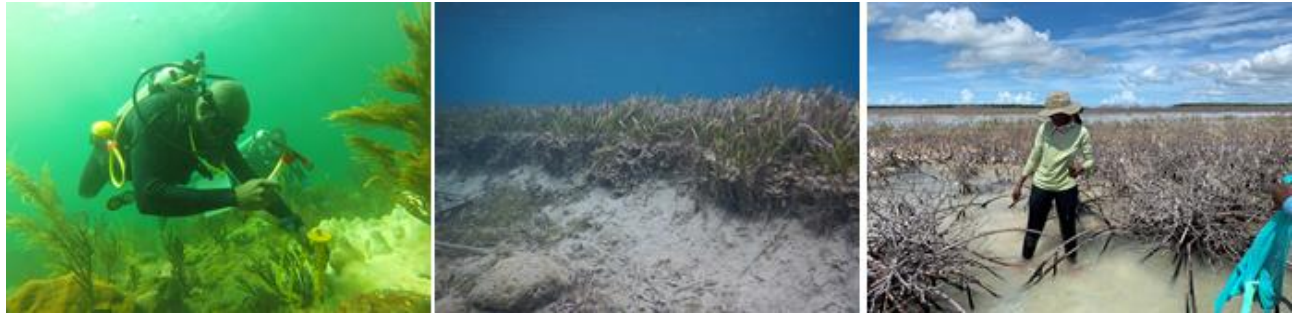
works closely with ten (10) other Caribbean partners. It aimed to pool, co-build and disseminate knowledge about monitoring methods, coastal risks prevention and adaptation to climate change in the Caribbean. SPAW-RAC is a key partner involved in the tasks dealing with marine and coastal ecosystems as well as training and communication actions.

113. The project was composed of four (4) work packages led by different partners as detailed below:

- WP 1. Coordination and Management of the Project, led by BRGM
- WP 2. Coastal Hydrodynamics Observation and Modeling, led by BRGM
- WP 3. Coastal Erosion Monitoring, led by ONF
- WP 4. Decision Support Tools, led by SPAW-RAC

114. SPAW-RAC took the lead on the work package n°4 and was also strongly involved in the work package n°3. Its major outputs were:

- Syntheses about the three targeted ecosystems (coral reefs, seagrasses and mangroves) giving a description of the ecosystem in the Caribbean context, the main services provided towards coastal protection and/or erosion mitigation, the major threats, various solutions to tackle these threats and a list of examples of regional initiatives.
- Best practices guidebook on coastal risks management for the Caribbean region, targeting decision-makers as well as natural resources managers. It is focused on knowledge sharing about monitoring methods, coastal risk prevention and adaptation to climate change in the Caribbean, with a strong emphasis on nature-based solutions.
- Development of three pilot sites in non-French territories in collaboration with local organizations to address coral, mangrove and seagrass restoration.
 - Coral restoration in Trinidad and Tobago by Environmental Research Institute Charlotteville (ERIC) (May 2021-July 2022)
 - Seagrass restoration in Puerto Rico by Protectores de Cuencas (PDC) (August 2021-July 2022)
 - Mangrove restoration in the Bahamas by Perry Institute for Marine Sciences (PIMS) (July 2021 – September 2022)



- Organization of a hybrid international workshop on mangrove restoration (Bonaire, October 2021) to build local and regional capacities on mangrove restoration and related topics. This successful event involved more than 60 mangrove experts, protected areas managers, conservationists and practitioners from over 40 different countries from the Caribbean, Europe and US.
- Production of communication tools in three languages, mainly posters and short videos targeting the general public. The objective was to disseminate knowledge about coastal protection services delivered by marine and coastal ecosystems, threats to them and how it is possible to participate in their protection in the daily life.
- In total seven posters and seventeen short videos were produced. <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCmwUIYIo2hn2zPFQVPrSTAg/videos>
- Participation in the development of the Carib-Coast project movie with the other partners to showcase the work done during the project. SPAW-RAC collected several testimony videos on the pilot projects

115. More information on these outputs can be found in the Carib-Coast dedicated information document (UNEP(DEPI)/CAR WG.43/INF.30). The project is now concluded but the network is still active in Caribbean territories.

7.2- OTHER ECOSYSTEM RESTORATION ACTIVITIES

116. Through its 2021 Call for Projects, SPAW-RAC supported projects from two NGOs focusing their effort on coral monitoring and restoration with nurseries. These projects were implemented respectively by Bica in Islas de la Bahia (Honduras) and by Fundación Antonio Núñez Jiménez de la Naturaleza y el Hombre in Cayos de San Felipe National Park (Cuba). Both projects involved local communities in the coral reefs management and conservation efforts.

117. Through its 2022 Call for Projects, SPAW-RAC supported projects from two NGOs involved in mangrove restoration to recover important habitats for marine species. In Haïti, Mouvement Haïtien pour le Développement Rural is restoring 30 ha of mangroves in order to improve fishing conditions for the conservation of biodiversity in Belle-Anse Bay and in Belize, Clearwater Marine Aquarium is implementing a mangrove restoration project to support local manatee populations by reducing coastal erosion and replanting manatee foraging and sheltering areas within Gales Point.

7.3- GCRMN-CARIBES (UNEP(DEPI)/CAR WG.43/INF.27)

118. GCRMN-Caribbean promotes the regional guidelines for coral reef survey and monitoring. The objectives of the Caribbean node of the Global Coral Reef Monitoring Network (GCRMN-Caribbean) are to revitalize and strengthen coral reef monitoring, to ensure the collection of useful, comparable, and accessible data that can effectively reveal the status and trends of the coral reefs in the region, for regular, robust and strategic reporting to influence coastal management decision-making at the regional level.

119. The GCRMN-Caribbean is structured around a Steering Committee, chaired by the SPAW-RAC, with the assistance from members at large (experts, scientists, marine resource managers).

120. In February 2022, the International Coral Reef Initiative (ICRI) and the GCRMN officially launched the "[2020 GCRMN Status of Coral Reefs of the World report](#)" describing the status and trends of coral reefs worldwide.

121. SPAW-RAC took the lead for the Caribbean region in asking members of its network to share their data and insights regarding coral status and trends per bioregion. This collected data and analyses took the shape of a chapter dedicated to the Caribbean region, [Chapter 12](#).

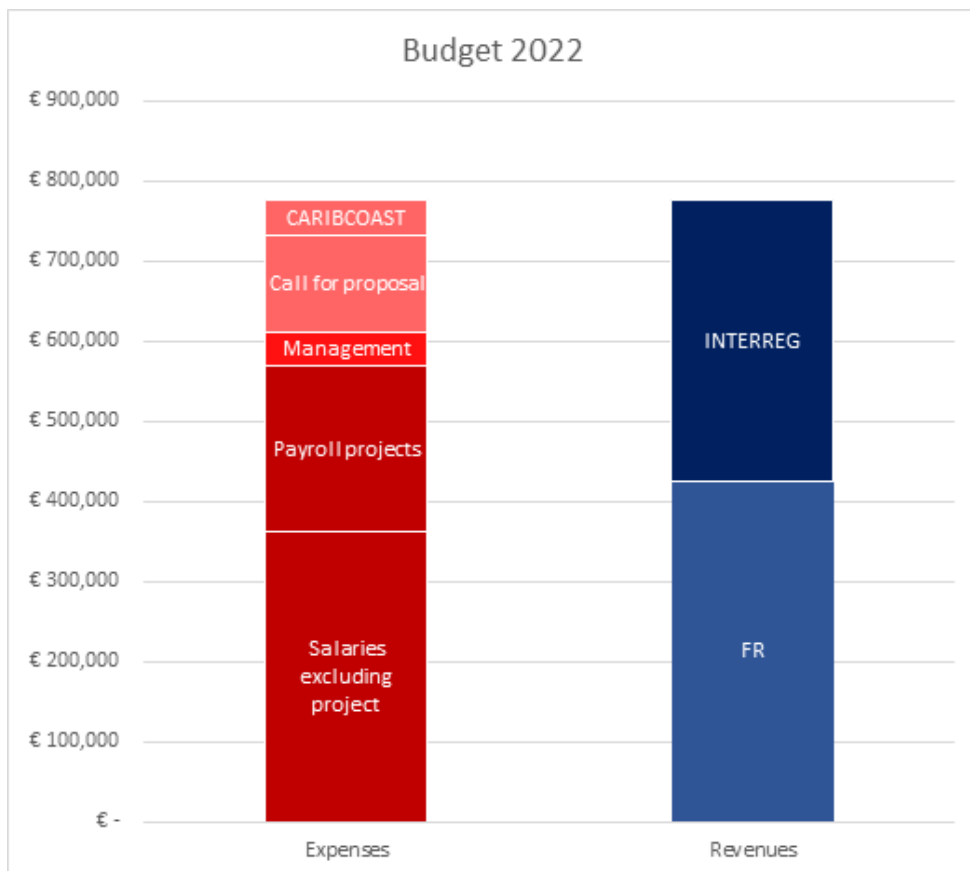
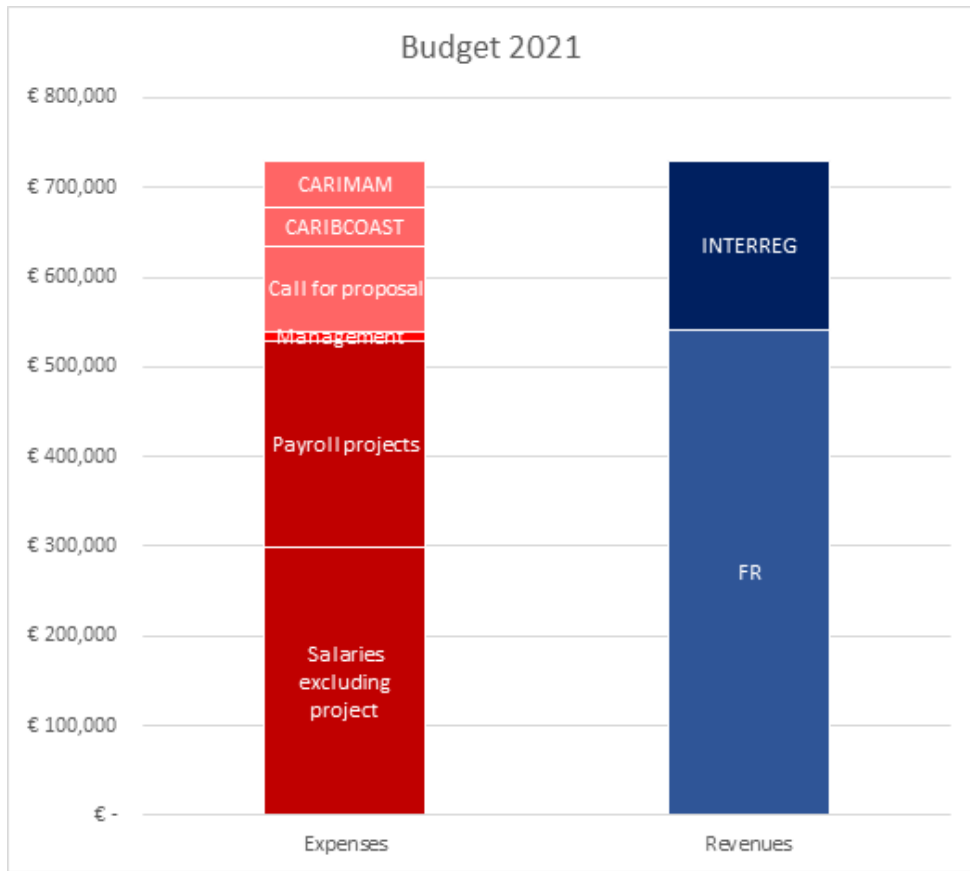
122. The main results of this exercise are of major interest to policy makers and conservation gestion plans. They confirm that live hard coral and algal covers are experiencing reverse trajectories in the Caribbean with a decline by 2.1% of hard coral cover between 1983 (18%) and 2019 (15.9%). As a consequence, average hard coral cover across the entire region was at a historical low level (14.1% in 2007). Since 2003 the average algal cover within the region has progressively increased, reaching 52.4% in 2019.

- Participation to the meeting of the Global GCRMN's Steering Committee (Monaco, 2022)
- Participation to GCRMN trainings in UKOTs (Virtual, 2022)

- Organization of the GCRMN-Caribbean Steering Committee (Online, August 2022)
123. SPAW-RAC is also involved into the SCTL D Response Caribbean Cooperation Team coordinated by NOAA, making linkages with french speaking countries. In July 2022, SPAW-RAC facilitated the organization of a specific session focused on the French Caribbean islands (Guadeloupe, Martinique, Saint Barthélemy and Saint Martin) regarding the status of SCTL D on their reefs as well as their efforts to respond to the outbreak
124. SPAW-RAC continued its effort to develop and fund coral reefs activities, also to liaise with the main global and regional organizations working on coral conservation
125. SPAW-RAC continued its effort to find the most suitable option to host GCRMN-Caribbean data into a platform facilitating data storage, formatting, analysis and final usage for reporting purposes at regional and global levels.
126. **Future prospects:**
- Continue GCRMN-Caribbean coordination, link with the main regional and international initiatives on coral reefs (GCRMN- global, ICRI, NOAA...)
 - Organize of an in-person annual meeting of the GCRMN-Caribbean Steering Committee
 - Continue to organizing workshops and training sessions on biophysical and socio-economic monitoring of coral reefs and associated ecosystems, by using and disseminating GCRMN-Caribbean guidelines
 - Help to structure, store and promote data on coral reefs at the regional level with strategical partners
 - Explore fundraising opportunities for coral reefs related activities both internally as for regional stakeholders

8. BUDGET

127. The team is now housed at the DEAL which is a deconcentrated state service in Guadeloupe. The three (3) positions financed by the French government are dedicated to the core business of CARSPAW: regional cooperation, project coordination and technical working groups on biodiversity.
128. The other agents are scientists assigned to technical missions: species, spaces, marine protected areas, derogations. Their positions are financed through specific Interreg agreements



129. It should be noted that the European funds are used to reimburse the salaries paid. In this respect, France makes the advance, but the reimbursements are made several months late, which explains the difference in proportions between 2021 and 2022.
130. On average, the breakdown between French and European funds is 70% and 60% respectively.

2021-2022

Expenses				Revenues	
salaries excluding project € 661 171	payroll project € 434 960		small grants € 215 744	FR € 966 722	INTERREG € 538 004
	CARIBCOAST € 87 716	current operation	CARIM... € 50 198		



APPENDIX 1

AXIS 1 - PROGRAMME COORDINATION

STAC	WORKPLAN
<p>III.4 The SPAW Secretariat and SPAW RAC enhance and maintain collaboration and communication with clearly defined roles, activities and funding related to the workplan</p> <p>III.5 The SPAW Secretariat and SPAW RAC solicit input from Contracting Parties during the development of the SPAW Workplan and Budget for 2023-2024, with an opportunity for review and comment in advance of STAC10.</p> <p>VIII.1 The Secretariat, through the SPAW-RAC, with the participation from interested Contracting Parties, review and update the Terms of Reference for the Ad Hoc Working Groups, as appropriate and taking into account the suggestions made during STAC9, including clarifying the structure of, tasks of, and participation in the Species Working Group.</p> <p>VIII.4 Request the Secretariat to consult with the Working Groups on the development of priorities for the SPAW Workplan and Budget for 2023-2024, as appropriate.</p> <p>X-1 The Secretariat and SPAW-RAC respond to Stony Coral Tissue Loss Disease capacity-building needs and work with partners in the region to facilitate information sharing and</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Continue the listing process of Protected Areas under the SPAW Protocol with relevant Contracting Parties, as appropriate, with the web-based tool and further develop the cooperation for listed protected areas. - Support the implementation of the Marine Mammal Action Plan (MMAP) through the CARI'MAM project. If funding is available to support SPAW-RAC's involvement, contribute to the new EU funded project Human Activities and Marine Mammals in the Caribbean (HAMMAC) to implement actions on bycatch, vessel strikes, and whale watching. The SPAW-RAC will also assist with efforts towards finalizing the MoU between the Secretariat and the IWC and remains involved in the twinning projects of the Ocean governance project (said "transatlantic project"); - Support the preservation and restoration of marine ecosystems (coral reefs, mangroves and seagrass beds) via the CARIB-COAST project; - Support species conservation, including sea turtles and migratory birds, in particular via collaboration with WIDECAS, BirdCaribbean and BirdLife International, and encourage conservation projects on other threatened species for which few actions are currently carried out (e.g. plants, fish, reptiles and mammals); - Continue, in support of the Secretariat, to provide guidance on the use of the guidance document Criteria and Process to Assess Exemptions under Article 11(2) of the SPAW Protocol; - Continue to cooperate with relevant institutions on the Invasive Alien Species (IAS) issue (strengthen exchanges and actions with LBS and other RACs), contribute to reinvigorate IAS networks and initiatives if funding is available; - Continue to collaborate with the relevant partners to assess and merge information and

implement training programmes, as appropriate, to promote the prevention of, detection of and response to this new threat to Caribbean coral reef ecosystems.

X-3 The Secretariat and SPAW-RAC encourage collaboration among Contracting Parties; the Regional Activity Centre-Regional Marine Pollution Emergency, Information and Training Centre (RAC-REMPEITC); the shipping industry; and other stakeholders, as appropriate, to reduce the risk of coral disease spread via ballast water, biofilms and wastewater.

X-4 The Secretariat and SPAW-RAC continue to communicate and collaborate with the regional sub-commission of the Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission (IOCaribe) regarding any potential future work on ocean acidification.

XI-8 The Secretariat and SPAW-RAC, in close consultation with SPAW Contracting Parties, and other relevant stakeholders, consider the potential costs, benefits, and operational framework of a Marine Mammal Regional Activity Network (RAN), taking into account the good results of the CARI'MAM project and network, and draft a proposal for discussion at SPAW STAC10 regarding how such a RAN could operate.

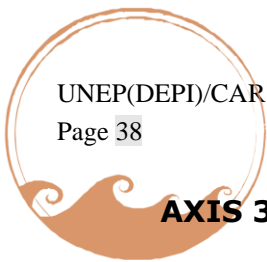
best practices on managing the Sargassum influx impacting Caribbean countries especially in the context of the MoC concluded with the SSC. Encourage further collaboration with the LBS Protocol and coordinate with partners in West Africa (e.g., the Abidjan Convention);

- Continue the process of reviewing species listed under Annexes I - III of the SPAW Protocol, in collaboration with relevant organizations (including regional fisheries bodies) as appropriate, and by using internationally recognized/ standardized methods such as the IUCN's Red List of Threatened Species;
- Prepare and disseminate quarterly releases of the SPAW newsletter and regularly update the SPAW-RAC website with information on, and the outputs of, SPAW activities;
- Participate in and/or support regional projects of relevance for the SPAW Workplan;
- Co-chair GCRMN-Caribbean to develop and implement activities, as well as participate as member of the Coral Restoration Consortium's leadership team, and ICRI;
- Promote the SPAW Protocol and its objectives to assist with further developments as mandated by the Parties, along with fundraising and ratification by non-Parties;
- Launch new calls for proposals for small and medium grants; and find donors interested in financing conservation projects in the WCR;
- Coordinate the STAC Ad Hoc working groups with a view to improving their functioning and work. In particular motivate Signatories to the SPAW protocol to nominate experts in order to diversify skills and expertise, and ensure the most exhaustive geographical and political representation. Ensure that the mandatory and specific tasks identified by the STAC are correctly addressed and documented;
- Strengthen active communications with Parties through the teamwork platform and intersessional bilateral meetings with focal points.



AXIS 2 - STRENGTHENING OF PROTECTED AREAS IN THE WIDER CARIBBEAN REGION

STAC	WORKPLAN
<p>V.1 The SPAW-RAC continues to maintain, improve and update the database related to the protected areas listed under the SPAW Protocol, including the web-based tool where Parties prepare and submit reports that have been submitted as part of the STAC nomination for consideration.</p> <p>V.8. The Secretariat and SPAW-RAC identify options for increasing collaboration with existing protected area networks and capacity building initiatives in the region, to strengthen capacity building efforts.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Strengthening of MPAs (prioritising MPAs listed under SPAW) (2.2.2.1) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) Continue to update and deliver the Training of Trainers (ToT) course on MPA management. b) Development of an MPA Toolbox. c) Partnership with the Ocean Governance project "Protecting and Restoring Marine Ecosystems, Catalysts for Building Peace and Security and Fostering Sustainable Economies, South Asia and Atlantic Ocean Basins". d) Ongoing implementation of the Small Grants Programme to address specific MPA needs. e) Promote Protected Area Management Effectiveness. - Enhance the network of MPA practitioners by improving communication and the dissemination of information (2.2.2.2) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) (a) Improve the effectiveness of the existing CaMPAM Internet Forum and website. b) (b) Continue to support MPA-related sessions and the participation of MPA practitioners at the annual GCFI Conferences (2021 and 2022). c) (c) Strengthen existing education and communication strategies. - Continued development, maintenance and promotion of the Regional MPA Database (CaMPAM) (2.2.2.3) - Build synergies with national and international MPA initiatives and efforts (2.2.2.4)



AXIS 3 - DEVELOPMENT OF GUIDELINES FOR PROTECTED AREAS AND SPECIES MANAGEMENT

STAC	WORKPLAN
<p>V3. The Secretariat invites Parties to submit proposals for protected areas to be listed under the Protocol, to be considered during the next biennium for future discussion at STAC10 and subsequent consideration of COP12.</p> <p>V4. Contracting Parties welcome the proposals of the Government of Aruba as part of the Kingdom of the Netherlands to include Parke Mario Aruba in the SPAW list of Marine Protected Areas and to request the Protected Areas Working Group to review the proposal and be considered during the next biennium for future discussions at STAC10 and subsequent consideration of COP12.</p> <p>V.6 Contracting Parties request that the Protected Areas Working Group, in collaboration with the Secretariat and SPAW-RAC, as appropriate, review the recommendations presented in the "Assessment of the Impact and Effectiveness of CaMPAM" (UNEP(DEPI)/CAR WG.42/INF.41 Add.1) and the "Evaluation of Connectivity Between the SPAW-Listed Protected Areas to Guide the Development of a Functional Ecological Network of Protected Areas in the Wider Caribbean" (UNEP(DEPI)/CAR WG.42/INF.10) and present an options paper to STAC10 that assesses the feasibility of implementing the recommendations and suggests possible means of doing so in the short, medium-, and long-term.</p> <p>V.7 Contracting Parties request that the Protected Areas Working Group review the procedure through which Contracting Parties may nominate new protected areas to be listed as SPAW sites and prepare suggestions to simplify and streamline the process for consideration during the next biennium for future discussions at STAC10 and subsequent consideration at COP12.</p> <p>VI.1 The Exemptions Working Group, with the assistance of the Secretariat and/or SPAW-RAC, consider ways to facilitate reporting of exemptions and make recommendations for consideration during the next biennium for future discussions at STAC10 and subsequent consideration at COP12.</p>	<p>The STAC Ad Hoc Working Group on Protected Areas continues to assess new proposals from the Parties and to deal with Protected Areas issues, as requested by the STAC.</p> <p>The activities below could be considered, pending the availability of support and resources:</p> <p>a) The SPAW-RAC continues to maintain, improve and update the database related to the protected areas listed under the SPAW Protocol, including the web-based tool where Parties prepare and submit reports that have been submitted as part of the STAC nomination for consideration.</p> <p>b) Increase cooperation with regional fisheries bodies and existing MEAs (i.e. CRFM, WECAFC and CMS Shark MoU) to promote, but not limited to, a regional analysis of the overlap between existing MPAs listed under the SPAW Protocol, and the occurrence and distribution of species/aggregation sites of interest (e.g. spawning aggregation sites of Nassau grouper and distribution of rays and sharks) as a contribution to the conservation and management efforts of SPAW-listed species.</p> <p>c) Continue building dedicated spaces for each SPAW listed PA using the dedicated SPAW-RAC website and the CaMPAM database/sources of information on biological connectivity (UNEP(DEPI)/CAR WG.42/INF.10).</p> <p>d) Continue with the section of the SPAW-RAC Newsletter dedicated to the SPAW listed sites and CaMPAM activities.</p> <p>e) Use the annual GCFI conference, or other existing fora, for</p>

XI.1 COP11 invite Contracting Parties to consider the assessments of the Species Working Group on whale shark, oceanic whitetip shark, giant manta ray, great hammerhead, smooth hammerhead, and parrotfish and to submit species nomination proposals, or revised proposals as appropriate, and supporting documentation for these species for consideration by STAC10 and COP12.

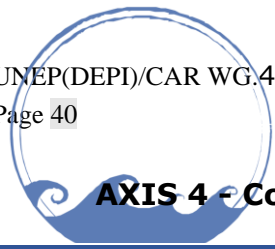
XI.2 The Secretariat invite Parties to submit nomination proposals for additional species to be listed in the Annexes of the SPAW Protocol for consideration by STAC10 and COP12.

X.3 The STAC strengthens the work of the Species Working Group with the aim of improving the conservation and management of species listed in the Annexes of the Protocol, taking into account the recommendations in paragraph 4 of UNEP(DEPI)/CAR WG.42/INF.25, paragraphs 8-10 of UNEP(DEPI)/CAR WG.42/INF.38, and paragraph 8 of UNEP(DEPI)/CAR WG.42/INF.39, (UNEP(DEPI)/CAR WG.40/INF.7) as appropriate.

X.4 The STAC strengthens the work of the Species Working Group with the aim of improving the conservation and management of species listed in the Annexes of the Protocol, taking into account the recommendations in paragraph 4 of UNEP(DEPI)/CAR WG.42/INF.25, paragraphs 8-10 of UNEP(DEPI)/CAR WG.42/INF.38, and paragraph 8 of UNEP(DEPI)/CAR WG.42/INF.39, (UNEP(DEPI)/CAR WG.40/INF.7) as appropriate.

attendance by representatives of SPAW listed sites.

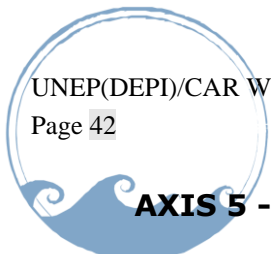
f) Support protected areas and invasive species management, also considering the context of the Sargassum influx as appropriate



AXIS 4 – Conservation of Threatened and Endangered Species

STAC	WORKPLAN
<p>X.4 The STAC strengthens the work of the Species Working Group with the aim of improving the conservation and management of species listed in the Annexes of the Protocol, taking into account the recommendations in paragraph 4 of UNEP(DEPI)/CAR WG.42/INF.25, paragraphs 8-10 of UNEP(DEPI)/CAR WG.42/INF.38, and paragraph 8 of UNEP(DEPI)/CAR WG.42/INF.39, (UNEP(DEPI)/CAR WG.40/INF.7) as appropriate.</p> <p>X-6 The SPAW Sub-Programme, including the Secretariat and SPAW-RAC, enhance coordination and communication with regional fisheries bodies to enhance conservation and management of species listed in the Annexes of the SPAW Protocol.</p> <p>X-7 The STAC, through the Marine Mammal Experts of the Species Working Group, revise and update the MMAP, considering new information and developments since 2008, including the “Scientific and Technical Analysis of the Implementation of the Action Plan for the Conservation of Marine Mammals (MMAP) in the Wider Caribbean,” and present the updated MMAP to STAC10 for its review and consideration.</p> <p>X-9 The Secretariat and SPAW-RAC, subject to the availability of external resources, pursue and support actions to enhance knowledge and monitoring of SPAW Annex II and III megafauna species populations in the Wider Caribbean Region.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) Build consensus in the region on priorities for the management of endangered and migratory species; b) Implement priority activities of existing species recovery and management plans developed under the framework of the SPAW Protocol; c) Develop, as appropriate, adequate management plans and programmes for priority species of regional concern, including those of economic importance; and d) Address the growing threat of invasive alien species (IAS) that could negatively impact SPAW species and WCR habitats, especially marine or coastal IAS. <p>- Conservation of Marine Mammals (2.4.2.1)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) Support networking of natural resource practitioners/MPA managers actively involved in marine mammal research, management and conservation b) Support implementation of the MMAP implementation c) Enhance knowledge and monitoring of marine mammal populations in the WCR d) Improve awareness of, collect data on, and mitigate the effects of, ship strikes and entanglements on whale and dolphin species in the Wider Caribbean Region in collaboration with the IWC. e) Strengthen marine spatial planning for marine mammal conservation. f) Support stranding workshops and reinforce stranding network capacities g) Support sustainable marine mammal watching in the Wider Caribbean Region. h) Finalize and initiate implementation of a Memorandum of Cooperation (MoC) between the UNEP/Secretariat to the Cartagena Convention and the International Whaling Commission (IWC). i) Strengthen collaboration and develop partnership with the Pollution Sub-Programme and its Protocols Concerning Pollution from Land-Based Sources and Activities (LBS) and Co-operation in Combating Oil Spills (Oil Spills) (including the RAC/REMPEITC), regarding the impacts of oil exploration and exploitation on marine mammals and associated habitats.

- | | |
|--|--|
| | <ul style="list-style-type: none">- Conservation of Sea Turtles (in collaboration with WIDECAST) (2.4.2.2)<ul style="list-style-type: none">• The SPAW-RAC will continue to work daily with the regional activity network WIDECAST and to support it financially, and will invest within the framework of the HAMMAC project on bycatch.
- Sharing general data across the Region and research on Sargassum (2.4.2.6) - Improved functioning of the STAC Ad Hoc Working Group on Sargassum.<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Coordination of a UNEP-CEP/SPAW-RAC on-line Sargassum forum to facilitate the sharing of regional data.• Coordination of data sharing on the management and impact of <i>Sargassum</i> on wetlands in collaboration with Ramsar's Caribbean Wetlands Regional Initiative (CariWet) – see <i>Section 2.5.2.3</i>.• Coordination of <i>Sargassum</i>-related projects and events throughout the WCR.• Development and sharing of information documents for the general public, governments, coastal managers, and others affected by Sargassum.• Provision of research support for projects on <i>Sargassum's</i> origins, impacts and methods of control.• Coordination of a cohesive Sargassum response amongst the Secretariats of the Cartagena and Abidjan Convention, UNEP's Global Programme of Action (GPA) and other UN Programmes involved in assessing <i>Sargassum</i> landings in the WCR and West Africa. |
|--|--|



AXIS 5 - CONSERVATION AND SUSTAINABLE USE OF COASTAL AND MARINE ECOSYSTEMS

STAC9	WORKPLAN
<p>IX-1 Contracting Parties, the Secretariat and SPAW-RAC, Observers, and other stakeholders, as appropriate, consider the range of suggested actions contained in the reports as possible options for strengthening management of coastal ecosystems and maintaining and improving habitat integrity</p>	<p>- Conservation of Coral Reefs (2.5.2.1)</p> <p>Continued reactivation of the Caribbean coral reef monitoring network under GCRMN (GCRMN-Caribbean) (UNEP(DEPI)/CAR WG.36/INF.10 and UNEP(DEPI)/CAR WG.42/INF.26). The activities conducted by SPAW-RAC include the:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Promotion and implementation of the Regional Guidelines for Coral Reef Biophysical Monitoring (UNEP(DEPI)/CAR WG.38/ INF.17) and representation and promotion of the guidelines and GCRMN-Caribbean at relevant fora • Development of an action plan for the next biennium and implementation of capacity-building activities such as workshops and small grant funding for field work • Participation at global coral reef initiatives, including ICRI and the Coral Reef Consortium. <p>- Conservation of wetlands / mangroves (2.5.2.3)</p> <p>The SPAW-RAC will help to develop activities designed to promote the conservation and sustainable use of mangroves. If funding becomes available, proposed activities could include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Re-engaging Ramsar/CariWet via the <i>Regional Centre for Training and Research on Wetlands</i> (CREHO) with further development under potential CaMPAM ToT workshops/seminars on the management and protection of wetlands. • Design and implementation of a project on <i>Sargassum's</i> impacts within a selected SPAW listed Ramsar site. • Coordination with interested Parties on developing proposals for grants to identify synergies with the SPAW Sub-programme, particularly with respect to the thirty-six (36) SPAW listed sites. • Exploring linkages with the <i>Wetlands for the Future Fund</i> for the development of training and capacity building workshops.

- Implementation of the CARIB-COAST project (2.5.2.4)

- “Best practice” guides on the best restoration and protection methods to use to maintain marine ecosystems’ role in reducing soil erosion;
- Implementation of regional training workshops;
- Development of at least three pilot sites, one per marine ecosystem (coral reefs, seagrass beds, mangroves). These pilot sites will aim to restore and/or protect a marine ecosystem. These projects may involve various actions including the manual rehabilitation of seagrass beds, coral reproduction, eco-anchorage, training sessions, etc. Partners within Contracting Parties are currently being identified.