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Seventh Meeting of the Scientific and Technical
Advisory Committee (STAC7) to the Protocol
Concerning Specially Protected Areas and Wildlife
(SPA) in the Wider Caribbean Region

Miami, Florida, 2- 4 November 2016

**STATUS OF ACTIVITIES OF THE SPAW SUB-PROGRAMME FOR THE
2015-2016 BIENNIUM**

For reasons of economy and the environment, Delegates are kindly requested to bring their copies of the Working and Information documents to the Meeting, and not to request additional

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ACRONYMS

AMEP	Assessment and Management of Environmental Pollution
BEST Initiative	Voluntary Scheme for Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services in Territories of European Overseas
BirdsCaribbean	Formerly SCSCB Society for the Conservation and Study of Caribbean Birds
BIOPAMA	Biodiversity and Protected Areas Management Programme
BMUB	German Federal Ministry for the Environment, Nature Conservation, Building and Nuclear Safety
CABI	CAB International formerly Commonwealth Agricultural Bureau
CaMPAM	Caribbean Marine Protected Areas Managers Network and Forum
CaribWEN	Caribbean Wildlife Enforcement Network
Cariwet	Caribbean Wetlands Regional Initiative
CARICOM	Caribbean Community
CAR/RCU	Caribbean Regional Coordinating Unit
CBD	Convention on Biological Diversity
CEP	Caribbean Environment Programme
CERMES	Centre for Resource Management and Environmental Studies
CITES	Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora
CLME	Caribbean Large Marine Ecosystems
CLME+	Caribbean and North Brazil Shelf Large Marine Ecosystems
CMS	Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals
COP	Conference of Parties
CRFM	Caribbean Regional Fisheries Mechanism
DR	Dominican Republic
DSS	Decision Support System
EAF	Ecosystem Approach to Fisheries
EBM	Ecosystem Based Management
ECMANN	Climate Resilient Eastern Caribbean Marine Managed Areas Network
EU	European Union
FAO	Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations
GCFI	Gulf and Caribbean Fisheries Institute
GCRMN	Global Coral Reef Monitoring Network
IAA	Inter-Agency Agreement
IAC	Inter-American Convention for the Protection and Conservation of Sea Turtles
IAS	Invasive Alien Species
ICCWC	International Consortium on Combating Wildlife Crime
ICRI	International Coral Reef Initiative
IFRECOR	French Initiative for Coral Reef (<i>Initiative Française pour les Récifs Coralliens</i>)
IGM	Intergovernmental Meeting
IOCARIBE	Inter-governmental Oceanographic Commission's Sub-Commission for the Caribbean and Adjacent Regions
IUCN	International Union for the Conservation of Nature
IWC	International Whaling Commission
LBS	Protocol Concerning Land-Based Sources of Marine Pollution
MaMaCoCoSEA	Marine Mammal Conservation Corridor for Northern South America
MEA	Multilateral Environmental Agreement
MedPAN	Mediterranean Network of Protected Area Managers
MMAP	Action Plan for the Conservation of Marine Mammals in the Wider Caribbean Region
MoC	Memorandum of Cooperation
MPA	Marine Protected Area
NGO	Non-Government Organizations
OCCC	Overall Coordination and Common Costs
OCTs	Overseas Countries and Territories
OECS-ESDU	Organization of Eastern Caribbean States -Environment and Sustainable Development Unit

OSPESCA	Organization for Fisheries and Aquaculture of Central America
PEG	Project Executive Group
RAC	Regional Activity Centre
Ramsar	Convention on Wetlands of International Importance
ROLAC	Regional Office for Latin America and the Caribbean
SAP	Strategic Action Programme
SOI	Sustainable Ocean Initiative
SPAW	Specially Protected Areas and Wildlife
STAC	Scientific and Technical Advisory Committee
TNC	The Nature Conservancy
ToT	Training of Trainers
UNEA-2	Second Session of the United Nations Environment Assembly
UNFCCC	United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change
UNODC	United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime
UNEP	United Nations Environment Programme
UNEP-DEPI	UNEP-Division of Environmental Policy Implementation
UNESCO	United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization
UNOPS	United Nations Office for Project Services
USAID	United States Agency for International Development
UWI	University of the West Indies
WA-BICC	West Africa Biodiversity and Climate Change Programme
WCPA	World Commission on Protected Areas
WCR	Wider Caribbean Region
WECAFC	Western Central Atlantic Fishery Commission of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations
WHMSI	Western Hemisphere Migratory Species Initiative

STATUS OF IMPLEMENTATION OF THE WORKPLAN AND BUDGET FOR THE SPAW REGIONAL PROGRAMME FOR 2015-2016

1. INTRODUCTION

1. The Workplan and Budget of the SPAW Programme for 2015-2016 was approved by the Eighth Meeting of the Conference of Parties (COP8) to the Protocol Concerning Specially Protected Areas and Wildlife (SPAW) in the Wider Caribbean Region (Cartagena, Colombia, 9 December 2014) and the Sixteenth Intergovernmental Meeting (IGM) on the Action Plan for the Caribbean Environment Programme and the Thirteenth Meeting of the Contracting Parties to the Convention for the Protection and Development of the Marine Environment of the Wider Caribbean Region (Cartagena, Colombia, December 11-13, 2014).
2. The SPAW Protocol entered into force on 18 June 2000, and since the SPAW COP8, with the accession of Grenada and the Bahamas in 2012 there remains, to date, sixteen Governments that are Contracting Parties (The Bahamas, Barbados, Belize, Colombia, Cuba, Dominican Republic, France, Grenada, Guyana, the Netherlands, Panama, Saint Lucia, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Trinidad and Tobago, United States of America and Venezuela) (<http://www.cep.unep.org/cartagena-convention/ratification-status.pdf>). A full list of the SPAW Contracting Parties and their dates of ratification may be found in Annex III.
3. The objectives of the SPAW Programme are to:
 - (a) Significantly increase the number of, and improve the management of, national protected areas and species in the Wider Caribbean Region (WCR);
 - (b) Support the conservation of threatened and endangered species and the sustainable use of natural resources to prevent them from becoming threatened and endangered;
 - (c) Develop a strong regional capability for the coordination of information exchange, training and technical assistance in support of national biodiversity conservation efforts; and
 - (d) Coordinate activities with relevant international biodiversity treaties and initiatives such as the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD), the Convention on Wetlands of International Importance (Ramsar), Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals (CMS), the Convention on the International Trade of Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES), the Inter-American Convention for the Protection and Conservation of Sea Turtles (IAC), the International Coral Reef Initiative (ICRI) and its global monitoring network, the Abidjan Convention and the Western Hemisphere Migratory Species Initiative (WHMSI).
4. During the period 2015-2016, activities focused on assisting countries with:
 - (a) Strengthening the management and networking of marine protected areas (MPAs) and protected species;
 - (b) Promoting and integrating the principles of the ecosystem approach in order to address the degradation of selected priority ecosystem services and likewise respond through biodiversity conservation and sustainable use of coastal resources;
 - (c) Acknowledging the inter-dependency and multidimensional aspects of ecological and social systems. This approach was supported by other Multilateral Environmental Agreements (MEAs) such as CBD, IWC and the Ramsar Convention.
5. Activities were also aimed at coordinating with other environmental agreements and programmes dealing with issues relating to the conservation of biodiversity of particular relevance to the SPAW Protocol such as UNEP's Regional Seas Programme Strategy, Abidjan Convention, the IWC, the International Union for the Conservation of Nature's (IUCN) Caribbean Strategy and Biodiversity and Protected Areas Management Programme (BIOPAMA), the IAC, the Caribbean Large Marine Ecosystem (CLME) Project, the Western Central Atlantic Fishery Commission of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO-WECAFC), and ICRI.
6. Specific activities for the 2015-2016 Workplan fell under five major programme elements (sub-programmes):
 - (a) Programme Coordination;

- (b) Strengthening of Protected Areas in the Wider Caribbean Region (including training and capacity building for protected area management);
 - (c) Development of Guidelines for Protected Areas and Species Management;
 - (d) Conservation of Threatened and Endangered Species; and
 - (e) Conservation and Sustainable Use of Coastal and Marine Ecosystems (including ICRI activities).
7. Additionally, the Secretariat focused on fundraising, strategizing and streamlining SPAW activities as financial and human resources were limited.

2. STATUS OF SUB-PROGRAMMES AND ACTIVITIES

8. The following sections provide a summary of the main activities implemented, and the major accomplishments achieved, under the SPAW Programme between 2015 and 2016. Annex I provides a summary of costs and expenditures for the time period.

2.1 Programme Coordination

9. 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 Wider Caribbean; and
 - (e) Oversee the day-to-day activities and general coordination of the various projects and activities of the SPAW Programme.

2.1.1 Status of Sub-Programme Activities

10. During the period 2015-2016 the day-to-day coordination for implementation of the programme activities continued to be overseen by the SPAW Programme Officer, who is responsible for the overall coordination of the SPAW Programme, with support from the SPAW Programme Assistant. The SPAW Programme Officer served as Officer-in-Charge from 1 March - 30 August 2015 after the retirement of the Coordinator for the United Nations Environment Programme's-Caribbean Environment Programme (UNEP-CEP) and subsequently went on planned special leave-without-pay from 1 September 2015 - 31 March 2016. Her post was temporarily filled during that time to continue the implementation of SPAW activities.
11. Additional support to meet the objectives of this sub-programme was received from the SPAW Regional Activity Centre (SPAW-RAC), which is located in Guadeloupe and supported by the Government of France. Since early 2009 SPAW-RAC has been hosted by the National Park of Guadeloupe. Since 2014, the SPAW-RAC team has been comprised of a permanent staff of three people: a Director, one Senior Project Coordinator and one Administrative Assistant. This team was supplemented by an initial short-term staff of four (later three), two Project Coordinators (one working contract ending mid-2016) and one Administrative Assistant. The salaries for two of these posts were covered through two specific projects: the third year of the Voluntary Scheme for Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services in Territories of European Overseas (BEST III) and Climate Resilient Eastern Caribbean Marine Managed Areas Network (ECMMAN). Dr. Sandrine Pivard took office in September 2016 as the new SPAW-RAC Director, following the departure of Ms. Anne Fontaine who completed a two-year term. The RAC supported the Secretariat with various activities, as mandated by COP8, including the process of Protected Areas and species listing under SPAW, the implementation of priorities under the Action Plan for the Conservation of Marine Mammals in the Wider Caribbean Region (MMAP), support of activities under the Caribbean Marine Protected Areas Managers Network and Forum (CaMPAM), and the review and translation of a number of promotional documents. For more information on SPAW-RAC activities please see UNEP(DEPI)/ CAR WG.38/INF.4.

12. In keeping with the objectives of developing synergies, promoting the Protocol and optimizing resources, the following activities were completed:
- Supported bird species conservation in collaboration with BirdsCaribbean. The SPAW Programme Officer delivered a presentation on the SPAW Protocol and Programme to the Carib Bird Education Network on the occasion of the Caribbean Bird Festival via a *Free Webinar on Caribbean Endemic Birds*, under the theme “*Spread Your Wings for Bird Conservation*”, 5 May 2016.
 - A Memorandum of Cooperation with the Sargasso Sea Commission is under discussion with a view to enhance collaborations with this initiative.
 - Cooperation established with the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) (with support from the International Consortium on Combating Wildlife Crime (ICWC)) and CITES via participation in the *Caribbean Regional Wildlife Enforcement Workshop* on illegal trafficking of species, held in the Bahamas, 20 - 22 July 2016, which brought together experts and government officials from the region to discuss and identify key threats and recommendations in relation to wildlife crime with a view to strengthening and enhancing regional cooperation and enforcement through the creation of a *Caribbean Wildlife Enforcement Network* (CaribWEN).
 - Participation in the Ramsar Convention’s 5th *Meeting of the Regional Initiative for the Conservation and Wise Use of Caribbean Wetlands- Cariwet* held in St. Lucia, 5 August 2016, where a presentation was delivered on the SPAW Protocol and Programme by the SPAW-RAC.
 - Participation in the UNEP/CMS and Caribbean Community (CARICOM) Secretariats’ *First Regional Capacity Building Workshop for CMS Non-Parties of the Caribbean Region*, held in Barbados 31 August - 2 September 2016 aimed at informing Non-Parties of the Caribbean Region about the work and goals of the Convention and how to accede to the treaty. The presentation was delivered on the SPAW Protocol and Programme by the UNEP-CEP Coordinator.
13. Coordination and communication was further strengthened with other organisations on various matters of common interest (see subsequent sections of the report), and in keeping with collaborative arrangements established with many of them.
- CAB International (formerly Commonwealth Agricultural Bureau)
 - Caribbean Regional Fisheries Mechanism (CRFM)
 - CARICOM Secretariat
 - Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD)
 - Gulf and Caribbean Fisheries Institute (GCFI)
 - Inter-American Convention for the Protection and Conservation of Sea Turtles (IAC)
 - Inter-governmental Oceanographic Commission’s Sub-Commission for the Caribbean and Adjacent Regions/United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (IOCARIBE/UNESCO)
 - International Coral Reef Initiative (ICRI)
 - International Union for the Conservation of Nature (IUCN)
 - Organization of Eastern Caribbean States - Environment and Sustainable Development Unit (OECS-ESDU)
 - ReefCheck
 - Sargasso Sea Commission
 - The Voluntary scheme for Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services in Territories of European Overseas, called BEST initiative
 - The Nature Conservancy (TNC)
 - UNEP- Regional Office for Latin America and the Caribbean (ROLAC) Action Plan
 - World Commission on Protected Areas (WCPA)
 - Western Central Atlantic Fisheries Commission (WECAFC) of FAO

14. A number of meetings were organised and/or attended in order to continue promoting the Protocol, the Programme and develop synergies. Major meetings for SPAW implementation included:
- 11th Edition of UNEP-CEP/CaMPAM Training of Trainers (ToT) programme on MPA management (English-speaking) St. George's, Grenada, 16 - 25 February 2015
 - CBD's Sustainable Ocean Initiative (SOI) Capacity-building Workshop for South America, Lima, Peru, 23 - 27 February 2015
 - TNC's "*Developing A Shared Vision For Improving Access To Information For Marine Protected Area Management*" Workshop, Miami, Florida, 19 - 20 May 2015
 - BirdsCaribbean 20th International Meeting, Kingston, Jamaica, 25- 29 July 2015
 - CLME+ SAP Meeting of the Project Executive Group (PEG), Miami, Florida, 26 - 27 October 2015
 - 68th Annual GCFI Conference, Panama City, Panama, 9 - 13 November 2015
 - 2nd WECAFC Reorientation and Strategic Planning Workshop, Port-of-Spain, Trinidad and Tobago, 1 - 2 December 2015
 - Meeting of the Steering Committee of the "Catalysing Implementation of the Strategic Action Programme for the Sustainable Management of Shared Living Marine Resources in the Caribbean and North Brazil Shelf Large Marine Ecosystem (CLME+ SAP)" Project, Cartagena, Colombia 26 – 28 January 2016
 - 10x20 Initiative: *Conference on Marine Protected Areas*, Rome, Italy, 7 - 9 March 2016 (at invitation of Italian Government)
 - Coastal-Marine Ecosystem Based Management (EBM) Tools Training Workshop, San Juan, Puerto Rico, 19 – 22 April 2016
 - Global Coral Reef Monitoring Network (GCRMN)-Caribbean Integrated Coral Reef Monitoring Workshop, Kingston, Jamaica, 18 - 22 April 2016
 - 16th Session Western Central Atlantic Fishery Commission, Guadeloupe, Gosier, 20 - 24 June 2016 attended by the Coordinator of UNEP-CEP
 - 12th Edition of UNEP-CEP/CaMPAM ToT programme on MPA management (Spanish-speaking), Montecristi, Dominican Republic, 30 August -10 September 2016
 - IUCN World Conservation Congress, Honolulu, Hawaii, USA, 1 – 10 September 2016 where SPAW Programme Officer and CaMPAM Coordinator received Packard Award for their longstanding work on MPAs in the Caribbean under CaMPAM and to present at the "Regional MPA Networks" session organized by Mediterranean Protected Areas Network (MedPAN)
 - Second CLME+ PEG Meeting and CLME+ SAP Coordinating Mechanism Meeting, Miami, Florida, 6 - 9 September 2016, attended by the Programme Officer for the Assessment and Management of Environmental Pollution (AMEP) sub-programme

15. Major meetings where significant input was provided may be found below. Meetings sponsored by other organisations were attended, for the most part, at the cost of the inviting organisation.

Meeting	Purpose	Date and Venue	Relation to Programme Objectives
<p>The 68th meeting of the Gulf and Caribbean Fisheries Institute (GCFI)</p>	<p>Support the Thematic CaMPAM MPA Session on <i>Marine Spatial Planning (MSP)</i> and promote linkages with the “<i>Biodiversity for Sustainable Development in the Caribbean through Ecosystem Based Management</i>” (EBM project).</p> <p>The session aimed to strengthen the effectiveness and sustainability of planning and management processes in coastal and marine areas of the eastern tropical Pacific, the Gulf of Mexico and the Caribbean.</p> <p>The Secretariat and CaMPAM provided the co-sponsorship of the MPA session and logistical and technical support for at least 6 MPA experts in particular for the Technical Session on <i>Marine Protected Areas (MPAs) Science and Management</i>.</p>	<p>Panama 9-13 November 2015</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Coordination/synergies with relevant institutions / legislations • Implementation of CaMPAM activities and Workplan • Strengthening of Protected Areas in the Wider Caribbean Region
<p>SPAW/CaMPAM 11th & 12th ToT Regional Course on Marine Protected Area Management of the Caribbean</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 11th Edition of the course which focused on biophysical characteristics of coastal ecosystems, ecosystem services and threats to their resilience, communication and outreach tools, MPA management operations, research and monitoring, sustainable financing and alternative livelihoods through creation of ecotourism operations, resources for meeting obligations to regional and international agreements; • 12th Edition of the course which focused on MPA management with emphasis on the EBM approach. 	<p>Grenada 16 - 25 February 2015 (11th Edition)</p> <p>and</p> <p>Dominican Republic 30 August - 10 September 2016 (12th Edition)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dissemination of SPAW activities • Coordination/synergies with relevant institutions • Strengthening of protected areas in the Wider Caribbean Region (WCR) with a specific focus on the Dominican Republic (DR)

Meeting	Purpose	Date and Venue	Relation to Programme Objectives
TNC Workshop - "Developing A Shared Vision For Improving Access To Information For Marine Protected Area Management"	The workshop provided a unique opportunity for representatives of online platforms and Decision Support Systems (DSS) related to marine resource protection and decision making, to lay the foundation for a more collaborative future aimed at improving access to the information MPA managers, decision makers and the general public need and request. <i>(Linkages with the EBM project - See below under Activity 2.2)</i>	USA 19 - 20 May 2015	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Promotion of SPAW Programme and activities • Coordination/synergies with relevant institutions • Strengthening of protected areas in the Wider Caribbean Region (WCR)
NatureServe Coastal-Marine EBM Tools Training Workshop	To advance UNEP's work (both CEP's and Division of Environmental Policy Implementation (DEPI's)) on coastal and marine EBM in the Wider Caribbean through presentation of UNEP's guide on marine and coastal ecosystem-based management and its application among Caribbean stakeholders organized through NatureServe's EBM Tools Network.	Puerto Rico 19 - 22 April 2016	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Promotion of SPAW Programme and activities • Coordination/synergies with relevant institutions • Strengthening of protected areas in the Wider Caribbean Region (WCR)

16. Several activities were undertaken by, or implemented in collaboration with the SPAW-RAC in Guadeloupe. See UNEP(DEPI)/CAR WG.38/INF.4 for further details.

2.1 PROGRAMME COORDINATION	
Activities	Status
Support SPAW in implementing activities under CaMPAM and, in particular, the ECMAN project	On-going (see section 2.2 and UNEP(DEPI)/CAR WG.38/INF.5 for more information)
Support to the Chair of the Working Group on the Application of Criteria for Listing of Species under the Annexes to the SPAW Protocol to coordinate the drafting of a short-list of species	On-going (see section 2.3 and UNEP(DEPI)/CAR WG.38/4 for more information)
Coordinate the Working Group on Criteria and a Procedure to Assess Exemptions under Article 11(2) of the SPAW Protocol	On-going (see section 2.3 and UNEP(DEPI)/CAR WG.38/3 for more information)
Coordinate the implementation of priorities identified under the MMAP	On-going (see section 2.4 for more information)

2.1 PROGRAMME COORDINATION	
Activities	Status
In partnership with Birdlife and BirdsCaribbean (formerly SCSCB), improve dissemination of information and publications on birds	On-going (see section 2.4 for more information)
Launch and coordinate, in collaboration with the Secretariat, a dedicated cooperation programme for the Protected Areas listed under SPAW	On-going (see section 2.3 for more information)
Review of protected areas proposed for listing under the SPAW Protocol	Completed (see section 2.3 for more information)
Collaborate with ICRI, and other institutions on Invasive Alien Species issues, particularly with respect to the issues concerning the lionfish	On-going (see section 2.4 for more information)
Sharing regional data across the region regarding the <i>Sargassum</i> influx in partnership with GCFI, the University of the West Indies' (UWI) Centre for Resource Management and Environmental Studies (CERMES) and other relevant institutions	On-going (see section 2.5 for more information)
Development and dissemination of quarterly SPAW newsletters	On-going (see UNEP(DEPI)/CAR WG.38/INF.4 for more information)
Support the review, improvement and revitalization of the GCRMN in the Wider Caribbean	Completed (see section 2.5 and UNEP(DEPI)/CAR WG.38/INF.17 for more information)
Fundraising in coordination with the Secretariat	On-going
Promotion of the SPAW Protocol and its objectives to assist with its ratification by non-Parties (e.g. Brazil, Mexico)	On-going
Support the preparation and translation of documents for the SPAW 7 th Scientific and Technical Advisory Committee (STAC) Meeting	Completed

2.1.2 Sub-Programme Outputs

17. The major outputs of Programme Coordination were:

Outputs	Status
Organisation of the SPAW Protocol's STAC7	Completed Miami, Florida, 2 November 2016
Project proposals in support of SPAW objectives and funding	Completed (Details provided under each major activity area below)
Draft Workplan and Budget of the SPAW Sub-Programme for the 2017-2018 biennium (includes draft guidance document)	Completed (see UNEP(DEPI)/CAR WG.38/6)

Outputs	Status
Increased collaboration and synergies with relevant organisations and initiatives within and outside of the region	On-going Particularly with the CBD, CITES, CMS, IWC and Ramsar Secretariats, GCRMN/ICRI, FAO-WECAFC, and CRFM

18. The Secretariat continued to coordinate and cooperate, as feasible, with other initiatives and projects relevant to coastal and marine ecosystems in the region, including:

- The ECMAN project, implementation led by TNC (see details under UNEP(DEPI)/CAR WG.38/INF.5); and
- The BEST 2.0 Caribbean Hub Programme led by the SPAW-RAC through a funding facility supported by the European Commission which aims to pilot an innovative financing mechanism for biodiversity conservation and sustainable development in the European Union Overseas Countries and Territories (OCTs) for small and medium-scale field activities on the ground. Targeted OCTs include 7 SPAW territories (Saba, Sint Maarten, Statia, Aruba, Curaçao, Bonaire and Saint Barthélemy) with a focus on local development, biodiversity conservation and sustainable use of ecosystem services (see details under UNEP(DEPI)/CAR WG.38/INF.4).

2.1.3 *Sub-Programme Budget*

19. The costs associated with the coordination of the SPAW Sub-Programme were as follows:

2015			2016		
CTF Raised	Other *	Total Raised	CTF Raised	Other Contributions**	Total Raised
0	15,000	15,000	0	15,000	15,000

*Salary costs and STAC Meeting covered by OCCC and Government of France for RAC Staff

**Through SPAW-RAC for SPAW Coordination (not including salaries).

2.2 **Strengthening of Protected Areas in the Wider Caribbean Region**

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

- Strengthen the management of parks and protected areas of the Wider Caribbean, including the communication between parks and protected areas within the region;
- Assist Governments and Non-Government Organizations (NGOs) with the development of human capacity to increase the effectiveness of marine protected areas, both sites and national systems;
- Sensitise 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
- Promote protected areas in the context of conservation of important natural resources necessary for the sustainable development of the region.

2.2.1 *Status of Sub-Programme Activities*

21. During the reporting period, the majority of the activities undertaken through this sub-programme were implemented under the two major projects approved under the SPAW sub-programme as described below:
- The **ECMMAN** project is led by TNC and funded by the German Federal Ministry for the Environment, Nature Conservation, Building and Nuclear Safety (BMUB) and aims to promote effective marine managed areas in the Insular Caribbean and associated countries. SPAW-RAC, through CaMPAM, implemented the Small Grants component in support of MPA strengthening for existing Marine Managed Areas in 6 countries of the Eastern Caribbean (Antigua and Barbuda, Dominica, Grenada, St. Kitts and Nevis, St. Lucia and St. Vincent and the Grenadines) via the provision of financial resources and technical expertise (CaMPAM-ECMMAN- Small Grants) for €1.1 million (January 2014-December 2016).
 - The “*Biodiversity for Sustainable Development in the Caribbean through Ecosystem Based Management*” project was signed in late 2014 with funding (€1,350,000 for 3 years) from the Directorate General for Development Cooperation’s Environment Programme within the Italian Ministry of Foreign Affairs. Its overall objective is to “enhance the livelihood of the populations of the WCR by contributing to the conservation and sustainable management of coastal and marine biodiversity through the application of the Ecosystem Based Management (EBM) approach”. A series of pilot projects in selected protected areas of SPAW Parties are on-going:
 - Project Cooperation Agreement with the Ministry of Environment and Natural Resources of the Dominican Republic signed in September 2016 for the implementation of activities relating to the sustainable management of a selected multi-use pilot area in the north west coast of the country (Montecristi to Puerto Plata) which includes a number of protected areas and important tourism, agricultural and fisheries activities for the country. The project will develop a DSS tool for the area in consultation with all stakeholders, a management plan, as well as update of existing plans for the protected areas involved/as required, and enhance capacities to integrate EBM tools and concepts within management through trainings and technical assistance (\$350,000);
 - Small Scale Funding Agreement with ReefCheck Dominican Republic signed in December 2015 to support the gathering of data and information for the DSS for the selected pilot area (mentioned above) and training DSS activities. This also includes the updating and delivery of the regional MPA ToT course held in Puerta Plata, Dominican Republic, 26 September – 7 October 2016, and support to the evaluation of the CaMPAM activities (see below under CaMPAM and UNEP(DEPI)/CAR WG.38/INF.5) (\$175,000);
 - Small Scale Funding Agreement with GCFI signed in December 2015 for the updating of the Regional MPA Database, support to the CaMPAM MPA-related sessions and the participation of MPA practitioners from SPAW Parties at the 69th Annual GCFI Conference in November 2016 (\$194,000);
 - Two-year agreement with PROGES Italian consulting firm was signed in April 2016 to develop the software for the DSS and provide training on its application and use (\$142,600); and
 - Continuation of the mentorship programme and network to support MPA practitioners (through CaMPAM coordination).
22. The following activities were implemented to meet the objectives of the projects above, as well as the overall sub-programme and CaMPAM. More information may also be found in the report “Update on the Caribbean Marine Protected Areas Management Network and Forum (CaMPAM) and its major activities (*includes the on-going Climate Resilient Eastern Caribbean Marine Managed Areas Network (ECMMAN) Project*)” (UNEP(DEPI)/CAR WG.38/INF.5).

2.2 STRENGTHENING OF PROTECTED AREAS IN THE WIDER CARIBBEAN REGION	
Activities	Status
Support MPA technical session at GCFI / MPAs participation	<p>Completed</p> <p>Sessions on MPA Science and Management were held at the 68th GCFI - Panama City, Panama (9 - 13 November 2015).</p> <p>A total of 4 MPA practitioners and scientists from the region were supported to attend these capacity-building sessions (see UNEP(DEPI) WG.38/INF.5; UNEP(DEPI)/CAR WG.38/INF.4).</p>
Support Training of Trainers programme	<p>Completed</p> <p>Two Training of Trainers on MPA Management Regional courses completed. The course for English speaking countries occurred in Grenada (24 participants from 11 countries in 2015) in partnership with IUCN-BIOPAMA (Caribbean), and the Dominican Republic (24 participants from 8 countries in 2016) in collaboration with ReefCheck DR (see http://campam.gcfi.org/ToT/ToT2015CourseReport.pdf and UNEP(DEPI)/CAR WG.38/INF.5 for more information).</p>
Integration of the <i>Regional Database of Marine Protected Areas</i> into a regional system for strategic/operational planning for the MPAs of the WCR	<p>On-going</p> <p>An additional 13 sites have been listed bringing the total to 31 PAs from the Wider Caribbean Region listed by Parties and included in the database (http://www.spaw-palisting.org/). The website developed by the SPAW-RAC to allow for on-line reporting of the PA to be listed under SPAW continues to be updated and appropriate links have been made with CaMPAM's database.</p> <p>Regular revisions to the MPA database continues in order to ensure accessibility of the data and interactive mapping, and enhancing functionality and generation of data on the status of MPAs. Through the <i>Biodiversity for Sustainable Development in the Caribbean through Ecosystem Based Management (EBM Project)</i> project (see above), further efforts are now focused on building its functionality and increasing the data sets of the CaMPAM database via a "regional" DSS which will be established to support the definition of regionally/sub-regionally harmonized strategic lines along with planning measures for the conservation and sustainable management of coastal and marine resources of the WCR.</p> <p>Partners currently include PROGES Consulting (Italy), GCFI, ReefCheck DR, UWI, TNC, and relevant governmental environment management agencies for the selected pilot areas, as well as non-governmental conservation organizations.</p>

2.2 STRENGTHENING OF PROTECTED AREAS IN THE WIDER CARIBBEAN REGION	
Activities	Status
Exchanges/mentorships and technical assistance for MPA strengthening	<p>On-going</p> <p>CaMPAM, in coordination with TNC under the ECMMAN project, continues to provide funding for MPAs in SPAW Parties to enhance MPA effectiveness following the successful round of grants disbursed in the 2014-2015 biennium. Grants made to six (6) countries (up to €156,879 each) were issued in 2015-2016. (for more information see UNEP(DEPI)/CAR WG.38/INF.5)</p> <p>Through the recently approved EBM project, grants are being provided in support of MPAs towards strengthening area management capacities at SPAW listed-sites to improve their management effectiveness with an Ecosystem Management Approach; development of Systemic Management Plans for the selected pilot protected area in Puerto Plata (and eventually for other SPAW Parties); and further developing the technical skills of relevant institutional staff, including also the cadre of MPA mentors to handle and update the datasets, run the DSS and implement the management plans and monitoring activities for the selected sites.</p>
Support national MPA initiatives and efforts	<p>On-going</p> <p>CaMPAM continues to contribute, as feasible, to national MPA initiatives related to marine conservation science, management and policy, and exchanges that improve MPA effectiveness and in support of SPAW Protocol objectives, as well as coordinate with relevant international efforts.</p> <p>This has included collaborations with regional and international organisations on activities relevant to CaMPAM (managers' exchanges; training workshops).</p>
Assessment of CaMPAM activities (2000-2015)	<p>Completed</p> <p>An evaluation of CaMPAM's activities for the last 15 years (2000-2015) was completed in 2016 and assessed the effectiveness of the programme and suggested recommendations for its improvement (UNEP(DEPI)/CAR WG.38/INF.6).</p>

23. Through CaMPAM and/or SPAW-RAC the following were attended and/or supported to enhance coordination with partners and explore synergies with regards to strengthening protected areas:

Meeting	Purpose	Date and Venue	Relation to Programme Objectives
Technical Assistance in the South of Haiti for Mer Sud Project	Support the participation of Haitian specialists in CaMPAM activities and show benefits of becoming Party to the Cartagena Convention and its Protocols	Haiti 4 - 10 October 2015	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Support SPAW and CaMPAM objectives and ratification by Haiti • Coordination/synergies with local relevant institutions and UNEP office/programme in Haiti
68 th Annual GCFI Conference – technical sessions on MPAs Science/Management	CaMPAM	Panama 9 - 13 November 2015	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Strengthen MPAs capacities • Coordination/synergies with relevant institutions

Meeting	Purpose	Date and Venue	Relation to Programme Objectives
10X20 Initiative – Conference on Marine Protected Areas: <i>An Urgent Imperative A Dialogue Between Scientists and Policymakers</i>	Joint initiative between the Government of Italy, the Ocean Sanctuary Alliance and UNEP – CEP under the EBM Project to develop a scientifically-based framework to assist Member States in achieving the globally agreed target to conserve at least 10% of coastal and marine areas by the year 2020 (SDG 14).	Italy 7 -9 March 2016	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Promotion of SPAW and the EBM Project • Coordination/synergies with relevant institutions
NatureServe Coastal-Marine EBM Tools Training Workshop	To represent UNEP-CEP and share lessons of EBM and MPA management based on projects undertaken by UNEP’s Caribbean Regional Coordinating Unit (CAR/RCU)	Puerto Rico 19-22 April 2016	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Promotion of SPAW and the EBM Project • Coordination/synergies with relevant institutions

2.2.2 Sub-Programme Outputs

24. The major outputs of this sub-programme are:

Outputs	Status
Improved management capacity in at least 3 SPAW listed-sites MPAs including with an Ecosystem Management Approach and Systemic Management Plans for the selected pilot protected areas of SPAW Parties.	On-going MPA practitioners attended the MPA Science and Management session at GCFI to improve capacity building, ToT sessions held and funding provided through the ECMMAN and EBM projects. For more information, please see UNEP(DEPI)/CAR WG.38/INF.5.
Improved information and its dissemination on MPAs of the region including enhanced effectiveness of the existing CaMPAM Internet Forum and website.	On-going Website for the listing of PAs developed, revisions to the MPA database are ongoing and a regional DSS is being developed.(UNEP(DEPI)/CAR WG.38/INF.5; UNEP(DEPI)/CAR WG.38/INF.4)
Stronger relationships and collaboration between MPA practitioners, scientists, fishers, other stakeholders, as well as with international/regional experts.	Completed Attendance supported at MPA technical sessions, ToT sessions held in Grenada and the Dominican Republic and ongoing improvements to the CaMPAM database (UNEP(DEPI)/CAR WG.38/INF.5; UNEP(DEPI)/CAR WG.38/INF.4)
A consolidated and comprehensive MPA database for the Wider Caribbean available online and fully coordinated with the PA Listing under the SPAW Protocol	On-going Website for online reporting of PAs to be listed developed, and MPA database continually revised. On-going establishment of regional DSS. For more information please see UNEP(DEPI)/CAR WG.38/INF.4; UNEP(DEPI)/CAR WG.38/INF.5

2.2.3 Sub-Programme Budget

25. The costs associated with the implementation of activities under this sub-programme were:

2015			2016		
CTF Raised	Other *	Total Raised	CTF Raised	Other Contributions**	Total Raised
0	35,291	35,291	0	1,223,855	1,223,855

* Includes funds from the Government of Italy under the EBM Project

** Includes funds from ECMMAN project through SPAW-RAC

2.3 **Development of Guidelines for Protected Areas and Species Management**

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

- (a) Promote and assist with the development and implementation of the guidelines on protected area 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.

2.3.1 Status of Sub-Programme Activities

27. Several activities were undertaken by, or implemented in collaboration with the SPAW-RAC in Guadeloupe. See UNEP(DEPI)/CAR WG.38/INF.4 for further details. The activities implemented during 2015-2016 to meet these objectives are:

2.3 DEVELOPMENT OF GUIDELINES FOR PROTECTED AREAS AND SPECIES MANAGEMENT	
Activities	Status
Additional Protected Areas listed under SPAW using the revised Annotated Format presented by STAC6 and as per COP8 Decision 2 to approve the thirteen (13) protected areas for listing under the SPAW Protocol.	Completed Following the call launched by the Secretariat in 2014 for Parties to nominate additional sites for listing, and after adoption by the COP8, there are now currently 31 Protected Areas listed under the SPAW Protocol. The process of listing PAs is made easy for managers as they are able to create a presentation report using the interface www.spaw-palisting.org .
Listing process and cooperation programme for Protected Areas under the SPAW Protocol as per COP8 Decision 2 to further support the Secretariat's initiative to continue to support the Protected Areas listed through the cooperation programme.	On-going Work continues on this initiative with plans to further develop and resuscitate the programme by reactivating support from MPA managers for SPAW listed areas recalling the recommendations of the First Meeting of Managers of the Protected Areas Listed under the SPAW Protocol (66 th GCFI Conference, Corpus Christi, Texas, USA, 5 November 2013) (UNEP(DEPI)/CAR WG.36/INF.9)

2.3 DEVELOPMENT OF GUIDELINES FOR PROTECTED AREAS AND SPECIES MANAGEMENT	
Activities	Status
Develop formats for presenting exemptions, and reporting on their implementation, to the Contracting Parties.	<p>On-going</p> <p>Under the guidance of the SPAW-RAC and the Working Group to Develop the Criteria and Process to Assess Exemptions under Article 11(2) of the SPAW Protocol, A <i>Reporting Format for Exemptions</i> was drafted and circulated to Parties for review prior to the STAC7 (See UNEP(DEPI)/CAR WG.38/3 for details).</p> <p>Assistance was provided to Contracting Parties (USA, Cuba and Curaçao) in the preparation of their reports to request exemptions under Article 11(2).</p> <p>Further development and finalization of the format is still pending for adoption by the COP9.</p>
Application of the criteria for listing species in the Annexes to the Protocol	<p>On-going</p> <p>Following the work of the Ad Hoc Working Group, the preliminary list was endorsed by STAC6 and subsequently approved by COP8 (December 2014). The status of species, or groups of species, and the assessment of species have continued in collaboration with the IUCN's Red List for the Caribbean to allow for any necessary modifications to the list, should species' status change (See UNEP(DEPI)/CAR WG.38/4 for details).</p>

2.3.2 Sub-Programme Outputs

28. The major outputs of this sub-programme are:

Output	Status
An updated list of protected areas under the SPAW Protocol	<p>In progress</p> <p>A call to Parties for the listing of additional protected areas was done during the biennium with four new protected areas submitted to STAC 7 and COP 9 for listing under SPAW respectively (See UNEP(DEPI)/CAR WG.38/5 for details).</p> <p>The proposed PAs are expected to be reviewed at STAC7 with recommendations made for their listing by COP9.</p>
Format approved for presenting exemptions under Article 11(2), and reporting on their implementation	<p>In progress</p> <p><i>Draft Reporting Format for Exemptions</i> (UNEP(DEPI)-CAR WG.38/3) is presented to STAC7 for review by Parties to consider for approval by COP9.</p>

Output	Status
A revised list of protected species under Annexes I-III of the SPAW Protocol	In progress Draft short list of species proposed for protection under the SPAW Protocol is presented to STAC7 for review and for Parties to consider approval for inclusion in the Annexes by COP9 as appropriate.

2.3.3 *Sub-Programme Budget*

29. The costs associated with the implementation of activities under this sub-programme were:

2015			2016		
CTF Raised	Other Sources Raised*	Total Raised	CTF Raised	Other Sources Raised*	Total Raised
0	10,000	10,000	0	22,000	22,000

*Through SPAW-RAC

2.4 Conservation of Threatened and Endangered Species

30. 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.

2.4.1 *Status of Sub-Programme Activities*

31. In keeping with Contracting Parties' decisions, and available funding, activities within the Marine Mammal Action Plan and bird conservation were prioritised. Funding was not made available to support sea turtle conservation activities.
32. However, over the course of the biennium, work has continued to 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 by implementing recommendations emanating from the Joint IWC and SPAW/UNEP Workshop to Address Collisions between Marine Mammals and Ships with a focus on the Wider Caribbean (Panama 2014) by developing and sharing expertise among Marine Mammal Sanctuaries in the region for expanded surveys and telemetry to understand inter-island movements and habitat use of migratory and resident populations of whales, as well as the creation of marine mammal educational materials.
33. Focused efforts are planned to ensure that existing, and future, sanctuaries in the region enter into partnership network agreements as appropriate, sharing photo-ID catalogues and contributing to central catalogues where available (e.g. the North Atlantic Humpback Whale Catalogue administered by the College of the Atlantic).
34. Additionally, there was greater collaboration with CITES towards species conservation in the Region and the Secretariat took steps to work with SPAW Parties and CITES to develop a regional wildlife enforcement network by participating in a regional workshop in the Bahamas, and also in meetings organized by CMS and WECAFC (see Activity 2.5). Efforts were focused on encouraging Parties and NGOs to work within their respective spheres of influence to urge other Parties to regulate within their national legal systems:
 - the ownership, possession, sale and advertising of CITES-listed living species endemic to the Caribbean and;
 - to keep illegally acquired specimens, and their progeny, from entering domestic or international markets.

35. The countries that are Parties to CITES have been encouraged to join the CITES Standing Committee contact group, and SPAW Parties and NGOs, to support recommendations emanating from the contact group.
36. Several activities were undertaken by, or implemented in collaboration with the SPAW-RAC in Guadeloupe. See UNEP(DEPI)/CAR WG.38/INF.4 for further details. The activities implemented during 2015-2016 to meet these objectives are:

2.4 CONSERVATION OF THREATENED AND ENDANGERED SPECIES	
Activities	Status
<p>Improve awareness on whale and dolphin species in the Wider Caribbean Region and support sustainable marine mammal watching in the Wider Caribbean Region</p>	<p>Completed</p> <p>Educational materials produced in collaboration with NOAA's Stellwagen Bank National Marine Sanctuary (SBNMS) via their Beyond Borders – The Sister Sanctuary Program (See document UNEP(DEPI)/CAR WG.36/INF.16)</p> <p>Also included follow-up to the work and recommendations emanating from implementation of the LifeWeb Project through the finalization of the Management Plan for the Marine Mammal Sanctuary of the Dominican Republic (SMMRD) in the Silver and Navidad Banks (See document UNEP(DEPI)/CAR WG.36/INF.8).</p> <p>Publication of the document “A review of seismic mitigation measures used along the coast of northern South America” in collaboration with Green Heritage Fund Suriname and World Wildlife Fund under the auspices of the Marine Mammal Conservation Corridor for Northern South America (MaMaCoCoSea) project. A copy of the report may be found at http://www.car-spaw-rac.org/IMG/pdf/seismic_mitigation_measures_review_mamacocosea.pdf.</p> <p>Support also provided to SBNMS and Allied Whale for the compilation and comparison of humpback whale flukes in the WCR (see UNEP(DEPI)/CAR WG.38/INF.4).</p>
<p>Strengthening marine spatial planning for marine mammal conservation and support sustainable marine mammal watching in the Region</p>	<p>On-going</p> <p>Activities continue in support of the MMAP whereby existing text will be reviewed and updated during the next biennium.</p> <p>The summarized leaflet on the “Overarching Principles and Best Practice Guidelines for Marine Mammal Watching in the Wider Caribbean Region”, adopted by SPAW COP7 in Punta Cana had been updated and redesigned. This has been finalized and was released in mid-2016 in order to promote the national and regional implementation of proper guidelines for marine mammal watching in the WCR (See document UNEP(DEPI)/CAR WG.38/INF.13).</p>
<p>Develop a formal Memorandum of Cooperation (MoC) between UNEP CAR/RCU and the International Whaling Commission (IWC)</p>	<p>On-going</p> <p>Discussions and document review are underway towards formalizing a MoC to identify and address common issues within the Wider Caribbean Region.</p>

2.4 CONSERVATION OF THREATENED AND ENDANGERED SPECIES	
Activities	Status
Cooperation with Birdlife International, BirdsCaribbean, CITES and CMS	<p>On-going</p> <p>Through the SPAW-RAC, contract agreement developed with BirdLife International on gap analysis of IBAs and existing MPAs, and promotion of IBAs through a case study in the Bahamas (http://www.car-spaw-rac.org/IMG/pdf/birdlife_report.pdf).</p> <p>UNEP-CEP in collaboration with BirdsCaribbean delivered a presentation to the Carib Bird Education Network during the Caribbean Bird Festival via a Free Webinar on Caribbean endemic birds.</p> <p>There is continued participation in meetings and workshops organized under environmental treaties significant to the work of the sub-programme, in particular CITES and CMS, towards fostering improved partnerships, capacity building, and information and guidance to countries of the WCR on acceding to these treaties.</p>
Continue to support the mandate of the Regional Lionfish Committee (RLC) established under ICRI and encourage additional SPAW Parties to join the RLC	<p>On-going</p> <p>Through the SPAW-RAC</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Participation in, and co-chairing of, the ICRI Regional Lionfish Committee. • Updating and use of the regional list of contacts to disseminate regular information on the lionfish, its impacts and its control. <p>Organization of a Lionfish Management Workshop (Special Session) during the 68th Annual GCFI Conference with the support of UNEP-CEP and ICRI. For more details see http://www.car-spaw-rac.org/?68th-GCFI-conference,656</p>

37. Additional meetings involved in the successful implementation of this sub-programme were:

Meeting	Purpose	Date and Venue	Relation to Programme Objectives
Caribbean Bird Festival - <i>"Spread Your Wings for Bird Conservation"</i>	Towards supporting bird species conservation in collaboration with BirdsCaribbean.	5 May 2016	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Coordination/synergies with relevant institutions • Conservation of threatened and endangered Species
68 th Annual GCFI Conference – Lionfish Management Workshop (<i>technical sessions on lionfish and other invasive species</i>)	Through the SPAW-RAC provide support to regional invasive alien species efforts in collaboration with various partners.	Panama 9 - 13 November 2015	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Strengthen capacities concerning lionfish management activities • Coordination/synergies with relevant institutions

Meeting	Purpose	Date and Venue	Relation to Programme Objectives
Caribbean Regional Wildlife Enforcement Workshop	To strengthen and enhance regional cooperation and enforcement through the creation of a <i>Caribbean Wildlife Enforcement Network</i> (CaribWEN) Cooperation.	Bahamas 20 - 22 July 2016	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Promotion of SPAW Programme and activities Coordination/synergies with relevant institutions Conservation of threatened and endangered Species
First Regional Capacity Building Workshop for CMS Non-Parties of the Caribbean Region	Organized through UNEP/CMS Secretariat and the CARICOM Secretariat to inform Non-Parties of the Caribbean Region about the work and goals of the Convention and provide guidance on available capacity building resources and how to accede to the CMS.	Barbados 31 August - 2 September 2016	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Promotion of SPAW Programme and activities Coordination/synergies with relevant institutions Conservation of threatened and endangered Species

2.4.2 Sub-Programme Outputs

38. The major outputs of this sub-programme are:

Outputs	Status
Improved strategies to encourage the sustainability of marine mammal watching in the WCR.	Completed
MoC with the IWC Scientific Committee partnerships to promote the implementation of the MMAP.	Under negotiation
Dissemination of information and peer-exchanges to promote best practices and best tools to control lionfish, and implementation of the regional lionfish strategy, in collaboration with ICRI.	On-going

2.4.3 Sub-Programme Budget

39. The costs associated with the implementation of activities under this sub-programme were:

2015			2016		
CTF Raised	Other *	Total Raised	CTF Raised	Other *	Total Raised
0	87,000	87,000	0	87,000	87,000

*Includes from SPAW-RAC for 2015 and 2016 respectively

2.5 Conservation and Sustainable Use of Coastal and Marine Ecosystems

40. 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) Mobilise 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.

25.5.1 Status of Sub-Programme Activities

41. Under this sub-programme, in keeping with the SPAW Protocol and the activities discussed at the SPAW COP7, the main project implemented was the coordination and implementation of the CLME+ project.
42. A UN Agency to UN Agency Contribution Agreement (IAA) between the United Nations Office for Project Services (UNOPS) and UNEP-CEP (through the coordinated implementation of actions under the SPAW and Land-Based Sources of Marine Pollution (LBS) Protocols of the Cartagena Convention) was signed in June 2016 for the new 5-year (2015-2020) UNDP/GEF CLME+ Project which became operational on 1 May 2015 with UNOPS as the Executing Agency and having a total funding of US\$1,365,000.00 (See document UNEP(DEPI)/CAR WG.37/INF.10).
43. The project seeks to facilitate ecosystem based management/an ecosystem approach to fisheries (EBM/EAF) within the CLME+ region, to ensure that a sustainable and climate resilient provision of goods and services from the region's living marine resources can be secured (CLME+ SAP v1.3 2016).
44. Through collaboration between the SPAW and AMEP sub-programmes (See document UNEP(DEPI)/CAR WG.37/INF.7), the project will kick-start the implementation of the 10-year politically endorsed CLME+ Strategic Action Programme (CLME+ SAP) (See document UNEP(DEPI)/CAR.WG.37/INF.7) through a series of activities and outputs, and will address the different root causes of environmental degradation, which were identified under the predecessor project "CLME". Activities will focus on the following elements:
- Elaborate a formal agreement between Brazil and the Secretariat;
 - Baseline assessment reports, Regional Status Reports and Strategies/Action and Investment Plans for protection/restoration of key habitats and to reduce the impacts of pollution;
 - Design and implement Sub-Project that begin to institutionalize Ecosystem Based Management (EBM) approaches; and
 - Web portals and relevant communication tools
45. During the reporting period, additional activities implemented during the biennium focused on coral reef ecosystems, re-engaging with the tourism sector, and further research on the impacts of *Sargassum*, as described below.

2.5 CONSERVATION AND SUSTAINABLE USE OF COASTAL AND MARINE ECOSYSTEMS	
Activities	Status
Support towards the reactivation of Caribbean Coral Reef Monitoring Network	<p>Completed</p> <p>Following the recommendations of the workshop "Review, improve and revitalize the regional GCRMN network for a more effective coral reef monitoring and data management in the Wider Caribbean" – Curacao, 6-8 August 2014 (UNEP(DEPI)/CAR WG.36/INF.10), during the biennium, the Secretariat acted as the regional coordinator for the redefined GCRMN in the WCR and provided guidance for the Steering Committee via a series of activities which included -</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Promoting uptake of the core set of ecological and socio-economic data agreed for the monitoring sites participating in the regional network (See document UNEP(DEPI)/CAR WG.38/ INF.17 or http://www.car-spaw-rac.org/?The-GCRMN-Caribbean-guidelines,639); • Establishment of two active online fora; • Organisation of the first GRMN-Caribbean integrated Coral Reef Monitoring Workshop; and • Representing the network in appropriate venues and fora when possible. <p>For more information, please see UNEP(DEPI)/CAR WG.38/INF.4.</p> <p>Additionally, there was focus on continued support towards the development of a coral reef partnership within the UNEP Regional Seas Programme including coordination with ICRI.</p>
Sharing general data across the Region and research on <i>Sargassum</i>	<p>On-going</p> <p>The Secretariat sought to encourage Parties to share their information and data generated by current national monitoring and assessment programmes including marine laboratories. This included a <i>Sargassum</i> on-line forum launched in August 2015 dedicated to the issue which aims to share related information and experiences, as well as facilitate exchanges regarding the development of projects including, but not limited to, basic research, management of the landings, impact assessments and potential uses of the algae.</p> <p>There were various collaborative efforts to support more research on origins, impacts and ways to control <i>Sargassum</i>, as well as to improve the development of models in response to the increasing incidence of landing events which affect the marine environment, biodiversity and health in the region.</p> <p>The SPAW-RAC, in collaboration with GCFI and CERMES (UWI), developed various briefs and factsheets on this issue - See documents UNEP(DEPI)/CAR WG.38/INF.9 (also available at: http://www.cavehill.uwi.edu/cermes/getdoc/123bf91c-1565-414d-8e21-e59fb6f7ca2d/cermes_sargassum_management_brief_2016_08_24.aspx), UNEP(DEPI)/CAR WG.38/ INF.14 and UNEP(DEPI)/CAR WG.38/ INF.15</p> <p>There was also the organization of a side-event on <i>Sargassum</i> during the second session of the United Nations Environment Assembly (UNEA-2) alongside UNEP's Global Programme of Action (UNEP-GPA), the Abidjan Convention Secretariat and the United States Agency for International Development's/ West Africa Biodiversity and Climate Change Programme (USAID/WA-BiCC) (See document UNEP(DEPI)/CAR WG.38/ INF.12), and the organisation of a technical session at the 69th Annual Meeting of GCFI.</p> <p>For more information on SPAW-RAC's activities please see UNEP(DEPI)/CAR WG.38/INF.4</p>

2.5 CONSERVATION AND SUSTAINABLE USE OF COASTAL AND MARINE ECOSYSTEMS	
Activities	Status
The Bluefinance project	<p>On-going</p> <p>This project was implemented in Barbados in September 2015 through the SPAW-RAC and is funded by UNEP via the Global Coral Reef Partnership. Other partners include GRID-Arendal, the Blue Solutions project, IFRECOR (the French Initiative for Coral Reef) and the Organisation of American States. The objective of Bluefinance is to achieve environmental, social and financial returns through strengthened collaboration with the private sector in coral reef conservation.</p> <p>(See document UNEP(DEPI)/CAR WG.38/INF.4 for more details)</p>

46. The Secretariat intended to work on the conservation of mangroves and to fundraise, in coordination with UNEP-DEPI, the Ramsar Convention and other relevant organizations, to promote and develop activities relating to the conservation and sustainable use of mangroves. However, many of the proposed activities that were to be implemented during the biennium were not possible due to an overall lack of funding to initiate groundwork activities (even relating to fundraising).

47. Additional meetings involved in the successful implementation of this sub-programme were:

Meeting	Purpose	Date and Venue	Relation to Programme Objectives
CBD's (SOI) Capacity-building Workshop	Exchange of information and experiences, and building regional-level partnerships for continuous information-sharing and capacity-building in pursuit of the Aichi Biodiversity Targets in marine and coastal areas.	Peru 23 - 27 February 2015	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Promotion of SPAW Programme activities • Coordination/synergies with relevant institutions • Conservation and sustainable use of coastal and marine ecosystems
First CLME+ Meeting of the PEG	To discuss CLME+ project implementation, indicators, targets, and associated timelines, and prepare first draft of the CLME+ Overarching Communications Strategy.	Florida 26 - 27 October 2015	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Successful implementation of the CLME+ project • Conservation and sustainable use of coastal and marine ecosystems
68 th GCFI annual Conference	Participation through the SPAW-RAC team via presentation: " <i>Regional Cooperation to face Sargassum influx around the Wider Caribbean</i> ".	Panama, 5 November 2015	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Strengthen capacities concerning the management of <i>Sargassum</i> • Coordination/synergies with relevant institutions

Meeting	Purpose	Date and Venue	Relation to Programme Objectives
2 nd WECAFC Reorientation and Strategic Planning Workshop	To create awareness and build capacity on the international legal framework for fisheries and the role of regional fisheries management organizations, and discuss current regional fisheries governance framework (interim coordination arrangement between the CRFM, the Organization for Fisheries and Aquaculture of Central America (OSPESCA) and WECAFC). <i>(Report available at: http://www.fao.org/3/a-i5584be.pdf)</i>	Trinidad and Tobago 1 - 2 December 2015	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Promotion of SPAW and the CLME+ project • Coordination/synergies with relevant institutions • Conservation and sustainable use of coastal and marine ecosystems
Meeting of the Steering Committee of CLME+ Project	Review and adopt updates to the CLME+ Project Document/ Workplan and Budget (2015–2017)/, make arrangements for the 10-year SAP/ proposed TORs for National Focal Points and Steering Committee, and review activities implemented during Project Inception Phase.	Colombia 26 – 28 January 2016	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Successful implementation of the CLME+ project • Coordination/synergies with relevant institutions
GCRMN-Caribbean Integrated Coral Reef Monitoring Workshop	To increase capacity for effective integrated coral reef monitoring among GCRMN-Caribbean countries through the use of bio-physical and socio-economic data for coastal management decision-making, and for improved standardized and strategic reporting at the regional level.	Jamaica 18 - 22 April 2016	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Improve monitoring and conservation of coral reefs and associated ecosystems

Meeting	Purpose	Date and Venue	Relation to Programme Objectives
Green Room Event on the <i>Sargassum</i> Seaweed influx in West Africa and Caribbean coasts - UNEA-2 side-event	To raise awareness on the extent of the <i>Sargassum</i> challenge considering its environmental and socio-economic impacts, provide insights regarding the causal factors for the proliferation, and present proposed strategic regional-level response for addressing the issue.	Kenya 27 May 2016	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Strengthen capacities concerning the management of <i>Sargassum</i> • Coordination/synergies with relevant institutions • Conservation and sustainable use of coastal and marine ecosystems
5 th Meeting of the Regional Initiative for the Conservation and Wise Use of Caribbean Wetlands- Cariwet	Deliver presentation on the SPAW Protocol and Programme through participation by the SPAW-RAC.	St. Lucia 5 August 2016	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Promotion of SPAW Programme activities • Coordination/synergies with relevant institutions • Conservation and sustainable use of coastal and marine ecosystems
Second CLME+ Meeting of the PEG and CLME+ SAP Coordinating Mechanism Meeting (attended by the AMEP Programme Officer)	To review progress of project implementation and the amended/updated annual workplan/budget, agree on an approach/methodology for an M&E (Monitoring and Evaluation) framework for the CLME+ SAP and review first draft of the CLME+ Overarching Communications Strategy.	Miami, Florida, 6-9 September 2016	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Successful implementation of the CLME+ project • Coordination/synergies with relevant institutions • Conservation and sustainable use of coastal and marine ecosystems

2.5.2 *Sub-programme Outputs*

48. The major outputs of this sub-programme are:

Outputs	Status
Strengthen the Global Coral Reef Monitoring Network (GCRMN) Regional Nodes within the Wider Caribbean Region	Completed
An endorsed and finalized CLME+ project document that details priority follow-up activities for sustainability of the CLME governance work and including tangible five (5) to ten (10) year results	Completed

Outputs	Status
Pilot project on Ecosystem-Based Adaptation and Workshop on EBM	<i>Reflected as outputs under Activity 2.2</i>
Conservation and sustainable use of mangroves	<p>Pending Funding needed to complete:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - A State of the Mangroves in the Caribbean report, improving baseline in-country information on mangrove conservation and sustainable use - A recommended standard mangrove sampling methodology in order to enhance the effectiveness of regional mangrove studies - Enhanced mangrove conservation in the region through financial mechanisms and incentives in coordination with international policy agendas such as the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC).

2.5.3 Sub-programme Budget

49. The costs associated with the implementation of activities under this sub-programme were:

2015			2016		
CTF Raised	Other *	Total Raised	CTF Raised	Other **	Total Raised
0	19,148	19,148	0	206,873	206,873

*Through SPAW-RAC

**Includes funding through the CLME+ project and from SPAW-RAC

Annex I: Status of Budget for the SPAW Programme for 2015-2016 Biennium

Activity	2015				2016			
	Budgeted		Total cost	Required Balance	Budgeted		Total Cost	Required Balance
	CTF	Other Contributions*			CTF	Other Contributions*		
2.1 Programme Co-ordination (salary costs and COP and STAC meetings covered by OCCC)	0	15,000	40,000	25,000	0	15,000	45,000	30,000
2.2 Strengthening of Protected Areas in the Wider Caribbean Region **	0	35,291	1,057,000	1,021,709	0	1,223,855	1,062,000	0
2.3 Development of Guidelines for Management of Protected Areas and Species	0	10,000	40,000	30,000	0	22,000	52,000	30,000
2.4 Conservation of Threatened and Endangered Species	0	87,000	132,000	45,000	0	87,000	132,000	45,000
2.5 Conservation and Sustainable Use of Coastal and Marine Ecosystems **	0	19,148	130,000	110,852	0	206,873	60,000	0
Subtotal	0	166,439	1,399,000	1,232,561	0	1,554,728	1,351,000	0
Programme support costs 13% (amount subject to change based on source of funds)	0	21,637	181,870	160,233	0	202,115	175,630	0
TOTAL SPAW	0	188,076	1,580,870	1,392,794	0	1,756,843	1,526,630	0

*Includes funds from the Government of France through the SPAW-RAC

** Includes funds from the Government of Italy under the EBM Project, the CLME+ project and funds from ECMMAN project through SPAW-RAC

Annex II: Summary of Funds Provided by the French Government through SPAW-RAC for the Implementation of SPAW Activities

Activity	2015	2016
2.1 Programme Co-ordination	2,500	11,100
2.2 Strengthening of protected areas in the Wider Caribbean Region	0	11,100
2.3 Development of guidelines for management of protected areas and species	0	25,000
2.4 Conservation of threatened and endangered species	29,000	17,800
2.5 Conservation and sustainable use of coastal and marine ecosystems	32,100	47,100
TOTAL	63,600	112,100

Annex III: Status of the Protocol Concerning Specially Protected Areas and Wildlife (SPAW Protocol)

Contracting Party	Date of Signature	Date of Ratification	Entry Into Force
Bahamas		8 March 2012	7 April 2012
Barbados		14 October 2002	13 November 2002
Belize		4 January 2008	4 February 2008
Colombia	18 January 1990	5 January 1998	17 June 2000
Cuba	18 January 1990	4 August 1998	17 June 2000
Dominican Republic		24 November 1998	17 June 2000
France	18 January 1990	5 April 2002	5 May 2002
Grenada		5 March 2012	4 April 2012
Guyana		14 July 2010	13 August 2010
Netherlands	18 January 1990	2 March 1992	17 June 2000
Panama	16 January 1991	27 September 1996	17 June 2000
St. Lucia	18 January 1990	18 May 2000	17 June 2000
St. Vincent and the Grenadines		26 July 1991	17 June 2000
Trinidad and Tobago	18 January 1990	10 August 1999	17 June 2000
United States of America	18 January 1990	16 April 2003	
Venezuela	18 January 1990	28 January 1997	17 June 2000

Annex IV: Status of the Decisions of the 8th Conference of Parties (COP8) and 6th STAC Meeting

7th Conference of Parties	
Decisions	Status
Urge the governments of the region, which have not yet done so, to become Contracting Parties to the SPAW Protocol	Ongoing While no new countries have become Contracting Parties during the biennium, the Secretariat actively engaged with relevant Governments to do so, such as Costa Rica, Dominica and Mexico.
Approve the thirteen (13) protected areas presented by STAC6 for listing under the SPAW Protocol and welcome the Secretariat's initiative to continue to support the Protected Areas listed through the cooperation programme	Ongoing The additional 18 areas listed by COP8 brought the total to 31 protected areas listed under the Protocol (see map in UNEP(DEPI)/CAR WG.38/5) During the biennium the Secretariat made efforts to contact managers of listed sites to follow up on the recommendations of the first meeting of managers to further develop the cooperation programme and support proposals from listed sites (see UNEP(DEPI)/CAR WG.36/INF.16 for details.) The Secretariat launched in 2015 another call for Parties to nominate additional sites for listing. An additional 4 sites have been proposed by Parties for listing to be reviewed by STAC7 (See UNEP(DEPI)/CAR WG.38/5 for details).
Urge Contracting Parties to respond to the requests of the Secretariat and to participate more actively in the Working Groups established by the Parties, in particular in those on the species review and on the formats for the exemptions reports	Completed See below reporting on COP8 Decisions 4 and 6 and STAC6 recommendation III.
Approves the revised version of the Guidance document as presented in Annex III of the Report and extension of the duration of the Working Group to develop the formats for reporting on exemptions granted and further agrees to a review of the exemptions process using the Guidance document as approved, after two biennia.	Completed See UNEP(DEPI)/CAR WG.38/3
Amend the species Annexes by adding the following species to Annex II and Annex III respectively	Completed See updated lists of species in Annex 2 under UNEP(DEPI)/CAR WG.38/4 ; UNEP(DEPI)/CAR WG.38/INF.7
Adopt the Recommendations of the Sixth Meeting of the Scientific and Technical Advisory Committee to the SPAW Protocol as contained in UNEP/(DEPI)/CAR WG.36/8, with amendments as reflected below <u>Recommendation I</u> Points 12,13,14 and 15 to read as follows: "12. The SPAW Secretariat should work with SPAW Parties and CITES to develop a regional wildlife enforcement network 13. Countries that are Parties to CITES should join the	Completed Revised STAC6 Recommendations were implemented: Rec. I 1.-2. Completed 3i-iv Completed (see preceding sections of this report and UNEP(DEPI)/CAR WG.38/INF.4, WG.38/INF.9 to INF.18) 3v-vi – Postponed to next biennium 3vii- Ongoing (MoU with IWC under review)

7th Conference of Parties	
Decisions	Status
<p>CITES Standing Committee contact group discussing the Bahamas report and recommendations on the iguana poaching incident. SPAW, Parties and NGOs should support recommendations emanating from the contact group.</p> <p>14. Parties and NGOs should work within their respective spheres of influence, such as the European Union (EU), Caribbean Community (CARICOM) and CITES to urge the other Parties to regulate within their national legal systems the ownership, possession, sale and advertising of CITES-listed living species endemic to the Caribbean, to keep illegally acquired specimens, and their progeny, from entering domestic or international markets.</p> <p>15. Parties considering exemptions under Article 11.2, take appropriate measures under their national laws and policies to ensure that these specimens or their offspring do not unintentionally end up being commercially traded in the future.”</p> <p><u>Recommendation III</u></p> <p>“1. The <i>ad hoc</i> working group on the listing of species to the Annexes be re-established in the intersessional period to continue its work</p> <p>2. The working group elaborate guidelines (e.g. a checklist) for the nomination of species for listing in the SPAW Annexes using Article 11(4) as a basis.</p> <p>3. The draft guidelines developed and approved by the working group be circulated to SPAW Protocol Parties as soon as it is available.</p> <p>4. Parties be invited to use the draft guidelines for the development of nominations of species for inclusion in the SPAW Annexes in time for consideration by STAC7.</p> <p>5. The draft guidelines be forwarded to STAC7 for its consideration”</p> <p><u>Recommendation IV</u></p> <p>As reflected above in Decision 4.</p>	<p>3viii- Completed (see UNEP(DEPI)/CAR WG38/INF.6)</p> <p>3ix-xi – Ongoing</p> <p>3xii-xv Completed:</p> <p>The Secretariat participated in the UNODC Regional Caribbean Wildlife Enforcement Workshop (Bahamas, 20-22 July 2016) to explore options for establishing this network in the region, in collaboration with CITES and relevant regional organizations (e.g. CARICOM, OECS, CRFM and governments).</p> <p>4. Ongoing (see UNEP(DEPI)/CAR WG.37/INF.5)</p> <p>Rec. II Completed See UNEP(DEPI)/CAR WG.38/5)</p> <p>Rec. III Completed. See UNEP(DEPI)/CAR WG.38/4</p> <p>Rec. V Parties to report on lionfish control actions within their countries</p> <p>Rec.VI Completed</p> <p>Rec. IV Completed See UNEP(DEPI)/CAR WG.38/3</p>
<p>Approves the proposed SPAW Workplan for 2015-2016 as revised by STAC6, and its budget subject to the approval of CEP’s budget by 16th IGM and 13th Cartagena Convention COP, and further requests the Secretariat to develop a strategy for mobilization of resources</p>	<p>Completed</p> <p>The Secretariat is developing a comprehensive mobilization strategy for the CEP which will include the SPAW workplan to be presented to the 17th IGM and 14th Cartagena Convention COP (tentatively March 2017).</p>

7th Conference of Parties	
Decisions	Status
Welcome offers from Governments to explore with the Secretariat the possible hosting of the Seventh SPAW STAC meeting in early 2016	Completed The hosting by the Government of USA of these meetings in Miami, Florida is gratefully acknowledged.