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

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REPORT OF THE SPAW REGIONAL ACTIVITY CENTRE (SPAW-RAC) IN GUADELOUPE: OPERATIONS AND BUDGET FOR THE PERIOD 2015-2016

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REPORT OF THE SPAW REGIONAL ACTIVITY CENTRE (SPAW-RAC) IN GUADELOUPE: OPERATIONS AND BUDGET FOR THE PERIOD - 2015-2016

1. BACKGROUND

- 1. For the past two years, 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), which has included 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) that are presented below. In September 2016, Dr. Sandrine Pivard arrived as the new Director of the SPAW-RAC following the departure of Ms. Anne Fontaine who completed a two-year term.
- 2. The French Government is responsible for the salaries of the permanent staff and its running costs, including the salaries of some short-term staff. In keeping with the agreement signed between UNEP and the Government of France, UNEP-CAR/RCU provides funds within the SPAW Workplan for the implementation of activities through the RAC, as appropriate. Additional funding to enable SPAW-RAC activities also comes from other donors through specific agreements with SPAW-RAC as the implementing entity for these specific projects.

2. ACTIVITIES IMPLEMENTED BY THE SPAW-RAC DURING THE PERIOD 2015-2016

3. The section below provides a summarized overview of the activities implemented by the SPAW-RAC during the period 2015-2016 in compliance with the decisions of the SPAW COP8. Activities are presented by programme elements (subprogrammes) of the SPAW Workplan for the period 2015-2016. Side-activities or related activities are briefly summarized at the end of each sub-section. This report complements information provided in the SPAW Subprogramme Status report (UNEP(DEPI)/CAR WG.38/INF.3).

2.1 Programme Coordination

Activities	Dates	Outcomes
Regular updates of the SPAW-RAC's trilingual website and development of new sections to present additional information including databases, publications and factsheets (http://www.car-spaw-rac.org/)	2015-2016	 Up-to-date information on the SPAW Protocol and programme, activities, funding opportunities, made widely accessible in Spanish, English and French. Several databases widely accessible with information on Protected Areas, marine mammals, etc.
Releases for the SPAW Newsletter prepared in collaboration with UNEP-CAR/RCU	February 2015 May 2015 October 2015 March 2016 July 2016 October 2016	 Six (6) releases of the newsletter (N°15 to 20). Dissemination of updates on the implementation of the SPAW Programme and related activities.
Translation of documents	2015-2016	Documents and correspondences relevant to the SPAW Programme translated in English, French and Spanish.
Missions and participation in meetings, workshops and symposiums	2015-2016 (see list of meetings in UNEP(DEPI)/CAR WG.38/INF.3)	Representation and promotion of the SPAW Protocol and programme and technical inputs in thematic discussions on activities related to the SPAW Programme.
Assistance to UNEP-CAR/RCU to prepare reports for SPAW STAC7 and COP9, and to develop the SPAW Workplan	2016 (STAC7)	Reports and draft Workplan for the various SPAW meetings.

Activities	Dates	Outcomes
Consolidation of the SPAW-RAC administrative framework	2015 On-going	 Agreement between the French Ministry in charge of environment and the National Park of Guadeloupe for the provision of the regular staff. Pluri-annual financial agreement renewed. On-going questions on financial and organisation aspects.

2.2 Strengthening of Protected Areas in the Wider Caribbean Region (including training and capacity building for protected area management)

Activities	Dates	Outcomes
Support to CaMPAM activities: ➤ Support for the organization of MPA-related sessions and the participation of MPA practitioners at the 2015 annual GCFI Conference (Panama, Panama)	November 12, 2015	 8 presentations during the session "MPA Science and Management" chaired by Dr G. Bustamante. Supported participation of 4 MPA practitioners and scientists.
Support for the participation of MPA managers to the 2016 annual GCFI Conference, with the support of the government of Italy	November 7-11, 2016	Support for MPA managers participation (pending)
➤ Coordination of the Small Grants component of the <u>German-funded TNC-led ECMMAN</u> <u>project</u> to strengthen MPAs and Marine Managed Areas in 6 Eastern Caribbean countries for a total budget of \$1,176 million from January 2014 to mid-2017	2015-2016	 The implementation of the <u>projects in the 6 countries</u> is on-going. The agreements with the 6 countries have been revised to include a 2nd phase.
Finalization of the translation of the CaMPAM training manual on MPA in French	December 2015	8 modules available online <u>in french</u> , in addition to the versions already available in <u>english</u> and <u>spanish</u> .
➤ Translation of the CaMPAM training manual on MPA in Haitian creole, for an implementation in Haiti	November 2016	Pending - translator identified; co-financing ongoing.
 Fund raising activities: Development of a project proposal in response to a Call launched by the European Commission on "Marine biodiversity and forest governance" 	February- March, 2016	Concept note developed and sent. However, the project was not selected by the European Commission because one eligibility criteria was not met (UNEP not eligible as counterpart).
 Development of a project proposal in response to a Call launched by the US Bureau of Oceans and International Environmental and Scientific Affairs (OES) for Ocean Conservation Projects in Developping States 	July 2016	Proposal developed but submission by UNEP-CEP was not possible to meet deadline due to difficulties in completing online registration.

2.3 <u>Development of Guidelines for Protected Areas and Species Management</u>

Activities	Dates	Outcomes
 Protected Area listing under SPAW: Exchange with SPAW Focal Points and PA managers to encourage them to submit their PA for listing Technical assistance for the preparation of the reports through the web-based tool Coordination of the review of the reports in view of their submission to the STAC by the PA listing Working Group 	Starting in April 2016 August-September 2016	4 new protected areas submitted to STAC 7 and COP 9 for listing under SPAW respectively - the Salamanca Park-way, Los Flamencos Sanctuary and Corchal Sanctuary in Colombia, and the National Park Cayos de San Felipe in Cuba.
Report on the characteristics of the first 31 protected areas listed under SPAW	November 2016	Main first conclusions to be presented at STAC7 and COP9.
Development of a template for reporting exemptions to Article 11 of the SPAW Protocol, in collaboration with the Working Group to develop the criteria and process to assess Exemptions	July -August 2016	See the template for reporting an exemption in the document UNEP(DEPI)/CAR WG.38/.3. This document is a complement to the Guidance document "Criteria and process to assess exemptions under Article 11(2) of the Specially Protected Areas and Wildlife Protocol (SPAW)" adopted following COP8.
Revision of criteria and procedure for the listing of species to be included in the Annexes of the Protocol Re-establishment of the Ad Hoc Working Group on the listing of species under the leadership of the US government to produce revised guidelines	2015-2016	See UNEP(DEPI)/CAR WG.38/.INF.9 Report of the Working Group on the listing of species under the annexes to SPAW with Revised guidelines drafted and circulated on July 17, 2015, for further approval following consideration by STAC7.
Revision of the list of species included in the Annexes of the Protocol: Call for proposals for the nomination of species to the Annexes Assistance to the Parties in the processes of proposing nomination of species	May 20, 2016 June-August, 2016	See UNEP(DEPI)/CAR WG.38/.4 Report of the working group on the listing of species under the Annexes to the SPAW Protocol including proposals from the United States of America, the Kingdom of the Netherlands and the Government of Cuba, revised and circulated to the Parties on August 22, 2016 for further approval following consideration by STAC7.

2.4 <u>Conservation of Threatened and Endangered Species</u>

Activities	Dates	Outcomes
Marine mammals: ➤ Under the aegis of the MaMaCoCoSea project, publication of a "A review of seismic mitigation measures used along the coast of northern South America" by Green Heritage Fund Suriname and WWF	2015	Documentation available <u>here</u> on the SPAW-RAC website.
Dissemination of the adopted overarching principles and guidelines for whale- watching activities	2016	Guidelines available <u>here</u> on the SPAW-RAC website.
➤ Support to Allied Whale to compare humpback whale fluke photographs in coordination with NOAA's Stellwagen Bank National Marine Sanctuary	2016	Identification of re-sightings of individual whales and analyze of the resulting movement patterns. New individuals added to the North Atlantic Humpback Whale Catalogue (NAHWC).
Support to the NGO Mon école, ma baleine for the translation in English of an educative comic book	2016	Books available <u>online</u> and used for educative activities in schools on marine mammals in English-speaking islands.
 Participation to management of the French marine mammal sanctuary <u>Agoa</u> 	2015-2016	Participation to the meetings of the Administrative council, the board and the International Commission of the French marine mammal sanctuary Agoa. At the international level, one main outcome of this work will be the building of the proposal in response to the Interreg call (see below).
Fund-raising activity: Assistance to the French marine mammal sanctuary Agoa in the drafting of a proposal for the development of a Caribbean Marine mammals preservation network (CARI'MAM) to be submitted to the european Interreg Caraibe funding at the end of 2016	2015-2016	Participation to the drafting of a proposal to be submitted at the end of the year 2016 (SPAW RAC support: 8 000 €) and available at http://www.car-spaw-ac.org/IMG/pdf/2016_08_agoa_carimam.pdf .
Avifauna: Contract Agreement with BirdLife International on: - gap analysis of IBAs and existing MPAs - promotion of IBAs through a case study in the Bahamas	2013-2016	Study finalized and available at: http://www.car-spaw-rac.org/IMG/pdf/birdlife report.pdf.
 Invasive Alien Species: Lionfish ➤ Continued participation in and co-chairing of the ICRI Regional Lionfish Committee 	2015-2016	ICRI Ad Hoc committee co-chaired by UNEP-CEP/SPAW-RAC and the Governments of Mexico, USA and France; regular phone meetings.
Updating and use of the regional list of contacts to disseminate regular information on the lionfish, its impacts and its control	2015-2016	Dissemination of information and peer-exchanges.
 Organization of a Lionfish Management Workshop (Special Session) during the GCFI annual conference, with the support of 	November, 2015	14 Presentations (good examples) focused on - best management tools and effective methods to

Activities	Dates	Outcomes
the SPAW-RAC, UNEP (Coral Reef Unit) and TE ME UM		promote, management and policy, socio-economic aspects to support decisions, main lessons learnt for control, local and national strategies adopted, possibly other marine invasive with similar patterns in the Caribbean, control deep populations and specific management in Marine Protected Areas and No-Take zones. Presentations and report available online on the SPAW-RAC website

2.4.1 Related activities (financed directly by the Government of France)

4. Support to the project 'Critical habitats, foraging and social behavior of large and endangered marine vertebrates in the Wider Caribbean region using new animal-borne camera systems' - (TOTAL Foundation, Florida International University and SPAW-RAC) 2014-2017. Three field missions organised between November 2014 and May 2016.

2.5 <u>Conservation and Sustainable Use of Coastal and Marine Ecosystems</u>

Activities	Dates	Outcomes
Conservation of coral reef/ GCRMN: Revitalization of the Caribbean- GCRMN (Global Coral Reef Monitoring Network), as a follow-up to the Coral reef monitoring workshop (Curacao, 2014), with the objectives 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.	2015-2016	 Restructuring of the Caribbean-GCRMN around a Steering Committee, chaired by the SPAW-RAC/UNEP-CEP, Regional Coordinator, and co-chaired by Maria Pena (CERMES, University of the West Indies), with the assistance from members at large, (experts, scientists, marine resources managers). Establishment of two active forums on-line: a leading/decision making group composed of the Steering-Committee and members at large (31 members) and an open forum for Coral reefs monitoring practitioners, (MPA managers, and scientists) 84 members. Development and endorsement of three level coral reef for ecological and socioeconomic data collection. Promotion of the network and guidelines in various meetings. See table of GCRMN Caribbean event attendance at: http://www.carspaw-rac.org/IMG/pdf/gcrmn-caribbean event attendance 2015-16.pdf.
Organization of the first GCRMN-Caribbean integrated Coral Reef Monitoring Workshop (Jamaica), with the support of UNEP Coral Reef Unit, the SPAW-RAC, the University of the West Indies and a number of regional organizations and programmes.	April 2016	25 Caribbean Coral Reef practitioners (Barbados, Saba, Saint Martin, Saint Barthélémy, Cuba, Sint Maarten, Statia, Jamaica) participated in this one week technical workshop, led by a team of 11 trainers from the GCRMN-Caribbean network (Steering Committee and members at large). The participants engaged in one of two training components, respectively dedicated to GCRMN-Caribbean bio-physical and socio-economic monitoring (SocMon). • Guidelines, and plenary sessions for developing integrative aspects of coral reef monitoring and foster collaborations.

Activities	Dates	Outcomes
Fund-raising activity: Development of a proposal to be submitted to the NFWF (National fish and wildlife foundation) in close collaboration with CERMES (UWI)	April-August 2016	Proposal developed and submitted targeting 3 activities to be held in 2017-2018: • Reinforcement training workshops for building capacity for integrated coral reef assessments (1 WS in Jamaica, 1 combined WS in Saint-Martin for the French and Dutch islands).
		 Initiation of site assessments in 6 locations (Jamaica, Saint-Martin, Saint-Bartelemy, Saint Eustatius, Saba, Sint-Maarten). Development of a Decision-Linking Guide for
		common decision-making using bio-physical and socio-economic data.
Reporting to the ICRI General Meeting 2015 (Thailand)	December 2015	Activities related to coral reefs and associated ecosystems highlighted during the ICRI meetings, in particular the revitalization process of the
Reporting to and attendance at the ICRI General Meeting 2016 (France)	November 2016	GCRMN-Caribbean and the development of Coral reef monitoring guidelines for ecological and socioeconomic data collection.
Sargassum Sharing regional data across the region Collecting information and experiences about the Sargassum influx to improve the development of models in response to the increasing incidence of such events which affect the marine environment, biodiversity and health in the region.	Since August 2015	 Launch and facilitation of an active platform of exchanges: "SPAW-RAC/UNEP-CEP Sargassum on-line forum" providing easy access to relevant documents on awareness, management and research about the Sargassum influx, as well as direct exchanges with stakeholders of various territories sharing their experiences. Development and sharing of a "Sargassum management brief" with information on the understanding of the influx and management recommendations co-written by the University of the West Indies, the GCFI and the SPAW-RAC and available at: http://www.cavehill.uwi.edu/cermes/getdoc/123bf91c-1565-414d-8e21-e59fb6f7ca2d/cermes_sargassum_management_brief_2016_08_24.aspx.
 Networking Gathering of a large public (academic, public and private sectors) concerned by the issue across the region Coordination of Sargassum-related projects and events around the Wider Caribbean region 	2015-2016	 Development of a network of various stakeholders through the on-line forum: scientists, marine resources managers, policy advisers, representative of tourism and fisheries sectors, conservation NGOs, etc.: 240 users (August 2016). Promotion of the on-line forum and SPAW Sargassum-related initiatives in various meetings in 2015-2016 (see Annex 2).

Activities	Dates	Outcomes
Support research on origins, impacts and ways to control Sargassum massive landings. Assistance of researchers in accessing to call for projects and connecting with other teams in the region or abroad working in close or related areas.	2015-2016	 Participation in two research steering committees- 1. "Caribbean Oceans" by the NASA Ames Research Centre team 2. "Predicting blooms of Sargassum in the Caribbean region and the Lesser Antilles" by the OMMM (Office of the Marine Environment of Martinique), the University of Southern Mississippi and the University of South Florida.
		 Participation in the French scientific consortium dedicated to the Sargassum influx led by the IRD (Research and Development Institute) Organization of a technical session "Understanding and management of the pelagic Sargassum influx in the Caribbean" at the 69th GCFI Annual Meeting in Grand Cayman, Cayman Islands.
 Transatlantic cooperation Collaboration with the Abidjan Convention and UNEP GPA to develop a global reflection to face the Sargassum landings in the Caribbean and West Africa. The SPAW-RAC facilitated the participation of a representative from the Abidjan convention to the last Regional Sargassum conference in the British Virgin Islands (March 2016) 	2015-2016	Organization of a side-event on Sargassum during the second session of the United Nations Environment Assembly (UNEA-2) with UNEP-GPA, Abidjan and Cartagena Conventions Secretariats, and the USAID WABBIC Programme. The side-event allowed discussion on the topic at a global scale. See: http://www.car-spaw-rac.org/IMG/pdf/pr_englishunea2 green room event on sargassum.pdf
Sustainable tourism and sustainable funding of PAs Since September 2015, the SPAW-RAC has implemented the Bluefinance project in Barbados funded mainly by the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) through the Global Coral Reef Partnership. Other partners include GRID-Arendal, the Blue Solutions project, IFRECOR (the French Initiative for Coral Reef) and the Organization 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. Bluefinance is implemented in Barbados by Bluefinance Economics for Coral Reef Ecosystems (ECRE) - an NGO whose primary focus is the development of economic instruments for marine biodiversity, in collaboration with the Coastal Zone Management Unit, Ministry of Environment and Drainage, Government of Barbados, under the coordination of the SPAW-RAC.	Sept 2015- Dec 2016	 Outputs from action taken towards the implementation of the Barbados Marine Managed Area, co – management through a Public-Private-Partnership agreement. Governance and financial feasibility study for the Barbados Marine Manage Area. Assessment of ecosystem service provision and use: Feasibility studies of Income Generating Activities >10 stakeholders meetings in Barbados Cabinet paper on BMMA creation and Public Private Partnership agreement BMMA Business plan Private Sector consortium of investors Communication tools (website, newsletters, promotional videos, presentation at regional/international events – GCFI, ICRI) Pre-feasibility studies for replication Methodology guidance documents

Activities	Dates	Outcomes
Conservation of mangroves ➤ Attendance to the Ramsar V Meeting of the Caribbean Wetlands Regional Initiative (Cariwet)	July 2016	 Promotion of the Cartagena Convention and SPAW activities, and identification of potential areas of cooperation between the SPAW Protocol and Cariwet.
Finalization of a second pilot-project in the north of Haïti targeting integrated mangrove reforestation and awareness raising, in close collaboration with NGO FoProBim, Haitian Government and local communities and the financial support of SPAW-RAC and France	January 2016	• 5 hectares of mangrove reforested with nurseries, several trainings with adults and educational activities for 300 school children.

- 2.5.1 Related activities <u>Participation in a consortium led by IUCN International to implement a project of ecosystem profiling and definition of an investment strategy for the European Commission and other donors and the European overseas countries and territories (OCTs) and overseas regions (ORs) named BEST III Preparatory Action for Europe overseas.</u>
- 5. In the Caribbean region, targeted OCTs include the Dutch and French SPAW territories and regions: the 6 Dutch OCTs (Saba, Sint Maarten, Statia, Aruba, Curacao, Bonaire), the French OCT (Saint Barthélémy) and 3 ORs (Guadeloupe, Martinique and Saint Martin). The ecosystem profile was coordinated by the SPAW-RAC and the Natural National Reserve of St Martin (RNSM). It presents an overview of the Caribbean European OCTs and ORs in terms of its biodiversity conservation importance, major threats to and root causes of biodiversity loss, and the socioeconomic, policy and civil society context in which conservation takes place.

The profile also presents assessments of patterns of conservation investment over the last decade. It defines a comprehensive suite of measurable conservation outcomes at species, site and corridor scales and identifies conservation priorities. Between 2014 and 2016, the Caribbean Hub organized 24 BEST III workshops with the local Governments and network of local actors and stakeholders and participated in 9 regional and international meetings. The consultation process that informed this ecosystem profile involved about 250 individual stakeholders and experts from about 145 local governments, local and regional institutions and organisations (41 from Dutch OCTs, 51 from French ORs and OT and 43 from UK OCTs). About 70 representatives of overseas islands local governments have participated to these workshops. The ecosystem profile will be accessible after the formal validation by the European Commission in Fall 2016.

BEST 2.0 Caribbean Hub

6. The SPAW-RAC is also in charge of the BEST 2.0 Caribbean Hub. The BEST 2.0 Programme is 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) by setting up a funding facility for small-scale and medium-scale field actions on the ground. Targeted OCTs include 7 SPAW territories (Saba, Sint Maarten, Statia, Aruba, Curacao, Bonaire and Saint Barthélémy).

Designed to provide substantive and effective support for actions at the local as well as the regional level, BEST 2.0 provides funding to projects in line with the objective of promoting the conservation of biodiversity and sustainable use of ecosystem services, including ecosystem-based approaches to climate change adaptation and mitigation, as a basis for sustainable development in OCTs. BEST 2.0 also seeks to enable, empower and strengthen local authorities and civil society organizations which are committed to local development, biodiversity conservation and sustainable use of ecosystem services in OCTs.

The first call for Medium Grant (<400,000 Euros) proposals in 2015 resulted in the selection of 4 projects in the Caribbean, whose implementation started in 2016, and are respectively dedicated to Invasive Species management, Sea Turtle Conservation, Coral Reef Restoration and the establishment of the first Marine Park of Aruba.

The second call for Small Grant (<100,000 Euros) concept notes opened in 2016, 19 applicants were pre-selected to submit a full proposal and it is expected that 10-12 projects will be awarded a grant by the BEST Steering Committee on 19th and 20th of October. Activities will start in early 2017.

ANNEX 1: FUNDING PROVIDED BY THE SPAW-RAC FOR THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE 2015-2016 WORKPLAN

1. Activities supported and implemented by the SPAW-RAC as per SPAW Workplan for 2015-2016

NB: The table does not include:

- Funds used for related activities
- Funds from other donors
- Salaries of permanent staff

	Year						
	2015				2016		
Programme component	Gov. of France	UNEP- CAR/RCU	TOTAL	Gov. of France	UNEP- CAR/RCU	TOTAL	
1. Programme Co-ordination	2,500	0	2,500	11,100	0	11,100	
Translation and publication of documents, website	2,500	0	2,500	11,100	0	11,100	
2. Strengthening of protected areas	0	0	0	11,100	0	11,100	
CaMPAM	0	0	0	11,100	0	11,100	
3. Development of guidelines for management of PA and species	10,000	0	10,000	25,000	0	25,000	
PA listing	5,000	0	5,000	12,500	0	12,550	
Exemptions under Article 11	5,000	0	5,000	12,500	0	12,500	
4. Conservation of threatened and endangered species	29,000	0	29,000	17,800	0	17,800	
Marine mammals	27,000	0	27,000	17,800	0	17,800	
Turtles	0	0	0	0	0	0	
Birds	2,000	0	2,000	0	0	0	
5. Conservation and sustainable use of coastal and marine ecosystems	32,100	0	32,100	47,100	0	47,100	
Coral reef monitoring	10,200	0	10,200	13,700	0	13,700	
Lion fish	11,100	0	11,100	0	0	0	
Sargassum	10,800	0	10,800	33,400	0	33,400	
TOTAL	73,600	0	73,600	112,100	0	112,100	

2. Salaries and running costs of the SPAW-RAC (including 2014) $\,$

	Year			
	2014	2015	2016	
General functioning of the SPAW-RAC	Gov. of France	Gov. of France	Gov. of France	
Missions	37,368	12,800	30,000	
Other functioning costs	15,729	22,200	22,200	
Salaries of staff	299,639	300,000	300,000	
TOTAL	304,990	335,000	352,200	

ANNEX 2: GCRMN-CARIBBEAN PROMOTION – EVENT & MEETING ATTENDANCE 2015-2016

EVENT / MEETING	Date & Place	Representative(s)	Comments
GCRMN-Caribbean Steering Committee Meeting	February 2015 Virtual meeting	8 Steering Committee members, Moderated by the Chair /regional coordinator at SPAW-RAC	-
AMLC 27 th Meeting	May 2015 Curacao	5 Steering Committee member , incl regional coordinator > 5 members at large	 Organization of a special session on GCRMN/Coral Reef monitoring collaboration May 21st Presentation of the GCRMN-Caribbean initiative Casual GCRMN-Caribbean meeting (15 pers including 5 SC members & 7 members at large) GCRMN-Caribbean lunch open moment for interested persons (15-20 pers)
CARICOMP-2 Meeting	June 2015 Miami	3 Steering Committee members, including Regional coordinator	Presentation by regional coordination input on partnerships/network aspects/potential collaboration
ECMMAN Workshop on Eastern Caribbean Coral Reef Monitoring	September 2015	Co-Chair of the GCRMN-Caribbean	Overview of GCRMN-Caribbean Initiative and introduction to technical guidelines provided to participants
XVI Congreso Latinoamericano de ciencias del mar – COLOCMAR	October 2015 Venezuela	1 steering Committee member (INVEMAR)	Presentation of a videoposter presenting GCRMN-Caribbean and INVEMAR involvement in the latter
68 th Meeting of the GCFI	November 2015 Panama	7 Steering Committee members Including Regional coordinators (SPAW-RAC & UNEP-CEP)	 GCRMN-Caribbean meeting for 2015 report and development of 2016 Workplan Short meeting on Jamaica's Workshop organization Poster on GCRMN-Caribbean Guidelines presented by regional coordinator
French Antilles Coral Reef Monitoring meeting	December 2015 Guadeloupe	Regional coordinator	Presentation on the GCRMN-Caribbean initiative & guidelines
GCRMN-Caribbean Guidelines Capacity- building workshop: towards Comprehensive Coral Reef Monitoring	April 2016 Jamaica	Regional Coordinator 11 trainers including 5 steering Committee members 25 participants	First GCRMN-Caribbean integrated Coral Reef Monitoring Workshop held from 18-22 April under the framework of UNEP-CEP, and with the support of UNEP Coral Reef Unit, the SPAW-RAC, UWI and a number of regional organizations and programmes.
International Coral Reef Symposium	June 2016 Hawaii	8 Steering Committee members Several Members at large	 2 Presentations Attendance to a Town Hall Global reef reporting – from science to policy. The roles of ICRS/ISRS, IUCN, GCRMN and others / Bridging the gap: science and conservation GCRMN-Caribbean members meeting at NOAA Speed session: review of video clip
International Marine Conservation Congress	July-August 2016 Canada	Reefs for Healthy People	Presentation on the GCRMN-Caribbean initiative at symposia 'Increasing the impact of coral reef science on conservation: current impediments and possible solutions

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EVENT / MEETING	Date & Place	Representative(s)	Comments
Meeting of the Caribbean Wetlands Regional Initiative (Cariwet)	July 2016 Saint-Lucia	SPAW-RAC Project officer	Overview of the GCRMN-Caribbean initiative & actions provided within SPAW-RAC/UNEP-CEP presentation
GCRMN-Caribbean Steering Committee Meeting	September 2016	Virtual meeting	Steering Committee endorsement of GCRMN- Caribbean Biophysical and Socioeconomic Guidelines
69 th Meeting of the GCFI	November 2015	Regional coordinator XX Steering Committee members	 Presentation on GCRMN-Caribbean initiative and accomplishments Video presentation (final decision pending) Steering Committee meeting for 2016 report and 2017 Workplan

ANNEX 3: SARGASSUM-RELATED EVENT & MEETING ATTENDANCE 2015-2016

EVENT / MEETING	Date & Place	Type of participation	Comments
Roundtable of MPA managers of French Antilles and Guiana	Saint-Martin, June 2015	Participation of SPAW-RAC Project coordinator to Sargassum-related discussions	
Sargassum Symposium, CERMES (UWI)	Barbados, August 2015	On-line access to the Symposium by live video streaming	First diffusion of the announcement of the launch of the SPAW-RAC / UNEP-CEP Sargassum on-line forum
Latin American and Caribbean Large Marine Ecosystems Symposium	Cancun, Mexico, September 2015	Virtual participation through Skype to the session "Sargassum and its impacts in the Caribbean region"	Skype presentation of SPAW Sargassum-related initiatives
68 th GCFI annual meeting	Panama, November 2015	Participation of SPAW-RAC team to the Sargassum session	Given presentation: "Regional cooperation to face Sargassum influx around the Wider Caribbean"
1 st symposium of the Caribbean Sea Commission	Trinidad, November 2015	Participation of SPAW-RAC director	
Regional Sargassum Conference (BVI Government & Virgin Unite)	British Virgin Islands, March 2016	Partipation of SPAW-RAC project coordinator	Given presentation: "Regional cooperation to face Sargassum influx around the Wider Caribbean"
69 th GCFI annual meeting	November 2015	Participation of the SPAW-RAC team	Organization and co-hosting of the Sargassum session, Presentation of SPAW initiatives, overview of the regional situation and management recommendations