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Protected Areas and Wildlife (SPA) in the Wider  
Caribbean Region

Gosier, Guadeloupe, France, 2 – 5 July 2008

**REVISED FINAL DRAFT**

**WORKPLAN AND BUDGET FOR THE SPAW REGIONAL PROGRAMME  
FOR THE 2008 – 2009 BIENNIUM**

*For reasons of economy, documents for the Meeting will be printed in a limited number. Delegates are kindly requested to bring their copies of the Working and Information documents, and to not request additional copies.*

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## ACRONYMS

ACS	Association of Caribbean States
AMEP	Assessment and Management of Environmental Pollution of CEP
AGGRA	Atlantic and Gulf Rapid Reef Assessment
BMPs	Better Management Practices
CABI	CAB International (formerly Commonwealth Agricultural Bureau)
CaMPAM	Caribbean Marine Protected Areas Managers (Network)
CARICOMP	Caribbean Coastal and Marine Productivity (Programme)
CAR/RCU	Caribbean Regional Coordinating Unit
CBD	Convention on Biological Diversity
CCA	Caribbean Conservation Association
CCA-CCAMP	CCA-Coastal and Marine Management Programme
CEN	Caribbean Environmental Network (Project)
CEP	Caribbean Environment Programme
CETA	Communication, Education, Training and Awareness of CEP
CHA-CAST	Caribbean Hotel Association-Caribbean Alliance for Sustainable Tourism
CI	Conservation International
CIT	Interamerican Convention for the Protection and Conservation of Marine Turtles
CITES	Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora
CMS	Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals
COP	Conference of Parties
CORAL	Coral Reef Alliance
CRFM	Caribbean Regional Fisheries Mechanism
CTO	Caribbean Tourism Organization
ECCN	Eastern Caribbean Cetacean Network
EIA	Environmental Impact Assessment
GISP	Global Invasive Species Programme
GCFI	Gulf and Caribbean Fisheries Institute
GCRMN	Global Coral Reef Monitoring Network
GEF	Global Environment Facility
GEO	Global Environment Outlook
GIS	Geographic Information Systems
IABIN	Inter-American Biodiversity Information Network
IBA	Important Bird Area
ICRAN	International Coral Reef Action Network
ICRI	International Coral Reef Initiative
IFAW	International Fund for Animal Welfare
IGM	Intergovernmental Meeting
IMO	International Maritime Organization
INVEMAR	Centro de Investigaciones Marinas de Colombia
IPCC	Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change
IRF	Island Resources Foundation

IUCN	The World Conservation Union
IWC	International Whaling Commission
LBS	Land-based Sources and Activities of Marine Pollution
MA	Millennium Ecosystem Assessment
MAR	Mesoamerican Region
MBRS	Mesoamerican Barrier Reef System Project of CCAD/GEF/World Bank
MEAs	Multilateral Environmental Agreements
MER	Marine Education and Research Centre
MPA	Marine Protected Area
NACRI	Netherlands Antilles Coral Reef Initiative
NOAA	National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
NFWF	National Fish and Wildlife Foundation
OAS	Organization of American States
OECS	Organization of Eastern Caribbean States
OECS-ESDU	OECS-Environment and Sustainable Development Unit
DoS/OIE (OESI)	U.S. Department of State, Bureau of Oceans and International Environmental and Scientific Affairs
RAC	Regional Activity Centre
RCP	Regional Coordination Plan
ROLAC	Regional Office for Latin America and the Caribbean
SBSTTA	Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice of the CBD
SCRFA	Society for the Conservation of Reef Fish Aggregations
SCSCB	Society for the Conservation and Study of Caribbean Birds
SIDA	Swedish International Development Agency
SIDS-POA	Small Islands Developing States-Programme of Action
SOE	State of the Environment
SPAW	Specially Protected Areas and Wildlife
STAC	Scientific and Technical Advisory Committee
TNC	The Nature Conservancy
UNEP	United Nations Environment Programme
UNEP-DTIE	UNEP-Department of Technology, Industry & Economics
UNEP-WCMC	UNEP-World Conservation and Monitoring Centre
UNF	United Nations Foundation
USAID	United States Agency for International Development
UWI-NRMP	University of the West Indies-Natural Resources Management Programme
UWI-CMS	University of the West Indies – Centre for Marine Sciences
WECAFC	Western Central Atlantic Fishery Commission of FAO
WCPA	World Commission on Protected Areas
WHMSI	Western Hemisphere Migratory Species Initiative
WIDECAST	Wider Caribbean Sea Turtle Conservation Network
WW2BW	White Water to Blue Water Initiative

## **WORKPLAN FOR THE SPAW REGIONAL PROGRAMME FOR THE 2008-2009 BIENNIUM**

### **1. INTRODUCTION**

1. This Workplan covers the 2008-2009 biennium, and sets out the priorities for the Regional Programme on Specially Protected Areas and Wildlife in the Wider Caribbean Region (SPAW). During this period, the Workplan will focus on activities to assist with the implementation of the SPAW Protocol, coordination with other regional programmes and institutions dealing with biodiversity conservation and management, particularly regarding protected areas and wildlife, and coordination with relevant global initiatives and multilateral environmental agreements.
2. The SPAW Protocol entered into force on 18 June 2000, and to date, twelve Governments are Contracting Parties (Barbados, Colombia, Cuba, Dominican Republic, France, the Netherlands, Panama, Saint Lucia, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Trinidad and Tobago, United States of America, and Venezuela).
3. The objectives of the SPAW Programme are:
  - (a) To significantly increase the number and improve the management of national protected areas and species in the Wider Caribbean Region (WCR), including support to national and regional conservation and management strategies and plans, where appropriate.
  - (b) To develop strong regional capability for the co-ordination of information exchange, training and technical assistance, in support of national biodiversity conservation efforts.
  - (c) To coordinate activities with the secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity, as well as other biodiversity-related treaties, such as the CITES, Ramsar, Bonn and Western Hemisphere Conventions.
4. This Workplan seeks to ensure continuation and expansion of the initiatives and tasks emanating from the 2006-2007 SPAW Workplan. The secretariat prepared this document taking into consideration decisions and recommendations of all previous SPAW meetings (Conference of the Parties and Scientific and Technical Advisory Committee), and pertinent issues (regionally and globally) to the objectives of the SPAW Protocol and Programme. Likewise, it takes into account the recommendations emanating from the latest meeting of the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice (SBSTTA-13) and COP-9 of the CBD.
5. The Workplan consists of six major programme elements (sub-programmes), these being:
  - (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
  - (e) Conservation and Sustainable Use of Coastal and Marine Ecosystems (including ICRI activities), and
  - (f) Sustainable Tourism

6. The Workplan also aims to promote the principles of the Ecosystem Management Approach (EMA) and their integration into the development and planning processes of countries to address the degradation of selected priority ecosystem services as identified by the Millennium Ecosystem Assessment. Likewise, to respond through biodiversity conservation and sustainable use of coastal and marine resources, to UNEP's 4<sup>th</sup>. Global Environment Outlook - Environment for Development (GEO-4) (2007) urgent call to action to address global environmental challenges: climate change, land degradation, water shortage and biodiversity loss as the most persistent and growing problems, indicating that ecosystem functioning is threatened at a level that increasingly affects human well-being. In this context, UNEP is currently developing an Ecosystem Management Programme (EMP), which will be taken into consideration during the biennium, to develop linkages and synergies as feasible, and when approved by UNEP's Governing Council.
7. The EMP proposes a holistic approach that has proven to be more effective in the conservation of biodiversity and ecosystems than the sectoral and biome-based approaches alone, which have led to the loss of biological diversity and productivity, fragmented habitats, and an overall decline in ecosystem services critical for human well-being. EMA acknowledges the inter-dependency of ecological and social systems, recognizing the multi-dimensional aspects of human well-being. This approach is also supported by other MEAs such as the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) and the Ramsar Convention.
8. Ecosystem thinking is often complex, and a major challenge is mainstreaming the ecosystem approach into development planning and management and policy practices. However, the increasing number of available economic tools for the evaluation of ecosystem services and an increasing body of successful case studies (e.g. CBD/SBSTA 12), call for a wider application of the ecosystem approach. A number of the SPAW Programme activities will aim to support the evaluation of ecosystem services.

## **2. PROJECT AND ACTIVITIES**

9. The following sections provide a summary of the objectives, activities, and expected outputs for all projects and activities that will be implemented under the SPAW Programme for the 2008-2009 biennium.

### **2.1 Programme Coordination**

#### *Objectives*

10. The coordination objectives of the SPAW Programme will be 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.

Activities

11. *SPAW Programme personnel*: during the 2008-2009 biennium, the day-to-day coordination for implementation of the programme activities will continue to be overseen by the following team:

<b>2.1 PROGRAMME COORDINATION</b>	
<b>Position</b>	<b>Main functions</b>
<b>UNEP-CEP Secretariat, Kingston, Jamaica</b>	
Programme Officer for SPAW	Responsible for overall coordination of the SPAW Programme
Bilingual Secretary (English-Spanish)	Provides support for the SPAW Programme
<b>SPAW Regional Activity Centre, Guadeloupe, supported by the Government of France</b>	
The SPAW/RAC is staffed with a Director, a Programme Officer (to be recruited shortly after the departure of incumbent in January 2008), and a part-time Documents Officer, and will continue to support the secretariat in various activities, especially coordination of actions mandated by the STAC and COP, fundraising, and the review and translation of a number of documents into French. At least one meeting will be held annually between the secretariat and staff of the SPAW/RAC, to coordinate and evaluate activities. The SPAW/RAC will cover the costs of these meetings.	

12. The main responsibilities and functions discharged in the implementation of the SPAW Protocol and Programme are:

- a) Coordination with relevant programmes, donors and organizations to develop synergies and collaboration on issues of common interest as appropriate:
- Association of Caribbean States (ACS)
  - BirdLife International
  - Caribbean Conservation Association (CCA)
  - Central American Commission for Environment and Development (CCAD)
  - Caribbean Regional Fisheries Mechanism (CRFM)
  - Caribbean Hotel Association-Caribbean Alliance for Sustainable Tourism (CHA-CAST)
  - Caribbean Tourism Organization (CTO)
  - AB International (formerly Commonwealth Agricultural Bureau)
  - Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES)
  - Global Invasive Species Programme (GISP)
  - IOCARIBE/UNESCO
  - International Coral Reef Initiative (ICRI)
  - Mesoamerican Barrier Reef Project (MBRS)
  - Organization of Eastern Caribbean States - Environment and Sustainable Development Unit (OECS-ESDU)
  - Society for the Conservation and Study of Caribbean Birds (SCSCB)
  - Society for the Conservation of Reef Fish Aggregations (SCRFA)
  - Small Island Developing States Programme of Action (SIDS-POA)
  - Swedish International Development Agency (SIDA)
  - The Nature Conservancy (TNC)
  - UNEP-ROLAC Action Plan

- White Water to Blue Water Initiative (WW2BW)
  - World Commission on Protected Areas (WCPA)
  - World Conservation Union (IUCN)
  - Western Central Atlantic Fisheries Commission (WECAFC) of FAO
  - World Heritage Convention of UNESCO
- b) Support implementation of existing memoranda of cooperation (MoCs) and of collaborative arrangements with relevant MEAs: Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD); Convention on Migratory Species (CMS); Convention on Wetlands of International Importance (Ramsar); Inter-American Convention for Sea Turtles (IAC); Western Hemisphere Migratory Species Initiative (WHMSI)
- c) Continue implementation of SPAW Protocol and development of its supporting regional Programme through:
- Formulation of the Workplan and Budget for the 2010-2011 biennium
  - Convening and servicing the Fourth STAC and Fifth COP Meetings in 2008
  - Promotion of the SPAW Protocol through presentations at relevant fora, communication with Governments and public awareness to engage support, additional Parties, and improve implementation
  - Consultation as appropriate, on the format for reporting under SPAW, harmonised with reporting requirements under other MEAs (including enhancement of monitoring and evaluation of regional projects, to gauge their impact). This activity will be implemented as feasible, in keeping with related developments within CEP, UNEP and other MEAs.
- d) Continuation of fundraising with relevant governments, donors and organizations.
- e) The secretariat will continue to coordinate and cooperate as appropriate, with other initiatives and projects relevant to coastal and marine ecosystems in the region, including the AMEP projects on Integrating Watershed and Coastal Area Management (IWCAM) in the Small Island Development States (SIDS) of the Caribbean; and Reducing Pesticide Run-off to the Caribbean Sea, approved by the Global Environment Facility (GEF) and being implemented through the CEP.

<b>SPAW Regional Activity Centre, Guadeloupe, supported by the Government of France</b>
<p>a) Joint programming of activities with the CAR/RCU and coordination during implementation of activities will continue as appropriate. During the biennium, the SPAW/RAC will work specifically on: further development and implementation of the marine mammal action plan, support species conservation activities (particularly migratory birds); the guidelines to prevent species from becoming threatened or endangered; as well as fundraising in coordination with the secretariat (and the European Union, in particular).</p> <p>b) Promotion of the SPAW Protocol and its objectives to assist with the ratification by non-Parties, including the European Union.</p>



Expected Outputs

*The major outputs of Programme Coordination will be:*

- a) The Fourth Meeting of the Scientific and Technical Advisory Committee (STAC4)
- b) The Fifth Meeting of the Contracting Parties (COP5) to the SPAW Protocol
- c) The Workplan and Budget for 2010 – 2011 which will reflect emerging biodiversity issues of regional importance and respond to SPAW objectives, while supporting goals of relevant MEAs, including CBD goals and the principles of ecosystem management

- d) Project proposals in support of SPAW objectives and funding
- e) Increased collaboration and synergies with relevant organizations and initiatives within and outside the region, and
- f) Greater involvement by governments in SPAW activities and additional Parties joining the SPAW Protocol

Proposed Budget

Activity	2008			2009		
	CTF	Other sources	Total	CTF	Other sources*	Total
Preparations for STAC and COP Meetings (documents)	10,000	-	10,000	-	-	-
Promote SPAW Programme at meetings and disseminate information	-	-	-	5,000	5,000	10,000
<b>TOTAL (US\$)</b>	10,000	-	10,000	5,000	5,000	10,000

\* To be raised from interested donors

*Note: Operational costs (salaries, travel, communication, etc.) are covered under the coordination budget of CAR/RCU*

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

### Objectives

13. The objectives of this sub-programme are:

- a) To strengthen the management of parks and protected areas of the Wider Caribbean, including the communication between parks and protected areas within the region;
- b) To assist Governments with the identification and establishment of protected areas as appropriate;
- c) To sensitise Governments about the need and importance of financing protected areas, and promote the development of funding mechanisms and strategies for successful park and protected area management; and
- d) To promote protected areas in the context of conservation of important natural resources necessary for the sustainable development of the region.

### Activities

14. Activities to be implemented during the biennium include:

<b>2.2 STRENGTHENING OF PROTECTED AREAS IN THE WIDER CARIBBEAN REGION</b>
<b>Activities</b>
<p>15. Strengthening of MPAs through activities of the CaMPAM Network and Forum:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a) Support a technical session and organizational meeting of MPAs at the annual meetings of the Gulf and Caribbean Fisheries Institute (2008 and 2009), to promote the exchange of information among managers, fishers and scientists</li> </ul>

- b) Support six MPAs through the Small Grants Fund (at least US\$8,000 per area) based on relevant criteria developed for this purpose, and focusing on livelihoods for sustainable tourism and sustainable fishing practices (proposals from MPAs within SPAW Contracting Parties and with activities responding to the ecosystem management approach will receive priority). Proposals addressing the following issues will be favourably considered:
- Enhancement of coastal zone management programmes, leading to the resolution of conflicts or promotion of local sustainable alternatives involving tourism stakeholders, activities or service providers;
  - Sustainable coastal tourism activities and practices that serve as a basis for MPA zoning, and the elaboration or application of appropriate regulations;
  - Raising awareness of local community, resource users or other stakeholders on the ecosystem services provided by MPAs, linkages to livelihoods and well-being and on the needs of sustainably managing marine resources for tourism in MPAs (e.g. coral reefs, marine mammal viewing; cruise ship and boating activities);
  - Exchange of experiences and best practices among MPA managers on sustainable fisheries and sustainable tourism practices
  - Follow-up to sustainable tourism activities implemented through the ICRAN MAR Project, in particular, application of the marine recreation tourism guidelines and standards developed under the Project
- c) Enhance communications and exchanges through the existing CaMPAM list serve
- d) Training of Trainers Programme (ToT) in MPA management in collaboration with the CETA Programme of CEP. Finalize the MacArthur Foundation Grant and develop new course in keeping with results of the ToT evaluation completed in 2006. Main activities will include:
- Oversee, support and assess follow-up local training by participants of the 2007 and 2008-2009 courses in their respective countries.
  - Design, organize and deliver one Training of Trainers course (2008-2009) in English, with an estimated 15 MPA managers. In keeping with emerging issues and the updated module and manual, this course may focus on coral reef issues such as resilience, as well as climate change adaptation and marine invasive species.
  - Dissemination of the revised Manual in English and Spanish, through the Internet, networks such as WW2BW and in CD format, throughout the region and elsewhere.
  - Coordination with similar capacity building activities such as those of the World Heritage and Ramsar Conventions in Latin America and the Caribbean, IABIN and WHMSI.
- e) Enhancement of the regional MPA database:
- Continue updating and improving the MPA database following its new structure, in collaboration with CETA and in coordination with the World Protected Areas Database of UNEP-WCMC and the IABIN database, SPAW/RAC and CaMPAM partners.

#### 16. Collaboration with CBD on 2012 targets

- a) Initiate process towards development of regional network of MPAs once PA Guidelines have been adopted.
- b) Support efforts of Parties to develop national MPA networks and in strengthening MPAs.
- c) Coordinate with WCPA, TNC and relevant organizations, the regional inputs to contribute to the 2012 targets, in particular regarding the development of the Caribbean Challenge Initiative which seeks to build support, political commitment, and financial sustainability, for protected areas in the region.

Expected Outputs

17. The major outputs of this sub-programme will be:

- a) Improved management capacity in several MPAs of the Wider Caribbean
- b) A consolidated and comprehensive MPA database for the Wider Caribbean available online
- c) Greater commitment and support from governments and donors for marine protected areas, towards achieving the 2012 CBD goals.

Proposed Budget

Activity	2008			2009		
	CTF	Other sources	Total	CTF	Other sources*	Total
Support MPA technical session at GCFI (2008 – 2009)	5,000	5,000	10,000	5,000	5,000	10,000
Six Small Grants for strengthening MPAs	5,000	20,000*	25,000	5,000	20,000	25,000
Support ToT Programme (regional course in 2009 and follow-up courses)	10,000	10,000**	20,000	10,000	35,000*	45,000
Finalize and maintain MPA Database	10,000	5,000	15,000	5,000	10,000	15,000
Develop regional network of PAs	-	5,000	5,000	5,000	10,000	15,000
<b>TOTAL (US\$)</b>	<b>30,000</b>	<b>45,000</b>	<b>75,000</b>	<b>30,000</b>	<b>80,000</b>	<b>110,000</b>

\* Funding from Sida

\*\* Funding remaining from McArthur Foundation grant

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

Objectives

18. The objectives of this sub-programme are:

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

Activities

Activities to be implemented during the biennium include:

<b>2.3 DEVELOPMENT OF GUIDELINES FOR THE MANAGEMENT OF PROTECTED AREAS AND SPECIES</b>
<b>Activities</b>
<p>19. Implementation of pilot activity to test the guidelines for the evaluation of protected areas to be listed under the SPAW Protocol (UNEP(DEPI)/CAR WG.31/3.Rev.1):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a) Collaborate with the SPAW/RAC, the SPAW Parties and regional experts to identify interested Parties for a pilot activity to test the proposed guidelines with a view to develop a cooperation programme and regional MPA network.</li> <li>b) Integrate as appropriate the socio-economic guidelines for coastal managers developed by the University of the West Indies-Natural Resource Management Programme (UWI-NRMP), following the training of MPA staff in socio-economic monitoring with funds from NOAA.</li> </ul>
<p>20. Develop criteria for the assessment of exemptions to Article 11 of the SPAW Protocol:</p> <p>Establish as feasible, the Ad Hoc working group to initiate discussion of this issue following the model of the working group established to review the criteria for listing species under the Annexes to the SPAW Protocol, and using the preliminary legal analysis presented in “Legal Review on Interpretation of Exemptions under Article 11(2) of the SPAW Protocol” (UNEP(DEC)/CAR WG.29/INF.5), as a starting point.</p>
<p>21. Develop criteria and guidelines to prevent species from becoming threatened or endangered (UNEP(DEPI)/CAR IG.25/INF.4):</p> <p>Establish the Ad Hoc working group as soon as feasible, to develop the draft criteria and guidelines as per Decision 8 of COP4 in 2006. The working group is to be coordinated by Island Resources Foundation with collaboration from the SPAW/RAC and the secretariat as appropriate. The SPAW/RAC in coordination with Island Resources Foundation, will continue to develop the preliminary draft until such time as the Ad Hoc working group is established. During this interim period, comments to perfect the draft from experts are solicited.</p>
<p>22. Application of the criteria for listing species in the Annexes to the Protocol:</p> <p>Initiate process to update the 1991 Annexes through a consultative review among experts nominated by the Parties, and in coordination with the IUCN Red List process and the Species Survival Commission, with a view to address species conservation issues in the Wider Caribbean, including critically endangered species of regional concern which are not yet included in the original Annexes. An intersessional working group could be established to work on the lists by group of species (e.g. fish, birds, reptiles, etc.).</p>

Expected Outputs

23. The major outputs of this sub-programme will be:

- a) A list of protected areas under the SPAW Protocol
- b) Preliminary criteria for assessment of exemptions under Article 11

- c) Guidelines and criteria to prevent species from becoming threatened and endangered
- d) Proposed threatened and endangered species to be listed under the Annexes of the SPAW Protocol.

Proposed budget

Activity	2008			2009		
	CTF	Other sources	Total	CTF	Other sources	Total
Guidelines for the evaluation of protected areas to be listed under the SPAW Protocol and pilot activity	10,000	20,000*	30,000	10,000	10,000	20,000
Develop criteria and guidelines to prevent species from becoming threatened or endangered	-	10,000*	10,000	-	10,000	10,000
Develop criteria for assessment of exemptions to Article 11 of the SPAW Protocol	-	5,000	5,000	5,000	10,000	15,000
Application of the criteria for listing species in the Annexes to the Protocol and potential species to be added to the Annexes	5,000	10,000	15,000	5,000	15,000	20,000
<b>TOTAL (US\$)</b>	15,000	45,000	60,000	20,000	45,000	65,000

\* Raised for 2008 from the Government of France

## **2.4 Conservation of Threatened and Endangered Species**

### Objectives

24. The objectives of this Programme element will continue to be:

- a) To build consensus in the region on priorities for the management of endangered and migratory species;
- b) To implement priority activities of existing species recovery and management plans developed under the framework of SPAW; and
- c) To develop, as appropriate, adequate management plans and programmes for priority species of regional concern, including those of economic importance.

### Activities

25. Activities that will be implemented during the biennium include:

<b>2.4 CONSERVATION OF THREATENED AND ENDANGERED SPECIES</b>
<b>Activities</b>
26. Conservation of Marine Mammals (in collaboration with ECCN, WDCCS, IFAW, IUCN Species

Survival Commission and SPAW/RAC).

- a) Finalize and implement the Regional Marine Mammal Action Plan (MMAP) for the Conservation of Marine Mammals in the Wider Caribbean. Focus will be given to the recommendations of the Experts Workshop (Barbados, 2005) and the “MMAP Priority Actions: Five Year Plan” (UNEP(DEPI)/CAR WG.31/4.Rev.1). Proposed activities:
- Continue updating compilation of information on bibliography, capacities, expertise, marine mammals in captivity, etc. and initiate development of a database.
  - Initiate compilation of existing knowledge of marine mammals in the region (e.g. biology, distribution, seasonal movements, population dynamics, habitat and ecology), especially in poorly studied areas, and make it available to stakeholders.
  - Identify gaps in scientific knowledge and make recommendations for research and monitoring to fill such gaps. At a minimum, it is important to collect baseline population data and catch statistics (both deliberate and incidental).
  - Improve information on takes of marine mammals in fisheries in cooperation with FAO/WECAFC, CRFM, and Fisheries Departments. The SPAW/RAC and CEP secretariat will develop stronger working relationships with fisheries authorities and stakeholders (academia, NGOs etc) in order to address matters relating to fishing-related mortality of marine mammals.
  - Support designation of marine protected areas and other management regimes, that maintain ecological connections (e.g. sister sanctuaries that promote the protection of transboundary assets) with user and stakeholder involvement and participation.
  - Build capacity to address stranding through Regional Stranding Response Training Workshops, using the model of the Eastern Caribbean Marine Mammal Stranding Response Training Workshop held in Trinidad and Tobago (15-18 Nov 2005), and support development of a stranding network and data archives.
  - Convene a regional workshop on best practices for marine mammal watching and improve opportunities for local communities to benefit economically from marine mammal based tourism. This activity will also be used to request that Parties contribute to a regional assessment of marine mammal watching activities, e.g.: by providing information on the number/location of whale/dolphin watching operations, species involved, guidelines or regulations in place, economic value, associated scientific studies, educational materials.
  - Encourage Parties to act in accordance with the SPAW Protocol in relation to captive marine mammals through the development of a process for evaluating and seeking exemptions and provide information on standards for captive marine mammal health and welfare.

27. Conservation of Sea Turtles (in collaboration with WIDECAS and the SPAW/RAC):

- a) Support existing National Recovery Plans (STRAPs) through implementation of national priority actions in particular in SPAW Parties
- b) Continue to support the Index Monitoring Sites for Critically Endangered hawksbill sea turtles (*Eretmochelys imbricata*), and following a peer-review (ongoing), support publication of sea turtle tagging manual, and best practices for monitoring sea turtle abundance at Index Sites, and a spatial database for sea turtle nesting habitats in the Wider Caribbean.
- c) In collaboration with the Interamerican Convention for the Protection and Conservation of Marine Turtles (IAC), support the regional workshop of experts on hawksbill turtles being planned for 2008, in keeping with CITES and IAC decisions to evaluate population trends and threats to their populations and habitats.

- |  |
|--|
| <p>28. Conservation of Birds (in collaboration with SCSCB, BirdLife, SPAW RAC):</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a) Continue supporting the West Indian whistling duck capacity-building efforts as a flagship species for the conservation of wetlands. Training activities planned for Cuba, Dominican Republic and St. Lucia, will be considered for support from SPAW.</li> <li>b) Support the production of educational material as feasible, in particular the laminated bird identification cards for land birds in SPAW Parties.</li> <li>c) Cooperation with Birdlife International to promote Important Bird Areas (IBAs) in the region, including examining linkages between existing protected areas, IBAs and SPAW listed species and evaluate conservation status, as well as threatened and endangered species which should be listed under the Protocol.</li> <li>d) Explore collaboration with BirdLife International, on development (and implementation) of action plans for threatened bird species (e.g. forest thrush).</li> </ol>   |
| <p>29. Continue supporting priority actions on queen conch and lobster fisheries management in the region, in coordination with FAO/WECAFC, OSPESCA, and CRFM.</p>   |
| <p>30. Continue collaboration with CABI on further development of GEF Project Proposal: “Mitigating the Threats of Invasive Alien Species in the Insular Caribbean” (2008-2012) (countries: Dominican Republic, Jamaica, St. Lucia, Trinidad &amp; Tobago):</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a) The proposed GEF project aims to establish an extensive framework addressing IAS that threaten aquatic and terrestrial ecosystems and their biodiversity. It will build on existing national measures to strengthen capacity to address biodiversity concerns and to link national and regional stakeholders. It will include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Gap analysis on existing plans and policies, outline national communication and capacity-building strategies for the full size project, and define pilot projects in 5 countries</li> <li>• Proposed final project components include the development of national IAS strategies focusing on increased national capacity and establishment of Caribbean-wide cooperation and strategy to reduce risk posed to biodiversity from invasive alien species.</li> </ul> </li> <li>b) Collaboration with the SPAW Programme will focus on capacity building through the UNEP/GISP training workshops model.</li> </ol> <p>Coordination will continue with AMEP on the UNEP/IMO Ballast Water Project in the Wider Caribbean, focusing on the transfer of invasive marine species in ballast water.</p> |
| <p>31. Capacity Building in Wildlife Conservation:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Potential coordination with U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service on implementation of training activities to increase capacity of professionals, MPA managers and educators on wildlife conservation, utilizing management issues as a point of entry to address species conservation needs, including socio-economic aspects of species conservation. In particular, collaboration with WHMSI in building country capacity to conserve and manage migratory wildlife, through communication on conservation issues of common interest, training areas, exchange of information needed for informed decision-making, and networking to address emerging issues.</li> </ul>   |

Expected Outputs

32. The major outputs of this sub-Programme will be:

- a) Preliminary marine mammal database for the Wider Caribbean and increased knowledge and information on marine mammal resources and issues, such as fisheries interactions, captivity and best practices
- b) Improved capacity for addressing marine mammal strandings and managing whale watching operations
- c) Tools (manual, best practices, and spatial database) to support and monitor Index Monitoring Sites for sea turtles
- d) Increased knowledge on population trends and conservation status of hawksbills in the Wider Caribbean
- e) Increased management capacity and knowledge in countries of the region on Important Bird Areas and threatened bird species

Proposed Budget**2.5 Conservation and Sustainable Use of Coastal and Marine Ecosystems**

Activity	2008			2009		
	CTF	Other sources	Total	CTF	Other sources	Total
Conservation of marine mammals and MMAP implementation	20,000	40,000*	60,000	20,000	50,000	70,000
Conservation of sea turtles	10,000**	-	10,000	10,000	10,000	20,000
Conservation of birds						
Priority actions on queen conch and lobster fisheries management	5,000	10,000***	20,000	10,000	10,000	20,000
Support regional project on invasive species	10,000	20,000	30,000	10,000	20,000	30,000
Capacity building in wildlife conservation in collaboration with WHMSI	5,000	-	5,000	10,000	20,000	30,000
<b>TOTAL (US\$)</b>	<b>50,000</b>	<b>70,000</b>	<b>125,000</b>	<b>60,000</b>	<b>110,000</b>	<b>170,000</b>

\* Includes funding raised from France for 2008 to support MMAP implementation (\$25,000)

\*\* To support the hawksbill regional conservation process, including meeting of regional experts with IAC

\*\*\* Includes funding from Sida during 2008

Objectives

33. The objectives will continue to be:

- a) To assist with the management of the coastal and marine ecosystems of the region on a sustainable basis, particularly through sustainable practices;
- b) To mobilize the political will and actions of Governments and other partners for the conservation and sustainable use of coral reefs and associated ecosystems such as mangroves and seagrass beds;

- c) To effectively communicate the value and importance of coral reefs, mangroves and sea grass beds, including their ecosystem services, the threats to their sustainability, and the actions needed to protect them; and
- d) To promote the ecosystem management approach and the principles and values of good governance for the conservation and management of marine ecosystems in the region.

### Activities

34. Proposed activities to be implemented during the biennium include:

<b>2.5 CONSERVATION AND SUSTAINABLE USE OF COASTAL AND MARINE ECOSYSTEMS</b>	
<b>Activities</b>	
35.	<p>In collaboration with UNDP and IOCARIBE, support the GEF “Sustainable Management of the Shared Living Marine Resources of the Caribbean Large Marine Ecosystem (CLME) and Adjacent Regions”, through coordination and implementation of its pilot project on <i>Management and Conservation of Reef Biodiversity and Reef Fisheries</i>:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The project will build on the current knowledge of coral reef ecosystems and reef fisheries, at the local, national and regional levels, as well as on relevant global and regional experiences in multi-sectoral and participatory management and conservation measures. It will follow the ecosystem based management approach, which is holistic, adaptive, multi-sectoral, and will promote wide participation from stakeholders.</li> <li>• The project will use the best available information, including latest credible science-based assessments, in reviewing and strengthening the management and policy processes at the local and national levels primarily; likewise, it will target potential strategic interventions, particularly with regard to the Code of Conduct for Responsible Fisheries in the Caribbean.</li> <li>• The pilot project will focus on strengthening the management capacity of large and transboundary marine areas, primarily in: Colombia, the Dominican Republic, Haiti, Jamaica and St. Vincent and the Grenadines.</li> <li>• The pilot project will aim to mitigate existing environmental impacts (over-fishing, pollution and habitat degradation as identified by a preliminary Transboundary Diagnostic Analysis (TDA) and strengthen the assessment, management, and governance frameworks required to promote the ecological integrity of the reef and its ability to withstand environmental shocks and stresses.</li> <li>• The pilot project will develop and foster networking and cooperation among the countries for management of marine resources, focusing on strengthening existing institutions, structures and mechanisms through sharing, collaboration and exchange. Large and remote reef systems in Jamaica (Pedro Bank) and Colombia (Seaflower MPA) will be included as major sites, as they represent highly productive areas subjected to significant fishing pressures. Lessons and experiences learnt in this process will be shared within the lifetime of the project to adjacent countries such as the Dominican Republic and Haiti.</li> <li>• The pilot project will also extend its activities to more distant countries such as the Bahamas, Belize, Grenada and St. Vincent and the Grenadines, in order to share and replicate achievements, good practices and failures, in the multi-use management of these ecosystems whose services and functions are so critical to the overall health of living marine resources in the Caribbean.</li> <li>• In all activities proposed, there will be significant community and stakeholder involvement at different levels including the decision-making processes.</li> </ul>
36.	<p>Main pilot project activities:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Strengthening of existing management frameworks based on the principles of ecosystem approach (assessment, capacity building, monitoring and evaluation). This will include assessment and</li> </ul>

<p>mapping in selected sites; review and analysis of existing management regulations and enforcement mechanisms at selected sites; stakeholder participatory enforcement; public awareness and education outreach enhancement (regulations and enforcement emphasis); and</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Transfer of best practices and dissemination of lessons learnt.</li> </ul>
<p>37. Continue support to the International Coral Reef Initiative (ICRI)</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a) Promote and support the celebrations for the International Year of the Reef (IYOR), in particular through strategized media efforts and dissemination of targeted information to decision-makers and planners, in collaboration with the CETA Programme of CEP.</li> <li>b) Continue to support and/or coordinate with the five sub-regional Caribbean coral reef monitoring nodes for the Southern Tropical America (STA) (coordinated by INVEMAR in Colombia); Eastern Caribbean (coordinated by the CZM Centre in Barbados); Netherlands Antilles Coral Reef Initiative (NACRI); Western Caribbean (primarily coordinated by the MBRS Project); and Northern Caribbean and Atlantic (NCA) (coordinated by UWI-CMS), including support for on-site training, technical assistance and data management and to ensure data contributions from the region to the global ReefBase database and annual GCRMN reef status reports. This includes support to their efforts on AGRRA, CARICOMP and ReefCheck, as feasible.</li> <li>c) Support as feasible, training workshops in the region on coral reef “Crime Scene Investigation” (CSI), to provide countries with tools on marine (coral reefs) injury investigation, impact assessment, financial recovery for damages and courtroom preparation. At least 4 workshops are planned with US support for the Dominican Republic, Barbados, Jamaica and Trinidad and Tobago.</li> <li>d) Support ongoing efforts by WRI on in-depth economic valuation of coral reefs, possibly for the Dominican Republic and Jamaica. This will include capacity building at the in-country level, to a variety of stakeholders to conduct data collection and analysis, as well as to apply the information as appropriate, for relevant policy and decision-making.</li> <li>e) Disseminate widely the lessons-learnt and best practices from the implementation of the ICRAN-Caribbean activities during 2000-2004, in particular those involving demonstration sites.</li> <li>f) Support as feasible, application of the recently developed “Ecosystem Services, A guide for Decision Makers” of WRI. This tool aims to help public sector decision-makers integrate ecosystem services in their decision-making process toward economic development, and responds to the findings of the Millennium Ecosystem Assessment. Currently, WRI is looking for opportunities to test this tool within development planning efforts.</li> <li>g) Attend ICRI meetings as SPAW secretariat and promote and support as feasible, participation of governments and experts from the region in those meetings.</li> </ol>

### Expected Outputs

38. The major outputs of this sub-programme will be:
- a) Economic valuation on coral reefs widely disseminated in countries of the region to be used in policy-making
  - b) Information on the status and value of coral reefs available through GCRMN, ReefBase, and other relevant sources.
  - c) Improved management of large marine ecosystems in the region, following the principles of good governance and the ecosystem approach.

Proposed Budget

Activity	2008			2009		
	CTF	Other sources	Total	CTF	Other sources	Total
Support to GEF CLME pilot project on reef biodiversity	20,000	100,000**	120,000	30,000	280,000**	310,000
Support IYOR with CETA	-	5,000*	5,000	-	-	-
Support GCRMN coral reef regional nodes	10,000	10,000	20,000	20,000	10,000	30,000
Support coral reef CSI training	5,000	5,000	10,000	5,000	5,000	10,000
In depth economic valuation of reefs	10,000	10,000	20,000	10,000	15,000	25,000
Application of ecosystems services tool	-	-	-	10,000	10,000	20,000
<b>TOTAL (USD\$)</b>	45,000	130,000	175,000	75,000	320,000	395,000

\* Funding received from Sida

\*\* Funds from GEF for CLME pilot project on reef fisheries and biodiversity

**2.6 Sustainable Tourism**

Objectives

39. The objectives of the sustainable tourism component will continue to be:

- a) To promote sustainable coastal and marine tourism practices, in particular around protected areas and critical or sensitive areas
- b) To develop effective linkages with UNEP-DTIE, CTO, the Caribbean Alliance for Sustainable Tourism (CAST), and other relevant organizations and initiatives engaged in sustainable tourism in the Wider Caribbean.

Activities

40. Planned activities to be implemented during the biennium include:

<b>2.6 SUSTAINABLE TOURISM</b>
<b>Activities</b>
41. Synergies with CTO and CAST in the development and implementation of standards and initiatives for sustainable tourism, including finalization and implementation of CTOs Caribbean Regional Sustainable Tourism Policy Framework
42. Continued coordination with and promotion of the Caribbean Blue Flag Campaign and other relevant sustainable tourism certification schemes
43. Continued dissemination of material and tools for capacity building in sustainable tourism practices

44. Building on the experiences in Mesoamerica from the ICRAN MAR Project, strengthen capacity in sustainable marine recreation practices and environmental performance assessments, while forming alliances with local businesses, MPA managers and local communities. This will include small grants and training workshops in collaboration with CORAL, to further advance implementation of locally developed marine recreation standards, and promote stakeholder dialogue for improved coastal and marine tourism practices.

Expected Outputs

45. The major outputs expected of this sub-programme are:

- a) Increased collaboration and coordination on sustainable tourism initiatives in the Wider Caribbean
- b) Increased knowledge and capacity within the marine recreation sector on sustainable tourism practices
- c) Increased alliances among communities, MPA managers and businesses for sustainable coastal and marine practices

Proposed budget

Activity	2008			2009		
	CTF	Other sources	Total	CTF	Other sources	Total
Training and implementation of better practices in marine recreation sector	10,000	40,000*	50,000	10,000	60,000*	70,000
Coordination with regional sustainable tourism practices (communication and travel)	5,000	10,000	15,000	5,000	10,000	15,000
<b>TOTAL (US\$)</b>	15,000	50,000	65,000	15,000	70,000	85,000

\* Sida funds under WW2BW

**Annex I: Budget of the SPAW Programme for the 2008-2009 Biennium**

**Annex 1. Budget of the SPAW Programme for the 2008 – 2009 Biennium**

Activity	2008				2009			
	Budgeted		Total cost	Required Balance	Budgeted		Total Cost	Required Balance
	CTF	Other Contributions			CTF	Other Contributions		
SPAW								
2.1								
Programme Co-ordination (salary costs and COP Meeting covered by OCCC)								
Promotion and Consultants	10,000	0	10,000	0	5,000	5,000	10,000	10,000
2.2								
Strengthening of protected areas in the Wider Caribbean Region*	30,000	45,000	75,000	45,000	30,000	80,000	110,000	75,000
2.3								
Development of guidelines for management of protected areas and species**	15,000	45,000	60,000	30,000	20,000	45,000	65,000	65,000
2.4								
Conservation of threatened and endangered species***	50,000	70,000	120,000	90,000	60,000	110,000	170,000	170,000
2.5								
Conservation and sustainable use of coastal and marine ecosystems****	45,000	130,000	175,000	70,000	75,000	320,000	395,000	115,000
2.6								
Sustainable tourism*****	15,000	50,000	65,000	25,000	15,000	70,000	85,000	25,000
<b>Subtotal</b>	<b>165,000</b>	<b>340,000</b>	<b>505,000</b>	<b>260,000</b>	<b>205,000</b>	<b>630,000</b>	<b>835,000</b>	<b>460,000</b>
Programme support costs								
13% (amount subject to change based on source of funds)	21,450	44,200	65,650	33,800	26,650	81,900	108,550	59,800
<b>TOTAL SPAW</b>	<b>186,450</b>	<b>384,200</b>	<b>570,650</b>	<b>293,800</b>	<b>231,650</b>	<b>711,900</b>	<b>943,000</b>	<b>519,800</b>

OCCC: Overall Coordination and Common Costs of the Caribbean Environment Programme

\* "Other Contributions" are from the McArthur Foundation for the Training of Trainers (ToT) Programme, and SIDA for CaMPAM small grants .

\*\* Includes SPAW/RAC support for the protected area listing criteria and the guidelines to prevent species from being threatened or endangered (funding from Government of France)

\*\*\* "Other Contributions" in 2008 reflect funds from the Government of France for MMAP and SIDA for queen conch and lobster fisheries.

\*\*\*\* Includes funding from GEF CLME pilot project on reef biodiversity for 2008 and 2009.

\*\*\*\*\* "Other Contributions" includes funding from SIDA for better practices in marine recreation activities for 2008 and 2009.