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Third Meeting of the Contracting Parties(COP) to  
the Protocol Concerning Specially Protected Areas  
and Wildlife (SPAW) in the Wider Caribbean  
Region

Montego Bay, Jamaica, 27 September, 2004

**REVISED STATUS OF IMPLEMENTATION OF THE WORKPLAN AND BUDGET OF  
THE SPAW REGIONAL PROGRAMME FOR THE  
2002-2003 BIENNIUM**



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## Acronyms

CaMPAM	Caribbean Marine Protected Areas Managers Network
CANARI	Caribbean Natural Resources Institute
CAST	Caribbean Alliance for Sustainable Tourism
CBD	Convention on Biological Diversity
CCA	Caribbean Conservation Association
CELB	Center for Environmental Leadership in Business
CEP	Caribbean Environment Programme
CEPNET	Information Systems for the Management of Marine and Coastal Resources
CI	Conservation International
CITES	Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora
CFRAMP	Caribbean Fisheries Resource Management Programme
COP	Meeting of the Contracting Parties
CTF	Caribbean Trust Fund
CTO	Caribbean Tourism Organization
DoS/OIE (OESI)	U.S. Department of State, Bureau of Oceans and International Environmental and Scientific Affairs
ENCORE	National Centre for Caribbean Coral Reef Research
GCFI	Gulf and Caribbean Fisheries Institute
GCRMN	Global Coral Reef Monitoring Network
ICRAN	International Coral Reef Action Network
ICRI	International Coral Reef Initiative
IUCN	The World Conservation Union

MOU	Memorandum of Understanding
MBRS	Mesoamerican Barrier Reef System
MPA	Marine Protected Area
NFWF	National Fish and Wildlife Foundation
NOAA	National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
OECS-ESDU	Organization of Eastern Caribbean States-Environment and Sustainable Development Unit
PADH	Physical Alterations and Destruction of Habitats
SIDS-POA	Small Islands Developing States-Programme of Action
SMMA	Soufriere Marine Management Area
SPAW	Specially Protected Areas and Wildlife
SPAW-RAC	SPAW-Regional Activity Centre
STAC	Scientific and Technical Advisory Committee
TNC	The Nature Conservancy
UNEP-GPA	Global Programme of Action for the Protection of the Marine Environment from Land-based Activities
USA	United States of America
USAID	United States Agency for International Development
WCPA	World Commission on Protected Areas
WIDECAST	Wider Caribbean Sea Turtle Conservation Network
WRI	World Resources Institute
WSSD	World Summit on Sustainable Development

## **I. Introduction**

1. The Workplan of the Regional Programme on Specially Protected Areas and Wildlife (SPAW) for the biennium 2002-2003 was reviewed by the and the First Meeting of the Contracting Parties to the SPAW Protocol, SPAW COP 1 and the First Meeting of the Contracting Parties to SPAW First Meeting of the Scientific and Technical Advisory Committee (STAC) (Havana, Cuba, 24-25 September and 27-29 September 2001 respectively) and approved by the Second Meeting of the Contracting Parties to the SPAW Protocol (Montego Bay, Jamaica, 6 May 2002) and by the Tenth Intergovernmental Meeting on the Action Plan for the Caribbean Environment Programme and the Seventh Meeting of the Contracting Parties to the Convention for the Protection and Development of the Marine Environment of the Wider Caribbean Region, (Montego Bay, Jamaica, 7 to 11 May 2002).
2. The preliminary status report, for the 2002-2003 biennium, was presented to the Second Second Meeting of the Scientific and Technical Advisory Committee to the SPAW Protocol (Curaçao, Netherlands Antilles, 3 – 6 June, 2003) (STAC 2).
3. At the time of writing, most activities for the biennium had been completed, while others have continued under the draft workplan 2004-2005. Some elements of the workplan that have been undertaken were part of other sub-programmes of the Caribbean Environment Programme (CEP), or with partner organisations.

## **II. Programme Coordination**

4. A Programme Officer continued to provide overall coordination for the Programme and a Project Manager for the International Coral Reef Action Network (ICRAN) Caribbean project joined the secretariat in January 2002. In addition to his responsibilities for ICRAN activities, the Project Manager contributed with the implementation of other coral reef-related activities of the SPAW Regional Programme as required. A Junior Professional Officer for SPAW joined the secretariat in February 2004, and has provided support to the implementation of the workplan since.
5. The secretariat continued to promote the SPAW Protocol through participation in, and presentation at, relevant meetings, communications with Governments, and information dissemination through various mechanisms. Mechanisms used to disseminate information concerning the protocol and programme include brochures (CaMPAM, etc.) and listserves (SPAW, CaMPAM, etc.). Major Meetings attended and primarily related to programme coordination and/or fundraising included:

- a) Annual General Meeting of the Wider Caribbean Sea Turtle Conservation Network (WIDECAST), to promote SPAW ratification among non Parties and strengthen coordination within the sea turtle conservation activities under SPAW, Miami, Florida, 1 to 4 April 2002;
  - b) Meeting with the Bahamian Ambassador for the Environment to promote SPAW ratification, Bahamas, 26 April 2002.
  - c) XII Conference of the Parties to the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES), to strengthen coordination between both secretariats, Chile, 3 to 15 November 2002;
  - d) Meeting with the US State Department, NOAA and US Fish and Wildlife Service, on financial support for SPAW activities, including the convening of the Second Meeting of STAC to the SPAW Protocol, Washington, D.C., 13 January 2003;
  - e) Meeting with Summit Foundation and the Centre for Environmental Leadership in Business (CELB) of Conservation International to develop coordination and explore opportunities for collaboration, Washington, D.C., 17 January 2003; and
  - f) Meeting with the National Commission for Protected Areas (CONAP) and SPAW Focal Point in Guatemala to promote ratification of SPAW Protocol, 18 February 2003.
  - g) Participation in the V World Park Congress 8 – 16 September to attend and open the Caribbean side event during which the “Insular Caribbean Regional Report” was launched, developed as a contribution from the Wider Caribbean Region to the Congress
6. The secretariat continued to coordinate and collaborate with other programmes (e.g. the Action Plan of the UNEP ROLAC), and with existing and emerging regional or global initiatives relevant to SPAW, such as the International Coral Reef Initiative (ICRI), the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States (SIDS-POA), the Marine Mammal Action Plan of UNEP, the Regional Coordination Plan being developed for marine reserves developed by the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) and The Nature Conservancy (TNC) on behalf of the marine programme of the World Commission on Protected Areas (WCPA-Marine), and the Mesoamerican Barrier Reef System Project. In implementing the SPAW Programme, the Secretariat collaborated with a number of national, regional, and international organisations (Appendix 1) through which counterpart, in cash, and/or in-kind contributions were made for implementation of activities.
7. Fund-raising efforts, with governments and partners, for the programme continued. Actions completed and negotiations underway include:
- a) Negotiations with the Government of the Netherlands Antilles for hosting the Second Meeting of the STAC in Curacao in June 2003, and with the Government of the United States of America (USA) for co-funding the meeting;

- b) Submission and approval of a project proposal to the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) for US\$1.5m to fund coral reef activities in the Mesoamerican sub-region under the ICRAN initiative and successfully matched by the UN Foundation for a total of 3 million. The project commenced implementation in early 2004 and it is described in the Revised draft Workplan and Budget for the SPAW Regional Programme for the Biennium 2004-2005 (UNEP(DEC)/CAR WG25/5.Rev.1).
- c) Negotiations with the International Fund for Animal Welfare (IFAW) for convening of the regional experts workshop in 2005 for the development of the regional marine mammal action plan, as per Decision No. 2 (c) of SPAW-COP2. USD 40,000 were from IFAW for this purpose
- d) Receipt of US\$80,000.00 from the U.S. Government towards funding for the Regional ICRI Workshop (Cancun, 12 to 14 June 2002), (see activity VI below);
- e) A project proposal for US\$76,500.00 was submitted in early 2003 to the WCPA-Marine/NOAA "Regional Coordination Plan", for strengthening the Network of Caribbean Marine Protected Areas Managers (CaMPAM);
- f) A project proposal for US\$146,900 was submitted to and approved by the US State Department Oceans, Environment and Science Initiatives (OESI), for support to SPAW activities on sea turtles and marine mammal conservation during 2004 - 2005.
- g) Negotiations with the Government of France to sponsor in conjunction with UNEP-CAR/RCU and the SPAW/RAC, a Workshop on the draft Guidelines for the listing of Protected Areas under the SPAW Protocol, Gosier, Guadeloupe, 19-23 April 2004.
- h) Negotiations between the Swedish Government and UNEP-CAR/RCU which have resulted in an agreement for support to the Caribbean Environment Programme 2004-2007. Support for SPAW (SEK 2,12 million) focuses on fisheries management (e.g. sustainable fisheries activities, spawning aggregations, alternative livelihoods). In addition the Swedish Government also supports a Junior Professional Officer for SPAW.
- i) A project proposal for US\$25,000 was submitted to and approved by NOAA, for training in socio-economic monitoring in MPAs
- j) A proposal was submitted to the European Commission for 800,000 for strategic partnerships and capacity building within the communities in the coastal zone in the Wider Caribbean Region focusing on alternative livelihoods; networks of demonstration sites and MPAs; training opportunities; best management practices; and coral reef monitoring.
- k) A Letter of Intent was submitted to the John D. and Catherine T. MacArthur Foundation for US\$ 450,000 for protection of endangered ecosystems in the Insular Caribbean Region through the sustainable management of coral reefs.

8. The secretariat received six (6) requests for internships during this period, two of which were selected to assist with specific SPAW activities for short periods.
9. Pursuant to Decision No. 8 of SPAW-COP 2, the SPAW Regional Activity Centre (SPAW/RAC) in Guadeloupe was made operational by the Government of France, in particular, by assigning additional staff effective 1 January 2003. The current staff includes the Director, a Programme Officer, and a part-time Documents Officer. Two meetings between the secretariat and staff of the SPAW/RAC have taken place to coordinate activities. The new team has been effective in assisting the secretariat with various activities, especially the review and translation of a number of documents, and implementation of relevant recommendations of the COP and STAC Meetings of SPAW. This includes, facilitating the partners consultation for the development of the regional marine mammal action plan (see activity V), implementation of recommendation 10 of the STAC 1, Decision IV of SPAW COP 1, and Decision II a) of SPAW COP 2, on the protected areas guidelines (see activity III). The SPAW/RAC presented a report to the Second Meeting of STAC (Curaçao, 2003) and more recent, information on the activities of the SPAW/RAC is presented in document UNEP(DEC)/CAR IG23/INF6.
10. Coordination continued with the Secretariat to the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) and the Secretariat to the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES). The secretariat participated in internet discussions of the Ad Hoc Technical Expert Group of the CBD on Marine and Coastal Protected Areas, as well as in CBD's internet discussion on Biodiversity Responsible Integrated Marine and Coastal Area Management (IMCAM), by providing the Caribbean perspective and case studies. The secretariat was represented at the XII CITES COP, in November 2002 (see 5c above), although unable to participate in the Second Hawksbill Sea Turtle Dialogue for the Wider Caribbean, held in the Cayman Islands in October 2002.

### **III. Strengthening of Parks and Protected Areas Network for the Wider Caribbean Region and Promotion of Guidelines for Protected Area Management**

11. The draft guidelines for the evaluation of protected areas to assist with their listing under the SPAW Protocol have been prepared by an electronic working group of experts coordinated by the SPAW/RAC, as per Decision No. IV of SPAW-COP1 and Recommendations 8 and 9 of the First Meeting of STAC. The guidelines were reviewed at the regional workshop of government-designated experts held in Gosier, Guadeloupe, 19-23 April 2004, and are presented to the COP 3 for review and further action.
12. The secretariat continued to support MPAs and the Network of Caribbean Marine Protected Areas Managers (CaMPAM). Activities undertaken included:
  - a) The Negril Coral Reef Preservation Society (NCRPS), the NGO with joint responsibility for the management of the Negril Marine Park in Jamaica, completed

- the implementation of the Small Grant awarded in 2001. This project, effectively resulted in the continuation of the coral reef and water quality monitoring programme in the marine park through the acquisition of diving equipment and chemical reagents in particular. Data collected was also made available to the University of the West Indies Data Management Centre and contributed to the regional report on the status of coral reefs.
- b) The Small Grant review panel awarded grants to: CORALINA for installation of dry toilets (including relevant training, education and awareness) at the Johnny Cay Regional Park of the Sunflower Biosphere Reserve, in San Andres Island, Colombia; Buccoo Reef Marine Park to assist with building capacity in GIS and remote sensing for improved management of Buccoo Reef Marine Park, Tobago; and St. Eustatius Marine Park in the Netherlands Antilles for the implementation of a fisheries baseline assessment in order to facilitate zoning and management.
  - c) Continuation of the publication of information relevant to MPAs in the CaMPAM listserv and in existing newsletters such as, MPA News and those of other relevant programmes;
  - d) Continued the regular updating of the CaMPAM list server to serve as an effective tool for MPA managers to communicate among themselves, exchange information and experiences, and to seek advice and help with problem-solving. Additional members were added to the CaMPAM listserv, notably the participants in the four Training of Trainers in MPA management course, (see activity IV below);
  - e) Considerable progress was made in updating the MPA database for CaMPAM with assistance from CEPNET and UNEP-WCMC. The database was redesigned in Access format to make it more user friendly and internet accessible. Additionally, it was integrated with the database developed by the Caribbean Natural Resources Institute (CANARI) and MRAG Ltd through the UK/DFID Project on Institutional Evaluation of Caribbean MPAs. Further improvements will be implemented during 2004-2005; and
  - f) Planning and fundraising for CaMPAM and the MPA regional meetings continued and CaMPAM was reactivated through partnerships with additional organisations (e.g. GCFI, TNC, IUCN, WCPA-Caribbean). Additional information is contained in the 2004-2005 Workplan (UNEP(DEC)/CAR WG25/5.Rev.1).
13. The secretariat participated in activities in marine zoning, particularly the planning for the experts' workshop on the Regional Coordination Plan for marine reserves in the Caribbean. This initiative, launched in 2002, is being coordinated by The Nature Conservancy on behalf of NOAA and IUCN-Marine. The initiative aims to improve the effectiveness of existing and proposed marine reserves (no-take zones), through the development of specific proposals and to contribute to other relevant initiatives in the region. Areas of focus of the RCP include biophysical and socio-economic research/monitoring; education and training; sustainable financing; management effectiveness; and communication and networking.

14. A number of projects dealing with the development of guidelines for assessing socio-economic impacts and management effectiveness of protected areas were initiated by partner organizations in the region, which respond to needs identified at previous ISTAC and STAC meetings. The secretariat is supporting the various initiatives, primarily through participation in the meetings and workshops and providing comments on guidelines being developed.
15. In an effort to promote coordination and develop linkages with relevant initiatives in the region, the secretariat participated in the following meetings:
  - Second Annual Advisory Board Meeting for the San Andres Archipelago Marine Protected Area System, San Andres Island, Colombia, 26 to 28 June 2002;
  - 55th. Symposium of the Gulf and Caribbean Fisheries Institute, and Workshop on Institutional Evaluation of Caribbean Marine Protected Areas and Opportunities for Proper Management, Xel Ha, Mexico, 11 to 14 November 2002; and
  - Meeting of the Steering Committee for the Caribbean Programme of the World Commission on Protected Areas (WCPA), for programme planning and preparation for the Fifth World Parks Congress (WPC), Bahamas, 17 to 19 October 2002.
16. In preparation for the WPC in September 2003, the secretariat collaborated with a number of institutions including the National Center for Protected Areas (CNAP) in Cuba, and the WCPA-Caribbean to ensure that the work on protected areas in the region would be highlighted at the Congress. This included presentations of Caribbean case studies by experts from the region, publication of a regional report and a presentation on the SPAW Protocol and Programme by the secretariat. The secretariat participated in the Congress and launched the Insular Caribbean Report at the Caribbean side event, as well as presented the SPAW and CEP programmes.

#### **IV. Training in Protected Areas and Wildlife Management**

17. UNEP-CAR/RCUs Third Training of Trainers Course on all aspects of MPA Management took place in Soufriere, Saint Lucia, 28 October to 9 November 2002, under the framework and sponsorship of the ICRAN Project (see activity VI below). The Course provided training for twelve MPA practitioners from eight countries throughout the Wider Caribbean, namely: Belize, Jamaica, Saint Lucia, Barbados, Anguilla, Antigua, Bonaire and Dominica. The fourth regional training course (for Spanish-speaking countries) planned for 2003 was held 27 January – 10 February 2004 at Keys Marine Laboratory, Long Key, Florida, USA in collaboration with The Nature Conservancy. Seventeen participants attended the course from twelve countries, namely Cuba, Mexico, Dominican Republic, Puerto Rico, U.S., Belize, Guatemala, Panama, Costa Rica, Honduras, Colombia, and Venezuela. The trained MPA Managers are expected to conduct training in their respective MPAs, and for this purpose they have submitted draft proposals to UNEP-CAR/RCU for financial assistance to carry out their local training

exercises. Since the start of this programme in 1999, 54 MPA managers and senior park staff have received training, who in turn have trained over 300 local MPA staff and stakeholders.

18. Funding was not available during the biennium to conduct training on wildlife management as originally planned.

**V. Conservation of Threatened and Endangered Species and Development and Promotion of Regional Guidelines for Wildlife Management**

19. In keeping with the approved 2002-2003 Workplan, assistance was provided to support spawning aggregation assessments in the region in collaboration with The Nature Conservancy (TNC). This included training to over 60 fisheries and MPA officers from several countries of the Caribbean on the biological, physical and ecological aspects of multi-species reef fish spawning aggregations and monitoring methodology, so that those sites can be effectively identified and monitored over time, and added to marine reserves. The regional report on the Status of Spawning Aggregations (SPAGs) in the Caribbean, was updated and a set of recommendations for a Caribbean Regional Conservation Strategy for SPAGs was also completed. These reports were made available to the Second SPAW STAC as reference documents.
20. The SPAW species database was redesigned during 2002 to make it internet accessible, with assistance from Monitor International. Subsequently, further modifications were made with the assistance of CEPNET. The database currently resides at CAR/RCU's website, where it continues to be improved, and will be updated during the 2004-2005 biennium if resources become available. This is the major outstanding issue, which will require assistance from the Parties, CEP member Governments and organizations (see Workplan and Budget of SPAW for 2004-2005 in UNEP(DEC)/CAR WG.25/5.Rev1).
21. The secretariat continued coordination and consultations with regional institutions and countries dealing with marine reserves and fisheries, including CFRAMP (lobsters and queen conch issues), the Caribbean Fishery Management Council (queen conch), and the FAO Western Central Atlantic Fishery Commission (WECAFC), on their efforts regarding responsible fisheries management.
22. In keeping with Decision IV (5) of the COP1 and Recommendation No. 10 of STAC1, the SPAW/RAC has initiated the compilation of information on the guidelines for preventing species from becoming threatened or endangered, in collaboration with relevant NGOs such as Island Resources Foundation, Wildlife Land Trust and Monitor Caribbean, and in consultation with the secretariat, with a view to develop a background paper for presentation for the STAC at the next available opportunity.
23. In keeping with Decision No. 2 (c) of the Second Meeting of the Contracting Parties of SPAW, the secretariat participated in the consultation for the planning of the regional

workshop to develop the regional action plan for marine mammals to be held in the spring of 2005. An informal consultation among the major partners (IFAW, CCA, OECS-ESDU, SPAW/RAC and UNEP-CAR/RCU), was funded by IFAW and held in May 2002 at the SPAW/RAC in Guadeloupe, to plan for the regional workshop. IFAW also provided financial support for the regional workshop to be held in 2005 (US\$ 40,000). An outline of proposed activities for consideration in the development of the Action Plan was drafted and included e.g.; education, awareness and training activities; compilation and dissemination of information identification and assessment of existing threats; provision of technical, economic and logistical support to MPAs relating to marine mammals; build capacity; and facilitate and support increased collaboration between MPAs organisations and networks;

24. Funding was not available during the biennium to undertake all the sea turtle and manatee recovery plans as approved under the 2002 – 2003 Workplan. However, the following activities were completed regarding SPAW species conservation:
- Finalization of the Manatee Recovery Plan for Trinidad and Tobago, including the development of the four-year Manatee Conservation Programme which outlines priority actions in the areas of management, training and education, research and monitoring and regulations and enforcement. The Plan has been submitted to relevant government agencies for follow-up and implementation. Preparation of the Plan included monitoring and assessment on the status of the population, several stakeholder consultations, as well as education and training with local communities to promote awareness and enforcement.
  - Distribution to all SPAW Focal Points and CEP member governments, of the report “Assessment about the Trade of Sea Turtles and their Products in the Central American Isthmus”, produced by Fundación ANAI in Costa Rica in collaboration with WIDECASST and other partners.
  - As noted above, funds were raised from the DoS/OIE (OESI) U.S. Department of State, Bureau of Oceans and International Environmental and Scientific Affairs for work on the marine mammals and sea turtle plans during the 2004-2005 biennium as described in UNEP(DEC)/CAR WG.25/5.Rev1.
25. At the request of UNEP Headquarters, the secretariat participated in the development of a UNEP-GEF proposal on Sustainable Conservation of Globally Important Caribbean Bird Habitats in collaboration with BirdLife International, relevant countries and local NGOs. The proposal, if approved, will provide technical assistance to the Bahamas, Dominican Republic, Jamaica and Cuba in the conservation of important bird habitats. In this context, the secretariat has continued discussions with BirdLife International to explore opportunities for partnerships during the 2004 – 2005 biennium as outlined in the proposed draft Workplan for SPAW (UNEP(DEC)/CAR WG.25/5.Rev1).

## **VI. Conservation and Sustainable Use of Major Ecosystems in the Wider Caribbean Region**

26. Funds raised under this activity were targeted by the donors towards coral reef related activities within the Programme. In this context, the activities focused primarily on implementation of activities in support of the International Coral Reef Initiative (ICRI), including activities under the International Coral Reef Action Network. Major activities in support of ICRI included:

- Continued support for coral reef monitoring throughout the region, including training, data analysis and sub-regional reports on the status of coral reefs. With ICRAN support and funding from the US Government, the Secretariat collaborated with the Global Coral Reef Monitoring Network (GCRMN) in the strengthening of the sub-regional nodes of the GCRMN for reef monitoring, data gathering and analysis, and dissemination of information. Memoranda of Understanding (MOU) were developed with the Instituto de Investigaciones Marinas y Costeras (INVEMAR) in Colombia and the University of the West Indies/Centre for Marine Sciences to further develop and support the southern and northern nodes of the GCRMN respectively. Countries affiliated with the Northern Caribbean node of the GCRMN are: the Bahamas, Bermuda, Cayman Islands, Cuba, Dominican Republic, Haiti, Jamaica, and the Turks and Caicos Islands. The assistance provided to the Centre for Marine Sciences at the University of the West Indies (CMS/UWI) contributed towards formalizing its functioning as the data depository for GCRMN/ReefBase within the region. Countries participating in the Southern regional node include: Colombia, Costa Rica, Panama and Venezuela. Both organizations, INVEMAR and CMS/UWI, are making steady progress in establishing and strengthening arrangements with the relevant agencies in the member countries to conduct monitoring activities. The results and information resulting from these nodes, along with additional information facilitated through UNEP-CAR/RCU, contributed towards the sub-regional reports for the Status of Coral Reefs of the World 2002, produced by the GCRMN (available to the Second STAC Meeting as a reference document). All activities have been completed and terminal reports have been submitted. The region is now collating information for inclusion in the next Status of Coral Reefs of the World: 2004 report due later in 2004 and there will be chapters from the 5 Caribbean Nodes (i.e. Northern, Eastern, Southern, Mesoamerican and Netherlands Antilles node);
- Arrangements were finalized to provide further assistance to the Eastern Caribbean to conduct coral reef monitoring activities. This will be coordinated by the Coastal Zone Management Unit (CZMU) in Barbados. Through this agreement, Reef Check monitoring will be conducted in Antigua and Barbuda, Dominica, Grenada and Carriacou, St Kitts and Nevis, St. Vincent and the Grenadines and Trinidad and Tobago. Funds were disbursed in December 2003 and monitoring activities are underway with a planned completion date of September 2004. Surveys have been completed in Saint Vincent and the Grenadines and Grenada;

- Through the efforts of the CCDC/CMS/UWI and under the framework of the ICRAN project the Jamaica Coral Reef Monitoring Network (JCRMN) has been formed and involves a volunteer group from a number of organizations including the University Sub-aqua Club (USAC), Portland Bight Protected Area (PBPA), Montego Bay Marine Park, National Environment and Planning Agency (NEPA). To date the JCRMN has had four meetings and has embarked upon a number of coral reef monitoring activities. Reef Check assessments were conducted in the Portland Bight Protected Area (4-7 December 2003). Capacity building in Reef Check and CARICOMP monitoring methodology were conducted at the UWI, Discovery Bay Marine Laboratory and the Port Royal Marine Laboratory was conducted prior to this exercise. A draft Strategic Plan for the development of the node has been prepared and is currently being reviewed. A number of funding proposals have been drafted and submitted to donor agencies to further support the activities of the JCRMN and the NCA sub-regional node of the GCRMN. JCRMN received funding from the ICRI SGF to conduct additional reef monitoring activities in the Portland Bight Protected Area in Jamaica. Data collection commenced on 28-30 May 2004 with a three-day expedition. A preliminary report will be presented at the 10<sup>th</sup> ICRS.
  - The JCRMN in conjunction with UNEP-CAR/RCU, Reef Check and ICRAN conducted a capacity building exercise on the Reef Check methodology for 15 members of the Sandals (hotel chain) dive team, at Beaches Boscobel, 7-9 February 2004.
  - A major activity during the biennium was the planning, convening and follow-up of the ICRI Regional Workshop for the Tropical Americas was held in Cancun, Mexico on 12 to 14 June 2002. The workshop was made possible through funding provided by the US Government (US\$80,000) and the UN Foundation (US\$40,000) through ICRAN. This major event, hosted and facilitated by the Comisión Nacional de Areas Naturales Protegidas (CONANP) of Mexico, was attended by approximately 130 participants from 32 countries. The workshop focused on reviewing major actions and best management practices implemented in support of the Regional Agenda for Action for the Tropical Americas, adopted in 1995. It also identified priority needs and recommendations for action, in the areas of integrated coastal zone management and land-based pollution, MPAs, sustainable tourism, and fisheries and local communities, and provided an opportunity for researchers, managers and other stakeholders to prepare recommendations for the sustainable use of coral reefs. The outputs include a series of recommendations outlined under two Resolutions. Resolution I, is the Cancun Declaration on Improving Reef Conditions for the Tropical Americas and Resolution II, suggests incorporating a number of elements for updating the Regional Agenda for Action for the Tropical Americas. Details are presented in the Report of the Regional Workshop of the Tropical Americas, presented to the Second STAC Meeting as an information document.
27. With regards to ICRAN, management activities included initiation of the project at the four demonstration sites as follows:

- a) Implementation of an environmental education outreach project for Hol Chan Marine Reserve (HCMR), San Pedro Town and surrounding communities in Belize. Staff of the HCMR have received training in SCUBA diving to instructor level coral reef ecology and marine life identification and they in turn will train volunteers to conduct monitoring within the MPA. A number of public presentations have been conducted as the public education and community outreach programme is being developed with Educational programs established with seven elementary schools in San Pedro Town and one in Caye Caulker. HCMR organized “Reef Week” from April 19 to 25 2004. It consisted of a week long of activities celebrating Earth Day. The activities included a night of lecture with MPA Managers from other parts of the country and a day of educational fun on the beach with posters and other presentations for school kids and glass bottom boat rides to the reef. A mangrove cleanup with local schools and volunteers was also conducted. Approximately 60 volunteers participated in this programme. A number of public education materials, including 3 brochures and 2 booklets, have been produced;
- b) Implementation of the targeted communications plan for the Soufriere Marine Management Area (SMMA), in St. Lucia. The SMMA has conducted a number of presentations to schools and hotels, produced the first in a series of newsletters, and a documentary entitled “Small Activities, Big Impacts”, and continues to maintain the salt water aquarium, a major educational tool. Information from the documentary was used to produce a number of public service announcements as well as advertisements and were aired. Additionally, the SMMA, as a demonstration site facilitated a ranger exchange with the Negril Marine Park, in Jamaica, an ICRAN Target Site to share best practices. All project activities have been completed;
- c) Implementation of activities at the Sian Ka’an Biosphere Reserve (SKBR), in Mexico, including technical assistance and capacity-building. This includes implementation of sections of the management plan, environmental monitoring, a socio-economic assessment of the Javier Rojo Gomez local community, establishment of a signage programme, transfer of appropriate technology to address the problem of domestic waste in the Javier Rojo Gomez community and an exchange programme with a fishing community in San Blas, Panama, to share best practices on sustainable lobster fisheries management. All project activities have been completed and the secretariat is awaiting the final report. The team from the Sian Ka’an Biosphere Reserve shared best practices with personnel from other MPAs at the Gulf and Caribbean Fisheries Institute (GCFI) 55th Annual Symposium from 11 to 15 November 2002, in Xel-Há, México, including a preliminary socio-economic assessment of the coastal community of Javier Rojo Gomez. As result of the latter the publication “Socio-economic Assessment of Punta Allen: A Tool for the Management of a Coastal Community” is now available and being disseminated throughout the region; and
- d) Strengthening the fundraising capacity within the Bonaire National Marine Park (BNMP) and other NGOs in Bonaire, which support the Marine Park. Under the current project, a manager has been brought in to implement the private mooring

project, and a fee collection system to further generate funds for the Park. The Park Manager organized a series of training workshops on 11-12 December 2003 in conjunction with the Coral Reef Alliance (CORAL) to further enhance the fundraising capabilities of park staff, as well as personnel from NGOs working with the BNMP. A Management Plan has been developed for Lac Bay. STINAPA Bonaire has requested that the remaining funds under this MOU be utilized to initiate the establishment of Fish Protected Areas or No Take Marine Reserves (NTMRs).

28. Activities in the area of Assessment and Information Dissemination conducted under ICRAN include:

- a) The threats-based analysis of coral reefs in the Wider Caribbean Region, being undertaken by the World Resources Institute (WRI). The Reefs@Risk analysis is a tool for analyzing the impacts of human activities on coral reefs. A Reefs@Risk Caribbean Workshop was held on 22 to 24 October 2002, in Miami, in order to review existing data and information on reef threats in the region and identify gaps. There were 35 experts including scientists, coastal resource managers, regional data managers, international policy experts and conservation professionals. The subject areas covered over the three days were:
  - Improvement of a base mapping of coral reef locations,
  - Review of Reefs@Risk analysis methods for examining threats (namely coastal development, marine based pollution, land-based sources of pollution, and overfishing),
  - Appropriate approaches for examining coral bleaching and coral disease,
  - Data available for evaluating management effectiveness within MPAs,
  - Economic valuation of coral reefs and
  - Base data sets on coral reefs and background information on threats, including information on population densities, coastal development, over-fishing and land based sources of marine pollution. Watershed boundaries are currently being compiled. This is geared towards developing a comprehensive threats estimate for coral reefs. Results will be shared with project partners for review and comments in 2004 and a summary report prepared. Additionally, a GIS data CD will be produced in 2004, and will be widely disseminated among governments and organizations.
- b) UNEP-CAR/RCU facilitated the creation of an ICRAN-Caribbean webpage in March 2002, and it was added to its website <http://www.cep.unep.org>. The web address for the ICRAN-Caribbean web page is: <http://www.cep.unep.org/programmes/spaw/icran/icran.htm>;
- c) An ICRAN brief and editorial appeared in CEPNews (which is posted on the UNEP-CAR/RCU website) to highlight the progress made by ICRAN in the Caribbean for 2002. Links were established with selected e-groups including CaMPAM, CC-Reefs, CCA Members, IUCN, ICRI Forum and GCFI in order to circulate relevant information on the ICRAN project;

- d) In conjunction with CEPNET, information was posted on [www.eco-hindsight.org](http://www.eco-hindsight.org) website promoting UNEP-CAR/RCU and ICRAN capacity building activities;
  - e) Information on the Training of Trainers Programme in the Caribbean was provided to the UNEP-Division of Environmental Policy Implementation for review and possible recognition as a success story; and articles on the Training Course in St. Lucia and on activities of the demonstration sites were contributed towards the first ICRAN newsletter;
  - f) An ICRAN Caribbean e-group was created to facilitate dissemination and exchange of information among individuals in the Caribbean involved in ICRAN projects; and
  - g) ICRAN activities in the Caribbean and other relevant SPAW activities on MPAs and coral reefs were presented and promoted at the Second International Tropical Marine Ecosystems Symposium (ITMEMS II), Manila, Philippines, 22 to 27 March 2003, organized under the framework of the International Coral Reef Initiative (ICRI). Through funding provided by the US Government and UNEP, a number of experts from the region were sponsored to allow for their participation and presentation of Caribbean case studies. A total of 11 participants were sponsored but only 5 attended due to safety concerns on international travel at that time.
29. Activities in the area of fundraising conducted under this sub-programme include:
- a) Two project proposals were prepared and submitted to the US National Fish & Wildlife Foundation (NFWF) and NOAA in 2002 and 2003, respectively. The NFWF project was approved and aims at strengthening MPAs in the Caribbean through the implementation of best practices at ICRAN Target Sites. The proposal to NOAA aims to provide technical assistance and capacity building of the Northern Caribbean Sub-regional Node of the GCRMN being coordinated by the Centre for Marine Sciences of the University of the West Indies;
  - b) UNEP-CAR/RCU collaborated in the preparation of the Type II proposal submitted by ICRAN to the World Summit on Sustainable Development (WSSD), in September 2002; and
  - c) Informal consultations were held with Environmental Defense to develop partnerships within ICRAN and raise additional funds. Consultations with USAID are detailed below (see third bullet in paragraph 30 below).
30. The following meetings were attended by the secretariat to further develop activities in support of ICRI objectives and ensure coordination with these initiatives:
- Science Advisory Committee Meeting of the National Centre for Caribbean Coral Reef Research (NCORE), Miami, Florida, 21 to 24 July 2002;
  - Meeting to coordinate and develop ICRAN activities within the Mesoamerican Reef Alliance with relevant partners, Washington, D.C., 13 to 17 January 2003; and
  - Consultation with USAID, the MBRS Project and PROARCA representatives on the development of the activities for the Mesoamerican Reef Alliance under ICRAN, in

Guatemala, 19 to 20 February 2003. These last two meetings resulted in the development of the Cooperative Agreement with USAID for US\$1.5 million to support coral reef activities within ICRAN in the Mesoamerican Barrier Reef sub-region during 2004 – 2005 with matching funds from the UN Foundation. A number of organizations including representatives from PROARCA and MBRS/GEF Projects and the ICRAN Partners participated in the process. The geographical scope of the project includes primarily the Mesoamerican Caribbean Reef Eco-region (Belize, Guatemala, Honduras & Mexico) and possibly the east coast of Nicaragua. The project components are Watershed Management, Sustainable Tourism, and Sustainable Fisheries. Work plans for the implementation of activities are under development. The project got underway in early 2004 with the official signing ceremony on 3<sup>rd</sup> February 2004 and the subsequent hiring of the ICRAN MAR Project Coordinator and a Project Administrative Officer both based in Belize at the Fisheries Compound, Princess Margaret Drive,

31. With regard to sustainable tourism, the secretariat continued coordination with relevant institutions to promote sustainable tourism practices. The secretariat participated in the Blue Flag Caribbean Workshops in 2002 and 2003, in particular to assist with the development of the beach water quality criterion consistent with the requirements and objectives of the Land-based Sources of Pollution (LBS) and SPAW Protocols. UNEP-CAR/RCU are members of the Caribbean Regional Jury. Linkages were also established with the Center for Environmental Leadership in Business (CELB) of Conservation International (CI), which promotes sustainable practices within the private sector, with a view to coordinate activities of mutual interest. In this regard the secretariat participated in the conference “Making Biodiversity Work for Your Travel Business: Increasing Profitability While Protecting the Environment”, held at the Punta Cana Resort and Club, in the Dominican Republic from 24 to 26 April 2003.
32. The secretariat collaborated with the Global Programme of Action of UNEP (UNEP-GPA) in the development of a prototype clearinghouse node on Physical Alteration and Destruction of Habitats (PADH). The PADH is intended to provide global level generic information on four areas of focus for the GPA, tourism, mining, aquaculture, and ports & harbours. The Preliminary Assessment for the development of the Caribbean node focused on the tourism sector.

## **Annex 1**

### **SPAW Partner Institutions during the 2002-2003 Biennium**

Association of Caribbean States (ACS)

Bonaire National Marine Park (BNMP)

Buccoo Reef Marine Park (BRMP)

Caribbean Conservation Association (CCA)

Caribbean Coastal and Marine Productivity (CARICOMP)

Caribbean Environmental Health Institute (CEHI)

Caribbean Hotel Association/Caribbean Action for Sustainable Tourism (CHA/CAST)

Caribbean Natural Resources Institute (CANARI)

Caribbean Tourism Organization (CTO)

Central American Commission for Environment and Development (CCAD)

Centro Nacional de Areas Protegidas (CNAP) de Cuba

Comisión Nacional de Areas Naturales Protegidas de Mexico (CONANP)

Corporation for the Sustainable Development of the Archipelago of San Andres, Old Providence/Santa Catalina (CORALINA)

Coastal Zone Management Unit (CZMU), Barbados

Eastern Caribbean Coalition for Environmental Awareness (ECCEA)

Hol Chan Marine Reserve (HCMR)

International Coral Reef Action Network (ICRAN)

Institute of Marine Affairs (IMA) of Trinidad and Tobago

International Fund for Animal Welfare (IFAW)

Instituto de Investigaciones Marinas y Costeras (INVEMAR) of Colombia

Island Resources Foundation (IRF)

Jamaica Coral Reef Monitoring Network (JCRMN)

Monitor International (MI)

National Environmental & Planning Agency of Jamaica (NEPA)

U.S. National Oceanic & Atmospheric Administration (NOAA)

Negril Coral Reef Protection Society (NCRPS)

Organization of Eastern Caribbean States-Environment & Sustainable Development Unit  
(OECS-ESDU)

Secretariat to the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna  
and Flora (CITES)

Sian Ka'an Biosphere Reserve (SKBR)

Soufriere Marine Management Area (SMMA)

St. Eustatius Marine Park

The Nature Conservancy (TNC)

The Third Millennium Foundation

The World Bank (WB)

The World Conservation Union (IUCN)

UNEP Global Programme of Action for the Protection of the Marine Environment from  
Land-based Activities (UNEP-GPA)

UNEP World Conservation and Monitoring Centre (UNEP-WCMC)

US Fish & Wildlife Foundation (USFWF)

Wider Caribbean Sea Turtle Conservation Network (WIDECAST)

World Commission on Protected Areas (WCPA)

## Annex 2

### SPAW Budget

#### Budget for the Caribbean Environment Programme for the biennium 2002 – 2003

Activity	2002			2003			Required Balance
	Budgeted		Total Cost	Budgeted		Total Cost	
	CTF	Other Contributions		CTF	Other Contributions		
<b>SPAW</b>							
a) Co-ordination (salary costs covered by OCCC)							
Consultants	0	0	0	12,000	0	12,000	0
Assist Governments with legislation	0	0	20,000	0	0	30,000	30,000
b) Strengthening of parks and protected areas in the Wider Caribbean Region and promotion of guidelines for protected area management*	8,000	50,000	58,000	20,000 <sup>1</sup>	50,000	70,000	50,000
c) Training in protected areas management*	0	43,000	43,000	0	75,000	75,000	0
d) Conservation of Threatened and Endangered Species and Development and Promotion of Regional Guidelines for Wildlife Management**	25,000	0	25,000	0	0	80,000	80,000

<sup>1</sup> Reflects savings from previous years for MPA training activities supported by the World Bank

Activity	2002			2003			Required Balance
	Budgeted		Total Cost	Budgeted		Total Cost	
e) Conservation and Sustainable Use of Major Ecosystems in the Wider Caribbean Region***	25,000	280,000	355,000	25,000	150,000	175,000	0
<b>Sub-total</b>	<b>58,000</b>	<b>373,000</b>	<b>501,000</b>	<b>57,000</b>	<b>355,000</b>	<b>442,000</b>	<b>160,000</b>
<b>Programme Support costs 13% (amount subject to change based on source of funds)</b>	7,590	48,490	65,130	7,410	46,150	57,460	20,800
<b>TOTAL SPAW</b>	<b>65,540</b>	<b>421,490</b>	<b>566,130</b>	<b>64,410</b>	<b>401,150</b>	<b>499,460</b>	<b>180,800</b>

“Other contributions” only includes cash contributions to CAR/RCU and does not include in-kind contributions from partner organizations which have been important

\* “Other contributions” in both years are from ICRAN Action Phase (UN Foundation)

\*\* Includes support for Spawning Aggregations assessment with TNC

\*\*\* Includes contribution in 2002 from US Government of US\$80,000 for ICRI Workshop and US\$50,000 for coral reefs and in both years contributions from ICRAN (UN Foundation).