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

Caracas, Venezuela, 4 – 8 October 2005

**REVISED STATUS OF IMPLEMENTATION OF THE WORKPLAN AND BUDGET OF
THE SPAW REGIONAL PROGRAMME FOR THE
2004-2005 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
GEF	Global Environment Facility
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
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

Status of Implementation of the Workplan and Budget for the SPAW Regional Programme for the 2004 – 2005 Biennium

Introduction

1. The Workplan of the Regional Programme on Specially Protected Areas and Wildlife (SPAW) for the biennium 2004-2005 was approved by:
 - the Eleventh Intergovernmental Meeting on the Action Plan for the Caribbean Environment Programme and Eighth 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, 28 September – 2 October 2004) and by the
 - the Third Meeting of the Contracting Parties to the SPAW Protocol – SPAW COP 3 (Montego Bay, Jamaica, 27 September 2004)
2. The present paper reflects the current status of implementation of the SPAW 2004-2005 Programme and Budget, in particular updates to the Revised Draft Workplan presented to the SPAW COP 3 in UNEP(DEC)/CAR WG.25/5.Rev 1. A number of elements of the workplan that have been undertaken were part of other sub-programmes of the Caribbean Environment Programme (CEP), or with partner organisations. At the time of writing, most activities for the biennium had been completed while others will be continued under the workplan 2006-2007.

I. Programme Coordination

3. *SPAW Programme Personnel:*

Position	Main functions
UNEP-CEP Secretariat, Kingston, Jamaica	
Programme Officer for SPAW	Responsible for overall coordination of the SPAW Programme
Project Manager International Coral Reef Action Network (ICRAN) (Only until February 2005)	Responsible for ICRAN activities and contributed to implementation of coral reef-related activities of SPAW
Junior Professional Officer for SPAW supported by the Swedish Government	Provides support to the implementation of the workplan since February 2004
Bilingual Secretary (English-Spanish)	Provides support for SPAW

ICRAN MAR Project Coordinator (based in Belize in the MBRS office)

The MAR office is staffed with a Coordinator. A project assistant supported the Coordinator until June 2005.

SPAW Regional Activity Centre, Guadeloupe, operated by the Government of France

The SPAW/RAC is staffed with a Director, a Programme Officer, and a part-time Documents Officer and has supported the Secretariat with various activities, especially related to the guidelines for protected areas evaluation, the Marine Mammal Action Plan, the review and translation of a number of documents and fundraising in keeping with COP and STAC decisions of SPAW. Meetings between the secretariat and staff of the SPAW/RAC have also taken place to coordinate activities. Information on the activities of the SPAW/RAC is presented in document UNEP(DEC)/CAR IG.23/INF.4

4. *Promotion of SPAW*

Mechanisms used by the Secretariat to disseminate information concerning the Protocol and programme, in addition to the day-to-day contacts with Governments include:

- CEP website: www.cep.unep.org
- Brochures (SPAW, CEP, etc.)
- Listserves (SPAW, CaMPAM, CEPNET, etc.)
- Major meetings convened, attended or where significant input was submitted in 2004 and 2005 related to SPAW Programme and/or Fundraising:

Meeting	Venue	Date
White Water to Blue Water Partnership Conference	Miami, USA	22-26 March 2004
SPAW Conference of the Parties COP 3	Montego Bay, Jamaica	27 September 2004
The 57 th Annual Meeting of the Gulf and Caribbean Fisheries Institute (GCFI)-Workshop of Caribbean Marine Protected Areas Network and Forum Activities	St Petersburg, USA	10 November 2004
U.S. Coral Reef Task (on CaMPAM, secretariat represented by CaMPAM member)	Miami, USA	2 December 2004

Meeting	Venue	Date
NOAA Sanctuary Program Expert workshop (on CaMPAM, secretariat represented by CaMPAM member)	Fort Lauderdale, USA	2 February 2005
International Coral Reef Initiative (ICRI) General Meeting (secretariat represented by AMEP Program Officer)	Seychelles	25-27 April 2005
First Meeting of the Ad Hoc Open Ended Working Group on Protected Areas	Montecatini, Italy	13-17 June 2005
The 7 th Annual Caribbean Conference on Sustainable Tourism Development (presentation on SPAW)	Tobago	25 -29 April 2005
Workshop on the Joint Work Programme on Marine and Coastal Invasive Alien Species	Montreal, Canada	27-29 June 2005
SPAW Regional Workshop of Experts for the Development of a Marine Mammal Action Plan for the Wider Caribbean	Bridgetown, Barbados	18-21 July 2005

- Coordination and/or collaboration with other Regional and Global Programmes of relevance to SPAW:

<i>Within UNEP</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) Action Plan of UNEP- ROLAC b) Marine Mammal Action Plan of UNEP c) Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD Programmes of Work on Marine and Coastal Biological Diversity and Protected Areas) d) Secretariat to the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES) e) Secretariat to the Ramsar Convention f) Secretariat to the Bonn Convention g) Regional Activity Centre for Specially Protected Areas in the Mediterranean h) UNEP-DTIE
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<p><i>International and regional organizations</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) Gulf and Caribbean Fisheries Institute-GCFI b) International Coral Reef Initiative (ICRI) c) Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States (SIDS-POA) d) National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) - Regional Coordination Plan for marine reserves e) The Nature Conservancy (TNC) f) IUCN and the World Commission on Protected Areas (WCPA-Marine), g) Mesoamerican Barrier Reef System Project (MBRS) h) Western Central Atlantic Fishery Commission (WECAFC) i) Organisation of Eastern Caribbean States Environment and Sustainable Development Unit (OECS-ESDU) j) Caribbean Tourism Organization (CTO) k) Caribbean Conservation Association (CCA) l) Wider Caribbean Sea Turtle Conservation Network (WIDECAST) m) Central American Commission for Environment and Development (CCAD) n) International Fund for Animal Welfare (IFAW) o) Island Resources Foundation (IRF)
<p>The complete list of national, regional, and international organisations with which the Secretariat collaborated and have contributed to SPAW with in cash, and/or in-kind contributions appears in Annex 1.</p>	

5. *Fund-raising efforts*, with governments and partners, with the following actions and negotiations:

<p>New Initiatives</p>	<p>Status</p>
<p>a) Negotiations with the Government of Venezuela for hosting the Third Meeting of STAC, September 2005</p>	<p>Action completed</p>
<p>b) Negotiations with the International Fund for Animal Welfare (IFAW) for convening of the regional experts workshop on the Marine Mammal Action Plan (MMAP). USD 40,000 were received from IFAW</p>	<p>Action completed, Workshop held</p>

c) 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	Action completed, Workshop held in Gosier Guadeloupe, 19-23 April 2004 (see Activity II below)
d) Development and submission of a project proposal to the John D. and Catherine T. MacArthur Foundation for US\$ 200,000 for Protection of Endangered Ecosystems in the Insular Caribbean Region through Capacity Building of MPA managers and planners	Project approved and begun in mid 2005
e) A proposal was developed and submitted to the European Commission for EUR 800,000 (US\$ 1,040,000) 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.	Was not approved – will be revised and re-submitted in November 2005
f) A proposal entitled “Management Action and Capacity Building for Sustainable Livelihoods within the Coastal Zone with emphasis on the Fishing Community in the WCR” was submitted to SIDA	Project was approved Specific details are being discussed with partners
g) Resubmission of a National Fish and Wildlife Foundation (NFWF) proposal: “Strengthening of MPAs in the Caribbean through the Implementation of Best Practices at Target Sites”	Project approved, awaiting disbursement of funds
h) A proposal was developed and submitted to the French Government through the SPAW/RAC. Support is provided for the development of the MMAP, support to the implementation of local training courses within the TOT Programme in selected countries, and for the compilation and publication of best practices in the region.	Draft MMAP developed, local TOT training courses implemented or ongoing, compilation of best practices ongoing
On-going Initiatives	Status
a) 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.	Project on-going (See Activity V)
b) Negotiations between the Swedish Government and UNEP-CAR/RCU resulted in support to the CEP Programme 2004-2007. Support for SPAW (SEK 2,12 million ~ USD 300,000) focuses on fisheries management (e.g. sustainable fisheries activities, spawning aggregations, alternative livelihoods).	On-going

d) Submission of a project proposal for US\$25,000 to NOAA, for training in socio-economic monitoring in MPAs	Project approved, Training held – follow-up monitoring in 8 MPAs on-going
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6. *National Reporting Format*: The secretariat has continued to follow-up with the UNEP-World Conservation Monitoring Centre (UNEP-WCMC) on the outcome of the UNEP pilot project on *harmonization* of national reporting under relevant biodiversity treaties. The STAC will be invited to review the information on this regard presented in UNEP(DEC)/CAR WG.29/INF.9.

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

7. *Network of Caribbean Marine Protected Areas Managers (CaMPAM)*

The secretariat continued to support MPAs and to promote the Network of Caribbean Marine Protected Areas Managers (CaMPAM) which contributed to its expansion and reactivation.

8. As a result of the efforts of the secretariat and discussions sustained in the last 5 years in the Gulf and Caribbean Fisheries Institute (GCFI) Annual meetings, a group of members of the Board of Directors of the GCFI, representing several academic and conservation institutions (The Nature Conservancy, Environmental Defense, the Coral Reef Resources Foundation, the University of Puerto Rico, the IUCN's WCPA – Marine and Caribbean, the Caribbean Conservation Association, etc.) partnered with UNEP-CEP to make CaMPAM a more efficient tool for capacity building and networking for MPAs (see UNEP(DEC)CAR WG.29/INF.10 for additional information).
9. The new CaMPAM Network and Forum was launched during the White Water to Blue Water Conference (see item I, 4 above). The secretariat expects CaMPAM to play a prominent role as a tool for communication and dissemination of best practices in light of countries' commitments at the Conference of Parties (COP-7) of the Convention of Biological Diversity of developing an ecologically effective national network of marine protected areas for the year 2010.

Positive developments and activities undertaken under CaMPAM included:

Activities	Results/Outputs
a) The renewed CaMPAM Network and Forum held its first meeting at the 57 th GCFI meeting in St. Petersburg Florida, November, 2004. Environmental Defense, NOAA and TNC contributed with financial resources for the workshop to the initial funds provided by SIDA and UNEP-CEP.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Forty six scientists, fishers, and MPA managers from 13 countries and territories of the Wider Caribbean present
b) Expansion of the new CaMPAM Network and Forum and its workplan for 2005	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •A Steering Committee was created and is composed of 13 regional experts; a Five-Year Strategic Plan 2004-2008 was developed
c) Within the Small Grants Fund Scheme a mechanism for sustainable fisheries and alternative fishers livelihoods was created with funding from SIDA	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Sixteen proposals were received and five were selected based on the criteria developed for this purpose. The approved proposals cover small-scale mariculture, strengthening of fisheries monitoring and data collection for MPA co-management, strengthening of fishing cooperative and exchange of fishing gear.
d) Updating of the Caribbean MPA database with funding from SIDA	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •The new draft of the MPA database has been produced and is presented as a prototype to the STAC3 for inputs.
e) Discussions with representatives of NOAA's MPA Center and the Sanctuary Program to develop productive partnership on MPA database efforts	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •A draft proposal will be produced to seek funding for supporting this initiative
f) Training workshop in using "Socio-economic Monitoring Guidelines for Coastal Managers in the Caribbean: SocMon Caribbean", was held (9-13 May 2005, Soufriere, Saint Lucia) for MPA managers in the Caribbean region jointly funded by the U.S. NOAA and UNEP-CEP	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •18 participants attended representing MPAs in St. Lucia, Mexico, Anguilla, Jamaica, Grenada, Antigua, and Trinidad & Tobago. •Local follow-up activities in their respective MPAs where the trainees will carry out socio-economic monitoring to complement their current monitoring programmes

<p>g) CaMPAM was represented in an expert consultation meeting coordinated by NOAA to create an advisory board to develop an international MPA training and certificate programme (see also item I, 4)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The SPAW/CaMPAM Training of Trainers MPA programme (see III below) was identified as a model for other regions in Latin America (e.g. the Tropical Eastern Pacific) and the Caribbean was selected as a priority site for this programme
<p>h) The secretariat with GCFI and TNC is organizing the next MPA session at the next GCFI meeting to focus on enforcement issues of MPAs (with SIDA funding). CaMPAM is also coordinating with TNC a workshop for its Parks and Perils marine related staff and partners, both to be held in San Andres, Colombia, November, 2005</p>	
<p>i) CaMPAM was represented at the next Latin American Congress in Viña del Mar, Chile, and a paper was presented on the potential application of the CaMPAM Network and Forum model to the Tropical Eastern Pacific Marine Corridor and other sub-regional MPA initiatives</p>	

10. The secretariat also coordinated with other initiatives and institutions involved in regional MPA capacity building, in addition to those already mentioned, such as: the U.S. National Fish and Wildlife Conservation Foundation and, the UNESCO-World Heritage Center.

11. *Promotion of Guidelines for Protected Area Management*

The Secretariat coordinated with the SPAW/RAC the development of criteria and guidelines for selection of protected areas to be listed under the SPAW Protocol, aiming at producing a first list of protected areas under SPAW to initiate a regional network and cooperation among the areas. The guidelines were developed through an electronic group of experts representing Governments, NGOs, and other organisations such as the CBD and the World Commission on Protected Areas. The Government of France and the SPAW/RAC fully sponsored the convening of a Workshop in Gosier, Guadeloupe, 19-23 April 2004 where 22 experts attended representing Parties and other Governments and organisations. The results of the Workshop were presented to the COP3, which agreed that the electronic working group should continue working for presentation of the guidelines to STAC3. In this context, the final draft of the guidelines will be presented for finalization to the STAC3 and subsequently to the COP 4 for adoption.

<p>BOX 1 – CaMPAM Small Grants Fund for Promoting Sustainable Fishing Practices and Alternative Livelihoods for Fishers</p>
<p>Priority objectives of this programme include the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Application of results of previous projects at a pilot or commercial level, in the locality; • Projects that allow for the increase or maintenance of fishing yields or the economic income of the fishers leading to regulation or reduction of fishing effort to promote the restoration of the fishing populations;

- Description of fishing practices that serve as a basis for MPA zoning, and the elaboration or application of fishing regulations;
- Application of economic alternatives for fishermen (displaced by zoning restrictions);
- Consultation processes with communities to identify and promote sustainable alternatives livelihoods for fishermen;
- Raising awareness of local community, resource users or other stakeholders on the needs of sustainably managing fisheries resources;
- Fostering fishing cooperatives;
- Testing or application of a community approach on fisheries management (exclusive fishing rights, concessions of fishing areas, etc.);
- Exchange of experiences and best practices among fishermen of different countries;
- Training of fishermen or other stakeholders on economic alternatives or sustainable fishing practices.

III. Training in Protected Areas and Wildlife Management

12. *Training of Trainers Programme (ToT) in MPA Management:* UNEP-CEP was awarded a grant of US\$200,000 over three years from the MacArthur Foundation for “Protection of Endangered Ecosystems in the Insular Caribbean Region through Capacity Building of MPA managers and planners”, which will continue the training initially funded through the International Coral Reef Action Network- (ICRAN) and to increase the number of trained marine protected area managers in the Wider Caribbean region under the Training of Trainers (ToT) programme. (See Box 2 below)
13. To date four regional courses have been organized (2-13 November 1999, Saba, Netherlands Antilles; 1-13 May, 2000, Bayahibe, Dominican Republic; Soufriere, Saint Lucia, 27 October-10 November 2002; and Jan 27 – Feb 10, 2004, Long Key, Florida Keys, Florida, U.S.A). and under the new grant, two additional courses will be organized in 2005 and 2007 respectively, with local follow-up training conducted by the participants after each regional course.
14. Following the last regional course in February 2004, three follow-up courses have been implemented during the last year (2004) in Cuba, Colombia, and the Dominican Republic, and several others have been designed (two in Mexico, Costa Rica, Honduras, Belize, Colombia etc.) and will be implemented by the end of the year (2005). Two of them (in Cuba and Colombia) had a national focus and have promoted initiatives and projects related to the creation of the national MPA networks. The follow-up course in Colombia was the first training event in the country to focus exclusively on MPA issues and it was organized by the national institute on marine sciences (INVEMAR).

15. This demonstrates the enormous multiplying effect of the regional courses and the great impact of the whole ToT MPA programme in furthering MPA marine capacity in the region. Nonetheless, the recent achievements of MPA science and practice require the modernization of the programme and the updating of the Manual, both of which will be implemented over next months with funding from the MacArthur Foundation and The Nature Conservancy. The Manual will be improved with new information on issues such as tourist carrying capacity, business planning, fundraising tools, enforcement, transboundary illegal fishing, daily operations, measures of effectiveness, regional and international policy, the creation of effective national networks and transboundary biological corridors, the gathering and utilization of information on coral reef resilience and biological connectivity in MPA design, etc. This review is expected to be completed by this fall, before the implementation of the next regional course, which is planned for 27 November – 10 December, 2005 in Long Key, Florida, U.S.A.
16. The planned Training of Trainers courses will be delivered as follows:
 - **Content**- the courses will be held in Spanish or English, respectively, with participants from MPAs from the wider Caribbean countries selected through application procedures. The majority of the participants would be MPA managers, but could also include e.g. technical staff of national park services and fisheries agencies directly responsible for MPA management. The course will include lectures, interactive exercises and field trips, following the 8-module training manual developed by UNEP's Caribbean Environment Programme (<http://www.cep.unep.org/issues/MPA/mpa.htm>) and successfully implemented to date with four regional courses since 1999.
 - **Syllabus** – It covers all aspects of MPA management, namely the following topics incorporated within specific modules: Nature of the Coastal and Marine Environments; Uses and Threats to the Marine Environment; Marine Protected Areas Overview; Participatory Planning; Marine Protected Area Planning; Marine Protected Area Management (includes elements of the management, and financial plans); Research and Monitoring; and Communication and Training skills. The latter subject will allow trainees to select appropriate teaching methods to convey concepts and provide demonstration activities in their respective areas.
17. Follow up and local training activities envisaged: In keeping with the written commitment made by participants prior to the course, each participant is asked to develop project proposals for follow-up local training activities that will be undertaken by the trainees in their countries, and in so doing multiply the training effort. The drafting of these proposals will be initiated and discussed at the course so that participants can benefit from the expertise and guidance of instructors and course coordinator. As an incentive, these local courses will receive some financial support as part of the ToT Programme.
18. In 2006, an evaluation of the ToT Programme will be carried out in order to assess its impact, and possibly update it according to current needs of the region identified through the evaluation (see Draft Workplan and Budget for SPAW in 2006-2007 in UNEP(DEC)CAR WG. 29/5).

BOX 2– Trainer of Trainers Programme (ToT) in MAP Management

Protection of Endangered Ecosystems in the Insular Caribbean Region through Capacity Building of MPA managers and planners – MacArthur Foundation Grant

Main activities are:

- 1) Design, organisation and delivery of 2 Training of Trainers courses, one in Spanish and one in English, with an estimated number of 15 MPA managers per course.
- 2) Gathering of a variety of information materials (printed, digital, and videos) for participants to take back home.
- 3) Overseeing, support and assessment of follow-up activities and local training by the participants of the courses in their respective countries.
- 4) Evaluation of the ToT programme after the first course, and modification of the programme and/or curricula as appropriate to be reflected in future courses. Outcomes and results of the evaluation will be shared with other regions to allow for transfer of experiences.
- 5) Dissemination of the revised Manual, both in English and Spanish, through the Internet and CD format through the region and elsewhere.
- 6) Coordination with similar activities such as the ones developed by the World Heritage Sites capacity building programme in Latin America and the wider Caribbean.

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

19. In keeping with the approved 2004-2005 Workplan, the information compiled by the SPAW/RAC with the relevant NGOs and partners, regarding guidelines to prevent species from becoming threatened or endangered was reviewed. The SPAW/RAC developed a preliminary draft of the guidelines which was presented to Monitor Caribbean and Island Resources Foundation as the lead NGOs in the process. These organizations and the SPAW/RAC agreed on a course of action towards the development of a working group to develop the guidelines during the 2006-2007 biennium (see report of the SPAW/RAC in UNEP(DEC)CAR WG.29/INF.4).
20. At the Third Meeting of COP, the Parties approved the updated criteria for listing species under the SPAW Protocol, which was revised in the context of recent developments in the field of biodiversity conservation by experts of government agencies and of NGOs. The criteria for listing species are a central element in the implementation of the Protocol. They identify foremost those species in the region which require protection or regional cooperation in their management, given that they are endangered or threatened with extinction. Moreover, they help list those other important species in the region which require attention in order to prevent that they arrive at that critical status.
21. Communication and coordination has continued with FAO/WECAFC regarding actions resulting from the regional review of the fisheries management in the Caribbean, and in

particular those related to lobster and conch fisheries management. The secretariat will participate in the upcoming 12th Session of WECAFC and Ninth Session of the Lesser Antilles Fisheries Committee (Port of Spain, Trinidad & Tobago, from 25 to 28 October 2005), and contribute a paper on fisheries reserve MPAs in the Wider Caribbean Region.

22. Communication continued with the BirdLife International on the implementation of the GEF UNEP regional project on Important Bird Areas (IBAs) of the Caribbean. IBAs are identified using standardized criteria that include many bird species listed in Annexes II and III of the SPAW Protocol. The SPAW Regional Programme aims to support these ongoing efforts, with the involvement of additional countries from the region (see Draft Workplan and Budget for SPAW in 2006-2007 in UNEP(DEC)CAR WG. 29/5).
23. The secretariat supported the production of participatory planning guidelines in collaboration with CANARI. The guidelines have been produced in English and Spanish and are being widely disseminated in the region.

Positive developments and activities undertaken under this sub-programme included:

Activities	Results/Outputs
a) Selection and implementation of priority actions in the national sea turtle recovery plans, initially in St. Lucia, St. Vincent and the Grenadines, with support from the U.S. Department of State, Bureau of Oceans and International Environmental (DoS/OIE) and Scientific Affairs (OESI) through funds awarded in 2004	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Project was delayed due to late arrival of funds and only commenced in August 2005
b) Preparation of two additional recovery plans for sea turtles in Costa Rica and Grenada as well as complete the draft sea turtle recovery plan for Panama with WIDECASST and support from the U.S. DoS/OIE-OESI	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Project was delayed due to late arrival of funds and only commenced in August 2005
c) Negotiations and Development of the Regional Action Plan for the Conservation of marine mammals, through the convening of a Regional Workshop of Experts with support from the International Fund for Animal Welfare (IFAW) and the Governments of USA and France.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Workshop was convened (Barbados, 18-21 July 2005) and the Draft MMAP reviewed and considerably advanced. Draft MMAP is presented to STAC3 for discussion and further action (UNEP(DEC)CAR WG.27/2.Rev.3). • All SPAW Parties nominated experts to attend and 18 regional and international organizations were represented.
d) Collaboration with relevant partners on the assessment and control of alien and invasive	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Follow-up to the proposal on regional implementation of the UNEP/IMO Ballast Water

species in the region, through the established regional consortium of interested organizations (e.g. CI, TNC, BirdLife International) including a proposal for regional implementation of UNEP/IMO Ballast Water Project in the Wider Caribbean	project and Development of an Invasive Species database as well as a concept paper on the control of invasive species.
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V. Conservation and Sustainable Use of Major Ecosystems in the Wider Caribbean Region

24. Activities focused primarily on implementation of the International Coral Reef Initiative (ICRI), including activities under the International Coral Reef Action Network (ICRAN) for which UNEP-CAR/RCU has been responsible for coordinating in the Wider Caribbean. The major activities have been:
25. *USAID/UNF ICRAN MAR Project:* The \$3 million ICRAN Mesoamerican Reef project has started implementation of activities on the ground by the major partners, i.e. CORAL, UNEP-DTIE, WRI, WWF and ReefCheck, in close coordination with relevant regional initiatives such as the WorldBank/GEF/CCAD Mesoamerican Barrier Reef System Project (MBRS). The Coordinator of the Project is based in Belize within the facilities of the MBRS and through an MOU developed with this Project. The Technical and Steering Committees of the Project were established and have met once in 2004 and 2005. The project has achieved a high level of recognition within the region and substantive progress has been achieved in the last six months of implementation in the three main components:
- i) **Improved Watershed Management.** All major watersheds of the participating countries (Belize, Guatemala, Honduras and Mexico) have been delineated and major data sets and images acquired to develop land use trends and link with hydrological and oceanographic models. Use and environmental levels of major agrochemicals are being assessed and alliances with major private companies such as Dole, Chiquita and CropLife are underway for the implementation of better management practices.
 - ii) **Sustainable Tourism.** Major groups of stakeholders have been identified and a handbook of better practices for the marine recreation sector, as well as tourism guidelines were developed and recently published in English and Spanish. These materials will be used and disseminated at training workshops being planned in all the countries over the upcoming months.
 - iii) **Sustainable Fisheries.** Assistance has been given for fishers organizations in the participating countries to form an Alliance to generate agreements on management of shared resources and harmonize sustainable fisheries practices. Fieldwork has been conducted to review the state of commercial fisheries and practices for the future development of a manual on BMP and training has been provided to fishers on “ecotourism guides”, business management and ReefCheck.
26. As the ICRAN Action Phase funds for the Caribbean were completed during 2004, UNEP-CAR/RCU continued to fund and coordinate related activities:

Caribbean Reefs @ Risk. The World Resources Institute (WRI) launched the English version of the *Reefs at Risk in the Caribbean* report in September of 2004 at the Third Meeting of the Contracting Parties to the SPAW Protocol and the Eleventh Intergovernmental Meeting on the Action Plan for the Caribbean Environment Programme and Eighth Meeting of the Contracting Parties to the Convention for the Protection and Development of the Marine Environment of the Wider Caribbean Region. Developed in collaboration with over twenty partner organizations, the analysis uses GIS to model human pressure on coral reefs and contains important information on the socio-economic value of coral reefs in the Caribbean. The printed report in both English and Spanish, together with a data CD containing over thirty standardized regional datasets has been widely disseminated within governments and organizations in the Wider Caribbean and is also available at the STAC3 Meeting. It is expected that the report will assist and help guide governments and institutions in the region with the decision making process for coastal and marine development.

GCRMN Sub-regional Nodes:

- i) The Southern Tropical America (STA) Regional Node.* INVEMAR in Colombia continues to actively serve as coordinator for this node and in 2004 additional support was provided to continue the monitoring for one more year in Colombia, Costa Rica, Panama and Venezuela (Brazil participates with separate funding). The coordinator submitted a brief report in 2004 for the GCRMN Status Report and more recently for the ICRI CPC meeting. The participating countries continued working on their strategic plan developed to allow the functioning of this very successful STA Node for the next 5 years and are currently looking for potential donors.
- ii) Eastern Caribbean Node of the GCRMN.* An MOU was developed with the Coastal Zone Management Unit in Barbados to provide further assistance for the Eastern Caribbean node of the GCRMN using the ReefCheck methodology. Funds were disbursed in December 2003 and monitoring activities conducted during 2004. A final report on the activities was recently submitted to UNEP-CAR/RCU and ReefCheck.
- iii) Netherlands Antilles Coral Reef Initiative (NACRI).* An MOU was developed with NACRI to support monitoring efforts in the countries of Saba, Saint Maarten, Saint Eustatius, Bonaire and Curaçao. Under this MOU there is a joint initiative with Venezuela to monitor the reefs of Islas de las Aves.
- iv) Atlantic & Gulf Rapid Reef Assessment (AGRRA).* An MOU was signed in 2004 with the Ocean Research and Education Foundation Inc. (ORE) that facilitates AGRRA activities in the region. CAR/RCU supported an assessment of the reefs of Hispaniola (Dominican Republic and Haiti), as well as capacity building in the countries. A final report is expected later in 2005.
- v) Northern Caribbean and Atlantic (NCA) Node.* Support for this node was provided until early in 2004 but no additional funding has been available to continue supporting

the work of this node coordinated from the Center of Marine Sciences at the University of the West Indies.

ICRAN - Demonstration Sites. Activities in the four sites were for the most part successfully completed and UNF is currently assessing the impacts of ICRAN on some of those sites, namely the *Sian Ka'an Biosphere Reserve (SKBR)* and *Hol Chan Marine Reserve (HCMR)*. The activities at the *Soufriere Marine Management Area (SMMA)* and *Bonaire National Marine Park (BNMP)* increased the management capacity of the sites addressing critical needs and these sites are currently being used for conducting regional training, visits and exchanges.

27. The BNMP is moving to a marine park user fee structure which will likely allow this MPA to be self sustaining which is unusual globally. WWF and the Netherlands Antillean Government celebrated this success on the 9 June in the Netherlands with the participation of ICRAN and UNEP.
28. STINAPA Bonaire has requested that the remaining funds under their MOU be utilized in establishing Fisheries Protection Areas (FPAs), with the main outputs being community based stakeholders meetings to discuss the establishment of No Take Marine Reserves (NTMRs)/FPAs, site exchange staff/fishers between BNMP and SMMA, fish assessments and compilation of reef and coral recruitment data, as well as a report on required changes in legislation needed for the legal closures of FPAs.
29. As a result of ICRAN Action Phase in the Caribbean, a compilation of better practices and lessons learnt will be documented by UNEP-CAR/RCU during 2006 for wide dissemination and follow-up.

BOX 3 – ICRAN Main results and outputs

ICRAN Action Phase

- Network of Demonstration Sites of MPA Management in the Caribbean;
- Trained 52 MPA managers and practitioners in four regional courses (MPA Managers) with training and communication skills imparting knowledge on MPA planning and management, research and monitoring, and uses and threats to the marine environment (see Activity III above);
- An additional ~350 MPA staff trained by the trainers;
- Technical assistance to demonstration sites;
- Data and information on the status, condition and threats to coral reefs (chapters on the Caribbean in 2 GCRMN global reports: Status of Coral Reefs of the World 2002 and 2004);
- Coral reef monitoring and assessment (GCRMN nodes);
- Studies on coral reef valuation and policy analysis (coordinated by the Fish World Center);
- Socioeconomic training workshop (see Activity II above);
- Full color printed report, *Reefs at Risk in the Caribbean* published in English and Spanish;
- Data CD including GIS data layers on coral reef locations, population, ports, airports, bathymetry, elevation, slope, land cover, watershed boundaries, and estimated threats to coral reefs and national summaries on reef status.

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- Major watersheds of Belize, Guatemala, Honduras and Mexico delineated and major data sets and images acquired
- Handbook of Better Practices for the Marine Recreation Sector, as well as Tourism Guidelines published in English and Spanish
- Fieldwork conducted to review the state of commercial fisheries and practices

30. **Other regional initiatives** underway, and of relevance to the SPAW Programme include:

- a) *GEF PDF B Project – Sustainable Management of the Shared Living Marine Resources of the Caribbean Large Marine Ecosystem (LME) and Adjacent Regions*, coordinated by IOCARIBE and UNDP;
- b) The GEF UNEP Project *Integrating Watershed and Coastal Area Management (IWCAM) in the Small Island Development States (SIDS) of the Caribbean*, with a value of USD 22 Million. Implemented through the CEP's Programme on Assessment and Management of Environmental Pollution (AMEP) and the Caribbean Environmental Health Institute (CEHI). The thirteen participating SIDS are: Antigua and Barbuda; The Bahamas; Barbados; Cuba; Grenada; Dominica; Dominican Republic; Haiti; Jamaica; Saint Kitts and Nevis; Saint Lucia; Saint Vincent and the Grenadines; Trinidad and Tobago. The length of the Project is 5 years and is expected to commence in the third quarter of 2005;

- c) The secretariat continues to be part of the Blue Flag Caribbean Regional Jury and participated in the annual evaluation meeting in 29 July 2005 in Bridgetown, Barbados. Coordination also continues with CAST, CTO and ACS on sustainable tourism issues;
 - d) The GEF-UNDP-IMO Global Ballast Water Management Programme (GloBallast) has begun a new phase, following the initial, successful, execution of the five-year US\$10.2 million project by IMO. GloBallast is aimed at assisting developing countries in implementing measures to reduce the transfer of harmful aquatic organisms and pathogens in ships' ballast water, The preparatory phase of the new project, GloBallast Partnerships, was initiated on 1 April 2005 with funding from the Global Environmental Facility (GEF). This preparatory project will be executed by IMO over a period of 18 months and is expected to provide the groundwork for the full-scale GloBallast Partnerships project (full title: Building Partnerships to Assist Developing Countries to Reduce the Transfer of Harmful Aquatic Organisms in Ships' Ballast Water), to become operational in 2006/2007. The main objective of the full project is to assist particularly vulnerable countries and/or regions to enact legal and policy reforms to minimize the adverse impacts of aquatic invasive species transferred by ships. The secretariat is developing marine invasive species management activities in the 2006-2007 biennium (UNEP(DEC)CAR WG. 29/5).
31. In addition to the above, the secretariat has continued to collaborate on issues relevant to SPAW with the Secretariats of Global conventions with which UNEP-CEP have concluded Memorandum of Understanding, namely the CBD (and SBSTTA) and Ramsar. The secretariat is also exploring signing of a Memorandum of Cooperation (MOC) with the Convention for the Conservation of Migratory Species (CMS).

ANNEX I**SPAW Partner Institutions during the 2004-2005 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 II

Annex II - Budget for the SPAW Programme 2004 - 2005

Activity	2004			2005			
	Budgeted		Total cost	Budgeted			Required Balance
	CTF	Other Contribution		CTF	Other Contribution	Total cost	
SPAW							
a) Co-ordination (salary & travel costs covered by OCCC)							
Consultants	10,000	0	10,000	12,000	0	12,000	0
b) Strengthening of parks & protected areas in the Wider Caribbean Region & promotion of guidelines for protected area management*	8,000	30,000 /1	38,000	20,000	75,000 /1, /2	95,000	0
c) Development of guidelines for protected areas and wildlife	0	35,000	35,000	0	85,000 /3	85,000	0
d) Conservation of threatened & endangered species & development & promotion of regional guidelines for wildlife management**	0	60,000	60,000	0	120,000	120,000	0

e) Conservation and sustainable use of major ecosystems in the Wider Caribbean Region ***	20,000	500,000	520,000		20,000	600,000	620,000	50,000 /4
Subtotal	38,000	625,000	143,000		52,000	880,000	487,000	50,000
Programme Support costs 13% (amount subject to change based on source of funds)	4,940	81,250	18,590		6,760	114,400	63,310	6,500
TOTAL SPAW	42,940	706,250	161,590		58,760	994,400	550,310	56,500

* Does not include in-kind contribution by SPAW/RAC and Government of France in 2004 of 75,000 Euros, for the Workshop on guidelines for listing protected areas under SPAW

** Includes funds in both years from IFAW, the SPAW/RAC and Government of France for marine mammals and from OESI for marine mammals and sea turtles

*** Includes contribution in both years from US Government of US\$50,000 for coral reefs and contributions from the UN Foundation and USAID under the ICRAN MAR Project.

1/ In both years, reflects contribution from SIDA for CaMPAM activities and small grants on sustainable fisheries for 2005

2/ Grant from NOAA for MPA socio-economic monitoring

3/ Includes grant from the MacArthur Foundation and funds from the SPAW/RAC and Government of France for local training.

4/ Coral reef monitoring activities could not be continued in the Eastern and Northern Caribbean due to the lack of funds.