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

Gosier, Guadeloupe, France, 2 – 5 July 2008

DRAFT

**STATUS OF IMPLEMENTATION OF THE WORKPLAN AND BUDGET FOR THE
SPAW REGIONAL PROGRAMME FOR THE 2006-2007 BIENNIUM**

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ACRONYMS

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

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

STATUS OF IMPLEMENTATION OF THE WORKPLAN AND BUDGET FOR THE SPAW REGIONAL PROGRAMME FOR THE 2006 – 2007 BIENNIUM

1. INTRODUCTION

1. This report presents the priorities of the Regional Programme on Specially Protected Areas and Wildlife in the Wider Caribbean Region (SPAW Programme) and the status of activities for the biennium 2006-2007.
2. The Workplan of the Regional Programme on Specially Protected Areas and Wildlife (SPAW) for the biennium 2006-2007 was approved by:
 - The Third Meeting of the Scientific and Technical 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) and by the
 - Fourth Meeting of the Conference of Parties (COP) to the Protocol Concerning Specially Protected Areas and Wildlife (SPAW) in the Wider Caribbean Region (Montego Bay, Jamaica, 28 November 2006) and the Twelfth Intergovernmental Meeting on the Action Plan for the Caribbean Environment Programme and Ninth 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, 29 November to 2 December 2006.
3. The SPAW Protocol entered into force on 18 June 2000, and to date, twelve Governments are Contracting Parties (Barbados, Colombia, Cuba, Dominican Republic, France, the Netherlands, Panama, Saint Lucia, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Trinidad and Tobago, United States of America, and Venezuela).
4. The objectives of the SPAW Programme are to:
 - (a) respond to the objectives of the SPAW Protocol and address priority biodiversity issues at the regional level, in keeping with the mandate provided by the Protocol to significantly increase the number of and improve the management of national protected areas and species in the Wider Caribbean Region (WCR).
 - (b) develop a strong regional capability for the co-ordination of information exchange, training and technical assistance in support of national biodiversity conservation efforts.
 - (c) coordinate activities with the relevant international biodiversity treaties and initiatives, such as, the Convention on Biological Diversity, such as the Ramsar, Bonn, CITES and Western Hemisphere Conventions, and the International Coral Reef Initiative (ICRI) and its global networks.
5. During the period 2006-2007, activities focused on providing assistance to countries with the management of MPAs and protected species, as well as coordination with other regional programmes dealing with protected areas and wildlife, and environmental agreements, such as the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD), the Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals (CMS), the World Heritage Convention (WHC) of UNESCO, the Convention on Wetlands of International Importance Especially as Waterfowl Habitat (Ramsar) and the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES).
6. Specific activities for this biennium fell under six major programme elements (sub-programmes), these being:
 - (a) Programme Coordination

- (b) Strengthening of Protected Areas in the Wider Caribbean Region (including training and capacity building for marine protected areas management)
- (c) Development of Guidelines for Protected Areas and Species Management
- (d) Conservation of Threatened and Endangered Species
- (e) Conservation and Sustainable Use of Coastal and Marine Ecosystems (including ICRI activities), and
- (f) Sustainable Tourism.

2. STATUS OF SUB-PROGRAMMES AND ACTIVITIES

7. The following sections provide a summary of the main activities implemented under the SPAW programme for the 2006-2007 biennium, and major accomplishments. Annex 1 provides the summary of projected costs and expenditures for the biennium.

2.1. Programme Coordination

Status of Sub-programme Activities

8. During the biennium 2006-2007 the day-to-day coordination for implementation of the programme activities continued to be overseen by the following team:

2.1 PROGRAMME COORDINATION	
Position	Main functions
UNEP-CEP Secretariat, Kingston, Jamaica	
Programme Officer for SPAW	Responsible for overall coordination of the SPAW Programme
Junior Professional Officer for SPAW supported by Swedish Government	Provided support for the implementation of the Workplan until January 2007
Bilingual Secretary (English-Spanish)	Provided support for SPAW
Project Coordinator, International Coral Reef Action Network (ICRAN) – Mesoamerican Reef Alliance (MAR) (based in Belize)	Responsible for implementation of the ICRAN-MAR activities until July 2007 when project was completed
SPAW Regional Activity Centre, Guadeloupe, supported by the Government of France	
The SPAW/RAC was staffed with a Director, a Programme Officer, and a part-time Documents Officer and supported the secretariat with various activities, especially coordination of actions mandated by the STAC and COP. In particular, coordination of the electronic working groups on guidelines for listing protected areas and on the development of the marine mammal action plan; fundraising; and the review and translation of a number of documents. Additionally, one meeting was held annually between the secretariat and staff of the SPAW/RAC during the biennium, to coordinate and evaluate activities. The SPAW RAC covered the costs of these meetings.	

9. In keeping with the objectives of developing synergies, promoting the Protocol and optimizing resources, the following activities were completed:
- Memorandum of Cooperation with the Secretariat to the Convention on Migratory Species (CMS), signed in November 2005.
 - Memorandum of Cooperation with the Inter-American Convention for the Protection and Conservation of Sea Turtles (IAC), signed in November 2006.
 - Memorandum of Cooperation with the Mesoamerican Learning Center of The Nature Conservancy (TNC), signed in March 2006, to collaborate on matters of mutual interest in particular in building capacity for marine protected area managers.
10. Coordination and communication was also established with the following programme and organizations on various matters of common interest, and in keeping with collaborative arrangements established with many of them:
- Birdlife International
 - Ramsar Convention on Wetlands of International Importance
 - World Heritage Sites Convention and its marine sites initiative on regional promotional initiatives and those relevant to the Year of the Dolphin celebrated during 2007
 - Convention on Migratory Species (CMS)
 - Central American Commission for Environment and Development (CCAD)
 - Western Central Atlantic Fisheries Commission (WECAFC) of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the UN (FAO)
 - World Conservation Union (IUCN)
 - United States Agency for International Development (USAID)
 - Swedish International Development Agency (SIDA)
 - Action Plan of UNEP Regional Office for Latin America and the Caribbean (UNEP-ROLAC)
 - Organization of Eastern Caribbean States-Environment and Sustainable Development Unit (OECS-ESDU)
 - Association of Caribbean States (ACS)
 - Caribbean Tourism Organization (CTO)
 - Caribbean Hotel Association-Caribbean Alliance for Sustainable Tourism (CHA-CAST)
 - Gulf and Caribbean Fisheries Institute (GCFI) and the International Coral Reef Initiative (ICRI)
 - The Mesoamerican Barrier Reef Project (MBRS), the marine programme of the World Commission on Protected Areas (WCPA), the White Water to Blue Water Initiative (WW2BW), the Western Hemisphere Migratory Species Initiative (WHMSI), the Global Invasive Species Programme (GISP), CAB International (CABI) for Latin America and the Caribbean, the International Whaling Commission (IWC), and the Society for the Conservation of Reef Fish Aggregations (SCRFA).
11. A number of meetings were attended in order to continue promoting the Protocol, the Programme and develop synergies. Major meetings where significant input was provided included: (meetings sponsored by other organizations were attended for the most part at the cost of the inviting organization).

Meeting	Purpose	Date and Venue	Relates to Programme Objectives
Regional Training Workshop for the Caribbean Marine World Heritage sites	Present the SPAW Protocol and its linkages to the World Heritage Convention	Soufriere, St. Lucia 27 Feb–3 March 2006	Promotion of the SPAW Protocol and synergies with relevant Convention

Meeting	Purpose	Date and Venue	Relates to Programme Objectives
Preparatory Meeting for the development and Implementation of the Action Plan for the Conservation of Marine Mammals in Venezuela	Represent UNEP-CAR/RCU and make a presentation on the development, status and main contents of the Action Plan for Marine Mammal Conservation in the Wider Caribbean Region under SPAW	Caracas, Venezuela 22-26 May 2006	Coordination with relevant governments, and support to meet SPAW objectives
SIDS Conference on Building Resilience in Small Island Developing States –Maximising Economic Benefits and Sustaining Tourism Development	Make presentation on major tourism impacts on coastal and marine resources, especially coral reefs and highlight better practices currently in place	Nassau, Bahamas 6-8 June 2006	Promotion of SPAW Protocol, SPAW activities and coordination with regional programmes
58 th . Annual Meeting of the International Whaling Commission (Plenary Meeting).	Bring to the attention of the IWC the development of the Action Plan for the Conservation of marine Mammals (MMAP) in the Wider Caribbean Region, under the SPAW Protocol Develop synergies and collaboration with relevant countries, organizations and experts for the further development and implementation of the MMAP	St. Kitts and Nevis 16–20 June 2006	Coordination with relevant programmes, donors and organizations to develop synergies and collaboration on issues of common interest
Third International Tropical Marine Ecosystems Management Symposium (ITMEMS3)	Represent UNEP-CAR/RCU	Cozumel, Mexico 19 -20 Oct. 2006	Promotion of SPAW Protocol and coordination with relevant programmes, donors and organizations
General Meeting of the International Coral Reef Initiative (ICRI)	Represent UNEP-CAR/RCU and as regional focal point for ICRI	Cozumel, Mexico 22-23 October 2006	Implementation of collaborative arrangements with relevant regional and global initiatives
Meeting with representatives of Danone Food Products, Latin America and Caribbean Division	Finalize Agreement with Danone on SPAW species publication	Miami, Florida 26 October 2006	Promotion of SPAW Protocol and coordination with donor
59 th . Annual Meeting of the International Whaling Commission (Plenary Meeting)	Present the status of the Marine Mammal Action Plan (MMAP) for the Wider Caribbean Region	Anchorage, Alaska 25-31 May 2007	Coordination with relevant programmes, donors and organizations

Meeting	Purpose	Date and Venue	Relates to Programme Objectives
Ramsar and CMS Regional Workshop for decision-makers in Latin America relevant to wetlands and their migratory species: Management and use of natural resources	Raise awareness about SPAW Protocol among government decision-makers in Latin America and highlight linkages between SPAW and the CMS and Ramsar Conventions	Panama, 26-28 August 2007	Promotion of SPAW and coordination/synergies with relevant Conventions
II Latin American Congress of National Parks and other Protected Areas	Represent UNEP-CAR/RCU and make presentation on the SPAW Protocol and Programme activities in particular those related to MPAs	Bariloche, Argentina 29 Sept–6 Oct. 2007	Promotion of SPAW Protocol and coordination with relevant programmes, donors and organizations
Beaches World Tour 2007 Conference	Represent UNEP-CAR/RCU and make presentation on SPAW Programme and Protocol	8-11 Oct. 2007	Promotion of SPAW Protocol and coordination with relevant programmes, donors and organizations
60 th . Annual Meeting of the Gulf and Caribbean Fisheries Institute (GCFI)	Represent UNEP-CAR/RCU in the last 2 days of the event	Punta Cana, Dominican Republic 8-9 Nov. 2007	Promotion of SPAW Protocol and coordination with relevant programmes, donors and organizations
SPAW/IYOR Planning Meeting for the Wider Caribbean Region	Host the SPAW/IYOR Planning Meeting in preparation for the International Year of the Reef 2008 (IYOR 2008)	Punta Cana, Dominican Republic 10-11 November 2007	Coordination with relevant programmes, donors and organizations
Fostering a Green Culture – 2007 Conference on the Environment	Represent UNEP-CAR/RCU Make presentation on how protected areas contribute to tourism development in the region Member of panel discussing protected areas: a model for maintaining sustainable livelihoods in a tourism-based economy.	Providenciales, Turks and Caicos Islands 17-21 November 2007	Promotion of the SPAW Protocol

12. Activities undertaken by the SPAW Regional Activity Centre (SPAW/RAC) in Guadeloupe:

Activities	Results
a) Further development of Guidelines and criteria for listing protected areas under SPAW and coordination of Working Group	Completed
b) Preparation of guidelines to prevent species from becoming threatened or endangered	Preliminary draft completed (see COP4 Decision No.8)
c) Further development of the marine mammal action plan and coordination of the electronic Working Group	Completed
d) Fundraising in coordination with the secretariat	Ongoing
e) Promotion of the SPAW Protocol and its objectives to assist with the ratification by non-Parties, including the European Union	Ongoing
f) Support to the organization and convening of SPAW/STAC4 Meeting	Completed

Sub-programme Outputs

13. The major outputs of Programme Coordination are:

Outputs	Status
a) The Fourth Meeting of the Contracting Parties (COP4) to the SPAW Protocol	Completed – Montego Bay, Jamaica, 28 November 2006
b) Project proposals in support of SPAW objectives and funding	Completed – (details provided under each major activity area below)
c) The Workplan and Budget for 2008-2009	Completed – (see UNEP(DEPI)/CAR WG.31/5)
d) The Fourth Meeting of the Scientific and Technical Advisory Committee (STAC4)	Completed - Guadeloupe, 2 -5 July 2008
e) Increased collaboration and synergies with relevant organizations and initiatives within and outside of the region	Completed – particularly with the CMS, IAC, TNC-MAR, the IWC and Ramsar secretariats
f) Greater involvement by governments in SPAW activities and additional Parties joining the SPAW Protocol.	Governments approached by secretariat regarding ratification of SPAW Protocol included: Antigua, Belize, Guatemala, Costa Rica, and Mexico

14. The secretariat continued to coordinate and cooperate as feasible with other initiatives and projects relevant to coastal and marine ecosystems in the region, including:
- a) The GEF PDF-B Project on Sustainable Management of the Shared Marine Resources of the Caribbean Large Marine Ecosystem (CLME) and Adjacent Regions. This project resulted in the
 - b) development of a full project proposal during 2007, with active involvement of the SPAW Programme through which a pilot project on reef biodiversity for the region was developed as part of this CLME project. The full CLME project was approved by the GEF in April 2008 and implementation will commence during the 2008 – 2009 biennium (details of project activities provided in draft SPAW Workplan and Budget UNEP(DEPI)/CAR WG.31/5).
 - c) The AMEP Projects on Integrating Watershed and Coastal Area Management (IWCAM) in the Small Island Development States (SIDS) of the Caribbean; and on Reducing Pesticide Run-off to the Caribbean Sea approved by the Global Environment Facility (GEF) and under implementation through the CEP.
 - d) The UNEP/UNF/ICRAN Project developed for the southern Caribbean on coastal and marine management and education through strengthening of the Buccoo Reef Centre on the island of Tobago.

2.2. Strengthening of Protected Areas in the Wider Caribbean Region

Status of Sub-programme Activities

15. Status of activities implemented during the biennium 2006-2007

2.2 STRENGTHENING OF PROTECTED AREAS	
Activities	Status
<p>16. Support to the activities of the CaMPAM Network and Forum</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) Technical sessions on issues relevant to MPAs and to coral reef research needed for management and the Year of the Reef (IYOR), organized at the Annual meetings of the Gulf and Caribbean Fisheries Institute (2006 and 2007), respectively b) Publish the proceedings (a collection of scientific papers) originating from the technical MPA sessions at annual GCFI meetings (2006 and 2007) c) Support MPAs and sustainable fishing practices and alternative livelihoods among fisheries communities around MPAs in at least six communities including exchanges between sites d) Expanding the Grants Fund for promotion of sustainable tourism practices within MPAs developed and published in English and Spanish by the USAID/UNF ICRAN MAR Project e) Facilitating communications and exchanges through the existing CaMPAM list server: Continue the update and exchange of information 	<p>Completed as follows:</p> <p>Report of 2007 technical session contained in UNEP(DEPI)/CAR WG.31/INF.17</p> <p>GCFI proceedings of 2006 include MPA technical session</p> <p>The following grants were selected for support from 15 received:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Promoting sustainable fisheries in Kuna Yala, Balu Uala, Panama -Identification of reef fish spawning aggregations in Los Roques Archipelago, Venezuela -Enhancing marine resources governance through developing capacity for communication in the eastern Caribbean, Barbados -Promoting sustainable fisheries in Kuna Yala, Panama – using experiences from the Sian Ka’an Biosphere Reserve, Mexico -Sustainable management of multi-species reef fish spawning aggregations: exchanging fisher experiences, (Belize-Venezuela) -Intercambio para el desarrollo de APEJU (Asociación de Pescadores de Juanillo) (Dominican Republic-Mexico) <p>Funding not available for this activity</p> <p>Ongoing</p>

<p>and experiences, including publication of information relevant to MPAs and CaMPAM in existing newsletters such as CEPNews, MPA News, and those of other relevant programmes.</p> <p>f) Training of Trainers Programme (ToT) in MPA Management: Implement the MacArthur Foundation Grant on “Protection of Endangered Ecosystems in the Insular Caribbean Region through Capacity Building of MPA managers and planners”. Main activities include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Evaluation in 2007 of the ToT programme and modification of the programme and/or curricula as appropriate to be reflected in future courses. Outcomes and results of the evaluation to be shared with other regions to allow for transfer of experiences • Design, organisation and delivery of one Training of Trainers course (2007) in Spanish, with an estimated number of 15 MPA managers as trainees • Gather and provide a variety of information materials (printed, digital, and videos) for participants • Overseeing, support and assessment of follow-up local training by the participants of the courses in their respective countries • Dissemination of the revised Manual, both in English and Spanish, through the Internet and CD format through the region and elsewhere • Coordination with similar capacity building activities such as the ones developed by the World Heritage and Ramsar Conventions in Latin America and the Caribbean. <p>g) Increase exchange of experiences and materials with other regions implementing relevant initiatives in MPAs.</p>	<p>Completed as follows:</p> <p>Evaluation finalized in 2006 and used for updating of Manual and improving course modules and dynamics in upcoming courses</p> <p>Completed in Tulum, Quintana Roo, Mexico, 9 – 22 September 2007 with 14 trainees from 9 countries (Colombia, Cuba, Dominican Republic, Guatemala, Mexico, Haiti, Panama, Nicaragua and Venezuela) (see UNEP(DEPI)/CAR WG.31/INF.9 for additional details)</p> <p>Completed</p> <p>Completed</p> <p>Revised Manual in both languages completed and available on CEP website (CDs distributed at SPAW/STAC4 meeting)</p> <p>Completed through information exchange with these secretariats</p> <p>Ongoing</p>
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<p>17. Enhancement of the regional MPA database</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) Continue updating and improving the MPA database following its new design developed in 2005, in collaboration with CEPNET partial financial support provided by the SPAW/RAC and CaMPAM partners such as GCFI and TNC b) Draft a proposal to seek funding for development of partnership between the MPA database efforts of NOAA's MPA Center and the Sanctuary Program. 	<p>Completed with financial support provided by SIDA. Linkages developed with other relevant databases such as the IUCN World Database of Protected Areas (WDPA) of UNEP-WCMC and the regional IABIN database (for further details see UNEP(DEPI)/CAR WG.31/INF.9).</p> <p>Completed. Proposals presented to US-NFWF and coral reef programme of NOAA. Proposals were not accepted.</p>
<p>18. Collaboration with CBD on 2010 targets</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) Initiate process towards development of regional network of MPAs. b) Support efforts of Parties to develop national MPA networks. c) Contribute with SPAW guidelines and tools (e.g. MPA Training manual, database, etc.) to 2010 CBD process and efforts. d) Coordinate with WCPA, TNC and relevant organizations the regional inputs to contribute to the 2010 targets. 	<p>Pending- Guidelines and criteria for listing PAs to be finalized</p> <p>Ongoing. See (f) above, on capacity building in MPAs</p> <p>Ongoing</p> <p>Ongoing and inputs provided at the IUCN Latin American Park Congress, Argentina 2007 (see table under para. 11 above)</p>
<p>19. Promote partnership building on MPAs. Coordinate with:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) The Caribbean Conservation Association (CCA), particularly regarding its Coastal and Marine Management Programme (CaMMP), and the amenity areas component of the Caribbean Regional Environmental Programme (CREP). b) CANARI on efforts to strengthen MPAs in the region and application of co-management effectiveness approaches for improving benefits of MPAs. c) The Secretariat to the World Heritage Convention (WHC) of UNESCO on identifying cluster and/or transboundary marine or coastal sites of biodiversity value for nomination as World Heritage sites. 	<p>Completed in 2006</p> <p>Ongoing</p> <p>Coordination initiated at Regional Training Workshop for the Caribbean Marine World Heritage Sites held in Soufriere, St. Lucia, 27 February to 3 March 2006</p>

Sub-programme Outputs

20. The major outputs of this sub-Programme are:

Outputs	Status
a) A more effective CaMPAM Network and Forum through the implementation of the Five-Year Strategic Plan, improving the capacity to manage MPAs in the region	Completed (see UNEP(DEPI)/CAR WG.31/INF.9)
b) A cadre of at least 15 trained MPA managers in all aspects of MPA management and with training and communication skills to transmit knowledge to others and their MPA staff	Completed (see UNEP(DEPI)/CAR WG.31/INF.9)
c) Improved management at MPAs and better practices through assistance from the CaMPAM Small Grants Fund and complementary grants on sustainable fisheries and tourism practices	Completed (see UNEP(DEPI)/CAR WG.31/INF.9)
d) An updated web-based database of the MPAs in the Wider Caribbean	Database largely updated. Available through the web in 2008 (see UNEP(DEPI)/CAR WG.31/INF.9)
e) An initial list of protected areas under the SPAW Protocol towards the development of a regional MPA network	Pending until criteria for listing protected areas under SPAW is finalized
f) Increased coordination with relevant initiatives and efforts in support of protected areas and collaboration with GCFI, CI, TNC, WCPA, IUCN, CCA, CANARI, BirdLife International and UNESCO-WHC	Ongoing

2.3 Development of Guidelines for Protected Areas and Species Management

Status of Sub-programme Activities

21. Status of activities implemented during the biennium 2006-2007

2.3 DEVELOPMENT OF GUIDELINES FOR PROTECTED AREAS AND SPECIES MANAGEMENT	
Activities	Status / Results
<p>22. Implementation of pilot activity to test the guidelines for the evaluation of protected areas to be listed under the SPAW Protocol</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Collaborate with the SPAW/RAC, the SPAW Parties and regional experts, to identify interested Parties for a pilot activity to test the proposed guidelines with a view to develop a cooperation programme and regional MPA network. 	<p>Pending finalization of criteria for listing protected areas under SPAW Protocol. Included in 2008 – 2009 Workplan.</p>
<p>23. Develop criteria and guidelines to prevent species from becoming threatened or endangered</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Establish the Ad Hoc working group to develop the draft criteria and guidelines for subsequent review by the Parties at COP4 in 2006. The working group to be coordinated by Monitor Caribbean with collaboration from the SPAW/RAC and the secretariat as appropriate 	<p>Preliminary draft completed (UNEP(DEPI)/CAR IG.25/INF.4). As per COP4 Decision No. 8, Working Group will commence its work once feasible for the secretariat and the SPAW/RAC.</p>
<p>24. Develop criteria for assessment of exemptions to Article 11 of the SPAW Protocol</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Establish an Ad Hoc working group to initiate discussion of this issue following the model of the working group established for the review of the criteria for listing species under the Annexes to the SPAW Protocol and using the preliminary legal analysis presented in UNEP(DEC)/CAR WG.29/INF.5, “Legal Review on Interpretation of Exemptions under Article 11(2) of the SPAW Protocol”, as a starting point. 	<p>COP4 Decision 9 mandated this activity to be implemented in the near future. Now included in 2008-2009 Workplan, provided that both existing working groups (i.e. on Marine Mammal Action Plan and Guidelines for protected area listing) complete their tasks.</p>
<p>25. Application of the criteria for listing species in the Annexes to the Protocol</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Updated the 1991 Annexes through a consultative review among experts nominated by the Parties and in coordination with the IUCN Red List and the Species Survival Commission. With a view to address species conservation issues in the Wider Caribbean, including critically endangered species of regional concern which are not yet included in the original Annexes. An intersessional working group could be established to work on the lists by group of species (e.g. fish, birds, reptiles, etc.) 	<p>As per COP4 decision No.2 (ii), information being provided to STAC4 for recommendations on preliminary analysis required (see UNEP(DEPI)/CAR WG.31/INF.6, UNEP(DEPI)/CAR WG.31/INF.7 and UNEP(DEPI)/CAR IG.25/INF.5).</p>

Sub-programme Outputs

26. The major outputs of this sub-programme were:

Outputs	Status
a) Final Guidelines and Criteria for the listing of Protected Areas under the SPAW Protocol and funding raised from the Government of France for convening of one-day meeting prior to STAC4 to finalize Guidelines as per Decision 4 of COP4	Completed (see UNEP(DEPI)/CAR WG.31/3)
b) A preliminary list of protected areas under the SPAW Protocol to initiate a regional network and cooperation among the areas	Pending (see paragraph 22 above)
c) Compilation of information and draft guidelines and criteria for preventing species from becoming threatened and endangered	Completed (see UNEP(DEPI)/CAR IG.25/INF.4)
d) Definitions and procedures for the application of exemptions under Article 11(2)	Pending establishment of Working Group as per Decision 9 of COP4. See UNEP(DEC)/CAR WG.29/INF.5 for preliminary draft document.
e) Proposals for updating the Annexes to the Protocol reflecting current conservation issues for species of regional concern	Preliminary information compiled. UNEP(DEC)/CAR IG.25/INF.5, UNEP(DEPI)/CAR WG.31/INF.6 and UNEP(DEPI)/CAR WG.31/INF.7

2.4 Conservation of Threatened and Endangered Species

Status of Sub-programme Activities

27. Status of activities implemented during the biennium 2006-2007

2.4 CONSERVATION OF THREATENED AND ENDANGERED SPECIES	
Activities	Status / Results
28. Conservation of Marine Mammals (in collaboration with ECCN, WDCC, IFAW, IUCN Species Survival Commission and SPAW/RAC)	
a) Finalize the Regional Marine Mammal Action Plan for the Conservation of Marine Mammals in the Wider Caribbean, following the recommendations of the Regional Workshop of Experts (Barbados, 18 to 21 July 2005) and present to the Parties of SPAW at COP4 for review.	Completed and Decision 6 of COP4 implemented (see UNEP(DEPI)/CAR WG.31/4).
b) Support implementation of priority actions identified by the Regional Workshop of Experts held in Barbados,	Completed. The following were produced:

<p>July 2005 and within the Marine Mammal Action Plan</p> <p>c) Evaluate implementation of the Manatee Management Plan and develop recommendations for further action and future directions</p>	<p>-Marine Mammal bibliographic compilation (UNEP(DEPI)/CAR IG.25/INF.7)</p> <p>- Guidelines for marine mammals in captivity (UNEP(DEPI)/CAR IG.25/INF.8)</p> <p>-Protocols and Techniques for responding to marine mammal strandings (UNEP(DEPI)/CAR WG.31/INF. 12)</p> <p>- Compilation of conservation, education and awareness materials (UNEP(DEPI)/CAR WG.31/INF.13)</p> <p>- Compilation of capacities for marine mammals (UNEP(DEPI)/CAR WG.31/INF.14)</p> <p>- Compilation of research protocols for marine mammals (UNEP(DEPI)/CAR WG.31/INF.15)</p> <p>-Promotion of sister sanctuaries designation in USA and the Dominican Republic for marine mammals (UNEP(DEPI)/CAR WG.31/INF.16)</p> <p>Updating and revision of 1995 regional plan completed and submitted to all governments for 3 month review (UNEP(DEPI)/CAR WG.31/INF. 5)</p>
<p>29. Conservation of Sea Turtles (in collaboration with WIDECASST)</p> <p>a) Support existing National Recovery Plans (STRAPs) through implementation of national priority actions</p> <p>b) Continue to support the Index Monitoring Site for Critically Endangered hawksbill sea turtles (<i>Eretmochelys imbricata</i>) and establish at least one new Index Monitoring Site, including compilation of lessons learned from this initiative that could be applied to the management of sea turtles in the region</p> <p>c) Establish collaboration with the Inter-American</p>	<p>Due to lack of additional funds, these activities focused mainly on ongoing work of WIDECASST on the development of standardized population monitoring protocols for hawksbill turtles for implementation at index sites within countries</p> <p>Procedures, manuals reporting tools and national and regional maps of critical nesting habitats were produced by WIDECASST. A model Index Monitoring Site was supported in Barbados and new Index Site in Panama. WIDECASST convened an international training course (May 2006); four national-level stakeholder meetings; three experts meetings; and two regional working groups involving 13 nations</p> <p>Ongoing. MOC signed between both</p>

<p>Convention for the Protection and Conservation of Marine Turtles, in particular for the identification of priority actions at the regional level.</p>	<p>secretariats and coordination underway for regional workshop for hawksbills in late 2008</p>
<p>30. Conservation of bird species (in collaboration with SCSCB, BirdLife, SPAW RAC)</p> <p>a) Support the work in the region on the West Indian Whistling duck, promoted by the Society for the Conservation and Study of Caribbean Birds (SCSCB), in particular activities on education and capacity building which utilize an ecosystem approach through the integrated management of wetlands. This will include use of the comprehensive Manual “Wondrous Wetlands” (in English and Spanish) with relevant stakeholders, and support follow-up actions in countries where the Manual has been introduced, in particular in Cuba, Dominican Republic, St. Vincent and the Grenadines, Martinique, Guadeloupe, French Guyana, Haiti and Venezuela (<i>Fundacion los Guardianes de la Biodiversidad en Ciénaga de Juan Manuel</i>). Financial support for these activities and translation of the Manual into French will be explored with the SPAW/RAC</p> <p>b) Explore cooperation with BirdLife International Partnership in the global programme on Important Bird Areas (IBAs), including support as appropriate to on-</p>	<p>Completed. Second edition of Spanish manual produced. Translation of Manual into French, and training capacity activity in French Antilles completed with support from SPAW/RAC and French Government.</p> <p>The Manual provides resources for conducting a complete wetlands education unit in the classroom, ecological concepts and natural history, field techniques, and detailed instructions for student activities and projects. The diversity of wetland types found in the West Indies is surveyed, along with their inhabitants, their ecology, and the many ecosystem functions they perform. Classroom and field activities emphasize factors contributing to the loss of regional wetlands and the consequences of these losses for biodiversity, ecosystems and, ultimately, for people. The Workbook considers conservation issues specifically pertinent to wetlands in the Caribbean, and provides ideas for student action projects in local communities. Global warming, invasive alien species, other causes of species endangerment, as well as local conservation success stories, and the importance of international treaties and conventions (e.g., Ramsar Convention) to the region are also discussed. The comprehensive and detailed nature of the information also makes the book a valuable resource for decision-makers in government and for members of the public, participating in grassroots conservation efforts. The main messages in this book are that there are almost always alternatives to wetland destruction, degradation or unsustainable use, and that protecting the environment safeguards human health and makes economic sense.</p> <p>Over 40 training workshops delivered through SCSCB, including SPAW Parties (Cuba, Dominican Republic,</p>

<p>going site conservation projects in the region, in particular on the management of identified IBAs in the region and documenting IBAs for the Lesser Antilles and Trinidad and Tobago. Case studies on conservation management approaches (including reforestation, micro-enterprise development and local “Site Support Group” engagement) will be developed and made widely available</p>	<p>Puerto Rico). Approximately 1000 people trained.</p> <p>Partially completed due to limited funding. However, support from SPAW/RAC provided for:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Completion of “Important Bird Areas of the Caribbean: Key sites for Conservation” (to be published in 2008), with detailed fact sheets and maps for each country. - Ensuring that factsheets for the Caribbean IBA and threatened birds are readily available on line (www.birdlife.org) and within national databases as appropriate
<p>31. Update and expansion of SPAW Species Database (with CEPNET and CI)</p> <p>a) In coordination with relevant organizations and SPAW Parties, initiate updating and expansion of the SPAW species database as required to address new trends or pertinent information, in particular as the SPAW Annexes are reviewed and updated.</p>	<p>Pending until resources are made available</p>
<p>32. Fisheries Management (in collaboration with FAO and financial support from SIDA)</p> <p>a) Support priority actions resulting from the regional review of fisheries management in the region, coordinated by FAO/WECAFC, especially those related to implementation of the Code of Conduct on queen conch and implementation of actions emanating from the regional workshop on the management of the lobster fishery</p> <p>b) Collaborate with FAO/WECAFC on ongoing capacity building activities for responsible management of the</p>	<p>Completed through support to the following activities of FAO/WECAFC:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Regional Workshop on Monitoring and Management of Queen Conch, <i>strombus gigas</i>, Kingston, Jamaica, 1-5 May 2006. CEP funded the participation of SPAW Parties and co-organized the Workshop with WECAFC - Preparation and publication of the revised “Manual for Monitoring and Management of Queen Conch” (FAO Fisheries Circular No. 1012), building on the results of the above-mentioned Regional Workshop - Support to the development of management plans for Queen Conch Fisheries in Barbados and St. Vincent and the Grenadines. <p>Completed. Support provided to the Regional Workshop on the Assessment and Management of the Caribbean Sea</p>

<p>lobster fishery</p> <p>c) Implementation of sustainable fishing practices and alternative livelihoods in target communities in coordination and learning from similar activities under the ICRAN MAR Project</p>	<p>and Management of the Caribbean Spiny Lobster, Merida, Mexico. 19-29 September 2006. CEP funded participation of SPAW Parties</p> <p>Completed (see paragraph 43 below and UNEP(DEPI)/CAR WG.31/INF.10 for details)</p>
<p>33. Control of Alien and Invasive Species (in collaboration with GISP, UNEP, CBD, IMO)</p> <p>a) In cooperation with key partners initiate development (see paragraph 43 below UNEP(DEPI)/CAR WG.31/INF.10 for details) of a marine invasive species control programme for the Caribbean.</p> <p>b) Proposal for regional implementation of UNEP/IMO Ballast Water Project in the Wider Caribbean, focusing on the transfer of invasive marine species in ballast water, in coordination with activities of the LBS Protocol and AMEP programme.</p> <p>c) Produce a compilation of: Information on national and regional capacities and experiences on marine invasive alien species (IAS) management programmes in the Wider Caribbean, including ballast waters management</p> <p>d) Conduct a capacity building activity on invasive species using the IAS training manual recently developed by UNEP Regional Seas Programme and GISP. The manual was adapted to the Wider Caribbean following the findings of the above compilation and of training experiences in other regions.</p>	<p>Completed in collaboration with CABI. Project Identification Form (PIF) submitted through UNEP to GEF on "Mitigating the threats of Invasive Species in the Insular Caribbean" (Project Grant for US\$2.5 million). PIF approved by GEF council in February 2008</p> <p>Completed under AMEP coordination</p> <p>Completed with UNEP Regional Seas funding. See document: UNEP(DEPI)/CARWG.31/INF.18: "National and Regional Capacities and Experiences on Marine Invasive Species, including Ballast Waters, Management Programme in the Wider Caribbean Region: a Compilation of current Information"</p> <p>Completed. Regional Workshop for Spanish speaking countries convened with UNEP funding by COCATRAM as the secretariat of the Antigua Convention for the North East Pacific together with GISP (Global Invasive Species Program). Thirty-one persons attended representing Panama, Nicaragua, Honduras, El Salvador, Guatemala, Mexico, Colombia and Venezuela, international organizations and REMPEITC. CEP arranged for selected SPAW Parties (Cuba, Dominican Republic and Venezuela) to be invited to participate in the Workshop. Only Venezuela responded to the invitation. The Workshop has contributed to increasing participants' knowledge regarding invasive marine species and what can and is being done to prevent, mitigate and/or</p>

	<p>eliminate the problem. The Workshop also provided a base for further networking and collaboration among the participants. There were numerous interventions by the participants explaining several mechanisms of bio-invasions, several examples of invasions and how these were tackled, while indicating the organizations working on this issue.</p>
<p>34. Capacity Building in Wildlife Conservation</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) Explore collaboration with U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service on implementation of training activities to increase capacity of professionals, MPA managers and educators on wildlife conservation, utilizing management issues as a point of entry to address species conservation needs, including socio-economic aspects of species conservation. b) Join the Western Hemisphere Migratory Species Initiative (WHMSI) currently under development by Governments, NGOs and relevant Conventions such as CMS and Ramsar, with a view to develop synergies and ensure coordination with the SPAW Programme. 	<p>Not implemented due to lack of funding</p> <p>Completed. SPAW Protocol secretariat is a member of WHMSI's Steering Committee and coordinates regularly with others to develop appropriate synergies. Memorandum of Cooperation with WHMSI was signed in February 2008 and presentation on WHMSI will be delivered at SPAW/STAC4 by a SPAW Contracting Party.</p>

Sub-programme Outputs

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

Outputs	Status
a) A Regional Action Plan for Marine Mammal (MMAP) conservation and priority actions implemented, including manatee conservation priority actions	In progress. Substantive outputs produced (see para. 28 above), including draft 5 year MMAP priority plan (UNEP(DEPI)/CAR WG.31/4) and revised manatee management plan (UNEP(DEPI)/CAR WG.31.INF.5)
b) Sea turtle conservation and recovery priority actions implemented in at least three countries	Population monitoring protocols and support for index sites in Barbados and Panama (see para. 24 above). Additionally, National Recovery Action Plans were developed for Panama, Venezuela and Costa Rica
c) An updated and more comprehensive SPAW species database available through the CEP website	Pending until funding becomes available
d) Priority actions identified for lobster and queen conch management and increased capacity for their implementation	Completed (see para. 32 above)
e) A preliminary programme for marine invasive species developed and environmental professionals from governments trained on key issues relevant to marine invasive species	Underway. Training for Spanish-speaking countries completed (see para. 33d above). Additionally a PIF was developed by CABI in collaboration with UNEP-CEP and submitted to GEF regional project (US\$2.57 million). PIF approved by GEF Council in February 2008

2.5 Conservation and Sustainable Use of Coastal and Marine EcosystemsStatus of Sub-programme Activities

36. Status of activities implemented during the 2006 – 2007 biennium

2.5 CONSERVATION AND SUSTAINABLE USE OF COASTAL AND MARINE ECOSYSTEMS	
Activities as reported in the 2006-2007 Workplan	Status / Results
37. ICRAN-USAID/UNF International Coral Reef Action Network (ICRAN) MAR Project a) As major outcome of activity, the ICRAN-USAID/UNF ICRAN Mesoamerican Reef Alliance continued implementation in participating countries (Belize, Guatemala, Honduras and Mexico).	The Project included major activities resulting in very important outputs which are presented in para. 47 below. (For additional information please refer to Summary Report in UNEP(DEPI)/CAR WG.31./INF.10)

<p>38. Support to the International Coral Reef Initiative (ICRI)</p> <p>a) GCRMN Sub-regional nodes: Continue to support and/or coordinate with the five sub-regional Caribbean coral reef monitoring nodes for the Southern Tropical America (STA) (coordinated by INVEMAR in Colombia); Eastern Caribbean (coordinated by the CZM Centre in Barbados); Netherlands Antilles Coral Reef Initiative (NACRI); Western Caribbean (primarily coordinated by the MBRS Project); and Northern Caribbean and Atlantic (NCA) (coordinated by UWI-CMS), including support for on-site training, technical assistance and data management and to ensure data contributions from the region to the global ReefBase database and annual reef status reports of the GCRMN.</p> <p>b) Support as appropriate, coral reef assessment and monitoring through other regional efforts, such as the Atlantic & Gulf Rapid Reef Assessment (AGRRA), CARICOMP and ReefCheck, and incorporation of the information into the GCRMN and ReefBase efforts.</p> <p>c) Attend ICRI meetings as SPAW secretariat and promote and support as feasible participation of governments and experts from the region in those meetings.</p> <p>d) Produce a lessons-learnt and best practices toolkit, utilizing the experiences and results from the implementation of the ICRAN-Caribbean activities during 2000-2004 in particular those involving demonstration sites, as a means to share the lessons learnt from this Project and improve local capacity (with financial support from the US-NFWS and the SPAW/RAC).</p>	<p>Activities a) and b) completed and data submitted to GCRMN, including data on 2005 bleaching event. The following were produced with GCRMN and donors:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - “Status of Caribbean Coral Reefs after Bleaching and Hurricanes in 2005” - “Status of coral Reefs of the World 2008” (being prepared for publication in late 2008) <p>In addition, in collaboration with WRI the economic valuation tool for coastal resources, reefs and mangroves, was completed and support provided for validation of this tool in St. Lucia and Trinidad and Tobago to support policy, management planning and decision-making. Results of this project will be available in June 2008.</p> <p>Completed. See table under para. 11 above.</p> <p>Ongoing (report being prepared)</p>
<p>39. Information on status of seagrass beds in the region</p> <p>a) A general diagnosis based on existing information on the status of seagrass beds will be produced to complement existing reports on the status of coral reefs and mangroves.</p>	<p>This activity was not undertaken as resources were not available. A global report on status of seagrass beds was produced by UNEP-WCMC in 2003</p>

40. Final status of the ICRAN- USAID/UNF International Coral Reef Action Network (ICRAN) MAR Project: During the current biennium (2006-2007) the ICRAN-MAR Project finalized activities producing significant results for the Mesoamerican Region.

41. Project Synopsis

- a) In recognition of the ecological and socio-economic richness and importance of the Mesoamerican Barrier Reef region (MAR), the ICRAN Mesoamerican Reef Alliance (ICRAN-MAR) project was developed, to address threats to the MAR under three components known for their potential to strongly impact the coastal and marine ecosystems: Watershed Management, Sustainable Fishing, and Sustainable Tourism, while contributing to many local, national and regional-level resource conservation and sustainable development projects that had been initiated in the MAR region since 1990.
- b) This 3-year initiative that started in 2004, combined a conservation and sustainable management approach with the creation of partnerships with the private sector to leverage resources and expertise to find long-term solutions, and also aimed at complementing The spirit of creating alliances and consolidating societies with the private sector for the benefit of coral reefs in the Mesoamerican region has was the fundamental objective of the ICRAN-MAR Project.
- c) Project implementing partners were the World Resources Institute (WRI), UNEP-World Conservation Monitoring Centre (WCMC), World Wildlife Fund (WWF), The Coral Reef Alliance (CORAL), UNEP-Division of Technology Industry and Economics (DTIE), and Reef Check.

42. Major Outcomes and Results during the 2006-2007 biennium

a) Watershed Management

- Efforts focused on identifying sources of pollution and sediment from agricultural activities (banana, pineapple, citrus, sugar cane), as well as on-the-ground activities with agricultural businesses to adopt a suite of “better management practices” (BMPs). This work produced concrete innovative results for the MAR region. Implementing partners continue activities beyond the life of the ICRAN-MAR project with leveraged support from various sources:
 - Consolidation of conservation alliances (signed agreements-MoUs) for the promotion of BMPs with major agricultural stakeholders: Chiquita, CropLife Latin America, Dole Food Company Latin America, Fyffes, *Fundación de Investigación Agrícola* (FHIA), The Association of Citrus Producers from Sonaguera, Honduras (ACISON), and *Azucarera del Norte, S. A. (AZUNOSA)* in Northern Honduras, the Citrus Growers Association in Stann Creek District in Belize, the Sugarcane Growers Associations, Corozal and Orange Walk Divisions in Belize, and PALSA/AGROTOR
 - Development of a monitoring protocol for toxic bio-accumulation from agrochemicals, (with financial support from CropLife).
 - Development of a Pesticide Environmental Assessment System (PEAS) in coordination with Dole and Chiquita to find new, useful, and cost-effective ways to sustain productivity and reduce negative impacts pesticides impose on the environment, agricultural products, workers, and nearby communities
 - Establishment of baselines for key impacts (e.g. soil erosion) and determine the impact of (BMPs) in reducing those impacts to acceptable levels. Establishment of monitoring programs and pilot projects for testing/refining use of BMPs.

Development of a climatic and soil monitoring system in MAR agricultural areas in Belize and Honduras: To complement and promote long-term sustainability of project results, and with co-financing from Summit Foundation. WWF will monitor soil erosion and weather parameters in sugarcane, oil palm, and citrus plantations in Belize and Honduras Information and GIS tools for examining the potential impact of different land use and development options in the region and the associated impacts on water quality on the MAR were produced. These hydrologic models and diagnostic tools are being used by key stakeholders to implement better management practices. Tools

and results have been disseminated and some local institutions have continued follow-up actions (further validation of models) beyond the life of the Project. Major activities completed include:

- Review of historical land use change and statistical data compilation for analysis of the land use change drivers; developed land cover change scenarios and provided data sets as input to the hydrologic modelling; facilitated capacity-building activities and follow-up to regional stakeholders
- Definition of all watersheds (400) of at least 5 sq km discharging along the MAR
- A comprehensive watershed analysis for the MAR region providing significant insights on the connections between land-based sources of threat and impacts to the MAR. This analysis tool works at many scales and allows identification and prioritization of the sub-basins which contribute the most sediment and nutrients to coastal waters along the MAR
- Performed a hydrologic and spatial analysis of impact of land-cover change on erosion and sediment delivery, using the Non-point-Source Pollution and Erosion Comparison Tool (N-SPECT) model developed by NOAA.
- All project results have been made available to the wider public through final technical project reports, internet sites, and data CD. These resources can be found at:
 - ICRAN-MAR project website (www.icranmar.org)
 - Project summary reports and maps(www.reefsatrisk.wri.org)
 - <http://www.unep-wcmc.org/assessments/mar>.

b) Sustainable Fisheries

- Development of Lobster Manual “How to profit by practicing sustainable fishing: Lobster fishing practices guidelines for the Mesoamerican Reef”. More than 1,200 copies distributed among fishermen in workshops, fishermen exchanges, training sessions, meetings, etc.
- Two MoUs signed with organized fishermen and private sector from Mexico and Honduras (over 1,000 fishermen members), to collaborate on sustainable use of fisheries resources in the region
- Contributed significantly to create and consolidate the first partnership between the private company Darden and the industrial fishermen from Honduras (APESCA) to initiate pilots to introduce environmentally-friendly traps –developed by PROARCA– in artisanal and industrial fisheries
- Development of an Ecosystem Based Fisheries Management (EBFM) methodology for the region and production of the book “Best Fishing Practices in Coral Reefs; Methods for collecting ecological data that support the Ecosystem-Based Fisheries Management”. The protocol is being used in six protected areas to design, re-design and make adjustments to their management plans.
- Reef Check centers were set up in the four ICRAN-MAR countries, providing trained staff and educational materials in Spanish and English.
- At least 314 community members trained in Reef Check’s socioeconomic and ecological monitoring of coral reef health. Trainees include local trainers, fishermen, Diving staff, students, park staff, and general public. The protocol allows monitoring of ecological and socio-economic parameters to assess the progress of local management efforts and contribute data to produce the annual global reports on reef health.
- At least 145 Reef Check monitoring surveys conducted over the duration of the project in all ICRAN-MAR countries (inside and outside existing MPAs), and data collected by community members (fishermen, dive industry staff, NGOs staff, academia) is currently used locally and globally for MPA management efforts.

c) Sustainable Tourism

- Development, and uptake of three marine recreation standards (scuba, snorkelling, and boat operations) for good tourism practices
- Implementation of training workshops in all participating countries on better management practices (using the Handbook of Better Practices for the Marine Recreation Sector) and on the application of the regional tourism guidelines and Code of Conduct
- Disbursement of micro-grants and technical support for locally led conservation initiatives in three pilot sites (Playa del Carmen, Mexico; Placencia, Belize; Roatan, Honduras). Improved capacity of Pilot sites to address sustainability and reef conservation issues through educational and highly interactive workshops, as well as technical and financial support for locally-led conservation initiatives.
- Secured commitments from major tourism promotion institutions in each region to highlight businesses participating in the programme through press releases, written stories on the web and in tourism publications.

d) Project Coordination

- Convened meetings of the Steering and Technical Oversight Committees of the Project and coordinated closely with project partners (governments, participating organizations, private sector and funding agencies) in implementation of activities
- Conducted regular project evaluation, including assessment of impacts and indicators of success, and dissemination of lessons learned in the region and globally
- Produced detailed terminal report and executive summary; available at www.icran.org and UNEP-CAR/RCU.

43. Project Statistics

- a) Institutions involved in the project: 270 (34 government agencies; 22 local NGOs; 18 regional initiatives; 58 local communities; 23 National Institutions¹; 115 private sector)
- b) Leveraged resources: over \$1,600,000 USD in support of activities under the three components.
- c) Beneficiaries: over 1,000 direct beneficiaries through various activities in the 3 components
 - Watershed Management: 25 people trained in the Modelling tools
 - Watershed Management: more than 50 regional stakeholders informed in preliminary results of watershed analysis
 - Watershed Management: More than 200 farmers of the Orange Walk District Division.
 - Sustainable Fisheries: more than 150 local stakeholders trained in the Reef Check protocol
 - Sustainable Fisheries: over 300 Fishermen from the 4 countries
 - Sustainable Tourism :over 300 individuals from the MAR trained and sensitized on tourism best practices

44. Major Impacts

- a) The programme established and strengthened important alliances with partner organizations and projects (e.g. Conservation International, TNC and FFEM), major international corporations (e.g. Chiquita, Dole, Fyffes, CropLife, etc.), local industries and local community groups (e.g. fishermen's cooperatives). This mosaic of partnerships and alliances positioned the project at a strategic point where there is potential to leverage major changes in policies and practices at national and regional levels.
- b) Local Empowerment – As a result of this project partners helped strengthening several NGOs and

¹ e.g. Universities, research centers

- community-level individuals in the region who now have the capacity to monitor coral reef ecological and socio-economic parameters using the Reef Check Protocol, assess watershed and land-use impact on the marine environment and implement more sustainable fisheries and marine tourism practices.
- c) Support MPA management – The region-wide success of the ICRAN MAR tourism initiative has laid the groundwork for rapid near-term advances in standards implementation and improved Marine Protected Area (MPA) management across the entire Mesoamerican Reef system. Additionally, the pioneering alliances that were developed as a result of locally-led conservation initiatives have not only forged new relationships within the private sector, but also between the private sector and resource managers.
 - d) Increased awareness – Workshops measurably heightened awareness of coral reef ecology, sustainable business practices, and the need to build capacity for locally-led conservation.
 - e) Catalytic effects – As a result of the efforts and results achieved under the fisheries component other initiatives were launched, such as the MSC certification in lobster fisheries in Mexico and the private-public partnership between DARDEN, APESCA y DIGEPESCA, were WWF is facilitating the process and giving technical support.
 - f) Expanding alliances and private-public-partnerships – Cooperation agreements with the major agribusiness, tourism operators and sea food service industry were signed during project implementation. This project increased both the interest and enthusiasm of stakeholders through out the region to develop partnerships and build capacity within their own destinations to promote sustainable business practices, support local MPAs, and conserve their coral reef resources. Many individuals and businesses are now proving to be a driving force in their communities to make the marine recreation standards, agriculture or fisheries BMP’s a common practice in their region.
 - g) Filling information gaps – This project facilitated information exchange among stakeholders; such is the case of the tourism standards validation, agro-industry on the bio toxicology protocol, and watershed analysis, among the three countries. The lobster fishery industry and the Honduras Government to making the first lobster stock assessment to define future regulations to prevent this fishery over-exploitation is another good example of this information exchange.
 - h) From local to global – The eco-regional efforts made under the ICRAN-MAR project contribute to addressing key the drivers or root causes of global environmental problems. In that regard project results contribute to the solution of global problems beyond the boundaries of a single eco-region
 - i) Leveraged resources – Speak of the interest by other donors and the private sector to invest in efforts that promote the health the MAR by supporting research, information gathering, and consolidating mechanisms in support of adoption of better management practices.

Sub-programme Outputs

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

Outputs	Status
a) Knowledge and information on status of marine ecosystems, primarily coral reefs, to determine priority actions and focus required efforts	- Through ICRAN-MAR and GCRMN regional nodes
b) Creation of alternative or supplemental livelihoods and better practices implemented within the agro-businesses, marine recreation tourism and fisheries along the Mesoamerican region	- Completed through ICRAN-MAR activities

c) Compilation and dissemination of lessons learnt and best practices as means of generating exchange among WCR countries and generating multipliers for sound reef management	- Ongoing (also through ICRAN-MAR outputs highlighted above)
d) Enhanced cooperation and programming for conservation and management of marine ecosystems in the region	- Completed through ICRAN-MAR and ongoing GCRMN nodes

2.6. Sustainable Tourism

Status of Sub-programme Activities

46. Status of activities implemented during the biennium 2006-2007

2.6 SUSTAINABLE TOURISM	
Activities	Status / Results
<p>Continued support to CTO and CAST in the development and implementation of standards and initiatives for sustainable tourism</p> <p>a) Promoting the establishment of the Caribbean as a Sustainable Tourism Zone, as the primary output of the Regional Tourism Policy Framework, and subsequently agreed by the Association of Caribbean States (ACS).</p> <p>b) Coordination as appropriate with the OECS-ESDU in the implementation of the OECS Strategy for Sustainable Tourism and CTO's Regional Tourism Policy Framework.</p>	- The secretariat contributed to the development of CTOs Regional Policy Framework for Sustainable Tourism (to be adopted by Governments in 2008).
<p>Implementation of the Caribbean Blue Flag Campaign</p> <p>a) Continue to participate and facilitate as appropriate the implementation of the Campaign, particularly through participation in the Regional Jury.</p>	- The secretariat continued to be supportive of Blue Flag in the region to the extent feasible, through participation in the regional Jury in 2006 and promoting the initiative in the WCR. The following countries are currently implementing Blue Flag Programmes in the region: Aruba, Bahamas, Dominican Republic, St. Maarten, Puerto Rico and Jamaica.
<p>Materials and tools for capacity building</p> <p>a) Support utilization of CEN manuals for enhancing capacity of tourism industry stakeholders and support to local training activities.</p>	- CEN manuals were edited in Spanish and will be published in CD format during 2008.

<p>Integrate and provide inputs from the Wider Caribbean Region in global sustainable tourism initiatives in cooperation with UNEP-DTIE</p> <p>a) “Local Agenda 21 and Tourism”</p> <p>b) Principles of the Quebec Declaration on Ecotourism.</p> <p>c) Multi-stakeholder dialogue for addressing key sustainability issues at destinations within the framework of the Tour Operators Initiative (TOI).</p>	<p>- Completed as feasible through communication with UNEP-DTIE and inputs to documents.</p>
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Sub-programme Outputs

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

Outputs	Status
<p>Increased capacity at the local level on best practices and approaches for sustainable tourism</p>	<p>- Ongoing</p>
<p>Increased coordination and collaboration with CTO, CAST, OECS-ESDU, CELB-CI, and UNEP-DTIE, for sustainable tourism initiatives of mutual interest</p>	<p>- Completed in particular with CTO and CAST</p>
<p>The Caribbean Blue Flag Campaign being implemented in selected countries</p>	<p>- Ongoing and additional countries joined the initiative</p>

Annex I: Status of Budget for the SPAW Programme for the 2006 – 2007 Biennium

Annex 1. Status of Budget for the SPAW Programme for the 2006 – 2007 Biennium

Activity	2006				2007			
	Budgeted		Total Raised	Total Expenditure	Budgeted		Total Raised	Total Expenditure
	CTF	Other Contributions			CTF	Other Contributions		
SPAW								
2.1								
Co-ordination (salary costs, COP and STAC4 Meetings covered by OCCC and Govt. of France, respectively)								
Consultants	10,000	0	10,000	10,000	10,000	0	10,000	10,000
2.2								
Strengthening of protected areas in the Wider Caribbean Region*	15,000	200,000	175,000	175,000	15,000	170,000	175,000	175,000
2.3								
Development of guidelines for protected areas and wildlife**	10,000	70,000	10,000	10,000	10,000	20,000	30,000	0
2.4								
Conservation of threatened and endangered species***	10,000	290,000	200,000	200,000	10,000	290,000	100,000	100,000
2.5								
Conservation and sustainable use of coastal and marine ecosystems****	20,000	85,000	35,000	35,000	20,000	150,000	20,000	20,000
ICRAN MAR	0	800,000	800,000	800,000	0	700,000	700,000	700,000
2.6								
Sustainable tourism	20,000	100,000	0	0	20,000	170,000	10,000	10,000
Subtotal	85,000	1,545,000	1,230,000	1,230,000	85,000	1,500,000	1,045,000	1,015,000
Programme support costs								
13% (amount subject to change based on source of funds)	11,050	170,950	43,550	117,000	11,050	140,400	205,400	53,950
TOTAL SPAW	96,050	1,715,950	1,273,550	1,347,000	96,050	1,644,000	1,250,400	1,068,950

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

* "Other Contributions" in both years are from the McArthur Foundation for the Training of Trainers (ToT) Programme, SIDA for CaMPAM exchanges, small grants and database, and sustainable fisheries, and from the SPAW/RAC/French Government for local training in 2006 and 2007.

** Includes SPAW/RAC funds raised for one-day meeting prior to STAC4 for protected areas Guidelines to prevent species from being threatened or endangered, as well as funding for guidelines to prevent species from becoming endangered, received from France in 2008 but activity pending as per Decision No. 8 of COP4.

*** "Other Contributions" reflect funds from the US Government under Oceans Environment and Science Initiative, from the SPAW/RAC for marine mammals and migratory birds, and UNEP-Regional Seas Programme, for invasive species and marine mammals.

**** Includes support from SPAW/RAC for compilation of best practices of ICRAN