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**THE GEF CARIBBEAN LARGE MARINE ECOSYSTEM (CLME+) PROJECT  
AND ITS JOINT IMPLEMENTATION THROUGH THE  
AMEP AND SPAW SUBPROGRAMMES**

*For reasons of economy and the environment, Delegates are kindly requested to bring their copies of the Working and Information documents to the Meeting, and not to request additional copies.*



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**ACRONYMS**

|                   |   |
|-------------------|---|
| AMEP              | Assessment of Marine Environment Pollution                                    |
| CEP               | Caribbean Environment Programme   |
| CLME <sup>+</sup> | Caribbean and North Brazil Shelf Large Marine Ecosystems                      |
| COP               | Conference of Parties   |
| CReW              | Caribbean Regional Fund for Wastewater Management                             |
| CReWSIP           | Climate Resilience and Water Security Investment Framework and Financing Plan |
| DSS               | Decision Support System   |
| EAF               | Ecosystem Approach to Fisheries   |
| EBM               | Ecosystem-based Management  |
| GCFI              | Gulf and Caribbean Fisheries Institute  |
| GEF               | Global Environment Facility   |
| GWP-C             | Global Water Partnership-Caribbean  |
| IGM               | Inter-Governmental Meeting  |
| IUCN              | International Union for the Conservation of Nature                            |
| IWEco             | Implementing Integrated Land, Water & Ecosystem Management in Caribbean SIDS  |
| IWRM              | Integrated Water Resources Management   |
| LBS               | Pollution from Land-Based Sources and Activities                              |
| M&E               | Monitoring and Evaluation   |
| MPA               | Marine Protected Area   |
| NPA               | National Programme of Action  |
| Ramsar            | Convention on Wetlands of International Importance                            |
| RAPMaLi           | Regional Action Plan on Marine Litter   |
| REPCar            | Reducing the Pesticides Runoff to the Caribbean Sea                           |
| SAP               | Strategic Action Programme  |
| sLMR              | Shared Living Marine Resources  |
| SOCAR             | State of the Convention Area Report   |
| SOME              | State of the Marine Environment   |
| SPAW              | Specially Protected Areas and Wildlife  |
| STAC              | Scientific and Technical Advisory Committee                                   |
| UNDP              | UN Development Programme  |
| UNEP              | UN Environment Programme  |
| UNOPS             | UN Office of Project Services   |
| WCMC              | World Conservation Monitoring Centre  |
| WCR               | Wider Caribbean Region  |

## INTRODUCTION

The United Nations Environment Programme's Caribbean Environment Programme (UNEP-CEP) was established in 1981 to protect and develop the Wider Caribbean Region's marine environment. The adoption of the Convention for the Protection and Development of the Marine Environment of the Wider Caribbean and its Protocols (Cartagena Convention) in 1983, provides the only comprehensive regional legal framework for the protection of the Wider Caribbean Region's marine environment.

The objectives of the Convention are accomplished through the implementation of activities under three Protocols. These are the Protocols Concerning:

- Specially Protected Areas and Wildlife (SPA) in the Wider Caribbean Region;
- Co-operation in Combating Oil Spills in the Wider Caribbean Region; and
- Pollution from Land-Based Sources and Activities (LBS).

The activities under the LBS and Oil Spill Protocols are implemented under UNEP-CEP's Assessment of Marine Environment Pollution (AMEP) Sub-Programme, while the SPA Protocol's objectives are implemented under the SPA Sub-Programme. While many of the activities implemented under these two Sub-Programmes often complement each other, human and financial resource constraints, donor demands and differing mandates have not enabled strategic joint implementation of AMEP and SPA projects and activities and maximized potential impact at regional, national and local levels.

This disconnect between the two sub-programmes was recognized in previous recommendations and decisions of the SPA and LBS Protocols and decisions of the Contracting Parties to the Cartagena Convention. Recommendation I of the 2<sup>nd</sup> LBS STAC regarding the Work Plan and Budget, called for opportunities to be explored to have a joint meeting of technical experts from the SPA and LBS Protocols, including considerations for a joint LBS/SPA STAC. This was echoed in the Decisions of the 2<sup>nd</sup> LBS COP where a more integrated approach between LBS and SPA activities was recommended both within the context of the UNDP/GEF CLME<sup>+</sup> project and for the broader execution of activities that support their respective workplans and priorities. These decisions and recommendation for greater integration of LBS and SPA activities, were also encapsulated in Decision VII of the 16<sup>th</sup> IGM which called for enhanced coordination among the two Sub-Programmes through the use of resources under the CLME<sup>+</sup> and the development of a roadmap for collaborative action. Possible pathways to foster greater integration of SPA and LBS activities are captured at the end of this document and in the proposed Theory of Change illustrated in Annex I.

The UNDP/GEF CLME<sup>+</sup> project, through the Strategic Action Programme for the Sustainable Management of the Shared Living Marine Resources of the Caribbean and North Brazil Shelf Large Marine Ecosystems (CLME<sup>+</sup> SAP), has provided financial resources to directly support the integration of the AMEP and SPA Sub-Programmes for not only the joint implementation of UNDP/GEF CLME<sup>+</sup> project components, but also the development of a longer term Road Map for the AMEP and SPA Sub-Programmes that enables closer integration and coordination.

The SAP developed under the UNDP/GEF "CLME Project" (2009-2014), is a 10-year programme (2015-2025) which has, to date, been politically endorsed by 25 countries and outlines short- and medium-term priority actions for improved ocean governance and management in the CLME+ region. With countries and individuals heavily reliant on the goods and services provided by marine ecosystems, the SAP aims to improve transboundary governance and the management of shared living marine resources (sLMR) through the protection of coral reef, continental shelf and pelagic ecosystems across the 4.4 million km<sup>2</sup>

that cover the CLME+ region, to ensure the sustainable and climate-resilient provision of goods and services from sLMR. This will be achieved by addressing three transboundary problems inherent across the region: unsustainable fisheries, habitat degradation and pollution. The SAP aims to implement activities and achieve outcomes that will promote the enactment of six strategies:

- Strategy 1: Protecting the marine environment;
- Strategy 2: Achieving sustainable fisheries;
- Strategy 3: Integrated ocean governance, through inter-sectoral policy coordination;
- Strategy 4: Ecosystem-based management (EBM) for reefs and associated ecosystems;
- Strategy 5: An ecosystem approach to fisheries (EAF) for the pelagic ecosystem; and
- Strategy 6: EBM/EAF for the Guianas-Brazil continental shelf ecosystem, with special emphasis on shrimp and groundfish fisheries.

UNEP-CEP, through its SPAW and AMEP Sub-Programmes, is responsible for the implementation of activities in support of Strategy 1. More specifically, under the UNDP/GEF CLME+ Project, “Catalyse the Implementation of the SAP for the Sustainable Management of Shared Living Marine Resources in the CLME+ Region” (2015-2020), UNEP-CEP will be implementing specific project activities in a coordinated manner. It is expected that the UNDP/GEF CLME+ Project, through support of some CLME+ SAP actions, will also address the root causes of environmental degradation by the implementation of activities and outputs outlined under five project components/outcomes.

**Table 1: Aims and Outcomes of Phase 1 of the CLME+ Project Components**

| Project Component | Aims  | Outcome   |
|-------------------|---|---|
| 1                 | Strengthening the region’s governance arrangements – consistent with the EBM/EAF  | Integrative governance arrangements for sustainable fisheries and for the protection of the marine environment, in line with the endorsed CLME+ SAP   |
| 2                 | Enhancing the capacity of key institutions and stakeholders to effectively implement knowledge-based EBM/EAF for sustainable shared living marine resources use in the CLME+ region | Enhanced institutional and stakeholder capacity for sustainable and climate-resilient sLMR management at regional, sub-regional, national and local levels (with special attention to regional and sub-regional organisations with key roles in SAP implementation) |
| 3                 | Further institutionalize ecosystem based approaches towards the management of key fisheries and ecosystems within the CLME+   | Progressive reduction of environmental stresses (with particular attention to socially just solutions and the enhancement of livelihoods) demonstrated, across the thematic and geographic scope of the CLME+ SAP   |

| Project Component | Aims   | Outcome   |
|-------------------|--|---|
| 4                 | Delivering enhanced insights and understanding on high-priority investment needs and defining medium-and-long term investment plans to: (a) halt and reverse, at the regional scale, the loss of ecosystem goods and services; and to (b) stimulate sustainable, ocean-linked businesses and economic growth | Financing catalysed for the up-scaling of priority actions for the protection of the marine environment and for ensuring sustainable, climate-resilient livelihoods and socio-economic development from sLMR use in the CLME <sup>+</sup> |
| 5                 | Improve communication, coordination and information exchange among primary CLME <sup>+</sup> SAP stakeholders and among the myriad of existing and planned projects, activities and initiatives in the region  | Regional socio-economic benefits and global environmental benefits from SAP implementation are maximised through enhanced collaboration, planning and adaptive management   |

Between 2016 and 2019, UNEP-CEP, primarily through the SPAW and AMEP Sub-Programmes, will jointly implement specific activities as outlined under a UN Inter-Agency Agreement between UNOPS and UNEP, for the implementation of selected components of the UNDP/GEF CLME<sup>+</sup> Project. This paper will discuss UNEP-CEP's responsibilities under the UNDP/GEF CLME<sup>+</sup> Project and the status of implementation by the respective SPAW and AMEP Sub-Programmes. For further information on the initiatives that will be implemented during the 2017-2018 biennium please refer to the Draft SPAW and AMEP Workplans for the 2017-2018 biennium (UNEP(DEPI)/CAR WG.38/6; and UNEP (DEPI)/CAR WG.37/3).

**PROJECT COMPONENTS**

**Project Component 1**

| Activity   | Implementation Status  |
|--|--|
|  | CEP  |
| <p>Formal agreement between Brazil and the Cartagena Convention Secretariat for the coordination of actions relevant to the Cartagena Convention and its Protocols</p> | <p><b><i>In Progress</i></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Discussions with the Government of Brazil are ongoing, with indications of interest and support received. The Government of Brazil has also been invited to the SPAW and LBS Scientific and Technical Advisory Committee (STAC) Meetings and will be invited to the SPAW and LBS Conference of Parties (COP) and the UNEP-CEP Inter-Governmental Meeting (IGM)</li> <li>• Engagement with UNEP’s Regional Office for Latin America and the Caribbean, as well as the sub-regional office for Brazil</li> <li>• Review of similar agreements ongoing</li> </ul> <p>The development of an agreement with Brazil will provide coordinated management of the ecosystems within the CLME<sup>+</sup> region. This will help ensure the joint management of this region and the reduction of anthropogenic activities occurring in one region that may affect the health of ecosystems in other areas.</p> |



| Activity  | Implementation Status<br>CEP  |
|---|---|
| <p>A decision on a modality for the coordinated implementation of actions under the SPAW and LBS Protocols under the Cartagena Convention</p> | <p><b>Ongoing</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The first joint LBS and SPAW STAC meetings will be held in Miami, Florida from 31<sup>st</sup> October – 4<sup>th</sup> November 2016 and will include the harmonized development of agendas and workplans.</li> <li>• Both the LBS and SPAW Sub-Programmes are collaborating with the Gulf and Caribbean Fisheries Institute (GCFI) to develop its Research Output under the CLME<sup>+</sup>. The Programme Officers of both Sub-Programmes will help to identify resource persons, and attend meetings on pollution during the 69<sup>th</sup> GCFI Conference in Grand Cayman from 7<sup>th</sup>-11<sup>th</sup> November 2016.</li> <li>• The development of a joint information paper with recommendations for the development of a more detailed LBS and SPAW Roadmap.</li> <li>• As part of this Roadmap, UNEP-CEP will: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Define joint performance indicators and targets</li> <li>- Identify opportunities for joint project development and/or implementation</li> <li>- Identify opportunities for joint training/ capacity building, future joint STACs and exchanges between SPAW and LBS Focal Points</li> </ul> </li> </ul> <p>The coordinated implementation of the UNDP/GEF CLME<sup>+</sup> project between the AMEP and SPAW Sub-Programmes will also form a model that will facilitate a more integrated and holistic approach to ecosystem protection for UNEP-CEP's overall work programme as reflected in Annex I.</p> |

**Project Component 2**

| Activity   | Implementation Status   |   |
|--|---|---|
|  | SPAW  | AMEP  |
| <p>A Regional Action Plan for the reduction of impacts from excess nutrient loads on marine ecosystems</p> | <p><i>In Progress</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Under the SPAW 2017-2018 Draft Workplan, a campaign to collect biopsies from marine mammals will be considered to determine contaminant levels in marine mammals.</li> </ul> <p>The collection of biopsy samples from marine mammals found within the WCR will help to identify some of the contaminants affecting their populations. The identification of these contaminants will allow for the development of mitigation measures, for those specific contaminants, and allow for their inclusion in the Action Plan.</p> | <p><i>In Progress</i></p> <p>Projects and activities outlined in the 2017-2018 Draft Workplan which contribute to the achievement of this outcome include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Development and implementation of National Programmes of Action to reduce nutrient pollution from wastewater and agricultural discharges. Key activities of this project include defining nutrient performance indicators and nutrient use; and developing a toolbox to support policy reform and development.</li> <li>• Establishment of synergies between the UNDP/GEF CLME<sup>+</sup> and GEF IWeco Projects to support lab strengthening, capacity building for the development and use of indicators, and data and information management.</li> <li>• Compilation and sharing of lessons learned and best practices from completed GEF projects such as GEF REPCar, and the more recent GEF CReW project.</li> <li>• Use of the recently established Caribbean Platform for Nutrients Management.</li> <li>• Expansion of recommendations of Regional Experts Workshop and finalizing of the draft action plan on nutrients developed in 2016.</li> </ul> <p>Beyond contributing to the development of the action plan, these efforts will complement the work of the SPAW Sub-Programme. By addressing nutrient-based pollution there will be reduced algal bloom and growth on coral reefs; reduced threat to biological diversity; and minimized changes in the structure of the aquatic community.</p> |

| Activity   | Implementation Status  |   |
|--|--|---|
| <p>A Regional Strategy and Action Plan for the valuation, protection and/or restoration of key marine habitats in the CLME</p> | <p><b>Ongoing</b></p> <p>Since the inception of SPAW, activities have been implemented that have strengthened capacity building throughout the WCR and supported the conservation of important marine ecosystems.</p> <p>The key activities that will help form the basis of the Strategy and Action Plan include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Promote the ratification of the SPAW Protocol in CLME+ countries</li> <li>• Delivering of training courses on Marine Protected Area (MPA) management;</li> <li>• Development of Training of Trainers workshops/seminars for the management and protection of wetlands;</li> <li>• Liaise with non-government, government and inter-governmental organizations to identify existing ecosystem conservation/restoration projects and complement and support these projects where appropriate;</li> <li>• Liaise with UNEP's World Conservation Monitoring Centre (WCMC) and the International Union for the Conservation of Nature (IUCN) to collaborate on projects designed to protect seagrass beds;</li> <li>• Coordinate with the Convention on Wetlands of International Importance (Ramsar) to identify threats to wetlands within the WCR and mitigation measures that need to be implemented;</li> <li>• Ongoing implementation of a Small Grants Programme to address specific MPA needs;</li> <li>• Providing MPA practitioners with access to scientists and other technical experts through mentorship programmes and participation in meetings;</li> </ul> | <p><b>Ongoing</b></p> <p>Several projects and activities implemented during the previous and current biennium, as well as collaborative efforts with multiple partners, contribute to the achievement of this outcome. These include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Development and application of a Resource Valuation Methodology for decision making for wastewater projects developed under the GEF CReW project in 2015.</li> <li>• Completion of resource valuation studies at three sites in two GEF CReW participating countries which were compiled and disseminated as a report, <i>Valuing the Costs and Benefits of Improved Wastewater Management: An Economic Valuation Resource Guide for the Wider Caribbean Region</i>.</li> <li>• Participation in conferences and learning events which facilitate cross-sectoral and portfolio-wide learning and experience sharing such as the 8<sup>th</sup> GEF International Waters Conference in May 2016 with learning tracks devoted to catalyzing transformation and scaling up investments as well as strengthening governance processes to sustain project interventions.</li> <li>• Promotion of innovative and sustainable approaches to protect marine habitats and reduce the negative impact of waste by converting waste into a renewable resource. This was the focus of the first Waste-to-Energy Expo and Conference attended by the AMEP Programme officer and GEF CReW representatives in January 2016</li> </ul> |

| Activity | Implementation Status  |   |
|----------|--|---|
|          | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Providing access to databases and fora to discuss emerging marine issues;</li> <li>• Continued support to the protection of critical habitat areas, including addressing emerging threats such as <i>Sargassum</i> and the lionfish invasion;</li> <li>• Implementation of the Bluefinance project to establish sustainable financing mechanisms; and</li> <li>• Reactivation of the Caribbean coral reef monitoring network and the implementation of the Regional Guidelines for Biophysical Coral Reef Monitoring</li> </ul> <p>These activities will help to strengthen the protection of critical ecosystems within, and outside of, MPAs in the WCR through the:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• implementation of projects designed to improve capacity building;</li> <li>• identification of, and mitigation against, threats to ecosystem health;</li> <li>• promotion of regional collaborations; and</li> <li>• ensure the long-term sustainability of regional MPAs</li> </ul> <p>The outputs from these activities will form the basis of the Regional Strategy and Action Plan and will identify threats, emerging issues and best practices that need to be emphasised in the regional document.</p> | <p>where SIDS-appropriate technologies were discussed as opportunities to address the waste management challenges of the WCR, improve environmental protection and strengthen coastal resilience to climate change impacts.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Collaboration with the Global Water Partnership-Caribbean (GWP-C) for development of an expertise database on Caribbean Integrated Water Resources Management (IWRM) which provides detailed information on the technical focus area/s of agencies, including staff with particular technical skill sets pertinent to IWRM. Information from this resource, which also lists UNEP-CEP as a partner agency, can be accessed to find experts who could be involved in the development of a regional strategy and action plan.</li> </ul> |

**Project Component 3**

| Activity  | Implementation Status  |  |
|---|--|--|
|   | SPAW   | AMEP   |
| Demonstrating the transition to an EBM approach at the sub-regional/site level in the CLME <sup>+</sup> | <p><b><i>In Progress</i></b><br/>           Several projects based on the EBM approach will be implemented during the 2017-2018 biennium. The projects, funded by the “Biodiversity for Sustainable Development in the Caribbean” include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The hosting of a regional EBM capacity-building workshop;</li> <li>• Establishment of EBM demonstration projects; and</li> <li>• Strengthening of integrated management capacities at 2 SPAW-listed protected sites, including the establishment of Decision Support Systems (DSS)</li> </ul> <p>The implementation of these regional and local EBM projects will help provide the tools necessary for the implementation of larger-scale EBM / EAF projects as well as increase the use of management practices designed to promote the health and well-being of coastal and marine ecosystems.</p> | <p><b><i>In Progress</i></b><br/>           The AMEP Sub-programme has committed to the coordination of a joint pilot project with the SPAW Sub-programme within the Guiana Shelf in the North Brazil Large Marine Ecosystem. For more information on the joint project, please refer to the <b><i>In Progress</i></b> section in the row below.</p> |

| Activity   | Implementation Status   |
|--|---|
| <p>Demonstrating the transition to an EBM approach at the sub-regional/site level in the CLME+</p> | <p><b><i>In progress</i></b><br/>                     A joint pilot project for collaborative action between the SPAW and LBS Protocols, within the Guiana Shelf in the North Brazil Large Marine Ecosystem, is being developed. The activities to date include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• All LBS / SPAW Focal Points have been contacted regarding the development of the pilot project in the Southern Caribbean. This will help to facilitate a link with ongoing, SPAW-led EBM projects in the Eastern Caribbean.</li> <li>• Government officials have been provided with guidelines and overview presentations.</li> <li>• A TOR was developed for the recruitment of an EBM consultant and selection is expected to be completed by November 2016.</li> </ul> <p>This project will enhance collaborative efforts between the two regions to improve the health of marine and coastal ecosystems as well as the goods and services they provide. This may lead to socio-economic benefits to both regions through the sustainable use of fish stocks and the protection of natural resources. It is also expected to directly support the development of the MOU between Brazil and the UNEP-CEP.</p> <p>Dialogue on the implementation of the joint project is expected to continue at the joint LBS/SPAW STAC.</p> |

**Project Component 4**

| Activity   | Implementation Status   |   |
|--|---|---|
|  | SPAW  | AMEP  |
| (Pre-)Feasibility Assessments undertaken for the two priority problems of habitat degradation and pollution      | <p><b>Pending</b></p> <p>The current activities being implemented that will help with the completion of this activity are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Utilise the cadre of experts within SPAW to provide guidance for the development/review/approval of a workplan and timeline;</li> <li>• Implementation of the Regional Guidelines for Biophysical Coral Reef Monitoring;</li> <li>• Development of Guidelines for Coral Reef Environmental Impact Assessment and Compensation Schemes; and</li> <li>• Liaise with government, non-government and inter-governmental organisations to identify threats and develop monitoring and valuation guidelines for critical ecosystems within the WCR.</li> </ul> <p>The implementation of these projects will allow for the development of feasibility assessments through the involvement of scientists, MPA managers and other experts in the design of feasibility reports. The projects will also facilitate the identification of criteria for, and costs associated with, the rehabilitation of critical ecosystems</p> | <p><b>In Progress</b></p> <p>This outcome will be supported by projects and activities of the previous and current biennium. These include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Identification of capacity building and training needs to support laboratory strengthening under GEF IWEco, which will support activities to be undertaken in the proposed follow up to the GEF CReW project, GEF CReW+.</li> <li>• Strengthening of sustainable land management, ecosystems monitoring and indicators framework under the GEF IWEco project, as well as enhancing knowledge exchange, best practices and replication.</li> <li>• Further Development and application of the Resource Valuation Methodology for decision making for wastewater projects developed under the GEF CReW project in 2015.</li> </ul> |
| Development of investment plans that addresses the two transboundary issues of pollution and habitat degradation | <p><b>In Progress</b></p> <p>The current activities, implemented either under the Bluefinance or “Biodiversity for Sustainable Development in the Caribbean” projects, that will help with the completion of this activity are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The establishment of sustainable financing mechanisms for marine managed areas in Barbados and possibly St. Kitts and Nevis;</li> </ul>  | <p><b>In Progress</b></p> <p>Project activities outlined in the previous and current biennium which support the achievement of this outcome include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Piloting of revolving financing mechanisms under the GEF CReW project that could later be established as feasible and sustainable financing instruments for the implementation of environmentally sound and cost-</li> </ul>  |

| Activity | Implementation Status  |   |
|----------|--|---|
|          | SPAW   | AMEP  |
|          | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Development of a co-management structure based on public-partnership agreements and a Payment for Ecosystem Services scheme for finance management; and</li> <li>• Development and application of a DSS through the which will assist with marine resource protection and decision making.</li> </ul> <p>These projects will provide the basis for the development of integrated investment plans that will ensure the long-term sustainability of marine managed areas which will take into consideration private and public stakeholder partnerships.</p> | <p>effective wastewater management.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Establishment of four pilot financing mechanisms under GEF CReW which improved access to financing for wastewater management and thereby addressed one of the greatest challenges faced by governments of the WCR in meeting their obligations to reduce pollution to terrestrial and coastal waters due to the discharge of untreated wastewater.</li> <li>• Identification of additional innovative funding mechanisms and technological solutions that are sustainable and replicable under the follow-up GEF CReW+ project.</li> <li>• Implementation of National Programmes of Action to reduce nutrient pollution of the Caribbean Sea from wastewater and agricultural discharges, with projects in Jamaica and Costa Rica aimed at demonstrating the deployment of innovative, economically-viable wastewater technologies for small coastal communities to foster uptake, replication and up-scaled investment.</li> <li>• Establishment of Caribbean Platforms for Nutrient and Wastewater Management which will, among other things, facilitate the establishment of partnerships and co-ordination of activities which can also be steered towards catalysing financing for the reduction of pollution and habitat degradation.</li> <li>• Provision of fora for discussion of investment to address challenges and opportunities for improving wastewater management in the WCR through the joint hosting of meetings such as the 11<sup>th</sup> Annual</li> </ul> |



| Activity | Implementation Status |  |
|----------|-----------------------|--|
|          | SPAW                  | AMEP   |
|          |                       | <p>High Level Session Ministerial Forum (August 2015), under the theme “Connecting Water to Climate, Economic Growth and Development within the Post-2015 Development Agenda”.</p> <p>The AMEP Sub-Programme is also engaged in several collaborative activities with Global Water Partnership-Caribbean (GWP-C) which will contribute to the development of investment plans to address issues of pollution and habitat degradation. These include</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Development of a database under the GWP-C’s Water, Climate and Development Programme (WACDEP), which, among other things, identifies funding opportunities for future interventions that address climate resilience and water security.</li> <li>• Development of a portfolio of investment project proposal under the GWP-C initiative, “Climate-Proofing Water Investment in the Caribbean”. A coordinated and programmatic approach to identifying, prioritising and sourcing finance for actions to enhance the climate resilience of the Caribbean through improved water resources management will be facilitated through the associated Climate Resilience and Water Security Investment Framework and Financing Plan (CReWSIP) which was developed under the initiative.</li> <li>• Involvement with three of GWP-C’s Thematic Programmes of Action (TPAs) to establish a regional framework for investment towards Caribbean water security and climate resilience, namely: (1) TPA B – Water efficiency re-use and augmentation; (2) TPA E</li> </ul> |

| Activity | Implementation Status |   |
|----------|-----------------------|---|
|          | SPAW                  | AMEP  |
|          |                       | <p>– Resilient and healthy water resources systems; and (3), TPA F – Integrated flood management.</p> <p>Marine litter, especially plastics and microplastics, is another priority action area for which funding has been catalysed during the previous and current biennium to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Facilitate the update and implementation of the Regional Action Plan on Marine Litter (RAPMaLi) which was developed in 2007.</li> <li>• Implement a Trash Free Waters in the Caribbean Initiative to identify the most appropriate and cost-effective solutions to reduce and prevent trash from entering waterways and the Caribbean Sea. The project will be implemented through a 3-phased approach: (1) Assessment; (2) Dialogue and Planning; and (3) Project Implementation.</li> </ul> <p>Other relevant activities include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Establishment and co-hosting of a Caribbean Node for Marine Litter which will, among other things, serve as a platform that facilitates the establishment of partnerships and co-ordination of activities which can also be steered towards catalysing financing for the control and sustainable management of marine litter.</li> <li>• Development of five project proposal concepts for submission to the GEF Secretariat and other funders for consideration.</li> </ul> |

**Project Component 5**

| Activity   | Implementation Status   |  |
|--|---|--|
|  | SPAW  | AMEP   |
| <p>Table of Contents for the “State of CLME<sup>+</sup>” report and structure for the (network of) web portal(s)</p> | <p><b><i>In Progress</i></b><br/>                     Under the 2017-2018 SPAW Workplan, the following web portals, which may be used as templates, have either already been designed / currently being constructed:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Development of a region-wide DSS under the “Biodiversity for Sustainable Development in the Caribbean” project</li> <li>• Ongoing use of the listing of protected areas web portal;</li> <li>• Support for a regional repository on marine mammal stranding data; and</li> <li>• Development of a regional database and clearing house for marine mammal watching data</li> </ul> <p>These portals / databases will act as the templates for the web portal(s) that need to be designed under the UNDP/GEF CLME<sup>+</sup> project, through the identification of best practices and models. This will help to streamline and standardise the reporting process used during the UNDP/GEF CLME<sup>+</sup> project and beyond.</p> <p>The information stored in these repositories may also be used to inform the UNDP/GEF CLME<sup>+</sup> project’s decision-making process as well as help provide the necessary information for the “State of the CLME<sup>+</sup>” as well as the State of the Habitat report that will be developed, and funded under the UNDP/GEF CLME<sup>+</sup> project, by the SPAW Sub-Programme.</p> | <p><b><i>In Progress</i></b><br/>                     Activities outlined in the 2017-2018 Draft AMEP Workplan for development of the first State of the Convention Area Report (SOCAR), will directly contribute to the achievement of Output 5.2 which calls for the development of a prototype CLME<sup>+</sup> ecosystem status and SAP implementation Monitoring and Evaluation (M&amp;E) mechanism. This will consist of the following three distinctive yet complementary elements:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Common or compatible approaches and/or protocol(s) for the joint monitoring and assessment of overall SAP implementation (and CLME<sup>+</sup> status and conditions);</li> <li>• “CLME<sup>+</sup> SAP Monitoring &amp; Evaluation” and “State of the Marine Ecosystems and shared Living Marine Resources in the CLME<sup>+</sup>” web portal(s) and reporting outline; and</li> <li>• Sustainability strategy/plan for the periodic updating of the report/portals beyond the CLME<sup>+</sup>.</li> </ul> <p>The SOCAR is being developed through collaboration with regional and international agencies and will present key information on the state of coastal and marine ecosystems within the WCR in terms of their current condition. The SOCAR is expected to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Serve as an operational tool to determine baseline conditions and priorities to be addressed in the WCR and to set targets for region-wide action.</li> </ul> |

| Activity   | Implementation Status  |  |
|--|--|--|
|  | SPAW   | AMEP   |
|  | <p>The State of the Habitat Report will contribute directly to the State of the Marine Environment (SOME) report to be produced under the UNDP/GEF CLME<sup>+</sup> project.</p>   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Be a useful reference for CLME<sup>+</sup> on how consensus can be reached on issues such as sensitivity of data, classification of waters and monitoring parameters based on discussions, decisions and recommendations which emerged from regional meetings of experts and the SOCAR Working Group.</li> </ul> <p>Funding to support the refinement and finalization of the SOCAR during the biennium will be accessed through the UNDP/GEF CLME<sup>+</sup> and GEF IWeco projects. This will facilitate greater integration with the State of the Habitat Report to be developed under the SPAW Sub-Programme. The SOCAR report will contribute directly to the SOME report to be produced under the UNDP/GEF CLME<sup>+</sup> project.</p> |
| <p>Content developed and online for CLME<sup>+</sup> Status and SAP Monitoring and Evaluation web portal(s) beyond 2017 as well as first “State of the Marine Ecosystems and Associated Living Resources” Report</p> | <p><b>Pending</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Like the SOCAR, some of the content regarding the CLME region that will need to be provided to UNEP-CEP to inform the development of the State of the Marine Ecosystems and Associated Living Resources Report, will include: (1) the current environment of the coastal and marine ecosystems; (2) the pressures and the drivers of those pressures; and (3) an assessment of current environmental management initiatives.</li> <li>• Based on the information collected, and the identified priorities in the other activities, the web portal(s) will be designed and developed</li> <li>• The development of the web portal(s) will help standardise and streamline the reporting process in order to facilitate the creation of the “State of the Marine Ecosystems” reports.</li> <li>• This will also help to facilitate communication and the exchange of information amongst project partners.</li> </ul> |  |

## OTHER POSSIBLE AVENUES FOR INCREASED SPAW/AMEP COLLABORATION

Based on the activities that will be implemented under both the SPAW and AMEP Draft Workplans, the possibility exists for integrated collaboration on additional projects. These include:

- **The continued promotion and ratification of the SPAW, LBS and Oil Spills Protocols**
  - The Programme Officers for each sub-programme will continue to support and recommend the ratification of all the Cartagena Convention's Protocols to their respective Member States. This will seek to: (1) increase the number of countries that ratify the Protocols; and (2) extend the benefits that accompany protocol ratification to additional countries in the WCR.
- **The dissemination of information on SPAW and AMEP activities**
  - Quarterly newsletters are distributed by both the SPAW and AMEP Sub-Programmes. In order to promote the work conducted by both Sub-Programmes, a joint newsletter could be distributed. Alternatively, brief information on projects relevant to both LBS and SPAW Focal Points could be included in both newsletters. This would increase awareness of the activities of both Sub-programmes and forge greater connection between their stakeholders.
- **Improved water quality monitoring**
  - Water quality parameters under the Regional Guidelines for Biophysical Coral Reef Monitoring (UNEP(DEPI)/CAR WG.38/INF.17) could be expanded to include the identification of types of contaminants present in the water at coral reef monitoring sites. The current guidelines only examine the concentration of particulate matter in the water column. The identification of additional types of contaminants could be included to determine the concentration of chemical compounds such as organochlorines, nitrates and phosphates. This information could then be shared with both LBS and SPAW Focal Points through relevant fora.
- **Increased collaboration between AMEP and SPAW on the influx of *Sargassum* in the WCR**
  - The excessive nutrient loads in the Caribbean waters could contribute to the increased presence of *Sargassum* in the WCR. Collaboration between the two Sub-Programmes could potentially lead to increased understanding of the causes for the *Sargassum* influx as well as improved management and mitigation efforts.
- **Support to the SPAW Sub-Programme through the implementation of AMEP's National Programme of Action**
  - The National Programmes of Action (NPAs) being implemented by the AMEP Sub-programme could support the objectives of the SPAW Sub-programme. The NPAs' focus of applying innovation to reduce nutrient pollution from wastewater and agricultural discharges in waterways (see UNEP(DEPI)/CAR WG.37/INF.15), could reduce degradation of marine ecosystems and contaminant loads in marine organisms. The project components that would help deliver these results would be C1.2: Agricultural run-off diversion; and, C1.3: Nutrient-use efficiency (fertilization and recycling).
- **Improved collaboration on projects designed to protect coastal and marine ecosystems**
  - Synergies between the two Sub-programmes could be formed through the implementation of coral reef conservation and mangrove projects under the SPAW Draft Workplan; and the Global Environment Facility funded Integrating Water, Land and Ecosystems Management in Caribbean Small Island Developing States (GEF IWeco) Project, under the AMEP Draft Workplan and

Budget. Components 2-4 of the GEF IWeco project, which focus on strengthening ecosystems monitoring, capacity for ecosystems services management, and knowledge exchange, will help deliver results such as coastal reforestation, prevention of habitat destruction and protection of mangroves. The implementation of the GEF IWeco project will help to meet SPAW objectives, through the provision of support for the sustainable management of coastal and marine ecosystems. Activities under the SPAW Protocol that may support the GEF IWeco project include the implementation of the coral reef monitoring guidelines to standardise coral reef monitoring and help determine threats to reefs around the region; the implementation of projects under the BEST Initiative which funds projects that support the conservation of biodiversity and the sustainable use of ecosystem services; and the development of Training of Trainers workshops on the management and protection of wetlands.

**ANNEX I: DRAFT THEORY OF CHANGE FOR UNEP-CEP**



Note: Key deliverables in the theory of change are related to either a single output or a group of outputs

