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Wider Caribbean Region

Cartagena, Colombia, 8 December 2014

**WORKPLAN AND BUDGET FOR THE SPECIALLY PROTECTED AREAS AND WILDLIFE
(SPAW) SUBPROGRAMME FOR THE 2015-2016 BIENNIUM**

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

Birds Caribbean	Formerly SCSCB Society for the Conservation and Study of Caribbean Birds
CABI	CAB International formerly Commonwealth Agricultural Bureau
CaMPAM	Caribbean Marine Protected Areas Managers Network and Forum
CAR/RCU	Caribbean Regional Coordinating Unit
CBD	Convention on Biological Diversity
CCAD	Central American Commission for Environment and Development
CCCCC	Caribbean Community Climate Change Centre
CEP	Caribbean Environment Programme
CITES	Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora
CLME	Caribbean Large Marine Ecosystems
CLRT	CaMPAM Leadership and Resource Team
CMS	Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals
COP	Conference of Parties
CRFM	Caribbean Regional Fisheries Mechanism
CWC	Caribbean Waterbird Census
EBM	Ecosystem Based Management
EBSA	Ecologically or Biologically Significant Marine Areas
ECCN	Eastern Caribbean Cetacean Network
GCFI	Gulf and Caribbean Fisheries Institute
GCRMN	Global Coral Reef Monitoring Network
GEF	Global Environment Facility
GISP	Global Invasive Species Programme
IAC	Inter-American Convention for the Protection and Conservation of Sea Turtles
IAS	Invasive Alien Species
IBA	Important Bird Area
ICRI	International Coral Reef Initiative
IMO	International Maritime Organization
IOCARIBE	Inter-governmental Oceanographic Commission's Sub-Commission for the Caribbean and Adjacent Regions
IUCN	International Union for the Conservation of Nature
IWC	International Whaling Commission
MAIA	Marine Protected Areas in the Atlantic Arc
MEA	Multilateral Environmental Agreement
MedPAN	Mediterranean Network of Protected Area Managers
MMAP	Action Plan for the Conservation of Marine Mammals in the Wider Caribbean Region
MoC	Memorandum of Cooperation
MPA	Marine Protected Area
NOAA	National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
OECS	Organization of Eastern Caribbean States
OECS-ESDU	Organization of Eastern Caribbean States -Environment and Sustainable Development Unit
RAC	Regional Activity Centre
Ramsar	Convention on Wetlands of International Importance
RCDR	Reef Check Dominican Republic
RLC	Regional Lionfish Committee
ROLAC	Regional Office for Latin America and the Caribbean
SBNMS	Stellwagen Bank National Marine Sanctuary
SIDS-POA	Small Islands Developing States-Programme of Action
SPAW	Specially Protected Areas and Wildlife
STAC	Scientific and Technical Advisory Committee
TNC	The Nature Conservancy
UNDP	United Nations Development Programme
UNEP	United Nations Environment Programme
UNEP-DEPI	UNEP-Division of Environmental Policy Implementation

UNEP-DTIE	UNEP-Division of Technology, Industry and Economics
UNOPS	United Nations Office for Project Services
WCPA	World Commission on Protected Areas
WCR	Wider Caribbean Region
WDPA	World Database on Protected Areas
WECAFC	Western Central Atlantic Fishery Commission of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO)
WHMSI	Western Hemisphere Migratory Species Initiative
WIDECAST	Wider Caribbean Sea Turtle Conservation Network

DRAFT WORKPLAN FOR THE SPECIALLY PROTECTED AREAS AND WILDLIFE (SPAW) SUBPROGRAMME FOR THE 2015-2016 BIENNIUM

1. INTRODUCTION

1. This Workplan covers the 2015-2016 biennium, and sets out the priorities for the Regional Programme on Specially Protected Areas and Wildlife in the Wider Caribbean Region (SPAW). During this period, the Workplan will focus on activities to assist with the implementation of the SPAW Protocol, coordination with other regional programmes and organizations dealing with biodiversity conservation and management, particularly regarding protected areas and wildlife, and coordination with relevant global initiatives and multilateral environmental agreements.
2. The SPAW Protocol entered into force on 18 June 2000, and since the Sixth Meeting of the Conference of Parties (COP6), with the accession of the Bahamas and Grenada in 2012, the number of Parties has remained unchanged. There are to date sixteen Governments that are Contracting Parties (The Bahamas, Barbados, Belize, Colombia, Cuba, Dominican Republic, France, Grenada, Guyana, The Netherlands, Panama, Saint Lucia, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Trinidad and Tobago, United States of America and Venezuela).
3. The objectives of the SPAW Programme are to:
 - (a) Significantly increase the number of, and improve the management of, national protected areas and species in the Wider Caribbean Region (WCR);
 - (b) Support the conservation of threatened and endangered species and the sustainable use of natural resources to prevent them from becoming threatened and endangered;
 - (c) Develop a strong regional capability for the coordination of information exchange, training and technical assistance in support of national biodiversity conservation efforts; and
 - (d) Coordinate activities with the relevant international biodiversity treaties and initiatives such as the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD), the Convention on Wetlands of International Importance (Ramsar), Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals (CMS), the Convention on the International Trade of Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES), and the International Coral Reef Initiative (ICRI) and its global networks.
4. This Workplan seeks to ensure the realistic continuation and expansion of the initiatives and tasks emanating from the 2013-2014 SPAW Workplan on the basis of expected human and financial resources. The Secretariat prepared this document taking into consideration the decisions and recommendations of previous SPAW Protocol meetings (COPs and Scientific and Technical Advisory Committees (STACs)), and pertinent issues (regionally and globally) to the objectives of the SPAW Protocol and Programme. In this context, the Workplan also aims to promote and integrate the principles of the ecosystem approach in order to address the degradation of selected priority ecosystem services and likewise respond through biodiversity conservation and sustainable use of coastal resources, to sustainable development issues, acknowledging the inter-dependency and multidimensional aspects of ecological and social systems. This approach is also supported by other Multilateral Environmental Agreements (MEAs) such as CBD and the Ramsar Convention.
5. The Workplan consists of five (5) major programme elements (sub-programmes):
 - (a) Programme Coordination;
 - (b) Strengthening of Protected Areas in the Wider Caribbean Region (including training and capacity building for protected area management);
 - (c) Development of Guidelines for Protected Areas and Species Management;
 - (d) Conservation of Threatened and Endangered Species; and
 - (e) Conservation and Sustainable Use of Coastal and Marine Ecosystems (including ICRI activities).

2. PROJECT AND ACTIVITIES

6. The following sections provide a summary of the objectives, activities, and expected outputs of major projects that will be implemented under the SPAW Programme for the 2015-2016 biennium.

2.1 Programme Coordination (USD 85,000)

2.1.1 Objectives

7. The coordination objectives of the SPAW Programme will be to:
 - (a) Promote the ratification of, accession to, and effective implementation of the SPAW Protocol;
 - (b) Ensure that the formulation and implementation of programme activities satisfy the requirements and needs of the SPAW Protocol and its Contracting Parties;
 - (c) Develop coordination, collaboration, and communication mechanisms with other agreements, organizations and programmes relevant to SPAW objectives;
 - (d) Improve coordination of regional programming for protected areas and wildlife in the Wider Caribbean; and
 - (e) Oversee the day-to-day activities and general coordination of the various projects and activities of the SPAW Programme.

2.1.2 SPAW Programme Personnel

8. During the period 2015-2016, the day-to-day coordination for implementation of the programme activities will be overseen by the SPAW Programme Officer, who is responsible for the overall coordination of the SPAW Programme, with support from the SPAW Programme Assistant.
9. Additional support to meet the objectives of this sub-programme will be received from the SPAW Regional Activity Centre (SPAW-RAC), which is located in Guadeloupe and supported by the Government of France. Since early 2009, SPAW-RAC has been hosted by the National Park of Guadeloupe. Since 2012, the SPAW-RAC team has comprised a full-time staff of five people: a Director, three Project Coordinators and an Administrative Assistant. Another Assistant, a full-time Project Coordinator and a part-time Project Coordinator have joined the team in 2014 to implement two specific projects, respectively ECMMAN and BEST, and their salaries are covered through these two projects. The RAC will support the Secretariat with various activities, especially the coordination of actions mandated by COP8, the coordination of the process of Protected Areas listing under SPAW, the implementation of priorities under the Action Plan for the Conservation of Marine Mammals in the Wider Caribbean Region (MMAP) and the review and translation of a number of documents.
10. Additional support will be provided by the Coordinator of the Caribbean Marine Protected Area Managers Network and Forum (CaMPAM) (see Activity 2.2 below).
11. The main responsibilities and functions discharged in the implementation of the SPAW Protocol and Programme are:
 - (a) Coordination with relevant programmes, donors and organizations to develop synergies and collaboration on issues of common interest, as appropriate:
 - BirdLife International
 - Birds Caribbean (formerly - Society for the Conservation and Study of Caribbean Birds (SCSCB)
 - Central American Commission for Environment and Development (CCAD)
 - Caribbean Regional Fisheries Mechanism (CRFM)
 - CAB International (formerly Commonwealth Agricultural Bureau)
 - Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD)
 - Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals (CMS)
 - Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES)
 - Gulf and Caribbean Fisheries Institute (GCFI)
 - Inter-American Convention for the Protection and Conservation of Sea Turtles (IAC)
 - Inter-governmental Oceanographic Commission's Sub-Commission for the Caribbean and Adjacent Regions/United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (IOC/IOCARIBE/UNESCO)
 - International Coral Reef Initiative (ICRI)
 - International Union for the Conservation of Nature (IUCN) Caribbean Initiative
 - Organization of Eastern Caribbean States - Environment and Sustainable Development Unit (OECS-ESDU)
 - Convention on Wetlands of International Importance (Ramsar)
 - The Voluntary scheme for Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services in Territories of European Overseas, called BEST initiative
 - The Nature Conservancy (TNC)
 - UNEP- Regional Office for Latin America and the Caribbean (ROLAC) Action Plan

- World Commission on Protected Areas (WCPA)
 - Western Central Atlantic Fisheries Commission (WECAFC) of FAO
 - Western Hemisphere Migratory Species Initiative (WHMSI)
 - World Heritage Convention of UNESCO
- (b) Support implementation of existing memoranda of cooperation (MoCs) and of collaborative arrangements with relevant MEAs and initiatives: CBD, CITES, CMS, Ramsar, Inter-American Convention for Sea Turtles (IAC), the International Whaling Commission (IWC) and the Western Hemisphere Migratory Species Initiative (WHMSI);
- (c) Continue implementation of the SPAW Protocol and development of its supporting regional Programme through:
- Formulation of the Workplan and Budget for the 2017-2018 biennium;
 - Convening and servicing the SPAW COP9 and possibly the Seventh STAC in 2016;
 - Promotion of the SPAW Protocol through presentations at relevant fora, communication with Governments
 - and
 - Public awareness to engage support, additional Parties, and improve implementation; and
- (d) Continue fundraising with relevant Governments, donors and organizations, including exploring the feasibility of additional fundraising options.

2.1.3 Regional Activity Centre for SPAW (SPAW-RAC) in Guadeloupe (supported by the Government of France)

12. Joint programming of relevant activities and coordination will continue as appropriate with SPAW-RAC during the biennium, specifically:
- Continue the listing process of Protected Areas under the SPAW Protocol with relevant Contracting Parties, as appropriate, using the web-based tool developed and cooperation programme built acting as an incentive for listing of additional protected areas;
 - Further implementation of the Action Plan for Marine Mammal Conservation in the Wider Caribbean Region (MMAAP) with specific emphasis on the MMAAP's Priority Actions: Five-Year Plan (MMAAP-PA), and supporting actions that may need to be executed beyond the period of 2008 – 2013 identified in the Five-Year Plan;
 - Support other species conservation, with particular emphasis on sea turtles and possibly migratory birds, in collaboration with the Wider Caribbean Sea Turtle Conservation Network (WIDECAST), Birds Caribbean (formerly the Society for the Conservation and Study of Caribbean Birds - SCSCB) and BirdLife International;
 - Provide guidance as to the use of the Guidelines to assess exemptions under Article 11(2), (consolidated and finalized, see UNEP(DEPI) CAR WG.36/5) including a standard format for Contracting Parties to use to propose species for exemptions;
 - Cooperation with relevant institutions on the Invasive Alien Species (IAS) issue, with specific emphasis on addressing the invasion of lionfish throughout the Wider Caribbean Region and implementation of the Regional Strategy for the control of the invasive Lionfish;
 - Collaboration with existing knowledge centres such as the Caribbean Netherlands Science Institute for laboratory and socio-economic analysis to maximize available resources
 - Explore the possibility of obtaining funding from the Caribbean Community Climate Change Centre (CCCCC) for the establishment and operation of a data management system for spatial databases on coastal resources
 - Continue the process of review of the species listed under Annexes I-III of the SPAW Protocol, in collaboration with relevant organisations as appropriate (e.g. (IUCN) Caribbean Red List, BirdLife, Society for the Conservation of Spawning Aggregations, etc.);
 - Prepare and disseminate quarterly releases of the SPAW newsletter and regularly update the SPAW RAC website with information on, and the outputs of SPAW activities;
 - Participate in and/or support regional projects of relevance for SPAW Workplan; and

- Promotion of the SPAW Protocol and its objectives to assist with further developments as mandated by the Parties, fundraising and the ratification by non-Parties.

2.1.4 Expected Outputs

13. The major outputs of Programme Coordination will be:
- (a) The Ninth Meeting of the Contracting Parties (COP9) to the SPAW Protocol;
 - (b) The Seventh Meeting of the Scientific and Technical Advisory Committee (STAC7);
 - (c) The Workplan and Budget for 2017–2018 which will reflect emerging biodiversity issues of regional importance and respond to SPAW objectives, while supporting goals of relevant MEAs, including CBD goals and the principles of ecosystem management;
 - (d) Funds raised in support of SPAW objectives;
 - (e) Increased collaboration and synergies with relevant organizations and initiatives within and outside the region;
 - (f) Enhanced participation of donors and relevant funding agencies in SPAW activities; and
 - (g) Greater involvement by Governments in SPAW activities and additional Parties joining the SPAW Protocol.

Proposed Budget

Activity	2015			2016		
	CTF	Other Sources	Total	CTF	Other Sources	Total
Preparations for COP and STAC Meetings (documents)	20,000	0	20,000	25,000	0	25,000
Promote SPAW Programme at meetings and disseminate information	5,000	15,000*	20,000	5,000	15,000*	20,000
TOTAL (USD)	25,000	15,000	40,000	30,000	15,000	45,000

*Includes funding from France through SPAW RAC for RAC's website, SPAW newsletter, translations, etc.

Note: 1) Operational costs (COP and STAC convening, salaries, travel, communication, etc.) are covered under the coordination budget of CAR/RCU (OCCC);

2) The Operational costs of the SPAW-RAC (salaries, travel, communication) are covered directly by the Government of France.

2.2 Strengthening of Protected Areas in the Wider Caribbean Region (USD 2,119,000¹)

2.2.1 Objectives

14. The objectives of this sub-programme are to:
- (a) Strengthen the management of parks and protected areas of the Wider Caribbean, including the communication between parks and protected areas within the region;
 - (b) Assist Governments and non-governmental organizations with the development of human capacity to increase the effectiveness of marine protected areas (MPAs), both sites and national system;
 - (c) Sensitize Governments of the need and importance of financing protected areas, and to promote the development of funding mechanisms and strategies for successful park and protected area management; and
 - (d) Promote protected areas in the context of conservation of important natural resources necessary for the sustainable development of the region.

2.2.2 Activities

¹ Comprises primarily funding for the biennium from the ECMMAN project and the new SPAW Biodiversity EBM project with funds of Governments of Germany and Italy respectively

15. The day-to-day implementation of activities under this sub-programme will be overseen in collaboration with the CaMPAM Coordinator. Support for the coordination and management of CaMPAM projects and activities will also be provided by SPAW-RAC. Two major projects recently approved under the SPAW subprogramme will include many of the activities under this component as described in the paragraphs below:
- The "**Climate Resilient Eastern Caribbean Marine Managed Areas Network**" (ECMMAN) project led by The Nature Conservancy for 6 countries of the Eastern Caribbean (Antigua and Barbuda, Dominica, Grenada, St. Kitts and Nevis, St. Vincent and the Grenadines, St. Lucia) and funded by the German Federal Ministry for the Environment, Nature Conservation, Building and Nuclear Safety (BMUB). SPAW-RAC through CaMPAM will implement the Small Grants component in support of MPA strengthening for €1,176 million (January 2014-December 2016).
 - The "**Biodiversity for Sustainable Development in the Caribbean**" project signed in late 2014 with funding (Euros 1,350,000 for 3 years) from the Directorate for the Environment within the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Italy. The project builds upon the outcomes of the project implemented during 2011-2013 in support of the Caribbean Challenge with funds from the same donor. The project will include a series of pilot projects in selected protected areas of SPAW Parties. Its overall objective is to "enhance the livelihood of the populations of the WCR by contributing to the conservation and sustainable management of coastal and marine biodiversity through the application of the Ecosystem Based Management (EBM) approach".
16. Activities to be implemented during the biennium have been structured under the following objectives:
- 2.2.2.1 Strengthening of MPAs
- (a) Continue to update and deliver the Training of Trainers (ToT) programme on MPA management.**
17. In partnership with IUCN-BIOPAMA and local partners, a 6-10 day regional course for MPA practitioners will be held in 2015. Given the evolution of the ToT Programme during the last fifteen (15) years of implementation, the large number of MPA practitioners (> 1,200) who have already benefited from this training programme and emerging needs and issues on MPA effectiveness (see "Update on the Caribbean Marine Protected Areas Management Network and Forum (CaMPAM) and its major activities" UNEP(DEPI)/CAR WG.36/INF.5), planned course will emphasize:
- promoting sustainable financing, business planning and alternative livelihoods;
 - evaluating and restoring coastal ecosystem services (fisheries, shore protection, tourism);
 - the development of effective communication tools;
 - training on effective enforcement practices; and
 - the involvement of community stakeholders in the management of the Park.
- (b) Ongoing implementation of the Small and Medium Grants Programme to address specific MPA needs.**
18. CaMPAM in coordination with TNC under the **ECMMAN project** will continue to provide funding for MPAs in SPAW Parties to enhance MPA effectiveness, following the successful round of grants disbursed in the biennium 2014-2015. At least eight (8) mid-size grants (up to \$75,000 each) will be issued in 2015-2016 to address:
- Strengthening of enforcement and capacity building for the establishment of effective management practices (applying the ridges-to-reef approach to address upland issues that affect the coastal ecosystems and services involving farmers and upland community groups).
 - Development of financing mechanisms to promote financial sustainability and viable alternative livelihoods of fishers.
 - Strengthening of communication and exchanges on MPA practices, regulations and guidelines.
 - Strengthening environmental education of all groups, including school kids, youth, women, fisher folks, and decision makers.
- Through the recently approved project "**Biodiversity for Sustainable Development in the Caribbean**"², the following grants are planned in support of MPAs:
- Strengthening of area management capacities of at least 3 SPAW listed-sites to improve their management effectiveness with an Ecosystem Management Approach, contributing to a more integrated

² Funds from the Government of Italy (Euros\$ 1,350,000 for 3 years)

conservation and sustainable management of the coastal and marine biodiversity within and around the MPA; as well as the active involvement of, and improved livelihoods of the local communities. Areas of focus could include *inter alia* enforcement, building resilience and adaptation to climate change and implementation of financial plans/revenue generation mechanisms.

- Development of Systemic Management Plans for the selected pilot protected areas of SPAW Parties, to increase both its biodiversity conservation effectiveness, as well as its pivotal role in the sustainable development of communities living within the relevant ecosystems user areas and service areas framework.
- Technical skills of relevant institutional staff, including also the cadre of MPA mentors are further developed to provide adequate institutional capacity to handle and update the datasets, run the Decision Support System (DSS), and implement the management plans and monitoring described above.

(c) Continuation of the mentorship programme and network to support MPA practitioners.

19. Following the CaMPAM Session and coordination meeting at the 66th GCFI Meeting, Corpus Christi, Texas, USA, November 2013, the soft launch of the Mentorship Programme was completed during 2014 with relative success. Three mentorship agreements and capacity building activities were successfully concluded between Mentors of at least three (3) SPAW-listed MPA sites (Bonaire Marine Park, La Caleta, Dominican Republic; Hol Chan, Belize) with mentees from MPAs in 3 SPAW Parties (Barbados, Cuba and Belize). Based on the evaluation completed after the activities, the following is proposed for the upcoming biennium:

- Development of at least two (2) additional specific agreements (mentors and mentees) and workplans, as well as continued support of the existing Mentorship agreements based on a second call of proposals.
- CaMPAM will continue to explore with partners such as IUCN-BIOPAMA (Caribbean), the NOAA Sanctuary Program and International Office, The Nature Conservancy, the US Park Service and GCFI, different means through which they can collaborate with this initiative, as well as opportunities to support other capacity building initiatives of SPAW Parties for the effective management of MPAs based on management needs identified.
- Strategic planning with mentors to design capacity building activities tailored to specific mentors' needs, including the use of on-line sharing tools.
- Build a bridge between the Mentorship program and the other capacity building tools (training courses, small grants) by using the Mentors as instructors and consultants, and their sites as venues for exchanges and courses.

2.2.2.2 Enhance network of MPA practitioners by improving communication and the dissemination of information

(a) Improve the effectiveness of the existing CaMPAM Internet Forum and website.

20. The existing CaMPAM website will continue to be updated and modified, as necessary, in close collaboration with SPAW-RAC. This will include:

- The continuous updating of information and liaising with similar websites to provide relevant information;
- Assessment of CaMPAM communication tools to identify its strengths and weakness, including the needs of creating a blog in the most adequate social media outlet as a spinoff of the CaMPAM List to promote dialogue and discussion;
- Increasing the number of subscriptions to the Internet Forum and the amount of traffic the Forum receives. This includes liaising and exchanging messages with relevant networks/lists (GLISPA Discuss³, GCFI.net⁴, WCPA – North America and Caribbean⁵, Red Latinoamericana de Guardaparques⁶, Coral List⁷, MedPan Network⁸, the SPAW RAC Newsletter⁹, the MMAP E-Group, etc.), as appropriate. The information disseminated will include new publications, newsletters, news, press releases, information on projects and programmes, emerging issues, discussion forums, vacancies, and meetings;
- Developing a user-friendly, interactive and informative “clearing house” mechanism for the WCR MPA community; and
- Assisting local partners and MPAs in developing and updating their web sites.

³ glispa-discuss@googlegroups.com
⁴ <http://listserv.gcfi.org/scripts/wa-GCFI.exe?SUBED1=GCFINET&A=1>
⁵ wcpa_north_america_caribbean@yahoogroups.com
⁶ <http://groups.google.com/group/guardas/topics>
⁷ coral-list-bounces@coral.aoml.noaa.gov
⁸ mpa-environmental-education@googlegroups.com
⁹ <http://www.car-spaw-rac.org/?lang=en>

b) Continue to support MPA-related sessions and the participation of MPA practitioners at the annual GCFI Conferences (2015 and 2016).

The continued support to MPA-related sessions at the annual GCFI Conference will facilitate discussions on emerging issues and promote the exchange of information among managers, fishers and scientists to ensure ongoing collaborations and participation amongst stakeholders. The participation in the GCFI conference will also enrich the SPAW programme by providing their officers and projects leaders with the latest information on marine resources and biodiversity research and the changing socioeconomic scenario of the region's marine conservation community.

2.2.2.3 Continued development, maintenance and promotion of the Regional MPA Database (<http://campam.gcfi.org/CaribbeanMPA/CaribbeanMPA.php>) fully coordinated with the PA listing under the SPAW Protocol (<http://www.spaw-palisting.org/>)

(a) Integration of the Regional Database of Marine Protected Areas into a regional system for strategic/operational planning for the MPAs of the WCR, as well as for the steering and monitoring of CaMPAM of the SPAW sub-programme.

21. This will be implemented within the "Biodiversity for Sustainable Development in the Caribbean" project. Target beneficiaries will include the national institutions in charge of climate change, development and environment of the selected pilot countries within the Wider Caribbean Region, as well as the communities and local institutions of selected MPAs within the countries. Partners will include La Sapienza University of Rome, Italy, the University of West Indies, The Nature Conservancy and governmental environmental management agencies and marine protected areas, as well as non-governmental conservation organizations working at site, nation and transboundary levels. Activities will include: The set of data currently included in the *Regional Database of Marine Protected Areas*¹⁰ is expanded for selected pilot MPAs (at least 3), targeting its effective management through the application of the EBM approach:

- A site specific "Decision Support System or Framework" (DSS/DSF) is established in the selected MPAs to guide and assist the strategic conceptualization, operational planning, implementation guidance and performance monitoring of the EBM approach; as well as for the development of the systemic Management Plans mentioned under para. 16(b) above.
- A "regional" DSS is established within CaMPAM to support the definition of regionally and/or sub-regionally harmonized strategic lines and planning measures for the conservation and sustainable management of coastal and marine resources of the WCR.
- The regular revisions to the MPA database will continue in order to ensure accessibility of the data and interactive mapping; enhancing functionality and generation of data on the status of MPAs; and
- Synergies with relevant databases and Protected Areas listing under SPAW in collaboration with the SPAW-RAC.

2.2.2.4 Support national MPA initiatives and efforts

22. CaMPAM will continue to contribute as feasible to national MPA initiatives, related to marine conservation science, management and policy, and exchanges that improve MPA effectiveness and in support of SPAW Protocol objectives, as well as coordinate with relevant international and/or efforts. This will include collaboration with regional and international organisations on activities relevant to CaMPAM (managers' exchanges; training workshops). During the biennium, it is recommended that there is assessment of the impact (on the ground) of CaMPAM activities in particular on MPA management effectiveness, and steps be taken to proceed with updating the strategic plan and work plan for CaMPAM, as was agreed at the 2013 CaMPAM Executive Committee meeting.

2.2.3 *Expected Outputs*

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

¹⁰ see <http://campam.gcfi.org/CaribbeanMPA/CaribbeanMPA.php>

- (a) Improved management capacity in several MPAs of the Wider Caribbean; including at least 3 SPAW listed-sites with an Ecosystem Management Approach and Systemic Management Plans for the selected pilot protected areas of SPAW Parties, to increase both its biodiversity conservation;
- (b) Improved information and its dissemination on MPAs of the region including enhanced effectiveness of the existing CaMPAM Internet Forum and website;
- (c) Stronger relationships and collaboration between MPA practitioners, through the continuation of the Mentorship Programme , scientists, fishers, other stakeholders, as well as with international/regional experts; and
- (d) A consolidated and comprehensive MPA database for the Wider Caribbean available online and fully coordinated with the PA Listing under the SPAW Protocol as well as integrated into a regional system for strategic/operational planning for the MPAs of the WCR.

Proposed Budget

Activity	2015			2016		
	CTF	Other Sources*	Total	CTF	Other Sources*	Total
CaMPAM Coordination, Management & Communications	10,000	72,000	82,000	10,000	72,000	82,000
Strengthening of MPAs						
Training of Trainers (ToT) course	10,000	60,000	70,000	10,000	60,000	70,000
Grants Programme	0	800,000	800,000	0	800,000	800,000
Mentorship network	10,000	30,000	40,000	10,000	30,000	40,000
Development of a strong network of MPA practitioners by improving communication and the dissemination of information.						
CaMPAM Internet Forum and Clearing House webpage	0	10,000	10,000	0	10,000	10,000
Support MPA Session and participation at GCFI Conferences (2015 and 2016).	0	25,000	25,000	0	25,000	25,000
Support MPA National initiatives	0	10,000**	10,000	0	10,000	10,000
Regional MPA Database	0	20,000	20,000	0	25,000	25,000
TOTAL (USD)	30,000	1,027,000	1,057,000	30,000	1,032,000	1,062,000

* Funds primarily from the ECMMAN and Biodiversity EBM projects

**To be raised

2.3 Development of Guidelines for the Management of Protected Areas and Species (USD 92,000)

2.3.1 Objectives

24. The objectives of this sub-programme are to:
- Promote and assist with the development and implementation of the guidelines on protected area establishment, management, and listing developed under the framework of the SPAW Protocol;
 - Promote national system planning for protected areas as a mechanism for development of relevant legislation and reporting mechanisms; and
 - Promote and assist with the development and implementation of guidelines on species conservation and management under the framework of the SPAW Protocol.

2.3.2 Activities

25. Activities to be implemented during the biennium include:

2.3.2.1 Listing process and cooperation programme for Protected Areas under the SPAW Protocol

26. During the biennium, Contracting Parties will be requested to continue listing their protected areas under the SPAW Protocol with the support from the SPAW-RAC., in line with the cooperation programme and network for the protected areas listed and following the recommendations of the First Meeting of Managers of the Protected Areas Listed under the SPAW Protocol (66th GCFI Meeting, Corpus Christi, Texas, USA, 5 November 2013). In addition to the activities implemented during 2014 (see UNEP(DEPI)/CAR WG.36/6), the activities below are proposed for the upcoming biennium pending the availability of funding:
- Develop a matrix with general data for relevant species to determine connectivity of biological populations among sites.
 - Create a brochure on SPAW listing process and listed sites.
 - The protected areas of Dry Tortugas and Everglades would host a group of managers from other SPAW sites.
 - Continue building the dedicated spaces for each SPAW protected areas using the SPAW website and CaMPAM database ("factsheets") and sources of information on biological connectivity (see UNEP(DEPI)/CAR WG.36/INF.5).
 - Explore development of "sister sites" among protected areas listed.
 - Continue with the dedicated section of the SPAW-RAC Newsletter to the SPAW-listed sites and CAMPAM activities.
 - Fundraising for the SPAW listing process and activities.
 - Use GCFI or other existing fora for the next meeting of SPAW listed sites representatives, (tentatively GCFI November 2015).
 - Establish an Ad Hoc working group to develop the draft structure of the SPAW network.
 - Develop linkages with CaMPAM mentorship programme.
 - Build partnerships and synergies with other Conventions (namely WHS, Ramsar).
 - Support Protected Areas and invasive species management.

2.3.2.2 Criteria for the Assessment of Exemptions to Article 11(2) of the SPAW Protocol

27. Following SPAW COP8 deliberations, it is expected that the Working Group to Design Criteria and a Procedure to Assess Exemptions under Article 11(2) of the SPAW Protocol will be requested to continue its work and as such, the following activities are proposed:

- (a) Develop formats for presenting exemptions, and reporting on their implementation, to the Contracting Parties.**

The draft Guidelines to Assess Exemptions under Article 11(2) of the SPAW Protocol, developed under the guidance of the SPAW-RAC and the Working Group for this purpose, were approved by a number of Parties at SPAW COP7 in Punta Cana, Dominican Republic (23 October 2012). Parties also decided to allow an internal review period (60 days) following the COP and subsequently the Secretariat received comments from the Government of the United States. Further development and finalization of the format for presenting exemptions and reporting on their implementation is still pending.

- (b) **Assist Governments to formulate their requests for exemptions under Article 11 (2).**
Provide assistance to Contracting Parties in the preparation of their reports to request exemptions under Article 11(2) and produce guidance on the application and assessment of the criteria “Resilience and Connectivity”.
- (c) **Develop a strategy to ensure that Parties considering exemptions under Article 11 (2), take the appropriate measures to facilitate and adhere to these exemptions.**
Contracting Parties under their national laws and policies should ensure that these specimens or their offspring do not unintentionally end up being commercially traded in the future

2.3.2.3 Listing of Protected Species under the SPAW Protocol

28. Following the work of the Ad Hoc Working Group, it is expected that following COP8 a number of species will be approved for listing under the relevant SPAW Annexes. The status of species, or groups of species, may change, and the continued assessment of species might be required subsequently to allow for any necessary modifications to the list, should species’ status change.

2.3.3 *Expected Outputs*

29. The major outputs of this sub-programme will be:
- (a) An updated list of protected areas under the SPAW Protocol;
 - (b) Format approved for presenting exemptions under Article 11(2), and reporting on their implementation; and
 - (c) A revised list of protected species under Annexes I-III of the SPAW Protocol.

Proposed budget

Activity	2015			2016		
	CTF	Other Sources*	Total	CTF	Other Sources*	Total
Listing of Protected Areas under the SPAW Protocol						
Protected areas listing process, including one meeting of SPAW sites	20,000	10,000	30,000	30,000	15,000	45,000
Criteria for the Assessment of Exemptions to Article 11 of the SPAW Protocol						
Develop formats for presenting exemptions, and reporting on their implementation	5,000	0	5,000	0	0	10,000
Assist Governments to formulate their requests for exemptions under Article 11(2)	TBD	TBD	TBD	TBD	TBD	TBD
Listing of Protected Species under the SPAW Protocol						
Listing process	5,000	0	5,000	0	7,000	7,000
Total	30,000	10,000	40,000	30,000	22,000	52,000

* Includes funding to be fundraised.

2.4 Conservation of Threatened and Endangered Species (USD 267,000)

2.4.1 Objectives

30. The objectives of this sub-programme are to:
- Build consensus in the region on priorities for the management of endangered and migratory species;
 - Implement priority activities of existing species recovery and management plans developed under the framework of the SPAW Protocol;
 - Develop, as appropriate, adequate management plans and programmes for priority species of regional concern, including those of economic importance; and
 - Address the growing threat of invasive alien species (IAS) that could negatively impact SPAW species and WCR habitats, especially marine or coastal IAS.

2.4.2 Activities

31. In keeping with the Workplan and Budget for the 2013-2014 biennium and priorities identified for implementation by SPAW Parties and the Secretariat (UNEP(DEPI)/CAR WG.36/INF.6; , UNEP(DEPI)/CAR WG.36/INF.8 and UNEP(DEPI)/CAR WG.34/INF.11), the proposed activities for implementation during the 2015-2016 biennium will focus on migratory species including marine mammals, sea turtles, avifauna and lionfish control. There will also be efforts to further collaborate with, and incorporate CITES with biennium activities. The proposed activities include:

2.4.2.1 Conservation of marine mammals

32. In keeping with the priorities identified at SPAW COP7, the progress made to-date with activities implemented since the adoption of the MMAP in 2008 (UNEP(DEPI)/CAR WG36/INF.6), and the achievements under the LifeWeb project “Broad-Scale Marine Spatial Planning of Mammal Corridors and Protected Areas in the Wider Caribbean and Southeast and Northeast Pacific” (<http://www.spain-unepporpas.org/-marine-mammal-corridors-a-critical-habitats-.html>), the following is being proposed for implementation pending the availability of resources:

- Improve awareness of, collect data on, and mitigate the effects of, ship strikes and entanglements on whale and dolphin species in the Wider Caribbean Region**
 - Implement recommendations emanating from the Joint IWC and SPAW/UNEP Workshop to Address Collisions between Marine Mammals and Ships with a focus on the Wider Caribbean. (Panama 2014) as follows:
 - Make available to all stranding networks in the region a standardized and simple logbook on marine mammal strandings, especially as it relates to ship strikes and their mitigation.
 - Develop and share expertise among Marine Mammal Sanctuaries in the region for expanded surveys and telemetry to understand inter-island movements and habitat use of migratory and resident populations of whales, as well as educational materials in particular as it relates to shipping and strikes.
 - Existing (and any future) Sanctuaries in the region enter into partnership network agreements as appropriate, sharing photo-id catalogues and contributing to central catalogues where available (e.g. the North Atlantic Humpback Whale Catalogue administered by the College of the Atlantic).
 - Acquire real time and historical ships track data for the Caribbean (AIS, LRIT, etc.) and the technical expertise to process it.
 - Investigate the best means to passively and actively inform commercial ships, recreational boaters, and other maritime interests, when a voyage enters a Sanctuary or Marine Protected Area.
 - Identify and use existing data on ship strikes collected by, for example, the shipping industry for the safety of their operations and passengers (e.g. ferries) and encourage the industry in all countries within the region to collect such data and report it to regional bodies and the IWC ship strikes database.
 - Implement recommendations emanating from the two Joint IWC-SPAW Training Workshops (Mexico 2012 and St. Martin 2013) to Address Lethal Human Impacts on Marine Mammals of the Wider Caribbean as follows:
 - Promote further distribution and use of the tool kit specifically designed to support countries in applying the knowledge acquired during the training workshops.
 - Support acquisition of necessary equipment to be placed strategically in the region, through partnerships and creative opportunities with stakeholders and partners.

(b) Strengthening marine spatial planning for marine mammal conservation

- Continue activities in support of the Marine Mammal Action Plan, including follow-up to the work and recommendations emanated from implementation of the LifeWeb Project.
- Provide support for the development of transboundary marine mammal monitoring efforts to address data gaps identified during the LifeWeb project, including photo ID, satellite tagging and acoustics as feasible, in collaboration with other organisations and based on readily available information (e.g. fishing efforts, land-based sources pollution, marine mammal distribution etc).
- Support and promote transboundary cooperation initiatives at the sub-regional and regional levels, exploring with relevant countries (namely Dominican Republic, Puerto Rico, US Virgin Islands, British Virgin Islands) further development of a marine mammal management scenario and considering the additional inputs provided by the Meeting.

(c) Follow-up to stranding workshops

- Continue to reinforce local stranding network capacities, particularly in the Marine Mammal Conservation Corridor South East America (MamaCocoSea) area, mainly through technical assistance, including equipment, training and contact lists and the creation of a regional database to enable the integration of stranding results, further to the subregional stranding workshops held in 2005, 2009 and 2010 in collaboration with the SPAW-RAC and US NOAA.
- Support a regional repository on stranding data and develop a network of country coordinators for marine mammal strandings for the region modeled on the WIDECAS (Wider Caribbean Sea Turtle Conservation Network), facilitated by dedicated regional coordinators with national focal points (mailing list, sharing guides).

(d) Support sustainable marine mammal watching in the Region

Following the recommendations of the Regional Workshop on Marine Mammal Watching in the Wider Caribbean Region, Panama, 19-22 October 2011 and the priorities identified by participants (UNEP(DEPI)/CAR WG.34/INF.9), the following s proposed for the 2013-2014 biennium will be explored for implementation:

- Promote the national and regional implementation of the Overarching Principles and Best Practice Guidelines for Marine Mammal Watching in the Wider Caribbean Region including development of summarized leaflet;
- Develop a regional database and clearing house for marine mammal watching data;
- Identify the equipment needed, and the costs associated, to collect data during marine mammal watching tours, in an effort to provide tour operators with the necessary equipment; and
- Collect information on contaminants and pollutants affecting marine mammal's health in the region.

(e) Improve awareness of and collect data on contaminants and pollutants which can adversely affect marine mammal health

Organize, in collaboration with UNEP-CEP, SPAW-RAC and Agoa Sanctuary, biopsy campaigns to identify contaminant (pesticides, polychlorinated biphenyl [PCB], and polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons [PAH]) levels in marine mammals of Wider Caribbean region.

(f) Implementation of the Regional Management Plan for the West Indian Manatee

- Reinforce knowledge of the distribution, numbers and status of manatee populations in the different countries in which it is present, particularly in areas where this knowledge is incomplete.
- Following the successful implementation of manatee by-catch surveys in the Dominican Republic, Belize, Colombia, Mexico and Belize in 2012, surveys will be extended to countries in northern South America: Guiana, Suriname and Venezuela.
- Support the exchange of information and capacity-building through peer training on the rehabilitation of injured or orphaned manatees, their handling in captivity and the release of the animals into the wild.

(g) Develop a formal Memorandum of Cooperation (MoC) between UNEP Caribbean Regional Coordinating Unit (CAR/RCU) and the International Whaling Commission (IWC) (www.iwcoffice.org)

As outlined in the MMAP and forecasted previously, the SPAW Sub-programme will explore feasibility of developing a MoC with the IWC to identify and address common issues within the Wider Caribbean Region, address issues regarding information gaps on take of marine mammals (direct and bycatch), and development of a regional database on this.

2.4.2.2 Conservation of sea turtles (in collaboration with the Wider Caribbean Sea Turtle Conservation Network (WIDECAST)).

33. The following activities will be given priority during the biennium:
- (a) Support the elaboration of a Sea Turtle Recovery Action Plan (STRAP) for the Bahamas and Guyana;
 - (b) Finalize the development of a STRAP in Grenada;
 - (c) Support existing STRAPs through the implementation of national priority actions, in particular the provision of training as it relates to educators (teacher training), law enforcement officers, veterinarians, and first responders;
 - (d) Further collaborate with the Inter-American Sea Turtle Convention on STRAP development and other sea turtle activities in the workplan to ensure that work is not duplicated;
 - (e) Continue to promote standard guidelines and criteria for Index Site monitoring at sea turtle foraging grounds in the WCR and provide training for nesting beach and in-water population monitoring; and
 - (f) Translate SPAW-supported standard guidelines and criteria to ensure their availability in Spanish and French.

2.4.2.3 Support to regional invasive alien species efforts in collaboration with various partners.

- (a) Continue to support the mandate of the Regional Lionfish Committee (RLC) established under ICRI and promote additional SPAW Parties to join the RLC. Projects under the RLC will include:
 - The development of a web portal on the lionfish invasion, media training tools and strategies to control its spread;
 - Continue updating of the lionfish contact list for the WCR, in collaboration with the web portal developed by NOAA;
 - Support the implementation of the regional lionfish strategy, in collaboration with the International Coral Reef Initiative (ICRI), the Governments of Mexico and the U.S.A, and other interested partners, and encourage the development of local and national strategies under this framework; and
 - Promote best practices and best tools to control lionfish.

2.4.2.4 Greater collaboration with CITES towards species conservation in the Region.

34. The Secretariat will take steps to work with SPAW Parties and CITES to develop a regional wildlife enforcement network. Efforts will be made to ensure that Parties and NGOs work within their respective spheres of influence such as the EU and CARICOM to urge the other Parties to regulate within their national legal systems:
- the ownership, possession, sale and advertising of CITES-listed living species endemic to the Caribbean and;
 - to keep illegally acquired specimens, and their progeny, from entering domestic or international markets.
- The countries that are Parties to CITES should join the CITES Standing Committee contact group, and SPAW Parties and NGOs should support recommendations emanating from the contact group

2.4.3 *Expected Outputs*

35. The major outputs of this sub-programme will be:
36. ***Conservation of marine mammals***
- (a) Increased preparedness and response to marine mammal entanglement in the WCR;
 - (b) Region-wide entanglement response network established;
 - (c) Increased knowledge on marine mammal critical habitat areas and increased support for transboundary protection;
 - (d) Regional repository on marine mammal stranding data across the WCR;
 - (e) Improved strategies to encourage the sustainability of marine mammal watching in the WCR;
 - (f) Increased knowledge on contaminants and pollutants harmful to marine mammal health;
 - (g) MoC with the IWC Scientific Committee partnerships to promote the implementation of the MMAP.
37. ***Conservation of sea turtles***
- (h) Funding secured for existing STRAPS towards their expansion and further development;
 - (i) Training in relevant STRAP components provided for key personnel at the national level in each jurisdiction;

- (j) Standard guidelines and criteria for Index Site monitoring at sea turtle foraging grounds in the WCR disseminated;
- (k) Standard guidelines and criteria translated and made available in Spanish and French.

38. **Lionfish control**

- (i) Implementation of the Regional lionfish strategy to tackle the issue of invasive alien species both at national and regional scale and encourage the development of local and national strategies under this framework; and
- (j) Web-tool developed for the dissemination of information on the lionfish invasion and best strategies and tools for its control.

Proposed Budget

Activity	2015			2016		
	CTF	Other Sources*	Total	CTF	Other Sources*	Total
Conservation of Marine Mammals						
Mitigation of ship strikes and entanglements	5,000	10,000	15,000	5,000	10,000	15,000
Strengthening of spatial planning for MM conservation	5,000	10,000	15,000	5,000	10,000	15,000
Follow-up to Stranding Workshops	5,000	10,000	15,000	5,000	15,000	20,000
Marine mammal watching	5,000	10,000	15,000	15,000	10,000	25,000
Marine mammal health	5,000	15,000	20,000	0	0	0
Implementation of Management Plan for the West Indian Manatee	5,000	5,000	10,000	5,000	15,000	20,000
Conservation of Sea Turtles						
STRAPs development and implementation	3,000	3,000	38,000	3,000	3,000	6,000
Teacher training initiatives	5,000	10,000	15,000	5,000	10,000	15,000
Dissemination of standard guidelines and criteria for index site monitoring	2,000	4,000	6,000	0	4,000	4,000
Lionfish Control						
Implementation of the regional lionfish strategy	5,000	10,000	15,000	5,000	10,000	15,000
TOTAL	45,000	87,000	132,000	48,000	87,000	135,000

* Includes 20,000 Euros/year from France through the SPAW RAC for marine mammals and lionfish control

2.5 Conservation and Sustainable Use of Coastal and Marine Ecosystems (USD 190,000)

2.5.1 Objectives

39. The objectives of this sub-programme are to:

- (a) Assist with the management of the coastal and marine ecosystems of the region on a sustainable basis, particularly through sustainable practices;
- (b) Mobilize the political will and actions of Governments and other partners for the conservation and sustainable use of coral reefs and associated ecosystems such as mangroves and seagrass beds;
- (c) Effectively communicate the value and importance of coral reefs, mangroves and sea grass beds, including their ecosystem services, the threats to their sustainability, and the actions needed to protect them; and
- (d) To promote the ecosystem management approach and the principles and values of good governance for the conservation and management of marine ecosystems in the region.

2.5.2 Activities

40. Proposed activities to be implemented during the biennium will continue to focus on coral reef ecosystems, the CLME+ project, reengaging with the tourism sector, and further research on the impacts of the brown algae, *Sargassum*. Proposed activities will include:

2.5.2.1 Conservation of coral reefs

- (a) Support the reactivation of Caribbean coral reef monitoring and network, following the recommendations of the workshop "Review, improve and revitalize the regional GCRMN network for a more effective coral reef monitoring and data management in the Wider Caribbean" – Curacao, 6-8 August 2014 (UNEP(DEPI)/CAR WG.36/INF.10):
 - Act as the regional coordinator for the redefined GCRMN in the Wider Caribbean and lead and provide guidance for the Steering Committee;
 - Promote uptake of the core set of ecological and socio-economic data agreed for the monitoring sites participating in the regional network;
 - Support the finalization of the Terms of Reference for the Wider Caribbean GCRMN Steering committee, regional coordinator and members as well as the new structure (geographic scope) of the Wider Caribbean GCRMN;
 - Support to the Caribbean GCRMN Steering Committee and its regional coordination through the SPAW-RAC;
 - Support decision-making on the development of the regional database platform;
 - Ensure communication within the network and be a catalyst for encouraging collaboration among members
 - Represent the network in appropriate venues and fora when possible;
 - Help facilitate the meetings venues and necessary logistics; and
 - Seek funding to support pilot activities and regional cooperation.
- (b) Continue support towards the development of a coral reef partnership within UNEP Regional Seas Programme to safeguard coral reef ecosystem services, protect biodiversity and build resilience in the face of climate change, including coordination with ICRI.
- (c) Encourage Parties to initiate processes to calculate the Ocean Health Index (OHI) in their respective territories as a useful tool to strengthen national information systems on the status and use of the oceans, aimed at improving the management of marine environment in the Caribbean region

2.5.2.2 “Catalysing Implementation of the Strategic Action Programme (SAP) for the Sustainable Management of shared Living Marine Resources in the Caribbean and North Brazil Shelf Large Marine Ecosystems” (“CLME⁺”¹¹).

41. Following GEF’s support for enhanced, joint LME-based living marine resources management and governance to the countries that share the Caribbean and North Brazil Shelf Large Marine Ecosystems (*CLME and NBSLME, resp.*), UNEP-CEP will continue to collaborate with partners as appropriate in the implementation of the 5-year Full Sized UNDP/GEF Project. CLME⁺ Project is supported by the GEF through a financial contribution of US\$ 12.5

¹¹ Please note the double meaning of the “+” sign added in superscript to the project acronym: on one hand, it refers to the fact that both the Caribbean Large Marine Ecosystem (CLME) and North Brazil Shelf Large Marine Ecosystem (NBSLME) are covered by the project; on the other hand the “+” also refers to the catalytic effect the new project will have on the regional efforts for sustainable living marine resources management. The new “CLME⁺” Project builds upon the achievements of the GEF foundational capacity building project, which acronym was “CLME”.

million. The CLME⁺ Project will seek to foster collaboration with and among other projects and initiatives (both GEF and non-GEF) that are of relevance to the SAP. Co-financing commitments for the implementation of the CLME⁺ Project is expected to amount to approximately USD 110 million.

42. Considerable resources have already been invested in a myriad of regional and sub-regional organizations in support of the objectives of the CLME SAP, including activities under the GEF/UNEP CLME phase 1 (a component of which was also implemented through SPAW during 2012-2013. See UNEP(DEPI)/CAR WG36/INF.7), SAP strategies within CLME⁺ will contribute to the further strengthening of organisations that already successfully exercise leadership - largely within their existing geographical or thematic areas of responsibility. In line with their long-term mandate, it is anticipated that these organizations will assume key responsibilities over the execution (and/or coordination) of key actions under the different strategies. UNEP-CEP has been identified as one of such organizations and has been given leadership role in 2 of the 5 SAP strategies and partner role in the rest (UNEP(DEPI)/CAR WG.36/INF.7).
43. Enhanced coordination and collaboration among organizations, arrangements, programmes, projects and initiatives will be critically needed, and was an important cross-cutting criterion used throughout the SAP development process. The SAP was therefore designed as an “umbrella programme”, not to be implemented through a single project, but rather as a reference framework and means to bring together the different stakeholders and projects and initiatives working in the CLME⁺.
44. The GEF co-funded CLME⁺ Project (2015-2019) will contribute to creating the enabling conditions for improved and sustainable sLMR governance and management in the CLME⁺ region during the first 5 years of SAP implementation. At the same time, gradual expansion of both the scale of the actions and of the scope of the framework (e.g. by more fully integrating other productive sectors such as shipping and oil/gas) can then be planned, as additional awareness is being built and stakeholders – including the private sector and international or regional development banks - become increasingly involved.
45. The following CLME⁺ activities are forecasted in collaboration with UNEP-CEP to be initiated and/or completed during the biennium:
 - Continue working with governments and relevant partners in the further development and implementation of the CLME⁺ Project through the inclusion of the relevant activities in the 2015-2016 Workplan with the required financial support from the Project.
 - Development of an agreement for enhanced coordination between the arrangements for the implementation of the SPAW and LBS Protocols under the Cartagena Convention and a memorandum of cooperation between CEP and Brazil in areas of relevance to the goals of CLME.
 - Development of an agreement for the coordination of actions towards sustainable fisheries (led by FAO-WECAFC, including in the first instance CRFM and OSPESCA, as well as OECS and covering the full CLME⁺ region.
 - A formal agreement, among the CLME⁺ SAP endorsing parties and stakeholders, on an interim coordination mechanism to support SAP implementation to be achieved by the end of the Project Inception Phase
 - A formal agreement, by all relevant parties, inclusive of a sustainably financed policy coordination mechanism for sLRM governance in the CLME⁺ region.
 - Agreements/Protocols on the management, access and exchange of key data, information and indicator sets that will be critical for the overall Monitoring & Evaluation (M&E) of CLME⁺ Project and CLME⁺ SAP implementation, and for the successful development of the “*State of the Marine Ecosystems and Shared Living Marine Resources in the CLME⁺ Region*” portals and report.
 - A “Regional Strategy and Action Plan for the valuation, protection and restoration of key marine habitats and associated biodiversity in the CLME⁺”.
 - A “Regional Action Plan for the reduction of impacts from excessive nutrient loads on marine ecosystems and related ecosystems goods and services in the CLME⁺” (in collaboration with AMEP).

Establishment of a Small Grants coordination mechanism CLME⁺

46. The mechanism will allow better coordination and tailoring of the different small grants initiatives¹² and projects in the region towards the specific needs and opportunities under the CLME⁺ SAP and associated Action Programmes. The small grants initiatives themselves will contribute to increased stakeholder capacity and participation under the

¹² Including an additional contribution from the CLME⁺ Project itself (TBA)

CLME⁺ SAP. For example, grants may follow-up activities implemented under the Reef Biodiversity and Reef Fisheries Pilot Project of CLME phase 1 implemented through SPAW in:

- Seaflower Biosphere Reserve, San Andres Archipelago, Colombia;
- Pedro Bank, Jamaica; and
- Montecristi National Park, Dominican Republic and the neighbouring Caracol Bay, Haiti.

47. The results from the Pilot Project of these three (3) sites will be considered and further built upon to enhance governance and best practices for management planning techniques. The need for improved governance at all levels - community, sub-national, national, sub-regional and regional, will be addressed to the extent feasible.
48. Additional information on activities, outputs and results for the complete 36 month duration of the project can be found in the detailed project document in UNEP(DEPI)/CAR WG.36/INF.7 and <http://clmeproject.org/>. The above activities reflect those to be implemented in the biennium 2015-2016.

2.5.2.3 Application of the EBM principles¹³

49. In collaboration with UNEP's DEPI and the Global Capacity Building Programme on Marine & Coastal Ecosystem-based Management across Regional Seas, collaboration will be explored to develop and implement integrated marine and coastal environment and resource management solutions to maintain ecosystem services, protect biodiversity and ecosystem-based adaptation, this will include:
- Implementation of a regional capacity-building workshop including design of EBM demonstration projects for the Wider Caribbean. A four day interactive training workshop will be held on marine and coastal ecosystem-based management, including the application of marine spatial planning frameworks and cross-sectoral engagement across environment, fisheries, energy, tourism and other sectors. The workshop will include lectures and plenary discussion introducing EBM principles and solutions, synthesis of good practices from practical experiences, scenario-building exercises and the design of follow-up training activities and EBM demonstration projects. Participants will include mid-level planners and decision-makers from relevant ministries and agencies from the WCR. The UNEP manual "Taking Steps Towards Marine and Coastal EBM – An Introductory Guide" will be used as the main training resource.

2.5.2.4 Pilot project on sustainable tourism

50. Re-engage dialogue with the private tourism sector within the region with a view to develop a pilot project to more actively engage major coastal and marine tourism companies in the conservation of marine resources, in cooperation with the SPAW-RAC and UNEP-Division of Technology, Industry and Economics (DTIE). Large cruise ships companies (e.g. Royal Caribbean International) and all-inclusive resorts will be approached at an international stage.
51. As noted in the status of SPAW activities (UNEP(DEPI)/CAR WG.36/INF.3), 2013-2014 served as an identification phase during which a strong networking was done and several links built with actors of the Caribbean tourism (in particular with Clubmed, The Caribbean Tourism Organization (CTO) and its Sustainable development branch, the Florida-Caribbean Cruise Association FCCA). Based on these results, 2015 and 2016 will be dedicated to the development of those links in order to develop and start implementing one pilot project. Networking will also continue; with more large cruise ships companies and all-inclusive resorts to be approached at an international level.

2.5.2.5 Sharing general data across the Region and research on *Sargassum*

52. The Secretariat will seek to encourage Parties to share their information and data generated by current national monitoring and assessment programmes including the marine laboratories. Efforts will also be made to support more research on origins, impacts and ways to control the brown algae *Sargassum*, as well as to improve the development of models in response to the increasing incidence of such events which affect the marine environment, biodiversity and health in the region.

¹³ In coordination with Caribbean Biodiversity EBM Project (see Activity 2.2.2.1)

2.5.2.6 Conservation of mangroves

53. The Secretariat aims to fundraise, in coordination with UNEP-DEPI, the Ramsar Convention and other relevant organizations, to promote and develop activities relating to the conservation and sustainable use of mangroves. Proposed activities to be implemented during the biennium primarily include a general diagnosis based on existing information on the current state of mangroves in the region and their management.
54. Additionally, the following activities will be explored with relevant initiatives and partners:
- (a) Support of the development of a recommended standard mangrove sampling methodology in order to enhance the effectiveness of regional mangrove studies and pilot project.
 - (b) Improve country-level data on mangrove resources by SPAW Parties:
Baseline data and continued monitoring of the status of mangroves are important to assess trends in mangrove cover as well as the success of management interventions including protection and restoration initiatives. Informed decisions based on reliable data will improve the management of mangrove areas throughout the region. Coordination of baseline surveys and continued monitoring will be pursued.
 - (c) Promote mangrove conservation in the region through financial mechanisms and incentives in coordination with international policy agendas such as the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC). This will include restoration of carbon credit, Blue Carbon analysis, and promote Payment for Ecosystem Services (PES).
 - (d) Promote management and protection of mangroves, in particular within SPAW listed sites:
 - Promote the use of mangroves as effective natural and adaptive defense structures;
 - Support regional mangrove restoration efforts;
 - Provide training and support for the economic valuation of mangrove ecosystems;
 - Encourage the involvement of local communities in mangrove management; and
 - Improve public outreach and education to raise awareness of the economic and social importance of mangroves.

2.5.3 *Expected Outputs*

55. The major outputs of this sub-programme will be:
- (a) Redefined GCRMN in the Wider Caribbean with new structure and scope, as well as guidance provided to the Steering Committee;
 - (b) Core set of ecological and socio-economic data agreed for the monitoring sites participating in the regional network;
 - (c) Finalized TOR for the Wider Caribbean GCRMN to incorporate the Steering committee, regional coordinator, members and new structure;
 - (d) An endorsed and finalized CLME⁺ project document that details priority follow-up activities for sustainability of the CLME governance work and including tangible five (5) to ten (10) year results, including*:
 - An agreement for enhanced coordination between the arrangements for the implementation of the SPAW and LBS Protocols under the Cartagena Convention and a memorandum of cooperation between CEP and Brazil in areas of relevance to the goals of CLME
 - A formal agreement, by all relevant parties, inclusive of a sustainably financed policy coordination mechanism for sLRM governance in the CLME⁺ region
 - Agreements/protocols developed pertaining to the management and access of data for CLME⁺ implementation
 - A “Regional Strategy and Action Plan for the valuation, protection and restoration of key marine habitats and associated biodiversity in the CLME⁺”
 - A “Regional Action Plan for the reduction of impacts from excessive nutrient loads on marine ecosystems and related ecosystems goods and services in the CLME⁺”
 - (e) Customized EBA-Decision Support Framework addressing the Caribbean context with delivery of a capacity building regional workshop on EBM ;
 - (f) Networking enhanced with large cruise ships companies and all-inclusive resorts within the region;

* These outputs are indicative for the entire CLME⁺ process where UNEP-CEP will play a role but not solely responsible for their outcome

- (g) A State of the Mangroves in the Caribbean report, improving baseline in-country information on mangrove conservation and sustainable use;
- (h) A recommended standard mangrove sampling methodology in order to enhance the effectiveness of regional mangrove studies; and
- (i) Enhanced mangrove conservation in the region through financial mechanisms and incentives in coordination with international policy agendas such as the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC).

Proposed Budget

Activity	2015			2016		
	CTF	Other Sources	Total	CTF	Other Sources	Total
Strengthen the Global Coral Reef Monitoring Network (GCRMN) Regional Nodes within the Wider Caribbean Region	10,000	20,000 ¹	30,000	10,000	20,000	30,000
Pilot project on Ecosystem-Based Adaptation	0	30,000 ²	30,000	0	30,000	30,000
Workshop on EBM	0	70,000 ²	70,000	0	0	0
CLME+	0	TBD ³	TBD	0	TBD ³	TBD
TOTAL	10,000	120,000	130,000	10,000	50,000	60,000

1 Includes expected funding from UNEP-DEPI

2 Includes expected funding from UNEP-DEPI

3 Funding under CLME+ to be determined (TBD)

ANNEX I: BUDGET OF THE SPAW PROGRAMME FOR THE 2015-2016 BIENNIUM

Activity	2015				2016			
	Budgeted		Total cost	Required Balance	Budgeted		Total Cost	Required Balance
	CTF	Other Contributions*			CTF	Other Contributions*		
2.1 Programme Co-ordination (salary costs and COP and STAC meetings covered by OCCC)	25,000	15,000	40,000	25,000	30,000	15,000	45,000	30,000
2.2 Strengthening of Protected Areas in the Wider Caribbean Region	30,000	1,027,000	1,057,000	30,000	30,000	1,032,000	1,062,000	30,000
2.3 Development of Guidelines for Management of Protected Areas and Species	30,000	10,000	40,000	40,000	30,000	22,000	52,000	52,000
2.4 Conservation of Threatened and Endangered Species	45,000	87,000	132,000	112,000	48,000	87,000	135,000	115,000
2.5 Conservation and Sustainable Use of Coastal and Marine Ecosystems **	10,000	120,000	130,000	130,000	10,000	50,000	60,000	60,000
Subtotal	140,000	1,259,000	1,399,000	337,000	148,000	1,206,000	1,354,000	287,000
Programme support costs 13% (amount subject to change based on source of funds)	18,200	163,670	181,870	43,810	19,240	156,780	176,020	37,310
TOTAL SPAW	158,200	1,422,670	1,580,870	380,810	167,240	1,362,780	1,530,020	324,310

* Includes funding from ECMMAN and EBM project; France through SPAW RAC, and other contributions

** Potential funding from the CLME+ Project not yet reflected