



9th Scientific and Technical Advisory Committee (STAC)

Virtual meeting,

March 18th, 2021

Item 8: Report of the Sargassum working Group

UNEP(DEPI)/CAR WG.42/7

Sandrine Pivard, Director, Regional Activity Center for the SPAW Protocol (SPAW-RAC)



SPAW subprogramme

Axis 1

Programme Coordination

Axis 2

Creation and strengthening of Protected Areas in the Wider Caribbean Region

Axis 3

Development of guidelines for the management of protected areas and species

Axis 4

Conservation of threatened and endangered species

Axis 5

Conservation and Sustainable Use of Coastal and Marine Ecosystems



SPAW Workplan



Establishment and strengthening of MPAs

Ecosystem based management, spatial marine planning, networking

Development of guidelines for the management of MPAS and species

Assessment and completion of the existing listings, develop cooperation between SPAW sites



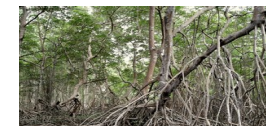
REGIONAL COOPERATION

Preservation of threatened and endangered species

Marine mammals, (CARI'MAM), turtles (WIDECAS), sharks, birds

Preservation and sustainable use of coastal and marine ecosystems

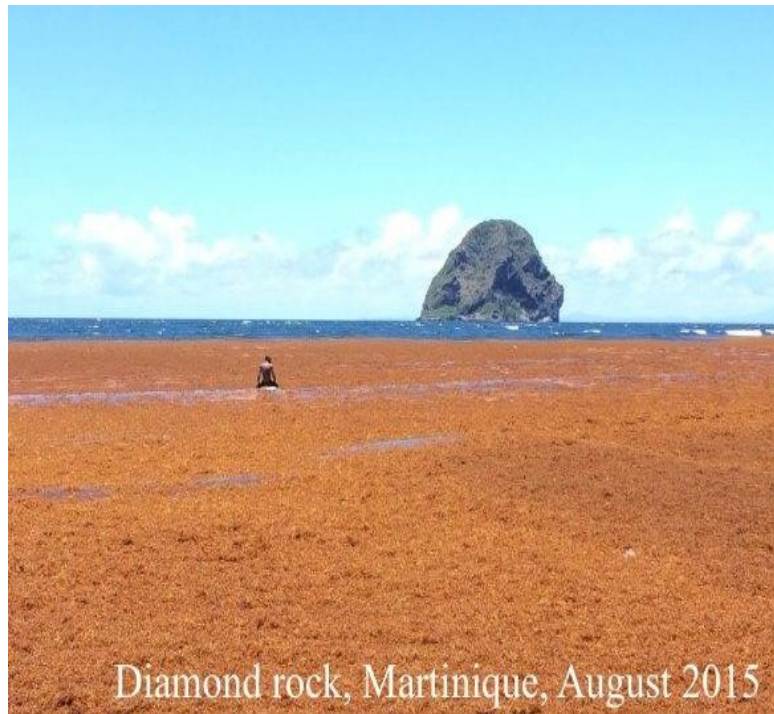
Coral reefs mangroves, seagrass coastal resilience, invasive species, sargassum control, sustainable development, BEST and Caribb Coast





STAC Gouvernance strengthened and parties more involved through the working groups => Ensure that the formulation and implementation of programme activities satisfy the requirements and needs of the SPAW Parties

Terms of Reference of the SPAW STAC ad hoc Working Groups:
SPAW STAC9 UNEP(DEPI)CAR WG.42INF.12



Diamond rock, Martinique, August 2015

BACKGROUND

- Became challenging in the region around 2011
- Sargassum Working Group was created in 2018; in Panama.
- Several initiatives arose in between:
 - International conference & SargCoop in 2019; IOCARIBE/UNEP webinars ; and networks (Sargassum: management and impacts, SargNet, Sargassum Hub.)
- ToR created in 2018
 - Sargassum WG follows the same process as other WG
 - online meetings



WORKING GROUP TASKS:

Mandatory tasks agreed by STAC 8:

- Task 1- Develop clear objectives and responsibilities for the Working Group
- Task 2 - Establish coordination and collaboration with relevant regional and global initiatives in order to promote maximum impact of synergies and solutions to the Sargassum outbreaks.

In addition to these tasks, STAC 8 suggested to:

- « cooperate with relevant partners to assess and merge information and best practices on managing the Sargassum influx impacting Caribbean countries” (i.e. MoC concluded with the Sargasso Sea Commission) »;

OUTCOMES:

UNEP(DEPI)/CAR WG.42/7 → Working Document - Sargassum WG Report

WORKPLAN:

1. Gouvernance
 2. Research
 3. Management
 4. Communication and awareness
 5. Sustainable financing
 - Identify sustainable financing resources for managing sargassum
 - Explore funding opportunities for Contracting Parties to improve research and responses on the ground.
- Given the different status of Contracting Parties each option does not cover all Contracting Parties.

Main challenges of this WG:

- Merge the WG work with other initiatives in the caribbean on sargassum
- Legitimacy
- Precising objectives and role of the WG



Recommendations and suggestions



Collaborate

Enhance collaboration between SPAW and LBS Protocols towards a co-lead of the STAC working group

Widening wg

Have a broader regional representation, in particular with the continental states, in order to act collectively with concrete solutions on the sources of this phenomenon

Partnership

Develop partnership with *GEO-Blue Planet* in order to participate to the Sargassum Information Hub

Sargassum Platform

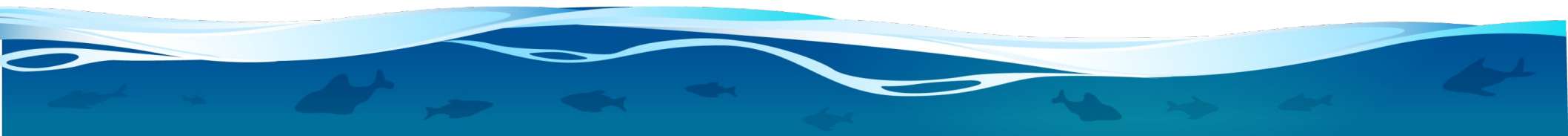
Coordinate information in order to consolidate a common platform for sargassum based on Sargassum





The STAC may wish to recommend to:

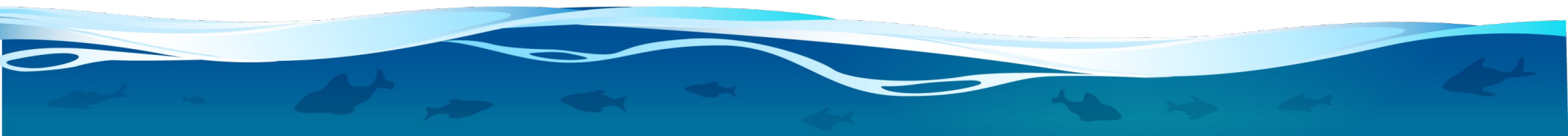
- Request the COP to encourage further collaboration between SPAW and LBS Protocols towards a co-lead of the STAC working group
- Request the COP to request the STAC working group to pursue the review and comment of relevant documents, such as the UNEP CEP White Paper on Sargassum, programmes and projects
- Request the COP to request that the Secretariat and SPAW-RAC develop partnership with relevant organizations / initiatives such as GEO-BluePlanet in order to participate to the Sargassum Information Hub by compiling existing best management practices and guidelines, providing information and support to policy makers to implement regulations consistent with SPAW Protocol, SARG-Net, consolidate a common platform for sargassum, and seek west-african stakeholders and organizations to collaborate with (e.g., the Abidjan Convention), and promote their work around the Caribbean.





The STAC may wish to recommend to:

- Kindly request Parties and in particular Signatory Parties to the SPAW protocol to nominate experts in order to diversify skills and expertise, and ensure the most exhaustive geographical and political representation but also as an efficient way to be involved in the SPAW implementation and better voice their needs and wishes in the SPAW protocol. This also allow the Working Group to bring real added value to regional organizations for the management of Sargassum.
- If deemed necessary, revise the ToR and it in particular the Annex (update the current tasks of the working group).





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Thank you,
Muchas gracias,
Merci

SPAW-RAC

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<https://www.car-spaw-rac.org/?Key-documents>