

Quarterly NEWSLETTER

Edition 2 January - March 2023



PROTECTING OUR CARIBBEAN SEA, SUSTAINING OUR FUTURE

United Nations Environment Programme Caribbean Environment Programme and Cartagena Convention Secretariat

Kingston, Jamaica

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Following the recommendation of the United Nations Secretary-General António Guterres and after consultation with Member States, the General Assembly has confirmed Inger Andersen of Denmark as Executive Director of the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) for a further four-year term beginning on 15 June 2023 and ending on 14 June 2027. Ms. Andersen is currently serving her initial four-year term.

Join all of us at the Secretariat in congratulating

MS. INGER ANDERSEN!

Congratulations

LAUNCH OF THE MARINE LITTER MANAGEMENT ACTION PLAN (ML-MAP) IN SAINT LUCIA

Meet Tin Tin, the Solid Waste Management Authority mascot who is encouraging responsible waste management in Saint Lucia as the country seeks to address the urgent issue of marine litter through a Marine Litter Management Action Plan (ML-MAP). UNEP through a joint effort of the Cartagena Convention Secretariat, financed by the ACP MEA III programme and its Science Division, is supporting this effort which includes a national strategy for coordinating coastal clean-up initiatives and a database to monitor clean-up efforts.



(Photo credit: Department of Sustainable Development, St. Lucia, 2022)



Link to one of the promotion videos: [Saint Lucia's Marine Litter Management Action Plan \(ML-MAP\) PSA - YouTube](#)

SUPPORTING MARPOL IMPLEMENTATION IN THE DOMINICAN REPUBLIC

The Dominican Republic is targeting sustainable growth and a decrease in ship-related pollution by implementing the International Convention for the Prevention of Pollution from Ships (MARPOL). The Cartagena Convention Secretariat, through the ACP MEAs III project, is providing support to the Government of the Dominican Republic for improving its compliance with MARPOL. The initiative will positively impact the country's infrastructure and regulations while providing guidelines to citizens.



Photo credit: Pixabay (dendooktor, 2021)

VIRTUAL PRE-LAUNCH WORKSHOP OF GEF LAC CITIES PROJECT

The United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) is embarking on a new project financed by the Global Environment Facility (GEF) to reduce plastic pollution by facilitating collaboration and support among governments and businesses at the city-level in Latin American and the Caribbean (LAC). The goal is an accelerated transition to a circular economy for plastics which will see plastics being recycled and reused at the end of their life span.

The US \$7 million project proposal was approved in June 2020 by the GEF and was supported under two GEF focal areas - International Waters and Chemicals and Waste. Participating countries are Colombia, Jamaica and Panama with implementation ongoing until 2026.



UNEP Cartagena Convention Secretariat

Presented by:

Christopher Corbin, Coordinator, christopher.corbin@un.org
Sarah Walling, Associate Programme Officer, sarah.walling@un.org



Web link:

<https://youtu.be/ZZ5dWmsOluy>

VIRTUAL COURSE ON 'PARTICIPATORY INFORMATION AND COMMUNICATION TOOLS (ICTS) AND APPROACHES THROUGH OUR GEF IWECO PROJECT:

Regional stakeholders were provided with new digital outreach tools including photojournals, geographic information system (GIS) story maps and participatory videos. The capacity building sessions entitled "Participatory Information and Communication Tools (ICTs) and approaches" took place from November 2022 to January 2023 and were facilitated by The Caribbean Natural Resources Institute (CANARI).

The virtual courses formed part of the initiative on [Strengthening nature-based enterprises and livelihoods](#) which is a sub-project under our Global Environment Facility funded project – *Integrating Water, Land and Ecosystems Management in Caribbean Small Island Developing States (GEF-IWEco)*. The project is being implemented by the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) and co-executed by the Cartagena Convention Secretariat.

Participatory information and Communication Tools (ICTs) and approaches: Day 1.
<https://youtu.be/lrH2OwscESI>

For further information, please contact Natalie Boodram (Project Manager):
natalie@canari.org

OUR OCEANS CONFERENCE IN PANAMA

The Republic of Panama became the first Central American country to host the eighth edition of The Our Ocean Conference, under the theme **Our Ocean...Our Connection**. The conference facilitated collaborative dialogue among Heads of State and representatives from the private sector, civil society, and academic institutions. Discussions focused on strategies to save our marine resources, promote sustainable use and educate the public about our ocean. The Conference highlighted the importance of creating marine protected areas (MPAs), growing sustainable blue economies and tourism, and finding innovative solutions to end marine pollution.

The UNEP Cartagena Convention Secretariat hosted a joint side event

titled Regional Cooperation for the protection and sustainable development of the Caribbean Sea through adoption of regional strategies and action plans, and implementation of integrated national and community-based solutions on marine pollution prevention and marine habitat conservation. Mr Christopher Corbin, Coordinator for The UNEP Cartagena Convention Secretariat made a presentation entitled “Overview of Regional Strategies and Action Plans for the protection and development of the Wider Caribbean Region” where the development of recently adopted regional strategies for nutrients reduction and marine habitat restoration were highlighted.



Event Page

<https://ouroceanpanama2023.gob.pa/about-the-conference/>

INCEPTION WORKSHOP FOR PREVENTION OF MARINE LITTER IN THE CARIBBEAN SEA (PROMAR) PROJECT

An Inception Workshop for The Prevention of Marine Litter in the Caribbean Sea (PROMAR) project took place from February 14 to 17, 2023 in Kingston, Jamaica. The project aims to address the pervasive nature and negative impact of plastic litter and solid waste management in the Caribbean with a focus on improving the policy, legislative and institutional capacity of the region to reduce and manage plastic waste. PROMAR is already being implemented in Colombia, Costa Rica and The Dominican Republic with support of Adelphi, a German-based Non-Governmental Organization.. The British Virgin Islands, St. Kitts and Nevis, Trinidad and Tobago, Guyana and Suriname are the other countries which will be implementing the project with support of the Cartagena Secretariat.



PROMAR is financed by the Government of Germany through the Federal Ministry for the Environment, Nature Conservation, Nuclear Safety and Consumer Protection (BMUV) and is managed through a partnership between Adelphi as Lead Implementer and the UNEP Cartagena Convention Secretariat as Implementing Partner.



Web link:

<https://bit.ly/3qj7ljU>

SIXTH MEETING OF THE SCIENTIFIC AND TECHNICAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE OF THE PROTOCOL CONCERNING POLLUTION FROM LAND-BASED SOURCES AND ACTIVITIES



The Sixth Meeting of the Scientific and Technical Advisory Committee (STAC) of the Protocol Concerning Pollution from Land-Based Sources and Activities in the Wider Caribbean was convened from February 1 - 3, 2023. The meeting was convened to

support governments in protecting the Caribbean Sea from marine pollution. The WCR is heavily dependent on the ocean for economic livelihoods and social well-being. The LBS Protocol was adopted in Oranjestad, Aruba, on the 6th October 1999 and entered into force on the 13th August 2010. With

a total of 15 Contracting Parties, this instrument remains the only regional binding agreement for countries in the Wider Caribbean to address marine pollution from land-based sources and activities.



Web links:

<https://bit.ly/43z7oqr>

<https://bit.ly/3qcDw4G>

CARTAGENA CONVENTION SECRETARIAT JOINS THE WHITE RIVER FISH SANCTUARY IN JAMAICA IN CELEBRATING THEIR 5TH ANNIVERSARY

Mr. Christopher Corbin, Coordinator of the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) Cartagena Convention Secretariat, joined national government and civil society stakeholders to celebrate the achievements of the White River Fish Sanctuary (WRFS) in St. Ann, Jamaica on February 8, 2023.



Since it was gazetted in 2017, the WRFS has seen a major increase in fish biomass and welcomed the establishment of two thriving coral nurseries that grow approximately 2,000 corals each year. More than 18 partnerships have been forged and more than 12 community awareness and coastal clean-up events

have earned support. Research projects and capacity building sessions for scuba divers have also taken place.

For more information, please contact:
Reanne McKenzie (Sanctuary Manager) – (876) 316-7704 - manager@whiteriverfishsanctuary.com
whiteriverfishsanctuary.com



Web link: | <https://bit.ly/42rP29X>

DEEP SEA MATTERS EVENT AT THE UNIVERSITY OF THE WEST INDIES

Mr. Christopher Corbin was one of the speakers at the Deep Sea Mining Exhibition and Town Hall meeting held on January 26th, 2023 at the University of the West Indies in Kingston, Jamaica. The discussions looked at risks and opportunities related to Deep Sea Mining and explored



avenues for transitioning to clean energy and sustainable systems which

would minimise any further disruption to Caribbean marine ecosystems.

GEF CREW+: CAPACITY BUILDING WORKSHOP ON INTEGRATED WATER AND WASTEWATER MANAGEMENT (IWWM) IN GRENADA

A two-day capacity building workshop took place from March 14 to 15, 2023 in Grenada with the aim of engaging and sensitising stakeholders on Integrated Water and Wastewater Management (IWWM). The workshop was a collaboration of the Government of Grenada, through the Ministry of Climate Resilience, the Environment and Renewable Energy and the Global Water Partnership-Caribbean (GWP-C).

Key items were explored such as Innovative Technologies for Wastewater Recycling, Wastewater Reuse, The Grenada National Project under the GEF CREW+ Project, Wastewater Pollution, Governance Arrangements and Frameworks – among others.



Capacity Building in Integrated Water and Wastewater Management (IWWM) for Grenada



Web link:

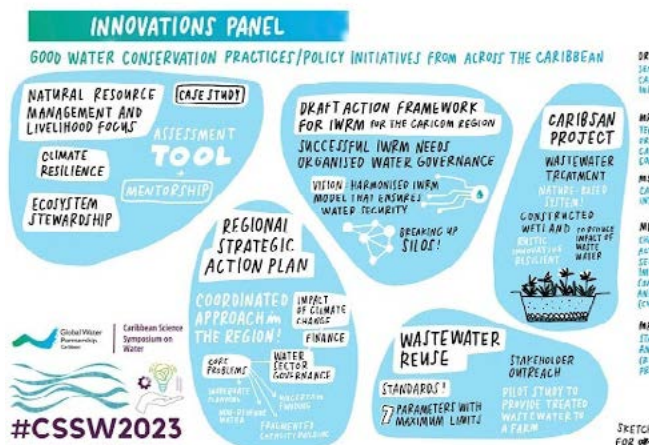
<https://www.gefcrew.org/participating-countries/grenada>

GWP-C'S 2ND VIRTUAL 2023 CARIBBEAN SCIENCE SYMPOSIUM ON WATER

The Global Water Partnership-Caribbean (GWP-C) hosted its 2nd Virtual Caribbean Science Symposium on Water (CSSW) from March 21 to 22, 2023 under the theme, "Conservation and Innovation: Changing the Regional Water Paradigm."

The Cartagena Convention Secretariat facilitated the session focused on innovations and highlighted the work taking place under the GEF CREW+ project and in support of the LBS Protocol.

Research findings were shared at the Symposium and efforts were made to bridge the gap between science and policy matters related to the Caribbean water sector. The Symposium featured high-quality scientific research and panel discussions helped to facilitate dialogue across disciplines with the participation of leading experts, negotiators, scientists, decision-makers, and young professionals.



Promotional video link:

https://youtu.be/GYsw_NPwqzI

Resource link:

<https://bit.ly/45zCL5M>

20TH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATIONS OF THE CARIBBEAN REGIONAL FISHERIES MECHANISM (CRFM)

The Caribbean Regional Fisheries Mechanism (CRFM) virtually celebrated its 20th anniversary on March 27, 2023. The CARICOM Institution was officially inaugurated on 27 March 2003, in Belize City, Belize where it is also headquartered. CRFM is an inter-governmental organisation with a stated mission “To promote and facilitate the responsible utilisation of the region’s fisheries and other aquatic resources for the economic and social benefits of the current and future population of the region”.

The CRFM consists of three bodies:



The Ministerial Council; The Caribbean Fisheries Forum; and The CRFM Secretariat. Member countries include Anguilla, Antigua and Barbuda, The Bahamas, Barbados, Belize, Dominica,

Grenada, Guyana, Haiti, Jamaica, Montserrat, St. Kitts and Nevis, Saint Lucia, St. Vincent and the Grenadines, Suriname, Trinidad and Tobago and the Turks and Caicos Islands.

The Cartagena Convention Secretariat has a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with the CRFM and highlighted the importance of its collaboration during remarks made at the celebrations.



Video link: <https://youtu.be/QJuokvR9J2Q>

10TH SCIENTIFIC AND TECHNICAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON THE SPECIALLY PROTECTED AREAS AND WILDLIFE PROTOCOL

The Wider Caribbean Region (WCR) is pursuing a strategic and sustained approach to ensure more positive outcomes in the management of marine protected areas and marine endangered species. It is estimated that US\$54.6 billion in economic value is directly linked to marine habitats. This was the context for the virtual meeting of the 10th Scientific and Technical Advisory Committee (STAC10) on the Specially Protected Areas and Wildlife (SPA) Protocol under the Cartagena Convention which was held from the 30th January to the 1st of February 2023. The SPAW Protocol represents the only regional legally binding agreement for the protection and sustainable use of coastal and marine biodiversity in the WCR.



Web links:

<https://bit.ly/439ETQ5>

<https://bit.ly/3IMnrsZ>

INTRODUCING THE BUSAN OUTCOME--SOI GLOBAL DIALOGUE WITH THE REGIONAL SEAS ORGANIZATIONS (RSOS) AND REGIONAL FISHERY BODIES (RFBS)

Subsequent to the Convention's participation in last October's 3rd Meeting of the Sustainable Ocean Initiative (SOI) Global Dialogue with Regional Seas Organizations (RSOs) and Regional Fishery Bodies (RFBs) in Busan, Republic of Korea, the Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) organized a webinar in February 2023 entitled, "The Busan Outcome".

The CBD collaborated with The Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), The United Nations Environment Programme and The National Marine Biodiversity Institute of Korea, with financial support from the Governments of the Republic of Korea (through the Ministry of Oceans and Fisheries, Japan (through the Japan Biodiversity Fund) and France (through the French Biodiversity Agency).



In the October 2022 meeting, representatives from the Secretariat contributed to the development of concrete actions and milestones with a view towards the successful implementation of the post-2020 global biodiversity framework.

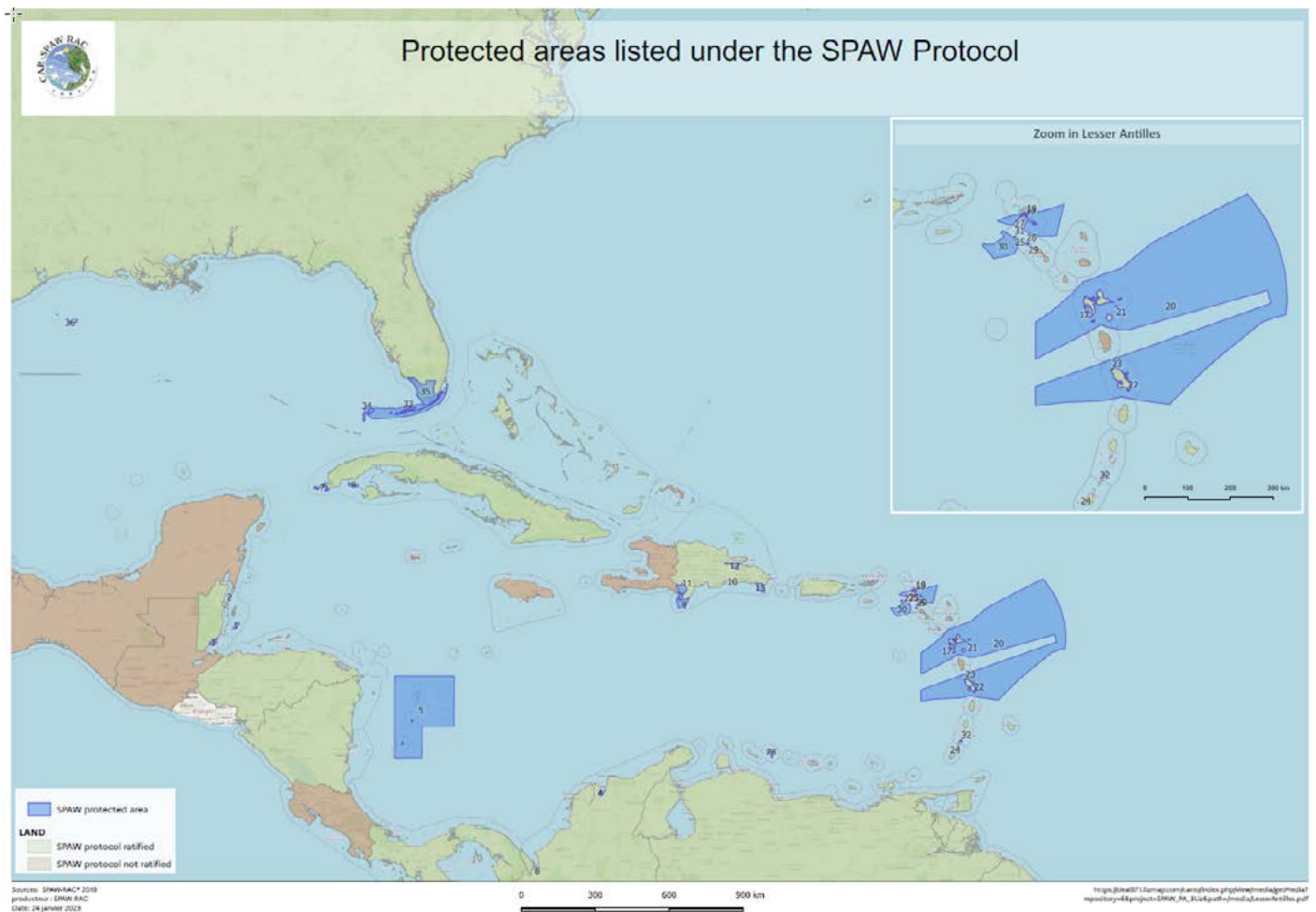
 Web link: <https://bit.ly/45xbKzX>

ECOSYSTEMS INTEGRATION BRANCH REGIONAL SEAS RETREAT

A Retreat of heads of Unit for the UNEP Ecosystems Integration Branch which includes UNEP administered Regional Seas Conventions and Action Plans such as the Cartagena Convention Secretariat took place in Nairobi, Kenya from the 21st to 23rd February. Discussions focused on exchanges of best practices and experiences, identification of opportunities for transboundary collaboration and how Regional Seas collectively can support Global Ocean Governance.



MAP OF SPAW LISTED AREAS



SPAW countries list :

Bahamas | Barbados | Belize | Colombia | Cuba | Dominican Republic | France (Guadeloupe, Guyane, Martinique, Saint-Barthélemy, Saint-Martin) | Grenada | Guyana | Honduras | Netherlands (Aruba, Bonaire, Curaçao, Saba, Sint-Eustachius, Sint Maarten) | Panama | Saint-Lucia | St Vincent and the Grenadines, Trinidad and Tobago | United States (States bordering the Gulf of Mexico; U.S. Virgin Islands; Puerto-Rico), Venezuela

INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY: WEBINAR: "GENDER PERSPECTIVE AND EXPERIENCE ON CLIMATE CHANGE



Vincent Sweeney, Head of UNEP's Caribbean Sub-Regional Office, Christopher Corbin, Coordinator for UNEP's Cartagena Convention Secretariat and Daniel Diaz Rivas, UNEP's Latin America and the Caribbean Climate Change Communications

Coordinator all made contributions to the International Women's Day webinar on Climate Change and Waste which took place on the 23rd March.

The webinar aimed to highlight positive examples of daily

commitments made by women to the environment. Examples of tackling waste and fighting climate change while supporting the circular economy and the Sustainable Development Goals were also shared.



Video link: | <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=EWErSoMKIFw>

CALL FOR PROJECTS

CAR SPAW SUBSIDIZES YOUR PROJECT

A call for projects is open until April 3, 2023 by the Regional Activity Center for the Specially Protected Areas and Wildlife Protocol of the Wider Caribbean Region (SPAW-RAC) for small grants for short-term projects.

Closing date: April 3, 2023 at midnight in Guadeloupe (UTC-4))



MAIN OBJECTIVES

The main objective of this call for projects is the implementation of the SPAW Protocol by promoting concrete actions for the conservation of biodiversity in the countries and territories of the Greater Caribbean Region that have signed the SPAW (Specially Protected Areas and Wildlife) Protocol of the Cartagena Convention.

The specific objectives are to provide financial support, in full or through co-financing, for actions aimed at

- effectively improve the conservation status of threatened species in the Caribbean region, especially those listed in the annexes of the SPAW Protocol;
- Generate information to enable civil society actors to improve the implementation of protected area management plans (with priority to SPAW protected areas) and management measures for threatened species;
- Implement ecosystem or population restoration actions in priority within protected areas listed in the SPAW Protocol.

For this call for projects, **special attention will be paid to projects in countries and territories, preferably signatories of the SPAW protocol and/or territories that do not easily benefit from traditional funding.**

Projects involving collaboration between one or more other Caribbean territories will also be favored.

Initiatives concerning marine/terrestrial species of plants, mammals, reptiles, birds and fishes listed in the annexes of the SPAW Protocol will be appreciated, which does not exclude other proposals.

Projects with a medium (2-5 years) and/or long term (+5 years) effectiveness monitoring will be favored during the analysis of the submissions.

YOUR APPLICATION IN DETAIL

Eligibility: Governmental and non-governmental organizations, associations, protected area managers, research centers, etc.

Grant amount: between €5,000 and €10,000 (may be increased in exceptional cases)

Terms of payment of the grant: a maximum advance of 50% of the amount can be paid at the signature of the agreement if necessary and upon request. The balance will be paid upon delivery of a final technical and financial report.




Deadline for completion of the project: the selected projects must be completed by 2023 if possible.

Content of the application:

- Project concept note presenting the framework of the operation, its objectives, its main steps and expected results
- Completed grant application form
- Complete bank instructions (see Annex 1) for receiving international transfers in Euros.
- The project must be known by the authorities of your country, and supported if possible by the National Focal Point(s) of the SPAW Protocol that SPAW-RAC can help you identify.



Contact: carspaw@developpement-durable.gouv.fr

Social medias :   

SPAW RAC ATTENDANCE AT 41ST INTERNATIONAL SEA TURTLE SYMPOSIUM AND WIDECAST CONFERENCE



41st International Sea Turtle Symposium

The International Sea Turtle Society hosted the 41st International Sea Turtle Symposium (ISTS41), a seven-day global event, held in Cartagena, Colombia between the 18th and 24th March 2023 under the theme “bridging communities and technology for marine turtle conservation”.

Representatives from our Regional Activity Centre for the Specially Protected Areas and Wildlife Protocol (SPAW RAC) joined a community of sea turtle biologists, environmental practitioners, conservationists, Indigenous groups, researchers, academics, and advocates from up

to 60 countries to share knowledge and build networks. The Wider Caribbean Sea Turtle Conservation Network (WIDECAST) also facilitated a conversation on regional capacity to ensure the recovery and sustainable management of depleted sea turtle populations.



Download the List of countries which ratified SPAW Protocol.

INTERNATIONAL DAY OF ZERO WASTE

The Convention joined the international community in celebrating the International Day of Zero Waste, #ZeroWasteDay, which was observed for the first time on 30 March 2023. Our activities included a social media campaign and web stories which were consistent with our international counterparts.

This new signature day aims to raise awareness of the importance of zero waste and the need for responsible consumption and production practices. It also examines how proper urban waste management can contribute to achieving the 2030 Sustainable Development Goals.



Web link - GET INVOLVED!

<https://www.unep.org/cep/news/blogpost/first-international-day-zero-waste-bolsters-actions-address-global-pollution-crisis>

NEW CALL FOR PROPOSALS 2023



The SPAW-RAC launched its 2023 Call for proposals and applicants and under consideration.

INTERNATIONAL DAY OF FORESTS – CELEBRATING MANGROVE RESTORATION IN THE CARIBBEAN



Pixabay, kmarius

On the 21st of March, the International Day of Forests, the Cartagena Convention celebrated Mangrove Restoration in the Wider Caribbean Region. Mangrove forests are magnificent and prolific ecosystems contributing to the wellbeing, food security, and protection of coastal communities worldwide.

In the Mesoamerican Reef Region

(MAR) and the Wider Caribbean, Mangroves are the economic foundation of over 134 million people living in the coastal regions. Mangroves also act as a form of natural coastal defence against storm surges, tsunamis, rising sea levels and erosion. Yet mangroves are disappearing three to five times faster than overall global forest losses. This has serious ecological and socio-economic impacts.

One joint restoration intervention effort by the Convention Secretariat, together with the “Integrated Reef to Ridge Management of the Mesoamerican Reef Ecoregion” Project (MAR2R/CCAD/WWF-GEF) and the MAR Fund, is the preparation of the “Manual for the ecological restoration of mangroves in the Mesoamerican Reef System and the Wider Caribbean”.



Web link:

<https://www.unep.org/cep/events/un-environment-event/international-day-forests-2022-celebrating-mangrove-restoration>

WEBINAR: NEW GUIDE FOR THE TOURISM INDUSTRY EXPLORES HOW TO ACCELERATE CORAL RESTORATION IN THE CARIBBEAN



The Nature Conservancy (TNC), Caribbean Hotel and Tourism Association (CHTA), United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) and the Secretariat Convention co-authored and published [A Guide to Coral Reef Restoration for the Tourism Sector: Partnering with Caribbean Tourism Leaders to Accelerate Coral Restoration](#). This

is the first resource of its kind for the tourism industry.

Presenters in a webinar hosted on March 9th had a chance to share research findings, best practices and resources for coral reef restoration implementation for tourism operators. The possibilities for improved public-private partnership aimed at advancing

coral reef conservation and restoration in the Caribbean were also explored.

The webinar was co-hosted by The Nature Conservancy's Caribbean Division, Reef Resilience Network, the Caribbean Hotel and Tourism Association, and the Caribbean Alliance for Sustainable Tourism.



Web link:

<https://www.unep.org/cep/events/virtual-event/upcoming-webinar-new-guide-tourism-industry-explores-how-accelerate-coral>

The Basel Convention Regional Centre for Training and Technology Transfer for the Caribbean (BCRC-Caribbean) launched the **INSPIRE ISLANDS PHOTOGRAPHY COMPETITION ON April 03, 2023**. The theme for this competition is The Tide Has to Turn on Plastic Waste. This directly aligns with this year's 50th World Environment Day celebrations on June 05, 2023, where solutions to #beatplasticpollution will be spotlighted.

BLUE RESILIENCE: THE APPROACHES TO THE SARGUSSUM CRISIS IN THE CARIBBEAN is a virtual event slated for the **27th April 2023**. The climate crisis has directly led to the warming of the oceans, changes in ocean currents and the intensification of storms, all of which have contributed to the growth and spread of Sargassum in the Caribbean.

The two peak days of **WORLD MIGRATORY BIRD DAY 2023** will be **13 May** and **14 October**, reflecting the cyclical nature of bird migration with varying migration periods in the northern and southern hemispheres.

THE INTERNATIONAL DAY FOR BIOLOGICAL DIVERSITY will take place on the **22nd of May 2023**. While there is a growing recognition that biological diversity is a global asset of tremendous value to future generations, the number of species is being significantly reduced by certain human activities.

WORLD ENVIRONMENT DAY 2023 will take place on the **5th June** and is the biggest international day for the environment. Led by the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), and held annually since 1973, it has grown to be the largest global platform for environmental outreach. It is celebrated by millions of people across the world. World Environment Day 2023 is hosted by Côte d'Ivoire and supported by the Netherlands and will focus on solutions to plastic pollution.

See link to past issues:

https://gefcrew.org/carrcu/CEPNewsletters/CartagenaConventionNewsletter-Edition3_December2022.pdf

<https://www.unep.org/cep/resources/newsletter/cartagena-convention-quarterly-newsletter-edition-2-september-2022>

<https://www.unep.org/cep/resources/newsletter/cartagena-convention-quarterly-newsletter-edition-1-june-2022>

About US

OUR TEAM



The United Nations Environment Programme Caribbean Regional Coordinating Unit (CAR/RCU) is the Secretariat for the Caribbean Environment Programme and Cartagena Convention. UNEP CAR/RCU was established in 1986 in Kingston, Jamaica.

The Caribbean Environment Programme (CEP) was established in 1981 as one of UNEP's Regional Seas Programmes in recognition of the importance and value of the Wider Caribbean's fragile and vulnerable coastal and marine ecosystems.

The Convention for the Protection and Development of the Marine Environment of the Wider Caribbean Region (also known as the Cartagena Convention) entered into force on October 11, 1986. The Convention provides the legal framework for the Caribbean Environment Programme and has 3 Protocols :

- ▮ Protocol Concerning Cooperation in Combating Oil Spills
- ▮ Protocol Concerning Specially Protected Areas and Wildlife (SPAW)
- ▮ Protocol Concerning Pollution from Land-Based Sources and Activities (LBS)

To date, **26** governments in the Wider Caribbean have ratified the Cartagena Convention and its Oil Spills Protocol, **18** governments have ratified the SPAW Protocol, and **15** have ratified the LBS Protocol.

Should you have any news, events, announcements and publications related to coastal and marine issues in the Wider Caribbean that you would like us to include in our quarterly newsletter, please write to unep-cartagenaconvention@un.org.

