

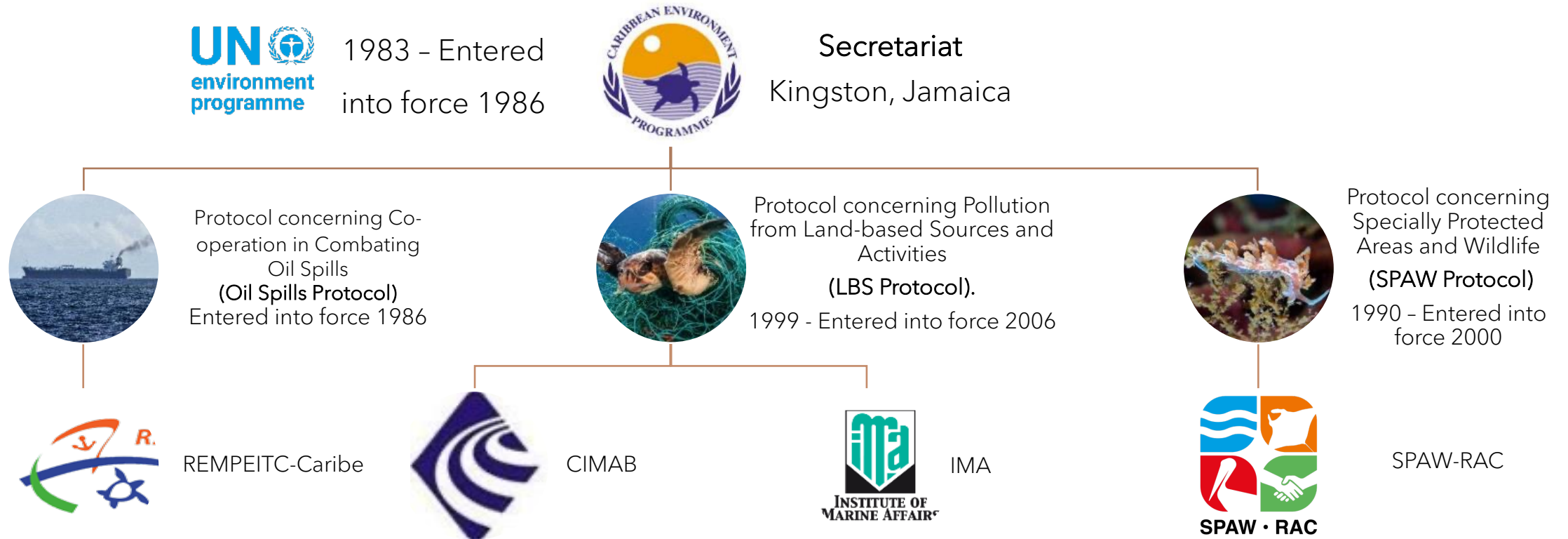
CORAL REEF MANAGEMENT AND MONITORING IN THE WIDER CARIBBEAN REGION

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THE CARTAGENA CONVENTION



Only Legally Binding Regional Agreement for the protection and development of the Marine Environment of the Wider Caribbean Region

OBJECTIVES OF THE SPAW PROGRAMME



Increase and improve the management of protected areas and species;



Support the conservation of threatened and endangered species and the sustainable use of natural resources;



Develop strong regional capability for coordination of information exchange, training and technical assistance;



Coordinate activities with international biodiversity treaties and initiatives.

SPA W SUB-PROGRAMMES 2023-2024



**Programme
Coordination**



**Strengthening of
Protected Areas
in the Wider
Caribbean
Region**



**Implementation
of Guidelines for
Protected Areas
and Species
Management**



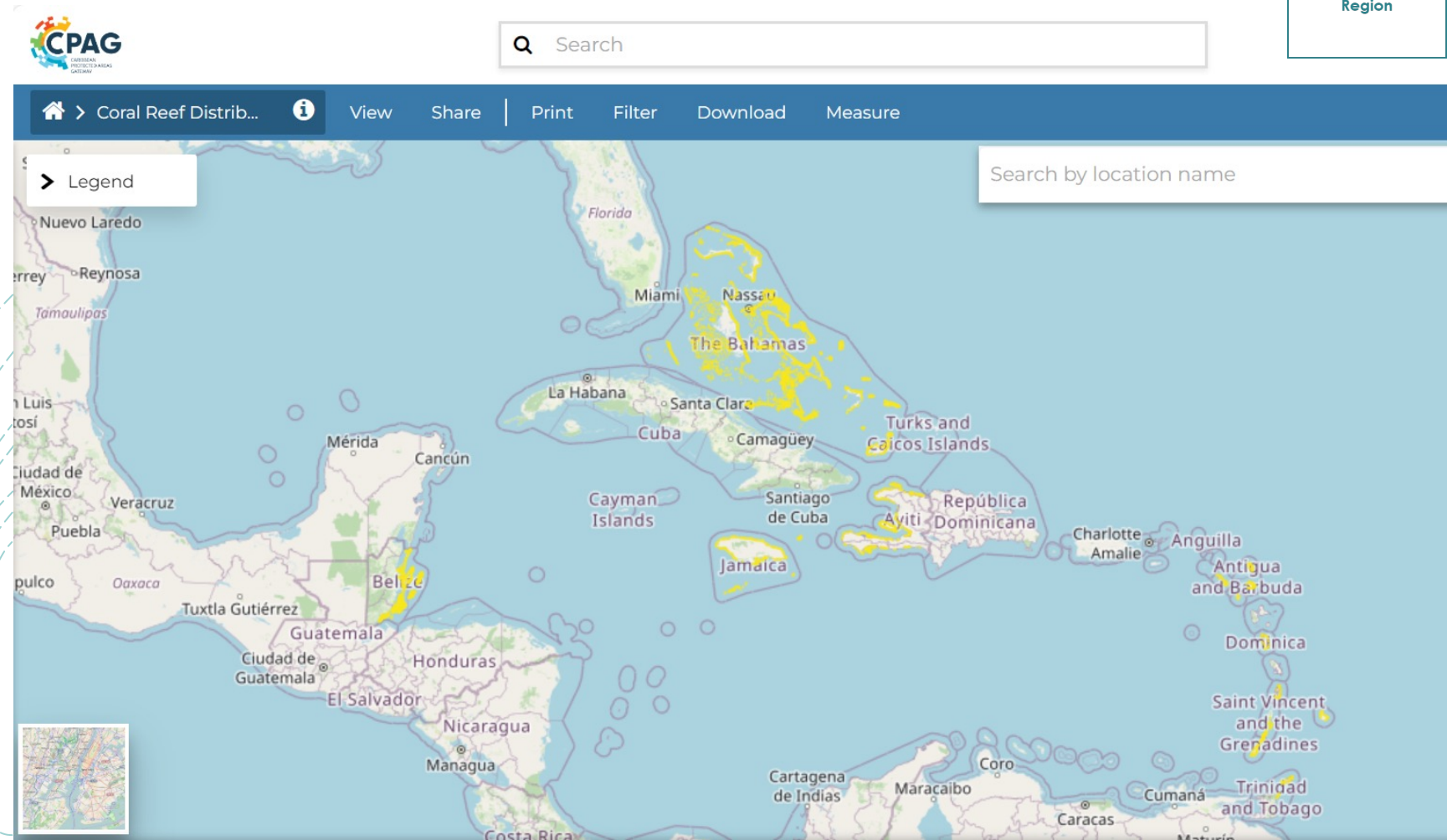
**Conservation of
Threatened and
Endangered
Species**



**Conservation,
Sustainable Use
and Restoration
of Coastal and
Marine
Ecosystems**

MARINE PROTECTED AREAS IN THE WCR

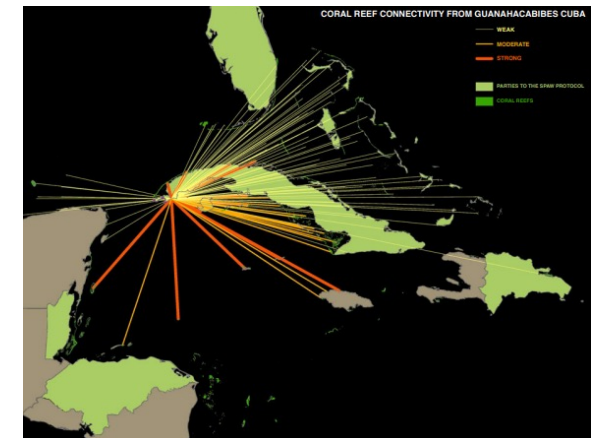
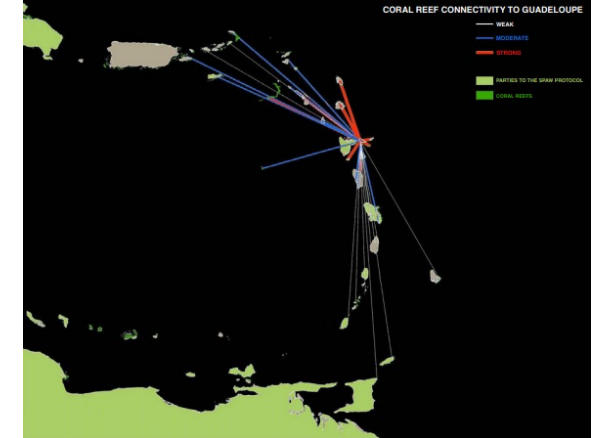
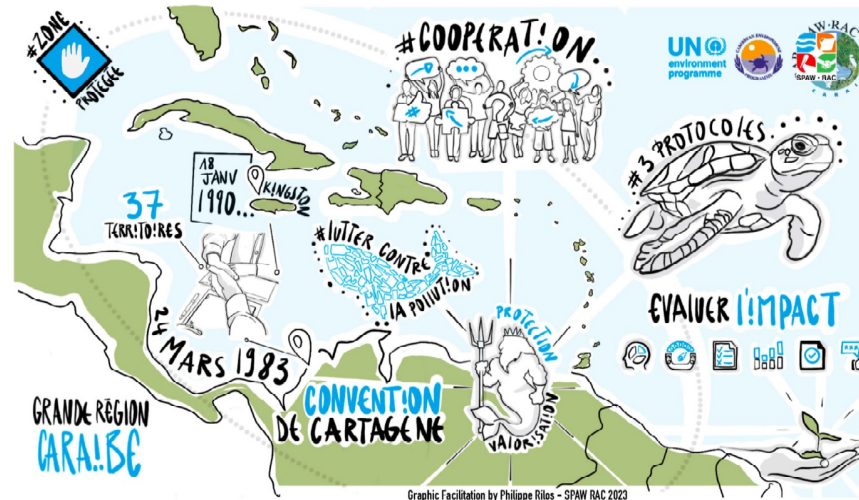
- ✪ +1000 MPAs
- ✪ Protect 40% of Caribbean coral reefs
- ✪ Only 4.6 % are in “Fully or Highly Protected” areas.
- ✪ Several network of MPAs





NETWORK OF SPAW LISTED MPAS

- ❁ 37 MPAs in the Caribbean region
- ❁ Well connected (Schill *et al.*, 2015, Kiene, 2021)
- ❁ Mission, vision, objectives
- ❁ Workplan
- ❁ Collaboration with existing networks of MPAs





ENDANGERED AND THREATENED SPECIES

- ❖ Several coral reef species in the SPAW Protocol annexes
 - ❖ Annex II: *Acropora cervicornis*, *A. palmata*, *Orbicella annularis*, *O. faveolata*
 - ❖ Annex III: All spp of Milleporidae, Stylasteridae, Antipatharia, Gorgonacea, Scleractinia,
- ❖ Recent COP12 decisions to increase the protection of some coral reef species
 - ❖ Uplist from Annex III to Annex II: the Oceanic Whitetip Shark, the Whale Shark and the Giant Manta Ray
 - ❖ List all Parrotfishes and the Caribbean reef shark in Annex III.





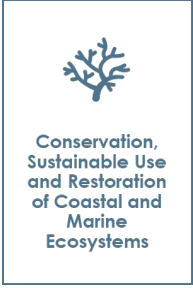
INTERNATIONAL CORAL REEF INITIATIVE IN THE WCR

- ✿ ~ 50 members of ICRI with incidence in the WCR
 - ✿ CEP-UNEP – SPAW RAC
 - ✿ 15 countries (including France, the Netherlands, UK and USA) - 13 Contracting Parties to the SPAW Protocol
 - ✿ ~25 NGOs
 - ✿ 8 Global IGOs/MEAs





GLOBAL CORAL REEF MONITORING NETWORK - CARIBBEAN NODE



Biophysical monitoring

- ❖ Assess health condition
- ❖ Identify changes over time
- ❖ Predict future outcomes
- ❖ Inform management decisions

Socioeconomic monitoring (SocMon)

- ❖ Dependence on coral reef resources
- ❖ Threats to marine and coastal resources
- ❖ Climate adaptation and resilience
- ❖ Inform management decisions

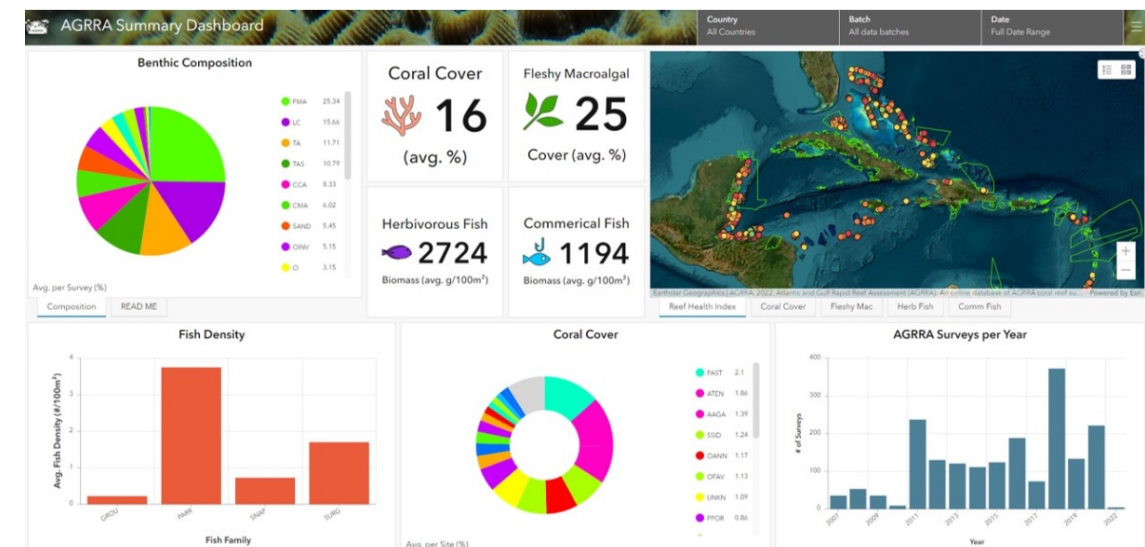
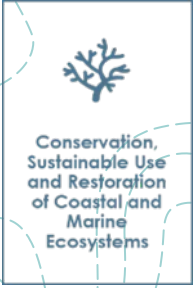
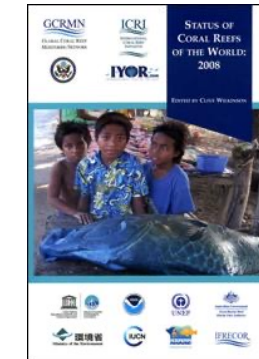
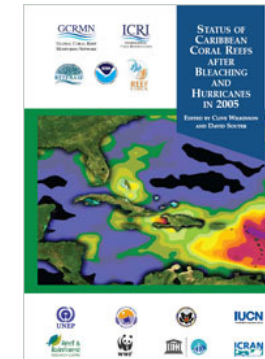
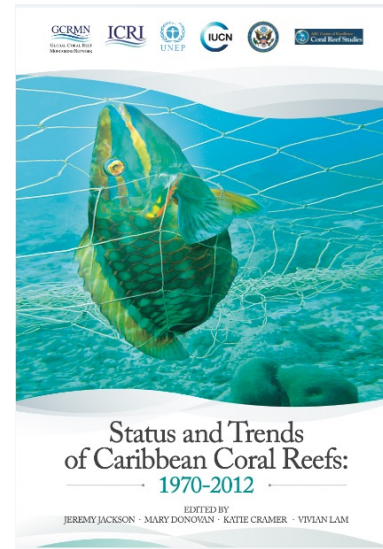


GCRMN- CARIBBEAN NODE

Regional report (Jackson et al., 2014) showing trends over 40 years

Caribbean chapter in Global reports

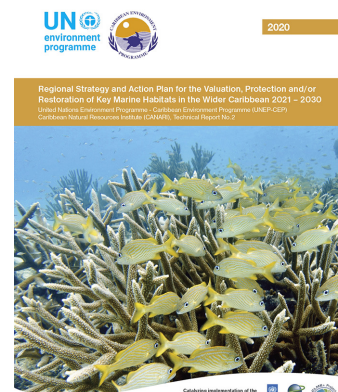
Regional Data Archiving and sharing (AGRRA's Data Explorer)





RESTORATION

- ❁ Regional Strategy and Action Plan for the Valuation, Protection and/or Restoration of Key Marine Habitats in the Wider Caribbean (RSAP) 2021 – 2030
- ❁ Capacity building
- ❁ Support to national and regional strategies (SPAW-RAC Small Grant Program and Carib-Coast Project)
- ❁ Guidelines and lessons learned

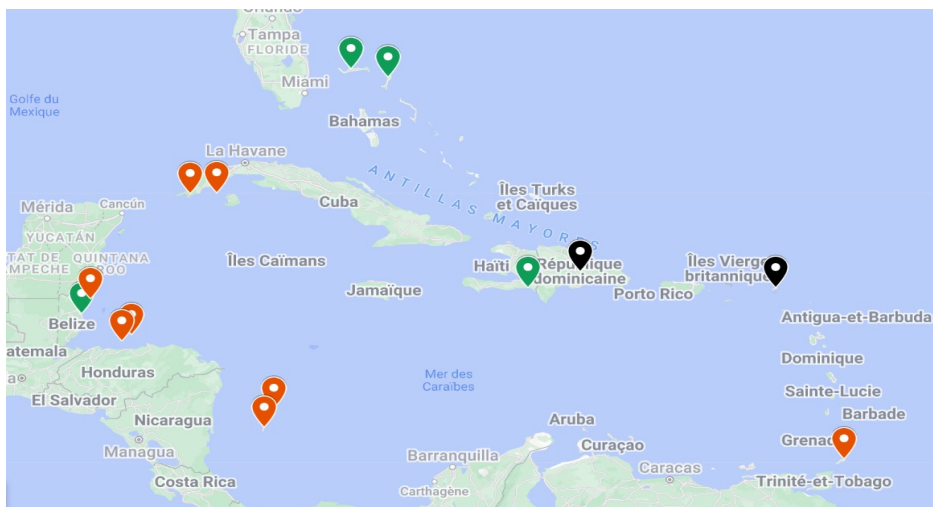


SPAW-RAC'S WORK

Conservation of Coral Reefs and associated Ecosystems

Annual Small Grant Programme (since 2020)

- ✿ Six Coral Restoration projects (mainly *Acropora* spp.): Belize, Colombia, Cuba (X2), Honduras (X2)
- ✿ Two projects to preserve parrot fish populations: Anguilla, Dominican Republic
- ✿ One sea urchin population (*Diadema*) restoration project: Anguilla
- ✿ One project to develop SCTL action plan: Colombia
- ✿ Two mangrove restoration projects: Belize, Haïti



Coral reef projects



Herbivorous population projects



Mangrove projects



SPAW-RAC'S WORK

Conservation of Coral Reefs and associated Ecosystems



Carib-Coast Project (2019-2022): Caribbean coastal risks prevention and monitoring network related with climate change

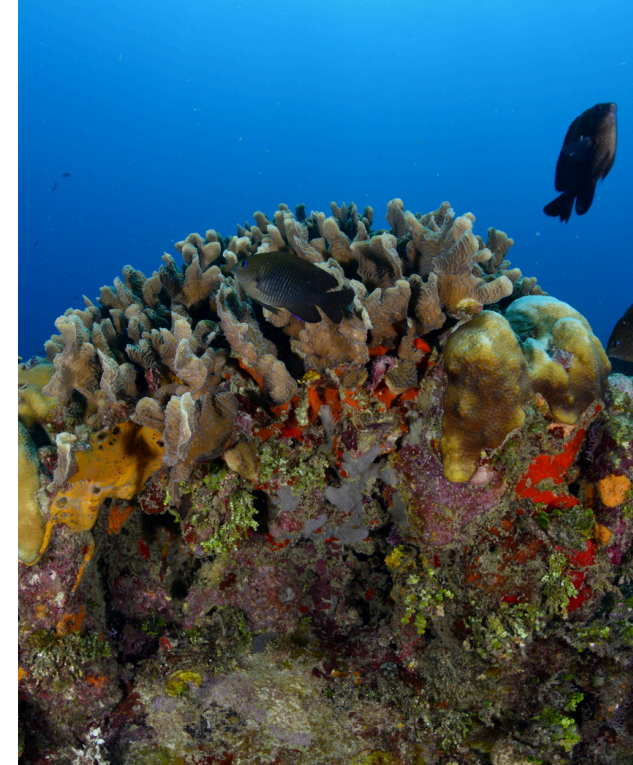
- ✿ Three pilot sites focused on nature-based solutions: coral restoration (Tobago), mangroves restoration (The Bahamas) and seagrass beds restoration (Puerto Rico)
- ✿ International training workshops for mangrove restoration (Bonaire, 2021)
- ✿ Operational Guidebook on coastal risk management in the Caribbean Region
- ✿ Communication tools (posters, videos) and conferences about ecosystem services



NEXT STEPS

CONTINUE to promoting the implementation of the SPAW Protocol

- ✿ Strengthening the SPAW-listed MPA network to guarantee the connectivity between coral reefs of the region (and associated ecosystems)
- ✿ Strengthen collaboration with existing networks, partners and organizations
- ✿ Design new conservation measures for coral reef species
- ✿ Build capacity in monitoring techniques.
- ✿ Promote harmonised data collection
- ✿ Improve integration of socio-economic monitoring (SocMon)
- ✿ Share best practices and lessons learned from restoration efforts.



THANK YOU
MERCI BEAUCOUP
MUCHAS GRACIAS

