



## International Coral Reef Initiative (ICRI)

### Member's Report | 38<sup>th</sup> General Meeting

9<sup>th</sup> – 13<sup>th</sup> September 2024 Jeddah, – Kingdom of Saudi Arabia

### Reporting Period: 2023 & 2024

#### A. Member Information:

- Name of ICRI member: UNEP Cartagena Convention Secretariat / SPAW-RAC
- Name of person(s) completing member's report: Susana PERERA VALDERRAMA - UNEP Cartagena Convention Secretariat / Auriane PETIT - SPAW-Regional Activity Center
- Position/Title: Susana PERERA VALDERRAMA. Programme Management Officer – UNEP Cartagena Convention Secretariat / Auriane PETIT - Marine Ecosystem Project officer – SPAW-RAC
- Email: [susana.pereravalderrama@un.org](mailto:susana.pereravalderrama@un.org)  
[auriane.petit5@gmail.com](mailto:auriane.petit5@gmail.com)
- Are you a designated ICRI Focal Point:  Yes  No
  - If no, please indicate who you are completing the form on behalf of:
- Which was the last General Meeting you attended: 37th ICRI General Meeting in Hawai
- Will you be attending the 38<sup>th</sup> ICRI General Meeting in Jeddah, Kingdom of Saudi Arabia:  Yes  No
- Member social media:
  - Twitter/X: @UNEP\_CEP
  - LinkedIn:
    - UNEP-CEP: <https://www.linkedin.com/company/caribbean-environment-programme-cep/posts/?feedView=all>
    - SPAW-RAC: <https://www.linkedin.com/company/car-spaw-rac/?viewAsMember=true>

**B. Reporting on the implementation of the ICRI Plan of Action 2021-2024: turning the tide for coral reefs.** *Your responses will help inform the Secretariat about members' contributions toward the current Plan of Action. You can download the ICRI Plan of Action here: <https://icriforum.org/documents/plan-of-action-2021-2024/>*

What are the main contributions you, as an ICRI member, have made to the ICRI Plan of Action?

*Theme 1 - Preparing for the Future: Promoting Resilient Coral Reefs*

*Theme 2 - Coral Reef Science and Oceanography: Advancing and Utilizing the Latest Science and Technology*

*Theme 3 - Local Threat Reduction: Integrating Response Planning Frameworks*

*Theme 4 - Diversity and Inclusion: Expanding the Coral Reef Community*

Answer:

***Theme 1 - Preparing for the Future: Promoting Resilient Coral Reefs***

*The UNEP Cartagena Convention continues to be the only regional legal agreement that addresses through its three protocols, the conservation, prevention and mitigation of threats and the sustainable use of marine and coastal species and ecosystems, including coral reefs, in the Wider Caribbean Region (WCR). The UNEP Cartagena Convention Secretariat, mainly through its Specially Protected Areas and Wildlife Protocol (SPAW) and supported by the SPAW Regional Activity Center, continues to work with Contracting Parties in advancing the conservation, restoration and sustainable management of the coral reefs of the WCR.*

*All coral species and many other species that inhabit or transit coral reefs in the Wider Caribbean Region are listed in the Annexes of the SPAW Protocol, which confers a full level of protection for species included in Annexes 1 and 2 and ensures sustainable management of species included in Annex 3, in the countries that are contracting parties to the SPAW Protocol.*

*At the latest SPAW COP12 held in October 2023, significant decisions were adopted to enhance conservation efforts for coral reef-related species across the Wider Caribbean region. New species, such as the Oceanic Whitetip Shark, Whale Shark, and Giant Manta Ray, were added to Annex 2 of the SPAW Protocol, securing them complete protection. All parrotfish species and the Caribbean reef shark were included in Annex 3 to promote their sustainable management.*

*To promote the resilience and connectivity of marine and coastal ecosystems, including coral reefs, in the WCR, a new network of MPA listed under the SPAW Protocol was created, and the first workshop was held to define the purpose and objectives of the network, the main challenges, and the priority actions needed to guarantee its effectiveness. The network*

*includes 37 sites that protect well-conserved ecosystems of coral reefs, mangroves, and seagrass beds in 12 countries. SPAW-RAC is establishing an operational network of MPA managers in these protected areas to promote capacity building and ensure effective management.*

*The UNEP Cartagena Convention Secretariat and the SPAW-RAC promoted the creation of a coordination working group among several Caribbean MPA Networks, including coral reefs MPAs, to promote coordinated efforts and propose a communication mechanism to streamline actions, with plans for future joint activities, including capacity building and strengthening of the management effectiveness of the MPAs. One in-person meeting and three online meetings have been held, and currently, an assessment to identify priorities and possible lines of collaboration has been undertaken.*

*The UNEP Cartagena Convention Secretariat recently joined the Ocean Coordination Mechanism (OCM) to improve governance of the Caribbean Sea following UNEP's signature of a Memorandum of Understanding. All the countries that form part of this cooperative agreement are member states of the Caribbean Environment Programme, with the majority also being Parties to the Cartagena Convention.*

*The UNEP Cartagena Convention Secretariat periodically engages with Caribbean countries not contracting parties to the Cartagena Convention and its protocols to promote ratification to continue guaranteeing the conservation and resilience of marine species and ecosystems, including coral reefs.*

*The collaboration with civil society organizations to implement the SPAW Protocol has been strengthened following the formalization of the partnership with the SPAW Consortium. This independent alliance of civil society organizations was created to promote, enhance, and support the implementation of the SPAW Protocol. Monthly meetings are held between the UNEP Cartagena Convention Secretariat and the SPAW-RAC, and a roadmap for action has been developed. In this framework, support has also been provided for establishing a Wildlife Enforcement Network in the Caribbean (CAR-WEN). This includes ongoing collaboration with ICWCC-CITES to guide on implementing the guidelines for establishing WENs. The CAR-WEN factsheet will be shared with the SPAW focal points soon.*

## ***Theme 2 - Coral Reef Science and Oceanography: Advancing and Utilizing the Latest Science and Technology***

*The UNEP Cartagena Convention Secretariat and the SPAW-RAC (Specially Protected Areas and Wildlife Regional Activity Centre) regularly collaborate with global and regional partners including relevant MEAs, and national organizations to gathering scientific information and advocating for technological solutions aimed at conserving, preventing, and mitigating threats to marine and coastal species and ecosystems, including coral reefs.*

*Bilateral and multilateral collaboration is being promoted through Memoranda of Understanding (MoU), letters of intent, projects and other relevant instruments and mechanisms with CITES, CBD, Ramsar, CMS, IAC, WIDECAST, CBC, ICRI, CRFM, Pew Charitable Trust, Ocean Acidification Community of Practice/GOA-ON Caribbean Hub, The*

*Ocean Foundation, The Gulf and Caribbean Fisheries Institute, The GEO Blue Planet, The Sargasso Sea Commission, and with other Regional Seas Conventions and Action Plans (Barcelona Convention, Abidjan Convention, OSPAR), among others.*

*The UNEP Cartagena Convention Secretariat and the SPAW-RAC have participated in international conferences and events to strengthen policies and advance and utilize the Latest Science and Technology for planning and decision-making processes.*

- *GCFI 76 – The Bahamas (November 2023)*
- *Regional Seas Annual meeting (November 2023)*
- *SIDS 4 – Antigua and Barbuda (May 2024)*
- *Caribbean Biological Corridor Ocean Forum (June 2024)*
- *Ocean Space Forum - Monaco (July 2024)*
- *CITES Animal Committee (July 2024)*

*The SPAW-RAC has been coordinating the continued reactivation of the Caribbean Coral Reef Monitoring Network. Activities undertaken during the last year include:*

- *Led the request and collection of coral reef data, knowledge, and trends for the Caribbean region from network members.*
- *GCRMN members conducted an online survey on the network (April 2023), the second on monitoring and capacity-building (September 2023), and the third on bleaching (April 2024).*
- *Participation in the GCRMN Steering Committee and ICRI Annual meetings (Hawaii, September 2023) and supported the launch of the Coral Reef Breakthrough, the Terms of reference for an ad hoc committee on integrating coral reefs into National Biodiversity Strategies and Action Plans (NBSAPs), and the adoption of the resolution to extend the ICRI ad hoc committee for coral reef restoration and adaptation.*
- *Organization of the GCRMN-Caribbean node Steering Committee meeting in November 2023, where the next GCRMN Caribbean Report was planned, and the data management and communication strategies were presented and discussed. During the meeting, the importance of enhancing socioeconomic monitoring was highlighted.*
- *Coordination of a special session on "MPA Networks as Tools for the Implementation of Ecosystem Monitoring Programmes", where many topics of interest were discussed to promote effective monitoring of marine ecosystems, including coral reefs, in MPAs in the Caribbean.*

- *Ongoing discussions to determine the most appropriate option for hosting GCRMN-Caribbean data on a platform.*
- *Coordination of Data Task Forces (2 meetings in June 2024).*
- *Fundraising for the GCRMN-Caribbean Report*
- *Awareness raising on threats and diseases such as coral bleaching, Stony Tissue coral loss disease, etc., through the celebration of webinars, social media posts, and campaigns.*
- *Coordinate the elaboration of the GCRMN-Caribbean Report (SPAW-RAC).*
- *Recruitment of a consultant for the Data Collation & Analysis for the GCRMN-Caribbean report. (SPAW-RAC).*
- *Organization of a Data Workshop that will be held in October 2024 in Puerto Morelos, Mexico, with 15 experts on data analysis in parallel with a GFCR workshop. (SPAW-RAC).*

*In collaboration with several Caribbean countries and regional partners, the UNEP Cartagena Convention Secretariat is finalizing the implementation of The Integrating Water, Land and Ecosystems Management in Caribbean Small Island Developing States (GEF IWEco) Project, which is expected to end in December 2024. Through this project, a regional environmental monitoring data portal (REMDAP) was developed, which serves as a clearinghouse mechanism and decision-making tool to strengthen the process of regional environmental monitoring and assessment within the Caribbean region. In this same project, a Methodological Framework for Integrated Coastal Zone Management for Grenada, Jamaica, St. Vincent and the Grenadines and Saint Lucia was developed.*

### ***Theme 3 - Local Threat Reduction: Integrating Response Planning Frameworks***

*The UNEP Cartagena Convention Secretariat and the SPAW-RAC, after a strong mandate received in the last set of intergovernmental meetings, is supporting regional coordination with contracting parties of the Convention, regional partners and other UN agencies to address the Sargassum inundation issue in Caribbean countries, that has been affecting human health, local economies and the health of marine and coastal ecosystem including coral reefs. The Sargassum Working Group, coordinated by the SPAW-RAC, is currently assessing how the Sargassum inundation in the region affects the contracting parties to comply with its obligations under the Cartagena Convention and its protocols.*

*With support from the GEF UNEP IWEco Project, work is being undertaken to revise a draft Framework for Integrated Water Resources Management (IWRM) for the CARICOM Region to include all the Member States of the Caribbean Community. A stakeholder meeting, which the Cartagena Convention Secretariat participated in virtually, was convened in June 2024 to review and finalize the draft framework. Also, with support of the IWEco project a Marine Pollution Management Strategy and National Action Plan was developed for Barbados.*

*Caribbean countries are being supported through the GEF Implementing integrated water and wastewater solutions for a clean and healthy Caribbean Sea (CReW+) Project in the advancing policies and strategies on integrated water and waste management, as well as supporting countries implementing low technology on-the-ground solutions to wastewater management.*

*Through financial support from the German Federal Ministry for the Environment, Nature Conservation, Nuclear Safety and Consumer Protection (BMUV), through Adelphi, the UNEP Cartagena Convention Secretariat is supporting the implementation of the PROMAR Project in 5 Caribbean SIDS, which seeks to contribute to the reduction of waste streams, namely plastic packaging and single-use plastics, into the Caribbean Sea while promoting circular economy solutions. The project Kick-off Meeting occurred in the Dominican Republic on 24 – 28 June 2024.*

*The UNEP Cartagena Convention Secretariat, in collaboration with the GCFI under the ACP MEA III project, supported several community-based grants to address Marine Litter in MPAs affecting marine and coastal ecosystems, including coral reefs.*

*Collaboration with the UNEP Regional and Caribbean Sub-Regional Offices continues, focusing on solid waste, including plastics, microplastics, and chemical management. Discussions to identify countries that require support for developing National Marine Litter/Plastics Reduction Strategies and Action Plans are underway.*

#### ***Theme 4 - Diversity and Inclusion: Expanding the Coral Reef Community***

*The UNEP Cartagena Convention Secretariat has been engaging with youth groups to promote its integrations in supporting the work of the Convention and its protocols. Among the main conducted activities we have:*

- *Engagement with Early Career Oceans Professionals Latin America to promote joint activities*
- *Presentations with environmental clubs in Jamaica by Secretariat staff about our work and environmental priorities.*
- *Partnerships with UWI and UTECH to deliver presentations, have booths, display, etc.*
- *Organizing a regional art competition and using the top 13 entries to print the following year's calendar with quotes from each winner.*
- *Partnered with CYEN Regional to do a Caribbean Clean Seas Campaign in selected countries through their national chapters and with CYEN to do the first update of our Regional Marine Litter Action Plan.*
- *Partnered with other youth groups to do interviews, respond to surveys, etc.*
- *Partnered with GCFI to sponsor youth to the GCFI Conference and make presentations.*

- Partnered with GWP C for specific awareness activities on wastewater targeting youth.

All our projects and activities include Gender, Environmental, and Social Risk Analysis, and safeguard action plans are developed and implemented to address them.

- (ICRI) What are your upcoming priorities for coral reefs?

Answer:

UNEP Cartagena Convention Secretariat and SPAW-RAC coral reef priorities are in line with SPAW's subprogrammes to promote regional cooperation and provide technical assistance to our contracting parties, including:

- Increase the number and improve the management of coral reef protected areas to increase coral reef resilience;
- Support the conservation of threatened and endangered coral reef species;
- Promote the conservation, restoration and sustainable use of coral reefs, seagrass beds and mangroves;
- Develop strong regional capability for coordination of information exchange, training and technical assistance;
- Development and implementation of Guidelines for Protected Areas and Species Management;
- Coordinate activities with international biodiversity treaties and initiatives.

### C. Reporting on the Restoration of Coral Reefs (Target 2 GBF/Action Point 3 Coral Reef Breakthrough)

- (ICRI) Are you able to estimate the total area (km<sup>2</sup>) of coral reef under active restoration and the total area you consider to be 'restored', as a result of your organisation/country's in 2023?
  - Total area under active restoration in 2023:  km<sup>2</sup>
  - Total area considered to be restored in 2023:  km<sup>2</sup>
- (ICRI) If available, please provide further information on the total area considered to be restored, and under active restoration for the total period of the restoration programme, including the timeframe:

Answer:

Not available

- (ICRI) For the purpose of the above, please provide definitions for how your programme/organisation/country considers coral reefs to be:
  - A) Under active restoration
  - B) Restored

*Answer:*

*Under active Restoration:*

*Restored:*

**Does your country have any restoration policies or regulations?**

Many locations have outdated and insufficient regulations for coral reef restoration, resulting in inadequate oversight of restoration efforts. In addition, the absence, limitations, or differences among regulations between countries prevents the development and implementation of effective regional coral reef conservation strategies.

- (ICRI) Please describe the restoration policies or regulations (if any) that are in place in your country.

*Answer:*

*The sub-programme of **Conservation, Sustainable Use and Restoration of Coastal and Marine Ecosystems** promotes the implementation of actions to restore coral reef, seagrass and mangrove ecosystems among contracting parties. Among the objectives of this subprogramme related to coral reef restoration, we have:*

- *Raise awareness and encourage actions by Governments and other partners for the conservation, sustainable use and restoration of coral reefs and associated ecosystems such as mangroves and seagrass beds;*
- *Promote the UN Decade for Ecosystem Restoration and the UN Decade on Ocean Science as a global initiative to safeguard and improve scientific understanding of coastal and marine ecosystems.*

**D. The Global Coral Reef Monitoring Network (GCRMN)**





The production of future GCRMN reports, both at the regional and global level, relies on the ongoing support of data contributors who are willing to share their coral reef monitoring data for this purpose. As such, from 2024 to 2026, the GCRMN will undertake the rigorous process of developing the **Status of Coral Reefs of the World: 2025** global report, including an extensive data collation process.

### Do you have data to contribute to the upcoming GCRMN global report?

- Please provide the contact information for the data providers to allow for the GCRMN data collation team to request data and discuss the process of data contribution.

*Please add further contacts as needed.*

*Answer:*

*Contact Name: Jeremy Wicquart GCRMN-Caribbean consultant  
Organisation: MAREPOLIS  
Email Address: [jeremywicquart@gmail.com](mailto:jeremywicquart@gmail.com)*

## E. Capacity Building & Communications

### Have you found the ICRI #ForCoral Webinar Series useful?

Through 2024, ICRI has hosted multiple webinars that aim to share knowledge and foster collaboration across critical topics concerning the conservation, protection, and restoration of coral reefs. These webinars form the #ForCoral webinar series, and topics include the 4th Global Bleaching Event, impacts of land-based sources of pollution and National Biodiversity Strategies and Action Plans.

The full list of webinars and recordings can be found here: <https://icriforum.org/forcoral-webinar-series/>

- (ICRI) Did you attend any of the series' webinars, and if so which topics have you found the most useful and engaging? If you did not attend the webinars, please explain why, and how what we could have done better.

*Answer:*

*We disseminated ICRI webinars among our networks and attended the one on Bleaching, in which Judy Lang from the Caribbean region participated. The webinar provided very relevant information about this global issue. It was presented in a very well-organized format and promoted a very rich discussion on the topic.*

- (ICRI) Do you have any suggestions or request for topics that you wish for ICRI to host as part of this series? If you have a specific topic in mind, and would like to host a webinar, please indicate below.

Answer:

*The roles and contributions of the Regional Seas Conventions and Actions Plans in the conservation, restoration and sustainable use of coral reefs. This topic has been raised in several ways, i.e., at the Regional Seas Annual Meeting (Barbados 2024) and the SIDS4 Conference ICRI side event. Still, a dedicated webinar with access to a broad audience would be beneficial.*

Have you found the ICRI communications useful?

- (ICRI) Do you find the ICRI Monthly Round of News Useful? If yes, what do you like about it and how would you suggest improving ICRI's communications?

Answer:

*The ICRI Monthly Round of News presents very helpful updates on events, news and contributions from ICRI members to the conservation and sustainable use of coral reefs.*

## F. Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework

ICRI has continually supported the Convention on Biological Diversity and the Post-2020 process, developing a recommendation for coral reef indicators to be included in the Global Biodiversity Framework and supporting Parties during the negotiation process. Following the Framework's adoption in 2022, ICRI's support now aims to support parties in implementing the framework, especially through National Biodiversity Strategies and Action Plans (NBSAPS) and the Marine and Coastal Work Programme.

In 2024, ICRI released [A Guide for Integrating Coral Reefs and Associated Ecosystems into National Biodiversity Strategies and Action Plans](#) to support coral reef countries to integrate coral reefs and associated ecosystems into their NBSAPs.

- (ICRI) Did you use read, use, and/or apply the Guide on integrating coral reefs and associated ecosystems into National Biodiversity Strategies and Action Plans (NBSAPs) useful? *Where possible, indicate specific elements that were useful or alternatively provide information if you did not find the guide useful.*

Answer:

*The UNEP Cartagena Convention Secretariat has promoted with their contracting parties, the inclusion of marine considerations, including coral reefs, in the development of NBSAPs*

*through the promotion of the Guide on integrating coral reefs and associated ecosystems into National Biodiversity Strategies and Action Plans (NBSAPs) in collaboration with ICRI.*

- (ICRI) Did you revise your current National Biodiversity Strategies and Action Plans (NBSAP) to include coral reefs? **N.B.** if you are not a country representative, are you working with national focal points to help update their NBSAPs? Please provide further details.

*Answer:*

- (ICRI) How are you planning to implement the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework? Please list the target(s) and decisions that your work attributes to.

*Answer:*

*The UNEP Cartagena Convention Secretariat, in collaboration with the SPAW RAC, is promoting several initiatives to support the achievement of the Kunming Montreal GBF, in particular with targets 1 to 8, 14 and 21.*

*The initiatives include activities aimed at better marine protection through the creation and strengthening of MPAs and OECMs in line with Decision 2 of SPAW COP12, Decision VIII and XII of the Cartagena Convention COP17, IGM20, and within the Framework of the PROCARIBE+ and Implementation of the Strategic Action Program of the Large Marine Ecosystem of the Gulf of Mexico projects.*

*In this sense, the UNEP Cartagena Convention Secretariat is working with the Dominican Republic and Colombia to strengthen existing MPAs and create new MPAs and OECM to contribute to Target 3 (30x30) of the Kunming Montreal GBF through the creation and strengthening of marine protected areas with the support of the PROCARIBE+ project. The UNEP Cartagena Convention Secretariat is working in Colombia to strengthen the Cordillera Submarina Beata Natural Reserve and create two new marine protected and in the Dominican Republic, the focus is on also strengthening the Cordillera Beata MPA and establishing Fishing Closure or Restoration Zones. The PROCARIBE+ project will also support training and capacity-building activities related to implementing Target 3 of the GBF in MPA planning and management.*

*The UNEP Cartagena Convention Secretariat is also supporting Mexico, the United States of America and Cuba as part of the "Implementation of the Strategic Action Programme of the Large Marine Ecosystem of the Gulf of Mexico" GEF project to improve bilateral coordination and cooperation by strengthening networks of marine protected areas in the region and by supporting the effectiveness of the management of marine protected areas, in line with Target 3 of the GBF by linking them through networks of marine protected areas.*

*The SPAW-RAC is coordinating the creation and implementation of a network of SPAW-listed Marine Protected Areas (MPAs), including capacity building to enhance the management of protected areas. As part of this network, efforts are being made to promote efficient management of protected areas by supporting the revision of management plans. The SPAW group of experts on protected areas is working to improve the SPAW listing process and encourage the declaration of Protected Areas.*

*The UNEP Cartagena Convention Secretariat collaborated with UNEP-Global Environment Monitoring Services on Ocean and Coasts (GEMS-Ocean) and IOC UNESCO to organise the Caribbean Digital Twin Prototype (CDTp) Data Workshop and Hackathon in connection to Target 1. The event took place from 3-5 October 2023 in Oranjestad, Aruba, within the framework of the Intergovernmental meetings of the Cartagena Convention and its protocols.*

*The UNEP Cartagena Convention Secretariat and the SPAW-RAC have promoted continued collaboration with MEAs with mandates in the conservation and sustainable use of marine species and ecosystems as coral reefs, which contributes to the implementation of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework, including the CBD, CITES, Ramsar, CMS, and other RSCAPs. The collaboration with the CBD Secretariat has involved participation in the Sustainable Ocean Initiative and a side event in the framework of the 4th SIDS Conference on the Target 3 - 30X30 in collaboration with TNC and the Caribbean Biodiversity Fund. In this same event, the Cartagena Convention Secretariat partnered with ICRI in the side event “Ocean Health, Human Wealth: The Importance of Coral Reefs” and organized a side event in collaboration with regional partners which sought to raise awareness and define potential solutions for addressing the socio-economic and environmental impacts of the Sargassum blooms within the Caribbean, also affecting the health of marine and coastal ecosystems including coral reefs.*

*The UNEP Cartagena Convention Secretariat and the SPAW-RAC have continuously shared relevant information regarding capacity-building activities and funding opportunities to support the implementation of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework with the Contracting Parties.*

*The UNEP Cartagena Convention Secretariat and the SPAW-RAC continue to promote the design and implementation of guidelines related to the conservation, restoration and sustainable management of coral reefs and mangroves, in particular, with the promotion of the Coral Reef Restoration Guidelines for Tourism Sector, designed in collaboration with The Nature Conservancy (TNC), and the Caribbean Hotel & Tourism Association (CHTA) and the Manual for the Ecological Restoration of Mangroves in the Mesoamerican Reef System and the Wider Caribbean.*

*The UNEP Cartagena Convention Secretariat is participating in developing Ocean Best Practices training for the Caribbean region in collaboration with several regional and national partners in the framework of the OBPS-ADAPT Project.*

*The SPAW Protocol Working Group of species assists parties in implementing the SPAW Protocol and the Cartagena Convention about the conservation of threatened and endangered species. For example, the Species Working group is preparing recommendations*

*for Contracting Parties on Parrotfish management as these species have been included in Annex 3 during the last SPAW COP12 in 2023.*

*Concerning Target 14: Integrate Biodiversity in Decision-Making at Every Level the SPAW-RAC is coordinating the elaboration of the GCRMN-Caribbean report on Status and Trends of Coral Reefs. The report targets decision-makers and will be presented at the UN Ocean Conference in June 2025 in Nice.*

*In relation to Target 21: Ensure That Knowledge Is Available and Accessible to Guide Biodiversity Action, the SPAW-RAC coordinated the creation of GCRMN guidelines on monitoring to harmonize data collection in the wider Caribbean region. SPAW-RAC also collaborated with AGRRA, the Caribbean Biological Corridor and the UNEP Cartagena Convention Secretariat to organize webinars on the Unomia invasion in the region and Coral Bleaching with AGRRA. The SPAW-RAC also worked on compiling existing biophysical, socio-economic and pressure data on coral reefs to give a big picture of the coral reef status. The state-of-the-art and materials and methods will be available in the report to explain the scientific process and analyses. Ongoing communication on social media, through the SPAW RAC newsletter and update of our website.*

*The UNEP Cartagena Convention Secretariat is collaborating with the Caribbean Community of Practice (CoP) to strengthen the capacity for research, monitoring, and adaptive solutions for ocean acidification resilience and associated multi-stressors. This CoP also endeavours to explore the impacts of ocean acidification (OA) on the ocean and coastal areas (for example, coral reefs), ecosystem and human health, and socio-economic activities within the region.*

## **G. Upcoming events**

*Please tick the most any events that you will be, or are planning to attend:*

- September 10<sup>th</sup> – 24<sup>th</sup>: 79th Session of the UN General Assembly (UNGA 79)
- September 23<sup>rd</sup> – 26<sup>th</sup>: GEF International Waters Conference
- October 13<sup>th</sup> – 18<sup>th</sup>: 7<sup>th</sup> International Marine Conservation Congress (IMCC7)
- October 21<sup>st</sup> – November 1<sup>st</sup>: CBD COP16
- November 4<sup>th</sup> – 8<sup>th</sup>: 77<sup>th</sup> Annual meeting of the Gulf and Caribbean Fisheries Institute (GCFI77)
- December 10<sup>th</sup> – 12<sup>th</sup>: The International Mangrove Conservation and Restoration Conference
- December 9<sup>th</sup> – 13<sup>th</sup>: Reef Futures

- June 9<sup>th</sup> – 13<sup>th</sup> 2025: United Nations Ocean Conference
- October 9<sup>th</sup> – 15<sup>th</sup> 2025: IUCN World Conservation Congress
- Other

Please list any upcoming regional / international events relevant to ICRI that your organisation plans to attend:

Answer:

- *14<sup>th</sup> edition of the CaMPAM Training of Trainers course. Since its inception in 1997 to support the SPAW Protocol, the Caribbean Marine Protected Areas Management Network and Forum (CaMPAM) has been an essential tool to support training, technical assistance, networking, communication tools and small to medium grants over the past 25 years. The Training of Trainers in MPA Management programme has been essential, where selected MPA managers, trained by regional experts, have received financial support to run replication courses in their respective countries, multiplying the lessons learned and sharing experiences with participants from across the region. More than a thousand people have been trained directly or indirectly over the years since the project began in 1998.*
- *UNOC2. Initial discussions with Contracting Parties and Regional partners to present relevant results and initiatives at the next UNOC, including the presentation of the GCRMN Status Report of the Coral Reefs of the World (Caribbean Chapter), the French International Sargassum Initiative, and with all the RSCAPs (with the support of France) to establish a common position on coastal adaptation to global changes.*

**H. Publications.** Please list relevant publications / reports you have released recently (+ add a link if possible)

Publication	URL
SPAW Workplan and budget	<a href="https://gefcrew.org/carrcu/SPAWCOP12/EN%20UNEP(DEPI)%20CAR%20WG.43_3_Workplan%202023-2024_Rev.1.pdf">https://gefcrew.org/carrcu/SPAWCOP12/EN%20UNEP(DEPI)%20CAR%20WG.43_3_Workplan%202023-2024_Rev.1.pdf</a>
SPAW COP 12 Decision and recommendations	<a href="https://gefcrew.org/carrcu/SPAWCOP12/UNEP(DEPI)CAR%20IG.46-3_EN_Decisions%20of%20the%20Meeting_final_SPAWCOP12_updated.pdf">https://gefcrew.org/carrcu/SPAWCOP12/UNEP(DEPI)CAR%20IG.46-3_EN_Decisions%20of%20the%20Meeting_final_SPAWCOP12_updated.pdf</a>

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**I. ICRI Member Feedback.** What do you find most valuable about being a member of ICRI as well as completing the ICRI member reports? If you have any ideas to improve the Member Reports, please list below:

Answer:

*Contribute to the objectives of the SPAW Protocol that are aligned with ICRI missions and objectives.*

- *Promote collaboration with countries and organizations members of ICRI contributing to the conservation of coral reefs in the Wider Caribbean Region.*
- *Highlight the contributions of the UNEP Cartagena Convention Secretariat and the SPAW-RAC to conserving coral reefs in the Wider Caribbean Region.*
- *Participate in and disseminate training and capacity-building activities among our contracting parties.*

**J. Contact information & member information.** (Note that this information will be posted on the ICRI website on your member page: <https://icriforum.org/members/>).

*Please use the table below to provide us updates to your member's focal points as well as the blank cells to indicate changes to information (please add more rows, as needed):*

<b>Focal Point 1:</b>	
Name:	<b>Susana Perera Valderrama</b>
Title/Organisation:	Programme Management Officer- SPAW Sub-Programme Cartagena Convention Secretariat
Email:	<a href="mailto:susana.perera@derrama@un.org">susana.perera@derrama@un.org</a>
<b>Focal Point 2:</b>	
Name:	<b>Géraldine Conruyt</b>
Title/Organisation:	Deputy Director, SPAW-RAC
Email:	<a href="mailto:geraldine.conruyt@developpement-durable.gouv.fr">geraldine.conruyt@developpement-durable.gouv.fr</a>
<b>Focal Point 3:</b>	
Name:	<b>Auriane Petit</b>
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*Thank you very much for sharing your valuable experiences and information with ICRI. Members reports, meeting outputs and resources will be uploaded to: <https://icriforum.org/events/37th-icri-general-meeting/>*