

# Report on the State of Marine Habitats in the Wider Caribbean & Regional Strategy and Action Plan for the Valuation, Protection and/or Restoration of Key Marine Habitats in the Wider Caribbean 2021 – 2030

## An Overview

### *The Marine Environment of the Wider Caribbean: A shared vital resource*

Protecting the Large Marine Ecosystems (and associated living resources) that compose the Wider Caribbean region is vital to safeguarding the future of the 26 countries and 18 overseas territories in this region. The report on the *State of Marine Habitats in the Wider Caribbean (SoMH)* and the *Regional Strategy and Action Plan for the Valuation, Protection and/or Restoration of Key Marine Habitats in the Wider Caribbean 2021 -2030 (RSAP)* are two important tools towards this end. They will be supported by an investment plan to facilitate implementation. The SoMH and RSAP embody the institutionalisation of collaborative regional projects that, since 2006, have been supporting improved transboundary governance and management of the region's shared living marine resources. The argument for doing this is economically, socially, and ecologically compelling. A 2016 study by the World Bank put the economic value of the Caribbean Sea to the region — including all its services and support to fishing, transport,

*The SoMH and RSAP respectively provide the basis for transboundary governance and management of the wider Caribbean region's coral reef sub-ecosystem and set out a series of measures to be taken to address priority issues in support of the people, economies and ecology of the region.*

trade, tourism, mining, waste disposal, energy, carbon sequestration and drug development — at US\$407 billion per

year.<sup>1</sup> This estimated value consists almost entirely of market-based activities, since the non-market values of many ecosystem services are unknown and are not easily valued monetarily.<sup>2</sup> The estimate is also limited to values associated with the Caribbean Seas and does not include the Gulf of Mexico and the North Brazil Shelf Large Marine Ecosystems (LMEs). More than 100 million people in the wider Caribbean region live on or near the coast of this complex ecosystem which has the highest marine species richness in the Atlantic Ocean and is considered the “high-diversity heart” of the Tropical West

<sup>1</sup> Based on 2012 data.

<sup>2</sup> Patil, P.G., Virdin, J., Diez, S.M., Roberts, J., Singh, A. (2016). *Toward A Blue Economy: A Promise for Sustainable Growth in the Caribbean. An Overview*. The World Bank, Washington D.C.

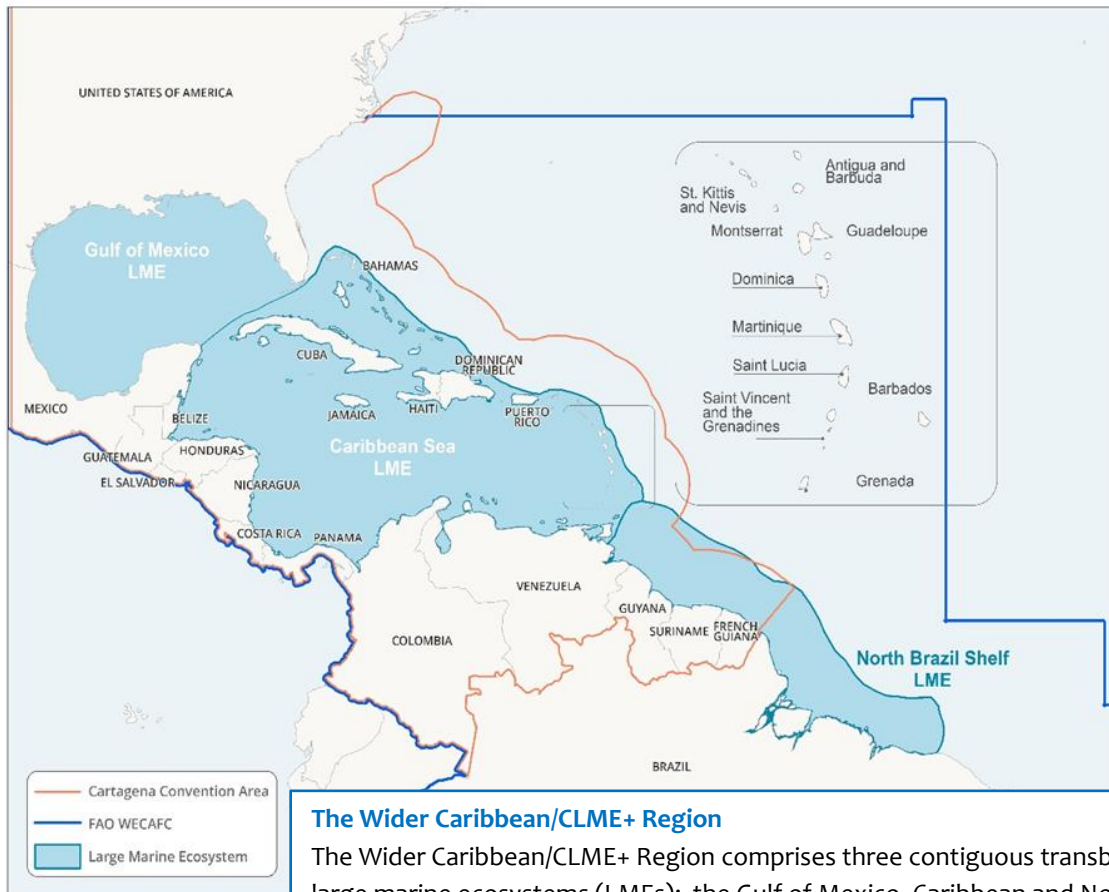
Atlantic.<sup>3</sup> Just shy of 10 per cent of the world's coral reefs are found in the Caribbean and about 45 per cent of the fish species and 25 per cent of the coral species are found nowhere else in the world.<sup>4</sup> With an extent of 10,429 km<sup>2</sup> of mangrove forest, which accounts for almost 1 per cent of its total area, the North Brazil Shelf has the highest mangrove coverage of any LME.

The coral reef sub-ecosystem, which includes shallow-water coral reefs, mangroves, seagrass beds, lagoons, estuaries and beaches as well as coral banks and rocky outcrops in deep waters, is the Caribbean Sea's most complex ecosystem. It supports the three of the major fisheries of the region (reef fishes, spiny lobster and conch) and is the foundation of the region's tourism industry, especially that of the island states and territories. The coral reef sub-ecosystem also plays an important role in coastal and shoreline protection under normal sea conditions as well as during hurricanes and tropical storms. Coral reefs, mangroves, and seagrass beds especially stand out for their role as natural barriers. But the coral reef sub-ecosystem is also at the heart of competing economic and social demands and is subject to human-induced and natural stresses and threats.

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<sup>3</sup> Robertson, D. and Cramer, K.L. (2014) Defining and Dividing the Greater Caribbean: Insights from the Biogeography of Shorefishes. *PLoS ONE* 9(7): e102918. <https://doi.org/10.1371/journal.pone.0102918>

<sup>4</sup> UNDP/GEF CLME Project. (2011). *Caribbean Large Marine Ecosystem Regional Transboundary Diagnostic Analysis*. UNDP/GEF CLME Project: Cartagena, Colombia



### The Wider Caribbean/CLME+ Region

The Wider Caribbean/CLME+ Region comprises three contiguous transboundary large marine ecosystems (LMEs): the Gulf of Mexico, Caribbean and North Brazil Shelf LMEs. The combined area is approximately 15 million km<sup>2</sup>, of which some 1.9 million km<sup>2</sup> is shelf area. LMEs are a scientific concept developed by the United States' National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA). They are considered meaningful geospatial units for the implementation of an ecosystem-based management (EBM) approach. The three wider Caribbean LMEs are adjacent and thus share marine species, provide complementary ecosystem services, and support numerous economies in the region.

The geographic area that is the focus of the SoMH and RSAP includes two overlapping programme areas, that of the UN Environment Cartagena Convention and its related sub-programmes (Gulf of Mexico and Caribbean Sea) and that of the UNDP/GEF Caribbean Large Marine Ecosystem and the North Brazil Shelf Large Marine Ecosystem (CLME+) Project. \*\* The Cartagena Convention area overlaps with the area under the mandate of the FAO Western Central Atlantic Fishery Commission (WECAF). See map.

**\*\* The CLME+ Project is implemented by the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and co-financed by the Global Environment Facility (GEF).**

**Table 1: Economic value of coral reefs generated per year for select countries in the wider Caribbean (Source: maps.oceanwealth.org)**

<b>Countries</b>	<b>Value of coral reefs per year/USD (millions)</b>
<b>Anguilla</b>	\$19.4
<b>Antigua and Barbuda</b>	\$65.7
<b>The Bahamas</b>	\$516.5
<b>British Virgin Islands</b>	\$194.7
<b>Dominica</b>	\$22.7
<b>Florida</b>	\$1,152.3
<b>Grenada</b>	\$22.6
<b>Martinique</b>	\$89
<b>Puerto Rico</b>	\$647.5
<b>St. Kitts and Nevis</b>	\$15.9
<b>St. Lucia</b>	\$56.3
<b>St. Vincent and the Grenadines</b>	\$24.3
<b>U.S. Virgin Islands</b>	\$275.6

**Table 2: Coastal protection of people, infrastructure and land from coral reefs for select countries in the wider Caribbean (Source: maps.oceanwealth.org)**

<b>Country</b>	<b>People Protected</b>	<b>Built Capital Protected (USD)</b>	<b>Area Protected km2</b>
<b>Cuba</b>	8,061	\$513,000,000	80
<b>Dominican Republic</b>	6,872	\$130,000,000	18
<b>Jamaica</b>	1,687	\$56,000,000	3
<b>Mexico</b>	15,391	\$16,000,000	38
<b>US/Puerto Rico</b>	1,102	\$118,000,000	4

The 2007 and 2011 Transboundary Diagnostic Analysis (TDA) of the Wider Caribbean Region prioritised the coral reef sub-ecosystem for action as part of a regional strategy to address transboundary problems that compromise the ability of the Caribbean Sea and the region's living marine resources to support social and ecological well-being and resilience. Recognising the connectivity that exists among the wider Caribbean's ecosystems and the interdependence of human and natural systems, the TDA also prioritised action in support of the pelagic fisheries ecosystem, the continental shelf ecosystem and regional fisheries governance. These ecosystems are being addresses separately under the CLME+ Project.

The SoMH and RSAP respectively provide the basis for transboundary governance and management of the wider Caribbean region's coral reef sub-ecosystem and set out a series of measures to be taken to

address priority issues in support of the people, economies and ecology of the region. They target three nearshore habitats of the coral reef sub-ecosystem, namely coral reefs, mangroves and seagrass beds.

### *An opportunity for synergetic action*

Addressing the transboundary threats and shared challenges of the wider Caribbean's three LMEs presents a shared opportunity to develop cross-boundary and multi-stakeholder solutions and approaches to ecosystem-based management and information and technology transfer. The SoMH and RSAP offer an opportunity for participating governments and stakeholders from academia, civil society, and the private sector, regional and global agencies to work together to enhance management and conservation of the coral reef sub-ecosystem in support of sustainable blue socioeconomic development, through actions specifically targeting coral reefs, mangroves and seagrass beds.

Over the past decade, the Global Environment Facility (GEF) has invested in the wider Caribbean's transition towards ecosystem-based management of shared marine resources. An important part of this support has focussed on the Caribbean and North Brazil Shelf LMEs, or the "CLME+ region". The strategic decision to mainstream the GEF-supported work on the Caribbean and North Brazil Shelf LMEs into the work programmes of the Cartagena Convention and the Western Central Atlantic Fishery Commission (WECAFC) has allowed for building bridges among key programmes and organisations with a stake in the marine environment.

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*The SoMH and RSAP offer an opportunity for participating governments and stakeholders from academia, civil society, the private sector, as well as regional and global agencies to work together to enhance management and conservation of [...] coral reefs, mangroves and seagrass beds.*

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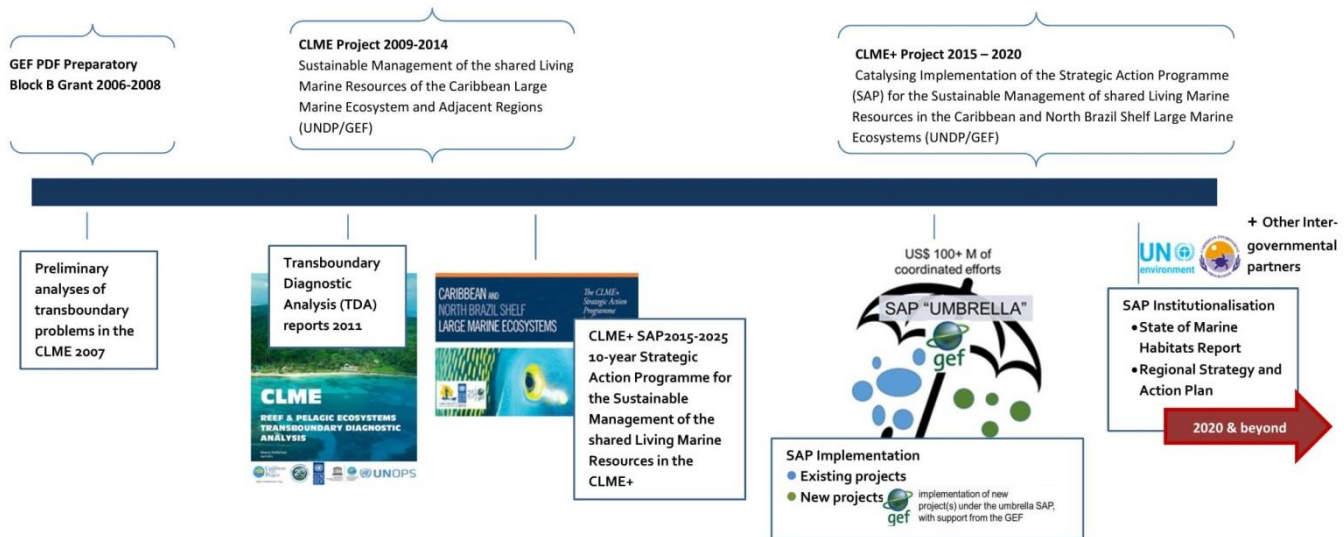
The SoMH and RSAP are to become regionally owned products whose production is facilitated by the Specially Protected Areas and Wildlife (SPAW) Sub-programme of the United Nations Environment Programme (UN Environment)-Caribbean Environment Programme (CEP) and the five-year Caribbean and North Brazil Shelf Large Marine Ecosystems (CLME+) Project (2015-2020) as part of the effort towards implementation of the 10-year politically endorsed Strategic Action Plan (CLME+ SAP). The UN Environment-CEP, in its role of secretariat of the Specially Protected Areas and Wildlife (SPAW) Protocol, is one of several intergovernmental organisations assisting the region and its countries in co-executing the CLME+ SAP.

### *The CLME+ Strategic Action Programme (CLME+ SAP) 2015 – 2025 and the path to the SoMH and the RSAP*

The Global Environment Facility (GEF) has been supporting transboundary collaboration among countries sharing LMEs since 1991. Financial support through the UNDP/GEF CLME Project (2009-2014) led to the development of Transboundary Diagnostic Analyses (TDAs) for the CLME+ region. These TDAs pointed to habitat degradation, marine pollution and unsustainable fisheries as the key problems affecting the marine environment. It is further generally believed that climate variability and change will intensify the negative impacts of these problems on both the environment and the human societies it supports. Based on the outcomes of the TDAs, a 10-year Strategic Action Programme (SAP) for the

“Sustainable Management of Shared Living Marine Resources in the CLME+ region” (2015-2025) was collaboratively developed and widely politically endorsed. The SAP supports many of the internationally set sustainable development objectives. To date (March 2019), the CLME+ SAP has been signed by 36 Ministers, representing 26 Countries and eight Overseas Territories.

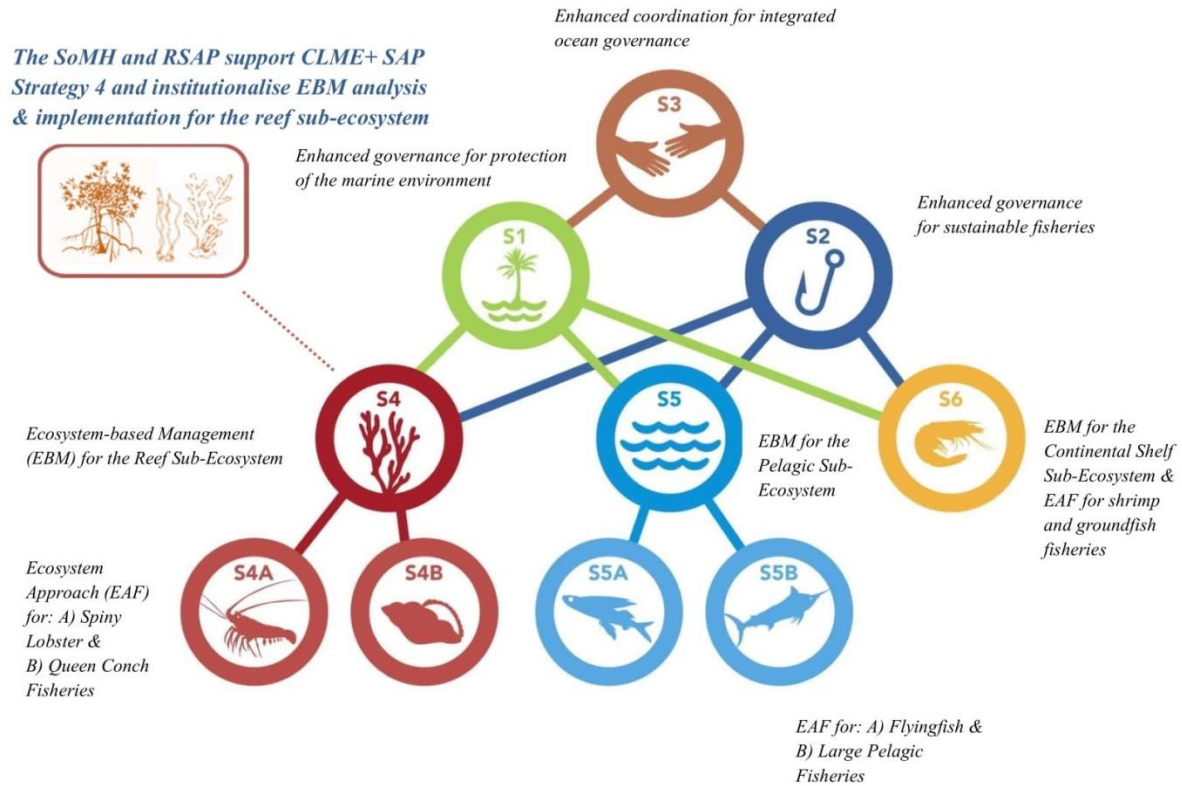
## The Path to the SoMH and RSAP



The SAP aims to address key transboundary problems by tackling their root causes. These root causes include: weaknesses in governance arrangements, lack of awareness and/or (access to) data and information. The SAP therefore calls, among other actions, for the urgent consolidation of a regional framework for integrated ocean governance, and for enhanced, comprehensive reporting on the state of the marine environment.

The SoMH and RSAP support SAP Strategy 4 (ecosystem-based management for the reef sub-ecosystem) and help institutionalise ecosystem-based management of three associated habitats: coral reefs, mangroves and seagrass beds. The SoMH captures the current state and societal aspirations of the three habitats. Together with the UN Environment CEP's 2020-2030 Strategy, the SoMH informs the RSAP, which sets out action-oriented regional strategies to enhance ecosystem services and safeguard blue economy resources while maximising opportunities for climate change adaptation and mitigation.

***The CLME+ SAP: Region-wide Priorities for the Sustainable Management of shared Living Marine Resources, structured under 6 Strategies and 4 Sub-Strategies in a politically endorsed 10-year Action Programme***



*The CLME+ Strategic Action Programme (CLME+ SAP) structures 76 priority actions to safeguard the marine environment under three region-wide strategies (S1, S2, and S3), three strategies at the sub-ecosystem level (S4, S5, and S6) and four additional sub-strategies (S4A, S4B, S5A and S5B) dealing with fisheries deemed of strategic importance to the region.*



### *The SoMH and RSAP at a glance*

#### **State of Marine Habitats in the Wider Caribbean (SoMH) Report**

- Supports Parties to the SPAW Protocol in tracking progress towards implementing existing Cartagena Convention commitments and actions in support of other regional and international obligations, goals and targets
- Aims to inform decision-making, trigger action and optimize investments
- Builds on the DPSIR Driver (D) – Pressure (P) – Status (S) – Impact – Response (R) analytical framework to explore current, past, and possible future conditions of marine habitats and what this means for people and economies of the wider Caribbean
- Provides an objective assessment of the state, trends and threats to coral reefs, mangroves and seagrass beds using the best available data
- Analyses what the state and trends of the habitats mean for national economies and human well-being (incomes, livelihoods etc.)
- Establishes baselines and provides data formats for periodic reporting
- Provides the technical and scientific basis for development of action and investment plans
- Identifies knowledge gaps to stimulate and guide research strategies
- Is a tool for informed decision-making about coral reefs, mangroves and sea grass beds
- Developed through multi-stakeholder inputs

#### **Regional Strategy and Action Plan for the Valuation, Protection and/or Restoration of Key Marine Habitats in the Wider Caribbean 2021 - 2030 (RSAP)**

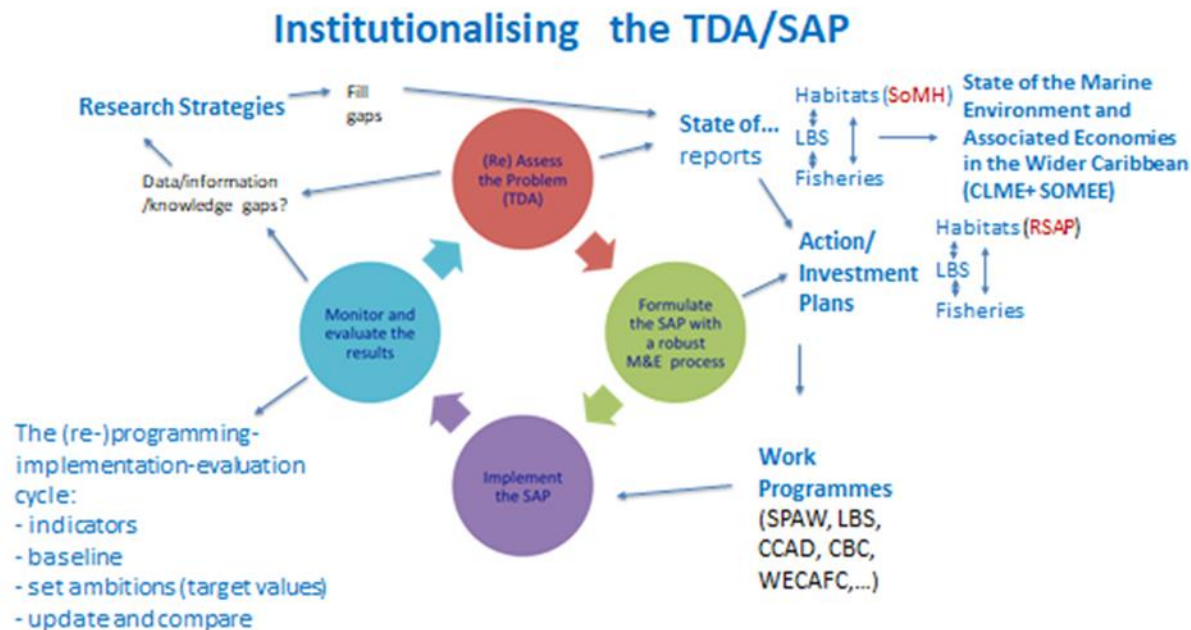
- Supports Parties to the SPAW Protocol in implementing existing Cartagena Convention commitments and actions in support of other regional and international obligations, goals and targets
- Supports work programmes and obligations of all organisations Provides a 10-year framework for synergetic action at regional level for participating governments and stakeholders from academia, civil society, the private sector, regional and global agencies, and the development aid community
- Prioritises transboundary issues related to coral reefs, mangroves and seagrass beds that affect multiple countries and benefit from a regional approach
- Addresses gaps in implementation at national level
- Supports action-oriented regional strategies to safeguard blue economy resources to support livelihoods and human well-being while maximising opportunities to resources while maximising opportunities for climate change adaptation and mitigation
- Supports implementation of coastal/marine actions during the post-2020 global biodiversity framework as a stepping stone towards the 2050 Vision of "Living in harmony with nature." The implementation period also coincides with the proposed United Nations Decade on Ecosystem Restoration (2021–2030)
- Developed through multi-stakeholder inputs



### *SoMH Narrative - General Approach*

QUESTIONS TO BE ADDRESSED BY THE SoMH	
STATUS	IMPACT
Q1. How are coral reefs, mangroves and seagrass beds doing?	Q3. How is the current situation <b>different from what we</b> (as a society) <b>would want it to be?</b>
Q2. How does this affect human well-being? Income Livelihoods Health	
DRIVERS, PRESSURES	
Q4. What is <b>causing</b> these <b>differences</b> ?	
RESPONSES	
Q5a. What have we already done about this?	
Q5b. What are we currently doing?	
Q5c. What else should we do?	

## *Institutionalising the Transboundary Diagnostic Analysis (TDA) and the Strategic Action Programme (SAP) Approach*



Part of the intended legacy of the GEF CLME/CLME+ investment is to go from multi-year project to institutionalised system with ongoing, regionally owned and driven mechanisms in place for the long-term application of the TDA/SAP approach. This includes mainstreaming the approach into regional governance and reporting processes. The hope is that coherent and inter-connected governance systems embedded in national and inter-governmental coordination mechanisms will support, in the

*The SoMH and RSAP are embodiments of the desired institutionalisation and mainstreaming of the TDA and SAP under the stewardship of the UN Environment's Caribbean Environment Programme (CEP) and within the mandate of the Cartagena Convention and the SPAW Protocol.*

first instance, specific components of the marine ecosystem such as the coral reef sub-ecosystem and fisheries management and, eventually, full ecosystem management. The strategy is to partner with those regional organisations with formal mandates and reporting

mechanisms in related areas, where they exist.

The SoMH and RSAP are embodiments of the desired institutionalisation and mainstreaming of the TDA and SAP under the stewardship of the UN Environment's Caribbean Environment Programme (CEP) and

within the mandate of the Cartagena Convention and the SPAW Protocol. While preparation of the SoMH and implementation of the RSAP are collective undertakings, the responsibility for driving them lies with UN Environment-CEP.

SAP institutionalisation is expected to be a shared responsibility among the inter-governmental organisations that are members of the CLME+ Regional Coordination Mechanism. Beyond the life of the CLME+ SAP, UN Environment-CEP, through the SPAW Sub-programme, will continue to lead the collaborative effort among the various organisations with a mandate to protect or restore the marine environment to develop and implement the SoMH and RSAP.

The SoMH and 10-year RSAP is expected to inform the development of biennial SPAW work programmes, and inform those elements of the work programme of the Protocol Concerning Pollution from Land-Based Sources and Activities (LBS Protocol) that relate to preserving/restoring habitats. Reviews of the SoMH and monitoring of the RSAP will be tied into the programming cycle of the SPAW Sub-programme and with formal progress reports taking place every four years in the case of the SoMH and biennially in the case of the RSAP.

***Value added of the SoMH Report and RSAP to the UN Environment Caribbean Programme, the Cartagena Convention/SPAW Protocol and other Intergovernmental Organisation and MEA commitments***

The report on the *State of Marine Habitats in the Wider Caribbean (SoMH)* and the *Regional Strategy and Action Plan for the Valuation, Protection and/or Restoration of Key Marine Habitats in the Wider Caribbean 2021 -2030 (RSAP)*:

- ***Advance key UN Environment agendas***
  - *Caribbean Environment Programme Strategy (2020 – 2030)* [under development]. Strategic priority to ensure sustainable development of the marine and coastal area, safeguard habitats and biological diversity.
  - *UN Environment’s global Marine and Coastal Strategy to 2030*: The new strategy includes strategic directions related to science-based policy and decision making, creating an enabling environment for integrated management and sustainable use of marine and coastal ecosystem services; facilitating the transition to a blue economy and the adoption of sustainable consumption and production patterns.
- ***Support objectives of the Cartagena Convention and SPAW Protocol and contribute to existing obligations*** to sustainably manage the common coastal and marine resources of the wider Caribbean.
- ***Operationalise the priority actions related to habitats under the 10-year CLME+ SAP***. While the actions outlined in the CLME+ SAP are generic and intended to achieve wide-ranging consensus on principles and priorities across the wider region, the RSAP will now provide depth and added clarity in terms of what exactly will be done and articulating the specific targets to be achieved.

- ***Complement/synergise and integrate with regional strategies*** being developed with the support of the CLME+ Project ***to address land-based sources of pollution*** (report on the State of the Cartagena Convention Area with respect to Land-Based Sources of Pollution - SOCAR and action plan) and ***fisheries management***.
- ***Facilitate alignment of actions to meet existing obligations of multilateral environmental agreements (MEA)***, including but not limited to:
  - The United Nations Convention on Biological Diversity and the Aichi Biodiversity Targets
  - The Sustainable Development Goals, especially SDG 14 Life Below Water
  - SIDS Accelerated Modalities of Action (SAMOA) Pathway
  - Convention on Wetlands of International Importance, especially as Waterfowl Habitat (The Ramsar Convention) Fourth Ramsar Strategic Plan 2016 - 2024
  - United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC)
  - Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES)
  - United Nations Convention Concerning the Protection of the World Cultural and Natural Heritage
- ***Facilitate alignment of actions to meet existing obligations of regional environmental agreements and strategies***, including but not limited to:
  - St. George's Declaration of Principles for Environmental Sustainability in the OECS
  - CARICOM Biodiversity Strategy
  - Central American Commission for Environment and Development (CCAD) Regional Environmental Strategy Framework.
  - Central American Integration System (SICA) Regional Climate Change Strategy (ERCC)
  - Caribbean Challenge Initiative
- ***Support reporting obligations of MEAs and regional strategies*** aligned with the Cartagena Convention and SPAW Protocol as well as ***national stock-taking, including updates to National Biodiversity Strategic Action Plans (NBSAPs) through an associated web portal/on-line data system***.
- ***Provide a framework for multi-stakeholder, cross-sectoral achievement of shared objectives*** towards a healthy marine environment and strong marine economy ***through the engagement of economic sectors that depend on the sea's resources, such as tourism***.

#### ***Support to governance arrangements for management of the wider Caribbean marine space***

An Interim Coordination Mechanism for Ocean Governance in the wider Caribbean, the “CLME+ SAP ICM” was established in 2017 among the following eight regional organisations with a core mandate on the marine environment:

- UN Environment -Caribbean Environment Programme (CEP);
- FAO Western Central Atlantic Fishery Commission (WECAFC);
- Sub-regional Commission for the Caribbean of the Inter-governmental Oceanographic Commission (IOC) of UNESCO, IOCARIBE;
- OECS Commission; the CARICOM Secretariat;
- Central American Commission on Environment and Development (CCAD);
- Central American Fisheries and Aquaculture Organization (OSPESCA); and
- Caribbean Regional Fisheries Mechanism (CRFM).

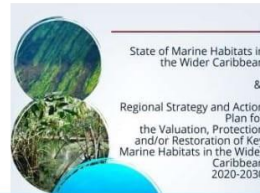
Together with the CLME+ Project Coordination Unit (PCU), ICM members are collaboratively developing the first version of the “State of the Marine Environment and associated Economies” (CLME+ SOME), which will be published in April 2020. The SOME is being informed by reports on the state of the Cartagena Convention area such as the SoMH and the State of the Convention Area Report (SOCAR) on land-based pollution. The SOME is intended to be a long-term reporting and decision-support mechanism that will drive and inform planning: “State of the Marine Environment and associated Economies” (SOME).

The SoMH report will inform the first SOME report. Subsequent SoMH reports and updates on implementation of the RSAP will feed into future SOME reports. Development of the first SoMH and the RSAP are led by UN Environment–CEP in its capacity as an implementing partner of the CLME+ Project. Through SOME reporting coordinated by the CLME+ ICM and its successor project coordination mechanism the SoMH and RSAP will be linked to other thematic reporting and planning efforts thereby securing the holistic and integrative assessment and planning approach of the TDA-SAP.

Regional negotiations towards the identification of a Permanent Coordination Mechanism for Ocean Governance in the wider Caribbean, including a Sustainable Financing Plan, are currently ongoing (throughout 2019) under the CLME+ Project. The Permanent Mechanism is expected to have as one of its core tasks the coordinated, collaborative development of the SOME. As a member of the Permanent Coordination Mechanism for Ocean Governance in the wider Caribbean, UN Environment–CEP will continue to drive the implementation of the RSAP and preparation of future SoMH reports.

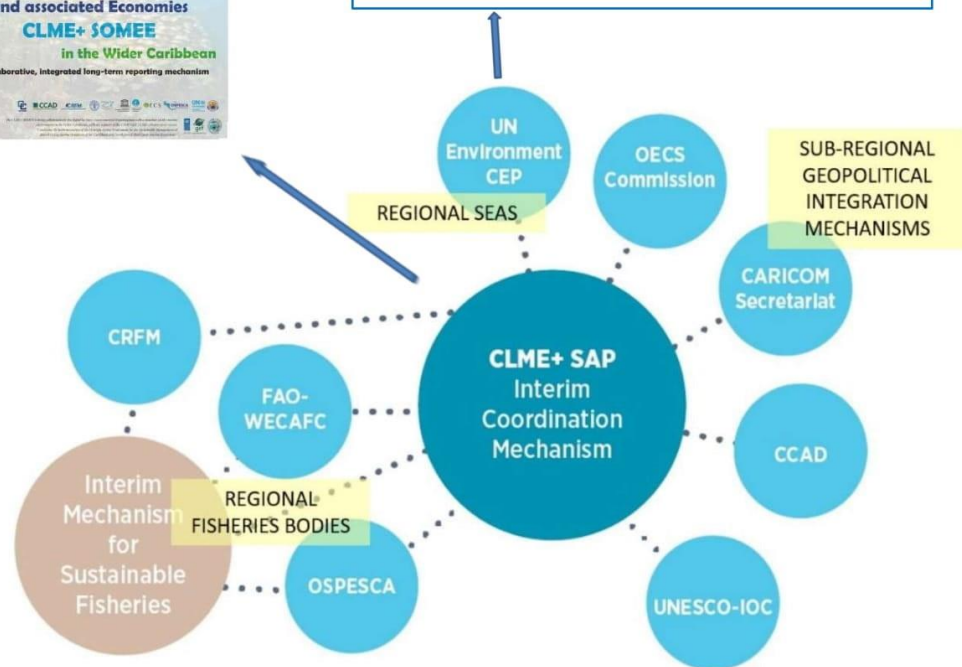
SOME REPORT - PRELIMINARY OUTLINE  
INCLUDING LINKAGES WITH THE CLME+ SAP STRATEGIES

- CHAPTER 3**  
Sub-ecosystem: coral reefs, mangroves and seagrass beds
- 3.1 Ecosystem-based Management for the Reefs Sub-Ecosystem
    - 3.1.1 Status and trends of the reef sub-ecosystem
    - 3.1.2 Associated socioeconomics
    - 3.1.3 Drivers and pressures
    - 3.1.4 Responses



State of Marine Habitats in the Wider Caribbean (SoMH)

Regional Strategy and Action Plan for the Valuation, Protection and/or Restoration of Key Marine Habitats in the Wider Caribbean (RSAP)

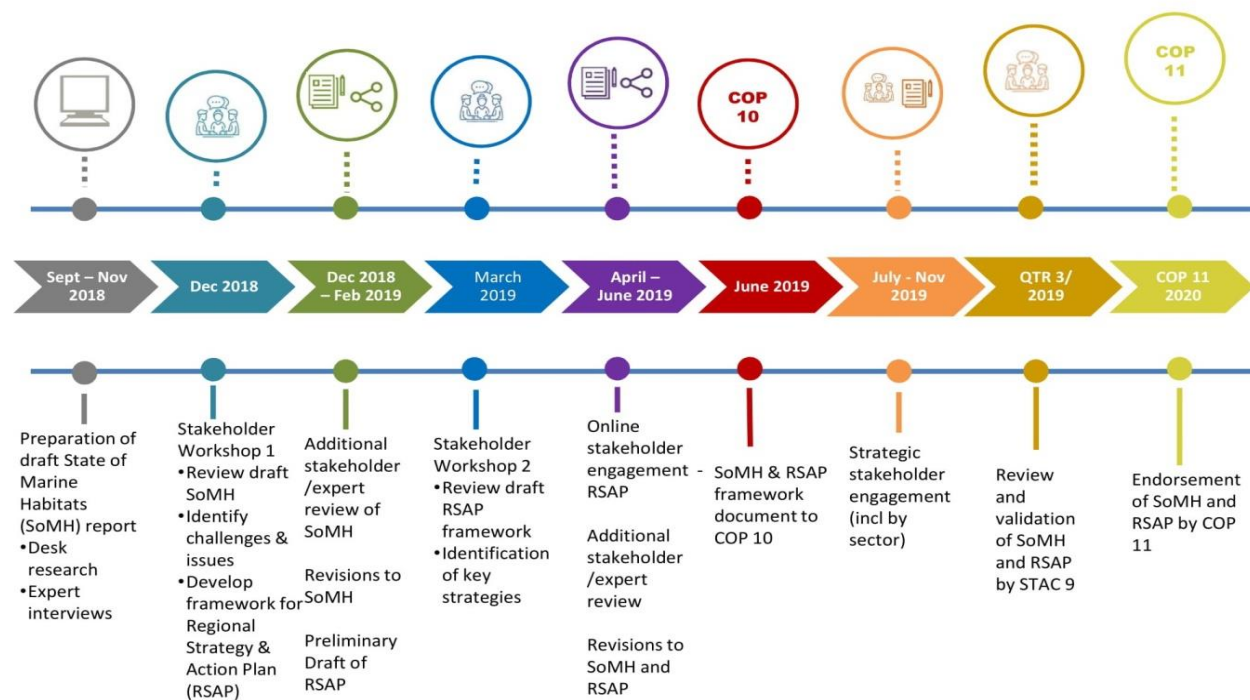


### Development of the SoMH and RSAP

The development of the SoMH and RSAP is facilitated by the Caribbean Natural Resources Institute (CANARI), on behalf of UN Environment-CEP. Preparation of the SoMH and RSAP began in September 2018, emphasising participatory approaches and an iterative review process to ensure widespread and in-depth stakeholder input into content of the report and strategy and to build ownership for implementation.

Two consultation workshops have taken place to date. The first workshop was held on 3 and 4 December 2018 in Panama and involved 39 participants from 23 countries within the CLME + SPAW Region (Caribbean Sea Large Marine Ecosystem, North Brazil Shelf Large Marine Ecosystem and the Gulf of Mexico Large Marine Ecosystem) and was a precursor to the Eighth Meeting of the SPAW Scientific and Technical Advisory Committee (STAC 8). The second workshop, also held in Panama, on 13 and 14 March 2019 was attended by 24 participants from 16 countries in the project region. Participants at both workshops included STAC members and observers, SPAW Focal Points, and representatives of regional and international agencies, and national and international civil society organisations.

### Timeline for preparation of the SoMH and RSAP



These meetings reviewed a draft of the SoMH (December 2018) and defined the framework for and focus of the RSAP (December 2018 and March 2019). The workshops are being supplemented by webinars with a range of stakeholders including government officials, academia, civil society, and the private sector between April and June 2019.

Copies of the SoMH have been also been circulated to all STAC 8 participants and SPAW Focal Points and selected experts for comment. In order to engage as wide a cross-section of stakeholders as possible,



United Nations–CEP will work with the CLME+ PMU to identify other strategic opportunities to engage with stakeholders and partners in the wings of upcoming regional meetings between July and November 2019.

#### **The SoMH and RSAP at SPAW COP 10**

Delegates at the Tenth Meeting of the Contracting Parties (COP) to the Protocol Concerning Specially Protected Areas and Wildlife (COP 10) are invited to review and approve the framework document, which will then constitute the official reference for further work on the SoMH, RSAP and supporting investment plan.

A core working group, comprising selected experts, STAC members, SPAW Focal Points, and representatives of other regional and sub regional organisations that are part of the CLME+ Regional Governance Framework will be formulated in April/May 2019 and to provide strategic advice and critical review of revised drafts of the documents.

A framework document outlining the focus and purpose of the SoMH and RSAP will be presented at the Tenth Meeting of the Contracting Parties (COP) to the Protocol Concerning Specially Protected Areas and Wildlife (COP 10) for review and approval. The draft SoMH and RSAP will be presented to the Ninth Meeting of the SPAW Scientific and Technical Advisory Committee (STAC 9) in the third quarter of 2019 for further endorsement at the Eleventh Meeting of the Contracting Parties (COP) to the Protocol Concerning Specially Protected Areas and Wildlife (COP 11) in December 2020.