



Development of a *Regional Strategy and Action Plan for the Valuation, Protection and Restoration of Key Marine Habitats in the CLME+*

Introduction

The Caribbean Natural Resources Institute (CANARI) is collaborating with UN Environment, through the Caribbean Regional Coordinating Unit (CAR/RCU), to develop a *Regional Strategy and Action Plan for the Valuation, Protection and Restoration of Key Marine Habitats in the CLME+*.

This project supports implementation of the 10-year Strategic Action Programme (SAP) for the sustainable management of shared Living Marine Resources in the Caribbean and North Brazil Shelf Large Marine Ecosystems (CLME+ region). It entails: a) the preparation of a report on the state of selected marine habitats in the Wider Caribbean region; and b) the participatory development of a regional strategy and action plan for management and protection of the marine environment, targeting coral reefs, mangroves and seagrass beds.

This initiative is implemented through UN Environment's Specially Protected Areas and Wildlife (SPA) sub-programme and therefore covers not only the CLME+ region, but also the Gulf of Mexico, which is part of the geography of the SPAW Protocol of the Cartagena Convention for the Protection and Development of the Marine Environment of the Wider Caribbean Region.

Goal and objectives

The project is intended to support improved coordination and integration of the various marine ecosystem management and conservation efforts that are being undertaken by governments and their partners in the Wider Caribbean.



The Project in Brief

Development of a *Regional Strategy and Action Plan for the Valuation, Protection and Restoration of Key Marine Habitats in the CLME*

Purpose: To prepare a regional strategy and action plan to better coordinate and integrate the various marine ecosystem management and conservation efforts that are being undertaken in the Wider Caribbean.

Main Outputs:

- *State of the Marine Ecosystems and shared Living Marine Resource in the CLME+* report focusing on mangroves, coral reefs and seagrass beds.
- *Regional Strategy and Action Plan* for the management and protection of the marine environment.

Implementation: Caribbean Natural Resources Institute (CANARI) in collaboration with UN Environment, Caribbean Regional Coordinating Unit (CAR/RCU).

Duration: August 2018 to December 2019

Project webpage:

<https://canari.org/wwwcanariorg/unenvclme-rsap>

For more information about CANARI: <https://www.canari.org/>.

The objectives of the *State of the Marine Ecosystems and shared Living Marine Resource in the CLME+* report focusing on coral reefs, mangroves, and seagrass beds are to:

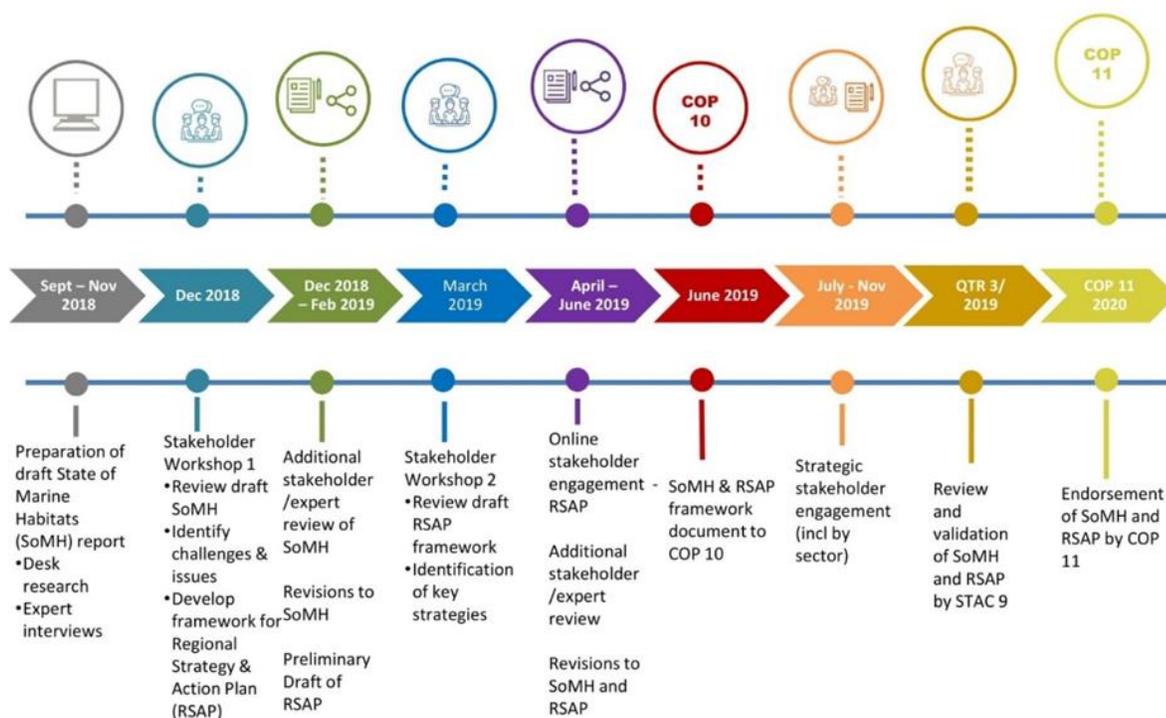
- establish a baseline of the state of the three focal habitats (coral reefs, mangroves and seagrass beds) and identify current initiatives, needs and opportunities for investments for the enhanced protection and restoration of the three habitats;
- help identify directions for the Regional Strategy and Action Plan.

The objective of the *Regional Strategy and Action Plan* is to identify priorities, needs and opportunities for synergetic action and investments for the enhanced protection and restoration of the key habitats of coral reefs, sea grass beds and mangroves.

Approach and activities

This project emphasises a participatory approach to secure valuable stakeholder input into content of the strategy, negotiate consensus on priorities and build ownership for implementation.

The process for developing the report and strategy and action plan is outlined below:



This project aligns strongly with CANARI’s mission of *“Promoting and facilitating equitable participation and effective collaboration in the management of natural resources critical to development in the Caribbean islands, so that people will have a better quality of life and natural resources will be conserved”*.

Upon completion, the *“State of Marine Ecosystems”* report and the *“Regional Strategy and Action Plan”* will be presented at the Eleventh Meeting of the Contracting Parties (COP) to the Protocol Concerning Specially Protected Areas and Wildlife (SPAW) in the Wider Caribbean Region (COP11).

Project duration

August 2018 – December 2019

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