



Regional Activity Centre for the SPAW Protocol

WIDECAST- AGM

March 12, 2024

Summary



The Cartagena Convention



The SPAW Protocol



The SPAW-RAC



Sea turtle and SPAW



CAMAC

The Cartagena Convention



Cartagena Convention
1983 – entered into
force 1986



Secretariat



Oil Spills Protocol
1986 – entered into
force 1986



REMPEITC-Caribe



**Land-based sources of
marine pollution
Protocol**
1999



CIMAB



INSTITUTE OF
MARINE AFFAIRS

IMA

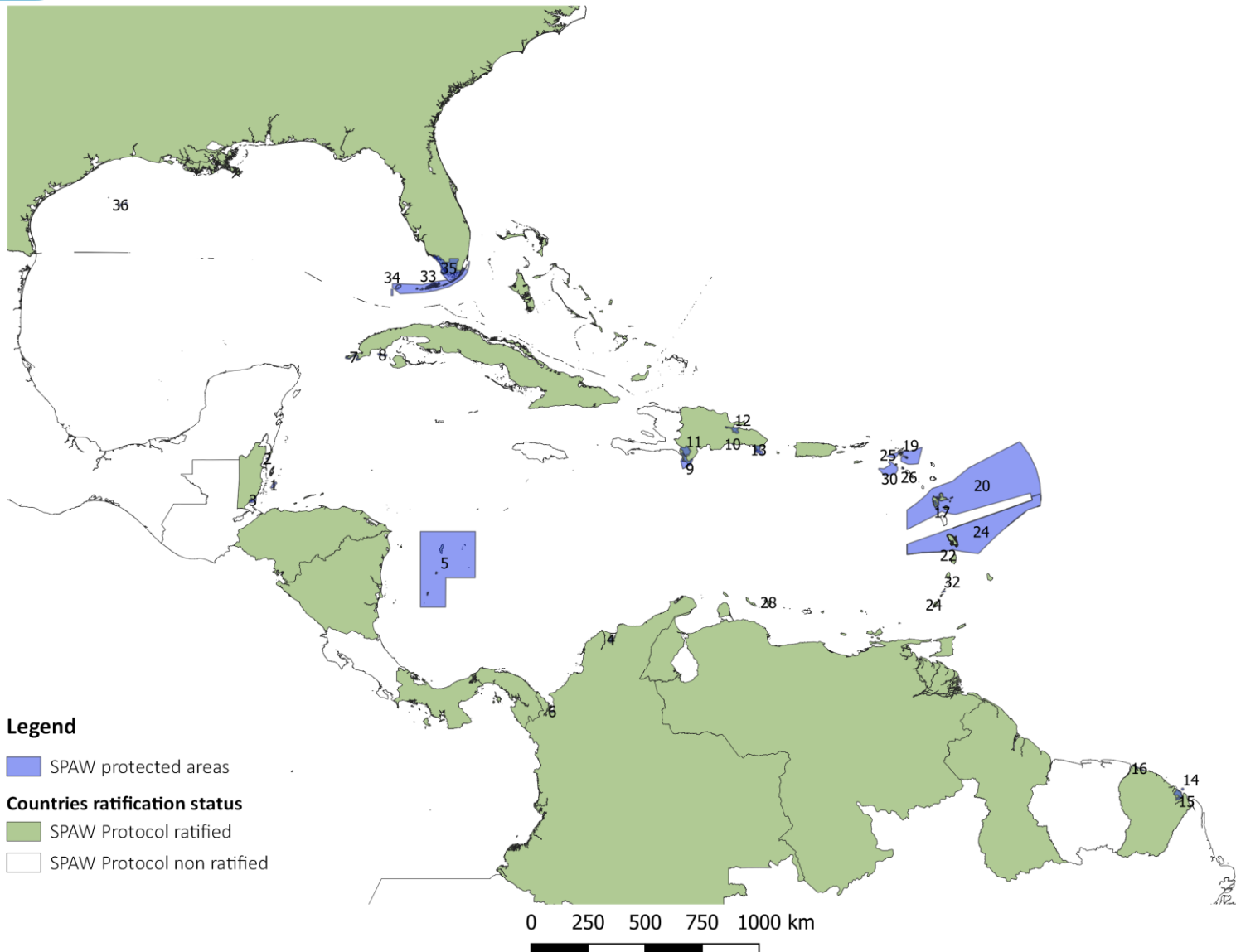


**Specially protected
areas and wildlife
Protocol**
1990 – entered into
force 2000



SPAW-RAC

The SPAW Protocol



18 countries
27 territories



+300 protected species



37 protected areas
331 000 km²

SPAW thematic objectives

Protected areas



- Support Contracting Parties for them to take the necessary measures to protect, preserve and manage in a sustainable way areas that require protection to safeguard their special value;
- Support Governments to submit nomination of new protected area to be included in the list SPAW
- Establish a network of SPAW listed protected areas with the purpose of understanding and addressing the needs of protected area managers to improve protected area effectiveness;

Threatened and endangered species

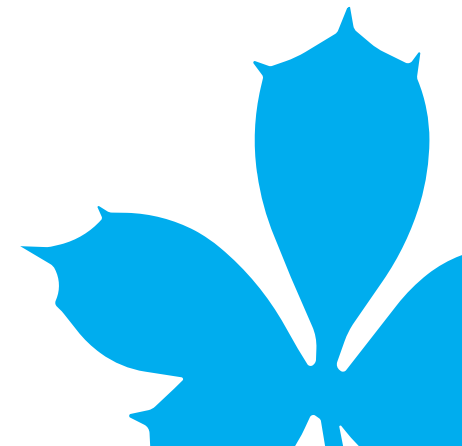


- Build consensus in the region on priorities
- Implement priority activities on existing species recovery and management plans
- Develop adequate management plans and programs
- Support initiatives against Invasive alien species (IAS)

Coastal and marine ecosystems



- Support the best practices of management of marine and coastal ecosystems
- Support the Government in order to conserve, maintain and restore, Habitats and their associated ecosystems
- Promote the utilization for standard ecosystem monitoring



Annexes of the SPAW protocol



Annex I Flora

Stricly protected

53 species

Annex II Fauna

Stricly protected

**156 species
and 3 grp of species**

(all the sea turtles)

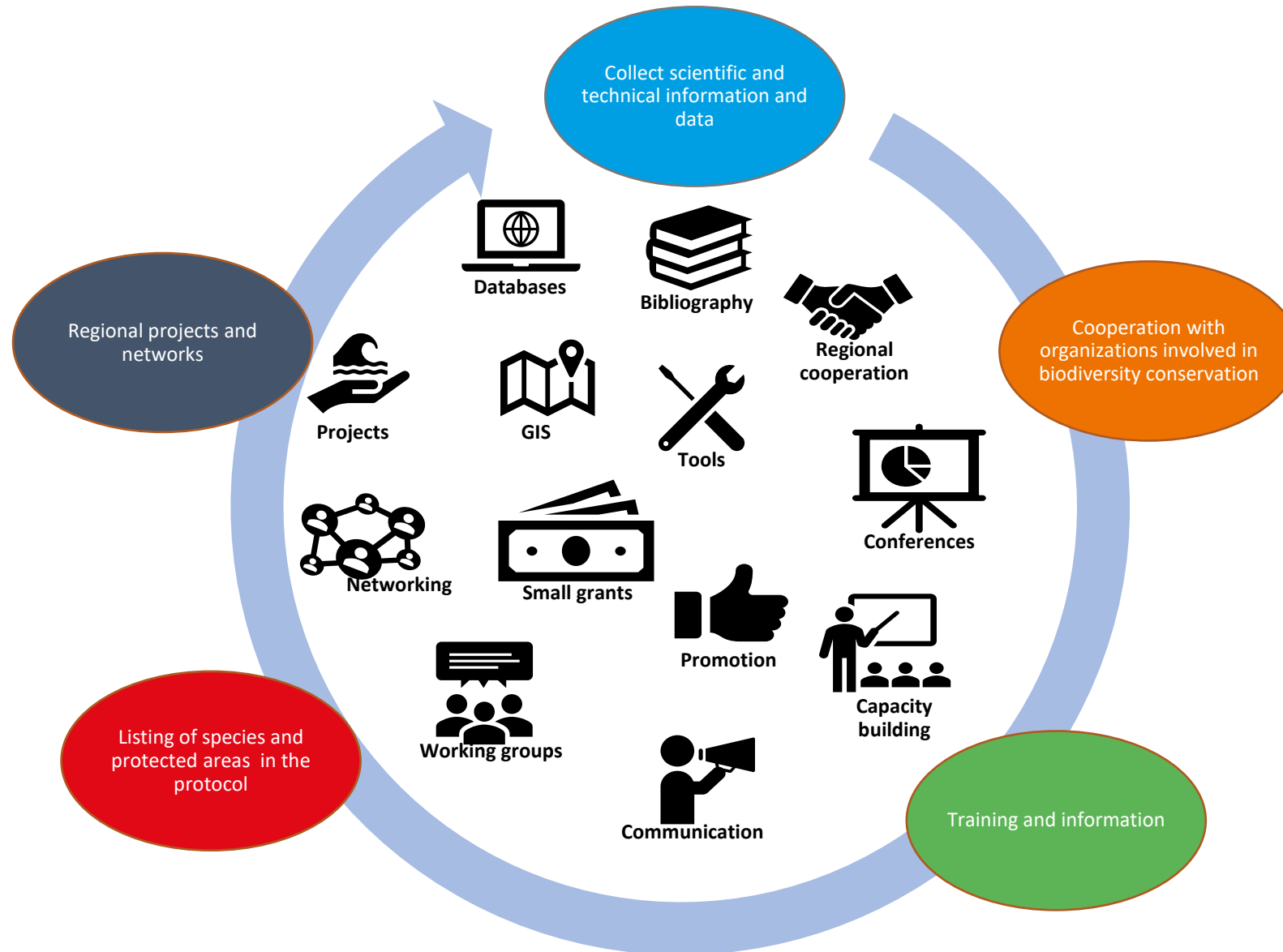
Annex III Flora and Fauna

Sustainable exploitation

**161 species
and 6 grp of species**

All the annexes link : <https://www.car-spaw-rac.org/?Annexes-and-Data-Bases-of-Species>

SPAW-RAC missions



...and Chair of the SPAW-STAC Working groups

SPAW and WIDECAST

All the Turtles listed in annexe II of the SPAW Protocol

Threats are cross sectoral and multinational sea turtles will not survive without regional coordination among conservation and management programs

WIDECAST is a Regional Activity Network (RAN) to the SPAW protocol. WIDECAST provide Wider Caribbean governments updated information on the status of sea turtles in the region, to provide specific recommendations for the management of sea turtle.

The SPAW RAC support the work done by WIDECAST network



STAC 10 and COP 12 SPAW sea turtles recommendations

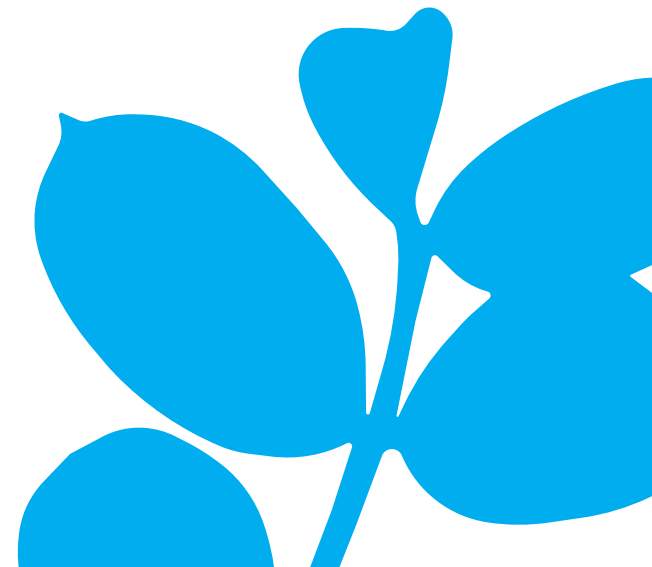
- SPAW COP 12 adopt the recommendations in UNEP(DEPI)CAR WG.43/INF.24 (Recommendations for the protection and recovery of the Caribbean Sea turtles), paragraphs 4- 12, and request the Secretariat and SPAW-RAC to work with WIDECAST and other experts, as appropriate, to implement the recommendations, subject to availability of resources.

Recommendation	Lead	Approach	Priority
summarize legislation and data related to sea turtle exploitation in non-compliant Parties	WIDECAST	Review of published/unpublished data, stakeholder survey, identify gaps and barriers, submit Summary Report and Recommendations	H
identify barriers to sea turtle moratoria and best practice management in non-compliant Parties	SPAW Secretariat	Dialogue with non-compliant Parties	H
develop a strategy to address turtle bycatch in nearshore fisheries	WIDECAST	Review of published/unpublished data, stakeholder survey, identify gaps and barriers, submit Summary Report and Recommendations	H
strengthen SPAW-IAC collaboration in reducing turtle bycatch	SPAW Secretariat & SPAW RAC	Discuss renewal of the MOU, identify gaps and opportunities for new mechanism of collaboration	H
ensure compliance with SPAW Art. 14 (subsistence take)	SPAW Secretariat	Dialogue with Parties with legal exemption clauses for "traditional" or subsistence take regarding expectations for Art. 14 reporting	M
identify gaps and barriers to effective law enforcement	WIDECAST	Review of published/unpublished data, stakeholder survey, identify gaps and barriers, submit Summary Report and Recommendations	H
review/update SPAW -WIDECAST STRAP series	WIDECAST	Review of published/unpublished information, stakeholder input, national Recovery Action Plans prioritising conservation actions	M
ensure that new Parties understand/comply with protections to SPAW-listed species	SPAW Secretariat	Dialogue with prospective Parties to ensure a shared understanding of SPAW Protocol requirements, especially as these relate to turtles	In progress

UNEP(DEPI)CAR WG.43/INF.24 => <https://www.unep.org/cep/events/scientific-and-technical-advisory-committee-meetings-stacs/spaw-stac10>

STAC 10 and COP 12 SPAW sea turtles recommendations

- SPAW COP12 acknowledge the involvement of the SPAW-RAC in the CAMAC project (UNEP(DEPI)/CAR WG.43/INF.36), which promotes the implementation of the SPAW programme and the achievement of the SPAW objectives.



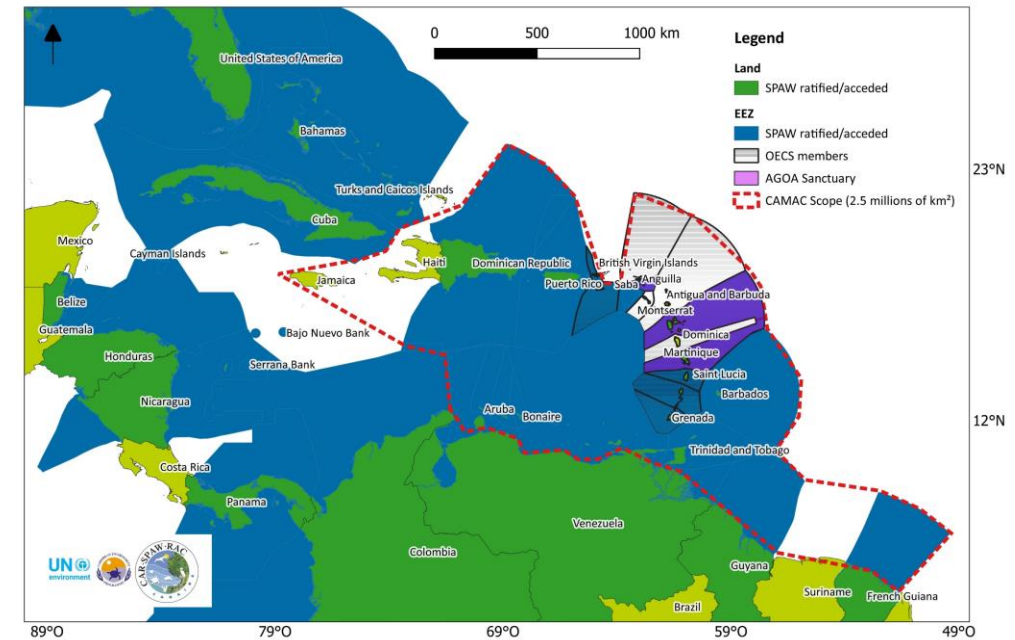
CAMAC



WIDECAST

Wider Caribbean Sea Turtle Conservation Network

- 5-year project (2023-2028)
- Objective: a response to a clearly observed need for the strengthening of knowledge, capacity, and regional collaboration in order to act together efficiently to strengthen the conservation of these species and the sustainability of human activities depending on them.
- Co-funded by the European Union.
- Led by the Agoa sanctuary, WWF Netherland, SPAW RAC, WIDECAST, and HOP (phase 1)
- 6 work packages:
 - WP1: Assess Interaction with fisheries
 - WP2: Strengthen stranding networks
 - WP3: Raise awareness
 - WP4: Enhance knowledge on MM and Sea birds
 - WP5: Enhance knowledge on Sharks and Rays
 - WP6: Disseminate outputs



2023

Phase 1

2024

Phase 2

2027

- > Collaboration development
- > Assessment of available data
- > Definition of protocols

- > Implementation of actions
- > Funding to be confirmed mid-2024

CAMAC WP1

Interaction with fisheries

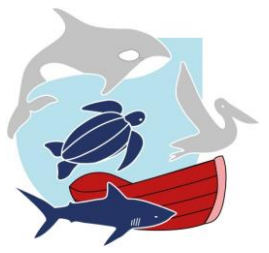


- ▷ **OBJECTIVE:** assess, in partnership with Caribbean fishery organizations, the socio-economic and environmental issues related to interactions between fisheries and marine megafauna and make recommendations to mitigate them efficiently.



CAMAC WP1

Main outputs



1

Hawksbills concentrate in high-use neritic habitats throughout the Western Atlantic, with several areas of particularly dense residency

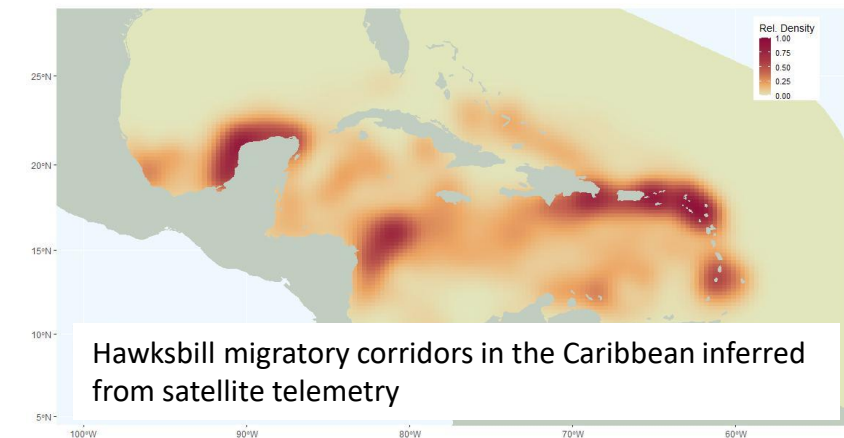
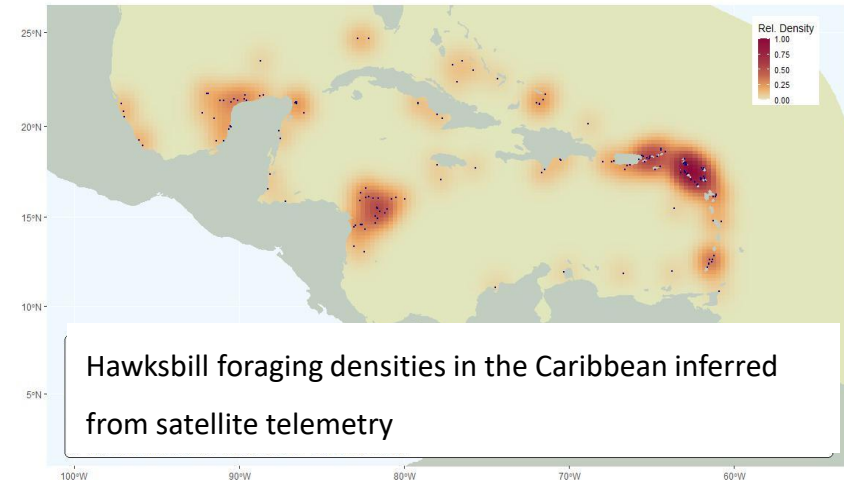
2

High degrees of migratory connectivity, with preferred movement corridors

3

16 organizations contributed with 258 tracks

Hawksbill distribution inferred from satellite telemetry (Maurer & Eckert, 2024)



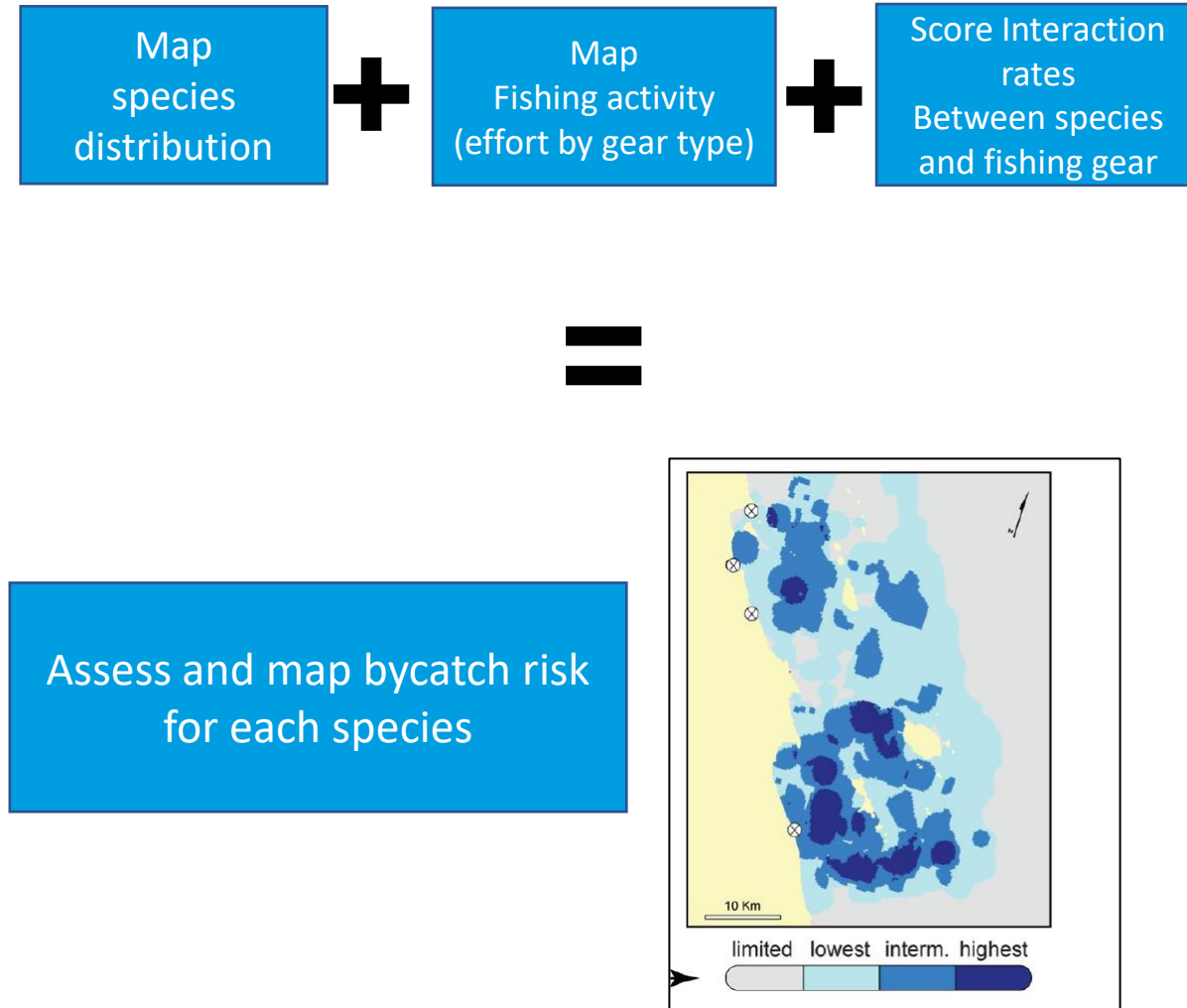
CAMAC WP1

Work plan for phase 2

- ▷ Continue compiling available data
- ▷ In 4-6 priority areas (to be identified):
 - train local agents to data collection on bycatch
 - collect information with interview surveys and on-board observations
- ▷ Assess interactions at the regional level with the ByRA tool
- ▷ Make recommendations for mitigation



The Bycatch Risk Assessment tool



CAMAC WP2

Stranding networks



- ▷ **OBJECTIVE:** Strengthen marine mammal and **sea turtle** stranding networks to enhance knowledge on these group of species and monitor human-origin impacts.



CAMAC WP2

Main outputs of phase 1



1

A standard protocol for marine mammal stranding response, developed by a group of experts from the CARIMAM network

2

A toolkit for MM stranding response trainings (soon available online in EN, SP, FR), developed by SENASA (Costa Rica National service of Animal Welfare)

3

9 training workshops organized in Haiti, St Kitts, Puerto-Rico, Dominican Republic, Jamaica, Aruba, Bonaire, Suriname, in collaboration with IWC



CAMAC WP2

Work plan for phase 2



- ▷ Develop collaboratively a standard protocol and a toolkit for sea turtle stranding networks and organize training workshops
- ▷ Develop a regional database for stranding data
- ▷ Analyze data and samples collected on stranded animals to better characterize causes of strandings

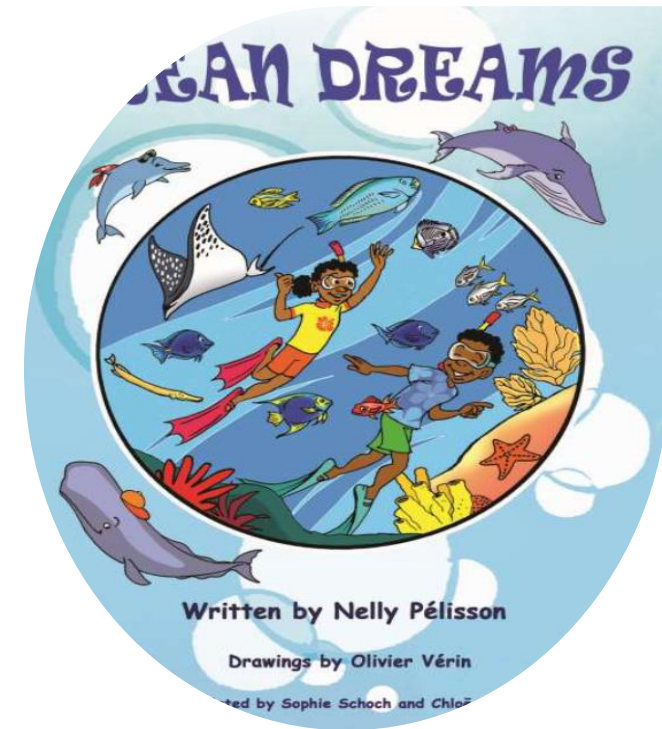


CAMAC WP3

Awareness raising



- ▷ **OBJECTIVE:** to raise awareness on preserving marine megafauna and to strengthen environmental education skills



CAMAC WP3

Main outputs of phase 1



- ▷ Creation the Camacata, catalogue of educational tools on megafauna for teachers and educators of the region
- ▷ Presents 79 tools sent par partners of the region.



- ▷ Available online in EN, SP, FR:
<https://sanctuaire-agoa.fr/editorial/camacata-0>

CAMAC WP3

Work plan for phase 2



- ▷ Strengthen the catalogue and translate tools in the main Caribbean languages
- ▷ Organize and implement the school twinning programme

Thank you for your attention

Merci de votre attention

Gracias por su atención

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