

PROGRAM  
**SMALL CALLS  
FOR PROPOSALS  
CARIBBEAN**



**SPAW • RAC**



CONTACT

[geraldine.conruyt@developpement-durable.gouv.fr](mailto:geraldine.conruyt@developpement-durable.gouv.fr)

[lucile.rossin@developpement-durable.gouv.fr](mailto:lucile.rossin@developpement-durable.gouv.fr)

# SMALL CALLS FOR PROPOSALS

## WIDER CARIBBEAN

Although made up of diverse territories and different cultures, the wider Caribbean region faces common economic and ecological challenges: its territories share a close dependence on their marine and coastal environments, which provide subsistence and well-being for their populations.

## CLOSE DEPENDENCE ON MARINE AND COASTAL ENVIRONMENTS

While the high number of endemic species is one of the factors that make the Caribbean a biodiversity hotspot, the region is also characterized by massive habitat loss and high vulnerability to extinctions.



Human population growth, particularly in coastal areas, environmental pressures and climate change pose major challenges for the conservation of the region's marine ecosystems and biodiversity.

The vocation of SPAW-RAC is to support SPAW(\*) signatory countries in developing actions in accordance with the SPAW work plan, and to promote regional cooperation for the protection and development of the Greater Caribbean Region. The SPAW-RAC leads and participates in numerous regional networks of experts and managers (CaMPAM, CARIMAM, WECAFC, WIDECAS, GCRMN-Caribbean, etc.).

(\*) Of the three protocols to [the Cartagena Convention](#), the SPAW (Specially Protected Areas and Wildlife) Protocol is the one dedicated to the protection of biodiversity. It provides a unique legal framework for biodiversity conservation in the Wider Caribbean Region. Signed in January 1990, the SPAW Protocol came into force in June 2000 and has now been ratified by 18 countries in the Wider Caribbean Region.





Due to the CoViD-19 pandemic, 2020 saw many conservation projects halted, funding withdrawn and organizations weakened. In this context, and in order to strengthen the capacities of regional players and fund projects in favor of Caribbean biodiversity, the SPAW-RAC experimented with a call for proposals for short-term small grants (up to 10,000 euros / 4 months to 1 year).

Given the success of this Call for Proposals, which has supported numerous NGOs in implementing concrete conservation projects in all Caribbean territories, SPAW RAC has decided to re-launch a Call for Proposals in 2021, 2022 and 2023.

The main objective is to implement the SPAW Protocol by encouraging concrete actions for the conservation of biodiversity in the Wider Caribbean Region.

More specifically, the program provides financial support for actions aimed at :

- improve efficiently the conservation status of threatened species, in particular those listed in the SPAW Protocol appendices;
- generate information enabling civil society players to improve the implementation of protected area management plans (with priority given to SPAW protected areas) and endangered species management measures;
- implement actions to restore ecosystems or populations, with priority given to SPAW protected areas.

## CONCRETE AND OPERATIONAL PROJECTS

**Particular attention** is paid to projects :

- implemented in countries and territories that are signatories to the SPAW Protocol and/or territories that do not easily benefit from traditional funding (SIDS - Small Island Developing States) ;
- involving collaboration between several other Caribbean territories;
- backed by medium- (2-5 years) and/or long-term (+5 years) effectiveness monitoring.

# REVIEW AND OUTLOOK

Since 2020, SPAW-RAC's program of small calls for proposals has supported over 50 Caribbean biodiversity conservation projects in more than 25 countries and 35 territories.



SPAW-RAC, 2023. Sources: GIS layers downloaded from <https://www.marineregions.org>

Conservation actions mainly concern : marine mammals, birds, sea turtles, coral reefs, fish, invertebrates and flora, as well as monitoring the conservation of biodiversity.

Marine protected areas are often supported in their management projects, but also in testing new solutions and developing management and action plans.

The SPAW-RAC calls for projects program have financed training initiatives, regional workshops, research and development programs for innovative solutions, and awareness-raising initiatives and tools.

While NGOs and associations are particularly targeted (70%), governmental organizations, protected area managers, research centers and foundations can also submit projects.

 50 projects

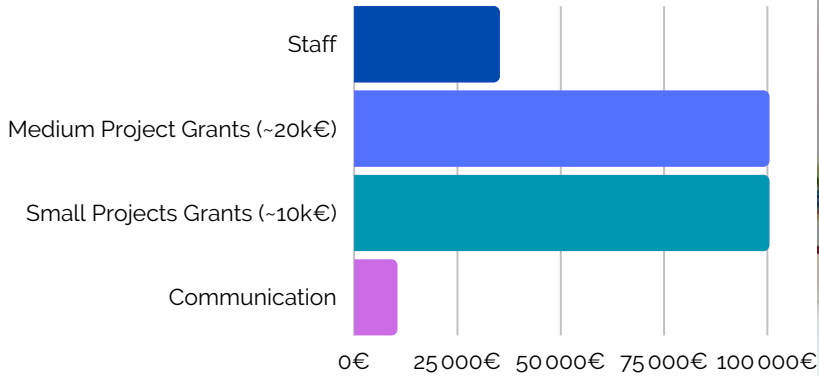
 375 000€

 25 countries  
35 territories

**2023**

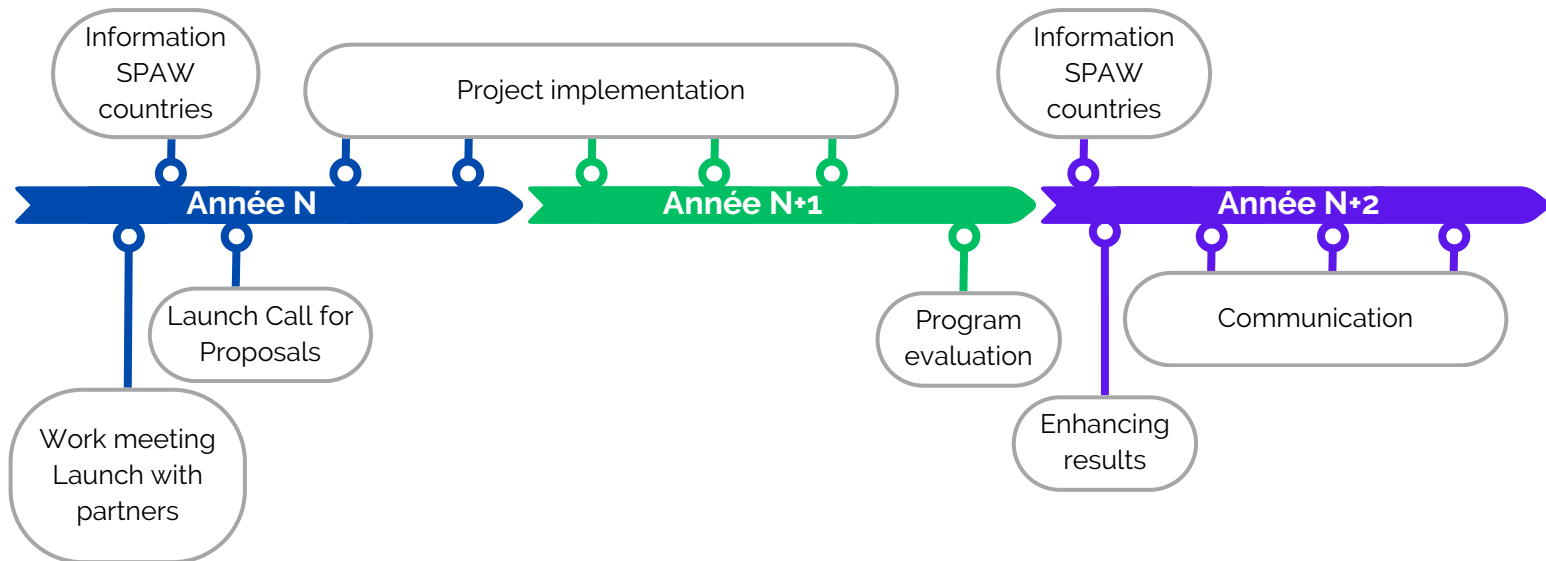
- 32 grant application
- 16 projects selected
- 128 000€

# ANNUAL BUDGET AND TIMETABLE



The benefits of this program in terms of effective action and visibility in the field are undeniable, and we now need to perpetuate and expand it.

SPAW-RAC is looking for partners and funders to collaborate in the success of this SPAW protocol for the protection of biodiversity in the Caribbean.



# PROGRAM OPERATORS

## TEAM PROJECT

### Lucile ROSSIN



Director of SPAW-RAC, Lucile specializes in management control and performance management. She has a thorough understanding of international project management and financing procedures.

### Géraldine CONRUYT



Ecologist and deputy director of CAR-SPAW, Géraldine has extensive expertise in conservation biology and an excellent knowledge of Caribbean stakeholders.

### Claire PUSINERI



With a PhD in marine ecology, Claire is an experienced biologist with a good knowledge of marine megafauna conservation networks and issues;

### Lucie LABBOUZ



In charge of SPAW protected areas, Lucie is the key contact for protected area managers in the Caribbean.

### Christophe BLAZY



In charge of ecosystems. Christophe is a specialist in the Caribbean's major tropical environments: mangroves, corals and seagrass beds, and is involved in a number of regional expert networks.

## PARTNERS

The institutional partners are involved in regional and international cooperation.

For information, the institutions already interested in this project are :



**More information on:**  
<https://www.car-spaw-rac.org/>