



Specially Protected Areas and Wildlife Protocol and programme



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Soon

Laminated identification cards for terrestrial birds

The Society for the Conservation and Study of Caribbean Birds (SCSCB) will soon publish new laminated identification cards for terrestrial birds of Guadeloupe, Martinique, St Lucia and Antigua and Barbuda. This work is supported by UNEP/ SPAW-RAC.

Brief

Oil spill in the Gulf of Mexico

Further to the Oil spill in the Gulf of Mexico, here is a link that provides daily updates on consolidated numbers of collected fish and wildlife encountered in the impact area that have been reported :

www.deepwaterhorizonresponse.com

Acronyms

- AET: Association Evasion Tropicale
- CABI: Commonwealth Agricultural Bureau Information
- CLME: Caribbean Large Marine Ecosystem
- ECCN: Eastern Caribbean Cetacean Network
- GEF: Global Environment Facility
- GBRMPA: Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority
- ICRI: International Coral Reef Initiative
- IUCN: International Union for Conservation of Nature
- NOAA: National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
- PR DRNA: Puerto Rico Departamento de Recursos Naturales y Ambientales
- REEF: Reef Environmental Education Foundation
- SCCN: Southern Caribbean Cetacean Network
- WWF: World Wildlife Fund

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News of the Month

Because of the increase in frequency of coral reef bleaching events in the Wider Caribbean, a workshop on coral reef resilience was organized by The Nature Conservancy in partnership with numerous institutions (IUCN, WWF, NOAA,GBRMPA etc) on 21st-25th of July in Key Largo, Florida. The workshop was preceded by a twelve week online training course; its objectives were to make Caribbean managers familiar with the resilience principles for reefs, in order to use those principles for managing coral reefs and associated ecosystems, and to train trainers on those concepts.

The training allowed for formulating recommendations for monitoring of benthic communities such as realizing filmed transects in order to get one more degree in knowledge, implementing post-bleaching monitorings, as well as training the various stakeholders and users. Access to TNC Training website: <https://www.conservationtraining.org/login/index.php>

Focus On



Invasive alien species in the Wider Caribbean Region: the lionfish

IAS in the Wider Caribbean

Invasive Alien Species (IAS) are considered one of the major threats to native species and habitats in

the Caribbean with potentially severe impacts on this rich but already vulnerable biodiversity and the people depending on it for their livelihoods. Several Caribbean Countries have started national initiatives on IAS; cooperation and collaboration actions are very important, especially for the prevention and detection of new IAS, and two GEF projects aims at tackling the issue at the Caribbean level :

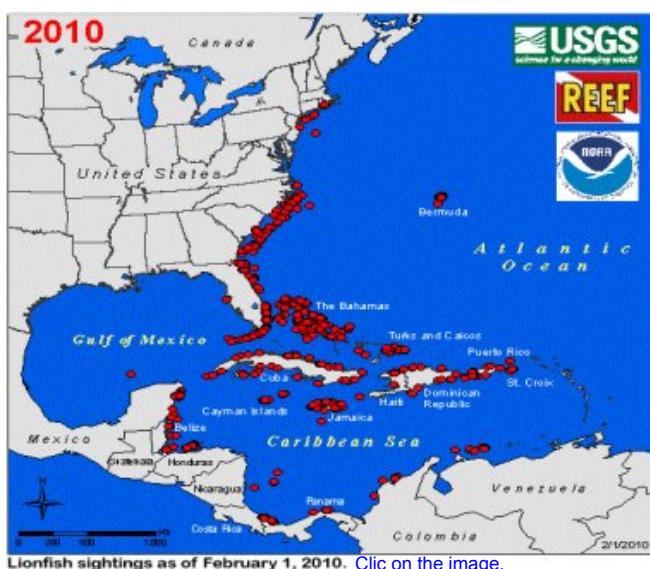
- The "GloBallast" Project Phase II, that aims at improving the management of ballast waters (the Bahamas, Trinidad and Tobago, Colombia, Jamaica, and Venezuela).
- Project led by CABI on mitigation of the threats of marine invasive alien species in the insular Caribbean (Bahamas, the Dominican Republic, Jamaica, Saint-Lucia and Trinidad and Tobago). The CABI project is implemented both at the local level in the participating countries through specific pilot projects, and at the Caribbean level with the preparation of a common strategy against

IAS. A regional workshop was convened in June 2010 in Trinidad and Tobago in order to define a draft regional strategy that will be presented to the countries involved in the CABI project in October 2010.

Marine invasions and the lionfish issue

One hundred and eighteen introduced marine species are considered to be potential or actual invasive species in the Wider Caribbean. The lionfish (*Pterois volitans*) is considered today as one of the major threats to marine habitats. Coming from the South Pacific and Indian Oceans, the most likely explanation for its arrival in the Caribbean marine environment is via ballast waters and/or via aquarium releases. Severe direct and indirect impacts from the Lionfish have been reported on coral reef ecosystems in Bermuda, the Bahamas, Turks and Caicos, Cayman islands, Cuba, Jamaica, Dominican Republic, Puerto Rico, Mexico, Honduras, Costa Rica, Haiti, Virgin islands, Belize, Panama and Colombia, and the Netherlands Antilles. The lionfish is an efficient carnivore that feeds on a wide variety of smaller fishes, shrimps and crabs, out-competing native species. It also has the potential to decrease the abundance of ecologically important species such as parrot-fish and other herbivorous fishes that keep seaweeds and macro-algae from overgrowing coral. The potential loss to commercial fishers and reef-based tourism is serious. Its venomous spines are also a serious threat to human health. Its spines make it almost immune to local predators (except possibly the groupers).

A workshop was convened in August in Mexico with the support of ICRI, NOAA, REEF and UNEP/SPAW RAC and with the participation of specialists from all across the Caribbean region, in order to prepare a specific regional strategy on prevention and control against the lionfish that will be part of the overall strategy developed by CABI for its GEF project. The lionfish issue and the outputs of the workshop will be presented at the 6th SPAW Conference of the Parties in October 2010.



Current projects



CaMPAM Training in the Dominican Republic

The 'Training of Trainers Regional Course on Marine Protected Areas Management of the Caribbean' took place June 6-19, 2010 in Bayahibe, SE Dominican Republic (next to Parque Nacional del Este) and was coordinated by the Caribbean Marine Protected Areas Management Network and Forum (CaMPAM) coordinator, Dr. Georgina Bustamante.

This course had the support of the Spanish Ministry of the Environment (main donor), UNEP Caribbean Environment Programme, the SPAW-RAC, the Dominican Republic Government (Ministry of Environment, Vice ministry of Coastal and Marine Resources), the NGO "The Nature Conservancy", Reef Check Dominican Republic (local coordinator), and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Italy. For more information go to: www.car-spaw-rac.org/?CaMPAM-training,186

Pilot Project: Test of the Annotated Format for the Listing of Protected Areas under the SPAW Protocol

At the Fifth Meeting of the Contracting Parties (COP5) to the Protocol Concerning Specially Protected Areas and (SPAW) in the Wider Caribbean Region, St. John's, Antigua and Barbuda, 8 September 2008, the Parties adopted the Guidelines and Criteria for the Evaluation of Protected Areas to be Listed under the SPAW Protocol. This listing process aims at determining the protected areas that meet the objectives of the Protocol, improving the knowledge of spatial biodiversity protection in the Wider Caribbean and developing a network of protected areas at the regional scale. A draft report format to help Parties prepare their presentation reports on the PAs they want to submit to listing was also presented at COP 5 and it was decided that a

Pilot Project should be launched in order to assess the relevance and practicability of the format and proceed with the appropriate changes if necessary.

The Pilot Project started in October 2009 and the Secretariat invited the SPAW Focal Points to propose Protected Areas for participation. Nine PAs from 5 countries were eventually proposed and selected; reports were prepared for each following the draft reporting format which were forwarded to the SPAW-RAC along with feedback on the draft reporting format.

Marine Mammal Stranding Workshops

In 2009 and 2010, a series of stranding workshops, supported by ECCN, were organized in the Caribbean region. These workshops are a part of the recommendations of the Action Plan for the Conservation of Marine Mammals (MMA) in the Wider Caribbean Region. In fact, the Action Plan advises that strandings workshops be held in the three main languages of the region (French, English and Spanish). As a result, the workshops were held in:

- Curacao (5-7 November 2009) for the Dutch-speaking Caribbean Territories,
- Bouillante, Guadeloupe (8-10 January 2010) for the French-speaking Caribbean Territories,
- Panama City (22-23 April 2010) for the Spanish-speaking Caribbean Countries.



Many participants, coming from protected area management, government departments and non-governmental organizations, attended these workshops whose objectives were to review the techniques and protocols for responding to strandings incidents for marine mammals; to establish standardized data collection methods and database; and eventually to strengthen national and regional cooperation for stranding response.

At the end of the three workshops, the participants identified

priority actions to consider as steps for the management of marine mammal strandings. These recommendations concern topics such as capacity building, coordination, research, communication, public awareness and financial support.

Following the workshops, trained participants shared the knowledge acquired with their countries. An example of this took place in Venezuela, when the Ministry of Environment spearheaded the organisation of a national stranding workshop. Several workshops were planned in the year, and the first one, titled "Taller Básico sobre atención a Contingencias con Mamíferos Marinos", took place in June 2010.

For more information on the stranding workshops, please find a complete and detailed report of each workshop on the SPAW-RAC website: www.car-spaw-rac.org

You can also contact :

Caroline Rinaldi (AET) evastropic@wanadoo.fr

Dr. Nathalie Ward (ECCN) nath51@verizon.net

Paul Hoetjes (SCCN) paul@mina.vomil.an

Grisel Rodriguez (PR DRNA) torneo_pr@yahoo.com

CLME Pilot Project: Management and Conservation of Reef Biodiversity and Reef Fisheries

We are pleased to announce the start-up of the GEF-funded CLME (Caribbean Large Marine Ecosystem) Pilot Project on Reef Fisheries and Biodiversity. The CLME Pilot Project is part of a larger project aimed at promoting the sustainable management of the shared living marine resources of the CLME and adjacent areas through an ecosystem-based management approach. The CLME Project will assist Caribbean countries to improve the management of their shared living marine resources, most of which are considered to be fully or over exploited. The overall objective of the Pilot Project is to promote the ecosystem-based approach for the conservation and effective management of coral reef ecosystems and their associated resources in order to maintain their functional and structural integrity and biodiversity, as well as to ensure economic and social benefits for local communities and the region as a whole. The selected location of target sites are: the Sea Flower Biosphere Reserve, San Andres Archipelago (Colombia), Pedro Bank (Jamaica), Transboundary sites in the coasts of Hispaniola, (Dominican Republic and Haiti), and The Grenadines Islands (Saint-Vincent and the Grenadines). The Project Officer for the CLME Pilot Project on Reef Fisheries and Biodiversity is Orville Grey who recently joined the team on July 15.

He is based at the UNEP/CAR-RCU office at 14-20 Port Royal Street, Kingston, Jamaica. He can be contacted via email at opg@cep.unep.org or via Telephone: (876) 922-9267-9 and Fax: (876) 922-9292.

Upcoming events for 2010



- **5 October:** Sixth Meeting of the Contracting Parties (COP) to the Protocol Concerning Specially Protected Areas and Wildlife (SPAW) in the Wider Caribbean Region, Montego Bay, Jamaica
- **6-9 October:** Fourteenth Intergovernmental Meeting on the Action Plan for the Caribbean Environment Programme and Eleventh Meeting of the Contracting Parties to the Convention for the Protection and Development of the Marine Environment of the Wider Caribbean Region
- **11-15 October:** Project on the Regional Strategy for the Management of the Invasive Alien Species in the Caribbean, St. Lucia
- **18-29 October:** Tenth Meeting of the Conference of the Parties (COP 10) to the Convention on Biological Diversity, Nagoya, Japan
- **1-5 November:** 63rd Annual Meeting of the Gulf and Caribbean Fisheries Institute and CaMPAM session, San Juan, Puerto Rico
- **4-7 November:** Workshop to analyse the 'Viability of the Population and the Habitat of the Manatee (*Trichechus manatus*) in the Caribbean: Strategy of Conservation, Zoological Gardens and Botanical National Gardens, Simón Bolívar, San Jose, Costa Rica. For more information, please contact Jorge Rodríguez at Jorge@cbsgmesoamerica.org or visit:

www.sociedadmesoamericana.org
www.congresosmbc2010.net

Publications



An overview of Modelling Climate Change Impacts in the Caribbean Region. Download the report: www.caribsave.org



- Manual of Best Practices for Safeguarding Sea Turtle Nesting Beaches. Choi, Ga-Young and Karen L. Eckert. 2009.
- In the Spotlight: An Assessment of Beachfront Lighting at Four Hotels in Barbados. Knowles, John E., Karen L. Eckert and Julia A. Horrocks. 2009.
- Reducing Light Pollution in a Tourism-Based Economy, with Recommendations for a National Lighting Ordinance. Lake, Kimberley N. and Karen L. Eckert. 2009.

www.widecast.org



Reefs at Risk Revisited: Over the next few months, it will be finalized. The launch is planned for early 2011, with communication and influence activities to follow. www.wri.org

Life web

The government of Spain has recently expressed its interest in supporting activities related to marine mammal conservation through the LifeWeb fund. UNEP submitted a proposal of a marine mammal management two-years project in the Caribbean and Eastern Pacific, that was approved by the Spanish government. A meeting was organized with UNEP representatives and experts from the two regions on 18-21 July in Miami in order to review current actions, networks and frameworks relevant to the objectives of the project and to conduct pre-planning of the activities that could be implemented under this project. Follow-up meetings will be organized in the following months with wider audiences to discuss further the activities, their schedule and the partnerships that could be established. For further details on this fund, see : www.cbd.int/lifeweb/

Contact

UNEP-CEP
14-20 Port Royal Street
Kingston, JAMAICA
Tel.: +876 922-9267-9
Fax: +876 922-9292
Email: rcu@cep.unep.org
www.cep.unep.org

SPA-W-RAC
Parc national de Guadeloupe
Habitation Beausoleil
Montéran B.P. 93
97120 Saint-Claude,
GUADELOUPE (FWI)
Tel. : +590(0)590 80 14 99
www.car-spaw-rac.org