



Specially Protected Areas and Wildlife Protocol and Programme

Newsletter N°12 - April 2014

Commonly used Acronyms

CaMPAM Caribbean Marine Protected Area Management Network and Forum

CEP Caribbean Environment Programme

CBD Convention on Biological Diversity

GCFI Gulf and Caribbean Fisheries Institute

IWC International Whaling Commission

MARFUND Mesoamerican Reef Fund

PAs Protected Areas

MPAs Marine Protected Areas

Red LAC Latin American and Caribbean Network of Environmental Funds

RLC Regional Lionfish Committee

SPAW Specially Protected Areas and Wildlife

SPAW-RAC Specially Protected Areas and Wildlife – Regional Activity Centre

UNEP-CAR/RCU United Nations Environment Programme - Caribbean Regional Coordinating Unit

WECAFC Western Central Atlantic Fishery Commission

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News of the month

Announcement and Save-The-Date for the upcoming Intergovernmental Meetings of the Cartagena Convention : 24-29 November 2014

The UNEP-CAR/RCU, Secretariat of the Convention for the Protection and Development of the Marine Environment of the Wider Caribbean Region, invites you to mark your calendars for its Intergovernmental Meetings:

- XVI Intergovernmental Meeting on the Action Plan for the Caribbean Environment Programme and
- XIII Meeting of the Contracting Parties to the Convention for the Protection and Development of the Marine Environment of the Wider Caribbean Region.
- II Meeting of the Contracting Parties to the Protocol Concerning Pollution from Land-Based Sources and Activities in the Wider Caribbean Region (LBS)
- VIII Meeting of the Contracting Parties to the Protocol Concerning Specially Protected Areas and Wildlife (SPAW) in the Wider Caribbean Region
- VI Meeting of the Scientific and Technical Advisory Committee to the SPAW Protocol

All meetings will be held back to back during the week of November 24-29. The venue of the meetings will be announced soon.

FOCUS ON

Call for listing additional PAs under the SPAW Protocol for next COP planned for 25th November and progress on the dedicated programme of cooperation

In view of the upcoming intergovernmental meetings of the Cartagena Convention and in

particular of the SPAW STAC6 and COP8 meetings, the SPAW Secretariat is inviting the SPAW Parties, through their SPAW focal points, to submit information on the protected areas they wish to have listed under the SPAW Protocol by completing the presentation reports.

Arrival of a dedicated ECMMAN project assistant

The team of the SPAW-RAC grows, with the recruitment of an additional assistant, Mélissa MAYA. Mélissa will be in charge of the administrative and financial aspects of the SPAW-RAC - CaMPAM's component of the Eastern Caribbean Marine Managed Areas Network Project, and in particular of the administration of the grants awarded to the six countries associated with the project. Mélissa will also help with administrative support to other CaMPAM activities, as well as with CaMPAM communication, website and database.

You can contact her at : melissa.maya.carspaw@guadeloupe-parcnational.fr



The listing of PAs under the SPAW Protocol is of great benefit to Parties. The first 18 PAs listed have been integrated into a regional network that benefits from dedicated cooperation programmes. In late 2013 the SPAW Secretariat launched the cooperation programme. To date, activities implemented include the following:

1. A meeting of managers of the SPAW listed sites held at the 66th GCFI Conference in Corpus Christi - Texas (November 2013), to exchange ideas, discuss objectives and content of the cooperation programme. The participants also had the opportunity and were sponsored by UNEP-CEP to attend the entire GCFI conference including "Protected Areas Science and Management" session (coordinated by SPAW/CaMPAM each year)

2. The awarding of five US \$12,000 grants to support new activities in the PAs listed under SPAW or those that are committed to submit their nomination this year.

3. The integration of this initiative to the rest of CaMPAM activities and resources (Training of Trainers program, small grants, Regional MPA database, networking and communication, mentorship program)

The benefits of having PAs listed under SPAW are multiple, namely:

- Increased recognition and awareness as a place of importance locally, regionally and globally,
- Local and national pride resulting in national responsibility to support management,
- Higher visibility resulting in possible increases in employment opportunities and income (e.g. tourism, "marketing" the area),
- More individuals likely to benefit from SPAW grants and other types of assistance (sites become priorities for SPAW Secretariat and its natural partners),
- Opportunities for enhancing capacity, management, protection and sustainability,
- Opportunities for support under other areas of SPAW and CEP (species conservation, pollution control, EBM).

The process of listing PA's is made easy for managers as they are able to create a presentation report using the interface (www.spaw-palisting.org). The individual can also use the standard reports to complete the process (i.e., available in pdf format in English and Spanish). The report is then submitted to its national SPAW Focal Point for approval before being sent to the SPAW-RAC. Upon receipt of the report and after an overall assessment of its completion is done, the SPAW-RAC on behalf of the SPAW conducts a standard evaluation process which includes external reviews. This is done in order to determine whether the submitted protected area is consistent with the guidelines and common criteria adopted by the SPAW Parties. The results of this review are presented to the SPAW Scientific and Technical Advisory Committee for discussion and decision, and a consolidated tentative list of Protected Areas is established for presentation at the next meeting SPAW Conference of the Parties for final adoption (in the present case November, 2014).

Some Parties have already expressed their interest and are working on it. The reports should be sent to the SPAW-RAC by July 2014 at the latest so that the review process can be completed before the next COP.

For additional information on the SPAW Listing process, you can visit www.spaw-palisting.org/homepage/process, or contact Franck Gourdin for any assistance: Franck.gourdin.carspaw@guadeloupe-parcnational.fr

SPAW-listed sites and CaMPAM News

UNEP-CEP/SPAW-RAC/CaMPAM Small Grant Program to promote effective marine managed areas in the countries associated with the Eastern Caribbean Marine Managed Areas Network under ECMANN projects – first call for proposals

As part of its continued support to capacity building on marine protected area management through its CaMPAM Network and



Forum (CaMPAM), the UNEP-CEP SPAW Program and its Regional Activity Centre (SPAW-RAC) has accepted the invitation of The Nature Conservancy to coordinate the Small Grant Program of the "Climate Resilient Eastern Caribbean Marine Managed Areas Network (ECMMAN)." The project is led by The Nature Conservancy and funded by the German Federal Ministry for the Environment, Nature Conservation and

Nuclear Safety (BMU).

The program falls under the framework of the Specially Protected Areas and Wildlife (SPAW) Protocol of the Cartagena Convention (administered by the UNEP-CEP), and will benefit from its 15 years of experience, as well as the technical and administrative resources of UNEP-CEP, the SPAW-RAC and CaMPAM (including their networks and expertise on MPA capacity building, integrated ecosystem management and species protection). The experience and achievements of the recently completed UNEP-CEP/SPAW/CaMPAM project "Regional support for the Caribbean Challenge initiative: Networking, consolidation and regional coordination of MPA management" funded by the Italian Directorate General for Development Cooperation will also be used, given the similar objectives and geographic coverage, as well as the TNC commitments with the partner organizations in the six countries involved.

The Small Grant program aims at assisting the 6 countries of the ECMMAN project (*Antigua and Barbuda, Dominica, Grenada, Saint Kitts and Nevis, Saint Lucia, and Saint Vincent and the Grenadines*) with financial resources and expertise to improve the capacity for creating new marine managed areas and better managing the existing ones, as well as to meet their national and international commitments relevant to marine conservation. A total amount of €950,000 (approximate €160,000 per country) will be awarded during 2014-2016 to the 6 countries involved, through a CaMPAM Small Grants Program.

The process includes criteria setting and approval by all country focal points and implementing entities. It also includes; proposal submission, selection, exploration and promotion of collaborative activities of different countries, monitoring of the implementation of each project, synergy building with other

Ecosystem conservation and restoration : CDB Capacity-building workshop for the Caribbean in Belize City

The Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity is organizing, in collaboration with the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, a capacity-building workshop for the Caribbean on ecosystem conservation and restoration, to support achievement of the Aichi Biodiversity Targets. This workshop is part of a series being organized through the financial assistance of several governments (Japan, Canada, Germany, Republic of Korea, and the European Union) and will be held in Belize city, from April 28th to May 2nd, 2014.

The Aichi Biodiversity Targets are 20 ambitious goals that make up part of the CBD's Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020, adopted in Nagoya, Japan, in 2010. The targets provide a framework for action by all stakeholders to save biodiversity and enhance its benefits for people.

This workshop aims to support the achievement of the targets 5, 11 and 15, which set quantitative global area-based targets to reduce the loss of natural habitats, improve protected area networks and restore degraded areas. www.cbd.int/sp/targets/

With an integrated and participatory approach, CBD plans to offer capacity-building to Caribbean Parties to promote the development of national targets and plans for ecosystems conservation and restoration, and to support the implementation of actions at the landscape level. During this event, The SPAW-RAC will help in particular in facilitating group exercises, during sessions dedicated to Protected Areas. More details visit: www.cbd.int

projects in the region, as well as results dissemination. Two rounds of calls for proposals will be launched, respectively in 2014 and 2015.

Further to the first meeting with the other implementing partners and regional organizations the country coordinators that took place recently in St Lucia, the 1st call for proposals was launched on March 1st, 2014. It is restricted to the six participating country above, with each country having accessed to a reserved (and equal) part of the amount of funding made available for the first call. The proposals will be submitted to the review of the project management team and experts as needed after they have received approval and support from the countries' authorities. Proposals must be consistent with the priorities regarding sites and activities to support, defined during the national consultations that are currently being held under the ECMMAN project. The first proposals are due in the coming weeks, and the others will be submitted by the extended deadline of May 9th, 2014.

For additional details contact Helene Souan (SPAW-RAC Director) and Dr. Georgina Bustamante (CaMPAM coordinator) at helene.souan.carspaw@guadeloupe-parcnational.fr and gbustamante09@gmail.com who are part of the CaMPAM-ECMMAN Small Grant Program management team, together with Alessandra Vanzella-Khoury (UNEP-CEP/SPAW officer), Ruth Blyther rblyther@tnc.org and Dr. Sherry Constantine sconstantine@tnc.org (TNC Eastern Caribbean Program).

Six MPA managers attended a Learning Exchange for Junior MPA Officers in Belize organized by IUCN-ORMA Biopama project in collaboration with UNEP-CEP/SPAW CaMPAM Program



Over the last 15 years, UNEP-CEP SPAW CaMPAM capacity building program has used the exchange visits of MPA managers as a tool for disseminating best MPA management practices in the Caribbean. The participants have stressed the importance of sharing experiences on the ground for stimulating ideas and potential solutions for their management issues. For the first time IUCN-ORMA, in cooperation with UNEP-CEP/SPAW-CaMPAM, and

supported by the BIOPAMA program organized an Exchange of Caribbean Junior MPA Officers to assist in their professional development. Six junior professionals from Barbados, Belize, Dominican Republic, Grenada, St. Kitts and Nevis, and St. Lucia spent a week in Belize to learn from the Belizean MPA managers and governmental and non-governmental organizations related to marine resources conservation and management.

After a day of lectures at the Coastal Zone Management Authority by the Fisheries Dept., the World Conservation Society, the Audubon Society, the Environmental Defense fund Managed Access Initiative and others, the participants, led by the IUCN-Biopama Protected Areas Officer, CaMPAM and the Belizean National MPA coordinators visited several sites in N Belize, namely Corozal Bay Wildlife Sanctuary, and the marine reserves of Hol Chan Marine Reserve and Bacalar Chico.

The participants had a chance to exchange ideas and experiences with MPA managers, local fishers and conservation NGOs such as the Sarteneja Alliance for Conservation and Development (SACD), and Wildtrack1 as well as leaders of the Tourism Associations.

The selection of Belizean MPAs, and national and local organizations as a "learning centre" allowed participants to learn and be exposed to the following: 1) consolidated MPAs with solid management plans including marine reserves and other categories; 2) a strong participation of local communities in environmental management; 3) their collaborative vocations; 4) national organizations with a strong record of marine resources

management and conservation; 5) the current Belize initiative of developing areas with managed access that involve fishers and other stakeholders, and 6) the existence of community-managed nature tourism operations in association with the conservation areas.

The exchange was very successful and will be used as a model for future activities that combine some lecturing, site visits and exchange with marine managed areas managers and stakeholders. Biopama and CaMPAM are very grateful for the local support of Isaias Majil (Belize Natl. MPA Coordinator), Miguel Alamilla (Hol Chan MR manager) and Joel Verde (SCAD).

For additional information contact Hyacinth Armstrong-Vaughn, Protected Areas Officer of the BIOPAMA Programme of IUCN - Mesoamerica and Caribbean Initiative (Hyacinth.Armstrong-Vaughn@iucn.org) and Dr. Georgina Bustamante (Coordinator of the UNEP-CEP/SPAW CaMPAM Network and Forum) gbustamante09@gmail.com

ON-GOING PROJECTS

'ZOE' missions : Post-larval capture and culture in Guadeloupe, FWI

Since November 2013, NGO IGREC Mer, hosted by the Aquarium of Guadeloupe (FWI), has initiated fishing for a PCC (Post-larval Capture and Culture) project named Zoe II. PCC is a technique still under development that consists in catching fish post-larvae at sea, before 95 % of them disappear because of predation or lack of suitable habitat to settle.

To that end, light traps (CARE = Collect by Artificial Reef Ecofriendly) are placed at sea during black moon nights, when the post-larvae recruitment is at its peak.

The post-larvae are then bred in a laboratory during 3 to 4 months until they reach the juvenile stage before being released in the sea.

The goal of the Zoe missions, that are planned over two years, is to improve our knowledge of the abundance and diversity of species being recruited in the near-shore waters of Guadeloupe, but also to help local fisheries by repopulating areas that are facing high fishing pressure.

The first mission for Zoe I was in 2012, it allowed and confirmed the usefulness of such a project in Guadeloupe, with a total of 652 individuals collected in 7 nights of fishing.

Funding opportunity : USFWS Wildlife Without Borders-Latin America and Caribbean

The US Fish and Wildlife services, through its international programme **Wildlife without borders**, is launching a new call for proposal, dedicated to conservation projects in Latin America and the Caribbean.

The Wildlife Without Borders-Latin America and Caribbean Program (WWB-LAC) aims to strengthen the capacity of Latin American and Caribbean individuals and institutions to manage and conserve species, habitats, and ecological processes.

In 2014, the WWB-LAC seeks proposals that address the underlying human dimensions of species and ecosystem conservation, in particular in Central America, and for regional Caribbean projects (defined as a minimum of 2 countries or islands). Three focal areas have been defined for this call and concern threatened landscapes, threatened species (human-jaguar interaction & wildlife trafficking and illegal pet trade only) and regional training programs for early conservation professionals.

This program will award 1- or 2 year grants or establish agreements as financial assistance instruments and proposals requesting less than \$50,000 USD have a higher likelihood of being selected.

The proposal submission deadline is fixed on the 30th of May 2014. Please visit the following link for more details: www.fws.gov/international/pdf/notice-of-funding-availability-latin-america-and-the-caribbean-2014.pdf

Post-larvae recruitment depends on numerous parameters, including water temperature and climate conditions. This accounts for the variations in the number of catches between fishing sessions : in November, 3,077 individuals were collected, whereas 657 were caught in December and 826 in January (with 6 to 8 fishing nights each month), representing 24 families and 36 fish species.

Philippe GODOC, director of the Aquarium, is at your disposal if you have any question or feedback (philippe@aquariumdelaguadeloupe.com). We would be very interested in knowing if any of you have undertaken, planned, or heard of similar projects in your respective countries.



Acanthuridae post-larvae at D-O



Apogonidae post-larvae at D-O (day of catch)

Agoa Marine Mammal monitoring campaign, Dry Season 2014



The new edition of the Agoa Marine Mammal Monitoring campaigns for the Dry Season 2014 has started, under the leadership of the French MPA Agency, managing authority for the Agoa sanctuary in the EEZ of the French West Indies and

in partnership with local stakeholders, NGOs and managers of the SPAW-RAC.

Line-transect surveys have already taken place in Martinique (on March 12-19, 2014) and Guadeloupe (on April 2-9, 2014). Surveys will also be made in the Northern Islands of the lesser Antilles (St Martin, St Maarten, Anguilla, St Barthélemy, St Eustatius, Saba) on April 15-19, 2014, in partnership with MPA managers and authorities of all the islands concerned. Two sailboats are used in parallel for each survey, except this time in the Northern Islands where the same boat will cover all the transects, hence a longer duration of the survey.

In Martinique, the campaign has proven very rich with sightings and species diversity this time, with a dozen of cetacean species observed visually or acoustically :

- Toothed whales (*odontocetes*) : false killerwhales (*Pseudorca crassidens*), melon-headed whales (*Peponocephala electra*), fraser dolphins (*Lagenodelphis hosei*), pantropical spotted dolphins (*Stenella attenuata*), bottlenose dolphins (*ursiops truncatus*), dwarf or pygmy sperm whale (*Kogia sp. assumed sima*), spermwhales (*Physeter macrocephalus*), short-fin pilotwhales (*Globicephala macrorhynchus*), beaked whales (*Mesoplodon sp.*), ...

- Baleen whales (mysticetes) : humpback whales (Megaptera novaeanglia) alone, in pairs, or in active groups.

More detailed results of the surveys in Martinique, along with the results of the surveys in Guadeloupe and Northern Islands, will be disseminated soon.

For more information, please contact Amandine Eynaudi, Manager of the Agoa sanctuary (amandine.eynaudi@aires-marines.fr)

MEGARA NorthWest Indies 2014 : Deploying Argos satellite tags on humpback whales in the Northern Lesser Antilles



Where do the humpback whales that frequent our waters from January to June come from? North America, Europe? What do they do in the Northern Islands?

Further to the satellite tags deployed by the NGO Breach, the University Antilles-Guyane and NOAA in Guadeloupe from 2010 to 2012, a first scientific mission in the Northern Islands, called Megara, has sought to answer these questions during a campaign at sea that took place from March 25th to April 3rd, 2014. The mission, that benefits from the approval of the Agoa sanctuary, has consisted in deploying 8Argos satellite tags on humpback whales and in taking a dozen biopsies (skin and blubber samples) from this species.

The marine protected area managers in the Northern Islands, among the natural reserves of St Martin and St Barthélemy, principals of the project with the assistance of the SPAW-RAC, have been part of this expedition that aims to improve our knowledge of these species in order to better protect them. Beyond the involvement of scientific experts in tagging and skin sampling, the project includes an important educational component as the data collected from the Argos satellite tags



will be used (and are already being used) to sensitize pupils to cetaceans. Special thanks to a partnership with the NGO "My school, My whale" (Mon école, ma baleine).

We also want to thank the various partners who have participated in, and funded, the expedition, including for the Caribbean the Dutch Government, the Environmental Agency of St Bart, and the Marine Foundation of St Maarten.

You can follow the tagged whales on : www.seaturtle.org/tracking.

Final meeting of the UNEP/Spain LifeWeb Project: Meeting on Scenarios for Transboundary Marine Mammal Management in the Wider Caribbean, San Juan, Puerto Rico, 23&24 April 2014

As an integral part of the UNEP LifeWeb-Spain Project: "Broad-scale Marine Spatial Planning of Mammal Corridors and

Who Pays the Birds? Caribbean Endemic Bird Festival 2014

"Who pays the birds?" is the theme for this year's Caribbean Endemic Bird Festival (CEBF). At several events throughout the region, participants will learn about the many beneficial services provided by birds that often go unnoticed and unappreciated, but are very important to both the ecology and economic prosperity of the Caribbean.

The month-long festival, now in its 13th year, led by BirdsCaribbean, includes Caribbean-wide activities on Earth Day (April 22), through to International Biodiversity Day (May 22), in more than twenty countries and attracts over 80,000 participants and volunteers each year.

Birds Caribbean recently identified ten ways in which birds help both people and nature in the Caribbean. Pollinating flowers and dispersing seeds are valuable to natural ecosystems, while controlling insect pests and enriching soils can be highly beneficial to agriculture. Their role as garbage collectors—consuming animal carcasses and other waste—helps keep islands beautiful, but also benefits public health by disposing of materials that could cause pollution or spread diseases. Birdwatching tourism is increasingly important. Many people will travel to the Caribbean to see endemic species that they cannot see anywhere else in the world; the [Caribbean Birding Trail Project](http://www.caribbeanbirding.org) seeks to grow tourism that supports sustainable livelihoods and conservation of irreplaceable habitats. And many species of seabirds are well known to fishers as "fish finders".

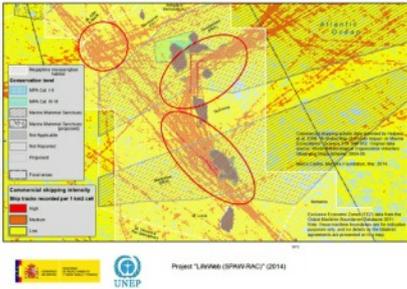
To learn more about the festival and how to participate, visit the Festival website under the "Programs" link at: www.birdscaribbean.org. Follow us on Facebook (search for Caribbean Bird Festivals).



Nectar-feeding Antillean-Crested Hummingbird. Photographers: Laurent Malglaive.



Brown Noddy. Photographers: Lisa Sorenson.



Protected Areas in Wider Caribbean and Southeast & Northeast Pacific” coordinated by UNEP, UNEP-CEP and the SPAW-RAC are convening the “LifeWeb-Spain UNEP-CEP Meeting on Scenarios for Transboundary Marine Mammal Management in the Wider Caribbean,” to

be held 23rd - 24th of April 2014 in San Juan, Puerto Rico. Launched in 2010, with financial support from the Government of Spain, the UNEP/Spain LifeWeb Project: "Broad-scale Marine Spatial Planning of Mammal Corridors and Protected Areas in Wider Caribbean and Southeast & Northeast Pacific" was conceived with the goal to assist the implementation of the Convention on Biological Diversity Programme of Work on Protected Areas. In particular, through technical support to assist with global goals such as the establishment of comprehensive, effectively managed, and ecologically representative regional systems of marine protected areas by 2012 in the countries of the Latin America, the Caribbean and neighbouring regions. The project also directly supports the implementation of Marine Mammal Action Plans of the regional Conventions of UNEP’s Regional Seas Programmes for the Wider Caribbean (Cartagena Convention) and the Southeast Pacific (Lima Convention). The Project includes five components all of which are almost completed to date:

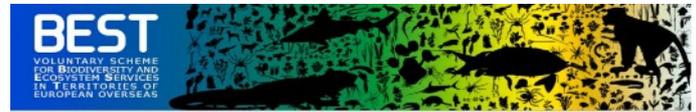
- Data integration and mapping: in order to visualize critical habitats, human activities, marine mammal distribution and migrations in the Wider Caribbean and Eastern Tropical Pacific regions;
- Training, exchanges and networking on integrated marine spatial planning (MSP), management and governance;
- Communication strategy and awareness raising on marine spatial planning and its value as a process;
- Strengthening regional policies underpinning transboundary governance; and
- Demonstration projects on marine mammal management planning.

In 2012, during the Inter-regional Workshop on Broad-scale marine spatial planning and transboundary marine mammal management convened from 21st to 24th of May in Panama City, one of the main recommendations for the Wider Caribbean was that scenarios for transboundary management of marine mammal be developed using the work already done under the various components of the Lifeweb project, in priority geographic areas. Once such area ranges from the Dominican Republic to Grenada and encompasses all the Eastern Caribbean.

To that end, an expert group was established in August 2013, that has worked with Fundación MarViva (Costa Rica) on reviewing the maps already produced on marine mammal distribution, threats and protection, and on identifying possible conflict areas and mitigation measures, the latter forming the basis of transboundary scenarios for an improved management of marine mammals. The objectives of the meeting are to review and discuss the scenarios and the recommendations for improved transboundary management of marine mammals, and identify the way forward at the local, national, and caribbean scale.

Voluntary Scheme for Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services in Territories of European Overseas - New Consortium including a dedicated Caribbean Hub

EU Outermost Regions and Overseas Countries and Territories are home to exceptional biodiversity. The 34 political entities include more than 150 islands and one Outermost Region in South America, French Guyana. Together they cover a total land mass equivalent to the EU’s, and a marine territory which is the largest



of the world. Europe Overseas biodiversity is very rich and particularly at risk as islands are highly vulnerable to invasive species, development, and climate change impacts. For financial support (including for conservation), Europe Overseas is often not eligible to benefit from the same funding sources as their regional neighbours, often missing out on funds specifically targeted at their regional ecosystems and threats. At the EU level, funding mechanisms are often not adapted to meet the particular needs of Europe Overseas.

To improve the situation, the European Commission supported a critical step - the BEST Initiative-. The BEST Preparatory Action adopted by the European Parliament provided seed money which allowed funding of 16 on the ground projects and funding of BEST III. The outcome of the two open calls for proposals BEST 2011 and BEST 2012 showed a definite need for overseas funding as the request amounted to more than six times the available budget and several projects passing all evaluation criteria could not be funded. This indicating that there is the need to make this funding more than a onetime effort and to establish a financial support mechanism sustainable for years to come. BEST III aims to catalyze the transition to a sustainable BEST facility.

What is BEST III?

- A project coordinated by a diverse, solid consortium composed of IUCN - acting as the project coordinator - Conservation International (CI), the Critical Ecosystem Partnership Fund (CEPF), the French IUCN Committee, the WWF France, the SPAW RAC, the Fundo Regional para a Ciência (FRC), the South Atlantic Environment Research Institute (SAERI), the French Antarctic and Sub Antarctic Territories, De Visu and One Agency-Ausy Belgium
- A field base and participative approach: 7 regional knowledge hubs, coordinated by staff involved in local projects, working for and with local stakeholders. **The SPAW-RAC will act as the Caribbean Hub.**
- A science-based action strategy: for each region, in consultation with local actors, BEST III will develop an Ecosystem Profile, a proven tool to guide long-term conservation

Upcoming lionfish workshops to implement the Regional Lionfish Strategy at the national and sub-regional scale

Now that the Regional Strategy for the Control of Invasive Lionfish in the Wider Caribbean, developed by the ICRI Regional Lionfish Committee (RLC) in collaboration with SPAW-RAC and support from UNEP, has been approved (www.car-spaw-rac.org/IMG/pdf/LF_Strategy_English_complete_10-01_and_cover.pdf), it provides a key resource in promoting and implementing regionally coherent efforts to manage and reduce impacts of the lionfish. Two subregional workshops are now being organized under the coordination of SPAW-RAC with UNEP financial support to facilitate the regional strategy rollout in the continental Spanish speaking countries, and gathering key representatives and conservation actors (fishermen, authorities, managers, NGOs, etc.,). The objective of these workshops is to promote the development of strategies at local and national level with concrete management actions (marketing: consumption of lion-fish as a tool for management and control) based on the regional strategy and through the exchange of experiences.

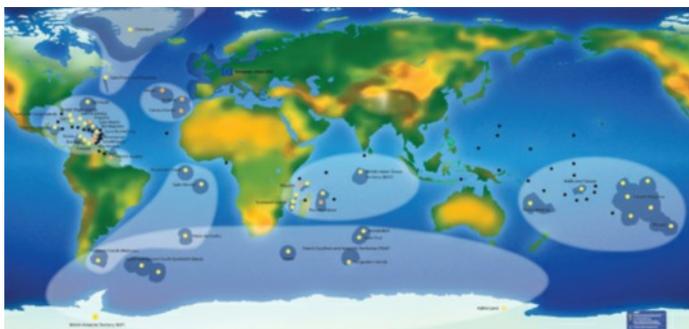
The first workshop is scheduled on 22-23 May 2014, in Guatemala City with MARFUND’s support and will host twenty participants representing México, Belize, Honduras and Guatemala. The second one is slated on 26-27 June 2014, in Panama City with MARVIVA’s support and participants representing Panama, Nicaragua, Colombia and Costa Rica. The workshops will be moderated by Ricardo Gomez Lozano (CONANP México) and Ruben Torres (Reef Check Dominican Republic).

For more information, contact Franck Gourdin at: Franck.gourdin.carspaw@guadeloupe-parcnational.fr

efforts and investments. Ecosystem profiles will include not only an identification of important ecosystems, species and threats, but also an assessment of current investment and an analysis of niche for investment, therefore leading to an investment strategy and programmatic focus. **A dedicated Ecosystem Profile will be developed for European territories in the Caribbean, based largely on the already-existing ecosystem profile established under the Critical Ecosystem Partnership Funds.**

■ A funding opportunity, connecting projects needing support with funders interested in saving some biodiversity hotspots of international importance. BEST III is aiming at sharing funding opportunities and at inaugurating a long-term and sustainable funding mechanism for conservation projects in Europe Overseas. For more information:

Hélène SOUAN (Caribbean team leader) at helene.souan.carspaw@guadeloupe-parcnational.fr and Romain RENOUX (Caribbean hub coordinator) at romain.renoux@rnsn.org for the regional Caribbean hub
Carole Martinez at carole.martinez@IUCN.org and Marie-Aude Sevin at marie-aude.sevin-allouet@IUCN.org for European and International activities.



Fifteenth Session of the Western Central Atlantic Fishery Commission (26-28 March, 2014)



The Fifteenth Session of the Western Central Atlantic Fishery Commission (WECAFC) was held in Port of Spain, Trinidad and Tobago, from 26 to 28 March 2014.

With 29 members attending and the adoption of 4 Recommendations and 5 Resolutions, the Strategic Plan 2014-2020 and the revised Rules of Procedures, this session was the most successful in WECAFC's 40 year history.

Among the main decisions taken, the Commission considered Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated (IUU) fishing of Queen Conch and lobster a major problem in the region, and asked members to renew their efforts to deter fishers from getting involved in IUU fishing in neighbouring countries.

The Commission was also requested to increase attention to Sea Cucumber management and agreed to the establishment of a WECAFC/OSPESCA Working Group on Sharks in particular for the development of national and regional plans of action for their management and conservation. The Commission adopted resolution "on promoting the implementation of the Regional Strategy for the Control of Invasive Lionfish in the Wider

Caribbean, as prepared by the International Coral Reef Initiative and partners".

The Commission adopted the recommendations "on the establishment of a regional closed season for fisheries in the WECAFC area to protect spawning aggregations of groupers and snappers". In discussion, the delegate from the United States announced that they will propose the listing of Nassau Grouper in Annex 3 of the SPAW Protocol at the next SPAW meeting to be held in Colombia (November, 2014)

Finally, the Commission expressed appreciation to the Secretariats of the SPAW Protocol and WECAFC for having initiated communication and collaboration and emphasized that this should form the basis for further collaboration on sustainable management of fish species (lobster, Queen Conch) and agreed to improve coordination and strengthen collaboration on matters of mutual interest (e.g. regional management plans, support to WGs). WECAFC members which had not done so were encouraged to become party to the SPAW Protocol.

The report of the meeting with its annexes is available in English, Spanish and French.

For further information, please write to Raymon Van Anrooy, Secretary WECAFC-FAO - E-mail: WECAFC-Secretariat@fao.org

New environmental project in Haiti within the recently declared second MPA in the country



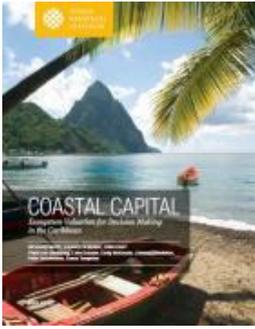
On Wednesday, December 11, 2013 the Haitian government gazetted the creation of Haiti's second marine protected area (MPA) "The Three Bays Marine Park" located in Northeastern Haiti and enclosing an area of 90,000 hectares.

"We congratulate the Haitian government's move to protect our natural resources. We now need to undertake serious actions to ensure the complete commitment of local stakeholders to actively participate in the park management" stated Jean Wiener, Director of the Fondation pour la Protection de la Biodiversité Marine (FoProBiM) in Haiti. The first pilot project was completed successfully by FoProBiM and the SPAW-RAC in the Luly area (2011-2013) with an integrated approach that brought concrete results to local stakeholders and communities on how to protect and sustainably manage their resources while finding alternative and sustainable means of increasing their incomes (including activities on reforestation, beekeeping, trainings, education, sanitation). FoProBiM and SPAW-RAC, acting with the full support of the Haitian government, are now going to expand these previous activities to "The Three Bays Marine Park", through a new project.

The aim is to promote and improve local management of the marine and coastal environment and the protection of biodiversity through a better understanding of the need to sustainably use environmental resources. In 2014-2015 with the assistance and support of the SPAW-RAC, FoProBiM will develop in this area a beekeeping project (installation of 20 bee hives) to provide environmental and educational activities for 500 local stakeholders (including children and adults). This project will assist in the development of a local management committee in the area with "Nature team" (trainings), implement plant nurseries in the area for mangrove reforestation and develop a sea turtle protection poster for nation-wide distribution.

For further information, contact Jean Wiener (FoProBiM): jeanw@foprobim.org and Franck Gourdin (SPAW-RAC): Franck.gourdin.carspaw@guadeloupe-parcnational.fr

PUBLICATIONS



WRI guidebook [Coastal Capital: Ecosystem Valuation for Decision Making in the Caribbean](#) produced with support of UNEP-CEP SPAW programme. The World Resources Institute (WRI) and partners released the newest publication in their [Coastal Capital series](#), a guidebook called [Coastal Capital: Ecosystem Valuation for Decision Making in the Caribbean](#).

This guidebook is intended for economic valuation practitioners—both economists and non-economists—who would like to conduct coastal ecosystem valuation to achieve influence and inform real-world decisions. Summarizing best practices from previous coastal valuations that have successfully informed decision making in the Caribbean, the guidebook leads practitioners through the scoping, analysis, and outreach steps of a valuation effort.



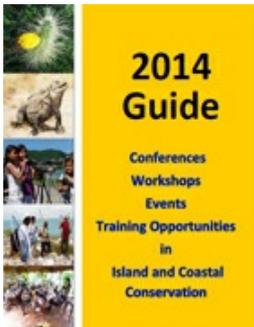
Summary Report for the Mid-term Evaluation of the Critical Ecosystem Partnership Fund (CEPF) Caribbean Islands Biodiversity Hotspot Investment (2010 - 2015), prepared by the Caribbean Natural Resources Institute (CANARI). The report reflects the analysis and recommendations of a multi-stakeholder review that assessed progress of the CEPF Caribbean islands biodiversity hotspot investment at

the half-way mark of the programme in 2013. Download the Executive Summary of the report (PDF) :

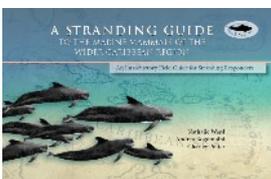
canari.org/documents/CEPFCaribbeanmid-termeval130214.pdf

Download the full report (PDF) or copy and paste this URL into your browser:

www.canari.org/documents/SummaryreportCEPFCaribbeanmid-termeval130214.pdf



This guide is the result of requests from individuals with diverse interests in conservation, living resources management, especially on islands, coastal areas and for updates on annual events in conservation, climate change, tourism, and professional capacity strengthening. It includes therefore a wide range of subjects. [Download the guide](#).



This field guide has been developed by the Eastern Caribbean Cetacean Network with support from the SPAW-RAC, NOAA and Cetacean Society International and aims to provide stranding responders with accurate, practical information to help them

identify stranded animals. The guide is available on-line at : www.car-spaw-rac.org/?Other-documents,82



The report of the IUCN/SPAW/CaMPAM workshop on Marine Protected Areas resilience to climate change (28&29 November 2013, Saint-Martin, FWI) is now available on the SPAW-RAC's website : www.car-spaw-rac.org/IMG/pdf/report-MPA_CCresilience-workshop.pdf

UPCOMING AND RECENT EVENTS

■ **10-17 April 2014** : [34th Annual Symposium on Sea Turtle Biology and Conservation](#), New Orleans, Louisiana, USA <http://iconferences.seaturtle.org/>

■ **April 28 – May 1st 2014** : 27th Meeting of the Convention on the International Trade of Endangered Species, Veracruz, Mexico.

■ **April 28 – May 2nd**: Capacity-building workshop for the Caribbean on ecosystem conservation and restoration to support achievement of the Aichi Biodiversity Targets, Belize City, Belize.

■ **12-14 May 2014** : Workshop on Invasive Alien Species management strategies: learning and sharing best practices between protected areas of the Northern Lesser Antilles, Saint-Martin, FWI

■ **22 - 23 May 2014** : Workshop "Towards the creation of a strategy for the control of lionfish in the Mesoamerican Reef" Guatemala City, Guatemala.

■ **25 – 27 May 2014** : 46th Council Meeting of the Global Environment Facility, Cancun, Quintana Roo, Mexico.

■ **25 – 30 May 2014** : Fifth [Assembly of the Global Environment Facility](#). Cancun, Quintana Roo, Mexico.

■ **18-20 June 2014** : Joint IWC and SPAW/UNEP Workshop to Address Collisions between Marine Mammals and Ships With a Focus on the Wider Caribbean, Panama City, Panama

■ **23 – 27 June 2014** : 18th Meeting of the Subsidiary Body in charge of Scientific, Technical and Technological Advices (SBSTTTA) of the Convention on Biological Diversity, Montreal, Canada.

■ **14-18 August 2014**: 3rd International Marine Conservation Congress Glasgow, Scotland, UK

■ **11 – 18 September 2014**: 65th Meeting of the [International Whaling Commission](#), Portoroz, Slovenia.

■ **CBC COP Meeting** in Korea (...)

■ **November 1st 2014**: 11th Conference of the Parties to the Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals, Guayaquil, Ecuador.

■ **3 – 7 November 2014**: 67th Gulf and Caribbean Fisheries Institute annual meeting, Barbados.

■ **12-19 November 2014**: IUCN World Park Congress, Sydney, Australia.

■ **24 – 29 November 2014** : Intergovernmental Meetings of the Cartagena Convention, Colombia.

USEFUL LINKS

- www.dcnanature.org/category/bionews : BioNews is a monthly newsletter by the Dutch Caribbean Nature Alliance (DCNA), focusing on the biodiversity research and monitoring in the Dutch Caribbean.
- www.worldparkscongress.org : Official website of the next IUCN World Park Congress.
- www.fws.gov/international/pdf/notice-of-funding-availability-latin-america-and-the-caribbean-2014.pdf : Call for proposals of the US Fish and Wildlife Service – Wildlife Without Borders – Latin America and the Caribbean.
- www.ivm.vu.nl/en/projects/Projects/economics/Bonaire : This webpage gives access to all reports and briefs produced further to the total economic valuation performed in Bonaire, Caribbean Netherlands.
- www.canari.org/documents/Capacite8ENGLISHFinal31.pdf. Most recent release of the Newsletter of the Critical Ecosystem Partnership Funds in the Caribbean (CAPACITE).

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