



Specially Protected Areas and Wildlife Protocol and Programme

Newsletter N°7 - September 2012

Commonly used Acronyms

CaMPAM: Caribbean Marine Protected Area Management Network and Forum
CBD: Convention on [Biological Diversity \(CBD\)](#)
COP: Conference of the Parties
CEP: Caribbean Environment Programme
EEZ: Exclusive Economic Zone
GCFI: Gulf and Caribbean Fisheries Institute
FWC: Florida Fish and Wildlife Commission
IWC: International Whaling Commission
IUCN: International Union for Conservation of Nature
LBS: Land-Based Sources and Activities
LIFEWEB: Partnerships for Financing Protected Areas
MMAP: Action Plan for the Conservation of Marine Mammals
MPA: Management Protected Area
NOAA: National Oceanographic and Atmospheric Administration
PAs: Protected Areas
PIMPAC: Pacific Islands Protected Areas Community
REDLAC: Latin American and Caribbean Network of Environmental Funds
REEF: Reef Environmental Education Foundation
RLC: Regional Lionfish Committee
SCSCB: Society for the Conservation and Study of Caribbean Birds
SPAW: Specially Protected Areas and Wildlife
SPAW-RAC: Specially Protected Areas and Wildlife – Regional Activity Centre
STAC: Scientific and Technical Advisory Committee
TNC: The Nature Conservancy
UNEP-CAR/RCU: United Nations Environment Programme - Caribbean Regional Coordination Unit
WIDECASST: Wider Caribbean Sea Turtle Conservation Network

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News of the month

Next meetings of the Caribbean Environment Programme in October 2012, Punta Cana, Dominican Republic

The Secretariat of the Convention for the Protection and Development of the Marine Environment of the Wider Caribbean Region has announced a series of meetings under the Caribbean Environment Programme (CEP) that are convened from 22 - 27 October 2012 in Punta Cana, Dominican Republic with the generous support of the Government of the Dominican Republic :

■ Fifth Meeting of the Scientific and Technical Advisory Committee (STAC) to the Protocol Concerning Specially Protected Areas and Wildlife (SPAW) in the Wider Caribbean Region - **22 October 2012**;

■ Seventh Meeting of the Contracting Parties (COP7) to the Protocol Concerning Specially Protected Areas and Wildlife (SPAW) in the Wider Caribbean Region - **23 October 2012**;

■ First Meeting of the Contracting Parties to the Protocol Concerning Pollution from Land-Based Sources and Activities (LBS) in the Wider Caribbean Region - **24 October 2012**; and

■ Fifteenth Intergovernmental Meeting on the Action Plan for the Caribbean Environment Programme and Twelfth Meeting of the Contracting Parties to the Convention for the Protection and Development of the Marine Environment of the Wider, Caribbean Region - **25-27 October 2012**.

The Intergovernmental Meetings are convened every two years and is held jointly with the meeting of the Contracting Parties to the Cartagena Convention. At these meetings participating Governments determine the content of the Workplan and Budget of the CEP, review its progress and chart a course for the future. The LBS and SPAW meetings will provide an opportunity for a more in-depth review of the thematic sub-programmes on biodiversity and pollution, and their recommendations and decisions will subsequently feed in the discussions of the Intergovernmental meeting.

National Focal Points or their designated representatives of all Contracting Parties (COPs) to the Cartagena Convention, LBS and SPAW Protocols, as well as the States and Territories participating in the Caribbean Environment Programme and the Commission of the European Union are invited to attend the meetings. Other States that have demonstrated concern for the protection of the marine environment of the Wider Caribbean Region, UN and non-UN regional and international organisations, NGOs, donors and private sector representatives participating or interested in the Caribbean Environment Programme are also invited to attend the meetings as observers. Regional and international experts may also be invited to make special presentations to the meetings.

FOCUS ON

Enhancing Law Enforcement for the Caribbean Marine Environment

Sustainable financing and MPA enforcement were the top 2 needs expressed by MPA managers in the 2011 Management Capacity Assessment of Selected Coral Reef Marine Protected Areas in the Caribbean (<http://campam.gcfi.org/CapAssess/CaMPAMCapa>

[cityAssessment2011.pdf](#)). As a follow-up, 22 MPA managers and rangers from The Bahamas, British Virgin Islands, Dominican Republic, Mexico, Belize, Honduras, Saba and Statia, St Barts, St Lucia, St Vincent and the Grenadines and Grenada came together in the Florida Keys for a week in August 2012 to share best practices for strengthening law enforcement for coral reef conservation. This was the first such regional effort to specifically address law enforcement needs of Caribbean



Participants in the conservation law enforcement training (Photo: E. Doyle).

marine protected areas (MPAs). An initiative of the Gulf and Caribbean Fisheries Institute (GCFI) and NOAA's Coral Reef Conservation Program (NOAA CRCP), the training is part of a series of activities in association with the Caribbean Marine Protected Areas Management Network and Forum (CaMPAM) to support the sharing of effective MPA management experiences across international boundaries. Additional sponsorship was provided by the Caribbean Environment Program of the United Nations Environment Program and The Nature Conservancy (TNC). Instructors were provided by the firm MPA Enforcement International, and the Florida Fish and Wildlife Commission (FWC), with support from the NOAA Office of National Marine Sanctuaries. A special invitee from PIMPAC, the Pacific Islands Protected Areas Community, also contributed to the workshop.

The workshop provided an overview of the elements necessary for successful MPA enforcement. Classroom sessions and practical enforcement scenarios covered an array of issues including; deterrence and detection, surveillance, intelligence gathering, partnering with relevant organizations, and the role of community alert networks, as permitted by the realities of the MPA and the nature of its management, such as its size, remoteness, security, and levels of funding, staffing and infrastructure. The group reviewed successful approaches to achieving compliance amongst fishers, yachters and tour operators, and considered examples of public outreach programs and education programs for kids in support of MPAs.

The participants expressed great interest in continued networking, as well as in developing standard operating procedures to guide responses to infringements of MPA rules and regulations, and for general officer safety, which was a recurring workshop theme. The participants are now working with the organizers to develop possible follow-up activities at the regional and country level.

ON-GOING PROJECTS

[Invasive Lionfish in the Caribbean: New training opportunity, and recent steps towards a regional strategy](#)

The second "Lionfish Collecting and Handling" Workshop organized by Reef Environmental Education Foundation (REEF) and the SPAW RAC took place on 15-18 May, 2012 in the Bahamas (Cape Eleuthera Institute, Eleuthera Island) with fruitful exchanges.

It was attended by representatives (key managers and fisheries officers) of the nine following countries: Dominican Republic, US, the Bahamas, Barbados, Trinidad and Tobago, France

(Guadeloupe), British Virgin Islands, The Netherlands (Saba) and Colombia.

The Ad Hoc Committee for the Caribbean Regional Response to Lionfish Invasion (also known as Regional Lionfish Committee (RLC)) has been instrumental in increasing awareness of the lionfish invasion, contributing to a manual of best practices for the control and management of lionfish, and advancing the development of a web portal for lionfish information. The manual finally named "Invasive Lionfish, a guide to control and management" will be published in September and translated in Spanish before distribution in all the Caribbean.

Now, the RLC aims to coordinate the development of a regional strategy or response plan that will help guide action by stakeholders concerned with and impacted by the lionfish invasion.

To that purpose the RLC coordinated the development of a draft lionfish regional strategy during a writing workshop that was held in San Juan, Puerto Rico from 3 to 6 September 2012 and that involved a dozen Caribbean lionfish experts. Ultimately, the regional strategy is intended to allow regional understanding of the problem across social, economic and environmental sectors, provide basis for regional coordination and collaboration among relevant countries, organizations, and institutions for minimizing negative impact of the lionfish, while generating the synergies needed to establish cooperation technical, scientific and legal among the affected countries and to help to develop local actions plans. Participants in the Puerto Rico workshop will continue in the coming weeks, to work on the strategy via e-mail and telephone conferences to improve and enrich the document, before using the next regional and international forums to promote and support of the regional strategy. The Regional Lionfish Control Strategy should be completed in January 2013 then translated in spanish and distributed in the Caribbean.

A presentation of the Regional Lionfish Strategy will be provided at the next Intergovernmental Meeting of the Cartagena Convention (IGM 15) in October in Punta Cana, Dominican Republic.

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Participants in the writeshop.



THE IUCN RED LIST
OF THREATENED SPECIES™

de Développement and Ministère de l'Écologie, du Développement Durable et de l'Énergie).

This Red List work covers the entire insular Caribbean region and aims to assess large sets of species, namely Vertebrates, Echinoderms, some insect groups, all the vascular plants, bryophytes, and fungi. Of critical concern in the area are marine fish species, both for their ecological importance and for their key role in providing livelihood options to local people. Thus the 1st three years (July 2010 - July 2013) of this project are being dedicated to the marine fish assessment.

In September 2012, the benchmark of having more than 600 marine fish assessed by regional and international experts was reached through 2 regional workshops that took place in March 2011 in Barbados and in August 2012 in Jamaica. Additionally about 230 species of fish and more than 130 marine species belonging to other groups such as marine mammals, sea turtles, corals, mangroves and sea grasses that have been already assessed by other initiatives were re-evaluated at the regional level. During these two workshops close to 25 experts were trained to apply the Red List assessment methodology.

Based on this work, a list of 84 threatened marine and coastal species has been proposed to the SPAW Working Group on Species Review for possible inclusion in the annexes of the SPAW protocol. This is being accompanied by a further 14 species of threatened birds assessed with the same methodology by BirdLife International.

IUCN will hold a 3rd and final workshop early in 2013, in order to complete assessment for all shore fish living in the Caribbean. The current assessment series will end in July 2013 however new funding is being sought in the hope of continuing to build the Caribbean regional Red List.

IWC and the next IWC/SPAW workshops on ship strikes and entanglements



Whale sighted during the SBNMS tagging cruise (photo : G.Vandersarren)

From 11 June to 6 July 2012, the 64th Annual Meeting of the International Whaling Commission (IWC) and the associated meetings of its Scientific Committee and other sub-groups were convened in Panama City, Panama.

During the session of the Working Group on "Whale Killing Methods and Associated Welfare Issues", the USA submitted a joint proposal with the Dominican Republic, France, Mexico and Panama, to conduct a series of three workshops on disentanglement and ship strikes in the Wider Caribbean Region.

The main objectives of these workshops were:

- To assist countries and properly trained individuals in responding to large whales that have become entangled in fishing gear or other marine debris.
- To identify high risk areas for vessel strikes in each country
- To assess the magnitude of vessel strikes in the WCR and to stimulate on-going, and initiate new actions where necessary to reduce the frequency of vessel strikes.

UNEP-CAR/RCU and the SPAW-RAC both expressed a strong support for this initiative, and the proposal was endorsed by the Working Group and IWC.

Three workshops will subsequently be organized: one on ship strikes, with venue and dates to be determined but likely in early 2013; a first workshop on disentanglements for english- and spanish-speaking practitioners, in November 2012 in Mexico; and a second disentanglement workshop for french- and english-speakers in February 2013, that will be convened back to back with a multidisciplinary marine mammal workshop organized by the Agoa sanctuary in the French Antilles at those dates.

Two new small grants attributed by CaMPAM for exchanges amongst MPA managers and fishermen

The CaMPAM network and forum had posted in early June, a new request for proposals to apply for a Small Grant Fund for a learning exchange to promote responsible/sustainable marine resources management practices including effective marine managed areas and economic alternatives for fishers.

The Small Grant Fund programme is one of the key programmes of CaMPAM to support and promote effective management of MPAs and sustainable use of marine resources within the Wider Caribbean. Further to a series of grants provided to the countries that participate in the Caribbean Challenge Initiative, this new request for proposals placed a focus on SPAW Parties, that were the only ones eligible this time.

The deadline was originally set for 29 June, but was extended until 13 July 2012. Five proposals were received on time, and were assessed by CaMPAM Executive Team.

Funding priority was given to build capacity of marine resource managers, tour operators, and local trainers to address issues: such as revenue generation for MPAs; creation of alternative livelihoods for fishermen ; development of no-take areas and responsible fishing practices ; education ; development of community-based fisheries management; and assessment of marine environmental services.

A competitive advantage was given to projects that focused on exchanges between sites, that followed-up on previous exchanges, that shared successful experiences, that provided technical assistance, that implemented learning workshops, or that developed longer-term mentorship-apprentice relationships.

Further to the review process, two grants of USD 7,500 were attributed to the Foundation ICRI Colombia en Pro de Los Arrecifes Coralinos for enhancement of the community participation to improve coral reef management effectiveness in Capurgana/Sapzurro, Caribbean Sea, Colombia; and to St Eustatius National Parks Foundation for an exchange with Nevis for a Lionfish Education/Awareness Workshop and Early Detection/Rapid Response Training. The deadline for completion of activities is 31 October, 2012.

Red LAC

The Latin American and Caribbean Network of Environmental Funds- RedLAC, in operation since 1999, is a learning and



innovation platform of more than twenty public and private Environmental Funds (EFs) from the region.

The network implements capacity building events and develops special regional projects with the purpose of creating value for its members and partners. Over the past twenty years, RedLAC Environmental Funds have effectively raised and invested resources and funded more than 5800 projects for the conservation, protection and sustainable use of biodiversity and ecosystems throughout the region.

The main event of the network is the Assembly which happens once a year and it brings together the network's members, key private and public donors and experts on innovative financial mechanisms for conservation and sustainable development. It also enables RedLAC Environmental Funds to display their institutional materials, present project updates and engage with potential partners to explore new alliances.

This year's 14th RedLAC General Assembly will take place in Lima, Peru, between 5-8 November 2012 at the Sonesta Hotel Olivar, hosted by the Peruvian Trust Fund for National Parks and Protected Areas-PROFONANPE, who is celebrating its 20th Anniversary.

The Assembly will have as keynote speaker Dr. Bráulio Dias, Executive Secretary for, the Convention on Biological Diversity's (CBD), who will present updates on the United Nations Sustainable Development Conference Rio+20 and on the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity (COP 11).

Other presentations include the discussion of the benefits and costs of using a long term financing mechanism (trust funds) for Protected Area Management versus the option of direct investments in short term projects, and another panel will analyze the financial performance of Environmental Funds in 2011 and explore future market scenarios.

The meeting will include a visit to the Paracas National Reserve, where the host fund will showcase its learning's from negotiating and partnering with the private sector, based on a real case study. For more information, please visit www.redlac.org.



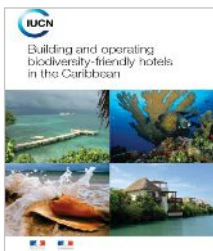
PUBLICATIONS



Sustainable Development 20 Years on from the Earth Summit:

Progress, gaps and strategic guidelines for Latin America and the Caribbean. The present document is divided into two parts: an analysis of progress made and difficulties encountered in Latin America and the Caribbean in implementing global commitments on sustainable development

since 1992, and proposed guidelines for moving towards sustainable development in the region. www.eclac.cl/publicaciones/xml/8/46098/riomas20-ingles.pdf.

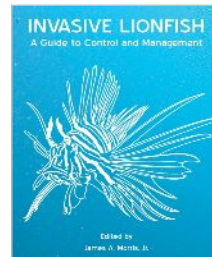


Building and operating biodiversity friendly hotels in the Caribbean

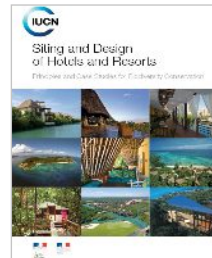
<http://data.iucn.org/dbtw-wpd/edocs/2012-014.pdf> ([english](#))

<http://data.iucn.org/dbtw-wpd/edocs/2012-014-Es.pdf> ([spanish](#))

<http://data.iucn.org/dbtw-wpd/edocs/2012-014-Fr.pdf> ([french](#))



Lionfish manual: A guide to control and management. This publication will be available from Gulf and Caribbean Fisheries Institute (GCFI). www.gcfi.org



Siting and design of hotels and resorts : principles and case studies for biodiversity conservation

<http://data.iucn.org/dbtw-wpd/edocs/2012-013.pdf> ([english](#))

<http://data.iucn.org/dbtw-wpd/edocs/2012-013-Es.pdf> ([spanish](#))

<http://data.iucn.org/dbtw-wpd/edocs/2012-013-Fr.pdf> ([french](#))

Funding opportunity : FP7 research funding for EU overseas

Launched on the 10 July 2012, the last call for proposal FP7 (short name for "Seventh Framework Programme for Research and Technological Development") is the EU's main instrument for funding research in Europe and it will run from 2007 to 2013.

FP7 is made up of 4 main blocks of activities forming specific programmes: ideas, people, capacities and cooperation. The latter aims to foster cooperation and strengthen ties between industry and research within a transnational framework.

"Cooperation" supports research actions in the following thematic areas:

- Health
- Food, Agriculture and Biotechnology
- Information and Communication Technologies
- Nanosciences, Nanotechnologies, Materials and new Production Technologies
- Energy
- Environment (including Climate Change), and more...

Under the cooperation programme, one item focuses specifically on the overseas countries and territories: item "g" ("Research partnerships to sustainably manage the biodiversity in EU Outermost Regions and Overseas Countries and Territories") under the topic ENV.2013.6.5-2 "Mobilizing environmental knowledge for policy and society". The Outermost Regions (OR) and Overseas Countries and Territories (OCT) of the European Union in tropical and sub-tropical regions are well-known hotspots of terrestrial, freshwater and marine biodiversity.

According to previous research their geographical isolation, diverse direct human pressures, natural hazards and/or climate change contribute to the progressing decline of their extraordinarily rich biodiversity. Strong research partnerships need to be established or maintained among all relevant stakeholders, research funding bodies and policy makers in those regions to develop and apply sustainable management for biodiversity preservation in the OR and OCT as well as to assess the role of biodiversity in their economic, social and cultural development, and the purpose of FP7 is to further support these progresses.

For further information and for downloading the package for application, please consult: <http://cordis.europa.eu> Please note that the deadline to submit applications is October, 16th 2012 at 5pm (Brussels local time).

UPCOMING EVENTS

- **22 October 2012:** Fifth Meeting of the Scientific and Technical Advisory Committee (STAC) to the Protocol Concerning Specially Protected Areas and Wildlife (SPA) in the Wider Caribbean Region, Punta Cana, Dominican Republic.
- **23 October 2012:** Seventh Meeting of the Contracting Parties (COP7) to the Protocol Concerning Specially Protected Areas and Wildlife (SPA) in the Wider Caribbean Region, Punta Cana, Dominican Republic.
- **25-27 October 2012:** Fifteenth Intergovernmental Meeting on the Action Plan for the Caribbean Environment Programme and Twelfth Meeting of the Contracting Parties to the Convention for the Protection and Development of the Marine Environment of the Wider Caribbean Region, Punta Cana, Dominican Republic.
- **29 October - 02 November 2012:** 9th Congress on Marine Sciences - MarCuba 2012, Havana, Cuba.
- **05-08 November:** 14th RedLAC Assembly, Lima, Peru.
- **05-09 November:** 65th GCFI - Santa Marta, Columbia.
- **02-15 November:** 2nd meeting of the MPA managers of St Martin, St Bart, Saba, St Eustatius, St Maarten and Anguilla, Saba

USEFUL LINKS

- **REDLAC:** The Latin American and Caribbean Network of Environmental Funds- RedLAC, in operation since 1999, is a learning and innovation platform of more than twenty public and private Environmental Funds (EFs) from the region. The network implements capacity building events and develops special regional projects with the purpose of creating value for its members and partners. Latin American and Caribbean Network of environmental Funds. www.redlac.org.
- **C-Fish** is an initiative that aims to strengthen CARIBSAVE MPAs "fishing" in the region and local communities. <http://caribsave.org>
- **CaMPAM MPA database:** Several new functionalities were added since the last update. For more details please go to <http://campam.gcfi.org/CaribbeanMPA/CaribbeanMPA.php>.

Next MM monitoring campaign in the French Antilles EEZ and neighboring countries



Marine mammal monitoring campaign in Guadeloupe, FWI. (photo : G. Vandersarren).

Here we go again! The second marine mammal monitoring campaign in and around the Agoa sanctuary, consisting in a series of three missions, will open in October. (for further details on the first missions that were organized back in March and April 2012, please look at the previous release of the Newsletter: www.car-spaw-rac.org/IMG/pdf/SPA_W_Newsletter_No6.pdf).

Coordinated by the French Marine Protected Areas Agency with the financial and technical assistance of the SPAW-RAC, this second scientific campaign has for objective, like the first one, to prospect the waters of the Agoa sanctuary (EEZ of the French Antilles : St Martin, Guadeloupe, Martinique and St Barthélemy) and the waters of the neighboring islands (Saba, Statia, St Maarten, Anguilla) in order to collect data on marine mammal distribution and abundance but also data on their environment and on human activities (shipping, pollution...). By comparing the results of the two campaigns, it will be possible to get an idea of the seasonal evolutions of some species of cetaceans.

The design of the campaign remains the same than in March and April: two vessels operating in parallel and prospecting successively three areas (Northern Islands, Guadeloupe and Martinique). Many caribbean partners were invited to come on board (Trinidad & Tobago, Venezuela, Dominican Republic, USA, Dominica...), and most of them answered favourably, demonstrating the growing interest of caribbean islands in sharing experience and data, applying the same monitoring procedures in their waters (in order to collect and share harmonized data) and working collectively together on marine mammal issues.

All the partners who will participate in the next campaign are marine environment experts, various scientific, technical or official institutions and are skilled in identification, acoustics, genetics and other important aspects of marine mammal science.

For this second campaign, no humpback whales will be spotted as they will all be in the northern part of their range. But sperm whales and other cetaceans can be relied on to be present, and a particular focus will be made on sperm whale acoustics and photo-ID. More about the results of this second campaign in the next SPAW newsletter!

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