



Specially Protected Areas and Wildlife Protocol and Programme

Newsletter N°13 - July 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

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

Contents

News of the month:

Coral reef conservation.....1

Focus on:

Lionfish workshop.....2

On-going projects:

■ Invasive Alien Species Management Strategies Workshop : Learning and sharing best practices between northern islands protected areas.....3

■ Joint IWC/SPAW Workshop to address collisions between marine mammals and ships with a focus on the wider Caribbean3

■ Towards the completion of the UNEP/Spain Lifeweb project : Development of Scenarios for Transboundary Marine Mammal Management in the Wider Caribbean, San Juan, Puerto Rico, 23 & 24 April 20143

SPAW PAs / CaMPAM news

■ Update on the ECMMAN project5

■ The process to list new Protected Areas under SPAW at COP 8 (November 2014) is ongoing. New on-line tools available to generate statistics and search through SPAW Protected Areas data5
■ Factsheets available in August for the 18 Protected Areas listed under SPAW Protocol.....6
■ The five projects funded as part of the cooperation program for the Protected Areas listed under the SPAW Protocol are now completed..7
■ The SPAW/CaMPAM mentoring programme has started as a pilot project.....7

Publications.....8

Upcoming events.....8

Useful links.....8

News of the month

Coral reef conservation

UNEP and IUCN release a new report on the Status and Trends of the Caribbean Coral Reefs.

With only about one-sixth of the original coral cover left, most Caribbean coral reefs may disappear in the next 20 years, according to the latest study by the Global Coral Reef Monitoring Network (GCRMN) Status and Trends of Caribbean Coral Reefs: 1970-2012. This report, led by Jeremy Jackson, the GCRMN Science Director, is the most detailed and comprehensive study of its kind published to date and is the result of a three-year joint effort of the International Coral Reef Initiative's (ICRI) GCRMN, the International Union for the Conservation of Nature (IUCN), and the United Nations Environmental Programme (UNEP), through the Caribbean Environment Programme and SPAW. It reveals more than 50% decline in living corals throughout the Caribbean over the past half century, but also delivers a crucial message on the importance of restoring the population of fish that eat seaweed, as Caribbean reefs are gradually getting smothered by algae.

For more detailed information on the current status of the Caribbean coral reefs in the GCRMN report [on ICRI's website](#), and its summaries, available in French, Spanish and English are also posted on [the SPAW-RAC website](#).

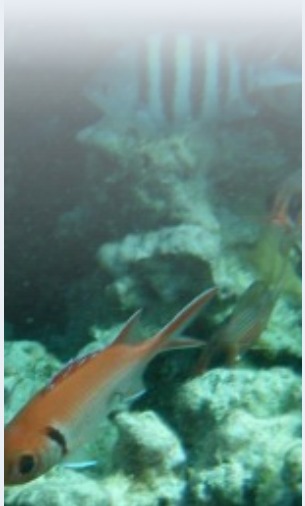
UNEP-CEP and SPAW-RAC convening a regional workshop for more Effective

Coral Reef Monitoring and data management in the Caribbean.

UNEP-CEP and its SPAW-RAC have actively supported and participated in the production of the previous report and will follow its findings and recommendations, by developing several actions to help improve coral reef conservation in the region. In particular, issues linked with the monitoring of Caribbean coral reefs will be specifically addressed in the near future, during an expert Workshop to be convened in Curacao hosted by the Caribbean Netherlands, UNEP-CEP and the SPAW-RAC:

The GCRMN report, along with several others reports and recent publications, described the coral reef monitoring in the wider Caribbean as "scattered, disorganized, and largely ineffective". It highlighted the weaknesses and inefficiency of the current coral monitoring network, due to the lack of information dissemination and inconsistency in methods and efforts throughout the region.

There are many projects on reefs and associated ecosystems in the region, but the weak monitoring makes it hard to know if they are effective, and to learn on existing and previous experiences. The level of pressure that the reefs are facing is hardly assessed and finally the real impact of extreme events such as bleaching is generally poorly documented. Both a better management and restoration of reefs in the region require strengthened monitoring, that is consistent throughout the region, useful with respect to local, national



and regional needs, and carefully thought to be cost-effective and feasible given the limited resources of the Caribbean islands.

The current Caribbean GCRMN network functionality can be defined at three levels of action: data collection, information archiving and dissemination, and internal network communication. Those weaknesses are coupled with the difficulty of securing adequate funding and means to support coral reef monitoring in a systematic and sustained way. Therefore, while proper assessments of reef condition in the Caribbean might be challenging, there is also an important loss of information due to a major gap with exchange of experiences and expertise within the region.

To address these dysfunctions and the urgent need for a more effective coral reef monitoring in the wider Caribbean region, coral reef and conservation experts in the region decided to brainstorm and rethink the regional network. This common impulse will materialize in the form of a regional workshop dedicated to coral reef conservation network, that will be held in Curacao from the 6th to the 8th of August 2014. Organized with the support of the Caribbean Netherlands, UNEP-CEP and its SPAW-RAC, this event will gather around twenty coral reefs and conservation experts from various locations from the whole Caribbean region, under the specific thematic "*Global Coral Reef Monitoring Network (GCRMN) Wider Caribbean: Review, improve and revitalize the network and the nodes for more effective coral reef monitoring and data management*". Participants will include representatives of institutions involved in the monitoring of reefs and GCRMN nodes for the region.

FOCUS ON

Lionfish : Two regional workshops to support the development of subregional and national action plans in Central America for strategy implementation to control invasive lionfish



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 (available at: www.car-spaw-rac.org) provides key resources for Caribbean countries to promote and implement local and national action plans to manage and reduce impacts of the lionfish. Under this framework, two regional workshops under the coordination of SPAW-RAC with financial support from UNEP have just been completed to support the development of subregional and national action plans for strategy implementation to control invasive lionfish in Belize, Mexico, Honduras, Guatemala, Nicaragua, Costa Rica, Panama and Colombia and involving 31 key representatives of those countries (authorities, academia, managers, fisheries, conservation actors, private sector).

The first workshop has been organized in Guatemala City in May 22-23, 2014 with local coordination and support from MARFUND (www.marfund.org) which aims to build the first draft action plan and sub-strategy for the control of the lionfish in the MesoAmerican Reef Region (Belize, Mexico, Honduras and Guatemala). A second



version is under development, with the working group formed during the event to be finalized in August 2014?

The second workshop, similar to the first in its construction and development, has just been held in Panama in June 26-27 with 30 key representatives from Nicaragua, Costa Rica, Panama and Colombia and with the local coordination and support of the MarViva Foundation (www.marviva.net).

It also aims to start the development of a sub-strategy for the region of Colombia, Costa Rica, Nicaragua and Panama which should be finalized this summer and take into account what is currently being developed for the Mesoamerican Reef region (SAM).

Those events also caught the attention of local authorities and decision makers at the final press conferences, which brought together many local medias (TV, radio, ...) with "tasting" sessions involving local restaurants. Both workshops were facilitated by Ricardo Gomez Lozano, Regional Director for the Yucatan (CONANP México and ICRI national representative) and Dr Ruben Torres, Director of REEF CHECK in Dominican



Republic, both members of the Ad Hoc Committee (Regional Lionfish Committee-RLC) and recognized as experts on this issue.

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

Building MPA Management Capacity and Coral Reef Resilience in the Caribbean's Mesoamerican Reef Region.

The Toledo Institute for Development and Environment (TIDE) is partnering with the Gulf & Caribbean Fisheries Institute (GCFI) by implementing a new project under a grant from NOAA Coral Reef Conservation Program. This project, worth almost US\$300,000 to GCFI, is entitled "Building MPA Management Capacity and Coral Reef Resilience in the Caribbean's Mesoamerican Reef Region." TIDE and GCFI orchestrated the regional collaboration, which includes nine MPA in the MAR Region.

The project focuses on building management capacity in these MPA and addressing capacity gaps identified in a 2009 assessment by CaMPAM. The diverse management capacity needs will be addressed by eight sub-projects, tied together under the banner of Building Coral Reef Resilience.

TIDE will be heavily involved in the project, including:

- Hosting a regional Workshop in April 2015 - 'MPA Management Challenges Through a Climate Change Lens'.
- Adapting a community-level CC adaption planning toolkit for the Caribbean and field-testing it in two vulnerable coastal communities buffering PHMR (Punta Negra and Monkey River).
- Providing micro-grants to those communities to implement their LEAP plans. This will be done in parallel with a similar sub-project by BAS for buffer communities of Half Moon Caye and Blue Hole Natural Monument.
- Replicating the successful community stewards program in the Monumento Natural Marino Archipiélago Cayos Cochinos, in Honduras.

For more information, please contact James Lord, Development director for TIDE: jlord@tidebelize.org

ONGOING PROJECTS

Invasive Alien Species management strategies workshop : Learning and sharing best practices between northern islands protected areas - St Martin, FWI, 12-14 May 2014



A workshop organized by the Réserve Naturelle de St Martin. Funding provided by CaMPAM and the SPAW-RAC as part of the grants awarded through the specific Small Grants for SPAW-listed Protected Areas

Context

The spread of invasive alien species is one of the greatest threats to the native biodiversity in the Caribbean islands especially to its endemic species. The most damaging invasive aliens on our islands are typically vertebrates such as goats, feral cats, pigs, rats or iguanas. Many endemic and flagship species are now at risk if we do not implement proper eradication plan on the ground. Most protected areas in the northern islands of the Lesser Antilles face the same issues: rats threatening marine birds, invasive iguanas threatening native iguanas or feral cats threatening birds. Invasive species are recorded in a wide range of habitats. Marine habitats are also concerned, not to mention lionfish issues that are already commonly discussed at a regional scale; the new invasion by *Halophila* is an important concern for marine protected area managers.

In order to learn from each other and share best actions, the goal of this workshop was to strengthen management practices on the ground and to benefit from the most relevant and cost effective tools and actions related to alien species eradication.

Objectives

During this workshop participants focused on 4 major invasive species: rodents, iguanas, plant species and invasive sea grass (*Halophila stipulacea*).

For each invasive species group the workshop defined

- Scientific watch on alien invasive species
- Alien invasive species monitoring plans
- Eradication plans
- Long term impact assessments on threatened endemic species

Participants shared their experiences and lessons learned with control and/or eradication of each category of invasive alien species, including comparing their methods, baits, protocols, etc. A field mission was organized to compare methods and practices for the removal of rodents on Flat Island in the Réserve Naturelle de Saint-Martin.

Participants

Several protected areas from EU overseas territories in the Caribbean attended the workshop including: Saba National Park, St Eustatius National Parks, Petite-Terre National Reserve (Guadeloupe), Anguilla Park, Sint-Maarten Marine Park Foundation, Réserve Naturelle Nationale de Saint-Martin, and partners such as the government of Anguilla, the Office National de la Chasse et de la Faune Sauvage (ONCFS) and the Royal Society for the Protection of Birds (RSPB).

Joint IWC-SPAW workshop to address collisions between marine mammals and ships with a focus on the wider Caribbean

At IWC 64 (2012, Panama), several IWC member countries: Dominican Republic, France, Mexico, Netherlands, Panama and USA, along with UNEP-CEP-SPAW, proposed three workshops to address human impacts to marine mammals in the Wider Caribbean: two training workshops, focusing on the forensic detection of human impacts and the response to entangled large whales and a third workshop, to focus on understanding and mitigating ship strikes in Panama, with two main objectives :

- gathering data on the risks associated with particular species and areas;
- identifying potential mitigation actions.

The two training workshops on disentanglement have been completed respectively in La Paz in 2012 and in St. Martin, FWI, in 2013.

The joint IWC and UNEP-CEP-SPAW ship strike workshop was held from 18th to the 20th of June 2014 at the Gamboa Rainforest Resort at the Panama Canal. It strived to advance all organizations' plans for mitigating collisions between marine mammals and vessels. This meant placing a priority on local and regional topics that may have broader global applications while also focusing on global topics, especially those with applicability to the region. The workshop engaged a wide array of interested stakeholders (including representatives from governments, scientists/academia, shipping and boating industries, the IMO, and environmental organizations) in order to incorporate their perspective on the utility and feasibility of existing or proposed mitigation measures.

The workshop reviewed different current mitigation measures and discussed their effectiveness. This event was also the occasion to assess regional data and data gaps, along with existing and planned research and mitigation actions. This was discussed in the context of a concise review of global data and gaps along with existing and planned research and mitigation actions. The report of the meeting, including specific recommendations to further document and mitigate ship strikes in the Wider Caribbean, will be disseminated shortly.

Towards the completion of the UNEP/Spain Lifeweb project : Development of Scenarios for Transboundary Marine Mammal Management in the Wider Caribbean, San Juan, Puerto Rico, 23 & 24 April 2014

Launched in 2010, with financial support from the Government of Spain, the UNEP LifeWeb-Spain Project: "Broad-scale Marine Spatial Planning of Mammal Corridors and Protected Areas in Wider Caribbean and Southeast & Northeast Pacific" is coordinated by UNEP, UNEP-CEP and the SPAW-RAC. They have

Call for contributions at the 67th GCFI on going (3-7 November 2014, Barbados)

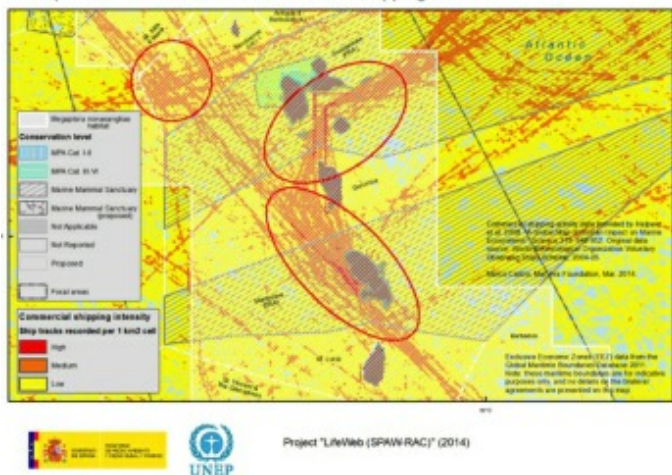
The 67th Annual meeting of the Gulf and Caribbean Fisheries Institute will be held in Barbados, during 3-7 November 2014 at the Accra Beach Hotel and Spa (www.accrabeachhotel.com).

The main theme of the 67th GCFI is "Small islands, big issues: applying fisheries and marine science to solve problems and create opportunities." The program features multi-disciplinary and various sessions with thematic workshops, with contributions (papers, posters, films) now being solicited by GCFI.

Abstracts for the 67th GCFI are due 15 August 2014. Abstracts will be accepted in English, French, and Spanish. Please note that all abstracts must be accompanied by English, Spanish and French titles and submitted using the secure online abstract Submission Form found via the User Portal.

Registration can also be completed online via the User Portal. You can check the GCFI website (www.gcfi.org) for registration rates. For more information, please visit the conference web page available in English, Spanish and French at: www.gcfi.org

Guadeloupe - Martinique critical area
Humpback Whale Habitat vs. Commercial Shipping Routes



convened the "LifeWeb-Spain UNEP-CEP Meeting on Scenarios for Transboundary Marine Mammal Management in the Wider Caribbean" that was held 23th - 24th of April 2014 in San Juan, Puerto Rico.

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 be developed using the work previously 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 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 held in Puerto Rico in April were to review and discuss the scenarios and the recommendations, and identify the way forward at the local, national, and Caribbean scale. Representative of all countries and territories included in the target area were invited and included Dutch, French, and UK OR and OCTs, as well as the members of the expert group. The scenarios were presented and further revised and refined.

The following are some of the recommendations from the meeting:

- UNEP-CEP SPAW to explore with relevant countries (namely Dominican Republic, Puerto Rico, US Virgin Islands, British Virgin Islands) further development of a marine mammal management scenario and considering the additional inputs provided by the Meeting.
- Data and information gaps as outlined in this report (see paragraph 86) be addressed strategically in collaboration with other organisations and based on readily available information (e.g. fishing efforts, land-based sources pollution, marine mammal distribution etc).
- Data information needs identified by countries at the present meeting be taken into consideration when developing additional support activities.
- Specific follow-up activities be developed on the framework of the SPAW Marine Mammal Action Plan and the LifeWeb Project with interested countries on a case by case basis in order to facilitate further progress and maintain the momentum generated by the Project.
- UNEP-CEP SPAW to explore options to tailor dissemination of results of this Project to national governments and relevant fora such as the IWC/SPAW Ship Vessel Strike Workshop International Whaling Commission, Convention on Biological Diversity, Convention on Migratory Species, other Regional Seas Conventions, ICMPA and the IUCN WPC, FAO/WECAFC, the CLME Project, CRFM and the OECS Ocean Governance initiative.

- The electronic project working group established to provide technical inputs in the process of scenario construction presented at this meeting will be expanded to include all participants and used for dissemination and exchange of information.

- Future follow-up activities and actions be incorporated in the proposed workplan and budget of the SPAW Programme as feasible.

- The results of this LifeWeb Project will be presented at the upcoming meeting of Contracting Parties of SPAW (COP 8) in November 2014.

- Explore possible synergies for data collection relevant to the further implementation of MSP processes in the Wider Caribbean with the cruise ship industry, taking the opportunity of their upcoming " Florida & Caribbean Cruise ship association Meeting" (St. Maarten, 6-10 Oct 2014).

The document presenting the scenarios and their development is available at : www.car-spaw-rac.org as well as the report of the Puerto Rico meeting. For more information on the Lifeweb project, please consult: www.car-spaw-rac.org/?Marine-Mammals-Regional,278.

Jean Wiener, FoProBiM Director, honored by President Martelly and Minister of Environment Thomas on Earth Day in Haiti

The President of Haiti, HE Michel Martelly, presented the Haitian government's first ever environmental award to Jean Wiener, Director



Jean Wiener, FoProBiM Director and Yves-André Wainwright, CANARI Board Member, awarded by President Martelly and Minister of Environment Thomas on Earth Day in Haiti.

of the Fondation pour la Protection de la Biodiversité Marine (FoProBiM) for his decades long work in helping to protect and manage Haiti's coastal and marine environment while engaging in poverty alleviation. The Erick Eckman Award honors innovative initiatives in the field of the fight against poverty associated with environmental management.

The President emphasized efforts targeted at raising individual and national awareness of the degradation of Haiti's environment, one of the main priorities for the government, and the need to engage further in its protection, especially in light of climate change, and promised to increase his government's commitment to tackle environmental issues. "Mr. Wiener is a model to emulate for our country," he said.

The President, accompanied by the Minister of Environment, Dr. Jean-Francois Thomas also congratulated Mr. Wiener on his recent winning of the Whitley Gold Award for 2014 presented at an awards ceremony in London by HRH Princess Anne on May 8th. At other meetings Mr. Wiener was also congratulated by The Right Honourable Michaëlle Jean, former Governor General of Canada and current UNESCO Special Envoy to Haiti, and Mr. Robert Labrousse, the Secretary of State for External Cooperation.

In the next months, SPAW RAC and FoProBiM will initiate a new pilot project in Northeastern Haiti in the second Marine Protected Area of the country called "The Three Bays Marine Park" and implement various activities to ensure the commitment of local stakeholders to participate in the future Park's management.

Mr. Yves-André Wainwright, a Director/ Elected Partner on CANARI's Board (Caribbean Natural Resources Institute) was also awarded during Earth Day receiving the Schiller Nicolas award in Haiti for his work tackling soil degradation and building community resilience against environmental vulnerability. His technical expertise in environmental management, governance and sustainable livelihoods is contributing to the development and implementation of a number of CANARI's programmes.

Congratulations to both!

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

SPAW-listed sites and CaMPAM News

Update on the ECMMAN project

The CaMPAM-ECMMAN Small Grant Program



The UNEP-CEP SPAW Program and its Regional Activity Center (SPAW-RAC), through its CaMPAM Network and Forum (CaMPAM), have launched a special Edition of the Small Grant Program **to assist the countries associated with the project 'Climate Resilient Eastern Caribbean Marine Managed Areas Network (ECMMAN)**' led by The Nature Conservancy and funded by the German Federal Ministry for the Environment, Nature Conservation, Building and Nuclear Safety (BMUB). The first call for proposals under the ECMMAN project was launched on March 1st, 2014 (see [Release #12](#) of the SPAW Newsletter for more information on the project).

The goal of this first (out of two) call for proposals is to assist the 6 OECS countries of the ECMMAN project (Antigua and Barbuda, Dominica, Grenada, Saint Kitts and Nevis, Saint Lucia, and St. Vincent and the Grenadines) with financial resources and expertise to improve the capacity for creating new MMAs and better managing the existing ones, as well as to meet the countries national and international commitments. After two extensions of the deadline for receiving proposals that had initially been set on May 9th, four countries have submitted proposals to date : Grenada, Saint Lucia, St. Kitts and Nevis and St. Vincent and the Grenadines. All proposals have been endorsed by the ECMMAN National Focal Points for each country, and have been reviewed by the project team.

The project for Grenada, named « Strengthening the management of the marine areas (MPA) by improving enforcement and building understanding of their role in protecting coastal ecosystem services to the people of Grenada” presented by the Grenada Funds for Conservation in close collaboration with the government of Grenada, is now finalized and the corresponding MoU has been signed by the SPAW-RAC on June 23rd.

The other MoUs corresponding to the three other proposals submitted respectively by St Vincent and the Grenadines, St Kitts and Nevis, and St Lucia, are expected to be signed shortly once the proposals have been revised and completed by the in-country partners. Dominica and Antigua and Barbuda are expected to submit their proposals by the end of June or at the beginning of July 2014.

The projects will then run in each country for the next 18 months, the deadline for implementation being the last quarter of 2015. A second call for proposals will be launched in mid-2015.

To learn more about the CaMPAM-ECMMAN Small Grant Program, download the newly published leaflet ([the file is downloadable here](#))

Implementation of other components of the ECMMAN Projects

■ Completion of the national consultations

Further to the first meeting of the ECMMAN in January 2014 in Saint Lucia which brought together all ECMMAN partners,

ECMMAN national consultations were held in each of the 6 OECS beneficiary countries. The consultations helped define, for each country, what were the targets and priorities to be supported during the ECMMAN project, in particular through the CaMPAM-ECMMAN Small Grant Program.

■ Recruitment of the In-country Project Coordinators (IPC)

Over the period February to April 2014, interviews were conducted to recruit the IPC in each country. The IPCs will provide technical and logistical support to the Conservancy's Eastern Caribbean ECMMAN project staff, project implementing partners (UNEP/SPAW-RAC/CAMPAM; OECS Commission; PCI Media Impact; and CRFM/CNFO), the national focal points, and other government partners and stakeholders. Further, they will coordinate and support the execution of all project activities and ensure the project is effectively implemented and serves the needs of the country.

A meeting of the IPC will be held on 8 - 9 July 2014 in Grenada. The main objective of this meeting will be to provide an opportunity to dialogue with some of the TNC ECMMAN staff and some of the ECMMAN implementing partners about the implementation of ECMMAN project activities.

■ Meeting of the Livelihoods Working Group

Another major objective of the ECMMAN project is the implementation of sustainable livelihood initiatives in the countries via another small grants initiative. This initiative, called the Livelihood Support Fund is being implemented by the OECS Commission. The first meeting of the Livelihoods Working Group was conducted on June 03, 2014. At this meeting the terms of reference for the group, the call for proposals and applications for the LSP, and the proposal evaluation criteria were discussed. The call for proposals for Livelihoods will be launched shortly.

The process to list new Protected Areas under SPAW at COP8 (November 2014) is ongoing.

The process of listing Protected Areas under SPAW in view of the upcoming Conference of the Parties begins to reach its full speed! To date, the SPAW Secretariat expects that between 13 and 19 PAs be proposed by Parties for listing at COP8. The Parties that already expressed their willingness to participate in

New call for proposals under the EU LIFE instrument

LIFE (L'Instrument Financier pour l'Environnement) is the EU's financial instrument supporting environmental and nature conservation projects throughout the EU. Since 1992, LIFE has co-financed some 4,171 projects, contributing approximately €3.4 billion euros to the protection of the environment. The new LIFE Regulation has been published in the Official Journal of the European Union, the official record of EU legislation. The Regulation - which was published on 20th December 2013 - establishes the Environment and Climate Action sub-programmes of the LIFE Programme for the next funding period, 2014–2020. The budget for the period is set at €3.4 billion in current prices, with €2.6 billion for Environment projects and the balance for projects on climate change. LIFE Environment covers the following areas: 1), Environment and Resource Efficiency ; 2), Nature and Biodiversity ; 3), Environmental Governance and Information.

The new call for proposals has been launched in late June.

Look at:

<http://ec.europa.eu/environment/life/funding/life2014/index.htm>

for its release and more information, including the LIFE regulation, sub-programmes, categories of projects etc.

Of note, with this new LIFE instrument, not only European countries and Outermost regions are eligible (I.e EU overseas territories with a status of European Regions), but also of all Overseas Countries and Territories (Individuals and public/private bodies). Interventions in countries not directly participating in the LIFE programme, as well as participation of legal persons based in those countries with activities funded by LIFE should exceptionally be possible, provided specific conditions are met.

the process include St Lucia, Grenada, St Vincent and the Grenadines, Barbados, Dominican Republic, Bahamas, Kingdom of Netherlands (including Sint Maarten), Belize, France, Colombia and Cuba. Actually, most of the managers of the Protected Areas identified by Parties as candidates for listing under SPAW are working on the presentation reports with our daily technical support. Once completed, the draft reports will be submitted to the national SPAW Focal Point for approval and sent to the SPAW Secretariat. Then, the SPAW Secretariat with the support of the SPAW RAC will conduct a standard evaluation process which includes external review (PA working group), in order to determine whether the submitted protected areas are consistent with the guidelines and common criteria adopted by the SPAW Parties, in view of the presentation for the application of the STAC6 for recommendation and COP8 for final adoption.

The presentation reports of all Protected Areas identified as potential candidates for listing are expected by the SPAW Secretariat this summer at the latest so that the review process can be completed before the next COP. Note that the list of potential candidates for the next round of listing under SPAW is in no way closed – additional Protected Areas can still be presented by any Party to the SPAW Protocol provided that the presentation reports are formally submitted by September.

In order to provide support to Parties that have expressed interest to submit Protected Areas for listing but have limited capacities to prepare the corresponding reports, UNEP-CEP and its SPAW-RAC, in collaboration with GCFI will shortly launch a call for small grants to support such preparation of presentation reports. The call will be competitive, and the grants will be managed by GCFI. 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.

Factsheets available in August for the 18 Protected Areas listed under SPAW



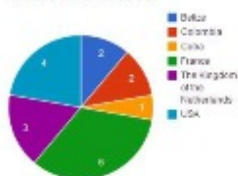
Factsheets have just been compiled by SPAW-RAC using the data provided by the Parties for the Protected Areas listed under SPAW and reviewed by the managers. When finalized (and translated for the French and Spanish ones), the factsheets will be posted on our website to be shared in the Caribbean. You'll find here a sample with the National Reserve of Saint Martin:

www.car-spaw-rac.org/IMG/pdf/Factsheet_France_Rserve_Naturelle_de_Saint-Martin.pdf.

New on-line tools available to generate statistics and search through SPAW Protected Areas data on : www.spaw-palisting.org

Spaw-Listed Protected Areas Statistics
Country

Distribution of the areas by country



The SPAW-RAC has just completed the development of two new statistic tools to generate statistics and search through the data contained in the SPAW-listed Protected Areas reports. Both are freely available on our website dedicated to the listing process (www.spaw-palisting.org) together with an interactive map.

Please visit www.spaw-palisting.org/stats which displays a first set of statistics produced



from data provided by Parties) and www.spaw-palisting.org/search which offers a tool to explore the database: you can either select one single criteria, or combine several of them being ticking

the corresponding boxes ; then click on "search" at the bottom of the page to access at all the SPAW-listed Protected Areas that meet your search criteria.

The interactive map will be improved in the coming weeks to integrate precisely the geographic boundaries of the protected areas listed. The image is blocking the txt.

Departure and arrival :

Director of the SPAW-RAC

The current director of the SPAW-RAC, H el ene SOUAN, will leave her position on September 1st, 2014. After more than five years with the SPAW-RAC, Ms SOUAN is taking a new position with the Ministry of Environment in continental France. She will be replaced as of September 1st by Dr Anne Fontaine, whom, after her first career in environmental management with the French government, has just completed a PhD in oceanography. Dr Fontaine was, among other positions, the head of the Marine Biodiversity Unit in the French Ministry of Environment, with a particular focus on Regional Seas Conventions.

New arrival at the SPAW-RAC : Project Coordinator for the Ecosystem Profile of EU Overseas Territories in the Caribbean



The SPAW-RAC is happy to welcome Amandine VASLET, who will serve as project coordinator in charge of establishing the ecosystem profile for the 15 European overseas territories included in the Caribbean hub under the BEST project (see SPAW Newsletter #12 for more details on the BEST project). Amandine Vaslet has been working for the last 10 years in the North America and Caribbean region. She has an academic background in ecology and a specialization in marine biology. She

has obtained a PhD in fish communities at the University of the Lesser Antilles in Guadeloupe. Since then, she has been involved in several research projects in Guadeloupe (with the University of the Lesser Antilles) and in Florida and Belize (with the Smithsonian Institution) during which she studied distribution patterns of fish and invertebrate species in marine and estuarine ecosystems.

Amandine has also been involved in the Eco-regional analysis of Guadeloupe that summarized and mapped existing knowledge about marine species and ecosystems, and assessed uses and pressures facing the marine environment. This regional analysis, performed in collaboration with the University of the Lesser Antilles in Guadeloupe and the French Marine Protected Areas Agency, was conducted in consultation with local stakeholders and synthesized existent information in a GIS database.

For the next two years, she will be based at the R serve Naturelle of Saint-Martin and will be in charge of developing the ecosystem profile of the 15 European overseas territories in the Caribbean. This science-based action starts with the compilation of Factsheets that will synthesize the environmental scene of each territory and with the participation to the Guadeloupe Conference on Biodiversity in the EU Overseas this October. You can contact her at : amandine.vaslet@rnsnm.org

The five projects funded as part of the cooperation program for the Protected Areas listed under SPAW now are all completed

Five projects were selected in November 2013 and subsequently funded by SPAW/CaMPAM Small Grants as part of the cooperation programme for SPAW-listed Protected Areas launched by the SPAW Secretariat.

Those five projects, that included activities such as exchanges, trainings, mentorships and other activities to increase capacity on protected area management and promoting the listing of additional MPAs (below with titles and implementers) have been successfully completed :

- "Strengthening MPA enforcement capacity at Hol Chan, Glover's Reef and Port Honduras Marine Reserves, Belize" to the Toledo Institute for Development (TIDE) with the contribution of the Belize Fisheries Dept.
- "Invasive alien species management strategies: learning and sharing best practices between northern islands protected areas", to the National Natural Réserve of Saint-Martin, FWI
- "Sharing experiences among the National Park of Guanahacabibes in Cuba and protected areas from México and Belize", to the Parque Nacional Guanahacabibes with the contribution of the Centro Nacional of Protected Areas (in Cuba) and the Grupo Tortuguero del Caribe AC (Mexico)
- "Strengthen capacity building of artisanal fishermen by exploring environmentally-friendly alternative livelihoods in Seaflower MPA, Colombia" to Blue Dream Ltd with the contribution of CORALINA
- "Nature education exchange program to assist in the development of a Junior Ranger Program in Saba" to the Saba Conservation Foundation (SCF)" with the contribution of STINAPA Bonaire.

The outputs and main results of each project are available upon your request at SPAW RAC.

The SPAW/CaMPAM Mentoring Programme has started

- Ruben Torres (Dominican Republic) recently visited a long-term Cuban MPA manager named Lazaro Marquez where he presented about MPA management in La Caleta, about lionfish, and about climate change and marine environments; he successfully overlapped his work with a lionfish workshop in Havana. Congratulations to both of them for officially launching the Mentorship Program via the first exchange!
- Newton Eristhee (Caribsave) has been successfully matched with Angelique Brathwaite (Barbados), a longtime coral reef ecologist with the Barbados Coastal Zone Management Institute. Angelique Brathwaite has travelled to Bonaire in June for an exchange working with Ramon de Leon (see below) and his staff. Angelique Brathwaite is looking to build her competencies on MPA development generally and stakeholder participation specifically, with the aim of helping to set up a new MPA in Barbados.
- Ramon de Leon (Bonaire) has been successfully matched with Shakera Arnold, manager of the Caye Caulker Marine Reserve in Belize. Shakera Arnold has broad interest in MPA development and has visited Bonaire during the same week as Angelique Brathwaite, with maximum benefits for all.

CBD workshop in Belize for capacity-building on ecosystem conservation and restoration, April 28th to May 2nd 2014



Aichi Biodiversity Targets 5, 11 and 15 set quantitative global targets to reduce the loss of natural habitats, improve protected area networks and restore degraded areas.

As announced in the previous release of the SPAW Newsletter, the SPAW RAC participated in a capacity-building workshop convened by the CDB Secretariat for the Caribbean on ecosystem conservation and restoration, that was held in Belize City from April 28th to May 2nd, 2014 that was organized in collaboration with the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations. The event gathered around 10 English Speaking Countries of the Caribbean, as well as several regional and international organizations, within an integrated and participatory approach to promote holistic planning and implementation at the landscape level. Within the framework of Aichi Biodiversity Targets 5, 11 and 15, the objectives were to assist the participants into the development of national targets and plans for ecosystem conservation and restoration, to integrate them into updated National Biodiversity Strategies and Action Plans (NBSAPs) and to mainstream into broader national policies, plans and programmes.

Participants were trained on the use of appropriate assessments, policy and planning tools to implement ecosystem conservation and restoration strategies at appropriate levels. A special session on regional collaboration was organised on the last day by the present regional organisations with focus on the marine/coastal environment. There was an illustration on how the Aichi targets can directly be met as well as a day expedition was organised to visit an acroporids restoration programme in Placencia, southern Belize. Fast growing and main reef-builders, Caribbean acroporids have lost over 98% of their former abundance in recent decades and are listed by the IUCN as Critically Endangered, Laughing Bird Caye National Park (LBCNP) acroporids were extirpated by 2002 from two hurricanes (Mitch 1998, Iris 2001), among bleaching and disease events. Active restoration efforts began at LBCNP in 2006 with natural acroporid transplants. To date, over 8000 acroporid fragments have been out-planted in 23 sub-sites around LBCNP.

Many workshop participants expressed that their country or organisation were interested in doing such activities but that funding and technical expertise were often lacking. Moreover, even though the number of acroporid nurseries and restoration efforts have increased dramatically in the region, there is still a clear need of more cooperation within the region to build on the growing expertise and experiences.

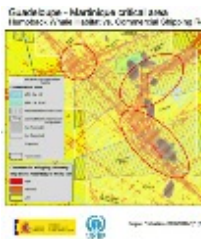


In-situ Nursery of acroporids in Laughing Bird Caye National Park, Southern Belize.

The British Virgin Islands are now a shark and ray sanctuary

The International Union for the Conservation of Nature considers that about one-quarter of the world's sharks and rays are threatened with extinction. The British Virgin Islands declared its territorial waters a sanctuary for all shark species in May 2014 to help protect these extremely important species, thus joining Honduras and the Bahamas as the first Caribbean countries to establish shark sanctuaries. The sanctuary in the BVI will also be used to protect ray species. Commercial fishing of all shark species is now banned in the 80,117 sq. kilometers of the BVI's exclusive economic zone. Tourism, including diving, is a major income in the BVI, and shark species such as reef sharks, oceanic whitetips or hammerhead sharks are top attraction for divers.

PUBLICATIONS



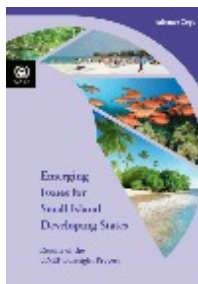
Puerto Rico workshop report and scenarios: www.car-spaw-rac.org/?Scenarios-for-marine-mammal



GCRMN report on coral reef situation: <http://gcrmn.org/publications-info-center/publications/>



WRI aquaculture report: wri.org/publication/improving-aquaculture



UMEP Documents *'Emerging Issues for Small Island Developing States'*



French EBM Guide: unep.org/ecosystemmanagement/



MPA Best practices briefs: car-spaw-rac.org/?Factsheets-on-best-practices-for

UPCOMING EVENTS

- **20-23 October 2014** : ICRI 29th [General Meeting](#). Okinawa, Japan.
- **11 – 18 September**: 65th Meeting of the [International Whaling Commission](#). Portoroz, Slovenia.
- **16-18 september**: ICRI workshop valuation of coastal ecosystem services in the Caribbean. Bonaire.
- **22-25 October**: Conference on European Overseas Biodiversity, Ecosystem Services and Climate Change. Guadeloupe.
- **6 – 17 October**: 12th Meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD). www.cbd.int/meetings Pyeongchang, Republic of Korea.
- **1 November**: Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals – CMS, COP 11. www.cms.int Guayaquil, Ecuador.
- **3 – 7 November**: 67th annual meeting of the Gulf and Caribbean Fisheries Institute in Barbados
- **9 – 11 November**: 3rd International Conference on Marine Mammal Protected Areas. <http://icmmpa.org> Adelaide, Australia.
- **12 – 19 November**: World Park Congress. Sydney , Australia.
- **24 – 29 November**: Intergovernmental meetings. IGM16 & COP13, LBS COP2, SPAW COP8, SPAW STAC6

USEFUL LINKS

- Mon école ma baleine , educational tools: www.monecolembaleine.org/anglais.html
- SPAW PA webtool: <http://www.spaw-palisting.org>
- NOAA underwater noise map : http://cetsound.noaa.gov/sound_data.html
- Carib tails, a Caribbean Citizen Science Project for Yachters : <http://caribtails.org/>
- Reguar, Guadeloupe Shark Network: <http://www.reguar.org/>
- Associated Press: <http://www.bigstory.ap.org/article/british-virgin-islands-setting-shark-sanctuary>

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

SPAW-RAC

Parc national de Guadeloupe
Montéran - B.P. 93
97120 Saint-Claude
GUADELOUPE (FWI)
Tel. : +590 590 41 55 82
Email: contact@car-spaw-rac.org
www.car-spaw-rac.org