



# Specially Protected Areas and Wildlife Protocol and Programme

Newsletter N°14 - October 2014

## Commonly used Acronyms

**CaMPAM:** Caribbean Marine Protected Area Management Network and Forum

**CEP:** Caribbean Environment Programme

**CBD:** Convention on Biological Diversity

**FCCA:** Florida Caribbean Cruise Association

**GCFI:** Gulf and Caribbean Fisheries Institute

**GCRMN:** Global Coral Reef Monitoring Network

**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

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## Next meetings of the Caribbean Environment Programme in December 2014, Cartagena, Colombia



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) to be convened from 8 – 13 December 2014 in Cartagena, Colombia:

Sixth Meeting of the Scientific and Technical Advisory Committee (STAC6) to the Protocol Concerning Specially Protected Areas and Wildlife (SPAW) in the Wider Caribbean Region- 8 December 2014;

Eighth Meeting of the Contracting Parties (COP8) to the Protocol Concerning Specially Protected Areas and Wildlife (SPAW) in the Wider Caribbean Region- 9 December 2014; Second Meeting of the Contracting Parties to the Protocol Concerning Pollution from Land-Based Sources and Activities (LBS) in the Wider Caribbean Region- 10 December 2014; and

Sixteenth Intergovernmental Meeting (IGM16) on the Action Plan for the Caribbean Environment Programme and Thirteenth Meeting of the Contracting Parties to the Convention for the Protection and Development of the Marine Environment of the Wider Caribbean Region (COP13)- 11-13

December 2014.

The Intergovernmental Meetings are convened every two years and are held jointly with the meeting of the Contracting Parties to the Cartagena Convention. At these meetings, participating Governments will determine the content of the 2015-2016 Workplan and Budget of the CEP, review its progress and chart a course for the future.

The SPAW and LBS 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 into 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 and present their commitments for implementing activities? (It is time for them to say «I will do this and that» rather than RAC running after them to nominate PAs, etc... Contact CEP Secretariat: [rcu@cep.unep.org](mailto:rcu@cep.unep.org).

## News of the month



## FOCUS ON

**BEST : A unique initiative to strengthen biodiversity conservation in 15 European overseas entities within the**



15 European Outermost Regions and Overseas Countries and Territories in the Caribbean Region.

### Caribbean region

The BEST Initiative is a funding mechanism that aims to promote the conservation of biodiversity and the sustainable use of ecosystem services in European Outermost Regions and Overseas Countries and Territories (see Newsletters #12-13).

Since June 2014, the Caribbean Hub has continued to spread the information about BEST initiative with local government and stakeholders of the 15 European overseas entities in the Caribbean region.

These last months, and the next to come, will be the opportunity to meet local institutions and other stakeholders involved in biodiversity conservation and to participate in local and regional outreach events (ICRI meeting, French MPA workshop, DCNA Board member annual meeting, Guadeloupe Conference, Gulf and Caribbean Fisheries Institute Annual Conference) in order to present the objectives of the initiative and the methodology of the ecosystem profiles.

For each territory, a desk review gathering key documents (management plans and scientific studies) has been done. These lists of references have been sent to local stakeholders for validation. Based on this information, a Caribbean factsheet has been established to provide important information about the region and its biodiversity challenges and issues at a glance. A factsheet for each territory will also be produced as guide for further consultation.

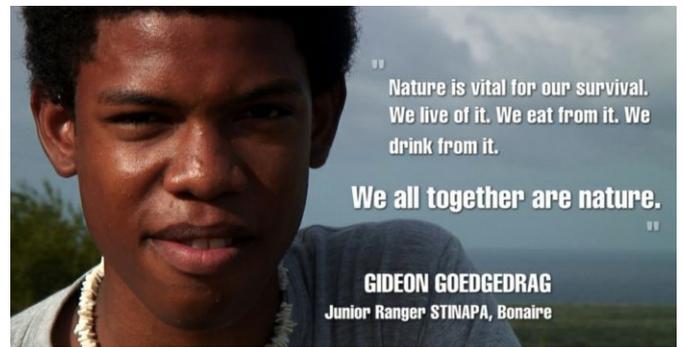


Anguilla bush, *Rondeletia anguillensis* (C. Andre Samuel-Department of Environment, Anguilla©) *Bottlenose dolphin, Tursiops truncatus* (Dany Moussa, OMMAG©) *Yellow-shouldered Amazon, Amazona barbadensis* (Sam Williams, Echo©)

## ONGOING PROJECTS

**UNEP-CEP SPAW Secretariat sponsors nature education exchange programme between Bonaire National Marine Park and Saba Marine Park to assist in the development of a Junior Ranger Program in Saba**

Bonaire and Saba both have a designated marine protected area,



the Bonaire National Marine Park (BNMP) managed by STINAPA Bonaire, and the Saba Marine Park, managed by the Saba Conservation Foundation. Both marine protected areas are listed under [the SPAW Protocol as areas of regional importance](#). In this context, UNEP-CEP provided a small grant to support this effort as part of the cooperation programme for SPAW-listed sites.

In 2009 STINAPA Bonaire started a Junior Rangers programme with 3 local youths and today this programme has grown to 45 dedicated Junior Rangers between the ages of 14 and 21. Twice weekly the Junior Rangers receive nature lessons about the fragile planet earth systems as well as scuba dive training in the marine park, including REEF.org fish ID and coral reef restoration techniques.



The objectives of the nature education exchange with Saba were to support capacity increase of both the Saba Conservation Foundation (SCF) and the Bonaire National Marine Park by implementing an exchange programme

where STINAPA's leading Junior Rangers and Nature Education Officer share their knowledge and skills with youth nature educational groups in Saba.

Five Junior Rangers accompanied by three staff and volunteers from STINAPA Bonaire travelled to Saba for five days. During this visit they joined Saba youth groups in exploring the different ecosystems in Saba. Through presentations, workshops, field excursions and biodiversity monitoring, the STINAPA Junior Rangers and Saba's youth exchanged information and ideas about protective legislation, MPA management and nature conservation. Park staff, education professionals and the youth themselves shared materials and started developing the structure of a Saba Junior Ranger Program.

This exchange program provided an invaluable experience for

### NOAA announced on August 27 the protection of 20 new species of coral

In total, 22 species of coral are now protected as "threatened" under the Endangered Species Act, including the two corals (elkhorn and staghorn) listed as threatened in 2006. Fifteen of the newly listed species occur in the Indo-Pacific and five in the Caribbean. None are found in Hawaii. No species were listed as "endangered."

The Endangered Species Act gives some important tools to conserve and recover those corals most in need of protection. The final decision to list these 20 corals is a result of the most extensive rulemaking ever undertaken by NOAA. The amount of scientific information sought, obtained, and analyzed was unprecedented. This information included general reef-building coral biology, habitat characteristics and threats, as well as species-specific spatial, demographic, and other information for the individual coral species in the final rule.

For more information on the next steps and supporting documents, please visit [www.nmfs.noaa.gov/stories/2014/08/corals\\_listing.html](http://www.nmfs.noaa.gov/stories/2014/08/corals_listing.html) or contact Lance Smith ([lance.smith@noaa](mailto:lance.smith@noaa)) in the Pacific Islands Region or Jennifer Moore ([jennifer.moore@noaa.gov](mailto:jennifer.moore@noaa.gov)) in the South-east Region.



both Bonaire and Saba youths and an excellent opportunity for STINAPA Junior Rangers to see different ecosystems than what they are accustomed to in Bonaire. It also illustrated that MPA Educational programs are instrumental in providing our future leaders with the tools they need to effectively conserve and manage our marine and terrestrial habitats.

A documentary of the exchange was produced (<https://www.youtube.com/stinapa>) and was broadcast through local television in both Saba and Bonaire, as well as via various social media channels. This video will disseminate the importance of regional networking among (youth) groups.

### Caribbean Coral reef monitoring workshop in Curacao , 6th - 8th of August 2014

**"Review, improve and revitalize the regional GCRMN network for more effective coral reef monitoring and data management in the Wider Caribbean Region"**



Photo: Paul HOETJES.

The Global Coral Reef Monitoring Network (GCRMN), the data arm of the International Coral Reef Initiative (ICRI) recently published a groundbreaking report "Status and Trends of Caribbean Coral Reefs: 1970-2012". In this report, edited by Dr. Jeremy Jackson, a number of startling conclusions were drawn from a region-wide assessment of forty years of coral reef data. The report concluded that coral reef monitoring in the wider Caribbean is "scattered, disorganized, and largely ineffective". The weaknesses and inefficiency of the current coral monitoring network, is in part due to the lack of information dissemination and inconsistency in application of monitoring methods and approaches throughout the region. The GCRMN in the Caribbean suffers from reduced functionality at three levels of action: data collection, information archiving and dissemination, and internal network communication. Those weaknesses are often coupled with challenges of securing adequate funding as a means to support systematic and sustainable coral reef monitoring. This has potentially contributed to losses of information and capacity building due to major gaps in the exchange of approaches 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, the SPAW-RAC/UNEP-CEP and The Dutch Ministry of Economic Affairs organised a workshop in Curacao from August 6th -8th 2014. The event was also organised in close consultation with regional coral reef experts and partners, including NOAA, the Wait Foundation, UNEP's Coral Reef Unit, ICRI/GCRMN and ReefCheck-Dominican Republic.

Coral reef experts from different monitoring programmes, as well as sub-regional 'monitoring nodes' who collected coral reef monitoring data for GCRMN in the past, and regional and international organizations, came together to discuss how to better coordinate ongoing Caribbean coral reef monitoring and stimulate and support monitoring in areas that lack human and technical resources for sustained monitoring efforts.

The workshop's goal was to revitalise and organise the coordination of the coral reef monitoring across the region by providing concrete solutions that would improve the network capacities, through the following specific objectives: 1- Improve data collection & archiving ; 2- Improve the network internal functioning for better dissemination of information; 3 -Increase the support for regional and sub-regional cooperation. To this end, the Workshop was structured as a series of interactive discussions and working group sessions. The outcomes of this meeting include proposals for a core minimum data & regional method protocol; the introduction of socio-economic data in the methods; a preliminary list of GCRMN sites for the region; a regional data platform and a new network organization with a Steering Committee and a regional coordinator. The workshop report and its annexes will be finalized in mid-October and presented to the ICRI meeting in Japan and GCFI Conference in Barbados.

## SPAW PAs-CaMPAM news

### CaMPAM at GCFI

As every year, CaMPAM is coordinating the session "[Marine Protected Area Science and Management](#)" of the [67th Annual Meeting of the Gulf and Caribbean Fisheries Institute](#) to be held in Barbados on November 3-7. From the twenty two abstracts submitted to be presented at this session, only 14 were selected (the rest of them were recommended to poster modality). The subjects of these papers ranged from coral reef assessments and biological connectivity research data and its application to MPA management, to community involvement in MPA management. [The UNEP-CEP SPAW programme](#), as part of CaMPAM's support to building management capacity, will provide [travel support](#) to 5 presenters to this session. The GCFI conference attracts hundreds of marine scientists and resources managers from government, academic and non-governmental institutions, and is an excellent opportunity to learn the latest of the Wider Caribbean marine resources research and management issues while networking with colleagues from the region and beyond. This year, as the conference subject is "Small islands, big issues: applying fisheries and marine science to solve problems and create opportunities", the GCFI and the University of West Indies (the conference host) invited Dr. Robert Pomeroy to be the [keynote speaker](#). He is a renowned social scientist who has contributed over the last 25 years to marine resource economics and policy of small-scale fisheries management and development, coastal zone management, etc.

### CITES and FAO join forces to conserve queen conch

The FAO Subregional Office for the Caribbean and the Secretariat of the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species (CITES) have approved a project for joint capacity building for the implementation of decisions on regional cooperation on the management and trade of queen conch (*Lobatus gigas*). These decisions were adopted at the 16th meeting of the Conference of Parties to CITES in 2013.

The US\$90 000 project was signed in July by both parties and aims to contribute to the conservation, responsible management and sustainable, legal trade of queen conch in the Caribbean region. Further discussions and information-sharing will take place at the 2nd meeting of the CFMC/OSPESCA/WECAFC/CRFM/CITES Working group on Queen Conch (QCWG), which is scheduled to take place in Panama City, 18-20 November 2014. More information can be obtained from the WECAFC Secretariat at: [WECAFC\\_Secretariat@fao.org](mailto:WECAFC_Secretariat@fao.org)

The UNEP-CEP SPAW Regional Activity Centre project manager and the CaMPAM coordinator are both members of the GCFI Board of Directors.

**CaMPAM – ECCMAN Small Grants Program: a first wave of proposals approved**



Summer camp in Grenada.

Since the launch of the first call for proposals this past May 9, six proposals have been submitted to apply for the CaMPAM-ECCMAN Small Grants Program (€78,000, for 18 months projects). Four of these were already approved for projects to be implemented by national non-governmental organizations in strong collaboration with the respective Fisheries and Marine Resource Departments, namely:

- **Strengthening marine protected area management by improving enforcement and building understanding of their roles in protecting coastal ecosystem services to the people of Grenada** (Grenada Conservation Fund)
- **Strengthening of the Pointe Sable Environmental Protection Area, St. Lucia** (St. Lucia National Trust)
- **A multifaceted approach to strengthening management of the NEMMA, Antigua and Barbuda** (Environmental Awareness Group)
- **The Establishment of two Marine Managed Areas (The Narrows Marine Reserve and The Narrows Fishing Priority Area) in St. Kitts and Nevis** (Nevis Historical and Conservation Society)

The proposals submitted by organizations from Dominica and St. Vincent and the Grenadines are expected to be finalised soon. Experts from TNC, UNEP-CEP SPAW Programme and SPAW-RAC and CaMPAM, OECS and CATS reviewed the proposals to make sure they build upon/complement current or recently completed projects. A meeting with the 6 TNC ECCMAN in-country project coordinators was held in July in Grenada which allowed for refining and sharing project concepts and lessons on the preparation of proposals. Stay tuned for more information on the project summaries and news which will be disseminated through CaMPAM List.

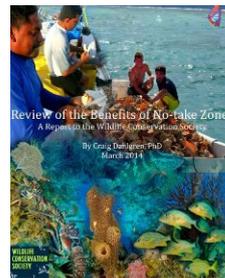


**Focus on: Grenada**

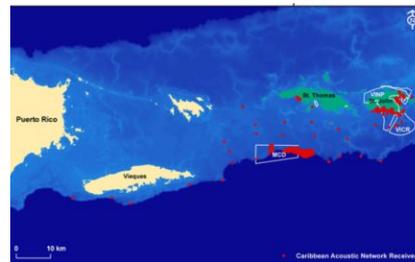
Since the signature of the Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) for the CaMPAM-ECCMAN Small Grants Programme, two MPA Rangers and a MPA Education and Communication Officer have been hired.

A summer camp Program was successfully implemented during the holidays (July 7-25), with support from the Caribbean Aqua-Terrestrial Solutions Program and the CaMPAM-ECCMAN Small Grants Programme. A video of this camp is available on Youtube ([www.youtube.com/watch?v=yF5fqDLfK7U](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=yF5fqDLfK7U)). A new berthing station for two MPA boats was also completed with support from the project. A training session for MPA Rangers in fish biomass surveys was completed on September 12 and the training for MPA staff in data collection started recently.

**PUBLICATIONS**



**Review** of the Benefit of No-take Zones – A report to The Wildlife Conservation Society By Craig Dahlgren, PhD.



Tracking Reef Fish Movements to Evaluate Size and Connectivity of Caribbean Marine Protected Areas by Pittman et al.

**65th International Whaling Commission (IWC) meeting**

The 65th meeting of the IWC took place on the 11th of September in Portoroz, Slovenia. This is the first on a new, biennial meeting cycle and therefore the first opportunity for member governments to come together under the IWC since the 2012 meeting in Panama.

Jeannine Compton-Antoine, IWC Commissioner for St Lucia was chairing.

A Scheduled Amendment was adopted regarding Greenland quotas. Resolutions were adopted on aboriginal subsistence whaling, on highly migratory cetacean species, on civil society participation and transparency at the IWC, on the Scientific Committee, and on whaling under special permit.

Unfortunately, scheduled Amendments regarding the establishment of a South Atlantic whale sanctuary, and catching minke whales by small-type coastal whaling vessels, did not achieve the necessary three quarters majority vote.

The four day meeting of the IWC ended with a broad and busy programme of work agreed for the two year inter-sessional period. The meeting agenda, schedule, amendments, resolutions and supporting documents are available on the IWC website at <http://iwc.int/iwc65docs>

## UPCOMING EVENTS

- **16-18 September:** ICRI workshop valuation of coastal ecosystem services in the Caribbean. Bonaire.
- **6 October 2014:** 21st Annual FCCA Cruise Conference & Trade Show - St. Maarten
- **20-23 October 2014:** ICRI 29th General Meeting. Okinawa, Japan.
- **22-25 October:** Conference on European Overseas Biodiversity, Ecosystem Services and Climate Change. Guadeloupe (FWI).
- **6 – 17 October:** 12th Meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD). [www.cbd.int/meetings](http://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](http://www.cms.int). Guayaquil, Ecuador.
- **3 – 7 November:** 67th Annual Meeting of the Gulf and Caribbean Fisheries Institute in Barbados. [www.qcfi.org/Conferences/67th/Barbados\\_en.html](http://www.qcfi.org/Conferences/67th/Barbados_en.html)
- **9 – 11 November:** 3rd International Conference on Marine Mammal Protected Areas. <http://icmmpa.org>. Adelaide, Australia.
- **12-19 November:** World Park Congress. <http://worldparkscongress.org>. Sydney, Australia.
- **18-20 November:** 2nd meeting of the CFMC/OSPESCA/WECAFC/CRFM/CITES Working group on Queen Conch (QCWG), which is scheduled to take place in Panama City.
- **1 - 5 December:** Congreso de la Sociedad Latinoamericana de Especialistas en Mamíferos Acuáticos (SOLAMAC) y Congreso Colombino de Zoología, Cartagena, Colombia.
- **08 – 13 December:** Next meetings of UNEP's the Caribbean Environment Programme. IGM16 & COP13, LBS COP2, SPAW COP8, SPAW STAC6. [www.cep.unep.org/meetings](http://www.cep.unep.org/meetings)

## USEFUL LINKS

- Grenada MPA Summer Camp 2014. [www.youtube.com/watch?v=yF5fqDLfK7U](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=yF5fqDLfK7U)
- Major supermarkets in Costa Rica have stopped selling parrotfish based on the findings of the GCRMN report. [www.nacion.com/m/vivir/ambiente/Automercado-vendera-pez-loro\\_0\\_1431256864.html](http://www.nacion.com/m/vivir/ambiente/Automercado-vendera-pez-loro_0_1431256864.html)
- NOAA Caribbean Strategy in Place [www.regions.noaa.gov/main/index.php/highlights/noaa-caribbean-strategy-approved-by-administrator](http://www.regions.noaa.gov/main/index.php/highlights/noaa-caribbean-strategy-approved-by-administrator)
- Tracking Reef Fish Movements to Evaluate Size and Connectivity of Caribbean Marine Protected Areas [www.plosone.org/article/info%3Adoi%2F10.1371%2Fjournal.pone.0096028](http://www.plosone.org/article/info%3Adoi%2F10.1371%2Fjournal.pone.0096028)

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