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Caribbean Region

Virtual Meeting, from the 17th – 19th of March 2021

CARI'MAM: AN INTERIM REPORT



CARI'MAM



UNION EUROPÉENNE



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ACRONYMS

CARI'MAM	Caribbean Marine Mammals Preservation Network
GCFI	Gulf and Caribbean Fisheries Institute
IWC	International Whaling Commission
MMAP	Marine Mammal Action Plan
MPA	Marine Protected Area
RAC	Regional Activity Center of the SPAW Protocol
SPAW	Specially Protected Areas and Wildlife Protocol
STAC	Scientific and Technical Advisory Committee of the SPAW Protocol
UNEP	United Nations Environment Programme
WCR	Wider Caribbean Region

CARI'MAM: AN INTERIM REPORT

The present document is an interim report of the “Caribbean Marine Mammals Preservation Network” (CARI'MAM) project for years 2019 and 2020.

1. INTRODUCTION

1. The three-year project “Caribbean Marine Mammals Preservation Network” (CARI'MAM) (2017-2020) was presented during the last Scientific and Technical Advisory Committee Meeting (Panama, December 2018) and the last Conference of the Parties of the Specially Protected Areas and Wildlife Protocol (SPAW, Roatan, June 2019). This project is funded by the European Union (EU) (€2,903,178.24).
2. As the project only started at the end of 2018, the EU has accepted an extension until the end of 2021. Due to the COVID19 crisis, some actions have been postponed or changed (e.g., meetings, workshops and trainings).



Figure 1. The CARI'MAM network from all the Caribbean region

3. The CARI'MAM project is led by Agoa sanctuary and divided into 7 work packages:
 - WP 0. Project management and coordination (led by Agoa/ SPAW RAC)
 - WP 1. Review of current regulations related to marine mammals (SPAW RAC)
 - WP 2. Project-scale knowledge acquisition (Agoa)
 - WP 3. Capacity-building for managers (Agoa/SPAW RAC)
 - WP 4. Development of joint acoustic monitoring strategies (Agoa)

- WP 5. Support for developing sustainable and wildlife-friendly commercial whale watching activities (SPAW RAC)
- WP 6. Management plan for MPA with “marine mammal” responsibility (SPAW RAC)
- WP 7. Communication and awareness (Agoa)

4. The SPAW RAC is taking the lead in the implementation of three out of the seven project components (WP 1, 5 and 6) and is involved in work packages 0 and 3.

2. MAJOR ACHIEVEMENTS IN 2019 AND 2020

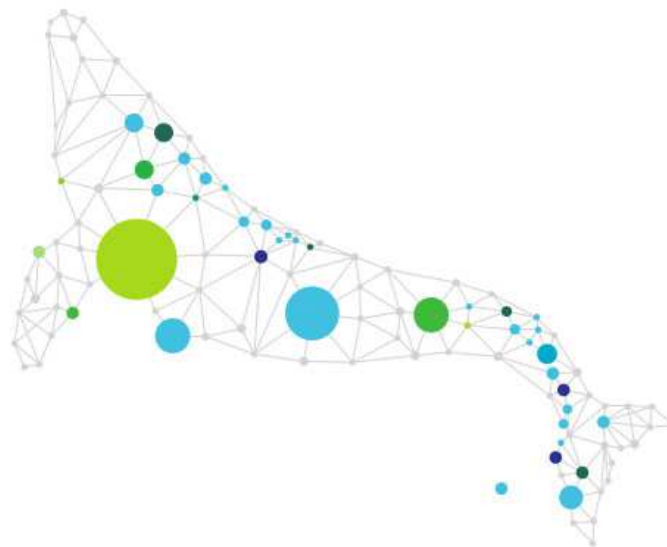
WP 0 – Project management and coordination	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Recruitment of a project coordinator (Conruyt G, 2019), - Recruitment of an Intern for MPAs management plans analysis (WP6) (Bonnin N., 2020), - Recruitment of a Project officer for CARI'MAM project (Paranthoen N. and then Pusineri C. 2020). - 2 financial and technical reports prepared for the funder
WP 1 – Review of current regulations related to marine mammals	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - SPAW focal point legal consultation «Current Status of Legislation on marine mammals protection in the WCR». <i>Report submitted to STAC members for information (UNEP(DEPI)/CAR WG.42/INF.29, Addendum 2)</i> - A scientific and technical analysis of the current state of implementation of the Regional Marine Mammal Action Plan (MMAAP) under SPAW was prepared by Courtney Vail and Monica Borobia, as contractors. <i>Report submitted to STAC members for information (UNEP(DEPI)/CAR WG.42/INF.29, Addendum 1)</i> - Organisation and moderation of a Bycatch workshop during the 3rd CARI'MAM meeting in Dominican Republic. Aim: improved knowledge on the magnitude and impact of bycatch in the WCR. http://www.car-spaw-rac.org/IMG/pdf/cr_global_cari_mam_v3_en.pdf - Organisation and moderation of a Threats workshop during the 4th virtual CARI'MAM meeting (the month of CARI'MAM, November 2020 with IWC participation). Aims: share information and identify gaps and potential mitigation actions. <i>Report available soon on the SPAW RAC website</i> - Translation of the OBSenMER application (French and English available, and Spanish in progress) <i>Annex 1</i> - In progress: A website dedicated to Caribbean marine mammals (part of SPAW RAC website). This website aims to become the reference website for marine mammal conservation in the Caribbean region: general and specific information,

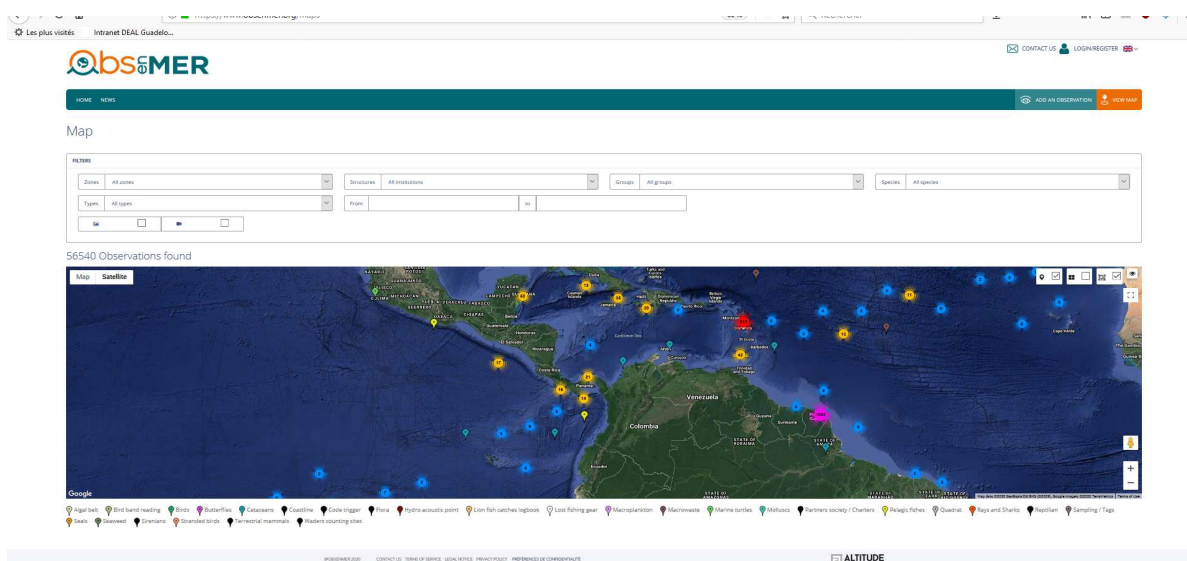
	<p>links to major programs, stranding metadata. <i>Annex 2</i></p>
<p>WP5 - Support for developing sustainable and wildlife-friendly commercial whale watching activities</p>	<p>- Survey «Status of whale watching activity in the wider Caribbean region». Report posted on the project teamwork platform on January 15, 2020 https://car-spaw-rac.org/IMG/pdf/marine_mamals_watching_survey_en-3.pdf</p> <p>- Organisation and moderation of a marine mammal legislation workshop during the 2nd CARI'MAM meeting in Guadeloupe. Aim: synthesize whale-watching activity management needs and expectations per territory. http://www.car-spaw-rac.org/IMG/pdf/meeting_cari_mam_2_-_en_s.pdf</p> <p>- Organisation and moderation of a Whale Watching workshop during the 3rd CARI'MAM meeting in Dominican Republic » Aim: define the ideal contents for a potential Whale Watching regional label. http://www.car-spaw-rac.org/IMG/pdf/cr_global_cari_mam_v3_en.pdf</p> <p>- Organisation and moderation of a Whale Watching workshop during the 4th CARI'MAM virtual meeting (the month of CARI'MAM, November 2020 with IWC participation). Aims: identify the partners to test and support a regional certification. <i>Report available soon</i></p> <p>- Recommendations for a regional certification for a sustainable commercial marine mammal observation activity in the Wider Caribbean Region. <i>Report submitted to STAC members for information (UNEP(DEPI)/CAR WG.42/INF.31, Addendum 1)</i></p> <p>- Public purchase: legal study, prior to the implementation of a regulatory instrument for marine mammal touristic activities in the wider Caribbean region. <i>Summary submitted to STAC members for information (UNEP(DEPI)/CAR WG.42/INF.31, Addendum 2).</i> <i>Full report on the SPAW RAC website : https://car-spaw-rac.org/IMG/pdf/report_car_spaw_livable_1_v2.pdf</i></p> <p>- Exchanges with the SPAW species working group and production of a document by the working group experts: "Toolkit for implementing marine mammals watching guidelines in the Wider Caribbean Region". <i>Report submitted to STAC members for information (UNEP(DEPI)/CAR WG.42/INF.32)</i></p>

WP 6 – management plans	<p>- Contribution to the development of a tool dedicated to all Protected Areas with a marine mammals responsibility: the marine mammals management tracking tool. This tool was initially developed by MPA managers in the framework of the European project: “Towards a transatlantic partnership of Marine Protected Areas” and will soon be available on their website.</p> <p>- Improve consideration of marine mammals in MPA management plans: regional study and tracking tool proposal. <i>Report summary submitted to STAC members for information (UNEP(DEPI)/CAR WG.42/INF.30)</i> <i>Full report in French is available on the SPAW RAC website : https://car-spaw-rac.org/IMG/pdf/rapport-stagem2-bonnin.pdf</i></p> <p>- Organisation and moderation of a meeting dedicated to management plans during the virtual 4th CARI'MAM meeting (the month of CARI'MAM, November 2020). Aims: Share the outputs of the regional study and create links between MPAs at the regional, national, and local level. <i>Report available soon</i></p>
WP 7 – communication and awareness	<p>- GCFI participation. Presentation of a poster on the SPAW RAC activities in the framework of the CARI'MAM project. <i>Annex 3</i></p> <p>- Articles in the SPAW RAC newsletter http://www.car-SPAW RAC.org/?SPAW-RAC-Newsletters</p> <p>- CARI'MAM workshops organisation and participation</p> <p>- Development of a marine mammal website (<i>under the SPAW RAC website</i>)</p>

HIGHLIGHTS

- 3-year project 2018-2021 funded by EU
- 3 regional meetings with several workshop sessions organized in 2019 and 2020
- A dynamic network of highly involved stakeholders around the Caribbean region dedicated to the preservation of marine mammals
- Major SPAW RAC outputs:
 - Review of the national regulations dedicated to Marine Mammals in the Caribbean
 - A regional study and a tracking tool to strengthen the consideration of marine mammals in the MPA management plans
 - Development of MPA manager tools: OBSenMER, tracking tool, dedicated part of website
 - Drafting of a proposal for the development of a regional label/certification to support sustainable marine mammal watching in the Wider Caribbean Region
 - A report on the Implementation of the Action Plan for the Conservation of Marine Mammals: a scientific and technical analysis (MMAP) with recommendations
- Need to secure the network and the actions undertaken by CARI'MAM members in the long-term





Annex 2: A website dedicated to Caribbean marine mammals (part of SPAW RAC website)



A part of the SPAW RAC website is dedicated to marine mammals and is still under development.

It is composed of 4 major chapters:

- “Discover them”: this chapter presents information on marine mammals and how to observe them in the wild.
- “Study and conservation”: it presents scientist study methods and how to contribute to marine mammal conservation.
- “CARI’MAM project”: A page to present the project
- “Digital library”: Bibliographic reference and educational resources on marine mammals.

For more information, see: <http://www.car-spaw-rac.org/?Marine-Mammals-999>

Annex 3 : Presentation of a poster on the SPAW RAC activities in the framework of the CARI'MAM project

