



# Specially Protected Areas and Wildlife Protocol and Programme

Newsletter N°11 - January 2014

## Commonly used Acronyms

- CaMPAM:** Caribbean Marine Protected Area Management Network and Forum
- CEP:** Caribbean Environment Programme
- CBD:** Convention on Biological Diversity
- ECCN:** Eastern Caribbean Cetaceans Network
- FCCA :** Florida Caribbean Cruise Association
- GCFI:** Gulf and Caribbean Fisheries Institute
- GCRMN:** Global Coral Reef Monitoring Network
- IWC:** International Whaling Commission
- MARFUND:** Meso-american Reef Fund
- Pas:** Protected Areas
- Red LAC:** Latin American and Caribbean Network of Environmental Funds
- RLC:** Regional Lionfish Committee
- SPAW:** Specially Protected Areas and Wildlife
- SPAW-RAC:** Specially Protected Areas and Wildlife – Regional Activity Centre
- UNEP-CAR/RCU:** United Nations Environment Programme - Caribbean Regional Coordinating Unit
- WECAFC :** Western Central Atlantic Fishery Commission

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## News of the month

### IWC/SPAW workshop on whale disentanglement, St Martin, FWI, 12 to 14 November

As announced in the previous release of the SPAW Newsletter, the International Whaling Commission, UNEP-CEP and its SPAW-RAC have convened the second workshop on large whale disentanglement in St Martin, FWI, from 12 to 14 November 2013, funded by the SPAW-RAC, and the Dutch and US governments. The Government of Mexico has hosted the first workshop, which was conducted in Spanish and English in La Paz, Baja, Mexico on 27-29 November 2012.

Over 20 French, Dutch, English -and a few Spanish- -speaking participants from the North of the Lesser Antilles, Puerto Rico, Trinidad, Belize, and Barbados attended the 3-days workshop. They were trained by Dr Michael Moore (Woods Hole Oceanographic Institution) in the forensic and practical criteria used to determine human impact (e.g. ship strike and entanglement) from stranded whales. Then David Mattila (IWC) and Doug Sandilands (PCCS) took over to inform and train them on

the technical and safety procedures to disentangle large whales at sea. The second part of the training was conducted first in classroom, where participants were able not only to learn about how to assess an entanglement situation and how to intervene safely whenever possible, but also could share their own experiences and contexts with regard to regulations, agencies involved in disentanglements, etc. A series of practical exercises took place on the water on the third day, where participants grouped in teams of two, could in turns practice on the rescue boat, then watch others from the whale boat.

Participants expressed their satisfaction with the training and their interest in establishing combined teams between islands in close proximity, so that they can engage in collaborative intervention, should an entanglement occur in the Northern Part of the Lesser Antilles. Two sets of disentanglement equipment were graciously left by IWC, one of which will be shared by St Martin, Sin Maarten, St Bart and Anguilla and the other by Saba, St Eustatius and St Kitts and Nevis.

### A new coordinator for marine mammals projects at SPAW-RAC

In November 2013, Gaëlle Vandersarren left the SPAW-RAC, to start a new position as an independent environmental consultant in Guadeloupe. She was replaced by Sandra Jean, with a solid scientific background in ecology and conservation, and a specialization on marine mammals. She has worked in different parts of the world (Canada, New Zealand) during and after her Master dissertation on research projects on cetaceans, pinnipeds. She will be a great asset for the RAC to continue current projects and develop new ones. Some of you have already met her during the Agoa monitoring campaign in the Northern Islands, co-organized by the French MPA Agency and the SPAW-RAC.



## FOCUS ON

### MPA managers of the European Overseas Territories gather in St. Martin for a Workshop on MPA resilience to climate change



Workshop participants.

On the 28th & 29th of November, 18 marine environmental managers of the French, Dutch and U.K Overseas Territories and partners from other Caribbean islands and international organizations gathered in St. Martin, French West Indies, to exchange information on their Marine Protected Areas in their respective territories, and to debate around the following question:

#### **How Marine Protected Areas networks can improve marine ecosystem resilience in the Caribbean Region?**

The 2-day workshop was funded by the French Aid Agency (AFD) and convened by the IUCN EU Overseas Program in collaboration with the UNEP-CEP SPAW Regional Activity Center (based in Guadeloupe, FWI) and with support of the Caribbean MPA management Network and Forum (CaMPAM).

Invited participants were primarily managers or senior officers of marine protected areas from the EU overseas territories in the Caribbean as well as from neighbouring islands. Experts and officers of ministries of environment of several Caribbean islands also attended the workshop. Based on exchanges of experiences and best practices, the strengths and weaknesses of each zone as well as the challenges they face to address climate change were highlighted. The workshop aimed at building MPA local and national capacities to increase the resilience of the coastal marine environments to climate change, through the strengthening of regional cooperation, and exploring the development of a regional action plan.

Following a first set of key presentations on climate change and its expected impact on marine and coastal biodiversity in the Caribbean held on the first morning, the workshop was then structured by a series of interactive discussion sessions, supported by participants' presentations on their own experience.

There was a general consensus that improving management effectiveness to support environmental resilience, assisting policy makers at the island level for better integrated planning and fostering regional activities will help all islands' societies to develop sustainable and effective adaptation strategies and better cope with the consequences of climate change (higher water temperature, sea levels and acidification).

Concrete actions were eventually recommended to support MPA managers and government agencies to develop suitable adaptation strategies. Three levels of actions were considered: local, national and regional for a better cooperation/interaction between MPA actors. Examples of recommendations included:

To locally Promote alternative livelihoods for fishers; To make politicians and decision makers understand the risks (short and long term) and their costs; To Explore regional cooperation on benthic/reef monitoring in order to harmonize methods.

A new section dedicated to climate change has been created on the site of the SPAW-RAC which includes presentations and a summary of the workshop, as well as more general documentation on the impacts of climate change on marine environments and on the resilience and services of marine and coastal ecosystems : [www.car-spaw-rac.org/?Workshop-on-MPA-resilience-to,489](http://www.car-spaw-rac.org/?Workshop-on-MPA-resilience-to,489).

## ON-GOING PROJECTS

### Diversification of funding sources and partnerships with the private sector

Since early September, the team at SPAW RAC has been



working in close collaboration with UNEP-CEP on its new goal of developing collaborations with the private sector, with the main objective to establish corporate philanthropy actions. The priority is given to the identification of a structural partner among the major Caribbean operators, to act as a sponsor in order to support existing programs of the SPAW RAC but also, in the long term, to develop joint projects.

Cooperation between the SPAW RAC and the private sector is geared towards the objective of building innovative and unifying ('win-win') projects from which all stakeholders, including governments and local communities, will benefit. The tourism sector has been identified by UNEP-CEP and the SPAW-RAC as a key partner for the implementation of the SPAW Protocol as it shares the same essential long term goal which is the protection of the Caribbean Sea, and its natural assets. Such projects will fit perfectly into the mandate of SPAW-RAC to ensure sustainable development to safeguard the long term prosperity of the region and its actors.

In this context, the SPAW-RAC was able to attend the Caribbean Tourism Organisation (CTO) State of the Industry conference, held late October in Martinique, where several contacts could be established within a wide range of actors of the tourism industry, for example with cruise lines and hotel chains industries. Bilateral exchanges followed and led to target a small number of possible partnerships that are currently being developed.

In addition, the meeting also allowed for the forging of linkages with international tourism organizations committed or dedicated to sustainable tourism, with the Sustainable Tourism Department of the CTO in particular. The SPAW RAC also participated in other meetings and events, and for instance, presented its approach during a tourism meeting in Guadeloupe - In support of this research and identification of partners, several documents have also been developed on the subject.

### Three SPAW important meetings at the GCFI Annual Conference (4-8 November, 2013)

Managers of the 18 marine protected areas listed under the SPAW Protocol of the Cartagena Convention gathered for the first time to define the vision, goals, benefits and activities of

#### Announcement – SCSCB Changes Name to "BirdsCaribbean"



By popular vote, the Society for the Conservation of Caribbean Birds has been changed to "BirdsCaribbean." BirdsCaribbean (54%) was favoured over Caribbean Birds

(46%).

The new website will be ready soon ([www.BirdsCaribbean.org](http://www.BirdsCaribbean.org)); in the meantime, the current website [www.scsb.org](http://www.scsb.org) still works.



Marine mammal stranding workshop

a regional cooperation program, aimed at strengthening the sites and using their expertise to improve the management capacity and SPAW-listing process of other Caribbean PAs. This first meeting was organized and supported by the SPAW Secretariat of UNEP-CEP with SPAW-RAC and CaMPAM.

After expressing weaknesses and strengths of their sites, the participants contributed, with excellent ideas, to better define objectives and potential activities of the program and network. The report of this meeting will be available soon.

Similar to every year since 2004, the UNEP-CEP/SPAW's CaMPAM coordinated at GCFI its session "MPA Science and Management," which was attended by ca. 350 participants of all countries of the wider Caribbean Region including 35 PA's managers and moderated by Dr. Georgina Bustamante. This important session provides a yearly overview of the achievements and current challenges of the MPAs in the region and allows the presenters to expose their results to the marine fisheries and conservation science community participating in the GCFI meeting.

This year, 15 presenters from 7 countries presented papers that included information on MPA planning and management at sites and of national systems, the results of research and monitoring projects aimed at measuring MPA management effectiveness and nature's economic value, as well as interesting cases of community involvement in MPA management.

Finally, a group of 8 senior MPA managers, committed to assist the UNEP-CEP/SPAW CaMPAM program as mentors, met to discuss the next steps of the CaMPAM's Mentorship Program recently launched. This component of CaMPAM capacity building tools aims at sustainably enhancing MPA managers/practitioners competencies through the development of mentoring relationships (professional coaching) that respond to common and emerging needs.

This consultation meeting was led by Mr. Rich Wilson, who assists CaMPAM in the development of this program. The program will operate flexibly and creatively to implement the activities that will allow mentors to assist mentees in their professional development, and ultimately, the advancement of MPA capacity and management effectiveness. In the next weeks, the project team will select the potential mentees from the ones that have submitted their "Expression of Interest" and both, mentors and mentees, will develop specific agreements and work plan for the next two years under the framework of the UNEP-CEP/SPAW CaMPAM.

For additional information on those meetings, please contact Franck Gourdin, SPAW-RAC at Franck.gourdin.carspaw@guadeloupe-parcnational.fr and/or Georgina Bustamante at gbustamante@gmail.com.

### Five projects awarded as part of the cooperation program for the protected areas listed under the SPAW Protocol

As part of the approved 2012-2013 Workplan for SPAW (SPAW Protocol COP7, Punta Cana October 2012), the UNEP-Caribbean Environment Programme's SPAW Secretariat launched a cooperation program for the protected areas listed under SPAW.

This cooperation program, coordinated by SPAW-RAC as part of CaMPAM, focuses on the 18 protected areas already listed ([www.spaw-palisting.org](http://www.spaw-palisting.org)).

After a competitive process in accordance with CaMPAM rules of procedures, five projects from 5 countries (Belize, Colombia, Cuba, and the Caribbean islands of France and the Netherlands) were awarded with a \$12,000 grant each.

Funding priority was given to strengthen protected areas in the Wider Caribbean Region listed under the SPAW Protocol and the projects included exchanges, training, mentorships and other activities to increase capacity on protected area management and promote the listing of additional MPAs. Hereafter the project titles and implementers:

- "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.

Projects are expected to be completed by June, 2014.

### 3rd International Congress on Marine Protected Areas (IMPAC3), Marseille, France, October 21 to 27



The 3rd International Congress on Marine Protected Areas (IMPAC3) was convened in France from October 21 to 27 2013. Organized by the French MPA Agency and IUCN and sponsored by many French and international donors, the congress was attended by 1,700 participants from all over the world. The main session of the conference, held in Marseille from 21 to 25 was followed by a high-level summit (ministerial congress) in Ajaccio, Corsica, attended by governments and leaders of international institutions.

The Caribbean was represented by numerous participants from countries and territories of the Wider Caribbean as well as UNEP Caribbean Environment Programme, the SPAW Regional Activity Center, and CaMPAM. Several presentations were made during workshops, plenaries and evening events on various issues of importance for the Caribbean such as the Lifeweb project on trans-boundary marine mammal management, CaMPAM and capacity-building for MPAs, the lionfish, economic valuation of marine ecosystems among others..

For more information on IMPAC 3 and its outputs, please visit : [www.IMPAC3.org/en/](http://www.IMPAC3.org/en/)

For further informations, please contact Georgina Bustamante: [gbustamante09@gmail.com](mailto:gbustamante09@gmail.com) and [franck.gourdin.carspaw@guadeloupe-parcnational.fr](mailto:franck.gourdin.carspaw@guadeloupe-parcnational.fr).

### SPAW-CaMPAM at the IMPAC3 and ICRI Regional Strategy for the Control of Invasive Lionfish in the Wider Caribbean presented at IMPAC3 and ICRI 28th meetings - Next steps



Director of SPAW-RAC Hélène SOUAN presents the lionfish strategy at an ICRI special event during IMPAC3.

The Regional Strategy for the Control of Invasive Lionfish in the Wider Caribbean was successfully presented at the ICRI 28th General meeting in Belize City on 14-17 October 2013, and at the III International Conference on Marine Protected Areas (IMPAC) in Marseille, France (21-27 October 2013) (see

news further below). Hundreds of professionals involved in the conservation of the marine environment (managers, policy makers, etc.) learnt on this regional cooperation and coordination for lionfish control and management in the Wider Caribbean. The strategy is posted in English, Spanish and French (see [www.qcfi.org](http://www.qcfi.org); [www.icriforum.org/icri-documents/icri-publications-reports-and-posters/lionfish\\_strategy](http://www.icriforum.org/icri-documents/icri-publications-reports-and-posters/lionfish_strategy)).

Following on the presentation of the strategy, SPAW-RAC and MARFUND will hold a workshop in April 2014 to support the development of a specific strategy for the Mesoamerican Reef Region (Guatemala, Honduras, Belize and México) to support concrete management actions including the development of marketing.

For more information, please contact Franck Gourdin, SPAW-RAC, at [Franck.gourdin.carspaw@guadeloupe-parcnational.fr](mailto:Franck.gourdin.carspaw@guadeloupe-parcnational.fr) Mediterranean Marine Protected Areas and climate change. A guide to regional monitoring and adaptation opportunities. Download: <http://data.iucn.org/dbtw-wpd/edocs/2013-019.pdf>

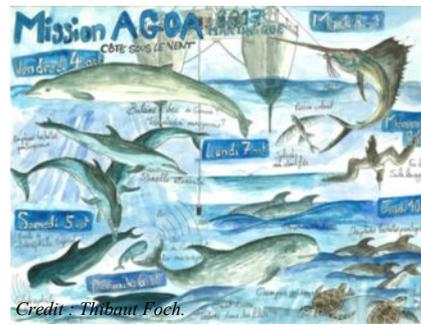


Director of SPAW-RAC Hélène SOUAN presents the lionfish strategy at an ICRI special event during IMPAC3.

CaMPAM presented in several workshops of IMPAC3, including "Regional MPA networks: their contribution to achieve the Aichi targets" and "Certification and standards: professionalization". For the first time, the Caribbean (CaMPAM) and the Mediterranean (MedPAN) networks of MPA professionals gave a joint presentation ("Human networks and ecological network: two sides of a coin"). This was a symbolic statement of the commitment of both networks to collaborate across the ocean for strengthening MPA management capacity in both biogeographic regions (and UNEP Regional Seas Programmes): the Wider Caribbean and the Mediterranean. The commonalities and differences of each regional network show the need to increase communication and collaboration.

### Last Agoa monitoring campaign in Martinique & Northern Caribbean French Islands. (October and December 2013)

Once again the collaboration between the French Agency for Marine Protected Area and SPAW-RAC has been successful. The campaigns were led around Martinique in October and around St Martin, St Marteen, Saba, St. Eustatius, Anguilla and St Barth (French and Dutch Northern Islands or FDNI) in December. A lot



Credit : Thibaut Foch.

of the partners (rangers, guards, managers) answered to the invitation to participate in the campaign.

Discussions among participants were fruitful and common projects should be developed in 2014.

The Martinique waters were rich in sightings of the following species: Gervais' beaked whale (*Mesoplodon europaeus*), pantropical spotted dolphin (*Stenella attenuata*), Risso's dolphin (*Grampus griseus*),

### International partners adopt recommendation to protect parrotfish in the Caribbean



The soon to be released report of the Global Coral Reef Monitoring Network (GCRMN), entitled: Status and Trends of Caribbean Coral Reefs: 1970-2012, is the first report to document quantitative trends of coral reef health based on data collected over the past 4 decades throughout the wider Caribbean region. The analyses show that an ecological balance between corals and algae is instrumental for healthy reef, and that this balance cannot be reached without significant populations of herbivores and especially parrotfish. Since the decline of *Diadema* urchins in the 1980s, parrotfish has played a key role to maintain coral reef and prevent proliferation of algae.

But parrotfish populations are severely reduced and sometimes endangered, one of the main causes of this decline being overfishing and the use of non sustainable fishing techniques including, with regard to parrotfish, spearfishing and fish traps. The report therefore concludes that management action to address overfishing at the national and local levels can have a direct positive impact on reef health now and for the future.

During the last General Meeting of the International Coral Reef Initiative held in Belize in October 2013, and upon presentation of this report, ICRI members adopted a key recommendation to protect parrotfish and similar herbivores in the Caribbean. The recommendation urges nations and multilateral groupings of the wider Caribbean to take action to protect parrotfish (and similar herbivores) to improve coral reef resilience and to restore ecosystem balance. More specifically, ICRI urge Caribbean nations and multi-lateral groupings to:

1. Adopt conservation and fisheries management strategies that lead to the restoration of parrotfish populations and so restore the balance between algae and coral that characterises healthy coral reefs;
2. Maximise the effect of those management strategies by incorporating necessary resources for outreach, compliance, enforcement and the examination of alternative livelihoods for those that may be affected by restrictions on the take of parrotfish;
3. Consider listing the parrotfish in the Annexes of the SPAW Protocol (Annex II or III) in addition to highlighting the issue of reef herbivory in relevant Caribbean fisheries fora;
4. Engage with indigenous and local communities and other stakeholders to communicate the benefits of such strategies for coral reef ecosystems, the replenishment of fisheries stocks and communities' economy

This recommendation is available in English, French and Spanish on ICRI's website : [www.icriforum.org/icri-documents/motions/recommendation-addressing-decline-coral-reef-health-throughout-wider-caribbean](http://www.icriforum.org/icri-documents/motions/recommendation-addressing-decline-coral-reef-health-throughout-wider-caribbean).

More information on the outcomes of the last ICRI meeting (including the regional strategy on lionfish) is at: [www.icriforum.org/ICRIGM28](http://www.icriforum.org/ICRIGM28)



Sperm whale (*Physeter macrocephalus*), Short-finned pilot whale (*Globicephala macrorhynchus*), pelagic and coastal bottlenose dolphin (*Tursiops truncatus*). Despite the bad weather conditions during in the the FDNI, it was a success thanks to everybody's commitment.

Bottlenose dolphins (coastal and pelagic ecotype) and Atlantic spotted dolphins were observed. A sperm whale and a humpback whale (*Megaptera novaeangliae*) were detected by the acoustic devices. Big surprise of the campaign: a whale shark spotted in the south waters of St Maarten, the first time ever in these area. For more information, contact Sandra Jean at [sandra.jean.carspaw@guadeloupe-parcnational.fr](mailto:sandra.jean.carspaw@guadeloupe-parcnational.fr)

### Manatee rescue, rehabilitation and release: Puerto Rico, September 30 – October



Manatee calf at the Puerto Rico Manatee Conservation Center.

Since 1995, governments participating in the SPAW Protocol have considered the conservation of the Antillean subspecies of the West Indian manatee (*Trichechus manatus manatus*) as a regional priority. The subspecies inhabits waters of nearly 20 countries or territories, but its distribution is patchy,

abundance is very low, and adverse human impacts are considerable. In the regional plan for the management of the West Indian manatee, strengthening capacities for manatee rescue and rehabilitation was identified one of the top priorities in many countries, and so ranked as a regional priority. To address this need, the UNEP-CEP SPAW-RAC in collaboration with the National Park of Guadeloupe with the tremendous (as always) help of Dr. John Reynolds and with the generous support of the Government of Puerto Rico convened a workshop on manatee rescue, rehabilitation, recovery and release on September 30- October 2 in San Juan, Puerto Rico.

Scientists, marine park managers and veterinarians from 9 Caribbean countries and territories took part in this technical workshop. Participants were able to exchange experiences on good practices and protocols to monitor, assess health, and capture, keep in captivity and release manatees into the wild. Protocols and procedures were drafted to be further adapted to each country's needs and capacities. A site visit was also organized at the Puerto Rico Manatee Conservation Center to offer participants an insight of the facilities and protocols used in Puerto Rico. The report of the workshop, including a compilation of all protocols and standard materials used by participants will be available soon on the SPAW-RAC's website, as well as an overview of existing protocols and procedures kindly prepared by Dr Nataly Castelblanco in view of the workshop.

### "Climate-Resilient Eastern Caribbean Marine Managed Areas Network (ECMMAN)": Partnership between TNC and SPAW/CaMPAM to support greater effectiveness of Eastern Caribbean MPAs

The Nature Conservancy and UNEP Caribbean Environment Programme, through its the Caribbean MPA Management Network and Forum (CaMPAM), and the Regional Activity Center for the SPAW Protocol, have agreed to partner to implement some of the

activities under the project "Climate-Resilient Eastern Caribbean Marine Managed Areas Network (ECMMAN)" coordinated by TNC and funded by the German government. This decision was made given the robust experience of CaMPAM with supporting capacity-building in marine protected areas and marine managed areas in the Wider Caribbean and considering the success of past partnerships between TNC and CaMPAM in the Caribbean on strengthening capacities of MPAs and MMAs. The ECMMAN project and its SPAW/CaMPAM component will focus on six countries of the Eastern Caribbean: Antigua and Barbuda, St Kitts and Nevis, St Lucia, Grenada, St Vincent and the Grenadines, and Dominica. While St Lucia, Grenada and St Vincent and the Grenadines are already Parties to the SPAW Protocol, Antigua and Barbuda, Dominica and St Kitts and Nevis are not. CaMPAM being primarily a tool to support the SPAW Protocol objectives, the UNEP-CEP and the SPAW-RAC will take the opportunity of this work under the ECMMAN project to continue promoting ratification of the SPAW Protocol by those of countries targeted by the project which haven't done so yet. Through CaMPAM, UNEP-CEP and the SPAW-RAC will, under the ECMMAN project, manage a Small Grants Program for relevant government and non-governmental entities to implement the country's MMA Strengthening Work Plans. Small grants will fund a suite of on-the-ground actions as identified by the countries, for example: purchase of necessary supplies and equipment; hiring of managers and wardens; community outreach and education; focused trainings; fisher exchanges; reducing land based sources (LBS) of pollution; travel expenses; assessment and monitoring activities; and consulting contracts for a wide range of needs such as business planning, marketing, zoning and monitoring.

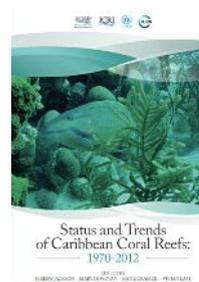
To that purpose, two calls for proposals will be launched in early 2014 and mid 2015, with a maximum of 10 grants awarded for each call. Projects funded by the small grants will last a maximum of two years for implementation (excluding final reporting and dissemination of outputs), with amounts ranging from USD50,000 to USD100,000 depending on the projects, past grants and other relevant criteria.

The first call of proposals will be launched in the coming weeks. For more information, please contact the CaMPAM coordinator, Dr. Georgina Bustamante: [gbustamante09@gmail.com](mailto:gbustamante09@gmail.com)

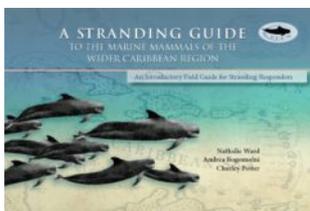
## PUBLICATIONS



Synthesis of experiences on tourism and MPAs, TEMEUM and the SPAW-RAC : [temeum.espaces-naturels.fr/sites/default/files/documents/documents/recueil\\_d039experience\\_sur\\_les\\_journees\\_tourisme\\_durable\\_et\\_aires\\_marines\\_protegees/synthesetd\\_sxmfvbd.pdf](http://temeum.espaces-naturels.fr/sites/default/files/documents/documents/recueil_d039experience_sur_les_journees_tourisme_durable_et_aires_marines_protegees/synthesetd_sxmfvbd.pdf). (The english version will be available soon).



Status and trends of Caribbean coral reefs 1970-2012, GCRMN (to be released soon).



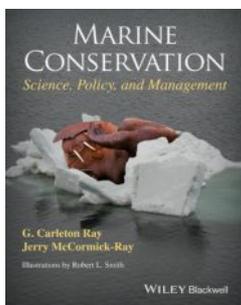
A stranding guide to the marine mammals of the Wider Caribbean Region, ECCN.



Available soon in English, French and Spanish: Leaflet on whale-watching best practices in the Wider Caribbean, prepared by the SPAW-RAC.



And a short movie on the economic value of nature in Bonaire: Natural Treasures of Bonaire, VU University of Amsterdam: [www.youtube.com/watch?v=zEiPFO8kWKc](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=zEiPFO8kWKc)



Marine Conservation: Science, Policy and Management. Carleton and Jerry Ray, University of Virginia. <http://eu.wiley.com/WileyCDA/WileyTitle/productCd-EHEP003017.html>

## UPCOMING AND RECENT EVENTS

- **9 - 15 December 2013:** AGOA Campaign in the French and Dutch Northern Islands (St Martin, St Bart, Saba, etc.).
- **29 - 30 January 2014:** Workshop on Strengthening of FAO WECAFC. Trinidad.
- **1 Feb 2014:** Intergovernmental Preparatory Committee for 3rd International Conference on SIDS. New-York City, USA.
- **3 - 7 Feb 2014:** IMO Subcommittee Meeting on Pollution Prevention and Response. IMO Headquarters, London, UK.
- **March 31 - April 4 2014:** IMO Marine Environment Protection Committee Meeting. IMO Headquarters, London, UK.
- **26 - 28 March 2014:** FAO WECAFC Plenary meeting. Trinidad.
- **7 - 12 April 2014:** Mangrove Symposium. Annual Meeting of the Western Division of the American Fisheries Society. Mazatlan, Mexico. [www.wdmeeting2014.wordpress.com/abstracts](http://www.wdmeeting2014.wordpress.com/abstracts).
- **April 28 - May 1 2014:** 27th Meeting of the CITES AC. Veracruz, Mexico.
- **6 - 7 May 2014:** Workshop "Towards the creation of a strategy for the control of lionfish in the mesoamerican reef" Guatemala City, Guatemala.
- **25 - 27 May 2014:** GEF 46th Council Meeting. Cancun, Quintana Roo, Mexico.

■ **25 - 30 May 2014:** Fifth Assembly of the Global Environment Facility. Cancun, Quintana Roo, Mexico.

■ **23 - 27 June 2014:** CBD SBSTTA 18. Montreal, Canada.

## USEFUL LINKS

■ New section on Climate change on the SPAW-RAC's website : <http://car-spaw-rac.org/?Workshop-on-MPA-resilience-to,489>

■ Voices in the Sea, a website presenting visual and acoustic characteristics of marine mammals : <http://cetuc.ucsd.edu/voicesinthesea.org/>

### Creation of a New Marine Protected Area in Northeastern Haiti



On Wednesday, December 11, 2013 the Haitian government published the creation of Haiti's second Marine Protected Area (MPA) in the official journal, Le Moniteur. The new MPA is hereby called the "The Three Bays Protected Area (Parc Marin des Trois Baies)" and

is located in Northeastern Haiti. This new protected area encloses an area covering a total of close to 90,000 hectares (900 sq.km.) and includes the bays of Limonade, Caracol, and Ft. Liberté, as well as the Lagon aux Boeufs.

"As with the designation of the new protected area in the southwest in August, we once again applaud the Haitian government's move to protect our natural resources. This designation is yet another critical step forward as Haiti renews its commitment to protect its critical coastal and marine ecosystems," stated Jean Wiener, Director of the Fondation pour la Protection de la Biodiversité Marine (FoProBiM) in Haiti. "We now need to undertake serious actions to ensure the complete commitment of local stakeholders to actively participate in the Parc's management. We must also ensure an increased engagement of all national stakeholders, the government, and our international partners to actively participate in the protection and sustainable management of the resources within this important area." FoProBiM undertook the outlining of the original park boundaries in 2000, an ecosystem valuation exercise for the area in 2009 and a re-evaluation in 2013 for the Organization of American States/Department of Sustainable Development (OAS/DSD), has just finished research on local sea turtles and manatees with UNEP CAR-SPAW and the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation (NFWF), is undertaking the development of a Locally Managed Marine Area (LMMA) with the Critical Ecosystems Partnership Fund (CEPF), has just completed the areas first rapid coastal/marine/riverine bio-inventory, and actively participated in the preparation of the legal framework and final establishment of the present park boundaries to help bring about this important designation.

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