



Specially Protected Areas and Wildlife

Protocol and Programme

Newsletter N°20 - March 2017

Commonly used Acronyms

BEST: Voluntary scheme for Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services in Territories of European overseas

CaMPAM: Caribbean Marine Protected Area Management Network and Forum

CEP: Caribbean Environment Programme

ECMMAN: Climate Resilient Eastern Caribbean Marine Managed Areas Network

GCFI: Gulf Caribbean Fisheries Institute

GCRMN: Global Coral Reef Monitoring Network

MPAs: Marine Protected Areas

PAs: Protected Areas

SPAW: Specially Protected Areas and Wildlife

SPAW-RAC: Specially Protected Areas and Wildlife - Regional Activity Center

UN Environment-CEP: United Nations Environment Programme - Caribbean Environment Programme

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News of the month

The 9th COP approves 7th STAC Recommendations

The 7th Meeting of the Scientific and Technical Advisory Committee (STAC7) to the Protocol Concerning Specially Protected Areas and Wildlife (SPAW) in the Wider Caribbean took place in Miami, Florida, from 2 - 4 November 2016 to review progress under the SPAW Protocol and make several recommendations. Thank you to the U.S. Government for their support in the convening of STAC7.

The 9th Conference of Parties (COP9) was held in Cayenne, French Guiana on 13 March 2017 where the Recommendations of the STAC 7 were approved with minor modifications.

These included:

- the listing of the National Park "Cayos de San Felipe" in Cuba, under SPAW, bringing the total number of listed protected areas to 32
- the listing of several new species under Annexes II and III of the Protocol, including 8 species of

sharks and rays, and the Nassau grouper

- the adoption of the voluntary format for submission of exemption requests under Article 11(2) of the Protocol
- the adoption of the 2017-2018 Workplan and Budget for the SPAW Subprogramme, based on its 4 main components :
 1. Strengthening of Protected Areas in the Wider Caribbean Region
 2. Development of Guidelines for the Management of Protected Areas and Species
 3. Conservation of Threatened and Endangered Species
 4. Conservation and Sustainable Use of Coastal and Marine Ecosystems.



UN Environment-CEP says goodbye to SPAW Programme Officer Alessandra Vanzella-Khoury



Alessandra Vanzella-Khoury

After more than 27 years working with the UN Environment in varying capacities, but most notably with the Secretariat to the Cartagena Convention in Jamaica as the Programme Officer for the SPAW Protocol, Alessandra Vanzella-Khoury proceeded on early retirement in March 2017.

Thank you Alessandra for your valuable years of dedication to SPAW and conserving biodiversity!



Monica BOROBIA HILL

The Secretariat is currently in the process of recruiting for this post. In the interim, UN consultant Ms. Monica Borobia Hill has been hired temporarily until the recruitment process has been completed. Please visit www.cep.unep.org for further details on this post.

Projects

The BEST 2.0 Caribbean projects

Since 2014, the SPAW-RAC has served as the Caribbean Hub of the BEST Initiative in collaboration with the Reserve Naturelle of St. Martin. A crucial role of the Caribbean Hub is to monitor the projects in order to help BEST project leaders with their management, liaise with the BEST Secretariat in Brussels (IUCN), and share experiences and good practices.

The BEST 2.0 Caribbean Hub has been working to support the implementation of the BEST 2.0 funding programme in the Caribbean region by:

- organizing and communicating calls for projects
- providing continuous assistance to applicants
- organizing capacity-building training workshops
- convening the Regional Advisory Committee for the evaluation of projects and
- representing the region on BEST Steering Committee at the European Commission

Two calls for projects were launched in 2015 and 2016 respectively dedicated to medium grants (< 400 000 Euros) and small grants

(< 100 000 Euros). This resulted in the selection of 4 Caribbean medium grants projects which started in April and May 2016. At the end of 2016, 12 new small grants projects were selected - their implementations are now in progress!

Projects are managed by various organizations, ranging from regional NGOs, territorial Governments, local stakeholders of the civil society, to National Trusts and research centres.

The BEST 2.0 programme aims to promote the conservation of biodiversity and sustainable use of ecosystem services (including ecosystem-based approaches to climate change adaptation and mitigation) as a basis for sustainable development in Europe's Overseas Countries and Territories (OCTs) encompassing a wide variety of subjects and tangible actions. These include:

- invasive species management (e.g. lionfish, terrestrial species)
- restoration of ecosystems (e.g. coral reefs, mangroves, dry forests)
- environmental education
- establishment of protected areas
- native tree replanting and
- the conservation of sea turtles

2017 BEST 2.0 Small Grants Call for proposal is now open!



BEST 2.0 Programme (Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services in European Overseas Territories) is a funding mechanism for environmental projects in the OCTs, financed by the European Commission Directorate General for International Cooperation and Development (DG DEVCO).

As a basis for local development, this funding mechanism seeks specifically to build capacities, enable and strengthen local authorities and civil society organisations which are involved with biodiversity conservation, and promote sustainable use of natural resources in the OCTs.

The BEST 2.0 programme is currently open to 13 OCTs, namely: **Aruba, Bonaire, Curaçao, Saba, Sint-Eustatius, Sint-Maarten, Anguilla, Bermuda, British Virgin Islands, Cayman Islands, Montserrat, Turks and Caicos, and Saint Barthelemy.**

The BEST 2.0 programme supports (among other aspects) –

- implementation of activities that contribute to regional/national

environmental strategy plans and

- capitalises on actions of the BEST III initiative which are in line with the OCT's [Ecosystem Profile](#) in which species (endemic and/or threatened), habitats (IBA and/or KBA), and ecosystem services, have been identified as priorities.

You can find more details on the content of the BEST projects via the [BEST 2.0 Portal](#) and the [SPAW-RAC Website](#) – See below for more details!

We are pleased to announce the **Second call for proposals for BEST 2.0 Small Grants** in the Caribbean region (launched on 20 March 2017).

Please visit the BEST 2.0 portal to create a user account, find useful information, along with all the documents needed to submit your concept note for a *Swift Small Grant* (≤ 50 000 EUR) or a *Small Grant* (> 50 000 EUR and ≤ 100 000 EUR).

The lead applicant of the project must be a **legal entity registered in one of the 13 OCTs** and all **project activities must be implemented within these 13 OCTs**. Projects must be a duration of **12 months maximum** and no **co-funding is required**.

Eligible applicants from the Caribbean OCTs are invited to **submit their project concept note via the BEST 2.0 portal – deadline 14 April 2017 at 23h59** (Central European Time).

Please contact Elise Queslin, BEST 2.0 Project Officer at elise.queslin@guadeloupe-parcnational.fr, should you have any questions or need assistance.

The SPAW-RAC welcomes new members to its team!

With the departure of Ms. Anne Fontaine, the SPAW-RAC was pleased to welcome Ms. Sandrine Pivard as new Director in September 2016.

Following the departure of Mr. Franck Gourdin at the end of 2016, we are also pleased to welcome Ms. Lucie Labbouz as Assistant Director/Programme Coordinator.

Prior to joining the SPAW-RAC, Ms. Pivard was Head of the Department for Biodiversity, Water Resources and Landscapes (at a regional level) for several years at the French Ministry of Environment and Sustainable Development. She was also previously Project Director for a Swiss-French environmental cooperation programme.



Sandrine PIVARD



Lucie LABBOUZ

Lucie has worked in several institutions over the past 7 years, including the French Environment and Sustainable Development Ministry, the French Agency of Development, and local NGO's. She has been involved with wildlife conservation in Central America and also in several countries in Africa.

Please feel free to contact them with any queries or on other matters at: sandrine.pivard.carspaw@guadeloupe-parcnational.fr and Lucie.labbouz.carspaw@guadeloupe-parcnational.fr

Sargassum technical session and side-event at 69th GCFI Annual Conference, Grand Cayman



Sargassum technical session speakers. Grand Cayman, 10 November 2016.
Photo credits: Julie Belmont.

On 10 November 2016, a technical session **“Understanding and management of the pelagic Sargassum influx in the Caribbean”** was held at the 69th GCFI conference. This session was hosted by the SPAW-RAC and the [UN Environment-CEP](#) Secretariat, in collaboration with the [Association of Caribbean States](#) (ACS), the [Centre for Resource Management & Environmental Studies](#) (CERMES - UWI), the [Sargasso Sea Commission](#) and [UN Environment-Global Programme of Action and Global Partnership on Nutrient Management](#).

The presentations provided the latest scientific information on the origin of the *Sargassum* influx covering aspects concerning oceanographic, climatological, eco-physiological characteristics, as well as the genetic properties of the species and its associated fauna. An update on the current status of forecasting research was also provided which highlighted existing data and expertise for setting up short-term predictions. Also addressed were the on-going efforts and progress towards developing long-term prediction for future/potential landings.

The debate was vibrant with valuable information shared on understanding the phenomenon and management and recommendations in response to the landings.

All presentations are downloadable [here](#).

An informal meeting on the subject was also held with participants on 9 November 2016. This group included coastal managers, researchers, and representatives of NGOs and the fisheries sector. Discussion among the participants conveyed several needs to cope with the issue, and identified groups of stakeholders requiring defined strategies to address landings in terms of management and communication. In light of this, specific and short recommendations with interactive tools will be prepared by the experts from the various regional organisations involved during the first half of 2017.

For more information please contact Frédérique Fardin at frederique.fardin.carspaw@guadeloupe-parcnational.fr

CaMPAM Activities

Training of Trainers

The XII edition of the Training of Trainers program's regional course on MPA management was held in Puerto Plata, Dominican Republic (for Spanish-speaking countries). Twenty-four representatives from 8 countries (1 from Belize, 3 from Cuba, 3 from Colombia, 10 from Dominican Republic, 2 from Haiti, 2 from Panama, 1 from Venezuela, and 2 from Puerto Rico) were trained on the most common topics discussed through the CaMPAM Network.

These included:

- MPA planning and decision support systems
- research and monitoring methods and the GCRMN Caribbean network
- marine habitats and ecosystem services
- communication and enforcement tools
- community involvement in management
- sustainable financing and
- management daily operations

The course consisted of:

- classroom lectures and interactive exercises (some remotely using Skype)
- 2 days of exchanges (visits and discussion) with local fishermen
- a community-managed ecotourism operation and
- underwater observations of marine habitats conditions within the Montecristi marine protected area

On the final day, students had the opportunity to evaluate the course and discuss their preliminary proposals for the local follow-up training to be supported also through CaMPAM.

The course was designed and coordinated by CaMPAM mentors Dr. Martha Prada and Dr. Ruben Torres, with the assistance of the CaMPAM coordinator Dr. Georgina Bustamante. Funding was made possible via a grant awarded by UN Environment-CEP to [Reef Check Dominican Republic \(RCDR\)](#) through the [Directorate for Development Cooperation of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Italy](#). The follow-up phase is currently underway with grants (one per country) and support

from the same donor through [UN Environment - CEP](#). The report of the ToT course is available [here](#).

CaMPAM-ECMMAN Small Grant Program

The project [“Climate Resilient Eastern Caribbean Marine Managed Areas Network” \(ECMMAN\)](#) is funded by the German Federal Government and coordinated globally by The Nature Conservancy (TNC) and by the SPAW-RAC under its Small Grant component. It aims to build the capacity of marine managed areas in 6 Eastern Caribbean countries.

In March 2017, the projects came to an end and final reports will be disseminated. The management of the programme has enhanced collaborations between TNC and UN Environment-CEP/SPAW. It is anticipated that this close working relationship will continue beyond the ECMMAN project.

Country updates

St. Kitts and Nevis - a fishermen consultation meeting was held as part of the process of developing The Narrows Fishing Priority Area Management Plan. It will serve as a model to address similar endeavours in other areas of the St. Kitts and Nevis Marine Managed Area.

St. Lucia - online training was held on the Atlantic and Gulf Rapid Reef Assessment (AGRRA) methodology to build capacity for coral reef assessments. The development of the Ma Kote mangroves management programme (including a nursery and training) was also carried out for addressing the mangrove dieback.

Country updates (cont'd)

St. Vincent and the Grenadines - a Standard Operating Procedures Manual for Marine Protected Area Enforcement in the Grenadines was developed and published. Participation in the production of the Manual included the MPA Enforcement International, the National Parks, Rivers and Beaches Authority, and Sustainable Grenadines (SusGren). It comprises daily enforcement procedures, including preparedness and response to park violations. With matching funds from the USAID-funded Caribbean Marine Biodiversity Program project implemented by TNC and SusGren, 3,000 copies of the Tobago Cays Marine Park brochure were produced and distributed. The brochure encourages best practices and adherence to regulations by park visitors (e.g. no touching the reef or sea turtles, no anchoring on sea grasses or reefs, no discharging or throwing trash or sewage etc).

Grenada - a one-week summer camp was held in 2016 with contribution from a Ridges-to-Reef (R2R) project. Students were from villages near Moulinière Beauséjour Marine Protected Area (MBMPA), Woburn Clarke's Court Bay Marine Protected Area (WCCB MPA) and the proposed Gouyave and Grand Anse MPAs. The CaMPAM-ECMMAN grant program coordinator attended this activity promoting exchanges with students and lecturers. There were also activities with the Reef Guardian students to gather feedback on the programme, as well as surveys with their parents.

Antigua and Barbuda - 2 films are being produced to spotlight the marine protected areas. One will emphasize visual and emotional impact, and the other, more technical, on the North East Management Marine Area (NEMMA), the project MPA focus.

MPA Science and Management session at the GCFI annual conference

As part of CaMPAM's annual activities, UN Environment-CEP/SPAW coordinated the MPA Science and Management session of the 69th GCFI Annual Conference in Grand Cayman. Thirteen papers were selected for presentation out of 18 received - subjects ranged from MPA biophysical characterization and monitoring, to management scheme development in different countries of the Wider Caribbean region. The session was coordinated and chaired by Dr. Martha Prada, and included the selection of the 7 sponsored participants. Presentation included one by the CaMPAM coordinator on "[The evolution of CaMPAM: 19-years of the UNEP-CEP SPAW regional, multidimensional program for strengthening marine protected areas](#)", which provided an overview of CaMPAM activities and shared information on an external assessment recently concluded (click [here](#) for the assessment report). The paper will be published in the 69th GCFI Proceedings.

Other international initiatives and fora

As part of the collaboration with [MedPAN](#), CaMPAM contributed to an international initiative to develop a transatlantic cooperation between MPA managers, including the design of the sessions led by MedPAN "[Regional MPA Networks: their contribution to global challenges](#)" and "[Regional MPA Networks: Contribution to Aichi Target 11 in Regional Seas and sub-regions, and other challenges](#)", at the World Conservation Congress held in Hawaii in early September 2016.



Alessandra Vanzella-Khouri and Dr. Georgina Bustamante

In addition, Dr. Georgina Bustamante (CaMPAM coordinator) and Alessandra Vanzella-Khouri (UN Environment-CEP/SPAW Programme Officer and CaMPAM founder) received the [Fred Packard Award](#) "*for their extraordinary dedication to advancing MPA management across the Caribbean for nearly 20 years, and their long lasting work with the Caribbean Marine Protected Area Management Network – CaMPAM – developed under the framework of UNEP's Caribbean Environment Programme and its Specially Protected Areas and Wildlife Protocol, is the first network of its kind worldwide*".

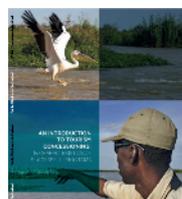
As part of this collaboration with MedPAN, Alessandra delivered a presentation on CaMPAM at the 2nd [Forum of Marine Protected Areas in the Mediterranean](#) in Tangier, Morocco, on 28 November - 1 December 2016 where 400 participants from the Mediterranean discussed the MPA regional program.

As a result of previous collaboration with [INVEMAR](#) on MPA capacity building in Colombia, the CaMPAM coordinator was invited to give a master lecture ("[La formación de capacidades en la gestión de áreas marinas: el Caribe y Colombia](#)") at the closing ceremony of the GEF/UNDP project aimed at developing the System for Marine Protected Areas (SAMP) in Colombia. The event was organized by INVEMAR in Santa Martha, Colombia, on 24 November 2016. During this visit, discussions were held regarding implementation of the 2018 CaMPAM regional course on MPA management in partnership with the INVEMAR Ocean Teachers program.

Publications



[Regional Action Plan for Marine Litter Management in the Caribbean](#) (new report): The report summarizes main issues and in 20 national profiles, provides information on legislation activities, and conservation and policy successes.



The World Bank Group has recently published Part One of a '[Tourism Concessioning Toolkit in Protected Areas](#)', led by the World Bank Group's Tourism and Competitiveness Global Practice, and the International Finance Corporation's Public-Private Partnership Transaction Advisory Department (C3P), drawing from experience in Mozambique, South Africa, and other parts of the world. It will be quite useful for those involved in sea turtle (and other) ecotourism programmes in managed or protected areas.

Upcoming events

[2017 International Sea Turtle Symposium: April 15 - 18 2017](#)

The Annual Symposium on Sea Turtle Biology and Conservation will be convened in Las Vegas, Nevada. It is a unique event that draws participants from around the world, and from across disciplines and cultures, to a common interest and objective: the conservation of sea turtles and their environment.

[Training Programme “Conduct of Marine Scientific Research under the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea”: 2 - 5 May 2017](#)

In the context of the Training Programme, the Division for Ocean Affairs and the Law of the Sea of the Office of Legal Affairs (DOALOS/OLA) and the Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission (IOC) of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, are organizing the second delivery of a training course on the “Conduct of Marine Scientific Research under the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea”, to be held in Castries, Saint Lucia from 2 to 5 May 2017. This Regional Training Course will provide an in-depth analysis of the legal, technical and scientific aspects of the implementation of the relevant provisions of the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea on marine scientific research. Nominations must be sent to doalos@un.org by 7 April 2017.

[38th Scientific Conference of the Association of Marine Laboratories of the Caribbean \(AMLC\): 22 - 26 May 2017](#)

This will be jointly hosted by [Universidad Autónoma de Yucatán \(UADY\)](#), [Universidad Nacional Autónoma de México \(UNAM\)](#), and [CINVESTAV Unidad Mérida \(CINVESTAV\)](#) which are all located in

Mérida, Yucatán, México. The meeting will encompass ALL aspects of marine science and resource management in the Greater Caribbean region. One aspect that will be addressed is the changed dynamics that shape present day coral reef ecosystems and adjacent habitats. The theme of the meeting will therefore be - *Marine Science in a Changing Climate*.

[High-Level UN Conference to Support the Implementation of SDG 14 \(UN Oceans Conference\): June 5 - 9 2017](#)

The high-level conference on the implementation of Sustainable Development Goal 14: *Conserve and sustainably use the oceans, seas and marine resources for sustainable development* will be convened at the United Nations Headquarters in New York, coinciding with World Oceans Day, to support the implementation of Sustainable Development Goal 14. The Conference aims to be the game changer that will reverse the decline in the health of our oceans for people, the planet and prosperity. It will be *solutions-oriented* with engagement from all.

Contact

UN Environment-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
97120 Saint-Claude
GUADELOUPE (FWI)
Tel. : +590 590 41 55 82
Email: agents.carspaw@guadeloupe-parcnational.fr
www.car-spaw-rac.org