

Specially Protected Areas and Wildlife

Newsletter N°23 - March 2019



Protocol And Programme

CONTENT

Event of the month

Recommendations of the 8th SPAW STAC.....[1](#)

Other Events

The CARI'MAM project is launched.....[2](#)
GCFI Session (5 - 9 November 2018)[2](#)
Coral Restoration Consortium (CRC) – Reef Futures 2018.....[3](#)
Managing the Sargassum outbreak in the Caribbean....[3](#)
Carib-Coast: Caribbean Network for Coastal Risks Prevention in relation to climate change.....[3](#)

Briefs

Anguilla Workshop (4 - 7 February 2019)[4](#)
Honduras is our 17th Contracting Party.....[5](#)
SPAW-RAC's new location[5](#)
Introducing new SPAW RAC colleagues[5](#)

CaMPAM News.....[6](#)

EVENT OF THE MONTH

Recommendations of the 8th SPAW STAC (5 - 7 December 2018)

The 8th Meeting of the Scientific and Technical Advisory Committee (STAC 8) to the Protocol Concerning Specially Protected Areas and Wildlife (SPAW) in the Wider Caribbean took place in Panama City, from 5 - 7 December 2018 to review progress under the SPAW Protocol and make several recommendations to the 10th Meeting of the Contracting Parties (COP 10) tentatively scheduled in Roatan, Honduras in early June (more details to come).

MAIN RECOMMENDATIONS:

Approval of protected areas proposed by:

- the Government of France: **National Natural Reserve of Kaw-Roura and the National Natural Reserve of Amana in French Guiana**
- the Kingdom of the Netherlands: **Mount Scenery National Park of Saba Island**

Proposed species for addition under the Annexes of the SPAW Protocol:

Annex II: ***Pristis pristis* (Largetooth sawfish)**
Annex III: ***Carcharhinus falciformis* (Silky shark)**

Establishment of an Ad Hoc Working Group on Sargassum composed of the following countries: Belize, Colombia, Curacao, the Dominican Republic, France and Grenada.

Further develop and strengthen operational, prosecutorial and judicial capacities in the fight against wildlife crime in the Caribbean in collaboration with UNOCD and interested partners. To download STAC meeting documents please follow this [link](#).



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OTHER EVENTS

The CARI'MAM project is launched! (16 - 17th)

October 2018) The implementation of the Marine Mammals Action Plan has gained new momentum through the launch of the EU funded “[Caribbean Marine Mammals Preservation Network](#)” project (CARI'MAM) in October 2018, under the Caribbean Marine Mammals Preservation Network. Funded by the European Regional Development Fund through the Interreg Caribbean programme, the network has already gathered more than 15 partners from over a dozen countries in the region with some MPAs slated to benefit directly from the programme.

Over a period of 3 days, 13 stakeholders from across the Caribbean including MPAs, governments and technical professionals, met in Martinique for the launching of the project. They took part in various workshops geared towards designing the main axis of the project. Monitoring and data management, public awareness and whale watching were addressed through dynamic exchanges and collective brainstorming. Ecological objectives were defined with a goal to study the diversity and seasonality of marine mammal species throughout the Caribbean. Members agreed to gather individual data based on an agreed set of scientific techniques.

Overall, the meeting resulted in strong networking and collective decisions among the core project team towards a common distribution of marine mammal preservation tools throughout the region.

Project overview

■ Headed by the AGOA Sanctuary of the French Biodiversity Agency and the SPAW-RAC along with several French MPAs, the main objective of the CARI'MAM project is *to develop a regional network of marine protected areas dedicated to the conservation of marine mammals in the Caribbean*.

■ With specific emphasis on the MMAP's Priority Actions Plan and recommendations from the SPAW [STAC8](#) (see above), the project aims to strengthen managerial skills and develop common tools for management and evaluation purposes.

■ The proposed network will include the development of long-term commercial observation of marine mammals across the Caribbean and the support of partnership agreements with the Dutch and Dominican Republic Sanctuaries.

■ The [AGOA](#) sanctuary and the [SPAW-RAC](#) lead the implementation of several technical work packages under the project:

- Regional analysis of legislation and threats concerning marine mammals in the Caribbean (SPAW-RAC)
- Improving knowledge about marine mammals in the Caribbean (AGOA)
- Strengthening skills and providing tools for better marine mammal management (SPAW-RAC and AGOA)
- Developing a consistent acoustic methodology for marine mammal population monitoring at the Caribbean scale (AGOA)
- Establishing sustainable and wildlife-friendly commercial whale watching activities in the Caribbean (SPAW-RAC)
- Recommendations for the development of management plans in marine protected areas across the project area (SPAW-RAC)



71st GCFI Session (5 - 9 November 2018)

The 71st Annual Gulf and Caribbean Fisheries Institute ([GCFI](#)) Conference took place in San Andrés Islands (Columbia) in November 2018. It was hosted by the Corporation for the Sustainable Development of the Archipelago of San Andrés, Providencia and Santa Catalina ([CORALINA](#)). This year's theme was “Tourism in the Caribbean: challenges for the management of fisheries and coral reef ecosystems”.



The conference was attended by the SPAW-RAC who organized a technical session entitled “[Coral reefs and associated ecosystems in a changing climate](#)”. This session was composed of [14 presentations](#) focusing on 4 main topics:

1. Monitoring and research on coral reefs (GCRMN)
2. Restoration of coral reefs (CRC)
3. The socio-economic context of coral reefs (SocMon method)
4. Coral reefs for a sustainable economy

The conference provided an opportunity for SPAW-RAC to share and gather information among the Caribbean network. The technical session was of particular importance as it enabled wide-scale communication, especially concerning numerous coral reefs initiatives.

Coral Restoration Consortium (CRC) - Reef Futures 2018 (11 - 14 December 2018)



Coral settlement substrates, Mexico, SECORE International – Photo from Paul Selvaggio



Nursery in the Colombian islands of San Andrés and Providence - Photo from Phanor H Montoya-Maya at Corales de Paz.

The symposium entitled “*Reef Futures 2018*” which took place in Key Largo, Florida (10 - 14 December 2018), was considered a major event for coral reef preservation and a perfect end to the *International Year Of Reefs (IYOR) 2018*. Co-organized and hosted by the Coral Restoration Consortium (CRC) with the SPAW-RAC (GCRMN-Caribbean co-chair) as part of the Steering Committee, this “community of practice” has been active since 2017.

Currently, coral reefs face many threats (pollution, overfishing, invasive species, diseases, hurricanes, ocean acidification and climate change to name a few). Reef Futures 2018 is the first global conference focusing on coral restoration and allowed numerous scientists and experts from all over the world to share experiences and information about restoration conveying that some hope remains.

In addition to sound monitoring, public awareness and effective legislation, along with restoration, appear to be increasingly essential and efficient tools in ensuring the recovery and survival of reefs.

Managing the Sargassum outbreak in the Caribbean

Given the growing concerns over the impact of the Sargassum influx in the region which has been increasing in intensity since 2011, this was a high priority item on the STAC 8 agenda. The report entitled “*Sargassum White Paper - Sargassum outbreak in the Caribbean: Challenges, opportunities and regional situation*” was presented by the Secretariat to highlight the emerging threat to Caribbean coastal ecosystems and economies. The Meeting also welcomed the proposal by the Government of France to establish an Ad Hoc Working Group on Sargassum under the coordination of the SPAW-RAC (see above). The aim of the Working Group will be to establish coordination and collaboration with relevant regional and global initiatives in order to promote maximum impact of synergies and solutions to the Sargassum outbreaks.

In parallel, the SPAW-RAC has been managing an online forum to gather input from regional stakeholders on the influx and a report was presented during the 2nd Regional Sargassum Symposium organised by FAO and University of the West Indies (UWI) in Barbados (21 - 22 November 2018). The SPAW-RAC will also contribute to regional efforts by providing support in coordinating past, current and upcoming initiatives related to the influx.

Launch of CARIB-COAST: Caribbean Network for Coastal Risks Prevention in relation to Climate Change (16 - 17 January 2019)

SPAW-RAC spearheads another EU funded project **Carib-Coast** - the project is piloted by the French Geological Survey Office (BRGM) and integrated into the [Interreg Caribbean Programme](#) which aims to initiate a Caribbean network for coastal risk crisis prevention and management in relation to climate change in an era of increased tropical cyclones and sea level rise.

Development of monitoring network and coastal risk management tools

Caribbean coastlines are particularly vulnerable to the impacts of climate change such as coastal erosion, sea level rise and extreme weather events (example hurricanes). These risks affect not only the population and properties along the coast, but also the tourism sector and economy for many islands.

Healthy coastlines also interface with other ecosystems (mangroves, coral reefs, seagrasses) to sustain environments rich in biodiversity.

The Carib-Coast project is based on the principle of effective networking. It aims to pool, co-build and disseminate monitoring approaches, coastal risk prevention and adaptation to climate change. The project encompasses the entire insular Caribbean with focus on the French Caribbean territories of Guadeloupe, Martinique and Saint Martin alongside Trinidad and Tobago, Jamaica and Puerto Rico.

Of particular significance will be the development of a digital marine submersion modelling platform, and a coastal erosion monitoring and prevention network based on nature-based solutions and operational risk coastline management tools.

A project integrated into the Interreg Caribbean 2014 - 2020 programme

Benefitting from a large partnership and led by the BRGM, the Carib-Coast project is supported by the Association of Caribbean States (ACS) and the Caribbean Community Center on Climate Change (5C). This project is co-financed by the Interreg Caribbean programme under the European Regional Development Fund (ERDF).

With Guadeloupe serving as the Managing Authority, Interreg Caraïbes is a European programme enabling Guadeloupe, Guyana, Martinique, Saint-Martin, and other French and European territories, to undertake cooperative actions with their neighbours in the Wider Caribbean Region (*this includes the more than 35 countries encompassing an area from the northern part Mexico all the way to Venezuela in the South*).



© CARIB-COAST, Caribbean Network for Coastal Risks Prevention in relation to Climate Change

Anguilla Workshop “UK Overseas Territories Coral Reef Initiative” (4 - 7 February 2019)

The workshop was organized by the Joint Nature Conservation Committee / Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (JNCC/Defra) and animated by Dialogue Matters. Two SPAW-RAC members attended it serving as representatives for the Secretariat and GCRMN-Caribbean co-chair, where they conveyed the work of the GCRMN and the recently developed monitoring guidelines. The aim of the workshop was to bring together Caribbean UK OT's/other institutions and raise awareness on projects being carried out elsewhere in the region towards capacity building and integrating UK OT's into scaled regional initiatives.

During the 3 days, many questions and topics were addressed (example collaborative efforts, information sharing, standardizing/gathering data, funding and promoting public awareness, piloting “science to action” initiatives, to name a few). Work was carried out either in small groups or in plenary sessions and concise feedback provided by the organizers.

At the end of the workshop a draft workplan for 2019 - 2020 was developed. The first steps will be to create various groups and exchange platforms to sustain communication on current initiatives and to continue the efforts initiated in Anguilla. Initiatives will emerge to facilitate collaboration between UK OT's and regional institutions under coral reefs preservation projects.



Brainstorming about coral reefs value/knowledge/issues gathering all the participants – Anguilla – Mike Hélon.- Sandrine Pivard

Honduras becomes latest country to ratify Cartagena Convention

Honduras has become the 26th country to ratify the **Cartagena Convention** and its Protocols on Oil Spills (**Oil Spills Protocol**), Specially Protected Areas and Wildlife (**SPAW Protocol**), and Pollution from Land-based Sources and Activities (**LBS Protocol**) out of 28 possible members. This significant milestone took effect on **13 October 2018** and Honduras now joins other countries in the Wider Caribbean in their efforts to preserve and sustainably manage the use of the coastal and marine resources of the region.

SPAW-RAC's new location

As of 1 January 2019 the SPAW-RAC is now hosted by **DEAL of Guadeloupe** along with new contact details as per below – please update your address book accordingly:

- Sandrine PIVARD (sandrine.pivard(at)developpement-durable.gouv.fr), Director
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NB: replace "(at)" by "@"

New project officers at SPAW-RAC

In January 2019, 2 civic service volunteers Mike Hé lion and Samuel Henry, joined the SPAW-RAC as project officers to provide support on current and upcoming projects, and contribute to achieving the goals set by the STAC workplan. Their arrival, in addition to the expected strengthening of the team, embodies the ambitious agenda set by the Regional Activity Centre for the years to come. A new programme officer is scheduled to join the team in March.



Fabien Barthelat: *I am honored to join the UNEP SPAW-RAC and to contribute once again to environment preservation in the Greater Caribbean Region. As Program Manager, I will dedicate myself to working on all of the RAC's missions.*

After MSc carried out in France and Spain, I have successively worked for a National Park in Spain, the Environment Department in the island of Mayotte, the French National Forest Office in Guadeloupe, the Office for Central America and the Caribbean of the International Union for the Conservation of Nature, and more recently for the French Ministry of Environment in Guadeloupe and Saint-Martin.



Samuel Henry: *"I am grateful for the opportunity to contribute to the regional efforts towards the protection of Caribbean Areas and Wildlife through regional cooperation. I will be working specifically on the regional response to Sargassum proliferation and Cari'mam, among other projects.*

I recently graduated from a MSc in Politics and International Cooperation from the University of the West Indies (Jamaica), a MSc in Political Science from the Université des Antilles (Martinique) and a MSc in International Politics from Sciences Po Bordeaux (France). "



Mike Hé lion: *"It is a real pleasure to be part of a regional network for Caribbean protection. I have a scientific background in biology and ecology, especially concerning tropical ecosystems.*

I had the chance to live a year in Scotland and to do my MSc internship in Guadeloupe. By integrating the SPAW-RAC, I have the opportunity to learn more about the Caribbean Region and to put my knowledge to good use for its preservation and development. My efforts will especially be focused on coral monitoring projects, among which the GCRMN-Caribbean for instance."

CaMPAM Activities

An EBM approach in MPA management - 6 projects in 5 countries

As part of the project coordinated by the University of West Indies Centre for Resource Management and Environmental Studies ([UWI-CERMES](#)) and a cooperative agreement with the UN Environment-Caribbean Environment Programme (UN Environment-CEP) to apply the EBM approach in MPA management, 6 projects in 5 countries (Antigua and Barbuda, Barbados, Belize, Saint Lucia, and Trinidad and Tobago) are being implemented by participants of the 13th edition of CaMPAM Training of Trainers (ToT) Programme on Marine Protected Areas (MPAs) Management that took place in Barbados from 16 - 26 April 2018.

The projects were scheduled to end in late February and are supported by small grants (USD4,000-5,000) awarded and administered by University of the West Indies, and coordinated by Dr. Patrick McConney and Ms. Maria Pena, with the assistance of the CaMPAM coordinator. The proposals responded to the needs perceived by participants at the 2018 ToT and activities have involved periodical reporting and discussions through conference calls with all stakeholders. Information on the project outcomes will be disseminated in the next SPAW-RAC quarterly newsletter and through the CaMPAM List.

Migration of CaMPAM Website

The migration of CaMPAM website to the [new UN Environment Caribbean Environment Programme](#) portal is currently in progress. The new web site will have an improved look and will integrate recommendations made by Contracting Parties of the SPAW Protocol.

Marine Protected Areas Science and Management session at the 71st Annual GCFI

CaMPAM coordinated the Marine Protected Areas Science and Management session of the 71st Annual GCFI in San Andres Island, Colombia. A total of [10 papers](#) were presented to approximately 250 participants. Through a partnership between OSPAR, SPAW and CaMPAM, CEP sponsored the participation of 5 MPA practitioners and 4 project coordinators, who presented in the MPA and poster sessions including a presentation entitled "Coral Reefs and Associated Ecosystems in a Changing Climate" coordinated by the SPAW-RAC.

The sessions covered several aspects of marine conservation, ranging from the development of effective national MPA systems and environmental policy, to the implementation of an online tool to collect visitor fees at MPAs. Other topics included the establishment of protection measures for sharks and rays, building MPA capacity in several Caribbean islands, the ecological assessment and restoration of coral reefs and associated habitats and species, the effect of diving tourism in marine park sustainability, and the development of a Decision Support System (DSS) tool for marine area management with an ecosystem-based approach.

Since 2004, CaMPAM has used this session to share experiences to assist in capacity building of MPAs (a mandate of the SPAW Protocol under the Cartagena Convention). In 2018, the activity was funded by the Commission for Protecting and Conserving the North-East Atlantic ([OSPAR](#)) with additional support from the Italian Agency for Cooperation and Development of the Italian Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation and Development ([IACD](#)) agency through grants awarded via the UN Environment CEP. It was coordinated by Dr. Martha Prada who is also the coordinator of the project "[Biodiversity for Sustainable Development in the Caribbean through Ecosystem Based Management](#)" also funded by the IACD ([see details on 3rd EBM Workshop](#)). In this way project achievements and lessons learnt can be consolidated, capitalized and integrated into relevant UN Environment EBM Programme and shared among the countries of the Wider Caribbean Region, thus responding to donor goals and expectations.



Participants at the 71 GCFI, MPA Science and Management session, In San Andres Island, Colombia.

11th Annual Assembly and "Mediterranean challenges for Marine Protected Areas and Small Scale Fisheries" Conference

In mid-November 2018 following an invitation from the Mediterranean Marine Protected Areas Network ([MedPAN](#)), CaMPAM participated in the 11th Annual Assembly and "Mediterranean challenges for Marine Protected Areas and Small Scale Fisheries" Conference in Palma de Mallorca (Balears Islands, Spain). CaMPAM coordinator, Georgina Bustamante, exchanged information with participants on CaMPAM and Caribbean MPAs outlining commonalities and differences with fellow

institutions in the Mediterranean Sea. The coordinator also participated in meetings of the MPA Networks twinning project of the [Transatlantic MPA Regional Networks](#) aimed at strengthening the collaboration among site managers and regional networks on both sides of the Atlantic and supported by European Union. During these meetings, representatives of several regional and national networks for MPA managers discussed the strategy for continuation of this project. As a result, a proposal is being developed that can provide the resources to implement activities beneficial for all.



Participants of the Special session on the Ecosystem-based Management project during the VII Meeting of the SPAW Scientific and Technical Advisory Committee

3rd EBM Regional Workshop and Special Session

On 5 December 2019, the 3rd EBM Regional Workshop took place via a special session organized alongside the [8th SPAW STAC](#) in Panama City, Panama. The workshop aimed to increase support at a higher technical and political level to facilitate the development and expansion of the EBM/DSS project for future application. The session brought together various representatives (government, non-government and project partner agencies) from 14 countries along with the SPAW-RAC.

CaMPAM biannual report presented at the 8th SPAW STAC

In December 2018 CaMPAM presented [its biannual report](#) at the [3rd EBM Regional Workshop](#) and [8th SPAW STAC](#) respectively. While discussions included many topics relevant to the MPAs, the CaMPAM coordinator highlighted that a lack of resources will prevent the coordination and implementation of many activities in 2019. Despite participants acknowledging the importance of the network and its programmes, there were no offers for funding or sourcing additional resources. Via UN Environment-CEP and the [OSPAR Commission](#) a proposal was drafted by CaMPAM to seek joint funding to enable the continuation of network activities beyond its 21st anniversary.

Network Highlights

In the last two quarters of 2018, about 15 new subscribers joined the CaMPAM List bringing the total number of network members to 900 in its 10 years of existence.

During this period the CaMPAM List has disseminated about 90 messages, posted by members directly or indirectly (by sending them to the moderator for posting), including periodical issues of about 20 newsletters of national and regional institutions.

Message content ranged from new job and grant opportunities, to management lessons, information requests, research results, regional environmental situations, local issues such as habitat recovery post hurricane, daily reports of intergovernmental environmental meetings, local and regional gatherings, training courses and conferences announcements, and many others.

Additionally, 2 private WhatsApp groups (comprising of participants from the 2016 and 2018 ToT) maintain active communication and information exchange.

CaMPAM coordinator and List moderator ensures linkage between all communication tools by exchanging relevant information across the platforms. CaMPAM List archives can be accessed [here](#).

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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