



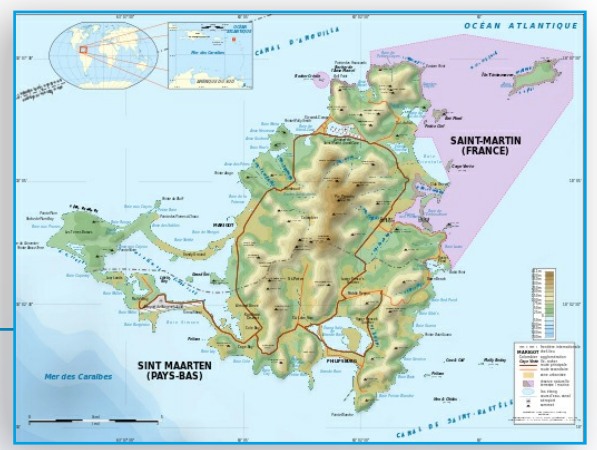
Factsheet

# The Protocol on Specially Protected Areas and Wildlife in the Wider Caribbean (SPAW): Réserve Naturelle Nationale de Saint-Martin

- A SPAW listed site -

## Identification

**Country:** France  
**Name of the area:** Réserve Naturelle Nationale de Saint-Martin  
**Administrative region:** Guadeloupe  
**Date of establishment:** 9/3/1998  
**Geographic location:**  
 Longitude X: -63.001098632812  
 Latitude Y: 18.101639553165  
**Date of listing under SPAW:** 23 October 2012



**Contacts:**  
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 97150 Saint-Martin  
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## Introduction

The national nature reserve of St-Martin extends over 3054 hectares where three different ecological backgrounds live: the littoral, lakeside and marine space. Each of these backgrounds have a remarkable biodiversity. It is five main ecosystems that strives to protect the RNN of St-Martin. In knowledge, the lakeside spaces, the marine mangrove swamps, the coral reefs, the herbariums of phanerogams, and the littoral spaces (beaches, cliffs, îlets, vegetation of the seaside).

On the ground part, there are the xerophytics, specific to the dry climate of the island which dominate the littoral region in the wind, the cactus "English head" which appears on the regional list of the species to be protected is the emblem. Ponds, serving as area of passage and as wintering for limicoles and anatides, shelter a rich avifauna including more than 80 different species among which frigate birds and the brown Pelicans well known by the local population.

The mangrove swamp establishes as for her a particular zone in intertidale zone, serving as places of protection and as nursery for numerous species. Quite as, in the marine environment, the herbariums of phanerogams which we can meet on the sandy formations close to the coast. Finally, Martinmas being a volcanic island, numerous constructed organic cliffs, high places of diversity, can be observed. The reserve is also the place of observation of marine mammals and reptiles in particular of tortoises as show it the numerous sites of layings, eggs on beaches.

### SPAW criteria met

- Ecological criteria**
- Representativeness
  - Conservation value
  - Rarity
  - Naturalness
  - Critical habitats
  - Diversity
  - Connectivity/coherence
  - Resilience

- Cultural and socio-economic criteria**
- Productivity
  - Cultural and traditional use
  - Socio-economic benefits

## Site description

### General features of the site

**Size:** 31 sq. km

**Terrestrial surface under sovereignty, excluding wetlands:**

2 sq. km

**Wetland surface:** 1 ha

**Marine surface:** 28 sq. km

**National status of your protected area:** Réserve Naturelle

**Marine ecoregion:** 64. Eastern Caribbean

### Management structure, authority

Association de Gestion de la réserve naturelle nationale de Saint-Martin

### Main fauna populations and/or those of particular importance present (resident or migratory) in the area:

#### Reef community

Reef communities are present in St-Martin under two aspects:

- A coral tackle, a not bio-builder that we can observe on the rocky substrata everything around the island.
- Cliffs little developed on the small depths; in certain bays or around islands.

#### Fishes

All in all, hundred of species was identified in all the diving resorts which served to make visual statements. This interest shows itself either by a high biodiversity (north zone of Tintamarre), or by important concentrations of species (Rocher Creole) and sometimes by both at the same time (Est zone of the Tintamarre islet).

#### Marine reptiles

3 species of tortoises among 6 susceptible to be met in the Antilles are present in St-Martin. Several sites of laying eggs are located on the beaches of the Natural reserve: Galion beach, the Baie Orientale, the beach of the discharge, the beach of Petites Cayes, Terres Basses beach.

The Hawksbill turtle; "in critical danger of extinction", the Green turtle which feeds in the herbariums of phanerogams marine and the leatherback sea turtle.

#### Marine mammals

33 species of marine mammals populate or frequent waters of the Caribbean. It is not thus rare to see the tray formed by St-Martin, Anguilla and Saint-Barth, populated with humpback whales which come to reproduce or of finned pilot whale, speckled dolphin, big dolphin and even several times killer whales there.



### The sea birds

The sea birds live partially in or near the marine environment and become integrated into the marine food chain. At present, 3 types of housing environments welcome summer camps of sea birds at St-Martin: cliffs, saltworks and Tintamarre islet. Most famous are the brown Noddy, tropic bird, terns and the Pelicans.

There is in more some spongiaires (difficult to recognize), gorgons (specific wealth superior to Anguilla), annelids, arthropods (spiny lobsters mainly) and mollusks (lambis) (For the inventory of the fauna, to see the appendix 10 of the plan of management himself(itself) annexes it).

### Inhabitants inside the area or in the zone of potential direct impact on the protected area:

Inside the area

Permanent: Not given

Seasonal: 400000

In the zone of potential direct impact:

Permanent: 9250

Seasonal: Not given

### Management plan

Recall that the main objective retained in this management plan is the maintenance of biodiversity and preservation of various marine and terrestrial ecosystems in Saint Martin. This goal may seem rather defensive, however, increasing human pressure, in a small space, requires to consider that getting the maintenance of environmental quality today is in itself a very ambitious challenge for St. Martin.

From this main objective, seven long-term goals were defined:

- 1) Improved knowledge on areas and protected species
- 2) The control of human impacts on protected areas
- 3) The extension of the nature reserve management to new spaces
- 4) The restoration of degraded environments or populations
- 5) Communication and Environmental Education
- 6) The optimization of resources to ensure the quality of engagement
- 7) The strengthening of regional integration

### International status and Date of designation

Biosphere reserve: No

Ramsar site: No

SPAW Site : 2012



## Links

PA LISTING : [www.spaw-palisting.org](http://www.spaw-palisting.org)

CaMPAM : <http://campam.gcfi.org/campam.php>

UNEP-CEP : [www.cep.unep.org/](http://www.cep.unep.org/)

SPAW-RAC : [www.car-spaw-rac.org](http://www.car-spaw-rac.org)