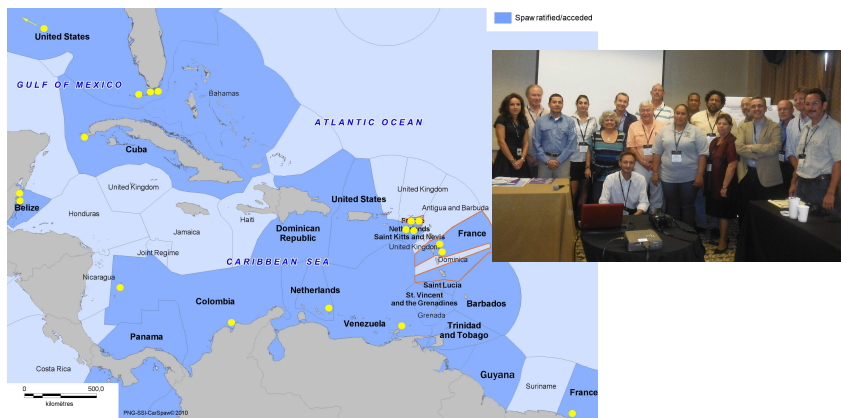




UNEP-CEP/SPAW RAC

REPORT

First Meeting of Managers of the Protected Areas Listed under the SPAW Protocol of the Cartagena Convention



November 5th, 2013
Aransas Room, Omni Hotel

66th GCFI Meeting, Corpus Christi, Texas, USA

1. Summary of the Meeting

1.2 Introduction

Alessandra Vanzella-Khouri gave a presentation on the meeting objectives, topics to discuss, SPAW listing process, the CaMPAM Network and Forum, benefits to be SPAW-listed, as well as preliminary ideas on the vision, goals and elements of the cooperation program and network for the PAs listed (in keeping with Article 7 of the SPAW Protocol). The presentation also included request for feedback from sites on how to increase nominations, as well as on their potential contribution or strengths to the SPAW PA network and other sites from SPAW Parties.

1.3 Strengths and weaknesses of each MPA listed

Summary of the managers' presentation on their MPAs' needs and strengths:

- *Flower Garden Banks National Marine Sanctuary, USA*: Work more internationally with the rest of the Caribbean, strong education/outreach and science monitoring/management program, advisory council creation and management. Sees SPAW listing process as an opportunity to learn from the Caribbean sites
- *Florida Key National Marine Sanctuary USA*- Lessons to learn from other Caribbean MPAs; connectivity of sites and people (upstream and downstream, e.g. with Cuba); great monitoring programs, how to deal with lionfish; strong partnership with different federal, state and private agencies.
- *Everglades and Dry Tortugas National Parks, USA*- - Science-based management; ecological restoration of Everglades (huge, challenging) and influence in the Florida Bay; experience in restoration (agricultural activities) for coral reefs, sea grass beds and mangroves, and to control lionfish.
- *Guanahacabibes National Park, Cuba*- Strengths: planning and management, sea turtles monitoring. Needs: valuation of ecosystem services, synergy with other conventions and GEF projects. exchange with local communities, sustainable fisheries and invasives (lionfish, *Melaleuca* and *Casuarina*); sustainable fisheries in Belize, Mexico and US; ecosystem restoration: Strengths: MPA planning and management of MPAs
- *Hol Chan Marine Reserve, Belize*- Limited government support but PA achieved financial sustainability and is well organized; board of trustees with gov. and private and community groups, credibility, good stakeholder involvement (tourism sector). Weakness: important coastal development.
- *Glover's Reef Marine Reserve*- Strengths: Implementing a managed area right-based use approach for better enforcement (fishers and other stakeholders involvement, violation decreased 50%; working closely with WCS with MarStream use of drones.

Netherlands

- *St Eustatius National Park the Quill and Boven* - Changes in government provides opportunity (Dutch government wants to develop the island but also support the PA); expanding area. Challenges and achievements: gulf courses increase, increasing no. species recorded, not financially sustainable despite tourism activities; local communities and fishermen are part of the management via pilot projects; small size is both a strength and a weakness (few tourists).

Colombia

- *Seaflower Marine Protected Area*- Good monitoring with CORALINA. Need to work with neighbors (ecologically connected); a big GEF project that includes several components, namely 1) adaptive management, 2) education; 3) financial sustainability (challenging because the MPAs depend on grants); 4) monitoring in remote areas; 5) alternative livelihoods. Interested in establishing connection with Pedro Bank, Rosalinda Bank and Mesoamerican Reef.
- *Sanctuary Ciénaga Grande de Santa Marta*- Funding support from the government, experiences in restoration and migratory birds monitoring, important involvement of communities for planning. Other Colombian parks interested in being listed (Old Providence, Tayrona, Corales del Rosario, Delta of Magdalena and Sierra Nevada de Sta. Marta), all government owned and funded. Interest in exchanges and training on mangrove and wetland restoration; protection of protection of migratory birds (scientific exchanges). Threatened by African palm crops, road building, etc. The SPAW listing will increase visibility and stop indiscriminate development. Need to strength community involvement in PA planning and management.

France

- *National Park of Guadeloupe*- Good communication tools and supports, many anthropogenic activities to control. Priorities: control of human activity, indicators of anthropogenic pressures (yachting; fish stocks), no take areas; manatee introduction (Brazil intro)
- *St Martin National Reserve, St Martin Lagoon Ponds and Agoa Sanctuary FWI*- Strength: good local implementation of fees. Needs and challenges: 1) France natl. recognition of the SPAW protocol by donors; 2) regulations from Metropole; 3) raise awareness among communities and local decision makers, 4) links with other international agreements like CDB, SPAW and WHS or other intl. protection categories, 4) knowledge of connectivity of marine populations with other Lesser Antilles; 5) park fees establishment; 6) exchanges with neighbor islands with diff. countries. They have rangers exchanges with Guadeloupe (peer exchanges is better than courses). Will assist other islands to nominate more PAs.

1.4 Defining priorities and goals of the network

The meeting discussed the goals and expectations for the network and its cooperation programme. The following were the points agreed:

General goals: It was agreed that it will more than a social/technical network like CaMPAM, but an ecological network (aiming for biologically connected sites and sub-regions). The activities of the cooperation programme will be developed gradually with an integrated way and with a view to contribute to the building of the ecological network.

Expectations:

- Know each other - face to face - use existing lists and venues of CaMPAM and continue to communicate and exchange among SPAW listed managers (possibly through a CaMPAM sublist)
- Capacity building and professional development
- Ability to coordinate among sites large scale projects (e.g. grouper and turtle migration/reproduction)
- Promote and assist other PAs with their nominations to be added to list under SPAW
- Share best practices
- Priority for grants by the SPAW Secretariat (within CaMPAM and other UNEP-CEP programs)

- Recognition and awareness in the Caribbean-wide
- Opportunities to make linkages with new sectors (like tourism, shipping) and build new partnerships

2. Conclusions and recommendations

The meeting agreed on the following elements for the network of the SPAW-listed PAs:

Vision:

To achieve ecoregional strategic conservation and sustainable management of marine resources in the WCR while increasing capacity and promoting cooperation among the sites.

Goals:

- Acquiring scientific knowledge of connections of biological populations to improve the management of ecologically-connected sites
- Branding of SPAW listing to promote new nominations (add the branding notion to the first goal “enhance local...”)
- Move “promote partnerships...with Ramsar, etc. to Activities
- Rewording harmonization to “promote common approaches”
- Increase the participation in the SPAW list

Benefits to be part of the SPAW-PA List and Network:

- Increased recognition and awareness as a place of importance locally, regionally and globally
- Local and national pride resulting in national responsibility to support management
- Higher visibility resulting in possible increases in employment opportunities and income (e.g. tourism, “marketing” the area)
- More likely to benefit from SPAW grants and other types of assistance (sites become priorities for SPAW Secretariat)
- Opportunities for enhancing capacity, management, protection and sustainability
- Opportunities for support under other areas of SPAW and CEP (species conservation, pollution control, EBM)

Activities proposed:

- Develop contact list of SPAW-listed sites managers.
- Translate SPAW listed sites information/report to the other languages
- Develop a matrix with general data for relevant species to determine connectivity of biological populations among sites.
- Create a brochure on SPAW listing process and listed sites
- Dry Tortugas and Everglades to host a group of managers from other SPAW sites.
- Build dedicated spaces for each SPAW PAs using SPAW website and CaMPAM database ("fact-sheets") and sources of information on biological connectivity.
- Develop “sister sites” among PA -listed .
- Build a matrix or table of issues and strengths (?) for each listed site and add to the matrix the lionfish control.
- Dedicate a section of the SPAW-RAC Newsletter to the SPAW-listed sites.
- Fundraising for the SPAW listing process and activities

- Use GCFI or other existing fora for annual meetings of SPAW listed sites representatives.
- Establish an Ad Hoc working group to develop the draft structure of the SPAW network. Proposed members: Gonzalo, Billy, Miguel Alamilla and Alejandro Bastidas and SPAW Secretariat.
- Add all SPAW-list PA managers to the Caribbean lionfish contact list
- Finalise list of benefits and develop a white paper for SPAW focal points on "value added by the listing process"
- Linkages with CaMPAM mentorship program: identify mentors and mentees in the 18 PA
- Next meeting during the next GCFI (Barbados, November 2014)
- Build partnerships and synergies with other Conventions (namely WHS, Ramsar)
- Support PA and invasive species management

Meeting adjourned at 1pm

List of participants

Belize

- *Hol Chan Marine Reserve*- Miguel Alamilla, manager mikeobze@yahoo.com, and Isaias Majil, Natal. MPA Coordinator
- *Glover's Reef Marine Reserve*: Alicia Heck, manager, eck.allie@gmail.com

Cuba

- *Guanahacabibes National Park*: Maritza García CNAP Director maritzagarcia@snap.cu, Enrique Hernandez, CNAP Sub-Director enrique@snap.cu

Colombia

- *Sanctuary Ciénaga Grande de Santa Marta*- Luis Alejandro Bastidas alejandro.bastidas@parquesnacionales.gov.co
- *Seaflower Marine Protected Area*, San Andrés and Providencia Archipelago- Durcey Stephen, Director CORALINA; Erick Castro Gonzalez, CORALINA, pescastro@gmail.com
- *Dirección de Asuntos Marinos, Costeros y Recursos Acuáticos Ministerio de Ambiente y Desarrollo Sostenible Marina y Costero*- Ana Ma. Gonzalez, anamariagonzalezd@gmail.com

France

- *National Park of Guadeloupe*- Alice Leblond, manager, alice.leblond@guadeloupe-parcnational.fr
- *St Martin Natural Reserve and St Martin Lagoon Ponds*: Romain Renoux, romain.renoux@rnsn.org
- *Agoa Sanctuary (FWI) in France*: Romain Renoux, romain.renoux@rnsn.org

Netherlands

- *St Eustatius National Park the Quill and Boven*- Steve Piontek, manager@statiapark.org

USA

- *Florida Key National Marine Sanctuary*- Dr. Billy Causey, billy.causey@noaa.gov (ONMS SE Gulf of Mexico and Caribbean Region)
- *Everglades National Park in Florida*- Cliff McCreedy, cliff_mccreedy@nps.gov, National Parks Service- OCR Branch
- *Flower Garden Banks National Marine Sanctuary in Texas*- Dr. Bill Kiene, manager, William.Kiene@noaa.gov
- *NOAA-NOS International Program Office and the MPA Center*: Gonzalo Cid, Gonzalo.Cid@noaa.gov, James Morris, James.Morris@noaa.gov and Scot Frew, scot.frew@noaa.gov

Other participants:

Roland Baldeo, Grenada Natl. MPA Coordinator.

Ricardo Gomez (Cozumel National Park manager) and Maria del Carmen Garcia (Banco Chinchorro B. R. manager)

Martha Prada (Blue Dreams, San Andres Is., Colombia)

Coordinators and collaborators: Alessandra Vanzella-Khoury, UNEP-CEP SPAW Programme Officer avk@cep.unep.org, Dr. Georgina Bustamante, CaMPAM Coordinator gbustamante09@gmail.com

Franck Gourdin, SPAW RAC Project Coordinator, Franck.gourdin.carspaw@guadeloupe-parcnational.fr, Richard Wilson (CaMPAM Mentorship Program Coordinator);

Managers unable to attend

France- Grand Connétable Island Natural Reserve (French Guyana) and Petite Terre National Reserve (Guadeloupe)

Cuba- Parque Nacional Guanahacabibes.

Netherlands- Bonaire National Marine Park and Saba Bank National Park

USA- Dry Tortugas National Park