



Specially Protected Areas and Wildlife Protocol and Programme

Newsletter N°10 - September 2013

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News of the month

Developing a cooperation programme for the Protected Areas (PAs) listed under the SPAW Protocol

As part of the approved 2013-2014 SPAW Workplan adopted by the SPAW COP7 held in Punta Cana on 23 October 2012 and in keeping with Article 7 of the SPAW Protocol, a cooperation programme for the protected areas listed under SPAW is being initiated by the Secretariat. The Secretariat and the SPAW Regional Activity Centre, through the Caribbean Marine Protected Areas Management Network and Forum (CaMPAM) have announced the 2013 edition of the Small Grant Funds (SGF) to support the development of such cooperation. The cooperation programme, and therefore the SGF grants, will focus on the

18 protected areas that have been listed to date. Awarded projects will be selected through a competitive process, with priority given to the strengthening of the 18 Protected Areas through in-site strengthening/capacity-building and/or exchanges with other PAs including meetings, training, mentorship and capacity building for protected area management. Projects are expected to be completed by the 30 April 2014.

For more information, contact Dr. Georgina Bustamante, CaMPAM Coordinator (gbustamante09@gmail.com) and Franck Gourdin, SPAW-RAC Project Coordinator (franck.gourdin.carspaw@guadeloupe-parcnational.fr).

A new project coordinator at SPAW-RAC



In September 2013, the SPAW-RAC's team has welcomed Julie Belmont as a new project coordinator. Specialised in international cooperation and conservation biology, Julie has worked in several countries and institutions during the past 6 years: research laboratories in Venezuela, the United Nations Environmental Programme in Nairobi, the French Ministry of foreign affairs in Jerusalem and local NGO's in Africa. She also spent extensive time conducting research and conservation activities in the field, including ecology of threatened and vulnerable species in Greece, Scotland and Kenya. With a background both in ecology and economics of sustainable development, Julie will be in charge of developing new partnerships, networking and sponsorships for the SPAW-RAC, in particular with the tourism private sector.

FOCUS ON

66th Annual Meeting of the Gulf and Caribbean Fisheries Institute (GCFI): new "MPA science and management" session

The 66th meeting of the Gulf and Caribbean Fisheries Institute (GCFI) will be convened from 4 - 8 November 2013 in Corpus Christi, Texas, USA. For information on the Conference, registration, and programme, please visit: www.gcfi.org/Conferences/66th/CorpusChristi_en.html.

In addition to sessions on management and socio-economic marine fisheries; gender in fisheries; reef fishes (grouper biology and fisheries, fish spawning aggregations fish habitat); invasive lionfish control and management; invertebrate marine fisheries; pelagic and recreational fisheries; and aquaculture, a special "MPA science and management" session is being organized by the SPAW Secretariat and its CaMPAM network.

The session will focus on the need for implementing marine reserves (no-take areas) in combination with responsible/community-managed fishing zones to increase the resilience and ecosystem services (fisheries, tourism, shore protection) of coral reef and associated habitats. This theme includes successful experiences of alternative livelihoods in communities surrounding the MPAs and examples of valuation of ecosystem services (even if preliminary), both which could have been undertaken as a result of the zoning and stakeholder engagement.

The Secretariat and CaMPAM will also take the opportunity during this GCFI meeting to have a first meeting of the managers/agencies responsible for the eighteen PAs listed under the SPAW Protocol (or with as many of them as possible) in order to discuss next steps towards the cooperation programme. Papers focusing on the above subject in the Caribbean MPAs, and particularly in the six Countries which have listed Protected Areas under the SPAW Protocol will be prioritized for this oral session. The SPAW Secretariat and CaMPAM will also follow-up at the GCFI meeting on the launching of the MPA mentoring programme started in April 2013 to further exchange with potential mentees, finalize the strategy and action plan, and review early mentee applications.

Other special sessions will include data-limited stock assessments methods in the Wider Caribbean; the Fishers Forum; and two sessions on the lionfish including its marketing and consumption. For more information, contact Georgina Bustamante at gbustamante@gcfi.org.

ON-GOING PROJECTS

Capacity building for marine mammal stranding networks: stranding kits distributed.



In 2009 and 2010, three Regional Marine Mammal Stranding Response Workshops were convened according to the priorities

defined in the Action Plan for the Conservation of Marine Mammals in the Wider Caribbean Region (Curacao - November 2009 ; Guadeloupe - January 2010 ; Panama City - April 2010). The participants of each workshop identified priority actions that they judged as being important recommendations for next steps to consider for the management of marine mammal strandings. One of the main recommendations coming out of all workshops was to find financial resources to enhance and build network capabilities where they don't exist; and to provide "first response kits" for all networks.

Two years later, during the Seventh Meeting of the Contracting Parties to the SPAW Protocol - SPAW COP7, (held in Dominican Republic, 23 October 2012), the SPAW sub-programme for the 2013-2014 biennium approved the provision of stranding kits to local stranding networks that are not adequately equipped. This year, according to these priorities, the Regional Activity Centre for the SPAW Protocol (SPAW-RAC), in collaboration with ECCN (Eastern Caribbean Cetaceans Network) and NOAA (National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration), decided to purchase and assemble such stranding kits. The kits will be distributed to a selected number of networks before the end of the year (2013), based on an analysis of the current status and needs of each network.

The kits aim to facilitate the work of the people involved in stranding networks and to that purpose will contain field equipment; to respond to live and dead strandings including basic equipment for sample collection, depending on Countries' needs. Each Stranding Kit will be complemented by a field guide developed by ECCN with financial support of the SPAW-RAC, "A Stranding Guide to the Marine Mammals of the Wider Caribbean Region - An Introductory Field Guide for Stranding Responders".

Further information will be available in the upcoming SPAW newsletter.

Upcoming joint IWC and SPAW/UNEP training workshop on response to large whale entanglement events



Entanglement training workshop

Entanglement in man-made materials, such as ropes and nets, is known to be lethal for some marine mammal populations. Recognizing this, the International Whaling Commission, dur-

Funding opportunities for migratory species conservation : CEPF call for proposals

The Secretariat of the Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals (CMS) is pleased to inform of the 2013 Call for Small and Large Grant Proposals of the Caribbean Islands Biodiversity Hotspot Critical Ecosystem Partnership Fund (CEPF). The deadline for applying for the CEPF grant is 30 September 2013. Instructions for applicants can be found here (www.cepf.net/grants/Pages/default.aspx).

This call is open to biodiversity conservation projects implemented by civil society and focused in the following countries in the Caribbean: Antigua and Barbuda, Barbados, Bahamas, Dominica, Dominican Republic, Grenada, Haiti, Jamaica, Saint Lucia, Saint Kitts and Nevis, and Saint Vincent and the Grenadines.

ing the 64th Annual Meeting held in Panama City in 2012, endorsed a proposal submitted by the Dominican Republic, France, Mexico, The Netherlands, Panama and the United States; to hold two workshops on indirect human impacts to large whales in the Wider Caribbean Region.

The convening of these two workshops was further endorsed by the Seventh Meeting of the Contracting Parties to the SPAW Protocol (held in Punta Cana, Dominican Republic, 23 October 2012).

These workshops aim to assist the attending countries to develop better and safer human impact capabilities and entanglement response.

The Government of Mexico hosted the first of these two workshops, which was conducted in Spanish and English in La Paz, Baja, Mexico on 27-29 November 2012. You can [download the report here](#).

The second Entanglement Response Training Workshop will be conducted in French and English and is planned for 12-14 November 2013 in St. Martin, French West Indies. The workshop will be three days long, beginning with a day of training in the forensic and practical criteria used to determine human impact (e.g. ship strike and entanglement) from stranded whales.

This training will be conducted by two members of the IWC expert panel on large whale entanglement, made up of the directors of all existing national entanglement response networks. The results of this workshop will be released in the upcoming SPAW newsletter.

New steps taken to tackle the invasion of the lionfish



The Regional Strategy for the Control of the Invasive Lionfish in the Wider Caribbean, developed under the Regional Lionfish Committee co-chaired by the SPAW-RAC, the USA and Mexico, has been finalized, and the Regional Lionfish Committee is urging Caribbean countries to

adopt this regional roadmap to control the invasive lionfish. Co-chair and lead author Ricardo Gomez Lozano (National Commission on Natural Protected Areas, Mexico), said a Regional Strategy for the Control of Invasive Lionfish in the Wider Caribbean had been developed to help control the introduced reef pest.

"The strategy outlines specific actions and encourages transnational collaboration because we believe that by pooling efforts and resources, lionfish control efforts by Caribbean countries can be more efficient," Mr Gomez Lozano said.

"We urge decision-makers and also marine managers, researchers, fishers, divers and educators to use this Regional Strategy as a guide to develop national strategies and local management plans. We all have a role to play in ensuring that local and regional action to control lionfish makes a real difference to our reef ecosystems".

"This new strategy will hopefully help direct resources where they are most needed", said Ms Beverly Wade, Belize Fisheries Administrator and ICRI Co-chair.

The Strategy will be distributed in three languages (english, spanish and french) throughout the Caribbean. It will be available in September on ICRI website. Media contact: rglozano@conanp.gob.mx.

Besides, The Fisheries Committee of Guadeloupe (CRPMEM), in collaboration with the SPAW-RAC, organized a 2-day workshop entitled "First ciguatera risk assessment in lionfish (Pterois volitans) in the Guadeloupean archipelago and commercial pre-figuration in the FWI " on 10 and 11 July 2013 in Guadeloupe, FWI.

The main goal was to assess the feasibility of promoting lionfish consumption and commercial fishing as a mean to promote the involvement of professional fishing in the control of the lionfish populations in FWI. The workshop presented the final results of those studies and the opportunities to promote lionfish fishing and consumption in each of the three islands listed above. Many Caribbean experts participated.

Three sessions were provided: presentation of the results of the studies on ciguatera; pre-figuration of commercialization and related communication; and involvement of Fisheries and general strategy for FWI (including derbies-tournaments).

The conclusions and recommendations of the workshop can be found on the SPAW-RAC's website : www.car-spaw-rac.org/?Invasive-Lionfish-A-Guide-to,431.

Call for data : Leaflet on marine mammal watching in the Wider Caribbean Region (WCR)



In October 2011 in Panama City, Panama, the SPAW Secretariat convened a Regional Workshop on Marine Mammal Watching in the Wider Caribbean Region which brought together marine mammal tour operators and government regulators from across the WCR

to discuss the marine mammal watching industry in the region.

Good news from Haiti : legal protection of mangroves and establishment of the first MPA in the country



The Council of Ministers of Haiti declared on 10 July 2013, a national ordinance protecting all the mangroves of Haiti. Exploitation of any type as well as all construction or hunting/fishing within mangrove sites, is to cease immediately upon the publication of the ordinance in the national official journal.

"This ordinance will help Haiti to protect and manage some of its most important and valuable biological resources, as well as meet many of its national and international commitments," declared Jean Wiener the Director of the Fondation pour la Protection de la Biodiversité Marine (FoProBiM), who went on to say, "I would also like to thank all of those who have worked so hard to make this possible, especially our national institutions and many individuals who have worked so diligently over the past decades."

For more information, contact Jean Wiener, at jeanw@foprobim.org.



In addition to this important step towards a better protection of haitian ecosystem, the first marine protected area ever was established on 7 August 2013 in Iles-à-Vaches/Aquin on the southern coast of the country. Indeed on that day the Haitian government

through a decision of its Council of Ministers has designated what may be considered the nation's first mixed use (coastal/marine/terrestrial) protected area, encompassing more than 2,000ha of mangroves, over 5,500ha of coral reefs, and endangered species such as manatees and sea turtles. This was the result of efforts from many partners such as UNEP, the Governments of Norway and France, USAID, Reefcheck, TNC, the local NGO Foprobim and many others. Priority will immediately be given to the management of the area. Several other sites have been proposed as marine protected areas, especially in the North.

A major outcome of the Workshop was the development of overarching principles and best practice guidelines for marine mammal watching in the WCR (You can download this report on the SPAW-RAC website: www.car-spaw-rac.org/?Base-de-Donnees-Bibliographique,274). Principles and guidelines were then adopted by the meeting of the SPAW COP7 in Punta Cana, Dominican Republic, 23 October 2012.

Nevertheless information on these guidelines needs to be more widely disseminated in the region, especially amongst whale-watching operators and relevant authorities. To that purpose, the SPAW-RAC in collaboration with the SPAW Secretariat has decided to create a leaflet highlighting the main points of the guidelines in order to distribute them throughout the network of the whale watchers.

The leaflet will also present the main cetacean species found in the region. To illustrate this section, we will need pictures of the following species:

Balaenoptera musculus	Trichechus manatus
Balaenoptera physalus	Sotalia fluviatilis
Balaenoptera borealis	Grampus griseus
Balaenoptera edeni	Stenella clymene
Balaenoptera acutorostrata	Stenella longirostris
Megaptera novaeangliae	Stenella coeruleoalba
Eubalaena glacialis	Stenella frontalis
Physeter macrocephalus	Stenella attenuata
Kogia breviceps	Tursiops truncatus
Kogia sima	Delphinus capensis
Mesoplodon densirostris	Delphinus delphis
Mesoplodon europaeus	Lagenodelphis hosei
Orcinus orca	Steno bredanensis
Peponocephala electra	Feresa attenuata
Globicephala macrorhynchus	
Pseudorca crassidens	



We would be grateful if you could contribute to this leaflet by sending us your picture (the names of the contributors will be mentioned in the photo credits) to the following address:

gaille.vandersarren.carspaw[@]guadeloup e-parcnational.fr.

Please do not hesitate to pass on this information to any of your colleagues who

may be interested.

The UNEP-CEP Project to support the countries associated to the Caribbean Challenge comes to an end (for the time being)



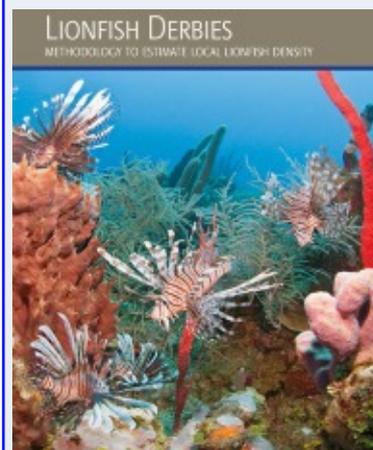
The UNEP-CEP project "Regional support for the Caribbean Challenge initiative: Networking, consolidation and regional

coordination of MPA management" funded with a generous grant from the [Directorate General for Development Cooperation of the Italian Ministry of Foreign Affairs](http://www.dgdc.gov.it/) has come to an end.

The project addressed MPA capacity needs of the 8 insular countries involved in the Caribbean Challenge Initiative (Antigua and Barbuda, The Bahamas, St. Kitts and Nevis, Jamaica, Dominican Republic, St. Lucia, Grenada and St. Vincent and Grenadines) through the synergistic combination of tools developed by the SPAW Program for [CaMPAM](http://www.campam.org/) throughout the last 15 years, namely: small and mid-size grants for projects and exchanges, [regional and local training courses](#), and networking and information dissemination and discussion using an [Internet List](#), a [website](#), a [Regional MPA database](#) and the [GCFI Annual Conference](#), among others. The project, although focusing on those countries, benefitted the region as a whole, and particularly the parties of the [SPAW Protocol](#) of the Cartagena Convention. The activities were implemented with the contribution, in different capacity, of local, national and international marine environmental government agencies and private organizations with similar agenda (TNC, GCFI, and the US, French, Dominican, Belizean and other partner countries).

The project outcomes ranged from the development and improvement of 15 MPA management schemes, to the production of a [teacher's guide to marine environmental education](#) and other education and outreach materials, the installation and maintenance training of demarcation and mooring buoys, providing basic enforcement equipment, training junior managers and national MPA coordinators on the basic MPA management tools, exposing managers to the realities of other MPAs in the region in order to stimulate creative solutions, attracting the support of government agencies and their adhesion to the SPAW protocol the regional environmental agreement administered by the [UNEP-Caribbean Environment Programme](#) and its [SPAW Regional Activity Center](#) (SPAW-RAC), promoting alternative livelihoods, to creating a mentor network composed by senior MPA managers who will assist by expediting

A methodology to estimate local lionfish density with lionfish derbies



Lionfish fishing derbies have become widely accepted among authorities, society and the public in general, as part of the strategy to fight back lionfish within the Caribbean region. These tournaments ("derbies") are intended solely to capture lionfish and are an open mode activity to the local community and even tourists.

In this paper, the authors propose to use this activity as a source of information on absolute abundance, on the number of individuals per area km² to estimate the average density. They reviewed two simple methods potentially useful as part of the control instruments against the lionfish in the Caribbean region.

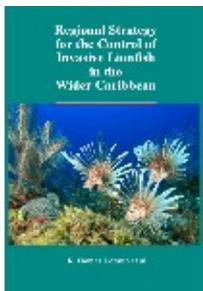
Both fishing tournaments and depletion experiments can be seen as complementary methods. Tournaments are more inclusive, ideal for coastal communities of easy access, while depletion experiments are more suitable for trained personnel in remote and inaccessible areas. [Download the methodology.](#) For more information: www.marfund.org/sp/new_projects/introduction.html.

the transferring of best MPA management practices across the region.

UNEP-CEP and its SPAW RAC, using the platform of CaMPAM (the oldest regional social network and capacity building program for MPA managers and stakeholders in the world) is working to acquire additional resources to provide continuation to this efforts.

For additional information, contact Dr. Georgina Bustamante (gbustamante09@gmail.com), Alessandra Vanzella-Khouri (avk@cep.unep.org), and Helene Souan (helene.souan.carspaw@guadeloupe-parcnational.fr) coordinator or directors of CaMPAM, SPAW-RAC and the UNEP-CEP SPAW Subprogram, respectively.

PUBLICATIONS



Regional Strategy for the Control of Invasive Lionfish in the Wider Caribbean.

The IUCN Green List of Protected Areas

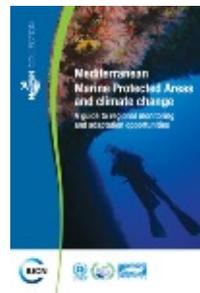
The IUCN (International Union for Conservation of Nature - see www.iucn.org) adopted a resolution at the recent 2012 Jeju World Conservation Congress to develop and launch the IUCN Green List of Protected Areas. The intended aim of the IUCN Green List of Protected Areas is to recognize and reward excellence in protected areas, in order to:

- provide an incentive for policies and governance arrangements that will enable and catalyze more effective and equitable protected area systems
- stimulate investment in capacity and leadership that enable effective management and equitable governance of protected areas

Managers of natural conservation areas of all types and purposes, from marine protected areas to mountain conservation zones, from community-managed reefs to strictly protected wilderness, will be encouraged to reach and maintain these IUCN standards, and be duly recognised for their achievements. More information is available in the IUCN Green List Concept Paper (please download [the list here](#)).

In order to develop the IUCN Green List of Protected Areas, IUCN and collaborating partners will develop in the next months the global standards and matching guidance that can be used to assess, evaluate and recognize effective protected areas. The SPAW Secretariat will be part of this effort to facilitate coordination and recognition of PAS already listed under SPAW Protocol.

For more information, please see: The IUCN Green List of Protected Areas responds to the CBD's request to IUCN to assist Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) to achieve quality of area-based conservation measures.
Contact: iucngreenlistsurvey@gmail.com.



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>



Taxonomic field guide on Marine Mammal (ECCN) – scheduled to be published in September 15th. It will facilitate identification of stranded marine mammals by local networks, including non-specialists.



Guidelines for Reintroductions and Other Conservation Translocations. The Reintroduction and Invasive Species Specialist Groups' Task Force on Moving Plants and Animals for Conservation Purposes. Download [the version 1.0](#).

USEFUL LINKS

■ www.whsrn.org : Western Hemisphere Shorebird Reserve Network. WHSRN's mission is to conserve shorebirds and their habitats through a network of key sites across the Americas.

■ www.laceep.org : LACEEP is the Latin American and Caribbean Environmental Economics Program. Small Grants Program for Research in Environmental Economics. The objective is to give at least 10 grants of US \$15 000 per year.

■ www.epicislands.org : Environmental Protection in the Caribbean (EPIC) is non-profit organization registered as a 501(c)(3) in the United States and is a registered foundation in St. Maarten. The organization was established in 2000 with the mission to protect the Caribbean environment through research and community-based action.

UPCOMING AND RECENT EVENTS



- **16 – 20 September 2013:** VII Congress of Mesoamerican Society for the Biology and Conservation. Cuba. www.smbccuba2013.com
- **29 September - 2 October 2013:** Manatee-workshop on capture, captivity, recovery and release. San Juan, Puerto Rico.
- **30 September – 04 October 2013:** 20th Annual FCCA Cruise (Florida Caribbean Cruise Association) Conference & Trade Show. Cartagena, Colombia.
- **6 – 10 October 2013:** 3rd International Whale Shark Conference Georgia Aquarium. Atlanta, USA. <http://iwsc3.info>.
- **8 – 11 October 2013:** 1st Pan-American Coral Reef Congress. Merida, Yucatan, Mexico.
- **14 – 17 October 2013:** ICRI 28th General meeting. Belize city, Belize. www.icriforum.org/ICRIGM28.
- **16 – 18 October 2013:** Caribbean tourism and cruise in the Caribbean. Martinique (FWI).
- **21 – 27 October 2013:** 3rd International Conference on Marine Protected Areas. Marseille, France. www.aires-marines.fr/Evenements/IMPAC3.
- **4 – 8 November 2013:** 66th GCFI annual meeting. Corpus Christi, Texas, USA. www.gcfi.org/Conferences/66th/CorpusChristi_en.html.
- **4 – 7 November 2013:** RedLAC's 15th Assembly - San Jose, Costa Rica. Fill out the Assembly's online registration form.
- **12 – 14 November 2013:** Second Entanglement Response Training Workshop. Saint-Martin (FWI).
- **28 – 29 November 2013:** MPA management and Climate Change in the Caribbean islands. Saint-Martin (FWI).

Commonly used Acronyms

- CaMPAM:** Caribbean Marine Protected Area Management Network and Forum
- CEP:** Caribbean Environment Programme
- CBD:** Convention on Biological Diversity
- CEPF:** Critical Ecosystem Partnership Fund
- CMS:** Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals
- CRPMEM:** Comité Régional des Pêches Maritimes et des Elevages Marins
- ECCN:** Eastern Caribbean Cetaceans Network
- FCCA:** Florida Caribbean Cruise Association
- FoProBiM:** Fondation pour la Protection de la Biodiversité Marine
- FWI:** French West Indies
- GCFI:** Gulf and Caribbean Fisheries Institute
- ICRI:** International Coral Reef Initiative
- IUCN:** International Union for Conservation of Nature
- IWC:** International Whaling Commission
- Pas:** Protected Areas
- Red LAC:** Latin American and Caribbean Network of Environmental Funds
- RLC:** Regional Lionfish Committee
- SGF:** Small Grant Funds
- SPAW:** Specially Protected Areas and Wildlife
- SPAW-RAC:** Specially Protected Areas and Wildlife – Regional Activity Centre
- TEEB:** The Economics of Biodiversity and Ecosystems
- UNEP-CAR/RCU:** United Nations Environment Programme - Caribbean Regional Coordinating Unit
- WCR:** Wider Caribbean Region

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