Eighth Meeting of the Scientific and Technical Advisory Committee (STAC) to the Protocol Concerning Specially Protected Areas and Wildlife (SPAW) in the Wider Caribbean Region

Panama City, Panama, 5 - 7 December 2018

UPDATE ON THE CARIBBEAN MARINE PROTECTED AREAS MANAGEMENT NETWORK AND FORUM (CaMPAM) AND ITS MAJOR ACTIVITIES 2017 - 2018

For reasons of economy and the environment, Delegates are kindly requested to bring their copies of the Working and Information documents to the Meeting, and not to request additional copies.

*This document has been reproduced without formal editing.*
UPDATE THE CARIBBEAN MARINE PROTECTED AREAS MANAGEMENT NETWORK AND FORUM (CaMPAM) AND ITS MAJOR ACTIVITIES

I. INTRODUCTION

During the 2017-2018 biennium, the Caribbean Marine Protected Areas Management (CaMPAM) Network and Forum developed and implemented several activities to improve marine ecosystems management capacity, particularly within marine protected areas. These activities were primarily funded with resources from the following organizations:

1) The Government of France (through its support to the SPAW-RAC)
2) The Italian Agency for Cooperation and Development (IACD) of the Italian Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation through the Biodiversity for Sustainable Development in the Caribbean through Ecosystem Based Management (EBM) project
3) The Nature Conservancy (TNC) - thanks to its agreement with the SPAW-RAC to coordinate the CaMPAM-ECMMAN Small Grant Programme through the Climate-Resilient Eastern Caribbean Marine Managed Areas Network (ECMMAN) project
4) The International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN)-Regional Office for Mexico, Central America and the Caribbean (ORMACC) - thanks to its Biodiversity and Protected Areas Management (BIOPAMA) I and II projects.

A summary of CaMPAM activities implemented during the period December 2016 - November 2018 is listed below.

II. TRAINING ACTIVITIES ON MPA MANAGEMENT

XIII Training of Trainers on MPA Management for English-speaking countries.

On April 2018, CaMPAM implemented the 13th Training of Trainers regional course on MPA Management in Barbados thanks to a partnership with the University of West Indies, Centre for Resource Management and Environmental Studies (CERMES) (through an agreement with the Secretariat to the Cartagena Convention/UN-Environment under its SPAW subprogramme), and IUCN-ORMACC (as part of its BIOPAMA Programme in the Caribbean). This course was a part of training activities under the EBM project via the agreement which included small grant opportunities for the trainees and other activities related to the dissemination of ecosystem-based management and the development of decision support systems of coastal areas.

IUCN-ORMACC supported the regional course by funding air transportation and accommodation for 14 participants. This tripartite partnership was essential to the successful implementation of the programme and illustrates previous collaboration among CaMPAM, BIOPAMA and SocMon programmes. In addition to the financial aspect, this partnership allowed for a better representation of the region by accepting applications from signatories to the SPAW Protocol along with African, Caribbean and Pacific (ACP) BIOPAMA countries. The participation and hosting of the course by the UWI (Cavehill) campus, alongside support from the IUCN-ORMACC, enabled access to the highly qualified and experienced staff of CERMES and IUCN who served as local coordinators and instructors while also providing key logistical support.

The participants were selected through a process that included a call for applications via the CaMPAM list, and through the BIOPAMA Programme contacts list network. Applications were reviewed by the programme coordinators from CaMPAM, UWI-CERMES and BIOPAMA respectively. Twenty-one participants were selected out of 48 applicants (the highest number in the programme’s 20-year history) from Antigua and Barbuda, The Bahamas, Barbados, Belize, Dominica, Dutch Caribbean, Grenada, Guyana, Jamaica, St. Kitts and Nevis, St. Lucia, St. Vincent and the Grenadines, Trinidad and Tobago, and the US Virgin Islands.
The background of the participants ranged from MPA staff at the site level (5 managers, 5 technical personnel), to those at the national level (9 individuals representing marine environment and fisheries departments with responsibilities for MPA planning and management), as well as 2 researchers from UWI-CERMES. The instructors were selected following consultation with local partners and exploration with potential candidates. Experts from Grenada, Barbados and Costa Rica also served as instructors. Together they provided a balanced combination of knowledge and skills on the Caribbean region’s biophysical features and socio-economic context, cultural setting, marine resource management and conservation issues, along with previous collaboration with the Training of Trainers and other CaMPAM, UWI-CERMES and IUCN activities.

The course aimed to strengthen the competencies of MPA managers and marine environmental officers from the English-speaking Caribbean via MPA planning and management with an ecosystem-based approach, and consideration for the socioeconomic needs within local communities. Classes were delivered through a combination of classroom lectures, interactive exercises and field trips on the basics of the following:
1. The biophysical characteristics and interaction of the Caribbean coastal habitats, their ecological services, and the local and global threats to their ecological resilience
2. Ecological and socio-economic research and monitoring, and their application to improve marine area management
3. Marine spatial planning, participatory GIS, and ecosystem-based decision support systems
4. Environmental education and stakeholder engagement in MPA governance at the site and at national levels
5. The job of an MPA manager
6. Communication tools for MPA managers
7. Sustainable financing and business planning

The lectures, exercises, and follow-up field trip discussions addressed the main marine conservation issues and MMA management aspects affecting the Caribbean region, and by extension, within a global context. Staff from the Coastal Zone Management Unit and the Folkestone Marine Reserve assisted with preparation and implementation of the field trip.

During the course participants had various pre-course tasks, with some invited to present on MPAs within their country due to their experience in co-management with local private stakeholders and biophysical monitoring. The trainees also provided datasets for the CaMPAM MPA Regional Database. For the discussion session following the field trip, participants and representatives from the local marine management institutions participated in a productive dialogue that allowed for shared lessons on the issues and peculiarities of coastal zone management in Barbados. Additionally, the course coordinator determined priority objectives from each participant (and discussed collectively), in the event that a potential small grant (~ USD 4,000-5,000) materialized (as had been the case in previous years). A series of notes were posted to the CaMPAM List with brief information on the classes and feedback from participants. These are accessible in the CaMPAM List Archives.

The CaMPAM List reaches out to ca. 1,000 subscribers, marine resources scientists and practitioners in the Wider Caribbean and the world. An assessment of the impact of the regional course on participants’ job performance and the MPA capacity was recently conducted with a questionnaire survey. For more information on survey results, see here.

III SMALL GRANT PROGRAMME FOR FUNDING PROJECTS WITH TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE

- CaMPAM-ECMMAN Small Grants Programme

This programme, coordinated by SPAW-RAC, was executed from November 2013 to June 2017 (see previous SPAW-STAC report for details), following a request by The Nature Conservancy (TNC). A total of €1.1 million was awarded as part of the umbrella project Climate-Resilient Eastern Caribbean Marine Managed Areas Network (ECMMAN) coordinated by TNC. The programme was funded by the German Federal Ministry for the Environment, Nature Conservation, Building and Nuclear Safety (BMUB) in support of the Climate Change Initiative on the basis of a decision adopted by the German Bundestag.
The management team comprised of the CaMPAM coordinator, the SPAW-RAC Executive Director and Administrative Assistant, a TNC/ECMMAN Project Manager, as well as support from the SPAW Subprogramme staff.

The grants for implementing projects to develop the human and financial capacity related to MPAs amounted to US$220,000 for each of the following countries: Antigua and Barbuda, Dominica, Grenada, St. Kitts and the Nevis, St. Lucia, and St. Vincent and the Grenadines (see Table 1). Information on the project outcomes can be found on the CaMPAM website. Due to the administrative rules of the SPAW-RAC as a French public service institution, payments were often difficult and lengthy, with over 2-month delays in many cases. Grant programmes, as well as projects requiring the hiring of consultants and funds disbursement to third parties, require a more flexible modus operandi.

- **MEETINGS AND FORA**

  **GCFI Annual Conferences**
  The GCFI has been used as a CaMPAM forum for MPA practitioners since 2004. The SPAW Subprogramme contributed to the 2016 (Panama) and 2017 (Merida) GCFI Annual Meetings, by coordinating and delivering the “MPA Science and Management” session. The GCFI conference attracts hundreds of marine scientists and resource managers from government, academic, and nongovernmental institutions, and is an excellent opportunity to learn the latest on marine resources, research, and management issues within the Wider Caribbean, whilst networking with colleagues from the region and beyond.

  Each year, the process includes an announcement of the MPA session and of UN Environment-CEP/SPAW travel support, the review of abstracts, and selection of papers to be presented orally and in poster sessions. Ten MPA practitioners from Barbados, Cuba, Dominican Republic, Grenada, St. Vincent and the Grenadines, Colombia, and the U.S. were provided with travel support. Conference sessions focused on the ecosystem-based approach to marine area management and on stakeholder participation.

  “The evolution of (CaMPAM): 20-years of the UNEP-CEP SPAW regional, multidimensional programme for strengthening marine protected areas” paper was published following a 2016 GCFI MPA session presentation. Two posters were presented in 2017, namely “Combining grant awards with technical assistance and training to enhance the capacity of marine protected areas in the Caribbean: the case of the CaMPAM-ECMMAN Small Grant Program” (Bustamante et al) and “A transatlantic initiative supports exchanges among regional networks of marine protected managers around the world and CaMPAM is at the forefront” (Bustamante et al.) in order to highlight the participation of CaMPAM in these 2 projects.

- **COMPILING AND DISSEMINATING DATA ON CARIBBEAN MARINE PROTECTED AREAS AND MANAGEMENT TOOLS**

  **CaMPAM Regional MPA Database**
  Update of the regional MPA database (hosted by GCFI and coordinated by CaMPAM) has sped up in the last 2 years as a result of increased procurement of resources, and incorporation and review of existing information. Additionally, an assessment was conducted on the user-friendliness and relevance of the database to different sectors within the Caribbean MPA community. The study recommended a series of measures which included the reduction of dataset fields, the collection of data though the SPAW focal points, and migration of the database to the CEP portal. The maintenance of the CaMPAM Regional MPA Database requires permanent technical staff to work on data acquisition, quality control, as well as provide technical support for database maintenance. It is expected that this migration and improvement will be completed over the next few months in keeping with the end of the EBM Project (April 2019).
IV BUILDING A NETWORK OF MPA PRACTITIONERS AND CONSERVATION LEADERS

The CaMPAM Network (defined by its Internet membership list and participation in fora, training activities, projects and exchanges) has expanded significantly. Aside from training and financial assistance, the network facilitates knowledge sharing and provides advice to List members. CaMPAM complements its services by maintaining and moderating active Whatsapp groups with both the 2016 and 2018 Training of Trainers participants, and directly responding to individual requests.

- **CaMPAM List moderation:** The email circulation list reaches out to approximately 1000 marine conservation scientists and managers, many of whom reside and work in the Caribbean region. The email circulation list moderator provides daily online attention to new subscriptions and postings, including those made by individuals and institutional users. The moderation of the List includes the processing of applications for new subscriptions, reading and authorizing new postings, and assisting individual network members with contacts and information (including guidance on how to write a message, forwarding relevant messages to individuals, etc.).

As a result, a wealth of information is disseminated via C-List to most of the professionals who work on marine conservation science issues and practice in the Caribbean. From January 2016 to March 2018, 110 new subscribers joined the network, and between 25-35 messages were posted monthly on topics concerning MPA science, new developments, reports, new publications, job announcements, calls for proposals, information requests, challenges, etc. About 15 newsletters from local and regional institutions and programmes use CaMPAM List to disseminate their periodical issues. Emails posted in the CaMPAM List are archived and can be downloaded here.

The assessment of CaMPAM conducted by an external expert (see report) shows that the List is well utilized by individual subscribers who wish to be updated on the latest marine area management science and practices in the Caribbean. Many of the surveyed members consider the CaMPAM List a major channel for information on the subject. Nevertheless, a great percentage stated that there was a need to improve the format of the messages. CaMPAM activities were also announced through the List, including on site notes for 2 Training of Trainers (2016, 2018), course reports, and 2 MPA sessions at GCFI (2016, 2017). In addition to the CaMPAM List, the SPAW-RAC Quarterly Newsletters includes a section on CaMPAM activities.

- **CaMPAM Expert Group:** The increasing participation of MPA managers in CaMPAM activities, as well as their involvement in the establishment of national MPA networks, and their participation in regional exchanges and fora have all contributed to the development of a group of experts. The group was created in 2017 after a process of candidate selection by CaMPAM and SPAW, with invitations to join and duties/guidance development circulated. As a result, CaMPAM now has a group of 31 professionals comprised of MPA managers (at the site and national levels), and conservation leaders who are committed to contributing their expertise to many activities, including lectures, project report/proposal review, translations, small project coordination, and representing CaMPAM in international meetings etc. For more information please visit.

- **Website:** The main page of the CaMPAM website hosted and managed by GCFI, is being migrated to the CEP portal. It can be also accessed here.

- **Contribution to national and international marine conservation initiatives:** CaMPAM continues to contribute to several national and international MPA initiatives in various capacities, through the following institutions and programmes:
  - **BIOPAMA programme in the Caribbean** - partnering for the Training of trainers in MPA management programmes, participating in workshops for the inception of the BIOPAMA II programme and the development of the “State of the Caribbean PA” report, etc.
  - **GCFI conferences** - held annually in November, coordinating the MPA Science and Management session and sponsoring participants.
• Transatlantic initiative of Regional Networks of MPA managers initiative (supported by the European Union) - after contributing to the design of a presentation at the 2016 World Conservation Congress session “Regional MPA Networks: their contribution to global challenges” held in Hawaii (September 2016), discussions were held to develop a transatlantic initiative to share best MMA practices between the two regions with UN Environment Regional Seas Programmes and Conventions. The discussions reflected: 1) the pioneering role of CaMPAM as the oldest network and capacity building programme for MPA practitioners; 2) the importance of regional MPA networks in disseminating best practices and assisting countries to achieve the Aichi targets; and 3) the need to strengthen collaboration among different regional networks of MPA managers and stakeholders.

Between 2017-2018, CaMPAM participated actively in the following workshops of this project:

- **April 2017, Monaco** - Technical workshop “Cooperation and common strategy between MPA Networks of Managers in the Atlantic Region” by invitation of the Transatlantic Initiative (Monaco, EU Commission); workshop co-design and presentation on CaMPAM
- **June 2017, New York** - Joint design of the side event on regional networks of MPA Managers at the UN World Ocean Conference, and prepared and presented “CaMPAM: The UN Environment Carribean regional network of managers: a multidimensional program for strengthening marine protected areas” (no travel support)
- **July 2017, Tenerife, Canary Is., Spain** - Workshop “Cooperation and common strategy between networks of MPA managers in the Atlantic Region (Twinning project)”; Presentation: “CaMPAM, the Caribbean regional network of MPA managers: integrating training, communication and technical assistance to build MPA capacity”.
- **July 2017, Gabon** - Three Caribbean MPA managers (from Dominican Republic, The Bahamas and St. Maarten; the participants from Belize could not make it) represented CaMPAM at the international exchange workshop “Cooperation with Northern and Southern Transatlantic Dimension- MPAs and coastal resilience coping with rapid changes”.
- **January 2018, Brussels, Belgium** - Project wrap up at conference “Towards a transatlantic partnership for marine protected areas”

- **CLME + project** - expert consultation process at the “Donor Roundtable: Effective support for civil society and the Caribbean Sea and North Brazil Shelf Large Marine Ecosystems”, March 2018, Barbados (by invitation of CANARI)

- **Others** - Presentation by A. Vanzella at Mediterranean workshop on MPAs on “The CaMPAM of the UNEP Caribbean Environment Programme: answering the needs of marine area managers and maintaining a close relationship with members - by G. Bustamante and A. Vanzella”. November 2016, Morocco

- **Technical assistance to the SPAW Sub-programme (CEP and RAC)**

  Part of CaMPAM’s responsibilities was to provide advice and assistance on MPA regional and international issues, including the development of the EBM DSS project funded by the Italian Government, the cooperation with University of West Indies and ICN ORMACC, and the presentation and follow-up activities of the WECAFC Working Group on Fish Spawning Aggregation (this was particularly intense between 2016-2018 with the transition of the SPAW officer).

  Of particular relevance is the development of a cooperation programme between UN Environment CEP and OSPAR Commission (the environmental agreement of the NE Atlantic countries - Sweden, Netherlands, UK and France). A project is in progress until December 2018 which includes support for the coordination of CaMPAM, an exchange at the GCFI, and the development of a project proposal for the support of CaMPAM activities for the next 5 years.
Table 1. Projects supported by the CaMPAM-ECMMAN Small Grants

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Country</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Responsible institutions</th>
<th>Objectives</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
| Grenada | Strengthening Management and Enforcement Capacity, and Building understanding about MPAs in Grenada | Grenada Fund for Conservation and Grenada Fisheries Dept. (Natl. MPA Coordination)     | 1. Implement education and communication programmes on the role of effective MPAs for the conservation and sustainable use of the coastal environment, and the socioeconomic prosperity of the nation.  
2. Strengthen enforcement capacity within MPAs nationally.  
3. Improvement of staff capacity within MPAs nationally.  
4. Implement a research and biophysical monitoring programme within MPAs nationally.  
5. Use the monitoring programme to advocate for and implement evidence-based policies around MPAs. |
| St. Lucia | Strengthening of the Pointe Sable Environmental Protection Area along the South-East Coast of Saint Lucia | Saint Lucia National Trust in collaboration with the Ministries of Agriculture, Food Production, Fisheries, Co-operatives and Rural Development and Sustainable Development, Energy, Science and Technology | 1. Development and implementation of a biophysical monitoring plan.  
2. Boundary demarcation, resource mapping and zonation within the PSEPA  
3. Reduction in the sources of pollution.  
4. Ensure long-term financial sustainability of PSEPA.  
5. Improve the outflow of information on the PSEPA in the wider public.  
6. Increase capacity of St. Lucians to serve as MPA trainers. |
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Country</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Responsible institutions</th>
<th>Objectives</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Antigua and Barbuda</td>
<td>A multifaceted approach to strengthening management of the NEMMA, Antigua and Barbuda</td>
<td>Environmental Awareness Group (EAG) in collaboration with the Fisheries Division</td>
<td>1. Develop management capacity for NEMMA through personnel, training, regional exchanges, stakeholder engagement, increased service provision (moorings), as well as office space. 2. Gather baseline biophysical, geographical and socio-economic data on marine habitats and resources within NEMMA to inform livelihood potential, zoning, planning for long-term monitoring and other management strategies. 3. Develop a public awareness programme for the general public about MMA objectives of sustainable resource utilization and conservation.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>St. Kitts and Nevis</td>
<td>Establishment of two Marine Managed Areas (The Narrows Marine Reserve and The Narrows Fishing Priority Area) in St. Kitts and Nevis</td>
<td>Nevis Historical and Conservation Society in collaboration with the Department of Marine Resources</td>
<td>Establishment of The Narrows Marine Reserve and The Narrows Fishing Priority Area through a process of legislation and consultation with local stakeholders.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dominica</td>
<td>Developing an effective and sustainable community-based management regime for the Cabrits National Park in Dominica</td>
<td>Tantan Village Development Corporation in collaboration with Portsmouth Fisheries Cooperative Society, the Toucari Beach Development Corporation, the Portsmouth Association of Yacht Services, the Cottage Village Council, the Portsmouth Town Council, the Dominica Air and Sea Port Authority and the Fisheries Division</td>
<td>1. Ensure that activities executed and planned for the area are consistent with the provisions of the Fisheries Act. 2. Promote the optimum utilization and maintenance of the integrity of the biodiversity of the ecosystem therein. 3. Plan programmes and projects that enhance avoidance of user conflicts among stakeholders. 4. Guarantee the rights and privilege to local area stakeholders.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Country</td>
<td>Title</td>
<td>Responsible institutions</td>
<td>Objectives</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>-------------------------------</td>
<td>----------------------------------------------------------------------</td>
<td>----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------</td>
<td>----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
| St. Vincent and the Grenadines (still under review) | Strengthening Management Capacity at Existing and New MCAs in St. Vincent and the Grenadines (SVG) | Sustainable Grenadines Inc. in collaboration with the National Parks, Rivers, and Beaches Authority | 1. Assess water quality at South Coast Marine Conservation Area and the Tobago Cayes Marine Park to determine the highest and establish remediation measures.  
2. Establish an efficient enforcement programme for SCMMA and TCMP.  
3. Assess the livelihoods of stakeholders in and around the South Coast MCA in relation to their livelihood challenges/opportunities as a result of creating the SCMCA.  
4. Conduct a gap assessment of the CCI 20% goal in SVG and examine current management practices of all MCAs, all drawing from the Grenadines marine zoning plan developed by SusGren.  
5. Nominate 2 SPAW sites. |