



GULF AND CARIBBEAN FISHERIES INSTITUTE

Activity 2b: Develop MPA management capacity building material in collaboration with the MPACoconnect network and SPAW RAC MPAs working group, share materials and promote peer-to-peer networking among MPA managers.

For the MPA capacity building component of this grant, GCFI implemented activities through the MPACoconnect network, which is a partnership initiative with NOAA's Coral Reef Conservation Program and 39 MPAs in 18 countries and territories. Support from UNEP enabled MPACoconnect to further develop and implement the MPA management capacity assessment which strategically underpins the network's activities, to develop capacity building materials, to share these with the network and to promote peer-to-peer networking among MPA managers.

The following activities were successfully implemented:

1. MPACoconnect developed a new online survey format for information gathering through the MPA management capacity assessment. This was implemented using Qualtrics software for the first time. See Figures 1 and 2 below showing screenshots of the capacity tool now in Qualtrics format. The capacity assessment in turn guided the development of a framework for assessing and highlighting priority MPA cases. This is attached as Appendix 1.
2. MPACoconnect considered the top priorities from the past capacity assessments to identify key topics for peer sharing on MPA management. These are highlighted in Figure 3. We then reviewed the list of SPAW-RAC priority coral reef Caribbean MPAs to identify sites that (1) overlap with MPACoconnect priority sites, and (2) offer particular MPA management strengths and/or experience in addressing the top priority capacity building needs or MPA management challenges. We next identified mentor managers from these MPAs and invited them to share lessons learned based on their participation in capacity building and peer sharing through the MPACoconnect network. The result is the list of MPA managers identified in Table 1.
3. The MPACoconnect team conducted seven interviews with priority MPA managers, either on-site and in-person, during other activities or virtually.
4. Analysis of findings is underway in conjunction with the 2023 updated MPA management capacity assessments from the total MPAs in the network. This is lending context to and guiding the presentation of lessons learned.
5. Dissemination at the upcoming GCFI meeting includes mentor presence for peer-to-peer sharing and for sharing with key partners including at the SPAW-RAC meeting, with SPAW MPA working group, at the Blue Nature Alliance-sponsored MPA meeting and in the general MPA technical session. Materials currently under development for these meetings will be shared with UNEP as outputs of the grant.

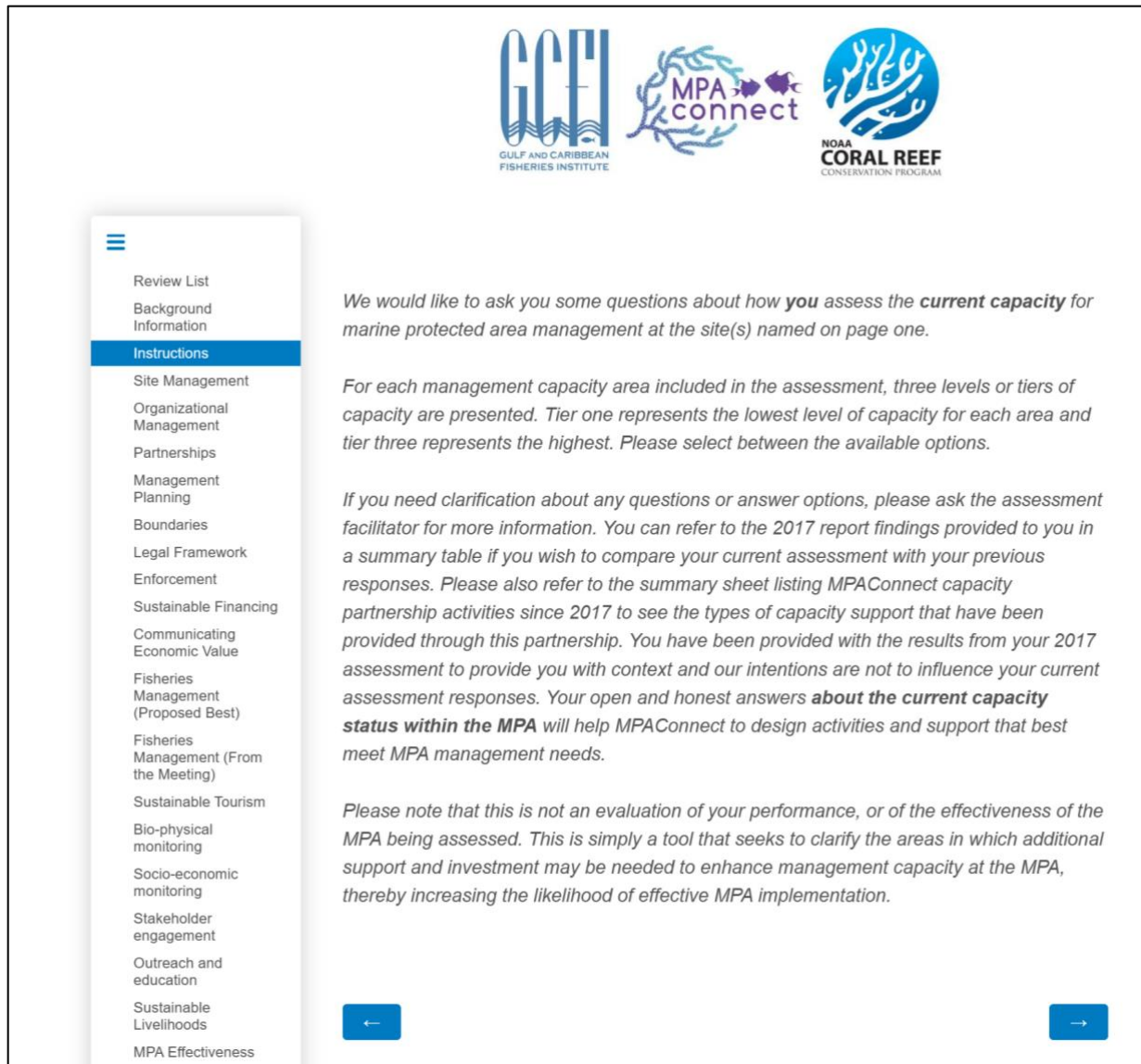


Figure 1: Appearance of the capacity tool introductory screen in Qualtrics

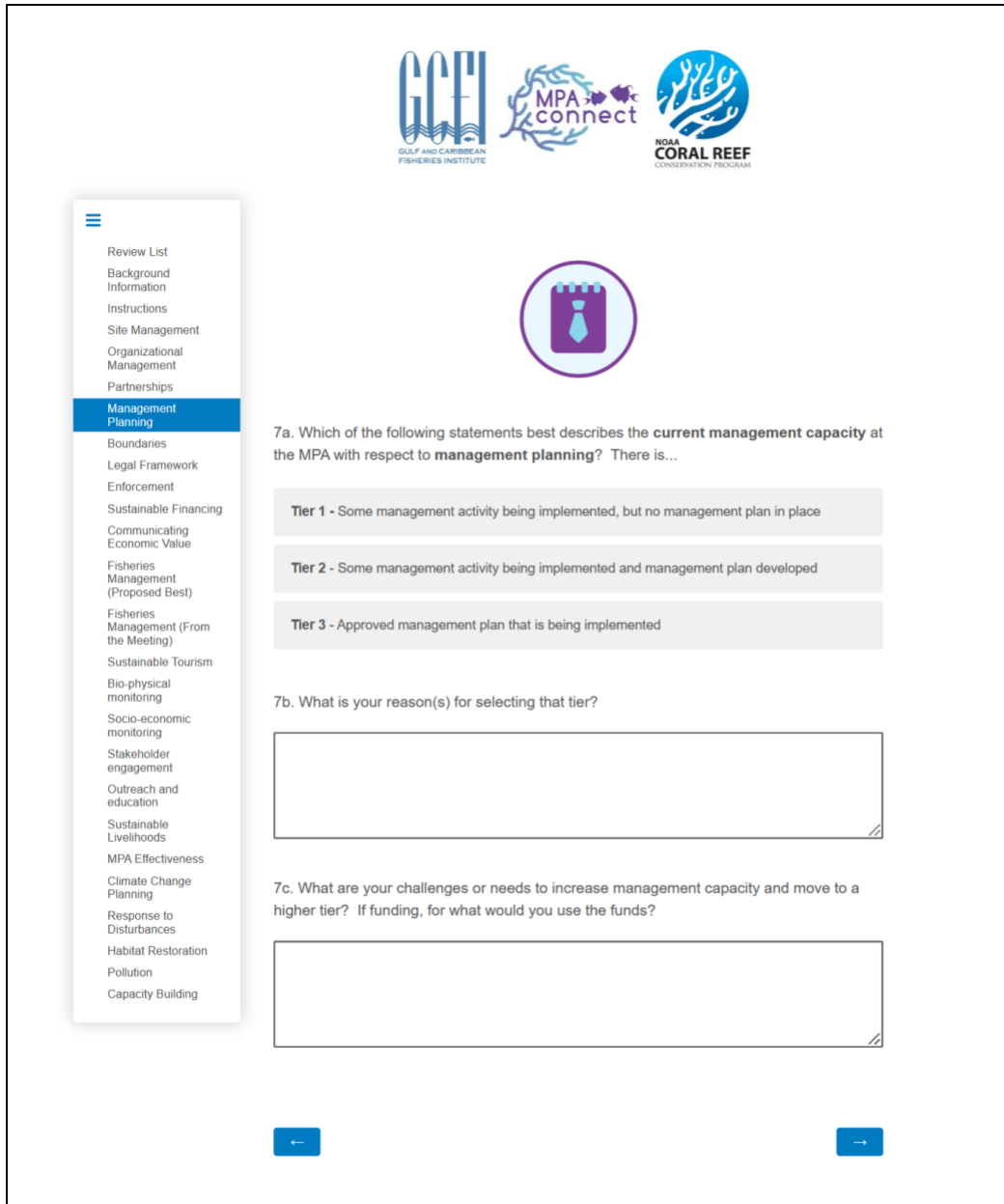


Figure 2: Example tiered question from the MPA management capacity assessment tool, with navigable table of contents shown on side bar in Qualtrics

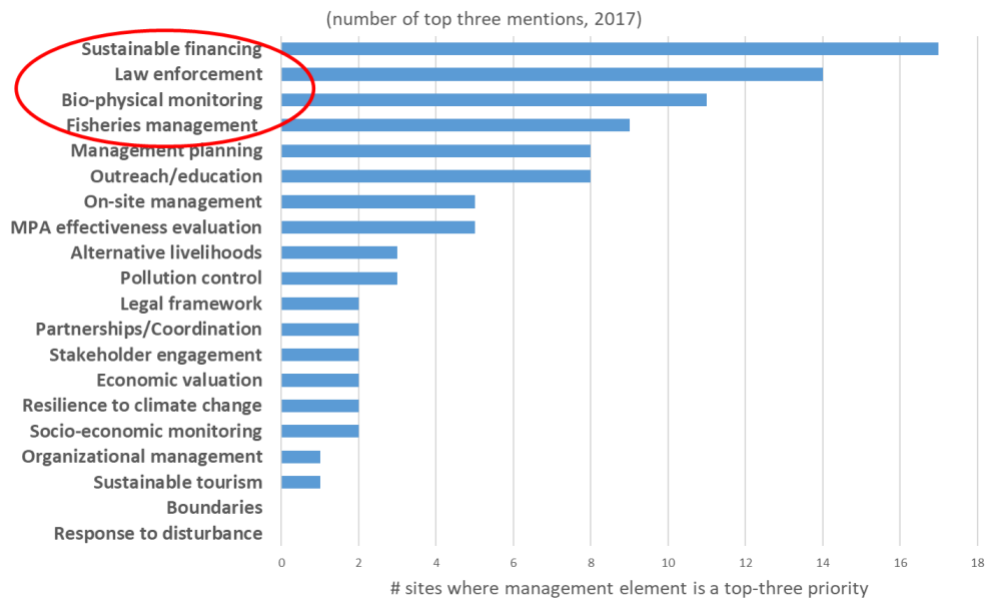


Figure 3: Caribbean MPA management capacity building priorities

Table 1: MPAConnect management capacity case studies

MPA management element	SPAW-RAC and MPAConnect Priority Site	MPA manager mentor
Sustainable financing	Tobago Cays Marine Park	Lesroy Noel with Ramon de Leon
Enforcement	Saba National Marine Park	Kai Wulf
Stakeholder engagement	Port Honduras Marine Reserve	Celia Mahung/Asad Magana
Partnerships and coordination	Molinière-Beauséjour Marine Protected Area	Christine Finney
Education and outreach	Bonaire National Marine Park	Desiree Croes