

# 1<sup>st</sup> WORKSHOP OF THE SPAW-LISTED PROTECTED AREA MANAGERS NETWORK

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10-12 October 2023

La Romana, Dominican Republic



## MEETING REPORT

Dec. 1st 2023

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# CONTEXT

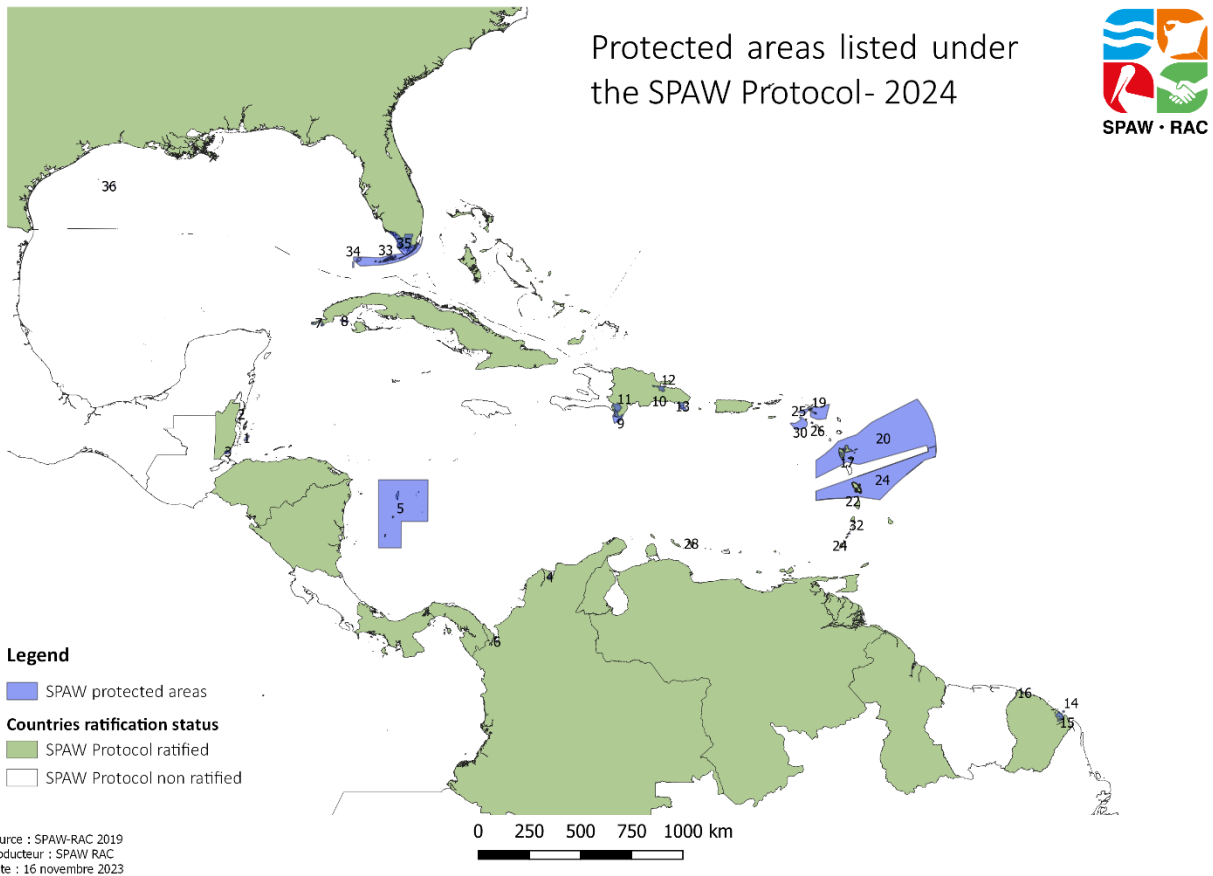


In the framework of the Cartagena Convention for the protection and development of the marine environment in the Wider Caribbean Region, the SPAW Protocol is dedicated to the protection of “specially protected areas and wildlife”. One objective of the Protocol is therefore to “identify particularly important areas for the Wider Caribbean Region” and to incorporate them into a network dedicated to scientific research and to regional cooperation.

The inscription of protected areas to the SPAW Protocol is ruled by guidelines and led the Parties to recognize up to 37 protected areas that have been listed under the SPAW Protocol since 2012.

The creation or establishment of additional protected areas in the Wider Caribbean Region may contribute to achieving Target 3 of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework.

As recommended during the SPAW COP 12, the SPAW Regional Activity Center (SPAW RAC) is coordinating a regional effort to create a network of managers of the SPAW-listed protected areas.



# OBJECTIVES OF THE WORKSHOP

In the framework of the Cartagena Convention, the objective of this first in-person meeting of the 37 SPAW-listed protected area managers are:

- to develop a proposal for the creation of a network for SPAW-listed protected areas with the purpose of understanding and addressing the needs of protected area managers to improve protected area effectiveness;
- to define a strategic vision, goals, institutional structure, and topics of interest for the network;
- to conduct a first technical session on management plan;
- to encourage SPAW-listed protected area managers to get to know each other and consider future collaborations.



Let you meet each other

Hear you about your motivations and constraints

Define the contours of the community : purpose, vision, objectives, governance

See if and how you want to contribute to the future of the network

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# OPENING

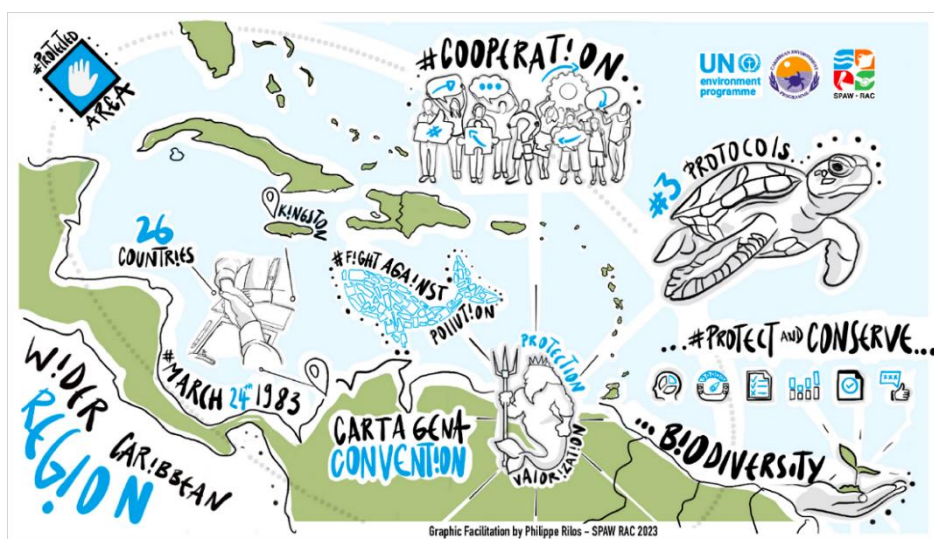
## Mr. Federico Franco, Vice-Minister of the Protected Areas and Biodiversity of Dominican Republic

The Vice-Minister of the Protected Area and Biodiversity of Dominican Republic, Mr Federico Franco, welcomed the first meeting of the SPAW-listed protected area manager network and presented the work conducted by the Dominican Republic government related to protected areas and biodiversity conservation in a context of climate change.



## Ms. Géraldine Conruyt, SPAW RAC Deputy Director, representing the UNEP- CEP

Géraldine Conruyt presented the work conducted by the Caribbean United Nations Environment Program and SPAW RAC under the framework of the Cartagena Convention and SPAW Protocol.



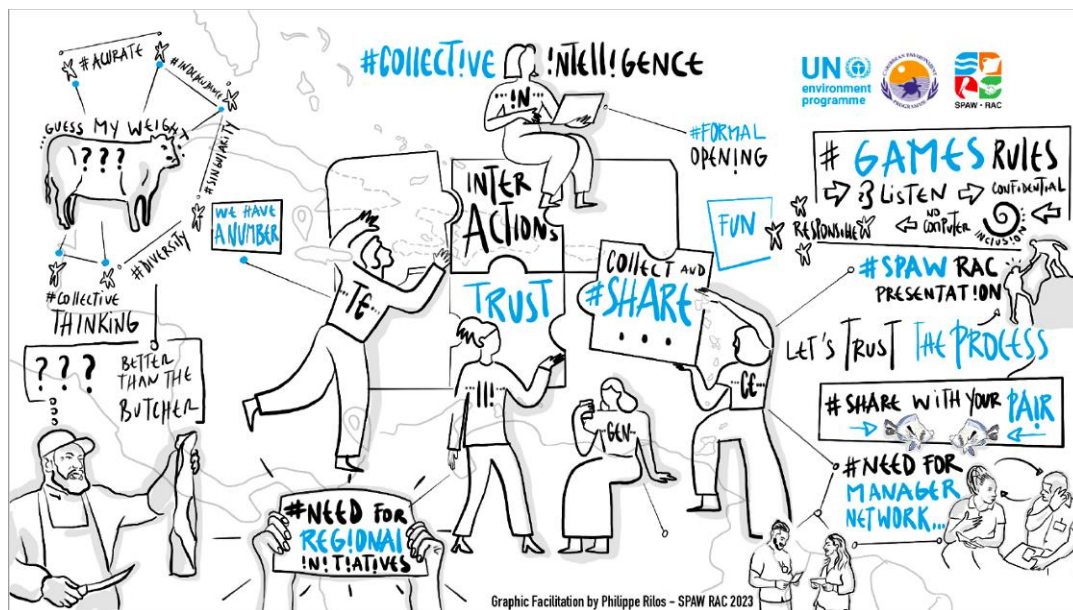


# DAY 1 – Collective intelligence

The workshop was conducted using a collective intelligence approach, promoting:

- The diversity of opinions
- Independence
- In an aggregation system mode

“Connect on our similarities and benefit on our differences “

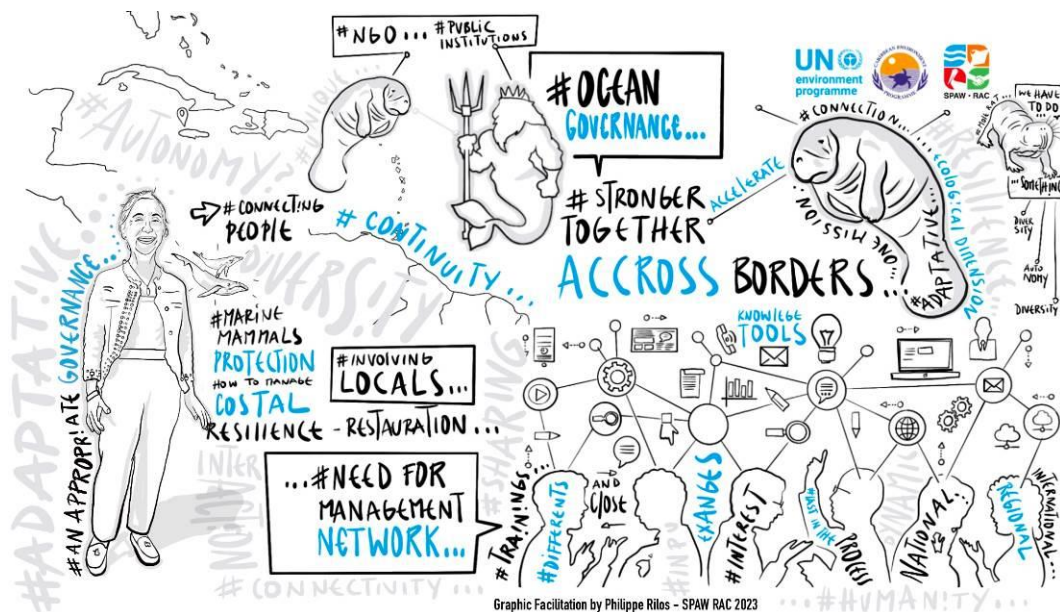


# DAY 1 – About networks

Ms. Puri Canals, Technical Director and Networks Twinning Coordinator on behalf of the Ocean Governance project presented the work conducted under the framework of the Ocean Governance project, and presented the Mediterranean Protected Area Network (MedPan).

4 protected areas managers networks common strategies:

- Sharing information, knowledge and tools
- Building capacity
- Policy support / advocacy
- Sustainable financing



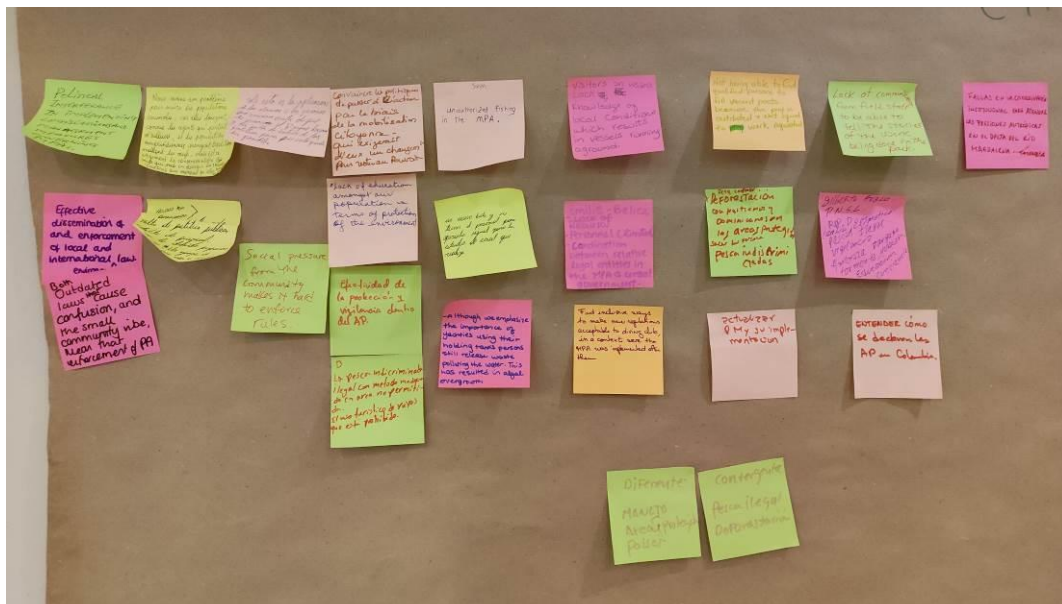
*“Determining a network’s purpose is an evolving process following the evolution or maturation of the network and is most effective when it is the result of a collaborative process involving an initial group of managers coming together to identify common goals or threats that are best addresses through experience sharing and cooperation.”*

Mudford & Besançon – GOPA, *Guidelines and best practices for protected areas manager networks*

# DAY 1 – Our challenges

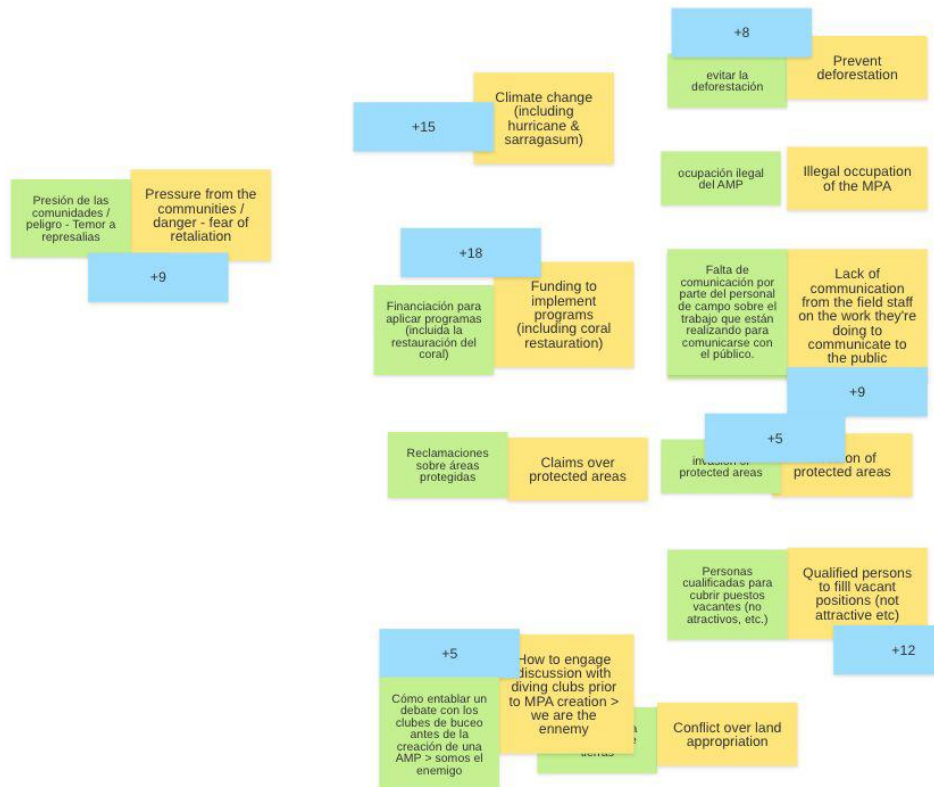
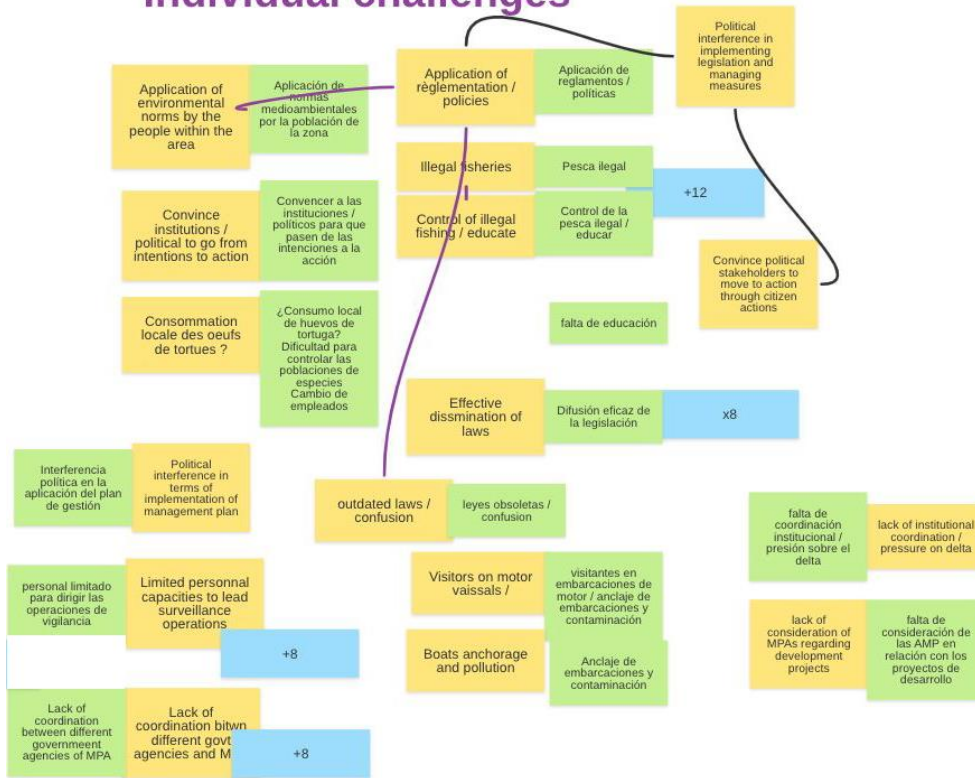
The group exchanges their views on the question:

What is the most annoying/recurring challenge you deal with in managing your protected area?



Wall of post it with individual challenges

# Individual challenges





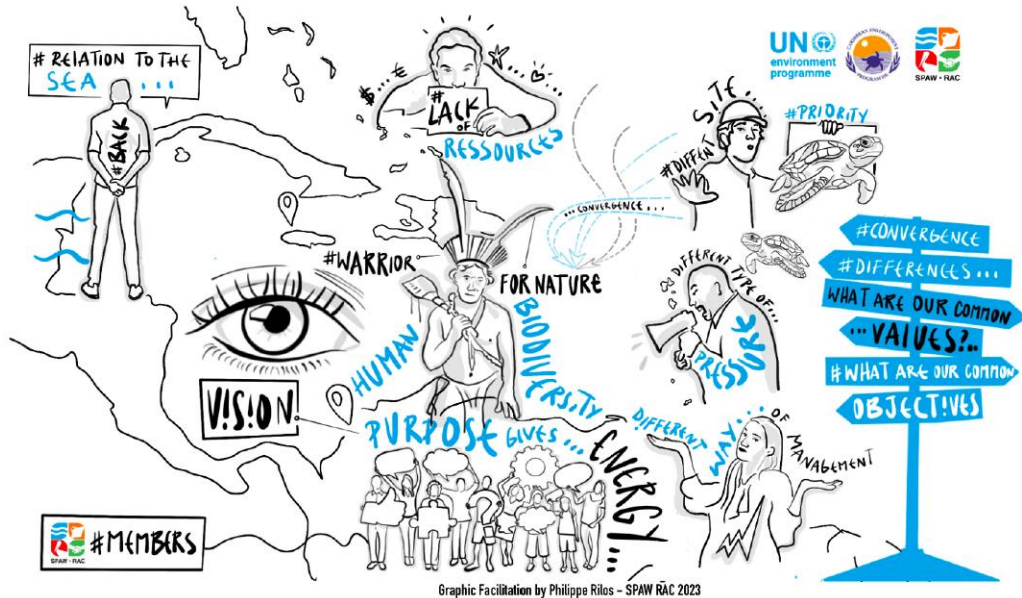
**The challenges most shared among the managers are the following:**

- Funding to implement programs (19)
- Climate change- including hurricane and sargassum influx (16)
- Illegal fishing / control of illegal fishing (13)
- Qualified staff to fill vacant positions (13)
- Lack of coordination between different governmental agencies and the protected areas (10)
- Deforestation (9)
- Effective dissemination of laws (9)
- Limited staff capacities to lead surveillance operations (9)
- Political interference regarding the implementation of management plan (4)
- Difficulty to convince political to go from intentions to action (2)
- Application of environmental norms by the local within the area / outdated laws / confusion with laws
- Discussion with diving clubs
- Illegal occupation of terrestrial protected area / claim over protected areas / conflict over land appropriation
- Lack of communication from the field staff on the work they are doing to communicate to the public
- Boat anchorage and pollution
- Visitors on motor vassals
- Lack of consideration of protected areas regarding land development projects
- Traditional practices versus species protection
- Lack of sensitization

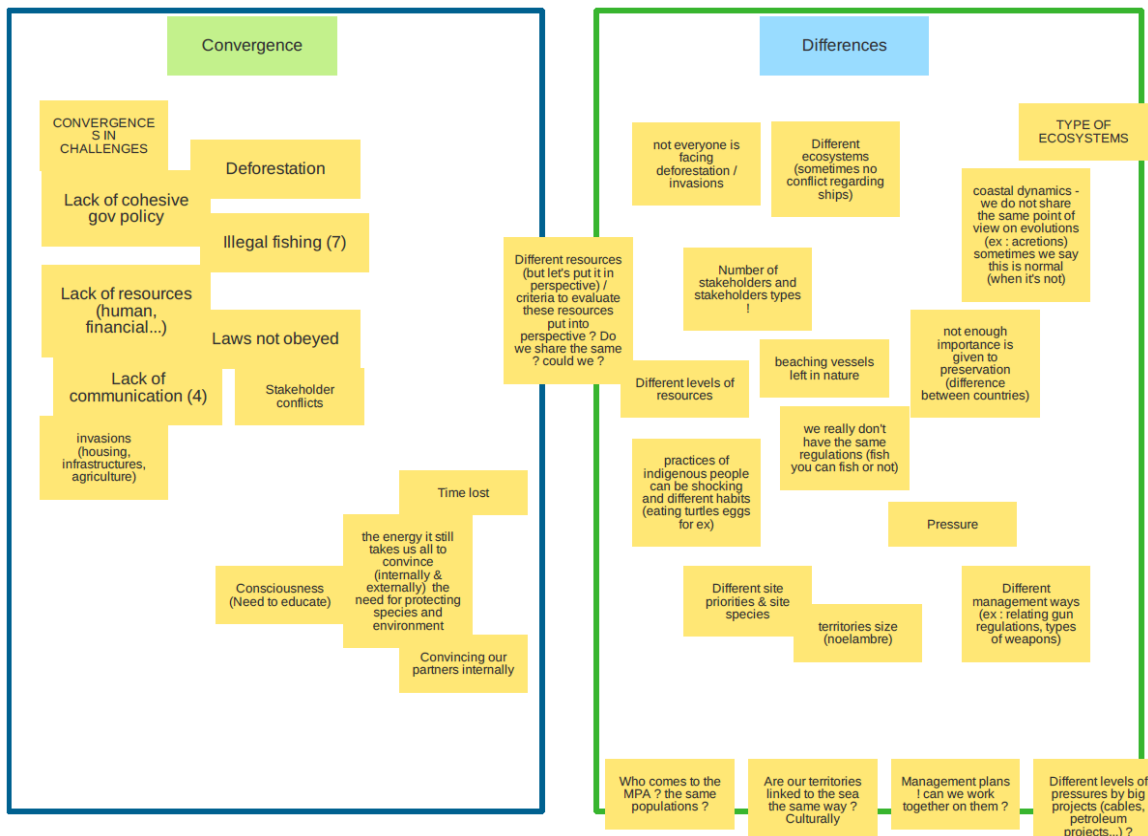
# DAY 1 – Our convergences & differences

The group exchanges their views on the question:

What connects us?



Graphic Facilitation by Philippe Rilos – SPAW RAC 2023



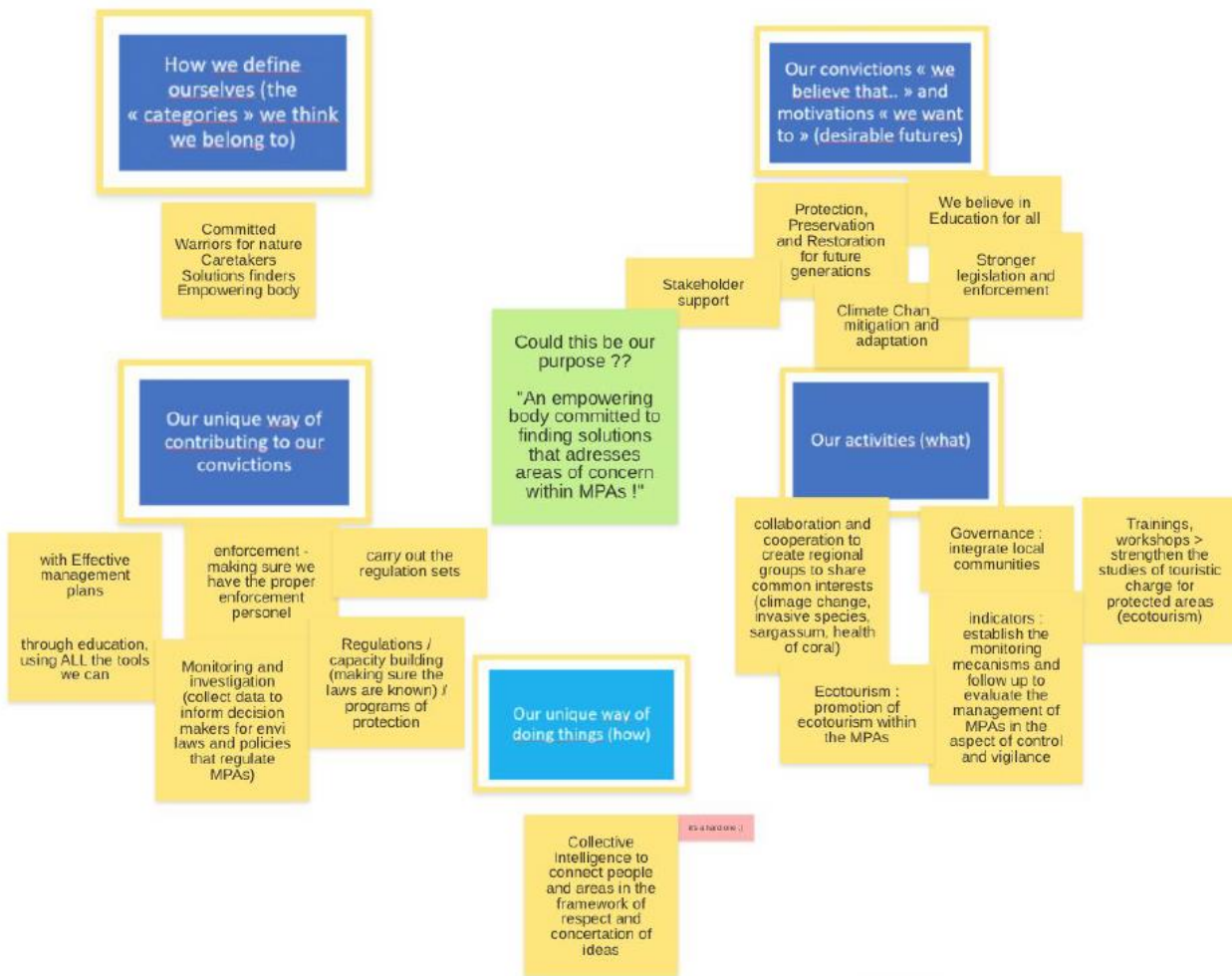
## DAY 1 – Our purpose

The group worked in sub-groups on the following different topics, to define a purpose for the network:



**“We are an empowering body committed to finding solutions, through collective intelligence, that address areas of concerns within protected areas.”**

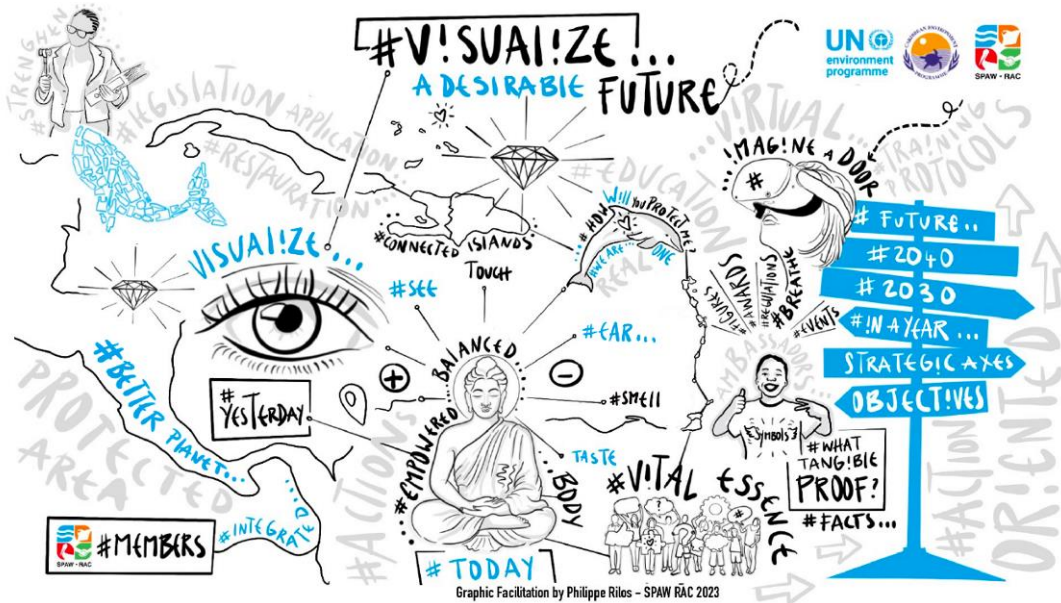
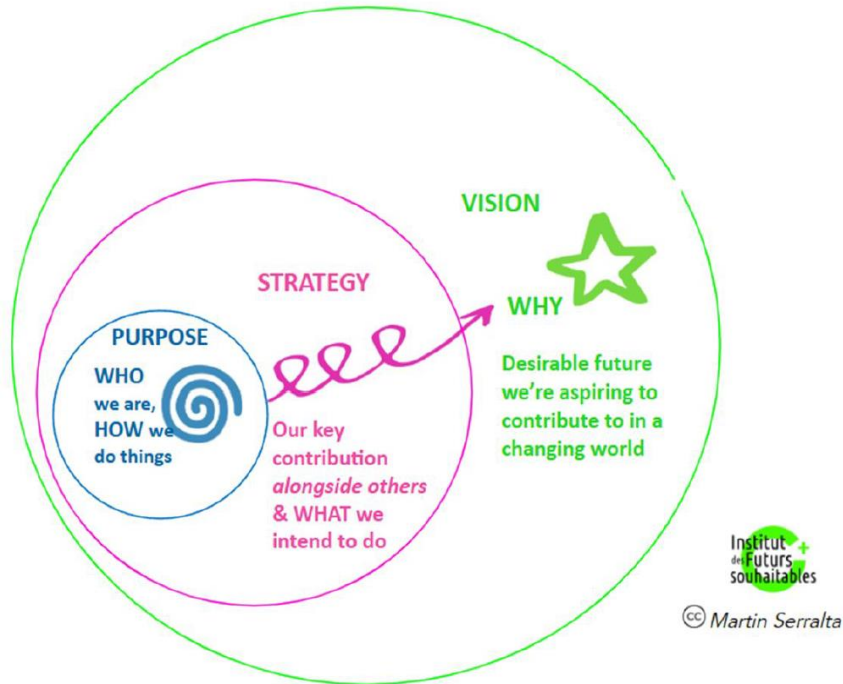
*The SPAW protected area managers, La Romana, 2023.*



Work in progress

# DAY 2 – Our vision

Every member of the group thought individually, before sharing, of a desirable future of the network.



## DAY 2 – Network objectives

The group then backcast from 2040 to today, to define the strategic axes and objectives for the network.

**YOU ARE NOW IN 2040** ...

... **Back from 2040 to 2030** ...

... **In 2030, looking back to the present** ...

... **Welcome back to 2023!**

### **Strategic Axes**

- 1) Develop and provide organic and sustainable alternatives for the communities
- 2) Share strategy and results (could be through a communication platform)
- 3) Ensure that policy makers are onboard and are action oriented
- 4) Develop ties with legislators (presentations and encounters with legislators in order to make recommendations to meet deficiencies in current laws)
- 5) Restoration : Approaching the government by advocating to allocate funds to restoration efforts globally & intensify our environmental restoration efforts (One of them could be corridor creations)
- 6) Move forward in the inclusion of new areas in the protocol
- 7) Guarantee financial stability in order to carry out new activities
- 8) Strategic access, survey for data gathering, theme prototyping, collect data and prioritize during our encounters
- 9) Educate the communities so they know the importance of the Protected Areas
- 10) Generate a training scheme for participants in the protocol
- 11) Management plan agreed with the community more easily

*Strategic axes to be prioritized*



*Work in subgroup*



#### 4 main objectives for the network

Educating the communities

Ensure the commitment of politicians in action

Ensure financial stability

Share results and strategy

## DAY 2 – Field trip

The National Park of Cotubanama opened its door to the group and presented the history and main challenges faced by the National Park.

Discussions between the Park managers and the members of the network enabled the group to share ideas and propose solutions to the issue of staff training.



# DAY 2 – Petcha Kucha night



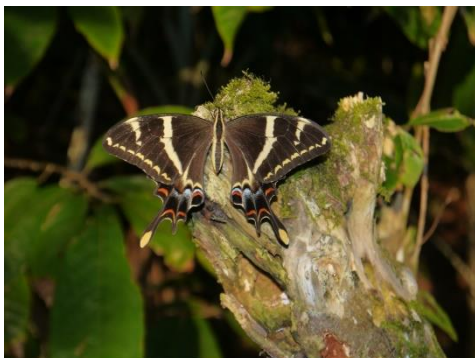
Every member of the group presented in less than 4 minutes their protected area, using a “Pecha Kucha” technique.



Underwater sculpture park at MBMPA



Agricultura





## DAY 3 – Actions & road map

The group discuss on actions to be taken for each strategic objectives:

- **Educating the communities**

- To exchange between the member countries
- To share tools
- To instaurate training for teachers
- To assess knowledge and understanding
- To increase public enthusiasm to engage in environmental friendly practices
- To increase community visitors
- To highlight control protection value and control total access
- To develop exchanges between schools in caribbean areas

- **Ensure financial stability**

- To search for funding for new activities
- To gather the needs from the SPAW protected areas who require fundings
- To define a financial mechanism to receive and execute objectives
- To find private financing partnerships

- **Ensure the commitment of politicians in action**

- To show the economic advantage of action versus the cost of inaction
- To attract local communities through awareness projects to show politicians that their constituents are committed
- To share the experience of the politicians who are already committed and valuing them
- To organize meetings between different politicians so the advanced one can transfer their knowledge and enthusiasm to the skeptic or unexperienced ones
- To propose workshops for legislators
- To speak up in the name of the network / report informally on offenses (during COP, etc.)

- **Share strategy & results**

- To promote information exchange within the network
- To foster good fellowship within the network
- To utilize an efficient platform for easy access to information
- To identify specific key topics (most common interest) and specific people (inside and outside the group) to share information

## First elements of road map

The group then thought of actions that could be done within 1 year, between 2 and 6 months, and within two months, which lead to define a first road map, on each of the strategical axe of the network.

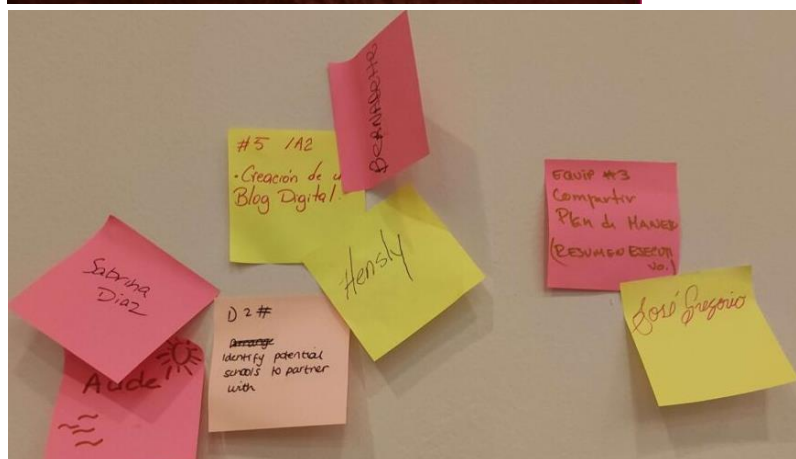
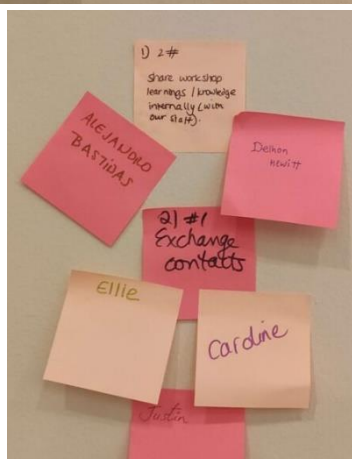
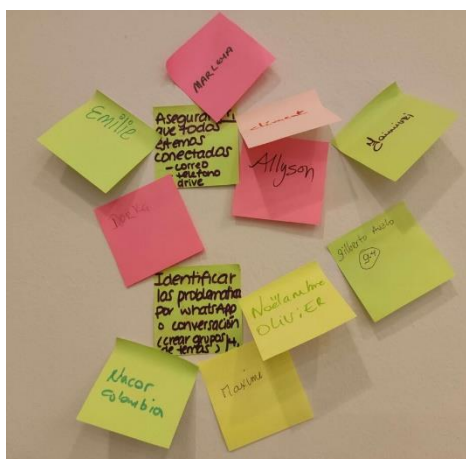


- Baby steps

Each individual also decided to realize a first “baby step” to be realized within a couple of weeks after being back home, to launch their active participation in the network!

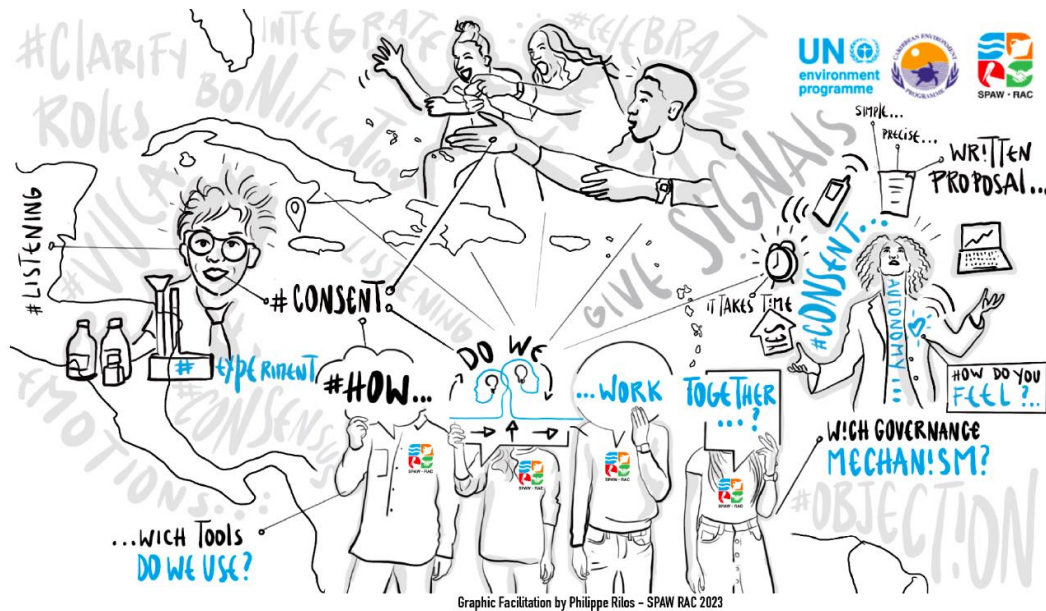
The baby steps were the following:

- Make sure we are all connected / exchange contact information
- Identify the problems and means as quickly as possible
- Share the knowledge that we got from the workshop to our colleagues
- Identify schools that could become partners (exchange with another school in another country)
- Share our management plan with our politician
- Ask colleagues if they know how to create a study on “cost of action” vs “cost of inaction”



## DAY 3 – Governance seeds

The group discusses on ways to take decisions (consensus versus consent), on frequencies for meeting, and other communication topics.



It has been proposed that the network members meet every year for the first years and to re-evaluate the timeline after a couples of years.

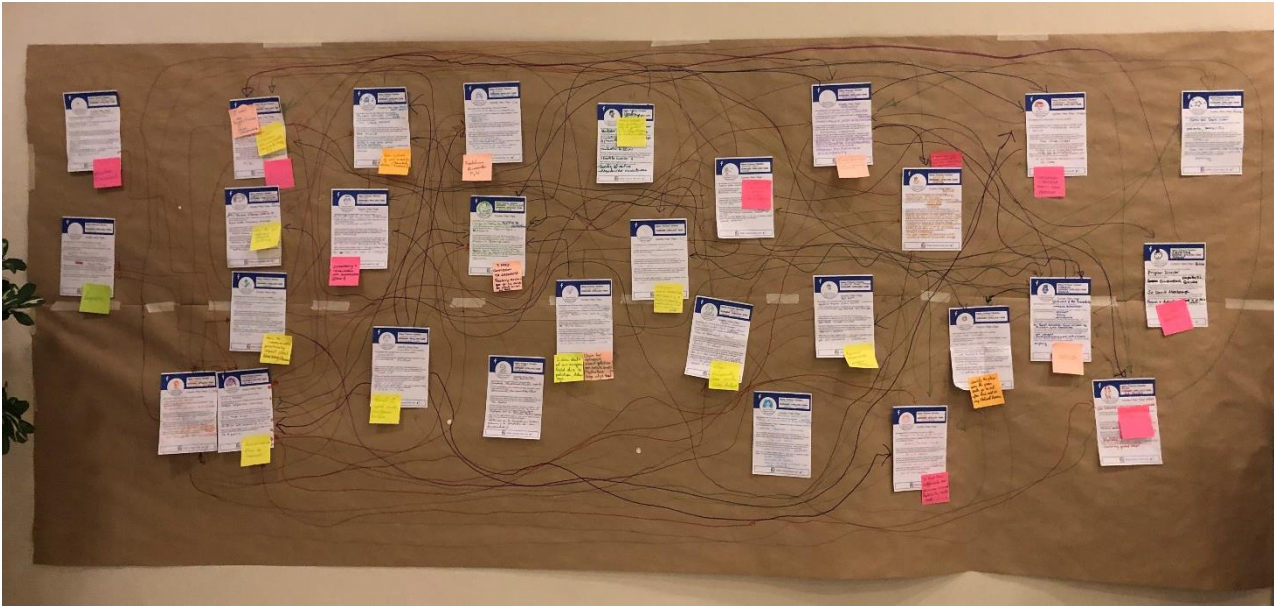


## DAY 3 – Workshop wrap up & celebration

- “I remember when”

The group took a moment to remember a moment of the past 3 days and share it with the group.

- We are all linked together!



*“Social wall”*

- Sharing last moments together...



*Long and prosper life to the SPAW protected area manager network!*

# Evaluation

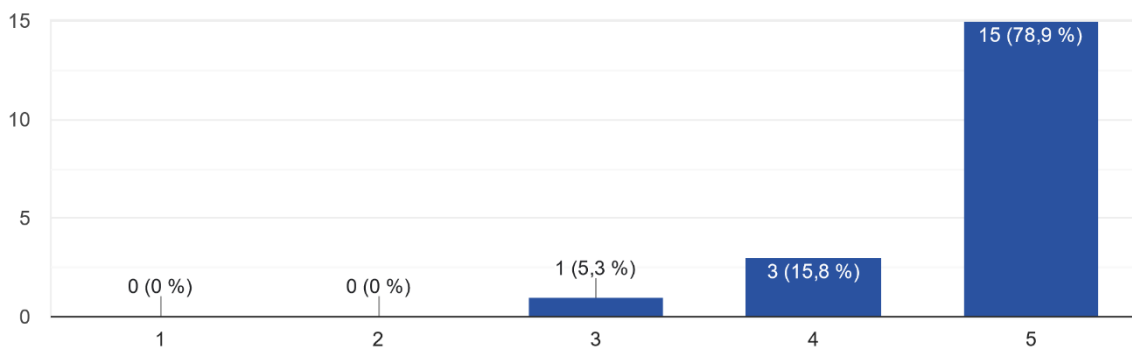


A post event survey was sent to the 24 participants, and 19 answers were received.

The feedbacks and comments from the participants will help to move forward and improve the next meeting!

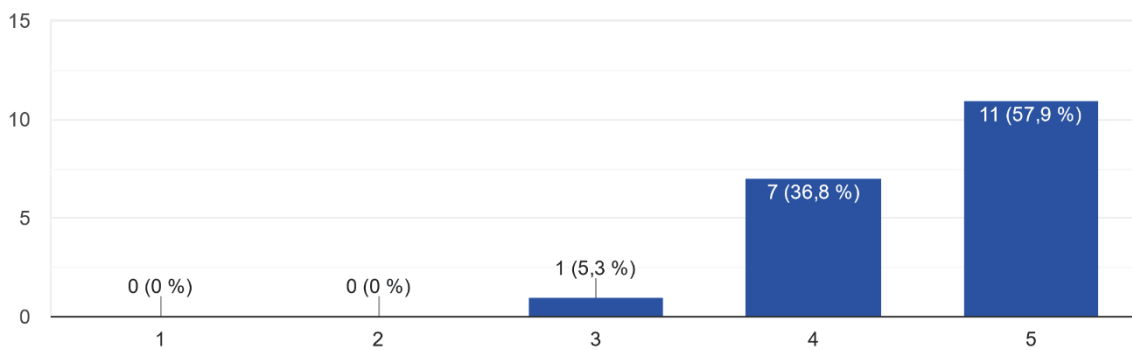
Level of global satisfaction (from 1 to 5) Nivel global de satisfacción (de 1 a 5) Niveau de satisfaction globale (de 1 à 5)

19 réponses



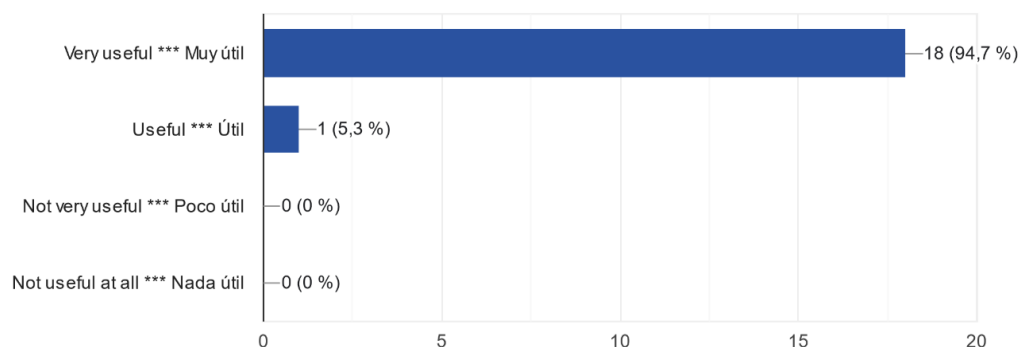
Level of connections you were able to make (from 1 to 5) Nivel de conexiones que ha podido establecer (de 1 a 5) Niveau des connexions que vous avez pu établir (de 1 à 5)

19 réponses



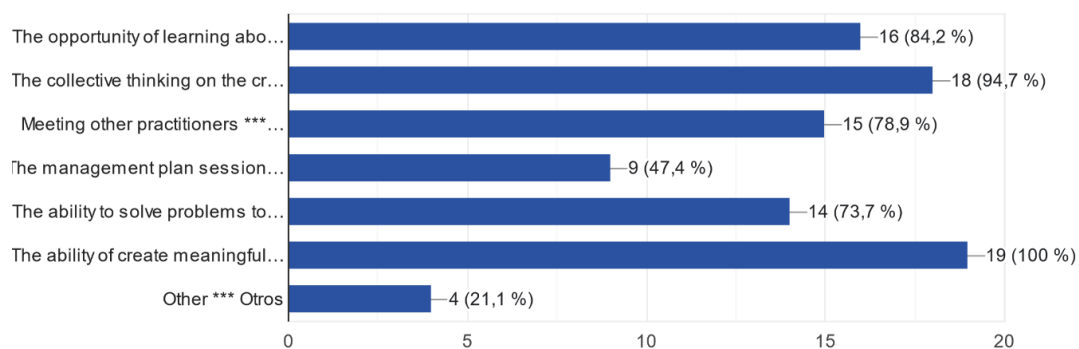
Do you think this event was: Crees que este acontecimiento fue: Pensez-vous que cet événement était :

19 réponses



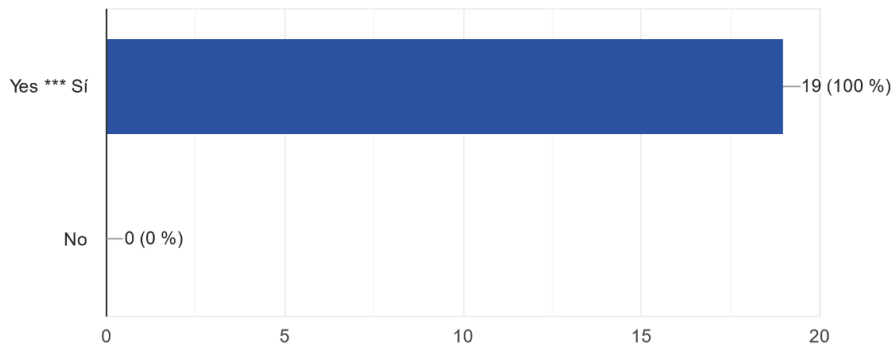
What have you valued the most (select as many as you wish) ¿Qué es lo que más le ha gustado (seleccione tantas respuestas como desee)? Qu'av...nnez autant de réponses que vous le souhaitez) ?

19 réponses



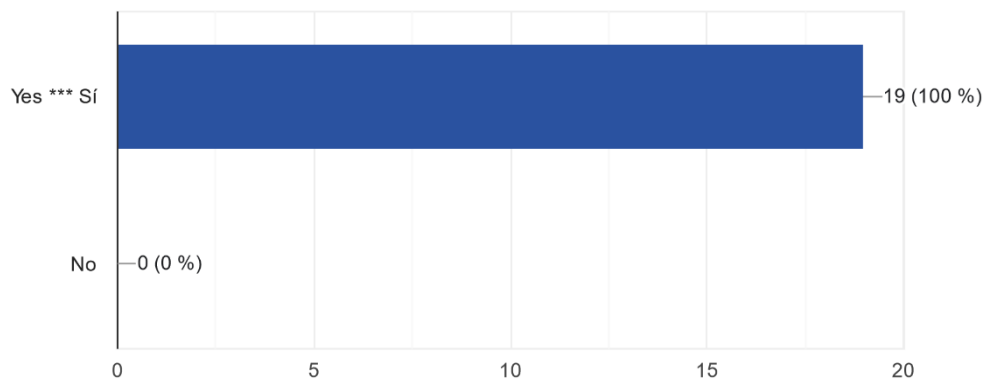
Do you think this network is going to help you in managing your protected area in any way? ¿Cree que esta red le ayudará de alguna manera a gestion...votre aire protégée d'une manière ou d'une autre ?

19 réponses



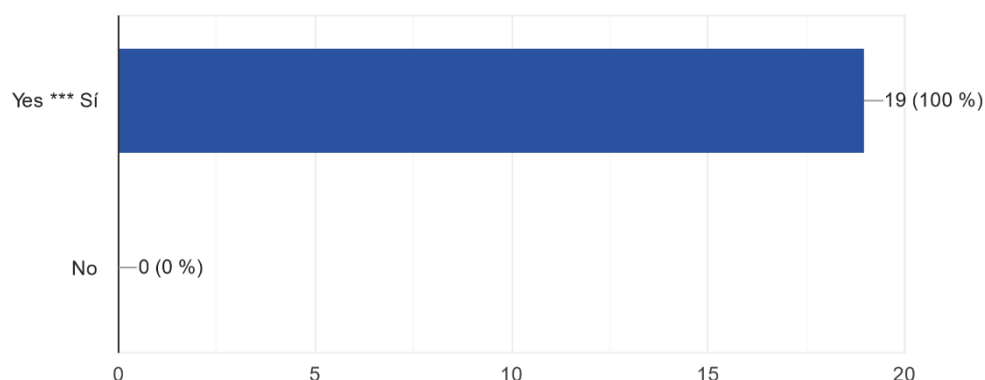
Will you engage in further activities / collective efforts of the SPAW managers network? ¿Va a participar en otras actividades / esfuerzos colecti...ts collectifs du réseau des gestionnaires de SPAW ?

19 réponses



Do you think this network is going to help you in managing your protected area in any way? ¿Cree que esta red le ayudará de alguna manera a gestion...votre aire protégée d'une manière ou d'une autre ?

19 réponses



- **To be improved for next meeting**

- Lengths of workshop & length of days / sessions
- Translation quality
- Packed scheduled
- Give more time / space for exchanges between managers aside from the workshop

- **Topics for next meeting**

Different topics concerning the theme for next workshop were proposed by the participants such as planning for the network, governance structure, prioritization of similar topics for protected areas and collaboration between them, creation of specific projects, sustainable funding, etc.

- **Other comments**

Thank you for your hard work in the organisation of the workshop, it was a great experience and I am looking forward to continuing to all work very closely together!

It was a lovely experience. I am happy to have been a part of the process and look forward to contributing more.

Un placer ser miembro de esta red y poder conocerlo a todos.

Felicitarlos por la realización del taller y lograr tener concentradas y activas tantas personas con



Quedo a la disposición para cualquier otro aporte.

Fue una experiencias muy especial que nunca olvidares, los extrañamos mucho a todos.

Gracias a todos un placer aver compartido, y quiero seguí compartiendo y participar en todas las actividades posible.

Phenomenal job team on the first workshop! From logistics to location to workshop content, it was excellent!

Thank  
you

# ORGANIZERS

## SPAW RAC

Hosted by the French Government and based in Guadeloupe, the Regional Activity Center for Specially Protected Areas and Wildlife of the Caribbean (SPAW RAC) works under the aegis of the Caribbean Environment Program of the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP CEP) in Kingston, Jamaica, to implement the SPAW protocol concerning the protection of marine and coastal biodiversity in the wider Caribbean region, from the Gulf of Mexico to the Caribbean Sea.

Under the terms of the Protocol, the Contracting Parties must, in accordance with their own legislation, take all measures to protect, conserve and sustainably manage the zones and the animal or plant threatened species. The Protocol has two main goals:

- the protection, preservation and sustainable management of the zones that present particular ecological value;
- the protection, preservation and sustainable management of threatened or endangered wild species as well as their habitats.

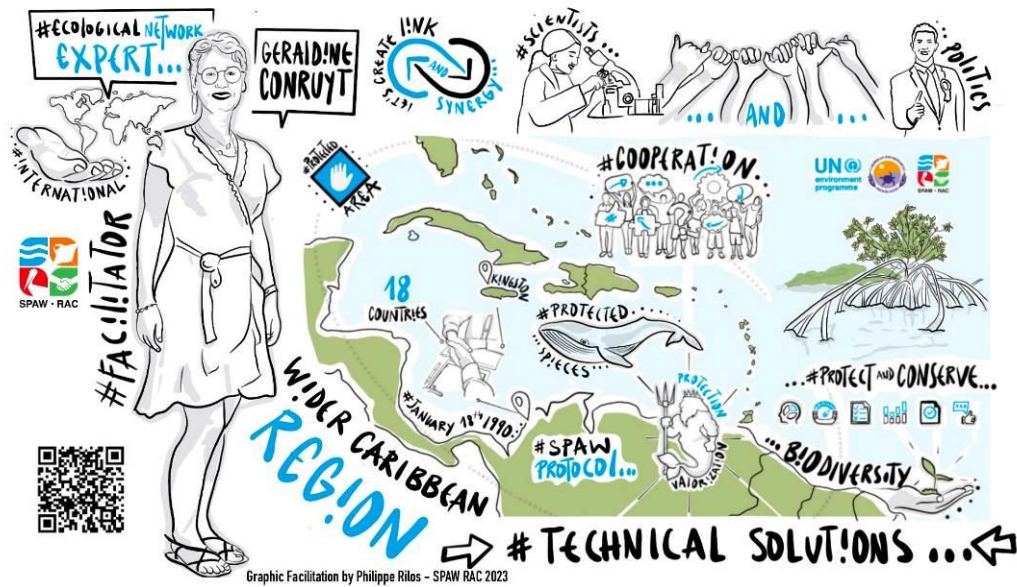
SPAW RAC's mission is to promote regional cooperation for the protection and the development of the Wider Caribbean Region and has a significant role on a regional level to mobilize international funders, for the realization of environmental protection projects.



*Map of SPAW countries*

Géraldine CONRUYT

After biology and ecology studies, Géraldine has successively worked for the French Ministry of Environment and the *Muséum national d'histoire naturelle*. She has a background especially in ecological networks, participatory science and international cooperation, and has been working for the SPAW RAC since 2019.



Lucie LABBOUZ



With a background in engineering, Lucie has been coordinating several national or international environmental complex projects over the past 15 years, in France, Africa, and in the Caribbean. She has been back at SPAW RAC since January 2023, after having worked there from 2017 to 2018.

# PARTICIPANTS



25 participants representing 24 SPAW-listed protected areas (out of 37) participated in this first workshop.

Country	SPAW protected area	Participant	Position
Belize	Glover's reef Marine Reserve	ECK-NUNEZ Alicia	Fisheries Officer
Belize	Hol Chan Marine Reserve	GOMEZ Emily	Technical supervisor
Belize	Port Honduras Marine Reserve	OLIVER Caroline	Sales and marketing manager
Colombia	Sanctuario Ciénaga Grande de Santa Marta	BASTIDAS Alejandro	Chief of the Sanctuary
Colombia	Regional Seaflower Marine Protected Area	BOLAÑOS Nacor	CORALINA – Subdirector
Colombia	Parque Natural Regional De Los Humedales Entre Los Rios Leon Y Suriqui	ORTIZ Elizabeth	Manager
Cuba	Parque Nacional Guanahacabibes	Dra. COBIAN ROJAS Dorka	Research and Monitoring program Officer
Cuba	Parque Nacional Cayos de San Felipe	HERNANDEZ GONZALEZ Zaimiuri	Specialist
Dominican Republic	Parque Nacional de la Caleta	AVALO TAVARES Gilbeto	Administrator
Dominican Republic	Parque Nacional de Bahoruco	HERNANDEZ REYES Jose Gregorio	Administrator
Dominican Republic	Parque Nacional de Haitises	BARRIOLA Carlos DE LA CRUZ ADAMES Alejo	Administrator Administrator
Dominican Republic	Parque Nacional de Cotubanamá	CORPORAN Hensly Guerrero	Administrator

Country	SPAW protected area	Participant	Position
FR- Guyane française	Réserve Naturelle Nationale de l'Amana	COBIGO Maxime	Project and studies officer
FR- Guadeloupe	Parc national de la Guadeloupe	BEDEL Sophie	Head of “Heritage” Department
FR- Saint-Martin	Étangs lagunaires de Saint-Martin	DAVIS Bernadette	2nd vice president of the community of St Martin local authority
FR- Saint-Martin	Réserve Naturelle Nationale de Saint-Martin	BONNARDEL Clément	RecoreA Project Officer
FR- Martinique	Parc naturel marin de Martinique	BRADOR Aude OLIVIER Noelambre	Director « Culture » Officer
Grenada	Molinière-Beauséjour Marine Protected Area	RENNIE Justin	Chief Fisheries Officer
Kingdom of the Netherlands- Statia	St Eustatius National Marine Park	BUTLER Eleanor	Marine Park Manager
Kingdom of the Netherlands- St. Maarten	Man O War Shoal Marine Park	HEWITT Delhon	Chief Ranger
Kingdom of the Netherlands- Statia	The Quill and Boven National Park	BUTLER Eleanor	Marine Park Manager
Saint Vincent and the Grenadines	Tobago Cay Marine Park	ADAMS Marleya	Marine biologist
United States of America	Dry Tortugas National Park, Florida	DIAZ Sabrina GANTT Allyson	Deputy Superintendent Chief of Communications and Public Affairs
United States of America	Everglades National Park, Florida		



# FACILITATORS

## Why choose facilitators?

A facilitator is a dedicated expert who helps groups to collaborate more effectively. They are trained in specific skills, techniques, and tools which they use to engage the group in activities and exercises which help to generate ideas and solutions.

This first workshop of the SPAW-listed protected areas managers network will be guided by 3 great facilitators

## Nastatia TIME



Passionate about Innovation, Foresight and Ocean Protection, [Nastasia](#) is a Lean Startup & Design Thinking expert who worked for over 10 years to facilitate corporate seminars and workshops using the design thinking toolbox and methodology. She is also a member of “The Institute of Desirable Futures” and helps organizations project for their best future

## Florence YERLES



[Florence](#) has worked for more than 18 years in supporting change, transformation, communication, collaboration, collective intelligence and social and environmental responsibility, from digital to renewable energies. She believes that the keystone of resilience is raising awareness on today's transitions and tomorrow's models (including natural ecosystem's), reinforcing a shared culture... based on human and cooperative links.

## Philippe RILOS



From a curriculum oriented communication and advertising, [Philippe](#) spent the first part of his career in graphic design. He works now as a graphic facilitator, and graphically map or record ongoing discussion by implementing a feedback system with the group. The scribe gives the audience a better memorial anchor key messages – and is also a rich synthesis for people who can not attend the workshop.

# FOUNDERS



## ACP MEA 3 Project



The ACP MEAs Programme is a joint partnership between the European Union, the Organization of African, Caribbean and Pacific States, UN Environment Programme and the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations. The programme aims to build capacity in 79 countries in Africa, Caribbean, and the Pacific (ACP) to support them in fulfilling their obligations as parties to Multilateral Environmental Agreements (MEAs), to address the environmental challenges they face and to reap the benefits of improved environmental governance at national and regional levels.

In the current and third phase (ACP MEAs 3), The Secretariat of the Cartagena Convention, along with other Regional Seas Conventions is implementing activities focusing on better management of coasts and oceans, and effective implementation of the related Regional Seas Conventions.

Under this ACP MEA 3 project, UNEP CEP and SPAW RAC have developed a collaborative project for *“the development of an efficient and regionally representative network of Marine Protected Areas managers”*.

UNEP CEP is the major funder of this workshop and will be represented by Géraldine Conruyt, SPAW RAC Deputy Director.

## Ocean Governance



The Ocean Governance project, funded by the European Union aims to build links between marine protected areas in the Atlantic basin and South-East Asia for the benefit of wildlife conservation and local economies.

In the framework of its ‘twinning MPA network’ component, the Ocean Governance project gathered groups of marine protected area managers and other experts to work on topics of shared interest (such as whale conservation or coastal resilience) to build skills and understanding and deliver more effective management of the marine environment.

The Ocean Governance project also supports networks of protected areas managers all around the world.

# LOGISTICS & TRANSLATION

## Logistic

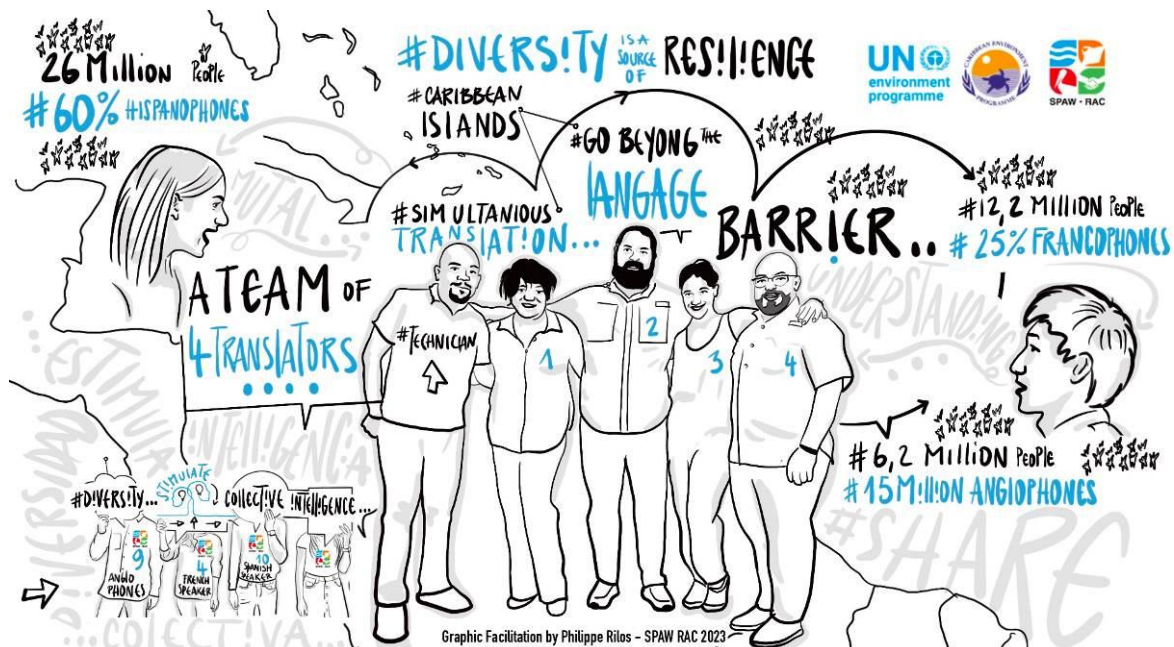
The workshop was host at the hotel “Bahia principe luxury bouganville”, in La Romana, Dominican Republic (all-inclusive package).

Coffee breaks were provided in the mornings and afternoons.



## Translation

The translation services were provided by Rive eventos in Spanish, English, French.



Translators: Nathan Paden, Alberto Rogers, Thaina Corvington, Marie Michele Bazile

Technician: Elvys Peña



## CONTACT INFORMATION

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