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Collaboration among Caribbean MPA Networks

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Objectives of the meeting:

- Identify possible synergies and opportunities for stronger collaboration across MPA networks (based on the questionnaire findings).
- Discuss common challenges and how to address them (based on the questionnaire findings).
- Define future collaborative strategies, including potential initiatives, timelines, and roles, setting a foundation for coordinated efforts in the future.





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Assessment of Marine and Coastal Protected Area Networks in the Wider Caribbean Region

2024

Organizations and Networks:

- **Sustainable Grenadines Inc:** Works with 8 MPAs, focuses on transboundary monitoring, report cards, and management plans.
- **Mesoamerican Reef Fund Inc:** Supports 25 MPAs, coordinates local initiatives and has strong experience in sustainable financing and capacity building.
- **SPAW-listed MPA Network.** Recently established in 2023 with 37 MPAs, aims to define governance and monitoring systems.
- **The MPAConnect Network:** Works with 40 MPAs, focuses on management capacity building, has a 15-year track record in tracking needs and progress.
- **Caribbean Marine Protected Areas Network and Forum (CaMPAM):** Targeting all the Caribbean MPAs, more than 25 years of implementation. Focus on capacity building and awareness-raising.
- **RedGolfo:** MPA network that encompassed the entire Gulf of Mexico and the three countries that share this body of water Expansion from sister sanctuary program between US and Cuba enacted in 2015 into 11 MPA network



Successes:

- Improved communication and coordination.
- Implementation of management plans and enhanced protection efforts.
- Engagement of local communities and focus on education and awareness.
- Development of sustainable financing mechanisms and strong fundraising strategies.
- Legal and administrative arrangements
- Clear purpose

Challenges:

- Lack/insufficient sustainable funding and resources.
- Insufficient support from national and regional authorities.
- Challenges in capacity building and dedicated staffing.
- Governance and legal obstacles, especially for newer networks.
- Insufficient monitoring of performance

Primary Threats:

- Political instability and lack of consistent funding.
- High operational costs and insufficient legal or administrative support.
- Environmental threats like climate change and pollution.

Funding Sources:

- Primarily through international grants and aid.
- Some networks have started innovative financing methods, including parametric insurance and endowment revenues.
- Private donations



Contributions to the Global Biodiversity Framework (GBF):

- Engaging local communities in conservation efforts
- Conducting scientific research.
- Expanding protected area coverage and implementing sustainable practices.
- Promoting climate change adaptation and enhancing management effectiveness.
- Enhancing protection and management effectiveness.
- Collaborating with international organizations.



Future Needs for Success:

- Stronger national/regional authority support.
- Additional/sustainable funding
- Establishment of formal networks.
- Need for dedicated coordinators to support network activities.
- Support from national authorities





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Discussion on addressing the challenges and maximize the opportunities

Challenges and opportunities:

- How can we work together to tackle the shared challenges identified in the questionnaire, such as insufficient funding, lack of dedicated staff, and limited support from authorities, in a way that benefits all our networks?
- Are there any opportunities to work together to leverage our combined strengths or shared resources?
- What common goal can we set as a group that would help unify our efforts and make a measurable impact across all our MPA networks?



Future planning:

- What concrete activities could we organize for the coming year to start working together to strengthen Caribbean MPAs?
- Could we identify some initial steps today? Who would be willing to lead or support each step, and what timeline could we set to complete it?
- How can we manage follow-up for the proposed actions? Would regular review meetings or a specific communication channel work well?
- What resources or support would you need to fulfil the commitments?
- Would it be helpful to establish clear roles for each action?





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Thank you!

