



# Specially Protected Areas and Wildlife

## Protocol And Programme

Newsletter N°22 - August 2018

### Commonly used Acronyms

**BEST:** Voluntary scheme for Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services in Territories of European overseas

**CaMPAM:** Caribbean Marine Protected Area Management Network and Forum

**CEP:** Caribbean Environment Programme

**GCFI:** Gulf Caribbean Fisheries Institute

**GCRMN:** Global Coral Reef Monitoring Network

**MPAs:** Marine Protected Areas

**PAs:** Protected Areas

**SPAW:** Specially Protected Areas and Wildlife

**SPAW-RAC:** Specially Protected Areas and Wildlife - Regional Activity Center

**UN Environment-CEP:** United Nations Environment Programme - Caribbean Environment Programme



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## News of the month

### Eco-Diving Certification Programme Green Fins comes to the Caribbean

With support from the [Regional Activity Centre for the Protocol Concerning Specially Protected Areas and Wildlife for the Wider Caribbean Region \(SPAW-RAC\)](#), under the framework of the [Caribbean Environment Programme of the United Nations-Environment Programme \(UN Environment- CEP\)](#) and [Reef-World](#), an initiative called [Green Fins](#) has been introduced to the Dominican Republic (June 2018). [Reef Check Dominican Republic](#), a local organization focused on protecting coral reefs and their associated species, has taken the lead and will be using Green Fins to address the increase in tourists interacting with the marine environment, and the associated threats that come with this.

*Noteworthy: In 2016, 6.1 million tourists visited the country.*

#### What is Green Fins?

Green Fins is a free certification programme for participating businesses that provide SCUBA diving or snorkelling activities and pledge to follow a set of [best practices](#). The Green Fins 15-point Code of Conduct was developed by the [UN Environment](#) in 2004 and has since been introduced in [9 countries](#) in [South East Asia](#) with much success through demonstrating a measurable reduction in threats to coral reefs from participating businesses. Due to the high biodiversity and appeal of dive sites in Asia, many countries have seen a boom in tourism and by extension increased threats to the marine environment. Green Fins helps to identify these issues by consulting with the private sector and provides a simple solution-based approach with support from the government and NGO's.

The initiative is a way to reduce the threats and pressures from the SCUBA diving industry (e.g. anchoring, chemical pollution, and damage from divers to coral reefs) by providing training and tools to the businesses who are in a position to act. As international coordinators, Reef-World visited the Dominican Republic in June 2018 to establish a National Green Fins team to oversee the programme. A small team of assessors were trained by Reef-World including Reef Check Dominican Republic, the government, and other key stakeholders who visited various dive centres to carry out on-site evaluations.

Reef-World Operations Manager James Harvey commented "This is really exciting as we have been receiving requests for many years from Caribbean based governments and businesses to introduce Green Fins to the region - and now it is finally expanding on the great work we have achieved so far in Asia. Reef-World are very excited to have the team behind Reef Check Dominican Republic taking the lead as they are renowned for their ability to protect coral reefs, and are well respected in the country."

Green Fins will use the passion and the power of the marine tourism industry to help reduce threats from this industry which many people depend on.

*Noteworthy: The coral reefs in the Dominican Republic, and globally, are under an increasing level of threat from a range of issues (climate change, land-based sources of pollution including marine plastics to name a few).*



# Projects

## A BEST 2.0 project is over and has achieved great results!

■ **Turks and Caicos (TCI) project** - conducted by [Wolfs Company](#) has come to a successful end.

The project's global objective was to enhance conservation of coral reef ecosystems in the TCI. To achieve this goal the project focused on building local capacities within the [Department of Environment and Coastal Resources](#) (DECR) and other local stakeholders involved in coral reef monitoring and management through-

1. the organisation of an AGRRA Monitoring Training Field Course
2. the identification and development of a list of monitoring indicators to demonstrate the "return on investment" in nature management
3. the organisation of high-level and key stakeholder meetings to discuss long-term revenue streams for monitoring, and obtain commitment in the implementation and funding of coral reef monitoring programmes



Workshop participants (above) and in-water training session (left) during the AGRRA Monitoring Training Field Course - ©Wolfs Company.

The passage of Hurricane Irma over the TCI did not impact the implementation of project activities. The project remained well managed and planned activities were all successfully completed.

The project team fostered very good collaboration with the main stakeholder DECR. The department considered the project to be both helpful and important due to the need for capacity building in coral monitoring, as well as the importance of discussing long-term funding mechanisms.



Representatives of the Ministry of Tourism, Environment, Heritage, Culture and Gaming and Wolfs Company discussed options for long-term financing for coral reef management in the Turks and Caicos Islands ©Dr. Eric Salamanca (DECR)

The DECR alongside local government demonstrated their commitment to implement long-term financing mechanisms for coral reef management. This includes the creation of a working group and the preparation of a cabinet paper with action points to pursue the reinstatement of a conservation trust fund for TCI, with direct reference to information provided by the project.

As we advance through 2018, other BEST 2.0 projects will come to a close. These success stories and their great achievements will be shared in the coming months.



During the regional webinar (in order from left to right) Paul Maneval (CCMI Project Manager), Sam Hope (CCMI Field Station Manager), and Bradley Johnson (Cayman Islands Department of Environment Research Officer) - ©CCMI.

## ■ A successful CCMI/BIOS collaboration

As part of their respective BEST 2.0 projects on invasive lionfish research and management strategies, 2 beneficiary organisations - [Central Caribbean Marine Institute](#) (CCMI) and [Bermuda Institute of Ocean Sciences](#) (BIOS) - teamed up to organise and co-host a webinar.

This joint-meeting held at the CCMI office and live streamed, was aimed at bringing together regional and international stakeholders to better understand trends around lionfish distribution, along with key management practices and status in the Western Atlantic. Around 50 participants from 14 countries took part in the discussion through either physical attendance at the CCMI or BIOS venues, as well as joining remotely via the web.

Through mutual discussion and collaboration, BEST project leaders Carrie Manfrino (CCMI, Cayman Islands) and Gretchen Goodbody (BIOS, Bermuda), realised that existing gaps in knowledge was an area that had to be addressed. In particular, there needed to be dialogue on the establishment of lionfish management strategies to have a better understanding of the threats from the invasion at a regional level in order to adequately tackle the issue.

Participants were invited to provide feedback on the issue through the use of a polling system in addition to answering specific questions.

### Preliminary webinar conclusions

- perceived overall decrease in lionfish abundance across territories as well as an increase in predation on lionfish (both naturally and artificially).
- no formal monitoring of lionfish densities and distribution is being conducted in the region.
- need for a common data repository accessible across the region.
- importance of fostering an active network of stakeholders to continue the dialogue, share knowledge and best practises.

A webinar report as well as a paper are being developed to communicate these findings.

## Training of 13 participants to the 3rd GCRMN-Caribbean Capacity Building Workshop



Participants to the third GCRMN-Caribbean Capacity Building Workshop.

The 3<sup>rd</sup> GCRMN-Caribbean Guidelines Capacity Building Workshop took place in Saint Martin, French West Indies, from 28<sup>th</sup> May to 1<sup>st</sup> June 2018. The workshop was organized within the framework of the SPAW Protocol with the support of the Regional Activity Centre (SPAW-RAC), and in partnership with the [Réserve Naturelle de Saint Martin](#). Partial sponsorship was generously provided by the US [National Fish and Wildlife Foundation](#) (NFWF).

The event gathered 13 participants from Saint Martin, Saba, Saint Barthélemy, and Sint Eustatius representing the Réserve Naturelle de Saint Martin, the Nature Foundation Sint Maarten, the Saba Conservation Foundation, the Caribbean Netherlands Science Institute, the Sint Eustatius National Parks Foundation as well as the Environmental Territorial Agency of Saint Barthélemy. They included scientists, marine park managers, practitioners, rangers and education/outreach officers.

The workshop is part of [GCRMN-Caribbean's](#) regional effort to promote harmonized data collection and analysis to ensure useful, comparable, reliable and accessible data within the Caribbean.

Similar to the previous trainings (2016 and 2017), this workshop was divided into 2 components:

1. the biophysical component - focused on the biological current and future trends of coral reef monitoring; and
2. the socio-economic component - aimed to encourage participants to use socio-economic monitoring for coastal management.

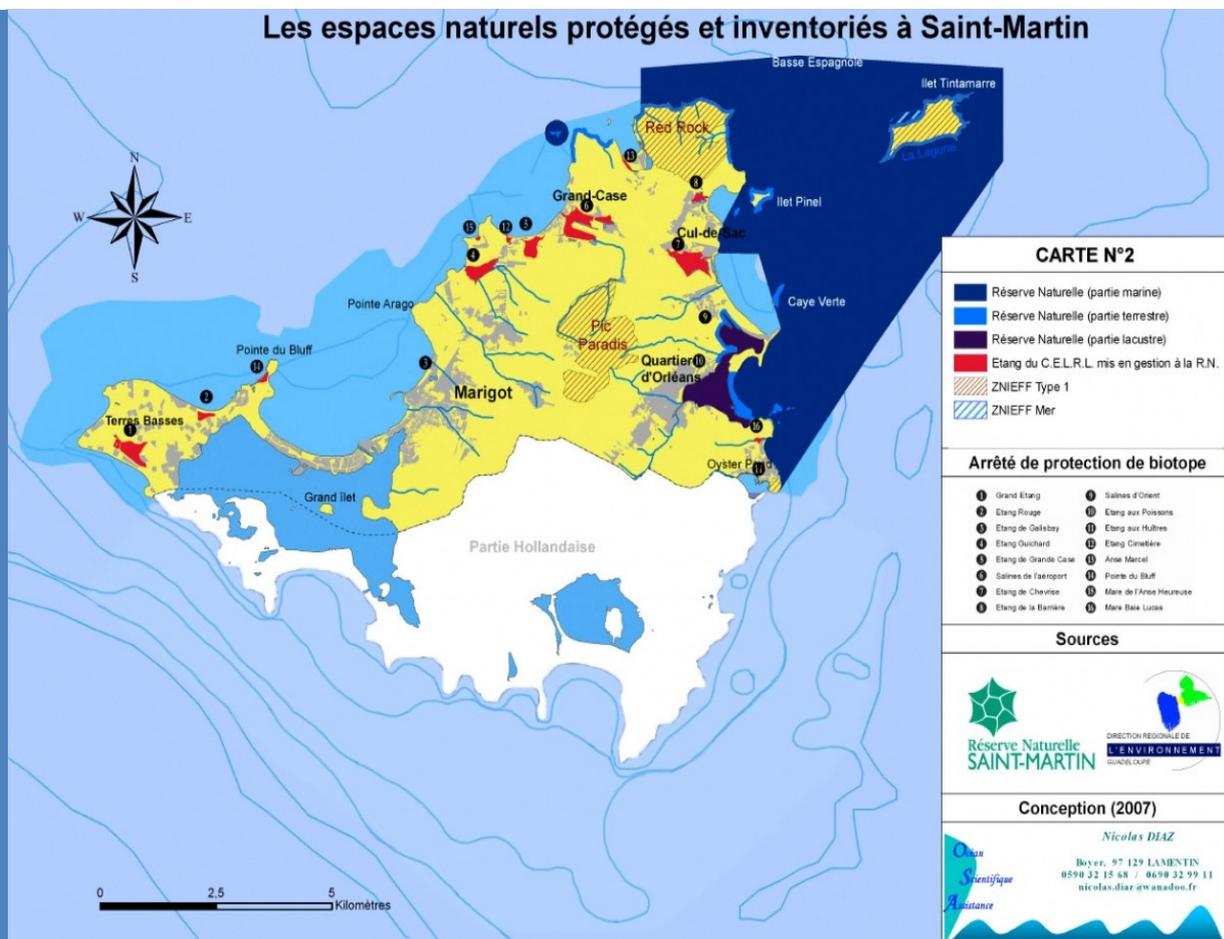
Both components are geared towards better management of coral reefs, coastal resources and other ecosystems.

Each of the 5 territories had at least 1 participant in each of the 2 components.

- Participants of the biophysical component were trained in data collection during 3 dive sessions (1 dive at Ilet Pinel, and 2 dives at Rocher Créole - see the map below), and in processing and analysing this data.
- Participants of the socio-economic component were introduced to socio-economic monitoring using the Socio-economic for Coastal Management (SocMon) method and drafted site monitoring plans for a selected site in their territories.

Following the workshop, participants will implement an integrated biophysical and socio-economic coral reef monitoring site assessment in 1 protected area within each territory by applying the knowledge, tools, and techniques learned in both workshop components.

*Noteworthy: The coral reefs in the Dominican Republic, and globally, are under an increasing level of threat from a range of issues (climate change, land-based sources of pollution including marine plastics to name a few).*



Participants of the biophysical component were trained in data collection during 3 dive sessions (1 dive at Ilet Pinel, and 2 dives at Rocher Créole).

## Introducing Ms. Ileana Catalina Lopez



We are pleased to advise you, that Ms. Ileana Lopez has been appointed as the new SPAW Programme Officer since April 2018.

A native of Guatemala, Ileana is fluent in

English and Spanish and holds a Bachelor's Degree in Biology and a Master's Degree in Marine Biology.

She has over 27 years professional experience, with her most recent post as Programme Officer with UN Environment - Nairobi.

She replaces Ms. Alessandra Vanzella-Khouri who served in the post for over 20 years before going on early retirement in March 2017. [Read more on Ileana.](#)

## Sargassum News

### ■ Communities Innovate to Address Sargassum Seaweed on St Lucia's Coasts

On the east coast of St Lucia, a local youth by the name of Johanan Dujon created organic agricultural inputs with Sargassum, which could reduce and eventually replace the environmentally harmful synthetic chemicals used to grow food in St Lucia. In 2014, Dujon founded Algas Organics and began experimentation with formulas to make this idea a reality. [Read more here.](#)

### ■ Measures against Sargassum influx in the French Antilles

During an official visit to Guadeloupe between June 10 - 11, 2018, Nicolas Hulot, Minister of the Ecological and Solidarity Transition, and Annick Girardin, Minister of Overseas Territories, announced 4 measures to address the Sargassum influx:

1. Steps put in place to respond in less than 48 hours to prevent Sargassum decomposition
2. Improve detection of Sargassum and general monitoring
3. Strengthen research, innovation, and regional cooperation to better understand the origin of Sargassum and identify good practices implemented by other partners
4. Support affected businesses and citizens to limit economic loss, and work in conjunction with insurers to include Sargassum risk in insurance policies. [Read the all the article.](#)

## SPAW PAs / CaMPAM News

### CaMPAM Activities

#### ■ The 13th edition of the Training of Trainers (ToT) Programme on Marine Protected Areas (MPAs) Management, Barbados, April 16 - 26, 2018



Participants of 13th edition of Training of trainers.

This cycle is part of the agreement between the [Caribbean Environment Programme through the SPAW sub-programme](#) and the Centre for Resource Management and Environmental Studies ([UWI-CERMES](#)) aimed at enhancing and maintaining the health and productivity of marine ecosystems and demonstrating enhanced knowledge of the value and role of ecosystem services.

The agreement is funded by [the Italian Ministry of Foreign Affairs, through the Environment Programme of its Directorate General for Development Cooperation \(AICS\)](#) under the project entitled "[Biodiversity for Sustainable Development in the Caribbean through Ecosystem Based Management \(EBM\)](#)".

The 13th ToT was organized by UWI-CERMES linked with the Global Socioeconomic Monitoring Initiative for Coastal Management ([SocMon](#)), with additional support from the International Union for the Conservation of Nature Regional Office for Mexico, Central America and the Caribbean ([IUCN ORMACC](#)), as part of the ongoing collaboration with [CaMPAM](#), and the Biodiversity and Protected Areas Management Programme ([BIOPAMA](#)).



Trainees preparing for an exercise.

The course aimed to strengthen competencies of MPA managers and marine environmental officers from English-speaking Caribbean countries - particularly MPA planning and management with an ecosystem-based approach, and considering the socioeconomic context and needs of local communities. It was attended by 21 marine protected area practitioners working at the site and national level in Antigua and Barbuda, Barbados, The Bahamas, Belize, Dominica, Grenada, Guyana, Jamaica, St. Kitts and Nevis, St. Lucia, St. Vincent and the Grenadines, and Trinidad and Tobago.

Course content was taught by a cadre of Caribbean experts and included

- basics of coastal, biophysical and socioeconomic mechanisms, and the monitoring and application of results to improve management
- ecosystem-based approach to spatial planning and management
- communication tools
- databases and decision support systems
- daily operations, surveillance and enforcement, and stakeholder

engagement in MPA management

- sustainable financing and business planning

Sessions were led by course coordinators Georgina Bustamante, Hyacinth Armstrong-Vaughn and Maria Pena through a combination of classroom lectures, interactive exercises and field trips.

**A detailed report will be posted soon via the CaMPAM List. Stay tuned!**

The local follow-up phase will involve trainees organizing local training to share the knowledge acquired with the local MPA community. It will be coordinated and partially supported by a small grant from UN Environment and implemented later in the year as resources become available. Potential topics and areas of focus aimed at addressing specific needs were discussed during the regional course.

### ■ CaMPAM Expert Group

In May CaMPAM announced the creation of the [CaMPAM Expert Group](#) composed of [30 experts](#) on marine protected area science and management with various skills and languages. The network was honoured to have these individuals accept the invitation to be members of this prestigious “club”.

Most have collaborated in different capacities in CaMPAM activities throughout the last 15 years such as Training of Trainers programmes, exchanges, small projects, ad hoc advisory, and project review. These persons will serve as a pool of experts available where feasible, to conduct activities and represent CaMPAM at international meetings.

### ■ CaMPAM website migration/database update

•The CaMPAM website and its information tools (CaMPAM List, CaMPAM Regional Database) are in the process of migration to the portal of the UN Environment Caribbean Environment Programme after 10 years of [GCFI](#) hosting. It will have a new and improved structure and responds to recommendations made by assessments of CaMPAM activities and information resources conducted in 2016-2018.

•As part of the SPAW Italian EBM project, the CaMPAM MPA database for the Wider Caribbean Region has been updated by entering information for 20 new MPAs - 15 from Dominican Republic, and 1 each from Colombia, Cuba, France Overseas Territories, The Kingdom of Netherlands, and Trinidad and Tobago. Priority was given to the update of the 31 MPAs listed under the SPAW Protocol - all now contain verified and new information. The WDPA code and IUCN category were also revised/completed for all MPAs in the database. A

total of 12 recommendations for the improvement and simplification of the database have been identified which will be progressively implemented with the collaboration of the SPAW Parties.

### ■ Other happenings

CaMPAM has participated in a number of international projects such as the BIOPAMA II (led by [IUCN ORMACC](#)), the continuation of the Transatlantic MPA Networks project (led by the EU Commission), the “Engaging civil society in CLME+ Strategic Action Programme Implementation” (led by the CANARI as part of the [CLME Plus](#)), and the “WECAF Spawning Aggregations Working Group”.

The network is also developing a project in collaboration with [OSPAR](#) representatives in Netherlands, France, UK, and SPAW RAC to increase MPA capacity in the Caribbean.

It will focus on sharing experiences between professionals in marine management using online networking tools, participating in exchange visits, training workshops and other relevant fora. This project will strengthen the collaboration between the UN Environment’s Caribbean Environment Programme (host of the Secretariat of the [Cartagena Convention](#)) and the [OSPAR Convention](#).

Between 1st March to 6th July, 50 new subscribers joined the CaMPAM List bringing the total to 853 since its inception in May 2009. Over this period, the CaMPAM List has disseminated over 270 messages posted by members (either directly or by sending them to the moderator for posting).

The messages have included news and newsletters from various MPAs, national and environmental programmes and projects ranging from job vacancies and grant opportunities to management lessons.

There have been exchanges on information requests, research results, regional environmental situations (e.g. Sargassum, lionfish management, coral reef assessments, water temperature), local issues such as habitat recovery post hurricane, daily reports on intergovernmental environmental meetings, training courses and conference announcements, and many others.

Two private Whatsapp groups consisting of the 2016 and 2018 ToT participants maintain active communication and information exchange.

The CaMPAM coordinator and List moderator maintains links between both communication tools by exchanging relevant information between them.

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