



NOAA
CORAL REEF
CONSERVATION PROGRAM



ANTICIPATED VACANCY

This Opportunity is Contingent Upon Receiving Anticipated Funding

Consultancy Opportunity Request for Proposals

Conducting a Caribbean Coral Reef MPA Management Capacity Assessment

Scope of Work

Two-thirds of Caribbean coral reefs are degraded and threatened by human activities such as pollution, climate change and overfishing. Networks of coral reef marine protected areas (MPAs) can play a critical role in conserving and restoring reefs by protecting some areas in relatively intact condition to provide recruits to repopulate damaged sites. They also can have high tourism/recreation value, providing jobs and revenue and increasing community support for reef conservation. The current network of coral reef MPAs in the Caribbean cannot fulfill these key functions. Few of the region's coral reefs have any protected status and only 6% of the existing coral reef MPAs are operating at effective levels (Burke, L. & J. Maidens. 2004. Reefs at Risk in the Caribbean).

Lack of management capacity currently constrains MPA and coral reef conservation success in the Caribbean region and must be addressed to enable the effective management of MPAs. This lack of capacity includes staffing, facilities, funding, and technical expertise among other issues. Over the last few years, several organizations and programs have assessed the needs of MPAs and MPA managers in the Caribbean region (Annex 1). However, these studies are limited in their information as some of them are outdated, have insufficient geographic coverage or have been conducted with narrow objectives.

The Gulf and Caribbean Fisheries Institute (GCFI) in conjunction with The Caribbean MPA Management Network and forum (CaMPAM) and the U.S. National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) Coral Reef Conservation Program seeks to conduct an assessment of management capacity of coral reef MPAs in the Wider Caribbean (<http://www.unep.ch/regionalseas/dumcar.html>). An assessment of the current needs of coral reef MPAs and MPA managers to effectively achieve their goals and objectives will help increase the understanding of MPA management capacity needs in the Wider Caribbean region and therefore help resource and support providers in the governmental and non-governmental communities better target their support for effective MPA management in the Caribbean region.

This MPA capacity assessment will achieve the following:

- 1) Examine previously completed assessments and identify gaps in information on MPA management needs in the Wider Caribbean region as well as use these past assessments to identify any changes in needs that have occurred;
- 2) Better understand the current management capacity needs of identified Caribbean MPAs;
- 3) Apply the information to adapt the Caribbean MPA Management Network and Forum capacity building program to better address those needs;
- 4) Better inform and advise individual MPAs, government environmental agencies, private conservation organizations, and donors on priority needs for effective MPA management in the Wider Caribbean region, and
- 5) Inform NOAA's Coral Reef Conservation Program (CRCP) for better investment of its resources in the Wider Caribbean region
(http://coralreef.noaa.gov/aboutcrpc/strategy/currentgoals/resources/intl_strategy.pdf)

This scope of work describes the required activities, and outputs of a consulting opportunity to conduct an assessment of the management capacity needs of Wider Caribbean MPAs.

This project will be overseen by and completed in partnership with GCFI, NOAA's Coral Reef Conservation Program and CaMPAM, the only region-wide social network of MPA practitioners in the Caribbean region.

This capacity assessment will identify training, technical assistance and follow-up support needs for: management planning and effectiveness evaluations; community engagement and stakeholder involvement processes; biophysical and socioeconomic monitoring; use of climate change tools and crisis response planning and other topics such as enforcement; MPA outreach and communications; and sustainable financing mechanisms

The project consists of the following tasks:

Task 1: Gap Analysis - Several different needs assessments and surveys of MPA managers in the Caribbean region have been completed in the past. The first step of this project is to examine and analyze the existing assessments which will be compiled and summarized by CaMPAM in advance of this project. The consultant will complete an analysis of these assessments and will identify what countries and MPA sites in the region have been targeted by previous assessments, what information was provided, what needs were identified to support effective MPA management and what information gaps exist in the region both geographically and substantively. The analysis will also consider the current relevance of past assessments. The analysis will be provided in a summary document to GCFI, NOAA's Coral Reef Conservation Program and CaMPAM.

Task 2: Capacity Assessment –The assessment will be completed with targeted coral reef MPA sites and organizations in the Wider Caribbean region to assess existing management capacity and to identify needs for the effective management of those sites. The specific methodology for completing the assessment will be developed by the consultant in consultation with CaMPAM, NOAA's Coral Reef Conservation Program and GCFI. The methodology should address the information gaps identified in Task 1 and should also identify which specific MPAs in the Wider Caribbean region will be assessed. MPAs chosen for assessment should encompass coral reef habitat, coral reef associated species or other habitats such as mangroves and seagrass beds that

comprise the coral reef ecosystem. MPAs chosen for the assessment should also fall within geographic areas identified as priorities by NOAA, GCFI and CaMPAM. In order to be eligible for assessment an MPA needs to:

- Be a legally established MPA recognized by an appropriate government authority
- Have some ongoing management activity

NOAA's Coral Reef Conservation Program is in the process of developing a checklist for assessing MPA management efforts which will be complete before the start of this project. The checklist includes twelve assessment areas that are key components of a successful MPA management program: management planning, network development, governance, on-site management, enforcement, boundaries, biophysical assessment and monitoring, socioeconomic assessment and monitoring, effectiveness evaluation and adaptive management, stakeholder engagement, financing, and outreach and education. Three tiers of management activity are presented under each assessment area. The NOAA Coral Reef Conservation Program seeks to apply this assessment tool to eligible MPA sites in priority geographic areas and to improve management capacity by providing funding and technical assistance to help MPA managers progress from tier 1 level activity towards tier 2 and tier 3 management activity in each of these 12 assessment areas. This checklist must be incorporated into the assessment methodology.

The assessment activities may also include: consulting with the CaMPAM Executive Committee and the CaMPAM Leadership and Resource Team, individual interviews with MPA practitioners, online surveys, subregional workshops with MPA managers, etc. The project will also include an assessment of CaMPAMs existing tools and programs and their capacity to support MPA managers effectively. After the proposed methodology has been approved by CaMPAM, NOAA's Coral Reef Conservation Program and GCFI, the consultant will then apply this methodology to complete the capacity assessment.

Task 3: Capacity Assessment Report - A draft Caribbean MPA Management Capacity Assessment Report will be completed as a result of this process that will highlight commonly identified capacity needs and obstacles to effective MPA management in the Caribbean. This report will include specific capacity needs that the NOAA Coral Reef Conservation Program, CaMPAM and other MPA resource and support providers can help address in the future. The report should highlight specific training and technical assistance needs and propose specific approaches to best meet those needs. Consultation with members of the CaMPAM Executive Committee and the CaMPAM Leadership and Resource Team should be conducted in order to identify specific approaches to address the capacity needs identified in the assessment. The capacity assessment report will also identify MPAs in the region that have increased capacity and expertise in specific topics and can serve as mentor sites to those sites with limited capacity in those management areas. While the data for this report will be collected by completing assessments at the site level, the report should include both information on capacity needs for specific sites as well as regional summaries. These regional summaries should identify the most common challenges and need areas across the region and should be based on the information collected in this assessment as well as previous assessments analyzed in Task 1. The draft capacity assessment report will be submitted to GCFI, NOAA's Coral Reef Conservation Program and CaMPAM for review and comment. After comments are received the consultant will address them and submit a final report to GCFI, NOAA's Coral Reef Conservation Program and CaMPAM.

Timeline:

Task 1 – Gap Analysis, June 2010

Task 2 – Methodology Development, July 2010

Task 2 – Completion of Capacity Assessment, August – November 2010

Task 3 – Draft Report – December 2010

Task 4 – Final Report – January 2010

Proposals:

The deadline for proposals is **Friday, May 28, 2010**. All proposals to be considered must be submitted by this date to:

caribMPAassess@gcfi.org

Proposals should include:

- a description of how the applicant proposes to implement Tasks 1, 2 and 3 of the project including proposed ideas for the assessment methodology;
- a description of the applicant including qualifications and previous experience related to this project;
- a project timeline which identifies dates associated with specific products and outputs;
- a project budget which allocates funding for all costs required to complete tasks 1, 2, and 3 above including but not limited to: labor, travel, communications, workshop implementation and logistics, and any necessary equipment and/or supplies. Total proposal project costs will be considered in evaluating applications but are not to exceed \$50,000 USD;
- applicant's contact information (physical address, phone and email); and
- contact information (phone and email) for three references that can provide information on the qualifications, skills and past performance of the applicant.

Desired Qualifications:

The ideal candidate for this consulting opportunity would:

- have previous experience working in the Caribbean region,
- be fluent in English and have a working knowledge of Spanish,
- have previous experience with the development and implementation of natural resource management capacity assessments,
- have experience working with MPA managers,
- have good written and oral communications skills, and
- be willing and able to travel as needed.

Questions or requests for clarification regarding this opportunity can be submitted to

caribMPAassess@gcfi.org

Annex 1. Compilation of publications on assessments of capacity building needs in the Caribbean to enhance marine protected area effectiveness

UNEP-CAR/RCU TRAINING OF TRAINERS PROGRAMME IN MARINE PROTECTED AREAS MANAGEMENT EXTERNAL EVALUATION FINAL REPORT, Prepared by Alejandro C. Imbach, May 2007

OPAAL. 2007. Capacity Building for Protected Areas Planning and Management and Associated Livelihoods Regional Protected Areas Training Needs Assessment, Kemraj Parsram, February 2007

Idem. 2007 Capacity Building for Protected Areas Planning and Management and Associated Livelihoods Regional Protected Areas Training Needs Assessment –Antigua and Barbuda, Kemraj Parsram, January 2007

_____. 2007 Capacity Building for Protected Areas Planning and Management and Associated Livelihoods Regional Protected Areas Training Needs Assessment - Dominica,

_____. 2007. Capacity Building for Protected Areas Planning and Management and Associated Livelihoods Regional Protected Areas Training Needs Assessment - Grenada, January 2007

_____. 2007. Capacity Building for Protected Areas Planning and Management and Associated Livelihoods Regional Protected Areas Training Needs Assessment – St.Lucia, January 2007

_____. 2007. Capacity Building for Protected Areas Planning and Management and Associated Livelihoods Regional Protected Areas Training Needs Assessment – St.Vincent and the Grenadines, January 2007

_____. 2007 Capacity Building for Protected Areas Planning and Management and Associated Livelihoods Regional Protected Areas Training Needs Assessment – St.Kitts and Nevis, January 2007

McPherson, M. 2006. Livelihood Transitions: Towards Sustainable Fishing Communities in the Mesoamerican Reef Region, The Nature Conservancy.

The Nature Conservancy. 2005 MAR Project, Learning Center Questionnaire Results. MS prepared by Lucy Gallagher-Freymuth, December 2005

_____. 2006. Recommendations for the Design of the MAR Learning Center MS prepared by Lucy Gallagher-Freymuth.

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration's Coastal Services Center, in cooperation with the National Marine Protected Areas Center. Marine Protected Areas Technology Needs Assessment, Final Report. Charleston, SC: Coastal Services Center, 2003.

Marine Protected Areas and Sustainable Coastal Livelihoods, CANARI Policy Brief No. 5, January 2005

Walton, Anne. NOAA MPA Management Capacity Building Training Overview
(<http://sanctuaries.noaa.gov/management/pdfs/handout.pdf>)

Heileman, Sherry. 2007. Thematic Report for the Insular Caribbean Sub-Region, Prepared for the CLME . CLME Project Implementation Unit, Centre for Resource Management and Environmental Studies (CERMES), University of the West Indies, Cave Hill Campus, Barbados,

Measuring Marine Protected Area Effectiveness in Coral Reef Ecosystems, WATSON, LANI (presenter) National Oceans Service, National Oceanographic and Atmospheric Administration, John Parks Community Conservation Network, Robert Pomeroy Department of Agricultural and Resource Economics, University of Connecticut, , Charles Ehler National Oceans Service, National Oceanographic and Atmospheric Administration, Simon Cripps Endangered Seas Programme, World Wide Fund for Nature, and Miguel Jorge WWF-U.S..

Bustamante, Georgina. 2003. The Marine Reserves Regional Enhancement Plan for the Wider Caribbean Prepared by for the World Conservation Union (IUCN) World Commission of Protected Areas - Marine (WPCA - Marine).

C. Score Card to Assess Progress in Achieving Management Effectiveness Goals for Marine Protected Areas, Prepared for the World Bank, Revised version – July 2004, Adapted* by Francis Staub, *AJH Environmental Services*, Marea E. Hatziolos, *World Bank*
(http://www.icriforum.org/mpa/SC2_eng_nocover.pdf)