



Meeting Report

UNEP-CEP Project "Regional Support for the Caribbean Challenge Initiative"

65th GCFI Annual Meeting

Santa Marta, Colombia

November 4, 2012

1. Introduction

The Caribbean Challenge Regional Update Meeting was held in Santa Marta, Colombia on Friday November 4, 2012. It was organized by UNEP's Caribbean Environment Programme (CEP)¹ in collaboration with the Caribbean Marine Protected Area Management Network and Forum (CaMPAM)² and the Gulf and Caribbean Fisheries Institute (GCFI)³, with funding from the Directorate General for Development Cooperation of the Italian Ministry of Foreign Affairs⁴. This meeting was part of the UNEP-CEP project "Regional support for the Caribbean Challenge Initiative: Networking, consolidation and regional coordination of MPA management"⁵. The meeting was attended by 17 persons, including nominated representatives of each of the Caribbean Challenge countries, as well as several MPA experts and observers, program leaders and researchers (see Annex 1 for a list of participants and the meeting agenda).

The meeting included presentations by project partners from the eight Caribbean Challenge countries, covering the following information (**web links highlighted**):

- Training of trainers program (regional course and local follow up training activities): participants, impact, issues (3-4 slides) (for information see regional report at http://campam.gcfi.org/ToT/2011_CaMPAM_TOT_REPORT.pdf and each of the local follow-up training activities at the following links [Antigua and Barbuda training course report](#); [The Bahamas training course report](#); [Grenada-SVG training course report](#); [St. Lucia training course report](#)
- Mid-size projects (summaries at [Mid-Size Grants](#))
- Learning Exchange Visits (see <http://campam.gcfi.org/SGF/SGFEng.php> for summaries)
- Data on MPAs of the country provided to CaMPAM MPA Database (<http://campam.gcfi.org/CaribbeanMPA/CaribbeanMPA.php>)
- Networking among project participants and with the regional MPA community
- Coordination, synergies and complementarity with other relevant projects (TNC, CERMES, NOAA, OECS)
- Expectations for the continuation of the Caribbean Challenge initiative UNEP-CEP Project in 2013-2015. Potential project opportunities

¹ www.cep.unep.org

² <http://campam.gcfi.org/campam.php>

³ www.gcfi.org/

⁴ <http://www.cooperazioneallosviluppo.esteri.it/pdgcs/inglese/intro.html>

⁵ <http://campam.gcfi.org/campam.php#CarChall>

After each presentations, discussions follow on the achievements and recommendations for the future. (meeting agenda and participants' list included at the end of this report)

2. Summary of presentations and discussions

Introductions

All participants noted they were beneficiaries of the UNEP-CEP CaMPAM Italian project . St. Kitts noted that although they don't have an MPA established yet.

Background information

Georgina Bustamante explained meeting objectives of sharing, experiences, positive and negative and needs going forward Outlined the various components of the project: training (TOT, learning exchanges, workshops), Mid Size Projects (nationwide focus, and site specific focus), communications through CaMPAM, GCFI, partnerships, and Regional MPA Database. linkages of the project of TNC on sustainable finance (SF) and the rest of the CC project. All countries that participated in the SF TNC workshops were mentioned, it was noted the focus of the workshops was to identify potential financial options that could be implemented in each of the countries. 176 people have participated so far in the Workshops

The Caribbean Challenge initiative and the GEF.

An overview of CC initiative, the GEF projects in support of the CC, the CBF, the first regional endowment to be developed in the world, 30 million already committed against initial target of 40 million, once this target is met the Fund will become operational it can provide up to 2 million to each country for the support of MPAs. Case studies wer proceded where sust fiancne mechanisms had been successful. Outcomes: examples of St. Kitts and Bahamas. K. McLaughlin (KM) summarized the documents provided at the workshops, action plans being developed for each of the countries, etc. Information will be in a website being created.

Participants reminded that all projects are publicly available on the GEF web site. Countries with unprogrammed GEF-5 resources urged to program before funds are re-allocated in the last year of GEF-5. Particular questions on the relevance of the Blue Forests project to the Caribbean. When the Fund will become operational: Countries can start drawing from the regional fund according to the formula established for each country and provided the national funds are legally established. After 2 year (2015) the countries need to start generating their own funds at a ratio of 1:1. Secretariat will cost 190,000/year in the Bahamas with ... the 40 M Fund would generate

GEF Projects, allocation of GEF-5 star allocation might be reduced by 14-15%... if allocation in total is less than 7 million for country can have flexibility of using allocation in any combination of Biodiv, CC and Land Degradation.

www.Sites.google.com/site/caribbeanmpaenforcement

TNC-led sustainable finance workshops. All but DR had workshops to develop sustainable financing mechanisms with participation of 176 persons. Workshops featured updates of CBF, GEF projects and then a development of a draft action plan to operationalize financing mechanisms at the national level. Examples of mechanisms include: Debt for Nature swaps, development fees, a % of VAT, natural resource extraction fee etc.... All documents will be made available on the TNC web site. Only St. Kitts and St. Lucia participants present had participated in these workshops.

NOAA GCFI MPA enforcement training workshop. Three important aspects: presence, response to violations, outreach and education. Web site: <https://google.com/site/caribbeanmpa/enforcement/> . Discussion regarding the use of technologies available.

Country partners presentations

Bahamas- Thanks to the UNEP-CEP grant all MPAs in the Abacos have drafted management plans. The follow-up ToT activity contributed to increase awareness in Abaco stakeholders to assist with local enforcement network. Development of the 4 MPA and 2 marine reserves in Abaco. Four community meetings implemented. ReefCheck /Ecodiver training on standards for coral reef monitoring 7 people trained on monitoring, on GIS and GIS units established . BNT is charged to manage 4 MPAs in Abaco National Park – no take until a management plan in place (Exuma Land and Seas Park rules). If funds leftover, would like more buoys, signage, and monitoring. Important to mark boundaries off parks with buoys, otherwise hard for people to know. Also placement on government land use maps. Walkers Cay a relatively recently established park, needs a habitat survey and outreach.

Dominican Republic. Long term sustainability of PA is not established. Mid-size grant project has 3 objectives: MPA dataset for MPA database, standard management structure for MPAs (including development of plans for La Caleta co-managed with ReefCheck), increase capacity of MPA managers. MPA standards: Co-management to be presented to Ministry for approval against set criteria. La Caleta MPA (between Santo Domingo and airport): co-management, sustainable and independent local funding and training of stakeholders, regular monitoring, determine present impacts and resolution, develop measures for monitoring, develop mitigation measures for impacts that cannot be reduce (storms), zoning, implementation of economic alternatives, ICZM developing marketing strategies, integration of MPA into national or international networks. Participants interested in co-management agreements with local NGO (through simple agreement), and it was noted that socio economic data is tracked.

Meeting informed that all GEF sponsored projects use the Management Effectiveness Tracking Tool (METT) initially developed by WWF.

Jamaica –Fisheries Division has responsibilities over marine sanctuaries and NEPA has several other categories of MPAs. Issue of lionfish may change the no fishing rules in fisheries sanctuaries. Summarized larger GEF supported project. Mid Size Grant from CaMPAM was mooring buoys in specific sites of the Palisadoes-Port Royal and Negril MPAs. NEPA has been zoning MPAs based on assessments, mooring buoys and marker buoys, do bird assessments, and preparing draft regulations (Palisadoes). Have developed a mooring buoy installation guide, and held training sessions in Negril and Kingston. An associated public education campaign was held. Also received support from the EU/UNEP Adaptation project on Climate change. Increased capacity, management effectiveness training and overall management of the MPA. More support requested for: more training on rangers and stakeholders of MPAs (of which some are arrangements with NGOs), want to complete zoning for 3 critical MPAs, and install more mooring buoys. Important to develop an evaluation survey to inform what worked, what did not, and what more is needed.

Antigua and Barbuda. Follow up to Train the Trainers held focused on awareness building for judiciary and key enforcement partners. Barbudan participants unable to make it and need a follow up training. Learning exchange with St. Eustatius and Saba marine park financing and e, diver impact and lionfish surveys visits to key sites – very successful exchange. Mid Size Grant put together a management plan and proposed zoning for Cades Bay Marine reserve. Recommendations for management of network of MPAs under Fisheries Division, Recommendations for monitoring of key marine and coastal systems, purchased communications equipment. Documentary of you tube for MPAs, also did PSAs. Challenges to project implementation. Delays in contracting, consultant hiring delayed. Mount Obama National Park is part of Ridge to Reef project. A forest area is also part of this effort, as is Cades Bay. Ridge to Reef is part of Sustainable Island Resource Management larger effort.

St. Kitts and Nevis. Follow up train the trainers workshop on MPA Awareness (43 participants), lots of communications materials (news releases, brochures, etc...) . An all encompassing training which featured senior officials of St. Kitts and Nevis. Mid-size grant project: Mooring buoys construction materials and training (6 were anchored using barge and crane); final report not ready yet.. Fishers on St. Kitts very much against MPA. On Nevis there is more support for the development of MPAs. It was suggested to focus first on Nevis and also look to Grenada for their experience with fisherfolk.)

St. Lucia. Aimed to develop a teachers professional development course and pilot course on marine environment. Training manual with 5 modules designed and 16 teachers trained. 50 sets distributed. It is up to the Ministry of Education to scale up this effort. Training of the Trainers (TOT) – understanding of goods and services provided by coral reefs. Young fisherman snorkeled in St. Lucia and then in Mexico to compare fish that were below (larger fish in Mexico). The young Fisherman then presents lessons to cooperative members. Then also provided lionfish training to fisherfolk Five authorized scuba operators are allowed to catch

lionfish within the SMMA and bring them to the authorities. Otherwise it is allowed to catch lionfish anywhere. Waiting for government authorization for Trust to manage a third MPA .

Grenada. Explained the hierarchical structure of Grenada Marine Protected Areas Management Structure which includes a multi-stakeholder management Committee with sub-boards and committees. By running this through Boards, this allows reception of grant funding and revenues to be earmarked away from the consolidated funds. New patrol boat acquired for Sandy Island Oyster Bed with Mid Size Grant. A Management Plan for Woburn Clarkes Court Bay Marine Protected Areas was also developed. Train the Trainers in Belize was attended by 3 MPA personnel. Realized that the major need was enforcement and did a MPA Enforcement Training Workshop with St. Vincent. They held a mock trial which appears to have been very exciting. Training in evidence gathering, case file preparation, etc.. Shortly after an infringement took place, so the training was able to be tested. A plea bargain was reached. Did an exchange learning with San Andres and Sea Flower Park in Colombia to learn about various aspects of management, and particularly taking note of shortfalls and lessons learned. Separately funded was a training workshop for the co-management boards. Designed a MPA billboard near the major bus stop. MBMPA Brochures are targeted for individual audiences (communities, yachties, kids and teenagers). Purchased a PA system for long term public awareness promotion. Took advantage of community events and visits to primary and secondary schools. Also did a glass bottom cruise boat cruise -- So many persons have never seen what a reef looks like. Encouraged to populate the MPA database with their 3 MPAs. Request training for existing staff in effective communications skills. Keen to try and reach out to senior decision makers to build support for MPAs. Recently took out the opposition leader to see the reef, etc... which was successful in gaining his support for MPAs. Additional ranger training is a priority (Florida).

St. Lucia will soon be hiring 7 new rangers and a data collector. Could use more training or more mooring buoys.

St. Vincent and the Grenadines. ToT in Belize was attended by 2 persons. There is one MPA in SVG: Tobago Cays Marine Park. MPA enforcement Training was held for Grenada and St Vincents. This was attended by 9 park rangers, marine biologist, superintendent and Police and Guard officers. The learning exchange with Biscayne and Everglades focused on species inventory, IAS, patrol and enforcement and M & E. Following this one park ranger instituted an arts and craft project using marine debris for raising awareness. The Mid Size Grant of \$45,000 was supposed to start park planning on the South Coast Marine Park (proposed) as an upgrade from its status of amongst 10 marine conservation areas. A number of ambitious activities are planned, but are unlikely to be implemented as they have not started and the project is due to close by the end of November. Park will likely be officially declared by end December 2012.

Concluding remarks.

It was noted that a lot of the products can be shared, and certainly posted electronically. Venues (such as this one at GCFI) of knowledge sharing are welcomed as they are opportunities for follow up. Looking up things electronically is less personal, hands on.

St. Lucia asked if any of participants had a good model for intra-island communications. Bahamas suggest fact sheets of contact points. Better communications are needed within countries. Jamaica noted that they keep a database of all project related to environment, so they know which division/ministry to contact. Information overload is a concern. "Tagging" information is considered to be a useful tool. St Kitts HR department keeps a data base of all ministers and permanent secretaries to be able to reach out.

Common elements of follow on needs: (1) communications and enforcement training, (2) mooring buoys/demarcation/zoning, (3) increasing awareness (4) learning exchanges on best practices. For possible follow on project.

Alessandra closed with emphasizing the continued role of CaMPAM, the various mechanisms that have been established and the work of SPAW, with the desire for continued action. Urged countries to list more MPAs which will receive enhanced attention. She also reminds of role in coral reef monitoring and asked for priorities. It was emphasized that parties to SPAW would be prioritized for support.

Final Meeting of the UNEP-CEP Project *"Regional support for the Caribbean Challenge initiative: Networking, consolidation and regional coordination of MPA management"*

Santa Marta, Colombia

During the Annual Conference of the Gulf and Caribbean Fisheries Institute (GCFI)

November 4-9, 2012

Agenda (including the project meeting and the conference sessions)

Sunday Nov. 4 or Monday 5 (depending on flight schedules)- **Participants' arrival to Santa Marta, and check in Irotama XXI hotel (rooms are already booked)**
(<http://www.expedia.com/Santa-Marta-Hotels-Irotama-XXI.h4478793.Hotel-Information>)

Monday Nov. 5- **Conference sessions** (for details on the content of each session, see program at <http://www.gcfi.org/Conferences/65th/GCFI65Program.pdf>)

8:30-12:30 **Opening ceremony and "Artisanal Fisheries"**
12:30-14:00 **Lunch**
14:00-18:00 **"Socioeconomics"**
19:30 **Informal reception and welcome address**

Tuesday, Nov. 6

8:15 – 10:00 **"Surveys design"**
10:15-12:30 **"Habitats?"**
12:30-14:00 **Lunch**
14:00-18:00 **Socio-economic aspects of fisheries (Conference session)**

1300-1700 Concurrent activity: Fisher forum field trip. If you prefer to attend to this activity, you need to contact Erick Castro (pescastro@gmail.com) and Mitchell Lay (mitchlay@yahoo.co.uk)

14:00-16:00 Chondrychthyan (sharks)

16:15- 18:15 Education

19:30-21:00 Poster session with cocktails and snacks (hosted by GCFI).

20:00-21:00 Café socioeconómico

Wednesday, Nov 7

7:30-8:30 Meeting of GCFI membership (Everyone welcome-Learn about GCFI)

8:45-12:45 MPA Science and Management (coordinated by CaMPAM, chaired by Dr. Georgina Bustamante)

12:30-14:00 Lunch

14:30-17:00pm Conference field trip (to be announced, open to all participants)

19:30- Movie and conversation with Dr. Yvonne Sadovy and Martin Russell. Hosted by the society for Conservation of Reef Fish Aggregations (SCRFA)

Thursday, Nov. 8 - Final meeting of the UNEP-CEP Project "**Regional support for the Caribbean Challenge initiative**" (by invitation only) Contact person- Dr. Georgina Bustamante

9:00-17:45 – All day session

Tentative agenda

9:00-10:00 Report of the project activities: major results and highlights (Training of Trainers Course in Belize, Mid-size projects, Learning Exchanges, MPA database, Small grants). Presented by CaMPAM project coordinating team

10:00-10:15 Coffee break

10:15- 10:45 **MPA Sustainable financing mechanisms: summary of training workshops. Presented by TNC representative**

Other projects and initiatives in support of the Caribbean Challenge objectives:

10:45-11:15 **Summary of the GEF projects in the Insular Caribbean. By Kristin Mclaughlin, UNEP Task Manager, UNEP/GEF Project**

11:15-11:30 **Summary of the NOAA-GCFI MPA enforcement training workshop (Key West, September, 2012) By Emma Doyle, GCFI-CaMPAM.**

11:30 – 12:30 Report by the eight country representatives on the project activities listed below, particularly on the following aspects, as appropriate: no. participants, countries/sites visited and exchanged with; lessons learned; impact on MPA managers professional development; new MPAs or management plans improved; improved infrastructure, challenges to implement project activities (institutional , human resources, work overload; travel, contractual and project management issues, access to fundst, etc.); outreach materials produced and means of dissemination (types of media); overlapping and/or synergies with other projects; impact on the ground, etc.

Order of presentations by countries (20 minutes report, plus 10 minutes Q and A): The Bahamas, Dominican Republic, Jamaica, Antigua and Barbuda, St. Kitts and Nevis, St. Lucia, Grenada, and St. Vincent and the Grenadines

12:30-14:00 **Lunch**

14:00-17:00 **Continuation of country reports**

1700-17:45 **Conclusions and Recommendations by UNEP-CEP/CaMPAM**

Friday Nov. 9 Conferences sessions (for those leaving on Saturday Nov. 10)

8:30:12:30 **Demersal Fisheries (Moderators: David Olsen and Brice Semmens)**

- 12:30-14:00 Lunch**
- 14:00-16:30 Conch fisheries (Moderator, Dalila Aldana)**
- 16:30-18:00 Lobster fisheries (Moderator , Silvia Salas)**

Participants' list

No.	Country	Name, affiliation, contact nos.
1	St. Kitts and Nevis	Althea Arthurton, Director of Fisheries, Nevis Island Administration (miu@niagov.com)
2	St Vincent and the Grenadines	Andrew Lockhart, Superintendent of Marine and Terrestrial Parks at the National Parks, Rivers and Beaches Authority, St. Vincent and the Grenadines (andylockhart65@yahoo.com)
3	Antigua and Barbuda	Philmore James, , Deputy Chief Fisheries Officer, Antigua and Barbuda (chieffisheriesofficer@gmail.com)
4	Dominican Republic	Omar Shamir Reynoso, Viceministerio Marino y Costero, Ministerio del Ambiente y los Recursos Naturales (Omar_shamir@hotmail.com)
5	The Bahamas	Lindy Knowles, Park Planner, Bahamas National Trust (lindyclydeknowles@gmail.com)
6	Jamaica	Andrea Donaldson, , Manager, Ecosystems Branch, National Environmental Protection Agency (adonaldson@nepa.gov.jm)
7	St. Lucia	Nadia Cazaubon, Project officer, Soufriere Marine Management Association, (cazaubon@smma.org.lc)
8	Grenada	Steve Nimrod, Chairman, Moliniere-Beausejour MPA Board, Codrington Jeffeey, Chief Warden, Grenada (snimrod@sgu.edu), (cjcoral21@gmail.com)
9		Alessandra Vanzella-Khoury, SPAW Program Officer, UNEP-CEP. (avk@cep.unep.org)
10		Georgina Bustamante UNEP-CEP's CaMPAM and Caribbean Challenge project coordinator, gbustamante09@gmail.com
11		Helene Souan, Exec. Director, SPAW-RAC, Guadeloupe, France, helene.souan.carspaw@guadeloupe-parcnational.fr
12		Franck Gourdin, SPAW-RAC, Guadeloupe, France, franck.gourdin.carspaw@guadeloupe-parcnational.fr

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14		Alejandro Acosta (GCFI, CaMPAM Exec. Team) Alejandro.Acosta@myfwc.com
15		Robert Glazer (GCFI, CaMPAM Exec. Team) bob.glazer@myfwc.com
16		Emma Doyle CaMPAM Exec. Team emma.doyle@gcfi.org
17		Felicity Burrows TNC Bahamas program (on behalf of TNC Caribbean Program) fburrows@tnc.org
18		Maria Pena, coordinator of SocMon Caribbean Challenge project, CERMES, Univ. of West Indies, Barbados maria.pena@cavehill.uwi.edu