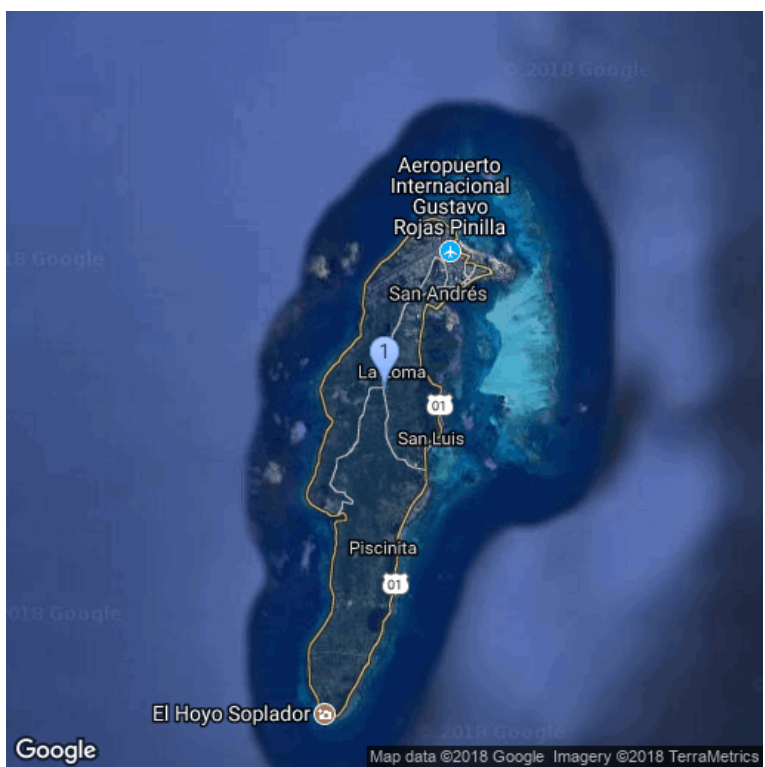




Seaflower Marine Protected Area



Short Name

Seaflower

Country

Colombia

Description

Ecoregion location

SWCaribbean

Boundaries

Point 1: Lat/long 14°59'08"N/82°00'00"W. Point 2: Lat/long 14°59'08"N/79°50'00"W. Point 3: Lat/long; Lat/long 12°00'00"N/81°00'00"W. Point 6: 13°10'00"N/79°50'00"W. Point 4: Lat/long 13°10'00"N/81°00'00"W. Point

Total Surface area

65000

Land Surface area

650 sq. km

Sea Surface area

65000

Site national category

Marine Protected Area

Site international designation

SPAW, UNESCO MAB Biosphere Reserve

IUCN category

none

Designation

Legally Designated

Date established

2005/01/27

Legal citation

Minister of Environment, Housing and Territorial Development Resolution 107, 27 January 2005

Other legal designations

CORALINA Agreement 021/2005: establish limits of the Northern, Central and Southern administrative sections -Stakeholder Agreement/2005: delimits zones for Northern, Central and Southern Sections, including artisanal fishing zones -CORALINA Accord 025/2005: declares stakeholder-defined no-entry, no-take, special and general use zones and general regulations for Northern, Central and Southern Sections -Departmental Fishing Board Accord/2005: declares stakeholder-defined artisanal fishing zones for Northern, Central and Southern Sections

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Geological features

terraces, beaches, rocky shores, rocky shores, keys, atolls, blue holes, caves

Hydrological features

ocean loop/meandering current, upwelling

Terrestrial habitats

The Seaflower MPA contains the largest, most productive open-ocean coral reefs in the Caribbean and includes complete extended coral reefs with all associated ecosystems and a high level of habitat representation. Other habitat types include mangrove forests, sea grass and algal beds, soft bottoms, beaches, and open ocean. These offer sea bird and sea turtle nesting sites; fish spawning, nursery, and aggregation sites; habitat for a number of threatened species; and demonstrated local and regional genetic and ecological connectivity. There are over 200,000 ha of coral; extensive and diverse benthic habitats include barrier reefs, reef lagoons, reef slopes, fore-reefs, deep coral plateaus, numerous seamounts, and

deep coral reefs

Marine habitats

Coral reefs, atolls, mangroves, seagrass beds, sandy bottoms, lagoons, cays, beaches, open ocean. Barrier reefs and atolls: Old Providence barrier reef: 32 km long, area 255 km². San Andres barrier reef: 15 km long, 60-80 m wide. Courtown (ESE Cay): kidney-shaped atoll 6.4 km by 3.5 km. Albuquerque (SSW Cay): circular atoll diameter over 8 km. Roncador: atoll 15 km by 7 km, 12-km reef. Serrana: atoll 36 km by 15 km, complex reef system 37 km by 30 km. Quitasueño (Queenia): archipelago's largest coral structure, 60 km long by 10-20 km wide with 40-km reef. Mangroves: San Andres 161 hectares; Old Providence & Santa Catalina 54 hectares. Seagrass beds: San Andres 42 hectares; Old Providence & Santa Catalina 156 h

Marine flora

Mangroves: red, black, white, buttonwood. Seagrass: *Thalassia testudinum*, *Syringodium filiforme*, *Halodule wrightii*. Algae: *Sargassum* sp., *Dictyoptens* sp.

Marine invertebrates and fishes

Marine species recorded: 57 corals, 273 fish (54 families), 163 algae, 118 sponges. Commercial fish populations of queen conch, spiny and spotted spiny lobster, snappers and groupers (common species are black, yellow fin, tiger, red, and Nassau grouper and yellow eye, brim, and dog tooth snapper)

Marine mammals, birds and sea turtles

Declared Important Bird Area by BirdLife International 2004. Avifauna species recorded: 18 residents, 76 migrants. Seabird colonies: Audubon's shearwater, masked and brown boobies, magnificent frigate bird, royal and sooty terns, brown noddy. Sea tur

Endangered species

Nassau grouper and jewfish, mutton and cubera snapper, turtles (hawksbill, leatherback, loggerhead, green), queen conch, masked hamlet (*Hypoplectrus providencianus*)

Special aggregation sites

Grouper and snapper aggregations (multi-species reef fish sites), turtle nesting, seabird colonies

Primary management institution

Minister of Environment, Housing, and Territorial Development

Other institutions that participate in management

DIMAR, Coast Guard, Secretary of Fisheries, INCODER, Departmental Fishing Board, National Park Office. CORALINA (Corporation for the Sustainable Development of the Archipelago of San Andres, Old Providence and Santa Catalina) Artisanal fishing zones Department fishing authority Minister of Environment Resolution

Management objectives

species protection, ecosystem protection, fisheries management, recreational tourism use

Other management objectives

Seaflower MPA objectives are: 1) preservation, recovery, and long-term maintenance of species, biodiversity, ecosystems, and other natural values including special habitats; 2) promotion of sound management practices to ensure long-term sustainable use o

Management framework

Yes

Date of establishment of management framework

2005/07/09

Last update of management framework

2005/07/09

Cultural resources

Shipwrecks from 17th, 18th, 19th, and 20th centuries

Fisheries resources

Snappers and groupers, other reef and pelagic fishes, spiny and spotted spiny lobsters, queen conch, sea turtles

Fisheries regulations

No-entry and no-take zones, artisanal fishing zones, closed seasons, lobster and conch size limits, annual quotas for key species, closed areas for spawning aggregations

Coastal development

Grants, government

Monitoring programmes

coral reef health, fish surveys, reefcheck, sea turtles, other socioeconomic monitoring program, user patterns