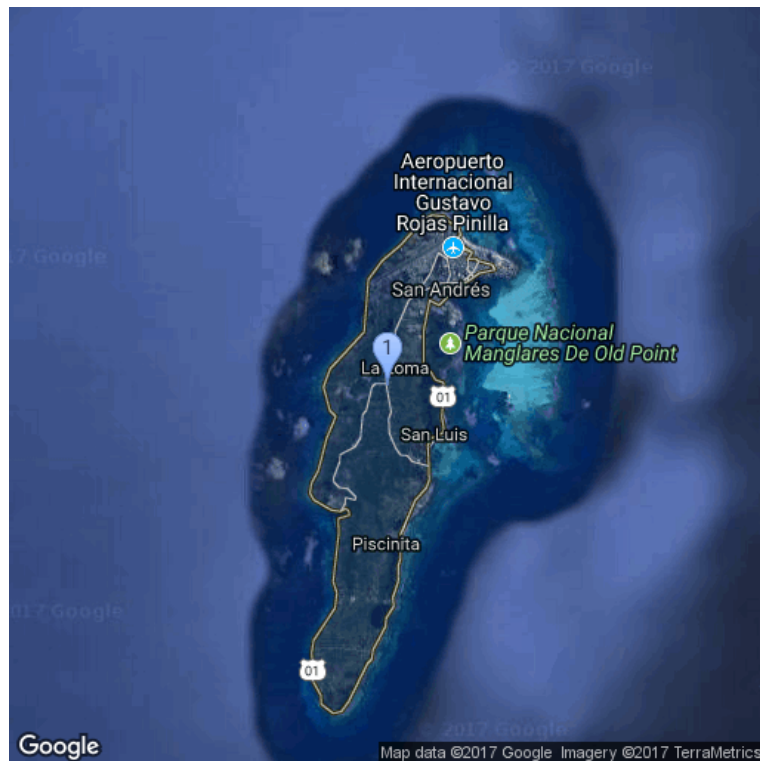


### Seaflower Marine Protected Area



**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 km<sup>2</sup>. 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