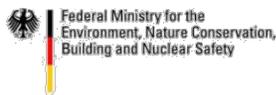


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“Strengthening Management Capacity at the South Coast Marine Conservation Area (SCMCA) and the Tobago Cays Marine Park (TCMP) in St. Vincent and the Grenadines (SVG)”

CaMPAM-ECMMAN Project: Summary of Achievements

The overarching goal of this project was to build local management capacity at the South Coast Marine Conservation Area (SCMCA) and the Tobago Cays Marine Park (TCMP) in St. Vincent and the Grenadines through strategic actions that would suitably inform and empower local authorities to protect both living and non-living marine resources.

Further, the project allowed for the re-assessment of MPA gaps in fulfillment of the 20% CCI target for St. Vincent. The project presented an opportunity to build on contributions from previously implemented or ongoing projects in St. Vincent and the Grenadines.

Capacity Building:

Beneficiaries of the ECMMAN project received training in a variety of areas to build capacity of the MPA staff and improve management and conservation effectiveness. In February 2014, training in water quality assessment was provided to South Coast Marine Conservation Area, and baseline assessments of physical and bacterial water quality characteristics were conducted. Tobago Cays Marine Park received training in Water Quality Monitoring in August 2015, & purchased state-of-the-art equipment. A total of 2 staff from SCMCA and 4 from TCMP were trained in SCUBA. TCMP staff were also trained First Aid and two learned and completed conch monitoring.





Biophysical monitoring: A number of biophysical monitoring activities were carried out under the ECMAN project, including a roving AGRRA survey trip at both parks in 2014, sea turtle monitoring at TCMP with support from WIDECAS in 2014 (see photograph on the right), conch monitoring at TCMP in 2016, and water quality monitoring at both parks. South Coast MCA established a long term water quality program which continues today, and several rounds of water quality surveys were conducted at TCMP.



Education & outreach: A number of achievements were made towards increasing education and outreach in the MPAs. Following the 2014 Roving Atlantic and Gulf Rapid Reef Assessment (AGRRA) surveys, infographic posters were designed to educate fellow MPAs in the region, policy-makers, and the public on the results and their implications to management. South Coast MCA also designed “don’t litter” signage to be placed on waste and recycle bins on the MCA’s beachfront, and hired a local graphic designer to create a unique logo for the park. Several interviews with MPA managers and wardens were broadcast on National Broadcast Company (NBC) Radio, in St. Vincent and the Grenadines and numerous stories were published in the Caribbean Compass Magazine. These stories included the 6th Annual Grenadines MPAs Network Meeting. Community outreach activities were also achieved, such as an informative session to local fisherman on the results of a SusGren intern’s study on conch density in the TCMP.

Enforcement Capacity Building:

Major steps were taken in the direction of improving enforcement in the MPAs under the ECMMAN project. Tobago Cays Marine Park had a 24 hour Ranger Base, Comfort Station, and Tourist Information Facility designed to be built on the largest cay within the park. Once built, this facility will allow rangers to greatly improve enforcement effectiveness. South Coast MCA was also able to enhance enforcement with the purchase of a new MPA patrol boat. Nationally, a SOP Manual for MPA Enforcement in SVG was developed thanks to ECMMAN funding. This Manual



benefited from input from a number of important bodies, including the SVG Maritime Authority, SVG Coast Guard, National Parks, Rivers, and Beaches Authority, SVG Royal Police Force, Tobago Cays Marine Park, and Sustainable Grenadines Inc.

TCMP Designation as a SPAW Protocol Site: TCMP is now listed as a SPAW site. The SPAW focal point for St. Vincent received the certificate of approval in December 2014 at the Meeting of SPAW Contracting Parties.

Management Effectiveness:

Due to the culmination of the staff training, biophysical monitoring, and efforts to improve enforcement, the management effectiveness of the TCMP rose from 55% according to a Management Effectiveness Tracking Tool (METT) assessment conducted in 2014, to a score of 71% in 2017. Surely supporting effective management was the development of an Adaptive Mooring Management Plan for the TCMP.

For further information, feel free to contact:

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