



The Caribbean Marine  
Protected Managers  
Network and Forum  
(CaMPAM)

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**MENTORSHIP PROGRAM**  
**MENTOR BIOGRAPHIES**

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# MENTOR BIOGRAPHIES



Isaias Majil

Mr. Majil is currently the MPA Coordinator for the country of Belize, a position he has held since 2002. He previously served as a manager and biologist at the Bacalar Chico Marine Reserve and National Park. He serves on a wide array of technical and advisory committees and working groups that focus on science and effective protected area management in Belize. He is also a focal point Focal Point for the Interamerican Convention for the Protection and Conservation of Sea Turtles and Head of Delegation at the Convention of Parties (IAC) and serves as an IAC Scientific Committee Representative.

Mr. Majil holds a Bachelor's degree in Natural Resource Management Planning from the University of Belize. He has more than eighteen 18 years working experience in protected areas managed with the Belize Fisheries Department.

**Select Areas of Expertise**

- Broad experience in capacity development across the network of Belizean MPAs
- Community engagement



Martha Prada

Dr. Prada was born in Ibague, in the center of Colombia, but developed her professional career while living in the Archipelago of San Andres, Providence and Santa Catalina, the area of the Seaflower Biosphere Reserve. She has more than twenty-five years of experience and has been able to extend her work done in the San Andres archipelago to other Caribbean and Pacific sites including Mexico, Dominican Republic, Puerto Rico, The US Virgin Islands, St. Vincent and the Grenadines, and Panama among other countries. The work she is involved in usually demands regional collaboration for which she is well recognized. Her interest in teaching and sharing experiences has increased with time.

Dr. Prada completed her Bachelor of Science degree in marine biology at the Fundación Universidad Jorge Tadeo Lozano in Bogota and Cartagena, and years later obtained a PhD in Biological Oceanography at the Puerto Rico University, Mayaguez campus. She has studied ecology, fisheries management, and conservation policy and planning associated to coral reefs in general, including reef fishes, spiny lobster, and queen conch; complemented with mangrove ecosystem in coastal habitats. She uses Geographic Information System applications and mapping tools to incorporate spatial and temporal dimension to marine ecology. She has twice been elected as a member of Gulf and Caribbean Fisheries Institute Board of Directors.

**Select Areas of Expertise**

- Fisheries analysis to support effective decision-making and management
- Stakeholder involvement in MPA development.

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Newton Eristhee

Mr. Eristhee is currently the Eastern Caribbean Coordinator for the Caribbean Fish Sanctuary Partnership Initiative (C-FISH), a program of CARIBSAVE. He has facilitated and participated in the implementation of numerous regional fisheries, conservation and marine protected area initiatives throughout the Wider Caribbean. Prior to joining CARIBSAVE, he served as the manager of the world renowned Soufriere Marine Management Association (SMMA) in St. Lucia where he focused on the implementation of innovative sustainable financing mechanisms.

Mr. Eristhee holds a Master of Science in Marine Resource and Environmental Management from the University of the West Indies. He has more than ten years of research, coral reef and fisheries management experience.

**Select Areas of Expertise**

- Coastal and coral reef monitoring; communicating science to lay persons
- Stakeholder engagement
- Sustainable financing



Ramón de León

Born in Uruguay, Mr. de León moved to the Caribbean in 1997. He currently serves as manager of the Bonaire National Marine Park where he is responsible for the daily operation of the park. His responsibilities include but are not limited to law enforcement; coordination of outreach and education programs; coordination of research and monitoring; and maintenance of the park. Together with key members of the management team of Stichting Nationale Parken (STINAPA) -- a non-governmental, not for profit foundation commissioned by the island government to manage the Bonaire National Marine Park and the Washington Slagbaai National Park -- he guides the long-term vision and conservation policy of the foundation.

Mr. de León's long-term involvement in the dive industry makes him a good fit as manager of a multi-use marine park where the main stakeholder is the dive industry. He holds a Master of Science from Universidad de Concepcion in Chile and has completed additional training in Environmental Engineering from Universidad de Sao Paulo, Brazil.

**Select Areas of Expertise**

- Sustainable financial mechanisms for MPA development
- Conservation legislation
- Stakeholder engagement
- Biophysical monitoring

# MENTOR BIOGRAPHIES



Francisco Ricardo  
Gómez Lozano

Mr. Lozano has been involved with management of natural resources for nearly twenty years. Since 2002 he has worked in a number of different protected areas across Mexico, both terrestrial and marine, for the National Commission of Natural Protected Areas. In 2008 he became director of the Cozumel Reefs National Park. In 2013 he became Regional Director of the Yucatan Peninsula and Mexican Caribbean supporting the management and conservation of 22 natural protected areas in tree states.

Mr. Lozano has represented Mexico as Co-President of the International Coral Reef Initiative (ICRI). He currently serves as co-chairman of the Ad Hoc Committee on the Development of Regional Strategy for the attention in the Greater Caribbean of the Invasive Lionfish. He holds a Master of Science from the Faculty of Sciences UNAM Marine Mammal Lab, is a graduate of the Strategies and Tools for Conservation by the Technologic de Monterrey in partnership with The Nature Conservancy and received a Bachelor of Arts in Biology from Simon Bolivar University. Most recently he completed the "Parks, Biodiversity and Management of Ecotourism" program in the United States.

#### Select Areas of Expertise

- Integrated Coastal Management
- Marine invasive species
- MPA management planning and implementation
- Management of tourism in protected areas



Roland Baldeo

Mr. Baldeo has been a Fisheries Officer with the Grenada Fisheries Division for over two decades and possesses extensive experience working with small-scale artisanal fishers in coastal areas. During the last five years, he has coordinated the Marine Protected Area program in Grenada, Carriacou and Petite Martinique, during which time two MPAs have been designated and placed under active management, and a third will be launched in early 2014. Under his leadership, the co-management approach to MPA management was successfully implemented in Grenada, where stakeholders and adjacent community persons are all actively involved in MPA management.

As a trained Fisheries Technologist, Mr. Baldeo has conducted numerous training programs in safety at sea and fishing technology for small-scale fishers within the Caribbean region and out of this region. He is motivated and has a passion for the establishment of MPAs around the tri-island state as a result of seeing firsthand the decline in reef ecosystems over the past three decades.

#### Select Areas of Expertise

- Stakeholder engagement, especially with fishermen

# MENTOR BIOGRAPHIES



Ruben Torres

Dr. Torres is currently the Director of the La Caleta Marine Park, an award winning protected area in the Dominican Republic. He has served as the Director of Reef Check Dominican Republic since 2004. He previously served as the Conservation Director for the National Aquarium of Santo Domingo and has been involved in a wide range of environmental consulting projects. He has led dozens of Reef Check training courses around the world, conducted extensive coral reef monitoring throughout the Dominican Republic, and has published widely in the field.

Dr. Torres holds a Doctorate of Philosophy in Marine Ecology/Biology from the University of Miami and a Bachelor of Science in Biology from Universidad Autónoma de Santo Domingo (UASD). He is a PADI Divemaster with more than 3,000 logged dives and a Scientific Diver with the American Association of Underwater Sciences.

#### Select Areas of Expertise

- All aspects of biophysical monitoring
- Knowledge of how to build a MPA from the ground up
- Development of co-management agreements