

Mark Your Calendar

[International Day for Biological Diversity](#)

Date: 22 May 2017

[World Environment Day](#)

Date: 5 June 2017

[World Oceans Day](#)

Date: 8 June 2017

70th Annual Conference of the Gulf and Caribbean Fisheries Institute ([GCFI](#))

Date: 2017 (TBD) in Mexico

13th Edition of the Regional Course “Training of Trainers on Marine Protected Area Management” ([ToT](#))

for English speaking countries

Date and location: 2017 (TBD)

Coming in 2018

International Year of the Reef ([IYOR](#))



Notification from the Secretariat of the Protocol Concerning Specially Protected Areas and Wildlife (SPAW) in the Wider Caribbean Region on Status of Activities

April 2017



United Nations Decade on Biodiversity

Major Ongoing Activities:

- *Biodiversity for Sustainable Development in the Caribbean through Ecosystem Based Management (EBM) Project* - the 3-year project signed in mid-2015 with funding from the Government of Italy, and conducted in collaboration with project partners, continues to provide support to SPAW Parties on integrated coastal-marine ecosystem management through pilot projects in selected multi use areas, and capacity building and training on EBM tools.

Ongoing activities via partnerships with the [Gulf and Caribbean Fisheries Institute \(GCFI\)](#), [Reef Check Dominican Republic](#) and [Ministry of Environment and Natural Resources of the Dominican Republic](#) include:

- * Pilot Site at Monte Cristi, Puerto Plata in the Dominican Republic, including development of Decision Support System (DSS).
- * Regional Course “Training of Trainers on Marine Protected Area Management” ([ToT](#)) will continue with support from the project. The [12th Edition](#) (taught in Spanish) was held in Puerto Plata, Dominican Republic from 26 September - 7 October 2016. It was conducted via project support with Reef Check Dominican Republic and coordinated by Dr. Martha Prada with an emphasis placed on EBM and tools for application of DSS in the coastal environment context. A total of 24 attendees from 8 countries in the Wider Caribbean were trained.
- * Upgrading the Regional MPA [CaMPAM](#) database in collaboration with GCFI to provide adequate institutional capacity to handle and update the datasets and support the DSS.
- * Support of MPA-related sessions and the participation of MPA practitioners at the GCFI Conferences - For the [GCFI 69th Annual Conference](#) (7-11 November 2016, Grand Cayman, Cayman Islands) UN Environment-CEP/SPAW and CaMPAM coordinated the technical session on “*Marine Protected Areas, Science and Management*”, with Dr. Martha Prada serving as session moderator and chair.

[Download all presentations here](#)

- [CLME+ \(Catalysing Implementation of the Strategic Action Programme for the Sustainable Management of Shared Living Marine Resources in the Caribbean and North Brazil Shelf Large Marine Ecosystems\)](#)

Main components of this 5-year [UNDP/GEF](#) and [UNOPS](#) project (2015-2020), are coordinated by UN Environment-CEP through its SPAW and AMEP sub-programmes. Together, the vast marine area of the Caribbean LME and the North Brazil Shelf LME cover **4.4 million km²** and exhibit high levels of unique biodiversity. Expected project outputs include:

- * A formal agreement between Brazil and the Cartagena Convention Secretariat to facilitate and integrate the participation of this border country in the Wider Caribbean
- * Bringing together various stakeholders involved in fisheries and environmental protection, with particular focus on coral reef, continental shelf and pelagic ecosystems
- * Baseline assessments, Regional Status Reports, and Strategy/Action and Investment Plans to protect and restore key habitats and reduce the impacts of pollution
- * Sub-Project to institutionalise Ecosystem Based Management (EBM) approaches (see *workshop details below*)
- * Web portals and other communication tools

A CLME+ Project EBM Workshop was held in Cayenne, French Guiana on 10-11 March 2017, with financial support from UNDP/GEF. UN Environment-CEP coordinated stakeholder dialogue to formulate the EBM sub-project. Workshop themes covered coastal and marine habitats, fisheries, pollution and water quality.

Farewell to Alessandra Vanzella-Khouri

The Secretariat would like to thank Ms. Alessandra Vanzella-Khouri for her 27 years of dedication to the organisation, congratulate her on early retirement, and wishes her nothing but the very best for the future!

SPAW-RAC Newsletter

For additional information on latest SPAW news
See [March 2017](#)

Previous Meeting Documents

SPAW [COP 9](#)

SPAW [STAC 7](#)

CAR/RCU [IGM 17](#) & [COP 14](#)

For more SPAW related news contact:

SPAW Newsletter - marius.dragin.carspaw@guadeloupe-parcnational.fr

CaMPAM Listserv - campam-l@listserv.gcfi.org
or gbustamante09@gmail.com

UN Environment-CAR/RCU

14-20 Port Royal Street

Kingston, JAMAICA

Tel:(876) 922-9267-9

Fax:(876) 922-9292

Email: rcu@cep.unep.org

Website: <http://cep.unep.org/>

Facebook: [https://www.facebook.com/pages/UNEP-Caribbean-Environment-](https://www.facebook.com/pages/UNEP-Caribbean-Environment-Programme/417207371654837)

[Programme/417207371654837](https://www.facebook.com/pages/UNEP-Caribbean-Environment-Programme/417207371654837)

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The Cartagena Convention provides the legal framework for the work of UN Environment-CEP and is supported by 3 technical protocols addressing regional environmental issues on oil spills response, specially protected areas and wildlife, and land-based sources and activities of marine pollution. The CEP provides the programmatic framework for the Cartagena Convention and its Protocols.

The Caribbean Regional Co-ordinating Unit (CAR/RCU) located in Kingston, Jamaica was established in 1986 and serves as Secretariat to the Cartagena Convention and CEP.

General Updates:

• [COP9 \(13 March 2017, Cayenne, French Guiana\)](#) Listing of Species and Protected Areas under the SPAW Protocol

Following the proposals for listing at the COP9 -

* A total of [12](#) marine and coastal species were newly added to Annexes II and III of the SPAW Protocol, including 5 shark species, 4 ray species, 1 fish species, 1 bird species and 1 snail species.

* One additional protected area (Cayos de San Felipe National Park in Cuba) was listed under the SPAW Protocol. A total of [32](#) protected areas are now listed under the Protocol with a view to enhance their effectiveness, share lessons learnt with other protected areas, and benefit from a [Cooperation Programme](#) dedicated to the SPAW protected areas managers for the listed areas.

France indicated its intent to initiate the process to present a future submission of 2 protected areas for listing.

Reporting Format for Exemptions under SPAW Protocol

* Parties adopted the Recommendations from [SPAW STAC7](#) (2-4 November 2016, Miami, Florida) and approved the new voluntary Reporting Format for Exemptions Under Article 11(2) of the SPAW Protocol. *Parties were encouraged to use the Reporting Format with all relevant information included when reporting an exemption, and were reminded that the reporting of exemptions is a critical component of the SPAW Protocol that enables Parties to be in compliance with it.*

Coral Reefs

* Parties encouraged the Secretariat and the [SPAW-RAC](#) to enhance cooperation and coordination with the International Coral Reef Initiative ([ICRI](#)). It was noted that 2018 has been declared as the 3rd International Year of the Reef ([IYOR](#)). Parties were encouraged to participate in upcoming activities.

Sargassum (see [Sargassum Influx for more details](#))

* Parties adopted the SPAW STAC7 recommendation to collaborate with Governments and other partners on issues of "common interest, such as the management and response to the Sargassum influx".

• [Caribbean Marine Protected Area Management \(CaMPAM\) Network and Forum](#)

* The [CaMPAM-ECMMAN Small Grant Programme](#) now coming to an end, provided MPAs in 6 Eastern Caribbean Countries (Antigua and Barbuda, Dominica, Grenada, St. Kitts and Nevis, St. Lucia, St. Vincent and the Grenadines) with technical assistance, expertise support and financial resources (€155,950 per country) to promote effective marine managed areas (MMAs).

Led by [The Nature Conservancy \(TNC\)](#), the primary objective was to improve the capacities of the countries for creating new MMAs and better managing existing ones.

* [IUCN World Conservation Congress](#) (1-10 September 2016, Honolulu, Hawaii) - CaMPAM coordinator Dr. Georgina Bustamante was a panelist for the session "Regional MPA Networks: their contribution to global challenges".

* GCFI 69th Annual Conference (7-11 November 2016, Grand Cayman, Cayman Islands) - Dr. Bustamante made a presentation on "[The evolution of the Caribbean Marine Protected Area Management \(CaMPAM\): 19-years of the regional, multidimensional UNEP-CEP SPAW programme for strengthening MPAs](#)".

* [INVEMAR-UNDP/GEF](#) project event (2-4 November 2016, Santa Marta, Colombia) - Dr. Bustamante gave a lecture on "[La formación de capacidades en la gestión de áreas marinas: el Caribe y Colombia](#)" and facilitated discussions for collaboration on the next ToT for Spanish Speaking counties.

* [2nd Forum of Marine Protected Areas in the Mediterranean](#) (28 November - 1 December 2016, Tangier, Morocco) SPAW Programme Officer Ms. Alessandra Vanzella-Khouri made a presentation on CaMPAM and participated in a panel presentation on collaboration for MPAs via regional marine treaties.



• [Marine Mammals](#)

* Collaboration continues under [The Sister Sanctuary Program](#)

* [CARIB Tails](#) utilises photos of humpback whale tail flukes (to provide flukeprints - the "fingerprints" of whale identification), thus offering insight on their migration routes between the North Atlantic and the Wider Caribbean.

* A formal MoA between the [Yarari Marine Mammal and Shark Sanctuary](#) (Caribbean Netherlands) and the [Stellwagen Bank National Marine Sanctuary](#) (USA) was signed on 6 March 2017. This adds to the collaboration with Bermuda, Dominican Republic and the French Antilles for the conservation, stewardship and management of humpback whales and other migratory marine mammals.

The Secretariat is currently finalising a MoC with the International Whaling Commission ([IWC](#)).

• [Sustainable Fisheries](#)

* The Secretariat attended the [15th Meeting of the Caribbean Fisheries Forum](#), convened by the [Caribbean Regional Fisheries Mechanism](#) (CRFM) (30-31 March 2017, Kingston, Jamaica). Participants discussed the status of fisheries in the region and recent trends. Plans were made to take steps to strengthen co-operation and coordination between fisheries and environment departments and other partner organisations, so as to strengthen the conservation of marine species and critical habitats to achieve international biodiversity targets.

Discussions are in effect for the conclusion of a MoC between the CRFM and the Secretariat.

• [Sargassum Influx](#)

* The UN Environment-CEP/SPAW and the SPAW-RAC continue to facilitate the diffusion of information on Sargassum by hosting an [on-line forum](#) to enable the sharing of experiences and knowledge on the influx, and improve collaboration between stakeholders and other institutions in the Wider Caribbean and West Africa (e.g. the [Abidjan Convention](#)).

* GCFI 69th Annual Conference - UN Environment-CEP/SPAW and [SPAW-RAC](#) along with other partners coordinated the technical session on "[Understanding and management of the pelagic Sargassum influx in the Caribbean](#)".

The Secretariat is currently finalising a MoC with the [Sargasso Sea Commission](#).