

This workshop sponsored by:



57th Annual Meeting of the Gulf and Caribbean Fisheries Institute

Caribbean Marine Protected Areas Network and Forum Activities

Hotel St. Petersburg Hilton

November 7-12, 2004

Background and rationale

One of the most important reasons for the management failure in Marine Protected Areas (MPAs) has been the lack of qualified personnel and financial resources. Furthermore, it is known that the quality and strength of both human and financial type of resources, are intricately related: protected areas with the most qualified personnel are better equipped to develop and implement an effective and financially sustainable management plan.

On the other hand, training as well as networking and communication have been identified by many -including the group of experts that contributed to the development of the Marine Reserve Enhancement Plan for the IUCN World Commission of Protected Areas-Marine (see <http://www.iucn.org/themes/wcpa/biome/marine/caribbean/internet.html>) as important factors for furthering marine reserves in the Caribbean as a tool for biodiversity conservation and fisheries restoration in the wider Caribbean.

Knowing that, the Secretariat of the Specially Protected Area Wildlife Protocol of the Cartagena Convention administered by the United Nations Environment Program's Caribbean Environment Program (UNEP-CEP), has dedicated a substantial part of its efforts to the creation and coordination of the Caribbean Marine Protected Areas Network (CaMPAM). This network serves as a vehicle to promote the exchange of information and the the lack of adequate resources and support from other organizations, the CaMPAM network has had limited activity and has been solely sponsored and coordinated by UNEP-CEP. However, as a result of discussions sustained in the last 5 years at several meetings related to MPA science and practice (mostly in the Gulf and Caribbean Fisheries Institute [GCFI] annual meetings), the GCFI, together with other conservation institutions (The Nature Conservancy, Environmental Defense, the Coral Reef Resources Foundation, the University of Puerto Rico, the IUCN's WCPA – Marine and Caribbean, the Caribbean Conservation Association, NOAA, etc.) partnered with UNEP-CEP and launched, during the White Waters to Blue Waters Conference held in

Miami in March, 2004, an initiative aimed at expanding the CaMPAM network in order to make it **a region-wide forum for MPA and fisheries managers and scientists**. The expanded CaMPAM adopted the new name of **CaMPAM Network and Forum**. We believe that CaMPAM N&F is called to play a prominent role as a tool for communication and dissemination of best practices as governments prepare for accomplishing the commitment made at the last Conference of Parties (COP-7) of the Convention of Biological Diversity to develop ecologically effective national networks of marine protected areas for the year 2010.

Among the activities implemented by CaMPAM over the last years are the following:

- The supporting of small projects for the dissemination of best practices which has benefited several sites such as the Negril Marine Park in Jamaica, the Bonaire Marine Park, the Soufriere Marine Management Area in St. Lucia, the Seaflower Biosphere Reserve in San Andres, Colombia; the Buccoo Reef Marine Park in Tobago; the St. Eustatius Marine Park in the Netherlands Antilles and the Sian Ka'an Biosphere Reserve in Mexico;
- the creation of the CaMPAM list server for members (more than 500 MPA managers and scientists) to communicate, exchange information and experiences, and seek advice and help with problem solving;
- the publication of information relevant to MPAs in the CaMPAM list serve and in existing newsletters (MPANews, CEPNews, etc.);
- the development of projects for promoting sustainable livelihoods for fishers;
- the implementation of the Training the Trainers Program on all aspects of MPA management (with 4 regional courses and dozens local follow courses implemented that have benefited more than 300 MPA practitioners of ca. 25 Caribbean countries and territories);
- the updating of the Wider Caribbean MPA database;
- the development of the criteria and guidelines for listing of protected areas under the SPAW Protocol; and
- the development of linkages with global agreements such as the World Heritage Site and Biodiversity Conventions,

Two core activities of the CaMPAM N&F will take place at the 57th GCFI in November 2004. First, a technical session entitled "MPA Science and Management in the Caribbean Region" (to be held on Tuesday pm) will bring together managers and researchers to present their activities in a scientific forum. The presentations will be published in a special section of the Proceedings of the Gulf and Caribbean Fisheries Institute.

The second activity that will occur is a workshop on Wednesday 3-7pm dedicated to the CaMPAM N&F mission of building capacity. The proposed workshop is one of the main activities planned by the CaMPAM Network and Forum for the year 2004 and aims at

using the GCFI meeting as a mixed scientists/managers forum for discussion on issues such as the following (tentative content and schedule):

1. *An Overview of the CaMPAM Network and Forum*
2. *Election of CaMPAM Network and Forum Steering Committee.* The Committee will establish and oversee the workplan for 2005. (Led by Georgina Bustamante and Bob Glazer, GCFI, 30 min)
3. *MPA database updating.* Consultation on its design, procedure for data verification and potential application in pilot sites, regions or countries. (Led by Georgina Bustamante, 1 hr)
4. *Sustainable livelihood of fishers.* Discussion and selection of pilot sites for implementing small projects under the SPAW program aiming at approaching fishers and MPA managers for the common goal of conserving and restoring fisheries resources. (Led by Georgina Bustamante, 1 hr)
5. *Funding seeking.* Participants will be taught on proposal-writing for applying to the Coral Fund of the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation (Led by Leslie Ricketts, National Fish and Wildlife Foundation, 1hr)
6. *Caribbean Reefs at Risk.* Summary of the results of the WRI, ICRAN and UNEP-CEP study. (Led by Laretta Burke and Jon Maidens, WRI) 20min