

# CaMPAM Network and Forum

## Five-Year Strategic Plan 2005-2009

### **Vision**

To become the most comprehensive and inclusive network in the Caribbean region for the exchange and dissemination of information on marine protected areas. Furthermore, we will strive to facilitate the development of capacity for effective implementation of MPAs. We will accomplish this vision by developing partnerships with, and facilitating communications among, conservation organizations, governmental and educational institutions, and corporate entities and seeking funding opportunities to accomplish strategic activities.

### **Mission**

Enhancement of marine and coastal area management in the Wider Caribbean Region through sharing and collaboration to strengthen our national and regional systems of existing and future marine and coastal protected areas.

### **The CaMPAM Philosophy**

The use of MPAs has become increasingly popular in the wider Caribbean region as a tool to conserve biodiversity, enhance fisheries, and achieve other management goals. This has resulted in substantial knowledge gained on optimal site selection and design, successful outreach approaches, effective management strategies, and appropriate methods to evaluate their effectiveness. However, significant questions regarding the value of MPAs remain. Difficulties in exchanging information on lessons learned continue to constrain informed decision-making due to the geographic, socioeconomic, and cultural complexities of the Caribbean region. At the same time, communication among professionals has become progressively more vital given the increasing scientific interest in the examination of biophysical connectivity across the region. As MPAs continue to be proposed and implemented, the efficient exchange of information is now more critical than ever.

### **The Background**

CaMPAM will integrate and build upon two initiatives developed in the mid-1990s: the Gulf and Caribbean Fisheries Institute's ongoing MPA special sessions and symposia at their annual conferences, and the incipient UN Environment Programme's Caribbean Marine Protected Areas Managers network created in 1995. In particular, this partnership will continue to develop and foster partnerships to discuss critical questions regarding gaps in scientific knowledge relative to biophysical and socioeconomic connectivity of MPAs across the wider Caribbean.

The CaMPAM Network and Forum Partnership was launched at the White Water to Blue Water Partnership Conference in Miami in March 2004. The goal of this partnership is to develop capacity for MPA management in the wider Caribbean by bringing together MPA researchers, administrators, managers, and educators from governmental entities and non-governmental organizations as well as the private sector in an inclusive network to exchange ideas and lessons learned.

The CaMPAM Network and Forum will meet at least annually to address critical and timely issues related to MPAs. General activities agreed to be conducted through CaMPAM's membership include sharing experiences and addressing management challenges by facilitating training opportunities, information exchange, communication, and problem-solving.

### **The Membership**

The CaMPAM membership consists of the following organizations: United Nations Environment Programme – Caribbean Environment Programme (UNEP), the Gulf and Caribbean Fisheries Institute (GCFI), The Nature Conservancy (TNC), Environmental Defense (ED), World Resources Institute (WRI), the University of Puerto Rico (UPR), the International Union on the Conservation of Nature and Natural Resources's (IUCN) World Commission on Protected Areas. Furthermore, the U.S. Government is a partner through a variety of offices within the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) including the Florida Keys National Marine Sanctuary, International Programs Office and Caribbean Marine Research Center. Membership also consists of individuals within local and regional Marine Protected Areas. The needs and perspectives of the membership are diverse and represent a cross-section of those with interests in the sustainable use and management of marine resources in the region.

### **Strategic Activities**

The main beneficiaries of CaMPAM are marine protected areas (MPA's) and their managers, fisheries officers, and relevant partner institutions (such as those of IUCN, CCA, CARICOMP, FAO, US-NPS). Further consideration will be given to the scope and depth of the membership and organization of CaMPAM to encourage full participation of the management community's partners in the region.

Activities that the CaMPAM Network and Forum will implement the following:

- ◆ Conduct annual technical sessions and organizational meetings at the annual meeting of the Gulf and Caribbean Fisheries Institute. The session(s) will provide a scientific forum for exchanging information on current and planned research and management of marine protected areas with applicability to the region. The sessions at the GCFI will be simultaneously interpreted into Spanish and English.
- ◆ Publication(s) originating from the technical session that is a record of the MPA session at the GCFI meeting. The Proceedings are a collection of scientific papers that were presented either orally or in poster format at the Institute within the Marine Protected Areas theme.
- ◆ Provide exchange opportunities and site visits through ICRAN, IUCN, and other initiatives.

- ◆ Training of Trainers Program – this activity seeks to build additional capacity through the UNEP MPA Training the Trainers Programme. The most recent course was taught in the Florida Keys in March 2004.
- ◆ A Small Grants Programme – this program is implemented by the UNEP/SPAW program and has the goal of providing technical assistance to MPAs in the region
- ◆ A Database of MPAs in the region – This activity seeks to develop a comprehensive web-based database on the UNEP website. It will examine effectiveness as well as other metrics. A meeting was held in June 2004 in Miami under the organization of TNC to plan the organization and implementation of this activity (Appendix A).
- ◆ A Listserv which provides a real-time forum for discussion of topics that are of regional importance as well as a mechanism for soliciting expert advice on issues that require immediate assistance and to exchange information on experience sharing.
- ◆ Web Services and Tools with announcements of meetings, marine resource news from the region, a discussion board, and results of findings from MPA workshops. Links will also be provided to marine organizations in the region. Information of practical use is available for those attending the Institutes. Currently, the CaMPAM N&F have web presence on both the UNEP-CEP and GCFI web sites.

## **Priorities**

The CaMPAM Network and Forum has the following priorities for the plan period:

- ◆ Continue to foster partnerships by soliciting participation from regions and nations, industries, and user groups not currently represented in the CaMPAM N&F.
- ◆ To increase the information exchange by expanding the services provided to the membership including the use of special publications, symposia, and the expanded use of electronic media in multiple languages.
- ◆ To continually engage the CaMPAM N&F membership to solicit input relative to the services they deem essential for their ongoing activities and special needs and to implement programs to address those needs.

## **Long-term Strategies**

- ◆ *Integrate activities into a comprehensive source that serves as a clearing house for MPA activities*

The GCFI recognizes that in order to provide the highest level of service to our membership, we must have a consistent source of funds. To ensure that these services are not interrupted by unforeseen circumstances, we will develop and seek to fund an endowment that can provide for the services that the GCFI membership has come to expect. This will require development of long-term strategic partnerships with organizations and individuals that recognize the importance of the GCFI to the region and are willing to contribute to achieving that vision.

- ◆ *Obtain long-term source(s) of funding to sustain the CaMPAM N&F activities*

If the GCFI continues to grow in both membership and services, an increasing burden will be placed on the volunteer staff. We recognize that the future of GCFI relies on a core of dedicated individuals and an engaged Board of Directors. However, to achieve the growth in services that we envision, we recognize that paid staff is required. The

GCFI will work towards obtaining the resources required to fund a full or part-time position of Executive Director of the GCFI. The position will be responsible for overseeing the daily activities of the GCFI and will include fund-raising, organizing meetings, providing editorial oversight, and other tasks that are required and will be directly answerable to the Board of Directors.

### **Short term Strategies**

- ◆ *Develop a comprehensive steering committee*  
The Steering Committee will be representative of MPA interests in the region and will be responsible for determining short-term and long-term priorities and strategies.
- ◆ *Identify funding opportunities for activities of the CaMPAM N&F.*  
Partners in CaMPAM N&F will identify sources of funding to implement the identified strategic activities. Specifically, through the steering committee, the CaMPAM N&F will seek out broad-based partnerships with funding organizations that recognize the importance of either the overall goals or the specific activities of the CaMPAM N&F.
- ◆ *Enhance the services and opportunities to our membership*  
We will continually examine ways in which we can provide enhanced opportunities to our membership and in support of the CaMPAM N&F philosophy.