



Putting Monitoring into the Context of MPA Management

Twenty-five staff of marine protected areas from 10 Caribbean countries and territories met in Carriacou September 19-23, 2016 to hone their knowledge of marine protected area bio-physical monitoring.

Coming from all corners of the Caribbean, the meeting participants included marine national park staff from Belize, The Bahamas, the Turks & Caicos Islands, the British Virgin Islands, Bonaire, Sint Eustatius, St Lucia, St Vincent and the Grenadines and Grenada. It took place in Carriacou, Grenada and was hosted by the Sandy Island/Oyster Bed Marine Protected Area.

The workshop brought these coral reef managers and marine biologists together in the field to exchange information, share experiences and examine best practices with their peers. Such peer-to-peer learning seeks to provide participants with the opportunity to learn from each other's experience in facing common challenges, and enables the sharing knowledge and successful practices across borders.

The workshop was organized as an effort of the MPA capacity building partnership between the Gulf and Caribbean Fisheries Institute (GCFI) and NOAA's Coral Reef Conservation Program. Additional support was provided by The Nature Conservancy and SPAW-RAC, and the workshop had technical expertise from NOAA, St. George's University and the University of the West Indies.

Previous Caribbean MPA workshops by the GCFI and NOAA MPA partnership have addressed sustainable finance strategies for marine protected areas, strengthening law enforcement and building compliance, socio-economic monitoring, and outreach and education programmes. This latest activity focused on linking bio-physical monitoring to MPA management action, and the workshop helped participants to put monitoring into the context of effective MPA management.

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Photos: D. Baker