

**The Caribbean Marine Protected Area Management Network and Forum (CaMPAM):  
19-Years of the UN Environment Regional, Multi-dimensional Program  
for Strengthening Marine Area Management in the Caribbean**

**La Red y Foro de Áreas Marinas Protegidas del Caribe (CaMPAM):  
19 Años del Programa Regional, Multidimensional del PNUMA  
para Fortalecer las Áreas Marinas de Gestión en el Caribe**

**Le Réseau et Forum de Gestion des Aires Marines Protégées des Caraïbes (CaMPAM):  
19 Ans du Programme du PNUE Régional et Multidimensionnel du Nations Unies pour  
l'Environnement pour le Renforcement de la Gestion de la Zone Marine dans les Caraïbes**

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#### ABSTRACT

In 1997, the UNEP-CEP SPAW convened a meeting of 50 MPA managers from which CaMPAM was born. Since then, CaMPAM has adaptively evolved into a comprehensive regional program that aims at strengthening Caribbean marine managed areas at the site and national level through a variety of mechanisms. CaMPAM's original focus was on providing training, information sharing, and communications. Shortly after, grants awarding for learning exchanges and small projects started. This experience allowed the capacity building program to evolve to address the MPA changing needs. Partnerships were established with interested organizations. More recently, a team of mentors has served as instructors and activities' coordinators. The CaMPAM coordinating team has been sensitive to the needs and demands of the Caribbean MPA community. These needs have been captured through site visits, consultations with scientists and managers, surveys, training evaluations, project reports, requests from collaborating institutions, the intergovernmental meetings of UNEP-CEP 's Cartagena Convention's Specially Protected Areas and Wildlife (SPA) Protocol, etc. An assessment of CaMPAM performance was conducted by an external expert. This paper describes CaMPAM tools, activities, resources and issues, examined by CaMPAM coordinator, founder, main collaborator, and the expert that assessed its performance.

KEYWORD: Marine Protected Areas, resources, networks

#### INTRODUCTION

In 1997, a meeting of over 50 MPA managers was convened by the U.S. National Park Service and the UNEP Environment Caribbean Environment Program Caribbean Environment Programme (UNEP-CEP) to develop a cohesive network. Through the early years, CaMPAM implemented a few but limited activities that defined its role and showed the need to develop partnerships with other institutions. In March 2004 at the White Waters to Blue Water conference, the UNEP-CEP partnered with the Gulf and Caribbean Fisheries Institute (GCFI) and a few other regional government and non-government organizations to re-launch the Caribbean Marine Protected Area Management Network and Forum (CaMPAM). As a result, and with the development of the internet, the Training of trainers, the Small Grant program, the website, the MPA forum at the GCFI conferences, the MPA database were developed to provide MPA practitioners with the tools necessary to effectively manage their biological and cultural resources and to communicate with their colleagues and stakeholders. But as the CaMPAM activities increased, so has the necessity to continuously reexamine the effectiveness and value of the various tools, and to make adjustments as necessary. This paper provides the temporal context for the development of CaMPAM, describes the activities, and presents an overview of the 2016 evaluation of the CaMPAM Network and Forum. The authors acknowledge numerous individuals and institutions for their support and collaborative work.

#### THE TRAINING OF TRAINERS (TOT)

CaMPAM flagship activity includes a regional course followed by local training where trainees organize a workshop or training activity within their countries using the acquired knowledge and the manual, with support by a small grant from UNEP-CEP and its collaborating institutions. The manual "Training of trainers on marine protected areas management in the Caribbean" in English, Spanish and French includes 8 modules and has been used guide instructors in all courses.

Since 1999 and until 2016, the ToT Program included the following:

- i) A 13-day course every 1-3 years alternating English and Spanish, held in different countries and nearby a marine protected area. A short version was held in Guadeloupe in 2012 for MPA managers of Caribbean French and Dutch islands as well as Haiti.
- ii) Participants (coordinators, trainees and lecturers) are selected by UNEP-CEP/SPAW and collaborating organization.

- iii) Course reports include evaluation by participants.
- iv) A local follow-up phase encompassing proposal development by trainees (one per country) for a local training activity with the technical and financial assistance from UNEP-CEP/SPAW.

By 2016, 12 regional courses were implemented thanks to the financial support of 14 institutions, the local logistical support of 10 organizations, and the collaboration of 19 institutions with lecturing and resources such as boats for field trips. Overall, 191 MPA practitioners were trained directly at the regional courses, and more than 2000 marine managed area stakeholders participated in the ca. 80 local follow-up activities. See Table 1 for details.

Unfortunately, since 2007, support for participants from countries that were not signatories of the SPAW Protocol of the Cartagena Convention (visit <http://www.cep.unep.org/cartagena-convention/spaw-protocol> for SPAW parties) became limited, particularly from Guatemala, Honduras, and Mexico. Nevertheless, participants from non-party countries attended some of the regional courses due to the geographic focus of the donors. For example, in 2015, the regional course held in Grenada was organized and funded by the IUCN-ORMA as part of their BIOPAMA program, with additional support from CaMPAM-ECMMAN grants, but following the CaMPAM course design.

#### COMMUNICATION AND NETWORKING

Since 1997, a CaMPAM e-group was created by UNEP-CEP assembled with the information from the IUCN World Commission of Protected Area in the Caribbean. A few years later, the e-group was moved to [www.GCFI.org](http://www.GCFI.org), which became the network host and manager, with the CaMPAM coordinator as moderator.

The main communication tools for CaMPAM are:

- i) The CaMPAM website (where information such as resources, projects, reports, etc. are permanently posted),
- ii) The CaMPAM-L (an email distribution list for sharing information among members of the network, where members can post messages, and check the archives and membership data,
- iii) The MPA Database (which contains datasets/profiles of the MPAs), and
- iv) The MPA Science and Management session at the annual GCFI conferences.

The CaMPAM List disseminates information relevant to MPA scientists and practitioners such as grant and job opportunities, requests of information, conference announcements, new web sites, webinars, new reports, books and management tools, request for proposals, research information, press releases, emerging issues, newsletters and announcements from different institutions, etc. All messages are archived and readily accessible to subscribers. Every month 20 - 30 messages are posted and 5 - 10 new members join the network (ca. 1,000 members total as of January 2017).

UNEP-CEP started to coordinate (and sponsor participants to) the GCFI MPA Science and Management sessions in 2004. This attracted the participation of marine area managers, researchers and fishers and the exchange of lessons learned by the scientific and management communities.

An MPA Regional Database contains 48 types of standardized data that focuses on identity, legal, biophysical and management parameters. Maps and a template for outlining management plans are part of its functionality. Data are provided by the MPA management authority or an authorized person, and can be updated.

The CaMPAM-L internet forum, the website, the database, and the conference session have been implemented thanks to a collaborative relationship between UNEP-CEP SPAW program and the GCFI.

#### FUNDING WITH TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE

The CaMPAM Small Grant program started in 2000 with the implementation of exchange visits for managers from “demonstration sites” to “target sites in order to disseminate better management practices and lessons learnt. Grants ranging from US\$5,000 to US\$220,000 have been awarded for an estimated total of US\$2.1 million. The grants supported projects to develop the capacity of marine managers, as well as alternative livelihoods and sustainable fishing practices for fishers, and best conservation practices for other stakeholders. They have benefitted both governmental and non-governmental organizations. The funding sources are varied, and the grant application, proposal selection and project implementation review responds to CaMPAM principles adapted to the donor’s requirement, with the occasional participation of organizations such as the GCFI and The Nature Conservancy.

#### COLLABORATION

The UNEP-CEP has collaborated with numerous institutions in an *ad hoc* or more strategic fashion. The target countries and tools used (exchange, technical and financial assistance, and training) are examined in the context of the SPAW program. UNEP-CEP collaborative arrangements with institutions such as GCFI have facilitated communication and information dissemination within the CaMPAM network.

The collaboration with individuals with high level of expertise remains a great resource for CaMPAM. A number of experts have served as lecturers to the regional courses and many have assisted by providing and reviewing data. A team of mentors was created in 2013 as a tool for peer-to-peer, one-to-one person mentorship. A mentorship pilot project (one mentor train one trainee) showed good results, but the cost was very high. Nevertheless, the mentors have provided additional value by serving as lecturers in the Training of Trainers, and as local coordinators of projects and activities (e.g. courses and exchanges).

Since 2010, the SPAW through CaMPAM has sustained dialogue with MedPAN to exchange the experiences of the regional networks of MPA managers in two regional semi-enclosed seas, the Mediterranean and the Caribbean. As part of this endeavor, information sharing and consultation, as well as the joint design of/attendance

to special sessions at world marine protected area events have taken place. A recent project led by MedPAN includes an analysis of a potential transatlantic initiative that will allow both networks to coordinate joint activities and eventually implement marine area managers' exchanges.

### CAMPAM ASSESSMENT

CaMPAM coordinating team has been sensitive to the needs and demands of the Caribbean MPA community,

gathered through different channels. Opinions from site managers, scientists and program leaders have been captured in an informal, non-structured way through surveys conducted at each regional ToT course, from the active exchange of information disseminated in CaMPAM List, from the MPA session at the Gulf and Caribbean Fisheries Institute annual Meeting, from the intergovernmental meetings of UNEP-CEP's Cartagena Convention's Specially Protected Areas and Wildlife (SPA) Protocol, and from discussions at relevant meetings within the

**Table 1.** Summarized information of the UN Environment flagship marine protected area capacity building activity in the Caribbean: the CaMPAM "Training of trainers on MPA Management" program (for all courses' reports, visit <http://campam.gcfi.org/campam.php>).

Year of implementation	Venue	No. participants (and their countries)	No. local follow-up activities	Local coordinating partners	Funding agencies	Other contributions
1999	Saba Marine Park, Netherland Antilles	9 (7)	7	Saba Conservation Trust	Coastal Zone Management Center in the Netherlands, the UN Foundation Fund for International Partnerships (UNFIP), and the US Government.	US Government and The Nature Conservancy.
2000	Parque Nacional del Este, Dominican Republic	15 (8)	7	The Nature Conservancy	UN Foundation (UNFIP)	Parque Nacional del Este.
2002	Soufriere Marine Management Area, St. Lucia	12 (8)	8	Soufriere Marine Management Association	UN Foundation (UNFIP)	St. Lucia Fisheries Departments, The Nature Conservancy
2004	Florida Keys Natl. Marine Sanctuary	17 (12)	12	The Nature Conservancy	UN Foundation (UNFIP)	NOAA Florida Keys Natl. Marine Sanctuary (FKNMS), Florida Fish Wildlife Conservation Commission, Environmental Defense Fund, 6 local extracurricular lecturers.
2006	Florida Keys Natl. Marine Sanctuary	11 (7)	7	UNEP-CEP	MacArthur Foundation	NOAA Florida Keys Natl. Marine Sanctuary (FKNMS), Florida Fish Wildlife Conservation Commission, 6 local extracurricular lectures.
2007	Sian Ka'an Marine Reserve, Mexico	14 (9)	8	Fundación Orígenes de Quintana Roo	MacArthur Foundation	Instituto Universitario de Tulum, The Nature Conservancy, CO-NANP-SEMARNAT Yucatán Region, Sian Ka'an Biosphere Reserve, Hotel Nueva Vida de Ramiro, Amigos de Sian Ka'an, and 7 local extracurricular lecturers.
2009	Buccoo Reef Marine Park, Trinidad and Tobago	12 (9)	8	Buccoo Reef Trust	Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency (Sida), Buccoo Reef Trust, OECS (OPAAL project)	GCFI, 4 local extracurricular lecturers.
2010	Parque Nacional del Este, Dominican Republic	22 (7)	7	Reef Check Dominican Republic	General Directorate on Natural Environment and Forestry Policy of the Ministry of Marine and Rural Environment of Spain	Dominican Ministry of Environment and Natural Resources, and local extracurricular lecturers

Caribbean and beyond. However, in 2016 an assessment was conducted by an external expert of 15 years of CaMPAM activities. Network members were surveyed. The results of the assessment can be summarized as follows:

- i) The benefits of the regional agreement (SPAW) to attract funds,
- ii) The high value of a program that has lasted long years and built the capacity of many MPA practitioners in the Caribbean,
- iii) The need to have a permanent fund to support core activities,
- iv) The administrative restrictions of the UNEP-CEP to manage flexibly the network and training program,
- v) The need to improve the information and communication tools, and
- vi) The need to increase the coordinating and supervising staff; and revamp executive team plus an active group of advisors.

The UNEP-CEP SPAW acknowledges the increasing role of other national and regional institutions towards the common goal of developing MPA capacity at the site and country level. CaMPAM activities will be improved but keep its focus in its core tools. In that context, the capacity building program will also align its activities to support the PAs listed under the SPAW Protocol (visit). The list initiated in 2012 responds to provisions of the Protocol calling for the development of a cooperation program for areas listed under the Protocol. The Parties are invited to propose important areas for listing which are assessed based on approved criteria and guidelines for selection and listing.

#### CaMPAM ONLINE RESOURCES

<http://www.cep.unep.org/publications-and-resources/promotional-material/publications/spaw/tot-manual-english>  
<http://www.cep.unep.org/publications-and-resources/promotional-material/publications/spaw/tot-manual-es.pdf/view>  
[http://www.car-spaw-rac.org/?Manuel-de-formation-CaMPAM-sur-les\\_289](http://www.car-spaw-rac.org/?Manuel-de-formation-CaMPAM-sur-les_289)  
[http://www.biopama.org/where\\_we\\_work/caribbean](http://www.biopama.org/where_we_work/caribbean)  
[http://campam.gcfi.org/ECMMAN/CaMPAM-ECMMAN\\_Small\\_Grant\\_Program\\_leaflet.pdf](http://campam.gcfi.org/ECMMAN/CaMPAM-ECMMAN_Small_Grant_Program_leaflet.pdf)  
<http://campam.gcfi.org/campam.php>  
<http://campam.gcfi.org/CaribbeanMPA/CaribbeanMPA.php>  
[http://campam.gcfi.org/CaMPAMReports/CaMPAM\\_15\\_year\\_Assessment.pdf](http://campam.gcfi.org/CaMPAMReports/CaMPAM_15_year_Assessment.pdf)  
<http://www.car-spaw-rac.org/?lang=en>

**Table 1 continued.** Summarized information of the UN Environment flagship marine protected area capacity building activity in the Caribbean: the CaMPAM “Training of trainers on MPA Management” program (for all courses’ reports, visit <http://campam.gcfi.org/campam.php>)

Year of implementation	Venue	No. participants (and their countries)	No. local follow-up activities	Local coordinating partners	Funding agencies	Other contributions
2011	Hol Chan Marine Reserve, Belize	19 (8)	8	Seatone Consulting	General Directorate on Cooperation for International Development of the Italian Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Italy	The Hol Chan Marine Reserve, the Belize Fisheries Dept., and 12 local lecturers.
2011	Guadeloupe Natl. Park, French Caribbean	18 (3)	0	SPAW-RAC and Guadeloupe National Park	SPAW RAC, the French MPA Agency and TEMEUM	Guadeloupe National Park
2015	Moliniere-Beausejour MPA, Grenada	24 (10)	0	Grenada Fisheries Dept.	IUCN-ORMA, as part of the BIOPAMA program funded by the 10th European Development Fund (EDF) of the European Union	The Nature Conservancy (ECMMAN project); UNEP-CEP.
2016	Montecristi National Park, Dominican Republic	24 (8)	6	Reef Check Dominican Republic	General Directorate on Cooperation for International Development of the Italian Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Italy	Local lecturers, PROGES Consulting
Total no. participants		191	> 2000			
Total no. regional/local training courses		12	78			
Local coordinators				10		
Other collaborating institutions						19
Funding institutions					14	