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**UPDATE ON THE CARIBBEAN MARINE PROTECTED AREAS MANAGEMENT
NETWORK AND FORUM (CaMPAM) AND ITS MAJOR ACTIVITIES
2014-2016**

For reasons of economy and the environment, Delegates are kindly requested to bring their copies of the Working and Information documents to the Meeting, and not to request additional copies.

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UPDATE THE CARIBBEAN MARINE PROTECTED AREAS MANAGEMENT NETWORK AND FORUM (CaMPAM) AND ITS MAJOR ACTIVITIES

INTRODUCTION

During the 2014-2016 biennium, the Caribbean Marine Protected Areas Management (CaMPAM) Network and Forum developed and implemented several activities, funded primarily with resources from The Nature Conservancy (TNC) project “[Climate-Resilient Eastern Caribbean Marine Managed Areas Network](#)” (ECMMAN) and more recently the project “Ecosystem-based management of biodiversity for sustainable development in the Caribbean” (EBMBSD, funded by the [Directorate General for Development Cooperation of the Italian Ministry of Foreign Affairs](#) and aims at building capacity for the development of decision-support systems to apply the ecosystem-based management to coastal areas in the Caribbean (see UNEP(DEPI) CAR WG.38/INF.8). In addition, organizations such as IUCN and GCFI have partnered with CaMPAM in the organization of regional training activities and MPA practitioners fora.

Listed below is a summary of CaMPAM activities implemented during the period December 2014- November 2016.

TRAINING ACTIVITIES ON MPA MANAGEMENT

XI Training of Trainers on MPA Management for English-speaking countries.

On February 2015, the IUCN Regional Office for Mesoamerican and Caribbean Region ([ORMACC](#)), as part of its [BIOPAMA Programme in the Caribbean](#) and with support from CaMPAM (with course design, organization and facilitation) implemented the [11th Training of Trainers regional course on MPA Management](#) in Grenada. For the first time CaMPAM regional course was fully supported by a partner organization, using the 16 years of experience of UNEP-CEP/SPAW with CaMPAM and capacity building and the preceding joint activity, the [Exchange of Caribbean Junior MPA Officers](#) held in Belize in 2014 (reported in the previous biennium).

It is important to highlight that the double role of CaMPAM coordinator in the coordination of both, the CaMPAM-ECMMAN Small Grant programme and the Training of trainers, allowed combining the financial resources available from two projects to fund the regional training. The 12 participants from the 6 islands of the Eastern Caribbean covered their travel and accommodation costs with their respective CaMPAM-ECMMAN grants (budgeted in the proposal development phase), while IUCN funded the participation from other countries (Belize, The Bahamas, Trinidad and Tobago, United Kingdom, Anguilla and Barbados, along with the usually high cost of coordination and lecturing. This kind of synergy is very beneficial and did and does not require any formal agreement, but the willingness to collaborate and some planning ahead. Unfortunately, due to the lack of resources, no local follow-up activities were implemented in each country as IUCN was not able to accommodate this phase and the UNEP-CEP/SPAW did not have the resources to support it.

The course was taught by regional experts from Grenada, Trinidad and Tobago, St. Vincent and the Grenadines, who imparted lectures and facilitated interactive exercises and field trips on the basic tools of MPA management and the latest research findings on subjects such as the characteristics of coastal habitats and the threats to environment, including communication tools, MPA participatory planning and management; international policy, and research and monitoring. The course report can be accessed and downloaded from <http://campam.gcfi.org/campam.php>, and includes the course agenda, the participant list, the assessment, recommendations for course improvement, etc. It can be used for consultation in the organization of national and regional courses on MPA management. The IUCN created a communication tool for all (a chat room with documents posted on the BIOPAMA yammer platform) where participants can communicate, exchange information and download all lectures, photographs and reading materials used during the course (see Fig. 1).

Notes on the course development were posted in CaMPAM List (Fig. 2) and so reached more than 1000 network subscribers.

The assessment of the impact of the regional course over the participants' job performance and the MPA capacity is underway. The limited number of responses received so far (3) does not allow to provide statistics, but they show that the regional course had a notable positive effect over their MPA management work, and that the exchanges with alumni and instructors have allowed to use them as resources for other projects.

The XII Training of Trainers Course on MPA Management for Spanish-speaking countries.

This year's course took place in Puerto Plata, northwest coast of the Dominican Republic (25 September- 7 October 2016). Twenty-four representatives from 8 countries (1 from Belize, 3 from Cuba, 3 from Colombia, 10 from Dominican Republic, 2 from Haiti, 2 from Panama, 1 from Venezuela, and 2 from Puerto Rico) were trained on the basic MPA management topics and the more demanded subjects by the CaMPAM Network. As in 2015, this course included general topics such as the biophysical features of the Wider Caribbean Sea (habitats, large-sale connectivity of marine populations). It received the financial support of the Directorate for Development Cooperation of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Italy under the SPAW EBM Caribbean biodiversity project (see UNEP(DEPI) CAR WG.38/INF.8).

As in all previous regional courses, participants introduced themselves, exchanged information on their life and work, and received brief information about UNEP-CEP and its SPAW protocol. The 2 week course included lectures and interactive exercises on the following topics: the Caribbean marine habitats, their ecosystem services and the effect of fishing, agricultural practices and tourism thereon; the environmental monitoring and its application on management and other environmental information to understand how coastal ecosystems function and the effect of its misuse; the spatial and inter-annual variability of coral reef health with examples of surveys and score cards in various countries; the renewal of the Global Coral Reef Monitoring Network in the Caribbean (GCRMN); the effect of climate change over coral reefs and the blue carbon initiative; the connectivity of marine populations (of fishes, turtles, corals, queen conch) in the Wider Caribbean; the use of maps in MPA planning and outreach materials; the concepts of ecosystem-based management and the development of decision support systems; management tools such as zoning, surveillance and enforcement and personnel management; communication tools and their use by MPAs and other environmental protection agencies; sustainable financing, resource diversification, alternative livelihoods and ecotourism operations associated to MPAs; and business planning and product development.

Remote communication tools (Skype) allowed for two instructors to impart some classes and facilitate exercises. A half-day session with presentations from all participants on their MPAs generated a lively exchange of information and ideas, which provided a good information basis for the last session where all participants presented their draft proposal for the local follow-up activities to be supported by UNEP-CEP with small grants. The course was assessed by students orally and through a questionnaire specially designed. Reef Check Dominican Republic took care of all logistics.

The course report will be posted in CaMPAM website.

Several notes on the course developments were posted in CaMPAM List, and can be downloaded from the network [archives](#).

In both courses, CaMPAM mentors (alumni themselves of previous courses) took care of local coordination and teaching. Their performance demonstrates that the region has the necessary expertise to take responsibility of training and other capacity building activities. It also shows how the learning and networking experience of the course contributes to expand CaMPAM collaborators' base. CaMPAM will strengthen its team of mentors in the next months by elevating recognition, expanding the geographic coverage (more countries represented) and better covering the main languages of the region: Spanish, French and English. A robust team of experts can build CaMPAM capacity to implement its 4 programmes (training, communication and networking, information sharing and grant awarding) with a higher frequency and quality, providing the UNEP-CEP can raise the necessary financial resources to implement them. The mentors can provide advice and review to project proposals, work plans and reports.

SMALL GRANT PROGRAMME FOR FUNDING PROJECTS WITH TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE

CaMPAM-ECMMAN Small Grants Programme.

This programme started in November of 2013, after a request of The Nature Conservancy to coordinate a €1.1 million small grant programme, that is part of the project “[Climate-Resilient Eastern Caribbean Marine Managed Areas Network](#)” (ECMMAN) funded by the German Federal Ministry for the Environment, Nature Conservation, Building and Nuclear Safety (BMUB) in support of the Climate Change Initiative on the basis of a decision adopted by the German Bundestag. The CaMPAM-ECMMAN Small Grants Programme is coordinated and administered by the SPAW-RAC, hosted by the Government of France.

The management team is composed of CaMPAM coordinator, SPAW-RAC executive director, TNC ECMMAN project manager, and the SPAW Sub-programme officer, with the assistance of an administrative person hired by SPAW-RAC. The team has the responsibility of making decision of the project management, and its coordinator is part of the Advisory Committee of the ECMMAN programme and member of the review team of the other ECMMAN project component managed by OECS (the Sustainable Livelihood Initiative). The CaMPAM-ECMMAN SGP management entailed not only the development of the programme methodology and grant management procedure (after consultation with all government focal points), the assistance for the development of the 6 proposals, the regular supervision of the 6 projects implementation progress (via email, video and phone conference, site visits and relevant meetings) but also the dissemination of relevant technical information to all partners, the exploration of opportunities for synergy with other relevant regional activities and among them, advise on expert selection and hiring by local partners, addressing issues within each of the 6 projects management teams, the review and approval of project update reports, the preparation of SPAW-RAC quarterly and annual reports to TNC and several others.

All this complex programme management is conducted via regular communication, information exchange and discussions with TNC programme manager and local project managers and their staff. This is the most complex grant programme that CaMPAM has coordinated since its creation. It has allowed the SPAW Programme to be closer to the Eastern Caribbean Islands marine environmental government agencies and NGOs; be better informed and more involved in their issues than never before. It is important to highlight that this grant programme includes a big deal of technical assistance by CaMPAM and it's not only about financial assistance. This is one of the reasons that TNC approached UNEP-CEP to coordinate it, after a request of the representatives of the 6 islands, and because of CaMPAM 18-year experience with the Small Grant Programme and more recently, with the 2010-2013 UNEP-CEP project "Regional support for the Caribbean Challenge initiative: Networking, consolidation and regional coordination of MPA management" funded by the Directorate General for Development Cooperation of the [Italian Ministry of Foreign Affairs](#).

The table below provides information on the grant disbursement in 2014-2015-2016 to the 6 islands of the Eastern Caribbean: Antigua and Barbuda, Dominica, Grenada, Saint Lucia, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, and Saint Kitts and Nevis.

So far, a total amount of €706,955 has been awarded to the 6 countries. Two more payments will be disbursed (for a total of ca. €220,082 each) to the 6 countries by June, 2017, upon the approval of the update reports on November 2016 and the final report on March 2017. The difference of total amount among countries responds to the modification of the original budget and work plans in 2015, and the varying rate of activities' implementation and funds expenditure. In addition, the amounting rules of SPAW-RAC as a French public service institution has made the payments difficult and lengthy, with more than 2 months delay in many cases.

Table 1. Status of Grants

Status of the grants awarded to 6 islands of the Eastern Caribbean: Antigua and Barbuda; Dominica; Grenada; St. Vincent and the Grenadines; St. Lucia and St. Kitts and Nevis					
Country	Budget (revised in 2015) (€)	Payment already disbursed in 2014-2016 (€)	To be disbursed in 2016 (€)	To be disbursed by June, 2017 (€)	Total
Antigua and Barbuda	104,874	99,204	41,949	10,487	151,640
Dominica	87,566	112,129	35,025	8,756	155,910
Grenada	84,251	134,707	12,631	8,425	155,763
St. Kitts and Nevis	106,519	102,691	42,606	10,651	155,948
St. Lucia	88,067	128,882	13,210	8,806	150,898
St. Vincent and the Grenadines	110,149	129,343	16,522	11,014	156,879
Total	581,425	706,955	161,943	58,139	927,037

The activities of the projects have been diverse and certainly common needs to all MPAs, namely:

- Training of MPA practitioners (managers, rangers, fishers)
- Planning of new MPAs by developing their management schemes and improving existing ones: stakeholder consultation meetings, gathering ecological and socioeconomic data for documenting site boundaries, zoning, regulations, and management other tools; management new)
- Education and outreach- Educational activities to raise awareness of different sectors: summer camps and other environmental oriented activities for school kids, educating decision makers (at the ministerial level); environmental campaigns (“This is who we are”); clean up community activities, building visitor centers and offices)
- Sustainable financing- Developing MPA business and financing plans with different revenue features

For more detail information on the outcomes of each project, visit [CaMPAM website](#) for summaries of the 2015 project activities (click hereafter): [Jan-Dec 2015 summaries of project activities](#):

- [Antigua and Barbuda](#)
- [Dominica](#)
- [Grenada](#)
- [St. Kitts and Nevis](#)
- [St. Lucia](#)
- [St. Vincent and the Grenadines](#)

- **MEETINGS AND FORA**

Gulf and Caribbean Fisheries Institute (GCFI) Annual Conferences

As in previous years since 2004, the GCFI is used as CaMPAM forum for MPA practitioners and stakeholders (including fishers). The SPAW Subprogramme contributed to the 2014 (Barbados) y 2015 (Panama) GCFI Annual Meetings, by coordinating and delivering the “MPA Science and Management” session. Each year, the process included the announcement of the MPA session and of UNEP-CEP/SPAW travel support; the review of abstracts and selection of papers to be presented orally and in the poster modality; and travel arrangements of the selected participants (4-6 yearly, this time from Cuba, Dominican Republic, St Vincent and the Grenadines, Grenada, The Bahamas, and St. Lucia). In the last 2 years, the session focused on the ecosystem-based approach to marine area management. The GCFI conference attracts 250-300 marine scientists and resources managers from government, academic and nongovernmental institutions, and it is an excellent opportunity to learn on the latest on the Wider Caribbean marine resources research and management issues, while networking with colleagues from the region and beyond.

- **COMPILING AND DISSEMINATING DATA ON CARIBBEAN MPAs AND MANAGEMENT TOOLS**

CaMPAM Regional MPA Database

The population of the regional MPA database (hosted by GCFI and coordinated jointly with CaMPAM) has been slow and difficult. Although this is the most complete dataset of MPAs in the Caribbean, further effort can be done to make it more informative, user-friendly and relevant to the Caribbean MPA community. The response of managers to the request to provide or update data has improved, but is still not good enough. CaMPAM has discussed with the managers of other MPA database efforts in special meetings, conference calls (the [Caribbean Protected Area Gateway](#) and [Caribnode](#) and [Protected Planet](#)) efficient ways to share data and coordinate efforts. Due to the limitations of all databases, the differences in type of data and target audiences, data providers (sources), lifetime of the projects, limited funding, geographic focus, technical approach, etc., they have not come up with conclusive results.

Thus, the SPAW Subprogramme has commissioned an expert to conduct an assessment of the relevance and usefulness of CaMPAM Regional MPA Database. The study is underway and will provide the necessary information to make a decision on the database shape and host. In any case, the maintenance of CaMPAM Regional MPA Database requires a permanent technical staff that can work on the data acquisition and quality control, and database structure maintenance. The GCFI can provide some technical support with the resources currently provided by SPAW, but the input of experts from the SPAW parties in providing opinion on its relevance and usefulness and the provision of data are critical to make a decision. In the last years, some SPAW countries have achieved significant capacity management marine data (e.g. INVEMAR in Colombia; US MPA Center) and University of West Indies in Barbados.

- **BUILDING A NETWORK OF MPA MANAGERS, MENTORS AND CONSERVATION LEADERS**

The CaMPAM Network (defined by its Internet list membership and the participation in fora, training activities, projects and exchanges) has expanded significantly.

CaMPAM’s membership list has reached 1200 members and counting. The forum not only provides information on a variety of subjects related to marine resources research and management (publications, initiatives, meetings, vacancies, grant opportunities, projects, MPA issues and achievements, newsletters, etc.), but has also served as a platform for information requests and discussion, as well as to disseminate messages from other relevant Internet Lists (GLISPA-Discuss, WCPA-marine, GCFI net, Coral List, Caribbean Biodiversity, GCFI net, MedPAN, MPAs newsletters, INVEMAR, among others). Although its increasing use by conservation organizations with strong involvement in MPA issues in the Caribbean can be an indication of its usefulness as an information powerhouse for the marine conservation research and management community, an assessment was conducted in the last months. The results are included in a separate report

The increasing participation of MPA managers in CaMPAM activities, as well as their involvement in the establishment of national MPA networks, and their participation in regional exchanges and fora have all contributed to the development of a group of conservation leaders and potential mentors on MPA management for sites and countries with less capacity.

The main page of CaMPAM website (<http://campam.gcfi.org/campam.php>), hosted and managed by GCFI, was updated and more information was posted on the CaMPAM-ECMMAN SGP, the Training of Trainers reports, etc. The CaMPAM evaluation commissioned by UNEP-CEP also included a general evaluation of the website (UNEP).

Contribution to national and international marine conservation initiatives - CaMPAM has contributed to several national and international MPA initiatives in different capacities, with the following institutions and programmes:

- The BIOPAMA programme in the Caribbean
- GCFI (held annually in November)
- TNC (the ECMMAN programme)
- Transatlantic MPA initiative (led by MedPAN) - Over the last 6 years, but more recently with the preparatory work of the session “Regional MPA Networks: their contribution to global challenges: at the 2016 World Conservation Congress” held in Hawaii, on September, 2016, CaMPAM is contributing with the development of transatlantic initiative MedPAN for sharing best marine area management practices between the two regions, being both networks based on UNEP Regional Seas Programmes and Conventions. The discussions showed the following: 1) the pioneering role of CaMPAM as the oldest network and capacity building programme for MPA practitioners, 2) the importance of regional MPA networks in disseminating best practices and assisting countries to achieve the Aichi targets; and 3) the need to strengthen collaboration among different regional network of MPA managers and stakeholders.

Table 2. Projects supported by the CaMPAM-ECMMAN Small Grants

Country	Title	Responsible institutions	Objectives
Grenada	Strengthening Management and Enforcement Capacity and Building Understanding about MPAs in Grenada	Grenada Fund for Conservation and Grenada Fisheries Dept. (Natl. MPA Coordination)	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Implement education and communication programmes on the role of effective MPAs for the conservation and sustainable use of the coastal environment and the socioeconomic prosperity of the nation. 2. Strengthen enforcement capacity within MPAs nationally. 3. Improvement of staff capacity within MPAs nationally. 4. Implement a research and bio-physical monitoring programme within MPAs nationally. 5. Use the monitoring programme to advocate for and implement evidence-based policies around MPAs.
St. Lucia	Strengthening of the Pointe Sable Environmental Protection Area along the South-East Coast of Saint Lucia	Saint Lucia National Trust in collaboration with the Ministries of Agriculture, Food Production, Fisheries, Co-operatives and Rural Development and Sustainable Development, Energy, Science and Technology	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Development and implementation of a biophysical monitoring plan. 2. Boundary demarcation, resource mapping and zoning within the PSEPA. 3. Reduction in the sources of pollution. 4. Ensure long-term financial sustainability of PSEPA. 5. Improve the outflow of information on the PSEPA in the wider public. 6. Increase capacity of St. Lucians to serve as MPA trainers.
Antigua and Barbuda	A multifaceted approach to strengthening management of the NEMMA, Antigua and Barbuda	Environmental Awareness Group (EAG) in collaboration with the Fisheries Division	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Develop management capacity for NEMMA through personnel, training, regional exchanges, stakeholder engagement, increased service provision (moorings), as well as office space. 2. Gather baseline biophysical, geographical and socio-economic data on marine habitats and resources within NEMMA to inform livelihoods potential, zoning, planning for long-term monitoring and other management strategies. 3. Develop a public awareness programme for the general public about MMA objectives of sustainable resource utilization and conservation.

Country	Title	Responsible institutions	Objectives
St. Kitts and Nevis	Establishment of two Marine Managed Areas (The Narrows Marine Reserve and The Narrows Fishing Priority Area) in St. Kitts and Nevis.	Nevis Historical and Conservation Society in collaboration with the Department of Marine Resources	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Establishment of the Narrows Marine Reserve and the Narrows. 2. Fishing Priority Area through a process of legislation and consultation with local stakeholders. 3. Ensure that activities planned for the area are consistent provisions of the Fisheries Act.
Dominica	Developing an effective and sustainable community-based management regime for the Cabrits National Park in Dominica.	Tantan Village Development Corporation and Portsmouth Fisheries Cooperative Society, the Toucari Beach Development Corporation, the Portsmouth Association of Yacht Services, the Cottage Village Council, the Portsmouth Town Council, the Dominica Air and Sea Port Authority and the Fisheries Division	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Promote the optimum utilization and maintenance of the integrity of the biodiversity of the ecosystem therein. 2. Plan programmes and projects that enhance avoidance of user conflicts among stakeholders. 3. Guarantee the rights and privilege to local area stakeholders.
St. Vincent and the Grenadines (still under review)	Strengthening Management Capacity at Existing and New MCAs in St. Vincent and the Grenadines.	Sustainable Grenadines Inc. in collaboration with the National Parks, Rivers, and Beaches Authority	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Assess water quality at South Coast Marine Conservation Area and the Tobago Cayes Marine Park to determine the highest and establish remediation measures. 2. Establish an efficient enforcement programme for SCMMA and TCMP. 3. Assess the livelihoods of stakeholders in and around the South Coast MCA in relation to their livelihood challenges and opportunities as a result of creating the SCMCA. 4. Conduct a gap assessment of the CCI 20% goal in SVG and examine current management practices of all MCAs, all drawing from the Grenadines marine zoning plan developed by SusGren. 5. Nominate 2 SPAW sites.

Fig. 1 Screenshot of the network communication platform built by IUCN BIOPAMA for the participants of the Training of trainers 2015 course on MPA Management.

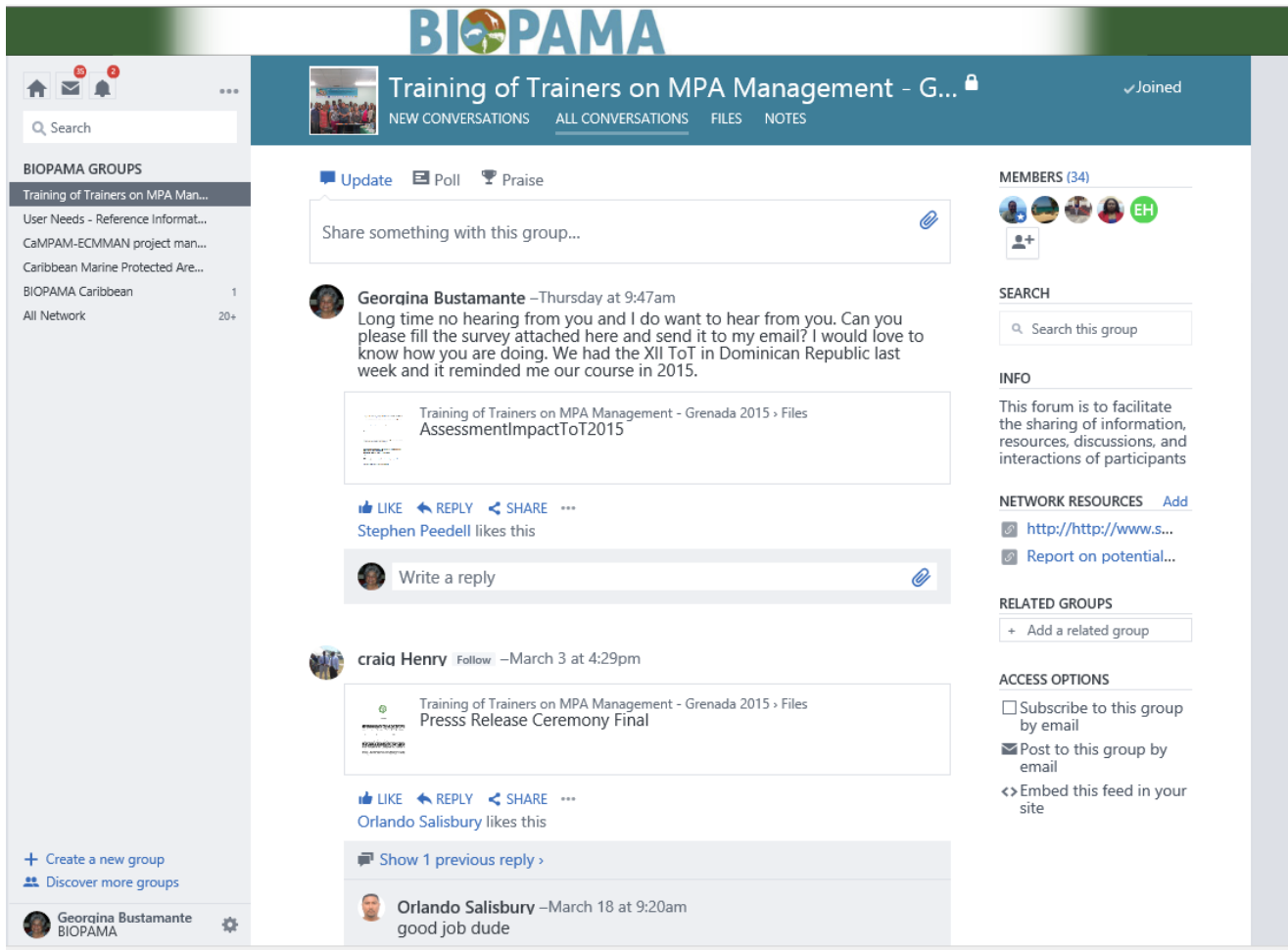


Fig. 2 Image of one of the notes posted in [CaMPAM List](#) during the 2015 Training of Trainers course on MPA management jointly coordinated by IUCN-ORMA BIOPAMA program and UNEP-CEP/SPAW CaMPAM.

Training of trainers program on MPA Management: first three days of the regional course

St. George's Grenada, February 19th, 2015. During the three first days of the course, we covered the following topics:

1. The SPAW program coordinated by UNEP-CEP, and the international environmental agreements
2. The CaMPAM and BIOPAMA programs
3. The biophysical characteristics of coastal ecosystems (**coral reef+mangrove+seagrass+beach**) as well as the biological and current patterns influencing biological connectivity.
4. Ecosystems services (fishing, tourism, coastal protection) and threats to their resilience (e.g. inadequate fishing and tourism).
5. Communication and outreach tools to increase awareness, compliance with regulations, attract resources and increase stakeholder participation.
6. Research and monitoring to improve management.

Ms. Hyacinth Armstrong-Vaughn described the [BIOPAMA](#) program coordinated by [IUCN ORMAC Caribbean](#), that funded this course.

Ms. Alessandra Vanzella-Khouri (SPAW program officer) pointed out that "trainees from countries that have not signed/ratified the [SPAW protocol](#) could help by asking their governments to do it so they can benefit from the training activities, small grants and other resources that UNEP-CEP provide through its CaMPAM program"

Dr. Georgina Bustamante, CaMPAM coordinator, reminded the participants that "although those international agreements seem far from their local MPA and interests...many of the big grants and programs currently supporting their MPAs were originated in the commitments of European governments to assist the Caribbean to meet their obligations" to the CBD, including setting aside 20% of coastal areas under protection by the year 2020".



Topics 3 to 6 were presented by Stephen Nimrod and Roland Baldeo from the Grenada MPA Team. Frequent interventions and lively discussions took place as participants related their own experiences and issues to those explained and illustrated by the instructors. A wealth of illustrations, pictures, animated cartoons and videos showed, among others, coral and fish mass spawning and the need to

protect them; fishermen that changed their mindset as they see the results of setting aside replenishment zones (no fishing); activities implemented by the Grenadian MPA team with [Reef Guardian Farmers](#) to reduce sedimentation and pollution into the coastal waters; the educational and outreach work with school kids ([Reef Guardians](#)) and politicians as well as the engagement of local artists and international sport figures. Stephen's lecturing style of making parallels between the marine life and the human biology and social behavior increased the understanding of the ecological topics as well as generated laughter and comments that will stay long in the memory of the participants.



The participants enjoyed several video clips (part of regular nature TV shows or short ones posted on YouTube). <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=HwBZwxl5klo> Voices for climate change
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=sTmAhG7hlwA> Big Rolly Polly Fish

Stay tuned for upcoming notes. Photos from top to bottom: the classroom, Stephen Nimrod lecturing.