

THE 2ND INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON MARINE MAMMAL PROTECTED AREAS
Martinique, 7-11 November 2011

Workshop 5

North East of south America, Regional cooperation for a MMs conservation strategy

MAMA COCO SEA Project

Audit Workshop

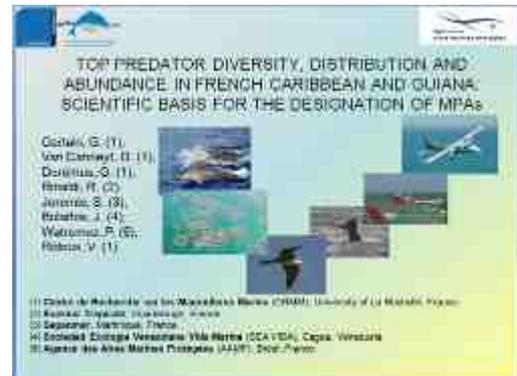
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Introduction by Helene Souan and François Gauthiez

Presentation 1: Vincent Ridoux, REMMOA survey, French Guiana and French Caribbean results

- *Context:* Designation of MPA in the French EEZ
- *Objectives:* Inform management policy with objective data on pelagic systems in the whole overseas EEZ
- *Sampling protocol:* Aerial surveys, Sampling schemes, Sampling conditions : Sea state
- *Results:* Sightings summary, Marine mammal species composition, Spatial models of habitat, Covariate selection process: example of cetaceans in the caribbean area, Main habitats in the Caribbean, Main habitats in Guiana, Dolphin numbers in guiana
- *Conclusions*
- *Perspectives*



Questions from Venezuela about REMMOA survey protocol (best period, weather, species observed - big one in French Guiana, species identification by the air - capable or not to distinguish between sub-species)

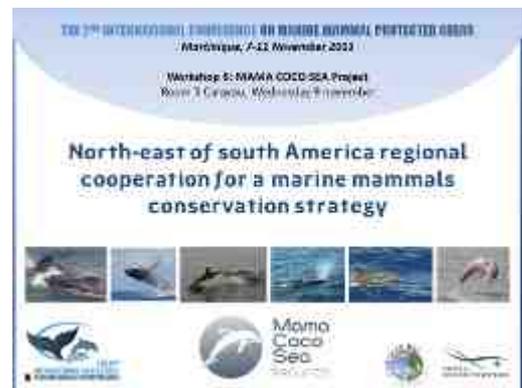
Presentation 2: Marion Brichet, project background

- New data on marine mammal populations in French Guiana and regional context
- Shared common challenges
- Interest of developing synergies and facilitating cooperation
- Facing common issues of development
- A vital regional approach for conservation

Questions/comments: Explanation about the Venezuela whale watching situation

Venezuela said this cooperation project is an interesting opportunity because south countries of LA are already organized in networks or others tools (Solamac), and now this new project takes account of north countries.

Questions from Suriname about the Sotalia species (observation). Will transmit a MM survey to the French MPA. Surprised to see so much fishing boat for her country (only 300 for her - information from a turtle workshop 2 years ago)



Intervention of John Reynolds: He thinks it is a very good project and proposes his help.

1 include the ABC Dutch islands in the project

2 ask for how far offshore would go the project

3 some of these threats are the issues of oils spills/shipping accident but land and marine chronic pollution are the worst one because it is continuous

Presentation 3: Monique POOL, Dolphin Programme Monitoring and Research Programme in Suriname

- Green Heritage Fund Suriname background
- Vision
- Mission
- Philosophy
- Dolphin Program
- Economic benefits of the dolphin program
- Reduction of threats to the ecosystem and biodiversity
- Information and awareness
- Influencing policy
- Coastal zone management and marine protected areas seminar

Questions/comments:

See more often young sotalia animals than older ones in the estuary (and also manatee) - according to the survey.

Only one organization which works on cetaceans in Suriname (there's a project by the WWF but mainly on marine turtles)

Good relationships with Brazil (Flaures) and Costa Rica (exchange of experience/between boat men; strong relation with the Costa Rica program)

Presentation 4: Marc-Henri Duffaud, A new consideration for marine issues in French Guiana

- Marine Environnement, scarce and scattered knowledge
- Dialogue on marine environment
- Regional Strategic Analysis
- Actions for marine biodiversity - Knowledge on species (manatee, Giant Grooper) & Knowledge habitats (benthic biodiversity, mangroves and mudflats, sea grass, rocky areas)
- Actions marine biodiversity Organizing data and perspectives
- Communication on marine environment
- Activities handbook



on

Questions/comments:

Question on collaboration between Brazil and French Guiana (exchanges training with Brazil?) → More monitoring and surveys needed, priority: have exchange on by-catch, species distribution...? It is interesting to have a global idea of studies ongoing, to know more about habitat and ecosystem where living marine mammals in French Guiana are (even if we do not have detailed data on marine mammals).

Presentation 4: Lenin Enrique Oviedo Correa MSc, Cetacean Critical Habitat Assessment in the Central-Northeast Coast of Venezuela

- Cetacean Habitat Assessment in Venezuela
- North-East Coast as a Model Area for Cetacean Critical Habitat Assessment
- Common Dolphin and Guiana Dolphin critical areas
- New law in Venezuela: Article 25 Fishing and Aquaculture Law in Venezuela: the exploitation of the some hydro-biological resources is exclusively reserved to artisanal fisheries
- Policy Contextualization for Management
- Critical Habitats and Social Needs



Questions/comments:

Very important to develop partnership for scientific survey/exchange of data with the ABC Dutch islands.

Question regarding the wide economic zone, if Venezuelan government would be interested in a sanctuary → in favor, but preference in cooperation with countries. 50/50

Question on sotalia small range (some explanation about it? Why such a small distribution range?) →

Only 2 places where sotalia is observed, because lack of data on this species and in some place like the delta and fishermen are not interested by dolphins.

It is difficult to make any difference between *S. guianensis* and *S. fluviatilis*, need genetic research

Globally, lack of knowledge in every country on coastal and pelagic cetaceans:

If are there particular issues for research to develop together?

What is lacking in priority? Effort survey but no data?

Common dolphin can be a good indicator

Need to work with ecosystem approach

Need of standardization of data collection/ common methodology / similar approach in the different areas (for example, aerial survey)

Need scientist who could deal with the data (not one marine biologist in Suriname)

Train people on different topics such as stranding.

Suriname interested by collaboration on field observation (in Orinoco)?

Suriname member of IWC : few years ago, they succeeded in changing the position of the government (now against whaling)

It is proposed to put in front of all the MPAs the regulations/surveys etc that have been done for MM (in the summary document made by the agency). Remark : because there's a lot of MPA but no one of these MPA is involved. Moreover, to involve the existing areas rather than create or work on other areas (change policy and management)

Answer: none MPA in the area for marine mammals. For example, in Venezuela MPAs for protection of marine biodiversity such as coral reef but not really for MM (only one got a critical habitat for common dolphin)

Discussion on sotalia, needs about this particular species?

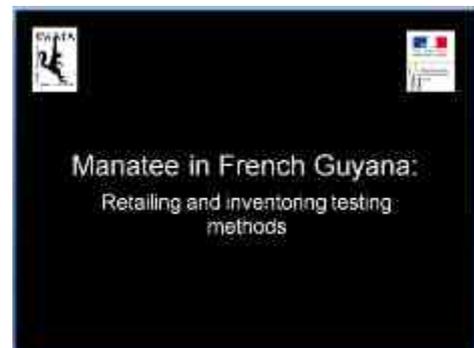
Get closer to the WWF French Guiana (project on sotalia)

Sotalia is the priority species in the area. Need assessment on sotalia population to have a whole understanding picture of this species, and pay special attention because they have a very small home range. Acquisition of knowledge is still important (regional background information).

Find funding for more sophisticated or extended surveys. Include fishermen on these surveys.

Presentation 5: Virginie Dosreis, Manatee in French Guiana

- State of knowledge
- Recent developments (Inquest resumption, Inventorying testing method - sonar method)
- Future projects such as Collaboration with Brazilians teams
- Communication



Questions/comments:

Other methods to count pop as feeding tracks or hydrophones?

No, don't know what they feed and where they feed. There is just mangrove in French Guiana.

Question on threats in French Guiana?

Don't know as well: there is no monitoring. We just hear that fishermen say that there is by catch.

Brazilians have already used the same method.

Why there is this problem with monitoring? Is it a human capacity problem?

The local situation with very turbid waters prevents persons to study them... and of course there is also a human capacity lack.

Speaking with local people is a very powerful method.

Presentation 6: Catalina Gomez-Salazar, Aquatic mammals as ecological indicators to integrate monitoring programs and assessments with management practices.

- Mapping Ecosystem Degradation
- Aquatic Mammals as Indicators of Ecosystem Degradation
- Prioritizing Areas of High Risk and Management Practices



Questions/comments:

Very useful to transmit scientific information to stakeholders.

Example: dolphin density combined with a human stress index.

Discussion on indicators importance, but it is necessary to be careful with these kinds of indicators (example of the presence of dolphins in Hong-Kong whereas it's a very dense city) and to take account of the time scale and the study resolution.

Presentation 7: Marcela Portocarrero-Aya, Conservation of freshwater dolphins in South America: A regional cooperation initiative among countries, stakeholders and policy makers

- River dolphins in the Amazon and Orinoco River Basins
- Regional Cooperation Initiatives:
 - ✓ Abundance Estimation of River Dolphins in South America, Omacha, WCS, WDCS
 - ✓ Action Plan for the Conservation of South American River dolphins, WWF, WCS, WDCS, Solamac, Omacha
 - ✓ SARDPAN : south american dolphin protected area network



24 October: International freshwater dolphin day.

Questions/comments:

The studied rivers Have been selected in order to extrapolate?

No, the abundance is calculated for each area.

There are already different tools in SA and which work=> what recommendation could you do to beginners?

- Define conservation areas, find targeted species then study them => migration => need different protection way and land approaches.
- Find people and know who's working with what! Involve everybody at every nivel (researches, fishermen, government, managers, and associations).
- Find advantages to develop cooperation to protect marine mammals...

Have many aspects politically and environmentally... Much info is needed. We have MPA but we don't how there're managed, funded... Many MPAs are not created based on concentration. Need also threat's assessment.

It is necessary to share info and to respect the sources, trust & support between people. Expedition is the trigger for action plan: need a trigger!

Other first step is to know where we are, the produced document is a good one but need to update and improve it.

Conclusion: See recommendations

