

Marine Mammal Conservation Corridor for Northern South America (MaMa CoCo Sea) Follow-Up Workshop

18-20 March 2013 - Paramaribo, Suriname



Mama
Coco
Sea
PROJECT



GREEN HERITAGE FUND SURINAME

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Summary of the 1st workshop held in La Martinique, November 2011, and its conclusions



Workshop 5: North East of South America, Regional Cooperation for a MMs Conservation Strategy Workshop - MAMA COCO SEA Project

Coordinators: Marion Brichet (Agence des aires marines protégées, France)

Co-Chair : François Gauthiez (Agence des aires marines protégées, France) and Hélène Souan (SPAW Regional Activity Centre, Guadeloupe)

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Participants:

- Monique Pool, **Green Heritage Fund Suriname - Suriname**
- Nicolas Maslach, Pierre Watremez, Carole Martinez, **AAMP - France**
- Vincent Ridoux, Olivier Van-Canneyt, Sophie Laran, **CRMM - France**
- Lenin Enrique Oviedo Correa, **Cetacean Ecology Lab The Swire Institute of Marine Science (The University of Hong Kong) - Venezuela**
- Marcela Portocarrero-Aya, **University of Hull (UK) and Fundación Omacha-Colombia**
- Catalina Gomez-Salazar, **Dalhousie University (Canada) and Fundación Omacha – Colombia**
- Marc-Henri Duffaud, **Environmental Regional Direction – French Guiana**
- Virginie Dosreis, **KWATA ONG, French Guiana**
- Gaëlle Vandersarren, Gaël Hubert, **CAR SPAW**
- Romain Renoux, **Saint Martin marine reserve – Saint Martin**
- Lesley Sully, **Instituto Mamiraua - Brazil**
- Fernando Trujillo, **Foundation Omacha – Colombia**
- John Reynolds, **Mote Marine Laboratory - USA**
- Denis Ody, **WWF - France**
- Miriam Marmontel



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1. **Top predator diversity, distribution and abundance in French Caribbean and Guiana: scientific basis for the designation of mpas.** Vincent Ridoux, CRMM

2. **A new consideration for marine issues in French Guiana.** Marc-Henri Duffaud. Environmental Regional Direction (French Guiana)



3. **Manatee in French Guyana: Retailing and inventoring testing methods** - Kwata NGO (French Guiana)

4. **Dolphin Programme Monitoring and Research Programme in Suriname.** Monique Pool. Suriname Environmental Advisory Services (Suriname)



5. **Cetacean Critical Habitat Assessment in the Central-Northeast Coast of Venezuel.** Lenin Enrique Oviedo Correa MSc. The Swire Institute of Marine Science, China.



6. **Conservation of freshwater dolphins in South America: A regional cooperation initiative among countries, stakeholders and policy makers.** Marcela Portocarrero-Aya. University of Hull (UK) and Fundación Omacha (Colombia)



7. **Aquatic mammals as ecological indicators to integrate monitoring programs and assessments with management practices.** Catalina Gomez-Salazar. Dalhousie University (Canada) and Fundación Omacha (Colombia)

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Summary of Discussion about knowledge

→ great interest in marine mammal populations from other countries in the region. → several studies on *Sotalia* species are progressing

→ discussion on details of the methods including species identification, especially of *Sotalia species* : more monitoring and surveys are needed with different priorities to learn about by-catch, fine-scale species distribution, and other matters. It would be valuable to exchange data between countries to understand the current situation and data gaps

→ On research priorities ↪ Some propositions were considered as well as standardization of data collection or similar approaches for different areas (for example, aerial surveys). *A common problem in several countries in this project is a lack of marine biologists.*

→ Concerning species, *Sotalia is the priority species in the area.*



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Summary of Discussion

- Stakeholder has to be involved.
- The project should take into account all threats as well as the issues of oil spills, shipping accidents as well as chronic land (run-off), marine-based pollution and fisheries interaction.
- Essential to work with local stakeholders such as fishermen
- Marine mammals have been suggested as ecological indicators and can be useful to transmit scientific information to stakeholders.
- Much information is needed
- Gaps in management and funding.

⇒ It could be valuable to develop an action plan but a trigger is needed.



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Key Recommendations

To initiate cooperation on marine mammals in the northeastern Latin American region, we should concentrate first on obtaining and disseminating knowledge. All species in the region should be considered, but a special attention should be afforded to *Sotalia species*.



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Key Recommendations

In the short term, we intend to:

- Update and complete the ICMMPA2 Workshop 5 background paper
- Organize a new workshop to be held in September or October 2012, Paramaribo, Suriname, to:
 1. establish the state of the art on knowledge of marine mammals (species and critical habitats), threats and current legal management framework country by country. In some cases, assistance for data analysis will be needed.
 2. set up an action plan (including *inter alia* capacity building through training courses, regional survey, stranding network).





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Key Recommendations

In the longer term, we recommend to:

- Take the opportunity of existing regional projects and foresee the way to develop synergies (example: Rios de America project)
- Consider joining the Amazon cooperation treaty organization and Guiana shield facility
- Develop a strategy for fundraising

