



# Specially Protected Areas and Wildlife Protocol and Programme

Newsletter N°3 - June 2011

## Brief

### 2010 Session of CaMPAM Training of Trainers (ToT) Programme : Last Follow-up Activities Implemented in the Dominican Republic

Further to the Training of Trainers session organized by CaMPAM in June 2010 in the Dominican Republic for Spanish-speaking MPA managers with the local support of Reef Check Dominican Republic, follow-up courses were convened in Cuba and the Dominican Republic and additional activities are currently being implemented. A project on sustainable fishing and sustainable tourism in the Dominican Republic in one of the coastal communities that participated in the follow up course should be completed by the middle of June 2011. The ToT session and the follow-up activities were funded by the Government of Spain, through an agreement with UNEP-CEP and the funds were administered by the SPAW RAC. A new session of the ToT programme will be convened in mid 2011 for English-speaking MPA managers, possibly in one of the countries participating in the Caribbean Challenge. A training session for French-speaking managers is also foreseen in late 2011 or early 2012.

## Acronyms

- CABI:** Centre for Agricultural Bioscience International
- CaMPAM:** Caribbean Marine Protected Area Management
- GCFI:** Gulf and Caribbean Fisheries Institute
- GEF:** Global Environment Facility
- IAS:** Invasive Alien Species
- SCSCB:** Society for the Conservation and Study of Caribbean Birds
- STAC:** Scientific and Technical Advisory Committee
- TNC:** The Nature Conservancy
- WCR:** Wider Caribbean Region
- WIDECAST:** Wider Caribbean Sea Turtle Conservation Network

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## News of the month

### CaMPAM-GCFI : 2011 Small Grants Fund Programme : New Call for Proposals – Deadline May 15th

A new call for proposals was launched by GCFI on behalf of CaMPAM for the Small Grants Fund (SGF) Programme. The SGF programme provides support to managers and/or fishermen who want to organize exchanges or capacity-building activities to improve the sustainable management of MPAs and marine resources. The new call for proposals, which closed on May 15th, was open to managers and fishermen from all SPAW countries, with special attention paid to countries with MPAs listed under SPAW and to countries not participating in the Caribbean Challenge (a special SGF call was organized for Caribbean Challenge countries). Four to five proposals will be supported, with a maximum of \$8,000 granted to each proposal. More information on : <http://campam.gcfi.org/SGF/SupportingDocs/SGFEng2011.pdf>



## Focus on

### The Current SPAW Workplan

**The new SPAW workplan for 2010-2011 was adopted during the 6th SPAW Conference of the Parties held on 5 October 2010 in Montego Bay, Jamaica.** After final editing and translation, it is now available in English, French and Spanish at [www.cep.unep.org/about-cep/spaw/workplan-and-budget](http://www.cep.unep.org/about-cep/spaw/workplan-and-budget) and [www.car-spaw-rac.org/?2010-2012-SPAW-workplan,61](http://www.car-spaw-rac.org/?2010-2012-SPAW-workplan,61).

Like the previous workplans, aside from the programme's general coordination and promotion, it is made up of four major themes:

- Strengthening of Protected Areas in the Wider Caribbean Region;
- Development of Guidelines for the Management of Protected Areas and Species;
- Conservation of Threatened and Endangered Species; and the
- Conservation and Sustainable Use of Coastal and Marine Ecosystems.



### Strengthening of Protected Areas in the Wider Caribbean Region:

The 2010-2011 workplan focuses on the Caribbean Marine Protected Areas Managers Network and Forum (CaMPAM) to continue to improve the management of marine protected areas in the Caribbean.

Following on the previous workplan, annual meetings with MPA managers, small grants for improving the management of marine protected areas, a series of management training sessions and a programme of exchanges for fishermen from different marine protected areas are scheduled. A mentorship programme is also planned. Additionally, within the framework of the Caribbean Challenge Initiative, UNEP has received funding from the Government of Italy to improve management capacity in MPAs. Several approaches are being implemented including the training of managers, visits and exchanges and assistance to countries through medium-sized grants to strengthen management capacity within their MPAs.

The development of a regional marine protected areas network will continue given the approval of the final format for the submission of protected areas to be listed under SPAW at the COP6 meeting in October 2010. The submission, assessment and listing process for protected areas (<http://www.spaw-palisting.org>) will begin shortly.



### Development of Guidelines for the Management of Protected Areas and Species:

Two main activities are being implemented:

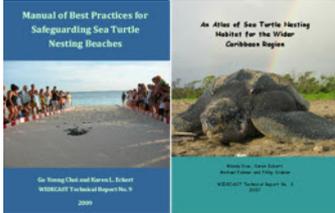
- Establishment of the

working group on conditions for exemptions to species protection under Article 11(2) of the Protocol. Further to a review of existing exemption systems, the working group will define the criteria that allow for assessing the relevance of

exemptions to strict protection of species by one or several States Party to SPAW. The working group will also propose a process that will allow for the submission of proposed exemptions, by SPAW Parties, to designated experts for their review at SPAW Scientific and Technical Advisory Committee (STAC) meetings.

- Update of the Annexes to the SPAW Protocol that define the list of species to be strictly protected (Annex I and II) or to be managed sustainably (Annex III). Based on the criteria for review that were determined, countries are invited to submit lists of species they wish reviewed, and a review will consequently be performed by taxonomic group, with particular attention paid to reef fish. [See article p3.](#)

### Conservation of Threatened and Endangered Species:



A number of species, or groups of species, remain the focus of dedicated actions within the framework of recovery or action plans. Mainly:

- Marine mammals. Further to the first achievements in 2008 and 2009, the new priorities are: (1) the organization of a workshop on

whale-watching practices, (2) the development of a regional database in order to improve access to information, (3) the improved knowledge of interactions between fisheries and marine mammals, and (4) the launching of the Regional Management Plan for the West Indian Manatee. Funding for these projects has been provided by the U.S. Marine Mammal Commission/National Fish and Wildlife Foundation and the Government of Spain through the LifeWeb project. [See article p3.](#)

- Sea turtles: Collaborations with WIDECAS will continue to develop and implement new sea turtle recovery plans, the production of technical manuals on tagging and monitoring nesting beaches, compile data on sea turtle transboundary movements, and establish index nesting beaches for green turtles (*Chelonia mydas*).

- Birds: In partnership with BirdLife International and the Society for the Conservation and Study of Caribbean Birds (SCSCB), the priorities identified are: (1) the production of educational materials, (2) a cross-sectoral analysis of overlaps between Important Bird Areas, protected areas and the species protected under SPAW and, (3) the development of recovery plans for endangered bird species.

Invasive species management has also been prioritized under the 2010-2011 workplan. In addition to SPAW's continued collaboration with CABI on its regional project for mitigating impacts of invasive alien species in the insular Caribbean, the establishment of a regional strategy to combat the lionfish (*Pterois volitans*) invasion and the collection and broadcasting of information on the progress of the invasion (warning system) have been prioritised. [See article p3.](#)

### Conservation and sustainable use of coastal and marine ecosystems:

Two themes have been prioritised :

- Improving the structure of sub-regional coral reef monitoring nodes within the framework of the Global Coral Reef Monitoring Nodes (GCRMN) programme in partnership with the International Coral Reef Initiative (ICRI), as well as strengthening the support

#### Latest News About the Regional Management Plan for the West Indian Manatee



In 2010, the Regional Management Plan for the West Indian Manatee was updated by UNEP-CEP in collaboration with the Marine Mammal Commission and Mote Marine Laboratory ([www.cep.unep.org/meetings-events/vi-spaw-cop/manatee-report-1.pdf](http://www.cep.unep.org/meetings-events/vi-spaw-cop/manatee-report-1.pdf)).

Emphasis has been placed on improving the knowledge of species distribution and status. The SPAW Secretariat is pleased to announce the creation of an Expert Working Group for Manatees in the Wider Caribbean. This group includes 8 Caribbean members whose mission is the implementation of the regional management plan. More information on the progress of the works will be found in the next newsletter.



to these nodes' reef survey and monitoring programmes;

- Implementing the "Reef biodiversity and reef fisheries" component of the Caribbean Large Marine Ecosystem project: strengthening of management and regulation frameworks, strengthening of enforcement mechanisms,

improved stakeholder participation and the transfer of best practices.

Three pilot sites have been selected: Pedro Bank in Jamaica, SeaFlower Biosphere Reserve in Colombia, and a transboundary site on the northern coast of Hispaniola (Dominican Republic/Haiti). [See article p4.](#)

For more details and to download the article, please go to : [http://www.car-spaw-rac.org/?2010-2012-SPAW-workplan\\_61](http://www.car-spaw-rac.org/?2010-2012-SPAW-workplan_61).

## On-going projects

### Update on Caribbean Challenge activities



Several activities in support of the Caribbean Challenge commitment made by 8 Caribbean countries are being developed and implemented by UNEP-CEP, CaMPAM and TNC, and important progress has been made during the last few months :

#### Activities Led/Coordinated by TNC

- The drafting of guidance and legal documents for the establishment and functioning of the Caribbean Trust Fund has progressed. The Caribbean Trust Fund will be a regional fund that will provide additional resources for the establishment and management of protected areas in Caribbean Challenge countries. It will work as a counterpart to the national trust funds that these countries have committed to creating and will increase the amount of funding available for protected areas.
- The 4 GEF-funded Full-Sized Projects (Dominican Republic, the Bahamas, Jamaica, and the Eastern Caribbean) that have been prepared with the support of TNC, by the countries involved in the Caribbean Challenge Initiative, have progressed during the first quarter of 2011. The project documents for the "Sustainable Financing and Management of Eastern Caribbean Marine Ecosystems Project" have been updated and completed, further to final organizational arrangements. The project will have a 22 month time-frame, and is slated to begin in September 2011.

#### Activities Led/Coordinated by UNEP-CEP and CaMPAM with Funding from the Government of Italy

The UNEP-CEP Project is entitled "MPA Strengthening in the Wider Caribbean and the Caribbean Challenge" and is implemented through the CaMPAM network. A meeting was convened by CaMPAM and UNEP-CEP in November 2010 in Puerto Rico during the 63rd Gulf and Caribbean Fisheries Institute Meeting. Representatives from the Caribbean Challenge countries attended in order to identify their needs and tailor proposals that would help them build capacity for the management of established and new MPAs. A logical framework and a revised workplan for 2011 was developed on this basis. Among the flagship activities to be implemented this year are:

- The 2011 session of the Training of Trainers (ToT) programme. The programme will be tailored to address the training needs for Caribbean Challenge countries identified at the 2010 meeting. Using CaMPAM's experience and feedback on the Training of Trainers programme, and the regularly updated ToT manual, this special session will be held in

## Implementation of a Mangrove Reforestation Small-Scale Project in Haiti



A final agreement of financial support (French cooperation fund for Guadeloupe) was recently received to implement a pilot project involving local communities in the protection of the Haitian coastal environment. The project is led by the Haitian Foundation FoProBim with various partners and the support of the SPAW RAC, the Ministry of Environment in Haiti and the UNEP office in Haiti. An analysis, conducted before the 2010 earthquake, had indicated a number of priorities in the fields of environment and sustainable use of natural resources. The earthquake which hit Haiti caused the migration of some of the populace to areas that were already vulnerable, reinforcing the need to guarantee the sustainable use of the environment. It consists of two principal actions:

■ **Integrated mangrove reforestation** : The intent is to reforest a pilot site north of Port-au-Prince with mangroves while offering neighbouring communities economic alternatives to mangrove cutting with the establishment of a nursery (tree species that can be used instead of mangroves for the construction of houses, charcoal, production of fruits), and to establish inside the nursery the production of honey (40 bee hives). Training is included in the project. Thousands of discarded plastic containers will be recycled in the nursery.

■ **Awareness raising** : Educational activities have been initiated since 2009, in the form of experience exchanges and teaching materials for school children. These efforts will continue and educational materials developed in Guadeloupe will be adapted to the target audience in Haiti (several hundred adults and children). Topics include hygiene & health (with the building of latrines) and the marine environment. These actions are scheduled to be completed within two years (2011-2013). Once the experiment is completed, and if it is proved to be successful, it could be extended to other areas. For further information, please write to Franck Gourdin ([franck.gourdin.carspaw@quadeloupe-parcnational.fr](mailto:franck.gourdin.carspaw@quadeloupe-parcnational.fr)).

English in one of the Caribbean Challenge countries. As with other ToT sessions, the course will be complemented by local follow-up activities in each country that will allow local managers and stakeholders to share training outcomes. Support and funding for local follow-up training will also be provided through the project; ■ Further to a Call for Proposals for Small-Sized Grants launched specifically for Caribbean Challenge countries in late 2010, a new Call for Proposals has been released for Medium-Sized Grants. The objective of the Medium-Sized Grant call is to address priority MPA management needs of Caribbean Challenge countries. The proposals should complement the work done under the Small-Sized Grants' Call for Proposals (see announcement on cover page of this release).

## Launching of Two Working Groups on Exemptions and Species



Two new Working Groups have been recently established (February 2011) to assist with the implementation of the SPAW Protocol. At the 6th meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the SPAW Protocol in October 2010, the Parties decided to create two thematic Working Groups

in addition to those already existing (the Marine Mammal Action Plan Working Group and the Working Group on Protected Area Criteria and Guidelines). Composed of experts nominated by the Parties and with observers selected by NGOs and non-Parties, the Working Groups' mission is to help the SPAW Secretariat and the Scientific and Technical Advisory Committee define and design criteria, guidelines, and lists on technical issues of importance for the implementation of the SPAW Protocol and Programme.

The mandates of the two newly established Working Groups focus on the protection of species under SPAW. One Working Group will work on the list of species that are protected under SPAW, while the second is in charge of proposing definitions and a process to guide the exemptions to the protection of species that can be granted by SPAW Parties.

## Working Group in Charge of Reviewing the Lists of Species that are Protected Under SPAW

The SPAW Protocol Annexes contain the lists of species of wild flora and fauna that either require strict protection by all SPAW Parties (Annexes I and II) or that must be managed sustainably in order to prevent them from becoming threatened or endangered (Annex III). After the SPAW Protocol entered into force, a Working Group was established to design clear criteria and guidelines to assess species that should be added or removed from the Annexes, which were adopted by SPAW COP3 in 2004. At SPAW COP6 last October, the Parties decided to reactivate this specific Working Group with a new mandate: apply the approved criteria and guidelines and review the Annexes to the Protocol. The Working Group is chaired by Paul Hoetjes (Netherlands – Dutch Caribbean) and is composed of a dozen experts and observers representing countries and NGOs. The mandate of the Working Group is to seek input from the Parties on the species to be reviewed; to identify, in parallel, any species receiving protection from other International Agreements that are not listed on the SPAW Annexes; and to establish on this basis a species "short-list" that the Working Group is to review according to the criteria approved by COP3. A progress report should be presented by the Working Group at the next meeting of the SPAW STAC (dates and venue to be determined).

## Working Group on Exemptions to Species Protection Under Article 11(2) of the SPAW Protocol

At the SPAW COP6, SPAW Parties decided that the establishment of a dedicated Working Group should be prioritized in order to provide Parties and partners with guidance on how to interpret Article 11(2) of the SPAW Protocol, specifically with respect to what is requested, and the limits of the situation(s) where exemptions can be granted.

The SPAW Secretariat has accordingly invited Parties, non-Parties and NGOs to nominate experts and observers, and the Working Group on exemptions to species protection under article 11(2) was activated in February 2011. The Working Group is chaired by the SPAW RAC, and is composed of approximately 20 members. The core mandate of the Working Group is to explore and agree upon the criteria to be used to justify the submission of an exemption request, including providing definitions, interpretations and limits for the terms employed in Article 11(2), and to propose a process for the Parties to submit their exemption requests and for the STAC to assess them. The Working Group on exemptions is expected to present a progress report at the next STAC meeting.

## Finalization of the Insular Caribbean Invasive Alien Species Strategy by CABI – Meeting in the Bahamas

CABI organized, as part of the GEF Project "Mitigating the threats of Invasive Alien Species (IAS) in the insular Caribbean", the third and final regional consultation on developing a Caribbean IAS Strategy, March 21st, 2011, in the Bahamas.

This meeting also included participation from regional and international bodies such as SPAW, RAC-REMPETEIC, IICA, FAO, and TNC.

The Marine Working Group with representatives from Jamaica, Bahamas, Trinidad and Tobago, St. Lucia and the Dominican Republic finalized its marine strategy, including its strategy to combat the lionfish invasion. Once it is reviewed by the Regional Lionfish Committee, it will help develop a regional lionfish control strategy and facilitate and implement coordinated actions at the regional scale.

For further information, please write to the Coordinator of the Project, Mr Naitram Ramnanan - CABI, Trinidad et Tobago: [N.Ramnanan@cabi.org](mailto:N.Ramnanan@cabi.org).

## Update on the LifeWeb Marine Mammal Project



As announced in the previous newsletter ([http://www.car-spaw-rac.org/IMG/pdf/SPAW\\_Newsletter\\_No2.pdf](http://www.car-spaw-rac.org/IMG/pdf/SPAW_Newsletter_No2.pdf)), the Government of Spain is funding a LifeWeb project for the protection of marine mammal critical habitats and migration routes in the WCR and the Northeast and Southeast Pacific.

One of the major aims of this project is to produce regional GIS-maps of marine mammal corridors, habitats and human threats, based on data layers that will be compiled and analyzed. To progress in this direction, two expert groups (one for the Pacific and the other for the Caribbean), made up of regional scientists and specialists, will meet in May to exchange information on GIS analysis and data processing.

The meeting for the Caribbean (Miami 9-11, 2011) had the following objectives:

- 1) Examine existing data on marine mammals in the WCR;
- 2) Identify data gaps on the distribution and abundance of marine mammals in the WCR;
- 3) Determine potential data sources and partners; and
- 4) Discuss the proposed LifeWeb demonstration project: Development of management plan for the Silver Bank Sanctuary, Dominican Republic.

Eight marine mammal and GIS specialists discussed the availability of the data sets needed and the way the information would be processed during the 3-day technical meeting, led by UNEP with the support of SPAW RAC and GRID-Arendal (<http://www.grida.no>). The Whale and Dolphin Conservation Society (<http://www.wdcs.org>) and GRID-Arendal have been hired to compile data layers on marine mammal habitat and threats and design regional maps of marine mammal corridors, critical habitats and human threats.

The Pacific meeting will take place from the 26-28th of May 2011. More information on the project website : <http://www.spain-unepporpas.org/-marine-mammal-corridors-a-critical-habitats-.html>.

## News from the Caribbean Large Marine Ecosystem Project

The countries of the Caribbean have repeatedly indicated the need to pay attention to shared living marine resources at the regional level. The Caribbean Large Marine Ecosystem Project (CLME) was launched in response to the serious challenges facing the marine ecosystems of the Caribbean. Most fish stocks are over-exploited

### Lionfish On-going Activities



From the 19 - 20 April 2011, a workshop was held in Miami to define the contents of the manual entitled "Best Practices of Lionfish Control and Research". The manual includes a compilation of useful tools and information (control, monitoring, research, management

framework, outreach and education).

The writing team is comprised of members from Mexico (CONANP), the United States (NOAA, REEF), Trinidad (CABI), Canada, Jamaica and SPAW RAC.

The proposal for the manual of best practices has already been submitted for financial support. This includes its translation into Spanish, printing and distribution of materials, and the conducting of 3 training workshops. The final document will be ready and disseminated to Caribbean marine protected area managers before the end of 2011 .

The Regional Lionfish Committee (RLC, cf SPAW Newsletter number 2) will be creating a Web Portal dedicated to the lionfish invasion. The objective of the portal is to facilitate information sharing and communication between all stakeholders and partners involved (including a forum, online library, useful links and contacts). The final structure of the Web Portal is being reviewed and discussed by the RLC. For more information, contact the SPAW RAC: [www.car-spaw-rac.org](http://www.car-spaw-rac.org).



while levels of pollution have reached dangerously high levels threatening entire marine ecosystems and the livelihoods of coastal communities. Climate change is adding to these pressures.

After successfully obtaining support from the Global

Environment Facility (GEF), the CLME project began in 2010. It aims to bring countries and communities together to jointly identify and prioritize key regional actions that will result in tangible improvements through the sustainable management of shared living marine resources using an integrated management approach.

The project includes 25 GEF-eligible countries of the Wider Caribbean Region and also seeks to engage 15 associated territories of France, the Netherlands, the United Kingdom and the United States. In partnership with the existing regional networks, the CLME Project concentrates on a new, comprehensive governance framework for Caribbean marine resources focused on the most important fish stocks.

Since its inception, the Project has established a Coordination Unit (PCU) in Cartagena, Colombia, with a team of 6 staff members.

Among current activities are:

- Two regional studies, aimed at strengthening governance and management of flying fish and large pelagic species in Barbados;
- The signing of an agreement with the Organization of Fisheries and Aquaculture Sector of Central America (OSPESCA) to implement a pilot project that will develop the sub-regional management of the spiny lobster fisheries. It is expected that the achievements in Central America, related to the spiny lobster, can be extended to Caribbean countries sharing this important living resource,
- Meeting of the Colombian Inter-sectoral Committee with representatives from fishery, environmental and research organizations sectors to consolidate their efforts.

For further information, please visit: [www.clmeproject.org](http://www.clmeproject.org).

## Recent and Upcoming publications

### Release of Two Lionfish Cookbooks :

*The lionfish is like any fish, and one only needs to remove the spines to cook it. "Eat 'em to Beat 'em!"*



In April a presentation booklet containing lionfish recipes and a guide to sustainable consumption was launched in Cozumel, Mexico. Present at the launch were businessmen, restaurateurs and the

wider public. This cookbook is the first step in a media campaign supported by the government to encourage the use of the lionfish. For further information, please write to Ricardo Gómez Lozano, Director of the Parque Nacional Arrecifes de Cozumel ([rglozano@conanp.gob.mx](mailto:rglozano@conanp.gob.mx)).

Another book, written in English, has just been released. It is called "The lionfish cookbook" contains recipes, background on the lionfish invasion and its impacts, and information on how to safely catch, handle and prepare the fish.

Changing the mindset of the public and promoting the consumption of lionfish might be our best hope for helping to remove the fish and minimizing its impacts. For further information, go to: [www.reef.org](http://www.reef.org).

## ■ Minutes of the Conference on MPA Management Convened in Guadeloupe, January 2011 :

The report of the conference will soon be released in French and English and will be posted on-line and circulated to interested managers and specialists.

## ■ New STRAP for Trinidad and Tobago:



In partnership with WIDECAST, more than half of all WCR governments have developed national Sea Turtle Recovery Action Plans (STRAP). The objectives of these STRAPs are to assist governments in the discharge of their obligations under the SPAW Protocol, and also to promote and strengthen regional capabilities to implement science-based sea turtle management and conservation programmes. Thanks to the joint efforts of WIDECAST local sea turtle focal points, the government of Trinidad and Tobago, and other

stakeholders, the STRAP for Trinidad and Tobago has been completed. Please find the latest version of the STRAP for Trinidad and Tobago at the following link :

<http://www.cep.unep.org/publications-and-resources/technical-reports/trinidad-tobago-sea-turtle-recovery-action-plan-2010.pdf>.

## RECENT AND UPCOMING RELEVANT EVENTS

### Recent

■ General meeting of the Wider Caribbean Sea Turtle Network (WIDECAST) and 31<sup>th</sup> International Sea Turtles Symposium. 10-11 and 12-15 April 2011, San Diego, California, USA.  
<http://www.widecast.org/What/AnnualMeeting.html>.

■ Second International Marine Conservation Congress (IMCC). 14-18 May 2011, Victoria, British Columbia, Canada:  
<http://www.conbio.org/IMCC2011/register/sponsor.cfm>.

■ 35<sup>th</sup> Scientific Conference of the Association of Marine Laboratories of the Caribbean. 23-27 May 2011, San José, Costa Rica.

### Upcoming

■ Workshop on the Study of Viability of the Manatee (*Trichechus manatus*) Population and Habitat in the Caribbean : Conservation Strategy. 20-24 June 2011, San José, Costa Rica.

■ Second International Conference on Protected Areas for Marine Mammals on the theme "Endangered spaces, endangered species". 7-11 November 2011, Martinique. <http://second.icmpa.org>.

■ 4<sup>th</sup> International Tropical Marine Ecosystems Management Symposium. 5-8 December 2011, Guadeloupe.

### Training



In partnership with the Tobago Cays Marine Park and with funding from the OECs-OPAAL Project, WIDECAST has completed the training of marine park staff and partners in conducting sea turtle population assessments in park waters, and also provided training to community-based artisans in Mayreau (a small island community inside park boundaries) in making jewellery items from broken and recycled glass collected locally. These jewellery items will be sold to yachters and other tourists.

## Useful links

■ **CIASNET.ORG**. It is intended that this will be the portal for all IAS information in the Caribbean.

<http://www.ciasnet.org>.

■ **Global Environment Facility (GEF)**. The Global Environment Facility (GEF) unites 182 member governments — in partnership with international institutions, non governmental organizations, and the private sector — to address global environmental issues. An independent financial organization, the GEF provides grants to developing countries and countries with economies in transition for projects related to biodiversity, climate change, international waters, land degradation, the ozone layer, and persistent organic pollutants. These projects benefit the global environment, linking local, national, and global environmental challenges and promoting sustainable livelihoods. <http://www.thegef.org>.

■ **Globalgiving.org**. GlobalGiving builds an efficient, open, thriving marketplace that connects people who have community and world-changing ideas with people who can support them. You select projects you want to support, make a tax-deductible contribution, and get regular progress updates - so you can see how your gift is making a difference.

<http://www.globalgiving.org/projects/controlling-lion-fish-invasion-in-the-caribbean>.

■ **Critical Ecosystem Partnership Funds for the Caribbean (CEPF)**. The CEPF was launched a few months ago in the Caribbean, with priority given to Haiti, Jamaica and the Dominican Republic for the first round of grants. An advisory technical committee has been established, and a first call for proposals released. More information on : [http://www.cep.net/where\\_we\\_work/regions/CaribbeanIslands/Pages/default.aspx](http://www.cep.net/where_we_work/regions/CaribbeanIslands/Pages/default.aspx).

■ **The Environmental Funds Tool Kit**. This Tool Kit is an on-line resource that includes legal documents, manuals, plans and communication materials in original languages for 30 funds, along with a consultant database. The goal of the Tool Kit is to help guide the creation and start-up of new environmental funds, promote best practices for existing funds, and increase the efficiency and effectiveness of conservation funding streams.  
<http://toolkit.conservationfinance.org>.

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