



Protecting Habitats and Migration Corridors for Marine Mammals in the South and Northeast Pacific and the Wider Caribbean through Marine Protected Area Networks

Total Budget	€ 448,000
Funding Agencies	Government of Spain (LifeWeb)
Executing Agency	UNEP-DEPI Marine and Coastal Ecosystem Branch
Key Partners	UNEP Regional Offices for North America (RONA) and for Latin America and Caribbean (ROLAC), UNEP's Regional Coordinating Unit for the Caribbean Environment Programme (UNEP-CEP), the North East Pacific Action Plan (NEP), the Comisión Centroamericana de Ambiente y Desarrollo (CCAD), the Permanent Commission for the South Pacific (CPPS), the Caribbean Marine Protected Area Network (CaMPAM), Secretariat of the Convention for Migratory Species (CMS), the National Oceanographic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), the French Marine Protected Areas Agency, Netherlands Antilles Ministry of Environment (MINA), other relevant government institutions, local NGOs, and other partners
Scope	Countries of the South East Pacific, Northeast Pacific and the Wider Caribbean
Project Dates	October 2010 – July 2012
Duration	22 Months
Project Goal	The overall goal of the project is to contribute to the efforts on the establishment of comprehensive, effectively managed, and ecologically representative regional systems of marine protected areas by 2012 for the conservation of marine mammals in countries of Latin America and Caribbean, through the application of an Ecosystem Based Management approach and spatial planning.
Expected Outcomes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Overview of essential habitats and regional-scale migration routes for marine mammals in need of better management in South and Northeast Pacific, Wider Caribbean and adjacent regions through collation and GIS-mapping of existing data. • Introduction of integrated planning approaches, including providing technical guidance, regional training and learning exchanges on marine spatial planning, marine mammal protected area (MMPA) network design, transfer of skills, tools and good practices on transboundary governance and equitable sharing of MMPA benefits. • Application of integrated marine spatial planning and management approaches and tools in two demonstration projects that showcase different stages of planning for the management of critical marine mammal habitats and migration routes across jurisdictional boundaries. • Development of strategic communication products to advocate for the integrated, transboundary management of marine mammal migration routes and critical habitats • Promotion of the implementation of the two Marine Mammal Action Plans and related instruments in the Wider Caribbean and Southeast and Northeast Pacific.

Proposed Activities	<p>The main project activities are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Organise national and regional consultations to integrate information and identify key marine mammal habitats and migration routes in the Wider Caribbean and South and Northeast Pacific. • Provide tools and technical guidance to planners and managers in national agencies in development of transboundary MPA network scenarios. • Provide policy advice and guidance to planners and managers in national agencies on good governance practices and equitable sharing of MPA benefits. • Provide guidance on management trade-off evaluations for priority setting in integrated marine spatial planning with MPA networks through consolidation of different layers of ecological and socio-economic information. • Facilitate consultations with relevant stakeholders, such as fisheries industry and Regional Fisheries Management Organisations, in design of transboundary and cross-sector management arrangements. • Provide technical assistance for the design of marine mammal MPA networks for the Wider Caribbean, NEP and CPPS, including technical support in the development and drafting of management and business plans for selected demonstration sites. • Support the organization of regional policy dialogues on regional-scale marine mammal protection among countries of the South and Northeast Pacific, including the possible drafting of marine mammal action plans. • Facilitate exchanges between MPA planners and managers in the Caribbean and the South and Northeast Pacific.
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