

Blue Dialogues: From Policy to Practice: Marine Action Partnership and Sustainable Coastal Fisheries Management

[GoToWebinar](#) | Tuesday 16th July 2024 | 13:00 - 14:00 BST (Check local time [here](#))

Registration link: <https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/register/3244716428140698455>

Objective

Well-managed marine protected areas (MPAs) and fisheries can protect coral reefs, rejuvenate marine wildlife and ecosystems, provide jobs, and feed billions worldwide. Despite their promise, MPAs and sustainable fishery efforts often struggle to succeed due to a common problem – the lack of effective enforcement. Today, more than 60% of MPAs are not well-enforced, and \$23 billion is lost annually to illegal, unreported, and unregulated fishing. WildAid Marine designs and applies effective enforcement solutions to deter illegal fishing and strengthen the protection of priority marine areas to benefit endangered wildlife, marine ecosystems, fisheries, and coastal communities.

Background

The Bahamas has long been a Caribbean leader in ocean conservation, with 20% of its waters declared marine protected areas. However, without effective management and implementation of regulations, these protected areas alone do little to safeguard Bahamian waters and the communities dependent on them. Illegal, Unregulated, and Unreported (IUU) fishing, including foreign and domestic poaching, poses significant threats to the ocean, the fishing industry, and local communities. The decline in marine species populations due to IUU fishing endangers ecosystems crucial for maintaining ecological balance.

Fisheries are vital to The Bahamas, providing livelihoods for tens of thousands of fishers and contributing \$1.24 billion to GDP. Yet, IUU fishing persists, costing the country over \$135 million annually. Effective marine management is essential for maintaining the health and productivity of these resources, ensuring the country's economic and ecological sustainability. This seminar, with presenters from BahWEN, the Bahamas National Trust (BNT), The Nature Conservancy (TNC), and WildAid, will highlight initiatives to enhance sustainable fisheries management and address IUU fishing, aligning with the Commonwealth Blue Charter's initiative on Sustainable Coastal Fisheries.

The presenters will discuss their experiences with The Marine Action Partnership (MAP) for Sustainable Fisheries, a collaboration between Bahamian government agencies, TNC, and WildAid to address these challenges. The MAP has leveraged WildAid's model to develop a government-approved Marine Protection System Blueprint, serving as a roadmap to enhance marine resource management through effective collaboration between government agencies, fishing communities, protected area managers, and other stakeholders. By expanding the capacity of law enforcement agencies and protected area managers to enforce marine regulations and

encouraging compliance among fishers and the broader industry, MAP aims to significantly increase overall compliance over the next five years.

Agenda:

13:00 – 13:02	<p>Opening Remarks</p> <p><i>Heidi Prislán, Blue Charter Adviser, Commonwealth Secretariat</i></p>
13:05 – 13:05	<p>Remarks from the Sustainable Coastal Fisheries Action Group co-Champions</p> <p><i>Secretary Riibeta Abeta, Ministry of Fisheries & Marine Resources Development, Kiribati</i></p>
13:05 – 13:15	<p>Intro to The Bahamas and the need for the Marine Action Partnership (MAP)</p> <p><i>Marica Musgrove, Northern Caribbean Programme Director, The Nature Conservancy (TNC)</i></p>
13:15 – 13:35	<p>The Bahamas Case Study</p> <p>Public engagement process, organisational maturity needs (training, equipment, policies), and benefits from the MAP</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - <i>Mr David Knowles, Chief Park Warden, Barbados National Trust</i> - <i>Commander Desiree Corneille, BahWEN Lead Designate</i>
13:35 – 13:45	<p>A repeatable model: Lessons learned in The Bahamas and replication in other locations.</p> <p><i>Gregg Casad, Senior Compliance Adviser, WildAid</i></p>
13:45 – 13:58	Q&A
13:58 – 14:00	Closing Remarks

Target Audience:

Government representatives (from Commonwealth member countries and others), civil society organisations and NGOs, financial institutions, IGOs, academic institutions and researchers, and stakeholders interested in ocean conservation and sustainable development.

Expected Outcomes:

- Learn how the Marine Protection System (MPS) enhances surveillance, policies, funding, training, and community engagement to deter illegal activities and improve compliance.
- Insights on strategies to significantly reduce Illegal, Unregulated, and Unreported (IUU) fishing, thereby protecting Bahamian waters, local communities, and marine ecosystems.
- Discover how the Marine Action Partnership (MAP) enhances compliance by improving the capacity of government agencies, protected area managers, and fishing communities to enforce marine regulations effectively.

Contact

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Blue Dialogues

From Policy to Practice: Marine Action Partnership and Sustainable Coastal Fisheries Management

Tuesday 16 July 2024, 1300–1430 (BST)

Join us for as we discuss how well-managed marine protected areas and sustainable fisheries can protect coral reefs, rejuvenate marine wildlife and ecosystems, provide jobs and feed billions worldwide.

In partnership with WildAid Marine, this webinar will explore innovative enforcement solutions that deter illegal fishing and strengthen marine protection and how the Marine Action Partnership in The Bahamas is enhancing compliance, supporting community engagement and fostering sustainable coastal fisheries.

Register at attendee.gotowebinar.com/register/3244716428140698455



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