

IUCN CARIBBEAN REGIONAL COMMITTEE REPORT



Actions & Achievements 2012-2016



BACKGROUND

Driven by the members, the *Caribbean Initiative* was adopted in response to a resolution passed in 2004 World Conservation Congress (Bangkok, Thailand) and went live after the 2008 World Conservation Congress, Barcelona, Spain and is embedded in the Costa Rica-based IUCN Regional Office for Mexico Central America and the Caribbean (ORMACC). The Initiative charts the goals and objectives for members in the insular Caribbean with the support and leadership of ORMACC. The achievements from 2009 to 2012 included: Building partnerships with key regional actors, strengthening the participation of Caribbean members in IUCN activities and building a technical role and a portfolio of projects for the Caribbean¹. The Caribbean Regional Committee was formally established in 2010 on the basis of the statutes of the IUCN, and the 2013-2016 Work Plan was developed to reflect the IUCN Global Programme.



barriers and is effectively increasing engagement between and among members to help optimize resource use in the region.

The Caribbean Report provides a window on the activities of IUCN members in the Caribbean. These activities were largely performed independently of the IUCN. As such the report shows how the members are contributing to delivering results of the IUCN Programme and carrying the message of the IUCN in the region.

VALUING AND CONSERVING NATURE

Defending the vast natural capital in the Caribbean is no easy feat given the economic, social, political and cultural differences. The insular Caribbean members of the IUCN have embraced these differences to find creative and innovative solutions to provide value for the protection and conservation of nature. Driving these conservation efforts is the setting of institutional objectives aligned to national, regional and global conservation goals. By engaging all stakeholders, from resource users to decision makers, Caribbean members reach out to ensure the protection of the natural capital of their countries. Four new RAMSAR sites have recently been designated in Curacao and one in the Dominican Republic (DR). This international recognition has spearheaded the development of management plans for these RAMSAR sites and in turn upgraded their ecosystem value. Additionally, two new SPAW sites were declared in DR: Jaragua National Park and Sierra de Bahoruco National Park.



contribute to species status assessments. Also, guided by the Red List of Thr



Over the past couple of years, the Fondation pour la Protection de la Biodiversité Marine (FoProBiM) assisted the government of Haiti in the creation of its first two marine protected areas covering over 120 square kilometres. FoProBiM has continued environmental management and rehabilitation actions targeting mangroves, coral reefs, sea grass beds, and fisheries and has actively engaged over 45 community groups with environmental education, capacity building, and resource

use conflict resolution activities. Furthermore, this member has continued to generate scientific data for the creation of additional marine protected areas and is expanding its coral gardens and mangrove nurseries initiatives. Jean Weiner, founder of FoProBiM, was awarded the Goldman Environmental Prize in recognition of his outstanding work¹.

In Jamaica, The National Environment and Planning Agency (NEPA) has been active, for instance, in 2016 NEPA, as part of its annual release programme reintroduced 37 headstarted Jamaican iguanas (*Cyclura collie*), once believed to be extinct due to predation by the invasive small Asian mongoose and still critically endangered. NEPA monitors a number of endangered species, including two endemic parrots (*Amazona* sp.), the American crocodile (*Crocodylus acutus*); the West Indian Whistling duck (*Dendrocygna arborea*), the Jamaican iguana, as well as orchid species and sea turtles.

On another front NEPA played a key role in the participatory process of drafting and the final cabinet approval in 2016 of the Protected Areas System Master Plan. Moreover, NEPA expects to see completion of the Overarching Protected Areas Legislation and a new Protected Areas Policy at the end of 2016. NEPA also developed management plans for 6 protected areas (Pas).

In Cuba, the Fundación Antonio Núñez Jiménez de la Naturaleza y el Hombre (FANJ) succeeded in:

- The first inclusion of an endemic Cuban land mollusc genus in CITES Appendix I at CITES CoP

- Presenting proposals for inclusion in the IUCN Red List of the most threatened groups on the Cuban Red List of Inverte



includes the Alejandro de Humboldt National Park, is the main pole of Cuban biodiversity.

As part of the CCamBio Project, 6 expeditions (field trips) to the best-preserved marine-coastal sectors, coordinating with multiple national actors and monitoring the ecosystems and flagship species.

Two publications, one on the *Polimita* genus and another on Cuban rainforests, have been finally printed and published. These books are based on the results of a project implemented with the Dutch IUCN National Committee.

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In a major cross-regional programme to conserve biodiversity-rich habitats initiated by the Critical Ecosystem Partnership Fund (CEPF), partnerships were developed between global organizations and civil society organizations (CSOs) -- including insular Caribbean IUCN members. The Caribbean Natural Resources Institute (CANARI) assumed the important role as Regional Implementation Team (RIT) to provide strategic leadership for the USD \$6.9 million investment in the insular Caribbean. Financial support went to 68 local, national and international CSOs that worked on 77 biodiversity conservation projects across eight islands: Antigua and Barbuda, the Dominican Republic, Grenada, Haiti, Jamaica, Saint Lucia, St. Vincent and the Grenadines, and The Bahamas. On the basis of the [CEPF Ecosystem Profile for the Caribbean Islands Biodiversity Hotspot](#)³ key conservation results and outcomes include:



Development of socio-economic benefits to local communities living in and around protected areas in Antigua and Barbuda, Dominican Republic, Grenada, Haiti, Jamaica and St. Vincent and the Grenadines through developing and promoting crop diversity, fruit and vegetable processing, ecotourism and beekeeping.

Strengthening the capacity of 54 local and regional CSOs, including the development of new strategic and fundraising plans, accounting and financial manuals and systems, upgraded web and social media sites, improved expertise in project design, proposal development, monitoring, evaluation and reporting.

Alliances and multi-sector partnerships throughout the hotspot, in particular in the Dominican Republic, which now serves as a model for how civil society can foster strategic alliances with the private sector and government.

CANARI contributed to the successful delivery of results by:

Supporting the development of a strategic portfolio of grants: CANARI established a Regional Advisory Committee for CEPF (RACC), comprising 17 experts to provide an independent, technical review of proposals to increase transparency and accountability in the review process. The volunteer RACC members also helped CANARI ensure effective coordination of initiatives.

Facilitating access across the Caribbean: CANARI issued seven calls for proposals and received a total of 241 applications. The programme provided 77 grants implemented in eight islands. A total of 68 local, national CSOs, regional and international NGOs, community groups, and universities including several IUCN members (e.g. CAD and Grupo Jaragua in DR) directly benefited from grant support. This entailed CANARI working across different institutional, political and cultural contexts and in four languages (English, French, Haitian Creole and Spanish).

Building civil society capacity to support results: The Regional Implementation Team (RIT) provided support in the areas of project design, proposal development, monitoring and evaluation, reporting, communication and networking to all grantees.

Managing the small grants mechanism: CANARI managed and administered the CEPF small grants mechanism; including establishing and adapting small grant operational policies and procedures. CANARI also carried out on-going monitoring of all 77 grants in the portfolio.

Facilitating knowledge exchange: Through the quarterly CEPF Caribbean e-newsletter,

Measuring effectiveness and analysing lessons: The RIT supported the CEPF Secretariat to ensure that a cohesive portfolio of strategic grants was developed and implemented. CANARI facilitated a participatory mid-term evaluation of the CEPF Caribbean Islands programme in 2013 and supported the final evaluation in 2015.

Long-term strategic impact: CANARI will build on the foundation established by the 79D: 0j]bj Ygha Ybh'VmV6bh]bi]b['hc'gi ddcfh'Wwil society in the Caribbean to work on biodiversity conservation, sustainable livelihoods, climate change, policy advocacy and public awareness. CANARI is committed to facilitating continued knowledge sharing, networking and capacity building among Caribbean CSOs and their key partners.

In a very recent development, following a review by Global Island Partnership (GLISPA) of the worldwide CEPF programme and the highly successful outcome of the CEPF Caribbean initiative implemented by CANARI, the CEPF has announced a second CEPF Caribbean initiative, this time involving Cuba, which will again open opportunities to IUCN members in the Caribbean.



A

group of mentors from across the Caribbean gather for a photograph during a break between training sessions at their workshop in St. Vincent and the Grenadines, October 2011. (Photo credit: CANARI)



capacity of stakeholders in IUCN Natural Protected Area (NPA) categories. In Puerto Rico PLN led the development of a shared definition of NPA for Puerto Rico and signed an agreement among NPA state and federal agencies, as well as private managers to maintain a shared database of the NPA network and continue collaborating towards improved management.

7) CARMABI started a reef education programme reaching 15,000 schoolchildren annually and helped produce various films on Caribbean reef ecology/conservation for use by teachers. Also CARMABI produced a manual for Caribbean reef managers (Towards Reef Resilience and Sustainable Livelihoods: a handbook for Caribbean reef managers) and organized workshops on rearing coral larvae for resource managers and academics.

8) FANJ can look back on success in:

Administrating two protected areas: Bellamar Caves and Santa Catalina Caves. The latter is in the final process of approval by Parliament. FANJ is the only NGO in Cuba that administers PAs

Proposing four new PAs, in three of which FANJ is co-administrator. In one FANJ cooperates with a community group, a first in Cuba.

Contributing to the formation of an environmental culture on a sustainable basis, integrating state institutio

DEPLOYING NATURE-BASED SOLUTIONS TO GLOBAL CHALLENGES

Climate, Food and Economy: Acting Local to Impact Global

As a biodiversity hotspot threatened by the economic needs of insular populations that rely on natural resources for their livelihoods, finding nature-based solutions for the mitigation and adaptation to the impacts of climate change is crucial in the Caribbean. Members have been involved in the development and implementation of nature-based solutions to ensure food reliability and improved local economies.

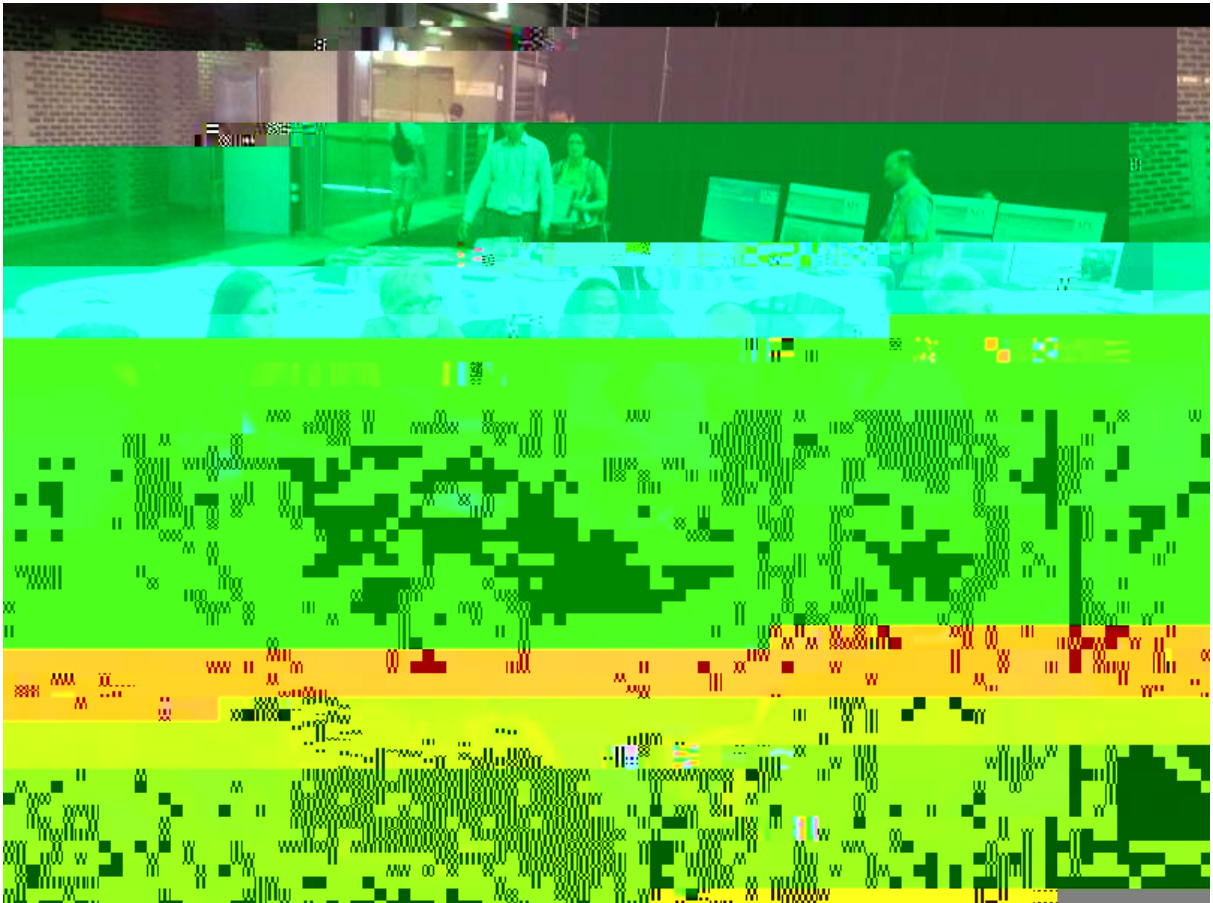
At a regional level CANARI set in motion the analysis of the economic realities of the Caribbean and provided alternative economic green pathways to ensure sustainability into the future⁶. Furthermore, CANARI took the lead to empower local communities to participate, develop and implement nature-based solutions to mitigate the impacts of climate change, especially in fisher folk communities.

With respect to terrestrial ecosystems Caribbean members are using reforestation,



more equitable distribution of benefits. CANARI established the Caribbean Green Economy Action Learning Group as a diverse group of champions from across sectors and countries in the region. They developed a programme of work on green economy, with priority areas identified for research, knowledge sharing and advocacy to change policy and practice.

Additional Information of Regional Activities



Caribbean Members have represented the region in a number of international conservation congresses and symposiums.

6th World Parks Congress (WPC), Australia (2014) – Against the theme of *People, Parks and Planet*, Caribbean members communicated a message that highlighted the role of individuals who dedicate their lives towards the protection of nature and the idea that there should be no separation between land and people. Among 5,000 participants representing 168 countries the Caribbean was well represented at the 2014 WPC. The event provided an opportunity for the Caribbean Regional Committee to reconnect, exchange ideas and promote a unified message from the Caribbean. The group agreed that:

1. There was a need to develop a realistic and strategic Caribbean Agenda for Protected Areas to guide coordination of resources and prioritization of issues in the light of shared natural resources, similar developmental challenges, overlapping jurisdictions and limited resources.



as well as their strategic conservation planning initiative: *Mapa 33*. Based on the discussion among attendees, PLN learned that very few countries or NGOs use such conservation tools.

Main challenges looking forward

One of the main challenges facing the IUCN Caribbean Regional Committee is the process of integrating the English speaking island members with the Spanish speaking members so that they work more closely together to:

- Secure dedicated funding to support the functioning of the Regional Committee

References

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Member organisation

Person(s) responsible

