



# CAPACITÉ

CRITICAL ECOSYSTEM  
PARTNERSHIP FUND

## Capacité - the CEPF Caribbean newsletter is here!

The Caribbean Natural Resources Institute (CANARI) as the Regional Implementation Team (RIT) of the Critical Ecosystem Partnership Fund (CEPF) in the Caribbean Islands Biodiversity Hotspot is very pleased to share the first issue of our newsletter **Capacité** with you!

Through this quarterly newsletter, we hope to provide you with updates on our work in the region, share lessons learned and best practices from CEPF supported projects and other related initiatives.

**Capacité** will also provide a space for CEPF Caribbean grantees and other stakeholders to share their insights on biodiversity conservation and civil society capacity building in the region.

The word **Capacité** reflects a key work programme area of CANARI - capacity building of civil society organizations - and is reflective of the actions of CEPF Caribbean grantees in building the strength of biodiversity conservation efforts in these hotspot areas.

We hope that you enjoy reading **Capacité** and learning of the experiences of these groups throughout the region. We also invite you to share this publication with others and encourage your feedback on this first issue!



### Issue 1

June 2012

### Special features

- Map of CEPF Caribbean islands Biodiversity Hotspot
- News from Grantees
- CANARI - RIT for CEPF in the Caribbean
- Mentors on board!

Call for proposals!

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The **Critical Ecosystem Partnership Fund** (CEPF) is a joint programme of l'Agence Française de Développement, Conservation International, the Global Environment Facility, the Government of Japan, the MacArthur Foundation and the World Bank.

The programme was launched in August 2000 and since then, has supported civil society to conserve critical biodiversity in 20 hotspots, committing over US\$ 131 million in grants. CEPF is investing US\$ 6.9 million in the Caribbean islands during a five-year period (October 2010 – October 2015).

## The CEPF in the Caribbean

CEPF provides grants to civil society to help them protect biodiversity hotspots, which are Earth's most biologically rich yet threatened areas. These grants are guided by strategic directions and investment priorities that are developed collaboratively with stakeholders in the hotspot regions.

To determine the greatest return value, CEPF uses ecosystem profiles to identify investment niches. The profile is primarily a rapid assessment of the underlying causes of biodiversity loss and helps to target areas and activities that are in greatest need of investment. This investment strategy comprises a series of strategic funding opportunities, known as strategic directions. In the Caribbean islands Biodiversity Hotspot, the strategic directions are:

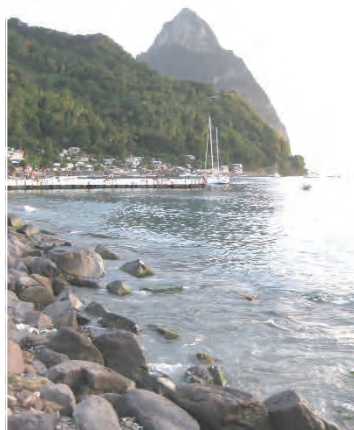


Photo credit: CANARI

1. To improve the protection and management of 45 priority key biodiversity areas;
2. To integrate biodiversity conservation into landscape and development planning and implementation in six conservation corridors;
3. To support Caribbean civil society to achieve biodiversity conservation by building local and regional institutional capacity and by fostering stakeholder collaboration in all of the 45 key areas;
4. To provide strategic leadership and effective coordination of CEPF investment through a regional implementation team;
5. To provide emergency support to Haitian civil society.

CEPF is investing in biodiversity conservation to ensure that we can continue to sustainably reap the benefits of our biologically rich environment.

## CEPF eligible Caribbean countries

The 11 countries eligible for CEPF support in the region are: Antigua and Barbuda, Bahamas, Barbados, Dominica, Dominican Republic, Grenada, Haiti, Jamaica, St. Kitts and Nevis, Saint Lucia and St. Vincent and the Grenadines.

These islands are all signatory to the Convention on Biological Diversity and are all eligible for World Bank assistance.

The 17 highest priority key biodiversity areas (KBAs) are all found in the Dominican Republic, Haiti and Jamaica.

Out of the 6 priority conservation corridors, 5 are found in these 3 countries and the sixth is found in St. Vincent.



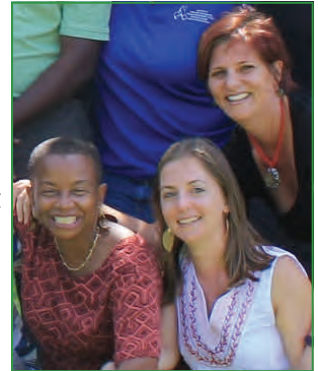
This map shows the islands that form the Caribbean Islands Biodiversity Hotspot. Conservation International identified these hotspots globally. The areas were then further assessed by an Ecosystem Profiling Process.

## CANARI's role as the CEPF Caribbean RIT

After a competitive process, CANARI was awarded the responsibility to implement, coordinate and manage CEPF investments in the Caribbean islands Biodiversity Hotspot. It established a team that includes CANARI staff members based in Trinidad and country coordinators in the three principle countries for CEPF investment – the Dominican Republic, Haiti and Jamaica.

The Regional Implementation Team (RIT) issues calls for proposals, advises applicants, coordinates an external committee to review applications for small and large grants, works with CEPF to issue grants, to support grantees and to monitor and evaluate their work. Other aspects of the RIT's role are to build a broad constituency of civil society groups to work on the conservation goals of the hotspot and to widely communicate CEPF objectives, lessons learned and results.

Anna Cadiz, Senior Technical Officer at CANARI is the Manger of the CEPF Regional Implementation Team. She is seen in the centre of the photo at right, with Dr. LaVerne Ragster, Chairman of CANARI's Board (left) and Nicole Leotaud, Executive Director of CANARI (right).



*Photo credit: CANARI*

## Meet the RACC team

The Regional Advisory Committee for CEPF (RACC) provides an independent technical review of proposals submitted to the RIT to increase transparency and accountability.

The RACC draws together a team of experts which has core strengths in biodiversity conservation, civil society capacity building, climate change, creation and management of protected areas and ecosystems and environmental and forest management in the 11 countries eligible for CEPF support.

RACC members are also competent in the four languages of the hotspot (English, French, Kreyol and Spanish) .

CANARI is very proud to have the RACC members on board – a 'Dream Team' that's working hard on CEPF in the Caribbean!



RACC Members and some of the CANARI team, from left to right: Elaine Fisher (Jamaica), Loiza Rauzduel (CANARI), Neila Bobb-Prescott (CANARI and RACC member), Owen Evelyn (Jamaica), L. Fitzgerald Providence (St Vincent and the Grenadines), Anna Cadiz (CANARI), Alex Bellande (Haiti), H el ene Souan (Guadeloupe), Giles Romulus (Barbados), Nicole Leotaud (CANARI), Cletus Springer (Saint Lucia), Judi Clarke (Barbados), Claus Ecklemann (FAO), Florence Sergile (Haiti), Howard Nelson (Trinidad and Tobago), Dr David Smith (Jamaica) and Alberto Sanchez (Dominican Republic). Missing: Maria Eugenia Morales (Dominican Republic), Dr Christopher Cox (Saint Lucia) and David Wege (United Kingdom).

*Photo credit: CANARI*

## CAD's historic breakthrough in the Dominican Republic

### - Charles Kerchner



*The Reserva Privada Zorzal -  
a new realm in biodiversity conservation efforts  
for the Dominican Republic*

*Photo credit: Charles Kerchner (2012)*

*In the Dominican Republic, a rare and threatened migratory songbird, biodiversity, carbon stocks, and an entire region's water quality will all benefit from the establishment of the country's first private nature reserve. An international consortium of stakeholders from the United States and the Dominican Republic, representing the private, public and non-profit sectors have united forces to develop a sustainable business partnership to protect biodiversity and migratory bird habitat in the northern mountain range (Cordillera Septentrional) of the Dominican Republic. The partnership will expand the protected area system by 404 hectares around the Loma Guaconejo and Loma Quita Espuela Scientific Reserves and by doing so will protect a "biological jewel" in a vulnerable landscape.*

*The project heralds a new realm in biodiversity conservation efforts for the Dominican Republic.*

The unique and novel aspect of the project is that investors of the private reserve represent both ends of the migratory range of the project's flagship species – Bicknell's thrush. A Land Trust from the breeding habitat in New York and private investors from the wintering habitat in the Dominican Republic have rallied to conserve the critical habitat. In fact, the private reserve's name in Spanish, Reserva Privada Zorzal, is

named after the Bicknell's thrush (*Zorzal de Bicknell*). CEPF, along with other donors such as U.S. Fish and Wildlife, provided critical support in advancing the establishment of the private reserve.

“CEPF provided us with key support to establish the private reserve in the Dominican Republic”, said Sesar Rodriguez, Executive Director of Consorcio Ambiental Dominicano. “The project is an alliance between non-governmental organizations, the business sector and the Ministry of Environment and Natural Resource and has created a new vision for environmental sustainability in the country”.

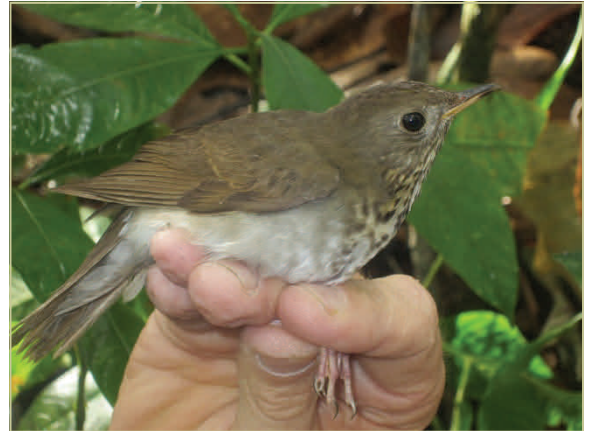
The landmark purchase by conservation minded investors has created a model for private landowners to participate in conservation. The Dominican Republic has received accolades from the international community for establishing over 120 public protected areas. However, recent Geographic Information System analysis of the project area indicates that 57% of the two public owned Scientific Reserves consist of primary forests, while only 4% of private property in the buffer zone consists of primary forest. Therefore, it appears private property is where the majority of deforestation is occurring.

Without a mechanism to work with private landowners – and the funding to support them – it will be hard to achieve the intended biodiversity conservation outcome. But a grant from CEPF made it possible to take advantage of a new law that allows private Dominican lands to be conserved. And, critically, that grant made it possible to link two areas that constitute critical winter habitat for the Bicknell's thrush. This small bird is an indicator species for biodiversity wherever it's found. It has been recognized as a globally “vulnerable” species, as threats on both ends of its migratory route have made its breeding and winter grounds less and less hospitable. Ornithologists consider the main limiting factor for the bird's survival to be its winter habitat in the Dominican Republic.

“Nearly two decades of research have shown the project area holds special importance for female Bicknell's Thrushes (BITH)”, says ornithologist Chris Rimmer at the Vermont Center for EcoStudies. “With suitable habitat in short supply island-wide, larger males may effectively outcompete females in primary cloud forests, “forcing” them to occupy less desirable habitats like the Septentrional's forests, where lower quality food and cover stress their energetic budgets. For this globally vulnerable species, conserving habitats on which females depend is a key strategy. The new private reserve, Reserva Privada Zorzal, provides excellent habitat, mainly because it occupies the species' preferred elevational zone (~300-450 m) in the region.”

The two Reserves also support unique and significant biodiversity that includes many native flora and fauna. Its broadleaf forest has been identified as the most endangered forest type on the island. Research suggests the montane forests in these two areas have also been identified as crucial habitat for other migratory birds (e.g. Black-throated blue warbler) and native birds (e.g. Broad-bill Tody) as well as a diverse population of frogs and other reptiles.

But without adequate protection of abutting lands, the biodiversity in Guaconejo and Quita Espuela faced a number of threats, including unsustainable farming practices such as slash-and-burn agriculture on steep hillsides, illegal timber extraction, livestock farming, sand extraction, and water pollution. Conservation practices had no perceived economic value, so landowners logically prefer the economic benefits of agricultural production to the intangible public benefits of protecting biodiversity, water supply or other



The Bicknell's thrush

*Photo credit: Charles Kerchner (2012)*

ecosystem services.

The passage of the "Reglamento para la Declaracion de Areas Protegidas Privadas o Conservacion Voluntario" bylaw in 2011 made it possible to establish reserves on private land, and consequently for landowners to be compensated for conserving their land.

And the support of CEPF made it possible for CAD to take its next steps in preserving this critical habitat that's home to diverse, unique, threatened species. In absence of CEPF financing, the project would not have the necessary capital to transcend the project from a planning phase to on-the-ground implementation of payment for ecosystem services (PES) or establishment of the first private reserve.

With this project, CAD has been able to secure 50% of the land estimated to be necessary to create the biological corridor between two critically important protected areas, while also:

1. Creating a reforestation carbon project that will mitigate climate change and improve farmers' livelihoods;
2. Increasing biodiversity and ecosystem connectivity between the two Reserves from reforesting, via carbon offsets, with native species;
3. Serving as a model for similar projects by developing the regulations and procedures for incorporating private reserves into other key conservation areas;
4. Hosting a national conference to disseminate experience and lessons learned from private reserves; and
5. Creating document that serves as a guide for establishing private reserves in the Dominican Republic.

Charles Kerchner, a forest economist working on the project, says "While it's impossible to say just what the end results of this model project will be, what we do know is that the CEPF funding has helped leverage private sector financing and bring the key partners together to protect biodiversity, threatened species and water quality in a way that's new for the Dominican Republic because it also incorporates the economic realities of its region."

## Tools to Share Information and Experiences

- *Melissa Normann and Esther de Vito*



CEPF has awarded a three-year grant to the Rainforest Alliance to add grantee profiles to the Eco-Index, a database of more than 1,000 biodiversity conservation projects in the Caribbean and North, Central and South America.

"The diverse countries across the Caribbean hotspot are facing common conservation challenges, and it's crucial that grantees have high-quality, multilingual tools to share information across geographic and language barriers," explains Melissa Normann, the Eco-Index's manager. "This project aims to provide grantees with a suite of tools to share project information, best practices, and lessons learned and connect with fellow grantees and colleagues."

Founded in 1987, the Rainforest Alliance has grown to become a leader in developing best practices for sustainable land-use, and offers third-party certification and eco-labeling services to farms, forests and tourism businesses, managed in ways that reduce environmental impacts and increase social benefits.

For the past ten years, the Rainforest Alliance has provided conservation organizations, research institutions, and government agencies working throughout the Americas with a variety of high-quality tools to share information, experiences and best practices. The Eco-index has built capacity and fostered collaboration by providing conservationists with a space where they can share information and coordinate efforts across geographic and language barriers.

The site features:

- A searchable database in English and Spanish of projects in the Americas and the Caribbean, representing the work of more than 900 NGOs, government agencies, and research institutions.
- Caribbean hotspot project profiles in 3 languages.
- A connection to the Western Hemisphere Migratory Species Initiative (WHMSI) Pathway, a tool that matches identified priority migratory species conservation needs with the resources that can address them.



Eco-Index

Through this project, a series of webinars for grantees working on similar projects, and with experts in thematic areas of recognized significance to the hotspot's conservation priorities will be organized. Interviews and newsletter articles featuring grantee projects will also be published.



## FoProBiM protects coastal life in Massif-Plaine du Nord, Haiti - Jean Wiener

Organized in 1992, Fondation pour la Protection de la Biodiversité Marine (FoProBiM) is an apolitical, non-governmental, non-profit organization headquartered in Haiti and was officially recognized by the Haitian government in 1995 as a foundation working on environment issues in the areas of sustainable development, education, research, monitoring, and advocacy.

FoProBiM's mission includes:

- raising awareness concerning needed changes in regulations and attitudes concerning the environment;
- increasing knowledge and capabilities at the government, community and individual levels in order to make sustainable improvements in the environment and the lives of people, and;
- conducting educational programs as well as scientific research, including environmental monitoring, in order to promote improved management of the environment and the protection of biodiversity through a better understanding of the need to sustainably use environmental resources.



Outdoor educational activities for school children.  
Photo credit: Jean Wiener

FoProBiM is currently undertaking a project supported by the CEPF with the objectives of protecting and managing mangroves, fisheries and sea turtles along Haiti's northern coast while also seeking to determine the possibilities for sustainable eco-tourism initiatives.

This will include educational activities and developing a system for monitoring sea turtles and the development of alternative income generating initiatives such as apiculture and plant nurseries while maintaining discussions with local stakeholders including the tourism industry.

## Grant approvals: June 2010 - June 2012

To date, CEPF has issued a total of 25 grants in the Caribbean region totaling over USD 2.2 million. The individual grant investments range from small grants of \$11,473 to large grants of \$251,354. The projects cover a spectrum of initiatives including building local capacity for invasive species management in Antigua and Barbuda and Saint Lucia and the development of participatory management and action plans for long-term conservation of two national parks in the Dominican Republic. The list of grants approved up to June 2012 is given below. For more details on the grants and project summaries that have been issued up to June 2012, visit the CEPF Caribbean webpage at: [http://www.canari.org/civil\\_sub5.asp](http://www.canari.org/civil_sub5.asp)

Applicant	Country	Grant (US\$)	Title/Description
<b>Strategic Direction 1: Improve protection and management of 45 priority Key Biodiversity Areas</b>			
Caribbean Coastal Area Management Foundation (C-CAM)	Jamaica	141,187	Management Planning in the Hellshire Hills and Portland Ridge and Bight Key Biodiversity Areas of Jamaica
Caribbean Wildlife Alliance (CWA)	Jamaica	20,000	Floristic Survey of the Hellshire Hills, Manatee Bay, and Goat Islands, Jamaica: A Contribution to Improved Protection and Management of the Jamaican Iguana
Consortio Ambiental Dominicano (CAD)	Dominican Republic	19,720	Assessing the feasibility of sustainable financing mechanisms in Bahoruco Oriental
Consortio Ambiental Dominicano (CAD)	Dominican Republic	209,860	Sustainable Financing and Establishment of Private Reserves for Biodiversity Conservation in Loma Quita Espuela and Loma Guaconejo, Dominican Republic
Environmental Awareness Group Inc. (EAG)	Antigua & Barbuda	117,160	Offshore Islands Conservation Programme: Maintaining Rat-Free Islands for the Benefit of Antigua's Biodiversity and People
Fauna & Flora International (FFI)	Antigua and Barbuda, Saint Lucia	116,725	Islands Without Aliens: Building Regional Civil Capacity to Eradicate Alien Invasive Species
Fondo Pronaturaleza Inc (PRONATURA)	Dominican Republic	110,880	Management Planning and Threats Reduction from Agricultural Encroachment for La Humeadora and Valle Nuevo National Parks in the Dominican Republic
Instituto Dominicano de Desarrollo Integral, inc. (IDDI)	Dominican Republic	49,669	Management Planning and Stakeholder Alliance Building for Sustainable Conservation in the Bahoruco East Key Biodiversity Area
Instituto Tecnológico de Santo Domingo (INTEC)	Dominican Republic	59,101	Promoting a Payments for Environmental Services Scheme through the Economic Valuation of Water Resources in the Quita Espuela and Guaconejo Science Reserves, Dominican Republic
Instituto Tecnológico de Santo Domingo (INTEC)	Dominican Republic	19,954	Informing Biodiversity Conservation Actions in Lake Enriquillo: Demonstrating the Recovery of Critically Endangered Species by the Removal of Invasive Alien Species.
Organisation des Paysans pour le Développement de l'Unité II de la Forêt des Pins, Mare Rouge (OPDFM)	Haiti	70,845	Measures to Support the Zoning Plan in Unit II of the Forest Reserve in "La Forêt des Pins."
<b>Strategic Direction 2: Integrate biodiversity conservation into landscape and development planning and implementation in six conservation corridors</b>			
Agronomes et Vétérinaires Sans Frontières (AVSF) / VSF-CIDA	Haiti	261,092	Forest Diversified Restoration in Fonds-Melon River Basin in South-East of Haiti



Applicant	Country	Grant (US\$)	Title/Description
Fondation pour la Protection de la Biodiversité Marine (FoProBim)	Haiti	83,800	Protecting Biodiversity by Promoting Nature-Based Tourism and Sustainable Livelihoods in the Massif – Plaine du Nord Conservation Corridor
Grupo Jaragua, Inc. (GJ)	Dominican Republic	19,943	Agro-forestry Model for Biodiversity in Neighbouring Communities of the Jaragua and Bahoruco National Parks, Dominican Republic
International Iguana Foundation (IIF)	Haiti	49,885	Supporting a Local Community in Creating a Municipal Wildlife Habitat for the Conservation of Ricord's Iguanas ( <i>Cyclura ricordi</i> ) in Anse-a-Pitres, Massif de la Selle Conservation Corridor, Haiti
Sociedad Ornitológica Hispaniola (SOH)	Dominican Republic	64,999	Developing and Implementing a Participatory Nature Tourism Strategy for Nalga de Maco National Park Key Biodiversity Area
Society for the Conservation and Study of Caribbean Birds (SCSCB)	Dominican Republic & Jamaica	62,754	Building a Framework for Sustainable Tourism in Key Biodiversity Areas in the Dominican Republic and Jamaica: The Caribbean Birding Trail
<b>Strategic Direction 3: Support Caribbean civil society to achieve biodiversity conservation by building local and regional institutional capacity and by fostering stakeholder collaboration</b>			
Fundación Loma Quita Espuela Coordinadora de Animación Socio Cultural (FLQE / CASCO)	Dominican Republic	19,947	Youth Network of the Loma Quita Espuela Scientific Reserve: Strengthening the Capacity of Civil Society Organisations and Youth Groups for Biodiversity Conservation
Organisation pour la Réhabilitation de l'Environnement (ORE)	Haiti	11,473	Stakeholder Consultation and Strategic Planning for Coordinated Biodiversity Conservation Action in Parc Macaya, Massif de la Hotte.
The Panos Institute	All eligible CEPF countries in the region	152,721	Strengthening the Engagement of Caribbean Civil Society in Biodiversity Conservation Through Local and Regional Networking and Effective Sharing of Learning and Best Practices
Rainforest Alliance, Inc.	All eligible CEPF countries in the region	105,021	Connecting Conservationists in the Caribbean Islands Hotspot
Réseau d'Enseignement Professionnel et d'Interventions Écologiques (REPIE)	Haiti	19,990	Supporting the Community in Forêt des Pins, Haiti to Preserve Biodiversity by Strengthening the Capacity of Schools in Collaboration with Farmers Associations and Other Community Groups.
<b>Strategic Direction 4: Provide strategic leadership and effective coordination of CEPF investment through a regional implementation team</b>			
Caribbean Natural Resources Institute (CANARI)	All eligible CEPF countries in the region	655,000	CEPF Regional Implementation Team in the Caribbean islands
<b>Strategic Direction 5: Provide emergency support to Haitian civil society to mitigate the impacts of the 2010 earthquake</b>			
BirdLife International	Haiti	13,188	Stakeholder Consultation and Planning for Post-Earthquake Environmental Support for the Haitian NGO Sector
BirdLife International	Haiti	251,354	Post-Earthquake Environmental Support for the Haitian NGO Sector

## Help from a regional pool of Mentors is here!

MACARTHUR  
The John D. and Catherine T. MacArthur Foundation

The Caribbean Natural Resources Institute (CANARI) successfully initiated a key step in the process of providing sustained support to other civil society organisations in the region. This was facilitated through a training workshop under CANARI's mentorship programme, which is one component of a three-year (2011 – 2013) project being implemented by CANARI titled *Consolidating the role of civil society in biodiversity conservation in the Caribbean islands* and is being funded by the John D. and Catherine T. MacArthur Foundation.

The purpose of the mentorship programme is to develop a pool of mentors throughout the region, who can help strengthen the capacity of civil society organisations (CSOs) in the islands of the Caribbean so that they can play a larger and more effective role in biodiversity conservation. The mentorship programme will also help to strengthen CANARI's capacity to provide effective and sustained support to other CSOs in its role as the Regional Implementation Team (RIT) for the five-year (2010-2015) Critical Ecosystem Partnership Fund (CEPF) Caribbean islands investment and other work.

Through its network of partners and liaison with other key civil society, state and academic stakeholders, a shortlist of 20 persons took part in the first Mentor Orientation Workshop conducted over five days in October 2011 in St. Vincent and the Grenadines.

The workshop was very participatory in nature and confirmed the willingness of the mentors to help build the capacity of civil society to play a more effective role in biodiversity conservation in their countries. Participants were able to define what mentoring means to them and explored the different capacities that are needed to be an effective mentor. In particular, mentors built and strengthened their capacity in participatory problem analysis and identification; project planning and proposal writing; and participatory facilitation.



Workshop group discussing what they believe is the definition of a mentor  
Photo credit: CANARI

As participants and facilitators discussed, mentoring entails a long-term supportive and developmental relationship that does not necessarily fall into structured terms but rather one that can be guided; mentors in this group recognized their role in facilitating action research and learning when offering support and guidance to civil society groups. Details on this training can be obtained in the workshop report on CANARI's website at: <http://www.canari.org/documents/CANARIMentorOrientationWorkshopReport-May2012.pdf>

The mentors that have been brought on board have varied strengths and experience in mentoring and so CANARI is tailoring the session plans for a follow-up training workshop, scheduled for July 2012, to try to address the diverse capacity needs.

An online, closed forum for mentors was recently constructed to enable exchanges among mentors and CANARI staff as a means of continuing to build the relationships of the group of mentors; to discuss issues of concern; and to build on the Action Research and Learning approach that is being nurtured within the group.



The 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*

Mentors from six islands (Antigua and Barbuda, Barbados, Dominica, Grenada, Saint Lucia and St. Vincent and the Grenadines) have also been facilitating national training activities/workshops over the month of June 2012 and will continue these activities in July 2012. After the follow-up training by CANARI, this team will be well prepared to strengthen the capacity of CEPF applicants in their proposal development and project implementation.

CANARI is excited by the introduction of this regional team of mentors, and is looking forward to valuable interactions between these persons and the various applicants to the CEPF!

*Do you want to know more about the mentors in your island? Contact the RIT at: Tel: (868) 626-6062  
Fax: (868) 626-1558 or send an e-mail message to: [cepf-rit@canari.org](mailto:cepf-rit@canari.org)*

## Engaging stakeholders in Massif de la Hotte, Haiti

Along with the Dominican Republic and Jamaica, Haiti is one of the three priority countries for CEPF investment in the Caribbean. The country hosts some of the highest priority key biodiversity areas that CEPF aims to support and among these is the Massif de la Hotte.

Massif de la Hotte has an area of 128, 700 hectares and is among the highest priority KBAs for CEPF investment in the region. It has also been recognised as among the sites hosting the largest number of Alliance for Zero Extinction (AZE) species in the world with 13 endemic and critically endangered species. The site contains remains of a mosaic of deciduous forests and degraded areas, surrounded by farmlands and subject to severe erosion. The population of Massif de la Hotte is estimated at more than 360,000 people.

CEPF has a limited amount of funding available to support biodiversity conservation in Massif de la Hotte. Due to the fact that there are a number of partners at the local, national and international level already investing in conservation initiatives in this priority KBA, CANARI and the CEPF Secretariat, with support from Organisation pour la Réhabilitation de l'Environnement (ORE), facilitated a stakeholders meeting to identify complementary projects and initiatives currently being implemented to help avoid duplication of efforts and increase collaboration. This meeting was held in La Borde, Haiti on 30<sup>th</sup> March 2012 and was also an opportunity to reflect on actions that would lead to tangible conservation results with local stakeholders. Park Macaya, within the Massif de la Hotte KBA, emerged as the focus of the discussions.

Following this meeting, CANARI issued a call for proposals on 15<sup>th</sup> May 2012 soliciting projects for biodiversity conservation initiatives in Massif de la Hotte, taking into account the recommendations made during the meeting. The full report of the stakeholders meeting including conclusions and recommendations can be found in French on CANARI's website: <http://canari.org/documents/CANARI-CEPFMacayaStakeholdersMeeting.pdf>.



Participants introducing themselves to the group and identifying the area of Massif de la Hotte where they work. To the left of the photo is the RIT Country Coordinator, Paul Judex Edouarzin, who co-facilitated the meeting (Photo credit: CANARI)



There was a great turn out of participants with representatives from local civil society, community groups, donors and government departments (Photo credit: CANARI)

## The Caribbean Islands Biodiversity Hotspot

### Call for Proposals

CANARI will continue to open rolling calls for proposals for both small and large grants. A new call is open to biodiversity conservation projects implemented by civil society and focused in the following countries in the Caribbean:

Antigua and Barbuda, Barbados, Bahamas, Dominica, Dominican Republic, Grenada, Haiti, Jamaica, Saint Lucia, St. Kitts & Nevis and St. Vincent and the Grenadines

The opening and deadline dates for this call for proposals:

Opening Date: Monday 2<sup>nd</sup> July 2012

Deadline Date: Monday 13<sup>th</sup> August 2012

Full details of the call are provided in English, Spanish and French and will be available on the CANARI website at: [www.canari.org/](http://www.canari.org/) and on the CEPF website at: [www.cepf.net](http://www.cepf.net) from Monday 2<sup>nd</sup> July 2012.

**We want to hear from you! All grantees are invited to contribute updates on their projects in subsequent issues of *Capacité*. Share copies with others in your network and please send us your comments on our first issue of *Capacité* to the address below!**

#### About CANARI

The Caribbean Natural Resources Institute (CANARI) is a non-profit organisation registered in Saint Lucia, St. Croix and Trinidad and Tobago, with its main office in Port of Spain, Trinidad. It has 501(c) (3) status in the United States and charitable status in Trinidad and Tobago.

Our mission is promoting and facilitating equitable participation and effective collaboration in the management of natural resources critical to development in the Caribbean islands, so that people will have a better quality of life and natural resources will be conserved, through action learning and research, capacity building and fostering partnerships.

CANARI's geographic focus is the islands of the Caribbean but its research findings are often relevant and disseminated to the wider region. Our programmes focus on research, sharing and dissemination of lessons learned, capacity building and fostering regional partnerships.



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