



How biodiversity conservation benefits communities

In our first issue of *Capacité* for 2015, we turn our attention to how biodiversity conservation can benefit communities by showcasing some of the many ways in which CEPF grantees are linking conservation with livelihoods and human well-being.

From the Environmental Awareness Group in Antigua and Barbuda, we learn how invasive alien species control can lead to habitat restoration and recovery that directly benefit tourism and communities. We hear how a study by the USA-based Humboldt State University on trees in coffee agro-ecosystems in Jamaica has demonstrated that farm revenue could increase with as little as a 5 percent increase in canopy cover, thus making a compelling argument for shade coffee. Bees are important pollinators in many ecosystems and beekeeping can generate income in communities living in and around forests. It can also be a useful tool for raising awareness for good forest management and conservation, as we learn from Grupo Jaragua about its work in southern Hispaniola, which is also supporting the habitat protection efforts of another CEPF grantee in Haiti.

Our Country Coordinators in the Dominican Republic and Haiti share specific examples of conservation/livelihoods synergies from their countries. An integrated community development approach to protected area management has resulted in changed attitudes and practices in buffer zone communities of La Humeadora National Park, Dominican Republic, for example. And innovative compensation schemes, coupled with alternative livelihood ventures are helping ensure the sustainability of reforestation initiatives in Haiti. Finally, we share news of a recent visit to Jamaica by staff from the World Bank and the CEPF.

We hope you enjoy reading *Capacité* 12. Please send us your feedback and let us know if you would like your project featured in an upcoming issue.

The Regional Implementation Team (RIT) in CANARI

The **Critical Ecosystem Partnership Fund** (CEPF) is a joint programme of l'Agence Française de Développement, Conservation International, the European Union, 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 22 hotspots, committing over US\$151 million in grants. CEPF is investing US\$6.9 million in the Caribbean islands during the five-year period from October 2010 to September 2015.

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Offshore Islands Conservation Programme: Maintaining Rat-Free Islands for the Benefit of Antigua's Biodiversity and People



- Natalya Lawrence, Coordinator, Offshore Islands Conservation Programme, Environmental Awareness Group, Antigua and Barbuda

Twenty years ago, the Environmental Awareness Group (EAG) of Antigua & Barbuda joined forces with the local government's Forestry Department, Fauna & Flora International, Island Resources Foundation and Durrell Wildlife Conservation Trust with the ambitious goal of saving the critically endangered Antiguan racer from extinction. At the time the snake, dubbed the "world's rarest," numbered approximately 50 individuals. Its habitat had become restricted to one small offshore island, Great Bird Island, which was unfortunately infested with invasive rats. These rats preyed on small snakes, mutilated larger ones, and competed with them for food. They also had voracious appetites for the island's plants, invertebrates and the nesting birds' eggs and chicks.



The Antiguan Racer (Alsophis antiguae)
©Nick Hollands

In those days, most Antiguan and Barbudans abhorred snakes and never thought it would be a problem if the snakes died out. But with the establishment of the Antiguan Racer Conservation Project (ARCP), the racer had a fighting chance. The conservation team set about tackling the threat of the invasive rats on the island and changing the mindset of Antiguan and Barbudans. The latter was key in the Racer's recovery: no use saving the snakes from rats to have them die at the hands of humans. These efforts resulted in an almost immediate increase in the snake population plus healthier

vegetation, more turtle nesting activity, and lots and lots of birds....and people!

Consolidating gains and scaling up efforts

Fast forward 18 years to 2012 when the ARCP, by then the Offshore Islands Conservation Programme (OICP), received a competitive grant from the Critical Ecosystem Partnership Fund (CEPF) to maintain rat-free islands for the benefit of local biodiversity and people. The resulting two-year project has benefitted people in many ways, not only through restoring and maintaining healthy ecosystems, which are inextricably linked to human well-being, but also by contributing to the economic needs of many households in the coastal communities that border the incredibly beautiful and wildlife-rich offshore islands, and building the skills and confidence of local conservation practitioners.

Increased tourism

One industry that is reaping benefits from our conservation work is tourism. Over the last few years nature-based tourism, particularly birding tourism, has increased in Antigua, especially across the islands in the North East Marine Management Area (NEMMA) - OICP's worksite in the Offshore Islands Key Biodiversity Area (KBA). The latest figures from tour operators show approximately 70,000 visitors annually, up from 17,000 at the start of the ARCP and 50,000 in 2011. Most of these tourists pay more than US\$100 to spend two to three hours on an offshore island. The most heavily visited islands are the ones that have had rats removed and where thriving ecosystems exist. Four more islands were cleared of rats during the grant period, increasing restored habitat in the NEMMA by 29%. →

Visitors get to observe rare birds such as Red-billed tropicbirds (*Phaeton aethereus*) and Caribbean brown pelicans (*Pelicanus occidentalis*). And thanks to tour operators and signage on Great Bird Island, some also have the opportunity to learn the history of the NEMMA, including the story of the Antiguan racer, which now numbers more than 1,000 individuals. Six tour companies have benefitted from the CEPF project by having their staff attend workshops and meetings that have helped increase their knowledge of the NEMMA and its wildlife.



Red-billed tropicbird (*Phaeton aethereus*) in flight.

©Nick Hollands

Revenue streams to local communities

Some of the tour companies operating in the NEMMA are based in coastal communities and most of their employees hail from these very communities. Furthermore, due to the high volume of traffic from cruise ship tourists, OICP volunteers, field officers, biologists and consultants, the communities around the NEMMA (generally considered low-income) earn money by providing goods and services including groceries, meals, lodging, laundry, communication, and storage facilities.

Fishers also have benefitted from the high demand from the local market for day trips and tours to and around restored islands. Additionally, because the OICP is a field-work intensive programme, fishers are contracted to provide transport for field officers and biologists to and from the offshore islands.




More than 550 school students visited the NEMMA during the course of the CEPF-funded project between July 2012 - August 2014. In many cases, it was the first time they had been on a boat or visited the offshore islands.

©Natalya Lawrence

Improved skills for conservation officers and biologists

The core work of the OICP is biodiversity management, including bio-security and wildlife monitoring. This is done on a regular schedule by dedicated field officers, biologists and volunteers, several of whom were able to improve their skills and expand their scope of work under the CEPF grant. The support from the CEPF has helped strengthen the technical skill base for conservation and wildlife management in Antigua and Barbuda as well as in other parts of region. This has been done through training, mentoring, and exchange visits with Saint Lucia. The capacity score of the Environmental Awareness Group, as measured by the CEPF Civil Society Tracking Tool, leapt by 10 points from 67 to 77.5 during the grant period.

Looking to the future

As we reflect on the conservation successes attained with the CEPF's support, we look forward to more accomplishments: expanding the network of restored islands, expanding restoration to specific mainland sites....and who knows, maybe even pressing for the Antiguan racer to become the symbolic national animal. 

With the People and For the People: Experiences in Conserving Biodiversity in the Dominican Republic

- Leida Buglass, Regional Implementation Team Country Coordinator, Dominican Republic

CRITICAL ECOSYSTEM
PARTNERSHIP FUND



Approximately 80 per cent of the projects supported by the Critical Ecosystem Partnership Fund (CEPF) in the Dominican Republic have socioeconomic components designed to generate benefits from nature for communities in and around critical ecosystems and to integrate biodiversity conservation with improving livelihoods. This is crucial for those people living in marginalised rural areas where poverty and the degradation of ecosystems are linked. Dominican civil society organisations (CSOs) recognise the relationship between the two and consequently make having mutual goals for conserving biodiversity and improving livelihoods an integral element of their actions and policies.

Making the benefits of conservation tangible to local communities in La Humeadora

In La Humeadora Mountain National Park, the efforts of Fondo Pro Naturaleza (PRONATURA) to stimulate community participation and foster models of shared management between the community and the relevant authorities are beginning to pay off. One of the crucial improvements has been changing farming practices. A community nursery project produces seedlings of native timber species and provides technical advice to farmers on how to improve soils and crops and regenerate land and wooded areas.



Members of staff of La Humeadora Mountain National Park. P. Yaneris, Park Ranger (left) and Marcos Corporán, Administrator. ©Leida Buglass

Local farmer Jacobo de León used to slash and burn to prepare the land to cultivate culantro (*Eryngium foetidum*) and various cash crops. But thanks to the PRONATURA project, he and other farmers in La Humeadora's buffer zone now practice analog forestry on their plots, creating tiered biomass architecture that mimics the structure and function of the original forest. Jacobo no longer needs to clear the land like he did before and he now plants native trees, like cedar and mahogany, alongside fruit trees. This new approach is lucrative. "In 2010, I earned about 3,500 pesos (US\$78) from the sale of my crops. Now I earn 8,000 pesos (US\$179) every two weeks and my plot is still not at its full production potential ...," said Jacobo when a group of visitors from the CEPF Secretariat, the Agence Française de Développement (AFD) — one of the CEPF's seven global donors — and Dominican CSOs and conservation partners visited the area last December. "Many farmers like me have begun to understand that the conservation of our soil and our forests is critical to our own well-being."

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Community groups have also benefitted from new partnerships with other CSOs and private sector entities (such as Ademi Bank, which provides support to micro, small and medium-sized enterprises) that have not only helped strengthen community organisations but also resulted in initiatives that improve the health and well-being of local families, such as the delivery of potable water to households.

These tangible benefits for local people help assure the sustainability of the project and support the effective and participatory management of the La Humeadora Mountain National Park. The park administrator, Marcos Corporán, has observed remarkable changes. "In 2010-11 the park was being slashed and burned everywhere," he said, "but since the project started, the fires have decreased considerably and things have changed for the better."

Another indicator of positive change has been the reduced poaching of parrot chicks and other birds. The outlook of P. Yaneris, a former poacher and now park ranger, reflects the changing attitude in the communities around La Humeadora. "The birds and trees have more value if they stay in the forest, because in the forest they generate more benefits for the people and the forest can return to its former glory," he said.

Tapping into the carbon trading and organic markets


There are other CEPF-supported projects that can boast favourable outcomes for community groups. Consorcio Ambiental Dominicano's (CAD's) project to promote "*Sustainable Financing and Establishment of Private Reserves for Biodiversity Conservation*" has successfully attracted more landowners to join Plan Vivo, a flexible carbon offset programme in which producers undertake to reforest pastureland with native trees. This model has a strong emphasis on improving livelihoods and community development, as it requires that 66 per cent of the total area of the carbon project is managed by small farmers. It is a strategic way to promote the equitable partnerships between large and small landowners while increasing the size of the Zorzal Private Reserve. In addition, farmers earn higher revenues from the sale of cocoa from the area since, thanks to this initiative, it has been certified organic. Locally produced organic cocoa is also being marketed under the name *Choco-carbono*, and is being promoted as "responsible business with a future."



Protecting the wintering grounds of the zorzal/Bicknell's thrush (Catharus bicknelli) has resulted in many positive benefits for local farmers and communities. ©CAD

Linking conservation to livelihoods through ecotourism

There are also a number of CEPF-funded initiatives in which communities participate in the sustainable use and management of biodiversity through ecotourism. These include projects by the Sociedad Ornitológica de La Hispaniola (SOH) in Nalga de Maco National Park and Sierra de Batoruco Ladera Norte; Instituto Dominicano de Desarrollo Integral, Sociedad Ecologica de Paraiso and SOH in the Padre Miguel D. Fuertes Natural Monument; and the Fundación José Delio Guzmán in Valle Nuevo National Park.

One of the lessons learned from these projects is that local communities are quite capable of understanding environmental issues, such as the negative impacts of the degradation of land and forest and the relevance to their own lives and well-being. Community members are willing to work towards conserving forests and wildlife if they believe they are also part of their lives. As Lali, a community leader in La Humeadora Mountain National Park, has observed, "We are also part of biodiversity." 

Birds, Trees and Coffee Bushes: How Farm Biodiversity Can Make Dollars and Sense in Western Jamaica

- *Matthew D. Johnson, PhD, Department of Wildlife, Humboldt State University*



Jamaican coffee: an opportunity to combine human livelihood with habitat for forest-dwelling birds.
©Wendy Willis



The Jamaican tody (Todus todus) is an endemic species of bird that is common on shade coffee farms in western and central Jamaica.
©Matt Johnson

In parts of western Jamaica, such as the Cockpit Country and the Catadupa Key Biodiversity Areas (KBAs), forest habitats are threatened by agriculture. And as agriculture becomes increasingly intensified, its value for biodiversity diminishes. In 2013, the Department of Wildlife at the Humboldt State University in California, USA received a small grant from the Critical Ecosystem Partnership Fund (CEPF), which we used to address both of these challenges by documenting the value of existing forests for the benefit of agriculture; and identifying how farm management practices, specifically planting native shade trees attractive to wildlife, can enhance crop value.

Conserving biodiversity and providing ecosystem services


Detailed bird surveys allowed our team to identify which insect-eating birds were feeding in coffee trees, and how their numbers can be increased by planting shade trees. Working with a mathematical modeller, we were able to document how shade trees and nearby forests can help control pests of coffee and thereby increase crop production and farm income.

We found that even modest amounts of shade trees (as little as 5 per cent canopy cover) could result in increases in farm revenue. We also learned that some species of trees, such as *Inga vera* (known as panchok in Jamaica) and other nitrogen-fixing leguminous trees, are especially attractive to insect-eating birds. Therefore, these species make good choices as shade trees because they can help maintain soil fertility while providing shade and encouraging pest control.

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Multi-agency partnership to promote shade coffee

The ecosystem services of trees and their contribution to climate resilience along with economic benefits make a compelling case for shade coffee and the use of particular tree species. In collaboration with the Coffee Industry Board of Jamaica, we developed a brochure that summarises key lessons, and we presented our findings and recommendations to farmers during a workshop held in Cambridge, St. James in November 2013.

Since the project ended, the Coffee Industry Board has intensified its promotion of shade coffee in western Jamaica, using the messages that came out of the project. The Coffee Industry Board has also been collaborating with the Forestry Department and the Rural Agricultural Development Authority (RADA) respectively, to make available and distribute *Inga vera* trees to farmers along with other fruit and timber trees like cedar (*Cedrela odorat*), which shares some of the same ecological qualities as *Inga vera*. As part of the outreach, farmers are being shown how to combat the nuisance black ants associated with *Inga vera*. 



In November 2013, the team offered a workshop for farmers to share information about shade cultivation practices that can benefit both birds and crop production.

©Matt Johnson



*Jamaican farmers use a variety of shade trees on coffee farms. This project found that nitrogen fixing trees such as *Inga vera* can be useful choices because they attract pest-eating birds and help maintain soil fertility.*

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The full paper that describes the computer simulation that shows how coffee growers in Jamaica could improve harvests if they planted trees in some of their cropland, is available for download from <http://www.pnas.org/content/111/16/6109.full>

Conservation Benefits for Communities: An Overview of Socioeconomic Benefits of Three CEPF Projects in Haiti

CRITICAL ECOSYSTEM
PARTNERSHIP FUND



- Paul Judex Edouarzin, Regional Implementation Team Country Coordinator, Haiti

Since 2010, the Critical Ecosystem Partnership Fund (CEPF) has been active in 11 countries of the Caribbean, with a particular focus on the three Greater Antilles countries of Jamaica, Dominican Republic and Haiti, where its highest priority key biodiversity areas (KBAs) for investment are located. Interventions in Haiti have placed special emphasis on local communities and addressed a range of aspects of biodiversity conservation. Through local civil society organisations and national, regional and international counterparts, the CEPF has provided sustained support for activities that contribute to the preservation of biodiversity. These have included building local capacity, education and training, scientific research, reforestation, and promoting sustainable socio-economic alternatives.

Several organisations have benefitted from CEPF support and among them are the three that are highlighted in this article, all of which have implemented projects that are yielding benefits for communities in important conservation areas.

Agronomes et Vétérinaires Sans Frontières (AVSF): Diversified forest restoration on the Fonds - Melon River Basin in Southeast Haiti

This project set about mainstreaming biodiversity conservation in the Fonds-Melon community through a range of actions in priority zones, including improving the quality of biodiversity in forests through simple management measures and disseminating information on biodiversity. Among other results, the project designed a payment for environmental services (PES) scheme to finance the long-term maintenance of the tree plots established



Partial view of the Fonds-Melon River Basin.

©Paul Judex Edouarzin

under the project. The PES scheme is a compensation system that involves giving incentives to households to help monitor the trees planted. It is too early to assess the effectiveness of the compensation scheme, but there is no doubt that this initiative will benefit both nature and people by promoting the conservation of tree plots and providing an injection of cash to families in the area. To date, more than 800 people have taken part in the PES initiative. /→

Organisation des Paysans pour le Développement de l'Unité II de la Forêt des Pins, Mare Rouge (OPDFM): Support Measures for the Zoning Plan for Unit II, Forêt des Pins



Saplings growing in the area of Unité II Forêt des Pins, Mare-Rouge reforested under the CEPF-supported project.
©Paul Judex Edouarzin


The project's main objective is to contribute to restoring ecosystems in Unit II of the Forêt des Pins, including through the implementation of the forest management plan, along with advocacy, capacity building and reforestation. This project is a model of success, not only because of the number of hectares reforested -- 70 with Caribbean pine (*Pinus occidentalis*) and 30 with broadleaf species -- but also because of the level of involvement, participation and ownership of project activities by the community, as well as the partnership between the project and the various community and government entities involved in biodiversity conservation.

The project has made important contributions to local livelihoods. It has supported the development of alternative income generating activities for farming families that are compatible with good environmental stewardship. These include such things as small vegetable plots and the commodification of non-timber forest products. More than 150 families have increased their revenue through the cultivation and sale of vegetable crops, such as leeks, cabbage, and from non-timber forest products.

A particular innovation of this project has been the establishment of enclosure stands of broadleaf forest on private lands that have been strategically identified for protection by the National Protected Areas Agency. Contracts for protection have been signed with the owners/operators, who receive a subvention in exchange for bringing the land under protection within the national framework. Up to 75 hectares have been protected in this way.

International Iguana Foundation: Supporting a Local Community in Creating a Municipal Wildlife Habitat for the Conservation of Ricord's Iguanas in Anse-a-Pitres, Massif de la Selle Conservation Corridor

This project's main objective is to create a municipal reserve in Anse-à-Pitres to promote the conservation of endemic and critically endangered Ricord's iguana (*Cyclura ricordii*). The project involved local people in monitoring activities, research, information dissemination and training. To address the issue of intensive charcoal production in the iguanas' habitat, the project has developed alternative income generating initiatives, including beekeeping, to which community members were formally introduced through a training workshop. (See related story about this activity on page 10.)

At this stage it is difficult to assess the real economic impact of this initiative, which is still its initial phase, but the indications are that this may be a viable income source for some families in the Anse-a-Pitres region in the future. 

Promoting Livelihoods that support Biodiversity Conservation in the Communities of the Jaragua-Bahoruco-Enriquillo Biosphere Reserve and Massif de la Selle



- Ernst Rupp, Project Coordinator, Grupo Jaragua



Honey comb in Bosque de Oviedo, Jaragua National Park, Dominican Republic.
©Leida Buglass

Historically, the south of the island of Hispaniola has been an important area for the production of honey and beeswax thanks to the area's forests' rich supply of pollen and nectar for bees. But beekeeping has been suffering because of livestock, large scale monoculture and subsistence farming as well as charcoal production — all non-sustainable activities that have contributed to destroying vast areas of forests in the region. In response, Grupo Jaragua has developed a bi-national project to reduce pressure on forests and help maintain connectivity and resilience of ecosystems in the area. The project promotes beekeeping as a sustainable income generating activity that is compatible with biodiversity conservation and the health of natural ecosystems. It targets communities surrounding the Jaragua National Park within the Jaragua-Bahoruco-Enriquillo Biosphere Reserve in the Dominican Republic and the Municipal Protected Area of Anse-à-Pitres in Haiti. The former site is important for the survival of two endangered endemic mammals — the Hispaniolan solenodon (*Solenodon paradoxus*) and the hutia (*Plagiodontia aedium*) — while the latter is the only refuge of critically endangered Ricord's iguana (*Cyclura ricordi*) in Haiti.

Country strategies differ

The focus of the work in the Dominican Republic is on improving the quality of existing honey production and bringing new families into apiculture, while in Haiti the strategy is to introduce beekeeping as viable alternative to the production of coal, which is threatening the complete destruction of forest remnants within the Municipal Protected Area.

Dominican Republic

In the communities surrounding the Jaragua National Park, Grupo Jaragua is using the traditional Langstroth beekeeping system, which consists of two separate boxes, one for



Langstroth hives in Bosque de Oviedo, Jaragua National Park, Dominican Republic.
©Leida Buglass

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breeding new bees and one for honey production. With good management this system can result in high honey production, but it requires special inputs and additional machinery to extract honey.

Four families have been selected to join the existing beekeepers. They will receive their hives and training in April during the rainy season and abundant flowering in the woods. Fifteen families with established apiaries will benefit from apiculture management courses in the dry season and an integrated pest management course that emphasises control of the varoa parasitic mite that attacks the honey bees.


Haiti

In Anse-à-Pitres, Haiti, the project is introducing the Kenyan top-bar hive or box, named for the country where it was invented and first promoted. The system consists of a single box, where both breeding and honey production take place. The advantage is that it does not require sophisticated management and does not depend on inputs and machinery for honey extraction, making it easier to handle. The Kenyan box generally produces less honey than the Langstroth box, but offers beeswax as an additional by-product. Beeswax is currently scarce on the Haitian market, which means it can fetch a good price.



*Ernst Rupp of Grupo Jaragua and project beneficiaries with a sample Kenyan box.
©Leida Buglass*

Grupo Jaragua's work in Anse-à-Pitres is very closely aligned with the International Iguana Foundation's project "*Supporting a Local Community in Creating a Municipal Wildlife Habitat for the Conservation of Ricord's Iguanas in Anse-à-Pitres, Massif de la Selle Conservation Corridor, Haiti*", which is also being supported by the CEPF. (See related story about this activity on page 9.) Three families have been selected to participate in the project, one of which current makes a living from charcoal production. Participating families have been trained in the use of the boxes, which are currently being manufactured and are expected to be ready for the rainy season and flowering in April.

If successful, this pilot has the potential to be scaled up to bring about important alternative livelihoods outcomes for the communities and conservation outcomes for forest ecosystems by reducing pressure on the resource and positively changing attitudes of local people towards forest stewardship. 

CEPF: Strengthening the Foundation for Conservation in Jamaica



- Michele Zador, Grant Director, Caribbean Islands Biodiversity Hotspot, CEPF

The biologically and culturally diverse Caribbean Islands biodiversity hotspot sustains an exceptional array of ecosystems and hosts dozens of highly threatened species across 290 key biodiversity areas (KBAs). These areas are essential not only for biodiversity, but also for supporting communities by providing ecosystem services (access to fresh water, clean air and more), serving as a basis for recreational and tourism industries, and buffering coastal communities from the effects of storms.

In Jamaica alone, there are 38 KBAs. The wetlands and sea grasses of Jamaica's Portland Ridge and Bight KBA provide the largest nursery area for fish, crustaceans and molluscs on the island, and support 4,000 of the country's 16,000 fishermen.

Through its investment in the Caribbean Islands biodiversity hotspot, which began in 2010, CEPF has awarded 14 grants totalling \$1.1 million to civil society organizations in Jamaica. These grants play an important role in building capacity for biodiversity conservation within local civil society organizations and communities.



To get a first-hand look at some CEPF grantees' projects and learn more about CEPF grant-making in the hotspot, CEPF's new Executive Director Olivier Langrand visited Jamaica from February 10-18. Sara Thompson, program specialist with the World Bank — one of seven CEPF global donors — also participated in the supervision mission, along with Michele Zador, CEPF's grant director for the hotspot, and Nicole Brown, the Jamaica country coordinator for the hotspot's CEPF Regional Implementation Team. [/→](#)

Left to right: Sara Thompson, CEPF Support Specialist, The World Bank; Michele Zador, Grant Director, CEPF Caribbean Islands Biodiversity Hotspot; and Olivier Langrand, CEPF Executive Director overlooking the Portland Ridge & Bight KBA.
©Conservation International/Olivier Langrand



*The wetlands and sea grasses of Jamaica's Portland Ridge and Bight KBA support 4,000 of the country's 16,000 fishermen.
©Conservation International/Olivier Langrand*




Members of the visiting team exploring sections of the Portland Bight Protected Area/Conservation Corridor with colleagues from the Caribbean Coastal Area Management (C-CAM) Foundation.
©Conservation International/Olivier Langrand

The group met in Kingston with representatives from key government agencies, grantee staff and members of the Caribbean Islands Regional Advisory Committee. The team also visited the Embassy of Japan and the World Bank Resident Mission to exchange information about their programmes and to identify opportunities for collaboration.

“CEPF’s work to engage civil society in the Caribbean region continues to be beneficial to conservation goals and local communities. It is also important to note that the CEPF has been engaging key stakeholders including government agencies, nongovernmental organisations, civil society groups and local community groups to help ensure that everyone participates in the conservation dialogue,” said Thompson.

The group also visited CEPF project sites in the Portland Ridge, Hellshire Hills, Dolphin Head and Cockpit Country KBAs. In total, the group visited eight organizations receiving CEPF funding: Caribbean Coastal Area Management (C-CAM) Foundation, The CARIBSAVE Partnership, Dolphin Head Local Forest Management Committee (LFMC), Clarendon Parish Development Committee Benevolent Society, Jamaica Environmental Trust (JET), The Nature Conservancy (TNC), Windsor Research Centre Limited, and in Trinidad, Zador and Thompson met with the Caribbean Natural Resources Institute (CANARI).

According to Langrand, "The investment of the CEPF in Jamaica has been foundational: communities and local NGOs have received funding to implement projects contributing to the conservation of Jamaica's most important natural ecosystems that are essential to people's livelihoods." 

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We want to hear from you!

All grantees are invited to contribute updates on their projects to Capacité.
Please share Capacité with others in your network and send us your comments and feedback.

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.



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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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