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CRITICAL ECOSYSTEM  
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CANARI serves as CEPF's regional implementation team for the Caribbean Islands Biodiversity Hotspot.

# CAPACITÉ +

September 2022 | Issue #1

## Capacité + is here!

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

*Capacité +* will not only provide you with quarterly updates on our work in the region, lessons learned and best practices from CEPF supported projects and other related initiatives, it will also be a space where CEPF Caribbean grantees and other stakeholders can share their insights on biodiversity conservation and civil society capacity building in the region.



Maria Island Nature Reserve,  
Saint Lucia. © CANARI

The word *Capacité* (Capacity) reflects the strong emphasis placed by both CANARI and the CEPF on building the capacity of civil society organisations (CSOs) to participate in and influence the conservation of the Caribbean Islands Biodiversity Hotspot.

**We hope you enjoy reading *Capacité +*  
and we invite you to share the newsletter with others.**

**First grants approved under the CEPF  
second investment in the Caribbean  
Islands Biodiversity Hotspot**



*Parque Nacional Valle Nuevo, Dominican Republic.*  
© Fundación José Delio Guzmán

The Critical Ecosystem Partnership Fund (CEPF) recently awarded the first four grants under its current five-year investment to civil society organisations (CSOs) working in Jamaica and the Dominican Republic.

[Learn more](#)



*Great Bird Island, Antigua.* © Chaso Media  
*Antigua Ground Lizard.* © Nick Hollands

### **CEPF Success Story "Islands Without Aliens: Building Regional Civil Capacity to Eradicate Alien Invasive Species"**

During its first investment in the Caribbean Islands, the CEPF supported a consortium of four organisations led by Fauna & Flora International (FFI) to strengthen the capacity of local organisations to eradicate and control alien species in Saint Lucia and Antigua & Barbuda.

Eight years later, the project continues to have significant positive impacts on biodiversity conservation and restoration in both countries.

[Read More](#)



*Goat Islands, Portland Bight Protected Area, Jamaica.*  
© CANARI

**The CEPF in  
the Caribbean Islands**



*Bromelia*  
© CANARI

**Exploring the Caribbean  
Islands Biodiversity Hotspot**

After a successful first investment in the Caribbean Islands Biodiversity Hotspot that ended in 2016, the Critical Ecosystem Partnership Fund (CEPF) has now returned to the Caribbean region for a second five-year investment between August 2021 and July 2026.

[Learn more](#)

Our Caribbean region is a biodiversity-rich archipelago with unique habitats and high species diversity.

Check out our infographic for facts and figures about the Caribbean and its biodiversity!

[View infographic](#)

## Approved grants



*C-CAM Salt River Field Station, Jamaica.  
© Simone Lee.*

To date, CEPF has issued **four grants** totalling over **US\$1.1 million** under its second investment in the Caribbean region.

The individual large grant investments range from US\$112,626.15 to US\$388,483.58.

Explore our interactive map of current CEPF-funded projects in the Caribbean:

<https://storymaps.arcgis.com/stories/6b2618e2a26649dc8041af7f12ead197>

For more details on the grants that have been issued, click [here](#).

## Meet the Caribbean Regional Implementation Team (RIT)

The Regional Implementation Team (RIT) at the Caribbean Natural Resources Institute (CANARI) works on the ground directly with CEPF's grantees, helping to build local capacity and implement CEPF's strategy in the biodiversity hotspot.

[Learn more](#)



*Members of the Caribbean RIT. © CANARI.*

## About the CEPF

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

The Phase II investment in the Caribbean Islands Biodiversity Hotspot is financed through the Critical Ecosystem Partnership Fund – Caribbean Hotspot Project of the World Bank, using funds provided by the Government of Japan.

## About CANARI

The Caribbean Natural Resources Institute (CANARI) is a regional technical institute which has been working in the islands of the Caribbean for over 30 years. Our mission is to promote and facilitate stakeholder participation in the stewardship of natural resources in the Caribbean.



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