



Caribbean Marine Biodiversity Program

Cooperative Agreement No. AID-OAA-A14-00064

Year 1 Final Technical Report (October 2014 - September 2015)



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Cover photo: Yachts anchored in the Tobago Cays Marine Park. Photo: Dr. Owen Day

INTRODUCTION

Program Overview

The overall objective of the USAID Caribbean Marine Biodiversity Program (CMBP) is to reduce threats to marine and coastal biodiversity in priority areas in the Caribbean—including high biodiversity ecosystems such as coral reefs, mangroves, and seagrass beds—in order to achieve sustained biodiversity conservation, maintain critical ecosystem services, and realize tangible improvements in human wellbeing for communities adjacent to marine managed areas (MMAs). To achieve this objective, the CMBP addresses direct and indirect threats to marine and coastal biodiversity at multiple geographic scales simultaneously. More specifically, the CMBP includes nested and inter-connected actions across four geographic scales: site, seascape, national and regional. Most of the funding and activities are centered on *four targeted seascapes*: (i) North Coast of Hispaniola (focus on Haiti); (ii) Samaná Bay (Dominican Republic); (iii) Pedro Bank and Southwest Coast of Jamaica (Jamaica); and (iv) Grenadine Bank (Grenada and St. Vincent and the Grenadines).

The Program includes four major Expected Results:

Expected Result #1: Enabling environment created for long-term Marine Managed Area (MMA) success

Expected Result #2: Effective marine spatial plans and seascape governance mechanisms

Expected Result #3: More sustainable fisheries sector by maximizing fishery benefits of MMAs, promoting innovative fishery management actions, and promoting sustainable livelihoods

Expected Result #4: Effective management and governance of MMAs

This five-year program is being implemented through a cooperative agreement between the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID) and The Nature Conservancy (TNC). Activities are being carried out through a consortium which includes five local NGO sub-award partners: (i) the CARIBSAVE Partnership (CARIBSAVE) (regional); (ii) Caribbean Coastal Area Management Foundation (C-CAM) (Jamaica); (iii) Center for Conservation and Eco-Development of Samaná Bay and Its Surroundings (CEBSE) (Dominican Republic); (iv) Foundation for the Protection of Marine Biodiversity (FoProBIM) (Haiti); and (v) Sustainable Grenadines Inc. (SusGren) (Grenada and St. Vincent and the Grenadines).

Reporting Period

As required under Cooperative Agreement No. AID-OAA-A14-00064 between TNC and USAID, this is the Final Technical Report for Year 1 of CMBP, covering activities carried out from October 1, 2014 to September 30, 2015. This report highlights the most important activities carried out under CMBP in Year 1, and is not intended as an exhaustive account of all activities.

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ACRONYMS AND KEY TERMS

Acronyms

3BNP	Three Bays National Park (Haiti)
CaMPAM	Caribbean Marine Protected Area Managers Network
CBF	Caribbean Biodiversity Fund
C-CAM	Caribbean Coastal Area Management Foundation (Jamaica)
CCI	Caribbean Challenge Initiative
CEBSE	Center for Conservation and Eco-development of Samaná Bay and its Surroundings (Dominican Republic)
CFO	Carriacou Fisher Organization (Grenada)
CMBP	Caribbean Marine Biodiversity Program
CODOPECSA	Dominican Council for Fisheries and Aquaculture (government agency)
DSS	Decision Support System
DR	Dominican Republic
ECMMAN	Eastern Caribbean Marine Managed Areas Network Project (German funding)
EPP	Environmental Protection Program (former USAID-supported program in DR)
GB	Grenadine Bank
GEF	Global Environment Facility
GNMPA	Grenadines Network of Marine Protected Areas (Grenadine Bank)
FoProBIM	Foundation for the Protection of Marine Biodiversity (Haiti)
MAF	Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries (Jamaica)
MARENA	Ministry of Environment and Natural Resources (Dominican Republic)
MMA	Marine managed area
MSP	Marine spatial plan
MPA	Marine protected area
NEPA	National Environmental and Planning Agency (Jamaica)
NCTF	National Conservation Trust Fund
NOAA	National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (United States)
SEPROBAC	Committee for Environmental Protection of Caracol Bay (Haiti)
SFM	Sustainable finance mechanism (e.g. tourism fees)
SIOBMPA	Sandy Island Oyster Bed Marine Protected Area (Grenada)
SusGren	Sustainable Grenadines, Inc.
SVG	Saint Vincent and the Grenadines
TCMP	Tobago Cays Marine Park (St. Vincent and the Grenadines)
TEF	Tourism Enhancement Fund (Jamaica)
TNC	The Nature Conservancy
UGeBfo	Unité de Gestion de la Baie de Fort-Liberté (Haiti)
UNDP	United Nations Development Program

Key Terms

Core MMA	Sites that will receive significant investment under CMBP, with at least one Core MMA in each of the four targeted seascapes
MMA	Marine managed areas are actively managed marine/coastal space, often including a range of uses: protection, sustainable fisheries and tourism, etc.
MPA	Marine protected areas are strictly protected areas, where fishing and other uses are typically prohibited. MPAs can be zones within MMAs
Network MMA	Sites that are connected to Core MMAs, and that will receive modest investment under CMBP, with at least one Network Site in each targeted seascape

I. PROGRESS AND MAJOR OUTPUTS

1.1. Implementation start-up

The Caribbean Marine Biodiversity Program officially started on September 29, 2014, following the signature of the Cooperative Agreement No. AID-OAA-A14-00064 between the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) and The Nature Conservancy. As with any large and complex USAID program, significant time was dedicated during the first six months to a wide range of start-up activities required for full implementation. Of particular importance was the signing of the five sub-award agreements (C-CAM, CEBSE, CARIBSAVE, SusGren and FoProBIM), which entailed rigorous due diligence processes as required by TNC. Other important start-up activities included, in particular:

Completion of five required USAID start-up deliverables. Deliverables included: the Year 1 Work Plan, Performance Management Plan (PMP), Branding and Marking Plan, standard templates for contracts and sub-awards, and Environmental Monitoring and Mitigation Plan (EMMP).

Recruitment of seven personnel. Recruitments included four staff in the Program Management Unit (PMU), Seascape Coordinators for the Dominican Republic and Grenadine Bank, and a new CMBP Fisheries Lead.

Regional Inception Meeting and compliance training (December 2014). This event involved 15 TNC staff and 1–2 staff from each NGO Consortium partner. In addition to Year 1 work planning, CMBP coordination mechanisms were agreed during the meeting and the Performance Management Plan (PMP) was refined. Partners also received a basic orientation on federal regulations pertaining to CMBP implementation.

In-country inception meetings. A series of in-country stakeholder meetings and workshops were organized during the CMBP start-up phase. Combined TNC / USAID delegations visited all four seascapes and held stakeholder meetings in the Dominican Republic, Grenada, Haiti, Jamaica, and St. Vincent and the Grenadines, to officially introduce CMBP, share information and ideas, explore collaboration and tour field sites. Presentations of the program were given to national governments, which generated formal endorsements and established formal coordination.



CMBP launch event in Grenadine Bank in August 2015. From left to right: Mr. Chris Cushing (USAID Mission Director for Eastern and Southern Caribbean), Minister Saboto Caesar (St. Vincent and the Grenadines), Minister Roland Bhola (Grenada), and Ambassador Larry Palmer (U.S. Ambassador for Eastern and Southern Caribbean). Photo: @TNC



Formal presentation of the CMBP to Prime Minister Evans Paul of Haiti. Photo: @TNC

Establishment of Monitoring and Evaluation (M&E) Program. TNC operationalized an M&E Working Group to coordinate all activities related to the Performance Management Plan (PMP).

During Q1 and Q2 of FY15, there was relatively limited implementation of activities in the Year 1 Work Plan, as the focus was on completing essential start-up steps required to provide a solid foundation for moving forward with all aspects of implementation. The second half of Year 1 entailed a significant acceleration of implementation activities.

1.2. Expected Result #1: Enabling environment created for long-term MMA success

Objective 1.1. Promote achievement of the 20-by-20 MMA Goal under the Caribbean Challenge Initiative (CCI) and foster regional collaboration through CCI

Support for CCI Secretariat. CCI is a regional effort, currently involving 10 governments and 15 companies, to galvanize leadership, financial resources, and regional collaboration to conserve the marine and coastal environment (www.caribbeanchallengeinitiative.org). Phase II was launched at the 2013 *Summit of Political and Business Leaders*, at which governments and companies signed formal declarations committing to the (i) 20-by-20 Goal (“to effectively conserve and manage at least 20% of their near-shore marine / coastal environment by 2020”); and (ii) Sustainable Finance Goal (by 2020, “to have in place fully functioning sustainable finance mechanisms for marine and coastal resources”). In terms of CMBP target countries, the governments of Jamaica, DR, Grenada, and St Vincent and the Grenadines are CCI members. (Haiti is considering joining.) Key private sector collaborators in CMBP (e.g. Royal Caribbean, Sandals, Virgin) signed the *Corporate Compact* at the 2013 Summit and joined CCI.

A key activity under this objective is to help finance and provide advice to the CCI Secretariat, currently hosted by the Grenada Government. The CCI Secretariat was established in 2013 to help maintain momentum, support achievement of the CCI goals, and foster regional collaboration around the marine / coastal environment. In Q2 of FY15, with CMBP funding, the CCI Coordinator was contracted to strengthen the operations of the Secretariat through producing a set of specific deliverables. The Coordinator served in this role for a six-month period, working out of the Grenada Government’s Environment Ministry, and reporting to Permanent Secretary Merina Jessamy (Chair of the CCI Secretariat). TNC, as in previous years, provided significant strategic guidance and

technical support to the Secretariat during Year 1. As examples, the Coordinator implemented the following concrete activities to promote the “20-by-20” Goal and foster regional collaboration:

- Progress reports. Contacted CCI member governments and companies to collect information on their progress toward achieving the CCI goals. This allowed the Secretariat to begin producing progress reports which will, in Year 2, be accessible through a dashboard on the CCI web site.
- Communications materials. Assisted with the preparation of a first CCI newsletter, and the updating of the CCI web site, brochure, and power point presentation.
- New CCI government members. Prepared a special communications packet of materials that will be used to encourage additional Caribbean governments to join CCI.
- Prepared drafts of two database tools to support CCI implementation. Prepared (i) a preliminary database of experts in the marine / coastal sphere; and (ii) a preliminary database of funding sources to support CCI action in the marine / coastal sphere.
- CCI Event at Blue Growth Investment Conference. Prepared a briefing paper outlining the concept of a CCI Event (e.g. first CCI Council Meeting) at the upcoming Blue Growth Investment Conference in Grenada in late March 2016. The briefing paper was subsequently submitted to the Grenada cabinet and approved. (Note: TNC met with Minister Bhola and Permanent Secretary Jessamy of the Environment Ministry, to outline the concept of a CCI Event, solicit their input, and secure their support.)

Technical assistance to the CCI Secretariat will continue in Year 2, to specifically assist with the CCI Event described above. TNC has also been working closely with the German Government (KfW-German Development Bank) on securing some additional funding to support the Secretariat on a longer-term basis. This funding has recently been approved, and should support the operations of the CCI Secretariat for an 18-month period starting in mid-2016.

Promote 20-by-20 MMA Goal in five targeted CMBP countries. Under Expected Result #4 (described below), activities designed to strengthen management of *existing* MMA sites (CMBP Core and Network Sites) promote achievement of the “20-by-20” MMA Goal. Some additional activities to promote the “20-by-20” CCI Goal were carried out in Year 1, designed to support declaration of *new* MMAs. These include, for example:

- Dominican Republic. In Year 1, the Ministry of Environment drafted a bill which would change the current boundaries (terrestrial and marine) of Los Haitises National Park—a CMBP Core Site. The bill would substantially extend the boundaries of the marine area of the park, including several of the areas proposed as no-take zones in the marine spatial plan (MSP) zoning proposal developed by CEBSE and TNC in 2013. TNC and CEBSE participated in public discussions with the Government and others on expansion of the marine component of the Park. Comments were collected and the bill is currently under revision. The CMBP team will continue providing assistance (as necessary) when subsequent revisions are presented, before the bill is submitted to the legislature for final approval. More broadly, discussions were initiated with the Government on the MSP in Samaná Bay, including establishment of no-take zones. These discussions are ongoing, and entail assessment of the legal and management implications of new no-take zones, impacts on various stakeholder groups, and other considerations.



Map proposing expansion of marine boundaries (dotted line) for Los Haitises National Park, Dominican Republic.

- Haiti. In meetings with the Minister of Environment and Prime Minister, CMBP introduced the idea of Haiti joining CCI and committing to the 20-by-20 Goal; the idea was very well received. In the latter part of Year 1, CMBP worked with the government on a draft letter endorsing CCI. The letter is pending signature by the Prime Minister and the Minister of Environment; however, the elections process has caused delays and it may now be more advantageous for a CCI endorsement letter to be sent by the new administration, once the term starts in February 2016.
- Jamaica. Meetings were held with senior officials in the Environmental Management and Fisheries Divisions to discuss additional MPA declarations proposed specifically for the Pedro Bank in the MSP, and to assist the Jamaican Government in the broader effort to achieve their target of protecting 25%¹ of their marine space by 2020. In general there has been receptivity to: (i) the idea of tripling the size of the existing Southwest Cay Fish Sanctuary at Pedro Bank; (ii) considering additional declarations of new fish sanctuaries at Pedro Bank; and (iii) C-CAM serving as the on-the-ground manager for the Pedro Cays fish sanctuaries. The final Pedro Bank MSP workshop was held in May 2015; there are still aspects of the MSP zoning proposal that are under discussion (e.g. establishment of additional fish sanctuaries). TNC and C-CAM participated actively in the workshop and helped to lead the overall MSP effort. If the proposal for new fish sanctuaries were to be approved by the Government, it could have important implications for C-CAM's work in Pedro Bank. Concrete discussions regarding governmental funding for these new MPAs have not yet been held.
- Grenada. In close coordination with the Government, and with match funding from ECMMAN, TNC completed underwater (benthic) habitat mapping for a proposed new MMA at Grand Anse, on the west coast of the main island of Grenada. In addition, CMBP held meetings with senior officials (Permanent Secretaries Marilyn Cadore and Merina Jessamy, Chief Fisheries Officer Justin Rennie) to explore a possible new, large-scale MMA corridor from Lovera (Northeast Coast of Grenada) to Sandy Island (Carriacou). A letter was then sent to PS Cadore, more formally proposing the new MMA (initial response was positive).
- St. Vincent and the Grenadines. In close coordination with the National Beaches, Parks, and Rivers Authority and with match funding from ECMMAN, TNC completed underwater (benthic) habitat mapping of marine resources for the west coast of the main island of St. Vincent, to support establishment of a new MMA.

Objective 1.2: By 2020, fully operationalize a Sustainable Finance Architecture that will begin to provide long-term and reliable funding for core MMAs and other priority MMAs across the region

Caribbean Biodiversity Fund (CBF) and associated National Conservation Trust Funds (NCTFs). A key activity under this objective is to fully operationalize the regional CBF. Another key activity is to help set up, operationalize, and capitalize associated (independent) NCTFs² in the five CMBP target countries. Through TNC's role on the CBF Board, and through technical support for national trust funds, significant progress was made under both activities:

- Caribbean Biodiversity Fund. The CBF's permanent endowment grew from US \$30M to US \$31.5M. Key legal documents of the CBF (e.g. Article of Association, Operational Manual, model Vertical Agreement) were strengthened. In addition, of particular importance, the procedures for



Third Annual Meeting of Caribbean Biodiversity Fund Board (DR; September 2015). Photo: @TNC

¹ At the 2013 CCI Summit, the Jamaican Government announced intentions to protect 25% of its marine space by 2020, exceeding the CCI Goal.

² NCTFs will receive annual payments from the investment returns of the CBF's permanent endowment, and then use CBF and other funding to make grants for on-the-ground projects, including at CMBP Core and Network Sites. NCTFs will be required to establish in-country sustainable finance mechanisms (SFM)s—such as tourism fees or debt swaps—to match CBF annual payments 1:1 starting in Year 3. For now, eight NCTFs are being established and have endowment funds set aside in the CBF. Six are already legally established.

negotiating and signing a Vertical Agreement (between the CBF and NCTFs) were formally adopted by the CBF Board.³

- Establishment of National Conservation Trust Funds
 - *Dominican Republic.* An assessment (sponsored by UNDP and CBF) was completed on the eligibility of an *existing* trust fund (Fondo Marena) to receive CBF resources. Afterward, negotiations began in Year 1 on a Vertical Agreement (VA) between the CBF and Fondo Marena. Assuming the VA is signed (which now seems likely), CBF payments will start to flow to Fondo Marena (in the amount of approximately US \$450,000 per year in Phase I).
 - *Grenada.* With CMBP technical support, significant progress was made toward establishing a new NCTF under the Companies Act. Meetings of a steering committee were held, legal constitutive documents were drafted, and efforts progressed toward cabinet endorsement of the trust fund. Legal establishment is expected in Year 2.
 - *Haiti.* Preliminary discussions were held with Mr. Evans Paul (Prime Minister) and Mr. Jean Marie Claude Germain (Minister of Environment). Both were receptive to the idea of an environmental trust fund, although there were no detailed discussions of structure, governance and other key issues. In follow-up discussions with mid-level officials, two important issues have arisen: (i) the government seems most interested in a government-managed fund, rather than an independent fund; and (ii) the government supports a broader scope for a trust fund (i.e. to cover not only protected areas, but reforestation and renewable energy as well).
 - *Jamaica.* In Jamaica, with CMBP technical support, a new, independent NCTF (“National Protected Areas Trust Fund of Jamaica”) was formally established in December 2014 under the Companies Act. The Board was appointed and two Board Meetings (April and June 2015) were held to discuss key start-up steps. CMBP supported a two-day board training. The meetings and training addressed the by-laws, articles of association, operations manual, and many other matters related to start-up and operationalization of the trust fund.
 - *St. Vincent and the Grenadines.* During Year 1, with CMBP technical support, significant progress was made toward establishment of a new NCTF under the Companies Act. Meetings of a steering committee were held, legal constitutive documents were drafted, and the cabinet formally endorsed the new trust fund. (Note: The Fund was legally established in December 2015.)
- Establishment of new, in-country sustainable finance mechanisms (SFMs). In Year 1, CMBP supported efforts in three countries to establish new SFMs that would provide the match to CBF payments.
 - *Grenada.* Drawing mostly on parallel funding, in February 2015, TNC completed an assessment of SFM options in Grenada, and two high-potential mechanisms were recommended: a *yachting fee and a national protected areas system pass*. CMBP will support efforts in Year 2 to advance one or both of these SFMs. In addition, as described below, CMBP is actively supporting efforts to increase the mooring fee revenues at Sandy Island Oyster Bed MPA (SIOBMPA). SIOBMPA could serve as a model for similar mooring fee programs at Grenada’s other MPAs.
 - *Jamaica.* In Jamaica, several meetings were held with the Environment Ministry, the Tourism Enhancement Fund (TEF), and tourism sector representatives to explore the concept of an *airline passenger fee*, which could be an additional \$5 per person surcharge on top of the existing \$20 collected by the TEF. The idea of increasing the current \$20 fee met with some resistance, which led to an

³ CMBP Chief of Party Sheldon Cohen serves as TNC’s representative on the CBF Board and is the Vice Chairman of the Board. He is closely involved with the activities outlined above.

alternative strategy. The National Protected Areas Trust Fund of Jamaica, with technical support provided by CMBP, developed a proposal—soon to be submitted to the TEF—for ongoing annual payments from TEF into the Trust Fund. With TNC leadership, solid progress was also made on a possible “debt-for-coastal adaptation swap”. A range of meetings were held with senior government officials (ministries responsible for finance and environment) as well as the USAID Mission Director in Jamaica to present the concept. (Note: One option being explored would involve U.S. government-held debt.) Following an initial round of meetings, TNC began working with The World Bank on a larger program involving debt reduction and environmental policy commitments by the Jamaican Government, in which the debt-for-adaptation swap would be one important component. The Government expressed strong interest in a debt swap, and has tentatively agreed to marine conservation / climate adaptation commitments that would be built into the transaction.

- *Debt swaps.* At a broader level, CMBP provided technical inputs to advance a *debt-for-nature swap* package that could generate long-term, large-scale funding for ecosystem-based adaptation in the marine environment in three Caribbean countries. A document describing a multi-country debt swap approach (covering Grenada, Jamaica, and St. Kitts and Nevis) was completed early in Year 1. Meetings were then held with all three governments, who expressed support for this idea. Finally, a funding proposal—to provide grant funding to help finance these debt swap transactions—was submitted to a public funding agency. The proposal has received a first-level approval, with additional approvals likely in the coming months.

Operationalizing and capitalizing C-Fish Fund. Another regional fund (C-Fish Fund), complementary to the CBF, is being supported under CMBP. Led by CARIBSAVE with parallel financing, the C-Fish Fund⁴ is designed to be a source of sustainable finance for MMAs across the region. Funds will be generated through sale of products and services, and donations from private sector businesses and individuals. In a first phase, the C-Fish Fund will channel resources to fish sanctuaries across Jamaica, including Bluefields Bay and Galleon, St. Elizabeth SFCA (two targeted MMAs under CMBP). Supported mostly with parallel funding, in Year 1, CMBP assisted with the following:

- *Business and Partnerships Manager.* At the end of Year 1, CARIBSAVE selected a Business and Partnerships Manager, who started in October 2015 and is based in Jamaica. She will (i) establish the administrative and operational systems for the Fund; and (ii) develop and implement strategies to capitalize the C-Fish Fund—including targeting of Jamaican hotels and the Jamaican Hotel and Tourism Association.
- *Sandals agreement.* CARIBSAVE signed an agreement with Sandals Resorts in Jamaica to sell local crafts made by artisans living along the Southwest Coast, with 15% of the sales channeled into the C-Fish Fund.
- *Tourism study.* CARIBSAVE completed a tourism study and is now working with Sandals and Virgin Holidays on organizing tours from Montego Bay and Negril to the Southwest Coast of Jamaica, which will include opportunities for tourists to make contributions to the C-Fish Fund.
- *Royal Caribbean grant.* CARIBSAVE secured a grant from Royal Caribbean, which will be channeled through the C-Fish Fund, to support a coral nursery along the Southwest Coast.

Marine Enterprises Investment Fund (MEIF). In their meeting in late 2013, the governments participating in CCI strongly endorsed the concept of an MEIF to provide small- and medium-scale enterprises (SMEs) across the Caribbean with a source of concessional rate loans and technical support for business development, in order to support sustainable livelihoods and at the same time reduce pressures on the marine and coastal environment—particularly around marine managed areas and priority marine ecosystems. Sectors that could be targeted include fisheries, aquaculture, coastal tourism, and agriculture.

⁴ The C-FISH Fund Board comprises representatives from CARIBSAVE, Sandals Foundation, Travel Foundation and Royal Caribbean.

In Year 1, the following progress was made:

- A MEIF Working Group was established to guide a feasibility study (composed of TNC, Inter-American Development Bank (IDB), Gordon and Betty Moore Foundation, and one independent finance expert).
- Feasibility study. Most of the feasibility study activities were completed, including desk research, trips to the region and consultations with stakeholders (e.g. financial institutions, national government agencies and business support programs, representatives of the tourism, fisheries and agriculture sectors).
- IDB engagement. Preliminary discussions were held with IDB on the possibility of their investing in a MEIF.

A final report was completed in December 2015. The main conclusion is that a new, stand-alone fund would not be feasible at this time, given that there is not a pipeline of investment-ready businesses that would meet the necessary criteria. Rather, in a first phase of MEIF, the study recommends linking to *existing* funds and finance programs, and focusing on providing *business support services* to a strategically selected set of companies operating in the vicinity of marine biodiversity target sites, to build their capacity to take on future loans to develop and grow sustainable companies. Potentially, during Phase I, some loans could be made to more advanced companies in such countries as the Dominican Republic and Jamaica.

Objective 1.3: By 2020, mobilize significant private sector support for MMAs, with at least 7 companies providing funding, raising customer awareness, or supporting direct actions

At the *regional* level, during Year 1, TNC held preliminary discussions on marine conservation issues with a small set of targeted companies. In particular, TNC held in-depth discussions with two large, tourism-sector companies⁵ that have extensive regional business operations. Discussions with these companies are continuing in Year 2, to further explore potential partnerships to advance marine conservation in the region.

At the *seascape* level:

Grenadine Bank. The Tobago Cays Marine Park (TCMP) and Sandy Island Oyster Bed MPA (SIOBMPA) are two of the most important anchorages for visiting yachts in the Grenadines. The collection of mooring fees from yachts staying overnight is the most important source of revenue for both MMAs. These user-fees have not changed for many years and need to be increased, which requires government action. The Ministry of Carriacou and Petite Martinique Affairs (in Grenada) is planning to propose a new fee structure for SIOBMPA, with much higher fees (100 - 150% increase). Similarly, the TCMP Manager has recommended a significant mooring fee increase to the SVG Government. Private sector support is key. Solid progress was made in engaging targeted hotels and yacht charter companies, to build support for mooring fee increases and to stimulate conservation action by hotels.

- *Outreach to select companies.* In Year 1, CMBP has started to galvanize private sector support for these yacht mooring fee increases and the broader conservation agenda. Preliminary discussions were held with Horizon Yacht Charters in Grenada (significant share of yacht charter business to SIOBMPA and TCMP), True Blue Bay Resort (where Horizon is based) and Sandals Resorts International (operator of the largest hotel in Grenada). All are supportive of fee increases and have also given their commitment in principal to encourage their guests to visit these MMAs and contribute to their financial sustainability through user fees. Initial discussions were also held with TradeWinds Charters and Barefoot Charters—based in Bequia and St. Vincent respectively. TradeWinds in particular has expressed interest in being more actively involved in supporting the protection and restoration of coral reefs in the Grenadines.

⁵ For now, these companies have requested that TNC keep the details of these discussions confidential.

- *Petit St. Vincent Resort*. In Year 1, an agreement was reached with Petit St. Vincent Resort to work in collaboration with TNC to establish a MMA around the island, as well as to provide funds for mangrove restoration activities on Union Island (SVG portion of Grenadine Bank). Restoration activities should begin soon. This proposed MMA would be a privately managed area, but requires prior government approval.
- *Mustique Island Company*. In Year 1, a partnership was established by CaribSave with the Mustique Island Company and the Coral Restoration Foundation International (CRFI) to facilitate coral and other habitat enhancements in the Grenadines Seascape. With parallel funding, a coral nursery was established as part of a collaboration between CRFI and CARIBSAVE.



SIOBMPA staff installing yacht mooring buoys at Sandy Island Oyster Bed MPA, Grenada; Photo: @Devon Baker

Haiti. Preliminary discussions on CMBP were initiated with several local companies: SisalCo, Mont Joli Hotel, Max Laroche Industries, Cormier Beach Hotel, Bel Trip, and others. These are private companies that operate mostly in the vicinity of Three Bays National Park (Core CMBP Site).

Jamaica. See C-Fish section under Objective 1.2 above. In addition, through the MSP activity for Pedro Bank, productive preliminary meetings were held with Tullow Oil, which holds oil exploration leases on Pedro Bank.

Objective 1.4: By 2020, catalyze a strong network of marine conservation leaders and stimulate adoption of best MMA and fishery practices through leadership and peer learning networks

Caribbean Marine Protected Areas Network (CaMPAM). CaMPAM has served as an effective regional network supporting MMAs in the Caribbean for two decades, with a focus on MMA managers. Rather than start a new network effort, plans call for collaborating with CaMPAM to directly support marine conservation leaders in the region, with a special focus on MMAs/countries being targeted under CMBP. In Year 1, initial discussions were held with CaMPAM toward establishing a formal partnership. Should additional resources come on-stream in Year 2, CMBP will be able to accelerate this collaboration to advance leadership and peer learning.

Objective 1.5: Implement social marketing campaigns to build local MMA constituencies

Jamaica. In Year 1, CMBP (in close collaboration with RARE) held a very successful, 10-day Campaigning for Conservation (C-4-C) Training in Jamaica. The training, which involved 14 participants from fish sanctuaries across Jamaica, provided tools and practical skills to carry out local social marketing campaigns designed to build strong constituencies for marine conservation around fish sanctuaries. Extensive advance preparations involved the development of a clear and simple *benefit exchange statement* that linked conservation-based behavior change by fishers with clear benefit for fishers. The participants developed an over-arching slogan and built materials around it: “Get trained, give a tour, fish less, earn more”. A set of concrete campaign products were developed for Bluefields Bay Fish Sanctuary, including: an original song, recorded and voiced by participants; a

billboard and a discussion board, both designed and focus group tested; an easily-transportable puppet theatre, puppets and script; and a campaign poster. In addition, each participant produced a theory of change and list of campaigning needs for their specific fish sanctuary sites, derived from analyzing the site and the issues faced. Another outcome was camaraderie among the fish sanctuary managers that form a network in Jamaica.

Participants in the training agreed to collaborate on a joint funding proposal to Jamaica's Tourism Enhancement Fund (TEF), to provide seed grants to support a set of local social marketing campaigns around fish sanctuaries. This joint proposal effort is being led by the Montego Bay Marine Park, with technical support from CMBP. Partial seed funding for a set of local social marketing campaigns was also discussed with the UNDP Small Grants Program (SGP).

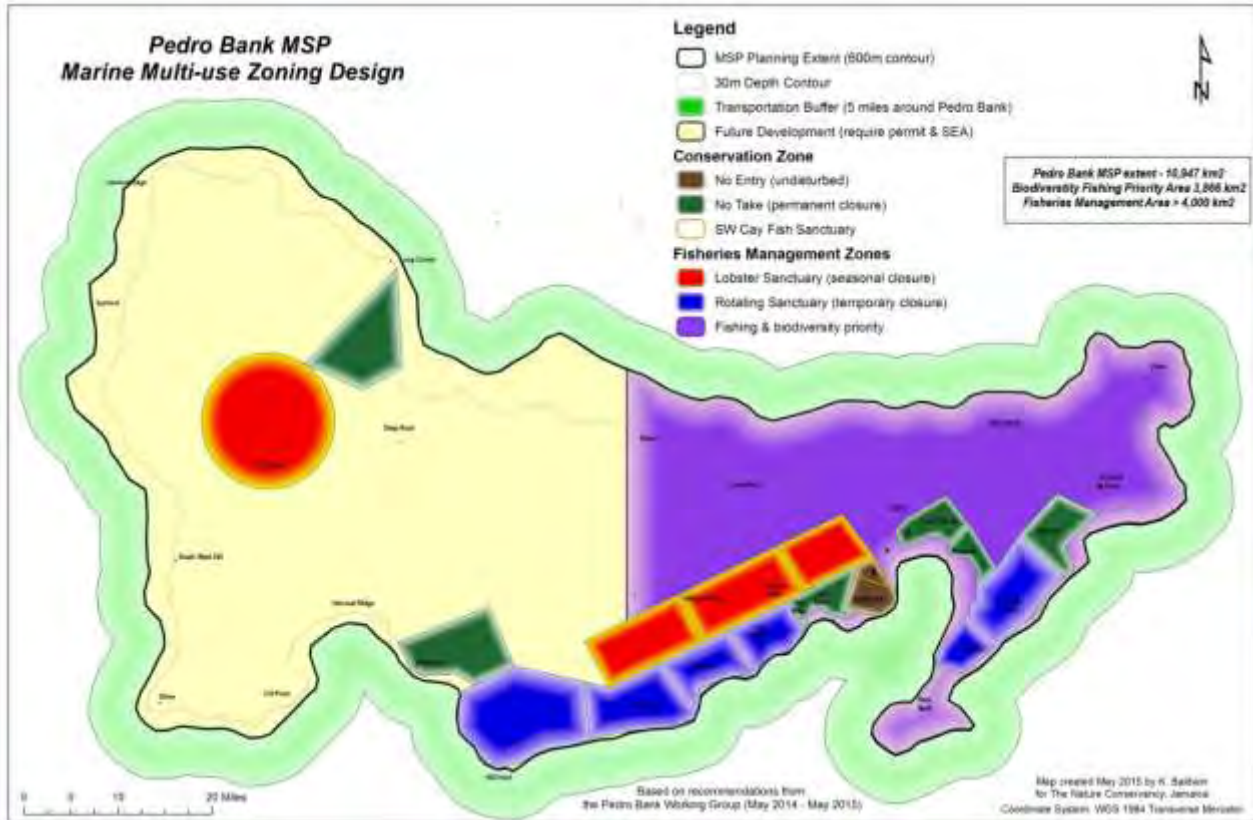


Participants at C-4-C Training in Jamaica learning skills to carry out local social marketing campaigns; Photo: @Paul Butler

1.3. Expected Result #2: Effective marine spatial plans and seascape governance mechanisms

Objective 2.1: By 2017, highly participatory, multi-objective Marine Spatial Plans (MSPs) completed for at least three target seascapes

Jamaica. Drawing on parallel funding, TNC completed a comprehensive MSP for the entire Pedro Bank in Jamaica. This process entailed, among other things, a one-year, in-depth visioning and consultation process involving technical groups; artisanal and industrial fishers using the Pedro Bank; Government of Jamaica mining, conservation and enforcement agencies; academia; conservation NGOs; and private oil exploration companies. Information collected was used to construct a marine Geographic Information System (GIS) database of mapped marine habitats, resources and space-use features, drawing on satellite imagery data, ground-truthing activities, government-held data, and fisher knowledge. The database has been used to develop a set of MSP decision support products (i.e. GIS feature maps, spatial analyses, zoning scenarios).



The final version of the Pedro Bank MSP includes:

- *Conservation Zones*, with eight new proposed marine protected areas (additional to current CMBP Core Site—Southwest Cay). If established, fishing would be prohibited in these new conservation zones.
- *Sustainable Fisheries Management Zones*, in which fishing would be allowed, and enforcement of key regulations would help ensure this is done on a sustainable basis.
- *No Shipping Zones* (although small fishing vessels would still be allowed).
- *Future Development Zones*, where oil and gas exploration and exploitation would be allowed under a strict monitoring and permitting regime.
- *Research / educational activities* would be allowed

This Pedro Bank MSP will contribute directly to the promotion of new marine protected areas on the Bank, strengthening of the existing CMBP Core Site (Southwest Cay Fish Sanctuary), and enhanced overall governance of the Pedro Bank and Southwest Coast of Jamaica Seascape. The proposed MSP represents a unique opportunity to advance conservation objectives across the Pedro Bank, through better planning and multi-use zoning. CMBP will continue to actively support implementation of the MSP zoning proposal.



Fishers participating in a consultation to develop the Pedro Bank Marine Spatial Plan; Photo: @Kim Baldwin

Haiti. Some preliminary efforts were undertaken in Year 1:

- *Outreach to UNDP.* In December 2014, CMBP held preliminary discussions with the UNDP-Haiti team that is spearheading a new \$9M GEF-funded project on ecosystem-based adaptation in the marine/coastal environment. One of the three focal areas under this project is Three Bays National Park, a Core CMBP Site. The UNDP Project Document includes—as one key activity—development of a MSP for the area. In Year 2, CMBP will follow-up with UNDP to discuss concrete collaboration.
- *Outreach to UNEP-CEP.* On the DR side of the seascape, in March 2015, CMBP held discussions with UNEP's Caribbean Environment Program (UNEP-CEP) on concrete collaboration in the North Coast of Hispaniola Seascape. UNEP just received funding from Italy to support a project in the Monte Cristi National Park area; on the Northwest Coast of the Dominican Republic (The Park is a CMBP Network Site). The UNEP-led project will focus on development of a *Decision Tool* that integrates biophysical and socioeconomic information to inform decisions on the use of the marine and coastal zone (conservation, fishing, tourism, urbanization, etc.). This Decision Tool will be used to apply the ecosystem approach to managing these resources. In Year 2, CMBP will collaborate with UNEP and other partners in the Seascape on preliminary efforts toward a Seascape-wide, bi-national approach to marine and coastal resource management.
- *3BNP management plan.* In Year 2, a major focus will be on completing a management plan for Three Bays National Park in Haiti. The plan itself, and the data compiled through this process, will be key building blocks for a larger MSP effort that would start in the latter years of CMBP.

Dominican Republic and Grenadine Bank. MSPs have already been completed for these two seascapes, under previous projects in which TNC and partners participated. CMBP is building on this prior work, which will help maximize effectiveness of interventions. In Samaná Bay, discussions are ongoing with CODOPESCA and the Ministry of Environment to establish and effectively manage at least some of the MMAs proposed in the marine spatial plan. The MSP for Samaná Bay—developed by CEBSE and TNC in 2013—includes, of note, the establishment of six new MPAs (no-take zones), with a total sea area of 28.9 km² (28,900 ha), located in the west end of the Bay, in the coastal areas adjacent to Los Haitises and Manglares del Bajo Yuna national parks.

Objective 2.2: By 2018, effective seascape governance mechanisms are operating and addressing a range of threats for at least two target seascapes

Dominican Republic. As a result of assistance provided by CEBSE to local fishers and meetings held with the president of the National Federation of Fisheries and Merchant Marine (FENATRAPESMA), a Samaná Bay Fishermen Roundtable was established in Year 1. This regular coordination mechanism aims to become a forum for discussion and agreement between fishers and authorities, with the goals of "ensuring the sustainability of resources, artisanal fishing and enhancement of the productive development of the fishermen". Through the Roundtable, fishers will identify and discuss common issues and forge proposals that will be submitted to the relevant authorities for discussion and consideration. The fisheries sector in Samaná Bay is now organized to address environmental and economic issues that affect them. To date, two meetings of the Fishermen Roundtable have been held and a regular meeting schedule has been established. CODOPESCA is already working with the fishermen in finding solutions to problems that are affecting the management and fish productivity in Samaná Bay. FENATRAPESMA assumed the role of coordinator of the Roundtable. During Year 2 of CMBP, assistance will be provided to strengthen this new governance mechanism.

Grenadine Bank

- *St. Vincent and the Grenadines*. For the Grenadine Bank, a MSP was developed in 2013 by TNC, but has not been officially endorsed yet by the Governments of Grenada and St. Vincent and the Grenadines. Progress toward such endorsement was made during Year 1: the MSP proposal was included in a new draft *Ocean Governance Policy* prepared by the Maritime Affairs Director in SVG. The document has been brought before the Cabinet for approval. On a related MSP effort, SusGren participated in the first meeting of the MSP Task Force on mainland St. Vincent (September 2015). The purpose of the meeting was to introduce the draft SVG Ocean Governance Policy, provide an overview of the MSP process envisaged for the main island, and discuss the responsibilities of the agencies on the Task Force. At the meeting, TNC presented on its previous work (funded by USAID) to complete a MSP for the entire country of St. Kitts and Nevis. CMBP (through SusGren) will provide technical advice to the Task Force as this important MSP process moves forward.
- *Grenadines Network of Marine Protected Areas (GNMPA)*. With additional parallel funding, SusGren held the fifth annual GNMPA meeting on Union Island (June 2015). The theme of the meeting was “Communicating about Reef Management in the Grenadine Bank”. Trainings were held on generating print, radio and television media coverage. In addition, a special session was held on the *sargassum* seaweed problem, which involved local fisher as well. This Network—through its program of annual meetings, field visits, joint trainings and inter-MPA exchange visits—is serving both to increase communications among the MPAs in the Grenadine Bank Seascape and to share best practices for effective management across international boundaries. This contributes to long-term sustainable management of the marine resources. CMBP will continue to support the GNMPA.

Jamaica. Given the context of the Jamaica Seascape, the focus on seascape governance has been the Pedro Cays. The MSP zoning proposal and the recommendations for implementation contained within the MSP point clearly to the need for collaborative and supportive multi-agency governance. In late 2014, drawing on parallel funding, TNC completed a draft Pedro Cays Management Plan, following extensive stakeholder consultations. The Plan focusses primarily on fisheries issues. As these two processes were nearing completion, CMBP team held discussions with the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries (MAF) on the need to activate the Pedro Cays Sub-committee of cabinet, as a key mechanism to advance discussions on more effective governance of the Pedro Cays. (MAF is the chair of this Sub-committee). A meeting of the Sub-committee is currently being planned, at which TNC will present the marine spatial plan and the Pedro Cays Management Plan, in order to stimulate a discussion of how to translate the recommendations in these two plans into concrete actions and effective governance.

Objective 2.3: By 2018, through an Eastern Caribbean pilot, MMA decision-making is significantly improved through a Decision Support System (DSS) that provides comprehensive ecological, socio-economic, and climate resilience data

Significant progress was achieved on developing a Decision Support System (DSS) to support effective decision-making and governance for not only the two-country Grenadine Bank Seascape but also the larger, six-country Eastern Caribbean Seascape, which contains the Grenadine Bank. During Year 1, an online, prototype Eastern Caribbean Decision Support System (ECDSS)—known as *CaribNode* (<http://www.caribnode.org>)—was designed and partially populated with data and decision tools related to the marine environment. Given the special importance of coral reef systems, a major activity in Year 1 was collection of high-resolution spatial data on coral reef extent as well as a coral reef assessment. In this prototype phase, the overall initial structure for *CaribNode* was completed and includes the following components:

- The customized *Caribbean Coral Reef Assessment Tool*, which will house the coral health information for the Eastern Caribbean and display the information in a dashboard fashion for improved decision-making.
- *Web-based maps and a catalog of data layers*. The maps are organized around themes and designed for easy access and scanning. For example, existing and future maps will include: site-level MPA maps, management effectiveness visualizations, habitat maps and climate impact maps. A catalog of data layers can be added to map visualizations, such as MMA boundaries and habitat extent of coral reef, mangroves and seagrass.
- A *documents section* which will include a set of documents/metadata on “key coral health indicators,” the coral reef report cards for the Eastern Caribbean and static maps.

The successful implementation and sustainability of the DSS will require collaboration with other similar, existing efforts. To lay the foundation for a more collaborative approach, TNC organized a two-day facilitated DSS Workshop in May 2015 in Miami. The workshop brought together data specialists from several relevant initiatives, such as IUCN’s Biodiversity and Protected Area Management (BIOPAMA) project, The World Conservation Monitoring Center, NOAA, and CaMPAM. The workshop achieved the following objectives: (i) to build a clear understanding among participants of each initiative in the region; (ii) to identify and agree on collaboration and information exchange mechanisms; and (iii) to develop a list of specific, collaborative actions to be undertaken over the next 6 – 12 months.

1.4. Expected Result #3: Sustainable fisheries and sustainable livelihoods for fishers

Objective 3.1: By 2016, Fishery Sector Action Plans developed for at least 3 targeted seascapes

Seascape-specific Fishery Sector Action Plans are being developed, to provide a blueprint for achieving more sustainable fisheries over the coming years and guide sustainable fisheries demonstration projects in each Seascape that will be carried out during Years 2 - 5 of CMBP. In Year 1, customized terms of reference were prepared for the development of Fishery Sector Assessments and associated Fishery Sector Action Plans. In addition, the critical local stakeholder consultation processes were solidified and agreed, including 1:1 fisher interviews and participatory group meetings (e.g. meetings toward the end of the process, to present draft Action Plans, refine them as needed, and build local buy-in for the main recommendations for action). Some delays in this work were experienced in Year 1, due in part to the departure of TNC’s Fisheries Specialist. The status of these efforts in each seascape is summarized below:

- Dominican Republic. CMBP initiated desk research and field work in September 2015, in collaboration with the Center for Marine Biological Research (CIBIMA) at The Autonomous University of Santo Domingo (UASD). The final Assessment and Action Plan documents are expected to be completed in January 2016.
- Grenadine Bank. CMBP held preliminary internal meetings in Year 1 to develop the terms of reference for the Assessment and Action Plan, and to identify data sources. CMBP will initiate



Stakeholders Workshop to develop Jamaica Fisheries Sector Action Plan; Kingston; Photo: @Kim Baldwin

this work in December 2015, in collaboration with Island Biodiversity. The final Assessment and Action Plan documents are expected to be completed in April 2016.

- Haiti. CMBP initiated this work in August 2015, in collaboration with Dr. James Miller (a fisheries specialist who has worked extensively in Haiti). Desk research and field work was completed in Q4. The first drafts of the Assessment and Action Plan were completed in November 2015. The final Fisheries Sector Action Plan is expected to be completed in March 2016.
- Jamaica. CMBP initiated desk research and field work in September 2015, in collaboration with Marine Spatial Information Solutions, Inc. (MARSIS). A solid first draft (combined Assessment/Action Plan) was completed in November. The final version will be completed in March 2016.

CMBP has established Fisheries Working Groups for each seascape. Working Group members are guiding the assessments, shaping stakeholder consultation events, and shaping the final Action Plans.

Objective 3.2: By 2020, the capacity and motivation of fishers and local fisher associations to support sustainable fisheries is significantly strengthened in at least three targeted seascapes

Dominican Republic. CEBSE continued its ongoing work to strengthen the knowledge of and support for sustainable fisheries and fisheries regulations among two existing local fisher cooperatives: San Lorenzo Fisher Cooperative and Espiritu Santo Fisher Cooperative. During Year 1, CEBSE assisted with organizational assessments of these two local fisher associations and provided training on best fishing practices, policies and fishery regulations. In addition, CEBSE provided support to strengthen the accounting and other operational systems of these two fisher cooperatives.

Grenadine Bank. Significant progress was made in Year 1. CMBP held several consultations in Year 1 with fishers in the Seascape, encouraging the establishment of new fisher associations and soliciting views on priorities for sustainable fisheries and alternative livelihoods. As a result of these consultations, three fisher associations were established in Year 1:

- *Carriacou Fisher Organization (CFO)*. In June 2015, fishers in Carriacou decided to organize themselves into the CFO, a non-profit and non-governmental organization registered in Grenada. Focus group meetings were held in September 2015 with CFO members to analyze the status of the fisher organization and their current governance arrangements, identify the vision and key conflict issues, begin developing a communications plan, and discuss leadership of the organization. The information obtained during the focus group meetings are informing planning and development of training workshops focusing on institutional strengthening of not only CFO, but also two other fisher associations in the region (see below).
- *Petite Martinique Fishing Cooperative*. In 2015, fishers in Petite Martinique re-established the Petite Martinique Fishing Cooperative, to enable them to access further training and resources from donors. A focus group meeting was held in September 2015 to discuss with members the needs related to institutional strengthening. Like the CFO, they have agreed to participate in the training program reference above.
- *Mayreau Explorers Cooperative*. On the small island of Mayreau in SVG (near Tobago Cays Marine Park), in 2015, local fishers organized themselves into a new organization—Mayreau Explorers Cooperative. A focus group meeting was held and the organization has agreed to participate in the forthcoming training program.

In Year 2, CARIBSAVE is actively supporting the institutional strengthening of these associations, to promote sustainable fisheries and alternative livelihoods that contribute to the biodiversity objectives under CMBP.

Jamaica. As part of the Pedro Bank MSP stakeholder consultations (described under Objective 2.1 above) and the Fisheries Section Assessment and Action Plan process (described under Objective 3.1 above), fishers in the

Seascape were actively engaged in wide-ranging discussions on marine conservation and sustainable fisheries issues (e.g. fish sanctuaries, capacity building needs, fishing practices, alternative livelihoods). These Year 1 consultations are being used to help shape the work program with fisher associations in Year 2.

Haiti. Significant progress was made in Year 1 in establishment and operationalization of new local fisher and related associations. Over time, these associations might be combined into one larger umbrella group.

- *CEProBaC: Caracol Bay*. CEProBaC is a multi-stakeholder committee formed by FoProBIM in 2012, with 12 members representing all four main communities of Caracol Bay (Bord de Mer Limonade, Madras, Caracol, and Jacquozyl). CEProBaC is based in the Caracol Bay Area. It is comprised of associations of fishers, salt producers, and women, as well as charcoal producers. CEProBaC has been supported by FoProBIM since its inception, but the institution itself has remained relatively weak, due largely to lack of strong leadership from its officers. In September 2015, CMBP organized a meeting with its officers to identify and agree on steps for strengthening CEProBaC. A larger meeting with the committee's broader constituency (approximately 200 representatives from the various member associations) was held later in September to solicit broader inputs on how CEProBaC could increase its impact in the local communities and beyond. Immediately following this meeting, elections were held to designate 16 members (representing each of the communities involved) to support the officers in strengthening the committee and preparing for its upcoming December elections.
- *UGeBFo: Fort-Liberté/ Lagon aux Boeufs*. Catalyzed by CMBP, the Unité de Gestion de la Baie de Fort-Liberté (UGeBFo) was formed in August 2015. This committee is to be CEProBaC's counterpart in the Fort-Liberté Bay area, encompassing the city of Fort-Liberté and the villages Derac, Phaeton, and others in the immediate area. Elections of UGeBFo officers were held in August 2015, with a focus on ensuring that each community was represented.
- *ASME: Fort-Liberté Bay*. Agents de Sécurité pour les Mangroves et l'Environnement (ASME) is a key local actor working with fishers in the Fort-Liberté Bay area. ASME has been involved in patrols and protection of local mangroves from exploitation by charcoal producers and those needing fuel wood and construction materials. In Year 1, FoProBIM began a dialogue with ASME around engaging local fishers. FoProBIM also provided some guidance for their mangrove rehabilitation/reforestation program, which includes developing a mangrove nursery for their area. The group was deputized by the mayor of Fort-Liberté, but lacks adequate resources. Hoping to eventually bring them into CMBP activities, FoProBIM has provided them with financial support from parallel funding sources to pay for their operations for one year.

Objective 3.3: By 2018, major pilot programs are being fully implemented in at least three targeted seascapes to promote sustainable fishing practices and sustainable livelihoods for fishers⁶

Even before completion of the Fisheries Sector Action Plans described above, some high-priority sustainable fisheries-related activities that were ongoing were carried out in Year 1.

Dominican Republic

⁶ Many of these pilots (now being called demonstrations) will begin in Year 2, following completion of Fishery Sector Action Plan for each seascape. Some are already underway, as they were ongoing activities when CMBP started.

- *Mangrove restoration.* Mangroves provide critical nursery habitat for fish. A mangrove restoration pilot program in Los Corozos Municipal District was initiated by CEBSE under a previous USAID funded project (Environmental Protection Program) and a subsequent grant from the GEF; this initiative is now being supported through CMBP. The Ministry of Environment and the Municipal District Government of Los Corozos have taken the lead in the operations of the mangrove nurseries established with USAID support in 2013, as well as related reforestation efforts. CEBSE continues to provide critical technical support under CMBP. In Year 1, CEBSE, the Ministry of Environment and the Los Corozos Municipal District Government: (i)



Fishermen attend training on lionfish in Las Galeras, DR. Photo: ReefCheck

expanded production of mangrove plants for restoration; and (ii) supported the establishment of two local, community-based committees (in Los Corozos and El Coco) to assist with on-the-ground mangrove restoration work (and related conservation efforts). The Municipality Government and local committees are working collaboratively now to lead surveillance and restoration efforts in the mangrove target areas. In year 2, mangrove restoration interventions will extend to other areas in the Samaná Bay region, building on the enhanced capacity of the nursery as well as the growing interest of stakeholders in mangrove restoration. As these efforts go to scale, the aim is to significantly enhance fish nursery habitat and thereby improve fish stocks.

- *Lionfish control.* In Year 1, a formal partnership was established with ReefCheck Dominican Republic to educate and promote lionfish awareness among communities in the Samaná Bay region. The focus of this partnership is to promote lionfish as a food item, to help manage and subsequently control this invasive species through the development of a market. Basic trainings were provided to fishermen and restaurant staff in Las Galeras, Sabana de la Mar (with participants from Miches), Sánchez, and Santa Barbara. Topics covered during the trainings included the capture, consumption, use and management of lionfish based on best practices adopted by GCFI⁷. A total of 167 people were trained (including 71 women) in an unprecedented effort to generate broad interest in and understanding of lionfish among communities from both southern and northern portions of the Bay. Also in Year 1, two fact sheets on lionfish were prepared, using simple language and illustrations, tailored for the general public.

⁷ More information can be found at the GCGI lionfish webpage (<http://lionfish.gcfi.org/>) and the ICRI webpage (<http://www.icriforum.org/>).

Grenadine Bank

- *Lionfish*. SusGren and the Tobago Cays Marine Park Authority jointly carried out the annual Lionfish Derby, to help reduce populations of this invasive species. This year's activity included a training workshop on lionfish, followed by a Culinary Expo. SusGren chaired an interactive workshop which covered the origin and spread of the species across the Caribbean, its biology, habitat and proper catch and handling techniques. The workshop was attended by 21 participants, including fishers, as well as food vendors, local chefs/restaurateurs, and students from the Union Island Secondary School. The next day, four teams of fishers competed in the Derby, with prizes awarded for the largest number of lionfish caught, the largest fish and the smallest fish. Catches were weighed and measured, spines were removed and fish were filleted on-site in order to demonstrate proper handling. A total of 103 fish were caught during the Derby. The Lionfish Culinary Expo ran concurrently with the Derby. The 21 participants, including professional chefs from the local restaurants, popular food vendors, and the Food & Nutrition class of the Union Island Secondary School offered samples of the delicacies to the public. CMBP is now developing a strategy to secure agreements with hotels / restaurants in Grenada and St. Vincent and the Grenadines to purchase lionfish from local fishers. More recently, SusGren was contacted by the SVG Ministry of Agriculture to collaborate on lionfish control, drawing on a new European Union funding project. CMBP will coordinate closely with this initiative.



Culinary expo and group photo of participants in lionfish training in Grenadine Bank Seascape. Photos: @SusGren.

- *Pelagic fisheries*. During consultations in Year 1 with fishers in Carriacou, Mayreau and Petite Martinique, it became clear that most fishers had a strong interest to fish further offshore for pelagics, but felt constrained by a lack of safety equipment, training, and fishing gear. Shifting fishing pressures to off-shore fisheries can have a significant biodiversity benefit on reef fisheries and overall health of reefs and associated near-shore marine habitats—particularly inside MMAs targeted under CMBP. In addition, promoting offshore fishing helps galvanize stronger cooperation within fishing communities in the Grenadines, which will benefit future fisheries demonstration activities under CMBP. Some of the offshore fishing will be done without fishing aggregation devices (FADs) and some will be done using FADs. For now, no CMBP funding will be used to support construction, deployment or use of FADs. (CaribSave will be using other funding outside CMBP for their work on FADs.) Instead, for now, CMBP resources will be used specifically to support safety-at-sea training in the use of GPS and VHF equipment—an essential requirement for all offshore fishing.

Jamaica

- *Pelagic fisheries*. A study of the pelagic fishery in Jamaica was completed, entailing stakeholder consultations and a literature review. A Pelagic Fishery Project document was drafted. The context and CMBP plans in Jamaica in relation to pelagic fisheries are very similar to the Grenadine Bank. From

consultations in Year 1 with fishers, it became clear that most fishers had a strong interest to fish further offshore, but felt constrained by a lack of equipment and training. As noted above, some of the offshore fishing in the Jamaica Seascope will be done without fishing aggregation devices (FADs) and some will be done using FADs. For now, no CMBP funding will be used to support construction, deployment or use of FADs. Instead, CMBP resources may be used in Year 2 and future years to support safety-at-sea training.

- *Promotion of crafts and ecotourism.* To promote local crafts, CMBP completed a needs assessment and a training on startup materials and improved market access, to establish consistent markets for community artisans. To promote ecotourism, a detailed budget was completed, outlining costs for improving the Bluefields Bay tourism product. The budget covers costs for: improving the visitor infrastructure, signage, site aesthetics and on-site attractions, licensing of tour operators, marketing and promotion, an on-site tourism coordinator, administrative services, and tour materials and equipment (such as snorkel gear).
- *Coordination of on-the-ground activities with other donors.* TNC was asked by the Fisheries Division to organize a workshop involving major fisheries-related funding projects, to bring greater coordination and synergy to on-the-ground activities in the Jamaica Seascope. In preparation for this consultation, meetings were held with (i) The World Bank, to discuss their national-scale \$5 million fisheries loan project and intersections with CMBP; and (ii) CaribSave, to discuss their coastal adaptation project (funded by the European Union), and intersections with CMBP. The consultation was postponed until Year 2.

Objective 3.4. By 2020, increase coverage/support for fish sanctuaries (no-take zones), including through Marine Conservation Agreements (MCAs) with fishery associations

Dominican Republic: In Year 1, CEBSE initiated efforts to propose the establishment of a new marine protected area around La Farola Cay in Samaná Bay. To support this and similar efforts to establish new MMAs (including no take zones), CEBSE is supporting *formal co-management agreements between local fisher cooperatives and government authorities* (i.e. CODOPESCA and MARENA). These co-management agreements will empower local fisher cooperatives to directly manage MMAs. Activities that would be incorporated into such management agreements include, for example, establishment and enforcement of no-take zones and development of alternative livelihood activities to reduce pressures on fish stocks.

During Year 1, several planning sessions were organized to lay the groundwork for this effort targeting La Farola Cay. Based on this planning, in March 2015, the two fisher cooperatives that CEBSE is working with presented their annual reports and future work plans to CODOPESCA and MARENA, and requested formal support to carry out alternative livelihood activities such as the one around La Farola Cay. The Ministry of Environment has requested additional information from the Espíritu Santo Fishermen Cooperative, in order to process the formal request. Technical staff were delegated to assess the present conditions of La Farola Cay, as well as the sites where the cooperative intends to develop ecotourism-related activities.

Jamaica. In the Pedro Bank MSP (see Objective 2.1 above), seven new fish sanctuaries are being proposed as part of the conservation zones. This recommendation was presented and discussed with the Fisheries Division, NEPA and other government agencies in a number of consultation meetings in Year 1. During these discussions, the Government stated its support for declaring these sites as new fish sanctuaries (i.e. marine protected areas), if funding for their management can be secured. Establishment of these new MPAs will now be promoted actively, starting in Year 2. In addition, CMBP will continue work on capitalizing the new National Protected Areas Trust Fund of Jamaica (see Objective 1.2 above), to create a reliable new source of long-term funding that could support the management of new MPAs on Pedro Bank and across Jamaica.

Objective 3.5: By 2020, catalyze the adoption and implementation of supportive fishery policies

Jamaica. In Jamaica, a *National Fisheries and Aquaculture Policy* paper was finalized by the Government, led by the Fisheries Division. CMBP participated in the public consultations and, in December 2014, submitted a comprehensive set of comments on the draft, emphasizing: establishment of additional fish sanctuaries, government support for the national fish sanctuaries network and alternative livelihood programs around these sites, protection of critical fishery habitat and parrotfish, and enforcement of fishery regulations.

As a follow-on step to the Policy document, in the second half of Year 1, the Fisheries Division advanced efforts on a *Fisheries Bill* which would represent the first update of fisheries legislation in Jamaica in 20 years. CMBP held discussions with the Fisheries Division on key issues that could be addressed in the Bill, such as those referenced in the above paragraph, as well as increased penalties for violations of fisheries regulations.

Haiti. CMBP help preliminary discussions on strengthening fisheries policy with the Haiti Fisheries Department and the Inter-American Development Bank (IDB). IDB has recently launched a new \$30+ million fisheries sector funding project designed to (i) update the outdated fisheries legislation and related policies / regulations; (ii) strengthen the capacity of the Fisheries Department to implement fisheries regulations; and (iii) provide direct support to targeted fishers, primarily in the South of Haiti. IDB has welcomed CMBP input and collaboration, which will be advanced in Year 2.

1.5. Expected Result #4: Effective management and governance of MMAs

Objective 4.1: By 2017, highly participatory and high-quality MMA management plans completed or reviewed for at least five Core MMAs

Grenadine Bank. Drawing on additional parallel funding, in Year 1, reviews of the existing management plans for two CMBP Core Sites (TCMP and SIOBMPA) were mostly completed; these plans will be updated and strengthened in Year 2. A special focus in the revised management plans will be actions designed to (i) increase staff capacity for effective management; (ii) increase the current fee structures (e.g. yacht mooring fees), in order to generate additional funding to support core management costs; and (iii) build greater local community engagement and support around these two MMAs. In Year 2, CMBP will support key recommendations in the updated management plans, in order to strengthen management of these two sites⁸.

Jamaica. Drawing on parallel funding, as requested by the government, TNC revised the management plan for the Pedro Cays and surrounding waters. This covers the Southwest Cay Fish Sanctuary (CMBP Core Site) as well as other nearby cays. A revised draft of the *Pedro Cays Management Plan* was completed in September 2014 and then presented to various stakeholders (in separate sessions). Stakeholders that were engaged in this process include: government entities (Health Department, Solid Waste Management Agency, Jamaica Defense Force Coast Guard, environmental agencies, and local governments), commercial and artisanal fishers, oil and gas industry representatives, heritage representatives, and conservation NGOs. The Pedro Cays Management Plan (which will be finalized in Year 2) and the MSP described above will complement each other, and will be used by the CMBP team to advance stronger overall management of marine resources in the Seascape.

⁸ For example, one of the results of the management plan review process to date has been the drafting of *Management Progress Scorecards*, in the form of visually appealing posters that make the management plans more accessible and keep objectives, threats, and progress around top priorities in the minds of staff, management and their boards. These posters will be updated and printed annually, highlighting changes in measured parameters, and displayed prominently in MMA offices.

Haiti. Drawing on match funding from IDB, The Nature Conservancy led an ecological baseline assessment process to characterize, inventory and analyze marine and coastal biological resources in Three Bays National Park (3BNP). The information generated through the assessment will be used in Year 2 to: (i) develop a management plan for 3BNP; and (ii) create a comprehensive geospatial database to support a long-term monitoring program. For the baseline assessment, TNC assembled a team of eight leading experts to collect information on: marine, freshwater and coastal/terrestrial species found in the Park; the condition of mangrove and seagrass habitats; and other variables. The main outcomes of the ecological baseline assessment were:

- *Species inventories*. Extensive species inventories of marine, terrestrial, and freshwater biodiversity;
- *Habitats*. Assessments of condition and threats to major habitat types (coral reefs, mangroves, freshwater) and keystone species.
- *Geospatial database/maps*. Detailed database of the biodiversity found in the Three Bays seascape and geospatial maps based on available information, biodiversity field surveys, and benthic habitat mapping.
- *Partnerships*. New and strengthened partnerships with experts, community members and key stakeholders.

On a closely related effort, CMBP carried out an AGGRA assessment in 3BNP in Year 1. This involved extensive underwater surveys within the Park, to fully map / characterize coral reef condition and marine species richness and abundance, endemic species, threatened species, indicator or flagship species, and species of particular importance to human livelihoods. Information on fishing practices and other threats to the marine ecosystems of the area was also gathered, as part of the overall sampling effort. Information from the AGGRA assessment will be used both for monitoring purposes and to inform management activities in the park.

Objective 4.3: By 2020, essential management infrastructure in place and essential management actions being effectively carried out for all seven Core MMAs

Grenadine Bank

- *Seascape-wide: water quality monitoring program*. Drawing on ECMMAN match funding, five staff from TCMP and two from SIOBMPA were trained in water quality monitoring. Building on this, SusGren assisted the TCMP administration in establishing a permanent water quality monitoring program. Initial monitoring activities have already been carried out and will inform CMBP work in Year 2 and future years.
- *Seascape-wide: Junior Ranger Program*. In August 2015, SusGren launched the Junior Ranger Program for SVG at the Ashton Learning Resource Centre. The program consists of 14 students (ages 10 – 13) from the three schools on Union island (one secondary and two primary schools). The Program’s overall objective is to foster youth empowerment through teaching basic skills related to personal development, environmental stewardship and community outreach, including through a hands-on approach combining outdoor activities with interactive classroom sessions.
- *Seascape-wide: effective MMA management*. SusGren organized the annual meeting of the Grenadines Network of MPA Managers (MMA staff from six sites across the Grenadines), which included training and information sharing on a broad range of management topics (e.g. coral reef monitoring, lionfish).



SIOBMPA enforcement patrol: with Newton Eristhee – CaribSave (left), Chief Warden (center), Acting SIOBMPA Director Devon Baker (right); Photo: @Owen Day

- *Regional: awareness campaigns.* Drawing on ECMMAN match funding, in collaboration with PCI Media Impact, a week-long training—on local-level marine conservation awareness campaigns—was provided for government officials in the Eastern Caribbean. Two staff from the SVG Fisheries and Parks Departments and two from the Grenada MPA Program attended the training.
- *SIOBMPA: hiring of management staff.* Some delays in recruiting the SIOBMPA Manager were experienced, due largely to jurisdiction-related issues between two ministries in the Grenada Government. CMBP worked assiduously with both ministries and was able to facilitate resolution of these issues. The SIOBMPA Manager was hired in December 2015, and additional wardens will now also be brought on.
- *SIOBMPA: technical support to wardens and the Acting Manager.* During Year 1, CMBP provided continuous technical support to the Acting SIOBMPA Manager in such areas as governance, enforcement, community outreach, fisher livelihoods and mooring buoy installation. The three wardens at SIOBMPA also received training and guidance from CaribSave staff.
- *SIOBMPA: financial support for enforcement patrols.* CMBP provided limited financial support for petrol for boat patrols at SIOBMPA.
- *SIOBMPA: technical support for installation of new moorings.* Complemented by parallel financing to purchase mooring buoys, CARIBSAVE provided technical support for installation of a total of 22 moorings across two mooring fields, including a new mooring field within the L’Esterre Bay, to encourage visiting yachts to moor closer to the community, to support local economic and cultural activities.
- *TCMP – Enforcement and Communications Plans:* Drawing on ECMMAN match funding, SusGren supported the preparation of a TCMP Enforcement Plan (2015 – 2020) and a TCMP Communication Plan, to improve communications with local stakeholders.
- *SIOBMPA: sustainable finance for management.* Yacht moorings are critical for the collection of current and increased fees that generate the major sources of revenue for SIOBMPA. To facilitate the local retention of this revenue, a dedicated local bank account was established, with CMBP technical advice. The bank account is administered by the local SIOBMPA Management Board.



TCMP patrol boat; Photo: @SusGren

Haiti

- *Strengthening operations of FoProBIM.* In Year 1, FoProBIM made important progress on setting up local operations for their work at Three Bays National Park (3BNP), including the following steps: opened and set up an office in the village of Caracol (just outside 3BNP); hired three new staff to carry out community outreach and institutional strengthening activities targeting local fishing communities; and began planning for extension of activities into the Ft. Liberté Bay area, within 3BNP.
- *Coordination and management mechanisms for 3BNP.* In June 2015, CMBP organized a stakeholders workshop (54 participants) at the University campus in Limonade with key stakeholders in the 3BNP area. As one outcome, a Provisional *Regional Technical Advisory Group for 3BNP* was created, to facilitate greater coordination and synergy among participants and partners. Another outcome was a draft Terms of Reference for a local *Three Bays National Park Stakeholder Committee*. The national protected areas agency (ANAP), who is leading this process, is awaiting the installment of the new local government before officially launching the 3BNP Stakeholder Committee.

- *Caracol: environmental education and awareness event.* In September 2015, FoProBIM held an environmental education and awareness activity in Caracol, attended by 100 members from targeted local communities (Caracol, Madras, BdM Limonade, Jacquezy). The event included screenings of three 20-minute French-language documentaries (on mangroves, coral reefs and coastal development and pollution). The screenings were periodically paused to translate the information into creole and provide further information relating to the local context. Images of healthy reefs with abundant fish



Environmental education and awareness community meeting in Caracol, Haiti; Photo: @FoProBIM

populations had an especially strong impact on the audience, as they could not recall the Caracol Bay reefs being so productive. Approximately two hours of questions and debates followed.

- *Ft. Liberté: environmental education and awareness event.* A similar environmental education and awareness event was held in September 2015 in Ft. Liberté (in partnership with the new association UGeBFo). The event was attended by members of all the local Ft. Liberté area communities. The activity involved power point presentations and Q&A sessions on the themes of mangroves, coral reefs, the water cycle, biodiversity, plants and trees, and natural disasters. Scientific information was kept very basic and accessible. The most effective video clips from the Caracol event (showing healthy reefs) were also played, with a similar reaction. The importance of the creation of marine managed areas and the management and protection of these areas was emphasized at both events, to gain support for CMBP project activities.
- *Park wardens.* FoProBIM identified local individuals who may be suitable and able to participate in park management as wardens, starting in Year 2. To begin, four individuals are being sought. Specific arrangements for the hiring of these wardens are currently being investigated.
- *Coral restoration planning.* In Year 1, FoProBIM continued planning for an expansion of its previous coral gardens project in 3BNP. Longer-term plans under CMBP call for expansion of nurseries of both *A. palmata* and *A. cervicornis*—the two most critically important reef building corals. These future coral restoration efforts can help support healthy fisheries and livelihoods. Going forward, FoProBIM will engage park wardens and/or community outreach officers, as well as other area stakeholders, in both coral restoration and mangrove restoration activities, as part of CMBP’s community education work.
- *Educational materials on conch and lobster.* In Year 1, materials were being prepared on conch and lobster life cycles. Pamphlets or booklets will be finalized in Year 2, designed to provide basic, user-friendly information (for fishers and school children ages 10-15) on the ecology/life history of these commercially important species.
- *Management regime.* Informal discussions were held with local stakeholders and the local mayor, in order to identify and build support for the most appropriate management regime for 3BNP (e.g. public sector, private sector, co-management), as well as enforcement arrangements (e.g. national police, Ministry of Environment wardens, local deputized citizens, a combination).
- *MoU with government.* A memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between TNC and the Ministry of Environment—focused on marine protected areas generally and 3BNP in particular—was drafted and agreed. The MoU is presently with the cabinet of the Minister of Environment awaiting signature.

Jamaica

- *Bluefields Bay and Galleon: training and technical support.* CaribSave staff provided ongoing technical support to wardens at both fish sanctuaries, focused on enforcement and monitoring. In addition, a rapid training needs assessment was completed for both fish sanctuaries, in preparation for the one-day mentorship workshop for the managers at these two sites, led by an experienced CaribSave staff who serves as a CaMPAM mentor. (The mentorship workshop was held in October 2015.)
- *Bluefields Bay and Galleon: financial support for wardens and administrative staff.* CaribSave worked with the local management entities for the two fish sanctuaries (BBFFS and BREDS Foundation) to complete a plan outlining staffing needs and related costs for Year 2. CMBP will provide significant support in Year 2 for staffing at these two CMBP Sites.
- *Bluefields Bay and Galleon: business plans:* To promote sustainability, a draft Three-year Business Plan for Bluefields Bay Fish Sanctuary was prepared in Year 1, including a sustainable development vision for the area; organizational charts; products and services; a SWOT analysis; an analysis of “competitors”; operations and growth strategies; risks and mitigation; and a marketing and communications strategy. A Business Plan for Galleon was also prepared and is still being finalized.
- *Southwest Cay Fish Sanctuary (Pedro) – staffing and equipment:* A number of steps were taken in Year 1 to lay the groundwork for a solid staffing structure to support management of Southwest Cay. The C-CAM Conservation Officer contract was modified and signed by all wardens (3 full time and 1 part-time). Two staff that have been serving as MPA managers were contracted to continue as Field Supervisors of the Pedro Cays for four months. In Year 1, C-CAM trained and evaluated a group of five individuals; replacement Field Supervisors are expected to be selected from this pool. Shortly, C-CAM expects to be invited by the Natural Resources Conservation Authority to recommend new and returning persons to serve as Honorary Game Wardens (HGWs). HGWs will have the necessary legal powers to act as full Conservation Officers (e.g. powers of arrest, search and seizure). Most of the equipment built into the Year 1 budget was purchased. A boat that had been provided to the Jamaica Environment Trust (JET)—which was being used for patrolling the Southwest Cay Fish Sanctuary —was secured through a contract for temporary use by C-CAM.
- *Southwest Cay Fish Sanctuary (Pedro) – patrolling and data collection:* In Year 1, a new patrol datasheet was developed and provided to the wardens to report their daily enforcement activities. Training was provided to the wardens in the proper use of the form and completed forms have been collected (covering data related to wildlife inventories, particularly seabirds and sea turtles; human well-being indicators; pest and invasive species abundance; etc.). This data is being entered in the C-CAM enforcement database and will be the subject of more detailed reporting and analysis in the future.
- *Southwest Cay Fish Sanctuary (Pedro) – community outreach.* An inception meeting was held on Middle Cay in August 2015 to update fishers about the change of fish sanctuary management (from JET to C-CAM) and to re-engage fishers on key topics related to the fish sanctuary and sustainable fisheries.

II. CHALLENGES

- Recruitments and sub-award agreements. As part of the CMBP start-up phase, rigorous, multi-step processes required by TNC for staff recruitments and signing of sub-award agreements were carried out. These processes were quite time-consuming, despite steps taken to expedite matters.
- Limited response capacity of government authorities. Response time by governments (related to collaborative activities) was sometimes protracted. In addition, in several cases, time availability of staff with necessary qualifications proved to be limited.
- Tax exemption processes. Identification of tax exemption processes in all five target countries and the establishment of necessary coordination with CMBP Program Management Unit (PMU) staff took time. Processes varied by country and the presence of the PMU in only one of the countries required additional logistics for the exemption process.
- Elections. Upcoming elections in Haiti and the Dominican Republic had some impacts on response time and engagement more generally of government counterparts for implementation activities.
- Overlapping jurisdictions. Overlapping jurisdictions among two ministries in Grenada regarding management of the Sandy Island Oyster Bed Marine Protected Area (SIOBMPA, Core CMBP Site) required waiting on some implementation activities at SIOBMPA until the issues were resolved.
- Fisheries Sector Action Plans. Work on Fisheries Sector Action Plans was delayed in the Haiti and Grenadine Bank Seascapes. In Haiti, it proved difficult to identify a fisheries specialist with the needed Creole language skills; one was eventually found. In the Grenadine Bank, the SIOBMPA jurisdiction issues described above caused delays, but the work has now begun.
- Political instability in Haiti. In Haiti, political instability is an ongoing challenge, and can complicate or delay field work. To help mitigate this risk, CMBP's Haiti Team is advising on government relations and how best to constructively engage the government under such conditions.

III. SYNERGIES

- Dominican Republic. TNC has begun discussions with UNEP’s Caribbean Environment Program (UNEP-CEP) regarding possible collaboration at Monte Cristi National Park (a CMBP Network Site in the North Coast of Hispaniola Seascape). UNEP-CEP just received funding from Italy to develop a decision tool—drawing on biophysical and socioeconomic information—to promote marine spatial planning and an ecosystem approach to managing marine and coastal resources. TNC also began discussions with Counterpart International around possible collaboration at Monte Cristi National Park. Counterpart has been working there for many years with a local partner (Agrofrontera) on mangrove restoration, coral nurseries, local stakeholder committees, and other activities relevant to CMBP. Also in the DR, TNC held discussions with the existing national trust fund (Fondo Marena), which has recently applied to the Caribbean Biodiversity Fund (CBF) to receive annual CBF payments as part of the sustainable finance architecture under the Caribbean Challenge Initiative. Fondo Marena already has significant funding streams that—combined with CBF funding—could be directed toward marine/coastal conservation in the DR.
- Grenadine Bank. CMBP, through SusGren, is now engaging in a European Union supported national-scale project on lionfish control, which should lead to synergies with CMBP. In addition, the CMBP project has benefitted extensively from synergies with the UK DFID supported C-FISH Initiative, which has been providing support to the SIOBMPA and local fishers, with CaribSave in the lead. CMBP will continue to coordinate its funding with this highly complementary funding, in order to achieve synergies.
- Haiti. TNC has begun preliminary discussions to explore collaboration with a number of potential partners carrying out projects in the Three Bays National Park (3BNP) area, including: American Red Cross (Disaster Risk Reduction project on North Coast), Feed the Future North (AVANSE) Project (USAID-funded project on food security), BRL (socio-economic assessments around 3BNP), UNDP (GEF project on ecosystem-based adaptation in coastal zones, with 3BNP as one target site), IDB (ongoing work at 3BNP and national-scale work on fisheries), and The World Bank (large tourism initiative targeting the North Coast). Also, the Barr Foundation is now providing FoProBIM with additional funding for work at 3BNP, particularly to support the development and strengthening of local community groups as well as a larger federation. A number of synergies around overlapping agendas and activities look promising.
- Haiti: FoProBIM has started to see growing support for CMBP activities from the mayors of Caracol, Ft Liberté, and Cap Haitien, as well as the police from Caracol and BdM Limonade. For example, these mayors have attended meetings organized by FoProBIM with local stakeholders and have directly expressed their interest in helping to advance project activities.
- Jamaica. CMBP has collaborated with a UNDP-GEF project to develop the marine spatial plan for the Pedro Bank as well as the Pedro Cays Management Plan. In general, these two efforts (Pedro Bank MSP and Pedro Bank Management Plan) have been highly complementary and synergistic. Solutions to some of the issues identified in the initial draft of the Pedro Cays Management Plan have been discussed through the MSP consultation process with many of the local fishers—both commercial and artisanal; this has resulted in well-informed recommendations in the Management Plan reflecting local stakeholder perspectives.
- Jamaica. CMBP has started to coordinate with three other donor funding projects in the fisheries space: (i) a World Bank fisheries loan, with activities that are national in scope (currently in the design phase); (ii) a European Commission project on fisheries and climate change adaptation; and (iii) a FAO-supported project to conduct a sea cucumber stock assessment, with Pedro Bank as one of the sites being assessed.

