



CAPACITÉ



Happy New Year!
¡Feliz Año Nuevo!
Heureuse Nouvelle Année!

CAPACITÉ - ISSUE 3

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Inside this issue:

Capacité, the newsletter of the Critical Ecosystem Partnership Fund (CEPF) in the Caribbean, is now in its third issue! We welcome back readers who have followed the work of Caribbean groups in biodiversity conservation in biodiversity hotspots in the region, and invite new readers to enjoy this issue, right at the start of a brand new year.

CEPF in the Caribbean is advancing to the midterm of this five-year programme in 2013. The Caribbean Natural Resources Institute (CANARI), as the Regional Implementation Team (RIT) for the programme is happy to share the work done so far, through the articles and updates provided by project grantees in issues of *Capacité*. Some of the interesting initiatives highlighted in this issue include the promotion of a payment for environmental services (PES) scheme in the Dominican Republic, community engagement to deal with issues of flooding of lake areas in Haiti and plans to undertake biodiversity conservation capacity needs and opportunities assessments in the region. We have also provided you with a link to a new CANARI publication - a communication toolkit for groups working in biodiversity conservation in the Caribbean region.

Capacité is full of lots of interesting and useful material, and we hope you enjoy this issue as you settle into your new year!

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

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



Biodiversity Conservation Capacity Assessment

- Susan Otuokon, Ph.D.

During November 2012 - April 2013, the Jamaica Conservation and Development Trust (JCDT) will implement a Biodiversity Conservation Capacity Needs and Opportunities Assessment focused on organisations that are priorities for the Critical Ecosystem Partnership Fund (CEPF) particularly in English-speaking countries. The project is funded by a CEPF Small Grant administered by the Caribbean Natural Resources Institute (CANARI).

The CEPF Caribbean Ecosystem Profile noted that limited capacity was ranked (by Caribbean partners) amongst the most significant barriers to be overcome in addressing threats to biodiversity, within both government and non-government organizations. Without improved capacity, the relatively poor performance of protected area management will continue and contribute to the further demise of biological diversity within the region.

The Profile listed no independent, English-speaking Caribbean islands as examples of countries with strong, centralized and well-coordinated institutional arrangements for management of protected areas. On the other hand, there are several professional and academic individuals and organizations which may be able to assist others with less experience to increase their capacity for biodiversity conservation and protected area management in particular.



*National Park Rangers doing freshwater monitoring
Photo Credit: Jamaica Conservation and Development Trust*

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The JCDT was established in 1988 and is delegated management of the Blue and John Crow Mountains National Park (BJCMNP) by the Natural Resources Conservation Authority. Its experience in managing the BJCMNP includes preparation and implementation of two Management Plans covering conservation, monitoring, enforcement, education, sustainable livelihoods, recreation, tourism, governance and administration.

Based on this experience, JCDT's Strategic Plan for 2010 – 2014 includes an objective to implement strategies to share knowledge and train others in protected area management.

JCDT looks forward to the participation of as many organisations as possible in the Biodiversity Conservation Capacity Needs and Opportunities Assessment. This will provide information to guide capacity building to improve biodiversity conservation and protected area management in the Caribbean Biodiversity Hotspot.



Photo above:

Ranger R. Love makes a point to University of the West Indies MSc. students on Oatley Mountain Trail

Photo Credit: Susan Otuokon



Photo at left:

Two university students read information in exhibits at the Holywell Visitors' Centre, BJCMNP

Photo Credit: Susan Otuokon



Community engagement to address water issues in Haiti

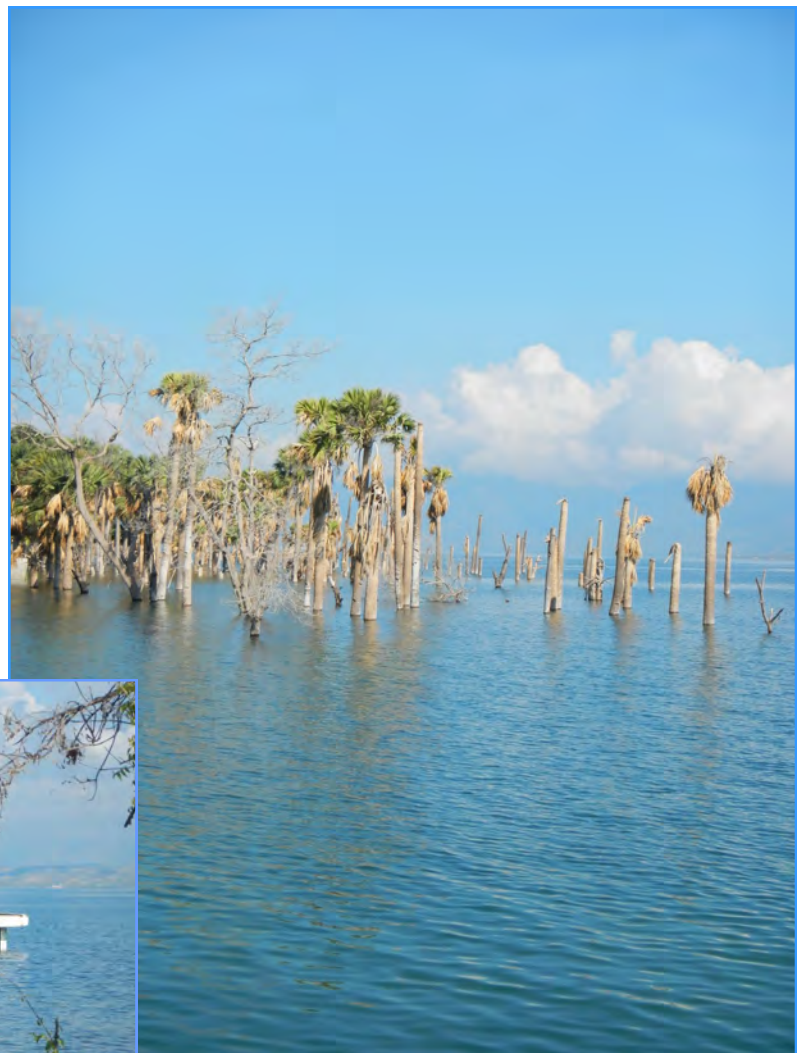
submitted by Jean Weiner

Director, Fondation pour la Protection de la Biodiversité Marine (FoProBiM)

FoProBiM has recently begun activities targeting two of Haiti's largest lakes: Trou Caiman, and Lac Azuei, located in the central eastern part of the country on the border with the Dominican Republic. The project "Stakeholder Networking for Biodiversity Conservation in the Lac Azuei/Trou Caiman Key Biodiversity Area of Haiti" will address the primary issue now affecting these lakes; rising water levels and the ensuing disastrous flooding of nearby lands, including farmland and homes.

Water levels are estimated to have risen 2 - 4 meters over the past decade, with thousands of hectares of land now inundated. The exact cause of this rising water is unknown, but it is believed to be a combination of increased heavy rain events and the deforestation of area watersheds. The effects on local communities, biodiversity, and the environment in general is cause for alarm.

FoProBiM will engage local communities in order to determine their thoughts on these damaging events, provide them with educational activities to provide information which may assist in the mitigation of this major issue.



Photographs at left and above showing flooding at Lac Azuei, Haiti

Photo credits: Jean Wiener

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FoProBim will also encourage the formation of community stakeholder groups which will be better equipped to raise these issues with concerned authorities and engage in preventative measures to help stem, and hopefully reverse this problem.

Communities will need to strengthen their associations within their local areas and also develop partnerships with other communities experiencing the same issues. It is hoped that by combining their efforts, they will be able to develop and implement viable solutions to the environmental issues affecting them all and in the process, help protect important area biodiversity.



Flooding at Lac Azuei, Haiti Photo credit: Jean Wiener

Promoting a payments for environmental services scheme in the Quita Espuela and Guaconejo Scientific Reserves, Dominican Republic
Instituto Tecnológico de Santo Domingo (INTEC)
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This project is being carried out in the scientific reserves of Loma Quita Espuela and Guaconejo in the Dominican Republic. Both protected areas have been listed as high priority biodiversity hotspots and provide valuable ecosystem services in the region. The project aims to create a payment for environmental services (PES) system based on use of water for irrigation and drinking water, with the funds generated going to support the conservation of biodiversity in both reserves.

The project assesses the economic value, availability and capacity of potable and irrigation water resources and sets conditions for ensuring the sustainable use of these resources through training key stakeholders: resource users, beneficiaries, non-governmental organisations and governmental agencies. Finally, the feasibility of the PES scheme is analysed and the critical path is drawn up for implementation in the medium term.

The results of this project support three major national initiatives for the protection of biodiversity:

- 1) The Protected Areas Reengineering Project
- 2) The National Programme for Payment for Ecosystem Services
- 3) The Programme for the Protection of Bicknell's Thrush.

The project is pioneering the establishment of a PES scheme for water resources in protected areas in the region and the creation of a biophysical land use model coupled with the provision of ecosystem services by these two reserves. It is hoped that this pilot project can be replicated in other areas of the island and throughout the Caribbean region.

See article in Capacit  Issue 3 Spanish supplement [here](#)

Progress Report: Floristic Survey of the Hellshire Hills, Manatee Bay, and Goat Islands, Jamaica: A Contribution to Improved Protection and Management of the Jamaican Iguana



BOTANICAL RESEARCH
INSTITUTE OF TEXAS®



*A 2012 CEPF small grant to the Caribbean Wildlife Alliance
by Amanda K. Neill, Botanical Research Institute of Texas (BRIT)*

The Hellshire Hills, on the southern coast of Jamaica just west of Kingston, are the largest undisturbed dry coastal forest left in the Caribbean. Not only are many of Hellshire's plants rare and endemic, but some are also the primary diet for the critically endangered Jamaican Iguana.



With support from CEPF, our floristic project is documenting every plant species in Hellshire with photographs and dried, preserved plant specimens. We collect and photograph fruits and seeds as well, because one goal of the project is to develop an image gallery of seeds of fleshy fruits likely to be consumed by the iguana.

Our collections will provide comparative material for those who work to conserve and protect the Jamaican Iguana, and will contribute to conservation management planning in the region.

In December 2012, our third expedition team varied from day to day but included myself, BRIT botanist Rebecca Swadek, University of the West Indies (UWI) botanist and herbarium curator Patrick Lewis, Damion Whyte of the Urban Development Corporation, UDC field officers and game wardens, botanist Andreas Oberli, and Dr. Byron Wilson of UWI and his Jamaican Iguana Recovery Group team.

We collected in several sites, including the cactus scrub and sinkholes of southeastern Hellshire, the western coastline, the central hills, and the coast and summit of Great Goat Island.

At each site we collected specimens and photographs of every plant species we found that we had not encountered and collected on previous trips.

University of the West Indies botanist Patrick Lewis uses pruning poles to collect a palm tree specimen.

Photo credit: Tiana F. Rehman

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After three expeditions to Hellshire, we have made 386 plant collections. While some plants are not fully identified, or are considered provisionally identified until the study is completed, we estimate we have found approximately 338 species in the area, nearly a 25% increase from the previous floristic study published in 1970.

While some of the new records are invasive or weedy species, others are merely rare plants that escaped earlier botanists' notice. We look forward to reporting final numbers and a species list after this project is completed.



Passiflora perfoliata a Jamaican endemic
Photo credit: Amanda K. Neill

We would like to thank the Critical Ecosystem Partnership Fund (CEPF) for their grant supporting our botanical research, and the Caribbean Natural Resources Institute (CANARI) for managing this grant.

We would also like to thank our collaborators, the University of the West Indies - Mona, the Fort Worth Zoo, and our grant partner, the Caribbean Wildlife Alliance. We also thank the National Environment and Planning Agency of Jamaica, the Jamaican Department of Forestry, and the Urban Development Corporation for providing permits and permissions for our fieldwork.



Jacaima costata (also known as *Mateleia costata*), a rare endemic plant of the Hellshire Hills that was thought to be extinct for many years
Photo credit: Tiana F. Rehman



Botanist Amanda Neill collects a plant with assistance from Patrick Lewis, botanist at the University of the West Indies, and Damion Whyte of the Urban Development Corporation.
Photo credit: Tiana F. Rehman

For more background on this project, please see [our article](#) in *Capacité* Issue 2, September 2012.



*Measures to Support the Zoning Plan in Unit II of the Forest Reserve
in "La Foret des Pins", Haiti*

**- submitted by Jean Edy Theard
Coordonnateur de Zone, Unité II Forêt des Pins**

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This action is being implemented through CEPF co-financing, aiming at contributing to the restoration of the Unit 2 of the Forest Reserve of the Forêt des Pins (U2FdP), while supporting local communities in looking for economic opportunities, to reduce the pressure on the natural resources.

U2FdP is part of the Massif de la Selle, which was declared a Biosphere Reserve by UNESCO, and one of the priority areas of the Biological Corridor in the Caribbean. As a result of constant destruction of the Reserve, the area shrunk from 15 300 to 6 600 hectares. In addition to the reduction of forest space, it is



*Preparation of substrate and filling of bags in one of the nursery sheds for Pinus occidentalis
Photo credit: OPDFM*

¹Haiti, the Dominican Republic and Cuba

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worth noting that local biodiversity has been significantly affected, with several fauna species disappearing from the area, because of the destruction of their natural habitats. These restoration measures should result in some of these species, such as birds, returning to the area.

To date, the project has already resulted in the reforestation of approximately 70 hectares with *Pinus occidentalis* and hardwood. These activities also resulted in the mobilisation of local populations and partnerships between OPDFM, local authorities and government agencies who are directly involved in the management of the natural resources in Haiti.

Reforestation is done primarily with young new trees, harvested in the forest. Local knowledge has also been reinforced, in the areas of reproduction and protection of the main native plant species.

The project is an important step towards the goal of the Ministry of the Environment to create within U2FdP a Conservation Unit with more than 10 000 hectares of forest.

See article in *Capacité Issue 3*
[Spanish supplement](#) and
[French supplement](#)



Reproduction of native plant species in one of the nursery sheds of OPDFM, Unit II of Forêt des Pins Photo credit: OPDFM



*Reforestation of a plain with *Pinus occidentalis*, in the forest reserve of the Unit II of Forêt des Pins* Photo credit: OPDFM

²OPDFM, Organisation of Farmers for the Development of Unité II Forêt des Pins, Mare-Rouge

New conservation project to benefit 11 Caribbean islands

- submitted by Indi Mclymont Lafayette



The Panos Institute is moving to enhance biodiversity conservation in the Caribbean, through education and the promotion of engagement between local communities and the media.

This is being made possible through the 'Strengthening the Engagement of Caribbean Civil Society in Biodiversity Conservation Through Local and Regional Networking and Effective Sharing of Learning and Best Practices' project funded by the Critical Ecosystem Partnership Fund (CEPF).

The US\$152,721 project targets 11 islands, chief among them Jamaica, Haiti and the Dominican Republic, which have been identified as having the highest priority key biodiversity areas and conservation corridors in the Caribbean. Other targeted beneficiaries are Antigua and Barbuda, the Bahamas, Barbados, Dominica, Grenada, St. Kitts and Nevis, Saint Lucia, as well as St. Vincent and the Grenadines.

The project, which began on July 1st 2012, aims to:

- develop baseline surveys covering the communication and advocacy capacity of targeted non-governmental organizations (NGOs) and media in the Dominican Republic, Jamaica, Haiti and St. Vincent and the Grenadines;
- establish a database related to the communication and advocacy capacity of media and NGOs in all 11 participating countries;
- conduct workshops for NGO and media on communication, information production, networking and knowledge sharing; and
- offer fellowships that afford journalists the chance to report on issues, conservation outcomes, best practices and the importance of and threats to key biodiversity areas.

“Ultimately, the aim of the project is to strengthen a regional community of actors involved in conservation that are keen and able to share information and experiences, and that have the capacity to use communications as a vehicle for participatory policy formulation and local action,” said Indi Mclymont-Lafayette, country co-ordinator, Panos (Jamaica office).

Panos Caribbean, is a regional, non-government organization, which works primarily on development communication focusing on issues such as the environment, child rights, health and gender. It has offices in Jamaica, Haiti and Washington D.C. and works in four languages, French, English, Kreyol and Spanish.

• THANK YOU • THANK YOU • THANK YOU • THANK YOU • THANK YOU • THANK YOU •

The editorial team at CANARI that produces *Capacité*, wishes to acknowledge and express sincere thanks to

Ms. Loiza Rauzduel and Mrs. Leida Buglass

for their assistance in providing translations of some articles submitted to this newsletter.

We hope that you enjoy reading the articles here, and in the associated French and Spanish supplements.

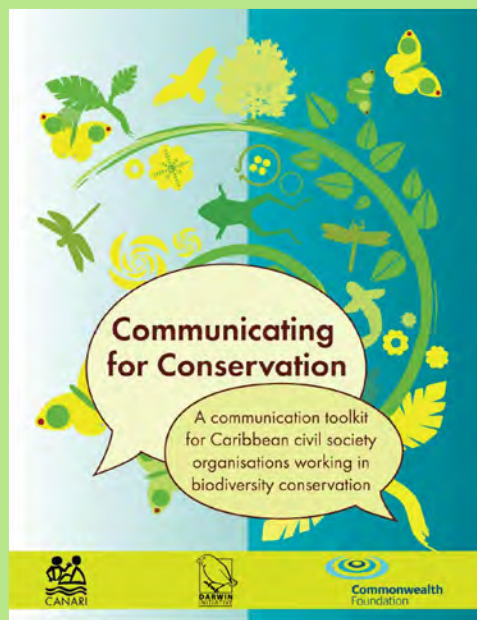
Grant approvals: October 2012 – December 2012

To date, CEPF has approved 33 grants in the Caribbean region totalling over USD 3.1 million. During October–December 2012, five more grants have been contracted:

Applicant	Country	Grant (US\$)	Title/ Description
Strategic Direction 1: Improve protection and management of 45 priority Key Biodiversity Areas			
Fondation pour la Protection de la Biodiversité Marine (FoProBiM)	Haiti	139,800	Caracol Coastal and Marine Management Initiative
Grenada Dove Conservation Programme	Grenada	100,000	Strengthening the Legal Protection of Mt Hartman National Park KBA and Beausejour/Grenville Vale KBA in Grenada
Strategic Direction 2: Integrate biodiversity conservation into landscape and development planning and implementation in six conservation corridors			
Organisation des Groupements pour l'Avenir de Rossignol (OGPAR)	Haïti	20,000	Forest Restoration Project for Biodiversity Conservation and Natural Resources in Rossignol, Parc Macaya, Massif de la Hotte
Strategic Direction 3: Support Caribbean civil society to achieve biodiversity conservation by building local and regional institutional capacity and by fostering stakeholder collaboration			
Fondation pour la Protection de la Biodiversité Marine (FoProBiM)	Haïti	19,500	Stakeholder Networking for Biodiversity Conservation in the Lac Azuei/Trou Caiman Key Biodiversity Area of Haïti
Jamaica Conservation Development Trust (JCDDT)	Jamaica	15,198	Biodiversity Conservation Capacity Needs & Opportunities Assessment in the Caribbean Islands

To see full listing including project summaries of all 33 projects in the region, you can view the link on the CEPF Caribbean webpage here: <http://www.canari.org/documents/ContractedCEPFgrantsasof11.01.13.pdf>

Communicating for Conservation



In 2012, the Caribbean Natural Resources Institute (CANARI) produced the electronic publication *"Communicating for Conservation: A communication toolkit for Caribbean civil society organisations working in biodiversity conservation"*.

The toolkit was produced as an output of a project funded by the Darwin Initiative of the UK Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs and the John D. and Catherine T. MacArthur Foundation.

The publication is a valuable tool which assists groups engaged in natural resource management, in promoting their work and also in mobilising others to take action in biodiversity conservation through building their knowledge, and promoting advocacy and positive change in attitudes and behaviour.

Communication is a critical element in the work of any organisation and this toolkit provides the user with guidelines and practical steps to identify and address communication needs in project activities.

The communication toolkit is free for download from CANARI's website at: <http://www.canari.org/documents/CANARICommunicatingforConservation-toolkit2012.pdf>

We want to hear from you!

All grantees are invited to contribute updates on their projects in subsequent issues of Capacité. Share copies with others in your network and please send us your comments on Capacité to the address below!

About CANARI

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

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

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



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