



# CAPACITÉ

CRITICAL ECOSYSTEM  
PARTNERSHIP FUND

Welcome back to *Capacité*!

This fifth issue of *Capacité*, the electronic newsletter of the Critical Ecosystem Partnership Fund (CEPF) Caribbean islands Biodiversity Hotspot, is full of new updates from CEPF grantees, reporting on their work in the region. This was a very busy period for CEPF in the Caribbean with 16 new grants being approved (see pages 10-11 for the listing of new grants).

The issue is being released on the eve of the CEPF Caribbean islands mid-term evaluation regional workshop, which will take place in Jamaica during 10-12 July 2013. The Caribbean Natural Resources Institute (CANARI), in its role as the Regional Implementation Team (RIT) for CEPF in the Caribbean, is facilitating this workshop as part of the CEPF Caribbean [mid-term evaluation process](#). We are really looking forward to this event, at which representatives of CEPF grantee organisations, government agencies and other key partners and stakeholders working in the region are expected to attend. Look out for the September 2013 Issue of *Capacité* where we will have more to report on the mid-term evaluation process and results.

We hope you enjoy this issue of *Capacité*!

Warm regards from the Regional Implementation Team in CANARI

## ISSUE 5

June 2013

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

The programme was launched in August 2000 and since then, has supported civil society to conserve critical biodiversity in 22 hotspots, committing over US\$ 151 million in grants. CEPF is investing US\$ 6.9 million in the Caribbean islands during a five-year period (October 2010 – October 2015).

## Development of a Funding Landscape and Feasibility Action Plan for the Environmental Foundation of Jamaica (EFJ) - by Allison McFarlane

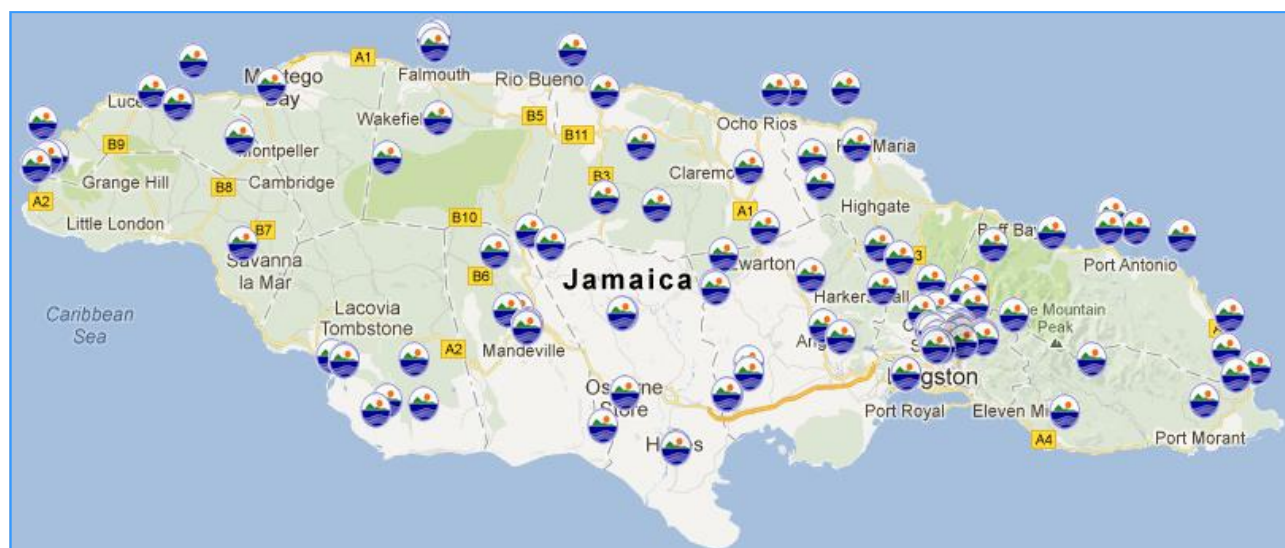


Environmental Foundation  
of Jamaica

The Environmental Foundation of Jamaica (EFJ) was established in 1993 under a Debt Reduction Agreement between the Governments of Jamaica and the United States of America. EFJ's mission is to promote, support and implement activities designed to conserve Jamaica's environment and natural resources and to foster the well-being of Jamaica's children through grants to eligible non-government institutions. The EFJ is now established as an efficient fund manager having converted and stretched US\$42 million for 1,253 grants.

Designed originally as a sinking fund, stakeholders are currently in the process of ensuring EFJ's continuity in its critical role as a voice and liaison for NGOs on environmental and child development issues. In June 2012, the Cabinet of Jamaica approved the consolidation of Jamaica's two Debt-for-Nature agreements with the US Government to create one entity, the EFJ, with best practices from the EFJ, the Forest Conservation Fund (FCF), and the Jamaica Protected Areas Trust (JPAT), administrator of the FCF.

As Jamaica's largest Conservation Fund, the EFJ has completed its 2013-2015 Strategic Plan and is poised to assume its new role of fund-raiser on behalf of its members and grantees. The US\$19,990 Critical Ecosystem Partnership Fund (CEPF) grant will support the "Development of a Funding Landscape and Feasibility Action Plan for the EFJ" which will detail the current opportunities in the Jamaican and Overseas Landscapes and include an analysis of Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities and Threats (SWOT) and a 3-year action plan. This will specifically reflect on opportunities within CEPF Key Biodiversity Areas (KBAs), where feasible. The mechanism will demonstrate a pilot effort in fund-raising with a regional NGO, document lessons learnt, and hopefully document successful ventures and innovative partnerships towards environmental conservation with both traditional and non-traditional donors (International Development Partners, Private Sector, etc.) and projects (mitigation banking, revolving loans, co-financing, etc.).



Map showing locations of EFJ funded projects (2005-2010) throughout Jamaica many of which are located in CEPF KBAs  
Photo credit: <http://dogoodjamaica.org/>

## Conservation Agreements Workshops in the Caribbean

- by *Margarita Mora*

(See this article in *Capacite 5 Spanish supplement* [here](#))

With support from CEPF, Conservation International's Conservation Stewards Program (CSP) is assessing the potential for conservation agreements to contribute to community-based conservation and socioeconomic development in the Caribbean.

Between March and May 2013, CSP conducted three workshops on conservation agreements in the Dominican Republic, Haiti and Jamaica. Through these workshops, CSP team members introduced the conservation agreement model to representatives from 32 NGOs, eight community-based organizations, and four government agencies.

Participants also worked together on exercises to examine the feasibility of implementing conservation agreements in Padre Miguel Domingo Fuertes Natural Monument and La Humeadora Mountain National Park in the Dominican Republic; Massif de la Selle National Park, Massif de la Hotte National Park and Taino Baintet Community Heritage in Haiti, and; Hellshire Hills, Cockpit Country Forest Reserve and Pedro Bank and Cays in Jamaica.

Each workshop included rich discussions on how incentive-based approaches can be used to achieve community conservation and development, and the likely viability of using CSP's conservation agreement model in the three countries. The workshops also offered organizations the opportunity to express interest in working with CSP to assess, design and implement conservation agreements. Now the CSP team is working with NGOs and CBOs from the Dominican Republic, Haiti and Jamaica to develop more detailed feasibility analyses and financing plans for potential initiatives. These products will provide a foundation for future implementation of conservation agreement projects.



Participants of the conservation agreements workshop in the Dominican Republic  
*Photo credit: Lourdes Russa*



Participants of the conservation agreements workshop in Haiti  
*Photo credit: Jean Max Milien*



Participants of the conservation agreements workshop in Jamaica  
*Photo credit: Elaine Kelly*



## San Salvador island project off to a great start in the Bahamas!

- by Lynn Gape

*San Salvador Island: Designation of Key Biodiversity Areas, Graham's Harbour and Great Lakes, as National Parks in The Bahamas.*

The Bahamas National Trust (BNT) signed an agreement to implement a 2-year project for the protection of two areas on San Salvador as National Parks on January 7<sup>th</sup> 2013.

The Trust has been busy with initial work and implementation of the project funded by the Critical Ecosystem Partnership Fund (CEPF), which seeks to establish a national park system on the island of San Salvador comprising of 5 areas in total. Of these areas, two (2) are Key Biodiversity Areas (KBAs), prominent for critically endangered species, including the San Salvador rock iguana.

BNT Executive Management met with the Deputy Prime Minister, The Hon. Philip E. Davis, also Parliamentary Representative for San Salvador, to inform him of the project. He was very supportive, and agreed to a tour of the proposed protected areas in the near future.

Representatives from BNT have engaged key stakeholders in this project, and are working closely with the San Salvador Living Jewels, the Gerace Research Centre and the Seafari Dive Centre to develop park proposals for these areas, also supported by Local Government Officials and community members.

*(continued on page 5)*



The San Salvador rock iguana  
*Photo credit: Sany Voegeli*



Group photograph taken at one of the public meetings  
*Photo credit: The Bahamas National Trust*

*(continued from page 4)*

Community meetings are underway, with an initial meeting led by Director of Parks, David Knowles, attended by over 30 local persons. A fieldtrip to Graham's Harbour attracted some 16 persons, who were able to observe many birds on the offshore cays, including the Brown Boobie. Feedback from the community has been exemplary, calling for immediate declaration of national parks on San Salvador.



The Brown Boobie and chick at Graham's Harbour, the Bahamas

*Photo credit: Sany Voegeli*

A series of educational activities are planned, aimed to increase awareness of proposed sites and their importance to the overall protected area system for The Bahamas. An Education Officer has been hired on San Salvador, who will lead on-the-ground educational activities.

The BNT Team will be conducting a seabird identification and monitoring workshop in mid-June, and is looking forward to assisting with building local capacity in the various communities, to promote the protection of San Salvador's Living Jewels.

MACARTHUR  
The John D. and Catherine T. MacArthur Foundation



## Caribbean agenda informs global framework for climate change vulnerability assessment and biodiversity adaptation planning

Caribbean experiences and priorities are being fed into development of a global framework for climate change vulnerability assessment and biodiversity adaptation planning supported by the MacArthur Foundation.

In 2007, the Caribbean Natural Resources Institute (CANARI) developed a climate change research and [policy agenda](#) for the region which noted the following:

- Ecosystems in the region are more vulnerable/close to collapse
- Current policy is lacking in linkages among economic activity, biodiversity and human well-being
- Computer models need to be downscaled and expanded in relation to biodiversity, agriculture and fisheries
- Multidisciplinary research must be linked to conservation strategies
- Effective communications between scientists, policy-makers and communities is critical

This agenda was developed as part of a 2007 project "[Climate change and biodiversity in the insular Caribbean](#)". CANARI's research engaged a team of key experts including climatologists, biodiversity experts and policy analysts and assessed regional threats and vulnerabilities to biodiversity from climate change through an examination of current research. CANARI was selected to undertake this Caribbean assessment by the John D. and Catherine T. MacArthur Foundation which invested US \$5 million in a series of projects over 2006-2011 to identify and mitigate the threat from global climate change on species in the most diverse ecosystems of the planet. Regional or national assessments of the threats from climate change to biodiversity took place in two phases with the first phase comprising assessments in Madagascar, Indonesia and the Caribbean.

CANARI's current foci on awareness building, research and community adaptation in its [Climate Change and Disaster Risk Reduction Programme](#) is largely shaped by the outcomes and gaps identified by the research and policy agenda developed under this project.

Some three years after the conclusion of CANARI's project, in March 2012, the MacArthur Foundation hosted an international workshop on climate change investment, to which all grantees of the \$5 million investment programme were invited to share their experiences, specifically the results, challenges and lessons learned and to identify existing gaps that still need to be filled in terms of climate adaptation.

The workshop, which took place in Villa de Leyva, Colombia, also formulated a framework for climate vulnerability assessment and biodiversity adaptation planning. Future investment by the Foundation is expected to be guided by the outputs of this workshop and CANARI is poised to apply the framework to work under its [Climate Change and Disaster Risk Reduction Programme](#).

Nature Serve, one of the co-organisers of the workshop, took the lead on developing a paper based on the discussions at this workshop, co-authored by several of the grantees. CANARI will assist in the dissemination of this paper after its publication, however, just for *Capacité* readers, we now present you with a 'sneak peek' at the paper's abstract.

(continued on page 7)

(continued from page 6)

**Young, Bruce et. al (2013). Climate change vulnerability assessment and adaptation planning for biodiversity: emerging lessons from across the tropics**

**ABSTRACT:** Climate change threatens the exceptional terrestrial, freshwater, and marine biodiversity found in the tropics. In the context of limited climate and biodiversity data, inadequate government resources for conservation, and high rates of land conversion, there is an urgent need to identify effective strategies for climate change adaptation in tropical regions. We surveyed 23 initiatives that addressed climate change vulnerability assessment and adaptation planning from tropical regions worldwide to summarize emerging experience in this area and identify priorities for future work. Using a simple planning framework as an organizing rubric, we describe the importance of data availability, direct and indirect effects of climate change, spanning spatial scales, communicating uncertainty, and monitoring biodiversity and climate for vulnerability assessments. Linking actions to vulnerabilities, combining mitigation with adaptation, and measuring the impacts of management actions are essential for effective adaptation planning. Including stakeholders, building capacity, mainstreaming across sectors, and communicating results and actions are important throughout the planning cycle. Priorities for future investments include requiring that strategies be linked to prior vulnerability assessments, stretching funding cycles to encompass both assessment and implementation, mandating monitoring of both climate impacts and the efficacy of management actions, and increasing the capacity of practitioners to address climate change.



Group photo of participants attending the MacArthur Foundation workshop in Villa de Leyva Colombia, March 2012. (CANARI's LaVerne Ragster is at centre, standing) Photo credit: Tiana Ramahaelo

## New on the Eco-Index!

- *submitted by Melissa Norman, Rainforest Alliance*

With CEPF's support, the Rainforest Alliance is adding profiles for select grantees to their [Eco-Index website](#) in English, Spanish and French. These profiles are a great way for you to learn about each other's work, identify potential areas for collaboration, and network across geographic and language barriers.



### Projects recently added to the Eco-Index:

***Assessing the Potential for Conservation Agreements to Contribute to Community-Based Conservation and Socioeconomic Development in the Caribbean Islands***

- *Conservation International.*

English: <http://www.eco-index.org/search/results.cfm?projectID=1535>

Spanish: <http://www.eco-index.org/search/resultss.cfm?projectID=1535>

French: <http://www.eco-index.org/search/resultsf.cfm?projectID=1535>

***Ecotourism and Biodiversity Protection Project for the Kamacroubou Mountain and Diamond Village Community***

- *Diamond Village Community Heritage Organisation, St. Vincent and the Grenadines.*

English: <http://www.eco-index.org/search/results.cfm?ProjectID=1533>

Spanish: <http://www.eco-index.org/search/resultss.cfm?projectID=1533>

French: <http://www.eco-index.org/search/resultsf.cfm?projectID=1533>

***Diversified Forest Restoration in the Fonds-Melon River Basin of Southeastern Haiti***

- *Agronomes et Vétérinaires Sans Frontières (AVSF), Haiti*

English: <http://www.eco-index.org/search/results.cfm?projectID=1534>

Spanish: <http://www.eco-index.org/search/resultss.cfm?projectID=1534>

French: <http://www.eco-index.org/search/resultsf.cfm?projectID=1534>

### NGO webpage(s) recently added to the Eco-Index:

**Diamond Village Community Heritage Organisation**

English: <http://www.eco-index.org/ong/diamond-eng.html>

Spanish: <http://www.eco-index.org/ong/diamond-esp.html>

French: <http://www.eco-index.org/ong/diamond-fra.html>





## Panos Caribbean mobilises biodiversity conservation stakeholders in three Caribbean islands

- by *Cristina Iglesias*

Panos Caribbean has been mobilising stakeholders working on biodiversity conservation in Haiti, the Dominican Republic and Jamaica, under its Critical Ecosystem Partnership Fund project.

Between April and May 2013, a regional team organised meetings inside the key biodiversity areas (KBAs) of Massif de la Selle in Haiti, Cockpit Country in Jamaica and Central Cordillera in the Dominican Republic.

At the meetings, the team presented the project entitled "Strengthening the engagement of Caribbean civil society in biodiversity conservation through local and regional networking and effective sharing of learning and best practices", which is to benefit 11 Caribbean islands.

In April, the project was presented to 15 non-governmental organisations in Massif de la Selle in Haiti and seven in Santo Domingo, Dominican Republic.

There was a mix of participants at these meetings, including groups working in biodiversity conservation as well as government representatives. In the Dominican Republic, the person responsible for aligning the National Strategy of Biodiversity Conservation with the National Development Strategy 2030 was also present.

The Jamaica meeting took place in May and attracted 13 stakeholders. They included representatives from the local forest management committees, the Forestry Department, the Social Development Commission, the Rural Agriculture Development Agency, and the Jamaica Agriculture Society.

An additional group of NGOs in Jacmel, Haiti were also engaged while another meeting is scheduled this month for the Portland Bight Protected Area of Jamaica.

Project activities include:

- a baseline study of the status of the communication on biodiversity conservation in the Dominican Republic, Jamaica, Haiti, and St. Vincent and the Grenadines, where much of the work is focused;
- the creation of a database of media and civil society organisations working on conservation issues in the 11 islands to allow for enhanced networking; and
- a series of workshops and webinars designed to strengthen the communication skills of civil society.

Three webinars have already been delivered, based on understanding the media and writing press releases.

The project will also offer a number of fellowships for journalists to highlight conservation efforts in the different islands.

See this article in *Capacité 5 French supplement* [here](#) and *Capacité Spanish supplement* [here](#).

### Grant approvals April – June 2013

To date, CEPF has approved 55 grants in the Caribbean region totalling over USD 5 million. During the period April - June 2013, 16 new grants were contracted:

Applicant	Country	Grant (US\$)	Title/ Description
<b>Strategic Direction 1: Improve protection and management of 45 priority Key Biodiversity Areas</b>			
Environmental Foundation of Jamaica (EFJ)	Jamaica	19,990	Development of a Funding Landscape and Feasibility Action Plan for the Environmental Foundation of Jamaica
Fondo Pro Naturaleza, Inc.	Dominican Republic	144,610	Management Planning and Threats Reduction from Agricultural Encroachment for La Humeadora and Valle Nuevo National Parks in the Dominican Republic
Island Conservation	The Bahamas and the Dominican Republic	158,273	Feasibility Analysis, Operational Planning, and Capacity Building to Eradicate Invasive Alien Species and to Expand Protection in The Bahamas and Dominican Republic
Pennsylvania State University	Haiti	198,067	Ecosystem Threat Assessment and Protected Area Strategy for the Massif de la Hotte Key Biodiversity Area, Haiti
Sociedad Ornitológica de la Hispaniola Inc (SOH)	Dominican Republic	203,000	Ensuring the Conservation of Biodiversity in Sierra de Bahoruco National Park Through Strategic and Participatory Management Plan Actions
Société Audubon Haiti	Haiti	199,576	Protected Area Strategy and Ecosystems Sustainability in the Massif de la Hotte Key Biodiversity Area, Haiti
The Nature Conservancy (TNC)	Jamaica	75,958	A Campaign to Promote Private Sector Sustainable Finance Mechanisms to Support Jamaica's Protected Areas System
Windsor Research Centre Limited (WRC)	Jamaica	188,000	An Action Plan to Save Threatened Biodiversity in Catadupa

<b>Strategic Direction 2: Integrate biodiversity conservation into landscape and development planning and implementation in six conservation corridors</b>			
Centro para el Desarrollo Agropecuario y forestal, Inc. (CEDAF)	Dominican Republic	19,500	Reducing the Loss of Biodiversity by Identifying Sustainable Models of Income Generation for Communities Surrounding the Los Haitises National Park, Dominican Republic
Humboldt State University Sponsored Programs Foundation (HSU)	Jamaica	\$19,645	Mainstreaming Ecosystem Service Values into Agricultural Practices: The Value of Native Shade Trees and Forest to Coffee Farms in Central and Western Jamaica
National Parks, Rivers and Beaches Authority (NPRBA)	St. Vincent and the Grenadines	77,623	Integrated Watershed Management Planning and Forest Reserve Protection in the Central Mountain Range Conservation Corridor of St. Vincent.
World Resources Institute (WRI)	Jamaica (with components in Dominican Republic and Haiti)	249,697	Building the Capacity of Civil Society to Shape Public Policy Reform in the Caribbean to Protect Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services
<b>Strategic Direction 3: Support Caribbean civil society to achieve biodiversity conservation by building local and regional institutional capacity and by fostering stakeholder collaboration</b>			
Auckland Uniservices Ltd.	Virtual project	29,774	Developing an Internet-Based Networking Portal for Invasive Species Practitioners in the Caribbean
CAB International	Antigua and Barbuda, the Bahamas, Dominican Republic, Jamaica and Saint Lucia	83,160	Regional Networking and Strategy Development for Invasive Alien Species in CEPF Priority Key Biodiversity Areas
Environmental Foundation of Jamaica (EFJ)	Regional	20,000	Building the Capacity of the IUCN Caribbean Regional Committee to Improve Protected Area Governance and Policy in the Caribbean
Sociedad Para el Desarrollo Integral del Nordeste, Inc.(SODIN)	Dominican Republic	19,800	Biodiversity Conservation in Loma Guaconejo Scientific Reserve through the active integration of communities.

To see a full listing including project summaries of all 55 grants in the region, you can view the link on the CEPF Caribbean webpage here: <http://canari.org/documents/ContractedCEPFgrantsasof30.06.13.pdf>

### ***The site visit: a participatory process***

The Regional Implementation Team (RIT) is happy to alert grantees from Haiti that the article on preparing for a site visit which appeared in the last issue of *Capacité*, is now carried in this issue's [French supplement](#).

Be sure to read and take note of special tips to prepare for a site visit to your project to make this a mutually beneficial and productive exercise.

*The RIT conducted a site visit to a component of the Fauna and Flora International (FFI) project in Saint Lucia, in April 2013.*

*Photo at right: Lance Peterson and Saphira Hunt, two field monitors from the Saint Lucia National Trust (SLNT), checking a bait station on Maria Island.*



### **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.



Caribbean Natural Resources Institute (CANARI)  
Fernandes Business Centre  
Building 7, Unit 8  
Eastern Main Road, Laventille,  
TRINIDAD

### **CEPF Caribbean Contact us:**

Tel: (868) 626-6062  
Fax: (868) 626-1558  
E-mail address: [cepf-rit@canari.org](mailto:cepf-rit@canari.org)  
Webpage: [www.canari.org](http://www.canari.org)



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