



Discussion Paper for the development of the CARICOM Biodiversity Strategy (CBS) - Protected Areas Management

April 2018
Synopsis

Aichi Target 11 of the Global Biodiversity Strategy states that: By 2020, at least 17% of terrestrial and inland water, and 10% of coastal and marine areas, especially areas of particular importance for biodiversity and ecosystem services, are conserved through effectively and equitably managed, ecologically representative and well-connected systems of protected areas and other effective area-based conservation measures, and integrated into the wider landscapes and seascapes.

A number of recent and current regional projects and programmes address this target. Recent projects include the Critical Ecosystem Partnership Fund (CEPF) (joint initiative of l'Agence Française de Développement, Conservation International, the EU, the Global Environment Facility, the Government of Japan, the MacArthur Foundation, and the World Bank). This project provided approximately six million dollars in funding for biodiversity management in the Caribbean Biodiversity Hotspot. Activities included the provision of grants to civil society to manage biodiversity hotspots and the development of a number of participatory protected area management plans. Under the first phase of CEPF, procedures were formulated and adopted for private protected areas in the Dominican Republic and municipal protected areas in the Dominican Republic and Haiti. This [CEPF initiative](#) was managed by CANARI during the period 2010-2016. The second phase of investment for the CEPF is expected to start soon with a current emphasis on updating the [CEPF ecosystem profile](#) to inform the second phase of investment.

The BIOPAMA initiative led by IUCN is currently entering into a second phase. It aims to “make the best available science and knowledge available for building capacity to improve policies and better decision-making on biodiversity conservation. Other relevant protected areas programmes include the Socio-economic Monitoring for Coastal Management ([SocMon](#)), a global initiative of the IUCN World Commission on Protected Areas (WCPA-Marine) and the Global Coral Reef Monitoring Network. Additional networks which address biodiversity and protected areas management include [CaMPAM](#) and [Nature Caribé](#). CaMPAM is a network and partnership focused on capacity building of MPAs. CaMPAM also facilitates a small grant programme and a regional marine protected area MPA database.

UNEP/SPAW-RAC, through CaMPAM, supported the strengthening of marine protected areas under the Climate Resilient Eastern Caribbean Marine Managed Areas Network ([ECMMAN](#)). Overall ECMMAN focused on strengthening marine management areas and supporting related sustainable livelihoods. Other ECMMAN components included updating relevant decision support systems and advancing sustainable financing for marine management areas.

Protected areas management is also a focus of the [SPAW-RAC](#) work programme. This includes training and capacity building through the CaMPAM network. The SPAW protocol, speaks to the creation of a list of protected areas, a regional network of protected areas and relevant cooperation programmes. The SPAW list focuses on areas which are priority for protection in the wider Caribbean. Programmes and activities under the World Heritage Convention and RAMSAR convention also shape the designation and management of protected areas in the Caribbean. The [Caribbean Challenge](#) Initiative (CCI) also supports protected areas management. Under the CCI, participating countries have committed to “conserving at least 20% of their marine and coastal environments by 2020 (the 20-by-20 goal) and “ensuring that these conserved areas are effectively managed into the future through a reliable, long-term finance structure”.

Under the GEF-funded “Improving Forest and Protected Area Management in Trinidad and Tobago” (IFPAMTT) project, biodiversity hotspots requiring protection are being identified. The intention is to update the legal designation and boundaries of existing protected areas and to declare new areas as needed. The GEF-funded project on “Conserving Biodiversity and Reducing Habitat Degradation in Protected Areas and their Areas of Influence” in St. Kitts and Nevis focused on strengthening protected areas management. The project also emphasised the inclusion of representative ecosystems within the Protected Area System. Collaboration with NGO, CSO and private sector partners was a focus as well.

There is need for synergy and collaboration among current regional initiatives which address protected areas management. Outputs, case studies and guidelines from past projects can be used to inform current project action. Financing for protected areas remain a challenge especially as protected area user fees do not adequately reflect the natural capital of the protected areas. Private and local protected areas can be used to complement national protected areas but relevant legal mechanisms may need to be developed. Climate change issues need to be reflected in protected area management plans including species range shifts or an increased abundance of invasive species. Creating ecologically interconnected protected area systems still needs attention as does the availability of Caribbean specific and fine scale specific data available.

Taking into consideration the issues outlined above as well as other issues you may be aware of, stakeholders are asked to consider:

What should the CBS showcase, state or highlight on the issue of protected areas management to best address:

- your organisation’s needs
- your country’s needs – where national capacity and resources could benefit from additional regional support
- regional needs

Stakeholders are also asked to consider:

- How can the CBS promote synergies, alignment and coordination among protected area initiatives, including those led by civil society such as the CEPF and BIOPAMA?
- How can the CBS support the scaling up and replication of successful protected area management projects from CEPF and other programmes?
- How can the CBS best support and utilise networks like CaMPAM and Nature Caribé?
- What would be the CBS role in aligning and supporting work under protocols and conventions like the SPAW Protocol, World Heritage Convention, and the Ramsar Convention?

- How can the CBS support strengthening of national capacity to facilitate participatory development of protected area management plans?
- How can the CBS encourage and support mechanisms enabling the use of private and local protected areas for biodiversity conservation?
- How can the CBS encourage creation of trans-boundary protected areas and protected area systems to conserve biodiversity?

Finally: any additional issues, ideas or points on protected areas management you would like to highlight for inclusion or consideration in the development of the Strategy?

Bibliography

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