

## CEPF Regional Implementation Team for the Caribbean Islands Biodiversity Hotspot

The island geography and complex geology of the Caribbean have created unique habitats and high species diversity. Sixty-two per cent of the Caribbean Islands' plant and animal species are found nowhere else on Earth, and many of them are restricted to a single island. Habitat protection and biodiversity conservation help increase the resilience of ecosystems to the impacts of climate change and safeguard the livelihoods and well-being of the millions of Caribbean people who rely on natural resources and their services.

Recognising that civil society groups can offer innovative ideas and practical solutions to solving local conservation challenges, the Critical Ecosystem Partnership Fund (CEPF) invested in the Caribbean Islands Biodiversity Hotspot between 2010 and 2016. In 2021, CEPF returned to the Caribbean to build on the foundation of the first investment through a five-year programme of grant-making and capacity building.

The Caribbean Natural Resources Institute (CANARI) is once again the Regional Implementation Team (RIT) for the CEPF Caribbean investment. The RIT supports civil society organisations to design, implement and replicate successful conservation projects in line with CEPF's strategy for the region as outlined in the CEPF Ecosystem Profile. The RIT also manages the CEPF small grant mechanism, monitors and evaluates all grants and supports the CEPF Secretariat in portfolio-level monitoring and evaluation.

CEPF's current investment in the Caribbean Islands Biodiversity Hotspot is guided by the strategic directions and investment priorities outlined in the 2019 Ecosystem Profile (see overleaf).

- The Caribbean project will improve the capacity of civil society organisations to reduce threats to globally important biodiversity in the Caribbean Islands Biodiversity Hotspot.
- The investment will strengthen the protection and management of globally important biodiversity within 32 priority Key Biodiversity Areas (KBAs) and seven conservation corridors in Antigua and Barbuda, The Bahamas, Dominican Republic, Haiti, Jamaica, Saint Lucia, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines.

A complementary component will use collaborative social accountability methodologies and tools to facilitate multi-actor, multi-sectoral partnerships for conservation to conduct analyses of conservation problems and develop joint solutions. The Instituto Tecnológico de Santo Domingo (INTEC) in the Dominican Republic and Integrated Health Outreach (IHO) in Antigua will lead this component in the Dominican Republic, Antigua and Barbuda, Jamaica and Saint Lucia. CANARI will lead this component in The Bahamas, Haiti and Saint Vincent and the Grenadines.

The CEPF is a joint initiative of l'Agence Française de Développement, Conservation International, the European Union, the Global Environment Facility, the Government of Japan and the World Bank. The CEPF Phase II investment in the Caribbean Islands Biodiversity Hotspot is financed through the Critical Ecosystem Partnership Fund – Caribbean Hotspot Project of the World Bank, using funds provided by the Government of Japan.



### IN BRIEF

**Objective:** To improve the capacity of civil society organisations to reduce threats to globally important biodiversity in the Caribbean Islands Biodiversity Hotspot.

**Lead:** Critical Ecosystem Partnership Fund (CEPF) Secretariat & Caribbean Natural Resources Institute (CANARI)

**Budget:** US\$11.8 million

**Funding:** Financed through the Critical Ecosystem Partnership Fund – Caribbean Hotspot Project of the World Bank, using funds provided by the Government of Japan.

**Duration:** August 2021 – July 2026

## CEPF Caribbean Islands Strategic Directions and Investment Priorities

Strategic Directions	CEPF Investment Priorities
1. Improve the protection and management of 33 priority sites for long-term sustainability	<p>1.1 Strengthen the legal protection of priority sites</p> <p>1.2 Prepare and implement participatory management plans that support broad stakeholder collaboration</p> <p>1.3 Assess climate change impacts and integrate climate change adaptation into management plans and their implementation responses to protect ecosystem functions and build resilience</p> <p>1.4 Eradicate, control or prevent further spread of invasive plants and animals that are affecting globally threatened species populations at priority sites</p> <p>1.5 Update the KBA analysis to fill critical conservation planning data gaps in Haiti</p>
2. Increase landscape-level connectivity and ecosystem resilience in seven priority corridors	<p>2.1 Prepare and support implementation of participatory local and corridor-scale land-use and watershed management plans to guide future development and conservation efforts</p> <p>2.2 Support sustainable livelihoods in agriculture, fisheries, forestry, and nature tourism that enhance ecosystem resilience and landscape-level connectivity and deliver gender-equitable benefits in order to maintain the functionality of priority sites</p> <p>2.3 Promote the adoption and scaling up of conservation best practices in those enterprises compatible with conservation to promote connectivity and ecosystem services in the corridors</p>
3. Safeguard priority Critically Endangered and Endangered species	<p>3.1 Prepare and implement conservation actions plans for priority Critically Endangered and Endangered species</p> <p>3.2 Identify climate impacts and develop and implement management plans in response to climate change impacts on priority Critically Endangered and Endangered species</p> <p>3.3 Support assessments of high priority plant families to update national lists and the IUCN Red List and develop conservation action plans</p>
4. Improve the enabling conditions for biodiversity conservation in countries with priority sites	<p>4.1 Support the role of civil society organisations in policy dialogue, and advocacy focused on government policies and practices that impact priority sites</p> <p>4.2 Mainstream biodiversity conservation and ecosystem service values into development policies, projects, and plans by government and the private sector, with a focus on addressing major threats, such as unsustainable agriculture, mining, tourism and infrastructure development</p> <p>4.3 Establish and strengthen sustainable financing mechanisms</p> <p>4.4 Build stakeholder and constituency support for the conservation of priority sites and priority globally threatened species through targeted communication and information dissemination</p>
5. Support Caribbean civil society to conserve biodiversity by building local, national and regional institutional capacity and fostering stakeholder collaboration	<p>5.1 Strengthen CSOs' technical knowledge and skills to implement practical, applied biodiversity conservation actions through short-term training in topics that will advance implementation of projects that support CEPF priorities, based on a CSO training assessment and strategy</p> <p>5.2 Strengthen the administrative, financial, fundraising and project management capacity of strategic CEPF civil society partners to implement biodiversity conservation programs and activities</p> <p>5.3 Support local, national and regional information exchange, networking, mentorship, and coalition building among civil society organisations</p>

Click [here to view the 2019 CEPF Ecosystem Profile for the Caribbean Islands Biodiversity Hotspot](#).