CRITICAL ECOSYSTEM PARTNERSHIP FUND | CANARI

CANARI serves as CEPF's regional implementation team for the Caribbean Islands Biodiversity Hotspot.

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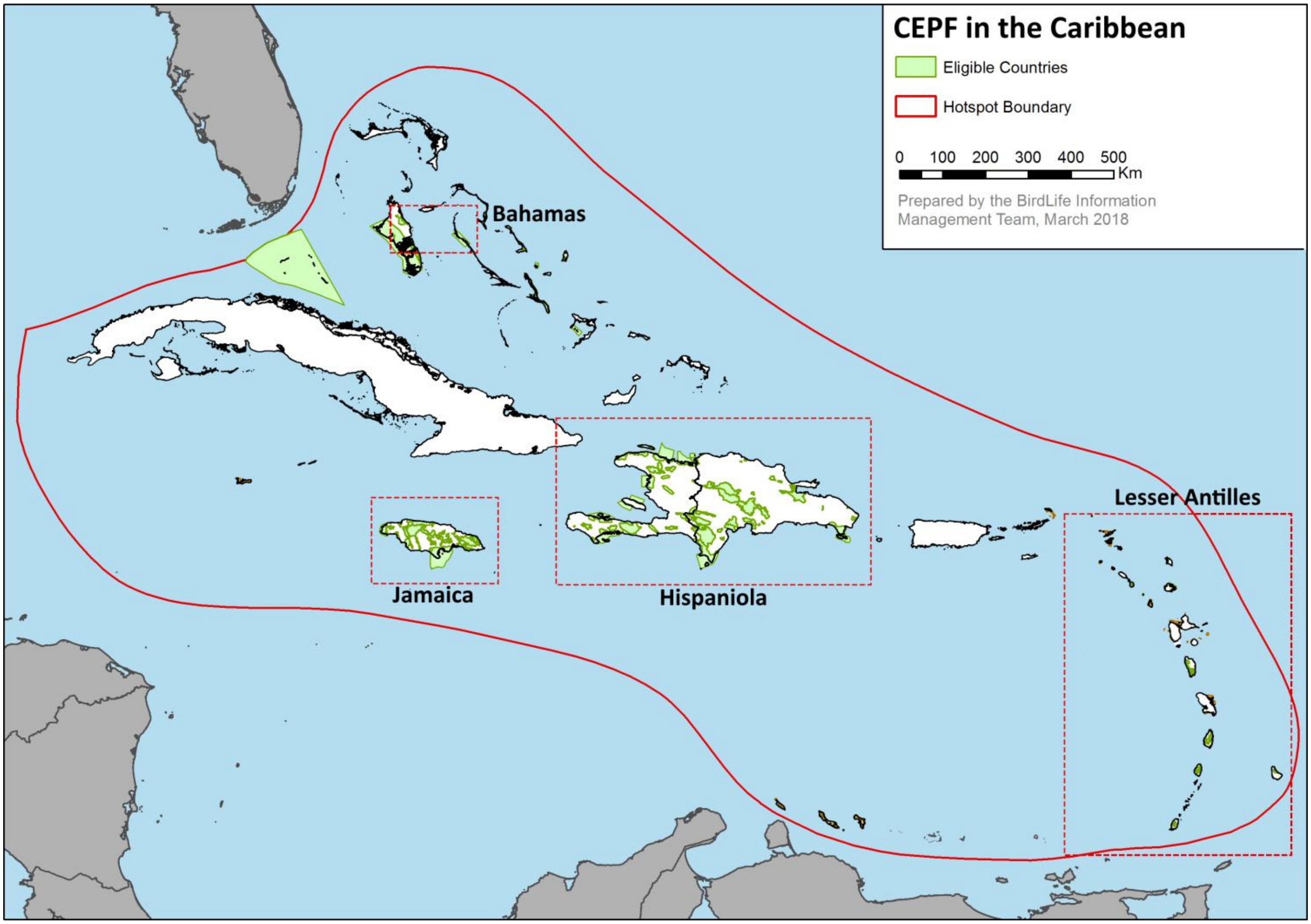
Caribbean Islands Biodiversity Hotspot

Caribbean Islands target countries: Antigua and Barbuda, The Bahamas, Dominica, Dominican Republic, Haiti, Jamaica, Saint Lucia, and Saint Vincent and the Grenadines



Targeted geography CEPF Phase II Investment, Caribbean Islands

CEPF is a joint initiative of l'Agence Française de Développement, Conservation International, the European Union, Fondation Hans Wilsdorf, the Global Environment Facility, the Government of Canada, the Government of Japan and the World Bank. The CEPF Phase II investment (August 2021–July 2027) 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.

CEPF Investment in the Caribbean Islands

Unique habitats under threat

With around 1,000 globally threatened species, the Caribbean is one of the most critically endangered hotspots in the world. The hotspot supports a wealth of diverse ecosystems with a high proportion of endemicity, making the region biologically unique.

The region's people depend on ecosystems to provide essential goods and services. However, with only around 10 percent of the original habitat remaining, the hotspot is at serious risk of species extinctions, even due to the loss of relatively small patches of habitat. Many of the threats to the hotspot's biodiversity are directly or indirectly linked to poverty, population pressures, access to resources, the economic and environmental vulnerability of the islands to external forces such as changes in global trade regimes and climate change.

The Critical Ecosystem Partnership Fund (CEPF) has invested in the Caribbean Islands before and has demonstrated that through funding—along with mentoring, partnerships, and innovative communication strategies—civil society groups can play an important role in conservation efforts.

Strategic Directions

When CEPF develops an ecosystem profile for a biodiversity hotspot, it decides on a few priorities known as "strategic directions." These are important to grant applicants because each project must address at least one strategic direction. For the Caribbean Islands, the current strategic directions are:

1. Improve the protection and management of 32 priority sites for long-term sustainability.
2. Increase landscape-level connectivity and ecosystem resilience in seven priority corridors.
3. Safeguard priority Critically Endangered and Endangered species.
4. Improve the enabling conditions for biodiversity conservation in countries with priority sites.
5. Support Caribbean civil society to conserve biodiversity by building local, national and regional institutional capacity and fostering stakeholder collaboration

WHAT IS CEPF?

Established in 2000, the Critical Ecosystem Partnership Fund (CEPF) provides grants to nongovernmental and private sector organizations to help protect biodiversity hotspots, Earth's most biologically rich yet threatened areas. CEPF has awarded more than 2,300 grants in 98 countries and territories.

WHAT'S AN ECOSYSTEM PROFILE?

Before providing funding to a hotspot, CEPF develops an "ecosystem profile" that informs its investment strategy. More than 175 stakeholders from 94 organizations within civil society, government, the private sector and the donor community in the region were consulted in 2017-2018 for this in-depth analysis, helping to develop a shared strategy from the outset. To read the complete ecosystem profile, visit https://www.cepf.net/sites/default/files/cepf-caribbean-islands-ecosystem-profile-december-2020-english.pdf

WHO ARE CEPF'S GRANTEES?

Nongovernmental organizations, community groups, universities and private enterprises applicants may apply for funding. Our grant recipients range from small farming cooperatives and community associations to international organizations. What do they all have in common? They are dedicated to protecting biodiversity.

HOW CAN I GET INVOLVED?

CEPF's current investment in the hotspot began in 2021 and will go through 2027. To learn how to apply for grants, contact the regional implementation team or visit www.cepf.net.

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Some 96% of amphibian species and 82% of reptile species found in the hotspot live nowhere else on earth. © Carlos Martínez Rivera

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CEPF Niche and Investment Strategy 2021-2027

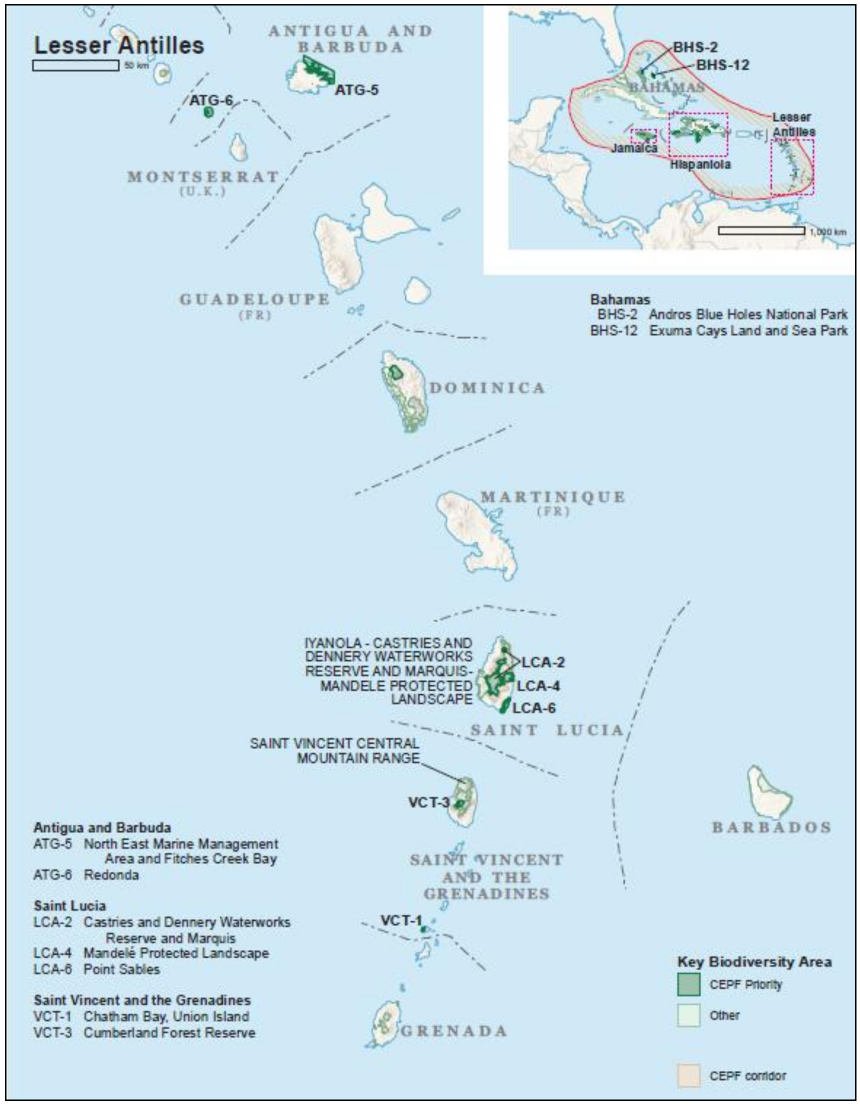
The 2021 - 2027 CEPF Phase II investment in the Caribbean Islands will build on the gains made during the earlier investment in the hotspot between 2010 – 2016 to promote management effectiveness of priority Key Biodiversity Areas (KBAs). The investment will strengthen the protection and management of globally important biodiversity within 43 priority KBAs and seven conservation corridors in Antigua and Barbuda, The Bahamas, Dominica, Dominican Republic, Haiti, Jamaica, Saint Lucia, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines.

It will support replication of successful conservation approaches along with innovation and testing of new conservation approaches, including for species conservation.

The new investment will directly link conservation to human wellbeing and climate resilience. There is a strong emphasis on building the capacity of civil society organisations (CSOs) and a commitment to leaving the legacy of a robust Caribbean civil society sector that is equipped to protect the region's biodiversity for the wellbeing of its people.

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.

To learn more about the scope and the focus of the CEPF investment in the Caribbean Islands Biodiversity Hotspot visit: https://www.cepf.net/our-work/biodiversity-hotspots/caribbean-islands



Priority sites CEPF Phase II investment, Lesser Antilles & The Bahamas

Maintaining ecosystems health is vital to the livelihoods and wellbeing of Caribbean communities. © Consorcio Ambiental Dominicano

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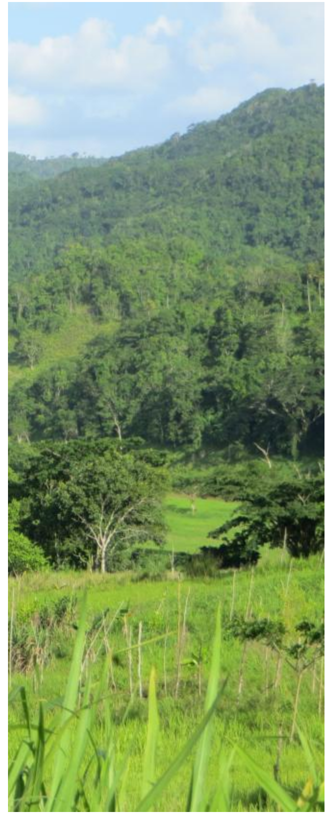
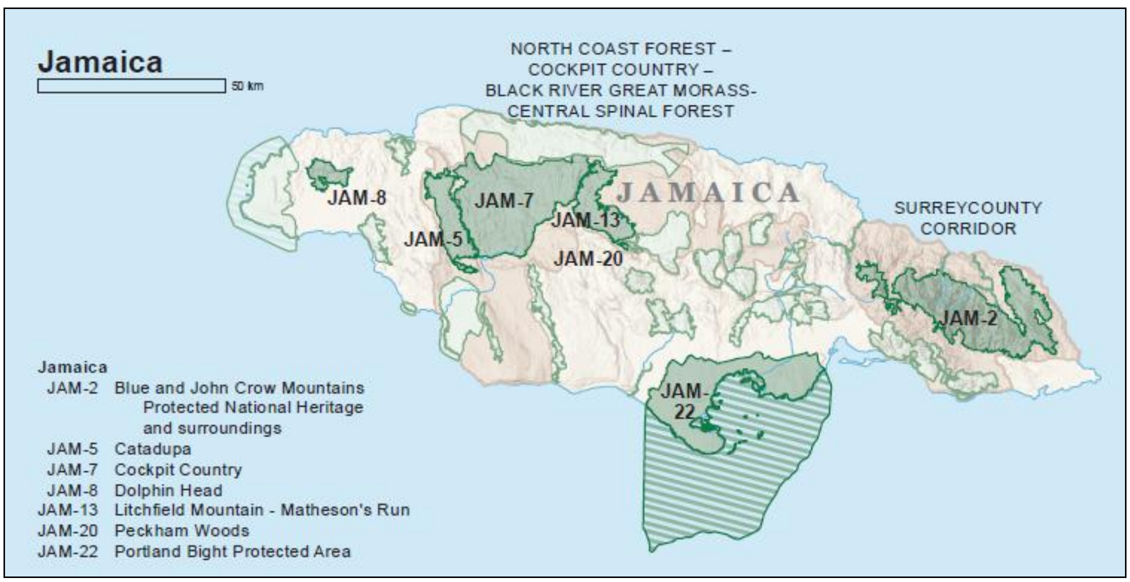


Priority sites CEPF Phase II investment, Dominican Republic and Haiti



Priority sites CEPF Phase II investment, Jamaica

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