

Supporting CEPF Grantee Partners after Hurricane Melissa

20 November 2025 – Hurricane Melissa made landfall in south-western Jamaica on 28 October 2025 as a Category 5 storm after bringing heavy rains to Haiti and the Dominican Republic, and then later affected Cuba and parts of The Bahamas. Although Jamaica is the worst affected, the storm has disrupted lives and operations across the Greater Antilles and The Bahamas.

Several Key Biodiversity Areas (KBAs) and other ecologically significant sites have been devastated by the storm. Detailed assessments are still underway, but it is already evident that forests, watersheds, coastal habitats and species populations have all been damaged. Jamaica's Forestry Department reports that approximately 51 per cent of the island's forests have been affected.



Cockpit Country, Jamaica, in a photograph taken before Hurricane Melissa.

Credit: Lauren Creary/Jamaica Environment Trust.

Our first concern has been the safety of people and the organisations we work with. We have contacted our partners in Jamaica and the Dominican Republic and are relieved that all are safe. However, some partners, and many of the communities they serve, are now dealing with damaged homes, interrupted services and loss of income.

In the immediate term, CANARI and CEPF are committed to supporting grantee partners affected by the hurricane and contributing to their recovery efforts. We are staying closely engaged to understand needs and determine how we can help through our programmes and networks.

CANARI and CEPF are committed to standing with our colleagues and the groups we support as the immediate response unfolds, and longer-term restoration takes shape.

The CEPF Caribbean Regional Implementation Team at CANARI