

Building Caribbean civil society capacity to deliver sustainable finance

13 March 2026 – Caribbean biodiversity is rich with high levels of endemism arising from the complex biogeography of the area. However, due to the small ranges of these unique species and the threats of habitat loss and degradation, the region hosts some of the highest numbers of threatened species in the world.



Bird Island, Antigua & Barbuda. Credit: Jeremy Holden/Fauna & Flora.

Civil society organisations (CSOs) tackle these threats across the Caribbean, conserving habitats and species, in partnership with the people who live and work in these high conservation value landscapes. Yet, many of the region's conservation groups are struggling to meet their financial and fundraising needs to support their delivery of impactful conservation.

Fauna & Flora received a two-year grant from the [Critical Ecosystem Partnership Fund \(CEPF\)](#) under its [second investment in the Caribbean Islands Biodiversity Hotspot \(2021-2027\)](#) to support Caribbean CSOs to develop sustainable finance plans, build fundraising capacity, and explore eco-tourism opportunities – strengthening their financial resilience and enabling continued and expanded protection of the region's biodiversity hotspots.

The project delivered in-person training, webinars, e-learning courses, and mentoring for more than 120 people from six Caribbean countries, including staff from CEPF grantees and sub-grantees Environmental Awareness Group in Antigua, Union Island Environmental Alliance and SCIENCE in St. Vincent and the Grenadines and the Saint Lucia National Trust. It also engaged early-career conservationists from CSOs operating throughout the region. All training resources have been made available on the [Capacity for Conservation](#) website, which is accessible to the public.

In reflecting on the workshops, participants highlighted both the quality of the training and the connections it fostered. One participant described the training as “superb” and noted that, “Staff and facilitators were very well-informed and presented materials in ways that facilitated rapid progress and excellent deep analysis of the organisation.”

Another participant shared that the experience went beyond mere training; it was motivating and opened doors to new professional networks: "During this training, I had the invaluable opportunity to connect with remarkable conservationists from the Caribbean, learn effective project planning and fundraising tools from great professionals, and listen to inspiring testimonies that motivated me to continue my conservation efforts. Additionally, I appreciated experiencing the stunning biodiversity of St. Lucia, which reinforced the importance of our work."



Petit Piton, Saint Lucia. Credit: Jeremy Holden, Fauna & Flora.

Through continued support and mentoring from Fauna & Flora staff, and their expanded peer networks, participants have gone on to provide training to twelve colleagues in ten organisations, submit twelve funding applications, finalise and implement three financial sustainability plans, and pilot two eco-tourism initiatives, including an exciting Turtle Tour at Windward Beach, Antigua.

Participants stated the project has enabled "exposure to different perspectives and approaches" and "provided CSOs with practical ideas for advancing their own financial sustainability efforts," highlighting the importance and impact of initiatives that mainstream regional collaboration in the Caribbean.

The project has helped organisations take an important step towards building the financial resilience needed to sustain their conservation work and strengthen collaboration across the Caribbean. It has also generated an important multiplier effect, as participants apply and share what they've learned across their networks.

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