

Annual Portfolio Overview July 2013 – September 2014
Caribbean Islands Biodiversity Hotspot
December 2014

I. Introduction

The Caribbean Islands Biodiversity Hotspot, an archipelago of habitat-rich tropical and semi-tropical islands, comprises 30 nations and territories and stretches across nearly 4 million km² of ocean. Its unique island geography and complex geology has created unique habitats and high species diversity. Species endemic to the hotspot account for 70% of the hotspot's plants and animals, which represent 2.6 percent of the world's 300,000 plant species, and 3.5 percent of the world's 27,298 vertebrate species. Furthermore, the hotspot has among the highest number of globally threatened species in the world at 703 species.

The hotspot's biodiversity has been impacted by humans since the arrival of the Amerindians some 6,000 to 7,000 years ago. These impacts increased substantially following the arrival of Europeans in the 1490s and have escalated in the last 50 years. The main threats to the terrestrial biodiversity are habitat destruction and fragmentation due to agricultural, tourism, and industrial and urban development driven by increasing population and affluence. Overexploitation of living resources, predation and competition by invasive alien species are also regarded as significant threats. Pollution affects freshwater and marine environments, as does sedimentation flows downstream, affecting coastal water quality, smothering corals, killing fish and reducing the tourism value of beaches.

The region has already experienced the impacts of climate change with increased temperatures and more hurricanes and droughts. Concerns are growing over predicted sea level rise. The Caribbean's main priority in addressing climate change is to formulate and implement appropriate strategies for adaptation to minimize the social and environmental impacts.



Underlying these direct threats are multiple root causes, including poor land-use planning, limited capacity and financial resources, lack of awareness and political support, weak and ineffective legislation, limited availability of information, and inefficient institutional capacity. Improved management of the hotspot's landscapes, freshwater and coastal ecosystems is essential for sustainable growth and development in the region. Government and nongovernmental capacity must be increased if conservation is to succeed in this hotspot in the long term.

II. Niche for CEPF Investment

The Caribbean Islands portfolio formally began in October 2010 with CEPF's approval of the Regional Implementation Team (RIT) grant. The total allocation for the portfolio is \$6.9 million for five years to invest in 11 eligible countries: Antigua and Barbuda, Bahamas, Barbados, Dominica, Dominican Republic, Grenada, Haiti, Jamaica, St. Kitts and Nevis, Saint Lucia, and St. Vincent and the Grenadines.

While the ecosystem profile identifies 703 globally threatened species, 290 key biodiversity areas, and seven corridors as hotspot-level conservation targets, CEPF has prioritized these outcomes to ensure its funds achieve the greatest conservation benefits relative to the costs. CEPF targets 17 KBAs as its highest priorities in Haiti, the Dominican Republic, and Jamaica known to have the highest concentrations of globally endangered species. The strategy also calls for supporting 28 KBAs as medium-level priorities that include sites in the other CEPF eligible countries with fewer such species, and six conservation corridors where many of these KBAs are located.

The CEPF niche is to support civil society groups so that they can serve as effective advocates, facilitators and leaders for conservation and sustainable development of their islands. Civil society groups are in a unique position in the Caribbean to fulfill this role, as they have knowledge of and experience in conserving biodiversity. They also can bridge local development aspirations with longer term conservation goals. CEPF investments seek to empower civil society groups to engage in strategic conservation efforts, as well as to participate in and influence broader development planning and policy agendas. To achieve this niche, the profile identifies strategic directions where civil society can play a meaningful role to achieve long-term conservation goals:

1. Improve protection and management of 45 priority key biodiversity areas.
2. Integrate biodiversity conservation into landscape and development planning and implementation in six conservation corridors.
3. Support Caribbean civil society to achieve biodiversity conservation by building local and regional institutional capacity and by fostering stakeholder collaboration.
4. Provide strategic leadership and effective coordination of CEPF investment through a regional implementation team.
5. Provide emergency support to Haitian civil society to mitigate the impacts of the 2010 earthquake.¹

¹ Please note that the portfolio includes special emergency support to Haitian civil society to mitigate the impacts of the 2010 earthquake. This support was approved separately by the Donor Council in March 2010 and has been incorporated as a fifth strategic direction.

III. Portfolio Status

During this reporting period of June 2013 to September 2014, the CEPF Secretariat and RIT dedicated its efforts to making and monitoring its portfolio of small and large grants and to holding a mid-term assessment in mid-2013. As presented in Table 1, the Caribbean portfolio has issued a total of six calls for letters of inquiry, one of which occurred during this reporting period.

Table 1. Timeline for Calls for Letters of Inquiries

Call Number	Countries	Release	Deadline for Small Grants	Deadline for Large Grants
1	Haiti and Jamaica	February 1, 2011	March 31, 2011	April 30, 2011
2	Dominican Republic	April 1, 2011	May 31, 2011	June 10, 2011
3	All	September 21, 2011	October 17, 2011	October 24, 2011
4	Haiti	May 15, 2012	June 29, 2012	June 29, 2012
5	All	July 2, 2012	August 13, 2012	August 13, 2012
6	All	August 15, 2013	September 30, 2013	September 30, 2013

Table 2 shows the status of grant making in the Caribbean Islands Hotspot as of September 30, 2014. CEPF has contracted \$6.6 million of the \$6.9 million budget, equaling 96% of funds. CEPF has awarded a total of 75 grants, of which 46 (61%) are large grants over \$20,000, and 29 (39%) are small grants equal to or less than \$20,000. Figure 1 in Annex 1 shows that 12% of portfolio funds, or \$828,000, were allocated to projects that had officially closed by September 2014, while grants totaling \$5.8 million remain in implementation.²

Table 2. Grant-Making Status by Strategic Direction, September 2014

Strategic Direction	Budget Allocation	Contracted Grants			Over or Under-budget	% Contracted
		Total Amount	No of Large grants	No. of Small grants		
SD1 - Strengthen KBAs	3,050,000	3,764,258	29	4	(714,258)	123%
SD2 - Corridor Conservation	1,900,000	1,260,555	8	12	639,445	66%
SD3 - Institutional Strengthening	900,000	589,167	6	13	310,833	65%
SD4 - Regional Implementation Team	650,000	807,581	1	0	(157,581)	124%
SD5 - Haiti Emergency Support	400,000	181,981	2	0	218,019	45%
Total	6,900,000	6,603,542	46	29	296,458	96%

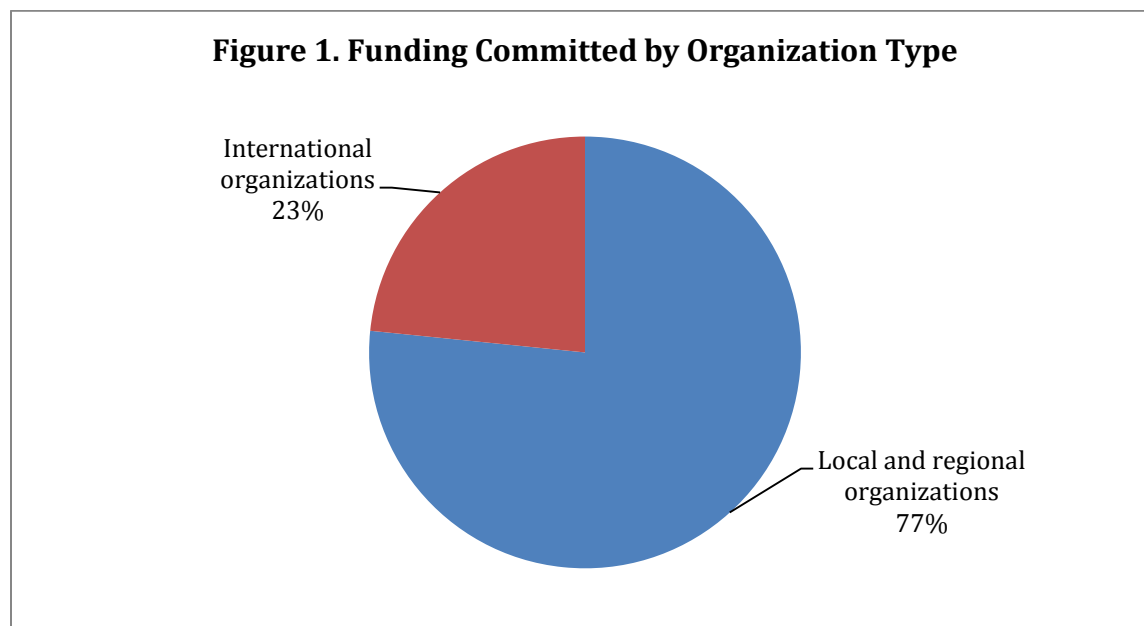
Consistent with trends since the start of the Caribbean portfolio, demand for funding has been strongest under strategic direction 1, which supports site-based investment in 45 KBAs. This trend is not surprising as most local and national NGOs have a history of supporting site-based conservation.

² Figures only consider officially closed large grants.

Furthermore, strategic direction 1 is a major focus of the CEPF strategy and has the highest budget allocation. It should be noted that several projects falling in SD1 also contain significant capacity building components linked to investment priority 3.1, which specifically targets capacity building. The CEPF Secretariat and RIT agreed to integrate components from investment priority 3.1 as part of a larger site-based project under SD1. The alternative of issuing separate grants dedicated exclusively for capacity building to complement SD1 grants was considered to be both programmatically and administratively cumbersome.

Funding has been allocated to all but three eligible countries. CEPF was unable to secure the GEF focal point endorsement for St. Kitts and Nevis and therefore was not able to channel funding. In Dominica, the lack of priority KBAs restricted options for CEPF investment in that country. In Barbados, CEPF did not receive a proposal that was aligned to the investment strategy.

Support to local and regional organizations in the Caribbean has been a hallmark of CEPF's investment in the hotspot. Of the US\$6.6 million committed, \$5.1 million, or 77%, was awarded to local and regional organizations, while \$1.5 million, or 23%, was awarded to international organizations. Virtually all international organizations worked closely with local groups to implement their grants.



IV. Coordinating CEPF Grant Making

The CEPF RIT function is fulfilled by the Caribbean Natural Resources Institute (CANARI), a regional NGO based in Port of Spain, Trinidad dedicated to promoting and facilitating equitable participation and effective collaboration in the management of natural resources critical to development in the Caribbean Islands since the 1980s.

The RIT officially started on October 1, 2010 with two complementary, five-year grants. The RIT grant is for \$807,581 and the small grant fund with a ceiling of \$700,000. Due to the geographic configuration of this island hotspot, the RIT is a large team with eight part-time staff spread over four countries, as

shown in Table 3. CANARI has engaged three country coordinators on a professional services contract who are based out of the Dominican Republic, Haiti, and Jamaica.

Table 3. Members of CANARI RIT

Position	Name	Base of Operation	Key Responsibilities
RIT Manager	Anna Cadiz	Port of Spain, Trinidad	Overall RIT management and staff coordination; coordination and outreach to partners in the eastern Caribbean and the Bahamas.
CANARI Executive Director	Nicole Leotaud	Port of Spain, Trinidad	Facilitate strategic alliances with government agencies, civil society, private sector, donor agencies; CANARI overhead.
Technical Officer and RIT Small Grants Manager	Loïza Rauzduel	Port of Spain, Trinidad	Support RIT Manager; assist in LOI reviews and communications efforts, managing the CEPF small grants mechanism
Financial Officer	Venash Ramberan	Port of Spain, Trinidad	Oversee financial management of RIT and small grants facility.
Administrative Officer	Anastacia Lee Quay	Port of Spain, Trinidad	Assist the RIT in administration of logistics, databases, filing.
Jamaica Coordinator and RIT communications	Nicole Brown	Kingston, Jamaica	Provide technical advice and capacity building to CEPF grant applicants and implementers; assist in LOI reviews; monitor grants implementation; ensure cohesion and synergy among grantees. Helps manage the CEPF Caribbean communications efforts including the quarterly e-newsletter, <i>Capacité</i> .
Dominican Republic Coordinator	Leida Buglass	Samana, Dominican Republic	Provide technical advice and capacity building to CEPF grant applicants and implementers; assist in LOI reviews; monitor grant implementation; ensure cohesion and synergy among grantees.
Haiti Coordinator	Paul Judex Edouarzin	Port au Prince, Haiti	Provide technical advice and capacity building to CEPF grant applicants and implementers; assist in LOI reviews; monitor grant implementation; ensure cohesion and synergy among grantees.

As an organization devoted to building Caribbean civil society capacity, CANARI is committed to supporting a strong communications program for CEPF to complement its existing outreach efforts, with the following on-line resources:

- The CANARI website has a resource page dedicated specifically to CEPF and its grant making, (http://www.canari.org/civil_sub5.asp).
- A Facebook page frequently features CEPF grantees and their results, <http://www.facebook.com/pages/Caribbean-Natural-Resources-Institute/159735514051858?sk=wall>.
- As quarterly newsletter *Capacité*, which highlights CEPF grants and relevant lessons learned, http://www.canari.org/civil_sub5_sub4.asp.

V. Findings from 2013 Mid-Term Assessment

From May to October 2013, CEPF conducted a mid-term evaluation of the Caribbean Islands portfolio with assistance from CANARI. More than 60 CEPF grantees and partners participated through a regional

meeting and three national focus group meetings held in the Dominican Republic, Haiti and Jamaica. Supplementing these workshops were a desk review of 55 grantee reports, an online survey that garnered 32 responses, and individual interviews with 9 partners. Several findings of note emerged and helped influence CEPF's grant making following the process. A detailed report can be found at <http://www.cepf.net/SiteCollectionDocuments/caribbean/SummaryReportCEPFCaribbeanMidtermEval130214.pdf>.

The assessment's overall finding was that participants believed that the CEPF Caribbean program supported highly relevant projects to address the needs, expectations and capacities of Caribbean stakeholders particularly in supporting strengthening of civil society, networking, biodiversity conservation action on priorities, complementing other initiatives, and building knowledge about biodiversity. Stakeholders also felt that the CEPF Caribbean Islands programme is making excellent progress with the portfolio and achieving strong results. Although at the mid-term in programme implementation, excellent or good progress is being made in all result areas except for CEPF Strategic Direction 5 (emergency support to Haitian civil society to mitigate the impacts of the 2010 earthquake), especially with improved protection and management of 45 priority key biodiversity areas.

Stakeholders assessed what results were being seen in terms of the contribution of CEPF to changes in behaviour and relationships of Caribbean civil society organisations (CSOs) and donors. Significant positive changes were identified for CSOs in terms of enhanced biodiversity conservation actions and project development and management; improved organisational development and management; increased networking with other CSOs, government agencies, and the private sector; and more engagement of local communities. Some positive changes were also identified for donors including increased awareness of the CEPF Caribbean Islands programme, improved grant making practices and enhanced collaboration.

Several highlights were noted as the most significant changes associated with CEPF:

- Put biodiversity conservation on the agenda.
- Provided new information to inform on-the-ground-action.
- Facilitated knowledge sharing and enhanced awareness by building understanding of the importance of biodiversity conservation and valuing it.
- Strengthened participation of local communities in biodiversity conservation.
- Improved capacity of CSOs, including local groups.
- Facilitated networking and building partnerships at national and regional levels.
- Brought new actors into the biodiversity conservation field.
- Achieved positive results for conservation of biodiversity and supported civil society initiatives that added value to the work of government agencies.
- Supported innovative approaches to conservation.
- Supported a regional Caribbean-owned approach.
- Enabled CANARI to build its capacity, to expand its work and to influence implementation of a grant programme in the Caribbean.

In general, stakeholders felt that the processes used by the CEPF Caribbean Islands programme were effective, and in some cases very effective. At the same time, participants offered recommendations for improving administrative processes, especially in terms of the application process and for enhancing monitoring and reporting. The need to clarify roles of the CEPF Secretariat and the RIT was highlighted. Improvement in communication about the work being done under CEPF projects is needed to raise

awareness, facilitate collaboration, and influence policy. More support should also be given for catalysing and facilitating networking amongst grantees and building capacity of civil society organisations for sustainability. More collaboration is needed with other regional initiatives in the Caribbean.

Stakeholders gave recommendations to help ensure that the results of the CEPF Caribbean islands programme are likely to remain sustained beyond the end of the project in September 2015:

- Enhancing communication of results, best practices and key issues.
- Conducting advocacy programmes and building the capacity of CSOs to use results of CEPF projects to influence policy.
- Strengthening the organizational and technical capacity of individual CSOs.
- Facilitating networking among civil society, government and private sector partners
- Building a strong knowledge base.
- Extending the timeframe for support to allow more or better assimilation of key concepts and delivery of results.
- Providing a phase of follow-up funding to build on and consolidate results achieved.
- Assisting civil society to develop sustainable financing mechanisms .
- Facilitating evaluation and learning on what works best in financing and supporting initiatives by and with CSOs in the Caribbean.

Recommendations on future CEPF investments to achieve conservation results were also identified and included focusing on sustainable livelihoods, mainstreaming biodiversity conservation, and supporting continued strategic civil society capacity building and networking. These recommendations guided priorities in the August 2013 call for proposals.

VI. Portfolio Highlights by Strategic Direction

Strategic Direction 1. Improve protection and management of 45 priority key biodiversity areas.

CEPF has selected 45 key biodiversity areas for direct, on-site conservation support. If these sites can be secured, a significant share of the hotspot's biological diversity and ecosystem services will be conserved. Seventeen of these key biodiversity areas have exceptional biological value, with some sites at the top of global priorities for biodiversity conservation. However, the profile notes that virtually all priority KBAs have woefully inadequate management presence, making them highly vulnerable to further degradation. Furthermore, 28 of the 45 key biodiversity areas lack sufficient legal protection to ensure their viability. Strategic Direction 1 aims to strengthen key biodiversity area-level management capacity and the legal underpinning for conservation to address these weaknesses.

CEPF requires grantees to administer the Management Effectiveness Tracking Tool (METT) for those KBAs that are formally protected in order to monitor progress towards the targets for improved management effectiveness of protected areas. As of September 2014, five protected areas have taken a baseline and a benchmark assessment, as presented in Table 4. The evaluations show that on average, CEPF-funded protected areas realized an increased of 11 points on the 100-point METT scale in two years. While Bahrucó Oriental and La Humeadora National Park experienced significant increases, 13 and 38 points respectively, Beausejour/Grenville Valle and Portland Bight protected areas actually experienced a backsliding despite CEPF support.

Table 4. METT Performance of Protected Areas with CEPF Investment, 2014

Name of KBA	Country	METT - Baseline		METT - Benchmark Assessment		Difference
		Score	Year	Score	Year	
Bahoruco Oriental	Dominican Republic	22	2012	35	2013	13
La Humeadora National Park	Dominican Republic	26	2012	64	2014	38
Beausejour/Grenville Vale	Grenada	52	2012	51	2014	-1
Mt Hartman National Park	Grenada	67	2012	72	2014	5
Portland Bight Protected Area	Jamaica	52	2012	50	2014	-2

Highlights of Results under Strategic Direction 1

- In Antigua & Barbuda and Saint Lucia, CEPF grantees **Environmental Awareness Group** and **Fauna and Flora International** built an alliance with the Saint Lucia Forestry and Land Use Department, and the Durrell Wildlife Conservation Trust to eradicate and/or prevent invasive mammals in four priority KBAs covering 17 islands. The results to emerge were very positive on several fronts:
 - Biodiversity monitoring showed very encouraging increases in target species populations. The Critically Endangered Antiguan racer snake showed over a 20% increase in global population between 2011 and 2013, from approximately 824 to 1,016 individuals as a result of its island habitat being kept mammal-free. Vegetation cover on Dennery Island improved dramatically as well, including a conspicuous increase in the number of new tree seedlings. Bird life increased sharply, with a 50% increase in the number of bird species from 2012 to 2014.
 - In Antigua, tour companies estimated the number of visitors to offshore islands exceeded 70,000 in 2013, up from 50,000 in 2010, with foreign tourists contributing US\$ 5.5 million per year in tour fees. The Offshore Islands KBA became one of the country’s most popular and important tourist attractions. Rising use of the islands is reflected in benefits to the local economies from providing boat transport and other services.
 - The technical capacity of local groups Environmental Awareness Group in Antigua and the Saint Lucia National Trust increased as well. Both organizations are now capable of maintaining rat-free islands without outside assistance and have gained a greater understanding of how to plan and manage an eradication program, and how to prevent and address incursions.

- Booby Cay in **The Bahamas** is home to the IUCN listed Critically Endangered Barstch’s iguana and two endemic lizards. CEPF supported **The Bahamas National Trust (BNT)** and **Island Conservation** to improve the protected status of the currently unprotected KBA. In March 2014, six biologists visited Booby Cay to assess the status of invasive species and the feasibility of removing them, as well as perform an ecological assessment as part of the process to designate Booby Cay a national park. The team found that the island no longer had invasive goats, but rats remained a problem. The team collected DNA samples to assist in determining the feasibility of a future rat removal campaign. Concurrent to the site visits, BNT also conducted outreach,

engagement, and consultation with local communities as a significant part of the process to develop a new national park in The Bahamas.

- In the Dominican Republic, **Instituto Dominicano de Desarrollo Integral (IDDI)** has worked with **Sociedad Ornitológica De La Hispaniola (SOH)** since 2012 to put the Bahoruco Oriental on the conservation map. Prior to their engagement with CEPF, the 3,353-hectare site was unknown to many local residents and the Ministry of Environment's presence was meager, even though the site is an important source of water for more than 110,000 downstream coastal residents. The project took several steps to turn the situation around.
 - Inventories of flora and fauna, a threats analysis, and socioeconomic assessments provided important baseline information.
 - The team developed Bahoruco Oriental's first ever annual work plan.
 - Due to the attention brought by CEPF, the Ministry of the Environment hired two park guards and constructed a guard post.
 - A local alliance made up of private and public sector stakeholders undertook a variety of conservation activities, ranging from signage, reforestation, invasive species clearing, to awareness building.

CEPF provided a follow up grant in 2013 to promote ecotourism development and management strengthening. As a result of these efforts, the area's METT score increased from 22 points in 2012 to 35 points in 2013.

- In the Dominican Republic, CEPF support to **Fondo Pronaturaleza Inc.** (known as Pronatura) since 2012 has borne fruit on several fronts for La Humeadora National Park. When Pronatura started its grant, La Humeadora lacked very basic management presence, even though the 29,000 hectare protected area is of vital importance as the source of more than 60 percent of the water consumed in greater Santo Domingo. Few local residents knew about the park. In March 2014, the park achieved an important milestone when the Ministry of Environment approved and authorized execution of the consensus-based management plan prepared by Pronatura with CEPF funding. The government declared the management plan a model for future plans based on the unprecedented level of consultation undertaken with the 35 local communities sited in and around the park. In 2014, CEPF provided a follow up grant to help implement components of the management plan, including aspects to improving local governance through work with surrounding municipalities. As a result of these efforts, the area's METT score increased from 26 points in 2012 to 64 points in 2014.

With greater focus on the importance of La Humeadora National Park, several very positive results have been achieved. The Ministry of Environment significantly improved park management by assigning park guards and improving infrastructure and equipment. A scheme for developing a payments for ecosystems services initiative involving local stakeholders, including the Santo Domingo water authority and hydroelectric company, is in development, with some funding from CEPF through **Instituto Tecnológico de Santo Domingo (INTEC)**. Capitalizing on the area's importance for water supply, Pronatura worked with community development groups on a pilot effort to introduce filters to improve the quality of water coming from the park in the community of Guanaito. With the improved water, the project hopes to reduce stomach and skin disorders.

- In the Massif de la Hotte KBA of Haiti, **Pennsylvania State University** worked closely with the **Société Audubon Haitito** conserve two sites of high biological importance, Grande Colline and

Grand Bois. A scientific expedition undertook biological inventories and socio-economic surveys and found the sites to be of high biodiversity value. While they identified rare species, including three amphibian species new to science, they also identified significant threats from habitat destruction. At the same time, Société Audubon Haiti took several avenues to increase awareness of the importance of conserving the sites, including a feature article in *Terre Sauvage* (a leading French magazine) as part of the magazine's focus on the biodiversity hotspot. The team also produced fact sheets, sponsored lectures, a calendar, and a one-hour movie that was presented at several film festivals in the U.S. and other countries, reaching thousands of viewers. These public awareness activities catalyzed interest in protecting the unique ecosystems targeted under the project, with the result being current interest by several parties in purchasing Grand Bois and creating Haiti's first private nature reserve, which is being organized by Société Audubon Haiti.

- In Haiti, a small community has taken a landmark step with assistance from the **International Iguana Foundation (IIF)** towards saving the last of the Critically Endangered Ricord's iguana (*Cyclura ricordii*). The municipal government in Anse-à-Pitres created a Municipal Protected Area in 2014, legally protecting 3,000 hectares of dry forest for the conservation of a small population of Ricord's iguanas. One of only nine iguanas of its kind in the world, this species of large rock iguana has an extremely limited distribution. IIF worked on preparing a management plan integrating the needs of local herdsman, and has provided awareness raising activities and environmental education for the communities of Anse-à-Pitres. The project also introduced the concept of wildlife and biodiversity conservation to the Haitian public.
- On the north coast of Haiti, the **Fondation pour la Protection de la Biodiversité Marine (FoProBiM)** worked with communities in the Massif-Plaine du Nord Conservation Corridor to protect and manage the mangroves, fisheries and sea turtles, while increasing economic benefits from these environmental resources. Working closely with local communities yielded several significant results: More than 60 lectures and workshops in environmental education classes, association building classes, and resource use conflict resolution classes led to increased awareness of the site's importance for more than 400 local stakeholders. More than 200 stakeholders participated in participatory GIS (PGIS) activities in which local resource features and ecosystems were mapped. Local governance was improved as major stakeholder groups (including salt producers, fishers, charcoal producers, and women's groups) from three villages were organized into local associations which provided for undertaking bay-wide resource management actions. FoProBiM worked with the local communities to establish sustainable livelihood opportunities, including apiculture (beekeeping), mangrove nurseries and ecotourism. To develop sustainable apiculture, 10 bee hives were installed in the community at Bas Limbé, and the community groups were provided with basic equipment and consulting services from an apiarist. FoProBiM achieved a major milestone when the Government of Haiti declared the Parc des Trois Baies et du Lagon au Boeufs National Park in 2013 in Caracol Bay, protecting 90,000 hectares of coastal and marine areas, including mangroves, coral reef systems, and sea grass beds.
- In Jamaica since 2012, CEPF has supported the local NGO **Caribbean Coastal Area Management (C-CAM) Foundation** to improve the protection of the Hellshire Hills and Portland Ridge KBAs, which provides habitat for one of the country's most important inshore fisheries and refuge for many rare and endangered species, including the only remaining habitat for the Jamaican

Iguana. In 2012, C-CAM completed two participatory management plans for the KBAs, which included the Caribbean's first climate change risk assessment and action plan for a protected area and a floristic survey conducted in cooperation with the Caribbean Wildlife Alliance that received support through a CEPF small grant. The survey resulted in a 54% increase in the known flora of the Hellshire Hills. Since April 2014, CEPF has supported implementation of the action plans, which includes working on various natural resource management and environmental education projects involving local communities.

- In the Dominican Republic's Sierra de Bahoruco National Park, CEPF support to the **Sociedad Ornitológica de la Hispaniola (SOH)** is achieving conservation results and providing benefits to 12 communities by helping to implement the area's management plan. SOH has achieved several important results by working with a wide variety of stakeholders to build local government capacity and build local alliances. Local decision makers from the three provinces, private businesses, farmers, and other stakeholders have worked together to improve management of the protected area. SOH's partnerships with five businesses - Tropigas Foundation (a major gas company), Agencia Bella Honda Motorcycles, Delta Commercial Toyota, Andian Cement, and Roter Aluminium – are particularly unique in character. SOH has worked closely with the Environmental Ministry to improve infrastructure and equipment for park management. In addition, SOH has worked to promote ecotourism by training local guides, improving tourism services and networking with local and international tour operators. Environmental education efforts have reached more than 760 people through seminars, talks, and 2,200 people through festivals, walks, and photographic expositions. Twenty-four volunteers call themselves "Friends of the Sierra de Bahoruco".

Strategic Direction 2. Integrate biodiversity conservation into landscape and development planning and implementation in six conservation corridors.

CEPF seeks to strengthen six conservation corridors which encompass KBA groupings identified as the highest priority to safeguard biodiversity and to maintain ecosystem services and resilience. CEPF's objectives are to maintain and increase connectivity, ensure sustainable management of the landscape, and increase the area of actual or potential natural habitat under protection. Ensuring that the enabling conditions exist to achieve these objectives provides the foundation for this strategic direction.

Highlights of results in Strategic Direction 2

- In the Dominican Republic, the **Consortio Ambiental Dominicano (CAD)** has introduced several creative approaches to bridge biodiversity conservation with local development within a corridor by showing how preserving the habitat of the Vulnerable migratory bird Bicknell's Thrush can stimulate new linkages between private landowners, cocoa growers, chocolate makers, and the international carbon credit market. In 2012, CAD forged a new partnership between the US-based philanthropic organization Eddie Trust and Dominican businessmen to purchase 404 hectares to allow for the creation of the Dominican Republic's first private protected area, El Zorzal Private Reserve, which enhances connectivity between two existing protected areas — Loma Quita Espuela and Loma Guaconejo.

In May 2014, CAD signed a landmark agreement with Canadian organic chocolate maker ChocoSol Traders for the first sale of forest carbon credits in the country. Under the five-year agreement, ChocoSol Traders will purchase organic cacao produced in the private reserve and the carbon credits for each tonne of cacao bought. This was the second such agreement CAD

signed with an artisanal chocolate maker. A similar agreement was signed between CAD and San Francisco-based Dandelion Chocolate in July 2013. The first shipment of organic cacao under the carbon credit arrangement left the Dominican Republic in June. If all goes as planned, these carbon schemes will generate \$250,000 per year for conservation in ten years, directly benefiting local communities.

- In the Dominican Republic, **SOH** worked closely with local communities, other civil society organizations, and the Environment Ministry in Nalco de Maco National Park to promote tourism. The area is located along the Haiti border and is considered to have high levels of poverty. Working closely with key stakeholder groups, SOH led the preparation of an Ecotourism Strategy Plan, which was approved by the ministry in 2013. With CEPF funding, efforts are underway to implement the plan, including guide training, trail maintenance, signage, marketing, and small businesses (eg, grocery stores, dining and artisans) to service tourists and assure economic benefits to communities. Due to its comprehensive nature, the plan has also attracted attention from other government ministries and civil society groups, who view the plan as also providing a map for investing in development projects in one of the poorest areas in the country.
- An August 2013 announcement by the Government of Jamaica that it was in discussions with a Chinese investor to build a major transshipment port in the Portland Bight Protected Area/Conservation Corridor, targeting Goat Island, galvanized significant attention in the conservation community. CEPF large grantees **C-CAM and the World Resources Institute (WRI)** and small grantee **Jamaica Environment Trust (JET)**, working with the University of the West Indies, Mona Campus in Jamaica, led a campaign seeking a more transparent and collaborative approach to decision-making, noting the government's announcement of the port facility was made without an environmental impact assessment or local participation. The alliance has worked to foster informed discussion of the issues by supporting a variety of environmental education efforts, which includes increasing public awareness of the importance of the KBAs and increasing the capacity of local communities and other stakeholders to engage in Jamaica's environmental impact assessment process. Their efforts have garnered both national and international attention, including stories in CNN, BBC, and National Geographic, and letters of concern from major international groups. With CEPF support, C-CAM worked with the Conservation Strategy Fund to obtain an independent economic analysis of the Goat Island locations, as well as other potential sites suitable for the port development. Significant publicity from local press and international media has helped to raise awareness of the issues.

Strategic Direction 3. Support Caribbean civil society to achieve biodiversity conservation by building local and regional institutional capacity and by fostering stakeholder collaboration.

This strategic direction addresses the limited capacity of and collaboration among civil society groups that pose obstacles to achieve conservation. Many of these groups work in relative isolation from each other due to competition between them for limited funding and their project-centered approach. In the smaller islands, organizations are unable to support staff and memberships large enough to maintain expertise in a multitude of disciplines. In spite of past investment in NGO capacity building, significant capacity gaps suggest that new approaches are needed. This strategic direction strengthens the foundation upon which Caribbean NGOs are based.

Fifty local, national, and international civil society organisations have received funding from CEPF, many are strengthening their institutional capacity as a result. Institutional strengthening efforts include development of strategic plans, fundraising strategies, and strengthening of financial management systems.

To gauge impact, CEPF has secured baseline and benchmark assessments of the CEPF Civil Society Tracking Tool. To date, four groups have prepared their baselines and evaluated the impacts following CEPF funding. The findings show three partners show improvements attributable to their CEPF project out of a scale of 100:

Table 5. Scores for CEPF Civil Society Tracking Tool

Name	Baseline score, year	Assessment score, year
Caribbean Coastal Area Management Foundation (CCAM)	57.5 (2011)	58 (2013)
Environmental Awareness Group	67 (2011)	74.5 (2013)
Grenada Dove Conservation Program	54.5 (2012)	63.5 (2014)
Saint Lucia National Trust	66.5 (2012)	79 (2014)

Highlights of results in Strategic Direction 3

- Two CEPF grantees were in the spotlight in Haiti on World Environment Day in June 2014. The **Réseau d’Enseignement Professionnel et d’Interventions Écologiques (REPIE)** received the Elie Dubois Award for their work in environmental education. Jean Weiner, founder and director of the **Fondation pour la Protection de la Biodiversité Marine (FoProBiM)**, received the Erick Eckman Award for his decades-long work to protect Haiti’s coastal and marine environment while engaging in poverty alleviation.

Earlier this year, Jean won the 2014 Whitley Gold Award by The Whitley Fund for Nature for his contributions to conserving Haiti’s coastal ecosystems and towards establishing the country’s first marine protected areas. In 2012, REPIE was awarded a CEPF small grant that allowed them to carry out a biodiversity conservation training program for schools and community groups in Fonds-Verrettes about the value and importance of the ecological patrimony and biodiversity of the neighboring Forêt des Pins in the Massif de la Selle. CEPF support has contributed to FoProBiM’s efforts to promote nature-based tourism and sustainable livelihoods in the Massif-Plaine du Nord Conservation Corridor. Support to FoProBiM’s work in the Caracol Bay area of the Lagons du Nord-Est KBA entailed preparation of a management plan for a locally managed marine area.

- A regional grant executed by the **Panos Institute** aims to strengthen the capacity of 30 Caribbean conservation NGOs, media and other civil society organizations in Haiti, the Dominican Republic, and Jamaica to effectively engage in communications, networking, and sharing of lessons learned and best practices. A series of training workshops in the Dominican Republic, Haiti, and Jamaica received high praise for bringing together environmental groups with media practitioners to debate, collaborate, network and strategise around communicating for conservation.

Panos provided fellowships to six working journalists to give a platform and the resources to carry out in-depth reporting on important topics that are often under-represented in the mainstream media. As an example, a fellow in Jamaica used her fellowship to highlight the value of Jamaica’s

Cockpit Country, a key biodiversity area that is home to 101 endemic plant species and is the source of 40% of the country's ground water and which is threatened by the prospect of bauxite mining.

Panos also launched a dynamic online database to enhance networking in the region. Developed by the Mona School of Business and Management at the University of the West Indies, the database contains various categories of individuals and institutions that include NGOs, CBOs, journalists, media worker networks, researchers, experts and policy makers from the sectors in which Panos works, including agriculture, biodiversity conservation, child rights, climate change, education, fisheries, gender, HIV/AIDS, and public health. As of September 2014, the new system had 690 individual contacts, 100 media contacts, and 44 institutional contacts.

- A regional grant implemented by **Auckland Uniservices Ltd** in New Zealand worked closely with the IUCN Invasive Species Specialist Group and **CAB International (CABI)** to expand functionality of the Caribbean Invasive Species Network (CIASNET), an online regional networking platform for sharing invasive species information. The upgrade, which is based on a successful platform in the Pacific Islands, includes a searchable digital library, a skills-register, space for discussions and sharing of experiences via webinars, and multi-language capability. Since the website went live in March 2014, more than 200 journal articles and reports and more than 50 short videos were uploaded. CABI successfully used the site's live discussion facility to host its first webinar in June 2014.
- On the island of Hispaniola, the **Zoological Society of Philadelphia's** Amphibian Conservation Programme has worked closely with **Société Audubon** in Haiti and **Grupo Jaragua** in the Dominican Republic to support amphibian conservation in four key biodiversity areas in Hispaniola by gathering information on the conservation status of amphibians and their habitat, and by building local capacity for amphibian conservation. The project has a strong focus on local capacity and alliance building. As a result, more than 120 local rangers, park guards, farmers and field technicians in Haiti and the Dominican Republic have been trained in various aspects of amphibian conservation and monitoring. Numerous workshops dedicated to all levels of stakeholders have helped bring attention to the importance of amphibian conservation, having taken place in local communities, universities and environmental ministries. For example, the Save the Frogs workshop during the Feria del Libro 2014 in Santo Domingo exposed more than 10,000 children, teachers and citizens to the amphibian biodiversity crisis through posters and interactive talks with project staff and trained volunteers from the museum. In August 2014 a workshop in Duchity, Haiti allowed more than 40 farmers, local leaders, landowners, rangers, and teachers to learn about the importance of amphibian diversity and conservation. This training has been coupled with more technical training for conservationists working for local NGOs, environmental ministries, and museums.
- In the Dominican Republic, a small grant to **Kiunzi** has strengthened communication and networking capacity of local organizations working in priority KBAs as well as their partners in the country. An online networking platform, the Dominican Republic Network for Biodiversity Conservation, was created and launched in September 2014.

Strategic Direction 5. Provide emergency support to Haitian civil society to mitigate the impacts of the 2010 earthquake.

Following the 2010 earthquake in Haiti, the Donor Council approved \$400,000 for emergency support to Haitian civil society, to prevent the degradation and potential destruction of Massif de la Hotte and Massif de la Selle. The objective was to assist in the immediate recovery of the environmental and development civil society sector, and to foster stakeholder engagement and integration of environmental concerns into reconstruction and development planning. BirdLife International implemented a project with close collaboration with Haiti Audubon from October 2010 to April 2012, and achieved several results, which are detailed in previous annual portfolio overviews.

Donor Outreach

Both the RIT and CEPF Secretariat have put a high premium on conducting donor outreach, particularly to CEPF donor partners, to explore opportunities for collaboration and coordination. The strongest example of such collaboration is with the MacArthur Foundation through the award of a three-year, \$475,000 grant to CANARI starting in January 2011, "Consolidating the Role of Civil Society in Biodiversity Conservation in the Caribbean Islands". One component aims to develop a pool of mentors throughout the region who can help strengthen the capacity of civil society organizations to play a larger and more effective role in biodiversity conservation. This program is providing training to 20 mentors who are available to work closely with local groups to help them access and successfully implement conservation projects funded by CEPF and other donors. Several points of collaboration took place over the year related to the project.

The CEPF team has also developed strong relationships with other CEPF donors. The RIT and Secretariat met repeatedly with GEF representatives, as well as with national biodiversity focal points and other government partners, to explore opportunities for information exchange and for co-funding opportunities. In the Dominican Republic, members of the Regional Advisory Committee for CEPF comprise of a program specialist with UNDP, one of the implementing agencies of GEF in the country, as well as the national coordinator for the GEF-Small Grants Programme. Furthermore, CEPF and GEF co-finance a project to the Consorcio Ambiental Dominicano for sustainable financing and establishment of private reserves in Loma Quita Espuela and Loma Guaconejo KBAs. With respect to small grants, the RIT has met with representatives working in the Lesser Antilles to explore opportunities for collaboration. During the mid-term evaluation, CEPF donors and other donors working in biodiversity conservation in the Caribbean were invited to participate in the regional meeting in Jamaica as well as the national focus group sessions. In attendance were the GEF Focal Point for Jamaica, representatives of GIZ and IUCN BIOPAMA.

In 2013, the evaluation team Baastel, which was selected by AFD to assess the effectiveness of its global contribution to CEPF, visited several projects in Haiti and the Dominican Republic. Following their site visits, discussions were opened directly with the CEPF country coordinator in the Dominican Republic and with the AFD Santo Domingo office. Efforts are underway to hold an exchange event for December 2014 to allow the local office to become more acquainted with CEPF in the region. In September 2014, the Dominican Republic country coordinator met with the European Union Delegation to ensure coordination between the two portfolios.

Conclusion

At the time of this report, the Caribbean Islands portfolio completed its fourth year of implementation, with robust grant making and the awarding of strategically aligned grants which have yielded overall

excellent results. In the Dominican Republic and Jamaica, the grant portfolio fills critical gaps through the development and implementation of management plans in the most biologically diverse sites in the region, safeguarding remaining intact habitat on Hispaniola and Jamaica. A number of grants, such as those of CAD, SOH, and Pronatura, are introducing innovative approaches. In Haiti, CEPF is helping to restore highly degraded habitat to create connectivity for new forests, while also building the capacity of nascent civil society organizations. The smaller islands of the Lesser Antilles and the Bahamas also fill a critical niche with high priority conservation actions, such as in invasive species control. The portfolio has made important contributions to build the institutional capacity of leading environmental civil society organizations so that they can grow in their ability to serve as effective advocates of conservation and development. Attention in the future will focus on closing projects and seeking to bring sustainability to these important efforts by conducting outreach to other donors which could continue with their support, as no plans are currently in place to continue CEPF support for the Caribbean Islands hotspot.

Annex 1. Summary Figures

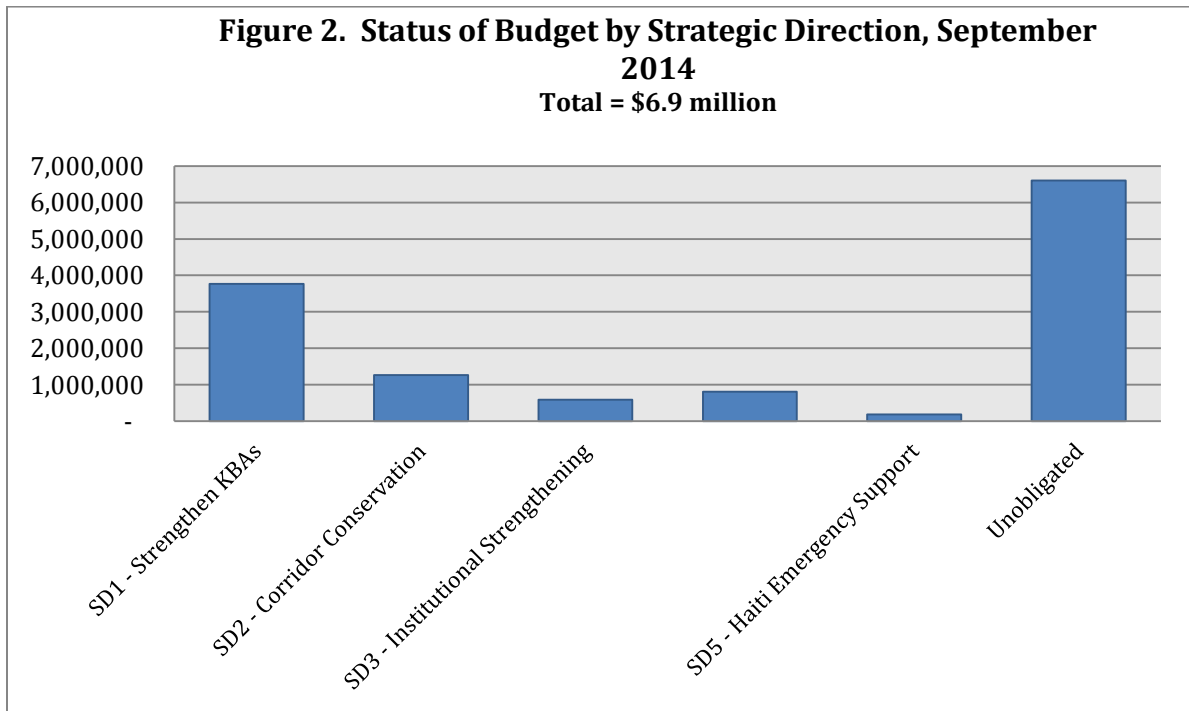
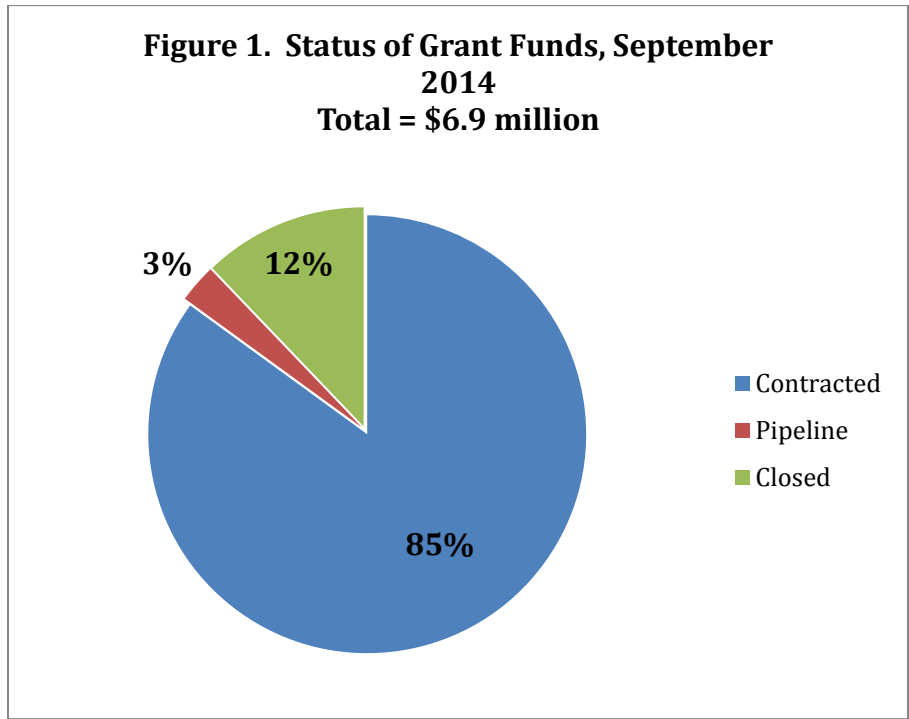
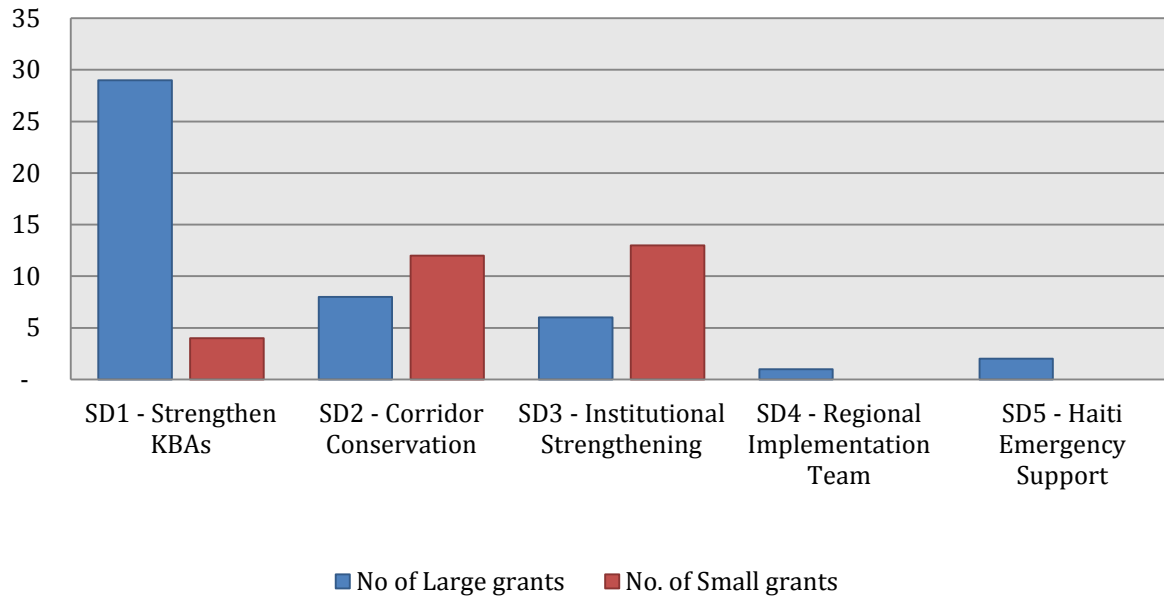


Figure 3. Number of Grants by Strategic Direction, September 2014, Total Grants = 75



Annex 2. Progress in Achieving Logframe Targets from July 2013 – September 2014

Objective	Targets	Progress
<p>Engage civil society in the conservation of globally threatened biodiversity through targeted investments with maximum impact on the highest conservation and ecosystem services priorities.</p>	<p>NGOs and civil society actors from CEPF eligible countries, with an emphasis on the six priority conservation corridors and 45 key biodiversity areas, effectively participate in conservation programs guided by the ecosystem profile.</p>	<p>50 civil society organizations directly engaged in and benefiting from CEPF support in six conservation corridors and 28 KBAs (12 highest priorities and 16 other priority) in Antigua and Barbuda, The Bahamas, Dominican Republic, Grenada, Haiti, Jamaica, Saint Lucia and St. Vincent and the Grenadines.</p>
	<p>Development plans, projects and policies which influence the six conservation corridors and 45 key biodiversity areas mainstream biodiversity and ecosystem services, with a focus on tourism, mining and agriculture.</p>	<p>25 grants have integrated or are integrating ecosystem services and biodiversity into key development plans, projects and policies, focusing on water resources management, reforestation, forest carbon, and sustainable tourism in Grenada, St. Vincent, Haiti, the Dominican Republic and Jamaica. Highlights include:</p> <p>Mainstreaming biodiversity conservation in the development agenda of the Fonds Melon Watershed in the Massif de la Selle in Haiti.</p> <p>Regulation of ecosystem functions through:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a) the control of invasive species and monitoring impacts of IAS control in <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Isla Cabritos of Lago Enriquillo (DR); Offshore Islands of Antigua & Barbuda and of Saint Lucia b) Carbon sequestration in Loma Quita Espuela and Loma Guaconejo. c) Forest management in La Humeadora National Park and Valle Nuevo in the Dominican Republic. d) Restoration of the Pic Macaya and Foret de Pins watersheds of Massif de la Selle. <p>Improved livelihoods through crop diversity, promoting beekeeping, cacao, shade coffee in:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Los Haitises, Jaragua, Sierra Bahoruco, Nalgo de Maco, Loma Quita Espuela, Loma Guaconejo (DR). ▪ Catadupa, Cockpit Country (Jamaica) <p>Valuing vital public goods by promoting a payments for environmental services schemes for:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a) Water resources in Loma Quita Espuela and Loma Guaconejo KBAs; and b) Forest resources Fond Melon River Basin in

		<p>Massif de la Selle.</p> <p>Social and cultural services – ecotourism:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Sierra de Bahoruco, Nalga de Maco, Bahoruco Oriental, Valle Nuevo (DR). ▪ Massif Pleine du Nord (Haïti) ▪ Offshore Islands (Antigua & Barbuda) ▪ Colonaire KBA (St. Vincent) ▪ Beausejour/Grenville and Mt Hartman (Grenada).
	<p>17 Key Biodiversity Area covering 911,00 ha have strengthened protection and management as guided by sustainable management plans</p>	<p>21 out of 46 KBAs (approx 46%) covering a total of 851,461.9 ha have strengthened protection and management as guided by sustainable management plans.</p> <p><u>Dominican Republic</u> Bahoruco Oriental (3,353 ha) in Dominican Republic improved community engagement, infrastructure development and personnel.</p> <p>La Humeadora (29,000) in Dominican Republic, management plan, improved local governance, reforestation.</p> <p>Sierra Bahoruco (106,232 ha) improved governance with community, private sector partnerships, improved infrastructure.</p> <p><u>Haiti</u> Parc des Trois Baies et du Lagon au Boeufs National Park (90,000 ha) improved governance with communities, awareness building, sustainable livelihoods.</p> <p>Massif del Selle - Anse-a-Pitres (3,000 ha) environmental awareness, management plan.</p> <p>Unit II of the forest reserve in "La Foret des Pins (127.5 ha) forest restoration with native species, improved community governance, and sustainable livelihoods</p> <p><u>Jamaica</u> Hellshire Hills (14,700 ha) and Portland Bight (43,000 ha) management plans, reforestation, community outreach, mitigation of impacts from infrastructure.</p>
	<p>At least 20 percent of under-protected priority key biodiversity areas (at least six) brought under new and/or strengthened protection status.</p>	<p>3 of 28 under-protected KBAs in the Dominican Republic and Haiti, covering 93,404 ha, under improved legal protection, covering: 3,000 ha – Zone de Anse-a-Pitre (Haiti) 90,000- Parc Marin des Trois Baies (Haiti)</p>

		404 ha – El Zorzal Private Reserve (Dominican Republic)
	Strategic areas of the production landscape of six conservation corridors under improved management for biodiversity conservation and ecosystem services.	10 grants contributing to improved management in the production landscape in 5 conservation corridors, through forest carbon, reforestation, integrated management plans, agro-forestry and sustainable tourism, in the Dominican Republic, Haiti, Jamaica, Grenada, and St. Vincent and the Grenadines.
	The Caribbean ecosystem profile influences and complements other donor’s investment strategies.	Current activities complement MacArthur Foundation projects, and grants are complementing the following donors: Global Environment Facility (GEF), Forest Conservation Fund, Environmental Foundation of Jamaica, Conseil Général des Hauts de Seine (CG 92) [French Local Government], U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, BBC Wildlife Fund, Disney Worldwide Conservation Fund, The Forestry and National Parks Department (FNPD) of Grenada, U.S. National Science Foundation, Darwin Initiative, USAID.
Outcome 1. Improve protection and management of 45 priority Key Biodiversity Areas.	Number of hectares in key biodiversity areas and number of key biodiversity areas (and percent) with demonstrable improvements/strengthening in their protection and management as guided by a sustainable management plan.	<p>21 out of 46 KBAs (approx 46%) covering a total of 851,461.9 ha with demonstrable improvements in their management as guided by management and operational plans.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Management plan prepared and approval by Ministry of the Environment, and annual operational plan 2013 drafted for La Humeadora National Park <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increase in METT score for La Humeadora from 26 to 64 ▪ Elaboration of an action plan to reduce agricultural impacts in the Duey sector of the La Humeadora National Park and the Pinar Parejo sector of the Valle Nuevo National Park. ▪ Management plans prepared for Hellshire Hills and Portland Ridge & Bight (C-CAM) ▪ Annual Operational Plan 2013 – 2014 developed for Bahoruco Oriental (IDDI) as a step towards developing a management plan. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ 13 point increase in METT score from 22 to 35 ▪ Monitoring protocols introduced, improved infrastructure and equipment, private sector partnership, improved local governance in Sierra de Bahoruco. ▪ Biodiversity Management Plan developed for Fond Melon River Basin of Massif de la Selle. <p>10 Out of 28 KBAs , or approximately 36% of</p>

		<p>medium/other priority KBAs, covering 69,459.9 ha, under management improvements in the Dominican Republic, Antigua and Barbuda, Grenada, Saint Lucia and The Bahamas.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Management activities at the Beausejour/Grenville Vale KBA and Mt Hartman National Park/KBA fully integrated into FNP work plans and budgets. METT combined score increases from 44 in 2012 to 67 in 2014. ▪ Ecotourism Strategy Plan for Nalga de Maco developed and approved by the Min of the Env. ▪ Rat Eradication Operational Plan and Pest Management Plan being implemented in the Offshore Islands KBA in Antigua and Barbuda, and in Maria Island/Pointe Sable KBA; Dennery and Praslin Islands/Mandele Dry Forest KBA in Saint Lucia. ▪ Biosecurity plan developed and being implemented on Maria Island/Pointe Sable KBA; Dennery and Praslin Islands/Mandele Dry Forest KBA along with Goat Eradication Operational Plan for Dennery Island (FFI) ▪ Baseline monitoring assessment for Isla Cabritos/Lago Enriquillo completed.
	Number of hectares brought under new or upgraded protection.	<p>93,404 ha (in three KBAs) in the Dominican Republic and Haiti, brought under new protection.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 90,000 ha Parc Marin des Trois Baies in the Lagons de Nord Est KBA declared as northern Haiti's first locally managed marine area • 3,000 ha in the Anse-a-Pitre zone of Massif de la Selle created as a municipal wildlife reserve in Haiti, prepared with the input of local stakeholders. • 404 ha in the El Zorzal Private Reserve Quita Espuela KBA the Dominican Republic registered as a private reserve. Land purchased by US and DR investors and \$565,000 in private capital invested.
	Number of sustainable financing mechanisms established and/or strengthened with initial capital secured.	<p>2 sustainable funding schemes established:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Forest carbon trading with two boutique chocolate manufactoures expected to generate \$250,000 in ten years for conservation. • Payment for ecosystem services scheme financed for reforested area in Haiti (AVSF).
	Number of co-management	Three co-management agreements (at the KBA

	arrangements established or supported.	level) supported through three grants. 1 co-management arrangement strengthened through a restructured Co-management Committee in the Reserva Científica Loma Guaconejo in the Dominican Republic Initiatives under development for co-management in the Bahoruco Oriental KBA in Dominican Republic, and Lagons du Nord-est KBA in Haiti.
	Percent and number of grants that enable effective stewardship by local communities for biodiversity and ecosystem conservation.	72% or 44 out of 61 grants analyzed enable effective stewardship by local communities for biodiversity and ecosystem conservation with local municipalities, communities, and the private sector in all countries with CEPF grants.
Outcome 2. Integrate biodiversity conservation into landscape and development planning and implementation in six conservation corridors.	Number of policies, projects and plans incorporating ecosystem services, climate change and biodiversity conservation.	9 grants in the Dominican Republic, Haiti, and Jamaica integrate climate change, forest carbon, water resource management, impact mitigation form infrastructure development into policies, projects and plans. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Increased community capacity and national attention focussed on mitigating the impacts of a proposed port development project and potential mining concessions in Portland Ridge, Hellshire Hills, and Cockpit Country in Jamaica. Climate change risk assessment prepared for Portland Ridge and Hellshire Hills as part of the two sub area management plans.. These are the first such plans in Jamaica to include climate change for management planning. Development of payment for ecosystem services scheme for forest resources Fond Melon River Basin in Massif de la Selle. Developing carbon trading schemes for Loma Guaconejo and Loma Quita Espuela Scientific Reserves, first in the DR, if not for the entire Caribbean Island hotspot. Development of procedures for declaration of private protected areas in the Dominican Republic. Development of procedures to declare Haiti's first municipal reserve. First economic valuation for promoting a payments for environmental services schemes in a protected areas for water resources in Loma Guaconejo KBAs.
	Number of hectares in production landscapes with improved management for biodiversity conservation.	133,884.9 ha under management improvements in reforestation, sustainable tourism and livelihood development and sustainable agriculture.
	Number of policies formulated and adopted to strengthen	3 policies to strengthen public and private protected areas systems:

	public and private protected areas systems.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Procedure development for private protected areas in the Dominican Republic. • Procedure development for municipal protected area in Haiti.
	Number of public-private partnerships that mainstream biodiversity in the agriculture, tourism and mining sectors.	<p>Five public – private partners achieved in the Dominican Republic and Antigua & Barbuda:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Local businessmen purchase land to establish and manage El Zorzal Private Reserve. • Two chocolate manufacturers purchase carbon credits. • Tourist operator strengthening conservation and local governance of Valle Nuevo. • Five local businesses support conservation activities in Sierra Bahoruco. • Tour operators in the Offshore Islands of Antigua and Barbuda supporting conservation awareness building related to invasive species.
	Number of co-management arrangements established or supported.	No progress to date.
	Number of projects located outside protected areas that integrate biodiversity conservation in management practices.	5 grants in the Dominican Republic and Haiti located outside of protected area, as described above.
Outcome 3. Caribbean civil society supported to achieve biodiversity conservation by building local and regional institutional capacity and by fostering stakeholder collaboration.	Number of civil society organizations with strengthened institutional capacity.	<p>38 civil society organisations have strengthened institutional capacity.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Caribbean Coastal Area Management Foundation (C-CAM) developed a new Strategic Plan 2013-2015, a Funding Plan incorporating a strategy to re-establish the C-CAM Trust Fund, and an organisational Accounting and Finance Manual. C-CAM's website updated and staff and community members trained in field data collection. • Consorcio Ambiental Dominicano (CAD) developed a new strategic plan and website strengthened. • The Environmental Awareness Group (EAG) created a Business Plan for financial sustainability and the organisation received support to develop proposals for additional funding. • The Grenada Dove Conservation Programme (GDCCP) developed a financial operations and accounting procedures and

		<p>policy manual, in addition to a 5-year financial plan which are now operational. The organisation also developed a 5-year strategic plan and established new partnerships with key organisations and agencies.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Staff members of Fondation pour la Protection de la Biodiversité Marine (FoProBiM) trained in basic conservation and marine sciences. • The Panos Institute developed and implemented a financial management plan. Staff trained, new accounting software procured. • Over 30 civil society organisations have built capacity in environmental communications including effective uses of social media and networking. • The Environmental Foundation of Jamaica (EFJ) developed a funding landscape and feasibility plan. • The IUCN Regional Caribbean Committee was legally registered and developed a 3-year strategic action plan.
	<p>Number of local and regional initiatives supported to strengthen stakeholder involvement in biodiversity conservation</p>	<p>XX stakeholder partnerships created and/or strengthened:</p> <p><u>Dominican Republic</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Support of DR environmental community electronic public forum. • Creation of the Alianza para la Defensa de Bahoruco Oriental , made up of local stakeholders and the environmental ministry. • Creation of the stakeholder alliance, including local municipalities and five business, for Sierra de Bahoruco . • Strengthening of the stakeholder commission for the conservation of Valle Nuevo. <p><u>Haiti</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Support local network of key stakeholders in Lagons du Nord-est. • Support to consortia Rezo Ekolo network of development and environmental NGOs. <p><u>Jamaica</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Consortium of local, national, and international stakeholders established to ensure the sustainability of proposed port facility currently sites in Portland Bight, including building community and

		<p>stakeholder capacity to participate in the EIA process in Jamaica.</p> <p><u>Regional</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Strengthening of CIASNET, a regional portal on invasive alien species. • Conservationists in Hispanola integrated into the network Partners in Amphiban and Reptile Conservation. In addition, bi-national collaboration strengthened between Haiti and the DR. • Creation of a new regional network Nature Caribe bringing together environmental NGOs throughout the hotspot. • Creation of a regional network of journalists and conservationists focused on environmental communications. <p><u>Small grants</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • FLQE (local youth conservation network); • ORE (local stakeholder consultation for Haiti). • Macaya priority actions); • FoProBIM small grant in Lac Azuei; • REPIE (local stakeholder networking in Foret des Pins)
<p>Outcome 4. A Regional Implementation Team provides strategic leadership and effectively coordinates CEPF investment in the Caribbean Islands Hotspot.</p>	<p>Regional Implementation Team performance in fulfilling the approved Terms of Reference.</p>	<p>The RIT is fulfilling the majority of performance targets under its Terms of Reference with some delays.</p>
	<p>Number of groups receiving grants that achieve a satisfactory score on final performance scorecard.</p>	<p>Civil society partners have taken baselines for civil society tracking tool. Three partners have submitted either their benchmark or final progress. Two partners show improvements attributable to their CEPF project out of a scale of 100:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Caribbean Coastal Area Management Foundation (CCAM) from 57.5 in 2011 to 58 in 2013 of 100 points. • Environmental Awareness Group Inc from 67 in 2011 to 74.5 in 2013. • - Grenada Dove Conservation Program from 54.5 in 2012 to 63.5 in 2014.
<p>Outcome 5. Emergency support provided to Haitian civil society to mitigate the impacts of the 2010 earthquake.</p>	<p># of actions taken to prevent destruction of forests in Massif de la Selle and Massif de la Hotte.</p>	<p>A strategy for post-earthquake intervention (by civil society organizations) in the Massif de la Hotte and Massif de la Selle KBAs was developed. Dissemination efforts included presenting a 25-point environmental action plan to Haiti President Martelly to include environmental considerations into development efforts. An updated to identify KBAs in Haiti was conducted and disseminated for development and conservation planning.</p>

	Environmental Network Resource Centre established.	The Rézo-Ekolo network of environmental civil society organizations grew nationally in stature, having received legal recognition and having developed a strategic plan incorporating conservation, post-earthquake reconstruction and sustainable development in Haiti.
	# of reconstruction and development policies and plans that incorporate environmental concerns.	CEPF contributions to support the reconstruction of Haiti and strengthening of environmental concerns were achieved through projects were awarded in CEPF's other strategic directions.

Annex 3. CEPF Contracted Grants as of September 2014

Strategic Direction 1:

Improve protection and management of 45 priority Key Biodiversity Areas

Grantee: Arche aux Plantes

Amount: \$ 135,140

Grant term: September 2013 – September 2015

Project Title: Rescuing Eckmanni Junipers (Juniper Endemic to Haiti) and Conservation of Plant Species in the Context of Updating the Management Plan for the Pine Forest (Massif de la Selle)

Summary Actions: L'Arche aux Plantes's science team, together with their Haitian partners, identify rare and threatened plants species from La Foret des Pins, and develop activities for their long term survival, which will be integrated into the forest's management plan. Two nurseries for native species are created, with the purpose of strengthening plant populations. Juniperus eckmanii, one of the Earth's rarest trees with only one damaged specimen remaining, benefits from a special in-vitro reproduction programme led by Conservatoire Botanique de Brest in France, prior to reintroduction in the wild.

Grantee: Caribbean Coastal Area Management Foundation (C-CAM)

Amount: \$ 97,461.83

Grant term: March 2012 – September 2013

Project Title: Management Planning in the Hellshire Hills and Portland Ridge and Bight Key Biodiversity Areas of Jamaica

Summary Actions: Develop two participatory management Plans for the Hellshire Hills and Portland Ridge key biodiversity areas in Jamaica. The grant supports collection of baseline data, identification of high priority conservation actions, and establishment of a monitoring programme for endangered and endemic species; consultation with and validation by key stakeholders involved in management planning; and strengthening of C-CAM's institutional and technical capacity to become a more effective leader in conservation. Furthermore, approaches to fostering climate change adaption will be assessed and recommended.

Grantee: Caribbean Coastal Area Management Foundation (C-CAM)

Amount: \$ 268,995

Grant term: April 2014 – July 2015

Project Title: Implementing the Hellshire Hills and Portland Ridge Sub-areas Management Plans in Jamaica

Summary Actions: Implement priority management actions in the Hellshire Hills and Portland Ridge KBAs and build C-CAM's institutional and fundraising capacity. Key aspects of the project include support for co-management of the protected areas, sustainable use of forests, improved development planning in light of plans to build a large port facility, adaption to climate change, sustainable livelihoods, ex situ conservation of threatened plants, strengthening of enforcement, feasibility assessment for implementing conservation agreements, conservation monitoring, and financial

sustainability of the Portland Bight and of CCAM.

Grantee : Caribbean Wildlife Alliance (CWA)

Amount : \$17,973.28

Grant term: February 2012 – February 2013

Project Title: Floristic Survey of the Hellshire Hills, Manatee Bay, and Goat Islands, Jamaica: A Contribution to Improved Protection and Management of the Jamaican Iguana

Summary Actions: Collect floristic baseline data in Hellshire Hills, Jamaica, which is needed to inform conservation management action plans for the key biodiversity area including actions to identify and remove invasive alien species. The grant supports field surveys to identify plant species required to inform conservation actions; posting of collections in herbaria and online; an assessment of the status of critically endangered species and liaison with key local stakeholders.

Grantee : Clarendon Parish Development Committee Benevolent Society

Amount : \$65,314

Grant term: April 2014 – June 2015

Project Title: Promoting Conservation of Peckham Woods Key Biodiversity Area, Clarendon, Jamaica

Summary Actions: Lay the groundwork for the strengthened management of the Peckham Woods through biological assessments (focusing on plants, birds, insects and the Jamaican Hutia); a socio-economic evaluation; awareness building of the area's importance; and strengthened commitment of government, donors and local communities to its conservation. The grant also builds capacity for botanical assessment within the University of the West Indies.

Grantee : Conservation International (CI)

Amount : \$64,542.36

Grant term: October 2012 – January 2014

Project Title: Assessing the Potential for Conservation Agreements to Contribute to Community-Based Conservation and Socioeconomic Development in the Caribbean Islands

Summary Actions: Lay the groundwork for introducing conservation agreements in the Dominican Republic, Haiti, and Jamaica to provide incentives to communities for their support of conservation actions. The grant first supports a desk study to analyze the potential for conservation agreements, followed by workshops with local NGOs to identify potential sites. CI will undertake feasibility assessments and draft implementation and fundraising plans in collaboration with local partners for at least three sites.

Grantee: Consorcio Ambiental Dominicano (CAD)

Amount: \$19,720

Grant term: March 2012 – March 2013

Project Title: Assessing the feasibility of sustainable financing mechanisms in Bahoruco Oriental

Summary Actions: Evaluate and identify the feasibility of developing sustainable financing

mechanisms to improve biodiversity conservation in Bahoruco Oriental, Dominican Republic. This includes engaging key stakeholders and authorities of the issues that affect biodiversity and ecosystem integrity in the area and environs; identifying key ecosystem service benefits, beneficiaries and suppliers; drafting a report outlining the feasibility of implementing local and global ecosystem markets in Bahoruco Oriental; and creating an Action Plan with recommendations for developing those mechanisms that are deemed feasible.

Grantee: Consorcio Ambiental Dominicano (CAD)

Amount: \$212,461

Grant term: January 2012 – December 2014

Project Title: Sustainable Financing and Establishment of Private Reserves for Biodiversity Conservation in Loma Quita Espuela and Loma Guaconejo, Dominican Republic

Summary Actions: Create the Dominican Republic's first private protected area to enhance connectivity with two existing protected areas and foster its financial sustainability through the sale of forest carbon credits. The grant supports the development of a framework by which private investors will purchase land to establish the private protected area; proposal preparation and sale of forest carbon credits; support to cacao farmers for reforestation with native species; and dissemination of the project's experience for replication.

Grantee: Environmental Awareness Group (EAG)

Amount: \$117,160

Grant term: July 2012 – August 2014

Project Title: Offshore Islands Conservation Programme: Maintaining Rat-Free Islands for the Benefit of Antigua's Biodiversity and People

Summary Actions: Strengthen the capacity of the Environmental Awareness Group as a local organization to address current and future biodiversity conservation needs of the Offshore Islands, focusing on the control and eradication of invasive alien species. This grant supports coursework and mentoring on preventing, monitoring, and eradicating invasive species; design and implementation of biosecurity, eradication, and biodiversity monitoring programs on 10 islands; public education to raise awareness of the importance of preventing the reinvasion of alien species; and institutional strengthening and fund raising.

Grantee: Environmental Foundation of Jamaica (EFJ)

Amount: \$18,252

Grant term: May 2013 – October 2013

Project Title: Development of a Funding Landscape and Feasibility Action Plan for the Environmental Foundation of Jamaica

Summary Actions: Develop a detailed action plan for fund-raising for the Environmental Foundation of Jamaica to ensure the growth of its endowment fund and in turn, to ensure its ability to provide

funding to Jamaica's conservation needs, including the key biodiversity areas in the country. The grant supports meetings and workshops with Jamaican private sector leaders, research into local and overseas funding opportunities and the development of a 3-year action plan for sustainable funding.

Grantee: Fauna and Flora International (FFI)

Amount: \$116,715.87

Grant term: July 2012 – June 2014

Project Title: Islands Without Aliens: Building Regional Civil Capacity to Eradicate Alien Invasive Species

Summary Actions: Strengthen the capacity of local civil society organizations in Saint Lucia and Antigua and Barbuda to control and eradicate invasive alien species in four key biodiversity areas. The grant supports coursework and mentoring on preventing, monitoring, and eradicating invasive species; design and implementation of biosecurity and biodiversity monitoring programs; and dissemination across the Caribbean of the methods, impacts, and lessons learned from this project.

Grantee: Fondation Macaya pour le Développement Local

Amount: \$ 94,700

Grant term: March 2013 – November 2015

Project Title: Alternatives for Sustainable Socio-Ecological Conservation in the Macaya KBA, Massif de la Hotte, Haiti

Summary Actions: Provide strategic leadership and local knowledge to build a broad constituency of civil society groups working across institutional and geographic boundaries toward achieving the conservation goals described in the ecosystem profile for the Caribbean Island Hotspot. Major functions include assisting civil society groups in designing, implementing, and replicating successful conservation activities; building synergies with grantees and stakeholders; conducting outreach; assisting grant application preparation and review; and awarding small grants.

Grantee: Fondation pour la Protection de la Biodiversité Marine (FoProBim)

Amount: \$ 142,700

Grant term: January 2013 – September 2014

Project Title: Caracol Coastal and Marine Management Initiative

Summary Actions: As the Caracol industrial park is set up by the Haitian government with support from the international community, the Lagons du Nord-Est Key Biodiversity Area faces new threats, due to the expected rise in population and industrial activities. FoProBim's project engages local communities and authorities, whose livelihoods rely on coastal and marine ecosystems, to design a participatory management plan for a Locally Managed Marine Area (LMMA), that could potentially be recognized in the future under the national protected areas system.

Grantee: Fondo Pro Naturaleza, Inc.

Amount: \$ 144,610

Grant term: May 2012 – March 2014

Project Title: Management Planning and Threats Reduction from Agricultural Encroachment for La

Humeadora and Valle Nuevo National Parks in the Dominican Republic

Summary Actions: Develop participatory management and action plans for long-term conservation of Montaña la Humeadora and Valle Nuevo National Parks, two key biodiversity areas with special significance since they protect critical catchment areas for Santo Domingo's water supply. The grant supports the development of baseline studies to assess the state of biodiversity, agriculture and its encroachment, and local socioeconomic conditions. Special consideration will be paid to the provision of ecosystem services (particularly for water resources), agricultural encroachment, and climate change adaptation. Outreach to local communities and park management authorities will result in the management plan recommendations and approval.

Grantee: Fondo Pro Naturaleza, Inc.

Amount: \$ 103,067

Grant term: September 2013 - December 2014

Project Title: Participatory Implementation of the La Humeadora Mountain National Park Management Plan in the Dominican Republic

Summary Actions: Strengthen management of La Humeadora Mountain National Park through implementation of the site's management plan, which was prepared with CEPF's funding in 2012. This grant supports the establishment of an alliance of local stakeholders and resource users to strengthen local park governance; environmental education to increase awareness of the park's ecosystem service values; conserve endangered amphibians and birds; restore degraded lands; and implement a process framework for potential safeguard policy triggers.

Grantee: Fondo Pro Naturaleza, Inc.

Amount: \$ 138,214

Grant term: June 2014 - September 2015

Project Title: Management Plan Implementation for Participatory Management and Biodiversity Conservation in Valle Nuevo National Park in the Dominican Republic

Summary Actions: Strengthen management of Valle Nuevo National Park by promoting participatory management with local stakeholder groups. Specifically, the grant strengthens the Stakeholder Monitoring Commission, establishes a network of public and private stakeholders to support the Commission, conducts research and outreach on globally threatened species, strengthens patrolling, and introduces improved agricultural practices in the park's southern sector.

Grantee: Fundación José Delio Guzmán Inc.

Amount: \$ 83,187

Grant term: June 2014 – September 2015

Project Title: Strengthening Management and Promoting Ecotourism in Valle Nuevo National Park in the Dominican Republic

Summary Actions: Implement key provisions of the Valle Nuevo National Park management plan to support participatory co-management and ecotourism. Specifically, the project contains components

to develop ecotourism trails, materials, and marketing; raise the area's visibility through media outreach, social media, and environmental education; and attract private sector tourist operators to the site.

Grantee: Grenada Dove Conservation Programme

Amount: \$ 103,883.80

Grant term: November 2012 – June 2014

Project Title: Strengthening the Legal Protection of Mt Hartman National Park KBA and Beausejour/Grenville Vale KBA in Grenada

Summary Actions: Achieve the legal gazettement of two key biodiversity areas (KBAs) that provide the last habitat for the critically endangered Grenada Dove. The grant funds four components: support gazettement of Mt Hartman National Park KBA and the Beausejour/Grenville Vale KBA; strengthen on-site management and eco-tourism development; build public awareness and support for KBA protection; and strengthen the grantee's institutional capacity and partnerships with key stakeholders.

Grantee: Instituto Dominicano de Desarrollo Integral, Inc. (IDDI)

Amount: \$69,669

Grant term: January 2012 – July 2013

Project Title: Management planning and Stakeholder Alliance Building for Sustainable Conservation in the Bahoruco East Key Biodiversity Area

Summary Actions: Strengthen management planning and stakeholder participation in the protection of Bahoruco Oriental through the preparation of a threats analysis for incorporation into management planning activities, creation of an alliance of community and private sector stakeholders dedicated to conserving the KBA, and preparation of a proposal for a management plan and co-management of the protected areas.

Grantee: Instituto Dominicana de Desarrollo Integral (IDDI)

Amount: \$125,000.00

Grant term: April 2014 – September 2015

Project Title: Improving Management and Promoting Eco-Tourism in the Bahoruco Oriental Wildlife Refuge in the Dominican Republic

Summary Actions: Upgrade existing visitor facilities, prepare interpretative trails, and develop a marketing strategy and promotional campaign for the Miguel Domingo Fuerte National Monument Wildlife Refuge in Bahoruco Oriental. The project will also strengthen monitoring of the area and support the installation of signs with information about its protection status at key entry points. These activities are being done within the framework of the area's Annual Operational Plan developed in conjunction with the Ministry of the Environment and the management plan that is under development. This project builds on work done through the project "*Management Planning and Stakeholders Alliance Building for Sustainable Conservation*" implemented by IDDI and the Sociedad Ornitológica de la Hispaniola Inc. (SOH) between January 2012 and July 2013.

Grantee: Instituto Tecnológico de Santo Domingo (INTEC)

Amount: \$59,101

Grant term: March 2012 – March 2014

Project Title: Promoting a Payments for Environmental Services Scheme through the Economic Valuation of Water Resources in the Quita Espuela and Guaconejo Science Reserves, Dominican Republic

Summary Actions: Develop a payment for environmental services (PES) scheme for drinking water and irrigation to support watershed conservation in the Loma Quita Espuela and Loma Guaconejo key biodiversity areas in the Dominican Republic. Information on the economic value of water will be used to design and obtain agreement on a PES scheme involving the country's water authority, environment ministry, and local civil society groups. Furthermore, sustainability will be fostered by building the capacity of key stakeholders.

Grantee: Instituto Tecnológico de Santo Domingo (INTEC)

Amount: \$ 56,925

Grant term: June 2014 – August 2015

Project Title: Establishing Mechanisms for the Sustainable Financing of Biodiversity Conservation and Watershed Management in Montaña La Humeadora National Park, Dominican Republic

Summary Actions: Establish financial mechanisms for watershed management and biodiversity conservation in La Humeadora National Park, which provides water to the city of Santo Domingo. This grant will work with the Santo Domingo water authority, hydroelectric company, and Ministry of the Environment to assess the economic value of water for municipal water use and hydropower generation, design a financial management scheme to allow for watershed protection, and build local capacity and institutional cooperation to support the establishment of the financial scheme.

Grantee: Instituto Tecnológico de Santo Domingo (INTEC)

Amount: \$ 19,954

Grant term: March 2012 – December 2014

Project Title: Restoration of biodiversity in Lake Enriquillo: Demonstrating the recovery of threatened native species by the removal of invasive alien species to inform conservation actions

Summary Actions: Establish and implement a monitoring programme for critically endangered species on Cabritos Island in the Lake Enriquillo key biodiversity area (KBA) to measure the results of the elimination of invasive species. A baseline assessment will be conducted and two annual evaluations thereafter. The project builds on work being carried out in invasive species control, eradication and maintenance by a number of local and international partner organisations and agencies and aims to inform the development of conservation actions for this KBA and other offshore islands in the Dominican Republic.

Grantee: Island Conservation (IC)

Amount: \$ 158,273

Grant term: June 2013 - May 2015

Project Title: Feasibility Analysis, Operational Planning, and Capacity Building to Eradicate Invasive Alien Species and to Expand Protection in The Bahamas and Dominican Republic

Summary Actions: Address the impact of invasive alien species (IAVs) on Alto Velo in Jaragua National Park in the Dominican Republic and Bobby Cay in the Bahamas by developing feasibility, operational and biosecurity plans for IAVs eradication. The grant also supports local capacity building and public education on IAVs, as well as public outreach, technical studies, and proposal preparation for the declaration of Bobby Cay as a protected area.

Grantee: Organisation des Paysans pour le Développement de l'Unité II de la Forêt des Pins, Mare Rouge (OPDFM)

Amount: \$175,845

Grant term: December 2011 – July 2015

Project Title: Measures to Support the Zoning Plan in Unit II of the Forest Reserve in "La Foret des Pins"

Summary Actions: Reforest 100 hectares of Hispaniola pine and 30 hectares of evergreen forest (rak bwa) that have been cleared from the center of the forest reserve. Also support viable long-term livelihood options through the emergence of sustainable value chains for several non-timber forest products, and sensitize local communities to the importance of this protected area to ensure their full engagement in the implementation of the Forest Reserve Management Plan. With the long-term goal of preserving the Foret des Pins, one of Haiti's last forests.

Grantee: Pennsylvania State University

Amount: \$198,067

Grant term: June 2013 - August 2015

Project Title: Ecosystem Threat Assessment and Protected Area Strategy for the Massif de la Hotte Key Biodiversity Area, Haiti

Summary Actions: Determine the areas in greatest need of protection and threats to their existence within the Massif de la Hotte KBA, Haiti, and develop self-sustaining education and public outreach projects that will reach both Haitians and non-Haitians, through survey and threat assessment work, in collaboration with Société Audubon Haiti and Haitian governments officials.

Grantee: Sociedad Ornitológica de la Hispaniola Inc (SOH)

Amount: \$223,000

Grant term: May 2013 – April 2015

Project Title: Ensuring the Conservation of Biodiversity in Sierra de Bahoruco National Park Through Strategic and Participatory Management Plan Actions

Summary Actions: Implement key provisions of Sierra de Bahoruco National Park's management plan to create local incentives for conservation, improve local governance and bi-national relations, and reduce threats to biodiversity conservation. In particular, this grant supports ecotourism development through infrastructure development, capacity building, and marketing; creation of a local stakeholder

alliance to engage in park management; park guard training; environmental education and community outreach; and donor support diversification.

Grantee: Société Audubon Haiti

Amount: \$199,576

Grant term: May 2013 – April 2015

Project Title: Protected area strategy and ecosystems sustainability in the Massif de le Hotte Key Biodiversity Area, Haiti

Summary Actions: Contribute to the conservation efforts in the Massif de la Hotte KBA, Haiti, through community mobilisation and engagement of local municipalities to identify the area's socio-economic profiles, formulate conservation policies and measures and contribute to their implementation; work with the Haitian government to develop a strategy for the conservation of the KBA; participate with Pennsylvania State University and Panos Caribbean to the development of a sensitisation and environmental education project, both for local and international audiences.

Grantee: The Bahamas National Trust (BNT)

Amount: \$62,380

Grant term: November 2012 – October 2014

Project Title: San Salvador Island: Designation of Key Biodiversity Areas, Graham's Harbour and Great Lakes, as National Parks in The Bahamas

Summary Actions: Achieve formal protection status for two key biodiversity areas on the island of San Salvador that cover approximately 4,700 hectares of habitat for the endangered San Salvador Rock Iguana and large populations of ten seabird species. The grant supports several components, including community awareness building, outreach to local and national decision makers, strengthened capacity for long-term management and monitoring, and development of a proposal for legal designation.

Grantee: The Nature Conservancy (TNC)

Amount: \$75,958

Grant term: April 2013 – March 2015

Project Title: A Campaign to Promote Private Sector Sustainable Finance Mechanisms to Support Jamaica's Protected Areas System

Summary Actions: Launch a multi-pronged campaign to establish two new long-term funding mechanisms for conservation in Jamaica: (i) a national fee system deriving income from visitors to the country; and (ii) a voluntary guest contribution program by hotels. The project supports feasibility studies, outreach through media, and pilot projects, with close collaboration from leading tourism resorts.

Grantee: The Zoological Society of Philadelphia

Amount: \$145,293

Grant term: September 2012 – December 2014

Project Title: Building Local Management Capacity and Conservation Plans to Save Endangered Frogs in Four High Priority Key Biodiversity Areas in Hispaniola

Summary Actions: In close coordination with sub-grantees Société Audubon in Haiti and Grupo Jaragua in the Dominican Republic, this grant supports amphibian conservation in four key biodiversity areas in Hispaniola. Components include strengthening the technical capacity of 50 local conservationists and community members, establishment of a bi-national network of 17 institutions, conducting baseline ecological field work (including determination of the presence of chytrid fungus), developing site-based amphibian management guidelines, and conducting relevant environmental education for communities and the general public.

Grantee: Windsor Research Centre Limited (WRC)

Amount: \$188,000

Grant term: May 2013 – September 2015

Project Title: An Action Plan to Save Threatened Biodiversity in Catadupa

Summary Actions: Develop and implement a conservation action plan for the Catadupa key biodiversity area with local communities and experts, and conduct outreach to the public and government in order to revoke a mining permit for the site. Specifically, this grant supports biodiversity assessments through field research, focusing on amphibians; environmental education for surrounding communities; preparation of maps and a collaborative action plan; and outreach on the potential impacts of mining on the site's biodiversity and ecosystem services.

Strategic Direction 2:

Integrate biodiversity conservation into landscape and development planning and implementation in six conservation corridors

Grantee: Agronomes et Vétérinaires Sans Frontières (VSF-CICDA/ AVSF)

Amount: \$ 261,092

Grant term: July 2012 – February 2015

Project Title: Forest Diversified Restoration in Fonds-Melon River Basin in South-East of Haiti

Summary Actions: Mainstream biodiversity conservation in a broader development agenda in the Fond-Melon area. The grant will produce a wide biodiversity assessment in this productive landscape (45 sq km), and support local communities in designing and implementing several activities in favour of biodiversity including simple management measures for broadleaf forest remnants, species enrichment, and reforestation of local endemic species. Sustainable mechanisms will be sought, in particular innovative payment for ecosystem services pilot schemes.

Grantee: Centro para el Desarrollo Agropecuario y forestal, Inc. (CEDAF)

Amount: \$ 19,500

Grant term: May 2013 – June 2014

Project Title: Reducción de la Pérdida de Biodiversidad mediante la Identificación de Modelos de Generación de Ingresos Sustentables en Comunidades del Entorno al Parque Nacional Los Haitises,

República Dominicana

Summary Actions: The vegetation of Los Haitises, one of the main natural national parks in the Dominican Republic and its surroundings, is one of the places of greatest biodiversity in floristic composition in the Dominican Republic and the Caribbean. However, the flora in the park is under threat due to encroachment from farming and logging. The project aims to identify, using a participatory approach, baseline information on sustainable income generation alternatives that also contribute to reducing the loss of biodiversity for families of two communities surrounding National Park Haitises.

Grantee: Collectif pour le Développement (CODE)

Amount: \$ 18,000

Grant term: March 2013 – November 2013

Project Title: Supporting biodiversity conservation and protection in Soucède, South of Parc Macaya

Summary Actions: Restore biodiversity and the ecological balance of the Pic Macaya watershed. The grant supports the reduction of soil erosion and restoration of forest cover in the watershed through reforestation activities with native species; training in environmental management and biodiversity conservation to youth groups living in the area so that they can contribute to reforestation activities and maintenance of areas replanted; and the grant also contributes to improving the livelihoods of farmers living in the area.

Grantee: Diamond Village Community Heritage Organisation

Amount: \$ 20,000

Grant term: July 2012 – March 2013

Project Title: Ecotourism and Biodiversity Protection Project for the Kamacroubou Mountain and Diamond Village Community

Summary Actions: Create a nature trail to preserve the natural environment and increase economic opportunities for the Diamond village community through the development of ecotourism activities. Reforest the Kamacroubou watershed area in St. Vincent to ensure proper conservation of soil and water, and raise public awareness on the importance of forest conservation and conservation practices.

Grantee: Grenada Dove Conservation Programme

Amount: \$ 101,050

Grant term: April 2014 – September 2015

Project Title: Mainstreaming Biodiversity Conservation and Ecosystem Services Action for Climate Change Adaptation in Grenada's Priority Dry Forest KBAs

Summary Actions: Mainstream adaptation strategies critical to maintaining the ecosystem services and biodiversity of Grenada's dry forests into national policy, development planning and budgeting. Specifically, the grant will 1) assess vulnerabilities of Grenada's dry forest ecosystem to climate change impacts; 2) prioritize biodiversity conservation actions to address vulnerabilities identified; and 3) conduct outreach and awareness building to key stakeholder groups.

Grantee: Fondation pour la Protection de la Biodiversité Marine (FoProBim)

Amount: \$ 83,308.47

Grant term: May 2012 – April 2013

Project Title: Protecting Biodiversity by Promoting Nature-Based Tourism and Sustainable Livelihoods in the Massif – Plaine du Nord Conservation Corridor

Summary Actions: Developing eco-tourism activities on the coastal areas of Département du Nord, in Haiti. Two Nature Teams will be created and trained for environmental monitoring and tourists guiding - while project team opens a dialogue with the tourism industry stakeholders. The project also intends to advocate for a review of the environmental laws and regulations on sea turtle and mangrove protection.

Grantee: Grupo Jaragua (GJ)

Amount: \$ 19,935

Grant term: June 2012 – June 2013

Project Title: Agro-forestry Model for Biodiversity in Neighbouring Communities of the Jaragua and Bahoruco National Parks, Dominican Republic

Summary Actions: Contribute to biodiversity conservation through the promotion of sustainable land uses, in particular the “Jaragua” agro-forestry model and beekeeping. Establish 5 new agro-forestry plots under the "Jaragua" agro-forestry model and enhance the productivity in three of them with a combination of beekeeping in the towns of Oviedo, Puerto Escondido and Duvergé.

Grantee: Grupo Jaragua

Amount: \$19,924.00

Grant term: April 2014 – March 2015

Project Title: Integrating the Corridor Communities in the Jaragua-Bahoruco -Enriquillo/Massif de la Selle Biosphere Reserve through Sustainable Livelihoods that Support Biodiversity Conservation in the Dominican Republic and the Republic of Haiti

Summary Actions: Promote beekeeping as a sustainable livelihood option favourable for biodiversity conservation in the bi-national corridor Jaragua-Bahoruco-Enriquillo/Massif de la Selle between the Dominican Republic and Haiti through action learning on beekeeping for families in the area so that their livelihood strategies contribute to the conservation objectives of the corridor, including those of the municipal reserve that is being established in Anse a Pitre, Haiti, to protect the critically endangered Ricord's Iguana (*Cyclura Ricordi*).

Grantee: Humboldt State University Sponsored Programs Foundation (HSU)

Amount: \$ 19,006

Grant term: April 2013 – December 2013

Project Title: Mainstreaming Ecosystem Service Values into Agricultural Practices: The Value of Native Shade Trees and Forest to Coffee Farms in Central and Western Jamaica

Summary Actions: The project aims to reconcile conservation and agriculture. This project will measure the degree to which coffee growing in Jamaica ceases to expand at the expense of forested habitats, and instead expands by making marginal land more profitable for an exported agricultural product while protecting native biodiversity.

Grantee: International Iguana Foundation (IIF)

Amount: \$119,900

Grant term: January 2012 – June 2015

Project Title: Supporting a Local Community in Creating a Municipal Wildlife Habitat for the Conservation of Ricord's Iguanas (*Cyclura ricordi*) in Anse-a-Pitres, Massif de la Selle Conservation Corridor, Haiti

Summary Actions: Support the creation of the first municipal reserve in Haiti, for the protection of several species among which the critically endangered Ricord's Iguana. This includes the scientific monitoring of the last Haitian population of Ricord's Iguana, together with local NGO "Jenes Ansapit", development of a management plan integrating the needs of local herdsman, and awareness raising and environmental education for the communities of Anse-a-Pitre.

Grantee: Jamaica Environment Trust (JET)

Amount: \$19,707.82

Grant term: October 2013 - March 2014

Project Title: Building support for the Portland Bight Protected Area in Jamaica

Summary Actions: Support an advocacy campaign for the Portland Bight Protected Area corridor through building public awareness on the importance of protected areas in Jamaica, promoting awareness and action from the public on development planning and decision-making and building the knowledge of stakeholders on the Portland Bight Protected Area.

Grantee: National Parks, Rivers and Beaches Authority (NPRBA)

Amount: \$77,623

Grant term: June 2013 - September 2014

Project Title: Integrated Watershed Management Planning and Forest Reserve Protection in the Central Mountain Range Conservation Corridor of St. Vincent.

Summary Actions: Develop St. Vincent's first integrated watershed management plan (IWMP) to improve watershed management and mitigate disasters while also safeguarding globally threatened species through a ridges-to-reef approach in the Cumberland Forest Reserve. This grant supports baseline studies, a public awareness survey and campaign, technical training, IWMP preparation, and institutional coordination.

Grantee: Organisation des Groupements pour l'Avenir de Rossignol (OGPAR)

Amount: \$20,000

Grant term: October 2012 – June 2013

Project Title: Forest Restoration Project for Biodiversity Conservation and Natural Resources in Rossignol, Parc Macaya, Massif de la Hotte

Summary Actions: Contribute to biodiversity conservation in the area of Parc Macaya, Massif de la Hotte, and provide livelihood opportunities to local community members living in the area. Restore forest cover in the watersheds through reforestation activities (approximately 40 ha), and provide training in environmental management, biodiversity conservation and agricultural techniques.

Grantee: Sociedad Ornitológica de la Hispaniola (SOH)

Amount: \$150,211

Grant term: July 2012 – September 2015

Project Title: Developing and Implementing a Participatory Nature Tourism Strategy for Nalga de Maco National Park Key Biodiversity Area

Summary Actions: Prepare and implement an ecotourism strategy for Nalga de Maco National Park and its buffer zone, located near the Haitian - Dominican Republic border. This grant supports the identification of landscape, biological and cultural attractions and a market study to develop the ecotourism strategy, in consultation with local communities and the government. The grant will assist with implementation, through infrastructure development, training, marketing, and fund raising.

Grantee: Sociedad Ornitológica de la Hispaniola Inc. (SOH)

Amount: \$19,999.00

Grant term: February 2014 – January 2015

Project Title: Forging and Empowering Local Alliances for the Conservation of the Sierra de Bahoruco National Park and the Loma Charco Azul Biological Reserve through the Formation of Municipal Environmental Promoters

Summary Actions: Create a group of 16 promoters of biodiversity conservation who will spearhead efforts to improve appreciation of ecosystem services and improve approaches to climate change adaptation. The project will also provide tools and information for sustainable management of the Bahoruco National Park and Loma Charco Azul Biological Reserve and prepare local environmental policy guidelines. The promoters will be selected from among residents in communities in the Bahoruco National Park and Loma Charco Azul Biological Reserve and will work closely with and through national and municipal environmental management structures to strengthen their efforts as they support developing conservation solutions to environmental problems in the Bahoruco National Park and Loma Charco Azul Biological Reserve.

Grantee: Société Audubon Haiti (SAH)

Amount: \$ 6,027

Grant term: November 2013 – November 2013

Project Title: Building Local Management Capacity to Save Endangered Frogs in Massif de La Selle/Forêt des Pins, Haiti

Summary Actions: Hold a workshop to promote the conservation of amphibians and the biological diversity of Massif de la Selle, Haiti, to encourage the adoption and implementation of amphibian management plans into local and national programs by local stakeholders and key players in the country. This grant will provide workshop participants with the necessary information and tools to make better decisions regarding conservation and help to build capacity at the local and regional level.

Grantee: Society for the Conservation and Study of Caribbean Birds (SCSCB)

Amount: \$ 62,750.13

Grant term: April 2012 – April 2013

Project Title: Building a Framework for Sustainable Tourism in Key Biodiversity Areas in the Dominican Republic and Jamaica: The Caribbean Birding Trail

Summary Actions: Conduct a participatory feasibility assessment for developing sustainable nature tourism, in particular, the Caribbean Birding Trail (CBT), in five key biodiversity areas including Cockpit Country and Portland Ridge and Bight in Jamaica and Valle Nuevo, Sierra de Bahoruco and Bahoruco Oriental in the Dominican Republic. The grant supports stakeholder workshops, consultations and feasibility assessments for each of the five sites; creation and enhancement of sustainable tourism networks; and development of a draft Operational Plan for the CBT that includes strategies for interpretation, marketing and funding.

Grantee: Society for the Conservation and Study of Caribbean Birds (SCSCB)

Amount: \$ 20,000

Grant term: October 2012 – September 2013

Project Title: Building Capacity for Sustainable Tourism and Livelihoods for the Long-term Conservation and Management of Key Biodiversity Areas in Grenada

Summary Actions: Incorporate the Beausejour/Grenville Vale, Mount Hartman National Park and Moliniere marine protected areas into the Caribbean Birding Trail (CBT) project. Develop sustainable local tourism activities and livelihoods opportunities for local communities in and around the KBAs. Develop a marketing plan, build birding trails and infrastructure (e.g., observation platforms and towers), create interpretive signs and other outreach materials, rehabilitate tourist attractions, develop new recreational activities, and train interpretive guides and small business owners to provide employment and highlight and conserve the unique biodiversity in Grenada.

Grantee: Windsor Research Centre Limited (WRC)

Amount: \$ 20,000

Grant term: March 2013 – November 2013

Project Title: Integrating Northern Cockpit Country Communities into Policy Making for Climate Change Mitigation

Summary Actions: The project seeks to revise the estimate of the Carbon Sequestration value of Cockpit Country through the participatory development and use of a survey among communities within northern Cockpit Country.

Analysed results will be disseminated to the communities and key stakeholders via public meetings, newsletters and reports to target audiences. The results will also be made available for revision of the estimate of the Carbon Sequestration value of Cockpit Country and used to formulate recommendations for action on climate change.

Grantee: World Resources Institute (WRI)

Amount: \$ 249,697

Grant term: June 2013 - May 2015

Project Title: Building the Capacity of Civil Society to Shape Public Policy Reform in the Caribbean to Protect Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services

Summary Actions: Support the mainstreaming of biodiversity conservation into development decision-making through several activities: assessments of the effectiveness of the policy frameworks for public participation, strategy development to strengthen EIA regulations, capacity building for local civil society, development of an online platform for public engagement in development decision-making, and national and regional networking. This grant focuses on Jamaica, although select activities are also implemented in the Dominican Republic and Haiti.

Strategic Direction 3:

Support Caribbean civil society to achieve biodiversity conservation by building local and regional institutional capacity and by fostering stakeholder collaboration

Grantee: Auckland Uniservices Ltd.

Amount: \$ 29,774

Grant term: May 2013 – December 2013

Project Title: Developing an Internet-Based Networking Portal for Invasive Species Practitioners in the Caribbean

Summary Actions: Upgrade the Caribbean Invasive Alien Species Network (CIASNET) website in order to facilitate access to information on invasive alien species in the Caribbean Island hotspot. The trilingual website will contain a registry of invasive species practitioners, a hub for information exchange and networking, and a repository for documents. This grant builds on similar efforts through the Pacific Invasive Learning Network (PILN) and complements a CEPF grant to CAB International.

Grantee: CAB International

Amount: \$ 83,160

Grant term: May 2013 – April 2015

Project Title: Regional Networking and Strategy Development for Invasive Alien Species in CEPF Priority Key Biodiversity Areas

Summary Actions: Promote action plan development and networking among Caribbean practitioners and decision makers to reduce threats from invasive alien species (IAS) on biodiversity in CEPF's key biodiversity areas. Specifically, this grant supports the development and promotion of a web portal on IAS issues in the Caribbean Islands, and workshops for national and regional IAS action plan development for Antigua and Barbuda, the Bahamas, Dominican Republic, Jamaica and Saint Lucia

Grantee: Consejo Interinstitucional para el Desarrollo de Constanza, Inc. (CIDC)

Amount: \$ 19,872

Grant term: June 2014 – May 2015

Project Title: Strengthening the Monitoring Component of the Management Plan of the Valle Nuevo National Park through the Implementation of Participatory Management in the Communities of El Castillo, Montellano and Pinar Parejo

Summary Actions: Establish a participatory management structure for the implementation of the Valle Nuevo National Park management plan. Build capacities of the surrounding communities of El Castillo, Montellano and Pinar Parejo, in best practices for sustainable agriculture, ecological restoration for biodiversity conservation, and institutional strengthening of community-based organisations through training workshops and on-the-ground technical assistance.

Grantee: Conservation Trust of Puerto Rico

Amount: \$ 19,100

Grant term: July 2014 – December 2014

Project Title: Strengthening Partnerships to Achieve Conservation of Critical Ecosystems in the KBA's of the Caribbean.

Summary Actions: Contribute to the development of operational structures for the newly formed regional organisation, Nature Caribé, and to develop a fund raising plan for members that identifies viable funding opportunities to support CEPF's work in the KBAs.

Grantee: Dispute Resolution Foundation (DRF)

Amount: \$ 7,048

Grant term: December 2013 – May 2014

Project Title: Registration of Accompong Maroons as Legal Entity to undertake conservation initiatives and actions to protect a key biodiversity area – The Cockpit Country in Jamaica

Summary Actions: Register the Accompong Maroons as a legal entity to increase their capacity to access more opportunities to undertake conservation actions and initiatives in the Cockpit Country in Jamaica.

Grantee: Environmental Foundation of Jamaica (EFJ)

Amount: \$ 13,988

Grant term: April 2013 – March 2014

Project Title: Building the Capacity of the IUCN Caribbean Regional Committee to Improve Protected Area Governance and Policy in the Caribbean

Summary Actions: Formally establish the IUCN Caribbean Regional Committee and develop a strategic action plan for sustaining it. The grant supports the design of a process for monitoring and reporting on IUCN Caribbean members' biodiversity conservation projects, creating an up-to-date database of activities underway in the region; identification of common, non-competing opportunities for the

committee to pursue for sustainable funding; the formal registration of the committee in at least one Caribbean territory; and the development of a three-year strategic action plan.

Grantee: Fondation Nouvelle Grand'Anse (FNGA)

Amount: \$ 45,181.08

Grant term: January 2013 – November 2013

Project Title: Environmental Education for Community Participation in Conservation of Macaya, Massif de la Hotte Key Biodiversity Area

Summary Actions: In the northern part of the buffer zone of Parc Macaya, one of the most important sites for biodiversity in Haiti, Fondation Nouvelle Grand'Anse supports the creation of local environmental committees in 10 rural communities. These committees are organized under a common network, which aims at advocating for a stronger participation of local communities in the management of natural resources in the area. Local committees identify and implement micro-project in favor of environment in the 10 communities.

Grantee: Fondation pour la Protection de la Biodiversité Marine (FoProBiM)

Amount: \$ 19,361

Grant term: November 2012 – October 2013

Project Title: Stakeholder Networking for Biodiversity Conservation in the Lac Azuei/Trou Caiman Key Biodiversity Area of Haiti

Summary Actions: Strengthen multi-stakeholder group linkages to support biodiversity conservation efforts, through networking activities and increasing awareness of the Lac Azuei-Trou Caiman key biodiversity area which has also been designated as a Man and the Biosphere (MAB) Biosphere Reserve. The grant supports workshops and exchange visits targeting 200 local area community stakeholders as well as the establishment of a KBA-wide steering committee engaged in guiding actions for future activities.

Grantee: Fundación Loma Quita Espuela (FLQE)

Amount: \$ 19,890

Grant term: June 2012 – November 2012

Project Title: Youth Network of the Loma Quita Espuela Scientific Reserve: Strengthening the Capacity of Civil Society Organisations and Youth Groups for Biodiversity Conservation

Summary Actions: Train 80 young people from rural and urban areas of the municipality of San Francisco de Macoris, in the areas of promotion, preservation and protection of the scientific reserve and key biodiversity area of Loma Quita Espuela. The grant supports the creation of a network of young people able to replicate the knowledge acquired to sensitise their peers in volunteering for conservation and protection activities of the scientific reserve of Loma Quita Espuela.

Grantee: Instituto Dominicana de Desarrollo Integral (IDDI)

Amount: \$19,962

Grant term: March 2014 – October 2014

Project Title: Technical Assistance for Sustainable Financing to Non-Governmental Organisations Working in Biodiversity Conservation in the Dominican Republic

Summary Actions: Provide technical assistance to 20 NGOs working in ten biodiversity hotspots in the Dominican Republic to strengthen their capacity in sustainable financing through an eight-month technical assistance programme focusing on sustainable financing, diversification of funding, relationships with the private sector, and sustainable tourism.

Grantee: International Iguana Foundation (IIF)

Amount: \$19,990

Grant term: June 2014 – May 2015

Project Title: Assessing the Status of Rock Iguanas (*Cyclura ssp*) and Integrating Community Outreach and Education in Massif la Hotte and Massif la Selle Conservation Corridors, Haiti

Summary Actions: The project aims to assess the current distribution and status of iguanas in the region from Anse-a-Pitres to Belle Anse, in the Massif de la Selle Key Biodiversity Area, to build the capacity of local groups working in biodiversity conservation in the Massif de la Hotte and the Massif de la Selle regions to implement conservation actions and to disseminate education materials and information pamphlets in areas where the iguana (*Cyclura* species) are found to exist.

Grantee: Jamaica Conservation Development Trust (JCdT)

Amount: \$ 14,408

Grant term: November 2012 – June 2013

Project Title: Biodiversity Conservation Capacity Needs & Opportunities Assessment in the Caribbean Islands

Summary Actions: Assess local and regional institutional capacity building needs and opportunities in the biodiversity conservation and protected area management fields in priority Key Biodiversity Areas in the English-speaking Caribbean, through research, surveys and interviews with key organizations in the region to conduct the assessment and obtain the desired information. The grant also supports the analysis of the information and preparation of a report on the information obtained including recommendations for building capacity amongst organizations involved in biodiversity conservation and protected area management.

Grantee: Kiunzi

Amount: \$19,940

Grant term: March 2014 – December 2014

Project Title: Strengthening the communication and networking capacity of organisations working in the Dominican Republic's key biodiversity areas

Summary Actions: Strengthen the communication and networking capacity of ten organisations working on conservation in key biodiversity areas and conservation corridors in the Dominican Republic. Target organisations will benefit from the preparation of communication plans and improved

skills in preparing and disseminating written and audiovisual content through a range of traditional and new media.

Grantee: Organisation pour la Réhabilitation de l'Environnement (ORE)

Amount: \$ 7,302.15

Grant term: March 2012 – April 2012

Project Title: Stakeholder Consultation and Strategic Planning for Coordinated Biodiversity Conservation Action in Parc Macaya, Massif de la Hotte.

Summary Actions: Organise a one day meeting with stakeholders the in Massif de la Hotte key biodiversity area in Haiti to identify current initiatives and investments and to help determine the potential niche for CEPF support in the area. The grant supports the planning and preparation of the meeting.

Grantee: Rainforest Alliance

Amount: \$ 105,021

Grant term: April 2012 – October 2015

Project Title: Connecting Conservationists in the Caribbean Islands Hotspot

Summary Actions: Support a cohesive network of CEPF grantees in the Caribbean Islands Biodiversity Hotspot by providing high quality tools to share information and best practices. The grant supports the development and annual updating of project profiles in English, French and Spanish on the Eco-Index website; creation of grantee webpages; provision of online webinars and courses related to sustainable natural resource management; and promotion of CEPF projects through a variety of tools including feature interviews, articles and social media outlets.

Grantee: The Caribsave Partnership

Amount: \$50,000

Grant term: July 2014 – July 2015

Project Title: Strengthening Institutional Capacity of the Local Forest Management Committee Management Plan Implementation in the Dolphin Head Key Biodiversity Area in Jamaica

Summary Actions: Strengthen the capacity of the Dolphin Head Local Forest Management Committee to empower local communities to conserve Dolphin Head, a key biodiversity area recorded with the highest density of endemic, rare or threatened plants in Jamaica. The grant supports organizational capacity and business training, establishment of an office, development and implementation of a strategic action plan to guide conservation and sustainable livelihoods activities, and fund raising.

Grantee: The Panos Institute (Panos)

Amount: \$130,026.01

Grant term: July 2012 – October 2014

Project Title: Strengthening the Engagement of Caribbean Civil Society in Biodiversity Conservation Through Local and Regional Networking and Effective Sharing of Learning and Best Practices

Summary Actions: Strengthen the capacity of at least 30 Caribbean conservation NGOs, media and other civil society organizations in 11 countries to effectively engage in communications, networking, and sharing of lessons learned and best practices on CEPF priority issues. The grant supports the development of baseline data for communication and networking capacity, establishment of a regional communications database, capacity building workshops, journalism fellowships, and publication of the information generated.

Grantee: Réseau d'Enseignement Professionnel et d'Interventions Ecologiques (REPIE)

Amount: \$19,990

Grant term: February 2012 – July 2012

Project Title: Supporting the Community in Foret des Pins, Haiti, to Preserve Biodiversity By Strengthening the Capacity of Schools in Collaboration with Farmers Associations and Other Community Groups.

Summary Actions: Produce material to be used by trainers, teachers and members of farmers groups to provide them with basic knowledge and key concepts related to the biodiversity in Haiti and Foret des Pins in particular. Set up a short training programme to be implemented in at least 3 schools in the area. To encourage and strengthen concerted action and collaboration among relevant stakeholders, project components will include production of material, communication and outreach, evaluation and validation of training guide.

Grantee: Sociedad Para el Desarrollo Integral del Nordeste, Inc.(SODIN)

Amount: \$19,800

Grant term: May 2013 – September 2014

Project Title: Biodiversity Conservation in Loma Guaconejo Scientific Reserve Through Active Community Integration

Summary Actions: Strengthen the co-management of the Loma Guaconejo Scientific Reserve through strengthening of the co-management committee by integration of Mayors of the Municipalities that affect the reserves and stimulating greater civil society participation. The main objective of this project is to strengthen the capacity of community organisations to take responsibility in the management of the Reserve by setting up a Community System Monitoring for the natural resources and biodiversity of the Loma Guaconejo Reserve.

Strategic Direction 4:

Provide strategic leadership and effective coordination of CEPF investment through a regional implementation team

Grantee: Caribbean Natural Resources Institute (CANARI)

Amount: \$807,581

Grant Term: October 2010 – September 2015

Project Title: CEPF Regional Implementation Team in the Caribbean Islands

Summary Actions: Provide strategic leadership and local knowledge to build a broad constituency of

civil society groups working across institutional and geographic boundaries toward achieving the conservation goals described in the ecosystem profile for the Caribbean Island Hotspot. Major functions include assisting civil society groups in designing, implementing, and replicating successful conservation activities; building synergies with grantees and stakeholders; conducting outreach; assisting grant application preparation and review; and awarding small grants.

Strategic Direction 5:

Provide emergency support to Haitian civil society to mitigate the impacts of the 2010 earthquake

Grantee: BirdLife International

Amount: \$168,793.44

Grant Term: October 2010 – April 2012

Project Title: Post-Earthquake Environmental Support for the Haitian NGO Sector

Summary Actions: Support the conservation of Haiti's highly threatened and species rich key biodiversity areas following the January 2010 earthquake. This grant supports the recovery and strengthening of a network of 12 local conservation groups, integration of conservation goals into reconstruction and development activities, and strengthening of site-based conservation in two priority sites.

Grantee: BirdLife International

Amount: \$13,188

Grant Term: June 2010 – July 2010.

Project Title: Stakeholder Consultation and Planning for Post-Earthquake Environmental Support for the Haitian NGO Sector

Summary Actions: Prepare the CEPF full proposal for post-earthquake reconstruction of the Haitian environmental sector. This small grant supports consultations with Haitian nongovernmental organizations, governmental officials and donors; visits to priority key biodiversity areas; and completion of the CEPF final proposal.

New Marine Protected Area Created In Northeastern Haiti

January 28, 2014



Fishing boat in Caracol Bay, Haiti. © FoProBiM

The Haitian government announced the creation of the country's second marine protected area (MPA) in December. Located in northeastern Haiti, the Three Bays Protected Area (Parc Marin des Trois Baies) is nearly 90,000 hectares and includes the bays of Limonade, Caracol and Ft. Liberté, as well as the Lagon aux Boeufs.

The newly established MPA will help protect the mangroves, eel grass beds, reefs and habitats housing important fisheries that are crucial for providing livelihoods to nearby communities. It will also help protect the area from storm surges and provide local communities with ecosystem services such as carbon sequestration, tourism value and more. The MPA is also home to numerous threatened species, including sea turtles, whales, manatees and migratory birds.

Last August, the Haitian government designated the nation's first mixed use (coastal/marine/terrestrial) protected area, at Ile-à-Vaches/Aquin in the southwest.

“We applaud the Haitian government’s move to protect our natural resources. This designation is yet another critical step forward as Haiti renews its commitment to protect its critical coastal and marine ecosystems,” said Jean Wiener, director of **Fondation pour la Protection de la Biodiversité Marine** (FoProBiM), Haiti’s only nongovernmental environmental organization focusing on coastal and marine areas.



Two girls walk along the coast in Haiti. © Robin Moore

In 2000, FoProBiM outlined the original park boundaries; and undertook ecosystem valuation exercises for the area in 2009 and 2013 for the Organization of American States/Department of Sustainable Development (OAS/DSD). FoProBiM also actively participated in the preparation of the legal framework and final establishment of the present park boundaries to help bring about the MPA’s designation.

With support from CEPF through its investment in the **Caribbean Islands biodiversity hotspot**, FoProBiM is also

working with local communities and authorities to design a participatory management plan for a locally managed marine area (LMMA) for the Lagons du Nord-Est Key Biodiversity Area.

“We now need to undertake serious actions to ensure the complete commitment of local stakeholders to actively participate in the Three Bay Protected Area’s management. We must also ensure an increased engagement of all national stakeholders, the government and our international partners to actively participate in the protection and sustainable management of the resources within this important area,” said Wiener. “We hope that the Arcadins, Baraderes and Rochelois Marine Parks will also soon be created to protect these vital ecosystems.”

Climate Change In The Caribbean, Part 1: Civil Society Takes On The Challenge

June 5, 2014

This is the first post in a three-part series documenting examples of CEPF grantees taking innovative action to build climate resilience in the Caribbean. [Read the next post in the series.](#)



Los Haitises National Park, Dominican Republic. Photo by Anton Bielousov.

Islands play a major role in sustaining life on Earth. Although islands make up less than 5 percent of Earth's landmass, they are home to 600 million people (one-tenth of the world's population) and provide habitat for 20 percent of all bird, reptile and plant species. The fragility of islands is apparent now more than ever, with climate change and its impacts – sea level rise, increases in average temperature, altered precipitation patterns and increases in severe weather – threatening island biodiversity and the livelihoods, economy and well-being of islanders.

[World Environment Day](#), which takes place every year on June 5, focused its theme this year on Small Island Developing States (SIDS) and climate change in recognition of the urgent need to protect islands in the face of growing risks and vulnerabilities, particularly those resulting from climate change.

Immediate strategic action is necessary to protect islands, as well as coastal communities in every country, from climate change. Acknowledging the urgency of the issue, the Critical Ecosystem Partnership Fund (CEPF) has provided support to civil society organizations that are integrating climate

change adaptation and mitigation into conservation work in the SIDS found in the Caribbean Islands biodiversity hotspot.

According to the Caribbean Community Climate Change Centre, the entire landscape of the Caribbean will change in 50 years if the current models are correct – beaches gone, coastal zones eroded and infrastructure degraded. This would have catastrophic effects for the Caribbean, crippling its economy and displacing many of the poorest and most vulnerable communities in the region, as 70 percent of the Caribbean population lives on the coast.

The following is an example of CEPF grantees taking innovative action to build climate resilience in the Caribbean.

Protecting Forests in the Dominican Republic



Reforestation with native plants in Reserva Privada el Zorzal, the Dominican Republic's first private protected area. © Consorcio Ambiental Dominicano

Forests and climate change are inextricably linked, as trees capture and store carbon. Managing forests can therefore help mitigate climate change. In the Dominican Republic, the Loma Guaconejo and Loma Quita Espuela Scientific Reserves form a core of largely intact, but highly threatened, forest habitat.

To enhance the connectivity of these existing protected areas, CEPF grantees Consorcio Ambiental Dominicano (CAD), Fundación Loma Quita Espuela (LQE) and the Sociedad para el Desarrollo Integral del Nordeste (SODIN), worked with private investors from the United States and the Dominican Republic, who purchased the 404 hectares of land in between the two existing protected areas, creating the Dominican Republic's first private protected area.

“This historic purchase in 2012 expanded the protected area by almost 6 percent, protecting critical habitat for globally significant biodiversity, including the Bicknell’s thrush and other endangered species,” said Sesar Rodriguez, executive director of CAD. “We are also working with local cacao farmers to reforest the protected area with native species and develop ecosystem service markets for carbon, water and biodiversity.”

To ensure financial sustainability of the private protected area, the project also developed forest carbon offsets. The carbon project is a reforestation initiative planting native wood species that will enhance biodiversity and create migratory bird habitat.

The first sale of forest carbon bonds for this project – the first ever in the Dominican Republic – was signed in May between Chocosol, a handmade organic chocolate maker in Toronto, Canada, and CAD.