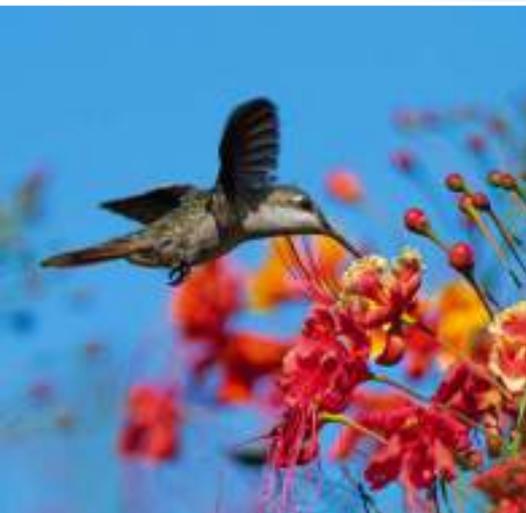




CARIBBEAN REGIONAL COMMITTEE
REPORT 2017-2020

**ACTIONS AND
ACHIEVEMENTS**



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Caribbean Regional Committee

REPORT OF THE IUCN CARIBBEAN REGIONAL
COMMITTEE - Actions and achievements 2017-2020

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Caribbean Regional Committee

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As IUCN members we are at the forefront of trying to preserve ecosystems, biodiversity hotspots and make our natural heritage resilient to climate change».

Coereba flaveola bonairensis. Photo: Hans Smulders

MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIR OF THE IUCN CARIBBEAN REGIONAL COMMITTEE



Fernando Lloveras San Miguel
Chair of IUCN CRC (2016-2020)

Para La Naturaleza is honoured to have been Chair of the IUCN Caribbean Regional Committee for two consecutive terms (2016-2020), serving Caribbean members in this role during these extraordinary times. In Puerto Rico we felt the full ferocity of a maximum category hurricane and the destruction left in its wake, the ousting of our governor by the people, and a series of earthquake swarms that continue to this day. In addition to the impacts of climate change, the COVID-19 pandemic has further exacerbated the social, environmental and economic problems in our islands. In fact, the origin of SARS-CoV-2 is linked to the imperilled state of biodiversity on our planet.

As members of the IUCN, our mission is to conserve nature and protect biodiversity while pushing for equity, equality and good governance. There is an urgent need to increase protected areas on our planet, with a vision of preventing further outbreaks of zoonotic diseases caused by the proximity of human activities to wildlife. The pandemic has cost many lives, closed economies, disrupted international travel and tourism, while perhaps ironically raised awareness around the world of the need for systemic change.

The greatest threats to life on earth and the well-being of humanity are climate change and loss of biodiversity. These can only be confronted by transforming our economic paradigms. While the Paris Agreement is an attempt to keep the global temperature rise to 1.5 degrees Celsius, we are not on track to meeting this target.

The insular Caribbean in particular will suffer the brunt of climate-related impacts, with increasing intensity of hurricanes and droughts, as well rising sea levels, all causing disastrous damage to human life and biodiversity on our islands.

As IUCN members we are at the forefront of trying to preserve ecosystems, biodiversity hotspots and make our natural heritage resilient to climate change. We are confident that our report will be inspiring to read and highlight our members' outstanding achievements and actions within the framework of IUCN's 2017-2020 Programme.

Together we aim to make our region and our planet a better and healthier place.

Para la Naturaleza thanks the Caribbean Regional Committee for their active participation in our regular online meetings that bring together members from across the insular Caribbean. Despite our cultural and language diversity, the Caribbean Regional Committee is an outstanding exemplar of a regional committee. We have long been a forerunner in meeting online, which has become the new normal during these COVID-19 times. Our success brings together members of the widely-flung Caribbean islands, strategically uniting our members without the carbon footprint of air travel not to mention the financial burden this would entail on our cash-strapped organisations.

The way in which the Caribbean Regional Committee united around the motion to halt the loss of biodiversity in the insular Caribbean culminated in the motion being passed during online voting in November 2020.



La Robleda, Cayey, Puerto Rico. Photo: PLN

We are also proud of being catalysts for the proposed amendment to Rule #40 of the IUCN Statutes and Regulations. This motion represents an action in support of fair geographic and cultural representation, increasing the Union's potential constituents and participants. Nature has no political boundaries, and neither should IUCN's Regional Council members.

As the outgoing Chair, I want to reiterate our appreciation of the trust our members bestowed in us. As an institution, Para la Naturaleza commits to fully supporting the new Chair and wishes the best of success in this rewarding role.

Fernando Lloveras San Miguel

Chair of IUCN CRC (2016-2020)

President of Para la Naturaleza

Executive Director of the Conservation Trust of Puerto Rico



Hacienda La Esperanza LTA. Photo: Anaxis Morales

THE IUCN CARIBBEAN REGIONAL COMMITTEE AT A GLANCE

2.1. OVERVIEW OF THE ECOLOGICAL IMPORTANCE OF THE INSULAR CARIBBEAN REGION

The insular Caribbean is a key biodiversity hotspot due to the high variety of terrestrial and marine ecosystems and associated levels of endemism (see Table 1). Our region boasts 14 Holdridge life zones and 16 World Wildlife Fund (WWF) ecoregions. It accounts for 2.6% of the world's 300,000 plant species, 3.5% of the world's 27,298 vertebrate species, and 7% of the world's coral reef ecosystems. Significant, too, is the high level of connectivity observed among marine habitats, which means you find the same aquatic species (including migrating species) around the Caribbean.



Moray eel. Photo: NEPA

Table 1: Terrestrial and marine ecosystems and associated levels of endemism.

Caribbean endemism:

- 100% of 189 amphibians
- 95 % of 520 reptiles
- 26% of 564 birds
- 74% of 69 mammals.
- 72% of 111,000 plant species

Caribbean coral reef ecosystems and species:

- 25 coral genera
- 117 sponges
- 633 molluscs
- over 1,400 fish
- 76 sharks
- 45 shrimps
- 23 seabirds

Source: https://www.cepf.net/sites/default/files/final_caribbean

By definition, a hotspot is also an area with high rates of habitat loss or degradation from unsustainable land uses and encroachment. The Critical Ecosystem Partnership Fund (CEPF), states that over 700 species of the insular Caribbean are endangered. Currently, according to the WDPA/World Database on Protected Areas, the region boasts 749 protected areas, covering 67,719 km², of which more than half are marine. However, unfortunately, protected area (PA) management is still weak and inadequately funded.

2.2. MAIN MILESTONES AND ACHIEVEMENTS OF THE CARIBBEAN REGIONAL COMMITTEE

The Caribbean Regional Committee (CRC) is proud of its many achievements, which are a direct result of the investments by its members. The insular Caribbean is characterised by its diversity of cultures and languages. Moreover, the legal or sovereign status of the islands is highly heterogeneous, some boasting full national sovereignty, some with partial independence (largely known as overseas territories). This is the second four-year report produced by the CRC. The aim is to highlight members' alignment with the IUCN One Programme and publication is scheduled to coincide with the WCC. The CRC is the only regional committee that produces such a report, demonstrating its exemplary nature. Some of its main milestones and achievements are summarised below:

Status of IUCN membership in the insular Caribbean

The CRC currently (see appendix 1) has 18 members from 12 island nations, 2 of which are governmental, and the others being non-governmental organisations (NGOs). During 2016-2020, two more organisations joined the CRC, namely the Institute of Environmental Law of the Dominican Republic (IDARD) and the Turks and Caicos Reef Fund (TCRF). Unfortunately, the National Parks Trust of the Virgin Islands and the Caribbean Institute for Natural Resources (CANARI) resigned their memberships, a loss that all CRC members regret. CANARI, who was CRC Chair from 2012-2016, is a dynamic regional organisation with high professional kudos among Caribbean island organisations. The CRC wishes CANARI continued success in its endeavours to tackle loss of biodiversity in the insular Caribbean.

CRC By-Laws

During this reporting period, the CRC amended the original CRC By-Laws to better reflect the committee's actual procedures and *modus operandi*. The amendments also helped clarify that IUCN members in overseas territories in the insular Caribbean can be members of the CRC, and that international NGOs with offices in the insular Caribbean can be members without the right to vote. A clause was added to specify that individuals appointed as a member of an IUCN Commission and who reside in one of the Caribbean nations or territories are part of the CRC, however without voting rights. The revised by-laws are based on valuable input, suggestions and recommendations made by CRC members and excellent collaboration with both the IUCN Regional Office for Mexico, Central America and the Caribbean (ORMACC) as well as IUCN headquarters. The new by-laws were approved by the IUCN Council in October 2018.

Motion 25: 'Halt Biodiversity Loss in the Insular Caribbean'

Promoted and channelled by Grupo Jaragua from the Dominican Republic, this motion was submitted in August 2019 with endorsements from members of various regions. The motion was approved by the IUCN Motions Committee and later voted upon favourably by members in the first round of electronic voting that took place during 2020.

The Regional Councillor Dr.

Inchaustegui served as a link between the members of the region and the IUCN Council, and participated in the Regional Conservation Forum that was held in Antigua, Guatemala, 2019. Dr. Inchaustegui promoted the adherence of the Caribbean members to «The call of Abu Dabi to Global Action for Species Conservation». The Regional Councillor regularly participates in CRC meetings, highlighting the

importance of maintaining this governance body for the insular Caribbean within the global framework of the IUCN.

Potential amendment to IUCN Rules regarding the election of Regional Councillors

A motion to amend Rule #40 of the IUCN statutes and regulations is under consideration by the IUCN community. The motion is intended to ensure adequate geographic diversity on the Council by changing the eligibility conditions for the Regional Councillor post, allowing regional committees to choose nominees who they feel best represent them. This proposed change in governance is the result of a situation brought about by the fate of the original 2016 CRC nominee for the Regional Councillor elections. This modification is important to the insular Caribbean and other overseas territories because it would allow candidates from overseas/dependent territories (such as the U.S. Virgin Islands) to be elected as Regional Councillors for the region in which the candidates geographically reside (North America and the Caribbean). This motion represents an action in support of fair geographic and cultural representation, increasing the Union's potential constituents and participants.

To recap how the election process unfolded in 2016: During the regional forum in Panamá (2016), the CRC elected a candidate from Puerto Rico for the post of Regional Councillor for IUCN's statutory region of North America and Caribbean. The nomination was withdrawn when IUCN's Legal Counsel informed the CRC that the nominated candidate by virtue of his USA nationality and interpretation of the relevant rules, would, by default, have to compete against the candidate from the United States, which was obviously not the intent. Fortunately, the CRC found an excellent alternative in Dr. Sixto Inchaustegui (current

Regional Councillor), who earned the endorsement of all members and has delivered outstanding work in this role. He is a member of the Council's Governance and Constituency Committee and actively participated in the development of this motion. We are confident that the motion will be approved.

Overcoming language barriers

The regular online meetings are held in English. Attending Spanish-speaking members have proven their capacity to communicate in this language. Nonetheless, the minutes are written in both English and Spanish, sent to all members for their approval and are also made available to those who could not attend.

Financial and human resources

The success of the CRC is also due to the extraordinary commitment of most of its members. Puerto Rican conservation NGO [Para La Naturaleza](#) in particular has invested manpower and funds in promoting the development of the CRC and its members' involvement. During their term as Secretary (2014-2016) and subsequently as Chair (2016-2020), PLN actively drove forward the updating of the CRC By-Laws. In June 2017 president of PLN Mr. Fernando Lloveras represented the CRC at the inaugural meeting of the United States National Committee in Warrenton, Virginia. Mr. Lloveras took advantage of his participation in two panels to highlight the achievements of the CRC despite the multiple challenges facing the region, including heterogenous systems of government, languages, cultures and economies. In November 2019, representatives from PLN participated in a knowledge exchange trip with IUCN members in the Dominican Republic (DR). The visit included:

- Participation in the IUCN Dominican Republic National Committee meeting and official celebration of IUCN's 70th

anniversary with the President of the Fundación Sur Futuro, who since 2020 is Chair of the National Committee.

- Field trip with the DR Institute of Environmental Law (IDARD by its Spanish acronym) to several key project sites in the San Pedro de Macorís province.
- Visit to the Samaná Peninsula accompanied by the Centre for the Conservation and Ecodevelopment of the Bay of Samaná and its Surroundings (CEBSE by its Spanish acronym) to learn about their sustainable fisheries initiatives, where they help local fisherfolk develop ecotourism activities for additional income and reduced stress on local marine ecosystems. Additionally, they visited CEBSE's Whale Museum and Nature Centre, and a community-based mangrove conservation and education initiative inspired in PLN's Cabezas de San Juan Nature Reserve.

Participation in regional initiatives

In February 2018, several members participated in the inaugural meeting of phase 2 of the Biodiversity and Protected Areas Management Program (BIOPAMA) held in Kingston, Jamaica. This global partnership's objective is to improve the conservation and sustainable use of natural resources in African, Caribbean and Pacific (ACP) countries, in PAs and surrounding communities.

In the Caribbean, BIOPAMA is working to improve PA governance and management through capacity development programmes and the establishment of the Caribbean Gateway – a hub for research and innovation that interprets and shares data to understand and communicate important trends in a changing environment.

During the two-day meeting, CRC members provided meaningful input related to existing and new programme components. The meeting was also an opportunity to have face-to-face exchanges with IUCN members present at the meeting.

Table 2: IUCN Dominican Republic National Committee

The Dominican Republic National Committee was established in November 2010 and was recognised by the IUCN Council in May 2011. The National Committee is currently composed of 7 members.

1. Ministerio de Medio Ambiente y Recursos Naturales de la República Dominicana (Mimarena).
2. Centro para la Conservación y Ecodesarrollo de la Bahía de Samaná y su Entorno
3. Grupo Jaragua
4. Fundación PROGRESSIO
5. Fundación Sur Futuro
6. Consorcio Ambiental Dominicano
7. Instituto de Derecho Ambiental de la República Dominicana



Representatives members of the Caribbean Regional Committee at the Regional Conservation Forum, Guatemala 27-30 May 2019

Participation in regional forums

The Regional Conservation Forum for Mesoamerica and the Caribbean held in La Antigua, Guatemala, in 2019 was one of the few opportunities when IUCN members in the insular Caribbean get to meet in-

son. The regional office provided space for one meeting and upon request helped organise a second meeting. The most important outcome was the agreement made to work on a proposed motion related to the biodiversity crisis in the Caribbean.



Shoal of fish on the seabed. Photo: NEPA, Jamaica

CARIBBEAN CORAL REEF ECOSYSTEMS AND SPECIES:

25  CORAL GENERA

117  SPONGES

633  MOLLUSCS

+1,400  FISH

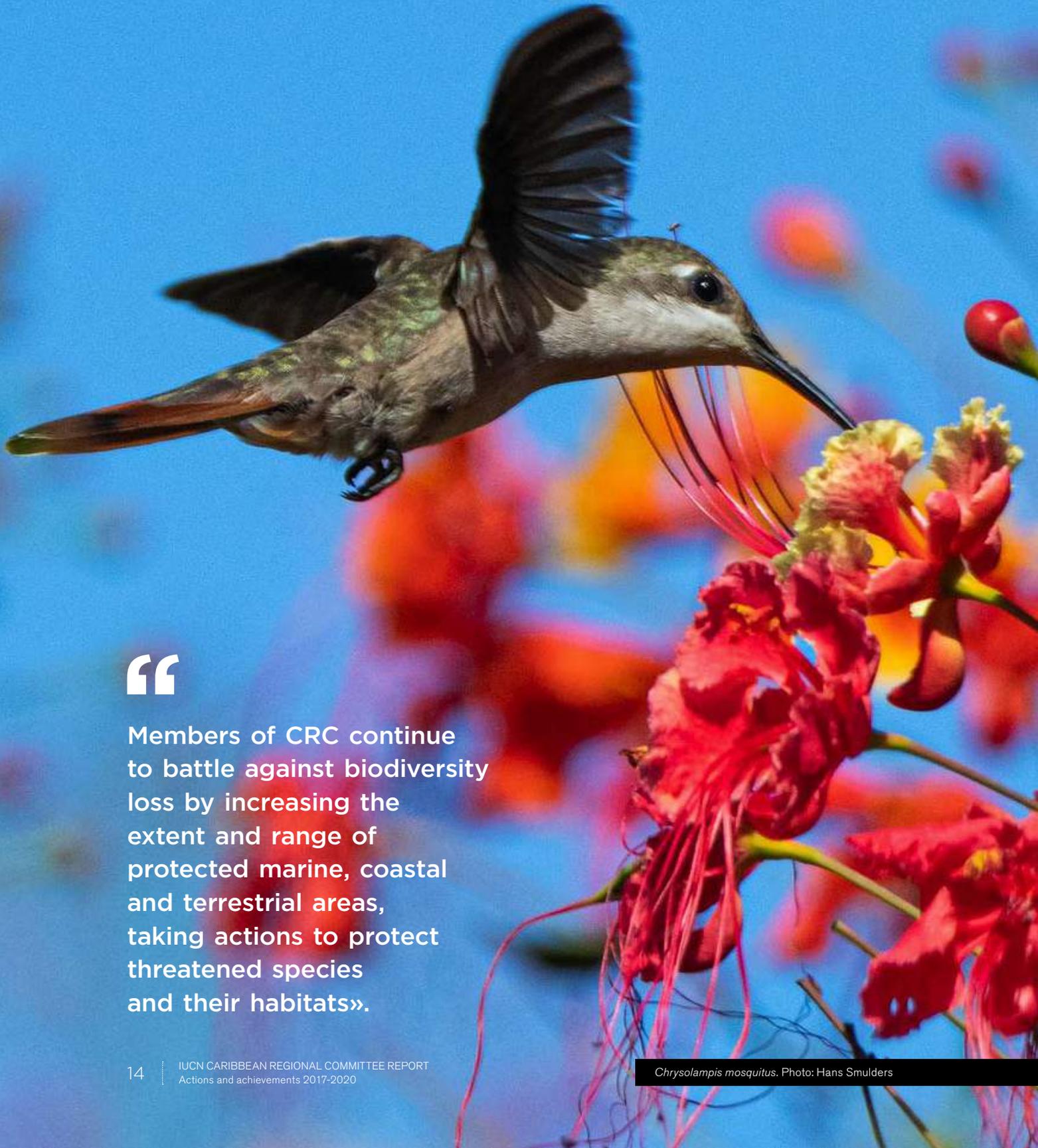
76  SHARKS

45  SHRIMPS

23  SEABIRDS

“

The Caribbean Regional Committee (CRC) is proud of its many achievements, which are a direct result of the investments by its members. The insular Caribbean is characterised by its diversity of cultures and languages».



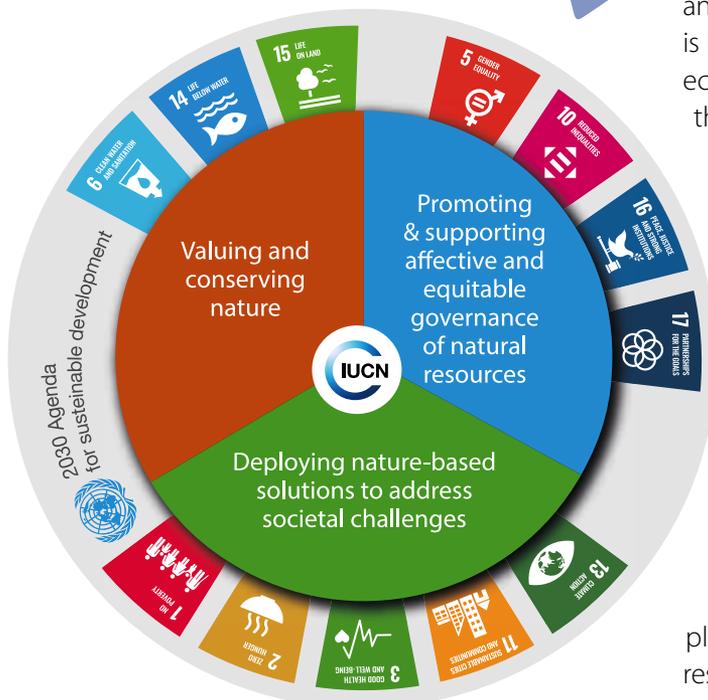
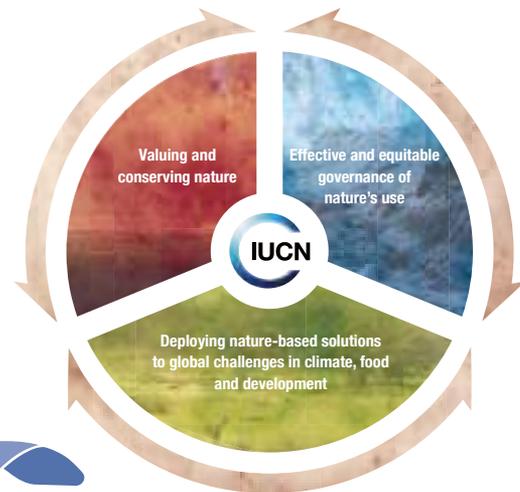
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Members of CRC continue to battle against biodiversity loss by increasing the extent and range of protected marine, coastal and terrestrial areas, taking actions to protect threatened species and their habitats».

IMPLEMENTING THE IUCN PROGRAMME 2017-2020: RESULTS AND ACHIEVEMENTS BY CRC MEMBERS

WORKING FOR PEOPLE AND NATURE

The three priority areas established by the IUCN Programme 2017-2020, contribute directly and significantly to the work of the member organisations of the Caribbean Regional Committee, to their existing and ongoing projects as a framework for aligning their mission, vision and actions to meet the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and with the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020



As a key world biodiversity hotspot within an insular geography, the Caribbean region is both home to a remarkable range of ecosystems and subject to an array of threats, regrettably due to inadequate management of our natural resources and habitats coupled with poor socio-economic policies and anthropogenic induced climate change.

Members of CRC continue to battle against biodiversity loss by increasing the extent and range of protected marine, coastal and terrestrial areas, taking actions to protect threatened species and their habitats, as well as developing and implementing management plans in consultation with local natural resource users and other stakeholders.

DOMINICAN REPUBLIC

CRC members collaborate with domestic environmental and civil society organizations (CSOs) in conserving nature and meeting the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). The DR stands out as the only country with a [National Committee](#) (NC see table 2, page 10) within the region.

[The Ministry of Environment and Natural Resources of the Dominican Republic \(MIMARENA\)](#) is responsible for designating and managing terrestrial and marine protected areas under the National System of Protected Areas (SINAP). In this report period, MIMARENA proposed two new Ramsar sites and helped enact Law 44-18, establishing payments for environmental services. Approximately 126,000 km² were reforested (2018) in coordination with the Presidency and the Ministry of Agriculture, creating permanent green jobs for rural dwellers and acknowledging the costs and benefits of planting endemic, native and/or introduced high-value forest and agroforestry plant species. Two watershed management plans were prepared; inspections were carried out to install drinking water wells and wastewater treatment plants to regulate water quality and availability in the framework of SDG 6 and evaluations of the adequacy and sanitation of watercourses.

They are also involved in regional conservation efforts such as the Caribbean Biological Corridor initiative with Haiti and Cuba, cross-border conservation actions with Haiti, and the Caribbean Challenge Initiative (CCI), where anthropogenic induced climate change the DR has exceeded the 20-by-20 CCI goal by designating

75 percent (9,357 square kilometres) of its nearshore environment as MPAs (SDG 14).

This success is largely due to the noticeable cluster of active conservation civil society CRC members, and to the close cooperation between MIMARENA and these NGOs. These key players were further consolidated and brought together by the impetus generated by the first phase of the Critical Ecosystem Partnership Fund (CEPF) in the Caribbean. The CRC is looking forward to the [second phase of the CEPF](#) being rolled out in the Caribbean in 2021.

MIMARENA declared 16 fisheries reserves, based on zoning plans developed by CEBSE, showcasing their collaboration with other IUCN members in the DR.

Within the programmatic area of valuing and conserving nature, the Dominican CRC members have been exemplary in their capacity to take on leading roles in forming alliances and partnerships. Examples include the Consorcio Ambiental Dominicano (CAD), where MIMARENA and Dominican environmental NGOs sit around one table; and Fundación Sur Futuro, who together with Fondo MARENA convened the 19th Annual Assembly of The Network of Environmental Funds of Latin America and the Caribbean, [RedLAC](#), in 2017.

AREAS OF WORK

SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS (SDGs)

- NO POVERTY
- CLIMATE ACTION
- LIFE BELOW WATER
- LIFE ON LAND
- PARTNERSHIPS FOR THE GOALS





Laguna de Oviedo – Grupo Jaragua. Photo: GJ

Grupo Jaragua (GJ) is one of the oldest environmental NGOs in the country and has a long track record of successful actions. In the report period GJ restored 425 hectares within PAs and other key conservation areas to improve the habitats of endangered species. In 2017, GJ signed a comanagement agreement with MIMARENA for managing Parque Nacional Sierra de Bahoruco and produced a Conservation Plan for Sierra Bahoruco with key players, including MIMARENA, scientists and local communities.

Moreover, GJ implemented the Strategic Plan 2013-2022 and the Organizational Plan 2014-2019 in line with the National Development Plan and strategies of BirdLife International and UICN. As a BirdLife affiliate, GJ is implementing BirdLife’s Quality Assurance System (QAS). GJ is directly involved in the conservation, scientific investigation and defence of the Biosphere Reserve Jaragua Bahoruco-Enriquillo and in the cross-border Haitian-Dominican reserve Selle-Jaragua-Bahoruco-Enriquillo.

This region features multiple PAs, Ramsar sites, Important Bird and Biodiversity Areas (IBAs) and Key Biodiversity Areas (KBAs). In its outreach programme to support valuing nature, GJ carried out 18 Encuentros Verdes (green meetings) and published 24 envi-



Review of sea turtle nest in Bahía de las Águilas. Photo: GJ

ronmental and conservation articles in the Listin Diario newspaper. To raise awareness on the value of nature, GJ has carried out 13 citizen science events (global bird counts, bioblitzes, nature photography safaris, talks, etc) around the two major urban centres and gave talks to 250 teachers impacting over 13,000 pupils in 44 schools since 2017.

AREAS OF WORK

SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS (SDGs)

- CLIMATE ACTION
- LIFE BELOW WATER
- LIFE ON LAND





Grupo Jaragua

Activities and field work of Grupo Jaragua, Dominican Republic. Photos: Grupo Jaragua

The Consorcio Ambiental Dominicano (CAD) brings together influential environmental NGOs and the government agency MIMARENA and provides an effective venue for collaborating in the development and implementation of conservation plans, strategies and actions.

CAD also leads its own conservation projects such as the [Two Worlds - One Bird](#) venture that created the first private PA in the DR with the objective of conserving the wintering grounds of the migratory Bicknell's thrush.

In this report period, CAD consolidated the long-term sustainability of the project by aggregating more private land to the [private PA \(Reserva Privada Zorzal\)](#), used earned carbon credits to compensate landowners for environmental services, reduced habitat fragmentation, and achieved connectivity through a biological corridor that links two separate PAs.



Planting of macadamia where it was previously pasture. Planting trees in the Zorzal Reserve.

Thanks to this collaboration around 400 hectares were regenerated and over 100,000 trees planted.

CAD has been also active in getting stakeholders working together to reduce the impacts of climate change while developing sustainable alternative livelihoods. A good example is the recent programme «Un Futuro por la Sierra», in which CAD brought together the German development agency GIZ, the private sector, and more than 200 microenterprises. Thanks to this collaboration around 400 hectares were regenerated and over 100,000 trees planted.



Beekeeping course for macadamia producers.



Community member filtering the essential oil from the Ozua for processing into medicinal products.

AREAS OF WORK

SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS (SDGs)

- NO POVERTY
- SUSTAINABLE CITIES AND COMMUNITIES
- CLIMATE ACTION
- LIFE ON LAND





Consortio Ambiental Dominicano (CAD)

1, 2, 3. Water harvesting workshop for macadamia producers with the construction of low-cost water reservoirs for agriculture
 4. Jury of the National Honey Competition | 5. Field day at the Zorzal Reserve with local university students.



Instituto de Derecho Ambiental de la República Dominicana (IDARD) a new CRC member and heads the [international Blue Flag programme](#) in the DR in partnership with MIMARENA and many Dominican private sector initiatives. IDARD promotes the conservation of key species and marine ecosystems such as mangroves, seagrass beds and coral reefs through the release of marine turtles into their natural marine habitats, mangrove reforestation and monitoring of coral reefs.

Between 2017 and 2019 IDARD planted more than 407,000 endemic trees and plants, contributing to coastal restoration and climate change mitigation.

IDARD promotes the conservation of key species and marine ecosystems such as mangroves, seagrass beds and coral reefs.

AREAS OF WORK

SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS (SDGs)

- LIFE BELOW WATER
- LIFE ON LAND



Minister of Environment and Natural Resources, Orlando Jorge Mera on the mangrove planting day, held with the support of IDARD.



Sea Turtle Rescue and Reintroduction Days in coordination with the National Aquarium of the Dominican Republic.



Fundacion Sur Futuro (FSF) is non-profit organization that has made a mark in the DR by promoting the development and social welfare of vulnerable communities, working to reduce poverty and marginalization through the development of social, natural and productive capital, and resilience to the effects and impacts of climate change, as well as supporting the sustainable use of the environment and natural resources. FSF facilitates collaboration and forms alliances between public, private and community actors at all levels to break the vicious circle of poverty and environmental degradation.



Plant nursery, Fundación Sur Futuro

Good examples are [The Master Plan for the Sustainable Management and Integrated Water Management of the Los Baos River Micro-Basin](#), funded by AECID, and [Increasing the Resilience of Women of Altamira Community to the Effects and Impacts of Climate Change Including a Gender Perspective](#), in which FSF focuses on rural women and increasing their resilience to climate change through training and implementation of adaptation measures for their crops to ensure their food security. In parallel, FSF works with the private sector, for instance, in the A Tree for the World Project, in which firms undertake to reforest agreed sites.

In 2018, FSF collaborated in the preparation of the [National Gender and Climate Change Plan \(PAGCC-RD\)](#) with the support of the



Increasing the resilience of Altamira's women to the effects of climate change with gender-sensitive approach – Sur Futuro Clima Camp - National Gender and Climate Change (PAGCC-RD) workshop

FSF facilitates collaboration and forms alliances between public, private and community actors at all levels to break the vicious circle of poverty and environmental degradation.



Clima Camp - National Gender and Climate Change (PAGCC-RD) workshop

IUCN Global Gender Office. In the same year, FSF gained observer status at the GCF and NFCCC and has been part of the last four Dominican COP delegations at the NFCCC. As an agent of change and with an eye on buy-in by youngsters, FSF developed the Dominican Forum on Climate Change, a web platform



Launch of the project in the Parque Nacional Lago Enriquillo. Sur Futuro

hosted by INTEC on its Climate Change Observatory, as a meeting place for non-governmental social actors to conserve natural resources, and in partnership with ITLA FSF implemented the [CLIMATHON](#), a youth-focused climate change sensitization campaign.

Since 2019, FSF has a seat on the High Level Committee on Climate Change, and in mid-2020, in partnership with Fondo MARENA and MIMARENA, initiated a project to promote climate resilience through better management and sustainable livelihoods in [Lake Enriquillo National Park and surrounding communities](#), with funding from BIOPAMA.

With respect to protecting endangered endemic species, in collaboration with MI-

MARENA, FSF initiated the [Management of the Upper Basins of the Sabana Yegua Dam project](#), in which every year, 1.5 million plants, mainly creole pine (*Pinus occidentalis*) are grown from seeds collected by community brigades, nurtured in co-managed nurseries and planted to regenerate degraded forests in water catchments.

AREAS OF WORK

SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS (SDGs)

- NO POVERTY
- GENDER EQUALITY
- REDUCED INEQUALITIES
- SUSTAINABLE CITIES AND COMMUNITIES
- PARTNERSHIPS FOR THE GOALS



Minister of Environment and Natural Resources, Orlando Jorge Mera, at Lago Enriquillo, in the launch of the project. Parque Nacional Lago Enriquillo. Sur Futuro



The Centro para la Conservación y Ecodesarrollo de la Bahía de Samaná y su Entorno (CEBSE)

focuses on the conservation and ecological development in the Bay of Samaná and its surrounding areas. It collaborates with international partners and IUCN members in supporting MIMARENA with the management system of fisheries reserves in Samaná Bay. It also monitors and protects endangered species such as manatees, humpback whales, and sea turtles. In 2019, it published a [humpback whale catalogue](#) and launched the [Samana Whale Watcher](#) app, a citizen science tool for monitoring marine mammals. In 2021 it published an updated version of the Samaná Humpback Whale Watching Regulations.

As part of its reef education and restoration programme, CEBSE manages three coral nurseries and implements at least two coral transplant events per year at selected sites.

Since [the programme](#) was initiated in 2015, eighteen youngsters, including 1 woman were trained as open water divers. Three of them also trained as scientific and rescue divers. From 2017 to 2019, CEBSE and partners restored 104 hectares of mangroves in the Bajo Yuna National Park, planting 9,455 white mangrove, 4,584 black mangrove, and 157,180 red mangrove trees. In 2020, as part of its mangrove restoration programme, it created 21.56 hectares of core zones and restored 142.77 hectares of mangrove forest in buffer zones. CEBSE prepared a PA management plan, integrating local businesswomen and youngsters in sustainable business initiatives. CEBSE is a member of the Dominican Republic RAMSAR Committee and sits on the Joint Management Committee of Mangroves of the Bajo Yuna National Park and on the



Coral nursery off Cayo Farola. Photo: CEBSE

Whale Watching Management Committee for the Marine Mammals Sanctuary of DR.

Fundación Progressio

In 2017-2018, **Fundación Progressio**, in partnership with the National Botanic Gardens of DR and with the collaboration of MIMARENA, developed an integrated conservation action plan for five threatened endemic magnolia species. Its implementation included field surveys in different regions, onsite collection, nursery production and planting of over 3,009 saplings in their natural habitats. As some of the species were once endemic to Haiti, which occupies the western part of the island of Hispaniola, since 2018 the Progressio Foundation collaborates with the Haitian Audubon Society for the reproduction of the *Magnolia ekmanii* in [Grand Bois, Haiti](#). A small nursery was established and a technician from the Haitian Audubon Society was trained in reproducing magnolias so that this species will once again be found in this part of the island.

AREAS OF WORK

SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS (SDGs)

- CLIMATE ACTION
- LIFE BELOW WATER
- LIFE ON LAND





**Centro para la Conservación
y Ecodesarrollo de la Bahía de
Samaná y su Entorno (CEBSE)**

Coral nursery off Cayo Farola. Photo: CEBSE

HAITI

Fondation pour la Protection de la Biodiversité Marine (Fo-ProBiM) is an NGO that focuses on the protection of Haiti's marine biodiversity and the only IUCN member in this country. FoProBiM signed [Haiti's first co-management agreement](#) with the National Protected Areas Agency (ANAP) in January 2020. The agreement consolidates FoProBiM's collaboration with the ANAP in all of Haiti's MPAs and the [Three Bays National Park \(3Bays MPA\)](#) in particular, allowing more efficient monitoring, management and protection of Haiti's coastal and marine resources. FoProBiM successfully acquired continuation funding from the Whitley Fund for Nature (WFN) to expand and strengthen its activities with coastal communities in the 3Bays MPA. In addition, they acquired a grant from the Jewish Community Federation and Endowment Fund (JCF) to help them engage local communities within the 3Bays MPA and to achieve the objectives of the recently developed management plan.



J. Wiener with mangrove seedling in bamboo basket, Haiti

As part of the Powering Innovations in Civil Society and Enterprises for Sustainability in the Caribbean ([PISCES](#)) project, FoProBiM is elaborating a case study (based on their recent activities) to improve the knowledge-base on innovations and best practices, and to strengthen conservation, restoration, and sustainable use of coastal and marine resources in MPAs among CSOs and their partners. This is a partnership with CANARI and other entities in the 10 PISCES countries.

FoProBiM joined the [Global Program on Marine Litter \(GPML\)](#) a multi-stakeholder partnership that provides a unique mechanism to protect the global marine environment, human well-being and animal welfare by addressing the global problem of marine litter. To advance SDG 4 FoProBiM created a new educational mangrove poster to highlight the critical role mangroves play in stabilizing coastlines, providing habitats for fish and bird species, sequestering carbon, and protecting coastal communities from storms. With the same outlook, FoProBiM produced new educational marine turtle posters in Creole to raise awareness of the plight of these beautiful and endangered species. The posters describe marine turtle life cycles, primary predators, food sources, habitats, and how communities can help protect them. These posters are distributed to schools, coastal community associations, fishers' cooperatives, government offices, and anywhere else they may be of use in promoting the protection of these important ecosystems.

AREAS OF WORK

SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS (SDGs)

- CLIMATE ACTION
- LIFE BELOW WATER
- LIFE ON LAND





Fondation pour la Protection de la Biodiversité Marine (FoProBiM)

1. Mangrove replanting Haiti | 2. Working to fill biodegradable plant pots | 3-4. Red mangrove nursery in development

Mangwòn

Kisa yo ye? Ki jan pou n pwoteje yo?

Mangwòn se yon ekosistèm ki fòme ak yon pakèt pye bwa ou jwenn ki grandi bò lanmè, espesyalman nan zòn kote lanmè a moute desann selon lè lanmè a plen oubyen lanmè bas (mare). Pakèt pye bwa sa yo leve bò lanmè a nan kote ki gen labou. Mangwòn lan fèt ak yon kalte pye bwa ke yo rele Paletiyve, Mang, oubyen Mangwòn.



Mangwòn yo gen anpil enpòtans!

- Yo bay anpil lòt espès kote pou yo grandi ak rete (pwason, krab, zwit, zwazo, elatriye).
- Yo bay kèk zwazo kote pou yo fè nich yo.
- Yo kenbe tè ki ap vanse ki ta pral pèdi nan lanmè a.
- Yo pwoteje zòn kot yo kont gwo vag ki ta ka vin sou yo lè gen yon katastwòf natirèl (siklon, sounami, elatriye...).
- Yo filtre dlo yo ak debarase yo de polyan ki ladan yo. Konsa li evite polyan sa yo al degrade lòt ekosistèm (zèb lanmè, resif, gwo lanmè, elatriye).
- Yo ede nan netwaye lè ke nou ap respire nan mete bon jan oksijèn ladan li.
- Yo estime 90% nan pwason ki peche an Ayiti depann de ekosistèm mangwòn la pou omwen yon pati nan lavi yo (ant ze, lav, jivenil, ak pwason adilt).

Ki divès kalte mangwòn nou genyen nan peyi a?

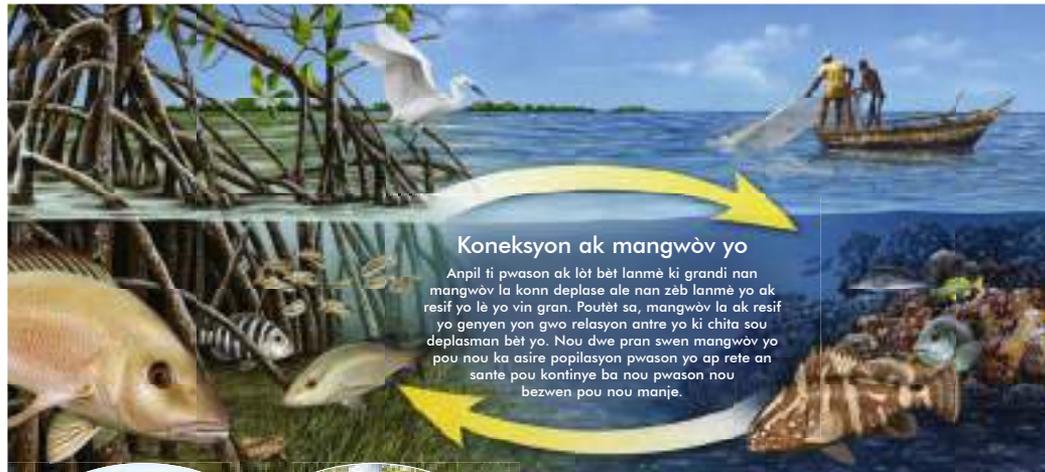
Genyen kat espès mangwòn nan peyi Ayiti. Se Mangwòn Wouj, Mangwòn Nwa, Mangwòn Blan, ak Mangwòn gri.

Ki kote nou jwenn mangwòn?

Mòd forè sa yo, nou ka jwenn yo bò lanmè oubyen bò lak dlo sae oubyen semat nan tout zòn kote ki fè cho sou latè (Zòn Twopikal ak Sibtwopikal). Kidonk nan tout peyi ki gen lanmè twopikal, nou ka jwenn li bò lanmè a. Pou mangwòn ka grandi byen fòk li jwenn yon ti labou pou li ka pose rasin li. Fòk nou ba li chans pou li ka pouse!

Kisa lalwa di sou sa?

- Leta ayisyen rekonèt ke se li ki pou pwoteje ayisyen kont katastwòf natirèl. Li rekonèt ke li dwe pran bon jan mezi pou pwoteje anvivwòmnan sou tè pa leta tankou tè prive. Li rekonèt tou ke lajan zòn kot yo chita sou mangwòn ki nan zòn sa yo.
- Se pou sa ke li deside, nan jou ki te 10 Jiyè 2013, ke:
- Li entèdi pou moun koupe, vann oubyen achte, ni konstwi ak bwa mangwòn la.
 - Li entèdi pou moun antre pou chase, ni peche andedan mangwòn yo.
 - Jij de pè, Ajan ki nan Kò Siveyans Anvivoanmantal, Ajan Lapolis, ak Ajan Minisipal se moun ki gen dwa fè konsta epi arete yon moun ki pa respekte lwa sa yo.
 - Si yo jwenn yon moun ap pote nan kamyon li bwa mangwòn, kamyon an ap konfiske epi kondiktè a arete. Y ap kenbe lisans chofè a pou 3 lane epi mete chofè a nan prizòn.
 - Moun yo bare k ap koupe mangwòn ap gen pou peye yon amann epitou li ka pran prizòn!



Koneksyon ak mangwòn yo

Anpil ti pwason ak lòt bèt lanmè ki grandi nan mangwòn la konn deplase ale nan zèb lanmè yo ak resif yo lè yo vin gran. Poutèt sa, mangwòn la ak resif yo genyen yon gwo relasyon antre yo ki chita sou deplasman bèt yo. Nou dwe pran swen mangwòn yo pou nou ka asire popilasyon pwason yo ap rete an sante pou kontinye ba nou pwason nou bezwen pou nou manje.

Ki jan nou ka ede pwoteje Mangwòn peyi a?

- Pa koupe ni dechouke pye mangwòn.
- Pa fè chabon ak pye mangwòn yo!
- Pa jete fatra nan lanmè a.
- Pa kanpe sou mangwòn yo.
- Pa mare kannòt nou nan mangwòn yo.
- Pa lage lwil ak lòt bagay ki mwizib pou anvivwòmnan an nan lanmè a.
- Aprann tout sa nou kapab sou mangwòn pou ou ka pwoteje yo.
- Pa mare bèt nan mangwòn yo.
- Plante pyebwa tout kote pou tè ak labou pa desann nan lanmè a pou yo toufe ak resif yo.
- Enfòmè tout moun sou enpòtans mangwòn genyen nan anvivwòmnan an.



Plantasyon mangwòn wouj



Aktivite plante mangwòn

Droits d'auteur © 2020 Dawn Witherington

CUBA

Cuba is located at the meeting point of three major bodies of water that marine ecosystems and migratory species rely on to survive. This is where the [Fundación Antonio Núñez Jiménez \(FANJ\)](#) plays a major role in the country's conservation. In the report period FANJ signed an agreement with The Nature Conservancy (TNC) and collaborated with the Wildlife Conservation Society (WCS), World Wildlife Fund (WWF), Environmental Defense Fund (EDF), and ORMACC amongst [others](#). They worked closely with state agencies to present proposals for the designation of 5 new PAs (including one to protect the critically endangered subspecies of the Cuban land snail [Polymita sulphurosa](#)), initiate comanagement schemes and support the implementation of the [Caribbean Biological Corridor](#).

FANJ is also very active in organising international conservation events, such a [Cubambiente](#), and is the main Cuban partner for [CCambio](#), an on-going biodiversity and climate change project funded by the European Union



TNC Collaboration Agreement by the Fundación Antonio Núñez Jiménez de la Naturaleza y el Hombre



Crocodile. Photo: Gustavo Sosa

Another achievement was developing and then holding the BiodiverCity Day at the Monte Barreto Ecological Park (PECMB) in Havana in collaboration with the Cuban Society of Zoology and the Cuban Society of Botany and Geography. This involved a large team of scientists sampling the fauna and floristic richness of that urban park, an important biological corridor in the city of Havana, and in the process identifying a pair of migratory birds as dangerous alien invaders.



Panel at the Environment Convention. Photo: Maikel Cáceres

AREAS OF WORK

SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS (SDGs)

- CLIMATE ACTION
- LIFE BELOW WATER
- LIFE ON LAND





CUBA - Fundación Antonio Núñez J. (FANJ)

1. Turtles. Photo: Yanet Forneiro Martín-Viaña | 2. Polymita sulphurosa. Photo: FANJ
 3 and 4. TNC Collaboration Agreement with FANJ | 5. Mount Barreto, FANJ

PUERTO RICO

Puerto Rico is the third largest island in the Caribbean and home to [Para la Naturaleza \(PLN\)](#), whose direct conservation efforts, reforestation/restoration activities, promotion of agroecology and efficient land use policies are aimed at SDGs 6, 14 and 15. Between 2016-2020 PLN created 10 [new PAs](#) and one conservation easement, thereby helping to [conserve KBAs and habitat](#) for vulnerable or threatened amphibians and reptiles, including the guajón (*Eleutherodactylus cooki*), melodious (*Eleutherodactylus wightmanae*), bronze coquis (*Eleutherodactylus richmondi*) and the Puerto Rican boa (*Chilabothrus inornatus*).

PLN is engaged in several ongoing restoration projects that conserve fish and wildlife habitat, including migratory bird sites and wetlan

PLN successfully expanded the protection of KBAs and restored habitats in PAs in collaboration with private partners. In the wake of massive-scale damage wrecked by hurricane Maria in 2017, PLN expanded its [reforestation programme](#) with the goal of adding 750,000 native, rare, and endemic trees to increase native species diversity.



Community center.

To support this programme, they developed a smartphone app that allows users to learn about the characteristics of the tree species available at



Vernonia proctorii

PLN's tree nurseries; whether or not they are appropriate to plant in certain locations and records the location of each planting to help track the number and site of planted trees.



Solar panels, Community center.

By developing science-based policy initiatives, PLN actively promotes strategic conservation through land use and special zoning plans in areas of high ecological value in a landscape-level approach to conservation.

Another approach to conserving and valuing nature that PLN implements is based on informal education that promotes [citizen science](#) and ecosystem management programmes and events to produce tangible biodiversity conservation results and transform citizens into active stewards of nature. In the report period PLN in collaboration with



the Arecibeño Committee for the Conservation of Sea Turtles collects data for the science-led management and protection of marine turtles that visit the beaches of the [Hacienda La Esperanza Natural Reserve](#).

AREAS OF WORK

SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS (SDGs)

- CLEAN WATER AND SANITATION
- LIFE BELOW WATER
- LIFE ON LAND



Para la Naturaleza (PLN)

1. Efrén Robles, CEO of Frutos del Guacabo | 2. Special visit supporting planting project | 3. Planting native trees in Manatí | 4. Restoration of the coastal forest in Manatí



Para la Naturaleza (PLN)

- 1. Tasting products from Frutos del Guacabo | 2. Sighting of Venezuelan tropical (Icterus icterus) | 3. María Cristina, environmental interpreter, feeding goats
- 4 and 6. Goat milking workshop at Frutos del Guacabo | 5. Tour along the coast of Hacienda La Esperanza, Manatí | 7 and 8. Snack with agro-ecological products

JAMAICA

As an executive body the responsibility of the [National Environment and Planning Agency \(NEPA\)](#) includes the conservation and protection of natural resources and environmental management. Therefore, NEPA plays a key role in valuing and conserving nature in Jamaica, notching up some laudable successes. In the report period NEPA restored one of the [Winns Morass wetlands](#) for which it also developed the draft management plan.

They also signed co-management agreements for the management of the [Portland Bight Protected Area](#) and [Great Goat Island](#); completed management plans for the Coral Spring-Mountain Spring Protected Area and Negril Marine Park; and revised the management plans for the Mason River Protected Area and Palisadoes-Port Royal Protected Area. In addition, NEPA commenced the designation process for two new PAs, conducted annual monitoring and produced population reports for the Jamaican iguana (*Cyclura collei*), Jamaican boa (*Epicrates subflavus*) and American crocodile (*Crocodylus acutus*) and carried out sea turtle nesting site conservation activities.

Furthermore, NEPA implemented a variety of species conservation projects, initiating the Action Plan for Corals and Reefs, which



Cyatheaceae family in which 28 species and hybrids has been documented in Jamaica; 25 of which are classified in the *Cyathea* genus - NEPA

included creating coral reef nurseries, participated in the World Bank's Program on Forests (PROFOR) and commenced the Integrating Water, Land and Ecosystems Management in the Caribbean Small Island Developing States (IWECo) project. NEPA also produced a series of reports, including the [Sixth National Report for the Convention on Biological Diversity](#), the 2017 State of the Environment (SOE) report, annual reports for the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES), and the Ramsar National Report to COP 13 (13th Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals)

[The Environmental Foundation of Jamaica \(EFJ\)](#) and its arm the Forest Conservation Fund (FCF) promote the conservation and sustainable management of some of Jamaica's PAs. EFJ uses debt for nature funds and issues calls for proposals for conservation projects.



Butterfly fish. Jamaica.

AREAS OF WORK

SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS (SDGs)

- CLIMATE ACTION
- LIFE BELOW WATER
- LIFE ON LAND
- PARTNERSHIPS FOR THE GOALS



13



14



15



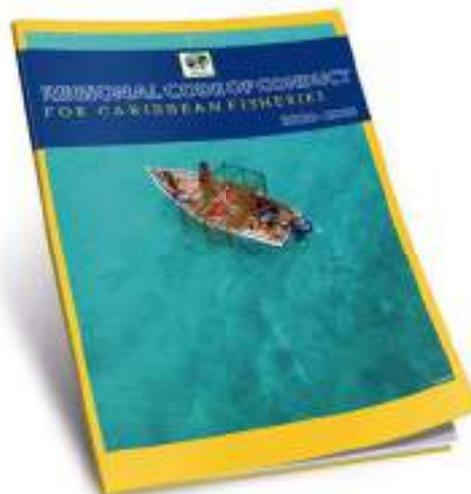
17

BARBADOS

The Centre for Resource Management and Environmental Studies (CERMES)

partnered with other regional institutions, notably the [Caribbean Network of Fisherfolk Organisations \(CNFO\)](#), to execute the Global Environment Fund project Developing Organisational Capacity for Ecosystem Stewardship and Livelihoods in Caribbean Small-Scale Fisheries (StewardFish) aimed at promoting an Ecosystem Approach to Fisheries (EAF). The project empowers fisherfolk to engage in resource management and decision making in the islands Antigua and Barbuda, Barbados, Belize, Guyana, Jamaica, Saint Lucia, and St. Vincent and the Grenadines. The key success was developing the [Regional Code of Conduct for Caribbean Fisheries](#) in an iterative stakeholder-consulting process. On behalf of The University of the West Indies (UWI), [CERMES](#) organised and hosted two Sargassum Symposia (2015 and 2018), engaging with leading natural and social scientists from across UWI as well as with key stakeholders in the Caribbean's tourism, fisheries and business sectors to discuss the massive-scale invasion of sargassum seaweed on the region's beaches and threatening key economic sectors.

Since 2018, CERMES has been testing and comparing the use of 'off-the-shelf' recreational drones equipped with cameras, together with a drone flight planning mobile application and [cloud-based photogrammetry](#) mapping software, for rapidly monitoring and detecting sargassum remotely. In response to the massive-scale bloom and Caribbean-wide invasion of sargassum seaweed in recent years, CERMES and other collaborators have not only produced the Sargassum Outlook Bulletin as part of the Climate Change Adaption in the Eastern Caribbean Fisheries Sector ([CC4FISH](#)) project of the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) and the Global Environment Facility (GEF), but also a



Regional Code of Conduct for Caribbean Fisheries

[Best practice guide for Caribbean fishers coping with sargassum influx events](#) and a [Sargassum user guide for Caribbean researchers, entrepreneurs and policy makers](#).

In addition, CERMES is now implementing [SargAdapt](#) – Adapting to a new reality: Managing responses to influxes of sargassum seaweed in the Eastern Caribbean – a project worth USD 2m, supported by the Caribbean Biodiversity Fund Ecosystem based Adaptation Facility and funded by the International Climate Initiative (IKI), with the goal to reduce the impacts of and improve adaptation to sargassum influxes in the Eastern Caribbean.

With respect to [SocMon Caribbean](#), UWI-CERMES has been assisting the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) with coordination of the of the Global Socio-economic Monitoring for Coastal Management Initiative through a series of projects (SocMon Global I-IV) with a combined value of USD 495,000 and funded by the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation (NFWF).

AREAS OF WORK

SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS (SDGs)

- CLIMATE ACTION
- LIFE BELOW WATER



“

(...) Its eastern shore features a near-pristine, well-developed and still growing, self-sustaining coral reef system that supports an enormous diversity of marine organisms.



ECOLOGICAL IMPORTANCE OF THE INSULAR CARIBBEAN REGION

CARIBBEAN ENDEMISM

100%  189 AMPHIBIANS

95%  520 REPTILES

26%  564 BIRDS

74%  69 MAMMALS

72%  111,000 PLANT SPECIES

Acropora cervicornis, one of the most abundant corals in the Caribbean, now endangered. Staghorn corals provide complex habitat for fish and other coral reef organisms - in the Dutch Caribbean Sea - DNCA



**Dutch Caribbean,
Curaçao & Bonaire**

- 1. Brown pelican (*Pelecanus occidentalis*)
 - 2. American flamingo (*Phoenicopterus ruber*)
 - 3. Blau blau hagedis (*Cnemidophorus Murinus Ruthveni*) | 4. Royal tern (*Thalasseus maximus*) | 5. Gulf fritillary or passion butterfly (*Agraulis vanillae*)
 - 6. Black-necked stilt (*Himantopus mexicanus*) | 7. Mangroves, Lac Bay.
- All photos by Hans Smulders

DUTCH CARIBBEAN - CURAÇAO & BONAIRE

CARMABI Foundation - The Caribbean Research and Management of Biodiversity is active in and around the island of Curaçao in the Dutch Caribbean and has accomplished a major milestone by having the uninhabited offshore [Klein Curaçao island](#) designated as a Wetland of International Importance (Ramsar Site no. 2355). Its eastern shore features a near-pristine, well-developed and still growing, self-sustaining coral reef system that supports an enormous diversity of marine organisms. This wetland has also been identified as an [IBA](#) – providing a nesting site for least terns – while its shores are used seasonally by large numbers of migratory waders. Hawksbill, loggerhead and green sea turtles nest on the island's beaches.

A success story is in the making with the pending creation of a new PA, namely the Mangrove Park in Otrobanda. Conserving nature through good PA management depends on good science and that is what CARMABI does well.



Green iguana or American iguana or Common green iguana (*Iguana iguana*). Photo: Hans Smulders



Osprey or Western osprey (*Pandion haliaetus*). Photo: Hans Smulders

2019 saw the continuation and expansion of CARMABI's sea turtle nesting programme in the [Shete Boka National Park](#), and several monitoring programmes were started in Christoffel Park. The composition of all plant communities throughout Christoffel Park was reassessed in 2019 and compared with a similar study from 1985 so that the changes in vegetation composition in the park could be quantified over a ~40-year period. These helped identify changes and inform park management, especially in light of the removal of herbivores (mostly goats) from the park. The sea turtle programme was used to train new rangers and volunteers to further increase their monitoring capacity.



Oranje troepiaal (*Icterus icterus ridgwayi*). Photo: Hans Smulders

CARMABI was consulted in 2019 on numerous occasions on a wide range of nature-related topics ranging from biological inventories of the marine and terrestrial environments of Curaçao and the Caribbean region, as well as development of nature management plans. They compiled a historical overview of changes to fish stocks by identifying



Crested caracara (*Caracara cheriway*). Photo: Hans Smulders

changes in marine life, to help inform the management of artisanal fishing practices.

CARMABI is a member of the Dutch Caribbean Nature Alliance (DCNA), which coordinates, provides support, and finances PA management organizations on all 6 islands in the Dutch Caribbean.

This reinforces conservation activities in PAs and for species in and around these islands. As a network the DCNA sits on the marine protected and species working groups of the Specially Protected Areas and Wildlife (SPAW) protocol to enhance conservation in the region. A major achievement of DCNA was the successful inclusion of hammerhead,

silky shark, manta ray and oceanic white-tip shark species in the annexes of the SPAW protocol. DCNA is also behind the Dutch Caribbean Biodiversity Database (DCBD), a biodiversity web platform, which they fund and staff, to inform decision-makers in policy and management matters on the state and trends of nature. In 2019 a team of international experts reviewed the platform, noting that it is «used by national and regional policy makers, it simplifies tasks of local management and rapporteurs, and it is continuously being adapted to changing needs and insight,» thereby confirming the value of the database.

DCNA recently released its Disaster Risk Mitigation Manual to be used by park management organizations to lessen the impacts of weather-related disasters on protected areas and which is also a useful tool for all CRC members.

AREAS OF WORK

SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS (SDGs)

- CLIMATE ACTION
- LIFE BELOW WATER
- LIFE ON LAND



Yellow-shouldered Amazon Parrots (*Amazona barbadensis*). Photo: Hans Smulders



Caribbean hermit crab (*Coenobita clypeatus*). Photo: Hans Smulders

TURKS AND CAICOS

The Turks and Caicos Reef Fund (TCRF) is the only active environmental NGO in these islands and the latest member to join the CRC. In 2016, in the wake of serious [hurricane damage to the coral reefs](#) in the archipelago, TCRF partnered with Wageningen Marine Research from the Netherlands in a 3-year EU-funded [coral rescue project called RESQ](#) (Restoration of Ecosystem Services and Coral Reef Quality) to test a new type of Elkhorn (*Acropora palmata*) and Staghorn (*A. cervicornis*) nursery. In 2018 [TCRF](#) completed a comprehensive underwater survey of the pristine coral reefs of the coast of East Caicos to help the Department of Environment and Coastal Resources (DECR) develop a management plan for the area.



Don Stark working in the coral nursery

TCRF [completed a project](#), funded by the Cornell University Sustainable Asset Management Program (STAMP), which focused on identifying eco-tourism business opportunities for South Caicos residents and helped five individuals prepare preliminary business plans for new eco-tourism ventures on South Caicos, thereby contributing to SDG 11.



Surveying the Reefs of East Caicos

TCRF partnered with Wageningen Marine Research from the Netherlands in a 3-year EU-funded coral rescue project called RESQ (Restoration of Ecosystem Services and Coral Reef Quality)

AREAS OF WORK

SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS (SDGs)

- SUSTAINABLE CITIES AND COMMUNITIES
- CLIMATE ACTION
- LIFE BELOW WATER



South Caicos Residents Working to Identify potential Eco-Tourism Sites



UW lanscape diver. Photo: NEPA, Jamaica

SAINT LUCIA

The Saint Lucia National Trust (SLNT) uses an integrated ridge to reef approach to manage terrestrial, coastal and marine ecosystems, and implements sustainable actions to conserve key and endemic species within the various ecosystems and KBAs, thereby supporting SDGs 6, 14 and 15. In this way SLNT can boast an impressive range of successes during the report period, with only space here to mention but a few.

In the framework of the [Climate Resilient Eastern Caribbean Marine Management Area Network \(ECMMAN\)](#) project, SLNT successfully implemented invasive species control measures on the offshore islands of Praslin and Maria Major, thereby protecting endemic species such as the Saint Lucia racer and Saint Lucia whiptail lizards, while the marine turtle monitoring programme led to a marked decrease in related illegal activities. In collaboration with the AuPicon Charcoal Farmers and Agricultural Produces (ACAPG) and other community groups, SLNT halted the die-back of mangroves in Makôté Mangrove Forest by propagating and planting mangrove trees and is on the cusp of concluding a co-management agreement for the Makôté Mangrove.

In collaboration with multiple international, regional and local partners (USAID, TNC, CaMPAM, OAS, UNEP-CEP SPAW, GCFI, GEF-



Ma kote mangrove

SGP, FFI and Durrell – see List of Abbreviations for details) SLNT developed and implemented communication and outreach materials on endemic species. It developed the «mainland island» concept to create an area on Saint Lucia free from harmful invasive alien pests. The [SLNT](#) supported livelihood opportunities in apiculture, and the cultivation and production of sea moss and by-products. At the PA management level, SLNT drafted a management and a sustainable finance plan for the Pointe Sable Environment Protection Area.

AREAS OF WORK

SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS (SDGs)

- CLEAN WATER AND SANITATION
- LIFE BELOW WATER
- LIFE ON LAND



Male Whiptail



Maria Major



Juvenile Scaly Naped Pigeon





The Bahamas

- 1. Ethan's Tower at the Leon Levy Native Plant Preserve | 2. Mangroves at BFPNP Creeks |
- 3. Kirtland's Warble (*Setophaga kirtlandii*) | 4. Scott - Snake Workshop | 5. Mooring Field, ECLSP
- 6. Moriah Harbour Cay National Park Sign | 7. Mangroves at BFPNP Creeks.

All photos provided by BNT.

THE BAHAMAS

The Bahamas National Trust (BNT) works with government agencies to implement strategies through the [Integrated Coastal Zone Management Project \(ICZM\)](#) to strengthen natural systems in Andros and Grand Bahama. Coastal PAs and MPAs are the first defence against hurricanes. In October 2018 the [Exuma Cays Land and Sea Park](#) was recognized as a Platinum Global Ocean Refuge by the Global Ocean Refuge System (GLORES), which safeguards marine biodiversity around the world by accelerating the rate of MPA implementation and improving the quality of MPAs.

Awareness is an important aspect of conservation. Since 2018, BNT has been hosting [snake workshops](#) aimed at shifting attitudes to snakes, one of the most persecuted animals in The Bahamas. Getting people to understand why they should not harm them is the first step in the fight to protect snake populations.

In 2018 BNT signed its first-ever co-management agreement with the San Salvador Living Jewels (SSLJ) Foundation, a grass-roots conservation organization established to promote awareness of local flora and fauna. Under the agreement, BNT will create and co-manage national parks on and around the island of San Salvador.

BNT carried out 390 fish surveys, 234 benthic surveys and 78 coral surveys to gain an overview of the health of the marine environment and update management plans. BNT partnered with TNC and Bahamas Reef Environment Education Foundation (BREEF) to develop and present to the

Bahamas government the 20 x 20 White Paper: Marine Protection Plan, that seeks to conserve 43 areas covering more than 3,000 hectares of important marine resources to achieve the country's 20 x 20 MPAs goal.

After engaging with local users, business owners, partners and other stakeholders, the BNT completed the 10-year management plan for the Moriah Harbour Cay National Park in Exuma. Together with conservation partners, BNT successfully restored the mangroves in Bonefish Pond National Park.

In April 2019, the Leon Levy Native Plant Preserve became the first institution in The Bahamas to be designated as an accredited Botanic Garden by Botanic Gardens Conservation International. The same year, the Kirtland's warbler was taken off the endangered migratory species list, another milestone after 40-years of global conservation efforts, including more than 20 years of hard work by BNT.

Today there are more than 2,000 Kirtland's warbler breeding pairs. [BNT](#) is also active in conserving coral ecosystems by out-planting coral fragments, surveying and monitoring coral reefs.

AREAS OF WORK

SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS (SDGs)

- CLIMATE ACTION
- LIFE BELOW WATER





“

CRC members cooperate and collaborate outside the framework of the IUCN while always aligning their work with the programmes, vision and mission of the IUCN, as well as with the United Nations Strategic Development Goals (SDGs)».

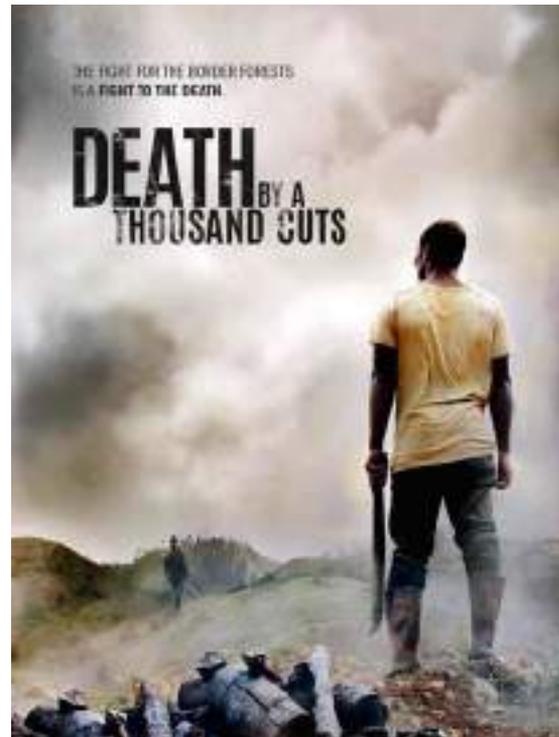
Coral fish macro. Photo: NEPA, Jamaica



PERSONAL AWARDS AND INDIVIDUAL CONTRIBUTIONS

The members of the CRC are made up of dedicated individuals. Some have made a name for themselves through the valuable work they do and being recipients of prestigious awards for their achievements in conservation and protecting biodiversity, while others stand out as activists and have made a big impact in their own countries and abroad.

2016 saw the release of an alarming documentary, «Death by a Thousand Cuts». Dr. Yolanda León, president of Grupo Jaragua, «helps uncover how the lives of Dominicans and Haitians at the border are enveloped in a complex web of relationships» and revealing to a worldwide audience the



Death by a Thousand Cuts poster

brutal reality and danger confronting environmental activists in protecting nature. [See: https://deathbyathousandcutsfilm.com](https://deathbyathousandcutsfilm.com)

In 2018 Executive Director of CEBSE Patricia Lamelas was awarded the Seacology Prize for her work conserving mangroves and raising awareness of the threats to them and how mangrove-protected coastlines can support sustainable livelihoods. [See: https://www.seacology.org/seacology-prize/past-winners/](https://www.seacology.org/seacology-prize/past-winners/)



Executive Director of CEBSE Patricia Lamelas was awarded the Seacology Prize.



FoProBiM's Executive Director, Jean W. Wiener recognised with Knight of the Order of Agricultural Merit.

In July 2018 Jean W. Wiener was recognised for his work in Haiti's fisheries and agricultural sector by being made a Knight of the Order of Agricultural Merit at the recommendation of the French Minister of Agriculture. In 2020 FoProBiM's Executive Director was finally able to collect his medal after many months of delays due to the security situation in Haiti.

See: <https://www.facebook.com/goldmanenvironmentalprize/posts/jean-wiener-haiti-2015-is-knightedon-march-16-2020-jean-wiener-haiti-2015-receiv/10163383288985220/>

In October 2020 The Land Trust Alliance awarded president of Para La Naturaleza Fernando Lloveras San Miguel the distinguished Kingsbury Browne Conservation Leadership Award for PLN's land conservation achievement across Puerto Rico, taking a community-first approach to his

work and helping provide essential services during the hurricane recovery. See: <https://www.landtrustalliance.org/fernando-lloveras-san-miguel-receives-kingsbury-browne-conservation-leadership-award>

Hosted by CARMABI on the Digital Explorer's YouTube Live Channel, The Coral Live programme broadcast 30 interactive educational videos and won the Education Technology industry's biggest award (BETT award). It reached 23 thousand students in 29 countries.

See: <https://www.oceanactionhub.org/coral-live-2018>

<http://www.secure.org/site/our-work/detail/coral-live-teaching-materials.56.html>

<http://www.researchstationcarmabi.org>

CHALLENGES AND OPPORTUNITIES

The insular Caribbean faces many serious and possibly existential threats and challenges. Often large-scale tourism developments and the production of cash-crops for export accelerate the local destruction of natural resources and landscapes. These activities result in economic dependencies at multiple levels in different sectors and are further aggravating the Caribbean's biodiversity hotspot status.

External threats such as the anthropogenic climate crisis are driving severe locally experienced calamities and exacerbating the loss of biodiversity through massive-scale habitat destruction.

It is now understood that recent zoonotic epi- and pandemics (zika, dengue and now COVID-19) are linked to biodiversity and habitat loss. For instance, Inge Andersen, former Director General of the IUCN and now Executive Director of the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) stated, «Destruction of wildlife and the climate crisis is hurting humanity, with COVID-19 a clear warning shot» and she added that «our long-term response must tackle habitat and biodiversity loss». What's more, according to the latest report by the Intergovernmental Science Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services, «Emerging infectious diseases in wildlife,

domestic animals, plants or people can be exacerbated by human activities such as land clearing and habitat fragmentation». This is reiterated by the Global Alliance of Indigenous Peoples, who state that the COVID 19 outbreak was a result of loss of native forests and habitat. All in all, the existential threats represent challenges that need and demand action at global, regional and local levels.

The pandemic is indeed a wakeup call. Apart from the loss of life, the economic, social and mental health repercussions from the immediate cessation of tourism to the Caribbean, curfews and lockdowns, as well as the hard-to-predict fallout of the global economic recession in the short, mid and long term, will impact heavily on livelihoods in the Caribbean.

The members of the CRC are not only very aware, but have also experienced first-hand many of these threats, and implemented pioneering actions and activities to conserve and protect the islands' rich biodiversity heritage. CRC members cooperate and collaborate outside the framework of the IUCN while always aligning their work with the programmes, vision and mission of the IUCN, as well as with the United Nations Strategic Development Goals (SDGs).

The calls for a New Green Deal in the aftermath of the COVID-19 pandemic are reflected,

for instance, in the UNEP's COVID-19 response that involves fiscal stimulus packages. Such packages provide «an opportunity for initiating a transformational and green recovery, with the creation of green jobs and build back better and integrated life-cycle approaches». In this context, Director General Dr. Oberle himself is promoting new ways in which the IUCN can take a lead through, for instance, creating green bonds, with the idea not only of generating revenue streams for the IUCN and its projects and programmes, but of accelerating investment in biodiversity protection and conservation under the banner of nature-based solutions. These developments represent opportunities for the IUCN and the CRC to steer policies at global, regional and national levels.

Another opportunity is highlighted by the effort Dr. Oberle is making to reach out to IUCN members, to hear their concerns and gain support for his new strategic initiatives. Dr. Oberle has recognised the value of national and regional committees, indicated by his early approach to the Global Group – a precursor to meeting individual regional and national committees. CRC had the opportunity to have its first meeting with Dr. Oberle in March 2021, opening up new ways not only to share challenges, but also determine more effectively how best committees (such as CRC) and stakeholders can participate in his new strategic initiatives.

The Covid-19 pandemic has exposed some of the inherent weaknesses in environmental NGOs and in some of our members. Funding and finance are the Achilles heel of many members, often exacerbated by maintaining centralised offices located in expensive cities. Apart from these high costs, key staff largely have no choice but to live and work in these expensive locations, even though most conservation projects are by

default in rural, remote areas. Often salaries are not sufficient to pay the high rents. As a result of measures enacted to combat the transmission of COVID 19, such as curfews, social distancing etc. many offices have had to close, forcing staff to work remotely, frequently under less than optimal conditions. However, this challenging period offers an opportunity to rethink work practices and consider flexible remote working as a viable and potentially more cost-effective option for many environmental NGOs and institutions.

Remote working could, indeed, revolutionise how conservation NGOs work, putting experts closer to the projects and making salaries go a lot further

The new norm is thus accelerating the need to review and reallocate resources, explore new capacity building needs, and learning how to use new communication and collaboration tools. Indeed, while the financial pressure on NGOs during the pandemic exacerbates an age-old problem of how to retain local trained staff in the field, decentralising and remote working could be part of the solution.

Moreover, many donors have a policy of not wanting their grants to go to overheads, like administration or research. So one of the challenges and opportunities facing the CRC is to lobby, for instance, through the Director General, the Secretariat, and with individual donors for a systemic change to donor policies on grant criteria that recognise the value of supporting NGOs in maintaining their infrastructure and expertise as well as ear-marking a percentage of funds for non-project-specific research. Members are often caught in the dilemma of how to fund, for instance, a field study to justify a project proposal.

Another persistent challenge raised by members concerns weighing up the benefits the IUCN provides its members to justify the costs incurred by being part of the Union. For example, the membership contribution in itself is often a serious financial commitment for less financially robust members, a common condition affecting many members in island states around the world. On the other hand, the Director General has even conceded that members' dues partly subsidize IUCN's large project and programme portfolio. To his credit, the Director General has unveiled his strategy to shake up how the IUCN is financed and how to reposition the IUCN, for instance by adding new and scalable income streams.

Thus, hopefully, the IUCN might be better placed to introduce a more nuanced membership dues policy and even be in a position to support members

Therefore, the CRC is keen to support the challenge the Director General has set himself and the IUCN and in driving forward Green Deal investments in projects and programmes to combat climate change, for instance, by sequestering carbon and fortifying coastal defences, such as mangrove, coral and seagrass conservation and renewal, in which IUCN members play a part in design and implementation.

In this context, it is worth re-noting that the achievements and milestones recorded in this report are for the most part the result of members investing their own resources in projects and initiatives without any technical support from the IUCN but which, as this report shows, add to the kudos of the IUCN. In other words, members recognise the overarching role and value of the IUCN and its mission and vision and even though

they are generally under-funded they ensure their projects align with the IUCN Priority Areas. Moreover, in rare instances are members active players in the design and roll-out of regional projects or programmes led by IUCN Regional Offices. Hopefully this report will motivate the IUCN to review how best to involve members in regional initiatives and in the different IUCN Commissions.

In a nutshell, this report maps some of the successes and outcomes of the valuable work carried in the period from 2017 to 2020 by the members of the CRC, showing good examples of how their activities match with the three cornerstones of IUCN's One Programme and the United Nations' SDGs. The members of the CRC are not only proud of the work done but are proactive in tackling the challenges facing the islands of the Caribbean and their people.

LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS AND ACRONYMS

ACAPG	Aupicon Charcoal and Agricultural Producers Group	IDARD	Instituto de Derecho Ambiental de la Republica Dominicana
AECID	Spanish Agency for International Development Cooperation (Spanish initials)	IKI	International Climate Initiative
ANAP	National Agency of Protected Areas (French initials)	INTEC	Instituto Tecnológico de Santo Domingo
BNT	Bahamas National Trust	ITLA	Las Americas Institute of Technology/ Instituto Tecnológico de Las Américas
BREEF	Bahamas Reef Environment Educational Foundation	IUCN	International Union for Conservation of Nature
CAD	Consortio Ambiental Dominicano	IWECO	Integrated Water, Land and Ecosystems Management in Caribbean Small Island Developing States
CaMPAM	Caribbean Marine Protected Areas Management Network and Forum	JCF	Jewish Community Federation and Endowment Fund
CANARI	Caribbean Natural Resources Institute	KBA	Key Biodiversity Area
CARMABI	Caribbean Research and Management of Biodiversity Foundation	MIMARENA	Ministry of Environment and Natural Resources of the Dominican Republic
CC4FISH	Climate Change Adaption in the Eastern Caribbean Fisheries Sector	MPA	Marine Protected Area
GCF	Green Climate Fund	NC	National Committee
CCI	Caribbean Challenge Initiative	NFCCC	United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change
CEBSE	Centro para la Conservación y el Ecodesarrollo de la Bahía de Samaná y su Entorno / Centre for the Conservation and Ecodevelopment in the Bay of Samana and its Surroundings	NEPA	National Environment and Planning Agency
CEPF	Caribbean Ecosystem Partnership Fund	NFWF	National Fish and Wildlife Foundation
CERMES	Centre for Resource Management and Environmental Studies	NGO	Non-governmental organisation
CITES	Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora	NOAA	National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
CNFO	Caribbean Network of Fisherfolk Organisations	OAS	Organization of American States
COP	Conference of the Parties	ORMACC	Regional Office for Mexico, Central America and the Caribbean (of the IUCN –Spanish initials)
CRC	Caribbean Regional Committee	PA	Protected Area
CSO	Civil Society Organisation	PECMB	Monte Barreto Ecological Park
DCBD	Dutch Caribbean Biodiversity Database	PISCES	Civil Society and Enterprises for Sustainability in the Caribbean
DCNA	Dutch Caribbean Nature Alliance	PLN	Para La Naturaleza
DECR	Department of Environment and Coastal Resources	PROFOR	World Bank's Program on Forests
DR	Dominican Republic	RESQ	Restoration of Ecosystem Services and Coral Reef Quality
Durrell	Durrell Wildlife Conservation Trust	SargAdapt	Adapting to a new reality: Managing responses to influxes of sargassum seaweed in the Eastern Caribbean
EAF	Ecosystem Approach to Fisheries	SLNT	Saint Lucia National Trust
ECMMAN	Climate Resilient Eastern Caribbean Marine Management Area Network	SOE	State of the Environment
EDF	Environmental Defense Fund	SPAW	Specially Protected Areas and Wildlife
EFJ	Environmental Foundation of Jamaica	SSLJ	San Salvador Living Jewels
FANJ	Fundación Antonio Núñez Jimenez	STAMP	Cornell University Sustainable Asset Management Program
FAO	Food and Agriculture Organisation	StewardFish	Developing Organisational Capacity for Ecosystem Stewardship and Livelihoods in Caribbean Small-Scale Fisheries
FCF	Forest Conservation Fund	TCRF	Turks and Caicos Reef Fund
FFI	Fauna and Flora International	TNC	The Nature Conservancy
FoProBiM	Fondation pour la Protection de la Biodiversité Marine (Foundation for the Protection of Marine Biodiversity)	UAV	Unmanned Arial Vehicle
FSF	Fundacion Sur Futuro	UNEP-CEP	Caribbean Environment Program of the UN Environment Programme
GCFI	Gulf and Caribbean Fisheries Institute	USAID	United States Agency for International Development
GEF	Global Environment Facility	UWI	University of the West Indies
GEF-SGP	Global Environment Facility - Small Grants Programme	WCS	Wildlife Conservation Society
GJ	Grupo Jaragua	WFN	Whitley Fund for Nature
GLORES	Global Ocean Refuge System	WWF	World Wildlife Fund
GPML	Global Program on Marine Litter	WCEL	IUCN Climate Change Task Force and World Commission on Environmental Law
IBA	Important Bird and Biodiversity Area		
ICZM	Integrated Coastal Zone Management		



IUCN

Comité Regional
del Caribe

Caribbean Regional
Committee

Comité Régional
des Caraïbes

CARIBBEAN REGIONAL COMMITTEE (CRC)



Fundación Antonio Núñez Jiménez
de la Naturaleza y el Hombre



Dutch Caribbean Nature Alliance
Safeguarding nature in the Dutch Caribbean



Saint Lucia
National Trust

