



Workshop Report
October 1 - 5, 2024
Saint Lucia, Caribbean

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BIOPAMA Action Component Workshop

October 1st, 2024

Opening session

Opening remarks from Hyacinth Armstrong-Vaughn, Protected Areas Coordinator, BIOPAMA regional coordinator at the IUCN Regional Office for Mexico, Central America and the Caribbean included an overview of the BIOPAMA programme and the stages of the action component that were implemented in the Caribbean.



Photo 1. Group photo

BIOPAMA Programme

The Biodiversity and Protected Areas Management (BIOPAMA) programme aims to improve the long-term conservation and sustainable use of natural resources in African, Caribbean and Pacific (ACP) countries, in protected areas and surrounding communities.

It is an initiative of the ACP Group of States financed by the European Union's 11th European Development Fund (EDF), jointly implemented by the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) and the Joint Research Centre of the European Commission (JRC) and regional partners.



Figure 1. BIOPAMA coverage

BIOPAMA Intervention Logic

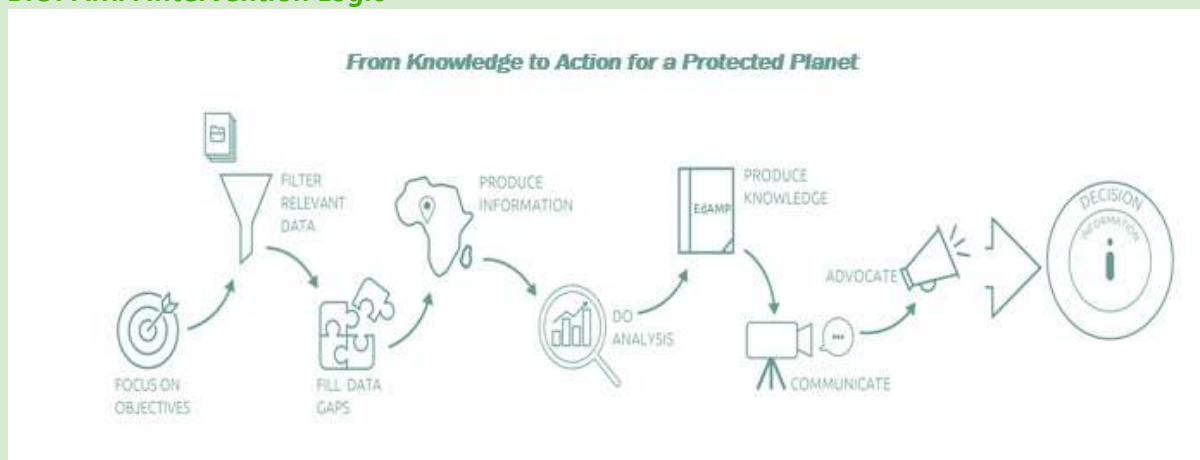


Figure 2. BIOPAMA logic intervention

BIOPAMA provides unique and **tailored support** to protected area authorities in the Caribbean countries to address their priorities **for improved management and governance of biodiversity and natural resources in the protected areas and surrounding communities.**



Figure 3. Strategic components of BIOPAMA programme

BIOPAMA Action Component

Grant mechanism goals

- Enhance the management and governance of priority areas by addressing existing limitations
- Enforce the legal framework required to achieve effective biodiversity conservation
- Support communities initiatives aiming to enhance the livelihoods of local people whilst effectively contributing to protected areas management and governance

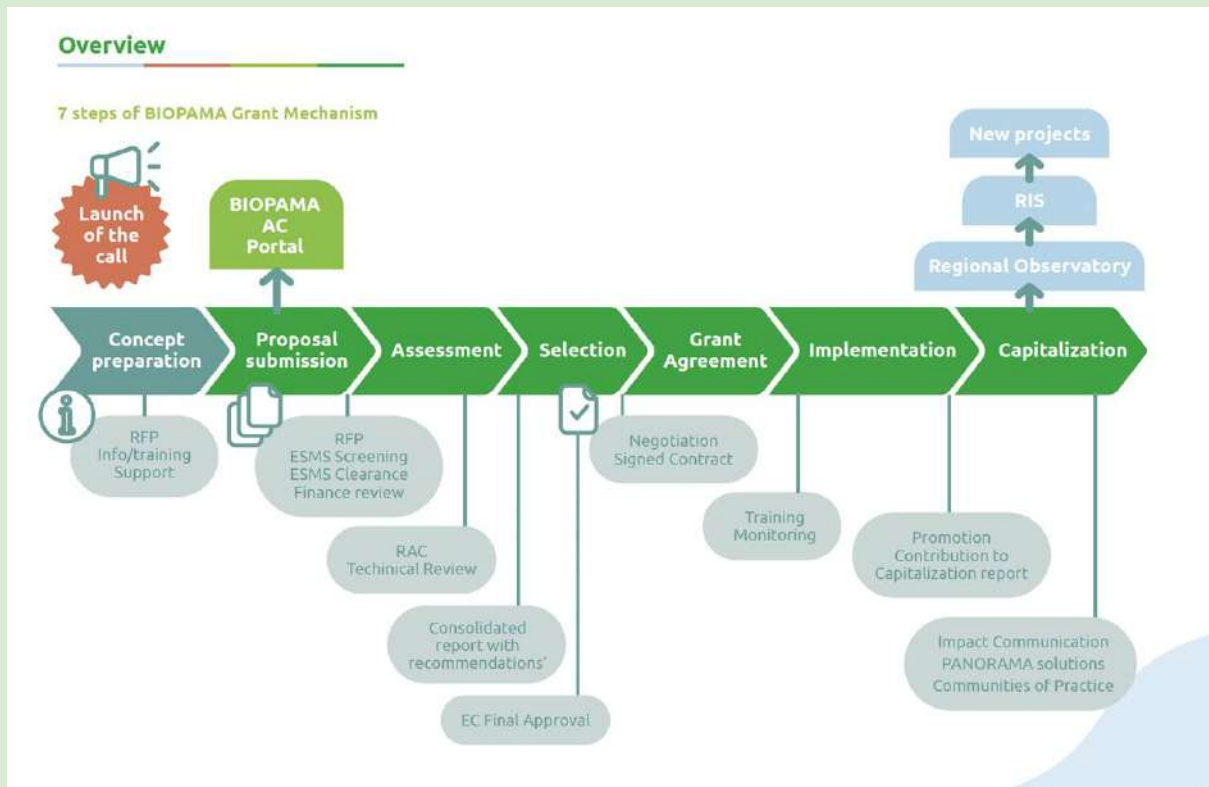


Figure 4. Step by step of the BIOPAMA grant mechanism

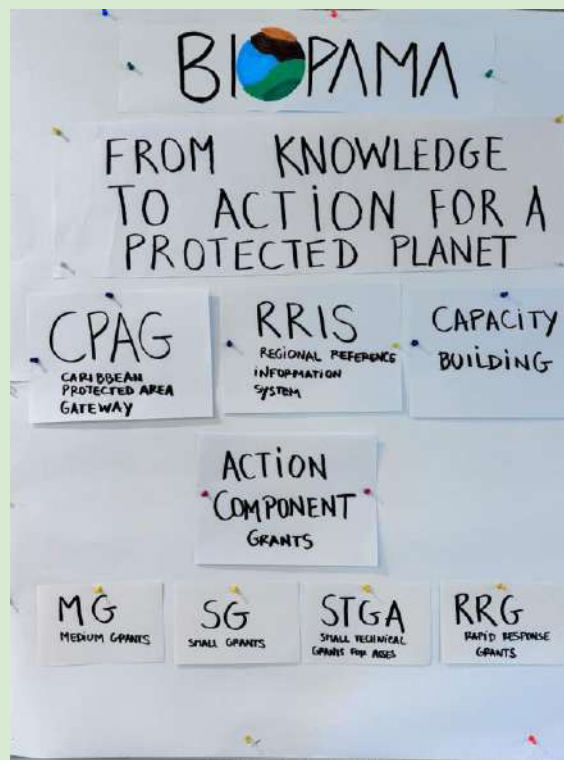


Photo 2. Visual notes of the opening remarks

Presentation of participants and group connection

Participants were invited to engage in a check-in through the Impromptu networking liberating structure.

Question: Please share your name, project location, country, and respond to the question: What was the most significant change or improvement you observed in your protected area or community as a result of your BIOPAMA grant project?



Photos 3 and 4. Check-in

After-Action Review

BIOPAMA invited participants to engage in an After-Action Review (AAR) in order to analyze the outcomes of the BIOPAMA Action Component. The discussions were rich in insights, covering everything from the application process to project implementation, contracting, and monitoring and evaluation.

The method

A systematic and structured process for analyzing and assessing the outcomes of a specific initiative, event or project. It is typically conducted after implementation to identify lessons learned and areas for improvement.

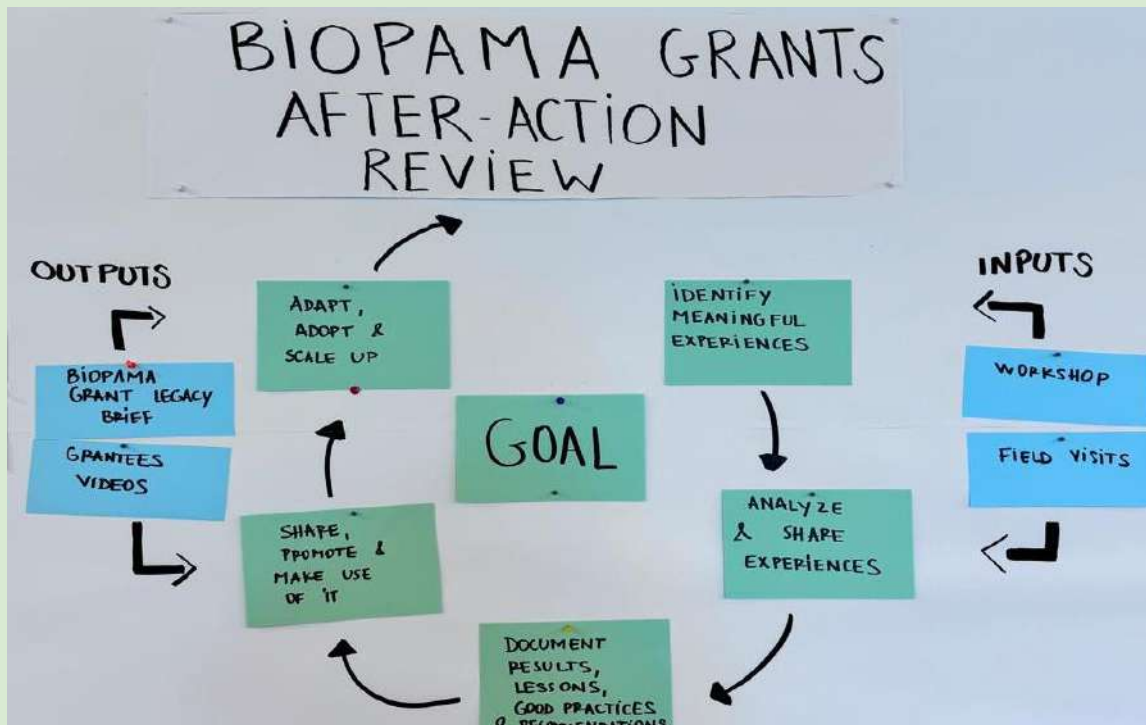


Photo 5. Visual notes of After-Action Review

The after-action review is not just a retrospective exercise; it's a forward-looking process. The lessons learned and the gaps identified will be invaluable for shaping future grant mechanisms as well as projects in the Caribbean Protected Areas. By documenting successes and areas for improvement, we aim to create a more effective, responsive framework for future investments and biodiversity conservation efforts.

As we move forward, the insights gained from this review are packaged into this harvest document, a knowledge brief and a series of grantee videos designed to serve as a learning opportunity for all stakeholders. Our goal is to ensure that future interventions are even more effective.

Objectives of the After-Action Review

The initiative aimed to create a platform for the BIOPAMA programme team, grantees and partners to review how IUCN implemented this funding mechanism, identify gaps/challenges faced by grant projects and generate lessons learned and recommendations for improving on possible future grants.

Expected Results of the After-Action Review

- Individuals and organizations that participated were provided with tools and skills that enabled them to reflect on their experiences, identify scalable practices, describe and analyze these practices in detail, and share the learnings they derived from them.
- Networking opportunities were offered and future partnerships and collaboration were strengthened.

Outputs of the After-Action Review

Documentation of BIOPAMA Action Component in the Caribbean and projects were reviewed, systematized and presented in the following formats:

- a) This workshop harvest document
- b) The Knowledge Brief of BIOPAMA in the Caribbean - results, lessons learned and way forward
- c) A video of the BIOPAMA knowledge sharing workshop
- d) A series of grantees stories from the field videos

Ground Rules and Participation Agreements

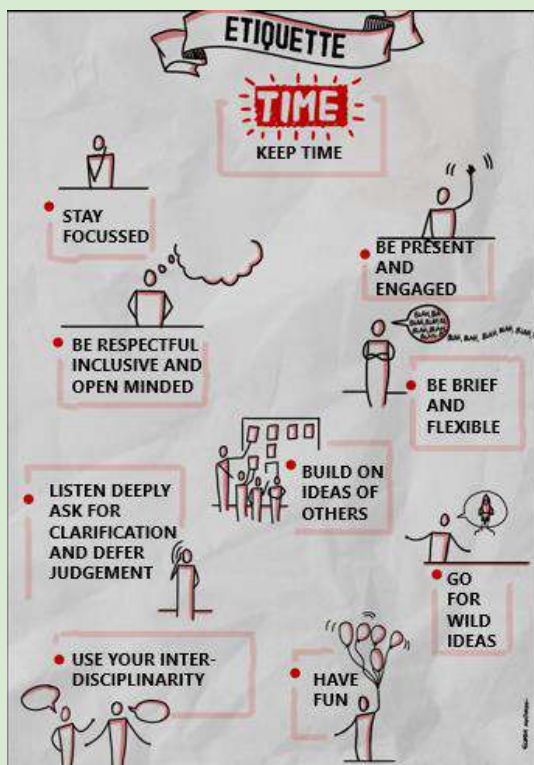


Photo 6. Visual notes of ground rules

BIOPAMA Action Component Overview

Dialogue on BIOPAMA Action Component in the Caribbean

Conversation Café

- Three rounds of conversation at every table
- Please use a talking object
- Kindly respect the six **Conversation Café** agreements
- In each table, someone please be a volunteer as the host. The host is a full participant whose role is to gently intervene only when a participant visibly fails to observe one of the six agreements, most frequently talking on and on

- In each table, someone please be a volunteer as the rapporteur. The rapporteur is a full participant whose role is to take notes to allow us to make use of the information and knowledge shared during the conversation
- Grantees and partners are invited to share their experience



Photos 7 and 8. Conversation café

First round of conversation: Reflection on Challenges and Impacts

Question: What were the most significant challenges faced by protected areas and surrounding communities in the past five years?

Challenge

Stakeholder Coordination, Compliance, and Community Engagement

- Poor coordination among stakeholders working in the PA space, with a lack of community involvement and compliance. (Need for communities to take ownership)
- Poor data sharing between government agencies and other stakeholders, hindering effective conservation strategies
- Weak regulatory environment means the support from the state (e.g., monitoring, fines) is minimal, leaving PAs to fend for themselves
- Existing legislation is outdated/inadequate and often lack enforcement
- Change in government priorities due to political transitions

Capacity Building and Technology Adoption

- Difficulty in training and building capacity within our enforcement team on the use of GIS SMART technology for PA patrolling due to resistance, especially among older team members. (Age-related rejection of technology)
- High staff turnover due to human resources limitations, including salaries and qualifications
- Lack of proper education in schools on the importance of conservation and protected areas

Climate Change and Environmental Degradation

- Climate change is reducing the resilience of natural resources faster than expected (e.g., erosion, increasing temperatures)
- Overuse of mangrove resources for charcoal production, leading to a significant loss of mangrove populations
- Competition for resources in Small Island Developing States (SIDS), including limited land space for livelihoods and economic activities

Illegal Activities and Law Enforcement Challenges

- Increase in illegal activities (COVID-19 impacts)
- Constant threats from illegal activities (poaching, logging), leading to poverty in surrounding communities and a lack of alternative livelihoods
- Illegal gold mining in Iwokrama, Guyana

Financial and Human Resource Limitations

- Limited financing for PA management, impacting sustainability
- Tourism-dependent areas affected by COVID-19 impacts
- Loss of staff due to COVID-19 impacts

Second round of conversation: Strategies and Solutions

Question: What strategies and innovative solutions were implemented through BIOPAMA grants to address these challenges, and which were most effective?

Community Engagement and Capacity Building

- Local community-based initiatives, such as a fisher monitoring network using smartphones to document marine megafauna engagements. Data is put in a WhatsApp chat
- Involved local youth in monitoring efforts (training, stipend)
- Strengthened monitoring capacity and conducted capacity-building with communities regarding the legal framework
- Legal regulation: Workshops to transfer knowledge to communities about their rights to protect themselves and their communities
- Increased stakeholder participation in the protected areas decision-making process
- Local advisory committee to share information with fishers, tourism, and government

Monitoring, Enforcement, and Protection

- Hired rangers to assist with monitoring and to respond to illegal activities within PSEPA (Saint Lucia)

- Developed regional agreements to address transboundary illegal incursions between Guatemala, Honduras, and Belize
- Strategy (Jamaica): Utilized BIOPAMA funding to improve enforcement and protection of forest protected areas, to reduce illegal activities, and increase capacity through implementation
- Using science to guide management and policy interventions. Grant support for long-term research activities
- Engaged stakeholders in data collection (e.g., SMART)

Sustainable Livelihoods and Economic Incentives

- Financial sustainability framework
- Eco-tourism tours
- "Be a ranger for a day"
- Gift shops
- Visitation center
- High-risk investment loans, investing in infrastructure in the reserve to prepare for future tourism activities
- Paying insurance plus salary for staff

Education, Outreach, and Knowledge Sharing

- Education & outreach: Bridging the knowledge gap between new fishers and others
- Partnerships with the private sector to reach additional stakeholders and influence the government
- Trained local stakeholders in better agricultural practices to reduce forest fires and pesticide use
- Strategy: Consultations to establish agreements among resource users for zonal plans

Scientific Research and Data-Driven Policy

- METT tool application for ASSOMAT PA management, including action plans and management plans
- Research and data collection to support studies on climate change impacts
- Integrated biodiversity into national climate change development strategies
- Collaboration with partners to access funding for a more effective response

Third round of conversation: Future opportunities and recommendations

Question: How can we build on the BIOPAMA grant experience to strengthen biodiversity conservation and effective management and governance of protected areas in the near future?

Community Engagement and Empowerment

- Engage communities in strategic alliances (e.g., co-management agreements)
- Empower local stakeholders to monitor the area to reduce illegal mining (training, stipend)
Create alternative livelihoods for fishers to combat effects of illegal, unreported, and unregulated (IUU) fishing.
- Upscale formal stakeholder advisory committees across PAs

Capacity Building and Knowledge Management

- Capacity building with in situ learning/experiences
- Education on data analysis
- Develop National SMART GIS software for all PAs in 5-8 years (including tracking/reporting system)
- Database management and data structure planning, including a team of experts
- Wider use of METT4 tool to create awareness and attract funding

Funding and Financial Sustainability

- Collaborations and partnerships to access large grants
- Longer-term funding to achieve more systemic and organizational change (5-10 years)
- Funding focused on securing a financially stable operational model
- Financial opportunities for sustainable financing
- To protect biodiversity, develop an auto-financing facility:
 - Impact Investment Revenue Generation (BioCF)
 - Blue Talks
 - Other revenue opportunities: tourism, sustainable forestry, fishing, training
- Business mindset and co-financing
- Develop a social enterprise to generate income for PAs

Policy and Governance Development

- Align projects with institutional priorities
- Drafting of national policies based on lessons learned, in collaboration with the government
- Development of frameworks for management
- Scaling up projects that demonstrate potential for broader application

Technology and Data-Driven Approaches

- Develop a data structure plan with a dedicated institutional team of experts
- Implement national-level database management systems for coordinated conservation efforts
- Wider adoption of the METT-4 tool for management assessment and funding advocacy
- National SMART GIS software initiative for protected areas, enhancing tracking and reporting

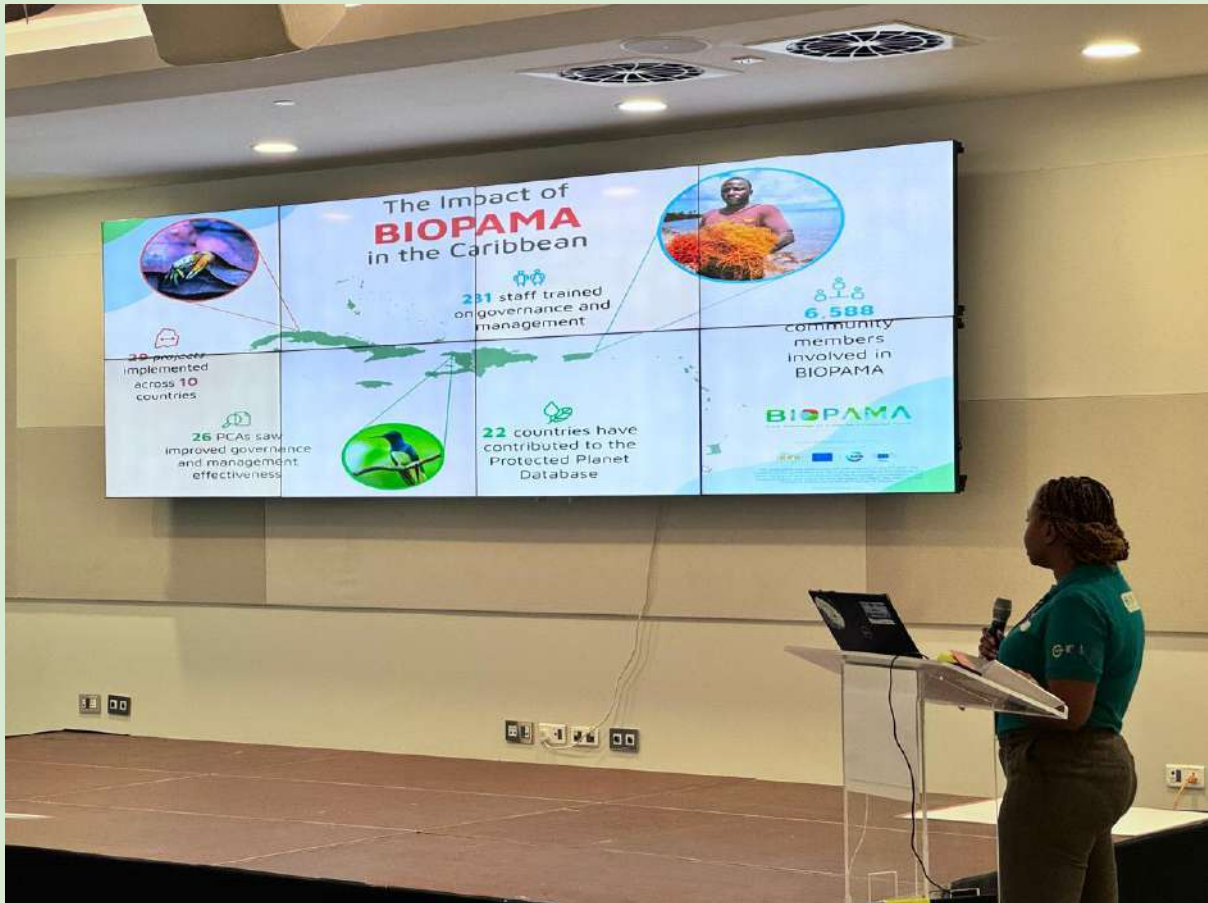


Photo 10. Tori Bryan-Carter (Ms.) Technical Assistant, BIOPAMA Programme presents the impact of the BIOPAMA grants in the Caribbean



Photo 10.a. BIOPAMA Programme Action Component impact in the Caribbean



Photo 10.b BIOPAMA Programme Action Component impact in the Caribbean

Question 2: How are we investing in the assets and conditions that foster success? What opportunities do you see to do more?

Enabling factors of our grants results

- Engagement with local communities and organizations
- Supportive and engaged local staff
- Dedicated individuals
- Employment staff retention due to funding
- Private-sector partnerships
- Following processes
- Donor flexibility
- Knowing what you need and insisting on getting exactly that
- Shared vision for where we want to be with a fully operational law enforcement system by 2030
- Effective communication
- Continuity of data collection
- Setting targets based on the needs and goals as properly articulated in the PA
- The grants facilitated the conducting of needs assessment in PA, which resulted in setting priority target goals
- Opportunity to have dedicated equipment to facilitate monitoring work
- Enforcement + Monitoring

Opportunities to do more

- Invest more in partnerships with government, communities, and donors
- Protect areas from whom? For whom? Need to focus on people behavior change, e.g., answering communities needs
- Value addition of conservation work - need to be clear and accounted for

- Multi-sectorial approach & partnerships to solve the issues
- Engagement of local communities for decision-making
- Long-term development of capacities - focus on people
- Focus on sustainable finance of protected areas
- Alternative incomes
- Long-term intervention

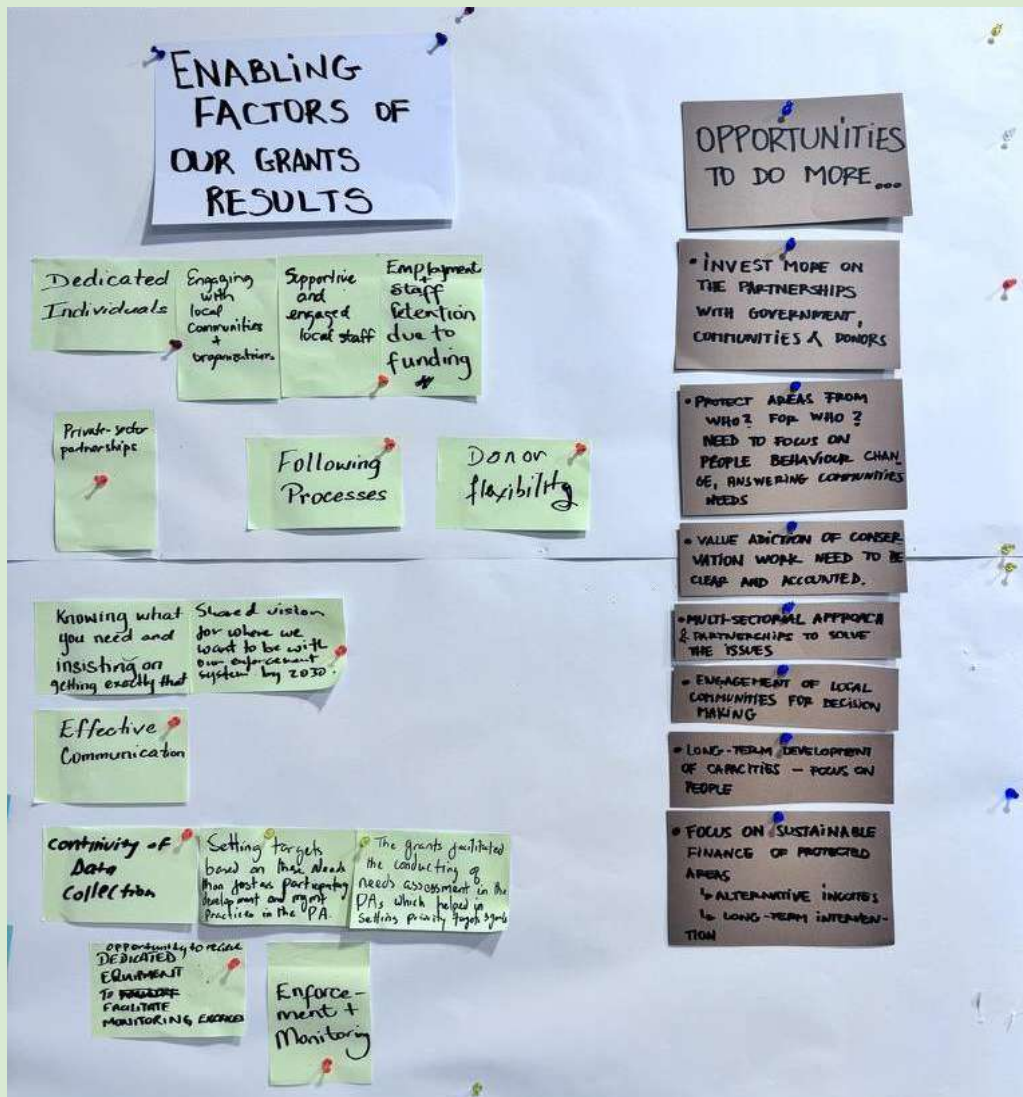


Photo 11. Visual notes of the Sharing Hands-on Experiences



Photos 12 to 17. Participants sharing experiences

Frontline perspectives

Participants were invited to share frontline perspectives on specific topics covered in the grant projects.

Part 1. Sharing perspectives from Case givers (20')

Part 2. Listeners to ask questions or share comments (Rotation of chairs. Invite listeners to join the group of case givers and SOME of case givers to become listeners) (20')

Part 3. Debriefing: make a big circle and get them to reflect on each other's discussions. Focus on the patterns (5')

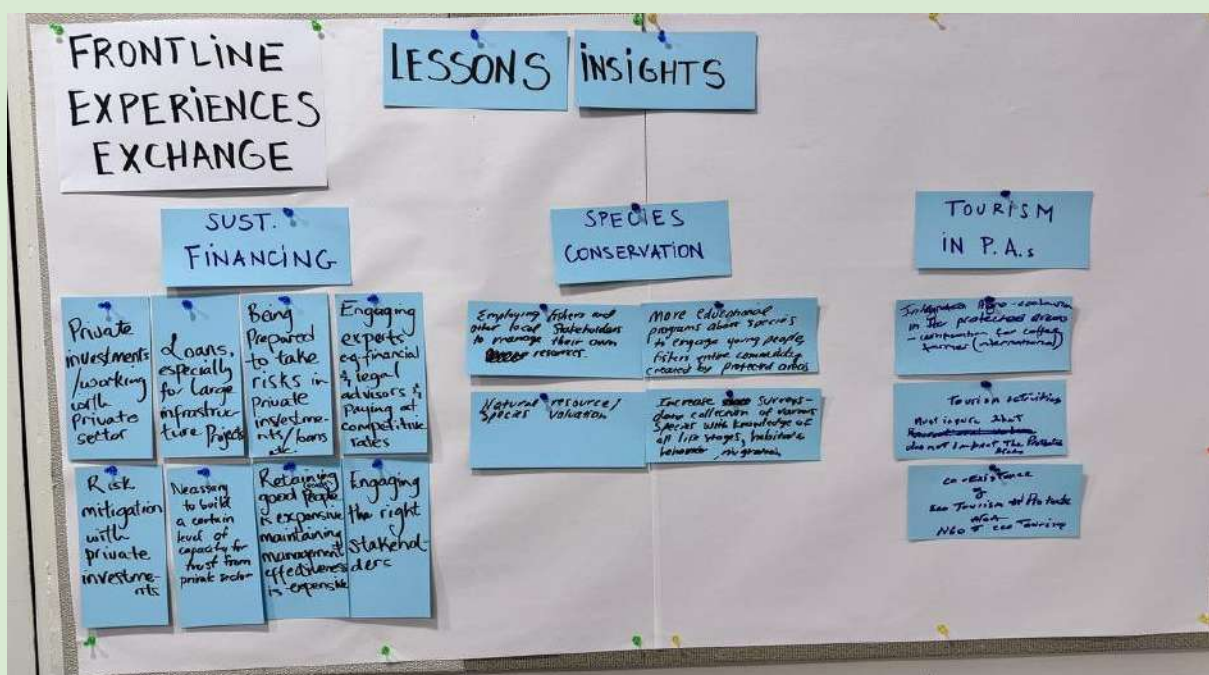


Photo 18. Visual notes of the Frontline Experience Exchange

Species Conservation

- Employing fishers and other local stakeholders to manage their own resources
- More educational programs about species to engage young people, fishers, entire community created by protected areas
- Natural resource / species valuation
- Increase surveys – data collection of various species with knowledge of all life stages, habitat, behavior, migration

Sustainable Financing

- Private investments / working with the private sector
- Loans, especially for large infrastructure projects
- Being prepared to take risks in private investments / loans
- Engaging experts e.g., financial and legal advisors & paying at competitive rates
- Risk mitigation with private investments

- Build a certain level of trust from private sector
- Retaining good people is expensive – maintaining management structures is expensive
- Engaging the right stakeholders

Tourism in Protected Areas

- Integrated agro-ecotourism in the protected areas – contribution for the tenure (intergenerational)
- Tourism activities must ensure that revenue generation does not impact the protected areas
- Co-existence of Eco Tourism & Protected Area Management – No Eco-Tourism

Grants Communication

BIOPAMA communication focal point, Charlie Tokeley, presented some guidelines on how the participants can make use of social media during the week to share information about their participation in the workshop, and lessons learned during the week.



Photo 19. Communication session

Photo 20. Visual notes of communication guide.



October 2nd, 2024

Grant Mechanism and project grants step by step

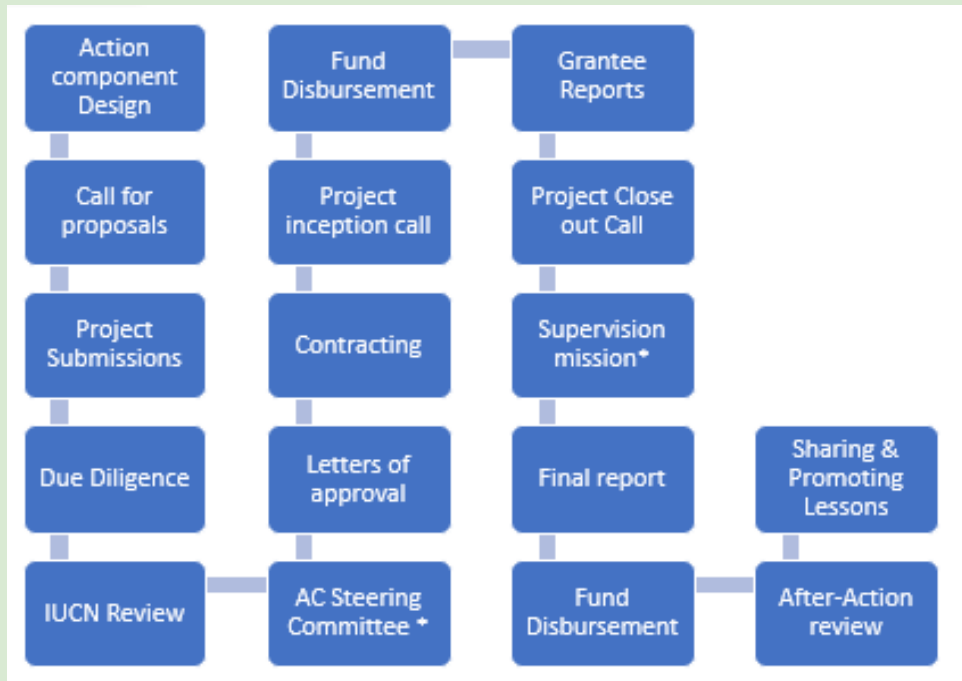


Figure 5. Visual summary of step by step on the grant mechanism



Figure 6. Visual summary of step by step on the grant project cycle

Working in groups to review Grant Mechanism and Project Cycle

Application Process

Concept/proposal development (reflections on BIOPAMA template, funding criteria vs funding needs, timeframe for developing concepts, etc.).

Application Platform and Usability

What worked well:

- The platform is very user-friendly, allowing users to save work before submission and go back to edit/add documents or information
- Effective communication between donor and grantee was maintained throughout, fostering clarity and responsiveness
- IUCN's responsiveness and flexibility across all countries ensured that country-specific challenges could be addressed effectively

What did not work well:

- The portal did not provide notifications on the status of the project, leaving applicants uncertain whether applications were received, accepted, or rejected
- System bugs caused data to disappear when users logged back in, creating frustration and potential delays

What to do differently:

- Ensure the portal has a reliable notification system to keep applicants informed of their project status
- Conduct regular system checks and improve technical stability to prevent data loss issues

Call for Proposals and Application Accessibility

What worked well:

- Pre-approval through a concept note allowed applicants to get feedback before submitting a full proposal, helping align project ideas with funding priorities early on

What did not work well:

- Calls for proposals were not visible to every group, potentially limiting application reach and inclusivity
- Language barriers affected Spanish-speaking countries, which had to translate documents into English, slowing down the application process and creating additional work

What to do differently:

- Conduct sensitization sessions for potential applicants before the call is issued, ensuring all eligible groups are informed
- Offer language support or allow submissions in multiple languages to increase accessibility for non-English-speaking applicants

Application Template and Guidelines

What worked well:

- The concept note provided clarity and guidance on expectations, making the initial stages of the application easier to navigate

What did not work well:

- Some questions in the application template seemed repetitive, leading to duplicated information and increasing the workload for applicants
- The log frame and budget template lacked alignment, with activities scattered among line items, causing confusion
- There was ambiguity regarding the requirement for a specific communications activity, leaving applicants unsure if this was mandatory

What to do differently:

- Revise the application template to reduce redundancy and ensure that each question solicits unique information
- Improve the budget template with an automatic alignment feature to link activities in the log frame to the corresponding budget items
- Clarify any specific requirements for communications and visibility in the application guidelines

Review and Approval Process

What worked well:

- IUCN was responsive, ensuring that grantees inquiries were addressed promptly, which supported clear communication and adaptability

What did not work well:

- The turnaround time for application approval was long (several months), leading to delays in project start times and planning

What to do differently:

- Introduce a scoping grant option after concept approval, allowing smaller or less-resourced organizations to hire support (e.g., a consultant) to develop a more competitive full proposal
- Consider shortening the approval timeline to enable quicker project initiation



Photos 21, 22, 23. Working in groups to discuss technical aspects of grants projects

Guidance and Support during application process

What worked well:

- Pre-approval through the concept note helped ensure that applications aligned with project objectives from the outset

What did not work well:

- There was a lack of clarity about the official reporting language, leading to confusion among applicants

What to do differently:

- Conduct a Question & Answer session before the application process to clarify common queries and help applicants prepare
- Provide clearer guidance on reporting language requirements in the application guidelines

Partnerships

Early Engagement and Community Involvement

What worked well:

- Early engagement with partners, starting at the project design and needs assessment stages, helped to align goals and expectations
- Community engagement where the project was based provided local livelihood support, especially critical during the pandemic, resulting in greater buy-in and support
- Involving key partners (e.g., NGOs, government) from the outset led to stronger engagement and ownership in the project's success.

What did not work well:

- Timing of partner engagement, particularly with government agencies, posed challenges as personnel changes often required re-engagement and re-establishing processes

What to do differently:

- Foster long-term partnerships by engaging partners consistently before calls for proposals, which helps understand organizational needs and enhances strategic project planning

Coordination and Communication Among Partners

What worked well:

- Recognizing common goals among multiple groups revealed opportunities for developing Memorandums of Understanding (MOUs) and forming long-term partnerships
- Partnerships expanded the pool of human resources, enabling the grant work to progress more effectively

What did not work well:

- Internal conflicts within partner organizations disrupted communication and engagement
- Unclear legislative mandates led to conflicts over roles and responsibilities between partners, affecting collaboration and project flow
- Organizational structuring issues among partners created confusion regarding who should be responsible for specific project tasks

What to do differently:

- Strengthen MOUs to define roles, responsibilities, and communication strategies clearly, helping partners stay aligned on project objectives and minimizing misunderstandings
- Delineate partner roles and responsibilities during the project planning phase to ensure all parties understand their commitments and can allocate resources accordingly

Implementing Partner Capacity and Knowledge

What worked well:

- Forming partnerships with organizations such as NGOs and community-based organizations (CBOs) helped supplement project capacity, extending the reach and impact of the grant

What did not work well:

- Some partners lacked sufficient capacity to fulfill their responsibilities, due to either staff turnover or resource constraints
- Government partners, in particular, needed more knowledge of legislative frameworks relevant to natural resource management (NRM) to support effective project execution

What to do differently:

- Leverage the technical expertise of partners wherever possible to reduce project costs while boosting impact
- Ensure that government and other partners possess the necessary legislative and technical knowledge to facilitate seamless project implementation

Sustaining Long-Term Partnerships

What worked well:

- Identifying partners with similar goals created potential for future collaborations and established a foundation for long-term partnerships

What did not work well:

- Short-term partnerships sometimes lacked continuity, especially when personnel changes required re-aligning project objectives mid-stream

What to do differently:

- Prioritize long-term engagement with partners to build strong, stable partnerships and enable a well-defined project strategy that aligns with partner capacities and project goals

Communication & Visibility and Knowledge Management

Communication Practices and Tools

What worked well:

- **Motivating technical teams** to capture images of activities provided valuable visual content for project documentation
- **WhatsApp groups** for each project were effective in facilitating real-time communication and updates among team members

- **Dedicated communication team:** Having a team focused on communication supported consistent messaging and helped manage visibility efforts
- **Project visibility signage** in local communities and visitor areas was successful in raising awareness and highlighting project presence

What did not work well:

- **Language barriers** required reports to be translated into English, and there was no funding support for this
- **Technological challenges in remote locations** hampered the use of digital tools and affected timely communication
- **Lack of a communication budget** limited the ability to fully support visibility activities and adequately share progress with stakeholders

What to do differently:

- **Include a dedicated communication budget** in every project proposal to support ongoing visibility efforts and address language translation needs
- **Invest in equipment** (e.g., underwater cameras, drones) to capture a wider range of activities, particularly in marine and remote environments
- **Develop a communication plan** at the start of each project to set clear roles, identify tools, and outline strategies for sharing project progress

Communication Roles, Responsibilities, and Planning

What worked well:

- **Communicating project progress** to stakeholders was identified as crucial for project success, promoting transparency and ongoing engagement

What did not work well:

- **Unclear roles in partnerships** caused confusion over who was responsible for specific communication and visibility efforts
- **Lack of a defined communication plan** resulted in inconsistent communication strategies and unclear expectations

What to do differently:

- **Establish a clear communication plan and strategy** at the beginning of the project to define roles and outline communication activities, helping avoid overlaps and gaps
- **Clarify which donor or partner leads communication efforts**, ensuring everyone understands their role in visibility
- **Plan exchange visits** to enable partners to learn from each other's experiences and improve shared practices

Knowledge Management and Information Sharing

What worked well:

- **Centralized information storage** made it easy to access all project materials in one place, streamlining communication and facilitating knowledge sharing
- **Information files were useful** for capturing and repurposing data for communication, enhancing project documentation

What did not work well:

- **Organizational structure of some agencies** led to confusion about communication and knowledge management responsibilities, as some reports were not updated on websites or accessible to stakeholders
- **Limited staff for monitoring** due to budget constraints affected the project ability to capture and report ongoing data effectively

What to do differently:

- **Create a regularly updated knowledge platform** to centralize and organize project information for easy access by all stakeholders
- **Integrate communication and knowledge management into M&E** (Monitoring & Evaluation) frameworks to support continuous learning and documentation
- **Hold regular meetings with partners and staff** to ensure information is consistently updated, shared, and reviewed

Monitoring & Evaluation

Monitoring and Internal Coordination

What worked well:

- **Weekly project meetings** allowed the team to closely follow the implementation schedule and enhance overall project effectiveness
- **Incorporation of the log frame into work and operational plans** facilitated alignment with project objectives and improved tracking of activities
- **Open communication with the grant team** and regularly asking questions ensured successful implementation and clarity at each project stage, improving responsiveness and adaptability

What did not work well:

- **Some project goals and activities were too ambitious** for the given timeframe, creating challenges in completing activities within the project period

What to do differently:

- **Plan simpler projects with fewer activities** to ensure feasibility within the project timeframe and better focus on core objectives

- **Account for potential natural disasters and climate impacts** in project planning to mitigate risks and maintain realistic timelines

Technical Reporting and Templates

What worked well:

- **Log frame, financial templates, and monthly reporting** tools were effective for tracking progress and provided valuable input for technical reports
- **Mid-term review:** A recommendation from the Belize team, this added evaluation helped assess progress and address any mid-course adjustments needed

What did not work well:

- The **language barrier in report submission** posed challenges for teams not fluent in the reporting language, impacting report accuracy and quality
- **Delayed feedback on submitted reports** caused bottlenecks, affecting project timelines and placing strain on resources, as some teams had to rely on personal funds for continuity

What to do differently:

- **Standardize quarterly reporting** rather than monthly to optimize time and resources, making it more manageable for teams with limited staffing
- **Adjust reporting frequency and template requirements** to better fit the project scope and grant recipient's capacities

Communication and Response Times

What worked well:

- **Ease of communication with Hyacinth and the grant team** provided teams with clear guidance, which facilitated effective project monitoring and reporting

What did not work well:

- **Lengthy turnaround time for feedback** on submitted reports hindered timely project adjustments and continuity

What to do differently:

- **Consider response delays in project timelines** during planning, to allow realistic scheduling and manage expectations around project milestones
- **Involve all departments early in project planning** to ensure a unified understanding of project requirements, reporting timelines, and roles

Recommendations for Enhanced M&E

What worked well:

- **Integrated templates for M&E and financial tracking** enabled alignment of objectives and activities with project goals

What did not work well:

- **High frequency of reporting placed strain on limited human resources** within the grant recipient organizations.

What to do differently:

- **Develop a quarterly reporting schedule** to allow better resource management and focus on high-impact M&E practices.
- **Incorporate knowledge sharing and feedback loops** (such as mid-term reviews) to continuously align M&E practices with project goals and improve long-term project impact.

Financial Management

Monitoring and Internal Coordination

What worked well:

- **Weekly project meetings** allowed the team to closely follow the implementation schedule and enhance overall project effectiveness
- **Incorporation of the log frame into work and operational plans** facilitated alignment with project objectives and improved tracking of activities
- **Open communication with the grant team** and regularly asking questions ensured successful implementation and clarity at each project stage, improving responsiveness and adaptability

What did not work well:

- Some **project goals and activities were too ambitious** for the given timeframe, creating challenges in completing activities within the project period

What to do differently:

- **Plan simpler projects with fewer activities** to ensure feasibility within the project timeframe and better focus on core objectives
- **Account for potential natural disasters and climate impacts** in project planning to mitigate risks and maintain realistic timelines

Technical Reporting and Templates

What worked well:

- **Log frame, financial templates, and monthly reporting** tools were effective for tracking progress and provided valuable input for technical reports

- **Mid-term review:** this evaluation helped assess progress and address any mid-course adjustments needed

What did not work well:

- The **language barrier in report submission** posed challenges for teams not fluent in the reporting language, impacting report accuracy and quality
- **Delayed feedback on submitted reports** caused bottlenecks, affecting project timelines and placing strain on resources, as some teams had to rely on personal funds for continuity

What to do differently:

- **Standardize quarterly reporting** rather than monthly to optimize time and resources, making it more manageable for teams with limited staffing
- **Adjust reporting frequency and template requirements** to better fit the project scope and grant recipient capacities

Communication and Response Times

What worked well:

- **Ease of communication with Hyacinth and the grant team** provided teams with clear guidance, which facilitated effective project monitoring and reporting

What did not work well:

- **Lengthy turnaround time for feedback** on submitted reports hindered timely project adjustments and continuity

What to do differently:

- **Consider response delays in project timelines** during planning, to allow realistic scheduling and manage expectations around project milestones
- **Involve all departments early in project planning** to ensure a unified understanding of project requirements, reporting timelines, and roles

Recommendations for Enhanced M&E

What worked well:

- **Integrated templates for M&E and financial tracking** enabled alignment of objectives and activities with project goals

What did not work well:

- **High frequency of reporting placed strain on limited human resources** within the grant recipient organizations

What to do differently:

- **Develop a quarterly reporting schedule** to allow better resource management and focus on high-impact M&E practices
- **Incorporate knowledge sharing and feedback loops** (such as mid-term reviews) to continuously align M&E practices with project goals and improve long-term project impact

Frontline Experience Exchange

Participants were invited to share frontline perspectives on specific topics covered in the grant projects.

Part 1. Sharing perspectives from Case givers (20')

Part 2. Listeners to ask questions or share comments (Rotation of chairs. Invite listeners to join the group of case givers and SOME of case givers to become listeners) (20')

Part 3. Debriefing: make a big circle and get them to reflect on each other's discussions. Focus on the patterns (5')



Photo 24. Visual notes of the Frontline Exchanges

Enforcement & Surveillance

- Enhance strategic enforcement by prioritizing:
 - **Education and Awareness:** Foster a strong understanding of enforcement goals among communities and stakeholders
 - **Science-Based Approaches:** Utilize research and data to guide enforcement strategies
 - **Policy Alignment:** Integrate enforcement with supportive external policies to create cohesive, cross-sector support
- Strengthen partnerships with legal institutions to facilitate enforcement actions, arrests, and successful prosecutions

- Modernize and enforce laws by building national and regional capacity, ensuring that legal deterrents are impactful
- Leverage technology to pinpoint high-priority areas for targeted enforcement efforts
- Empower rangers with legal authority to conduct arrests, supporting enforcement on the ground
- Provide training and capacity building for rangers, journalists, and other key stakeholders to bolster their effectiveness and engagement in enforcement activities

Community Livelihoods

- Identify and leverage local resources and traditional knowledge as a foundation for transitioning to sustainable enterprises
- Utilize local interests and technical skills to facilitate training, presentations, and the development of social enterprises that align with community strengths
- Introduce new trades and skills as alternative livelihoods to replace illegal activities, fostering economic resilience
- Form partnerships to connect local products and services with broader markets, expanding their reach and profitability
- Seek smaller grants to support capacity building, develop business plans, and conduct market assessments to ensure the viability of new ventures
- Provide ongoing support for social enterprises and small producers, encouraging continuous learning and adaptation to market demands

Biodiversity Monitoring

- Involve local communities in conservation efforts to foster a sense of ownership and ensure sustainable outcomes
- Ensure that biodiversity monitoring incorporates socio-economic factors, recognizing the interconnectedness of people and the environment
- Acknowledge the impacts of climate change on biodiversity, such as changes in weather patterns and rainfall, and adapt monitoring strategies accordingly
- Consolidate "Ridge to Reef" approaches to create holistic, impactful monitoring systems that address biodiversity across ecosystems
- In the absence of complete datasets, adopt participatory approaches to gather valuable community input and fill knowledge gaps
- Collaborate with relevant agencies for the implementation of data-driven actions, ensuring effective and coordinated conservation efforts
- Work with enforcement units to evaluate the effectiveness of biodiversity monitoring and strengthen conservation actions based on findings



Photo 25. Sharing the findings from the exchanges with the whole group

25/10 crowdsourcing

Participants were invited to do a reflection on **potential new grant mechanisms for Protected Areas and Biodiversity Conservation** context: **"If you were ten times bolder, what big idea would you recommend? What first step would you take to get started?"**



Photo 26. Group sharing the BOLD ideas and prioritizing the best proposals

Idea: **"Protect the Protectors of Protected Areas"**

First Steps:

- Address socio-economic challenges
- Empower communities through capacity building
- Encourage community-based tourism
- Increase funding for salaries
- Ensure adaptability and flexibility in response to donor needs

Idea: Impact Financing Facility to fully support core Protected Areas costs to ensure delivery of all essential services.

- Ranger salaries, benefits, severance, and retirement packages
- Fuel and technology
- Maintenance of capital equipment and infrastructure

Idea: Innovative Financing for Protected Area Management

First Step:

- Exchange visits to engage in situ experiences and share success stories (at least working models)

Idea: Sustainable Mechanisms: Create sustainable funding mechanisms, such as the Caribbean Conservation Trust, which could help generate funds.

- The first step would be to engage with international organizations, private donors, and governments.

BIOPAMA 3: More funding for grants. Set up a regional fund for 7 years (or more) by pooling resources from various donors, including those related to climate change.

- First Step: Organize a conference to involve governments and NGOs in planning and setting rules.

Proposal for Next Grant Focus

- First Steps: Upscale and enhance financing to support previous projects
- Next step: Conduct an impact analysis

Grant to Manage/Support Species Monitoring

- First Step: Find the appropriate donor!

Flexible/Unrestricted Funds to Support Admin and Operations

- First step: Get donors to understand that these types of fund are critical to the success of conservation efforts. Work cannot be done if organizations lack the funds to hire and retain good staff

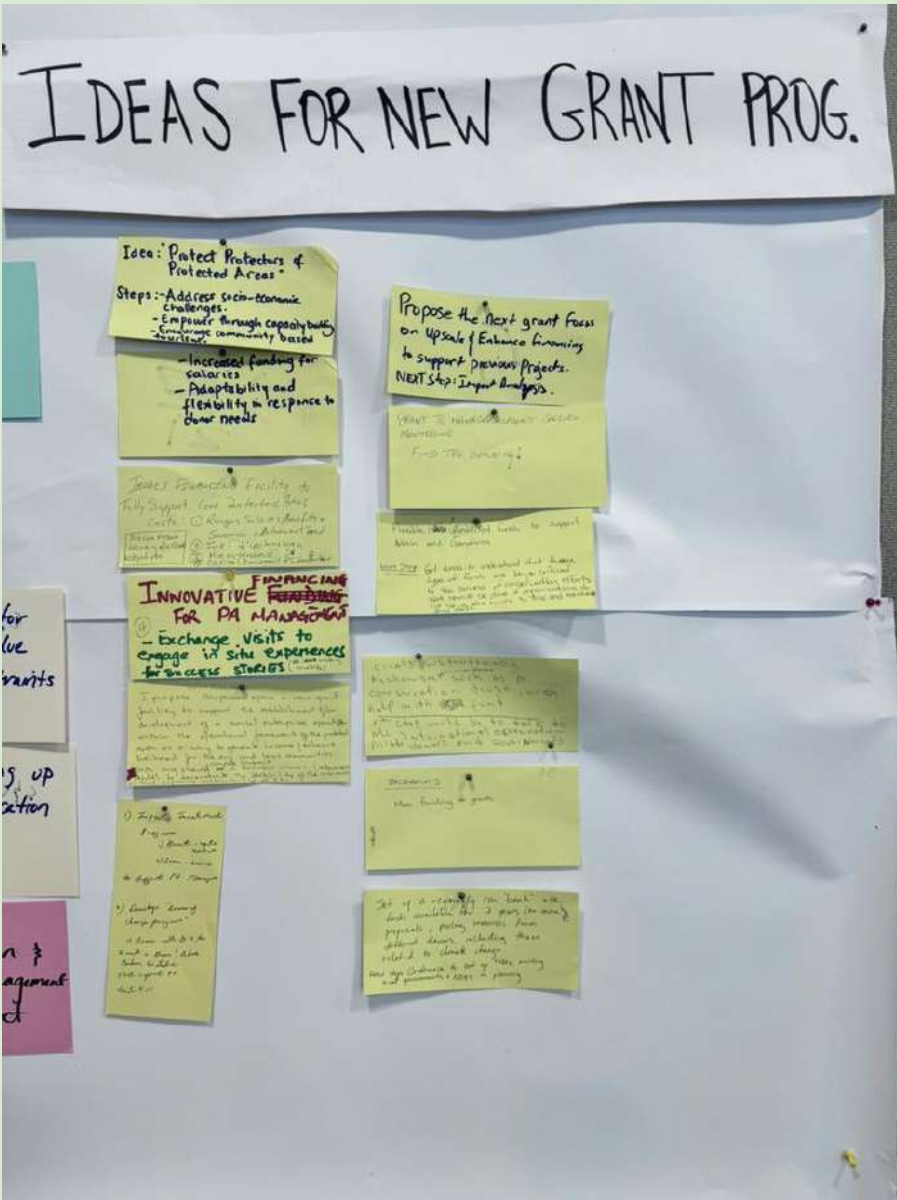


Photo 27. Bold ideas and first step selected as priority by participants

October 3rd, 2024



Photo 28. Participants of the second workshop focused on BIOPAMA

Opening Remarks

Quentin Peignaux, Programme manager, environment, biodiversity – Green Deal Partnership with the Caribbean; Delegation of the European Union to Barbados, the Eastern Caribbean States, the OECS and CARICOM/CARIFORUM

Rodrigo Flores-Gutierrez, Regional Program Manager, International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN)

BIOPAMA Overview

Hyacinth Armstrong-Vaughn, Regional BIOPAMA Coordinator, International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) shared programme results in data and information for decision making (the CPAG), capacity development strengthened through partnerships and grant funding.

Participants congratulated the BIOPAMA Caribbean team for their achievements, articulated their commitment to continue the legacy set by BIOPAMA and expressed a great desire for *inter alia* BIOPAMA Phase 3.



Photo 29. BIOPAMA Programme results

Conversation café

DIALOGUE ON PROTECTED AREAS AND BIODIVERSITY IN THE CARIBBEAN

Round 1: What are the most critical challenges facing protected area management and governance in the Caribbean, and how can collaborative efforts among government, NGOs, and international organizations help to address them?

Critical challenges related to Protected Area management & governance

- Lack of staff/manpower: Collaboration with agencies & organizations
- Lack of community engagement: Lack of involvement of indigenous peoples
- Lack of capacity building: Existing funding reaches the ground, but the capacities of recipients are still weak; use of trust funds & local partners; limited knowledge sharing
- Ineffective communication: Challenges in education, awareness
- Outdated legislation
- Inadequate enforcement: Dealing with illegal activities, sharing updates, boundary management
- Transboundary enforcement: Operational partnership
- Insufficient financial & technical support: Competing demands for resources; conflicting demands between livelihoods & protection of natural resources; silo effects between management entities; data inaccessibility
- Lack of resources to undertake activities that are needed for effective management, especially for field rangers

- Lack of management effectiveness
- Marine Protected Areas are undervalued

How collaborative efforts can help to address critical challenges in PA management and Governance?

Education, capacity building & awareness

- Not enough focus on education: Make education the highest priority
- Collaboration with schools, media campaigns, public engagement
- Improve knowledge sharing platforms: through consistent networking & communication
- Finding skilled staff is the hardest: Within managed field, attracting & maintaining staff

Policy engagement and law enforcement

- Government buy-in
- Enforcement: Workshops/training, hiring/obtaining state power and authority
- Zoning & strict law enforcement to encourage sustainable use of resources
- Establish an enabling environment (social & financial) to increase participation and research

Partnerships

- Establish agreements between partners: e.g., MOU, Cooperation Agreement.
- Get government & community to economically value MPAs
- Bringing local communities in and providing funding directly to them
- All actors have to be on board to support each other
- Regulation & allocation of funding (gov't)

Funding

- Engaging private sector to funding activities
- Coherence between private sector contributions: Lack of co-management
- Create alternative financial sources
- Diversify funding (PPP, sustainable finance, market-based mechanisms)
- Expensive to operate MPAs: Impact investments needed or unrestricted/endowment funds to support
- Balance between conservation/development in tourism

Use of tools and technology

- Increased use of technology to facilitate monitoring

Round 2: What successful approaches or practices from your organization or country can be scaled or replicated to better integrate biodiversity conservation and community livelihoods in the Caribbean region?

Approaches & practices to be scaled or replicated for integration of biodiversity conservation & community livelihoods

Partnerships and Collaboration

- Partnerships increase manpower for certain projects; workshop to share ideas and solutions
- Development of protected area coalitions & networks for advocacy and better linkages
- Co-management approach (Gov, NGO, Private Sector, Research Inst.)
- Work in diversity of contexts and actors towards common targets
- Local advisory committees to advise managers of protected areas
- Advocating for a seat at the table for CSOs, NGOs, CBOs, etc., with national budgets being prepared

Community Engagement and Capacity Building

- Building organizational capacity among community groups, especially in protected areas
- Create strong educational programs for all stakeholders to minimize illegal activities and get community buy-in
- Education and training outreach for local communities on livelihoods and biodiversity conservation
- Alternative livelihood training, process of working with entrepreneurship to support local needs
- Conflict management through communication raising awareness on the value of biodiversity
- Communicating with community groups to create an agenda of programs for sustainable livelihoods around protected areas
- Meaningful engagements of local communities in management interventions
- Co-management arrangements to ensure members uphold their commitments to management arrangements
- Community land management that works with sustainable and biodiversity-friendly practices

Livelihood Improvement and Economic Sustainability

- Income diversification
- Seek markets for sustainable certified agricultural products that recognize ecosystems
- PAs can invest in income-generating activities that empower local communities
- Self-sustaining protected areas (through income from community involvement in eco-tourism, etc.)
- Promotion of sustainable livelihoods opportunities – engage in environmentally friendly practices, livelihood improvements

Knowledge Sharing and Learning

- Share best practices through learning exchange
- Knowledge transfer – sharing best practices in sustainable agriculture, biodiversity conservation, etc.
- Development of skills to access funds – training (technical & management)

Conservation and Monitoring

- Increase monitoring and replacement of PAs

- Conduct an intensive biological survey to better understand species status and conservation efforts
- Increased use of technologies for monitoring by MCAs

Governance and Sustainability

- Sustainability planning to ensure building project results
- Streamlining processes for setting up meetings and decision-making with mission-oriented approaches
- Private sector involvement in conservation and community benefit

Round 3: What innovative financing mechanisms or strategies can be developed or strengthened to ensure long-term sustainability of protected area management, biodiversity conservation, and community livelihoods in the Caribbean?

Innovative financing to long-term sustainability of pa management, biodiversity & community livelihoods

Innovative Financing Mechanisms for Conservation

- Carbon credits program through protected areas to incentivize carbon storage
- Explore carbon stock and blue economy financing options that prioritize marine and coastal ecosystems
- Green bonds by carbon credit issuance, generating long-term financing for PA
- Implement biodiversity credits that recognize ecosystem services and species conservation
- Improved payment for ecosystem services to ensure fair compensation for management and conservation efforts
- Green levy fund to generate finances through environmental taxation (e.g., corporate tax on greenhouse gas emitters)
- Capitalize on regional/global environmental funds (e.g., Global Environment Facility, Small Grants Program)
- Establish a revolving fund to support conservation initiatives and increase youth involvement

Sustainable Funding for Protected Areas (PAs)

- Stable government subventions for protected areas
- Establish an enforcement fund that goes back directly to PA management
- Tax incentives for the private sector that work with or donate to conservation
- Provide tax waivers for co-managers of protected areas
- Establish trust funds and endowment funds to secure long-term financing for PA management

Private Sector and Market-Based Approaches

- Promote private sector partnerships for biodiversity conservation (public/private partnerships, innovative business models)

- Increase trust and transparency in financial mechanisms to encourage private and public sector investments in PA
- Facilitate impact investment loans that focus on sustainable and biodiversity-friendly projects

Ecotourism and Community-Based Financing

- Venture into ecotourism by focusing on tourism-related activities within protected areas (PA fees, taxes on tourism services)
- Invest in education and management to improve livelihood impacts through biodiversity protection
- Reuse and recycle products to fund PA management – "You are worth it!!!"



Photo 30. Participants of the second workshop focused on BIOPAMA



Photo 31. Exchange between participants

Biodiversity conservation policy framework

Anouska Kinahan, Consultant, presented on a biodiversity and sustainable development policy analysis she conducted for the Caribbean on behalf of the BIOPAMA programme. The purpose of the study was to provide an updated one-stop consolidated overview and analysis of the Caribbean policy landscape for biodiversity conservation and SDGs 14 & 15 specifically; to assess the alignment and gaps of selected key policies within the Caribbean region and with global biodiversity-related targets; and to identify opportunities and provide recommendations for enhanced biodiversity conservation in the Caribbean and the scaling up and enhanced sustainability of BIOPAMA II key outcomes.

Participants had the opportunity to review and validate the four proposed pathways (recommendations) and associated actions for improving policy implementation by answering the following questions:

1. Are these recommendations valid? If so, who should be the lead and main players?
2. What are the first 3 key steps to implement this action?
3. Are there any other actions under this pathway that you feel should be added?



Photo 32. Anouska Kinahan presenting the policy analysis

Pathway 1 – Increasing national commitments to biodiversity conservation, in particular for marine ecosystem and species protection

Valid Recommendation – Ratification and implementation of the Nagoya Protocol, and Cartagena Convention SPAW and LBS Protocols

Lead Actors:

Government (common), Focal point within identified government agency
IPLCs (IPLCs, CoP, NGOs, other agencies/stakeholders)

- **Key Steps**

- Consultations and ratification
- National policies
- Ratification
- Lobbying to ratify recommended protocols
- Develop action plans (national and regional) as required by specific protocol
- Seek funding for implementation
- Acquisition of resources for implementation
- Monitoring, evaluation and reporting results
- Support finance PR (public)

- **Additional Actions:**

- Updating NBSAP
- Develop biodiversity finance plans
- Harmonization and coordination of data, results, and impact
- Permanent financing project to finance PA (Belize)

Pathway 2 – Strengthening regional transboundary cooperation and coordination

Valid Recommendation – Establish a regional inter-governmental biodiversity and environment agency

Lead: CARICOM, Main: UNEP, OECS

Actors: Regional inter-governmental biodiversity/environmental agency

- **Key Steps:**

- Consultations with stakeholders
- Alignment of agreed action plans
- Strategic action plan development and endorsement

- **Additional Actions:**

- Environmental tax to fund activities (regional levy/tax)

Valid Recommendation –Ratify BBNJ Agreement

Lead: CARICOM, Main: UNEP, OECS

Actors: Regional inter-governmental biodiversity/environmental agency (e.g. OECS, UNEP), Countries that are within the region but not part of CARICOM (e.g. Dominican Republic)

- **Key Steps:**
 - Clarify and support technical assistance for developing parties
 - Clarify country/region commitments under BBNJ agreement
 - Clarify assistance to CARICOM
- **Additional Actions:**
 - Determine cost/benefit to countries (individually vs. as a region)

Valid Recommendation –Ratify CMS

Lead: CMS,

Actors: Country Governments and relevant stakeholders)

- **Key Steps:**
 - Ratifying the agreement
 - Consultation with key stakeholders
 - Drafting MoUs and agreements
- **Additional Actions:**
 - Define objectives and outputs i.e. data monitoring, etc.
 - Timelines for activities

Pathway 3 – Scaling up ambition and closing policy gaps for effective biodiversity conservation

Valid Recommendation – Advance regulatory framework for IAS, restoration of removing harmful subsidies (unsustainable/illegal)

Lead: Global Coral Reef Monitoring Network, Caribbean IAS network, Regional Government

Actors: Stakeholders – Fisheries, Forestry, Academic institutions

- **Key Steps:**
 - Update and implement existing IAS management plans
 - Harmonize regional and national action plans (PMS, IAS, Ecosystem Restoration)
 - Establish a regional agency to address biosecurity
 - Update and implement action plan for ecosystem restoration
 - Gap analysis for needed technical capacity
- **Additional Actions:**
 - Determine cost of inaction to engender political will
 - Technical capacity building from gap analysis

Valid Recommendation – Scale up PA/OECM Ambition

Lead: Government – local and national

Actors: Site level managers (NGO, CBO, etc.)

- **Key Steps**

- Create a baseline to measure progress in effective management
- Develop policy for PA and OECMs to use METT every 2-3 years

- **Additional Actions:**

- Improve effective management for exiting protected areas and formalize OECMs
- Lead should ensure there is secured funding for PA and OECM to realise METT

Valid Recommendation – Strengthen gender inclusive considerations and actions across all targets

Lead: Government

Actors: NGO, CBO, community

- **Key Steps**

- Relevant to the target and country
- Impacts leveraging/funding

Pathway 4 – Employing streamlined, inclusive and evidence-based decision making

Valid Recommendation – Strengthen participatory and inclusive decision-making, building capacity across all stakeholders for evidence-based decision making

Lead: Government, regional, educational and academic institutions

Actors: government implementation agencies, policy setters, negotiators, ambassadors, CBOs

- **Key Steps**

- Academic institutions need to be there
- Promote decisions between universities and implementers
- Institutions to give students access to real live experiences and grant funding to fill gaps

- **Additional Actions:**

- Use institutions and universities to do research or policy alignment and policy evaluation to fit national context which is reinforced by collaborative networking through the Caribbean for more unified goals and focus
- Setting goals and targets that align with the Caribbean Island states based on the internationally set target goals.

Valid Recommendation – ID critical research & data needs / harmonized indicators / data collection across Caribbean

Lead: regional entity

Actors: All CARICOM countries involved in biodiversity during conservation; NGO - grassroots universities – PAM

- **Key Steps**

- Engage all stakeholders

- Common database collection & reporting platforms
- Data sharing agreement
- **Additional Actions:**
 - Standard methodology for collection & reporting data
 - Training for collection & reporting
 - Community capacity building

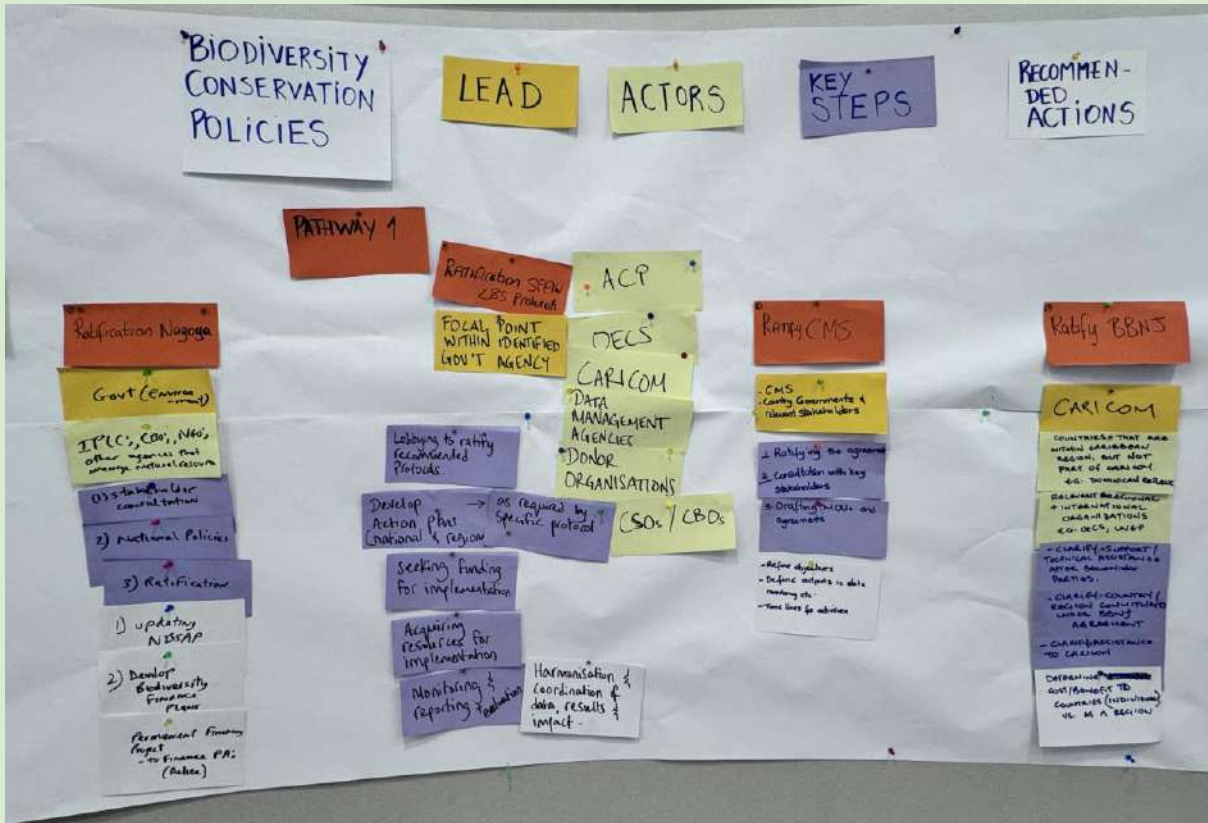


Photo 33. Visual notes of the exercise with pathway 1

October 4th, 2024

Troika Consulting

Get practical and imaginative help from colleagues immediately.

What was made possible? Participants help each other to gain insight on issues they face and unleash local wisdom for addressing them. In quick rounds “consultations, individuals ask for help and get advice immediately from two others. Peer-to-peer coaching helps with discovering everyday solutions, revealing patterns, and refining prototypes.

Invitation to the group to explore the questions “What is your challenge?” and “What kind of help do you need?”

- In each round, one participant is the “client,” the others “consultants”
- Everyone has an equal opportunity to receive and give coaching
- Groups of 3



Photo 34 . Exchange between participants

W3 - What, So What, Now What?



Photo 35. Exchange between participants

Together, look back on progress to date and decide what adjustments are needed

WHAT? What happened? What did you notice, what facts or observations stood out?

SO WHAT? Why is that important? What patterns or conclusions are emerging? What hypotheses can you make?

NOW WHAT? What actions make sense?

Group 1 - Use of tools to assess PA management and governance

Group 2 - Biodiversity monitoring

Group 3 - Species conservation

Group 4 - Tourism in Protected Areas

Group 5 - Law Enforcement

Group 6 - Information Systems for Monitoring biodiversity and Protected Areas

Group 7 - Capacity building

Group 8 - Community Engagement for governance

Group 9 - Policy Dialogue

Group 10 - Income-generating activities for local/indigenous communities

Tools to Assess PA Management & Governance

- What?
 - Capacity building (Ranger Team):

- Equipping the rangers (adequate tools)
 - Management Effectiveness of the PA (Policies) IUCN framework
 - Gaps were identified during management effectiveness assessment (governance, community participation, socio-economic benefits, management planning)
 - Having concrete means of verification for METT Assessment
 - Invested on strategies to address the gaps
- So what?
 - Gaps identified help government prioritize allocations from conservation trusts
 - Helps to assess your impact in PAs locally and nationally
 - Capacities need strengthening
 - Effectiveness assessment are essential in PA management
- Now what?
 - Recognition of OEMs in the region with IUCN's help
 - Continued use and implementation of management effectiveness tools (i.e., METT 4.2).

Biodiversity Monitoring

- What?
 - Able to cover cost for equipment or services that other types of donors don't like to cover, which supported the monitoring work directly
 - BIOPAMA grant helped to fill knowledge gaps in understanding of species abundance and diversity (average figure)
 - Support for community persons to be directly involved in biodiversity monitoring has become critical as the area is severely affected by loss of wildlife
 - Capacity building
 - Support helped target more than 200 participants – Youth Wildlife Festival
 - Over 40 leaders and rangers trained – legal guide for NRM
 - Monitoring Programme strengthened
 - Boat dedicated to monitoring
 - Other equipment supported
 - Rangers commitment matched in new stations
 - Pay staff salaries:
 - 2 technical (biologists)
 - 6 enforcement (rangers)
 - Resources for monitoring activities:
 - Fuel
 - Refreshments
 - Gear
 - Purchase equipment and materials for COVID safety:
 - Detergent, sanitizers, masks, PPEs
 - Provide community in data collection (historical data)

- Provide security and safety in work environments for staff to be maintained and reduce staff loss or turnover
- So What?
 - Operations and enforcement for biodiversity monitoring
 - Many donors tend to fund researchers directly, not organizations that work on the ground, whose cost is more significant
 - Research is important in decision-making processes. Not many donors fund only research programs; funding should reflect the monitoring process
 - Capacity building
 - Leaders & Rangers better prepared for monitoring activities and commitment in communities
 - Supporting youth engagement in wildlife clubs encourages the creation of Conservation Leaders – involvement over 25 years has proven success.
 - Monitoring Programme:
 - Continued challenges with illegal gold mining – Rangers’ long-term commitment from several patches of financial input
 - Grateful for the BIOPAMA support this year
 - Continuity of patrols and enforcement measures to preserve and conserve biodiversity populations in the reserve
 - Maintain presence and good standing for the reserve & communities
- Now what?
 - Long term sustainable financing – information needed on other funding opportunities for the region
 - Advocacy for biodiversity through regional networking

Species Conservation

- What?
 - Behavior modification
 - Species protection improved
- So What?
 - Created a healthier ecosystem
 - Identification of young leaders
 - Improved communication, built trust among individuals
- Now what?
 - Use this successful module for species conservation to acquire additional funding
 - Create relationships with other communities where there are species of interest, working with youth, fishers, and unique communities
 - Building awareness in the communities on what has been already established and accomplished. Promoting positive achievements

- Continuing to build on work already established

Tourism in PAs

- What
 - Enforcement helped to secure the tourism product (fish, wildlife)
 - Capacity built for park guards in customer service for visitors
- So what?
 - Internal & local visitors are increasing + timing
 - Tourism provides up to 50% of annual operational budgets
 - Investing in law enforcement is one of the most important aspects of tourism
- Now what?
 - Scale up sustainable tourism programs in PAs

Law Enforcement

- What
 - Staff retention
 - Capacity ↑
 - Infractions ↓
 - Monitoring ↑(Equipment) - rapid response, drones + vehicles
- So what?
 - Improved management of natural resources
 - Data collection (sustained decision making, new tech effectively)
- Now what?
 - Scaling up at national level → Best practice
 - Partnerships / MoUs
 - Continued community involvement

Information Systems for Decision Making

- What?
 - Accomplishments:
 - Data collection and increased access to the data
 - Development of tools (incl use of technology) for species monitoring and tracking progress towards meeting targets listed in various MEAs (e.g. biodiversity dashboard, conservation tracking dashboard)
 - A data hub for the Caribbean was established, the Caribbean Protected Areas Gateway (CPAG)
 - Adjustments/Strengthening
 - Increased visibility of the CRAG and its tools

- Partnerships to support the continuity of the CPAG
 - Incorporate the CPAG into a regional environmental information system
 - Define periods of reporting in data-sharing agreements
- So what?
 - Support from a network of agencies is essential for the sustainability of the CPAG
 - To facilitate effective decision and policy making by bridging the science-policy gap
 - To establish a balance between data accessibility, security and functionality (e.g. the use of ArcGIS or continuation of the geonode?)
 - Additional resources required and formalized agreement(s) to ensure continuity
 - Need to build on partnerships with research institutions through internships or thesis research
- Now what?
 - Ensure that the data and tools are maintained during the transition to the next phase
 - Clear communication pathway regarding continuation of the CPAG
 - Ensure that the information system is meeting the needs of the countries

Capacity Building & Trainings

- What?
 - 9 persons trained in buoy construction (men and women)
 - Rangers hired and trained to monitor activities in the protected area
 - Seamoss Farmer Consultations:
 - The training and capacity strategy by Protected Area Management to pivot to use of technology and GIS to track and map patrols, violations and print reports for PA. Only fish sanctuary in Jamaica with this system.
 - PAME training with the METT of several PA management entities led to at least 2 of them getting other funding to build on their management needs.
 - PAME and METT training connected various islands in SVG, promoted collaboration
 - Stakeholder consultations:
 - Knowledge exchange and sharing have been essential for community partnerships
- So what?
 - Alternative livelihoods for seamoss farmers

- Increased awareness and support from stakeholders in zoning and demarcation
- The presence of the rangers has slowed down the illegal use of resources
- Built capacity in PAME and METT allows CSOs to work in various PAs (income generating)
- Training fosters improved communication and collaboration between stakeholders and locals
- Now what?
 - Legislation at national level:
 - METT used as a PAME tool in the OECS to help us a region reach the 30 x 30 target.
 - Knowledge exchanging is vital among different organisations and across islands
 - Follow up on these trainings should continue using METT to track and determine progress
 - MPAs should transition to using technology and use the same software for increased harmonization of efforts

Community Engagement for Governance

- What?
 - BIOPAMA provided a learning and exchange experience, providing a space for voices to be heard
 - BIOPAMA provided (created) an opportunity to learn and share with other cultures and communities
- So what?
 - It is important because:
 - It supports local communities by facilitating the implementation of governance strategies for conservation
- Now what?
 - Keep communities involved and share information/progress
 - Clear communication is essential among stakeholders to facilitate continuity of learning
 - Create an enabling environment for community organisation to enhance influence and involvement in governance

Policy Dialogue & Advocacy

- What?
 - Grants were useful for advocacy, but hard to see any influence on policy

- Policy Analysis & Recommendations:
 - 1. Inclusion of biodiversity in cross-cutting policy issues
 - 2. Increase dialogue between national and community stakeholders on existing and needed biodiversity actions
 - 3. Practical guide for evidence-informed decision-making
 - Accessibility and availability of data are crucial for application in decision-making
 - Set up a framework for data-driven decision-making in Protected Areas (Trinidad and Tobago)
- So what?
 - Retrospective management actions still unresolved
 - Stakeholders need additional support for clear actions
 - Data gaps that need to be addressed. They require high-level guidance for impact
- Now what?
 - Impact of grants limited;
 - Donor-driven? Lack of two-way communication as a challenge
 - Scaling up the data-driven decision-making process

Income-generating Activities for Local Indigenous Communities

- What?
 - The grant was used to prepare a recovery and resilience plan for two major impacts (e.g., storms, pandemics)
 - Under the grant, a feasibility study and pilot project on seaweed farming was conducted in Belize – TIDE, Community Researchers
 - Under the BIOPAMA grant, several communities, especially the “last frontier” in Guyana, received training in alternative livelihoods, including beekeeping, and they also want to explore seaweed farming opportunities – Goldengrove
 - Under the project, farmers were trained to add value and process the seaweed they used traditionally to support household income
- So what?
 - Women are taking the lead (Women empowerment)
 - Protect the fishing resource - regulations, management, eco-activities
 - Identifying new sources (experience of 28 months on project support; next steps?)
 - Common Trends:
 - Mariculture farming
 - Eco-based tourism package (e.g., tour guides, diving guides)
 - Education and understanding of biodiversity
 - Every community lesson is relevant, lack of preparation due to COVID

- Now what?
 - Securing financial support:
 - High-cost investments, like the purchase of specialized equipment (workshop within projects)
 - Securing other sources of financing (e.g., harvesting equipment, start-up capital for additional investment, boat purchases)

Social network session

Map informal connections and decide how to strengthen the network to achieve a purpose

- Create a legend of all the key groups in the network needed to achieve your purpose and assign a post-it color and symbol for each.
- Every group member prints clearly his or her organization name on a Post-it. Put the Post-its in a group in the center of the paper.
- What organizations do you know that are active in this work? One Post-it with each of the org. names. Arrange the Post-its based on each degree of separation from each organization listed. 1
- Who else would you like to include in this work? Invite them to brainstorm and create Post-its for the other people they would like to include. Ask them to build the map of Post-its as a web with a core and periphery structure (mimicking the actual and desired spread of participation).
- Tell the core group to step back and ask, “Who knows whom? Who has influence and expertise? Who can block progress? Who can boost progress?” Ask them to illustrate the answers with connecting lines.
- Devise strategies to: 1) invite, attract, and “weave” new people into their work; 2) work around blockages; and 3) boost progress.



Photo 36. Legend for the exercise

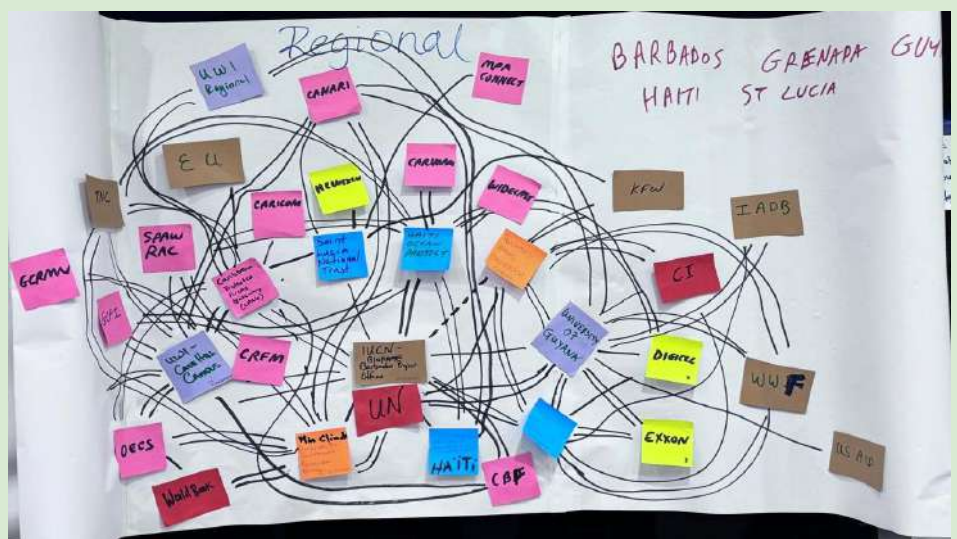


Photo 37. Example of regional networking analysis

October 5th, 2024

Field visit

The knowledge sharing amongst grant recipients culminated with a field trip, hosted by the Saint Lucia National Trust (SLNT), to the Pointe Sable Environmental Protection Area (PSEPA). The SLNT was a recipient of a BIOPAMA rapid response grant (RRG-C-1090) and has management responsibility for the PSEPA. The SLNT shared their management challenges and successes and got insights from participants who were also able to interact with local stakeholders who use and benefit from PSEPA.



Photos 39 and 40. Field visit

Workshop evaluation and feedbacks

