



The Redonda Ecosystem Reserve  
Credit: Re:Wild

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## New Protected Area in Antigua now one of the largest in the region

A Caribbean island that has been transformed from a barren moonscape to a lush wildlife sanctuary in just a few short years, has been made one of the biggest protected areas in the region.

This new protected area located in Antigua and Barbuda and named the Redonda Ecosystem Reserve covers almost 30,000 hectares (300 sq. km) of land and sea, including the entire island, its surrounding seagrass meadows and 18 sq. km of coral reef. It is believed to contain at least 30 globally threatened and near-threatened species along with globally important sea bird colonies. Redonda Island is now thriving after a major conservation effort by local and international partners.

The CPAG will work directly to ensure that this new data is reflected in the World Database on Protected Areas (WDPA) to provide current information. To learn more about this story, watch this insightful [video](#) from Re:Wild and its partners.

# CPAG Team Heads to Switzerland



Members of the CPAG team recently attended the annual Biodiversity and Protected Areas Management (BIOPAMA) Programme “All-Hands Meeting” at the Headquarters of the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) in Switzerland where they engaged with counterparts from other BIOPAMA regional observatories. As the BIOPAMA programme covers the Africa Caribbean and Pacific (ACP) countries, colleagues working in the regional observatories in the Africa and Pacific were able to exchange with CPAG on their lessons learnt and success stories to aid mutual knowledge transfer and capacity building.

Looking forward to the new global biodiversity targets under the Convention on Biological Diversity’s Kunming-Montreal Protocol, the BIOPAMA team in collaboration with the regional observatories explored the sustainability of the regional observatories in assisting countries in monitoring progress towards targets and reporting. The CPAG will also continue to work towards updating country-specific data within the World Database on Protected Areas (WDPA), provide relevant data and reports to assist decision makers and assist with the effective management of protected and conserved areas.



# CPAG participates in World Oceans Day activities in Barbados and Trinidad

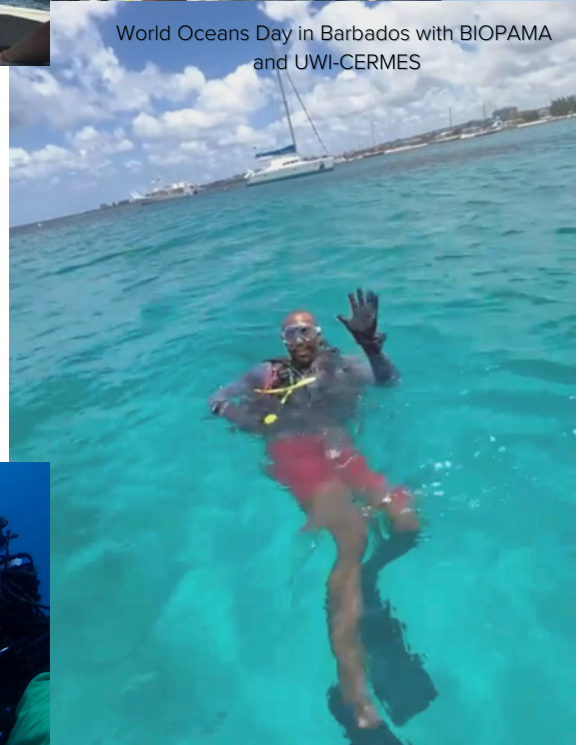
Diving in Barbados



World Oceans Day in Trinidad with SOA Caribbean



World Oceans Day in Barbados with BIOPAMA and UWI-CERMES



This year, CPAG marked World Oceans Day by participating in a marine exploration session with UWI-CERMES and BIOPAMA in Barbados, and a beach clean-up in Trinidad with Sustainable Ocean Alliance (SOA)- Caribbean. The importance of marine habitats was discussed as well as the need to keep our marine environment clean for the health of marine life, but also our own.

World Oceans Day in Barbados with BIOPAMA and UWI-CERMES



World Oceans Day in Barbados with BIOPAMA and UWI-CERMES



World Oceans Day in Trinidad with SOA Caribbean



# Youth Connect on Deep-Sea Mining and Climate Action in the Caribbean

By *Sweelan Renaud, SOA CARIBBEAN*

Parallel to the 28th Council & Assembly meeting at the International Seabed Authority in Kingston Jamaica, EcoVybz Environmental Creatives in partnership with SOA Caribbean and SOA Hispanoamerica, organized a Deep-Sea Youth Symposium, which consisted of a 5-day capacity building workshop, art exhibition and field trip from July 20th to the 25th. The program's overarching goal was to utilize all forms of media as a means to bridge the gap and connect people to the importance of the ocean as well as create experiential learning on issues related to the Deep-Sea Mining and its connection to SDG13 on Climate Action.



Twenty-three (23) youths from fifteen (15) countries across the Caribbean and Latin American region were engaged in enriching intergenerational dialogue with delegates from India, Dominican Republic and Mexico and had workshop presentations by experts from various organizations (Deep Sea Conservation Coalition, Deep-Ocean Stewardship Initiative, International Union for Conservation of Nature) in which they gained comprehensive knowledge about the science, policy and economics of Deep Sea Mining (DSM). Participants left Jamaica knowing how to effectively communicate and advocate on the topic as they were also taught by renowned artists and journalists about efficient reporting and storytelling skills.

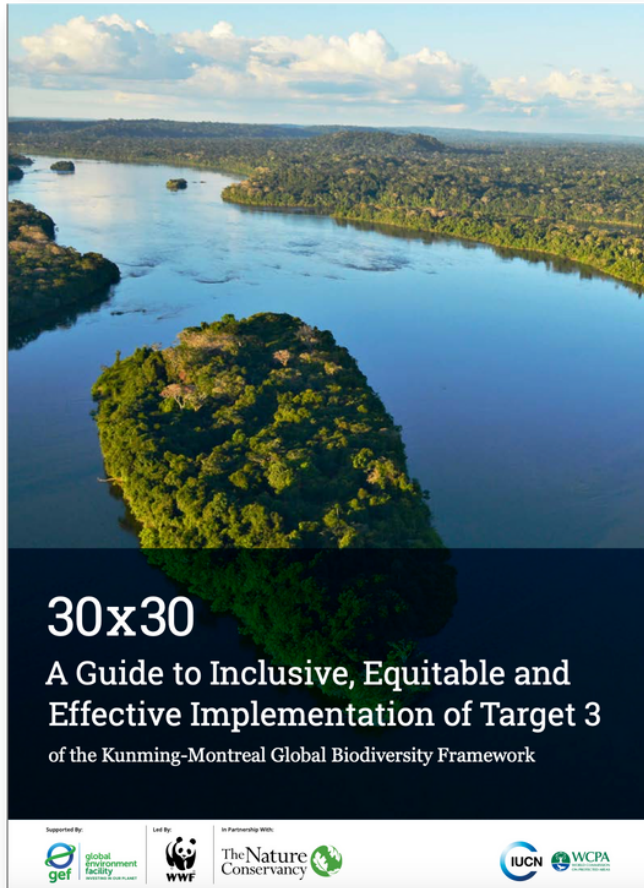
Deep-sea mining is the process of extracting and often excavating mineral deposits from the deep seabed. The deep seabed is the seabed at ocean depths greater than 200m, and covers about two-thirds of the total seafloor.

Research suggests deep-sea mining could severely harm marine biodiversity and ecosystems, but we still lack the knowledge and means to implement protections.



The art exhibition, aptly titled 'Ocean Depths Unveiled: Preserving the Abyss,' held a pivotal role in the Symposium. It skillfully dismantled misconceptions surrounding the deep sea, challenging the notion of desolation and lifelessness through thought-provoking activism.

As the symposium concluded, the overwhelming feedback from the participants spoke volumes about its transformative impact. Equipped with newfound tools, knowledge, and a robust network, these inspired youths are now poised to spearhead their own campaigns and lead the conversation in their respective countries.



## Guide to 30X30

A new resource is available on our website to guide readers through Target 3 of the new Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework, known colloquially as the 30x30 target.

30x30: A Guide to Inclusive, Equitable and Effective Implementation of Target 3 of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework is the first globally relevant guide on Target 3. Developed by the World Wildlife Fund (WWF), IUCN World Commission on Protected Areas, and The Nature Conservancy, and supported by funding from the Global Environment Facility, this guide is intended to support governments and many other actors to contribute to this complex target in ways that are inclusive, equitable and effective. Click the guide to the left to read and download.

## It's a wrap!

### *CPAG concludes its first phase of country missions*

During the first half of 2023, the CPAG team journeyed across the region to conduct workshops in several countries on tools to benefit the management of biodiversity, protected and conserved areas. Workshops were held for Grenada, St. Vincent and the Grenadines, Antigua and Barbuda, St. Lucia, St. Kitts and Nevis and Trinidad and Tobago.

Stemming from these country missions, we are actively working with each country to develop solutions for key challenges outlined. For example, in Trinidad and Tobago and Antigua and Barbuda, we are in the process of developing requested tools that will enhance capacity in data reporting and analysis. CPAG remains committed to tackling these priorities, fostering effective collaboration, and meeting the needs of our participants for the sustainable management of our region's invaluable natural resources.



Images from the workshop held in Trinidad



# Grenada's Landmark Soil Survey

*Paving the Way for Sustainable Development*

By Dionne Carrington, CPAG

In a historic endeavor, Grenada recently conducted a national soil sampling survey, marking a significant step towards sustainable development. A total of 120 soil samples were collected across the island, including the sister isle Carriacou.

The initiative has been described as "history in the making" as it signifies Grenada's first comprehensive soil survey in 64 years. Such a long gap underscores the importance of this endeavor in updating Grenada's soil maps and providing crucial data on soil properties.

The data obtained from this survey will have far-reaching implications. Not only will it inform policy decisions at the highest levels of government, but it will also empower farmers on the ground to make more sustainable choices in their agricultural practices. With this data in hand, Grenada is poised to embark on a journey toward a greener, more sustainable future, where informed decisions drive progress and development.



## CPAG brings access to resources



In our latest series on CPAG TV, Ruleta Camacho-Thomas from Nelson's Dockyard National Park in Antigua talks about the benefits derived through engaging with the CPAG and BIOPAMA programme thus far. Click [here](#) to watch the video.

## Looking Ahead...

### *Webinar on Tools for NBSAP Reporting*

We are delighted to announce that CPAG will be hosting a webinar to shed light on how our innovative tools can help countries in their National Biodiversity Strategies and Action Plans (NBSAP) reporting. We know that NBSAPs play a pivotal role in integrating biodiversity conservation and sustainable use into various sectors thereby helping nations to effectively address threats to their biodiversity. These plans are not only essential on a national scale but also contribute to global efforts like the 30x30 target mentioned previously. Stay tuned for more details on this informative webinar!

### *New Tools, Dashboards and Products are coming*

Over the next few months, the CPAG will be launching a series of new tools such as a conservation tracking tool, a biodiversity dashboard and products to assist countries in understanding the status of their protected areas and how to meet Target 3 (the 30x30 target) of the new Global Biodiversity Framework. Please continue to follow us across our social media pages to learn more.



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