



Levara Wetlands, Grenada

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DASHBOARD IS HERE!

CHECK THE 30X30 STATUS
OF YOUR CARICOM
COUNTRY

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LOOKING FORWARD TO
2024

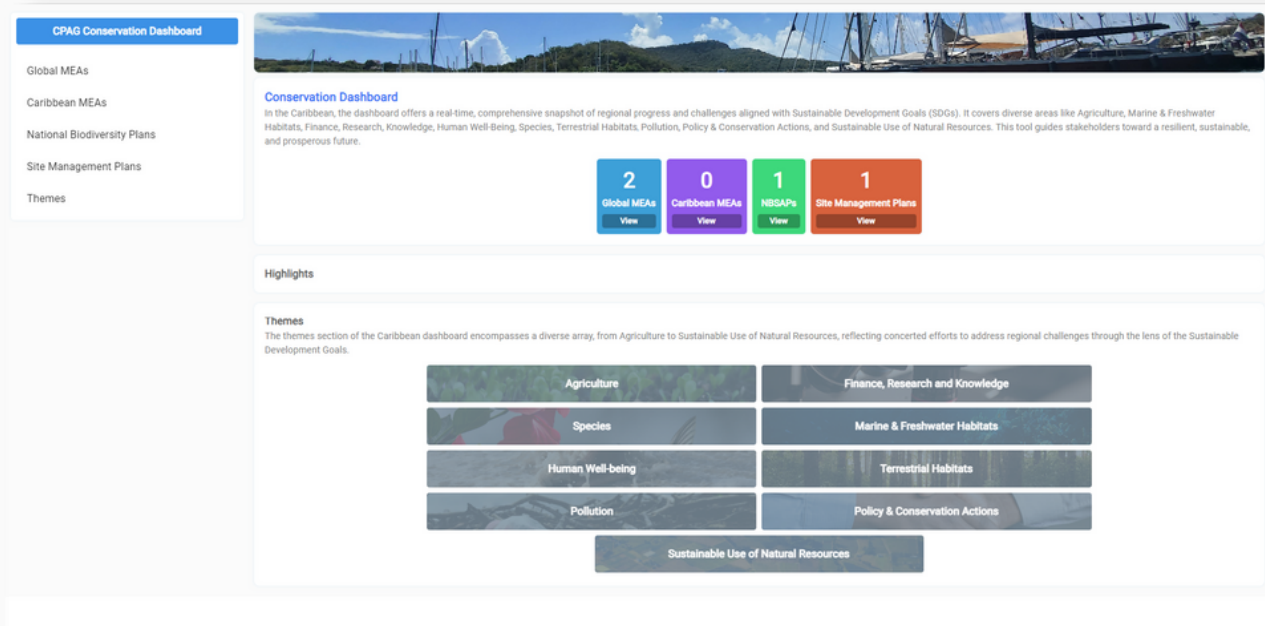
From our Family to Yours

Like fireflies dancing in the sky, the lights of Christmas brighten our nights and create a feeling of warmth and joy. This season allows no greater gift than for us to wish Merry Christmas and Happy Holidays to you and your family.

From,
The CPAG

Our Conservation Dashboard is here!

CPAG proudly presents the **Conservation Dashboard (CD)**, a groundbreaking tool tailored to **dynamically monitor and visualize the Caribbean region's strides in meeting critical biodiversity and conservation targets**. By offering real-time data and intuitive visualizations, the CD empowers informed decision-making and collaboration among stakeholders, amplifying our collective impact on conservation initiatives.



The CD integrates data from global and regional Multilateral Environmental Agreements (MEAs), National Biodiversity Strategies and Action Plans (NBSAPs), and local site management plans, ensuring a comprehensive overview of conservation efforts across varying scales. It is designed to cater to non-scientific users and policy-makers by prioritizing accessibility, simplicity and emphasizing targets pivotal for strategic decision-making.

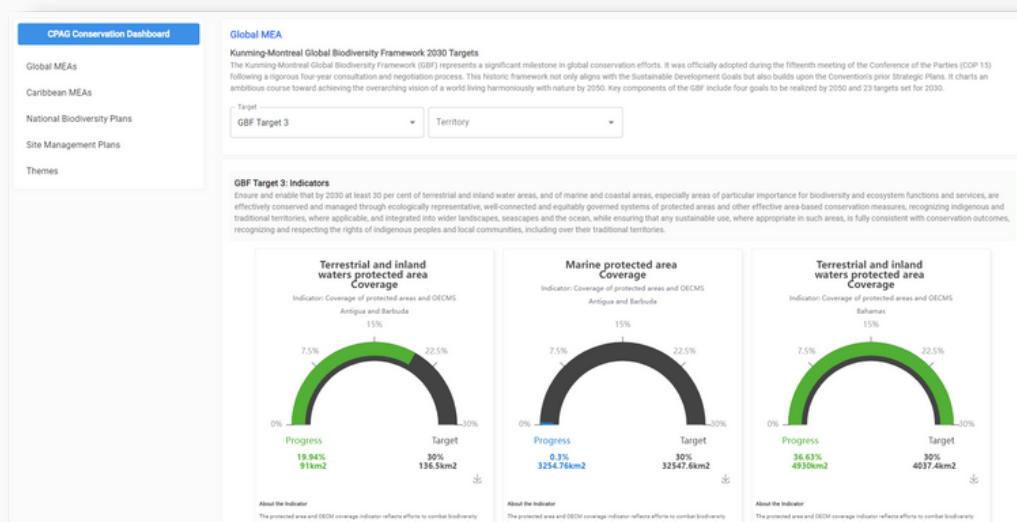


Image of GBF Target 3 charts on the dashboard.

Functionalities include:

- The ability to filter by country or by region
- The option to download indicator charts and access data sources.

As CPAG remains steadfast in our commitment to preserving the Caribbean's unique biodiversity, the Conservation Dashboard stands as a testament to our dedication. Join us on this innovative journey, harnessing the power of data and collaboration to foster a sustainable future for our beloved region. We are committed to a continuous process of updating displayed data, incorporating new targets and integrating enhanced features.

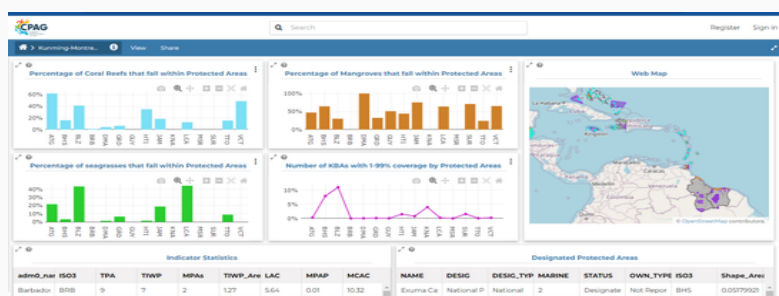
[Click here to begin exploring today!](#)



Unveiling the Caribbean's Commitment to Biodiversity: CPAG's Pioneering Efforts in the Wake of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework

In a momentous culmination of four years of dedicated consultation and negotiation, the fifteenth Conference of the Parties (COP 15) witnessed the adoption of **the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework (GBF)**. This historic agreement not only sets forth an ambitious plan to achieve global harmony with nature by 2050 but also builds upon the Convention's preceding Strategic Plans, aligning seamlessly with the pursuit of Sustainable Development Goals.

For the Caribbean Protected Areas Gateway (CPAG), the **GBF emerged as a beacon of importance, prompting a proactive response to ensure that each island could not only assess its biodiversity status, but also benchmark its progress against other nations.** In a commendable initiative, a dynamic three-person team, consisting of Cristina Lazaro, Dionne Carrington, and Tenika Griffith, collaborated to compile and compute diverse statistics for CARICOM member states. Once the data was meticulously collated, GIS Specialist Tenika Griffith embarked on crafting a comprehensive regional dashboard that offers a visually rich and insightful representation of the intricate data.



A sneak peak at the 30x30 dashboard

The various targets included in the dataset include:

- Total Protected Areas
- Terrestrial and Inland Waters Protected
- Marine Protected Areas
- Terrestrial and inland waters protected area coverage (%)
- Land Area Coverage (km2)
- Marine Protected Area Coverage (%)
- Marine and Coastal Area Covered (km2)
- Total Protected Areas with management effectiveness evaluations
- Percentage of protected areas that have undergone management effectiveness assessments
- Number of KBAs
- Number of KBAs with 100% coverage by protected areas
- Percentage of KBAs with 100% coverage by protected areas
- Number of KBAs with 1-99% coverage by protected areas
- Percentage of KBAs with 1-99% coverage by protected areas
- Number of KBAs with 0% coverage by protected areas
- Percentage of KBAs with 0% coverage by protected areas
- Proportion of mangroves within protected and conserved areas
- Proportion of seagrasses within protected and conserved areas
- Proportion of corals within protected and conserved areas

Discover more about this dashboard [here](#).

A Few Of Our Favourite Things: Our Year in Review

DATA DRIVES IT ALL!

CPAG expanded its available data with the addition of spatial data from Antigua and Barbuda, St. Kitts and Nevis, St. Lucia, Grenada and Trinidad and Tobago. **CPAG has published a total of 342 geospatial datasets for 13 countries throughout the region.**

During the year, we've also added to our Thematic Resources. To commemorate Latin America and the Caribbean Protected Areas Day 2023, **we launched our PA Gallery**, which will be expanded even further in 2024. Additionally, we're pleased to share that **we added a funding database** from the Sustainable Marine Financing Project.

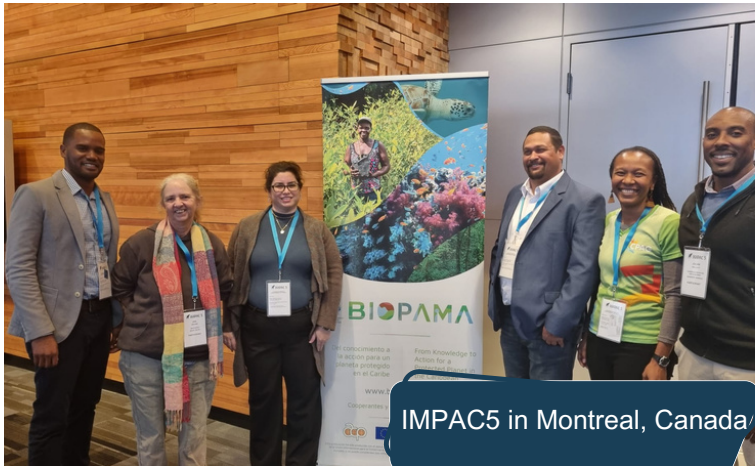
One of the key elements of the CPAG is **our Directory of Experts**, where you can search for experts in various categories throughout the region as a means of networking and collaboration. This year, we relaunched this directory on our website and the associated API with over 40 experts in more than 30 areas. Feel free to see what it's all about by [clicking here](#).

We also updated our website this year, so if you haven't seen it yet, now is a great opportunity to [dive in and discover!](#)



WE MADE A SPLASH THIS YEAR

As we reflect on the strides made in biodiversity conservation, the Caribbean Protected Areas Gateway (CPAG) stands out as a beacon of proactive engagement, making waves in various regional forums throughout the year. Let's delve into the highlights of CPAG's impactful journey in 2023.



CPAG hosted a knowledge sharing session (90 minutes) titled 'From knowledge to action: A case study of protected area management effectiveness in Belize' at the **Fifth International Marine Protected Area Congress (IMPAC5)**, held 5 February 2023 in Vancouver, Canada. A total of 18 participants from 18 distinct organisations attended the session.

In April, we headed over to Dominica to attend the **Regional Workshop on Marine Biodiversity Conservation and Sea Turtle Monitoring** where we presented on the topic 'Data Collection: A Tool for Addressing Threats to Biodiversity'.

Another highlight in the year for us was the **Caribbean Biodiversity and Financing Conference** facilitated by the Caribbean Biodiversity Fund (CBF) in association with the Global Environment Facility (GEF) Small Grants Programme (SGP) implemented by the United Nations Development Programme. CPAG presented in the session 'Trends in marine conservation in the Caribbean' and served as a panelist in the subsequent panel discussion.

CPAG also participated in the **OECS Environmental Sustainability Conference** held in preparation for the tenth regular meeting of the OECS Council of Ministers on Environmental Sustainability (COM:ES10) where we were involved in discussions on the Sustainable Financing Forum and the Validation of the COM:ES Roadmap to 2030.

We extend sincere gratitude to the OECS Commission for inviting us to participate in the **Training on the Regional Environmental Monitoring Data Portal (REMDAP)** by the Global Environment Facility (GEF) and Integrating Water, Land and Ecosystems Management in Caribbean Small Island Developing States (IWEco).

Understanding that biodiversity management is vital to the fight against climate change, the CPAG was pleased to present at the **Regional Conference of Youth on Climate Change** earlier this year.

We wrapped up the year by participating in the **EU-Caribbean Workshop on Marine Scientific Cooperation** held at the U.W.I Cave Hill Campus. We discussed the role that CPAG plays pertaining to marine scientific cooperation and also moderated two breakout sessions to engage with participants in a dynamic way.

BIOPAMA ALL- HANDS MEETING

Members of the CPAG 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 we engaged with counterparts from other BIOPAMA regional observatories from Africa and the Pacific. We are approaching the final months of the BIOPAMA programme, which was started in July 2011 and concludes in June 2024. This meeting was instrumental in working towards a way forward for the regional observatories such as the CPAG, and the work which is being done to assist countries in the management of biodiversity, protected and conserved areas.



REGIONAL WORKSHOPS

During the first half of 2023, the CPAG team journeyed across the Caribbean 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.

CPAG remains committed to tackling these priorities, fostering effective collaboration, and meeting the needs of our regions for the sustainable management of the Caribbean's invaluable natural resources.



CPAG's Thriving Collaborations: Charting New Horizons for Biodiversity Conservation

In the spirit of forging impactful partnerships, the Caribbean Protected Areas Gateway (CPAG) has been busy making strides in collaborative initiatives that promise to reshape the landscape of biodiversity conservation. Let's dive into the exciting realms of CPAG's recent collaborations, each one a beacon of hope for a more sustainable and harmonious future.

Special thanks to the team at **UNEP-WCMC**, for continuing to work with us to ensure the most accurate and up-to-date data is reflected for the Caribbean on the **World Database on Protected Areas (WDPA)**.

We also worked with the **German Society for International Cooperation (GIZ) Sustainable Marine Financing (SMF)** project to host and publish a funding database as well as with the **OECS Commission** on the development of a Regional Environmental Information System and a Regional Monitoring Data Portal, with the idea being that these systems along with CPAG and other systems will function to **create a regional environmental information ecosystem**.



Another highlight of 2023 for us at the CPAG was definitely **our first bioblitz held in collaboration with CocoHill Forest in Barbados**. Special thanks to the 23 volunteers who helped us to record more than 80 observations across more than species within the forest.

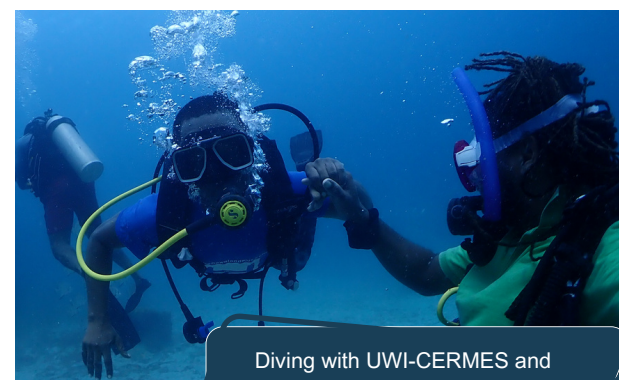
Over in Trinidad, we also **partnered with SOA Caribbean for World Oceans Day** to conduct an offshore and onshore cleanup of Trinidad and also facilitated a dive in one of Barbados' most famous marine parks.



Partnership with SOA Caribbean for World Oceans Day- offshore and onshore clean up in Trinidad.

Other Key Highlights:

- **MOU signed between IUCN-ORMACC and the OECS Commission**, paving the way for involvement of IUCN and CPAG in the Biodiversity Support Programme in ACP Coastal Environments (BioSPACE) project.
- Through the Caribbean Regional Architecture for Biodiversity (CRAB) which is funded by the Caribbean Biodiversity Fund (CBF), **CPAG is collaborating with a CBF-CRAB Intern** whose internship is focusing on conducting a comprehensive assessment of the nine designated protected areas (PAs), both terrestrial and marine, found on and around mainland Grenada.



Diving with UWI-CERMES and BIOPAMA for World Oceans Day.

What's in store for 2024!

We are excited to kick off 2024 as we have several initiatives and tools in the pipeline and we can't wait to share them with you.

Our Biodiversity Dashboard is coming!

In the new year, we will see the final touches on our Biodiversity Dashboard being made, allowing us to launch yet another new and useful tool for the region. It will present a comprehensive overview of the region's rich tapestry of life, exploring species diversity, habitats, threats, conservation efforts, protected areas, and country profiles. Serving as a vital resource hub, it will offer insights into biodiversity preservation and conservation measures in the Caribbean.

We are stronger together!

We are looking forward to many partnerships and collaborations throughout 2024 to advance the work of the Caribbean Protected Areas Gateway even further. A few major collaborations already in store include a partnership with the Trinidad and Tobago Cetacean Sighting Network (TTCSN) to establish an inventory of cetacean species diversity and distribution, and the further development of a consortium comprising of the OECS Commission, IUCN and UWI to respond to the needs of the region required for the CBD's regional biodiversity centres.

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!

We're launching a new blog- Biodiversity Matters

Our new blog, Biodiversity Matters will be launching in the new year! We are looking forward to sharing insights and case studies with you on interesting topics surrounding biodiversity and conservation in the Caribbean. If you'd like to contribute an article, send an email to info@thecpag.org.

Stay tuned to our social media pages for updates on these exciting initiatives for 2024!

Merry Christmas

& HAPPY NEW YEAR