CPAG
CARIBBEAN PROTECTED AREAS GATEWAY

CARIBBEAN GATEWAY
Insights

ISSUE 9 | APRIL 2023- "ALL THAT'S BRIGHT"

## Contents

CPAG on the move!

Over the last few months, the CPAG has made its way to a number of participating countries, collecting data, conducting workshops and engaging with stakeholders to promote environmental tools.

CPAG kicked off its 2023 country mission series to promote the tools created for environmental and biodiversity management. The tour began in March and is set to end in June, with visits to Grenada, St Vincent, St Kitts and Nevis, Antigua and Barbuda, St Lucia, Belize, and Trinidad and Tobago.

The main objective of the mission is to showcase the tools designed to assist governments, NGOs, and individuals in the Caribbean region to better manage and protect their natural resources.

These tools include databases of protected areas, decision-making tools for conservation planning, and spatial analysis tools for ecosystem assessment and monitoring.

CPAG is committed to fostering collaboration and cooperation for the protection of the region's unique and valuable biodiversity. We look forward to engaging with you!
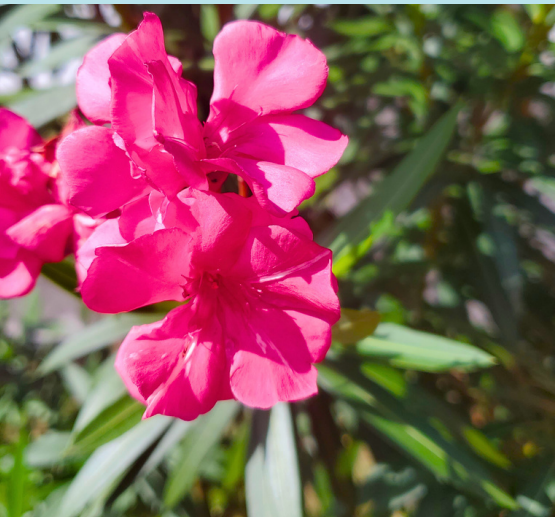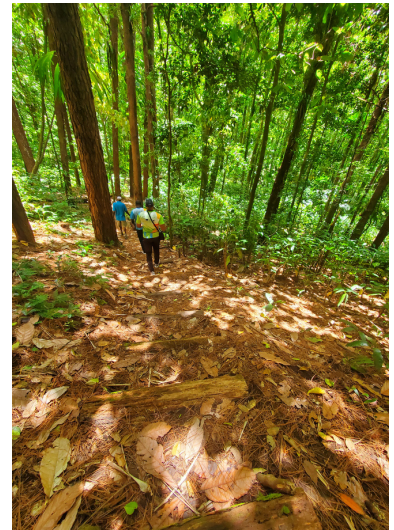
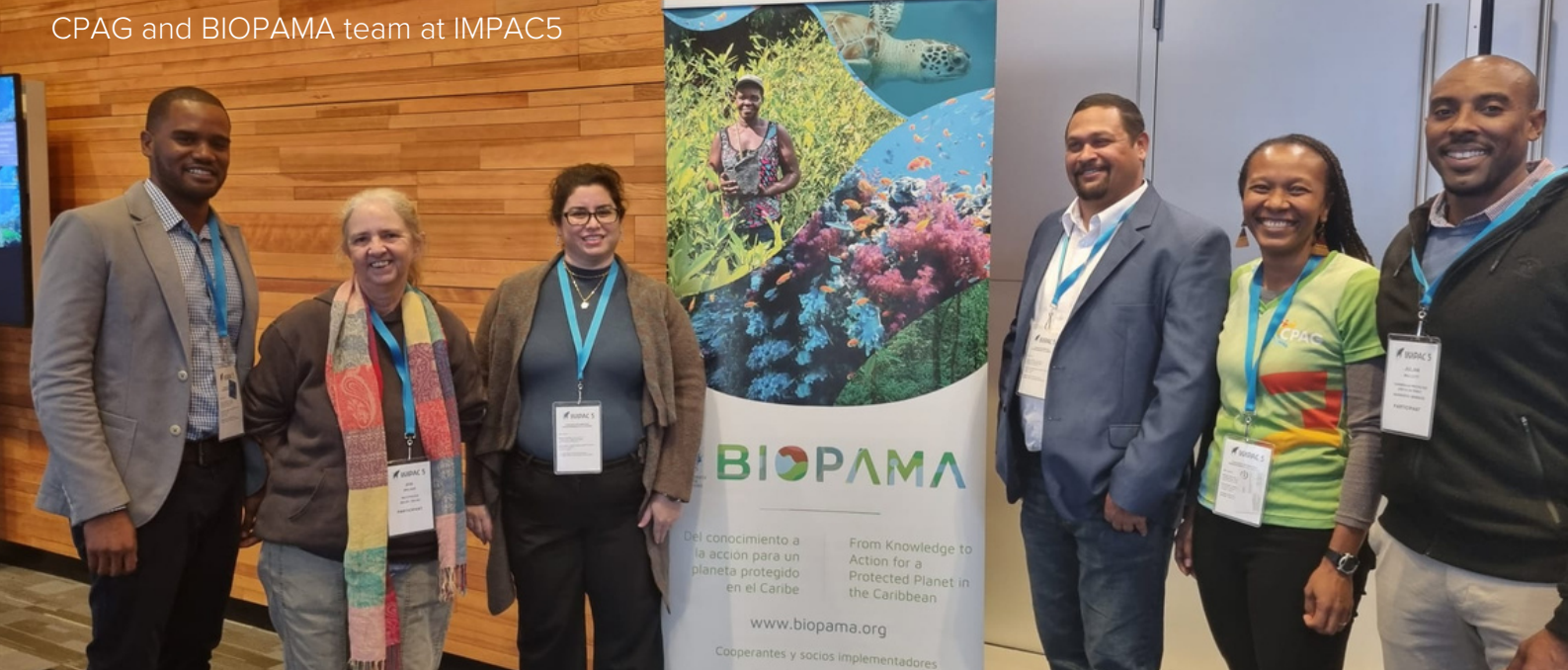# GALLERY: CPAG 2023 COUNTRY MISSIONS
GRENADA AND ST.VINCENT AND THE GRENADINES

GRENADA

ST.VINCENT AND THE GRENADINES

What's new in our resource and information hub?

Have you visited our platform as yet? We are excited to share new developments as it relates to our GeoNode.

It is a top priority for the CPAG GeoNode to develop Dashboards that show a summary of information about the Protected Areas, whether they are designated, proposed, or otherwise.

Additionally, this new tool has a webmap which makes it simple to visualize the country's protected areas. Understanding where they're located, the socio-economic factors of the surrounding communities, and how the designated areas correlate, will add value to their management.

We encourage users to utilize our GeoNode, which also allows one to overlay other pertinent statistics, such as hotel locations, quarry sites, and other socio-economic activity locations on the island.

The CPAG now has a GIS specialist on board, who will be working diligently to upload the relevant data, and to ensure that it is as user-friendly as possible. Stay tuned to our social media pages for tips on how to use this new and exciting resource tool.

FEATURED TEAM MEMBER

TENIKA GRIFFITH

GEOGRAPHIC INFORMATION SYSTEMS (GIS) SPECIALIST

Meet Tenika- the newest member of the CPAG team.

Originally from Trinidad and Tobago, Tenika has working knowledge in both human and physical Geography. Her passion for sustainable development has led her to pursue an MSc in Geoinformatics.

Her interests involve Disaster Risk Reduction and how the application of GIS can be used to support efficient decision making to promote sustainable development within Small Island Developing States.

Contact Tenika at tenika@thecpag.org

CPAG at IMPAC5-CANADA 2023

The Fifth International Marine Protected Areas Congress (IMPAC5), held 3-9 February 2023 in Vancouver, Canada, presented a global forum that brought together ocean conservation professionals and high-level officials to inform, inspire and act on marine protected areas. CPAG, through the Biodiversity and Protected Areas Management (BIOPAMA) programme, seized the opportunity to host a 90-minute knowledge sharing session titled 'From knowledge to action: A case study of protected area management effectiveness in Belize' under the theme Managing Marine Protected Areas and Human Activity.

The knowledge session introduced participants to the protected area management effectiveness (PAME) framework and assessments, provided insights into the management of data for protected area management from Belize's and CPAG's point of view and showcased case studies on management effectiveness by the Belize Audobon Society (BAS) and the Toledo Institute for Development and Environment (TIDE).

Header Photo: From left to right: Justin Springer (IUCN), Zoe Walker (Wildtracks), Amanda Acosta (Belize Audubon Society), Shane Young (Belize Audubon Society), Hyacinth Armstrong Vaughn (IUCN), Julian Walcott (CPAG).

Gallery: Country Missions to St. Kitts and Nevis and Antigua and Barbuda

The Value of Earth Observation to the Caribbean Region: UWI's Geospatial Observation Center

By: Dr. Bheshem Ramlal - Senior Lecturer in Geomatics Engineering, Cartography and Geoinformatics

Great opportunities lie ahead with the Caribbean open data cube, which will supply satellite data for the Caribbean region, through a new project with the Caribbean Space Agency.

Developing, implementing, monitoring, and measuring the success of various actions and interventions in achieving the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), and addressing national and regional challenges in the Caribbean is contingent on the availability of reliable geospatial and statistical data through functional geospatial data infrastructures.

Unfortunately, many countries in the region are unable to provide the resources needed to secure the geospatial data sets required to achieve these objectives. Earth Observation data, acquired through Satellite Remote Sensing, is a viable and relatively cheap geospatial data source that can be leveraged in acquiring the data sets relevant to meeting the needs of the region. However, high-end computer resources and specialized technical training are key components in processing Earth Observation data to generate these data sets.

The Government of Mexico, through the Latin America and Caribbean Space Agency established in 2021, has agreed to fund the development of the Geospatial Observation Center (GOC) at the University of the West Indies, St. Augustine Campus. The decision to locate the GOC at the St. Augustine Campus was based on a review of the requirements for hosting the Centre. The GOC will be managed by the Department of Geomatics Engineering and Land Management with support from Campus Information Technology Services. It was found that remote sensing specialists essential to the success of the Centre were only attached to the Department of Geomatics Engineering and Land Management.

The GOC will be equipped with appropriate hardware and software to be installed at the UWI St. Augustine Campus. Staff from across the UWI system will be trained by the National Institute of Statistics and Geography (INEGI) of Mexico to manage and maintain the system and to use Earth Observation Data to generate geospatial data sets. In addition, specific focus will be placed on training Geographic Information Systems Specialist from across the Caribbean and Latin American regions to use the online facilities to produce data for applications to mitigate flooding, manage mangroves, monitor the movement of Sargassum seaweed, and to map forest cover and land use change. The UWI will manage and coordinate efforts to ensure appropriate use by GIS specialists from state agencies and educational institutions across the Caribbean.

BIOBLITZ BOOSTING DATA

At the CPAG, we're big on data, and we believe that every biodiversity snapshot we can capture in the region, will go a long way in assisting with better biodiversity management. So here comes citizen science!

On March 25th, 2023, the CPAG hosted its first Bioblitz at CocoHill Forest in Barbados. This was a great opportunity to identify as many species as possible in the forest over a short period of time. With our mobile phones in hand, and registration to the event on iNaturilist which was used to upload photos of the species found, we set off into the forest.

Approximately 20 volunteers answered the call to help us to build a biodiversity profile of the area. By understanding the biodiversity, management would be able to make better conservation decisions.

We extend a special thank you to all volunteers, and look forward to a regional bioblitz event.

UP NEXT FOR THE CPAG

Having just completed country missions to St. Kitts and Nevis and Antigua and Barbuda last week, the CPAG will be continuing it's 2023 missions in the coming weeks to St. Lucia, Belize and Trinidad and Tobago. We will continue engagements with stakeholdes on the ground. Upcoming events can be viewed on our website, so stay tuned for more!

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