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CPAG Transitions to a New Host Organisation

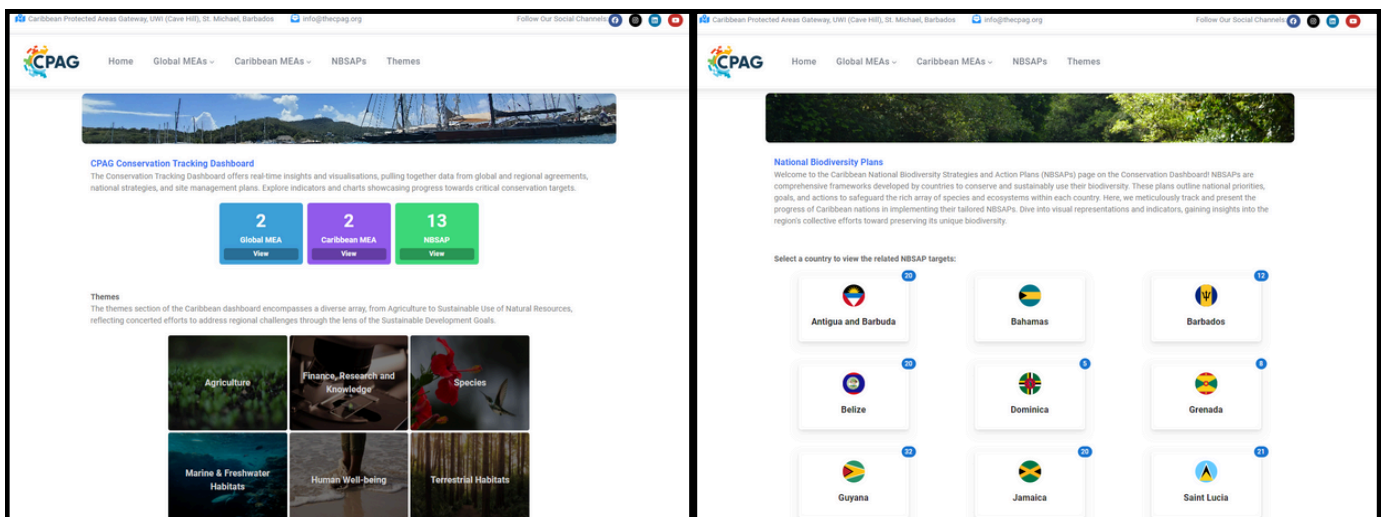
The Caribbean Protected Areas Gateway (CPAG) is on the brink of a significant transition as it prepares to move to a new host organization. Currently, CPAG finds its home at the Centre for Resource Management and Environmental Studies (CERMES) at the University of the West Indies, Cave Hill Campus in Barbados. However, with the conclusion of the Biodiversity and Protected Areas Management (BIOPAMA) Programme in June 2024, the need for a sustainable future for CPAG has become imperative.

To ensure the continued effectiveness and longevity of CPAG, a new host organization is being sought. The vision is for CPAG to be hosted, governed, and implemented by a regional organization or a consortium of regional organizations, including both a lead host and implementing partners. This setup will enable CPAG to operate efficiently and fulfil its mission across the Caribbean region.

Considering the unique mission, objectives, niche, and networking of CPAG, the ideal hosting arrangement would involve an organisation or consortium that can meet the political, thematic, and technical requirements for successful implementation. The proposed consortium would include the Organisation of Eastern Caribbean States (OECS Commission) as the lead organization for political oversight, the Caribbean Biodiversity Fund (CBF) and the International Union for the Conservation of Nature (IUCN) for thematic expertise, and The Nature Conservancy for technical support.

This strategic partnership will pave the way for CPAG's continued success and impact in the region. The transition to the new host organization is expected to take place post-May, marking an exciting new chapter for CPAG and its stakeholders.

REFRESHING OUR CONSERVATION DASHBOARD



We're excited to announce an update to our tool, previously known as the Conservation Dashboard, which is now rebranded as the Conservation Tracking Dashboard (CTD). With a focus on accuracy, accessibility, and simplicity, the CTD enables both policymakers and non-experts to utilize real-time data for better decision-making.

This latest version features targets and indicators from the National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plans (NBSAPs) for 13 Caribbean countries, as well as targets from two regional Multilateral Environmental Agreements (MEAs): the St. George's Declaration of Principles for Environmental Sustainability and the OECS Biodiversity and Ecosystem Strategy.

Looking ahead, the CTD will continue to provide valuable regional, national, and site-specific information. We are dedicated to continuously enhancing the dashboard by adding new data, integrating additional targets, and improving functionalities to better meet user needs. We invite you to explore this tool at <https://thecpag.org/conservation> and see how it can support effective conservation planning and actions.



Meet Bianca

CPAG's new Research Assistant

We are delighted to introduce Bianca Gittens who joined the CPAG team in January 2024. She is a Saint Lucian national and a Biodiversity Conservation professional with experience in both the Caribbean region and Europe. She holds a Master of Science in Wildlife and Conservation Management from the University of South Wales (UK) and a Bachelor of Science in Animal Biology from the University of the West Indies, Mona, Jamaica. She has a keen interest in environmental research and policy.

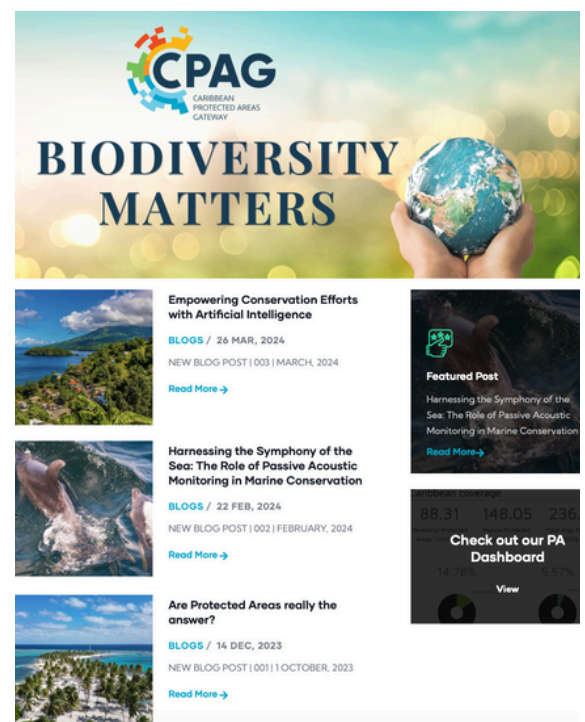
Bianca has been instrumental in working through the process for the CPAG to transition to a new host, following the end of the BIOPAMA programme this coming June.

Our new Biodiversity Matters Blog is live!

With interesting reads already published.

We're thrilled to announce the launch of the CPAG's [Biodiversity Matters Blog](#), a brand new platform dedicated to celebrating the wonders of biodiversity and exploring the beauty of our ecosystems within the Caribbean. We're dedicated to exploring the crucial role that data plays in understanding, conserving, and celebrating the incredible diversity of life on our planet. You can expect informative articles exploring the rich tapestry of life on our planet and the work being conducted throughout the region in biodiversity management.

If you have a story from the field showcasing real-world applications of biodiversity data in conservation and decision-making, we're inviting you to submit an article to be featured on our website by contacting us at info@thecpag.org. Visit our blog by clicking the image above, and see the inspiring articles already posted.



Reflecting on the IUCN Regional Forum 2024

A Catalyst for Conservation in Mexico City

Members of the Caribbean Protected Areas Gateway (CPAG), were granted the opportunity to attend The International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) Regional Conservation Forum 2024, hosted in the vibrant metropolis of Mexico City. This forum served as a pivotal gathering for environmental leaders, policymakers, scientists, and conservationists from across Latin America and the Caribbean (LAC). Held against the backdrop of pressing global environmental challenges, it provided a platform for collaboration, knowledge exchange, and collective action to address critical issues facing the region's biodiversity and ecosystems.

Under the theme "Sustaining Nature for People and Planet," the forum convened a diverse array of stakeholders to deliberate on innovative solutions and strategies for conservation and sustainable development.

The CPAG's GIS Specialist, Tenika Griffith moderated a panel discussion entitled "The Role of NGOs in Improving Governance and Management of Protected and Conserved Areas in the Caribbean". Additionally, the CPAG and OECS also co-hosted another panel entitled "A regional approach to environmental data management in the Caribbean." Tenika, along with the CPAG's Software Engineer Kwabena Adu, partnered with the Director of Environmental Sustainability at the OECS, Chamberlain Emmanuel, to present on the tools, applications and services both organizations can offer to aid in environmental data management in the Caribbean.

The IUCN Regional Forum 2024 in Mexico City was more than just a gathering; it was a catalyst for change, inspiring collective action and collaboration to safeguard the natural world for future generations. As we look ahead, the outcomes of the forum serve as a roadmap for advancing conservation efforts in our region and beyond, guided by the principles of sustainability, equity, and stewardship of nature.



One of the sessions held at the IUCN Regional Forum



Tenika and Kwabena are joined by Chamberlain Emmanuel (OECS) and Jose Courrau (IUCN-ORMACC).



OECSMs webinar stimulates fruitful regional discussion

On April 10th 2024, the **Caribbean Protected Areas Gateway (CPAG)**, **International Union for Conservation of Nature Regional Office for Mexico, Central America and the Caribbean (IUCN-ORMACC)** and the **United Nations Environment Programme World Conservation Monitoring Centre (UNEP-WCMC)**, banded together to host a virtual webinar to discuss Other Effective Area Based Conservation Measures (OECSMs) and what they mean for Caribbean countries in achieving Target 3 of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework (GBF).

The webinar, **‘OECSMs: What do they mean for achieving Target 3 (30 x 30) in the Caribbean?’**, was attended by 50 stakeholders and practitioners from across the region. Aimed at bringing greater awareness to the concept and role of OECSMs, there was a distinct focus on linking OECSMs to Target 3 of the new GBF, introductions to a [site-level tool for identifying OECSMs](#) and the [World Database on OECSMs \(WDOECM\)](#) and the presentation of a case study for Honduras.

With no OECSMs currently designated throughout the Caribbean region, the ultimate goal of the webinar was to kick-start this movement as countries strive to achieve the 30% protection of terrestrial and marine spaces by 2030. In light of this, **CPAG, IUCN-ORMACC and UNEP-WCMC are seeking to develop a regional discussion paper (in collaboration with interested entities throughout the region)** to act as a reference document for individuals or groups with a stake in area-based conservation, provide a snapshot of OECSMs (globally and regionally) and to help identify the process for recognising, establishing and reporting OECSMs.

Stemming from this initial webinar, there is the potential for a focused workshop, with interested individuals and organisations, to work through foreseen benefits, opportunities and threats; develop region and national level specific recommendations for recognising, establishing and reporting OECSMs; and to collaboratively develop a discussion paper. So, stay tuned!

The webinar presentations can be accessed [here](#).

Any persons interested in the development of this regional discussion paper on OECSMs, please contact us at info@thecapg.org.

We're supporting the 2023 CRAB Internship

A Collaboration for Conservation

Grenada, the enchanting "Island of Spice," holds a world of biodiversity within its shores, from prized nutmeg and mace crops to vibrant ecosystems. Yet, the management of these natural treasures faces daunting challenges: habitat loss, invasive species, and the looming impacts of climate change. Limited resources and data gaps only add to the complexity, hindering comprehensive conservation efforts.

In response to these challenges, Grenada is stepping onto the global stage, engaging with initiatives like the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework (GBF). This ambitious framework sets its sights on effective conservation and management of both land and sea areas, alongside the crucial task of species recovery.

Enter a host of dedicated programs and assessments, each aimed at nurturing Grenada's natural splendor. Initiatives like the Biodiversity and Protected Areas Management (BIOPAMA) Programme and the ongoing National Ecosystem Assessment (NEA) are on the frontlines, improving data and guiding policy decisions. Collaborative platforms such as the Caribbean Protected Areas Gateway provide vital tools and foster partnerships, amplifying conservation efforts.

Amidst this dynamic landscape emerges the CRAB Project, a beacon of hope for Caribbean ecosystems. With a generous funding of 7 million Euros and support from esteemed partners like FFEM, AFD, KFW, and CBF, CRAB sets its sights on a five-year journey of sustainable resource development. Its mission? To bolster biodiversity maintenance and restoration, empowering communities and conservationists alike.

In the heart of this endeavor lies a tale of collaboration and dedication. CRAB intern, Alyssa White, alongside CPAG's GIS Specialist, Tenika Griffith, embark on a mission to map Grenada's protected areas in exquisite detail. With guidance from the IUCN Red List of Threatened Species, they catalog species, habitats, and ecosystem services, laying the groundwork for informed conservation strategies.

Guiding this noble quest are CPAG's Technical Officer, Julian Walcott, and a team of passionate souls like Renice Medford and Bianca Gittens. Together, they orchestrate stakeholder workshops, harnessing the power of knowledge exchange to ignite change.

Through these synergistic efforts, Grenada is charting a course towards a brighter future for its natural heritage. Aligned with global frameworks and bolstered by partnerships, the island nation strides confidently towards sustainable resource management. The collaboration between CPAG and CRAB serves as a testament to the power of unity in safeguarding Grenada's ecological legacy for generations to come.

LET'S TALK NBSAPS AND TARGET 3

CPAG attends a timely workshop in Guyana

Our very own Research Assistant from the Caribbean Protected Areas Gateway (CPAG) recently took part in a crucial event focused on biodiversity conservation and strategic planning. From April 15th to April 19th 2024, esteemed delegates from across the Caribbean region gathered at the Pegasus Hotel in Georgetown, Guyana for the National Biodiversity and Strategic Action Plan (NBSAP) Subregional Dialogue and the Target 3 Workshop of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework (GBF). Hosted by the Secretariats for the Convention on Biological Diversity and the Caribbean Community (CARICOM), this event aimed to foster dialogue, share experiences, and provide technical support for aligning national targets with global biodiversity objectives.



CARICOM Secretary-General, Minister for Natural Resources (Guyana), Delegates from the UN CBD and CARICOM Secretariat, and government and regional entity representatives from across the Caribbean region at the NBSAP Subregional Dialogue and Target 3 Workshop. Photo credit: CARICOM Secretariat.

As a vital resource and information hub for the Caribbean region, CPAG is committed to facilitating informed decision-making and promoting sustainable management practices for protected areas and biodiversity. Our Research Assistant played a pivotal role during the 5-day event, engaging in various activities to further these objectives. Bianca made a presentation on CPAG's Multilateral Environment Agreement (MEA) monitoring platform, the Conservation Tracking Dashboard.

The event shed light on several crucial aspects of biodiversity conservation and strategic planning in the Caribbean region:

- **Challenges in NBSAP revisions and updates:** Many Caribbean countries are in the early stages of updating their NBSAPs and aligning them with the GBF. Challenges such as political support, funding delays, and resource constraints hinder progress. Many countries aim to submit their national targets before COP 16.

- **Need for Monitoring systems:** Developing robust monitoring systems, including indicators, is essential for achieving national and global biodiversity targets. Many countries in the region do not have a monitoring system in place to monitor the implementation of the Convention and the NBSAP. Some countries have been using a data tracking tool (with adaptation to national circumstances), community monitoring and citizen science. A few countries have expressed interest in using our Conservation Tracking Dashboard in monitoring progress towards national and global targets.

- **Need for effective stakeholder engagement:** It is incumbent on countries to find more effective ways to consult key stakeholders within society such as youth, women and indigenous communities, to ensure that decision making is inclusive and representative.

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