

## The Caribbean Initiative 2009-2012

### IMPLEMENTATION STATUS REPORT & SUMMARY OF ACHIEVEMENTS

#### Background and general progress

The *Caribbean Initiative* is an IUCN member-driven initiative that was developed in response to a Resolution passed at the 2004 World Conservation Congress (Bangkok, Thailand). It came into existence after it was launched at the 2008 World Conservation Congress (Barcelona, Spain) and to this day remains highly relevant to the region. It offers a specific work programme - initially for 2009-2012 - that focuses on the insular Caribbean, a zone with unique biodiversity where conservation and natural resource management are at the core of critical themes in sustainable development.

For its development, the *Initiative* benefited from extensive consultations and an evaluation of fundamental themes, needs and opportunities in the wider Caribbean, and between IUCN members and key partners in the Caribbean region. It is hence based on a comprehensive Situation Analysis, carried out and published in 2007, and contains an ambitious and highly detailed 4-year work programme that responds fully to IUCN's Global Programme for 2009-2012.

After the 2008 World Conservation Congress, the Costa Rica-based IUCN Regional Office for Mesoamerica (ORMA) assumed responsibility for the *Caribbean Initiative*, and became the Regional Office for Mesoamerica and the Caribbean Initiative (ORMA-CI), thereby expanding its spectrum of action and priorities, its membership and constituent base, and therein its programme elements.

The *Caribbean Initiative* became operational in mid-2009 when an IUCN Caribbean Coordinator was contracted, and then lost its Coordinator in late 2011. Over these 2 years, the Initiative made substantial achievements that have helped to pave the way for its full implementation and that increased the visibility of IUCN in the region. Since its inception, the *Initiative* has served to build partnerships with key regional actors, re-energize members to participate in IUCN activities and gradually build a portfolio of projects which grew between 2010 and 2011. These projects, most of which are ongoing, are beginning to generate results and many have activities planned for 2012.

In the early years, ORMA-CI also helped to lay the ground work for establishing governance structures and opportunities for members to strengthen their participation in programme implementation. Importantly, the overall number of Caribbean IUCN members increased from 16 to 25 between 2009 and 2012, and both the National Committee of IUCN Members for Dominican Republic and the Regional Committee of IUCN Members were officialised in 2010.

Through the *Initiative*, ORMA-CI has also endeavoured to raise coordination levels around activities that IUCN executes in the Caribbean, in particular with IUCN Commissions and different Secretariat factions. The efforts made by the Regional Office to provide leadership, technical and administrative support have been recognized and augur well for the *Caribbean Initiative* as a new establishment.

In late 2011, the *Caribbean Initiative* was subjected to an external mid-term evaluation even though it was still at an incipient phase. The objective of this stock-taking and review exercise was to generate knowledge and lessons learnt from the experiences gained to date in implementation, and inform the programming and operations process for taking the *Initiative* forward into the 2013-2016 inter-sessional period.

Below, some of the *Caribbean Initiative's* main achievements are summarized, followed by a briefing on each of the projects that the IUCN Secretariat is undertaking as part of the *Caribbean Initiative*, and how these contribute to the *Initiative's* expected results for 2009-2012.

### **Building partnerships under the *Caribbean Initiative* with key regional actors**

- ORMA-CI has signed Memorandums of Understanding with the Caribbean Community Climate Change Centre (CCCCC) and the Government of St. Lucia, in the latter case specifically for technical assistance requested by the Ministry of Physical Development and the Environment. Both these milestones signal the recognition of IUCN's expertise and value-added by governments and regional bodies.
- Initial discussions have been held with the Caribbean Environmental Health Institute (CEHI) towards partnership relations, given the potential for collaborating on regional water sector and watershed governance issues and in promoting the ecosystem approach for environmental management.
- With the GEF/UNEP/UNESCO Caribbean Large Marine Ecosystem project (CLME), IUCN contributes as a member of the stakeholders advisory group, covering issues such as ecosystem protection in the context of sustainable fisheries.
- IUCN has established a good working relationship with UNEP's Regional Coordinating Unit (Jamaica) and Regional Activity Centre (Guadeloupe), contributing to actions under UNEP's regional Cartagena Convention and Protocol concerning Special Protected Areas and Wildlife (SPAW Protocol).
- IUCN is a development partner and member of the Technical Advisory Committee of the Environment and Sustainable Development Unit of the Secretariat of the Organization of Eastern Caribbean States (OECS), contributing to the Secretariat's plans to transition to a full commission and to harmonize sub-regional environmental and protected areas legislation.
- IUCN serves on the Advisory Board of the CARIBSAVE Programme that models climate change risks and impacts for regional productive sectors, and with whom there is good potential for promoting joint regional efforts.
- IUCN has collaborated with the Association of Caribbean States (ASC), through its Caribbean Sea Commission in which IUCN has "observer" status, in the design and establishment of a marine science-decision-making platform. This initiative is being led by an IUCN Caribbean member – the Centre for Resource Management and Environmental Studies (CERMES) of the University of the West Indies.
- IUCN has been liaising with TNC's *Caribbean Challenge* programme, launched in May 2008 and considered the region's most significant programme in marine protected areas, in search for opportunities for joint actions or supporting functions (eg. plugging gaps).

### **Strengthening the participation of Caribbean members in IUCN activities**

- The establishment and official recognition of a Regional Committee of IUCN Members and the Dominican Republic National Committee of Members signal a big achievement in the short history of the *Caribbean Initiative*. Through these Committees the members' structural capacity is being built and an important advance towards the "One Programme" approach has been made.
- Efforts were made to engage stakeholders in the implementation of the *Caribbean Initiative* although these were sometimes fragmented and individualized. These efforts included regular communications from ORMA-CI to Caribbean members through quarterly reports, which were welcomed by members but which were deemed to require improvements in scope and quality. Most of ORMA-CI's initial activities, concentrated in 2010, sought to establish links and familiarize key partners and members with the *Caribbean Initiative*, and build consensus and support for its implementation through closer liaisons with IUCN members, and strategic partnerships with donors and key regional institutions (such as CCCCC).
- The opportunities afforded to Caribbean members to meet and network have been constant, and valued by the membership. These include:
  1. The *Caribbean Initiative's* start-up meeting, which took place in May 2009 in Port-of-Spain, Trinidad, was attended by IUCN's Director-General, the Regional Director for ORMA-CI, the IUCN Councillors for the Caribbean and Mesoamerica, and a selection of 15 members, as well as other participants.
  2. A meeting was held with members of the IUCN National Committee for Dominican Republic in April 2010 to discuss the realities of implementing the *Caribbean Initiative*, ways to maximize coordination with members, and the Committee's environmental priorities.
  3. A virtual meeting (teleconference) was convened in August 2010, to provide an update on the *Caribbean Initiative*, deliberate on the establishment of the Regional Committee of Members, and inform of the upcoming Regional Member's Forum (2011).
  4. The IUCN Regional Members' Forum, held in Santo Domingo, Dominican Republic, in October 2011, was the VIII Forum of Mesoamerican members and the I Forum of Caribbean members, and provided an opportunity for regional integration with representatives of 104 member organisations from Mexico, Central America and the Caribbean for an all-inclusive discussion of the proposed IUCN Global Programme 2013-2016, aspects of Union governance and membership themes. Space was also provided for the Regional Committee of Caribbean Members to convene.

### **Building a technical role and a portfolio of projects for the Caribbean**

- Since early 2010, various traditional donor agencies were approached and funding opportunities sought through a two-pronged strategy: the short term pursuit of grant funding for projects, and longer term steps aimed at developing agreements with strategic donors and regional organizations where potential synergies with, or interest in, the *Caribbean Initiative* existed.
- In this way, IUCN was able to secure a series of small but strategic projects for the *Caribbean Initiative* and begin to position itself as a technical partner in the region as well as position the Caribbean as a region of relevance for global interventions pursued by IUCN. While this

approach has been effective, it has proved to be insufficient and further efforts are needed to secure longer-term and substantive funding for implementation of the *Caribbean Initiative*.

- In programmatic terms, the *Caribbean Initiative* has made progress in the following:
  - ✓ Generating the first regional Red List of Threatened Species, beginning with marine species;
  - ✓ Promoting IUCN tools and approaches in the Caribbean, including the ecosystem approach and the concept of Ecosystems-based Adaptation (EbA);
  - ✓ Assessment of hotel industry biodiversity practices and developing guidelines for best practices;
  - ✓ Assessment of biodiversity opportunities in the tourism sector;
  - ✓ Participation in a post-disaster assessment in Haiti following the January 2010 earthquake;
  - ✓ Convening and supporting discussions with EU overseas territories in the Caribbean to address biodiversity loss and climate change;
  - ✓ Strategic and technical studies to document the status of biodiversity conservation and climate change adaption to inform European policy and guide regional activities and collaborations, for the benefit of EU overseas territories in the Caribbean;
  - ✓ Direct execution of a group of **projects (see summary tables below)** that specifically target the Caribbean or that constitute a Caribbean component in a global effort;
  - ✓ Coordination with strategic IUCN global programmes, such as the Marine and Polar Programme, the Global Species Programme and the Protected Areas Programme, for participation of the Caribbean region in projects driven by these programmes (see below).
- A measure of how the projects run by the IUCN Secretariat are contributing to the *Caribbean Initiative's* extensive 2009-2012 work programme is provided in Tables 1 and 2 below. In many cases, this contribution is direct though not exhaustive, while in others it can only be considered tangential. Clearly, for any one goal or result of the *Initiative* to be attained, more than one project would be required. The projects listed below are all intended to finalize in 2012, though some may overrun into 2013 and others are scoping for possibilities to continue.
- IUCN has been looking for project opportunities that will benefit the Caribbean and that are in line with IUCN's areas of expertise and 2013-2016 Global Programme - three such efforts are listed in Table 3 below. These projects, all of which involve IUCN global thematic programmes, will be unfolding during 2012 and will last into 2013 and can therefore be considered part of the Caribbean region's transition or foothold into the IUCN 2013-2016 Global Programme, and as such, are relevant for the next phase of the *Caribbean Initiative*.

**Table 1: Overview of expected results under the *Caribbean Initiative* 2009-2012 work programme**

Programme Area	N° of expected Results	N° of expected Goals / Sub-results	Links /Contribution from ongoing projects	
Core Area 1	4	32	9	13
Thematic Area 2	5	22	6	8
Thematic Area 3	5	15	0	0
Thematic Area 4	4	16	0	0
Thematic Area 5	4	19	1	2
<b>Total</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>104</b>	<b>16 (73%)</b>	<b>23 (22%)</b>

**Table 2: Current<sup>1</sup> projects for implementation of the *Caribbean Initiative***

Current Ongoing Projects <sup>1</sup>	Collaborations	Overall Budget	Contribution to <i>Caribbean Initiative</i> 2009-2012 work programme
<b>1. IUCN in the Caribbean</b>	Funded under the IUCN-AFD Framework Agreement  Programme and Policy Coordination Group (PPCG) at IUCN HQ (Arnaud Collin); Caribbean Community Climate Change Centre (CCCCC)	EUR 70,600  (mid 2010 to mid 2012)	Results: 1.2.3 and 2.1. 2 out of 22  Goals/Sub-results: 1.2.3 (i) and 2.1.1 (iv) 2 out of 104
<b>2. Pitons Management Area, World Heritage Site, St. Lucia</b>	Ministry of Physical Development and the Environment, Government of St. Lucia.  Collaboration with IUCN's World Heritage Programme and HQ team (Tim Badman).	USD 111,100  (2012)	Results: 1.2.1 1 out of 22  Goals/Sub-results: 1.2.1 (ii) and (iii) 2 out of 104
<b>3. Protected Areas - Dominican Republic</b>	IUCN Environmental Law Centre, (Bonn) and ORMA-CI (Ronald McCarthy)  Collaboration with the IUCN National Committee of the Dominican Republic	USD 42,000  (July 2011 to Dec 2012)	Results: 1.2.1, 1.2.3, 2.2.3 and to a lesser extent 2.1.1 and 2.2.1 5 out of 22  Goals/Sub-results: 1.2.1 (ii), 1.2.3 (xiv), 2.2.3 (v), 2.1.1 (iii) and 2.2.1 (ii) 5 out of 104
<b>4. Nature Friendly Siting and Design Principles in the Caribbean</b>	Funded under the IUCN-AFD Framework Agreement  Business & Biodiversity Programme at IUCN HQ (Giulia Carbone); Caribbean Hotel and Tourism Association (CHTA through CAST) and the Caribbean Tourism Organization (CTO).	EUR 160,000  (2010 and 2011; due to close by May 2012)	Results: 5.2.1 1 out of 22  Goals/Sub-results: 5.2.1 (ii) and (iii) 2 out of 104

<sup>1</sup> For a full description of projects 1 to 6, see summary tables below

<b>5. Building Capacity in Marine Protected Areas and Invasive Species Management in the EU Overseas territories</b>	Funded under the IUCN-AFD Framework Agreement  IUCN OCTs/OTs (Dominique Benzaken) at the IUCN Regional Office for Europe	estimate EUR 110,000  (2011 and 2012)	Results: 1.1.1 and 2.1.1, and to a lesser extent 1.2.1, 1.2.2 and 2.1.2 5 out of 22  Goals/Sub-results: 1.1.1 (v), 1.2.1 (i) and (ii), 1.2.2 (ii), 2.1.1 (iii) (vi) and (vii), and 2.1.2 (ii) 8 out of 104
<b>6. Caribbean Red List of Threatened Species</b>	Funded under the IUCN-AFD Framework Agreement  Global Species Programme, IUCN HQ (Jean-Christophe Vie) and Fabien Barthelat outposted to Guadeloupe (at the Guadeloupe National Park authority)	EUR 75,000  (2010-2012)	Results: 1.1.1 and 1.2.3 2 out of 22  Goals/Sub-results: 1.1.1 (i) and (ii), 1.2.3 (iii) and (v) 4 out of 104

**Table 3: Upcoming projects (2012/2013) relevant for implementing IUCN's 2013-2012 Global Programme in the Caribbean**

Upcoming projects	Collaborators	Scope and link to 2013-2012 Global Programme
<b>7. BIOPAMA Biodiversity and Protected Areas Management (in Africa, Caribbean and Pacific)</b>	Funded by EU  IUCN-HQ Protected Areas Programme (Pedro Rosabal); IUCN Regional Offices – ORMA-CI, ORO, Africa; EU-Joint Research Council; GIZ; UNEP-WCMC; and others	<p><b>This project will contribute to achieving results under Programme Area 1 in the Caribbean</b></p> <p>The general objective of this global project is to improve long-term biodiversity conservation in African, Caribbean and Pacific regions, and reduce the poverty of populations surrounding Protected Areas (PA).</p> <p>It aims specifically to enhance existing institutions and networks by building their policy and implementation capacity, through solid technical approaches and regional cooperation, for well informed decisions on biodiversity conservation and PA management, and on benefiting from access and benefit sharing mechanisms.</p> <p>The project will support the creation of three “Observatories for Protected Areas and Biodiversity” in each region, with the right capacities and means. Data collection and processing on biodiversity values, pressures and threats, PA management, environmental and economic services provided by PAs, in particular for the livelihoods of local and urban populations and the fight against the effects of climate change, will enable Observatories to provide useful</p>

		<p>indicators for decision-making of regional and national institutions in charge of natural resources management.</p> <p>The envelope of funding that will correspond to the Caribbean region is as yet unknown.</p>
<b>8. Coral Reef Resilience Project</b>	<p>Run by the Marine and Polar Programme from the IUCN Regional Office for North America (Washington DC, USA)</p>	<p><b>This project will contribute to achieving results under Programme Area 1 in the Caribbean</b></p> <p>This project will contribute to the work and scientific rigour of the Global Coral Reef Monitoring Network with a pilot project in the Caribbean. It consists in collecting coral monitoring data sets across several years and places from the Caribbean, taking into account only high quality data from scientists in order to assess the trends and status of coral reefs in the Caribbean and Eastern Pacific.</p> <p>A workshop is planned for May 2012 in Panama, to which 30-40 experts will be invited to come together and discuss the data that has been collected and assist with the analyses. The intention is to then present the results of the workshop at the 12th International Coral Reef Symposium in Cairns, Australia, in July 2012.</p> <p>After the Caribbean, the project should extend to other places, such as the Coral Triangle and Australia, Indian Ocean and others.</p>
<b>9. Caribbean Red List of Endangered Species</b> <i>(continuation)</i>	<p>Funded under the IUCN-AFD Framework Agreement</p> <p>Species Programme, IUCN HQ (Jean-Christophe Vie) and Fabien Barthelat outposted to Guadeloupe (at the Guadeloupe National Park authority)</p>	<p><b>This project will contribute to achieving results under Programme Area 1 in the Caribbean</b></p> <p>Further funding has been requested from the French government for the completion of the regional re-assessments of marine species and preparation of the final publication on the threats of extinction of marine biodiversity in the Caribbean.</p> <p>By mid-2012, a second one-year (2012/2013) funding agreement is expected to be in place in order to complete the agreed list of species and hold a third workshop in early 2013 to support the assessments for all Caribbean shore fishes. This funding will be in the order of 40,000 € for ORMA-CI and 30,000 € for Global Species Programme.</p>

**IUCN - Caribbean Initiative - Ongoing projects**
**1. IUCN in the Caribbean**

<b>Full project name</b>
"IUCN in the Caribbean - Institutional Support - Network Implementation"
<b>What is the project's objective?</b>
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Improved awareness and capacity for biodiversity conservation in the region</li> <li>2. Development of a supportive, effective and participatory IUCN-led multi-stakeholder engagement process for sustained biodiversity conservation in the Caribbean</li> </ol>
<b>How did the project originate? Is the project only for the Caribbean, or is it part of a larger global effort?</b>
<p>The project originated from IUCN HQ in Switzerland and is only for the Caribbean.</p> <p>It is part of the initial funding provided by the French Government specifically for the up-start and coordination of the Caribbean Initiative. It therefore allows IUCN to link with members and key partners in the Caribbean, and ensure coordination with other IUCN projects in the region.</p>
<b>How is/was the project conducted? Which organizations and IUCN Commissions participated or are still participating?</b>
The project is being coordinated by IUCN's Regional Office for Mesoamerica and the Caribbean Initiative (ORMA-CI) in close liaison with IUCN HQ, and has three important collaborators: the Caribbean Community Climate Change Centre (CCCCC) in Belize, the IUCN Global Water Program in Switzerland, and the IUCN Caribbean Regional Committee of Members.
<b>Have there been any publications, videos, bulletins, posters, or web pages produced? If so please attach, send or provide links.</b>
The Caribbean Initiative has its own web page: <a href="http://www.iucn.org/about/union/secretariat/offices/meso/caribe/">http://www.iucn.org/about/union/secretariat/offices/meso/caribe/</a>
<b>What results have been obtained so far (in the Caribbean)? How do these results link to the Caribbean Initiative work program for 2009-2012?</b>
<p>The project aims to make progress in:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Improved awareness and capacity for biodiversity conservation in the region, in particular through promoting the ecosystem approach</li> <li>2. Development of a supportive, effective and participatory IUCN-led multi-stakeholder engagement process for sustained biodiversity conservation in the Caribbean, specifically by strengthening IUCN's presence in the Caribbean and its relationship with members and key partners.</li> </ol> <p><i>Results that have contributed to the definition of regional priorities and approaches:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Consultant engaged to develop a regional working paper on Ecosystem-based Approaches (EbA). The main points of the recommended EbA from the consultancy were included in the drafting of the Regional Situation Analysis.</li> <li>• An EbA workshop was carried out on October 5<sup>th</sup>, 2011, in Santo Domingo, Dominican Republic, in which 18 representatives from IUCN member organizations participated. The workshop was undertaken in collaboration with the CCCCC and the IUCN Global Water Program. Workshop themes were in line with the resilience approach to climate change advocated by the CCCCC and with the "ridges-to-reef" approach being promoted by IUCN</li> </ul>

for integrated watershed and coastal management in a climate change adaptation context. The workshop provided an overview of an effective EbA that can be taken up in regional strategies and action plans, and that can be further promoted by IUCN through projects for integrated watershed and coastal management aimed the Caribbean region.

- As IUCN advocates for EbA and the adoption of natural solutions for development challenges, especially at the watershed level in Caribbean islands, water management, sustainable livelihoods and climate change adaptation have been highlighted as regional priorities for the Caribbean in the updated Regional Situation Analysis.

*Results that have strengthened the presence of IUCN in the Caribbean:*

- Visit of F. Barthelat to ORMA-CI in Sept. 2010 to familiarize him with IUCN's programme priorities, operations and procedures. He was introduced to IUCN HR policies, projects and office administration procedures and the Caribbean Initiative work program 2009-2012 and activities for 2011 were planned.
- Mr. Barthelat's work include making contacts, participating in the SPAW (Protocol Concerning Specially Protected Areas and Wildlife) Working Group, updating annexed lists of threatened species and advancing the first Caribbean Species Red List, fundraising for species assessments and Red List capacity building, coordinating with and supporting other IUCN projects in the region, attending regional meetings and conferences, and generally acting as IUCN's representative in the Caribbean.

*Results that have strengthened the IUCN Caribbean Membership:*

- The IUCN Caribbean Regional Committee of Members was established in October 2010, with 6 IUCN member organizations elected, and held its inaugural meeting on Nov. 10<sup>th</sup> and 11<sup>th</sup> 2010. The Caribbean Councilor Dr. S. Thomas was also present at the meeting and was nominated as a non-voting Committee member.
- The Committee was recognized by the IUCN Council at its 75<sup>th</sup> meeting held on 18-20 November 2010.
- The Caribbean Regional Committee of IUCN Members participated in the review of the updated Regional Situation Analysis for the upcoming period.
- The Committee participated actively in the organization and carrying out of the Regional Forum of Members, which took place successfully on 6-7 October 2011, in Santo Domingo, Dominican Republic. At the forum, a Caribbean constituency meeting discussed the IUCN programme and Regional Committee statutes and bylaws, among other issues.
- A follow up meeting of GRUDESCO, which comprises the board of the Mesoamerican Regional Committee of Members, was convened at ORMA-CI on April 29<sup>th</sup> 2011 and included the participation of representatives of the Caribbean Regional Committee.

The project is contributing to the following results of the Caribbean Initiative 2009-2012 work programme:

*Caribbean Component Result 1.2.3* - IUCN tools of sustainable natural resource management are available and used to improve management and legislation in selected Caribbean locations. Specifically: 1.2.3 (i) The ecosystem approach is promoted in all relevant IUCN activities and partnerships in the region, and especially in integrated coastal zone planning and management.

*Caribbean Component Result 2.1.1* - Early pilot and preparatory actions are supported to integrate biodiversity and ecosystem considerations into regional mitigation and adaptation strategies. Specifically: 2.1.1 (iv) At least one development or donor institution integrates the importance of ecosystems for adaptation to climate change into its programmes and strategies.

<p><b>What significant changes have happened as a result of this project?</b></p> <p>The overall results from this project have been to establish multi-stakeholder engagement, cross-regional dialogues and participatory platforms that can strengthen IUCN’s actions in the Caribbean, in particular through its membership, and specifically increase the regional implementation capacity of the IUCN Caribbean Initiative. These results have also served to position ecosystem-based approach (EbA) and in particular, the concept of EbA for adaptation to climate change, promoted by IUCN in the context of disaster risk reduction, and improved ecosystem management and governance.</p>
<p><b>Please detail any important contacts or partnerships achieved during the project.</b></p> <p>A memorandum of understanding was signed with the Caribbean Community Climate Change Centre (CCCCC) in August 2010.</p> <p>The EbA workshop was undertaken in collaboration with IUCN’s Global Water Program and the CCCCC. Secretariat staff from the Global Water Program and ORMA-CI participated in the workshop.</p> <p>The French technical assistant is working from the offices of Guadeloupe’s National Park which not only helps to strengthen IUCN’s presence and visibility in the Caribbean, but also favors partnerships with other organizations such as UNEP-Regional Activity Centre/SPAW and communications with the Regional Committee of Members.</p>
<p><b>What activities are planned for 2012? (if any)</b></p> <p>The current meeting of the Caribbean Regional Committee of Members being held in San José, Costa Rica, April 23 and 24<sup>th</sup> 2012, to define jointly with ORMA-CI the elements for a draft work programme 2013-2016 for the Caribbean, that is in line with IUCN’s new programme, is being financed by the project and will be the project’s only and last activity in 2012.</p>
<p><b>What is the total project budget (for the activities carried out in the Caribbean)? Who funds the project?</b></p> <p>The donor is the French Ministry of Ecology, Sustainable Development, Transport and Housing (MEDDTL). Through this project, the MEDDTL is contributing complementary funding to the IUCN-AFD Framework Agreement.</p> <p>The overall budget is 60,000 Euros from MEDDTL and 10,600 Euros from IUCN.</p>
<p><i>→ Please provide any photos you may have of project activities</i></p>



Elected officers of the IUCN Regional Committee of Caribbean Members



Attendees at the Inaugural Meeting of the IUCN Regional Committee of Caribbean Member

## 2. Pitons Management Area, World Heritage Site, St. Lucia

<b>Full project name</b>
Study on the Limits of Acceptable Change (LAC) of the Pitons Management Area (PMA), Saint Lucia
<b>What is the project's objective?</b>
To provide support to the management of the Pitons Management Area in conducting a LAC Study which will provide a planning framework that will outline the appropriate levels of change management within the PMA, and ensure that the integrity and patrimony of the site is maintained for present and future generations.
<b>How did the project originate? Is the project only for the Caribbean, or is it part of a larger global effort?</b>
It started with the visit of a World Heritage Centre-IUCN mission to the site, and recommendations to define a course of action to reduce the threats to which the site is being exposed. The interest and commitment of the Government of Saint Lucia led them to organize this project. The project is site specific.
<b>How is/was the project conducted? Which organizations and IUCN Commissions participated or are still participating?</b>
The project is still in its preliminary stage.
<b>Have there been any publications, videos, bulletins, posters, or web pages produced? <i>If so please attach, send or provide links.</i></b>
The project is still in its preliminary stage.
<b>What results have been obtained so far (in the Caribbean)? How do these results link to the Caribbean Initiative work program for 2009-2012?</b>
<p>The project is still in its preliminary stages.</p> <p>The project is expected to contribute to the following results of the <i>Caribbean Initiative</i> 2009-2012 work programme: <i>Caribbean Component Result 1.2.1</i> - Management effectiveness is measurably improved in protected areas in the Caribbean.</p> <p>Specifically:</p> <p>1.2.1 (ii) The capacity of protected area managers to implement specific aspects of management effectiveness is improved in at least two countries;</p> <p>1.2.1 (iii) The effectiveness of the management of existing natural World Heritage Sites in the region is enhanced and the nomination of new sites is supported.</p>
<b>What significant changes have happened as a result of this project?</b>
None yet
<b>Please detail any important contacts or partnerships achieved during the project.</b>
The project is being coordinated with the St Lucia Ministry of Physical Planning, UNESCO's World Heritage Center and IUCN's Protected Areas Program (World Heritage) at HQ.
<b>What activities are planned for 2012? (if any)</b>
To complete the LAC analysis and the financial planning component

<b>What is the total project budget (for the activities carried out in the Caribbean)? Who funds the project?</b>
The budget is approx USD 110,000 and is funding from the Ministry of Physical Planning on a cost-by-cost basis.
→ Please provide any photos you may have of project activities

### 3. Protected Areas – Dominican Republic

<b>Full project name</b>
Protected Areas law at the intersection of biodiversity conservation and climate change. Title adopted specifically for Dominican Republic: " <i>Legal perspectives on Protected Areas and Climate Change in Dominican Republic</i> ".
<b>What is the project's objective?</b>
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. To improve the legal framework in order to enhance the contribution of protected areas to biodiversity conservation and climate change adaptation and mitigation.</li> <li>2. To ensure that legislation allows for flexibility to adapt to ecosystem changes both inside and outside of protected areas (integrating elements of connectivity within and between protected areas).</li> </ol>
<b>How did the project originate? Is the project only for the Caribbean, or is it part of a larger global effort?</b>
The Project originated from the IUCNs Environmental Law Center (Bonn, Germany). It involves two small Islands: the Dominican Republic and East Timor
<b>How is/was the project conducted? Which organizations and IUCN Commissions participated or are still participating?</b>
The IUCN Environmental Law Center is participating in the project, together with ORMA-CI and the Ministry of the Environment, while the Dominican Republic IUCN Member's Committee is involved in its coordination.
<b>Have there been any publications, videos, bulletins, posters, or web pages produced? If so please attach, send or provide links.</b>
At the moment no, only draft reports have been produced by the consultants as discussion material for the workshops.
<b>What results have been obtained so far (in the Caribbean)? How do these results link to the Caribbean Initiative work programme for 2009-2012?</b>
While results are still unfolding, the project is expected to contribute <u>directly</u> to following results of the Caribbean Initiative 2009-2012 work programme:  <i>Caribbean Component Result 1.2.1</i> - Management effectiveness is measurably improved in protected areas in the Caribbean. Specifically: 1.2.1 (ii) The capacity of protected area managers to implement specific aspects of management effectiveness is improved in at least two countries  <i>Caribbean Component Result 1.2.3</i> - IUCN tools of sustainable natural resource management are available and used to improve management and legislation in selected Caribbean locations.

<p>Specifically: 1.2.3 (xiv) The legislation governing existing protected areas systems is reviewed in at least two countries, with appropriate mechanisms for monitoring enforcement and impact</p> <p><i>Caribbean Component Result 2.2.3</i> - Measures are developed and implemented to enhance the role of local households and communities in managing responses to climate change and increase their resilience to its impacts.</p> <p>Specifically: 2.2.3 (v) At least two national mitigation and adaptation policies/strategies in the region incorporate IUCN guidelines in relation to gender and biodiversity criteria</p> <p>And indirectly to:</p> <p><i>Caribbean Component Result 2.1.1</i> - Early pilot and preparatory actions are supported to integrate biodiversity and ecosystem considerations into regional mitigation and adaptation strategies.</p> <p>Specifically: 2.1.1 (iii) Guidelines for enhancing the positive links between ecosystem management and adaptation to climate change are developed and disseminated to decision makers</p> <p><i>Caribbean Component Result 2.2.1</i> - National adaptation strategies incorporate biodiversity and livelihood issues.</p> <p>Specifically: 2.2.1 (ii) The awareness of linkages between climate change, risk management and ecosystems is increased in all sectors of society, and especially among policy makers</p>
<p><b>What significant changes have happened as a result of this project?</b></p> <p>The project has opened up a discussion on the relationship between Protected Areas and Climate Change, with IUCN providing knowledge and technical inputs. The project has clarified the importance of climate change issues for the new draft law that the Ministry of Environment wants to implement. The project has thus provided the necessary technical and financial support for a review and participatory discussion on these subjects.</p>
<p><b>Please detail any important contacts or partnerships achieved during the project.</b></p> <p>The relationship between the IUCN and the Ministry of Environment has been strengthened, especially the relationship with the Vice Minister for International Relations (Patricia Abreu) and the Vice Minister for Protected Areas and Biodiversity (Daneris Santana). The same is true of the relationship between ORMA-CI and the Members of Dominican Republic. Importantly, this is IUCN's first project on the island.</p>
<p><b>What activities are planned for 2012? (if any)</b></p> <p>The project is due to finalize in December 2012 and has planned 3 workshops for this year. One workshop will focus on recommendations for the legal framework and the other two will aim to review and discuss the lines of work and positions that the Ministry should pursue in order to further advance the issues. A short meeting will also be held with the Ministry's authorities to present the project's results.</p>
<p><b>What is the total project budget (for the activities carried out in the Caribbean)? Who funds the project?</b></p> <p>62,000 Euros for activities in the Dominican Republic. Donor: BMZ (German Ministry of Environment)</p>
<p>→ Please provide any photos you may have of project activities</p>

#### 4. Nature Friendly Siting and Design Principles in the Caribbean

<b>Full project name</b>
Nature Friendly Siting and Design Principles in the Caribbean
<b>What is the project's objective?</b>
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Assessment of the current situation with regard to biodiversity impacts of hotels in the region.</li> <li>2. Development of tools for the Caribbean hospitality industry for integrating biodiversity conservation considerations into the construction and operational phases.</li> <li>3. Creation of greater awareness among all stakeholders of the risks and opportunities linked to the construction and operation of hotels.</li> </ol>
<b>How did the project originate? Is the project only for the Caribbean, or is it part of a larger global effort?</b>
<p>The project originated from the Business and Biodiversity Programme at IUCN HQ, whereby activities were driven by the findings of IUCN' situation analysis for the region (<i>A Situation Analysis for the Wider Caribbean</i>, IUCN, 2007), which identified among the main drivers for environmental change, and specifically biodiversity loss, that "tourism's impacts continue to increase, driven by trends towards bigger, more all-inclusive resorts and mega-cruise ships".</p> <p>The project also sought to build on previous "global" work done with funds from the French Framework agreement (the development of the guide "Biodiversity: My Hotel in Action"). The final outputs from the project are based on the Caribbean situation, but are globally relevant.</p>
<b>How is/was the project conducted? Which organizations and IUCN Commissions participated or are still participating?</b>
<p>Mostly led by IUCN's Secretariat. The project benefited from the input of many Caribbean stakeholders, including key members such as the Caribbean Natural Resources Institute (CANARI).</p>
<b>Have there been any publications, videos, bulletins, posters, or web pages produced? If so please attach, send or provide links.</b>
<p>The project's main products have been generated as distributable material:  <u>See below for URLs</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>Impacts of hotel siting and design on biodiversity in the insular Caribbean: A situation analysis</i>, IUCN, 2011, not in print</li> <li>• <i>Biodiversity: My Hotel in Action – a guide to sustainable use of biological resources in the Caribbean</i>. Available in English, Spanish and French, only electronically.</li> <li>• <i>Hotel Manager's Checklist for the "Biodiversity: My hotel in action"</i>. Available in English, Spanish and French, only electronically.</li> <li>• <i>Siting and design of hotels and resorts: principles and case studies for biodiversity conservation</i>. Available in English, Spanish and French, printed and electronically.</li> <li>• <i>Building and operating biodiversity friendly hotels in the Caribbean</i>. Available in English, Spanish and French, printed and electronically.</li> </ul>
<b>What results have been obtained so far (in the Caribbean)? How do these results link to the Caribbean Initiative work programme for 2009-2012?</b>
<p>The main outcome has been increased awareness of the role that biodiversity plays in the sustainability of the tourism sector. The products generated through this project (above) have been</p>

the result of a long process of collecting views and information from a wider group of stakeholders that went way beyond the conservation world. The process itself has been instrumental in generating interest, understanding and hopefully willingness to take action in key decision makers. Subsequent follow up by IUCN and its members will therefore be essential.

This project is contributing to the following results of the *Caribbean Initiative* 2009-2012 work programme:

*Caribbean Component Result 5.2.1* - Biodiversity conservation and ecosystem values are integrated in CSR policies and practices in selected companies, industry associations and consumer groups in the insular Caribbean.

Specifically:

5.2.1 (ii) Case studies of the impacts of hotel and marina construction on biodiversity and possible remedies are developed and disseminated

5.2.1 (iii) Awareness is raised of the potential and limitations of CSR for biodiversity conservation and ecosystem management in the region, based on relevant lessons from the Caribbean and other regions.

**What significant changes have happened as a result of this project?**

The changes will be a function of how the tools developed will be used by IUCN and its members. A next phase will be vital to ensure that the knowledge and positions generated through this project are actually applied in the Caribbean context.

**Please detail any important contacts or partnerships achieved during the project.**

Key contacts have been made with the Caribbean Hotel and Tourism Association (CHTA through CAST) and the Caribbean Tourism Organization (CTO). Both organizations endorsed the guide "*Biodiversity: My Hotel in Action. A Guide to the sustainable Use of Natural Resources in the Caribbean*", and included their logos. They have committed to the dissemination to their members.

The products will be launched at the CTO's Sustainable Tourism Conference which will take place in Georgetown, Guyana, from 15 to 19 April 2012, during a workshop led by Giulia Carbone on biodiversity in the hotel sector.

**What activities are planned for 2012? (if any)**

The workshop (mentioned above) and dissemination of the products through ORMA-CI. The project is due to close before mid-2012.

**What is the total project budget (for the activities carried out in the Caribbean)? Who funds the project?**

The project is now closing. The total budget was 160,000 Euro, with most of the activities relating to the Caribbean and one product (*Biodiversity Principles*) being "packaged" as a global product given their widespread relevance.

The donors are the French Ministry of Sustainable Development and the French Overseas Territories Ministry.

→ Please provide any photos you may have of project activities

**URLs for the publications and reports:**

- Biodiversity : my hotel in action : a guide to sustainable use of biological resources in the Caribbean -- <http://www.iucn.org/dbtw-wpd/edocs/2012-012.pdf>
- Biodiversidad : mi hotel en acción : guía para el uso sostenible de los recursos biológicos en el Caribe -- <http://www.iucn.org/dbtw-wpd/edocs/2012-012-Es.pdf>
- Biodiversité : mon hôtel agit : guide pour une utilisation durable des ressources biologiques dans les Caraïbes -- <http://www.iucn.org/dbtw-wpd/edocs/2012-012-Fr.pdf>
- Siting and design of hotels and resorts : principles and case studies for biodiversity conservation -- <http://www.iucn.org/dbtw-wpd/edocs/2012-013.pdf>
- Impacts of hotel siting and design on biodiversity in the insular Caribbean : a situation analysis -- <http://www.iucn.org/dbtw-wpd/edocs/Rep-2011-015.pdf>
- Building and operating biodiversity-friendly hotels in the Caribbean -- <http://www.iucn.org/dbtw-wpd/edocs/2012-014.pdf>

## 5. Building Capacity in Marine Protected Areas and Invasive Species Management in the EU Overseas territories

<b>Full project name</b>
EU overseas programme: Building partnerships and awareness of EU overseas biodiversity and climate change to meet the challenges of biodiversity loss and climate change.
<b>What is the project's objective?</b>
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. To facilitate dialogue and information exchange between EU overseas actors.</li> <li>2. To increase their visibility and mobilize support for EU overseas entities with EU, regional and international institutions.</li> <li>3. To build the capacity of EU overseas entities in biodiversity conservation and in the face of climate change, through improved marine protected area management and invasive species management.</li> </ol> <p>While the EU overseas programme is global, efforts for the Caribbean region are concentrated mostly under its component 3.</p>
<b>How did the project originate? Is the project only for the Caribbean, or is it part of a larger global effort?</b>
<p>The program originated from the Conference on <i>Strategies to combat climate change and biodiversity loss in the European Union overseas entities</i>, convened by IUCN and the Government of France and held in Reunion Island in 2008.</p> <p>The conference brought together all EU overseas actors, including the EU, EU member states, territories representatives, experts and civil society. The Message of Reunion was endorsed by the EU under the French presidency in 2008. The proceeding of the conference can be found at: <a href="http://www.iucn.org/about/union/secretariat/offices/europe/activities/overseas/overseas_publications/">http://www.iucn.org/about/union/secretariat/offices/europe/activities/overseas/overseas_publications/</a></p> <p>The Government of France has been funding <i>IUCN EU Outermost Regions and Overseas Countries and Territories programme</i> since 2010 as part of IUCN-France framework agreement. The programme covers those EU entities found in the Caribbean region.</p>

<b>How is/ was the project conducted? Which organizations and IUCN Commissions participated or are still participating?</b>
<p>The project consists of 3 components, with the Caribbean being most prominent under component 3:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. The convening of an “EU overseas Roundtable on Biodiversity and Climate Change” bringing together all EU actors acting as a platform for discussion and action in support of EU overseas.</li> <li>2. Communication and mobilization of activities including EU and international events, news and media as well and a web-based Europe overseas forum (<a href="http://www.iucn.org/euoverseas">www.iucn.org/euoverseas</a>).</li> <li>3. Strategic and technical studies to document the status of biodiversity conservation and climate change adaptation to inform European policy and guide regional activities and collaborations.</li> </ol>
<b>Have there been any publications, videos, bulletins, posters, or web pages produced? If so please attach, send or provide links.</b>
<p>Published reports:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>Climate change and Biodiversity in the European Union Overseas Entities</i></li> <li>• <i>Future Directions for Biodiversity Action in Europe Overseas: Outcomes of the Review of the Implementation of the Convention of Biological diversity (2010)</i></li> <li>• The IUCN Website includes news media, events etc. <i>Europe overseas forum</i>, posters, postcards, pamphlets, events reports, presentations, etc... (<a href="http://www.iucn.org/euoverseas">www.iucn.org/euoverseas</a>)</li> </ul>
<b>What results have been obtained so far (in the Caribbean)? How do these results link to the Caribbean Initiative work programme for 2009-2012?</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ The <i>Climate change and Biodiversity</i> report cited above includes information on the Caribbean region.</li> <li>✓ Assessment of the implementation of the CBD in EU overseas with recommendations to EU policy makers at the international and regional levels (report cited above - includes information on the Caribbean).</li> <li>✓ Collaboration between the CBD Secretariat and IUCN to improve the implementation of the 3 Rio Conventions, with pilot projects planned for EU overseas including one in Bonaire.</li> <li>✓ Review of marine conservation initiatives and MPA in EU overseas territories, in the context of climate change, with a regional integration and capacity building component in the Caribbean (workshop - to be planned)</li> <li>✓ A compilation of ecological impacts of Invasive Alien Species (IAS) in EU overseas together with a review of legislation and an analysis of gaps, key regional issues and international and EU policies that affect the management of IAS. This report is due to be finalized soon, and will include recommendations. Activities that support regional integration and capacity building for IAS in the Caribbean are also being planned.</li> <li>✓ Analysis of the relevance of the “Ecosystem-based Approach” for islands, and what can be learnt from the experiences of islands for the purpose of climate change adaptation and mitigation. The analysis identified key issues for integrating approaches in adaptation strategies and focused on coastal and marine activities with examples in the Caribbean. It was presented at the UNFCCC COP Durban (Dec 2011) and can be viewed at: <a href="http://www.iucn.org/about/union/secretariat/offices/europe/activities/overseas/news_overseas/?8931/Working-with-nature-in-and-for-islands">http://www.iucn.org/about/union/secretariat/offices/europe/activities/overseas/news_overseas/?8931/Working-with-nature-in-and-for-islands</a></li> </ul> <p>This project should contribute, to a lesser or greater extent, and contingent on the completion of activities planned for 2012, to the following results of the Caribbean Initiative 2009-2012 work programme:</p>

*Caribbean Component Result 1.1.1* - Caribbean states are better able to participate in, and meet their obligations under, the main biodiversity agreements, globally and regionally

Specifically: 1.1.1 (v) The capacity of governments and civil society organizations to prepare for CBD Conferences of Parties, including their capacity to negotiate, is strengthened

*Caribbean Component Result 1.2.1* - Management effectiveness is measurably improved in protected areas in the Caribbean.

Specifically: 1.2.1 (i) The ability of Caribbean organizations to design, deliver and sustain training, technical assistance, financing and network programmes is strengthened; and 1.2.1 (ii) The capacity of protected area managers to implement specific aspects of management effectiveness is improved in at least two countries.

*Caribbean Component Result 1.2.2* - Eradication and control protocols for selected invasive species are identified by a selected number of countries.

Specifically: 1.2.2 (ii) An economic valuation of the impacts of invasive species on livelihoods in and outside protected areas is generated.

*Caribbean Component Result 2.1.1* - Early pilot and preparatory actions are supported to integrate biodiversity and ecosystem considerations into regional mitigation and adaptation strategies.

Specifically: 2.1.1 (iii) Guidelines for enhancing the positive links between ecosystem management and adaptation to climate change are developed and disseminated to decision makers; 2.1.1 (vi) Greater cooperation between the Caribbean island states, overseas countries and territories and other islands on climate change issues is achieved; and 2.1.1 (vii) The capacity of Caribbean decision makers and policy advisors to engage in global and regional climate change policies and negotiations is strengthened.

*Caribbean Component Result 2.1.2* - Preparatory actions to develop a regional system of protected areas that seeks to promote species and habitat conservation and improved local livelihoods while taking climate change into consideration are implemented.

Specifically: 2.1.2 (ii) A project to develop a regional system of marine protected areas is prepared.

### **What significant changes have happened as a result of this project?**

The main changes relate to making progress on the implementation of the Message of Reunion Island and key results, in the following way:

#### *Building partnerships, dialogue and advocacy:*

- Strengthened partnership between EU actors through the Roundtable mechanism established and convened by IUCN.
- Greater awareness of EU overseas with EU and international institutions.
- EU Parliament events and contributions to EU policy processes (eg. IAS Directive) on role of EU overseas in meeting EU international commitments.
- Participation of EU overseas in CBD COP events and contribution to CBD global policy reviews in collaboration with GLISPA (eg. the CBD In Depth Review of the Island Biodiversity program of work (IBPOW) at CBD)).
- Successful event at the UNFCCC COP Durban on Ecosystem based approaches to climate change adaption in islands.

#### *Information exchange and networking:*

- Communication and information exchange between EU overseas actors through the IUCN website and the EU overseas forum.

*Leveraging addition resources and collaborations:*

- Successful bid for the BEST call for proposal 2011: *BEST project on building partnership and awareness of Biodiversity and climate change in Europe Overseas for the future of BEST* which demonstrates the EC support for the IUCN initiative.

*Increasing knowledge to inform policy and guide capacity building activities:*

- Strategic review of implementation of CBD in EU overseas.
- Review of IAS impacts and management in EU overseas (draft).

**Please detail any important contacts or partnerships which have been achieved during the project.**

Partners in the BEST project include: EBCD, Conservation International (CI), and OCTA. Members of the Roundtable include Representatives from France, UK, NL, CI, UKOCTF, RSBP, DCNA, Birdlife, OCTA, EBCD, The EC (DG ENV, DG REGIO, DG DEVCO, DG MARE, EEA)

CBD secretariat /IUCN on the implementation of the Rio Conventions

Global Island Partnership (GLISPA)

Partnership with AAMP on the marine component of the programme.

IUCN National Committees (eg France, UK, NL), Commissions, Specialist Groups eg. ISSG) and global programmes (eg Global Marine and Polar Programme and Ecosystem Management programme)

**What activities are planned for 2012? (if any)**

Implementation of the BEST project *on building partnership and awareness of Biodiversity and climate change in Europe Overseas for the future of BEST* including the development of proposals for the future of BEST, mobilization activities (CBD, UNFCCC, events at the EU parliament) Roundtable meetings, communication activities.

An agreement has been reached between IUCN and the French "Agence des Aires Marines Protégées" (AAMP) to work on reviewing the contribution of overseas territories (globally) to Marine Protected Areas (MPA) networks and regional seas conservation. This study, which will review of EU marine policies, MPAs and marine conservation initiatives in EU overseas, is due to commence soon.

*Component 3: Building capacity in MPAs and IAS management in the EU overseas*

- A report on IAS will be available towards the middle of the year.
- A joint IUCN /France Agence des Aires Marines Protégées (AAMP) review of EU marine policies, MPAs and marine conservation initiatives in EU overseas is to commence soon.
- How this component can build capacity in the Caribbean and strengthen regional collaboration is under discussion with ORMA-CI.

A workshop is also planned for the Caribbean, primarily for EU overseas territories and -if possible, based on funding restrictions- with the participation of representatives from organizations of Caribbean island states. The workshop, which does not yet have a date, will focus on the role of MPA networks in building resilience for climate change adaptation.

**What is the total project budget (for the activities carried out in the Caribbean)? Who funds the project?**

The programme is funded by the French Ministry of Ecology, Sustainable Development, Transport and Housing (MEDDTL), the French Development Agency (AFD) and MOM as well as the European Commission.

Under component 3, the funding being allocated to the Caribbean is 68,000 Euros for MPAs and 42,000 Euros for IAS.

→ Please provide any photos you may have of project activities

## LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS AND ACRONYMS

AAMP-Agence des Aires Marines Protégées

AFD-Agence Française de Développement

CBD- Convention on Biological Diversity

IAS-Invasive Alien Species

CI-Conservation International

DCNA-Dutch Caribbean Nature Alliance

DG- Directorate General EBCD- European Bureau for Conservation and Development

GLIPSA- Global Island Partnerships

IBPOW- Island Biodiversity Program of Work

MPA- Marine Protected Areas

OCTA- Overseas Countries and Territories Association

RSPB- Royal Society for the Protection of Birds

SPAW: Protocol Concerning Specially Protected Areas and Wildlife

UNFCCC COP- United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change Conference of the Parties

UKOCTF-UK Overseas Territories Conservation Forum

## 6. Caribbean Red List of Threatened Species

### Full project name

A Red List of Threatened Species for the Insular Caribbean - A Key Step Towards Improved Management of Biodiversity

### What is the project's objective?

This project is conducting the first regional review of the conservation status of a range of selected species. Specifically, it is aiming to contribute to:

- Establish baseline measures of biodiversity status within the insular Caribbean, across countries, different species groups and ecosystems
- Increase the taxonomic coverage of the Red List in the insular Caribbean by assessing a series of entire taxonomic groups from marine and terrestrial ecosystems
- Enhance networks of specialists, increasing capacity in the region for biodiversity status assessment and monitoring
- Put biodiversity data into the public domain by producing regional reports and awareness raising
- Develop defensible systems for monitoring current, and predicting future trends in biodiversity
- Inform planners and decision makers of possible conservation priorities and how these could be

taken into account in development planning

- Produce information to help countries implement the Cartagena Convention and its protocols (especially SPAW protocol), and the CBD, and to support and guide conservation actions locally, regionally, nationally or internationally (such as CITES, CMS...)
- Improve scientific understanding of biodiversity, new approaches to conservation and management, and increase the capacity for making status assessments and develop indicators
- Improve the scientific understanding of the importance of biodiversity to food security and human well-being
- Monitor the impacts of public and private investments on biodiversity
- Increase coverage on global Red List and disseminating the information widely.

**How did the project originate? Is the project only for the Caribbean, or is it part of a larger global effort?**

The IUCN Red List of Threatened Species™ is an internationally-recognized method developed by IUCN for assessing the status of biodiversity, and can be used to monitor trends and to inform conservation decision-making.

In 2004, a Resolution of IUCN membership adopted at the World Conservation Congress requested the IUCN Secretariat to launch projects in support of conservation and sustainable development in the insular Caribbean, from which stemmed the *Caribbean Initiative*. In consultations with IUCN members, partner organizations and selected experts, the need and opportunity for the preparation of a Regional Red List of Threatened Species was discussed and taken forward. This resulted in the IUCN Global Species Programme preparing in 2008 a framework document for “A Red List of Threatened Species for the Insular Caribbean” and a specific project being submitted to and accepted by the French Development Agency (AFD) in 2009.

Through an initial two-year funding agreement that began in 2010, plans to assess 400 marine and shore fishes and to train experts was put into motion, and in August 2010, a Technical Assistant was seconded by the French Government in order to implement this project.

**How is/was the project conducted? Which organizations and IUCN Commissions participated or are still participating?**

This project is implemented by ORMA-CI and coordinated from the IUCN project office located in the “Parc National de Guadeloupe” where the Technical Assistant (seconded by the French government) is located.

The project is closely assisted by the IUCN Global Species Programme (GSP) and the IUCN Species Survival Commission (SSC). It also co-operates with the Global Marine Species Assessment (GMSA) that is a common initiative between IUCN and Conservation International, headquartered at the Old Dominion University, Arlington, USA.

From the Caribbean, several experts from the University of the West Indies (UWI), the University of Puerto Rico (UPR) and the Université des Antilles Guyane (UAG), have been already involved and trained during the first assessment workshop. An expert from UWI will also facilitate the 2<sup>nd</sup> planned workshop to be held in Jamaica.

**Have there been any publications, videos, bulletins, posters, or web pages produced? If so please attach, send or provide links.**

A poster has been produced and was presented during the “Ecosystem-Based Approaches” workshop for the IUCN Caribbean membership (Dominican Republic, October 5<sup>th</sup> 2011). It has also been presented during a CaMPAM (Caribbean Marine Protected Areas Managers) training workshop (Guadeloupe, December 13<sup>th</sup> 2011). It is here attached as an **annex**.

The Technical Assistant made a communication during the 2<sup>nd</sup> IUCN Species Survival Commission (SSC) Specialist Group Chairs' Meeting (Abu Dhabi, February 24<sup>th</sup> 2012) and the poster was exhibited at the congress.

**What results have been obtained so far (in the Caribbean)? How do these results link to the Caribbean Initiative work programme for 2009-2012?**

By March 2012, 692 species assessments have been completed and will be published soon; others are under evaluation by regional and international experts, and others are planned.

The 1st Caribbean Red List Assessment and Training Workshop took place in Barbados, on March 20th-25th 2011. During this workshop, the following experts participated in the assessments. Several who were not familiar with the Red List Categories and Criteria methodology were trained.

Name of expert	Organization	Country or territory
Karl AIKEN	UWI	Jamaica
Jean-Luc BOUCHEREAU	UAG	Guadeloupe
Kent CARPENTER	ODU	USA (VA)
Matt CRAIG	UPR	Puerto Rico
Tom FRASER	Mote Marine Lab.	USA (FL)
Grant GILLMORE	ECOS	USA (FL)
Hazel OXENFORD	CERMES - UWI	Barbados
Franck PEZOLD	TAMU	USA (TX)
Luke TORNABENE	TAMU	USA (TX)
James VAN TASSEL	AMNH	USA (NY)
Jeff WILLIAM	MNH	USA (DC)

Additionally to the 310 assessments done during this 1<sup>st</sup> workshop, the Caribbean Red List project has produced 382 regional assessments for others coastal and marine species. New series of global assessments will be re-evaluated at the regional level soon.

The figures below summarize the latest results of the Caribbean Red List of Threatened Species.

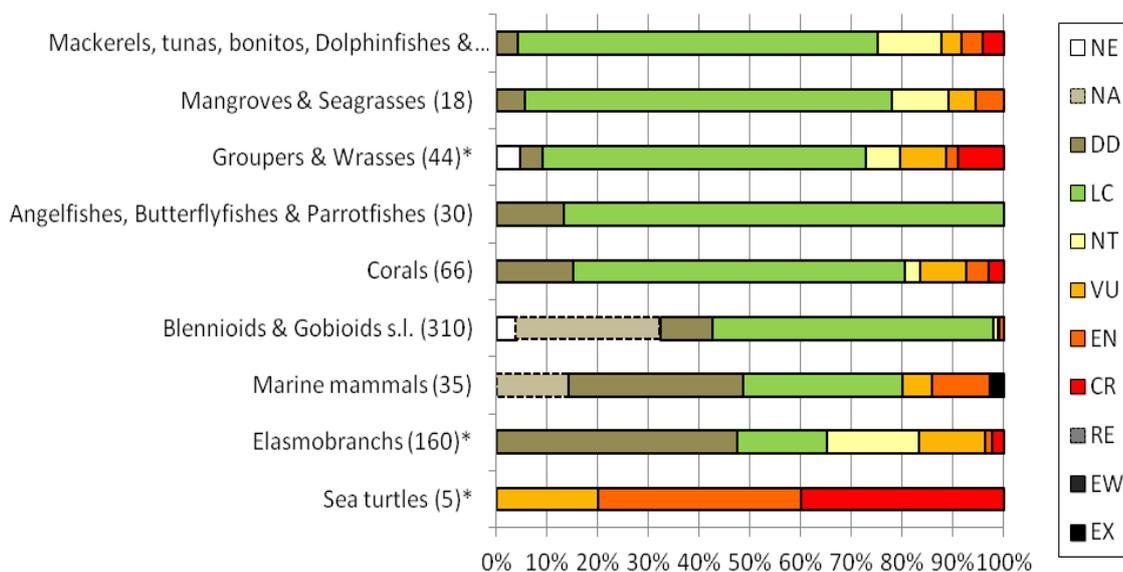
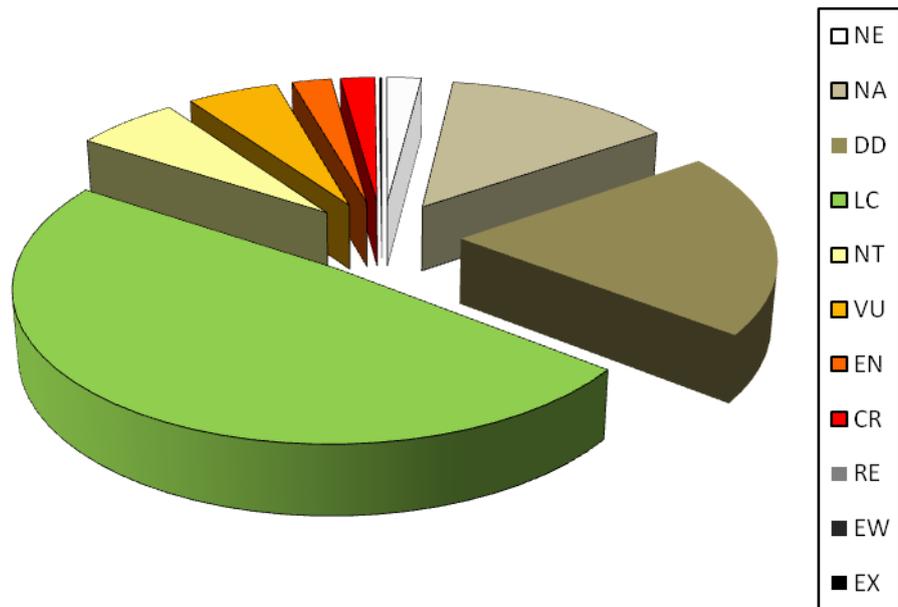


Figure 1: Progress by taxonomic groups of the Caribbean Red List by March 2012

Figure 2: Global progress of the Caribbean Red List on March 2012



It should be noted that most of these results are still under analysis, and not yet published. Upon request from UNEP SPAW-RAC, and with agreement from the GSP, the Caribbean Red List Project Office has prepared a list of 84 especially endangered species that can be added to the annexes of SPAW Protocol in line with the criteria of this regional protocol. This list has been completed by BirdLife International and was submitted by UNEP-CEP to the Parties in January 2012.

As the development of such a regional Red List requires a constant search for regional information and expertise, good relationships with non-SSC specialists in the region have been established. For example, in view of the diversification of the taxonomic areas to be assessed, a Lesser Antilles plants specialist group was recently established which could be a prefigure for a future SSC Specialist Group.

This project is contributing to the following results under Caribbean Initiative 2009-2012 work programme:

*Caribbean Component Result 1.1.1* : Caribbean states are better able to participate in, and meet their obligations under, the main biodiversity agreements, globally and regionally

Specifically:

1.1.1 (i) Support for the implementation of the SPAW Protocol is provided

1.1.1 (ii) The benefits of the CEP, the Cartagena Convention and the SPAW Protocol are advocated

*Caribbean Component Result 1.2.3:* IUCN tools of sustainable natural resource management are available and used to improve management and legislation in selected Caribbean locations.

Specifically:

1.2.3 (iii) A regional Red List of Threatened Species is developed and provides information to Caribbean planners and policy makers

1.2.3 (v) The capacity of Caribbean experts to conduct regional species assessment is strengthened

#### **What significant changes have happened as a result of this project?**

The main short-term outcomes of this project are the creation of the Caribbean region's first Red List of Threatened Species and the feed-in of the revision of the SPAW Protocol annexes. As the only sources of data, this input was eagerly awaited by UNEP-CEP and SPAW-RAC and serves now as a base for this important first upgrade of this regional agreement.

The interest of regional organizations in this effort is also growing. Authorities and NGOs of different countries or territories in the Caribbean (Dominican Republic, Martinique and Saint Barthélemy) have expressed their interest for expert advice concerning their Red List projects and/or their most threatened species in order to develop new conservation policies at the national or local levels.

Several SSC members that are usually more familiar with the scientific aspects of the global assessments have shown interest in this regional project that is filling gaps between scientific knowledge and conservation policies.

This project is therefore not only contributing to produce the Caribbean's first region-wide species assessment, but is also expanding networks between local and international experts, regional organizations and national institutions involved in species conservation, the IUCN Species Program based in Gland, the IUCN Red List Program based in Cambridge and IUCN'S Regional Office based in San José.

**Please detail any important contacts or partnerships achieved during the project.**

This regional assessment requires good knowledge of all global initiatives that can concern Caribbean species. The Global Marine Species Assessment is an everyday partner that is helping the Technical Assistant with the listing and assessment of species, the identification of experts, and the organization of workshops. Scientists of IUCN SSC Specialist Groups are also periodically contacted.

After meeting in Cambridge (September, 2010), there has been frequent contact with David Wege, in charge of the Caribbean at BirdLife International. The Technical Assistant has also liaised with the coordinator of CaMPAM, a regional network for MPA managers.

National authorities and NGOs are also very important partners for the implementation of this project.

Regular contacts are sought with the French Committee, which has helped in facilitating a local Red List assessment workshop on the French West Indies plants (Guadeloupe, November 2010). Good relationships with organizations from e.g. Dominican Republic, Saint-Barthélemy or Saint-Martin can also be reported.

For the 1<sup>st</sup> workshop, a large number of regional experts were invited. Unfortunately some of them were not able to attend but their participation in the next workshops is envisaged. Those regional specialists that did attend the 1<sup>st</sup> workshop are now key partners:

- Karl Aiken (UWI-Mona);
- Jean-Luc Bouchereau (UAG);
- Mat Craig (UPR and IUCN-SSC);
- Hazel Oxenford (UWI-Cermes and IUCN-CEM).

Karl Aiken will be assisting the organization and delivery of the next workshop that will take place in Montego bay, Jamaica (August 2012, TBC).

Finally, participation in the 2<sup>nd</sup> IUCN SSC Specialist Group Chairs' Meeting (Abu Dhabi, February 23<sup>rd</sup>-27<sup>th</sup> 2012) facilitated the acquaintance with numerous experts who could probably be involved in a near future in this regional project.

**What activities are planned for 2012? (if any)**

The project will be holding a second training and assessment workshop in August 20<sup>th</sup>-24<sup>th</sup> in Montego Bay, Jamaica. It will aim to complete assessment for the Caribbean Carangids, Beloniforms and for others small groups of shore and reef fishes. The next months will be dedicated to the organization and logistics of this workshop.

Over 2012, the Technical Assistant will continue to assist as necessary the SPAW-RAC for the update of the annexes of the SPAW protocol, and to seek out opportunities to develop and perpetuate Red List assessments in the Caribbean and diversify funding sources, including through the submission of new projects proposals.

**What is the total project budget (for the activities carried out in the Caribbean)? Who funds the project?**

The funding comes from the French Development Agency (AFD) under an umbrella framework agreement with IUCN. A first two-year (2011-2012) funding agreement for work on the Caribbean species assessments and Red List was approved for 135,000 €. From this amount, 75,000 € were transferred to ORMA-CI and 60,000 € to the Global Species Programme (at HQ).

The funds transferred to ORMA-CI cover operational support for activities required from the Technical Assistant based in Guadeloupe (excluding salary) and office rental charges.

→ Please provide any photos you may have of project activities

## LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS AND ACRONYMS

**AFD:** Agence Française de Développement (French Development Agency)

**CaMPAM:** Caribbean Marine Protected Areas Managers network

**CBD:** Convention on Biological Diversity

**CEM:** IUCN Commission on Ecosystem Management

**CEP:** Caribbean Environment Programme

**CERMES:** Centre for Resource Management and Environmental Studies

**CI:** Conservation International

**CITES:** Convention on International Trade of Endangered Species

**CMS:** Convention on Migratory Species

**GMSA:** Global Marine Species Assessment

**GSP:** IUCN Global Species Programme

**HQ:** Headquarters

**IUCN:** International Union for Conservation of Nature

**NGO:** Non Governmental Organization

**ODU:** Old Dominion University

**ORMA-CI:** Oficina Regional para Mesoamérica y la Iniciativa Caribe (IUCN Regional Office for Mesoamérica and the Caribbean Initiative)

**SPAW:** Protocol Concerning Specially Protected Areas and Wildlife

**SPAW RAC:** SPAW Regional Activity Centre

**STAC:** SPAW Scientific and Technical Advisory Committee

**SSC:** IUCN Species Survival Commission

**SG:** IUCN SSC Specialist Group

**UAG:** Université Antilles-Guyane

**UNEP:** United Nations Environment Programme

**UPR:** University of Puerto Rico

**UWI:** University of the West Indies