

Caribbean Regional Architecture for Biodiversity (CRAB) Project

As Small Island Developing States, Caribbean nations depend heavily on their biodiversity and natural resources for economic and social development.

CARIBBEAN BIODIVERSITY FUND

The Caribbean Biodiversity Fund (CBF) is a regional umbrella environmental fund, established in 2012, that uses a flexible structure to implement innovative solutions and consolidate resource mobilization in the Caribbean through a range of financial instruments. Created to provide reliable, long term funding for conservation and sustainable development in the Caribbean region, the CBF currently has 3 programs:

1. the Conservation Finance Program, based on an endowment fund
2. the Climate Change Program, focused on Ecosystem-based Adaptation (EbA) strategies,
3. and the Nature-Based Economies Program that promotes sustainability through innovative blue, green, brown and other economic solutions.

The Caribbean Biodiversity Fund (CBF) aims to secure funding for conservation and to contribute to the sustainability of this natural capital. The CBF, through its Conservation Finance Programme, working along with the National Conservation Trust Funds (NCTFs), form the “Caribbean Sustainable Financial Architecture (“the Architecture”).

THE CRAB PROJECT

The CRAB Project was designed to contribute to the development of sustainable and sufficient resources for the conservation of ecosystems in the Caribbean Region. This will support, in the long term, the maintenance and restoration of the Caribbean’s biodiversity and natural resources. The duration of the project, which started in July 2022, is 5 years.

Funding for the CRAB Project is a total of 7 million Euros with resources from French Global Environmental Facility (FFEM) and Agence Française de Développement (AFD) of 4 million Euros, German Development Bank (KfW) of 500,000 Euros and Caribbean Biodiversity Fund (CBF) of 2.5 million Euros.

The final beneficiaries of the CRAB project will be the National Conservation Trust Funds partners of CBF, protected areas managers, communities, and French actors in the region working in biodiversity conservation.

The CRAB project will be implemented through 4 components:

1. Strengthen the financial and operational capacities of the Architecture
2. Position the Architecture as a key player in regional approaches to biodiversity issues
3. Strengthen the capacity of the network to respond to local and regional conservation needs, especially in the context of emergency responses such as the COVID-19 pandemic
4. Management, Operational, Monitoring Evaluation and Learning activities

What will CRAB achieve?

How will CRAB contribute?



Funding mobilized at national and regional level for conservation financing in the Caribbean.

Develop and support the implementation a roadmap at national and regional level for NCTFs to access conservation financing; identify collaborators & partners.



Strategic planning tool created to help NCTFs better plan and implement interventions aligned to regional and national priorities.

Identify and support a suitable database for biodiversity information for the region and train NCTFs and Country Partners in the use of the tool.



Policies and operational capacities strengthened to make NCTFs more responsive to their mandate and better able to access donor financing.

Implement specialized training e.g., Environmental & Social Management Systems; NCTF Gender Strategy and Policy; Monitoring and Evaluation for Climate Adaptation, Mitigation Activities & Biodiversity conservation.



Opportunities expanded for NCTFs representation, networking and influence in regional and international biodiversity conservation agendas.

Fund participation in biodiversity & conservation events; Host workshops on priority topics e.g., coral restoration, Marine Protected Areas etc;



Relationships between the Architecture and the conservation actors of the French islands promoted and expanded.

Contribute to the drafting of reports and declarations under the major international biodiversity conventions;



Communities supported to identify and implement post-COVID-19 pro nature economic opportunities and support sustainable value chains using resources on land and below water.

Organize technical exchanges with French experts, host interns, & dissemination of documents in French.



Support the continued development of Blue BioTrade value chains (Queen Conch); Provide resources to NCTFs for the financing of Grants via a call for proposals for CBOs, NGOS to fund activities that will promote resilience when faced with pandemics and disasters.



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