

Effective Marine Protected Area Activities for the Caribbean (EMPAC) Project

CARIBBEAN BIODIVERSITY FUND IMPLEMENTATION

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: the Conservation Finance Program, based on an endowment fund, the Climate Change Program, focused on Ecosystem-based Adaptation (EbA strategies), and the Nature-Based Economies Program that promotes sustainability through innovative blue, green, brown and other economic solutions. The CBF, through its Conservation Finance Programme, working with its partner National Conservation Trust Funds (NCTFs), form the “Caribbean Sustainable Financial Architecture (“the Architecture”).

EMPAC PROJECT

The Effective Marine Protected Area Activities for the Caribbean (EMPAC) project is designed to support interventions in at least 2 key areas: the regional political engagement support towards the 30x30 ambition, and the launch of a CBF MPA Facility designed in collaboration with Caribbean stakeholders. Funded by the Blue Nature Alliance with a contribution of USD 750,090, the project is timely for the region as Caribbean governments and key stakeholders work towards the realization of the 30x30 global conservation target. The duration of the project is 3 years slated to be completed in December 2025.

The project will be implemented by the CBF with financial and technical support from the Blue Nature Alliance. Primary objectives include catalyzing MPA support in areas such as designation, implementation and expansion to advance local and regional actions towards achieving the 30x30 Ocean Conservation Targets within the region. The project places particular focus on improved management of Marine Protected Areas and sustainable financing mechanism ideas for MPA management. Collaboration with relevant stakeholders in the region will be crucial. As such, the CBF will be working with partners that include the Organization of Eastern Caribbean States (OECS), GIZ (German Development Agency), SPAW RAC (Regional Activity Centre for the Protocol Concerning Specially Protected Areas and Wildlife for the Wider Caribbean Region), BIOPAMA team, MPA Connect among others.

The CBF and the National Conservation Trust Funds have been working on the continued development of financial mechanisms. The EMPAC project will be a vital step in further facilitating the growth of the Caribbean Sustainable Finance Architecture as it supports the continued development of the NCTFs as national leaders in their respective countries contributing to resources mobilization for Marine Conservation, supporting the 30x30 goals.

WITH THE SUPPORT OF:



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PROJECT COMPONENTS

Advance regional political engagement on ocean conservation targets

By 2025, a regional platform that advances political support for the 30x30 political Call to Action is implemented in the Caribbean region, locking-in regional high-level collaboration within the Caribbean Challenge Initiative (CCI) and CBF political network therefore, catalyzing the development of regional MPA policy frameworks and initiatives aligned with the 30x30 ambition. Activities include:

1. Developing a stakeholder mapping and advocacy strategy.
2. Reviewing and analyzing the legal framework on creating or expanding MPAs in the region.
3. Developing an updated MPA Gap Analysis for the Caribbean.
4. Finalizing and implementing a communication strategy to promote and raise advocacy on MPA implementation to support the 30x30 ocean conservation target.

Scale regional sustainable financing for MPAs

To develop a MPA Finance Facility through a collaboration with the CBF fostering investment into regional and national MPA activities, national sustainable financing mechanisms are identified and capacity to implement them is developed, then regional knowledge on appropriate finance mechanisms to advance management effectiveness is shared and replicated. Activities include:

1. Conducting a financial gap analysis that could extend beyond an initial focus on costs and existing financing streams to an analysis of potential new revenue sources that could be developed or targeted by the CBF MPA Facility.
2. Designing the operational framework for the MPA facility.
3. Organizing a fundraising symposium or conference for the CBF MPA Facility aimed at supporting countries in the implementation of their national 30x30 goals.



WHAT WILL EMPAC ACHIEVE?

Collaboration with all relevant stakeholders in the region as this will be essential to the management of Marine Managed and Marine Protected Areas.

Identifying policy makers who can make conscious decisions based on reliable and comprehensive data then advance the development of regional MPA policy frameworks and initiatives aligned with the 30x30 ocean conservation target.

HOW WILL EMPAC CONTRIBUTE?

Facilitate discussions with policy makers and other stakeholders for the designation, implementation and expansion of regional MPAs to advance local and regional actions towards the achievement of the 30x30 ocean conservation target within the region.

Identify the biodiversity baseline data and the financial gaps to effectively manage the biodiversity in Marine Managed and Marine Protected Areas in the Caribbean.

Project Duration
 **3Y**
2023 - 2025

Eligible Countries

Antigua & Barbuda, Dominican Republic, Dominica, Grenada, Guyana, Haiti, Jamaica, St. Kitts & Nevis, Saint Lucia, St. Vincent and the Grenadines, The Bahamas

Budget & Donor
 **.75MIL** USD
From Blue Nature Alliance



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