

Advancing Caribbean Marine Conservation Goals: 30x30 and beyond



Background

The Caribbean Biodiversity Fund (CBF) delivers innovative financing solutions to advance conservation across the Caribbean. It supports countries in achieving the Kunming–Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework (GBF), including the 30x30 target to conserve and effectively manage at least 30% of land and ocean areas by 2030.

Our Goals



Mobilize long-term partnerships and sustainable finance for marine conservation.



Strengthen systems to effectively receive, invest, and deploy conservation funding.



Develop innovative financing mechanisms through a regional Sustainable Finance Architecture for Caribbean Small Island Developing States (SIDS).

The Urgency

Only 8.2% of the world's oceans are protected, and just 2.7% are effectively managed¹, despite their central role in economic stability, food security, and climate resilience in the Caribbean. Declining fisheries, coral reef degradation, and growing development pressures highlight the need for urgent, scaled-up action. Caribbean SIDS remain highly vulnerable to climate change, heavily dependent on ocean health, and constrained by limited financial and technical capacity.

The Opportunity

The Caribbean benefits from strong political commitment to 30x30, established conservation trust funds, and regional institutions capable of mobilizing resources. However, it has limited capital at scale, targeted funding to strengthen enabling conditions such as Marine Protected Area (MPA) legislation and governance, and sustained financing for effective management.

At the same time, momentum is building. Global focus on 30x30, growing alignment of climate and biodiversity finance, increased recognition of SIDS vulnerability, emerging regional ocean finance architecture, and a maturing blue bond market present a clear opportunity to act.

An investment of \$250 million can establish a long-term marine finance infrastructure for the Caribbean; unlocking sustained funding, strengthening marine protection, and complementing global ocean and climate finance efforts.

Now is the moment to convert ambition into action

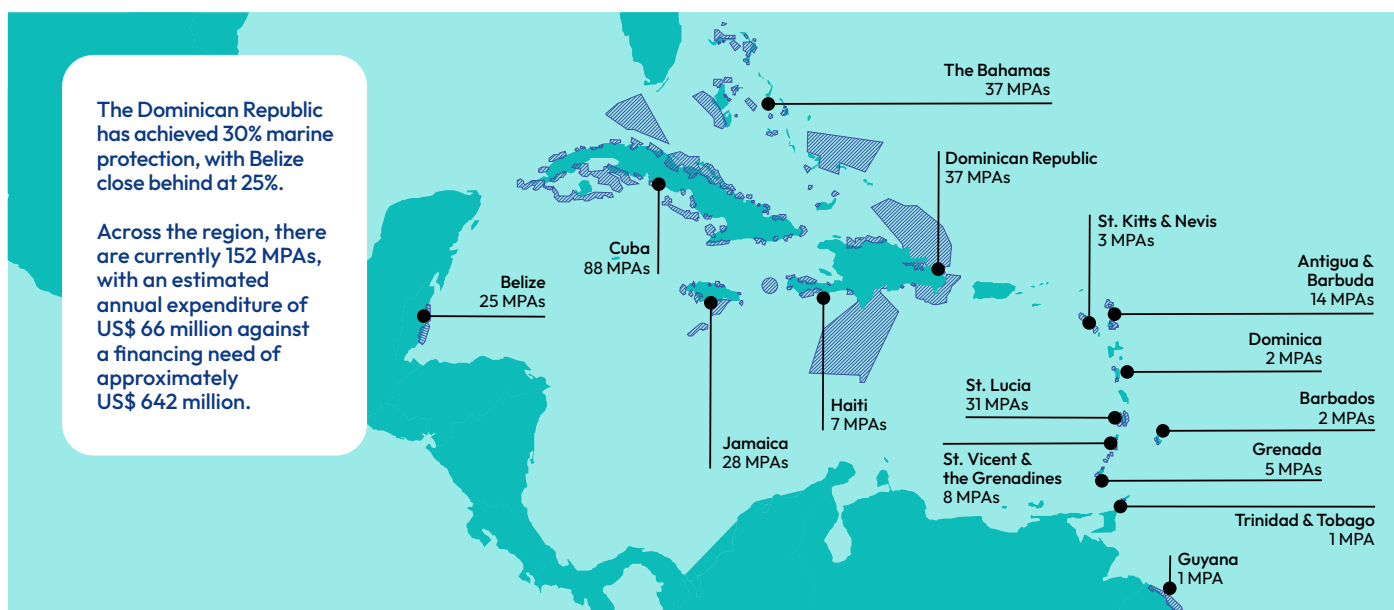


¹ <https://www.campaignfornature.org/ocean-gap-report-2025>

Understanding the Conservation and Financing Gap

The Caribbean is a global biodiversity hotspot where marine and coastal ecosystems underpin economic, cultural, and social well-being. These ecosystems host exceptional species diversity, including many threatened species. Creating new, expanding, and strengthening marine managed areas², including MPAs is essential to achieving the 30x30 target and securing long-term ocean health.

However, progress is limited by financing, capacity, and governance gaps. Closing these is essential to scale durable marine conservation and build a well-resourced regional MPA network that supports a resilient blue economy.



US\$ 66M
Current Annual Spend

US\$ 576M Annual Funding Gap

US\$ 642M

Key Barriers to Achieving 30x30³



Reliance on short-term funding and limited revenue retention



Weak legal and policy frameworks



Gaps in staffing, equipment, and enforcement



Limited data and monitoring for decision making



Fragmented governance and weak regional coordination



Misalignment with climate & blue economy strategies

² MPAs are designated to conserve biodiversity and ecosystem services. Marine Managed Areas (MMAs) have broader objectives, integrating conservation with sustainable use, fisheries, cultural heritage, recreation, and climate resilience.

³ Policy, Legal and Financial Assessments for Enhancing MPAs (2025), Caribbean Biodiversity Fund; based on eight countries; excludes operational costs.

Building the Enabling Conditions: Effective Marine Protected Areas for the Caribbean

With support from the Blue Nature Alliance, CBF is working with governments, strategic partners, the public and private sectors, and local communities to advance GBF and 30x30 goals. Efforts focus on catalyzing the designation, effective management, and expansion of marine protected areas, while strengthening coordination at national and regional levels.

Strengthening Political Will and Advocacy

In 2025, CBF partnered with regional ocean leaders to develop [Actioning Blue: A Caribbean 30x30 Vision and Roadmap for Our Ocean](#). This Caribbean-led declaration promotes a coordinated regional approach that links global biodiversity commitments with sustainable financing.

Building on momentum from the Caribbean Challenge Initiative and endorsed through the Organisation of Eastern Caribbean States, the declaration has been adopted by fourteen Caribbean governments and strategic partners*.



Building a Regional Roadmap

Through this effort, CBF is advancing a Caribbean 30x30 Roadmap to turn ambition into action by:



* strategic partners



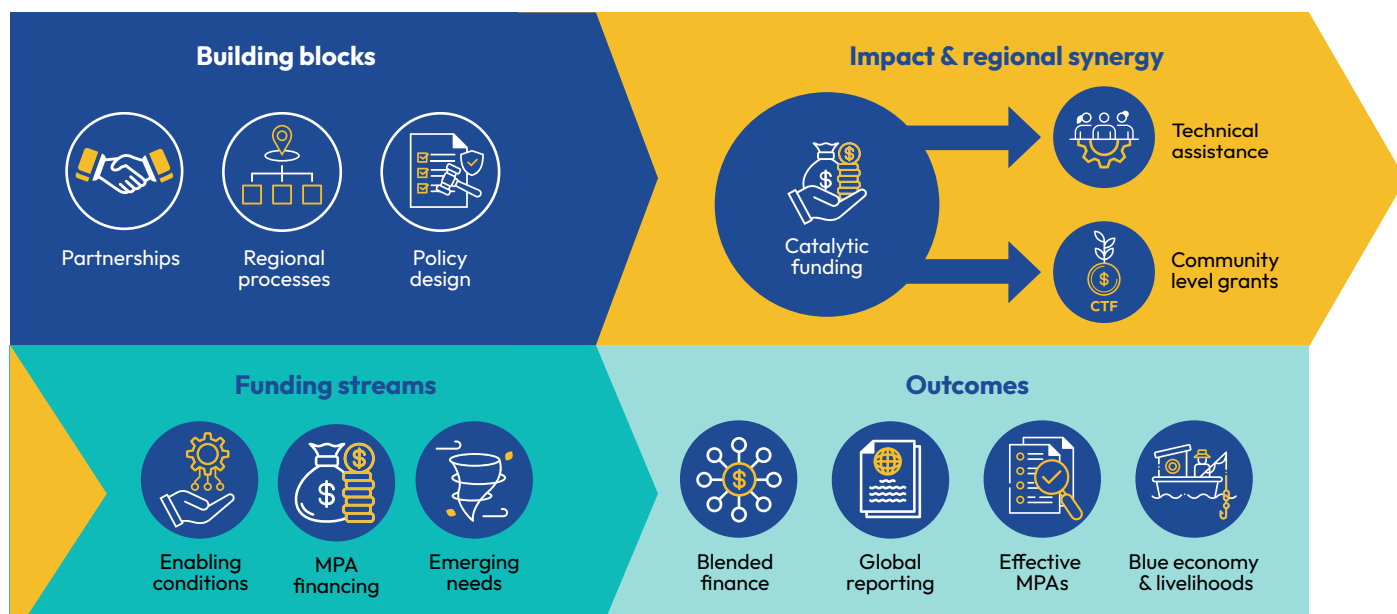
The Caribbean MPA Financing Facility

The CBF has established a regional platform to mobilize and deploy funding at scale and accelerate progress toward the GBF 30x30 target. The MPA facility addresses persistent financing gaps by pooling resources and aligning regional investments with national priorities to ensure long-term sustainability

Designed to unlock **\$250 million** through endowment, sinking, or hybrid structures, the Facility deploys catalytic funding through a network of nationally rooted Conservation Trust Funds and local partners. It lowers transaction costs for SIDS and replaces fragmented grants with a coordinated, scalable blended finance model, leveraging existing systems rather than creating parallel structures.

The Facility's funding streams support:

- Enabling conditions for effective marine conservation, including policy and regulatory frameworks, and sustainable finance mechanisms
- MPA establishment, expansion, and effective management.
- Strategic priorities such as monitoring, disaster response, and emerging conservation needs.



Impact of 30x30

- 1 Conserves **at least 30%** of the Caribbean Sea including coral reefs and mangroves
- 2 Supports **36M jobs** in fisheries and ecotourism
- 3 Sustains **\$500B** in nature-based GDP
- 4 Rebuilds fish stocks by **600%+**

How Partners Can Engage

- Contribute funding
- Support country readiness
- Co-finance enabling conditions
- Provide technical support, or
- Participate in regional coordination.



Contact us:

ceo@caribbeanbiodiversityfund.org
caribbeanbiodiversityfund.org

