



# Caribbean Gateway INSIGHTS

Issue 6, April 2022

## UWI/UNEP MOU Signed

The CPAG is proud to announce that a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) has been signed by the UWI Centre for Resource Management and Environmental Studies (UWI-CERMES) and the UN Environment Programme World Conservation Monitoring Centre (UNEP-WCMC) to strengthen and enhance the quality of the Caribbean datasets in the World Database on Protected areas (WDPA), World Database on Other effective Area-Based Conservation measures (WD-OECM) and Global Database on Protected Area Management Effectiveness (GD-PAME) datasets and the analysis, sharing and dissemination of this data.

This MOU adds great value to conservation efforts in the Caribbean, and has the potential to create the enabling environment required to enhance protected area management.

## Updated Data for St. Lucia's Protected Areas

In February of 2022, CPAG engaged a consultant in St Lucia tasked with updating information in the World Database on Protected Areas (WDPA). WDPA is widely regarded as the most comprehensive global database on terrestrial and marine protected areas. During the consultancy, meetings were held with key entities to verify that the information and data captured is accurate, up-to-date, and relevant.

Following the completion of the St Lucia update, CPAG will engage other member countries to have their data updated. Stay tuned to our social media, for the announcement regarding the publication of the updated data.



## We're on LinkedIn

The Caribbean Protected Areas Gateway (CPAG) recently launched its LinkedIn Page, to provide you with a new way to stay connected with us. Keep informed about the work of the CPAG and our partners in real time by following us.

*Scan Me*





# THE IMPORTANCE OF COMMUNITIES IN CONSERVATION



Some of the most successful conservation efforts are those with strong community engagement. Conservationists recognise that conservation is not simply about animals and nature, but also about healthy ecosystems and thriving communities. Community-based conservation is the future of biodiversity protection, through sustainable, inclusive and responsible initiatives.

A key area which should be considered is that of alternative livelihoods, which is a common conservation intervention. However, there is a balance which must be found to ensure that what is being proposed, can actually benefit those in the community, while still prioritizing conservation efforts.

Photo of a National Park Ranger from the Jamaica Conservation and Development Trust, engaging a farmer in the Blue Mountain area, Jamaica.  
Photo Credit: © IUCN/ Justin Springer

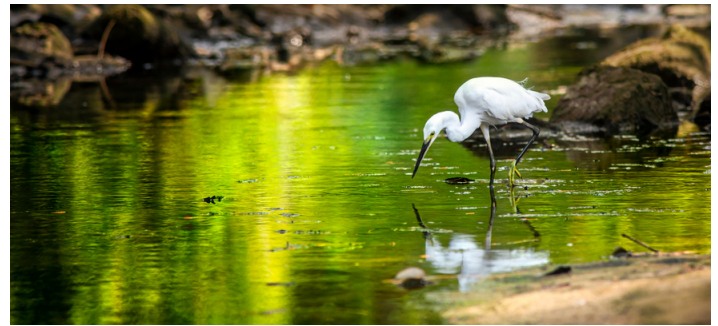
## CELEBRATING WORLD WETLANDS DAY 2022

In observation of World Wetlands Day 2022, the Caribbean Protected Areas Gateway team partnered with the Graeme Hall Nature Sanctuary (GHNS) to raise awareness about the significance of the Graeme Hall Wetlands (GHW) to Barbados

It is the last significant mangrove and sedge wetland on island. Due to Barbados' geographical location, it is the first potential rest stop for migratory birds travelling long distances over open ocean. GHW therefore has international significance to wildlife and is protected by the RAMSAR Convention.

"Wetlands are not only key biodiversity hotspots for a myriad of wildlife, but also provide so many ecosystem services to human communities...Their preservation is key to the future sustainability of our own civilization," said Lani Edghill from the GHNS.

Click to view our [World Wetlands Day video feature](#).



Unfortunately, due to mismanagement, the Graeme Hall Wetlands are now critically threatened. Currently, less than half of the GHW and watershed are protected from degradation and development from agricultural and urban pollutants.

The conservation community has sent out a rallying call, asking persons to sign a petition to designate the zone as a Conservation area (OS2 Category). To support the effort to save this significant natural resource:



**CLICK HERE**   
to sign the petition

## BIOPAMA GRANTEE'S VOICES

Financing Marine Protected Area Management for continued effectiveness through COVID-19 economic crisis  
Hol Chan Marine Reserve

Recognising the importance of sustained operations in protected areas, especially given the COVID-19 Pandemic, [The Biodiversity and Protected Areas Management \(BIOPAMA\) Programme](#) has provided the Hol Chan Marine Reserve in Belize with a Rapid Response Grant. The project aims to support the effective management and governance of The Hol Chan Marine Reserve through continued patrols as well as environmental and biodiversity monitoring. With high unemployment rates and an increase in fishing activities it is important to maintain a presence to deter encroachment of fishing into the no-take and conservation areas.



**MORE INFO** 



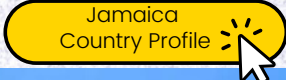
# MISSION TO JAMAICA



Photo Credit: CPAG/Renice Medford

In March the CPAG team undertook a mission to Jamaica to meet with grantees of the BIOPAMA Action Component as well as other local stakeholders overseeing protected area management. Over the course of the week, engagement centred around raising awareness of the CPAG, collecting data and showcasing the resource tools which are available to assist in the management of Jamaica’s protected areas, including the new country profile, fact sheet and [story map](#), developed by the CPAG. Discussions were held with Jamaica Fisheries, the National Environment and Planning Agency, UWI – Centre for Marine Sciences and Mona Geoinformatics Institute, as well as Jamaica National Heritage Trust and Jamaica Conservation and Development Trust.

The team is photographed here with rangers and representatives from the Jamaica Conservation and Development Trust, as they hiked the Blue and John Crow Mountains National Park and World Heritage Site.



## THE PALISADOES, JAMAICA

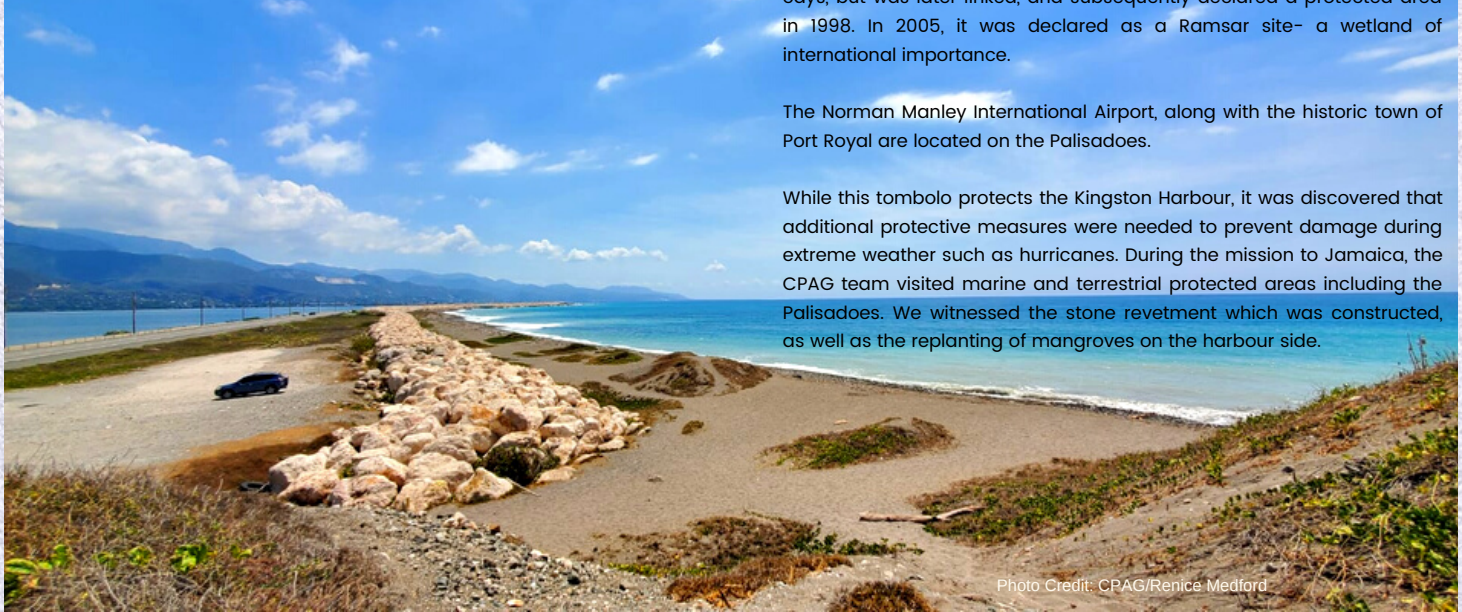


Photo Credit: CPAG/Renice Medford

One of Jamaica’s Protected Areas, is the Palisadoes which is found in the capital city of Kingston. This tombolo was once a series of islands or cays, but was later linked, and subsequently declared a protected area in 1998. In 2005, it was declared as a Ramsar site- a wetland of international importance.

The Norman Manley International Airport, along with the historic town of Port Royal are located on the Palisadoes.

While this tombolo protects the Kingston Harbour, it was discovered that additional protective measures were needed to prevent damage during extreme weather such as hurricanes. During the mission to Jamaica, the CPAG team visited marine and terrestrial protected areas including the Palisadoes. We witnessed the stone revetment which was constructed, as well as the replanting of mangroves on the harbour side.

## BIOPAMA GRANTEE'S VOICES

### Enhancing the Management of Wallings Nature Reserve

Over in Antigua and Barbuda, one can find the beautiful and unspoilt Wallings Nature Reserve. Through a Small Technical Grant, BIOPAMA is assisting with effective management of the protected area. The development of a Management Effectiveness Tracking Tool (METT) will assist the team to better manage the reserve. There will be better collaboration between Wallings Nature Reserve and key stakeholders and government agencies and the creation of a priority action plan for the next five years.



Photo Credit: © Israel John

To read more [CLICK HERE](#)



# Upcoming Events

## LATIN AMERICA AND CARIBBEAN METT IMPLEMENTATION SUPPORT NETWORK MEETING

Wednesday 20th April, 2022

11:00a.m. - 1:00p.m. (AST)

Meeting via ZOOM

[> REGISTER NOW](#)

The Biodiversity and Protected Areas Management (BIOPAMA) Programme in the Caribbean has been engaging with and supporting project countries in the implementation and application of Protected Area Management Effectiveness (PAME) assessments. The Management Effectiveness Tracking Tool (METT) is used widely throughout the LAC region for assessing PAME, and representatives of protected area agencies from Peru, Ecuador, Venezuela, Saint Lucia, Guyana, Belize, Jamaica, and Saint Vincent and the Grenadines have confirmed interest in connecting with each other to share their experiences and learn from each other. As such, the BIOPAMA Caribbean team is inviting you to participate in an inaugural event to establish the LAC METT implementation support network. Simultaneous interpretation to French and Spanish will be available.



## INTERNATIONAL DAY OF BIOLOGICAL DIVERSITY

*Save the Date!*  
May 22, 2022

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