

Establishing Sustainable Financing Systems for Marine Managed/Protected Areas in Caribbean Small Island Developing States (SIDS)

Context

The Caribbean small island and coastal states are global hotspots of marine biodiversity. The demarcation and management of marine managed/protected areas play a key role in securing the multiple services of marine ecosystems, especially for sustaining livelihoods through avenues such as the fishery and tourism sectors, which are significant livelihood streams for small island developing states (SIDS). These Marine Managed Areas (MMAs) are established as primarily intertidal, subtidal and terrestrial areas adjacent to marine water, whose resources are operated under defined executive, administrative, and supervisory conditions. While marine protected areas (MPAs) are defined areas and biodiversity and cultural features within or adjacent to the marine environment, reserved by legislation or other effective means, thus being more protected than its surroundings.

In addition to the severe climate change impacts suffered by these maritime ecosystems, there is a lack of sound financing systems and effective financing mechanisms for the proper administration of MMAs, i.e. the implementation, monitoring and supervision of protective functions and utilisation measures. Long-term, secured financing systems and mechanisms are also still lacking for MMAs in the Caribbean.

Background and Justification

A major cause of the under-financing of MMAs lies in the inadequate and unclear fee-collection and accounting procedures. Further, the administrations of MMAs and management boards lack the requisite capacities and knowledge

of and access to, financing facilities. At the regional level, there has been no adoption of voluntary guidelines for Caribbean SIDS to help them implement sustainable financing systems and mechanisms.

There must be an introduction of non-discriminatory scales of fees, for rights of access to and use of MMAs. The facilitation of access to financing mechanisms, in particular the disbursements from the Caribbean Biodiversity Fund (CBF) and a regional, voluntary, regulatory approach for administering revenue from MMAs, will address the abovementioned challenges.

Project Name	Establishing Sustainable Financing Systems for Marine Protected/Managed Areas in Caribbean Small Island Developing States (SIDS)
Commissioned By	German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ)
Strategic Framework	Improving the protection of the global public goods, climate, environment, biodiversity and adaptation to the impacts of climate change in keeping with the voluntary undertakings of the Caribbean States as part of international climate and environmental protection
Project Region	Caribbean Small Island Developing States
Target Groups	The management boards of the marine protected areas, the national nature conservation funds and major interest groups: policy-makers at the local, national and regional level, the private sector and civil society
Lead Executing Agency	Secretariat of the Caribbean Community (CARICOM)
Implementing Agencies	Caribbean Public Health Agency (CARPHA) & Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) GmbH
Duration	From January 2021 to May 2023



Photo Left: Carriacou's Oyster Bed Mangroves in Tyrell Bay -- Grenada

Photo Right: Seaside harbour and community showing multiple uses of marine resources -- Dominica

13 CLIMATE ACTION**14** LIFE BELOW WATER**15** LIFE ON LAND

Our Approach

This regionally implemented project will contribute toward laying the foundation for the successful introduction of sustainable financing mechanisms. This will include capacity building, drawing up national plans of action and developing human capacities of all relevant partners at the local, national and regional level.

Project Outputs

1. Non-discriminatory fees charged for the use of MMAs:

- i. Establishing permanent dialogue between management boards and responsible government institutions
- ii. Developing human capacity in the management boards for devising non-discriminatory fee scales, including possible fee adjustments
- iii. Networking with the CaMPAM network forum for exchange on possible ways to charge fees and on terms and mechanisms for collection



Photo Left: Colony of sea fans (Alcyonacea) and sea rods (foreground) -- Soufrière, St Lucia

Photo Right: Green turtle taking quick breath at Baradal Turtle Reserve -- Tobago Cays, Grenadines, St. Vincent and the Grenadines

2. Improved access of management boards to finance:

- i. Devising simple mechanisms for management boards to access financing facilities (disbursements) of National Conservation Trust Funds (NCTF)
- ii. Conducting training measures for drawing up qualified applications for finance to NCTFs
- iii. Organising the participation of representatives of management boards in the annual conferences of CBF/CCI

3. Better enabling environment for financing MMAs:

- i. Building capacity for using integrated digital applications to improve financing systems
- ii. Facilitating dialogue with CARPHA and CARICOM on regional, voluntary guidelines for the governance of marine protected/managed areas
- iii. Updating the draft regional, voluntary guidelines for MMAs in Caribbean SIDS

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