



# The Caribbean Protected Areas Gateway:

*Linking data to better decisions*



## Overcoming the Data Challenge



One of the most serious challenges the Caribbean faces in its quest for sustainable development is insufficient robust data on which to make informed policy decisions. Getting protected area decision-making data and information from multiple sources can be a complex process that hampers timely execution on decisions that can have significant consequences for future generations.

The International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN), through the Biodiversity and Protected Areas Management (BIOPAMA) programme, is working with Caribbean nations to improve protected areas governance and day-to-day management through the establishment of a regional observatory – a hub for research and innovation that interprets and shares data to understand and communicate important trends in a changing environment.

The Caribbean Protected Areas Gateway, one of the four observatories that have been set up across the Africa, Caribbean and Pacific (ACP) countries, will be a resource hub for facilitating and promoting viable decisions and policies by decision makers and resource managers for effective and sustainable management of protected areas and biodiversity.

## REGIONAL HOST

The Caribbean Protected Areas Gateway (The Caribbean Gateway) is hosted by the University of West Indies (UWI) and located in the Centre for Resource Management and Environmental Studies (CERMES), a department within the Faculty of Science and Technology at the Cave Hill Campus in Barbados. Launched in November 2014, The Caribbean Gateway is expected to become an integral part of the UWI, sustainable beyond the current EU-ACP supported BIOPAMA programme. BIOPAMA and CERMES are collaborating with other departments and centres at the three UWI campuses, as well as organizations and initiatives that share BIOPAMA's commitment to protected area management in the Caribbean.

## WEB PORTAL AND APPLICATIONS

The Caribbean Gateway will maintain a Regional Reference Information System (RRIS) [rris.biopama.org](http://rris.biopama.org) – an online access point to data and tools for analysis for biodiversity and protected area management. The RRIS will provide access to data and tools on: marine and terrestrial ecosystems, species and habitats, ecosystem services, livelihoods, pressures and threats, and management and governance, as well as providing information on training opportunities, and a forum for discussions.

The Digital Observatory of Protected Areas (DOPA), [dopa.jrc.ec.europa.eu](http://dopa.jrc.ec.europa.eu) is the testing ground for developing the functionality of the RRIS, with DOPA providing the building blocks that are used to assemble the RRIS according to the Caribbean region's specific needs and requirements and data available from mandated authorities.



## Better outcomes



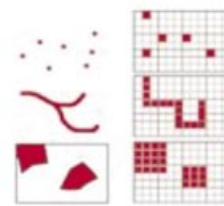
Biodiversity conservation  
Sustainable economic development  
Ecosystem resilience  
Climate change adaptation and mitigation  
Food security

## Better policy & decisions



Legislation  
Design and planning  
Zoning and regulation  
Resource allocation  
Community management  
Good governance

## Better data & tools



Access to data  
Analysis and visualization  
Capacity building  
Community of practice

## APPROACH

The basic premise of **The Caribbean Gateway** is that desired outcomes - economic, social, and environmental - derived from having both national and transboundary systems of protected areas can be achieved through the formulation and enactment of better policies and management decisions that are supported by the analysis and visualization of spatial and temporal data.

## HOW DOES THE CARIBBEAN GATEWAY CONTRIBUTE TO NATIONAL DEVELOPMENT?

- Facilitates national authorities' preparation of reports for domestic use and for the Convention on Biological Diversity
- Tailors tools for cross-sector planning and negotiation
- Supports data management and development of standards-based data access and visualization applications

- Facilitates dialogue/interaction between scientists and decision-makers
- Facilitates collaboration/networking and sharing of best practices in biodiversity and protected area management

## HOW CAN YOU CONTRIBUTE TO THE CARIBBEAN GATEWAY?

- Partner with **The Caribbean Gateway** to support protected areas management and governance
- Communicate your data management and analysis needs and reporting requirements
- Facilitate identification of and access to reliable and relevant data sources
- Actively publish data and services, from local to regional scale, and validate existing and new data
- Collaborate in RRIS development and join the BIOPAMA community on Yammer ([www.yammer.com/biopama](http://www.yammer.com/biopama))

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### About the European Union

The European Union is made up of 28 Member States who have decided to gradually link together their know-how, resources and destinies. Together, during a period of enlargement of 50 years, they have built a zone of stability, democracy and sustainable development whilst maintaining cultural diversity, tolerance and individual freedoms. The European Union is committed to sharing its achievements and its values with countries and peoples beyond its borders. <http://europa.eu/>

### About the ACP Group of States

The African, Caribbean and Pacific Group of States (ACP) is the largest trans-national intergovernmental organisation of developing countries in the international system, with 79 member countries from Africa, the Caribbean and the Pacific. Today, the main goal of the Group is to drive South-South solidarity and North-South cooperation for the sustainable development of ACP countries and their successful integration into the world economy. <http://www.acp.int/>

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