BIOPAMA REFERENCE INFORMATION SYSTEM
for Biodiversity and Protected Areas Management in African, Caribbean and Pacific (ACP) Countries
JRC mission

As the science and knowledge service of the European Commission, the Joint Research Centre’s mission is to support EU policies with independent evidence throughout the whole policy cycle.

The JRC has world class expertise in geospatial information systems and analysis for tackling environmental challenges - through BIOPAMA we are focusing this on the needs of the ACP regions and our regional partners.
Delivering data for better decisions

The protection and sustainable management of biodiversity in the African, Caribbean and Pacific (ACP) countries requires a comprehensive approach that extends beyond the establishment of protected areas. The BIOPAMA Programme not only contributes to the protection of terrestrial and marine biodiversity but seeks to provide relevant data and information to decision-makers at all levels, to enhance biodiversity conservation in ACP countries.

Patrick I. Gomes, Secretary General of the ACP Group
BIOPAMA aims at reinforcing the management and governance of protected and conserved areas in all the 79 ACP countries. By providing unique and tailored support to protected area authorities at the local, national and regional level, it supports them in achieving their conservation objectives and to report more accurately their progress on relevant multilateral environmental agreements.

Regional Observatories for protected areas coordinate information systems, data collection, analysis, monitoring and reporting and develop the capacities of staff and organisations to make optimal use of this information to address specific needs.

Capacity building activities support protected area management and governance, and enable conservation practitioners, national agencies and protected areas managers to improve decision-making and prioritization of resource allocation.

Site-based targeted actions support local and regional activities and their partners on biodiversity conservation to improve the knowledge base for decision making and address key priorities.
Phase 1 (2011 -2017)
Delivered capacity building activities and access to high-quality data and information on the status of protected areas in 79 ACP countries.

Phase 2 (2017 -2023)
‘From Knowledge to Action’ will provide tools for addressing specific regional or community needs related to conservation planning and decision making.

“High quality data is indispensable for effective planning and decision making in conservation. BIOPAMA will provide the data needed to better manage protected areas so that they continue to provide life-supporting benefits to people around the world.”

Inger Andersen
IUCN Director General
A Knowledge Platform for Protected Areas and Biodiversity in the ACP regions

The three pillars of the Platform

**Regional Observatories**

Hosted by well-established regional institutions, these are the central pillar of BIOPAMA’s work. They drive the needs, support data collection, analysis, monitoring and reporting, develop the capacities of staff and organisations to manage this information and provide policy guidance for better decision making on biodiversity conservation.

**Regional Information Systems**

- These systems are free, secure and built using open source technologies. They are accessible and customisable by accredited users in the regions.
- They host regional data, provide tools and support planning, policy and decision-making on protected areas and biodiversity.
- They support a broad range of data types: field data, satellite imagery, maps, photos, surveys, documents, indicators.

**Site-level studies**

On-site activities support protected area planning and management through the collection and analysis of fundamental information on the status of biodiversity as well as current management and governance arrangements. Management and governance assessment tools also help identify priority actions that could be eligible for BIOPAMA funding.
A quick overview of the BIOPAMA Reference Information System

What you can do

**Connect**
- With the BIOPAMA community
- With news and events in the region

**Learn**
- About new approaches and opportunities
- How to use relevant data and tools

**Explore**
- Data, documents and stories
- Maps, analyses and indicators

**Contribute**
- Store and share data, documents and stories
- Create maps, analyses and indicators

Regional bodies collect needs, consult with stakeholders, request and gather relevant protected areas and biodiversity data.
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The BIOPAMA knowledge platforms:
Pooling local expertise to support decision-making in the ACP regions

The launch of the Caribbean Gateway was a critical moment for the University of the West Indies (UWI) in terms of our role in regional networking and sustainable development as it concerns linking data to better decision-making.

Patrick McConney
Senior Lecturer at UWI’s Centre for Resource Management and Environmental Studies (CERMES)
Take part in BIOPAMA

- Join the BIOPAMA community
- Benefit from broader networking opportunities
- Make contact with local, national and regional authorities
- Use enhanced tools for protected areas planning and management
- Access advanced resources and expertise for biodiversity conservation
Geospatial information technologies offer tremendous opportunities in terms of protected area management and biodiversity conservation. Working with our partners, we will customize these technologies according to regional needs across all ACP regions.

Stephen Peedell  
BIOPAMA Coordinator at the Joint Research Centre of the European Commission

BIOPAMA underlines the link between people and nature – we face global threats to biodiversity but these can only be properly addressed by enabling sustainable development as part of efforts to conserve ecosystems. Information is fundamental to understanding these relationships and making smart decisions. JRC applies all of its renowned expertise and experience in delivering high quality, robust data and knowledge products to support this.

Alan Belward  
Head of the Knowledge for Sustainable Development and Food Security Unit at the Joint Research Centre of the European Commission

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