Background
Biological diversity (biodiversity)

- the number, variety & variability of living organisms
  - genetic, species, ecosystem

- cornerstone of earth’s existence
  - 40% of the world’s economy and 80% of the needs of the poor are derived from biological resources
  - Richer biodiversity:
    - increases resilience
    - greater opportunities for medical discoveries
    - economic development
    - adaptive responses to such new challenges as climate change
Protected Areas

- a clearly defined geographical space
- recognised, dedicated and managed, through legal or other effective means
- to achieve the long term conservation of nature with associated ecosystem services and cultural values

(IUCN Definition 2008)

Other Effective Area-based Conservation Measure

- a geographically defined area other than a Protected Area
- which is governed and managed in ways that achieve positive and sustained long-term outcomes
- for the in situ conservation of biodiversity with associated ecosystem functions and services
- and where applicable, cultural, spiritual, socio-economic, and other locally relevant values.

(CBD 2018)
Protected Areas (global)

> 230,000 PAs globally
> 200 countries

Source: WDPA 2017

Marine
(ign. 25 million km²)
Protected Areas (global)

> 230,000 PAs globally
> 200 countries

Source: WDPA 2017

Terrestrial
(approx. 20 million km²)
Protected Areas (ACP)

9,000+ PROTECTED AREAS:
1 BILLION+ PEOPLE:
THEIR LIVELIHOODS DEPEND ON THE SUSTAINABLE USE OF NATURAL RESOURCES IN THE AFRICAN, CARIBBEAN AND PACIFIC COUNTRIES
Protected Areas (Caribbean ACP)

- 909 Protected Areas: 279,708 km²
- 585 Terrestrial: 124,369 km²
- 203 Terrestrial/Marine: 80,363 km²
- 121 Marine: 74,957 km²
Current trends in biodiversity

Countries are protecting more area habitats, but biodiversity is still in stark decline.

Hill et al. 2015

Hsu et al. 2016

Diaz et al. 2019
ACP countries’ challenges

The main challenges to ensure biodiversity conservation, sustainable livelihoods and effective protected area management and governance are linked to:

- Policy and legal frameworks
- Institutional capacities
- Ineffective law enforcement
- Inadequate assessments of impacts from infrastructure developments
- Lack of sustainable funding mechanisms

Consequences

- Biodiversity continue declining
- Ecosystems increasingly degraded
- Climate change impacts to nature and society
- Livelihoods, particularly of local communities, at risk
BIOPAMA programme
BIOPAMA programme

• Addresses priorities for improved management & governance of biodiversity and natural resources
  • tools
  • services
  • funding

Regional Reference Information Systems
The Regional Observatories (Regional Reference Information Systems)

- open-source, free and secure tools
- bring together the best available science and knowledge
- collect and analyse protected areas data, information and trends
  - protected areas and biodiversity ecosystems
  - species, habitats, pressures, threats
  - socioeconomic
  - management & governance
Caribbean Protected Areas Gateway

Linking data to better decision
Caribbean Protected Areas Gateway (*Linking data to better decisions*)

- hosted by the University of the West Indies (UWI)
- housed at the Centre for Resource Management and Environmental Studies (CERMES)
- launched in 2015
- funded through the 11th EDF
The Caribbean countries (15):

- Antigua & Barbuda
- The Bahamas
- Barbados
- Belize
- Dominica
- Dominican Republic
- Grenada
- Guyana
- Haiti
- Jamaica
- St. Kitts & Nevis
- Saint Lucia
- St. Vincent & the Grenadines
- Suriname
- Trinidad and Tobago
Caribbean Protected Areas Gateway *(Linking data to better decisions)*

**Aim**
- to improve the long-term conservation and sustainable use of natural resources in Caribbean ACP countries, via improved decision making
  - in protected areas and surrounding communities

**Objectives**
- capacity building
- provide critical services and tools
- to complement and align with existing platforms and initiatives
Caribbean Protected Areas Gateway

An initiative of the ACP Group of States financed by the European Union (EU)’s 11th European Development Fund

Engages primarily with:
- national and regional level agencies and institutions
- protected area practitioners

The scientific know how of the (European Commission)

Biodiversity conservation expertise of IUCN

Implementing partners:
- Joint Research Centre (JRC)
- University of the West Indies (UWI)
- ORMACC
- Biopama

Implementing partner: IUCN
Caribbean Protected Areas Gateway (Team)

IUCN
- Hyacinth Armstrong-Vaughn
  Regional Coordinator
- Jose Courrau
  Senior Officer & Advisor
- Justin Springer
  Technical Assistant

UWI-CERMES
- Julian Walcott
  Technical Officer
- Carmel Haynes
  Communications
- Dionne Carbon
  Research Assistant

JRC
- Anton Shepherd
  Web Developer
- Mariagrazia Graziano
  MPA Specialist
Technical Officer
Caribbean Protected Areas Gateway
(Technical Officer)

**Role**
Intermediary between the end users and the Implementing agencies

**Functions**
- liaise with the other Regional TOs
- develop relationships & networks
- manage the collection of data & information
  - management of a GeoNode
  - promote data sharing
- respond to request from stakeholders
- facilitate technical support and trainings
- report on advances and updates Caribbean Gateway
- develop communications products
  - newsletters and presentations
- facilitate the dissemination of information
  - lessons learned, best practices, case studies
Caribbean Protected Areas Gateway

Key Components
Caribbean Protected Areas Gateway *(Linking data to better decisions)*

1. Regional Reference Information System
   - data/content management system (GeoNode) [http://geonode-rris.biopama.org/](http://geonode-rris.biopama.org/)

2. Communications platform (Yammer) [https://www.yammer.com/biopama/](https://www.yammer.com/biopama/)

3. Funding mechanism – Action Component [https://action.biopama.org/](https://action.biopama.org/)

4. Server
Caribbean Protected Areas Gateway *(Linking data to better decisions)*

**Regional Reference Information System**

- bring together the best available science and knowledge and make it easily accessible, at regional, country and site level:
  - the many knowledge products
  - projects
  - databases on protected areas
  - species
  - data uploaded, created and generated by the users themselves

- a tool which can be used to support decision making for planning, designating and managing protected areas

http://caribbean-rris.biopama.org/
Data repository for biodiversity and protected areas (GeoNode)

- content management system
- platform for the management and publication of data
  - documents
  - geospatial data
- upload your own to share with others
- create useful maps

http://geonode-rris.biopama.org/
Social Networking Platform (Yammer)

- enhance communications
- improve engagement
- build transparency (better informed)
- facilitates better networking
- create stronger communities
- share events, documents, ideas etc.

https://www.yammer.com/biopama
Funding Mechanism (Action Component)

• will support specific actions on the ground aimed at strengthening protected areas and natural resources management effectiveness and governance

• by enabling protected area agencies, NGOs, local communities and other key actors to effectively implement their field projects

https://action.biopama.org/
Caribbean Protected Areas Gateway

Services & Benefits
Caribbean Protected Areas Gateway (*Linking data to better decisions*)

**Key Services**

- Data hub/repository for biodiversity & PA data
- Provision of tools and analyses
  - apps
- Capacity building
  - trainings
  - teaching
- Reporting
  - templates
  - NBSAPs
  - MEA reports
- Funding (Action Component)
- Data storage/backup
Caribbean Protected Areas Gateway (*Linking data to better decisions*)

**Why Share Data?**

- Develops crucial networks and relationships
- Minimises duplication of energy and effort
- Bolsters transparency and openness
- Allows for more robust data analyses
- Facilitates informed decisions
- Contributes to the formulation of effective policies

**Who Benefits?**

- Decision & policy makers
- PA managers and practitioners
- Government & non-governmental agencies
- Academic & research institutions
- Communities, citizens, general public
- Funding donors
Caribbean Protected Areas Gateway (*Linking data to better decisions*)

**Key Benefits**

- Increased data mobilisation
  - improved data availability and quality
  - more informed decisions

- Better networking and communications
  - increased transparency
  - increased collaboration
  - maximising of resources & reduction in duplication of efforts
  - lessons learned (case studies, information products etc.)

- Development of capacities

- Better reporting

- Funding opportunities
Useful Links

• African, Caribbean, and Pacific (ACP) Group of States - http://www.acp.int/
• BIOPAMA programme - https://biopama.org/
• BIOPAMA GeoNode - http://geonode-rris.biopama.org/
• Caribbean Protected Areas Gateway - http://caribbean-rris.biopama.org/
• Central Reference Information System - https://rris.biopama.org/
• CERMES-UWI - https://www.cavehill.uwi.edu//cermes/home.aspx
• IUCN-ORMACC - https://www.iucn.org/regions/mexico-central-america-and-caribbean
• European Commission-Joint Research Centre - https://ec.europa.eu/info/departments/joint-research-centre_en
• University of the West Indies (UWI) - http://www.uwi.edu/index.asp
• Yammer - https://www.yammer.com/biopama/
Thank you!

Questions?