



# CARIBBEAN GATEWAY INSIGHTS

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## *A message from the CPAG!*

We're rounding up a busy year, and a very crucial year within the environmental conservation space. For us at the Caribbean Protected Areas Gateway (CPAG), we were delighted to be back in the field following the COVID-19 pandemic, engaging with colleagues and partners as we seek to deliver on our mandate and mission: To improve the long-term conservation and sustainable use of natural resources by reinforcing the management and governance of protected and conserved areas through better use and monitoring of data and information and via the enhancement of capacities throughout the Caribbean region.

CPAG has been designed with the objective of making validated protected and conserved area (both terrestrial and marine) data accessible and presenting it in a format which is easily understood to drive data-based decision-making. Over the last few months, we have made considerable headway in this regard, and we're happy to present it to you.

What have we accomplished in 2022?

We've done a lot this year, in addition to our engagements on the ground. We've added a ton of features to our platform, from a new dashboard to the ability to create maps. We also relaunched our website, and we're about to come out with some cool new tools targeted at Protected Area (PA) managers.

Looking ahead to 2023, we look forward to further engaging with stakeholders on the ground across our participating countries, with new and exciting initiatives as we go full steam ahead.

From the team here at the CPAG, we thank you for your support throughout 2022, and wish you and yours, continued success for 2023!

## **The latest on this month's issue:**

NEW CPAG  
WEBSITE

NEW RESOURCES  
FROM THE CPAG

A LOOK BACK  
THROUGH 2022

CYEN AT COP27

REVERSING  
BIODIVERSITY  
LOSS

WHAT'S TO COME  
IN 2023

....AND MORE!

## *Click through to our refreshed website*

We are happy to announce the launch of our refreshed website, which has been carefully designed with the user in mind, with global, yet Caribbean flair. You can now find our platform at [www.thecpag.org](http://www.thecpag.org), making it that much easier for you to connect with us!

Beyond the look and feel of the website being refreshed, we've also made it more user friendly, and added a host of resources at your disposal. You can explore our data sets and modules to track progress towards conservation targets, analyze protected area performance, conservation scenarios, or simply browse facts, figures and story maps.

Yet, there is so much more to come! Over the coming months, we will be building out new features and tools on our platform to further enhance your experience. 2023 will be a big year for us at the CPAG, and the further development of our web-based platform, ranks high on our list.

Please stay tuned for more updates, but feel free to check out the refreshed site in the meanwhile.



**CPAG**

# Resource & Information Hub

## Linking Data to Better Decisions

Supporting conservation strategies, improving protected areas management.

The CPAG (Caribbean Protected Areas Gateway) Resource & Information Hub (RIH) is our web-based information system for protected areas across all ACP Caribbean countries. Explore the set of modules to track progress towards conservation targets, analyse protected area performance, conservation scenarios, or simply browse facts, figures and story maps.

- Protected & Conserved Areas Dashboard
- Protected Area Management Effectiveness
- Tracking Conservation Targets
- Data & Mapping
- Resources

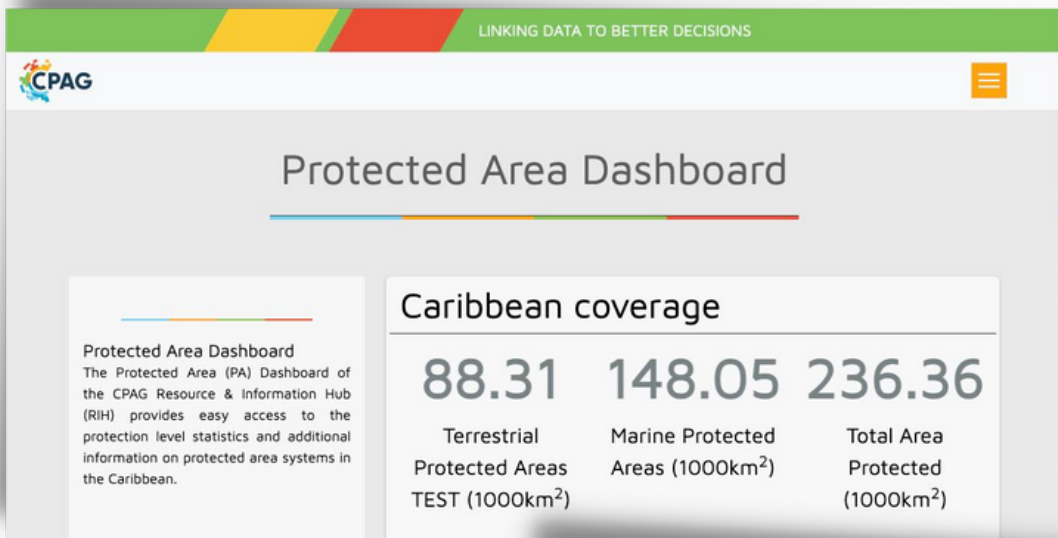
## *New CPAG Resources at your Fingertips*

The CPAG Resource & Information Hub now has three Caribbean-specific tools; The Protected Areas (PA) Dashboard, the Protected Areas Management Effectiveness (PAME) Dashboard, and the CPAG GeoNode.

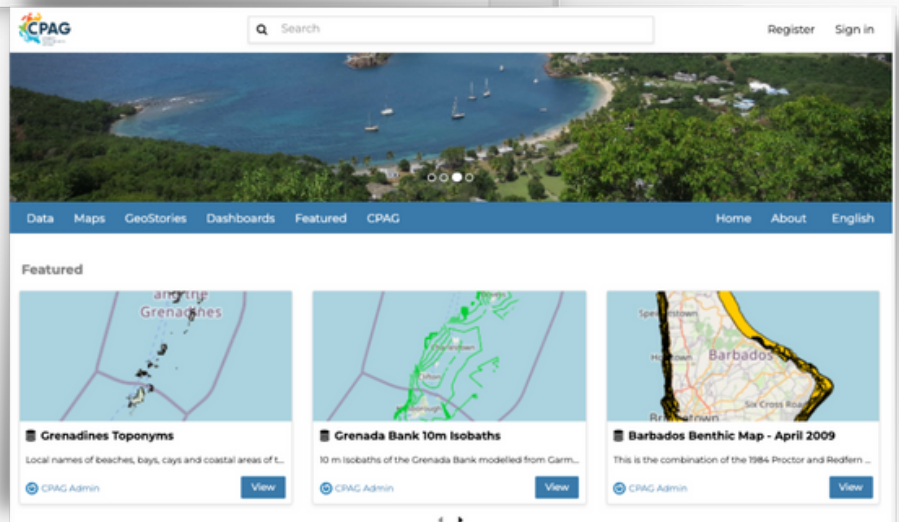
**The PA Dashboard** provides users with easy access to protection level statistics and additional information on protected area systems in the Caribbean. Users can also generate reports.

**The PAME Dashboard** displays data and information on completed assessments of protected areas in the Caribbean. Registered users can further publish resources, management plans, and assessment tools.

**The CPAG GeoNode** is a platform for collecting, interpreting, and sharing geospatial data. Supported uploads include but are not limited to datasets, documents, maps, and GeoStories. Registered users will be able to share their relevant data and maps as we seek to build an information-sharing community and ultimately develop a solid knowledge base for decision-making on protected areas in the Caribbean.



A look at the PA Dashboard.



A look at the CPAG GeoNode.

**"The time has come to change the trajectory of our planet and, in turn, the future of humankind. We can no longer continue with a 'business as usual' attitude"** - Elizabeth Maruma Mrema

Executive Secretary of the Convention on Biological Diversity

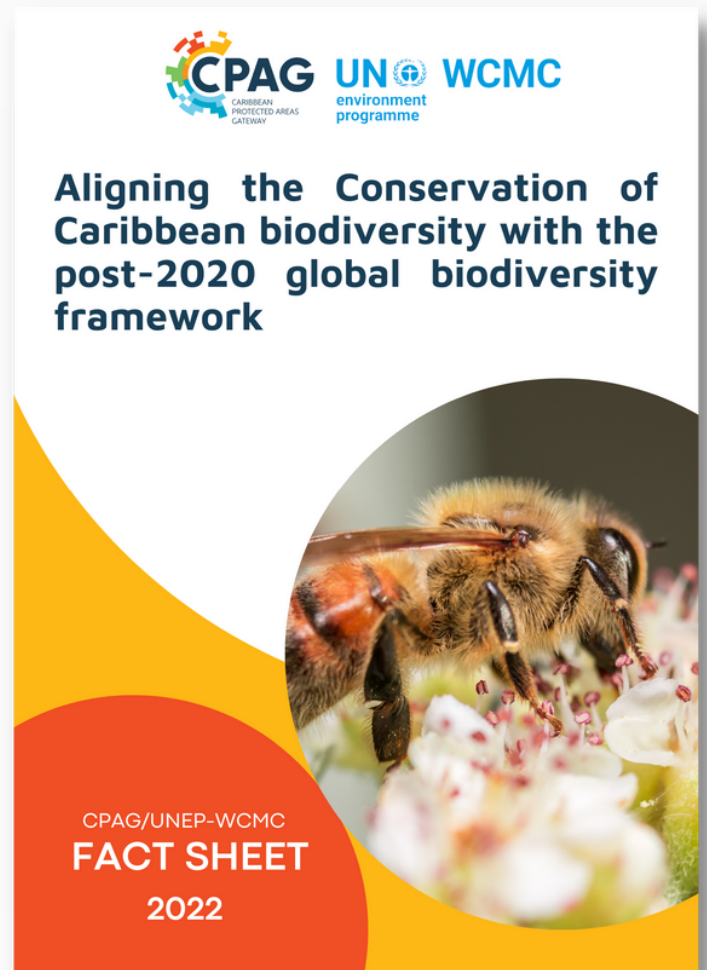
# *New Information Product Coming Soon!*

CPAG continued its collaboration with the UN Environment Programme- World Conservation Monitoring Centre (UNEP-WCMC), the entity responsible for management of the World Database on Protected Areas (WDPA), to develop an information product. We are delighted to announce the completion of a Caribbean-focused fact sheet, to add to the resources available on the region. As we prepare to transition from the Aichi Biodiversity Targets to the Post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework, the fact sheet focuses on the alignment of the conservation of Caribbean biodiversity with the new global framework. Key components of the fact sheet include:

- a protected and conserved areas dashboard
- elements of the new global biodiversity framework and how better alignment can be achieved by Caribbean countries
- call to action
- Information relating to CPAG and UNEP-WCMC

Stay tuned for the release of this new information product!

If you have ideas, or would like to develop an information/communication product (at regional, national or site level) in collaboration with CPAG do not hesitate to contact us.



# Reversing Biodiversity Loss

Biodiversity continues to decline globally at alarming rates, but the fight for reversing this current trend is far from over. 2022 paid testament to this with a slew of meetings, webinars, publications and Conference of Parties (COP) for various existing environmental agreements, all aimed at charting new ways forward to tackle biodiversity loss. The various COPs held include:

- Ramsar Convention on Wetlands ([Ramsar COP14](#)) - November 2022
- United Nations Climate Change Conference, ([UNFCCC COP27](#)) - November 2022
- Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora ([CITES COP19](#)) - November 2022
- United Nations Biodiversity Conference ([COP15](#)) - December 2022



Stemming from the COPs are resolutions, recommendations and initiatives to tackle biodiversity loss by 2030. The [Post 2020 Global Biodiversity Framework](#) will be finalised at the United Nations Biodiversity Conference (COP15) and will work in tandem with other initiatives such as the [UN Decade on Ecosystem Restoration](#) and the [BIODEV2030](#) approach.

Reversing biodiversity loss requires an ‘all-of-society’ approach! It is not simply up to governments and political figures, but requires each of us to contribute in our own ways. Contributions such as recycling, eating local, eliminating single-use plastics, ensuring our food is produced in a sustainable manner, shrinking our [carbon footprint](#) and becoming environmentally conscious can go a long way in this fight.

Let us all play our part!



## A snapshot of some of our 2022 Accomplishments

1. **We've signed an MoU** with the UN Environment Programme - World Conservation Monitoring Centre (UNEP-WCMC), which will facilitate an improvement of the accuracy and quality of protected and conserved areas related data to better inform decision making and policy formulation.
2. **Data and information gathered** on eight countries through a desktop review study as well as a country mission to Jamaica, resulting in documents and geospatial data now available on our platform.
3. **Our GeoNode** (data and mapping platform) is live, our **website has been refreshed** and we have new resources on our platform.
4. **Multiple on-the-ground activities** through engagements with stakeholders in Barbados, including tree planting events, a beach clean up, bioblitzes and public awareness campaigns.
5. **CPAG facilitated the completion of the first ever protected area management effectiveness (PAME) assessment for Barbados' only designated marine protected area** (The Barbados [alias Folkestone] Marine Reserve). The assessment brought together practitioners and stakeholders from various sectors to assess the state of the reserve and its management and chart a way forward. Stemming from the assessment, CPAG developed a PAME report card to allow for better assimilation of assessment results, especially by decision makers.

We have had quite a year at the Caribbean Protected Areas Gateway. We have collaborated with various environmental organizations and we hope this will bring awareness not only to our organization but to the importance of environmental protection and conservation.

# *CYEN represents strongly at COP27 in Egypt*

BY IVANNA ODLE OF CYEN

The Caribbean Youth Environment Network (CYEN) is a regional youth civil society organisation which engages in environmental activism through education, advocacy, lobbying and participation in national, regional, and international activities, committees, projects and conferences. CYEN is committed to ensuring that the voices of the youth are heard, encouraging appropriate action to ensure sustainable development and intergenerational equity.

It shall therefore come as no surprise, that the CYEN successfully pulled together a team from across the region to attend the recently concluded 27th Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), otherwise known as COP27. They successfully hosted their own session in the first ever Children and Youth Pavilion on the topic of “Upscaling Youth-led Ocean and Climate Action”. Jevanic Henry of the St. Lucia Chapter was instrumental in organising the side event, and he sat on the panel along with Renae Baptist of Grenada and Dr. Jacinta Higgs of The Bahamas with Ivanna Odle of Barbados as the moderator. Eddy Frank Vazquez who is the Deputy Director of Juventud Sostenible and Country Director of Parley for the Oceans in the Dominican Republic, also sat on the panel as an invited guest from the non-English speaking Caribbean. Each CYEN member also participated in other side events at the conference.



The agreement for the establishment of a loss and damage fund is a success that must be acknowledged; however, it is not yet fit-for-purpose nor readily available. Our major concern as youth is the length of time it will take to achieve this and the processes by which countries can pull from the fund. With the current global mitigation ambition levels and the breaking of commitments to adaptation funding, we are also concerned that 1.5 will not stay alive and SIDS will not be able to achieve the resilience on the national scale that is needed to survive the climate crisis. We, the youth, continue to urge our governments to keep pressuring the global north to respond quickly. We also want to encourage individuals to do their part to seek opportunities to learn more about the climate crisis and how to make more climate-smart decisions and build your own capacity to adapt to climatic events and reduce your carbon footprint.

**We are all in this together! It is time for us to increase our efforts to achieve sustainable development for today and for those to come.**



# Flashing Back Through our 2022 Engagements

Throughout the year the CPAG team, along with our colleagues from BIOPAMA took the time to engage with stakeholders primarily in Jamaica and Barbados as a start. During our Jamaica country mission we saw first hand the importance of rangers and community support in the Blue and John Crow Mountains National Park, as well as keeping a data record of the species of trees which work and those which can be problematic. Over in Barbados, the importance of proper waste disposal to protect marine life came to the forefront at the Caribbean Youth Environment Network's (CYEN) International Coastal Clean Up-Barbados.

The CPAG team also embraced nature at Coco Hill Forest in Barbados, volunteering to plant trees in this reforestation and agritourism project, as well as sponsored and planted trees within the Walkers Reserve area which is a former sand quarry, turned regeneration project. Throughout all of our engagements, as photographed below, it was absolutely clear that data on our protected and conserved areas is crucial to help to drive effective policies.

Look out for more engagements with us in 2023 in various participating countries!



# *We're looking forward to 2023!*

2023 will be a big year for the CPAG and we're inviting you to join us on this exciting journey!

We're certainly looking forward to:

- participating in the 5th International Marine Protected Areas Congress (IMPAC5) 3-9 February 2023 in Canada;
- launching our CPAG Bioblitz series across the region;
- launching a suite of new resources and tools on our website;
- releasing our exciting new video series;
- collaborating with various organisations pertaining to various projects and initiatives;
- embarking on country missions to learn more about the work being conducted throughout the region and to raise awareness to CPAG and the tools and services offered.

Stay tuned for further details, and remember to connect with us via the below or email [info@thecpag.org](mailto:info@thecpag.org) and let us know what you think and what you'd like to see.



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[www.biopama.org](http://www.biopama.org)

