

## Biodiversity for Sustainable Development in the Caribbean through Ecosystem Based Management Decision Support System (EBM-DSS)

### Project Overview

The overall goal of this project was to develop capacities and information systems, as well as pilot test their application, for use by governments and non-governmental organizations in order to support decisions on planning and managing coastal resources with an ecosystem-based management (EBM) approach.

### Project Objectives

- Strengthen collaboration for the application of EBM principles and tools.
- Advance the region's marine protected area (MPA) data compilation and analysis.
- Develop institutional capacities through the implementation of pilot projects demonstrating better responses to ecosystem threats due to climate change impacts or isolated management actions.
- Use innovative and effective education and communication strategies and tools needed to increase public support for the development of more efficient conservation initiatives.
- Lead the integration and progressive implementation of existing sustainable fishing and conservation regional plans, with focus on two species listed under the Cartagena Convention's Specially Protected Areas and Wildlife Protocol.

**Duration:** June 2015 – March 2020

### Location

Wider Caribbean Region  
Beneficiaries (Pilots): Two pilot sites in Dominican Republic: Puerto Plata and Montecristi.

### Project budget

Total Budget: USD 1,907,330  
Main Donor: USD 1,836,739 (Italian Government, Italian Agency for Cooperation and Development (AICS))  
Co Finance: USD 34,000 (IUCN-ORMACC)  
Co Finance: USD 36,591 (OSPAR Commission)

### Implementing Agency:

Ministry of Environment and Natural Resources of the Dominican Republic (MARENA)

### Project Partners

- REEF Check Dominican Republic
- Centre for Resource Management and Environmental Studies (CERMES) – UWI Barbados
- PROGES Consultants (Italy)
- Gulf and Caribbean Fisheries Institute (GCFI)
- Royal Netherlands Institute for Sea Research (NWOI)
- Waitt Institute
- The Nature Conservancy (TNC)
- International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN)
- World Wildlife Fund for Nature (WWF) Guianas
- United Nations Development Programme/Global Environment Facility Caribbean Large Marine Ecosystems (CLME+) Project
- United Nations Development Programme
- United Nations Environment Programme Regional Office for Latin America and the Caribbean

## Main Activities

1. Review and update of the existing Regional Database of Marine Protected Areas.
2. Site selection, planning and implementation of EBM/DSS pilot projects.
3. Development of management plans for at least two of the ecosystem components for each working area: mangrove and coral reefs ecosystems in Montecristi and mangrove, agriculture and watersheds in Puerto Plata.
4. Promotion and development of technical skills of MPA practitioners and capacity building.
5. Supporting the uptake of regional DSS applications .
6. Strengthening technical, operational and financial engagement for the establishment of new EBM-DSS regional nodes (English and Dutch-speaking countries)
7. Consolidation and dissemination of project outputs and integration into relevant UNEP Programmes

## Main Results/Achievements



An updated, enhanced, comprehensive and functioning MPA Database for the Wider Caribbean Region which is being used to promote the uptake of EBM/DSS principles. As a result of project implementation, the database contains information for a total of 1069 Caribbean marine and coastal MPAs from 44 countries and overseas territories.



Two pilot sites designed and implemented in the Dominican Republic (Montecristi and Puerto Plata) and two EBM/DSS applications were initiated.



An integrated EBM management proposal with priority actions was designed by MARENA with the support of the Interdisciplinary Working Group.



Successfully delivered training on MPA Management, with a focus on the EBM-DSS concepts and methods for the English Speaking and Spanish Speaking Caribbean. Forty-five MPA practitioners from 22 countries trained with hundreds more benefitting from countries extension activities.



Promotion of the project results and lessons learnt through training, communication and outreach activities developed as well as through the establishment of regional nodes to further guide and assist in the future development of EBM-DSS principles and methodologies.



The UNEP Cartagena Convention Secretariat supported the establishment of two EBM/DSS regional nodes in an effort to establish new DSS site applications and strengthening the stakeholder collaboration needed.



Dissemination of ecosystem-based management concepts and DSS tools to a diverse community not only across the Wider Caribbean Region, but also to larger international forums.

## Convention/Protocol Articles supported by the project:

Article X of the Convention  
Article IV of the SPAW Protocol

## Sustainable Development Goals aligned with the project:



**For further reading, please visit:**  
<https://www.unep.org/cep/biodiversity-sustainable-development-caribbean-through-ecosystem-based-management-ebm-dss>

## Contact Information

Ileana Lopez  
Programme Officer  
Specially Protected Areas and Wildlife  
Sub-Programme  
ileana.lopez@un.org

United Nations Environment Programme  
Cartagena Convention Secretariat  
14-20 Port Royal Street, Kingston,  
Jamaica  
Tel.: 1 (876) 922-9267-9  
unep-cartagenaconvention@un.org

Facebook: @UNEPCartagenaConvention  
Instagram and Twitter: UNEP\_CEP  
Youtube: CEPUNEP  
LinkedIn: UNEP Caribbean Environment  
Programme and Cartagena Convention  
Secretariat