



BIOPAMA



Bridging the COVID-19 funding gap to maintain the Portland Bight Protected Area

Type of priority area

Marine Protected Area

Key Biodiversity Area

Terrestrial Protected Area

Primary objective

Management Effectiveness

Livelihoods

Governance

Target groups

Local Communities

Women

Farmers/Fishermen

Main activity focus

Enforcement

Capacity Building

Participation



Duration

15.02.2021 – 14.02.2022



Type of grant & budget

Rapid Response Grant | 49,995.75 €



Location

Jamaica, Caribbean



Protected & Conserved Areas

Portland Bight Protected Area



WDPA ID

220101; 902859



BIOPAMA RRIS Link

<https://rris.biopama.org/pa/220101>

<https://rris.biopama.org/pa/902859>

Project Lead

The Caribbean Coastal Area Management Foundation

Description of the project

The project will address directly the impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic on the Portland Bight Protected Area (PBPA). The grant supports the following activities:

Continued enforcement through monitoring and patrol of the fish sanctuaries to reduce the level of poaching through training of Caribbean Coastal Area Management Foundation (C-CAM) staff, partners and community members (e.g., Fisheries law and SMART technology) and covering the costs of equipment, salaries and fuel. The funds will be utilized to reduce the potential negative impact of COVID-19 on C-CAM's operations and upgrade the field station office with sanitization spaces, signage and support staff training.

Updating C-CAM's strategic and financial plans will include planning for future potential shocks to move the organization towards sustainability. C-CAM will also be installing appropriate signage throughout the PBPA to continue the public awareness activities which are key to providing information about no-take areas or where endangered species (e.g., crocodiles) inhabit. The funds will also be used to undertake the audit to maintain C-CAM's financial transparency and assist in its ability to continue to attract financial support.





The BIOPAMA AC Objective(s) Addressed

- ✓ Enhance the management and governance of priority protected areas by addressing existing limitations.
- ✓ Enforce the legal framework required to achieve effective biodiversity conservation in protected areas.
- ✓ Support the local communities' initiatives aiming to enhance the livelihoods of local people whilst effectively contributing to protected areas management.



Priority Need Addressed

- a. To bridge shortfalls in salaries, operating costs and maintenance budgets to facilitate continued patrol and monitoring activities as well as vehicular and building maintenance.
- b. To make the Caribbean Coastal Area Management Foundation and its main office, field station and Portland Bight Discovery Centre COVID-19 compliant, purchase supplies, provide training in compliance for staff and community guides and provision of communications equipment. Funds will support the health of staff, and allow for the limited reopening of facilities, generating revenue for The Caribbean Coastal Area Management Foundation and community members (mostly vulnerable women).
- c. To support the adaptation and continuation of the community monitoring programme.
- d. To develop strategies for adapting to the new realities through updating Caribbean Coastal Area Management Foundation's strategic plan (including financial planning);
- e. To complete financial audits for 2020 to maintain transparency.



The change the project implementation will bring for the protected areas

The project will help to maintain enforcement and monitoring operations in the PBPA at usual levels despite COVID-19 and budget cuts. This will be achieved through the provision of training and equipment, including mobile phones and two-way radios, equipment maintenance, and the installation of signage which will improve the team's capacity for protected area management. The involvement of community monitors, volunteer game wardens and partner agency representatives in the training aims to improve the overall management of the protected area while ensuring stakeholder buy in and collaborative monitoring with community members seeks to ensure project sustainability. Making C-CAM's offices COVID-19 adapted which will ensure safe space for staff and visitors which facilitate continued working operations.

The strategic and funding plans will be updated to include COVID-19 implications which will improve sustainability planning to look at long term support for protected areas management. The financial audit report for 2020 will allow C-CAM to maintain transparency in managing the Portland Bight Protected Area to include reporting to stakeholders and donors.

This project is financed by the European Union and the Organisation of African, Caribbean and Pacific States through the BIOPAMA Programme. The contents of this material are the sole responsibility of the Caribbean Coastal Area Management Foundation and can under no circumstances be regarded as reflecting the position of the EU nor of the OACPS.

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The project Bridging the COVID-19 funding gap to maintain the Portland Bight Protected Area (PBPA) is financed by the European Union and the Organisation of African, Caribbean and Pacific States through the Biodiversity and Protected Areas Management (BIOPAMA) Programme.

BIOPAMA assists the African, Caribbean and Pacific countries to address their priorities for improved management and governance of biodiversity and natural resources. BIOPAMA provides a variety of tools, services and funding to conservation actors in the African, Caribbean and Pacific (ACP) countries. The BIOPAMA grant-making facility is managed by IUCN (International Union for Conservation of Nature) and supports projects on the ground to strengthen the management and governance of protected and conserved areas, with a total budget of 21 million Euros.

