

PROTECTED AREA SYSTEM

Recipient Expression of Interest

COUNTRY	<i>Antigua and Barbuda, Dominica, Grenada, St. Kitts and Nevis, St. Lucia, St. Vincent and the Grenadines. Independent member states of the Organization of Eastern Caribbean States (OECS)</i>
REQUEST	EUR 15 million
DURATION	<i>5 years; EUR 400,000 per year for six countries and regional coordination</i>
ELEMENTS	<p><i>Please headline the main elements to be supported. If Project-scale Expressions of Interest have been submitted to LifeWeb, please indicate and annex them here as elements to this broader System-scale Expression of Interest.</i></p> <p>The goal of the Sustainable Eastern Caribbean Island Network (SEINET) is to confront the emerging consequences of climate change and biodiversity loss through expanding and strengthening the Eastern Caribbean network of protected areas. The project will ensure long-term functionality of this network by integrating into the PA network the following critical components: ecosystem-based adaptation for climate change, multiple-use marine zoning, sustainable finance mechanisms, community well-being and livelihood opportunities, and a comprehensive multi-pronged communications approach.</p> <p>The project would work across the Eastern Caribbean to achieve the following objectives:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Develop and implement scientifically sound ecosystem-based adaptation (EBA) approaches to climate change that will raise the resilience of the eastern Caribbean islands at scale (regional scientific assessment of EBA opportunities; identify potential for restoration and protection; and establish at least 4 EBA projects) 2. Expand and strengthen the regional protected area network by establishing at least six new MPAs as recommended in systems plans, and implement system and site-level priority actions to increase management effectiveness in six existing PAs (boundary demarcation, interpretation and signage, visitor facilities, biological monitoring programs, enforcement mechanisms, co-management, control of invasive species). The actions will be selected to also provide “co-benefits” including climate change adaptation and sustainable livelihoods. 3. Increase the number of jobs, and the number of skilled persons who can implement projects, around EBA, protected area management, and natural resources restoration; 4. Implement a pilot national level multiple-use marine spatial plan (currently

	<p>developed under USAID biodiversity funding for St. Kitts and Nevis) that take a holistic approach to integrating/balancing objectives such as conservation (PAs), EBA for climate change, hazard reduction, tourism and recreation, shipping, energy, community values and fishing. Using methodology and tools developed for St. Kitts and Nevis, provide training to eastern Caribbean countries in multiple-use marine spatial planning and complete two national level multiple use marine zoning plans for two more countries.</p> <p>5. Ensure effective implementation of sustainable finance mechanisms for long-term management of PAs. The Caribbean Biodiversity Fund and management of its component eastern Caribbean national protected area trust funds (PATF) will be strengthened through in-country capacity building including board training, integration with existing national initiatives, and implementation of revolving fund mechanisms. To be implemented in year three and four. PATFs will be established by 2012 via current GEF/WB/KfW/TNC/OECS Sustainable Finance for Marine Protected Areas in the Eastern Caribbean project.</p> <p>6. Implement a multi-pronged biodiversity and climate change communications and education campaign to motivate support and commitment to the above objectives. The campaign will focus on the integration of environment with multiple sectors of SIDS economies, and building coalitions from private industry, community-based organizations, and decision makers. In coordination with My Island, My Community submitted to LifeWeb as separate stand along project for the OECS.</p>
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1. FINANCIAL GAP

Budget Required	<p>EUR 1.75 million per country per annum* (50 million over five years: Recurring expenses appx. 80%)</p>	<p>Please indicate whether this amount refers to existing areas and/or new areas required for greater ecological representation. This amount is an estimate for the current and priority new protected areas for six countries. This is based on information from Sustainable Finance Plans from Grenada and St. Vincent and the Grenadines. The other OECS countries have not completed Sustainable Finance plans for protected areas. It is estimated that given the similar size and budget priorities within the OECS that the funding gaps are similar. Therefore the number was extrapolated from the two current Sustainable Finance Plans and data on site specific protected areas in the region.</p> <p>Please indicate scope of jurisdictions included (e.g. federal, provincial/state, municipal, indigenous territories, community conserved areas). The protected areas in the member states are federal and community co-, managed areas</p>
Current Budget	<p>EUR 1.1 million per country</p>	<p>To extent possible, please indicate the breakdown of major revenue sources and approximate amounts here (e.g. government budget, GEF, bilateral support, trust funds, NGOs, private foundations, etc). The</p>

		<i>recurrent costs for protected areas are covered in the government budgets while most of the capital expenditures and project costs are done when international funding can be obtained. National and regional finance studies show that there is a large variance year to year on the amount of funding from external sources that is accessed. A rough estimate would be that 15 to 20% of the total is from external sources with the majority coming from GEF, EU, and USAID.</i>	
Total Funding Gap	<i>EUR 650,000 per country over five years.* (EUR 19.5 million)</i>	<i>To be met by domestic sources:</i>	<i>To extent possible, please indicate the major expected revenue sources here.</i>
		<i>Please indicate amount here</i>	<i>Multi-lateral and bi-lateral funders: GEF Large Grant OECS \$8.75; USAID \$5 million; BMU, KfW, DFID; EU; NOAA; international NGOs (TNC \$1.5 million); international foundations appx. \$2.5 million (MacCarthur, Lighthouse,); International businesses (Disney, Virgin Atlantic, Royal Caribbean, Hyatt);</i>
		<i>Nationally generated sustainable finance mechanisms (PATF, user fees, payment for ecosystem services, tourism tax, development fees) \$250,000 per year per country for three years (2013-2015)</i>	
		<i>Requested from international donors:</i>	
		EUR 15	

* Please indicate amounts on an annual basis for 1 to 5 years. To extent possible, indicate recurring and non-recurring expenses. You are welcome to include additional tables and/or annex relevant supporting documents. To the extent possible, please draw directly from sustainable financial plans completed as per [Activity 3.4](#), as well as other protected area system planning inputs that identify financial implications for ecological gaps, management effectiveness and capacity development and other plan listed in question 3 below, as per the CBD [Programme of Work on Protected Areas](#).

2. ECOLOGICAL PRIORITIES

Please annex map(s) and/or list of the existing protected area system as well as the priority areas to be created for greater ecological representativeness* if the funding gap is addressed.

Existing protected area map for region; Ecological Gap Assessments for St. Lucia, Grenada, St. Vincent and the Grenadines, and St. Kitts and Nevis; Sustainable Finance Plans for Grenada and St. Vincent and the Grenadines; PAME for St. Lucia, SVG and Grenada;

* To extent possible, please draw directly from the Ecological Assessments completed as per [Activity 1.1](#) in the CBD [Programme of Work on Protected Areas](#).

3. SUPPORTING ASSESSMENTS AND PLANS

Please indicate the status of completion of the protected area system analyses that are called for by the CBD [Programme of Work on Protected Areas](#) and annex those that have been completed as supporting documents.

Protected Area System Assessment and Planning	Programme of Work on Protected Areas activity #	Status of completion Please indicate 1-5 1 = Just started 2 = Fully underway 3 = Almost completed 4 = Completed 5 = Plan developed	Annexed
			Please indicate all that apply
Ecological Gaps	1.1	5 for 4 countries, 2 for 1 country, 1 for 1	5: Grenada, SVG, St. Lucia, SKN 2 A and B 1 Dominica
Integration and Connectivity	1.2	1	All
Transboundary Protection	1.3	1	All
Protected Areas Threats	1.5	5	Grenada, SVG, St. Lucia, SKN, A&B, Dominica
Costs and Benefits	2.1	2	All, regionally via OPAAL project
Governance	2.1	1	All
Participation	2.2		5: Grenada, SVG, St. Lucia, SKN
Policy Environment	3.1	5	All via OECS
Protected Areas Values	3.1	5 for 1, 1 for 2,	5. St Lucia; 1. Grenada and SVG
Capacity Needs	3.2	5	All
Sustainable Financial	3.4	5 for 2; 3 for 3	5. Grenada, SVG
Communication and Outreach	3.5	5	All via OECS
Management Effectiveness	4.2	4 for 4; 2 for 2	Grenada, SVG, SKN, St. Lucia
Research Needs	4.3	2	All; via other NGOs

4. SUPPORTING INFORMATION ABOUT PROTECTED AREA VALUES

Please briefly indicate available information about the value of protected areas in your country to climate change [mitigation](#), [adaptation](#), and [sustainable livelihoods](#). You are welcome to annex any existing supporting documents.

Protected areas are an essential part of the global response to climate change. They help address the cause of climate change by reducing greenhouse gas emissions, and the eastern Caribbean marine ecosystems are the most effective carbon sinks. Protected areas help small islands cope with climate change impacts by maintaining essential services upon which people depend.

The value of protected areas for climate change adaptation has not been specifically quantified for the region. The *Economic Valuation of Coral Reefs in the Caribbean* project was led by the World Resources Institute found that for St. Lucia in 2006 coral reefs alone were worth over US \$28 million per annum. MPAs provide for long term sustainability of fish stocks, thus supporting the livelihoods of the region's fishermen. According to the WRI study, annual direct economic impact of coral reef associated fisheries is estimated at US\$ 0.4 – 0.7 million for St. Lucia. Additional indirect impacts from the need for boats, fuel, nets, etc. is estimated at about US\$ 0.1 – 0.2 million, resulting in a total economic impact of about US\$ 0.5 – 0.8 million per year in St. Lucia. This does not include mangrove and seagrass habitats nor the other eight countries included in this concept proposal.

Studies on Ecosystem Services Valuation for PAs are currently underway in Grenada and St. Vincent and the Grenadines, funded by GEF Small Islands EAG and implemented by UNDP. These will be completed in 2010.

The global importance of marine and coastal protected areas for climate change adaptation is discussed in the recent comprehensive document *Natural Solutions: Protected areas helping people cope with climate change* (2009, IUCN-WCPA, The Nature Conservancy, UNDP, Wildlife Conservation Society, The World Bank and WWF). “Coastal and marine areas store huge amounts of carbon, particularly in coastal zones where capture is equivalent to 0.2 Gt/year. Salt marshes, mangroves and seagrass beds all have important potential to sequester carbon.” These systems are under great threat in the region and must be protected and restored. The most effective means to ensure this is through a system of protected areas.

The Eastern Caribbean region, which covers 4.31 million km² of land and sea, represents one of the world's most complex mosaics of marine freshwater and terrestrial habitats, and contains the greatest concentration of rare and endemic marine species in the Western Hemisphere. A survey of the world's biodiversity hotspots identified the Caribbean as the fifth ranking “hotspot” and one of the highest priorities in any global strategy for biodiversity conservation and sustainable management (FAA 118/119 Tropical Forests and Biodiversity Assessment, 2008).