

CEPF FINAL PROJECT COMPLETION REPORT

Organization Legal Name:	Fondation pour la Protection de la Biodiversité Marine (FoProBiM)
Project Title:	Participatory/ Multi-stakeholder development of a Locally Managed Marine Area (LMMA) for Caracol Bay, Lagons du Nord-est Key Biodiversity Area in Haiti
Date of Report:	August, 2014
Report Author and Contact Information	Jean Wiener; jeanw@foprobiim.org
Project #	62340

CEPF Region:

Caribbean

Strategic Direction:

#1.1 “Prepare and implement management plans in the 17 highest priority KBAs” for the Caribbean Islands Biodiversity Hotspot Ecosystem Profile.

Grant Amount:

US\$ 142,700.00

Project Dates:

January 1, 2013 – September 30, 2014

Implementation Partners for this Project (please explain the level of involvement for each partner):

Partners included over 11 small local coastal community Haitian organizations comprised of fishers, farmers, women’s, youth, church, and local development organizations as well as local public sector officials from Bord de Mer de Limonade and the Caracol areas located within this KBA (mayors’ offices, national police, local KASEC). These local small civil society organizations have provided mostly in-kind contributions such as meeting facilities, distribution of information and invitations, assistance in the development of culturally appropriate educational materials, and the development, strengthening, and maintenance of community contacts and initiatives as well as the primary impetus for, and viability of, the LMMA Steering Committee. FoProBiM continues to engage with all of these organizations. The participation of local public sector officials is key within this activity and FoProBiM has enlisted the support of the mayor of Caracol for an eventual communal decree as well as assistance in the enforcement of any type of management plan for the area.

Several small local stakeholder groups including the *Brigad Maritime en Aksyon (BMA)*, *Jeune Jacquesy en Action (JJA)*, *Asosyasyon Jacqzyl pou Pech Maritim (AJPM)*, *Oganizasyon Peche Bodme Limonade (OPBL)*, *Asosyasyon Peche Caracol (APC)* have been actively participating with FoProBiM in local activities and help to provide on-the-ground community-based assistance and guidance for project activities.

The public sector through the ministries of agriculture and environment, as well as local government such as the mayor's office have also been involved in project activities. The ministries have been represented through their local staff who are responsible for continuously updating their superiors and providing local ministerial inputs to workshops and meetings (FoProBiM, knowing the on-the-ground situation, has also kept the concerned ministers directly informed). The local police will ultimately be responsible for any type of enforcement action with the declaration of a protected area.

Conservation Impacts

Please explain/describe how your project has contributed to the implementation of the CEPF ecosystem profile.

In terms of Conservation Outcomes identified in the Ecosystem Profile for the Caribbean Islands Biodiversity Hotspot this project has provided:

- Species Outcomes: the protection of Globally Threatened species including: two Critically Endangered and two Endangered species of sea turtles; one vulnerable marine mammal; corals (e.g. *Acropora* spp. – Critically Endangered); mangroves (reduction of habitat loss).
- Site Outcomes: protecting marine turtles, mangroves, corals and coral reefs and all associated ecosystem services.
- Corridor Outcomes: protection of endangered species habitat, increased ecosystem resilience, protection of ecosystem services and connectivity, and development of protective initiatives.

According to the CEPF list of KBAs, 29 species listed as Critically Endangered, Endangered, or Vulnerable are found in this area. It was expected that although not all species would be directly targeted, the resulting effect of educational activities, awareness raising, and the development of a draft coastal and marine environmental management plan would benefit all listed species.

Please summarize the overall results/impact of your project.

Planned Long-term Impacts - 3+ years (as stated in the approved proposal):

The long-term impacts for this project include:

1. The Lagons du Nord-est Key Biodiversity Area in Haiti is properly managed and providing increased benefits, not only in terms of ecosystem services but also able to provide local communities with sustainable livelihoods, guided by a Locally Managed Marine Area plan.
2. Local communities which will have seen the benefits of designing and implementing an environmental management plan are encouraging other communities to engage in similar actions.
3. The Lagons du Nord-est Key Biodiversity Area and those linked through connectivity will see an increase and eventual stabilization of populations in a safer and more stable environment.

Actual Progress Toward Long-term Impacts at Completion:

Outputs	Progress	Comments
<u>Target I</u> 200 local stakeholder better informed and capable of participating in improved stewardship and management of resources	200+%	Complete
<u>Target II</u> Community data-verified map of local resources and ecosystems	100%	Complete
<u>Target III</u> Individuals for participation in the Steering Committee identified by stakeholder groups	100%	Complete
<u>Target IV</u> Steering Committee established	100%	Complete
<u>Target V</u> Draft LMMA management plan prepared	80%	--
<u>Target VI</u> 4 FoProBiM staff better trained/equipped to undertake conservation actions	100%	Complete

Planned Short-term Impacts - 1 to 3 years (as stated in the approved proposal):

The short-term impacts of the project include:

1. By the end of the project, key local stakeholder sectors, including fisheries, salt producers, charcoal producers, women's groups and others) benefiting from greater networking opportunities through increased communication, collaboration and co-management during the process of development of the LMMA.
2. Over 200 local stakeholders having participated in environmental classes being better prepared and more actively engaged in the development and implementation of management and protection actions within their communities.
3. By the end of the project, alternative income generating activities to help protect local ecosystems and resources proposed to community members living within the target area.

4. By the end of the project, a map designed with the participation of local stakeholders will have been prepared using Participatory GIS mapping methods in order to provide management guidance for future actions
5. By the end of the project, 20,000 hectares of land/ocean in the Lagons du Nord-Est key biodiversity area under improved protection and management through the development of a community stakeholder vetted management plan with the eventual approval and decree declaration by the commune, department or central government of a Locally Managed Marine Area (LMMA) or a Marine Protected Area (MPA).

Actual Progress Toward Short-term Impacts at Completion:

Short-term Impacts	Progress	Comments
By the end of the project, key local stakeholder sectors, including fisheries, salt producers, charcoal producers, women's groups and others) benefiting from greater networking opportunities through increased communication, collaboration and co-management during the process of development of the LMMA.	100%	The creation of an area steering committee through this project has greatly helped increase collaborative actions within the target area.
Over 200 local stakeholders having participated in environmental classes being better prepared and more actively engaged in the development and implementation of management and protection actions within their communities.	200+%	400+ stakeholders have participated in environmental education classes, association building classes, and resource use conflict resolution classes.
By the end of the project, alternative income generating activities to help protect local ecosystems and resources proposed to community members living within the target area.	100%	Complete
By the end of the project, a map designed with the participation of local stakeholders will have been prepared using Participatory GIS mapping methods in order to provide management guidance for future actions	100%	Complete
By the end of the project, 20,000 hectares of land/ocean in the Lagons du Nord-Est key biodiversity area under improved protection and management through the development of a community stakeholder vetted management plan with the eventual approval and decree declaration by the commune, department or central government of a Locally Managed Marine Area (LMMA) or a Marine Protected Area (MPA).	80%	90,000 ha of coastal and marine zone containing and near the target site has been declared a Marine Protected Area and is now under central government management

Please provide the following information where relevant:

Hectares Protected: 90,000

Species Conserved: --

Corridors Created: --

Describe the success or challenges of the project toward achieving its short-term and long-term impact objectives.

A continuing issue with the lack of capacity of local stakeholder groups to undertake the necessary and agreed upon development of the designation of protected zones and a management plan, as well as their lack of ability in engaging other stakeholder groups into this process has caused major delays to project implementation. As stated in project progress reports, FoProBiM had already redoubled its efforts to have local stakeholder groups increase their joint participation in project activities in order to ensure full participation; however, progress has been extremely slow.

Were there any unexpected impacts (positive or negative)?

FoProBiM's activities in the area prior to and within the timeframe of this project received a lot of government level attention. Its activities and continued pressure on the government eventually led to the creation of Haiti's second MPA the Parc Nationale des Trois Baies comprised of over 90,000 ha of protected area; definitely a positive impact.

Project Components

Project Components: *Please report on results by project component. Reporting should reference specific products/deliverables from the approved project design and other relevant information.*

Component 1 Planned:

200 local stakeholders better informed and capable of participating in improved stewardship and management of resources

Component 1 Actual at Completion:

Completion – 200+%

More than 400 local stakeholders have participated in FoProBiM's both formal and informal educational activities involving over 60 lectures and workshops

Component 2 Planned:

Community data-verified map of local resources and ecosystems

Component 2 Actual at Completion:

Completion – 100%

More than 200 stakeholders participated in Participatory GIS (PGIS) activities in which local resource features and ecosystems were mapped. Science based information was taken from FoProBiM's previous mapping activities and used by the local stakeholders to provide their input in terms of local place names and fishing areas.

Mapping activities were undertaken with local stakeholders from Bord de Mer Limonade, Madras, Caracol, and Jacqzyl during informal meeting during the months of March through June 2013. The map below provides an overview of the larger and more important features as described by those questioned. Both a map and satellite photography (Google Earth) were used for this exercise. Approximately 80 stakeholders, primarily fishermen, participated.

As expected the primary areas for fisheries were in relatively deeper waters in the fore reef area (from the reef out into open water). There was little fishing performed within the mangroves primarily due to the shallowness of the water in these areas. However, the diurnal use of small mesh seine nets along the perimeter of the mangroves remains a major concern in terms of damaging fishing techniques.



Mangroves: Mungwov Madras, Mungwov Jacqzyl

Reefs: Ti Recif, Gwo Recif

Passes: Lorman, Kristof, Chalsek, Gad a Lyon, Fos Pass, Brinet, Caracol, Fon Blan

Component 3 Planned:

Individuals to participate in the Steering Committee identified by stakeholder groups

Component 3 Actual at Completion:

Completion – 100%

Early on in project initiation various community groups from the three main coastal villages (Bord de mer de Limonade, Caracol, and Jacquesyl; Madras was added later) were asked to provide two representatives each for a local steering committee encompassing not only the three main coastal villages of but also the major stakeholder groups including salt producers, fishers, charcoal producers, and women's groups. This group is to provide a wider base for undertaking bay-wide actions which individual, community-specific local associations would not have the ability to undertake on their own.

Component 4 Planned:

Steering Committee established

Component 4 Actual at Completion:

Completion – 100%

With representatives from Target III designated, a Steering Committee named the Coordination Environnementale pour la Protection de la Baie de Caracol (CEProBaC) was formed. This new organization received its authorization to operate in Caracol from the Mayor of Caracol's office, and its departmental recognition from the regional office in Fort Liberté.

The development of CEProBaC required the initiation of several association building mechanisms which would normally be a part of most organizational structures but with which most of the founding members were unfamiliar (despite being members of other organizations themselves). These included the establishment of a bank account (including the location of the closest suitable bank), establishment of signatories, record keeping mechanism, and development of proposal and request writing skills.

Component 5 Planned:

Draft LMMA management plan prepared

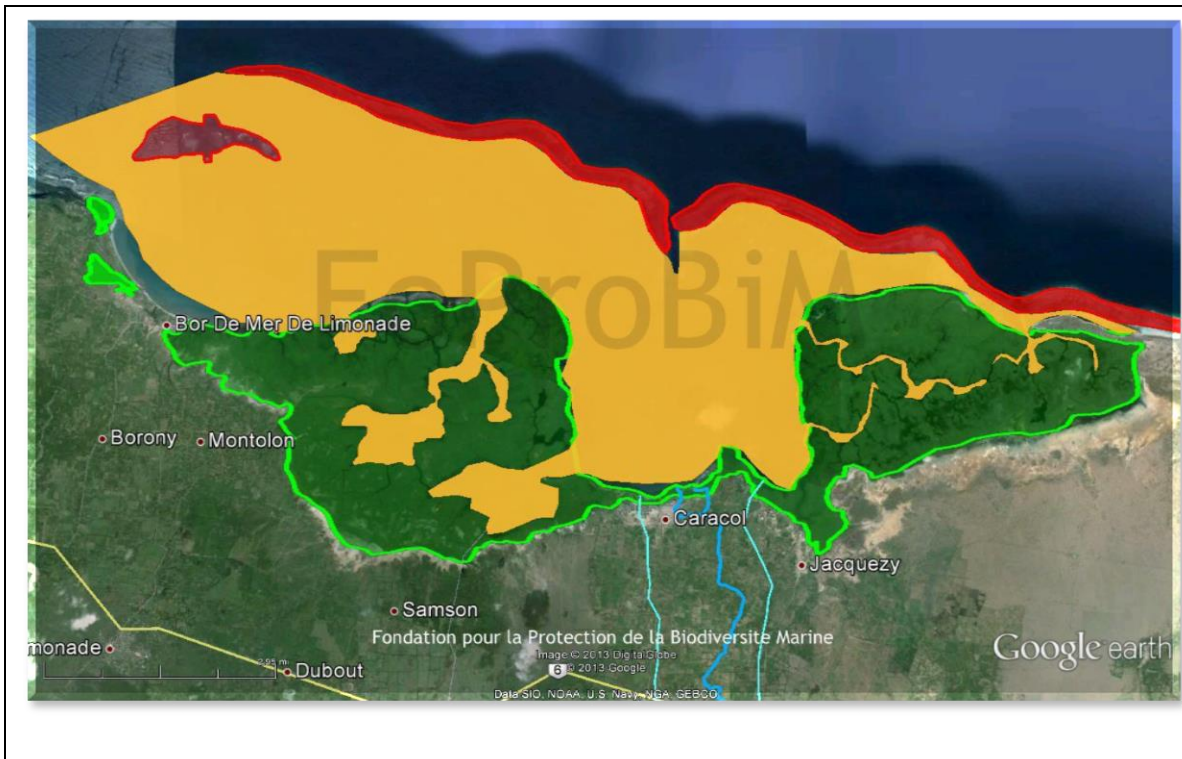
Component 5 Actual at Completion:

Progress – 80%

The declaration of the Parc des Trois Baies et du Lagon au Boeufs National Park a little more than half way through the project life (December, 2013), largely through the efforts of FoProBiM and this project, as well as the inability of local stakeholders to provide input for the development of an LMMA management plan, created the need to modify project activities and outcomes specifically in relation to the component targeting the development of an LMMA management plan. Although now that all area natural resources have been declared protected by the national government, this declaration may almost be seen as being a victim of our own success. The initial concepts behind FoProBiM's plan to assist in the development of MPAs in Haiti is to develop community based or locally managed marine protected areas and through this push for the development of national level MPAs.

Ninety five percent of the target area is located within the KBA. A small portion of coastal area which should have originally been included within the KBA was added to the target area to make it complete. All coastal and marine resources are included: coral (reefs), mangroves, sea grass beds, and all resources and use of resources arising from these (fisheries, salt and charcoal production). Although local dry forest remnants are not directly targeted in this project we do hope to have some "spill-over" of beneficial results taking hold in terrestrial systems (in this first stage) as stakeholder begin to initiate better stewardship and management initiatives.

The protected area for Caracol Bay now consists of approximately 30 km of coastline and 20,000 ha; including more than 5,250 ha of mangroves, 900 ha of coral reef systems, and thousands of hectares of sea grass beds.



Caracol Bay	
Ecosystem	Total Area
Mangrove	5,260 ha
Coral	900 ha
Seagrass	7,140 ha

LMMA Recommendations

During the course of the project several days were spent going over the national fisheries laws of 1978 with local fishers; these are the only laws relating to this matter in Haiti. At the beginning of the project, through initial questioning, except for a couple of fishermen no one else was aware that these laws existed (one copy of the Créole version of the laws translated by FoProBiM in 1998 had made its way to the community). There was unanimous consensus that something needed to be done in regard to illegal, uncontrolled and unregulated (IUU) fishing within Caracol Bay and that the need to bring these damaging practices under control as soon as possible was critical to fisheries, and economic, recovery in the area. The recommendations from the local fishers on exactly what these actions should be were extremely few, not particularly science-based, and seriously lacking in any type of detail. Although almost all of the fishermen understood that certain fishing practices were harmful to fisheries production as well as the environment there were only extremely general concepts as to why. This brought about an understanding of the great need for both fisheries research in the area in order to identify every type of practice, as well as a catch analysis, and also the provision of general fisheries and marine biological sciences for area stakeholders in order for them to understand the true effects of their actions.

In the examination of the fisheries laws with stakeholders, most agreed that most of the laws should simply be enforced. Although there is a definite need to update these laws taking into consideration technical and scientific advances over the past 30+ years, these are the only current laws for Haiti. Local fish merchants also expressed their deep concerns around the sized of fish being captured and older fishers and merchants recounted days when the capture of juvenile fish similar to much of what is being caught today was unheard of and fishermen would be chastised.

Additional protections should be accorded to zones 1 and 2 in order to help fisheries stocks to recover. These should include the addition of transit corridors which would allow fish to reach open water as well as return to the safety of mangroves, seagrass beds and coral reefs.

Considerations need to be taken now in light of the fact that the entire Caracol Bay area is now a marine protected area with full protection of all fisheries resources as well as the law declaring all of Haiti's mangroves protected.

The primary focus of this activity was not for FoProBiM to make recommendations concerning proposals for fisheries laws or modifications, but to collect the major concerns related to local fisheries from the fishermen and to have these concerns brought to light for potential remedial actions. However, after consulting the fisheries laws and taking into consideration current concerns by the local fishers and fish merchants only two main recommendations emanated from these groups.

Recommendations:

- 1) The need to regulate or exclude the *sen ti mai* (small mesh seine nets) which according to the local fishermen was by far the most devastating method on the local fisheries by capturing too many juvenile fish
- 2) The need to return to the respect of various fishing seasons in order to allow for the reproduction cycles of different species
- 3) Initiation of a study to establish the current baseline conditions of the fisheries in Caracol Bay and the identification of recommendations for the modification of fishing practices (both gear and seasons)
- 4) Initiation of long-term monitoring of the fisheries in Caracol Bay in order to follow trends of fisheries modification approaches
- 5) All fisheries laws should be updated taking into consideration current technical and scientific advances as well as the needs and concerns of local stakeholders
- 6) Local law enforcement should be trained in and given the capabilities to enforce these laws. The local mayors offices of Bord de Mer de Limonade and Caracol should seek out or be provided training for local law enforcement and judiciary in order to enact and enforce the proposed laws, according to the constitution, the fisheries laws of 1978, the environmental laws of 2005, the decree declaring all of Haiti's mangroves protected of 2013, and the decree of 2013 declaring the Parc National des Trois Baies et du lagon au Boeufs and any other laws. The local judiciary should be well versed in the current marine laws, the proposals presented therein, as well as other related environmental laws.

- 7) Educational activities need to be undertaken for fishermen in order to increase their understanding of the effects of their actions on resources
- 8) Internal zoning allowing for various types of activities (e.g. fishing, recreation, research, no-take) will be critical to LMMA success

Activities initiated by the project such as educational programs, the formation of a Steering Committee, and increasing links with and between project partners (local government and stakeholders, NGOs, donors) among others are, and will continue to be, critical factors in the process to ensure the success of the MPA.

Component 5 Planned:

4 FoProBiM staff better trained/equipped to undertake conservation actions

Component 5 Actual at Completion:

Completion – 100%

Four of FoProBiM field staff participated in activities linked to project development and execution as well as refresher courses in basic marine conservation practices. Two staff from the north and two from the central regions of the country participated in a total of 15 day long workshops.

Were any components unrealized? If so, how has this affected the overall impact of the project?

A continuing issue with the lack of capacity of local stakeholder groups to undertake the necessary and agreed upon development of the designation of protected zones and a management plan, as well as their lack of ability in engaging other stakeholder groups into this process has caused major delays to project implementation. As stated in project progress reports, FoProBiM had already redoubled its efforts to have local stakeholder groups increase their joint participation in project activities in order to ensure full participation; however, progress has been extremely slow.

Contacts have been well established, ideas exchanged, the needs for management agreed upon, and a general feeling of goodwill in working towards a common goal developed. However, the ability of the local communities to engage one another when left on their own, an essential part of the exercise, has been slow to materialize and their complete lack of ability to formulate any type of management plan without FoProBiM's guidance was not possible. FoProBiM has therefore gleaned initial information from the stakeholder groups and will continue to lay the groundwork for the development of a management plan going forward. This will not be possible without much more intensive and longer term interventions from FoProBiM.

FoProBiM's recent work in helping with the declarations protecting all of Haiti's mangroves (annex III), as well as for the Parc des Trois Baies Marine Protected Area

(annex IV) both in 2013 has also somewhat required a small re-evaluation of proposed targets. Presently instead of local stakeholders working on a development framework based on an area without a management plan, they are now working in an area which has been, technically, completely protected; however, without an effective management plan and still virtually no law enforcement capabilities the basic premise of the development of a LMMA is still more than viable and vital.

Instead of FoProBiM engaging in the original plan of providing local stakeholder groups with the necessary information and accompanying them as they prepare a draft management plan, FoProBiM has gleaned what information it could from local stakeholders for inclusion into any management plan which may be prepared for the area. It will then continue consultations and work with local stakeholders and public sector officials through any management development process until a reasonable agreement can be reached.

Due to the decree creating a marine protected area (MPA) named the Parc des Trois Baies (in red) on December 11, 2013 all area coastal and marine resources are now under national protection and management.

Please describe and submit (electronically if possible) any tools, products, or methodologies that resulted from this project or contributed to the results.

Please see project report.

Lessons Learned

Describe any lessons learned during the design and implementation of the project, as well as any related to organizational development and capacity building. Consider lessons that would inform projects designed or implemented by your organization or others, as well as lessons that might be considered by the global conservation community.

Project Design Process: (aspects of the project design that contributed to its success/shortcomings)

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Project Implementation: (aspects of the project execution that contributed to its success/shortcomings)

The continued weaknesses in local Haitian CSOs remains a major hindrance to the undertaking of many actions which would require their implicit participation. As found during this project, their initial commitments to activities are substantial and their will to undertake activities is generally well spirited, however their ability to deliver on promises leaves much to be desired. In these situations long-term association building and

strengthening activities are critical to developing a strong base from which to initiate community based initiatives.

Other lessons learned relevant to conservation community:

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Additional Funding

Provide details of any additional funding that supported this project and any funding secured for the project, organization, or the region, as a result of the CEPF investment in this project.

Donor	Type of Funding*	Amount	Notes
Whitley Fund for Nature	B	US\$ 80,000	
National Fish and Wildlife Foundation	B	US\$ 57,200	
FoProBiM	D	US\$ 5,000	

**Additional funding should be reported using the following categories:*

- A Project co-financing (Other donors or your organization contribute to the direct costs of this project)*
- B Grantee and Partner leveraging (Other donors contribute to your organization or a partner organization as a direct result of successes with this CEPF funded project.)*
- C Regional/Portfolio leveraging (Other donors make large investments in a region because of CEPF investment or successes related to this project.)*
- D In-Kind contributions can include staff and volunteer time, supplies, and other materials your organization provides to the project.*

Sustainability/Replicability

Summarize the success or challenge in achieving planned sustainability or replicability of project components or results.

Summarize any unplanned sustainability or replicability achieved.

The long-term sustainability of this project, as with FoProBiM's previous activities, is guaranteed by intrinsically implicating local stakeholders in all aspects of the project from design to implementation in order to provide them with the ultimate sense of ownership, pride in success, and responsibility. The projects are undertaken with and for them.

This project is part of a larger effort by FoProBiM in Haiti to continuously provide environmental educational activities, management support, and sustainable livelihood alternatives in regard to environmental resources at all levels from the grassroots level to the public sector throughout Haiti.

FoProBiM will continue to contribute to ongoing activities targeted at the betterment of the socio-eco-environmental condition in Haiti through the development of environmental education including the development of environmental educational materials, scientific surveys and monitoring, awareness raising on threats to biodiversity such as marine turtles and conch, the strengthening of local grassroots organizations, conflict resolution programs, and research on, and encouragement of, the use of more environmentally friendly and sustainable fishing and agricultural methods to stem the deterioration of the environment and the loss of biodiversity.

The project will link when possible to upcoming initiatives being proposed for the Caracol bay area by the Haitian Government, the IDB, USAID, and others focused on protecting and managing the area's environmental resources. FoProBiM is actively seeking to leverage funding from sources including the Ministry of Environment, UNEP, UNDP, USAID, EnviroSynergy, the USFWS, NOAA and others in order to not only assist in the execution and continuation of this project, but, also the expansion and sustainability of these activities as well as complimentary actions. This type of project is consistent with activities proposed by Haiti's National Environmental Action Plan (NEAP) and current plans by the Haitian government and international donors.

FoProBiM has completed work with the Inter-American Development Bank in order to develop an initial base-line study on the current state of environmental resources and undertook initial monitoring activities in the bay. This will hopefully turn into an opportunity to move forward with more management and protection initiatives for this critical zone. A potential follow-on activity with the CLME project, as well as new activities with UNDP, the EU, and others are also being examined.

Safeguard Policy Assessment

Provide a summary of the implementation of any required action toward the environmental and social safeguard policies within the project.

N/A

Additional Comments/Recommendations

Please see FoProBiM project report.

Information Sharing and CEPF Policy

CEPF is committed to transparent operations and to helping civil society groups share experiences, lessons learned, and results. Final project completion reports are made available on our Web site, www.cepf.net, and publicized in our newsletter and other communications.

Please include your full contact details below:

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*****If your grant has an end date other than JUNE 30, please complete the tables on the following pages*****

Performance Tracking Report Addendum

CEPF Global Targets

(Enter Grant Term)

**Provide a numerical amount and brief description of the results achieved by your grant.
Please respond to only those questions that are relevant to your project.**

Project Results	Is this question relevant?	If yes, provide your numerical response for results achieved during the annual period.	Provide your numerical response for project from inception of CEPF support to date.	Describe the principal results achieved from July 1, 2007 to June 30, 2008. (Attach annexes if necessary)
1. Did your project strengthen management of a protected area guided by a sustainable management plan? Please indicate number of hectares improved.	N	--	--	Please also include name of the protected area(s). If more than one, please include the number of hectares strengthened for each one.
2. How many hectares of new and/or expanded protected areas did your project help establish through a legal declaration or community agreement?	Y	90,000 ha	90,000 ha	Parc National des Trois Baies
3. Did your project strengthen biodiversity conservation and/or natural resources management inside a key biodiversity area identified in the CEPF ecosystem profile? If so, please indicate how many hectares.	Y	90,000 ha	90,000 ha	
4. Did your project effectively introduce or strengthen biodiversity	N	--	--	

conservation in management practices outside protected areas? If so, please indicate how many hectares.				
5. If your project promotes the sustainable use of natural resources, how many local communities accrued tangible socioeconomic benefits? Please complete Table 1 below.	N	--	--	

If you answered yes to question 5, please complete the following table

Total																					

If you marked “Other”, please provide detail on the nature of the Community Characteristic and Socioeconomic Benefit: