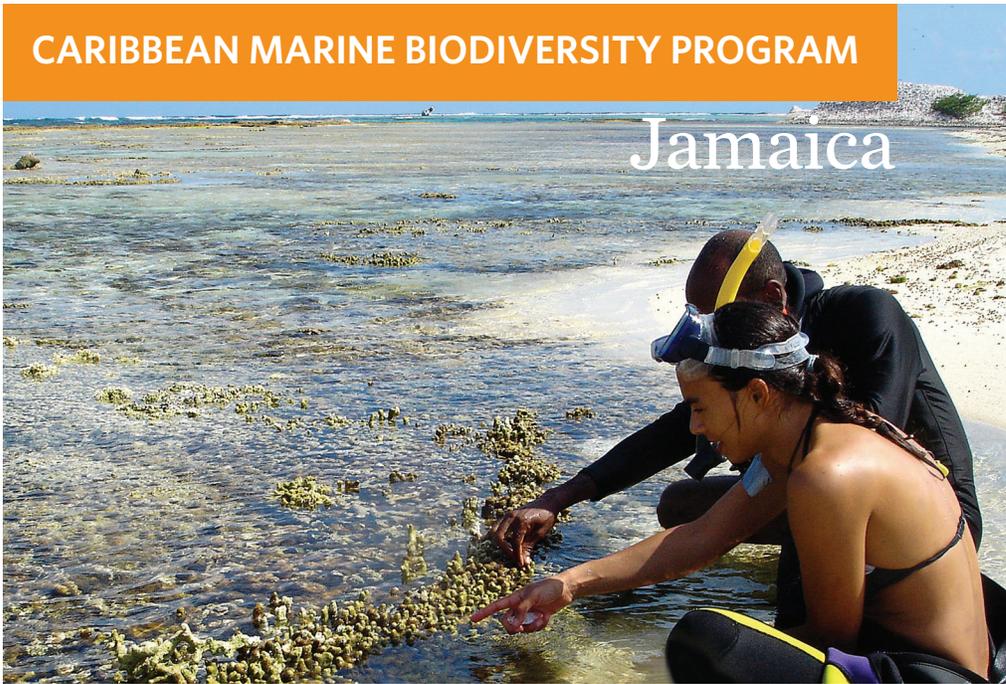


## CARIBBEAN MARINE BIODIVERSITY PROGRAM

# Jamaica



**T**he Caribbean Marine Biodiversity Program is a five-year project (2014-2019), funded by the U.S. Agency for International Development and The Nature Conservancy, that aims to achieve sustained biodiversity conservation, maintain and restore critical ecosystems and realize tangible improvements in human and community wellbeing. Operating in five target countries—Dominican Republic, Grenada, Haiti, Jamaica and St. Vincent & the Grenadines—the Program focuses on creating and effectively managing marine conserved areas and establishing and promoting sustainable fisheries. By addressing direct and indirect threats to coastal and marine biodiversity, the Caribbean Marine Biodiversity Program works to ensure a sustainable future where nature and people can thrive.

## Caribbean Marine Biodiversity Program in Jamaica

Pedro Bank and the southwest coast of Jamaica form a seascape that relies more heavily on fishing as a livelihood than any other part of the country, with limited alternative livelihood options. Pedro Bank—about 50 miles offshore but with strong community ties to the southwest coast—is an 800,000-hectare marine area with some of the most extensive and healthy coral reefs in Jamaica. It represents one of the most important lobster fisheries and the largest source of queen conch anywhere in the Caribbean. The conch fishery provides income and livelihoods for several hundred fishers and generates about US\$8 million each year in export earnings.

The Southwest Cay Fish Sanctuary was established on Pedro Bank in 2012 to help replenish and maintain healthy fish stocks. Since then, The Nature Conservancy and the Caribbean Coastal Areas Management Foundation (C-CAM), along with collaborating partners, have supported community outreach and monitoring activities in the region. A comprehensive marine spatial plan for Pedro Bank was completed in 2015, which included delineated zones for new fish sanctuaries and sustainable fishing operations.

## PROGRAM GOALS ACROSS FIVE TARGET COUNTRIES

- Establish effective, functional marine conserved areas and sustainable fisheries
- Protect and successfully manage at least 3.9 million hectares of nearshore coastal and marine habitat
- Establish reliable funding for marine and coastal conservation through the Caribbean Biodiversity Fund—an endowment fund providing long-term financial support for conserved area management today and into the future
- Demonstrate sustainable fishing practices and alternate livelihoods to benefit hundreds of fishers and community members
- Establish relationships with key private sector companies that promote ecotourism in support of marine conservation efforts

Two fish sanctuaries were designated in 2009 at Galleon, St. Elizabeth and Bluefields Bay on Jamaica's southwest coast, which is historically and culturally rich and has experienced a rise in tourism in recent years. The Conservancy and our partners at Bluefields Bay Fishermen's Friends Society have raised community awareness of the benefits of fish sanctuaries and have supported local community wardens to monitor and manage sanctuary activities. The Caribbean Marine Biodiversity Program is also promoting alternative livelihood initiatives focused on growing tourism-related, sustainable options that will help reduce fishing pressures in Bluefields Bay. In Galleon, the Program is supporting the organization that manages the sanctuary, BREDS Treasure Beach Foundation, to enhance its outreach efforts.



## PROGRAM GOALS IN JAMAICA

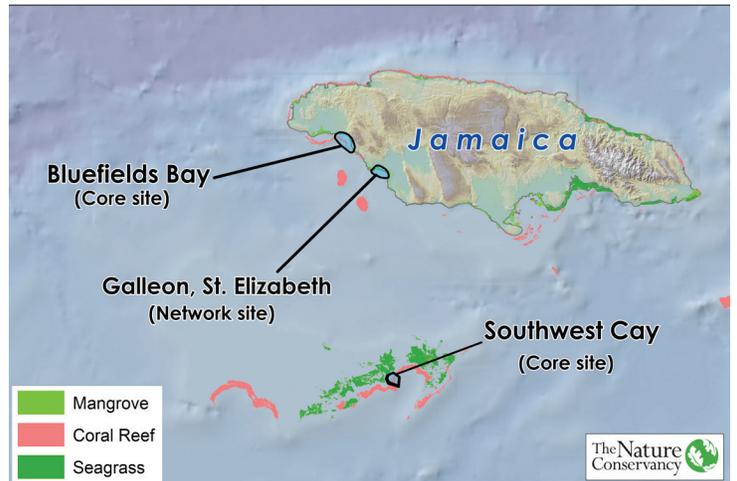
- Support the commitment made by Jamaica to protect at least 20% of its marine and coastal areas by 2020 as part of the Caribbean Challenge Initiative—a collaborative effort in the Caribbean to achieve unprecedented, lasting conservation goals throughout the region
- Help establish sustainable funding to support marine conserved areas through the National Conservation Trust Fund of Jamaica, which awards grants each year for on-the-ground conservation projects
- Promote sustainable fishing practices that reduce threats to biodiversity, such as using less destructive equipment and reducing juvenile fish catch, and increase awareness about protecting marine resources
- Build local constituencies for conservation by promoting environmental awareness campaigns targeting communities living adjacent to fish sanctuary sites across Jamaica
- Promote ecotourism and other alternative, sustainable livelihood options, such as making and selling crafts along the southwest coast
- Increase capacity for a sustainable lobster fishery on the Pedro Bank through targeted training and awareness
- Provide funding for supervisors and wardens to conduct patrols, community outreach and other activities at Bluefields Bay Fish Sanctuary and Southwest Cay Fish Sanctuary
- Establish strong management practices by training marine management staff across the seascape, to help build their core skills and improve institutional capacity



## PARTNERS

- Caribbean Coastal Area Management Foundation (C-CAM)
- Government of Jamaica
- Local community groups and fisher associations

### Marine Conserved Areas - Pedro Bank and Southwest Coast Seascape



FRONT PAGE LEFT TO RIGHT A Conservancy project manager observes the shallow coral flats of Pedro Bank with a survey teammate. © George F. Warner; Bluefields Bay Fish Sanctuary © Bluefields Bay Fishermen's Friends Society THIS PAGE TOP TO BOTTOM Southwest Cay Special Fisheries Conservation Area © Brandon Hay; Fishermen gathering their boats in Pedro Bank © Brandon Hay MAP Marine conserved areas supported by the Caribbean Marine Biodiversity Program in the Pedro Bank and southwest coast seascape



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