



November, 2012 Newsletter



Fondation pour la Protection de la Biodiversite Marine

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Le Saviez-Vous?

Les mangliers sont des formations végétales de palétuviers pouvant supporter la salinité, adaptés à coloniser des milieux côtiers sub-tropicaux étouffés par l'eau, se trouvant surtout dans la zone entre les marées. Les mangliers font aussi référence à l'écosystème entier formé par ces plantes spécialisés. Ces plantes ont développé des adaptations physico-chimiques, tels l'excrétion du sel et la modification de leurs racines à la densité de la terre et à la faible concentration en oxygène, leur permettant de survivre malgré la variabilité de leur milieu.



Les mangliers sont des systèmes très productifs qui retiennent les sédiments et les déchets, venant de l'eau ou d'ailleurs. Ils permettent aussi l'exportation de matières organiques vers d'autres écosystèmes (récifs de coraux et herbiers), par l'action des marées. Les espèces de palétuvier prédominant dans les Caraïbes sont le *Rhizophora mangle* (palétuvier rouge), *l'Avicennia germinans* (palétuvier noir) et le

2012 marks FoProBiM's 20th anniversary of work in Haiti.



News for November, 2012

<>< FoProBiM Director Jean Wiener wins **Conde Nast Traveler Environmental Award Runner-up** spot for 2012. [link to article...](#)

<>< FoProBiM awarded a CEPF grant to initiate conservation work in the Lac Azuei / Etang Saumatre Key Biodiversity Area. ([see FoProBiM current project activity map](#))

<>< FoProBiM has launched Haiti's first privately funded environmental grant, the Agoue Environmental Fund, funded by the Haitian private sector and targeted at supporting local Haitian founded and operated environmental organizations in their work within Haiti. The first small grant is expected to be awarded in 2013. Stay posted for more information at www.foprobim.org, and www.agoue.org.

<>< FoProBiM beginning activities in Northeastern Haiti with the [Caribbean Large Marine Ecosystem project \(CLME\)](#).

<>< FoProBiM beginning activities with the Caribbean Coastal Community Small Grants Program (CCCSGP) in Luly and Fauché.

<>< For its UNEP CAR/SPAW project FoProBiM will inaugurate a new latrine for 400 students at the Ecole Nationale de Luly before the start of the school year. 20,000 fruit trees have already been planted and 10,000 mangrove trees are in two new plant nurseries for future reforestation activities. 20 bee hives are also helping to create environmentally friendly alternative income generating activities.



Protecting mangroves cheaper than building coastal protection – official

Laguncularia racemosa (palétuvier blanc). Les mangliers offrent un refuge pour les juvéniles de plusieurs espèces marines d'importance commerciale, tel le homard à épines et le rouget. La canopée des arbres, les racines aériennes et les substrats boueux offrent des ressources pour plusieurs autres organismes, tels les insectes, les gastropodes, les nématodes et un grand nombre d'espèces d'oiseaux.



La FoProBiM

Constituée en 1992, FoProBiM est un organisme apolitique, non gouvernemental et sans but lucratif qui est établi à Port-au-Prince, Haïti, et qui a été officiellement reconnu par le gouvernement haïtien en 1995 en tant que fondation œuvrant pour l'environnement d'Haïti dans les domaines du développement durable, de l'éducation, de la recherche, de la surveillance et de la sensibilisation.

FoProBiM est l'un des plus vieux organismes environnementaux haïtiens. Sa mission :

- i) sensibiliser la population et les divers intervenants au besoin de changer les lois et les attitudes concernant l'environnement;
- ii) accroître les connaissances et les compétences aux niveaux gouvernemental, communautaire et individuel afin d'apporter des améliorations durables à l'environnement et à la vie des gens, et; iii) mettre en œuvre des programmes éducatifs ainsi que des recherches scientifiques, incluant de la surveillance environnementale, afin de promouvoir une meilleure gestion de l'environnement et la protection de la biodiversité par une meilleure compréhension de la nécessité d'utiliser les ressources environnementales de façon durable.

Depuis maintenant 20 ans qu'elle existe, la FoProBiM se consacre à la protection et à la gestion des écosystèmes côtiers et marins du pays ainsi que des bassins versants avoisinants. Dans ses efforts continus pour surveiller et protéger l'environnement et la biodiversité, FoProBiM œuvre de concert avec les populations qui habitent la région côtière, incluant les regroupements de femmes, de jeunes, de fermiers et de pêcheurs, ainsi que tous ceux et celles qui utilisent les ressources environnementales dans un vaste éventail de secteurs tels que le tourisme, la production de combustible, le

Wed, 19 Sep 2012 11:46 GMT
Source: Alertnet // Johann Earle

In this 2010 file photo, a mangrove plant grows on the shore in Cancun, Mexico. REUTERS/Gerardo Garcia

By Johann Earle
JEJU, South Korea (Alertnet) – Keeping coastal mangrove forests intact or replanting them is cheaper than building man-made structure to protect coastlines threatened by climate change, according to the head of the International Union for Conservation for Nature (IUCN).

"Our message is, 'Don't assume that man-made or engineered solutions are the only ones to protect our coasts and rivers and to provide drinking water. We are not against engineering in the absence of natural solutions, but look at what nature has to offer,'" urged Julia Marton-Lefevre at the recent **World Conservation Congress** in South Korea.

Preserving mangrove forests can help regulate rainfall patterns, reduce the risk of disasters from extreme weather and sea level rise, provide breeding grounds for fish and capture carbon dioxide in the atmosphere to slow climate change, she said. That suggests preserving them will be essential to fighting climate change and protecting lives and livelihoods in the face of climate shifts already underway.

"Standing trees help us with inevitable climate change," she said. "Keeping mangroves intact on the coast is not only good for capturing and storing carbon but also very useful for protecting the coast in times of extreme weather conditions and acting like nurseries for fish to ensure people have protein to eat," she said. Marton-Lefevre said the financial benefits of maintaining mangrove forests outweigh those of, for instance, cutting mangroves to build coastal hotels, particularly when their effect on disaster risk is taken into account.

And "it is the same for trees standing rather than being cut down (in terms of) protecting against landslides," she said.

"Ecosystems, including mangroves, play a role in mitigation and adaptation. You have to respect the forests, wetlands, peatlands and oceans in capturing and storing carbon. Once you respect that, then maybe there would be an impetus to take care of (them) better," she said, during an interview with AlertNet.

"Standing forests also provide livelihoods for people," she added. "You don't have to cut the trees down to raise cattle. You could also grow food inside the forest canopy," she said.

FUELWOOD ALTERNATIVES

Part of what is driving cutting of mangroves and other forests, experts at the conference said, is a lack of alternatives to fuelwood.

In Pakistan's Balochistan province, for instance, the juniper forests of Ziarat are being cut because residents have no other way of getting fuel. But pilot projects to provide alternative energy sources, including solar lighting, are helping make a difference, experts said.

Pakistan's mangrove forests, similarly, have been reduced from 600,000 hectares (1.3 million acres) to 86,000 hectares (190,000 acres) over the last 50 years, according to a documentary film shown at the conference.

But an IUCN-backed effort to ensure "mangroves for the future" has so far overseen replanting of 30,000 hectares (66,000 acres) of mangroves, said Mahmood Akhtar Cheema, manager of IUCN's Islamabad programme office.

Overall forest cover in Pakistan now stands at just four percent of the total land area and "every sapling is needed," added Javed Jabbar, an IUCN representative for West Asia and the Middle East.

Johann Earle is a Guyana-based freelance writer with an interest in climate change issues.



From the IUCN World Conservation Congress

Motion 12

TITLE: STRENGTHENING IUCN IN THE INSULAR CARIBBEAN

CLARIFYING that for the by-laws of the Caribbean Regional Committee of IUCN members, and the IUCN Caribbean Initiative, the term Insular Caribbean geographically focuses on the islands of the Caribbean, including all independent countries^[1] as well as the departments of France^[2], Caribbean autonomous countries and special municipalities within the Kingdom of the Netherlands^[3], the dependent territories of the United Kingdom^[4] and the associated commonwealth and territory of the United States^[5].

^[1]Antigua and Barbuda, Bahamas, Barbados, Commonwealth of Dominica, Dominican Republic, Cuba, Grenada, Haiti, Jamaica, Saint Lucia, St. Kitts and Nevis, St. Vincent and the Grenadines, and Trinidad and Tobago.

^[2] There are four French territories or departments: Guadeloupe, Martinique, Saint-Barthélemy and Saint Martin.

transport, la commercialisation,
la transformation, etc.

[3]Aruba, Curaçao, and Sint Maarten are autonomous countries within the Kingdom of the Netherlands and Bonaire, *Sint Eustatius* (also known as Statia) and Saba (the BES islands) are special municipalities with closer ties to the central government.

[4]There are six Caribbean UKOTs: Anguilla, Bermuda, Cayman Islands, Montserrat, Turks and Caicos, and the British Virgin Islands (which consists of the main islands of *Tortola, Virgin Gorda, Anegada* and *Jost Van Dyke*, along with over fifty other smaller islands and *cays*).

[5]Puerto Rico is a self-governing commonwealth in association with the United States. The United States Virgin Islands (St. Croix, St. John and St. Thomas) is a territory of the United States.

NOTING the Caribbean's rich biological diversity which is essential for human well-being and has intrinsic value; and

RECOGNISING the accumulated vulnerability of the Insular Caribbean ecosystems to threats of both extreme events and gradual changes caused by climate change;

ALSO RECOGNISING the impacts on the Insular Caribbean ecosystems due to human activities including overexploitation, pollution, introduction of invasive species, and habitat degradation and destruction;

BEING CONCERNED ABOUT these impacts on the ecosystem services, livelihoods and economies through loss of natural capital; and

NOTING the progress made in implementation of Resolution 3.033 made in Bangkok in 2004 on the *IUCN Programme for the Insular Caribbean* by national, regional and international stakeholders;

NOTING the Launch of the Caribbean Initiative at the Barcelona World Congress in 2008 and the advancement of the work on the 2009-12 *IUCN Work Programme in the Insular Caribbean*;

RECOGNISING the work of the *IUCN Secretariat*, commissions and membership and the establishment of the *IUCN Caribbean Regional Committee*, the *Dominican Republic National Committee* and a 100% increase in membership to promote the objectives of *IUCN* in the region;

RECOGNISING the need to continue strengthening the *IUCN* presence in the region through a Caribbean Programme of Work;

FURTHER RECOGNIZING the increasing capacity and commitment of Caribbean institutions and *IUCN* member organizations to contribute to implementation of the *IUCN Program* and Caribbean Initiative;

The World Conservation Congress at its 4th Session in Jeju, South Korea, 6 - 15 September 2012:

REQUESTS the *IUCN Director General* to:

- a) **Consolidate** *IUCN's* presence in the Insular Caribbean, through an enhanced regional implementation of the relevant components of the *IUCN Programme 2013-2016*, including the possibility of the establishment of a Caribbean *IUCN* office located in the insular Caribbean;
- b) **Facilitate** a process with *IUCN Caribbean members*, Caribbean *IUCN Commission members*, *IUCN Secretariat*, and other key stakeholders in the area to develop an appropriate mechanism to coordinate, support and facilitate implementation of the *IUCN activities* in the Caribbean;
- c) **Enable** participation of the insular Caribbean into existing and new *IUCN activities*, such as the *Biodiversity and Protected Areas Management (BIOPAMA) project*, the *IUCN Island Initiative (Resolution 4.067)* and other global initiatives (e.g. the *IUCN programme on EU Outermost Regions & Overseas Countries & Territories – Resolution 4.079*);
- d) **Continue** to support the *Regional Office for MesoAmerica (ORMA)* to implement the Caribbean Initiative, and to support reestablishment of contact and strengthening the relationships, as far as possible, between the Caribbean members and *IUCN offices* in North America, on the relevant activities of the *IUCN Program 2013-2016*.

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