

## IUCN MOTION 25

### 025 - Halting biodiversity loss in the insular Caribbean

#### 1. INTRODUCTION

##### BACKGROUND

Very recently several important documents have been presented showing the enormous biodiversity crisis the planet is facing. In 2018 the Global Biodiversity Outlook shows that it will be difficult to achieve the Aichi Goals by 2020; the WWF Living Planet Index highlights an overall decline of 60% in species population sizes between 1970 and 2014, where the declines are especially pronounced in the tropics. IPCC Global Warming of 1 °C warns of the impacts on natural and human systems, and most recently, in 2019, the IPBES Biodiversity and Ecosystems Services Report tells that an average of around 25 per cent of animal and plant species are in assessed as threatened, suggesting that around 1 million species already face extinction.

Due to the high number of endemic plants and animals, and at the same time, the high pressures due to high human populations and other factors, the insular Caribbean has long been considered one of the top five global priority hotspots for biodiversity,.

The IUCN Global Red List shows the high percentages of endangered species among those taxa already assessed in the region. Caribbean amphibians are good indicators of the highly threatened condition of terrestrial ecosystems. Almost all species are endemic to each island or island groups, and do not have direct uses or commercial value. The main threat is habitat destruction or fragmentation, making them the most endangered amphibians in the world. Recent national assessments, like in the Dominican Republic, show that about 25% of vascular plants in the country are critically endangered, endangered or vulnerable, including many endemics.

Recent studies in the Caribbean have shown either that we are losing a high percentage of populations, such as the loss of 40% of invertebrate populations in humid Puerto Rican forests, or up to 60% of species and 80% of endemic species, when primary forest is lost, such as in the case of Haiti, and demonstrated by extensive papers.

On paper, Caribbean countries and territories have good protected areas systems, fairly good environmental regulations, and are signatories of the CBD and most other environmental multilateral agreements.

However, enforcement is not always implemented, and as a consequence, primary forest and their species, as well as important ecosystem services, are being diminished. This is aggravated by the fact that these are insular ecosystems, which are more fragile than continental ones, and the impacts of climate change on species and ecosystems.

Considering all these, this motion is being presented as a way to call the international and national attention to biodiversity loss in the insular Caribbean.

## CO SPONSORS

- Centro para la Conservación y Ecodesarrollo de la Bahía de Samaná y su Entorno [Dominican Republic]
- Fondation pour la Protection de la Biodiversité Marine [Haiti]
- Fundación Sur Futuro, Inc. [Dominican Republic]
- Grupo Jaragua [Dominican Republic]
- Instituto de Derecho Ambiental de la República Dominicana [Dominican Republic]
- Para la Naturaleza [Puerto Rico]
- Turks & Caicos Reef Fund Inc. [Turks and Caicos]
- Asociación Guyra Paraguay Conservación de Aves [Paraguay]
- BirdLife International [United Kingdom]
- Center for Environmental Legal Studies [United States of America]
- George Wright Society [United States of America]
- Rainforest Trust [United States of America]

## 2. PROPOSED PLAN

Goal/ Global Objective	Regional Objectives	Expected results	Activities	CRC members	Milestone/ timeframe
	<b>Formalize a Caribbean Coalition for Biodiversity (CBIC)</b>	Caribbean Coalition for Biodiversity in the insular Caribbean formed	<b>Draft terms of reference for the CBIC</b>		
			Identify key players, both institutional and personal to become part of the coalition		
			Establish CBIC		
	<b>Request to strengthen actions to halt biodiversity loss in insular Caribbean</b>	Broad campaign among relevant GOs and NGOs and other civil society organizations in relation to biodiversity loss in the insular Caribbean	Summarize insular Caribbean biodiversity Red List status		
			Develop a communication campaign in relation to biodiversity loss in the Caribbean		



**IUCN**

Comité Regional  
del Caribe

Caribbean Regional  
Committee

Comité Régional  
des Caraïbes

			Approach most relevant representative of GOs and NGOs regarding the objective of Motion 25		
		Identify Biodiversity Projects under implementation in the insular Caribbean			
		Identify global or regional biodiversity strategies that include or have an impact on the insular Caribbean Biodiversity			
		Convention for the Protection and Development of the Marine Environment in the Wider Caribbean Region and its Protocol, in particular the Specially Protected Areas and Wildlife (SPA) Protocol ratified by all relevant countries and territories			
	<b>Promote the development of young biodiversity scientists from Caribbean islands</b>	Identify mechanisms for the promotion of biodiversity science among young professionals from insular Caribbean			
	<b>Strengthen the Caribbean Regional Committee</b>	Caribbean Regional Committee strengthened	Perform a SWOT to determine present situation of CRC and establish baseline information		
	<b>Insular Caribbean Biodiversity Charter</b>		Identify best scenario for the public presentation of the charter		