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CARIBBEAN MARINE BIODIVERSITY PROGRAM

CONTRACTOR(S)/GRANTEE(S): THE GOVERNMENT OF JAMAICA, THE NATURE CONSERVANCY, CARIBSAVE, CARIBBEAN COASTAL AREA MANAGEMENT FOUNDATION (C-CAM)

DURATION: 2014- 2019

TOTAL PROJECTED INVESTMENT: \$12.5 MILLION (US \$10 MILLION FROM USAID / US \$2.5 MILLION FROM TNC)

The Caribbean Marine Biodiversity Program's goal is to reduce the threats to marine-coastal biodiversity in priority areas in the Caribbean in order to achieve sustained biodiversity conservation, maintain critical ecosystem services, and realize tangible improvements in human well-being for communities adjacent to marine managed areas.

In Jamaica the program focuses on the Pedro Bank and Southwest Coast of Jamaica through designing and promoting sustainable fisheries pilot programs. It also assists to strengthen the capacity of local fisher cooperatives to support sustainable fisheries and marine managed areas; and promote ecotourism.

Pedro Bank, about 50 miles off Jamaica's southwestern coast, is an 800,000-hectare marine area with some of the most extensive and healthy coral reefs in Jamaica. It also represents the largest source of queen conch anywhere in the Caribbean, providing income for hundreds of fishers and generating about US\$8 million each year in export earnings. The Southwest Cay Fish Sanctuary was established on the Pedro Bank in 2012; and two fish sanctuaries, Galleon Bay and Bluefields Bay, were established on the Southwest Coast on Jamaica in 2010. These were established to help ensure the replenishment and health of various types of fish stocks.