

Open Data Sector Initiatives - Scope Summary

Open Data and the Caribbean Gateway: Towards Improved Governance and Decision-Making of the Caribbean's Protected Areas

Open Data Sector Studies - Strategic Initiatives										
TITLE	Open Data and the Caribbean Gateway: Towards Improved Governance and Decision-Making of the Caribbean's Protected Areas									
SECTOR RELEVANCE	Agriculture		Tourism		Education		Fisheries/MPAs	X	National Statistics	
DESCRIPTION	<p>This initiative seeks to leverage and augment the ongoing Caribbean Protected Areas Gateway initiative by identifying additional datasets, relevant to marine and terrestrial protected areas or environs, that are not currently in the Gateway databases. Emphasis will be on datasets that focus on livelihoods and governance, but new biodiversity datasets are also of interest. Through engagement with key stakeholders and dataset owners, the initiative will identify appropriate open access licensing mechanisms that will facilitate incorporation of these datasets into the Gateway. Through the use of open access APIs (Application Programming Interfaces) we will collaboratively (with each participating country), develop a communication strategy, case study or mobile App to promote or demonstrate the use of open data to address a specific PA decision and so illustrate the potential of the Gateway to link data to better decisions.</p>									
IMPACT CATEGORIES	1. Improving Government	X	2. Empowering Citizens		3. Creating Opportunity	X	4. Solving Public Problems	X		
EXPECTED IMPACT	<p>Most PAs are co-managed or solely managed by government authorities. Few are private or community-based. A major impact will be on improving government, or governance more broadly. By definition, the latter entails creating societal opportunities as well as solving problems. The impacts are based on aligning data (biodiversity, livelihoods, governance) with the demands of real decision-making processes affecting PAs. Since most PAs are linked to tourism and foreign exchange earnings, better decisions should result in economic growth. Bringing diverse datasets together in decisions opens possibilities for greater innovation, especially in PA planning and management that should improve livelihoods. It is possible, but not assured, that citizen empowerment through social mobilisation will be an impact of participation in the initiative.</p>									
KEY ENABLERS	Partnerships	X	Public Infrastructure	X	Policies And Performance Metrics	X	Problem Definition			
Partnerships	<p>The Gateway has already reached out to form a network of supporters from intergovernmental, governmental, civil society and non-governmental organisations. These links will be strengthened to encourage sustainable data supply.</p>									
Public Infrastructure	<p>In data training workshops the public sector authorities in charge of PAs have pledged to make data under their control more open to PA stakeholders. This is critical for public support of PAs, especially for conservation.</p>									
Policies And Performance Metrics	<p>Countries have signed onto global and regional instruments such as the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) and Caribbean Challenge Initiative (CCI) that set PA targets and indicators for measuring performance which are monitored.</p>									
Problem Definition	<p>"Most protected areas (PA) in the Caribbean are either co-managed or solely managed by national government authorities. Few are private or entirely community-based. Datasets on biodiversity, livelihoods and governance, relevant to PA and environs, are not yet actively shared by PA authorities or available in the Gateway databases. This constrains governance linkages between local, national, regional, and global stakeholders and limits the effectiveness of policy, legislative, and managerial decisions in a domain that is critical to Caribbean environmental sustainability.</p> <p>The 5-country case studies undertaken through this initiative will seek to demonstrate the value of bringing diverse datasets together to enhance innovation in planning, management and communications"</p>									

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CORE CHALLENGES	Readiness	X	Responsiveness	X	Responsiveness	X	Resource Allocation	X
Readiness	Engaging in discussion on the acquisition of data should improve the readiness to both share data and to use open data for decision-making.							
Responsiveness	Lack of responsiveness may be due to ignorance of data value and the benefits from better data. Responsiveness may increase due to the case study and problem-solving approach to be used in which decisions are for action.							
Responsiveness	The public sector data holders are notoriously risk averse in many PA, often due to tourism and other external linkages. Again the case study and problem-solving approach should show that risks are manageable while benefits are huge.							
Resource Allocation	Most PA management agencies are under-resourced and sustainable finance is a concern. While open data will not be directly income-generating for them, it can be shown how improved data availability can possibly attract useful resources and cost reductions via partnerships.							
CORE ACTIVITIES	Design & Administer Survey	X	Capacity building (training/workshops)	X	Hackathon	X	Software Development	X
PRIMARY ACTIVITIES	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Determine what data sets, relevant to protected areas or environs, and not currently in the Gateway databases, exist in a sample (about 5) of the 15 ACP countries covered by BIOPAMA. Focus on livelihoods and governance if feasible as these are less common and more likely to not be open. - For each data set in each country (let us say 25 in total) assess the extent of openness using an agreed index, and the changes required in any restrictive conditions for each that could make the data sets open. - For each data set, determine with the data owner what open access licensing is feasible, preferred or in use - Acquire all available data sets for incorporation into the Gateway - For each country, collaboratively develop a communication or case study (depending on the situation) to promote or demonstrate the use of 							
KEY DATA SOURCES	Datasets and sources are unknown. Discovering them and assessing their openness is the primary task of the initiative Examples of dataset types include census data, labour force, costs and earnings, living expenses, tourism arrivals and type of use, visitation rates and patterns, fees and management costs, user categories, dependence on nature, legal action							
KEY STAKEHOLDERS	PA policy makers and entire management structure; universities or researchers associated with the PAs; NGOs and CSOs active in the area or working on PA-relevant topics; communities in and surrounding the PA; selected high volume users who maintain data on their interaction with the PA							
RESOURCE REQUIREMENTS	For duration April - July ExpenseCost (USD) Consultant 30 days 15,000.00 Data acquisition 2,000.00 Communication 1,000.00 Admin. suport 2,000.00 Total 20,000.00							
SCALABILITY	The initiative aims at covering 5 out of the 15 countries currently participating in the BIOPAMA project. Replication into the remaining 10 countries is feasible if the case studies and data-to-decision guidance are as applicable as expected							
PRIVATE SECTOR ENGAGEMENT	Livelihoods data may involve private sector interaction, but this will be minimal							

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RELATED INITIATIVES	Several PA projects are in progress throughout the region in single and multiple country initiatives relevant to the Gateway such as: Eastern Caribbean Marine Managed Areas Network (ECMMAN) Project; Critical Ecosystem Partnership Fund (CEPF); Protocol Concerning Specially Protected Areas and Wildlife (SPAW); Caribbean Challenge Initiative (CCI); Caribbean Marine Biodiversity Program (CMBP); etc.	
RELEVANT THEORIES OF CHANGE	Intermediaries will play a significant role both as catalysts and enablers	X
	Greater impetus and resonance will derive from increased efficiency / innovation ahead of transparency/accountability	
	Innovation fellowships provide an important mechanism for collaborative government-civil society co-creation in key developmenta	
	The value sustainability of the open data initiatives in the region will rely on a vibrant Caribbean open data ecosystem of acto	
	Governments role will require active participation on supply and demand sides of the Caribbean open data ecosystem	X
	Multi-sector approaches will drive the greatest economic returns on open data	
	Scale limits and resource deficits will require common resources and shared use i.e. the Caribbean Digital Commons	X
SUPPORTING DOCUMENT	#N/A	