IPLC voices from Antigua and Barbuda in various CBD processes

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A graduate of Yale University trained with a MA in Development Economist who is passionate about local community development so she uses her knowledge, skills and experiences to enable development and empowerment to thrive. She believes in building partnerships and synergies to achieve mutiple benefits and outcomes. Ruth is the national coordinator for the GEF/SGP

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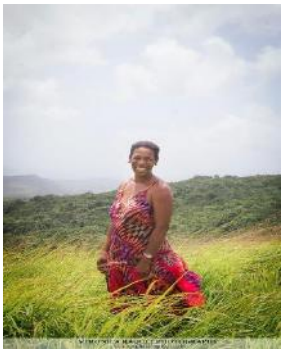
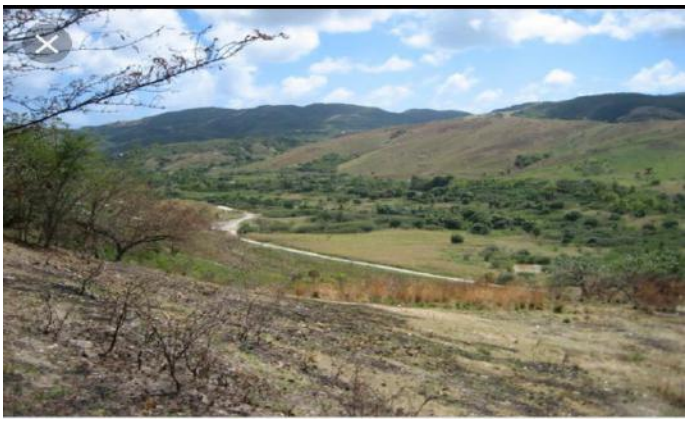
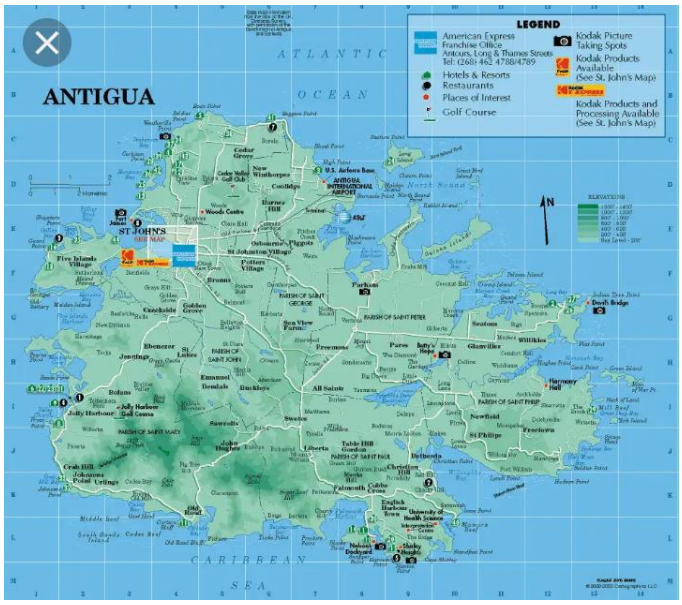


Geographic and demographic information



Country	Antigua
Parish	St Mary's
District	John Hughes
Size of geographical area	680 ha or 1,680 acres
Number of indirect beneficiaries	Residents: Men: 2,000 Women: 3,000 Tourists / visitors Men: 1,000 Women: 1,500
Dominant ethnicity	Afro Caribbean



Size of project area	50 acres
Number of direct beneficiaries	Tour guides, women: 75
Geographic coordinates (longitude and latitude)	17.0608° N, 61.7964° W
Dominant ethnicity	Afro Caribbean/Caucasians

Ecosystem Types

x	Forest	x	Grassland	x	Agricultural	x	In-land water
	Coastal		Dryland-	x	Mountain		Urban/peri-urban

Important species in the site

English common name (*Local name*)	Scientific name	Description
Guava Berry		
Lemon Grass	*cymbopogon citrates*	Introduced nonnative species now an invasive alien species but has numerous opportunities for use for in health and beauty products.
Neem	*Azadirachta indica*	Introduced non native species –used in traditional medicine
Cocoa		
Lemon		

General introduction

The group uses a wide variety of activities for regular engagement of the community people and for providing timely information of all the actions ongoing in the watershed. The group is engaged in various forms of vocational, and skills training. There are regular village consultations, regular social events that brings the community together, weekly cleaning of the Wallings Watershed, cleaning and maintaining the trails, noting the changes taking place and reporting on the fires. They function as "Wardens of the area... On Sept 1, the group made a report of major theft in the Reserve.

Wallings falls within a major watershed. The water generating capacity of the watershed has been subject to various stresses such as pollution from agriculture (e.g., crops, livestock grazing) and burning of the fever grass. The degradation and buildup of sediments and clogging of the pipes has negatively impacted the water supply causing the recharge rates to the aquifers will be reduced. Biodiversity has been affected, contributing to a decline in ecosystem health.
The local group is turning the threats from the lemongrass into opportunities and sees a way forward for sustainable use of this resource even through the growth of the fever grass is expanding and its susceptibility to fire, is a major cause of continual land degradation within the watershed.
The Wallings group aims for effective management of Wallings Forest as a protected area within the legal and institutional frameworks of Antigua is through watershed management, looking at the broader landscape in terms of conservation and management of natural resources. They want to turn the "paper park into a reality". APUA the utility company who is in full support of the local group has legal rights over all water resources but no legal obligation for either watershed protection or maintenance.

The business plan put forward by the groups demonstrates that the erection of a bathroom can generate revenues in addition 75 jobs can be sustained from the ecotourism activities including the tours and the 8 trails which guests and visitors love to explore with signage and visitor guide materials and a communication system in place. There are more than 800 native trees, shrubs and other plants, including a wide range of tropical tree, shrub, lichen, fern and orchid species. A tree inventory identified forty-seven species in a half acre (2000 m) quadrant of the Wallings forest. The vegetation community types are Evergreen forest, mixed evergreen and deciduous forest, mixed shrub land and Grassland. The lemon grass is of major concern for watershed management and for the Wallings area and was introduced as an erosion control measure. The collective actions of the group are aimed at meeting the critical importance of ecosystem restoration. As the Wallings forest matures, many species of plants and animals increasingly rely on it for survival since it acts as an ecological anchor. The forest is older than most of the surrounding woodlands but provides a source for the re-colonization of many species to nearby young plant communities by dispersing its seeds to them, by helping to regulate and maintain moisture, wind, climate and other factors and by acting as a nursery and sanctuary for animals. The area is a habitat for bats and local pollinators. Bird numbers and species fluctuate greatly, depending on the season, the amount of rain, the availability of food, and nesting habitat but the birds in Wallings include the White Crowned Pigeon, Scaly Naped Pigeon, Ruddy Quail Dove, Bridled Quail Dove, Purple Throated Carib, Antillen Euphoria, Scaley breasted Thresh and the , Brown trembler.

Challenges: Many threats to biodiversity in Wallings result mainly from the changes brought about by human action and can be summarized as follows:

1. **The loss of habitat** primarily through the wanton clearing of land, leading to soil erosion:, changing of land use, destruction of the wild species of plants leading to the migration of the pollinators with changes on the composition of the species, The resulting loss of soils and land productivity, reduction in food supply leading to gaps in food security and nutrition for the country and it's resident.

2. **The introduction of non-native species** of introduction of non-native flora (e.g., Citronella lemongrass) which has a detrimental effect on native wild species by acting as predators, parasites and competitors with suck out the little available water. Farmers put fire to it to get rid of it but the seeds are dispersed by the wind and spreads to other areas

3. **Overgrazing by livestock** mainly goats, sheep, cattle and donkeys that pose a serious threat, particularly in upper watershed areas.

4. **Pollution** through pesticide and chemical usage which seep from farms into the soils stemming from the unregulated and excessive use of pesticides.

5. **Droughts and hurricanes** that have severely impacted the bird population, as well as vegetative communities and their dependent fauna

6. **Ineffective Management** with poor management and budgetary support from the Government Ministry namely the /Forestry Dept which has not shown or demonstrated effective management or responsible for maintaining the watershed that is responsible for the rainwater catchments and ground water management systems in our watersheds contributing to the ongoing 4-year drought.

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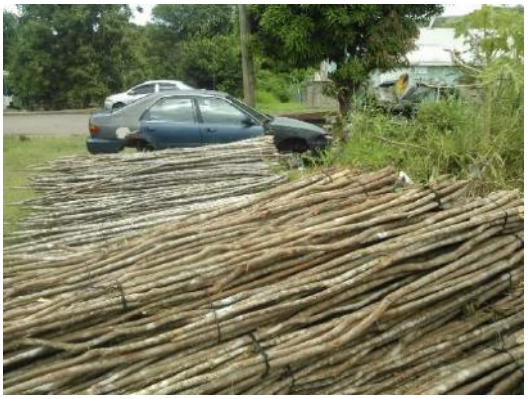
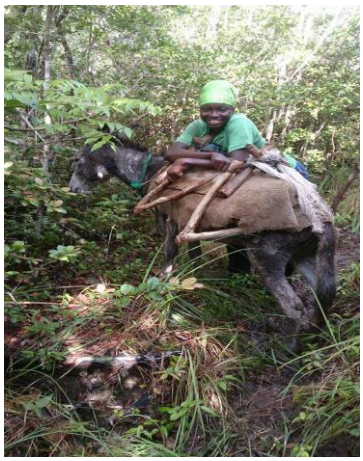
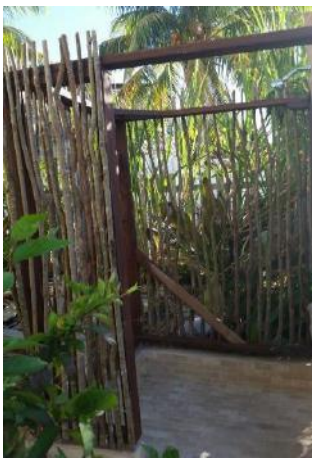
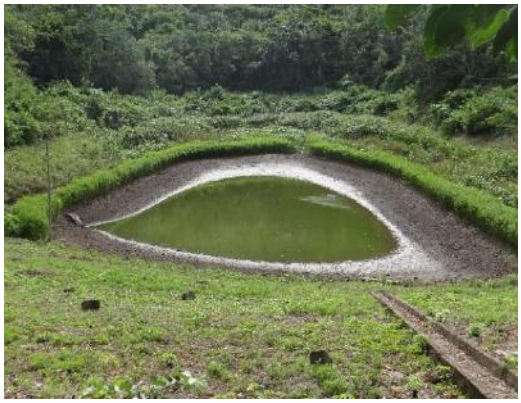
Objectives: The group is undertaking activities aimed at sustainable livelihoods and income generating opportunities that can come from natural uses of the alien invasive species-The Lemon Grass which was introduced by an uninformed British Governor during the colonial period. It grows fast and this had led to a lot of burning and forest fires by the local farmers during which the seeds are spread and dispersed by the wind. The group is discouraging the burning of the grass hoping that eventually the regeneration of the natural forest will return... The group has trained community youth as rangers and forest guards which is essential to reducing these fires". The group is constructing nature based huts in key areas in the forest equipped with communications equipment. The group has already submitted a proposal to the Bio Bridge Initiative to develop value added products in health, wellness, beauty products and cosmetics. The group members has already undergone training and is making a variety of soaps from the lemon grass and the other plants in the Wallings area.

Activities employed: regular village consultation, regular social events that brings the community together, weekly cleaning of the area, noting changes. On Sept 1, the group makes a report of major theft in the Reserve









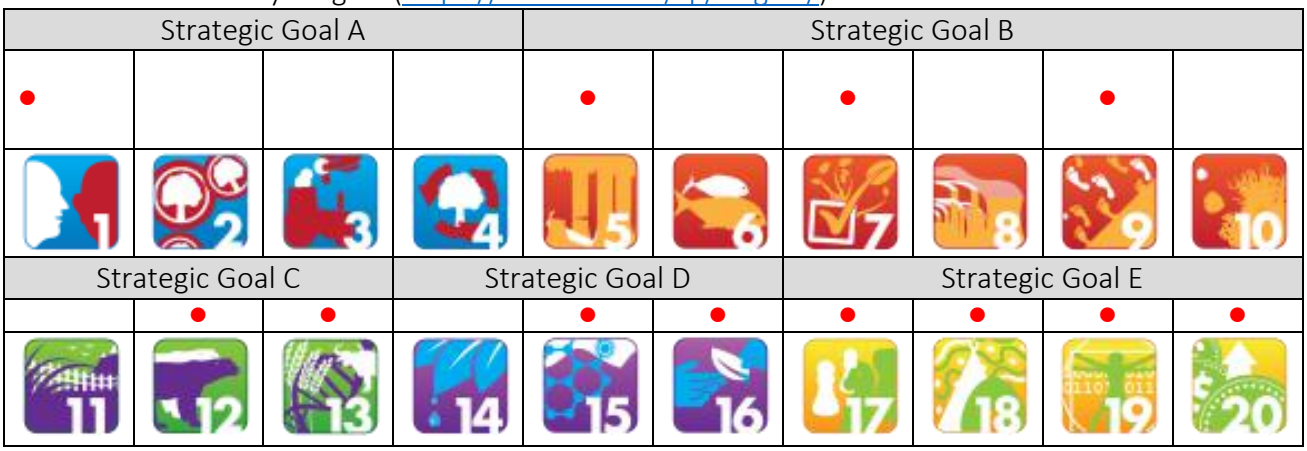
Contribution to Aichi Biodiversity Targets' Strategic Goal E

Please showcase your project outcomes by describing how you assessed/ measured the progress /achievement to the Aichi Biodiversity Target by using quantitative and qualitative information and/or figure as much as possible. Please focus on the Aichi Biodiversity Target Group that you have been assigned in the working group.

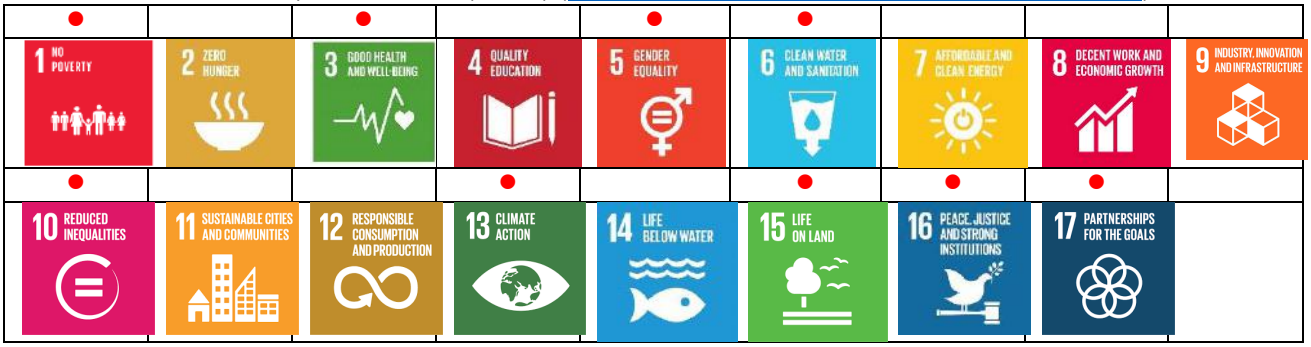
		Breakdown Target	How did you measure the outcome?	Result
Strategic Goal E	TARGET 17	Submission of 6th National Report to Secretariat by (end of) 2018	Level of participation in national events that enables and allows information from local community to be included into the report	Great knowledge and awareness of local biodiversity issues-more attention to local flora and fauna creating more awareness of what exists and how we must conserve these.Inhow the local actions are contributing to global targets
		NBSAPs adopted as effective policy instrument	Wide usage and mentions of the document and how it is utilized in the local educational processes –in schools curriculum and in sharing events in our local communities	The messages that come out of the national reports act as guidance to the local groups, informing them of what is hapeing to the local biodiversity and what stepa they can take .
		NBSAPs are being implemented	For the first time, groups are hearing about how their local actions are making important contributions to the Aichi targets of the CBD, and that their ideas and actions will be important for sharing in the 6th national Report and this has inspired and motivated.	Wide sharing of what is in these reports, groups see how they can contribute and have buyin to this local sharing process.
	TARGET 18	Traditional knowledge, innovations and practices of indigenous and local communities are respected	Regular village meetings and planning events where the local people gather to share information.	The local knowledge enable the villager to mark the early trains and found roads and pathways that were once used but now overrun by bushes.
		Traditional knowledge, innovations and practices are fully integrated and reflected in implementation of the Convention …	The ongoing efforts of the local groups to put steps in place to halt the degradation taking place. The planting of different varieties of local trees support pollinators and their action to inform the public toward halting land clearing which destroy our scrubs and species living in the low grasses	Plans put in place for the lemon grass-an invasive special planted years ago for soil maintenance but now it has gotten out of hand to be proceeded into tea, and cosmetics
		… with the full and effective participation of indigenous and local communities	Networking and outreach developed at local and regional level to find solutions for the lemon grass-The WNR submitted a proposal to the Bio bridge Initiative and found a partnering group in Trinidad and Tobago who has knowledge and skill sets to get the products developed into useful commodities.	Teaching the people the added value and uses of the lemon grass has reduced the burning
	TARGET 19	Knowledge, the science base and technologies relating to biodiversity, its values, functioning, status and trends, and the consequences of its loss, are improved	The impacts of the sharing and the connections made and follow up results and achievements.	sharing at local, regional and international events and building the linkages and networks that bring about the exchange of knowledge and information
		Biodiversity knowledge, the science base and technologies are widely shared and transferred and applied	Sharing events like BES NET triologue and, those funded by Forest Peoples Program and SwedBio provides the learning, and the information on the values of the local collective actions bringing knowledge and capable persons coming together is a process of transformation. The trainer must be committed to share the information and train others.	The group is haring information widely and posting pictures of their actions on their facebook page and this has motivated other groups to undertake bold moves for protection of community biodiversity
	TARGET 20	Mobilization of financial resources for implementing the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011–2020 from all sources has increased substantially from 2010 levels	Number of proposals written and funded	The initiatives of the groups are recognized and values and local support comes from many sectors, incluidn public citizens, private sector and government agencies who have supported providing letters of recommendation.This leads to relication, upscaling of projects, proposal writing for accessing technical and finacial resources to make major advances and demonstares base case and best practices coming from a local community group..

Relations to other Aichi Biodiversity Target & SDGs

CBD Aichi Biodiversity Targets (https://www.cbd.int/sp/targets/)



UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) (https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/sdgs)



Any difficulties you found during your assessment

It is the first time this exercise is being done in the island and it is an urgent and important priority for all of our groups to be involved in this process and produce case studies. It will build knowledge and capacity, bring understanding and awareness. As a follow up to the 7th IPSI Plenary MEPA through the FFP/SWEDBIO support and GEF/SGP on October 22 2018, is bringing 20 groups involved and engaged in biodiversity conservation projects to hear their stories of collective actions and of their contributions to the Aichi targets, the SDG's and showing the linkages and coherence with the other conventions. The outputs will be the future development of several new case studies with a video to be produced on the process.

Key messages for the CBD in planning for the post-2020 Targets

The groups are becoming more knowledgeable about their role through local collective actions in Biodiversity Conservation and this is growing and the outreach is empowering many new groups throughout the island to take actions. Local ownership and buy in is key in these processes and groups realize that their very survival is at stake if the forests are not conserved and protected to support pollinators which is key to their agricultural and food and nutrition security. Therefore, it is important for national community level knowledge and awareness building sessions to be done continually and strategic interventions and demonstration projects implemented in between reporting deadlines. The process is a long term one so this is just a snap shot of the start of this journey but the commitment and dedication exists in the local groups to stop the loss to biodiversity and habitat loss and to protect the local species of both plants and animals. Local Focal Points must be open and engage in participatory processes to get the full knowledge and sharing from the local community groups.

Information sharing must be timely and must be widely disseminated to get the inputs of the majority of persons who want to be a part of the process to identify sources of support for countries lacking capabilities to get the engagement of their local groups in biodiversity processes and knowledge of their NBSAP's