



Communication,
Education and
Public Awareness
CEPA Fair

Antigua and Barbuda

Title and short description of materials/presentation/activity

Picture story of Barbuda's local community people who through their involvement in Debris and Waste Management incorporated and integrated training and awareness of the value of their terrestrial and marine biodiversity and related threats from POPS, Chemicals, Pollutants, E waste and Mercury.

Since waste has serious health and environmental consequences. Steps have been put in place towards conservation, protection and sustainability accomplished through knowledge of multiple conventions that the government has signed on to. The group also learnt about Principle 10-The Escazu Environmental Agreement that provides for access to information public consultations and access to justice in environmental matters.

The presentation will share through poster prints and a documentary with some music videos and local experiences being shared on an opportunity on active community engagement in debris and waste management that will demonstrate multiple Aichi targets being met and benefits that were derived using bottom up approaches that took into account local community inputs and their knowledge. This short term cash for work program of the UNDP and implemented by the MEPA Trust took place on the small Caribbean island of Barbuda which was completed devastated by Hurricane Irma in Sept 2017. With another hurricane season approaching, MEPA has a short timeline to implement its deliverables but through building partners, forging synergies, leveraging in-kind and other technical support, transformed this process into a multiple valued sustainable community development initiative.

MEPA partnered with SGP and reached out to the local group leaders some of whom were back on the island and held meetings at the only church with a roof and motivated and developed a group of local community people to volunteer and come together for a national cleanup. Forty five persons came to share their ideas and asked to be involved and 70% of these were women even though the work was rough work being done outside in the heat. The sharing ended up being a process of relieving stress and other emotional suffering from their forced evacuation from the island to which they had return still full of waste and debris.

This initiative created a type of belonging with local ownership and buy in of the program since without them, it would not be taking place. The waste consisted of galvanize sheets, old cars, household furniture and appliance still in the yards and on the roads around the island. MEPA reached out to the Red Cross who in a 3 day timeline was able to engage the group in a one day certified safety training, a requirement of UNDP. MEPA also had to produce an Environmental Management Plan which was produced through a partnership with the Commonwealth Climate Advisor, Kirk Brown who visited Barbuda consulted with the stakeholders and visited the landfill and the sites around the island. It was Pastor François of the Abundant Life radio station who was able to have us share and communicate with Barbudans in Barbuda and those living abroad all over the world on this initiative through a Facebook internet connection since his antennae was destroyed and still not operational. We were able to feed information and to this day persons have been sending information via email asking how they can assist to make this initiative to make it sustainable. This initiative presents a ray of hope for the people and trust has been built.

Ongoing education with the children and the youth will be fully integrated and discussion has started with Charlene Harris, Principle of the primary school who is keen for the children involvement and participation in all processes and programs taking place on the island and this will be reinforced through the parental involvement in the waste and debris management project.

Recycling opportunities have started and has been initiated beginning with the waste management survey completed with support from Kassel University, to gauge attitudes and behaviors and build the social component of the strategic plan. The education must be holistic and be fully integrated and include waste separation at all levels and we hope that metal crushing of the old cars, household appliance, galvanize will take place shortly. We are currently speaking to donors about funding and their support to acquire equipment for a recycling operation on the island and the compressed metals will be sent to out for export to china and Korea through a partnership with Totskil and Wills recycling in Antigua.

With MEPA assisting with the IP legal incorporation of the Antigua and Barbuda Zero Waste group made up of 25 local community, private sector, government and NGO groups, efforts toward zero waste and the development of the strategic plan being is becoming a reality since our brightest technical minds sit on this group and with commitment and dedication we seek to support the community recycling pilot project that are ongoing to ensure they become sustainable while ensuring that our efforts towards zero waste through a circular economy process a reality.

Information on the agency/organization and its partners who are implementing the activity.

MEPA Trust organizational accomplishments are below but not limited to the following:
Projects

1. The UNDP approved a planning grant of USD 5,000 to do a pilot project “Achieving Marine and Coastal Biodiversity Targets through Local Action: Empowering Local” which was developed and submitted by Tricia Lovell. Tricia Lovell indicated that the pilot project is designed to empower local communities to contribute to the nation’s conservation efforts. The duration is six (6) months and it is designed to guide/empower (3) three community groups towards developing projects that can be funded through the UNDP GEF Small Grants Program. Through focused, strategic and harmonized actions at the local level it is envisioned that Antigua and Barbuda can achieve tangible improvements in the marine and coastal environment, particularly within legally declared Marine Protected Areas.

2. The MEPA Trust and the Waitt Institute has been working collaboratively on Post Hurricane Irma Relief Efforts in Barbuda since September 2017. The Waitt Institute has donated US\$253,000.00 to the MEPA Trust’s account to support various programs to include subsidized ferry transportation for Barbudans to and from Barbuda and Cash for Work initiatives where twenty two (22) Barbudans were employed to remove debris from the area, care advocates program, tutoring programs for the Barbudan children, fish pot materials, reconnection of utilities in the homes, subsidized meals for the workers and much more. Further to this, the Waitt Institute has agreed to collaborate with the MEPA Trust further to support another activity in Barbuda, with support from the International Community Foundation.

3. An additional USD\$179,025.00 was given to the MEPA Trust’s to support a new agreement called the Utility Reconnection Program. Program 1: supporting the repair of homes to pass the Antigua Public Utilities Authorities (APUA) inspection and be reconnected to electricity; and Program 2: supporting other repairs to homes by supplying materials or hiring Contractors to aid with the work. The Utility reconnection program has started a few months ago and Mr. Ogden Burton has been supervising the program.

4. The Art for Islands Institute an unregistered group of Caribbean artists that joined forces in October 2017 to rally financial support for the Caribbean islands devastated by an abysmal hurricane season; has donated amount ECD\$40,000 (US\$14,814.12), to the MEPA Trust through the Waitt Institute for funds to be spent on marine and fisheries livelihoods and rehabilitation. 2

5. The Antigua Rowers donated USD\$50,000 to the MEPA Trust through the Waitt Institute to conduct one (1) year mangrove restoration project in the Codrington Lagoon National Park Frigate Bird Sanctuary to be implemented by the Waitt Institute.

6. The United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) Office in Antigua and Barbuda is acting as a Recipient of the United Nations Central Emergency Response Fund (CERF) grant to Antigua and Barbuda in the implementation of a Debris Management Project in Barbuda, following the landfall of Hurricane Irma, in September 2018. The MEPA Trust was approved USD 61,580.50 to implement the pilot project called Cash for Work (CFW) Debris Management Project. The total amount allocated to execute the project will be USD 61,580.50 and the project will start on 1st June and end 30 June 2018. UNDP thanked the Trust for taking this project at such short notice and is pleased to be partnering on the Trust on this project. Twenty-eight (28) CFW Workers were hired in close consultation with Barbuda Council members. Based on the results of this pilot, a bigger Waste Management project will be implemented.

7. The Caribbean Natural Resources Institute (CANARI) is coordinating implementation of a project titled Powering Innovations in Civil Society and Enterprises for Sustainability in the Caribbean (PISCES). The project is being funded by the European Union at EURO\$1,000,000.00 and seeks to support innovative actions by Caribbean civil society and coastal community small and microenterprises for conservation of marine and coastal biodiversity and development of sustainable and resilient livelihoods. The countries that will be included are Antigua and Barbuda, The Bahamas, the Commonwealth of Dominica, Grenada, Haiti, Jamaica, Saint Kitts and Nevis, Saint Lucia, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines and Trinidad and Tobago. As mentors, they have nominated the MEPA Trust as one of the targeted Civil Society Organization in Antigua and Barbuda

8. Signed the Prefinancing and Partnership Agreements with the Caribbean Biodiversity Fund a) The MEPA Trust started negotiating our pre-financing agreement with CBF at the end of March 2016 and the agreement was signed on the 23rd. September 2016 at the CBF-CCI conference in St. Lucia. The first payment of US\$50,000.00 arrived in our account in October 2016. A total of US\$180,000.00 is expected over two years. b) The MEPA Trust aligned its operations with CBF requirements as deemed necessary. The MEPA Trust submitted all required documentations to facilitate the signing of the partnership agreement with CBF. The Antigua and Barbuda MEPA Trust is one of two countries to sign their partnership agreement with CBF on 26 June 2017 at the CBF-CCI Meeting in San Juan Puerto Rico. This means Antigua and Barbuda MEPA Trust will have funding available for on granting to NGOS, Civil Society Organizations, Government, Private Sector etc. to support marine and terrestrial conservation activities. The Endowment value from the CBF is US\$4,963,517.05.

9. Membership with Organizations a) MEPA Trust is now a member of the GEF-CSO Network. The membership was approved on the 23rd September 2016. It was the result of a GEF Council decision to establish a formal dialogue and partnership between NGOs worldwide and the GEF Secretariat, the GEF Council, the GEF Assembly and various partner agencies. Being a GEF-CSO Network Member provides an exclusive opportunity for MEPA Trust to contribute towards better funding and policy outcomes related to the GEF and be part of a global network of NGOs where we will be able to share ideas and experiences with other NGOs in our line of work. Trust Funds active contribution could influence funding and policy decisions on the national, regional and global level and provide better opportunities for MEPA Trust.

The MEPA Trust became a friend of the Global Island Partnership (GLISPA) on 17 January 2017 that is led by the Presidents of Palau and Seychelles, Prime Minister of Grenada and Premier of the British Virgin Islands. GLISPA is a voluntary and inclusive partnership of island champions, countries and organizations who inspire and support each other to take action and produce results for island communities.

c) The Marine Ecosystems Protected Area Trust is a Board Member of the Caribbean Biodiversity Fund. The Caribbean Biodiversity Fund (CBF), which was established in September 2012, is a regional Environmental Fund whose objective is to provide a sustainable flow of resources to support activities that contribute substantially to the conservation, protection and maintenance of biodiversity in the Caribbean.

d) Membership to the International Partnership for the Satoyama Initiative (IPSI) June 2018

e) MEPA Trust was accredited to attend the 5th plenary Intergovernmental Science Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services (IPBES) and was represented at the two Plenaries in Bonn Germany 2017 and the Dec SBSTTA Montreal meetings and Medellin Columbia Plenary in March 2018.

f) MEPA has built a partnership with SWEDBIO and Antigua is included in the Swede Bio Marine and coastal (CBMIS) Bio cultural project 2018- 2020. The other countries are Bangladesh, Panama, the Pacific (Tuvalu) and one member of the ICCA Consortium from Madagascar. The project will focus on the contribution of indigenous and local knowledge (ILK) to biodiversity conservation and sustainable use as well as the relevance of community based monitoring and information systems (CBMIS) to provide data and information from the ground on the implementation of global commitments on biodiversity and sustainable development have been receiving some degree of acknowledgement and recognition in global policy processes, especially in the Convention on Biological Diversity 5 (CBD) and the Intergovernmental Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services (IPBES). Strong focus will be on capacity building to contribute to knowledge generation and to improving the governance of marine and

costal ecosystems by supporting sustainable use and conservation practices of indigenous peoples and local communities (IPLCs) and by highlighting the close inter-linkages between biological and cultural diversity in marine/coastal socio-ecological systems.

Training and Workshops

- The Trust received, hosted and attended training workshops in Project Proposal Writing, Drones for conservation training, Marine Protected Areas Training, Leadership capacity building, Conservation Trust Governance Training, Spatial Mapping Training and Sustainable Oceans Initiatives Capacity Building Workshop and a Workshop on Valuing Ecosystem Services for Biodiversity Protection in Antigua & Barbuda.
- Thanks to funding from the German Government through KfW, the MEPA Trust had the opportunity to host a series of 2 Sustainable Finance Gap analysis workshops with the MEPA Trust Board and lead government individuals that are involved in PA Management to identify the financial cost and gap to expand the current Protected Areas System to achieve 20% of Antigua and Barbuda marine and coastal area under effective management. CBF Sustainable Financial Specialist Egide Cantin led the workshop. The first iteration workshop was held on 11th and 12 April 2017 and the second iteration workshop was held on 13 June 2017. The workshops focused on the costing of selected individual Marine Manage Areas and the Protected Area System with the emphasis of identifying the investment cost and recurrent cost of these individual selected area and Protected Areas System as a whole. The workshops also reviewed the current amount of financial support individual Protected Area and the Protected Areas System received. Additionally, the workshop identified a series of potential new sustainable finance mechanisms including the Blue Finance initiative that could be explored as potential mechanisms to be further analyzed.
- NCTFs Board Training-The MEPA Trust had the opportunity to work with 6 Conservation Trust Fund Specialists Camila Monteiro and Karen McDonald Gayle in a series of National Conservation Trust Fund Governance training with other NCTFs as well as, a work-planning session with the MEPA Board. These training highlighted the Conservation Trust Fund Operational Practice Standards, to share experiences on the CTF practice standards particularly in the areas of governance, operations, administration and reporting, monitoring & evaluation to assist the funds and to finalize the Action Plan for CBF support to the MEPA Trust. Registration of local community businesses
- Being that the local NGOs will also be the ones executing conservation projects and programs, the Chair Garry Gore has embarked on an initiative to have all the local community groups to become legally registered. The Trust will assist in developing their constitution and governance structure at no cost. The Chair has thus far assisted about

5 groups to be legally registered and has at least 10 more groups in the pipeline. The Chair has thus far assisted about 7 groups to be legally registered and has at least 6 more groups in the pipeline. The newest is the Zero Waste Antigua and Barbuda group of about 25 NGO's, IPLC's and private sector entities coming together. The main aim of this organisation is to shift the cultural practices of waste disposal in Antigua and Barbuda away from burying waste at the Cooks Sanitary Landfill to a more sustainable model of waste management. This will be done through a combination of waste reduction, diversion, recycling, up cycling and energy from waste initiatives, as well as public education and outreach programs designed to shift the current paradigm of waste as a problem to be disposed of to one in which waste is a resource that is utilized for sustainable development. The group is now working with international partners to put its strategic plan together.

Conference of the Parties participation

- The MEPA Trust is relatively a new organization and therefore to sensitize various international agencies and for public awareness, additional funding and building the Trust has participated in various COPs Meetings.
- Training on Environment and Social Safe Guards and Gender at COP 22 in Bonn Germany-The Program Officer and the Deputy Chair both attended 7 and a listening and learning event on to contribute to the UNFCCC Gender Action Plan. The Mary Robinson Foundation-Climate Justice sponsored them. The dialogue provided grassroots women, indigenous people and women representing NGOs from different regions the opportunity to share their stories and lived experience of climate impacts and actions and demonstrate the value of local knowledge in informing climate policy and action. It provided negotiators with an opportunity to consider how best local knowledge could inform future work on gender responsive climate action and to reflect on how this could inform the design of the GAP. '
- More over the Trust was represented by the Deputy Chair Ruth Spencer at the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) and the COP 13 in Mexico December 2016 to share on MEPA Trust and the JBF island wide Ecosystems valuation project at a side event at the COP.
- MEPA was one of the only Caribbean entity selected by the GEF Secretariat to attend and participate in the GEF Council meeting, Nov, 2017 and the Coordinator, Ms Sashagay Middleton, also serving as the GEF/SGP Youth Focal Point together with the GEF/SGP Global manager, Yoko Watanabe, made a joint presentation
- MEPA was invited to facilitate UN Women gender mainstreaming workshop -June 30 July 2 on the margins of the SBSTTA meetings, July 2018 • MEPA's participation at the Bio Bridge Round table Initiative a CBD process in Columbia, November 2017

- MEPA's representation to GEF Council meeting, Washington, Dc Nov 2017 • MEPA will be represented at the GEF Assembly Da Nang, Vietnam, June 23-July 2nd and the subsequent request by the GEF Assembly organizing committee for MEPA to present on interactive session "Stories of systems transformation: collective harvest of lessons learned".