



Purpose

To provide information and guidance in support of the establishment and management of comprehensive protected areas systems in the U.S. Virgin Islands and Puerto Rico.



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Short-Term Roles and Tasks:

- Build and maintain an open-access protected areas database for Puerto Rico and the US Virgin Islands that is consistent with the IUCN classification system and determine what lands and marine extents are currently under protection and by what mechanisms.
- Develop a conservation strategy that standardizes the language used for discussing protected areas in the two jurisdictions, details the existing and potential mechanisms and tactics for protection (i.e., acquisition, easements, land use, donation) based on the database and research, and assigns PA-CAT members tasks for working towards the goal of increasing the amount of protected areas or enhancing the current management of areas actively managed in PR and USVI.

Long-Term Roles and Tasks:

- Work with existing groups to provide information and guidance to support the process of considering institutional framework options for the establishment of a protected area system in the US Virgin Islands.
- Develop standardized methodology and conduct a review of co-management initiatives in the Caribbean, in order to identify best practices that could be applied in PR and USVI by governmental and nongovernmental entities.
- Facilitate a cohesive and ongoing dialogue regarding protected areas development in the two jurisdictions, as well as cooperation between the two territories.
- Assist in the identification of marine protected areas (MPAs) that could serve to improve reef resilience and other critical ecosystem functions.
- Assist in the identification of sites to be listed under regional and international multi-lateral environmental agreements.
- Collaborate with Caribbean protected areas institutions and networks in the development of a comprehensive database of terrestrial and marine protected areas in the Wider Caribbean Region.



*PA-CAT approved by CLCC Steering Committee on
January 26, 2015*

PA-CAT in Action

Since the team's creation in January 2015 they have had more than 25 meetings and working sessions. The successes to-date include an internal shared protected areas database that has expanded fields to include critical governance information that will guide the team as the work progresses. Errors from previous analyses were eliminated like double counted protected areas:



Inaugural meeting



Technical Team



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