

# ORACABESSA

## MARINE TRUST



Oracabessa Fishers'  
Association



## **VOLUNTARY COMMITMENT**

*Improve Jamaica's Marine conservation mechanism through  
fisher controlled marine protected areas*

**#OceanAction46239**

**Mr. Inilek Wilmot, The Oracabessa Marine Trust**

# Jamaica's Marine Conservation Landscape

Marine Parks

PAs with Marine Component

Fish Sanctuaries



# Success of fish sanctuaries

All Marine Based Protected Areas had limited success up until 2010

Between 2009 and 2010 the Fish Sanctuary network expanded and co-management models established

Several management models exist

- Hotel exclusive
- Fisherfolk exclusive
- NGO Exclusive
- Hotel/NGO and Fisherfolk partnership



# Oracabessa

Oracabessa Bay Fish Sanctuary

Oracabessa Fishers Association and Goldeneye (hotel) Foundation

Together formed the Oracabessa Marine Trust

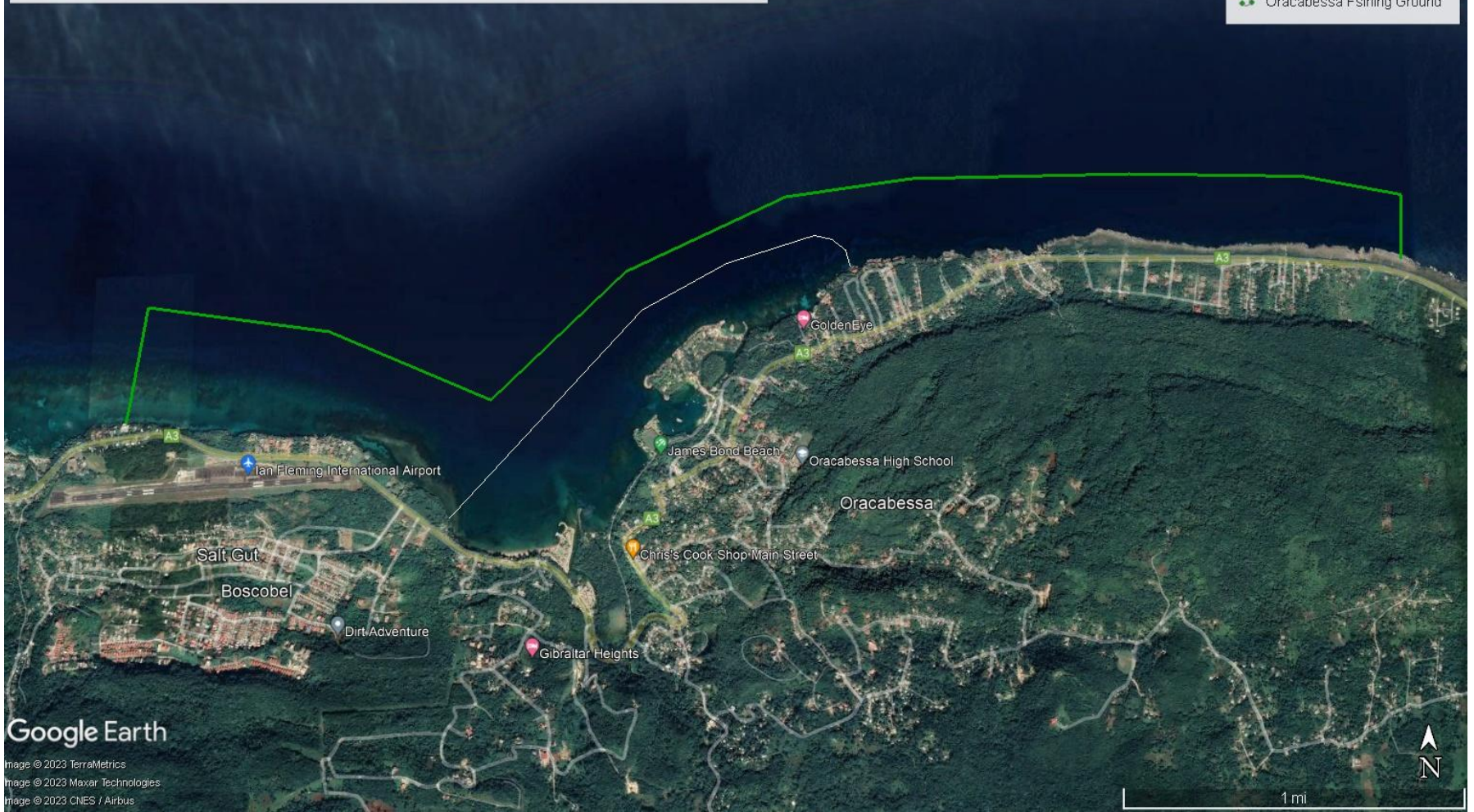
Model had success due to the high level of fisherfolk involvement and support.



# Oracabessa Primary Fishing Ground and Fish Sanctuary Boundary

## Legend

-  OBFS Rough Boundary Line
-  Oracabessa Fishing Ground



Google Earth

Image © 2023 TerraMetrics

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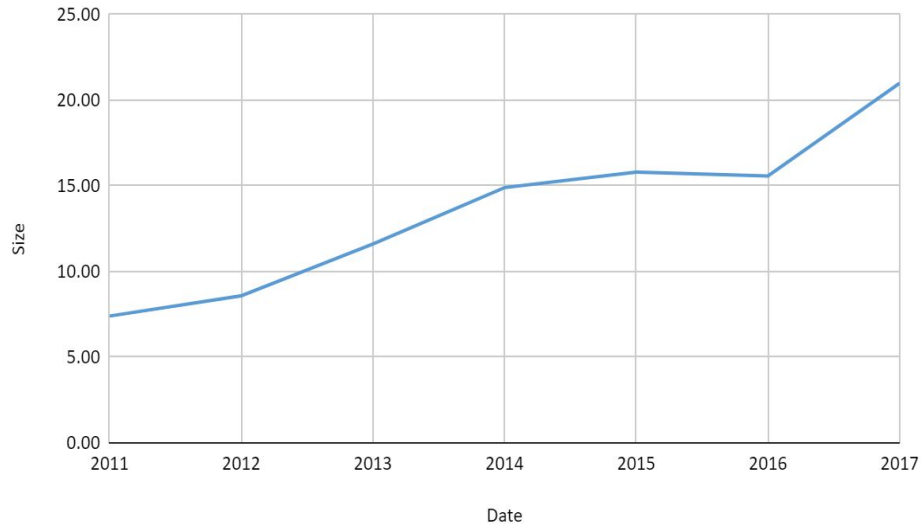
Image © 2023 CNES / Airbus

# OBFS achievements

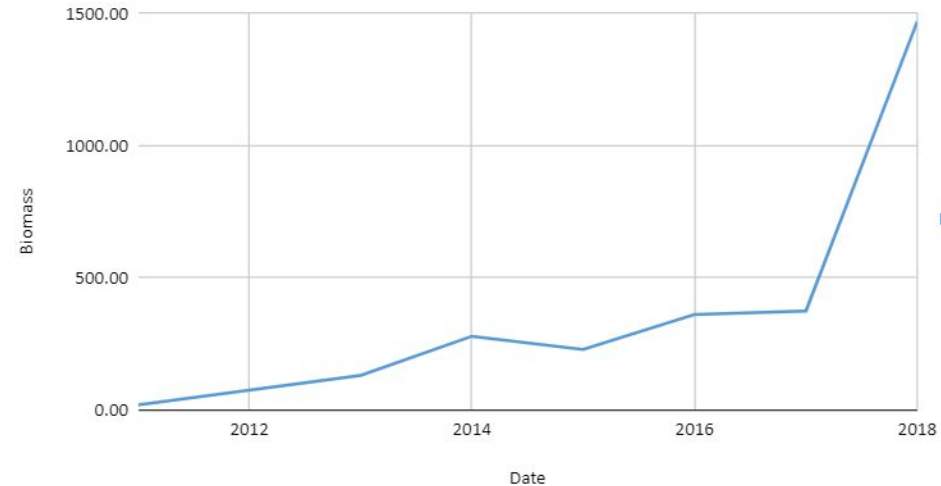
## Ecological Recovery (2011 to 2018)



Size (cm) vs. Date



Biomass (g/100m<sup>2</sup>) vs. Date





# OBFS achievements

## Social benefits

- Fishers trained and employed as
  - Fish Sanctuary Wardens
  - Scuba Divers & Coral Gardeners
  - Tour guides
  - Boat captains
- Livelihood practices improvement
- Participatory governance
- Environmental Awareness for Fishers, Schools, Community, Visitors



# OBFS achievements

## Community eco-tourism



“The dive shop has been a long time in the making. To us, it’s more than just raising funds for the fish sanctuaries because it’s the best way for people to actually engage with them.

To get on the water, in the water, see the fish, see the coral that we’re growing and planting, see it firsthand with those that made it happen.

The same people who are working on the coral gardens are the same trained divers that will take you to see it. You can get up close and personal with it with someone who has it close to their heart.”

— Inilek Wilmot, Orcabessa Fish Sanctuary Manager & Marine Biologist



5A



# Our Ocean Commitment: Scaling up



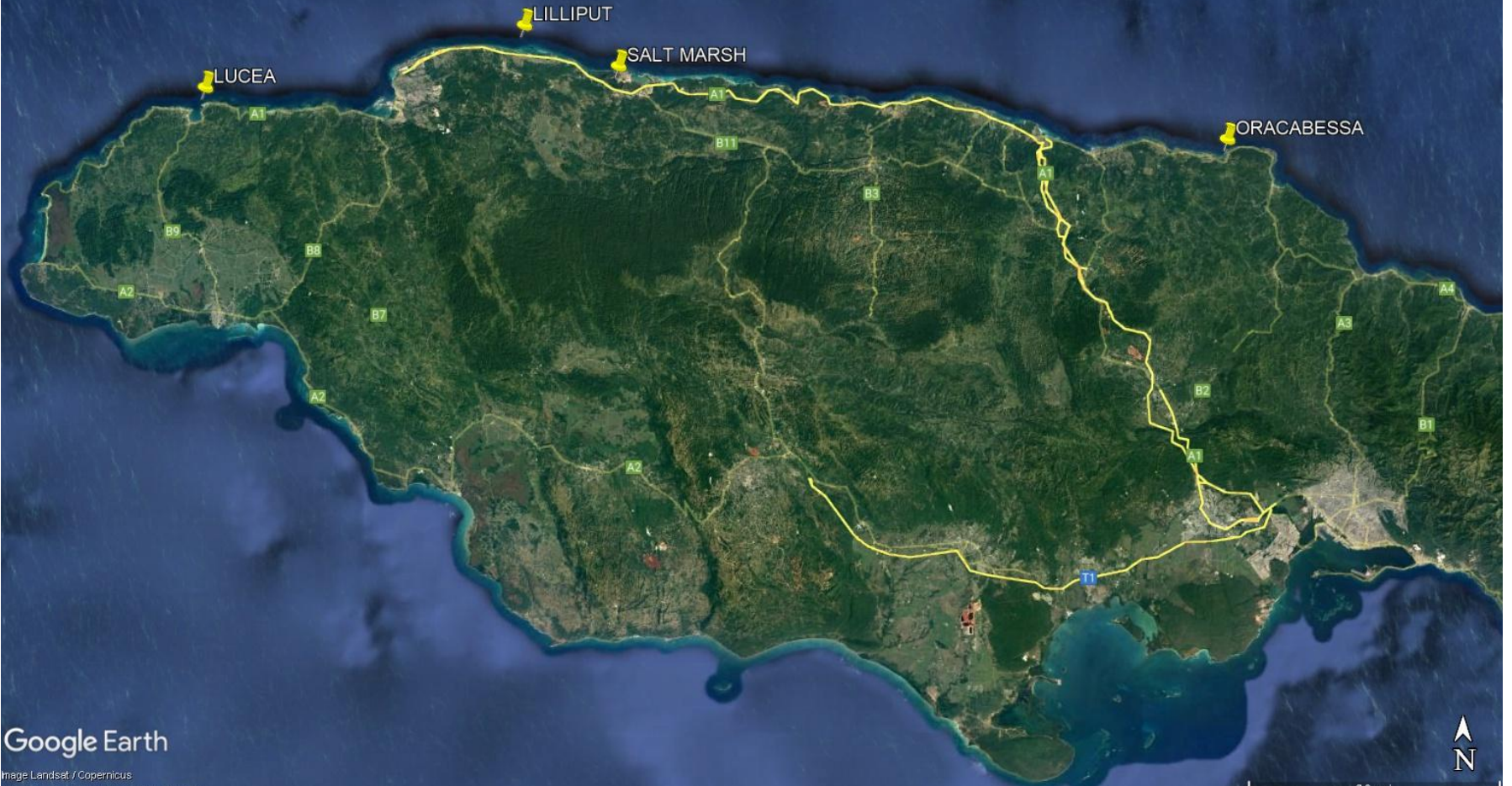
Creation of 3 new fisher controlled fish sanctuaries

Funded by the GEF SGP 2019 to 2022

OMT team support for 3 communities to establish fish sanctuaries

- Lucea
- Lilliput
- Salt Marsh

# New Fish Sanctuary Locations



# Approach

1. Participatory process to develop boundaries
2. Establish management partnerships
3. Community capacity building
4. Create management Plans



# Boundary Development Fishing ground GPS mapping in Lucea



# Boundary Development



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# Boundary Development



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# Establish Management Partnerships

Iberostar and Grange Pen Fishers Association

Grand Palladium and Lucea Fishers Association

Budd Family Foundation and

Scarlett Hall, Salt Marsh, Halfmoon Bay Fishers  
association

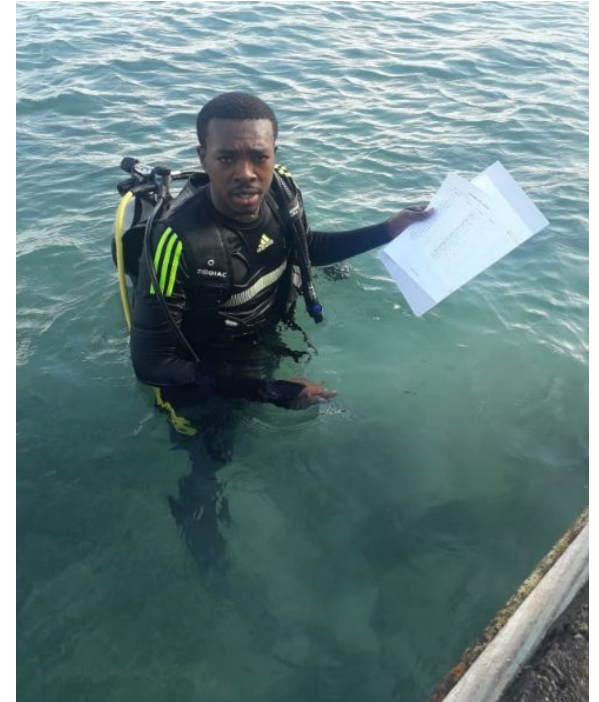


# Capacity Building

Scuba diving certification

Warden training

Organizational strengthening



# Current Status

2 MPAs in final stages of Gazetting

1 MPA boundary finalized with management plan being drafted



# Awaiting Gazette: Lucea Harbour Fish Sanctuary



# Awaiting Gazette: Grange Pen Fish Sanctuary



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# Boundary Finalized



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# Closing words on Jamaica's Fish Sanctuary Movement



Started through word of mouth - Oracabessa Marlin Tournament

OMT approached by fisherfolk for help

Then Hotels in Ocho Rios - Marine Park not working

White River Fish Sanctuary (Celebrated 5 years in 2022)

Consistent support from GEF

After GEF project, hotels kept funding going

Flexibility is Key - Nothing went according to plan



Thank you

