

CARIBBEAN ASSOCIATION OF PROBATION & PAROLE

PRESIDENT'S REPORT SEPTEMBER 2025



EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- **Growing Regional Network:** CAPP has established a robust foundation with 13 Caribbean nations, successfully hosting its second annual conference and launching the website.
 - **Strategic Pivot:** Following USAID funding termination, CAPP successfully diversified partnership opportunities with four major international organizations.
 - **Operational Progress:** The association is finalizing formal registration (expected November 2025) while actively building capacity through a webinar series and regional advocacy efforts.
 - **Future Focus:** Strategic priorities center on membership expansion, cross-border collaboration frameworks, and evidence-based policy advocacy.
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ORGANIZATIONAL OVERVIEW

Membership: 13 countries - Anguilla, Antigua and Barbuda, Barbados, Bahamas, Bermuda, British Virgin Islands, Caribbean Netherlands, Grenada, Jamaica, Montserrat, St Lucia, Trinidad and Tobago, Turks and Caicos.

Legal Status: Association registration is currently in progress and expected to be completed by November 2025.

CHALLENGES AND LESSONS LEARNED

Strategic Adaptation: In December 2024, CAPP entered discussions with USAID to provide technical assistance through training in assessment tools and research on capacity and case management systems of member countries. However, changes in the US administration resulted in the termination of the agreements, requiring CAPP to alter course.

Key Learning: This setback reinforced the importance of funding diversification and the need for multiple partnership streams. The experience demonstrated CAPP's resilience and ability to quickly pivot to new opportunities while maintaining organizational momentum.

Response Strategy: Rather than viewing this as a setback, the CAPP executive adopted a new comprehensive strategy to seek grant funding and technical assistance for the period 2025-2027 to expand and strengthen operations.

STRATEGIC PARTNERSHIPS AND FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES

During the period April – August 2025, CAPP engaged in productive conversations with four major international organizations:

1. EL PACCTO (Europe Latin America Programme)

EL PACCTO provides €19 million in EU funding and technical assistance to modernize criminal justice systems in Latin America, including probation services that emphasize human rights and evidence-based practices. Their support includes capacity building for judicial institutions, training programmes for probation officers, and assistance with developing standardized procedures and case management systems.

Status: Representatives of EL PACCTO have expressed interest in collaborating with CAPP.

2. Canadian High Commission

The Canadian High Commission offers development cooperation funding and bilateral partnerships through grants, equipment, and institutional strengthening programmes. They provide access to Canadian expertise in community corrections, including training exchanges, policy development workshops, and mentorship from experienced probation professionals.

Status: Representatives have discussed the possibility of training exchanges with CAPP.

3. UNDP EU PACE Justice Project

UNDP EU PACE delivers targeted support for Caribbean criminal justice institutions, including funding for case management technology, desktop computers, and professional development programmes. The project offers technical assistance in reducing case backlogs, implementing alternative sentencing programmes, and building regional networks.

Status: Although the Justice Project has not yet detailed specific assistance mechanisms for CAPP, they have engaged the Barbados Probation Service in government consultations to assess capacity and gain understanding of CAPP's strategic mission.

4. UNICEF

UNICEF provides specialized expertise in juvenile justice systems, offering training and resources for probation officers working with children and youth offenders. They assist with developing child-friendly probation procedures, ensuring compliance with international children's rights standards, and creating rehabilitation programmes specifically designed for young people.

Achievement: UNICEF provided funding for the CAPP website.

FINANCIAL OVERVIEW

Current Status: CAPP is operating without dedicated funding while completing the formal registration process. The association has successfully secured in-kind support and specific project funding (such as the UNICEF-funded website) while pursuing comprehensive funding partnerships.

Funding Strategy 2025-2027: A diversified approach focusing on grant funding and technical assistance agreements with multiple international partners to ensure organizational sustainability and reduce dependency on single funding sources.

Resource Requirements: The association is seeking funding for:

- Secretariat operations and administrative capacity
 - Professional development programmes and training initiatives
 - Technology infrastructure and case management systems
 - Research and policy development activities
 - Cross-border collaboration frameworks
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MAJOR ACHIEVEMENTS AND ACTIVITIES

Professional Development and Knowledge Sharing

1. **Monthly Webinar Series (June-August 2025):** The lunch-time webinar series served as a platform for information sharing among probation and parole practitioners across the region. Sessions provided opportunities for officers and administrators to discuss pertinent issues, share experiences, and learn about different approaches being used.
2. **Digital Infrastructure Launch:** Launch of the CAPP website at the 2nd annual conference in September. The platform will feature integrated learning capabilities and will serve as a central repository for resources, best practices, and information relevant to probation and parole professionals across the region.

Regional Advocacy and Visibility

3. **Association of Caribbean Commissioners of Police Conference:** CAPP's attendance afforded the opportunity to advocate for recognition of probation and parole as essential components of effective criminal justice systems.

4. **OAS CICAD Webinar:** A dedicated webinar hosted by the Organization of American States Inter-American Drug Abuse Control Commission (OAS CICAD) in June entitled "Promoting the Development and Implementation of Gender Responsive Alternatives to Incarceration for Drug Related Offenses in OAS Member States." This platform allowed CAPP to showcase the Caribbean approach to probation and parole services to a broader hemispheric audience and demonstrate innovative thinking emerging from the region.
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MEMBER ENGAGEMENT AND CAPACITY BUILDING

Regional Representation: CAPP's current membership spans 13 Caribbean nations (Anguilla, Antigua and Barbuda, Barbados, Bahamas, Bermuda, British Virgin Islands, Caribbean Netherlands, Grenada, Jamaica, Montserrat, St Lucia, Trinidad and Tobago, Turks and Caicos), representing a comprehensive cross-section of the region's probation and parole practitioners and administrators.

Professional Development: The learning platform component of the website is designed to support professional development and knowledge sharing, helping to standardize certain practices while respecting the unique contexts of different member nations.

Networking and Collaboration: The webinar series has created regular touchpoints for practitioners to share experiences and innovative approaches to probation and parole challenges.

REGIONAL CONTEXT AND RELEVANCE

Alignment with Regional Priorities: CAPP's work directly supports broader Caribbean security and justice reform initiatives by strengthening community-based alternatives to incarceration and promoting evidence-based practices in offender rehabilitation.

Response to Crime Trends: The association's focus on standardized practices and cross-border collaboration addresses the regional nature of crime and the need for coordinated responses across Caribbean jurisdictions.

Innovation Leadership: The association has embarked on an ambitious initiative to standardize probation services across the region, in a bid towards modernizing the region's criminal justice systems.

Priority 1: Membership Recruitment and Expansion

Objective: Launch membership recruitment campaigns and networking across all regions to build awareness and inclusion.

Key Activities:

- Develop recruitment materials and strategies
- Conduct outreach to remaining Caribbean nations
- Establish membership criteria and benefits framework

Resource Requirements: Administrative support, travel funding for outreach activities, marketing materials

Priority 2: Development of Compact Agreements

Objective: Establish formal agreements with member countries creating standardized protocols for information sharing, cross-border supervision coordination, and mutual assistance in offender management cases involving multiple jurisdictions.

Key Activities:

- Draft framework agreements
- Conduct consultations with member jurisdictions
- Finalize and sign compact agreements

Expected Outcomes: These formal agreements will create frameworks for seamless collaboration when offenders move between member nations, ensuring continuity of supervision and support services. This effort represents a significant step forward in regional cooperation and positions Caribbean probation and parole organizations as leaders in collaborative approaches to cross-border criminal justice challenges.

Priority 3: Evidence-Based Policy Advocacy

Objective: Publish White Paper on "Strengthening the Role of Probation and Parole in Crime Reduction in the Caribbean."

Key Activities:

- Conduct comprehensive research across member jurisdictions
- Analyze current practices and outcomes
- Develop evidence-based recommendations

Expected Impact: The white paper will examine current practices across the region and provide evidence-based recommendations for enhancing the effectiveness of probation and parole services. It will represent the association's commitment to evidence-based practice while serving as both an advocacy tool and a practical guide for policymakers and practitioners, ultimately

demonstrating that well-supported probation and parole services can positively contribute to public safety and offender rehabilitation outcomes.

CONCLUSION

CAPP has demonstrated remarkable resilience and adaptability in its formative period, successfully pivoting from initial setbacks to establish a strong foundation for regional collaboration. With 13 member countries and growing international recognition, the association is well-positioned to fulfill its mandate of standardizing and strengthening probation and parole services across the Caribbean.

The strategic partnerships under development promise to provide the technical and financial resources necessary to achieve the ambitious goals outlined in this report. By focusing on evidence-based practices, cross-border collaboration, and professional development, CAPP is not only advancing the field of community corrections in the Caribbean but also positioning itself as a model for regional cooperation in criminal justice reform.

The completion of formal registration by November 2025 will mark a significant milestone, enabling the association to fully operationalize its strategic vision and begin implementing the comprehensive program of activities outlined in its 2025-2027 strategic plan.

CAPP invites continued support and engagement from all stakeholders committed to advancing effective, humane, and evidence-based approaches to community corrections in the Caribbean region.