

Process Framework

CEPF Large-Grant Project

Project Title: “*Supporting a Local Community in Creating a Municipal Wildlife Habitat for the Conservation of Ricord’s Iguanas (Cyclura ricordi) in Anse-a-Pitres, Massif de la Selle Conservation Corridor, Haiti*”

Implemented by: International Iguana Foundation (www.iguanafoundation.org)

Project Coordinators: Masani S. Accimé and Ernst Rupp

Project Details:

Social context:

The *C. ricordi* habitat in Anse-a-Pitres does not currently have inhabitants from the local community. However there is a subset of this population, roughly estimated to be less than 10% of the population from our 2009 socioeconomic study, who temporarily camp within the habitat while producing charcoal. There is also a subset of this population who commute almost daily to charcoal kilns within the habitat. No significant agricultural activity has been documented within the habitat over the past 3 years, except for the presence of free-ranging livestock. While the proposed CEPF large-grant project would not completely restrict access to public land within *C. ricordi* habitat, i.e. fuel wood collection outside of the nesting season, it would eventually obstruct certain activities within the habitat, such as charcoal production, and livestock grazing would be significantly diminished. The project does not intend to acquire any land or fence out the local community.

Project components:

The project will have the following major components, which directly address the rights of the local inhabitants whose access to public land will eventually be restricted:

Component 1

The legal aspects of a Municipal Wildlife Reserve will be investigated and this information will be presented to the local authorities of Anse-a-Pitres and local stakeholders. Stakeholders, including local herdsman, charcoal producers, and women’s groups, will also be invited and

engaged in meetings which will be designed to assess their needs. This component will most directly evaluate the rights the community has to the natural resources that they are legally entitled to, and also devise some alternative sources of income for those whose industry is dependent on having access to the habitat. The local government will be engaged in a series of meetings to identify alternate sites on public land, where local stakeholders could access natural resources activities which they would normally be acquired from the protected area, with the most minimal interruption and within reasonable distance of the community.

Component 2

Habitat conservation will be addressed on a local level by training of the habitat monitoring team which includes a prominent member of the local association of herdsmen, Asosiasyon Elvaj Ansapit (AEA). Once the capacity of this team is increased with the enrollment of a national partner organization and its collaboration with international partner organizations, there will be opportunities to offset the losses of other local stakeholders by integrating some individuals into the Anse-a-Pitres Wildlife Reserve habitat monitoring program.

Component 3

Information disseminated regionally, nationally and internationally on the status of *C. ricordi* and its habitat, which will include the effect of the proposed project on the local inhabitants. An effort will be made to network within these arenas and identify other potential partners whose projects would offer alternatives for income generation to local stakeholders.

Component 4

Information dissemination locally is a key component of the project, and this information will be in concise audio/visual presentations by local participants in the local language. This will help to create a bridge between the actual project occurring within the habitat and in the political arena and the local public at large. The objective is to create understanding in the community on the local, regional, and national importance the wildlife reserve, though emphasis will be placed on the local impacts. Another aspect of this component is to create an informed body of local school-teachers who can act as agents for educating young children, whose parents may be directly affected by restrictions imposed by the creation of the protected habitat. The project also includes the preparation of a poster, in the local language, explaining the objectives of the project and giving the contact details of the local stakeholders' committee, the project coordinators in Haiti and D.R., the International Iguana Foundation, and the CEPF Regional Implementation Team in Port-au-Prince.

Project design, consultations with local stakeholders, and partner organization projects:

The project was designed based on the results of a socioeconomic study conducted in Anse-a-Pitres in 2009 on the human impact the local iguana population, as well as other work by the project coordinators in the Anse-a-Pitres community. Local stakeholders have been consulted at every step of the work leading up to this current project, and the project's design incorporates their ideas, especially those of the local group OJAA. The currently collaborating international partner organization Grupo Jaragua has been building a reforestation program with OJAA, constructing locally managed and operational nurseries of endemic and other important buffer zone plant species. The long term objective of this program is to integrate local charcoal producers and providing realistic income-generating alternatives, as well providing land which will have the resources which would otherwise be acquired from critical *C. ricordi* habitat.

Monitoring negative impact of project activities, budget allocation and grievance mechanism:

During the execution of this project, an emphasis will be placed on activities with the support of local people will be implemented. A committee of local stakeholders will be formed to advise the project leaders and to monitor for negative impacts during project implementation. This committee will include representatives from AEA, OJAA, and other local NGO members. We expect that this local committee, and provide a platform for the local people to express their views and resolve any problems arising out of project activities. Funds have been allocated for meetings(US\$500). The Anse-a-Pitres community will be able to express grievances regarding the project by contacting individuals on the local committee, as well those listed on the generally accessible poster, and the grievances will be resolved in a timely manner.