

Community Health and Safety Plan

May 5, 2023

Grant CEPF-114038

FUNDACIÓN PARA EL MEJORAMIENTO HUMANO

**UPDATING OF THE MANAGEMENT PLAN OF THE EBANO VERDE SCIENTIFIC
RESERVE DOMINICAN REPUBLIC.**

Grant Summary

1. **Beneficiary organization: Fundación Para El Mejoramiento Humano**
2. **Project title: Review and update of the management plan of the Ébano Verde Scientific Reserve, Dominican Republic.**
3. **Grant number: CEPF-114038**
4. **Grant amount (US dollars) USD\$49,473.00**
5. **Proposed grant dates: 1 July 2023 – June 2024**
6. **Countries where the activities will take place: Dominican Republic**
7. **Date of preparation of this document: May 9, 2023**

8. Caribbean Hotspot Project Overview

The Caribbean Islands Biodiversity Critical Ecosystem Partnership Fund (CEPF) Small Grants Facility is being implemented in the Caribbean Islands by the Caribbean Natural Resources Institute (CANARI), acting as the Regional Implementation Team (RIT). for its acronym in English). After a successful first investment in the Caribbean Islands Biodiversity Hotspot between 2011 and 2016, the CEPF has returned to the region for a second phase of investment from August 2021 to July 2026, amounting to US\$11.8 million.

The objective of the CEPF is to conserve biodiversity. Its approach is to build local conservation leadership and promote sustainable development by developing locally-driven conservation strategies and providing grants to civil society to implement those strategies. In the Caribbean, the CEPF aims to strengthen the protection and management of globally important biodiversity within 32 priority Key Biodiversity Areas (KBAs) and seven conservation corridors in Antigua and Barbuda; The Bahamas; Dominican Republic; Haiti; Jamaica; Saint Lucia; Saint Vincent and the Grenadines.

9. Project Summary

The objective of the project is to update the management plan of the Ébano Verde Scientific Reserve (RCEV), with strategies that allow for the protection of the protected area using activities such as environmental education and the promotion of sustainable alternative economic activities including ecotourism. The project will be implemented under 7 components namely:

1. Initiation of the elaboration of the management plan (Introduction and training workshop).
2. Updating the diagnosis of the protected area, considering biophysical and socio-economic information, uses, users, threats and impacts, including vulnerabilities to climate change.
3. Update of the zoning of the protected area, based on the intersection of natural and human landscapes, analysis of the legal framework.
4. Elaboration of the strategic framework (10 years), framed in the areas of management with management strategies that include protection of the natural heritage, incentive to socio-economic development, local participation, protection and surveillance, education, financial sustainability of the protected area, among others.
5. Elaboration of the programmatic framework (short term - 1 year as Annual Operational Plan, POA), defining the actions to be implemented within the defined programmes and strategies for

natural heritage protection, socio-economic development, ecotourism, financial sustainability, and others.

6. Capacity building for the implementation of the strategic framework.
7. Project monitoring on the update of the RCEV management plan

10. Community health and safety risks and mitigation measures

Some community health and safety risks are anticipated in connection with this project, which are listed below in Table 10.1.

Table 10.1: Potential risks to community health and safety and mitigation measures

Main risks to community health and safety	Probability of risk (low/medium/high)	Risk level (low/medium/high)	Description	Mitigation Measures
Transmission of communicable diseases, such as COVID-19, to local stakeholders.	Medium	High	COVID-19 occurs worldwide and is more likely to be transmitted through any work involving large gatherings	<p>Project workers interacting with the community/public will follow distancing and hygiene protocols as needed. They will also be vaccinated. Workers will be provided with safety equipment (masks, disinfectant). All national declarations or guidelines of the Government of the Dominican Republic shall be respected.</p> <p>The Ministry of Public Health of the Dominican Republic will continue to be vigilant against COVID-19. It has remained an endemic disease¹.</p> <p>At all community meetings, sanitizers and masks will be available to others if they need them.</p>
Risks related to hurricanes, earthquakes and other natural disasters.	Medium	High	Throughout the life of the project, the country may be severely affected by a hydrometeorological phenomenon or other natural disasters. The Caribbean region is up to seven times more likely to suffer a natural disaster than the largest States, and when one occurs, the damage is up to six times greater.	<p>Recognizing the risk of natural disaster, workers will remain attentive to all weather warnings and carry out community activities in accordance with the guidelines on natural disasters and emergencies of the government of the Dominican Republic.</p> <p>To the extent possible, community activities should be planned outside the hurricane season.</p>
Sexual exploitation, abuse and harassment.	Low	Middle	Project workers will physically engage with	Progressio will implement a code of conduct, as well as training on the Grievance

¹ See COVID-19 measures in <https://presidencia.gob.do/taxonomy/term/161>

			communities at different levels (from purchasing supplies to participating in workshops), providing an opportunity for exploitation, abuse and sexual harassment.	Mechanism of the Stakeholder Participation Plan and the Labor Management Plan, and other related areas The documents will also be published on the Progressio website. Some of these activities will be carried out in collaboration with government agencies to raise awareness of these issues and move towards reducing their impact.
Accidents involving people and vehicles	Low	Middle	Risks arising from travel during project activities (e.g. vehicle collisions while moving from one location to another)	To minimize risks to communities or visit the work area, the vehicle to be used within the framework of the project will be properly secured and maintained. If it is rented, it will be done in an accredited rental agency. Authorized drivers of the vehicle will have the necessary licenses to drive the vehicle in question. All authorized drivers will be reminded of safe driving practices. Workers will be licensed to operate vehicles and any other motorized equipment. At the same time, it will be determined that they are in good health before making any trip within the framework of the project.

11. Relevant laws in the project countries

Table 11.1 below describes the key law(s) in the project countries and their relevance to this Community Health and Safety Plan. Fundación Progressio will ensure that staff comply with these laws and guidelines.

Table 11.1 Laws relevant to community health and safety in the Dominican Republic

Laws - Articles	Description
Dominican Republic	
General Health Law, No. 42-01 - Art 1 and Art 3	The purpose of this law is to regulate all actions that allow the State to make effective the right to health of the population, recognized in the Constitution of the Dominican Republic. All Dominicans and persons of foreign citizenship who have established their residence in the national territory are entitled to the promotion of health, prevention of diseases and protection, recovery and rehabilitation of their health, without any discrimination ² .
Law No. 87-01 Dominican Social Security System.	"the State shall encourage the progressive development of social security, so that everyone may enjoy adequate protection against unemployment, sickness, incapacity and old age"
Law on Risk Management (No. 147-02)	This law establishes the National Disaster Prevention, Mitigation and Response System, the National Risk Management Plan, the National Emergency Plan and the National Integrated Information System in the Dominican Republic. It is based on the principle of citizen participation.

² For more detailed information see

<https://repositorio.msp.gob.do/bitstream/handle/123456789/793/LeyNo.%2042-01.PDF?sequence=1&isAllowed=y>

12. Measures to avoid the risk of COVID-19

Project workers interacting with the community/public will follow distancing and hygiene protocols as needed. Workers will be provided with safety equipment (masks, disinfectant). All national declarations or guidelines of the Government of the Dominican Republic will be respected. Fundación Progressio has internal guidelines for COVID-19 that cover the basics of creating a healthy and hygienic work environment for COVID-19. Workers are required to follow these standards diligently, to maintain a healthy and safe workplace while sharing common workspaces. Any other relevant guidance from the World Bank as indicated in the technical note, "Public Consultations and Stakeholder Engagement in WB-Supported Operations When There Are Constraints to Conducting Public Meetings" (March 20, 2020) will be followed, as relevant and appropriate.

13. Emergency Preparedness and Response Plan

Project team members have a means of communication with the head office at all times, and means to receive announcements and notices of public safety. The project coordinator ensures that climate-related risks (e.g. hurricanes) are closely monitored before and during community visits. Workers are instructed to put the safety and health of personnel before other objectives and to evacuate field sites as appropriate. Activities will adhere to any statement or guidance provided by the authorities of the Dominican Republic

14. Measures to mitigate risks related to security personnel

Not applicable.

15. Schedule and remedies

The implementation of mitigation measures will take place throughout the project time frame. The cost of implementing the plan is mostly included by project.

Table 15.1: Implementation timeline and estimated resources

Actions	Estimated cost (USD)	Implementation timeline				
		2023		2024		
		Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	
Salary of direct workers to apply the CHSP	In-kind Contribution	x	x	x	x	
Purchase of COVID-19 safety supplies (masks, hand sanitizer, rapid test results)	\$100	x	x	x	x	
First Aid Kits	\$100	x	x	x	x	
Motor vehicle maintenance and insurance	\$2181 (motor vehicle Insurance is in-kind contribution)	x	x	x	x	

16. Monitoring arrangements

The project coordinator will hold weekly meetings with other project workers. Issues can be raised in an open forum of the organization and resolved quickly. A record shall be kept of issues that may adversely affect the project. It will also include how the issues were addressed. Reports on the implementation of the ESS will be produced during the biannual progress reports.

17. Disclosure

The agenda of the project's internal kick-off meeting will include a review of planned and potential interactions with the community, and review the code of conduct and necessary safety measures. Community members will be explained the project and any concerns will be directed to the Project Coordinator. In case any of the stakeholders

(project workers, community members, etc.) raise any concerns or make any comments, they will be taken into account and responded to formally.