



CANARI serves as CEPF's regional implementation team for the Caribbean Islands Biodiversity Hotspot.

Community Health and Safety Plan

November 2023

CEPF 114941

South East Cockpit Country Local Forest Management Committee Benevolent Society

Project Name:

Promoting and Supporting Sustainable Livelihoods in South East Cockpit Country, Jamaica

Grant Summary

- 1. Grantee organization: South East Cockpit Country Local Forest Management Committee Benevolent Society**
- 2. Sub project title: Promoting and Supporting Sustainable Livelihoods in South East Cockpit Country Jamaica**
- 3. Grant number: 114941**
- 4. Grant amount (USD\$): \$49,926,00.00**
- 5. Proposed dates of grant: December 2023- November 2024**
- 6. Countries where activities will be undertaken: Jamaica**
- 7. Date of preparation of this document: 29 November 2023**

8. Overview of the Caribbean Hotspot Project

The Critical Ecosystem Partnership Fund (CEPF) Caribbean Islands Biodiversity Hotspot Small Grants Mechanism is being implemented in the Caribbean Islands by the Caribbean Natural Resources Institute (CANARI) acting as the Regional Implementation Team (RIT). 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 – July 2026, which totals US\$11.8 million.

The goal of the CEPF is to conserve biodiversity. Its approach is to build local conservation leadership and nurture 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 Components

Deforestation stands as a longstanding environmental challenge confronting communities situated within Cockpit Country. The depletion of tree cover, spanning decades, primarily stems from the harvesting of sticks utilized to support yam vines. Notably, this practice lacks specificity in terms of targeted tree species or age; the sole criterion is suitability for propping purposes, necessitating tall and straight attributes. Consequently, diverse tree species are adversely affected by this widespread activity. Given the prevalence of yam production in the region, nearly every community member, encompassing women, youth, and farmers, maintains a socio-economic connection to yam farming.

The consequences of this practice have led to significant areas within Cockpit Country experiencing extreme barrenness caused by soil erosion. These detrimental effects have profoundly impacted the natural habitats of the ecosystem's fauna. The looming threat of deforestation, compounded by climate change impacts, exacerbates the situation. This includes adverse effects on crop production arising from both prolonged droughts and brief, intense periods of rainfall. Farmers resort to increasingly unsustainable farming practices and encroach further into the Cockpit Country Protected Area (PA) to optimise crop yields in response to these challenges.

The identified threats underscore the imperative for intervention that prioritizes sustainable yam stick production and utilization, diversification of income sources for tree-cutting farmers, and enhancement of agricultural practices, particularly in light of climate change impacts. The project's objectives thus centre on supporting more sustainable agricultural methods, promoting food

security in South East Cockpit Country, and mitigating the necessity for encroachment within forest management areas.

The sub-project has five components that aim to reduce the cutting of trees in Cockpit Country forests for yam sticks, enhance land management techniques, diversify livelihoods, and strengthen the institutional capacity of the South East Cockpit Country Local Forest Management Committee Benevolent Society (SECCLFMCBS) and ensure effective project management.

Component 1: Introducing the Use of Live Yam Sticks Among Farmers

Under this component, the sub-project will introduce 30 farmers to the sustainable practice of using live yam sticks, an environmentally friendly alternative to traditional forest-based yam sticks. By facilitating the adoption of this method, the sub-project seeks to reduce the reliance on tree cutting for yam sticks. The activities include sensitisation tours to established live yam stick farms, distributing bitter damsel species to farmers, and workshops on growing live yam sticks. The production and dissemination of a video that showcases the benefits of using live yam sticks will further promote this sustainable practice.

Component 2: Sustainable Land Management

This component focuses on building the capacity of 30 farmers in sustainable agricultural practices through Farmer Field Schools (FFS) and targeted training sessions. Training includes aspects of general land husbandry, farming as a business, erosion control, water harvesting, and crop diversification. Collaborating with organizations like RADA, the Forestry Department, and Caribbean Chemicals Ltd., the SECCLFMCBS aims to enhance farmers' knowledge of climate-smart agriculture, soil erosion reduction, and climate change resilience.

Component 3: Sustainable Alternate Livelihoods

This sub-project component will focus on diversifying income streams for farmers and community members, reducing dependency on the Cockpit Country Protected Area for livelihoods. The sub-project will include training in beekeeping, craft production, entrepreneurship, and other livelihood opportunities.

Component 4: Institutional Capacity Building of the SECCLFMCBS

This component of the sub-project aims to bolster the operational capabilities of the SECCLFMCBS through the preparation of a three-year business plan for the SECCLFMCBS group and the procurement and installation of a 40 ft. container retrofitted for office space and storage

Component 5: Project Management

This sub-project component is intended to ensure proper project management in compliance with CEPF and World Bank requirements.

There are a few anticipated risks to community health and safety for this sub-project, with those identified listed below in Table 10.1.

Table 10.1: Potential Risks to Community Health & Safety and Mitigation Measures

Key risks to Community Health & Safety	Risk probability <i>(low / medium / high)</i>	Level of Risk <i>(low / medium / high)</i>	Description	Mitigation Measures
Risk of COVID-19.	Low	Low	Several components will involve the gathering of small groups of people – e.g., training for bee keeping, educational awareness sessions and agroforestry training sessions.	The SECCLFMCBS will implement all the necessary precautions during meetings and will adhere to the regulations as outlined by the Ministry of Health and Wellness.
Risks related to hurricanes, earthquakes and other natural disasters.	Medium	Low	<p>Jamaica is located in an area that experiences hurricanes.</p> <p>Adverse weather conditions can impact honey production and commitment from participants.</p>	<p>To mitigate this risk, the sub-project will ensure that the participants receive adequate training to ensure that bee enterprises are able to withstand as best as possible the impacts of extreme weather events. The project team will monitor the weather very carefully. If there is a threat of a hurricane, field activities will not occur. Typically, sufficient advance notice for hurricanes is given and thus people have always been able to evacuate well in advance of a threatening situation.</p> <p>Insofar as possible, the scheduling of activities will take into account the most active part of the hurricane season, minimizing field-based and other activities that could be adversely affected by the passage of a hurricane. Should a hurricane occur, all measures will be taken to ensure project activities do not expose community members and stakeholders to risk from any the hazards encountered during response and recovery efforts.</p>
Accidents involving persons and vehicles	Low	Low	Movement by vehicle will be necessary to conduct	To minimize risk to communities, the vehicle to be used under the sub-

Key risks to Community Health & Safety	Risk probability <i>(low / medium / high)</i>	Level of Risk <i>(low / medium / high)</i>	Description	Mitigation Measures
			several sub-project activities.	project will undergo routine maintenance. Authorized drivers of the vehicle will have the necessary licenses to operate 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 and will be determined to be in good health prior to departure.
Sexual exploitation, abuse and harassment	Low	High	This sub-project will target both men and women.	The SECCLFMCBS will not tolerate members of the project implementation team carrying out any form of sexual exploitation, abuse, or harassment and project workers will be briefed accordingly. Any incidents will be addressed according to the grievance mechanism outlined in the stakeholder engagement plan, which will be shared with all project workers prior to the start of the sub-project and with beneficiaries and stakeholders throughout implementation. All complaints will be taken seriously and resolved as quickly as possible.
Bee stings	Medium	Low	Component 3 which seeks to establish an apiculture project can expose those involved to bee stings. It is very unlikely for other community members to be stung by the bees, as their awareness	The effects are generally very mild but may be a bit more serious for those who have allergic reactions to bee stings. The sub-project will procure personal protective equipment for all persons as well as antihistamines for itching and swelling, acetaminophen for pain

Key risks to Community Health & Safety	Risk probability (low / medium / high)	Level of Risk (low / medium / high)	Description	Mitigation Measures
			would promote necessary actions of precaution. Most apiaries are established away from public thoroughfares and though people may have them in their backyard gardens these are in rural areas that are not clustered	relief and EpiPen in the event of a severe allergic reaction.

11. Relevant laws in project countries

Table 11.1 below outlines the key law(s) in the project countries and their relevance to this Community Health and Safety Plan. The SECCLFMCBS will ensure that members adhere to these laws and guidelines.

Table 11.1: Relevant laws for community health and safety in Jamaica

Law	Relevance to ESS4
Public Health Act (2003)	Provides a list of communicable diseases that must be notified to the competent authorities.
Disaster Preparedness and Emergency Management Act (1993)	Provides for disaster preparedness and emergency management measures.

12. Measures to avoid risk of COVID-19

The Grantee will follow the guidelines of the Jamaican government on Covid-19 at the time of the fieldwork and community engagement. Any other relevant guidance from the World Bank as outlined in the technical note, “Public Consultations and Stakeholder Engagement in WB-supported operations when there are constraints on conducting public meetings” (March 20, 2020)¹ will be followed, as relevant and appropriate.

13. Emergency preparedness and response plan

In case of general emergencies while in the field or during community gatherings, the Project Manager will be immediately notified, and action will be taken following the government guidelines. The Project Manager and Project Assistant will monitor the weather very carefully. If there is a threat of a hurricane field activities will not occur.

14. Measures to mitigate risks relating to security personnel

N/A

15. Timeline and resources

¹ https://biwta.portal.gov.bd/sites/default/files/files/biwta.portal.gov.bd/page/f3ca1ff6_95b0_4606_849f_2c0844e455bc/2020-10-01-11-04-717aa8e02835a7e778b2fff46f531a8c.pdf

The implementation of mitigation measures will occur throughout the entire sub-project time frame. The cost of implementing the plan is mostly included in the CEPF project.

Table 16.1: Implementation schedule and estimated resources

Action	Cost Estimate (USD)	Implementation Schedule				
		2023			2024	
Salary of direct workers to implement the CHSP (5% of Project Manager and 5% of Project Assistant)	\$700	x	X	x	x	x
Covid-19 preparedness, including cleaning of venues maintaining COVID-19 protocols etc.	\$300	x	X	x	x	x
Personal Protective Equipment, medications for bee stings	\$1500	x	X	x	x	x
Maintenance of SECCLFMCBS vehicle	\$800	x	X	x	x	x

16. Monitoring arrangements

The Project Manager and Project Assistant will consult with each other on a regular basis to share all health and safety concerns. If any threat to health and safety is identified, they will act immediately to ensure everyone remains safe. Any amendments to existing plans will be made as necessary.

17. Disclosure

The Grantee will provide all project team members and stakeholders with the community health and safety plan at the beginning of the sub-project. Should any stakeholders – project workers, project beneficiaries, community members etc. – raise any concerns or provide feedback, these will be considered and responded to in a formal manner.