

CEPF Final Project Completion Report

Instructions to grantees: please complete all fields, and respond to all questions, below.

Organization Legal Name	
Project Title	Supporting a Local Community in Creating a Municipal Wildlife Habitat for the Conservation of Ricord's Iguanas in Anse-à-Pitres, Massif de la Selle Conservation Corridor, Haiti
CEPF GEM No.	59897
Date of Report	January 20, 2016
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CEPF Region: Massif de la Selle Conservation Corridor, Haiti

Strategic Direction: Our work contributed directly to the CEPF Strategic Direction 3, and in particular Investment Priorities:

3.1 Support efforts to build and strengthen the institutional capacity of civil society organizations to undertake conservation initiatives and actions

3.2 Enable local and regional networking, learning and best-practice sharing approaches to strengthen stakeholder involvement in biodiversity conservation

Grant Amount: 119,900 USD

Project Dates: January 2012 until September 2015

- **Implementation Partners for this Project (*list each partner and explain how they were involved in the project*)**

Grupo Jaragua, Inc. was an important regional partner, and their collaboration was invaluable. They have been working in biodiversity conservation in the Dominican Republic (D.R.), particularly in Jaragua-Bahoruco-Enriquillo conservation corridor. They helped us in training our local young conservationists in Pedernales, D.R. and in Anse-a-Pitres. We were able to develop the delimitation of the proposed protected area in Anse-a-Pitres. They supported us in implementing alternative livelihood activities, ideas which originally stemmed from their CEPF project in the D.R..

Conservation Impacts

- **Describe how your project has contributed to the implementation of the CEPF ecosystem profile**

The project's main objectives were to support Caribbean civil society to achieve biodiversity conservation by building local and regional institutional capacity and by fostering stakeholder collaboration. We have been able to effectively support efforts to build and strengthen the institutional

capacity of local civil society organizations in Anse-à-Pitres, Haiti. We've also enabled local and regional networking in biodiversity conservation.

Indirectly, we have also contributed to strategic direction 1, Improving protection and management of a key biodiversity area. We strengthened the legal protection status of a key biodiversity area.

- **Summarize the overall results/impact of your project**

We were able to successfully guide the Municipal government of Anse-à-Pitres through the legal procedures, and realized a signed legal document which declares 3,000 hectares of dry forest as protected. We were able to rally the support the regional and national Ministry of the Environment in promoting *C. ricordii* conservation.

We collaborated with other biodiversity conservation organizations to produce a group of competent young conservationists in Anse-à-Pitres. They learned to organize and implement habitat surveillance, critically endangered endemic species monitoring, habitat restoration for the conservation of *C. ricordii*. We introduced top-bar bee hives for honey production as an alternative livelihood activity, and demonstrated solar oven use in the community.

Planned Long-term Impacts - 3+ years (as stated in the approved proposal)

List each long-term impact from Grant Writer proposal

A Municipal Protected Area of approximately 30km² is created in Anse-à-Pitres, and the conditions for its long-term management and restoration are in place, for the protection of Ricord's Iguanas and other endangered species within the habitat.

The process and stages of creating a Municipal Reserve in Haiti are documented and information made available for replication in other locations.

Capacity to monitor key endangered species and to surveil critical habitat is available locally in Anse-à-Pitres, through well coordinated and effective activities by organizations ; a system is in place to gather and analyze scientific data on Ricord's Iguanas and the collected data is used for updating and implementing the species recovery plan.

At least 80% of the population of Anse-à-Pitres is informed on the status of key endangered species of the Municipality and the importance of the protection of the environment.

There is a considerable reduction in iguana poaching and the Anse-a-Pitres sub-population of *C. ricordii* improves by at least 50%.

The IUCN species recovery plan is updated using the comprehensive set of data collected.

- **Actual progress toward long-term impacts at completion**

An arrête communal was signed by the Mayors of Anse-à-Pitres, declaring 30km² of dry forests in the Municipality as a protected area.

The process and stages of creating a Municipal Reserve in Haiti are documented and available for replication.

Capacity to monitor key endangered species and to surveil critical habitat is available locally in Anse-à-Pitres.

The Ministry of Environment has hand- on experience in Cyclura conservation in Haiti

Capacity to monitor Ricord's iguanas and to surveil their habitat is available locally in Anse-à-Pitres

A management plan was drafted for the protected area, which will provide the framework for development of future conservation programs in Anse-à-Pitres.

Top-Bar bee-hive apiculture was introduced in Anse-à-Pitres for the first time, introducing a long-term practical alternative livelihood activity for the conservation of forests in Anse-à-Pitres.

The existence of an endangered species was document for the first time in Forêt des Pins and in Anse-à-Pitres.

Planned Short-term Impacts - 1 to 3 years (as stated in the approved proposal)

List each short-term impact from Grant Writer proposal

A formal proposal is prepared with the participation of all local stakeholders and authorities and is approved by the local government.

Legal documents declaring the 3000hectare area as legally protected on the Municipal level is drafted and approved by the local authorities.

The role of each actor is clearly defined in a Protected Area Management Plan, and the current habitat surveillance program is enhanced according to these newly defined roles.

The status of Ricord's iguanas is assessed in Haiti.

Local organizations/individuals gain the capacity to collect data, monitor critical wildlife habitat and ensure its surveillance.

Local organizations gain the capacity to conduct alternative income workshops for local charcoal producers, such as bee-keeping and solar oven use and marketing.

At least thirty percent of population of Anse-à-Pitres has been sensitized to the importance of Ricord's iguanas and the protection of their habitat.

The Haitian Ministry of Environment recognizes the ecological importance of Ricord's iguanas and support the project of municipal reserve.

Members of the Ministry of Environment are trained to identify *Cyclura* species in their natural habitat in Haiti, and are trained in the most recent IUCN ISG recommendations for *Cyclura* conservation.

The Protected Area in Anse-à-Pitres is declared a central zone in the Biosphere Reserve la Selle by UNESCO

- **Actual progress toward short-term impacts at completion**

Local organizations/individuals have gained the capacity to collect data, monitor critical wildlife habitat and ensure its surveillance.

The preliminary proposal has been prepared and presented to local stakeholders and submitted to the Mayor and the local judge. A local authority workshop is still needed to finalize the proposal.

Local individuals have been trained over a period of 6 months in habitat monitoring, investigating for presence/absence of *C. ricordii*, *Solenodon paradoxus*, and *Plagiodontia aedium*. They have also been trained in data collection for *C. ricordii* reproductive and success, and hatchling survivorship, including morphometrics, PIT tagging, and telemetry tracking.

The Ministries of Environment and Agriculture are well aware of the conservation status of *C. ricordii*, and the newly documented presence of *Solenodon paradoxus* in the Massif de la Selle conservation corridor. This was accomplished via meetings, formal presentations and electronic communications.

The proposal for a municipal protected area was prepared with the input of local stakeholders, and was submitted to the local government, and it was signed by the Municipal and regional governments

The local, regional, and national authorities (Ministries of the Environment and Agriculture) were made aware of the status of Ricord's and Rhinoceros iguanas, and of their ecological importance in southeast Haiti by means of meetings, workshops, and written reports.

Local organization OJAA and other individuals (Pierre Richard Sanon, Evanita Sanon, Johny Jeudy, and Peterson Peigne) have gained the capacity to collect data, monitor critical wildlife habitat, and conduct surveillance. A total of 15 young people have been trained.

Families practicing apiculture have been identified for future training to introduce honey production and improve forest conditions.

At least thirty percent of Anse-à-Pitres have been sensitized to the importance of Ricord's iguana and the protection of environment.

Solar cooking was introduced in one family in Anse-à-Pitres, and has assumed the role dissemination of this information.

Collaboration was achieved with regional biodiversity conservation organizations Grupo Jaragua (D.R) and AGAP (Belle Anse, Haiti) helped strengthen biodiversity conservation in the Massif de la Selle Conservation Corridor.

The Regional branch of the Haitian Ministry of Environment dispatched 12 environmental officers for the protection of the newly declared Protected Area in Anse-à-Pitres.

- **Describe the success or challenges of the project toward achieving its short-term and long-term impact objectives**

The training workshop conducted with the Ministry of Environment in July 2015 has greatly contributed to the long-term impact of the project. We profoundly increased their knowledge of *Cyclura* conservation. Those who participated have a high likelihood of continuing incorporating *Cyclura* conservation in their work as conservationists, whether with the Ministry of Environment or with non-profit biodiversity conservation organizations. Their knowledge can help to serve as a basis for future biodiversity conservation projects.

- **Were there any unexpected impacts (positive or negative)?**

Our field work together, along with lectures in seminar format have contributed greatly to the vision of the Regional branch of the Ministry of Environment for prioritizing their conservation objectives. They proposed the idea of local off-shore islands which could be potential reintroduction sites for *C. cornuta* in the Massif de la Hotte. This can present a significant advancement in *Cyclura* conservation in the Caribbean.

Project Components and Products/Deliverables

Component 1 (as stated in the approved proposal)

Submission of a proposal for the establishment of a Municipal Protected Area (PA), and assisting local authorities with the procedures of creating a Municipal PA.

- **Describe the results from Component 1 and each product/deliverable**

At the start of the project, a full report on the current status of *C. ricordii* in Anse-à-Pitres, which was based on our field observations from 2007 to 2012, was submitted to the Mayorship of Anse-à-Pitres. At the same time, we also submitted a proposal recommending the creation of a Municipal Protected Area (PA) in the Municipality. This proposal included the brief history of local biodiversity conservation, from the discovery of Ricord's iguanas in that town in 2007, the results of the socioeconomic study we conducted there in 2009, and the successful effort put forth by IIF and Grupo Jaragua to help save the species in the Dominican Republic; it also included the ecological importance of some other key species documented in Anse-à-Pitres, including terrestrial endemic mammals and reptiles. We had also included a habitat delimitation description using GIS, which was prepared by GIS specialist Ernst Rupp (Grupo Jaragua). Many meetings were held with the Municipal administration regarding this proposal, first with Mayor Benjamin Permission, and with then Mayor Guilène Daphinis after she was instated in August 2012. We were able to make head way with Mayor Daphinis and her administration in 2013. The proposal was approved, and we moved forward to hiring a lawyer to draft the legal documents necessary to declare 30km² of dry forest in Anse-à-Pitres as protected.

In the fall of 2012, we sought the consultancy of Agronome Jean Andre Victor, a Haitian environmental lawyer, and president of the Haitian organization ADHEN, to review the preliminary proposal and its legality, and to organize a collaborative workshop for the local authorities in Anse-a-Pitres. As legal consultant to us and the Municipal government, Mr. Victor did the legal research from February to April

2013, at the end of which he submitted a detailed report in French. This 33-page report detailed the history of environmental laws in Haiti, relevant Municipal laws, the feasibility of creating a Municipal PA in Haiti, as well as the recommended procedures for declaring a Municipal (PA). This report was submitted to the Mayorship of Anse-à-Pitres and the Regional branch of The Ministry of the Environment (Direction Departementale de l'Environnement or DDE) in August 2013 and November 2013, respectively, and can be found by contacting the International Iguana Foundation directly.

The legal document to declare the Municipal PA is called an Arrête Communal (AC). The framework of this document was prepared by our legal advisor, and was submitted to the local authorities in Anse-à-Pitres. Thereafter, modifications were made after consulting the Municipal government as well as the regional environmental authorities to include the designation of the members of the steering committee to assure the long-term development of a management plan.

Many local workshops and meetings were conducted with local stakeholders in Anse-à-Pitres during the course of the project, and these stakeholders include landowners, local organizations, charcoal producers, local authorities, local students and teachers. We wanted to assure that the community remained well informed as to the development of the creation of the PA, the implications, and to ensure their participation in the process. During some of these workshops, board members of the local youth group OJAA began training in public speaking and preparing and present powerpoint presentation with us. They also assisted with the local Cyclura conservation education program in Anse-à-Pitres.

Major stakeholders attended a legal workshop, which was held for local authorities and the Ministry of Environment on August 7 and 8, 2013. Local stakeholders also attended including farmers, fishermen, herdsmen, and women's groups. This major workshop was a collaboration between the IIF, AHDEN, the Haitian National Commission in Cooperation with UNESCO. Funding was secured from the UNESCO Haitian National Commission to accommodate 43 attendees at the Hotel Reserve 2015 in Anse-à-Pitres. Representatives from the Ministry of Environment (Prénor Coudo), the three Mayors, Guirlène Daphinis, Ylly Momplaisir, and Milait Gabriel, and the Judge of Anse-a-Pitres, Marc Anglade Payout. Other local authorities who were present included the Preposer (Yvelt Louine), Whois a public property tax collector for all government land, and also the ASEC and CASEC (Ehrard Eglantin and Gabriel Salnave) who represent the Mayorship and Justice of the Peace in northern villages within Municipal Anse-à-Pitres. Human rights and public health representatives Georges Joseph and Ruiz Jean Robert, and a representative from the Haitian National Police (PNH) were present. Local churches and schools were represented, as were some influential landowners of the community, such as former mayors Covington Pierre and Benjamin Permission.

The following local associations participated in this very important workshop: OJAA, MOCDAA, AJIPA, GPLA, APA, AEA, AMA, OFAMA, AFVA, OG22, ODPLA OPA, CRH, PC, and ATAB. Some regional and national stakeholders were also present, including Société Audubon Haiti (SAH), the German Cooperation in Haiti (GIZ), Grupo Jaragua, La Fondation Seguin, and Sadhanna Forest. Members of the press, CEPF grantee PANOS Caraibe, documented the event and later published an article in a national newspaper, which was then published on the internet.

Another major stakeholder meeting was held in Anse-à-Pitres during Mr. Lafontaine's visit for CEPF evaluation in November 2013. The primary objective of this meeting was to review the legal procedures for creating the PA, to offer an update on the current status of the legal procedures on the Municipal level, and to introduce them to the Regional Director of the Environment, Mr. Arcene Bastien, who was instrumental in helping us to move things forward with the Mayors.

Component 2 (as stated in the approved proposal)

Build capacity by training local participants in *C. ricordii* habitat conservation, and recruitment of a national partner organization and national government participation in Municipal PA management and continue local team training.

- **Describe the results from Component 2 and each product/deliverable**

In February 2013, a field training workshop was coordinated and held in Mencia, D.R. with the Sociedad Ornitológica Hispánica as part of Durrell's Darwin Initiative. The Anse-à-Pitres habitat monitoring team learned to successfully search for signs of the two surviving endemic and endangered terrestrial mammals *Solenodon paradoxus* and *Plagiodonta aedium*, and they participated in GPS technology research with Durrell biologists.

Several major field training workshops were conducted with the local Anse-à-Pitres team between July and December 2012. A group of biologists and field guides from Darwin Initiative Last Survivors traveled from the Dominican Republic to train our team in the eastern Massif de la Selle region, from Anse-à-Pitres on northward to Forêt des Pins in July. During a two-day training workshop, the presence of *Solenodon paradoxus* was documented for the first time in the Municipalities of Anse-à-Pitres and Thiotte. A report was published on the Darwin Initiative 'Last Survivors' website.

In 2012, these young people also trained with Dr. Stesha Pasachnik in Pedernales, D.R. in safe capture of adult and juvenile iguanas and PIT tagging, and assisted with *C. ricordii* survivorship studies, using telemetry tracking. Dr. Pasachnik is a biologist conducting post-doctorate genetic research for the two *Cyclura* species on Hispaniola with the San Diego Zoo. Meanwhile, emerging *C. ricordii* hatchlings were safely captured in Anse-a-Pitres in 2012 and 2013. The team was trained in collecting and documenting morphometric data, proper Pesola scale use, and PIT tagging equipment handling.

From October 9 to 11 two members of the local team, Evanita Sanon and Pierre Richard Sanon, accompanied Carlos Sanchez (Philadelphia Zoo) in amphibian identification, morphometrics, and habitat assessment in Forêt des Pins. These local team members were also recruited to work as field assistants on the Philadelphia Zoo Société Audubon (SAH) amphibian project, and had opportunities to train along side the staff at SAH team on several other occasions.

In an effort to recruit a national partner for the management of the PA meetings with Societe Audubon Haiti (SAH) to discuss the drafting and signing a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) to help secure collaboration with the International Iguana Foundation for co-management of the future Protected Area (PA). However, the Executive Directors Joel Timyan and Arnaud Dupuy at SAH expressed that since they work is mostly located in the Tiburon peninsula, it would be difficult to take on on-going conservation activities in Anse-à-Pitres. The IIF has a long-standing history of collaboration with Grupo Jaragua, which dates back to 2002. And since IIF and Grupo Jaragua share some of the same objectives, and work in adjoining regions and conservation corridors, Grupo Jaragua was identified as the most likely Dominican national partner for continued collaboration.

Dr. Accimé represented the IIF and Grupo Jaragua at the Solenodon/Hutia Species Recovery meeting on October 10- 11, in Santo Domingo, D.R.. This was done in an effort to further explore the possibility for

collaboration with SAH. The meeting was held on..... We provided an update on our recent findings on *Solenodon paradoxus* in the Massif de la Selle region and contributed to the species recovery plan.

Component 3 (as stated in the approved proposal)

Information on the status of *Cyclura* and other fragile species and their habitat in Anse-à-Pitres is disseminated to regional, national and international authorities.

- **Describe the results from Component 3 and each product/deliverable**

We began disseminating information on the status of *Cyclura* species in Haiti by participating in the Rezo-Ekolo meeting in Port-au-Prince in March 2012. The Rezo-Ekolo is a consortium of non-governmental biodiversity conservation organizations, and their meeting was a good venue to inform colleagues in Haiti. We also participated in a UNESCO workshop on their proposal for the declaration of the Massif de la Selle Biosphere Reserve that year, which gave us another opportunity for us to present information on our findings in Anse-à-Pitres, and the conservation efforts being put forth there.

In December 2012, we began meeting with the of Agence Nationale d'Aires Protégées (ANAP). The director at that time was Martine Mathieu; we discuss the proposal being submitted to the local authorities in Anse-à-Pitres. The preliminary proposal was submitted electronically to both Minister of Environment (Jean Vilmond Hilaire at the time) and ANAP director Martine Mathieu, and also submitted in December to Agronome Pierre Ogé at the Ministry of Agriculture in Damien, Port-au-Prince. The most current version of the iguana manual, *Manuel des Iguanes de la République D'Haiti*, was also submitted to both Ministries. We were able to remain in contact with ANAP through Agronome Coudot at ANAP (MdE), since the director of ANAP was replaced by Regine Abraham, and then changed again! Through Agronome Coudo as a constant contact, we were able to keep ANAP abreast the latest developments of the project. For example, a progress report was submitted electronically to Agronome Coudo, and this was then presented at a Regional environmental workshop (Atelier Harmonisation des actions au niveau des Aires Protégées), which was held in Jacmel in August 2014 by ANAP. Thereafter, the IIF's Annual reports dating back to 2009, which described the status of Ricord's iguanas and on local conservation efforts, were submitted to the new Director of ANAP.

In 2013, we began to engage in dialogue with the regional office for the Ministry of Environment in Jacmel (Direction Departementale de L'Environnement or DDE) regarding the creation of the PA. We participated in the Table Sectorielle de l'Environnement in August of that year, where we formally presented and discussed the biodiversity conservation initiative in Anse-à-Pitres, as well as at the proposal for the creation of the Municipal PA. National representatives of the Ministry of Environment, the director of the DDE (Arcene Bastien), and other regional civil society organizations attended this event. Reports were submitted to both the regional and national representatives. Also in November of that year, a report containing the current status of Ricord's iguanas in Haiti was submitted to the IUCN Iguana Specialist Group (ISG), and the project and was also presented to the ISG at their annual meeting in Jamaica by Iguana Specialist, Stesha Pasachnik on behalf of the IIF. The presentation took place at the ISG annual meeting.

In 2014, We held a workshop in Jacmel in collaboration with Grupo Jaragua (Yolanda Leon, Ernst Rupp, Jose Luis Castillo, and several other field technicians) in Jacmel at the Direction Departementale de l'Environnement on February 21. The regional Director, Arcene Bastien, their technical staff, and the Regional Director for the Ministry of Agriculture were presented the most current data on several

important endangered species of the region, including the Black Capped Petrel, *Cyclura* iguanas, and the *Solenodon paradoxus*. Yolanda Leon also provided data on the presence of resident sperm whales (*Physeter macrocephalus*) in the deep oceans off the southeastern coast of Haiti. These waters as deep as 4km are ideal sperm whale habitats, and there are several reports of sightings in the region. There was much discussion to determine how a transect study in the ocean could yield fruitful results concerning the whales.

We attended the Congreso de la Biodiversidad Caribeña in Santo Domingo from January 20- February 1st of 2014, where we presented the project. This was an excellent regional networking opportunity, where many important contacts were made, which will likely result in future collaborations for the success of the Municipal PA. We also participated in a training workshop conducted for the park guards of Forêt des Pin by Philadelphia Zoo, in collaboration with Societe Audubon Haiti and Grupo Jaragua. On February 15, our local team presented our most recent findings on several important endangered species of the region, including the Black Capped Petrel, *Cyclura* iguanas, and the *Solenodon*. One of our local assistants attended a solar cooking workshop held by Sadhana Forest by Casseus Nixon in Anse-à-Pitres on February 19. Finally, in 2015 A workshop was conducted in Aquin Haiti in collaboration with the Ministry of Environment in June 2015, where we shared our experiences during the project. Grupo Jaragua Technical Assistant Jose Luis Castillo co-presented with IIF project coordinator Masani Accimé. The participants from the Ministry of Environment received copies of our reports.

Component 4 (as stated in the approved proposal)

Awareness on the conservation of *C. ricordii* and other important wildlife species raised in Anse-a-Pitres, Haiti.

- **Describe the results from Component 4 and each product/deliverable**

To raise awareness in Anse-à-Pitres, we created a poster with the local group OJAA, which was then displayed at the Rencontre de Deux Cultures binational cultural event in Anse-à-Pitres in August 2012. This poster included images and descriptions of our work habitat and wildlife conservation. Then in 2013, we ordered a professionally made poster from Point Vert in Port-au-Prince. It's first exhibition was at the UNESCO workshop August 7 & 8 2013, then it was displayed at our local office, and was also used at local events and workshops. And finally, in 2014 A large billboard measuring 6ftx5ft was painted by local Artist Yves Basile. This billboard, which featured a map of the protected area, and a description of the conservation initiative, was hung at the entrance of the town, across from the Mayor's office. The space was provided by the Mayorship of the Municipality. This very visible sign of our progress on the project, along with our cooperation with the local authorities, had quite a positive impact on the community.

An initial meeting was conducted with teachers of Anse-à-Pitres who make up the local organization called MOCDA, Among them are teachers, Frantz Moreau and Rockerson Pierre. Other teachers also participated in our teacher training workshops. A 2-day Workshop was held in March 2014 in Anse-à-Pitres with 4 local teachers: Williams Peigne (high school english teacher and MOCDA president), Marsline Pierre (grade school teacher and MOCDA secretary), Doxy Edmond (high school teacher and local group OLPDA secretary). We worked for two days with these teachers while they developed study materials which could be used in local schools.

Several workshops were conducted with local groups OJAA and MOCDA in Anse-à-Pitres to prepare them to present biodiversity conservation issues publicly at a community wide events. They presented

information on Municipal PA conservation initiative to the community at events such as the local May 1st National Day of Agriculture event, to approximately 70 attendees. OJAA members even had a chance to present at a Philadelphia Zoo and Ministry of Agriculture workshop in Forêt des Pins in November 2013. This was a training workshop for the park guards, local teachers and students of Forêt des Pins.

Public media was also used to inform the local public. A radio interview was conducted in Pedernales on the status and importance of the *Cyclura* species of Haiti in May 2013. This radio station is accessible in Anse-à-Pitres. In October 2013, the news crew for United Nations MINUSTHA issued station a press release their radio from their Jacmel office, which was broadcasted throughout Haiti. Thereafter, they published an article.

A panel discussion conducted regionally over the radio in Belle Anse in March 2015 had far-reaching effects. There is a regular programming called “Ann Pwoteje Richès nan Anviwonman Nou”, which is aired monthly on the only radio station in Belle Anse, Radyo Kominotè Bèlans (RKB). The station is broadcasted throughout the Arrondissement de Belle Anse, which is a significant part of the Southeast Department of Haiti and has a wide audience consisting of tens of thousands of people. In collaboration with Société Audubon Haiti, we discussed the different aspects of forest conservation, its importance for the flora and fauna of the Massif de la Selle Community, the effects of ecology on local industries such as fishing and farming, and links to human health, and altered weather conditions causing drought and flooding. The recording was then brought to Anse-à-Pitres for dissemination.

Component 5 (as stated in the approved proposal)

Collect data on the population of *C. ricordii* and the habitat in Anse-à-Pitres and implement an identification system for individual animals. Investigate for the presence of other important endangered endemic species.

- **Describe the results from Component 5 and each product/deliverable**

C. ricordii nesting activity was methodically documented during their reproduction period each year from 2012 to 2015. We initially monitored the Lasalin and Lansalo nesting sites, and each year we extended our monitoring to other nesting sites 2km west Lansalo. A training program had been set up the first year; Jose Luis Castillo (Grupo Jaragua) was hired to conduct weekly training in the field with the Anse-à-Pitres team from April to July 2012, and thereafter the team monitored under Dr. Accimé's supervision. At the end of each nesting season nest hatching success was documented. Poaching attempts were made on the majority of the nests each year in the Lasalin and Lasalo habitats, with the highest percentage of nest poaching being in 2014.

In 2012 and 2013, we successfully captured newly hatched iguanas. Because we could not guarantee the safety of captured Ricord's hatchlings, we did not place external nest enclosures to capture hatchlings. Morphometric measurements were taken for each animal: each was weighed using a 100-gram pesola scale, and snout-vent length (SVL) and tail length (TL) were measured in centimeters with a measuring tape. A PIT tag or microchip (Home Again) was placed sub-dermally in each animal either in the left lateral femoral area or the left caudo-lateral abdominal wall. Prior to placement of microchip, the insertion site was disinfected with 2% chlorhexidine solution using gauze for application; post PIT tag placement, the small laceration created by the needle was closed using tissue glue. A tail clipping was collected from two animals in 2012 (Iguanas #6 & #13) by amputating 0.5cm of the distal tail. Digital pressure was applied to achieve hemostasis at the amputation site, and the site was sealed with tissue

glue in each animal. These samples, which were placed in 70% ethanol, are stored in Anse-à-Pitres in case of future genetic investigation.

Dr. Pasachnik of the San Diego Zoo conducted a habitat assessment in the area known as Savann Lafleur in June 2012, which is a few kilometers north of the coast. Many old *Cyclura* nests were identified. She confirmed this is likely the historic range for Both *Cyclura* species, and it is possible that both species exist in this area. And a *Cyclura* "trial dig" was found at point P5 of the PA delimitation, at the northwestern-most part of the PA. These signs confirm that the GIS delimitation described by Ernst Rupp is accurate in including most of the historic range of *C. ricordii* in Anse-à-Pitres, and would be sufficient for conserving some of the most critical Ricords habitat in Southeast Haiti.

Component 6 (as stated in the approved proposal)

Assess habitat restoration potential within the proposed PA.

- **Describe the results from Component 6 and each product/deliverable**

Agro-biologist Ernst Rupp was contacted. We made a initial visit to Pedernales, D.R. where Grupo Jaragua is working on restoring Ricord's habitat within a Municipal Protected Area. They focus on reproducing the plants *Consolea moniliformis* that is an essential component . This is an important seasonal food source for Ricord's iguanas, and the cactus is of little value for charcoal producers.

On March 3, 2014, an introductory habitat restoration workshop was conducted in collaboration with Grupo Jaragua. Twelve Anse-à-Pitres residents were present, representing 4 local organizations including Oganizasyon Jenès Aktif Ansapit (OJAA), and Oganizasyon Peyizan Ansapit (OPA). These local organizations are very active in Anse-a-Pitres, particularly in environmental advocacy. Each organization received copies (in French) of species profiles for *Cyclura* species and important flora for the dry forests, particularly *Coccothirnx ekmanii* and *Consolea moniliformis*. Grupo Jaragua staff Ernst Rupp and Jose Luis Castillo demonstrated how to harvest viable samples (or cladodes) of *Consolea moniliformis*, which is a very important cactus essential in *C. ricordii* habitat. They also demonstrated replanting the collected samples. All workshop attendees participated and successfully planted this important cactus in approximately 2 hectares in the Pedernales Municipal Protected Area. The participating individuals and local groups were invited to future habitat restoration activities in Anse-à-Pitres.

We did a plant coverage estimation workshop in Lasalin in September 2014, using technique proposed by our consultant Ernst Rupp. In the Lasalin nesting site, vegetation cover was estimated in 12 randomly sampled areas measuring 10mx10m or transects. We counted the number of trees, and then within each area we estimated how much coverage (shade) was on the ground; this was done at high noon. We also documented dominant plant species in each of these areas. Several farmers participated along with OJAA. During the vegetation cover estimation work that we did in September, we identified key areas where *C. moniliformis* still exists in Lasalin. Later, cactus cladodes were collected from Laslin and used to repopulate nesting habitat in Savann Lafleur as an introductory part of the habitat restoration program.

Component 7 (as stated in the approved proposal)

Awareness on the conservation of *C. ricordii* and other important wildlife species raised in Anse-a-Pitres, Haiti.

- **Describe the results from Component 7 and each product/deliverable**

Initially, a Top bar demonstration hive was constructed by local Anse-a-Pitres carpenter Reginald Syverain, using ply-wood purchased in Pedernales. Measurements were exact, and its construction was impeccable. However, the carpenter indicated it would be difficult for him to create the bars at exactly 32mm using hard wood as he did not have access to a circular saw. Another craftsman named Thierry Micheau was hired in Pedernales, to produce the first hives with local pine, the only hard wood which is reasonably priced. With this wood, each hive would cost 150USD. M Ernst Rupp was able to find another carpenter in Cabral in the D.R. whose hives would cost much less, and so this presented an economically feasible venture. We were to purchase an additional 4 hives for local families with the this grant, while Grupo Jaragua purchased an additional 25 hives with another CEPF grant.

An initial workshop on basic bee biology and demonstration of the top-bar technique was held on Thursday September 2014.. Local groups OPA, OJAA, APA, and MOCDAA participated, as well as several heads of household who were selected to own top-bar hives. We had several meetings with beneficiaries Noelson Jean and Gabriel Verancier the week of November 2014 and visited the sites where they later placed the hives. These meetings gave us the opportunity to demonstrate use of the top-bar system. They agreed received hives in February 2015. Noelson Jean heads an organization which works with charcoal producers. The local group OJAA also received 20 hives from Grupo Jargua, and were trained to take over supervision of those who were this new system. We then traveled with OJAA board member Samuel Nossirel to Oviedo, D.R. to participate in an regional apiculture workshop conducted by Grupo Jaragua.

The apiculture manual "Manuel 1 d'Apiculture Elementaire" by Pam Gregory was translated from French to Kreyòl. This manual has a very simple format and focuses on use of the Top-Bar hive system. All the original text was translated, and all images were retained. This manual was made available during a workshop in May 2014, were several local organizations (OJAA, APA) received new Top-Bar hives. Grupo Jaragua staff were present for the workshop, in which we demonstrated use of the hives and reviewed the manual.

Component 8 (as stated in the approved proposal)

Assess local capacity for biodiversity conservation and project management.

- **Describe the results from Component 8 and each product/deliverable**

In 2013, we began meeting with local organizations to discuss their capacity to participate in the management of the Municipal PA in Anse-à-Pitres. We identified three organizations which could play key roles in a successful protected area management. OJAA completed the CSTT and the results were submitted to the CEPF RIT team. The local group MOCDAA also completed the tracking tool.

Local group ATAB (Association du Tourisme de L'Arrondissement de Belle-Anse) was identified and was to complete the Civil Society Tracking tool in February 2014. ATAB is an ecotourism group, providing excursions from Anse-à-Pitres along the cost to Belle Anse. They were provided literature on the endangered fauna, and they have also participated in several of our stakeholder workshops. The goal is to help educate on the important ecosystems of Anse-à-Pitres.

Eventually, two local organizations submitted results from the Civil Society Tracking Tool (OJAA and MOCDDA); they both scored 20/100. No one has yet been identified to assist with capacity building in local organization management. This is likely a separate project which would help local stakeholders who are selected to participate in Protected Area activities learn essential skills, such as basic accounting, record-keeping and grant-writing.

We were able to collaborate with a regional Haitian organization AGAP (Appui a la Gestion des Aires Protégées) during the March 2015 trip to Belle Anse. They were in the second year of a 3-year project of 2,000,000€ in Belle Anse (January 2014-December 2016); their project was funded by the European Union. Their goals are to address the over-exploitation of natural resources, particularly in the dry forests of Belle Anse and the surrounding lagoons, known as Lagon des Huitres. They are providing support for development of the judiciary and institutional framework for the creation of a protected area in Belle Anse, and to introduce alternative income activities for those financially dependent on the local forests. AGAP is a partner of ANAP (Agence Nationale des Aires Protégées, the Municipal Government of Belle Anse, and Municipal Agriculture Bureau Agricole Communale (BAC). The national government has a goal to develop ecological tourism in Haiti, and AGAP has support of acclaimed national agencies such as the Ministry of Tourism and the Ministry of the Environment. The project coordinators at AGAP are Agronome Louvensky Permentier and Mr. Jude Junel Michel. By establishing contact and a working relationship with AGAP in March 2015, we were able to coordinate field visits with their team in Belle Anse. AGAP provided room and board during the IIF/Grupo Jaragua visit to Belle Anse in May 2015. The IIF will look to AGAP for the implementation of Cyclura conservation efforts in Belle Anse and possibly in other parts of the Massif de la Selle region, particularly in Anse-à-Pitres.

We did a workshop in Anse-à-Pitres in May 2015 with several local civil society organizations. During this workshop we reviewed use of the SWOT analysis to evaluate their organizations. The organizations which participated were Òganizasyon Jenès Asapit (OJAA), SEMANA, Asosiasyon Peyizan Ansapit (APA), and the women's organization Asosiasyon Fanm Vanyan Ansapit (AFVA).

- **If you did not complete any component or deliverable, how did this affect the overall impact of the project?**
- **Please describe and submit any tools, products, or methodologies that resulted from this project or contributed to the results**

GIS Delimitation description of the Municipal Protected Area of Anse-à-Pitres

Arrête Communal – Legal Document for Municipal Protected Area

Legal Report of Jean Andre Victor

Kreyòl translation of the manual entitled "Manuel 1 d'Apiculture Elementaire" by Pam Gregory

CEPF Global Monitoring Data

Respond to the questions and complete the tables below. If a question is not relevant to your project, please make an entry of 0 (zero) or n/a (not applicable).

- **Did your organization complete the CEPF Civil Society Tracking Tool (CSTT) at the beginning and end of your project?**

No

	Date	Composite Score
Baseline CSTT		
Final CSTT		

- **List any vulnerable, endangered, or critically endangered species conserved due to your project**

Cyclura ricordii

Cyclura cornuta

Solenodon paradoxus

Hectares Under Improved Management

Project Results	Hectares*	Comments
• Did your project strengthen the management of an existing protected area?		Forêt des Pins
• Did your project create a new protected area or expand an existing protected area?	3,000	Parc Cacique Henri
• Did your project strengthen the management of a key biodiversity area named in the CEPF Ecosystem Profile (hectares may be the same as questions above)		Massif de la Selle Conservation Corridor
• Did your project improve the management of a production landscape for biodiversity conservation		List the name or describe the location of the production landscape

* Include total hectares from project inception to completion

- **In relation to the two questions above on protected areas, did your project complete a Management Effectiveness Tracking Tool (METT), or facilitate the completion of a METT by protected area authorities? If so, complete the table below. No**

Protected area	Date of METT	Composite METT Score	Date of METT	Composite METT Score	Date of METT	Composite METT Score

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- **List the name of any corridor (named in the Ecosystem Profile) in which you worked and how you contributed to its improved management, if applicable.**

In the Massif de la Selle Conservation Corridor, a significant protected area was created in Anse-à-Pitres, a 3,000-hectare Municipal park, named **Parc Cacique Henri**. We participated in training workshops for the park guards in Forêt Des Pins. And we also assisted the regional organization AGAP in identifying important historical Cyclura habitat, shared techniques for the conservation of Cyclura species, and shared our experience, contacts and documents to help advance their efforts to create a Municipal Protected Area in Belle Anse.

Direct Beneficiaries: Training and Education

<i>Did your project provide training or education for . . .</i>	Male	Female	Total	Brief Description
• Adults for community leadership or resource management positions	7	3	10	Training in species monitoring and raising public awareness
• Adults for livelihoods or increased income	18	3	21	Training workshops in Top-bar hive apiculture
• School-aged children	60	45	105	Presentations at youth program meetings in biodiversity conservation
• Other				

- **List the name and approximate population size of any “community” that benefited from the project.**

Community name, surrounding district, surrounding province, country, Population size

Municipality of Anse-a-Pitres, Southeast Department of Haiti, population 26,000.

- **Socioeconomic Benefits to Target Communities**

Based on the list of communities above, write the name of the communities in the left column below. In the subsequent columns under Community Characteristics and Nature of Socioeconomic Benefit, place an X in all relevant boxes.

Community Name	Community Characteristics							Nature of Socioeconomic Benefit											
	Small landowners	Subsistence	Indigenous/ Pastoralists /	Recent migrants	Urban	Communities	Other	Increased income due to:			Increased food	More secure	Improved tenure	Reduced risk of	More secure	Increased access	Improved use of	More	Other
								Adoption of	Ecotourism	Park									
Anse-a-Pitres, Haiti	X	X				X				X									

If you marked “Other”, please provide detail on the nature of the Community Characteristic and Socioeconomic Benefit:

Lessons Learned

- Describe any lessons learned during the design and implementation of the project, as well as any related to organizational development and capacity building. Consider lessons that would inform projects designed or implemented by your organization or others, as well as lessons that might be considered by the global conservation community

- **Project Design Process (aspects of the project design that contributed to its success/shortcomings)**

The project was designed to first establish contact with local and regional NGOs and authorities with a particular interest in biodiversity conservation. This proved to be very useful because through these relationships we were able to obtain local guides, we received in-kind contributions to execute parts of the project, and they were also local and regional stakeholders in a position to promote Cyclura conservation.

- **Project Implementation (aspects of the project execution that contributed to its success/shortcomings)**

At the start of the project, we had the support of Mayor Benjamin Permission, however in June 2012 he was replaced with a Mayor Guilène Daphinis. It was extremely difficult to rally her support. And she did

not become interested until the regional director of the MdE showed interest in our project and traveled to Anse-à-Pitres in March 2013. Thereafter it took several months to get her administration to agree to sign the Arrête Communal, which they eventually did in 2014. The violent conflicts arose at the beginning of January 2015, during which opposers of the Daphinis administration seized the opportunity to forcibly remove her from office. And a few months later a third mayor was nominated, and it was difficult to move forward with the management plan. A framework was submitted with the basic elements.

Every effort was made to continue with the project in a timely manner. And despite these extreme circumstances we did our best. We did not get to work on the management plan with the new 2014 Municipal government, nor was the signed Arrête Communal published in the national gazette, Le Moniteur. But it would be ideal to wait until after elections to pursue these activities.

- **Describe any other lessons learned relevant to the conservation community**

Haiti's problems are very special in that the majority of the country is dependent on charcoal. This fact was resounded in the many surveys and field visits we did. Future project targeting alternative livelihoods to help Haitians move away from charcoal production would be very useful in the Massif de la Selle and Massif de la Hotte regions.

The road conditions in the Massif de la Selle region presents a special problem for any institution attempting to work in southeast Haiti. Special considerations need to be made for transportation throughout the region. We organized travel by sea from the Haitian Dominican border, which was the most practical solution, however without the help of AGAP, local transportation would have been solely possible by local motorcycle drivers. Special all terrain vehicles would need to be considered for any long-term projects.

Sustainability / Replication

- **Summarize the success or challenges in ensuring the project will be sustained or replicated**

The legal process to create a Municipal Protected Area are very clearly documented in our report, as well as that of our legal advisor. Any municipality should be able to follow the steps. In fact we shared our knowledge with a group working in Belle Anse on a similar project (AGAP). However the challenges will be many, starting with unpredictability and instability of the political structures, even at the Municipal level.

- **Summarize any unplanned activities that are likely to result in increased sustainability or replicability**

Safeguards

- **If not listed as a separate Project Component and described above, summarize the implementation of any required action related to social, environmental, or pest management safeguards**

The project has the following major components, which directly addressed the rights of the local inhabitants whose access to public land will eventually be restricted.

Component 1 addressed the legal aspects of a Municipal Wildlife Reserve, including investigation of laws which would empower the local authorities to take action, and the rights the community has to natural resources. The laws identified were clearly explained in Kreyòl in the form of a proposal to the Municipal government, and presented publicly to local stakeholders..

Members of Asosyasyon Elvaj Ansapit (AEA) were approached to discuss the impact a protected area on their current free-ranging herding practices in Anse-à-Pitres. It seems that this local association lacked a structured governing body, and only one prominent leader can be identified in the group, Nelson Jean, who apparently owned the most free-ranging cattle in Anse-à-Pitres, based on local anecdotes. Nelson's father was approached to discuss the possibility of a protected area, since the arrangement appeared to be more of a family business. They informed us that they had been given authority to manage a portion of the La Saline Ricord's nesting site by the Mayor of Anse-à-Pitres, and the mayorship never denied this. Mr. Jean verbally described that he manages the eastern-most 1/4 of the 5ha valley, where we have not documented *C. ricordii* nesting since we have been studying the nesting biology of the species since 2009. We have proposed to this family that clearly defined the limits of the area which he has been given stewardship could be given special consideration in the management plan.

Interviews were conducted with many charcoal producers in the proposed protected area (PA) to determine what platform would be most appropriate to discuss the charcoal industry locally. The charcoal producers refused to reveal their full names. Several said they were not from Anse-à-Pitres, but are migrant workers from as far as Grand Grosier, in the Municipality of Belle-Anse, and from Thiotte. They reportedly produce charcoal as far as the Dominican Republic. They revealed that they were hired by unidentified persons in Anse-à-Pitres to produce charcoal for sale, for which the workers are paid approximately 5USD to 7USD per sack produced, and each worker said he could produce up to 2 sacks per week. Location of charcoal production varies depending on forest density. Sacks of charcoal are then purchased by families who operate from homesteads located in Anse-à-Pitres, where they export to Port-au-Prince.

Families exporting charcoal were targeted for integration into our alternative livelihood activities, of which they would be primary beneficiaries under the management of OJAA. In this component we directly evaluated the rights that the community has to local natural resources, and also devised some alternative sources of income for them. For example, we discovered that many charcoal producers were also collecting wild honey in the forests. And so we requested additional funding to introduce bee keeping, in collaboration with Grupo Jaragua. The local government was also 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 impact and within reasonable distance of the community.

Component 2 addressed capacity building on the local level, by training of the habitat monitoring team which includes a prominent member of the local association of herdsmen, AEA, and to enroll a national partner organization to create employment in conservation activities which would offset the losses of other local stakeholders.

A field training workshop was coordinated and held in Mencia, D.R. with the Durrell's Darwin Initiative in February. The Anse-à-Pitres habitat monitoring team was able to successfully search for signs of the two endemic and endangered terrestrial mammals (Hispaniolan Solenodon and Hutia). Nelson Jean, a prominent member of the local herdsmen association, was invited, but did not participate in the training workshop. A future training workshop is being organized with Last Survivor's Team, which will be

conducted in Anse-à-Pitres, which will be the first field investigations for endemic terrestrial mammals in the region.

The team trained with Dr. Stesha Pasachnik in Pedernales, D.R in safe capture of adult and juvenile iguanas and PIT tagging. Dr. Pasachnik is a biologist conducting post-doctorate genetic research for the two *Cyclura* species on Hispaniola with the San Diego Zoo. Dr. Pasachnik conducted a habitat assessment in the area known as Savann Lafleur in June, which is a few kilometers north of the coast. Many old *Cyclura* nests were identified at this site. Dr. Pasachnik also confirmed that this is likely the historic range for Both *Cyclura* species, and it is possible that both species exist in this area.

Component 3 addressed regional, national and international dissemination of information on the current status of *C. ricordii* and its habitat, which will include the effect of the proposed project on the local inhabitants. An effort is to be made to network within these arenas and identify other potential partners whose projects would offer alternatives for income generation to local stakeholders. We were able to attend the Rezo Ekolo meeting in Port-au-Prince in March, which proved to be an excellent venue to network with other conservation organizations working nationally or regionally in Haiti. From this meeting key contacts were made will will facilitate local education, and possible collaborations in conservation. Several meetings were held with Société Audubon Haiti interim director Joel Timyan, and current director, Arnaud Dupuy. They have been invited to collaborate with Grupo Jaragua and the IIF for the conservation of critical habitat in Anse-à-Pitres.

Component 4 addressed local information dissemination using audio/visual presentations by local participants in the local language, and training an informed body of local school-teachers who can act as agents for educating young children. 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.

A poster was prepared placed on permanent fixture for all to see. It is presented in the local language and offers information on the importance *Cyclura* species for the local environment and long term benefits to protecting them.

Additional Comments/Recommendations

- **Use this space to provide any further comments or recommendations in relation to your project or CEPF**

Additional Funding

- **Provide details of any additional funding that supported this project and any funding secured for the project, organization, or the region, as a result of CEPF investment**

Donor	Type of Funding*	Amount	Notes
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Grupo Jaragua	B	5,000USD	Travel to AaP, staff time for training workshops

* Categorize the type of funding as:

- A *Project Co-Financing (other donors or your organization contribute to the direct costs of this project)*
- B *Grantee and Partner Leveraging (other donors contribute to your organization or a partner organization as a direct result of successes with this CEPF funded project)*
- C *Regional/Portfolio Leveraging (other donors make large investments in a region because of CEPF investment or successes related to this project)*

Information Sharing and CEPF Policy

CEPF is committed to transparent operations and to helping civil society groups share experiences, lessons learned, and results. Final project completion reports are made available on our Web site, www.cepf.net, and publicized in our newsletter and other communications.

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