

CEPF FINAL PROJECT COMPLETION REPORT

Organization Legal Name:	Consortio Ambiental Dominicano
Project Title:	Sustainable Financing and Establishment of Private Reserves for Biodiversity Conservation in Loma Quita Espuela and Loma Guaconejo, Dominican Republic
Date of Report:	2/28/2015
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CEPF Region: Caribbean Islands

Strategic Direction: 1. Improve protection and management of 45 priority key biodiversity areas

Grant Amount: \$212,461

Project Dates: January 1, 2012-June 30, 2014

Implementation Partners for this Project (please explain the level of involvement for each partner):

Consortio Ambiental Dominicano (CAD) – CAD is a Dominican nonprofit organization (NGO) based in Santo Domingo that works in the environment and natural resource sector. It is an environmental policy organization that helps support civil society organizations by building local institutional capacity. CAD’s mission is to develop creative environmental policy solutions, through a network of partners and allies, that protect the environment and improve the quality of life for rural populations. CAD was the CEPF grant recipient, and responsible for overall project deliverables, financial and written reports, administration, and project management.

Fundacion Loma Quita Espuela (FLQE) – a NGO formed in 1990 and located in San Francisco de Macoris, FLQE co-manages the Loma Quita Espuela Scientific Reserves with the Ministerio de Medio Ambiente y Recursos Naturales (MIMARENA). The mission of FLQE is to promote actions that achieve balance between conservation and reasonable use of natural resources, and to improve quality of life for communities bordering the Reserves. FLQE was a CEPF subgrant to CAD in this CEPF project. FLQE was responsible for outreach and implementation of the Plan Vivo carbon offset certificates. The NGO played a crucial role in organizing and conducting the stakeholder workshop and implementing the reforestation efforts.

Sociedad para el Desarrollo Integral del Nordeste (SODIN) – a NGO located in Nagua since 1996, SODIN was authorized by Presidential decree #249-04 in 2001, to co-manage the Loma Guaconejo Scientific Reserve with MIMARENA. SODIN has over 20 years of experience working on community development related issues in the Guaconejo area. They have received numerous grants to support community lead initiatives, focusing on sustainable agriculture and watershed restoration. SODIN was a CEPF subgrant to CAD in this CEPF project. The NGO helped organize workshops in the communities of the Guaconejo Reserve.

Ministerio de Medio Ambiente y Recursos Naturales (MIMARENA) – MIMARENA has been involved in the project since the initial planning workshop in February, 2009 and has expressed

their support for the initiative. Specifically, MIMARENA staff participated in monthly project technical meetings. Sol Teresa, Coordinator of the National Payments for Environmental (PES) program under MINAREMA, and Eduardo Vásquez, coordinator for MIMARENA's Global Environmental Facility project, is part of the Project Team. MIMARENA participated in all aspects of CEPF products. MIMARENA staff was critical to help establish the private reserve under the Private Reserve regulation.

Helados Bon - Helados Bon is the largest ice cream franchise in the Dominican Republic. The owners, Moreno Family, are integrally involved in fund raising activities for the Bicknell's thrush and Biodiversity Conservation Fund.

Vermont Center for Ecostudies (VCE) -- VCE's long-standing efforts to conserve biodiversity in Hispaniolan montane forests, and to build capacity of local conservation partners in the Dominican Republic, was instrumental in conducting the Bicknell's thrush bird monitoring program in 2014.

Eddy Foundation-- The Eddy Foundation provided funds for land acquisition and private reserve creation. Eddy Foundation is based out of New York State and focuses on land protection to conserve biodiversity. The Foundation has conserved thousands of acres for valuable habitat in the U.S. Their recent involvement in land acquisition in the Septentrional provides an important catalyst for biodiversity conservation in the Dominican Republic.

Instituto Tecnológico de Santo Domingo (INTEC)--INTEC is an institution created by a group of teachers and independent professionals who saw the need to create a university of quality and to produce professionals with graduate degrees. Bonilla Solhanlle Duarte is a project partner that is working with the feasibility of a payments for environmental service (PES) pilot project for potable water and irrigation. INTEC received a CEPF grant to conduct the feasibility of PES component for potable water and irrigation water in the Guaconejo and Quita Espueala Reserves.

Conservation Impacts

Please explain/describe how your project has contributed to the implementation of the CEPF ecosystem profile.

This CEPF project directly contributes to the implementation of the CEPF ecosystem profile by addressing Strategic Direction 1 – Improve protection and management of 45 priority key biodiversity areas Under Strategic Direction. Specifically, the CEPF project addressed: 1.2 – Strengthen the legal protection status in the remaining 28 key biodiversity areas; and 1.4 – Support the establishment or strengthening of sustainable financing mechanisms. The CEPF project contributed to developing a landscape scale sustainable financing mechanism to build an ecological corridor between Quita Espuela and Guaconejo Scientific Reserves (Figure 1). In absence of CEPF financing, the project would not have had the necessary capital to transcend the project from a planning phase to on-the-ground implementation of payment for ecosystem services (PES) or establishment of the first private reserve. The importance of CEPF funding to support the private investment in land acquisition, establishment of private reserves, and selling Plan Vivo carbon offsets cannot be overstated. The Two Countries – One Bird (2C1B) project is a private, public and nonprofit partnership, and obtaining private investment for land acquisition depends on the ability for the 2C1B project team to provide the technical and administrative support to establish the private reserve and develop the carbon offset project. In absence of CEPF funding, the necessary land use change needed to promote ecosystem connectivity and biodiversity conservation would not of been achieved.

1.2 – Strengthen the legal protection status in the remaining 28 key biodiversity areas

We strengthened the legal protection status of Guacnejo and Quita Espuela Reserves through the establishment of the first private reserve under the new regulation entitled "Reglamento para

la Declaracion de Areas Protegidas Privadas o Conservacion Voluntario" (Resolucion No. 012-2011). The landmark land acquisition for the private reserve was shared with global media through several articles, including an Associated Press article found [here](#). The event also appeared as one of CEPF's big stories ([CEPF article](#)).

The regulation provides a framework for establishing private reserves. However, before the CEPF project the incentive structure and the legislative process to obtain private reserve status in the Dominican Republic was ambiguous. In this CEPF project, we established the business plan, management plan, and land-use plan that met the requirements for Resolution No. 012-2011. We worked closely with MIMARENA in developing all aspects of the private reserve so that our end product serves as a guide for the establishment of other private reserves in the Dominican Republic.

1.4 – Support the establishment or strengthening of sustainable financing mechanisms.

The establishment of the Dominican Republic's first private reserve serves as an important sustainable financing instrument for protected areas with large landholders. We also developed and sold Plan Vivo carbon credits from the Dominican Republic's first forest carbon offset project. Carbon offsets are a sustainable financing mechanism, because chocolate makers in North America pay landowners in the CEPF project to address climate change through reforestation efforts.

During CEPF project, we planted over 32,000 native species with 8 landowners in the Quita Espuela and Guaconejo ecological corridor. The project is being verified under the international Plan Vivo carbon standard. The unique and novel aspect of the Plan Vivo certificates is that it links farmers in the Cordillera Septentrional to chocolate companies in the procurement chain who are willing to invest in restoration activities. The Dominican Republic is the eleventh largest cacao producer in the world and the number one producer of organic cacao. Linking chocolate companies with producers to address climate change is replicable and could have impacts across the island of Hispaniola that are far-reaching. Several news articles documented the carbon offset sale. The articles can be found in the leading Dominican Republic newspaper [here](#) and [here](#).

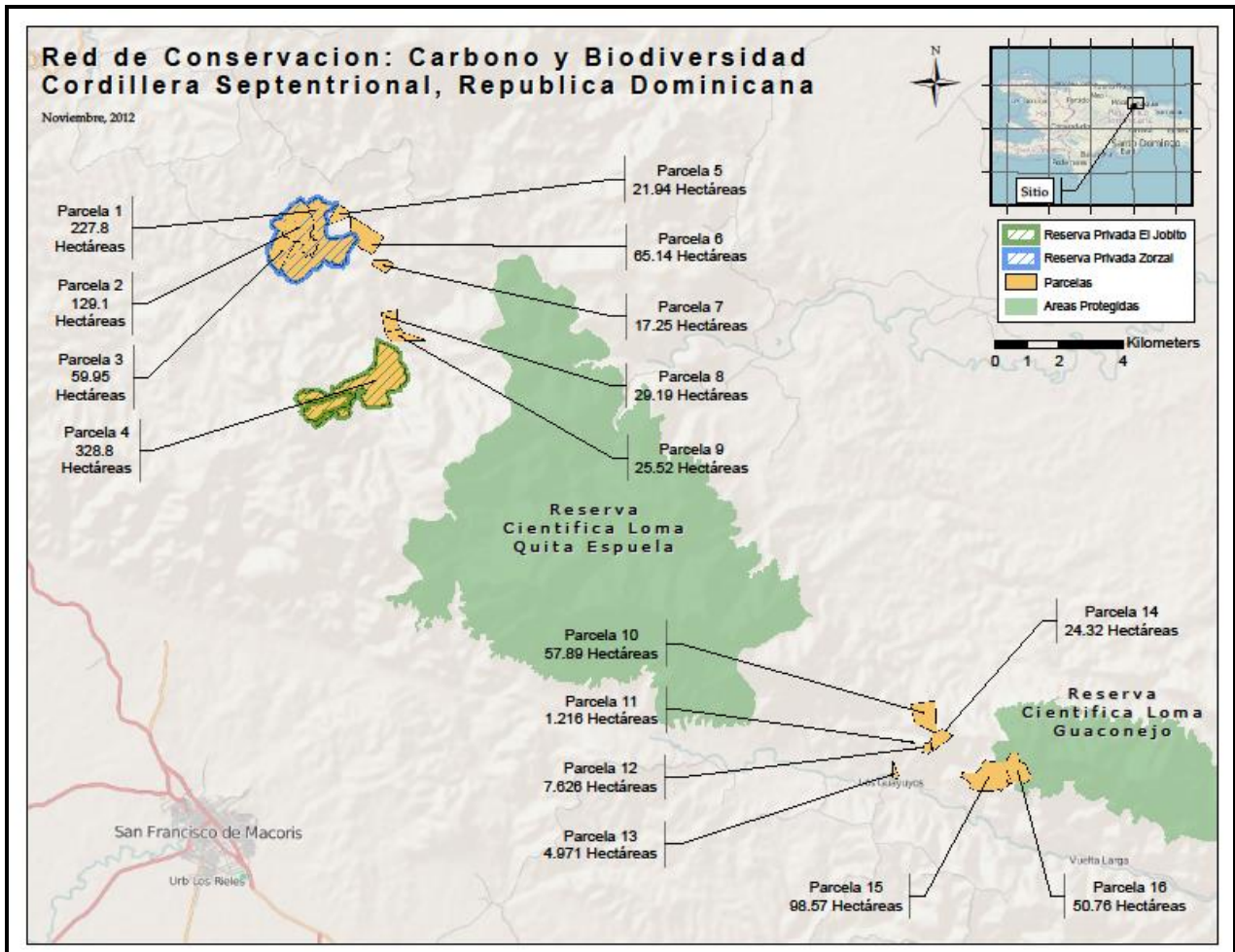


Figure 1. Ecological corridor established via private reserves and carbon offsets in the CEPF project.

Please summarize the overall results/impact of your project.

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

1. Increased biodiversity and habitat protection in the buffer zone and intervening corridor of Loma Guaconejo and Loma Quita Espuela.
2. The environmental law (64-00) and resolution No. 012-2011, which allows for the establishment of private reserves, strengthened from the establishment of the first Dominican Republic private reserve.
3. Forest carbon credits worth ~\$750,000 generated over a 30 year period, ensuring long-term financing for protected habitat.
4. Increase overall protected area around Quita Espuela and Guaconejo Reserves by 10 percent (1,033) hectares.

Actual Progress Toward Long-term Impacts at Completion:

1. Increased biodiversity and habitat protection in the buffer zone and intervening corridor of Loma Guaconejo and Loma Quita Espuela.

During the CEP project, we increased biodiversity and habitat protection by ~6% (564 hectares) in the buffer zone and intervening corridor of Loma Guaconejo and Loma Quita Espuela Scientific Reserves. The CEPF project developed the necessary incentive mechanism for expanding the

protected area in the corridor with private landowners. Landowners are continue to sign-up for the Plan Vivo carbon offset program on a monthly basis and we expect to increase land under a sustainable management plan in the northeastern Cordillera Septentrional through Plan Vivo by 20% in the next ten years.

2. The environmental law (64-00) and resolution No. 012-2011, which allows for the establishment of private reserves, strengthened from the establishment of the first Dominican Republic private reserve.

A land use plan, biological inventory, and management plan was completed for this project in close collaboration with MIMARENA to ensure consistency with private reserve regulation. The management plan, land use plan, and biological inventory serves as a vital model for future landowners who will register their land as a private reserve. Thus, an important product from the CEPF funded project was developing model documents that will be replicated at the national level.

3. Forest carbon credits worth ~\$750,000 generated over a 30 year period, ensuring long-term financing for protected habitat.

We completed the carbon quantification, initial planting system, and sale of the Caribbean's first forest carbon offset credits to chocolate companies in North America. During the project period, we planted 32,000 native species with 8 landowners in the Plan Vivo offset project. Considering the rate in which landowners are signing up for Plan Vivo, we estimate the 2C1B project will exceed \$750,000 in sale of forest carbon credits over the next 30 years. Additional revenue generated for reforestation efforts will ensure long-term biodiversity protection finance.

4. Increase overall protected area around Quita Espuela and Guaconejo Reserves by 10 percent (1,033) hectares.

During the CEPF project, we increased the overall protected area around Quita Espuela and Guaconejo by 6%. We expect to exceed the goal of increasing the protected area by 10% within the next 5 years. The CEPF project established a critical framework and proof of concept for private reserves and forest carbon offsets in the region. Now that that framework has been developed, it is being replicated at the regional level.

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

The following three short-term impacts are a result of overall project activities.

1. Over 600 hectares of land under sustainable management land (i.e. forest carbon credits and private reserves). This represents an increase ~6% of land under sustainable management.

We met the target of 600 hectares (6%) of land under sustainable management. We used a two-pronged approach to reaching the 600 hectare goal. First, investors from the United States and Dominican Republic purchased ~469 hectares of land, establishing the first private reserve in the Dominican Republic and expanded the existing protected area in Quita Espuela and Guaconejo by ~5%. Second, we developed a forest offset carbon project that requires landowners to have a long-term management plan. The private reserve and forest carbon offsets increased the land under sustainable management by ~6%.

2. Ten communities benefited from project activities, including increased income through carbon offsets and educated on the role private reserves can play in protected area management.

Three communities benefited from the signing of the first-ever sale, in the Dominican Republic, of forest carbon offsets. The sale of the offset credits increased income to landowners and gave an

incentive for landowners to plant trees and protect biodiversity in the buffer zone of the Loma Quita Espuela and Loma Guaconejo Scientific Reserves.

Community outreach was conducted to plan with community participants in the reforestation efforts during the last quarter of 2013. Additionally, over 20 community members, representing 5 organizations, and 6 communities benefited from a 3 day forest carbon inventory and Global Positioning System workshop lead by Consorcio Ambiental Dominicano in collaboration with the Loma Quita Espuela Foundation, SODIN and Vermont Center for EcoStudies. The workshop focused on capacity building for forest carbon technical work. The workshop prepared community members for paid work conducting the inventory for the CEPF funded project and also gave them the necessary technical expertise to qualify for work with other projects outside the CEPF funded project.

We held private reserve workshops in 2 communities. Over 30 community member benefited from the private reserve workshop held in the Quita Espuela buffer zone.

The planting of native species in the private reserve commenced with an inaugural event of 50+ volunteers from Boston, Massachusetts. 3 communities benefited directly from project activities related to the 50+ Boston volunteers. These activities went above and beyond CEPF funded activities, but are part of the overall 2C1B initiative.

3. A national web-based discussion forum focused on biodiversity conservation strengthened. This includes a 20% increase in visitations to the discussion forum to enhance information sharing and establishment of a broader network. A project web-site with a description of CEPF funded activities developed.

A moderator for the national web-based discussion forum worked on the forum daily and sent out important protected area news. This has increased awareness on relevant protected area news. During the CEPF project, the subscriptions to the national forum increased by 68% (from 670 to 1,127 subscribed). A facebook page was also created for the PA forum during this reporting period https://www.facebook.com/foroap?notif_t=fbpage_fan_invite .

CAD also started a you tube channel: www.youtube.com/channel/UCo4CKpJp9rw22Kcpi7xxPsQ

4. At the end of Year 1, \$500,000 of private capital leveraged to purchase 469 hectares to expand the overall protected area by ~5%.

We exceeded the investment of US \$500,000 and met the plan to increase the protected area by 5%. To date, we have raised \$650,000 in private capital invested in a private reserve. The landmark purchase of Reserva Zorzal was completed in April, 2012 (figure 2).

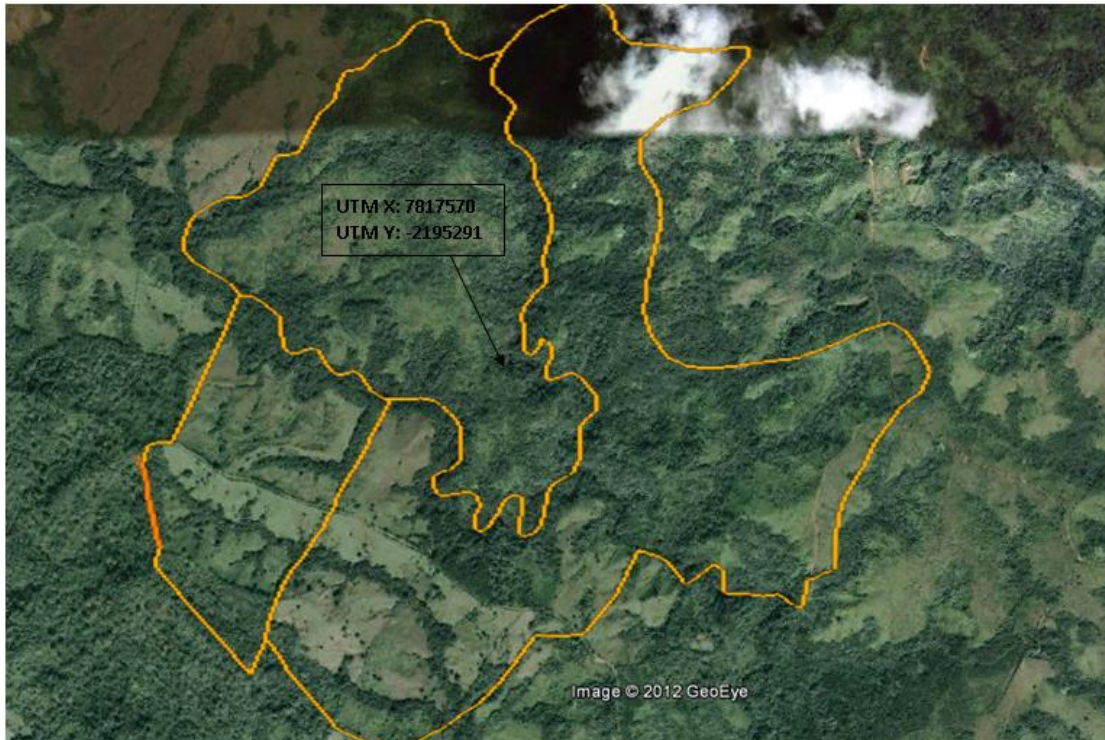


Figure 2. Map of Reserva Zorzal.

5. At the end of Year 1, 469 hectares registered with the MIMARENA as private reserve.

We submitted the all the documents to register Reserva Zorzal as a Private Reserve with Ministry of Environment and Natural Resources (MIMARENA). The Ministry is processing the Private Reserve certification and is waiting for the new Minister to sworn in before he inaugurates the reserve.

6. At the end of the project, a model private reserve management plan and monitoring plan adopted by MIMARENA for Resolution No. 012 - 2011 "Reglamento para la Declaracion de Areas Protegidas Privados o Conservacion Voluntaria de la Republica Dominicana".

A land use plan, biological inventory, and management plan was completed for this project in close collaboration with MIMARENA to ensure consistency with private reserve regulation. The management plan, land use plan, and biological inventory serves as a vital model for future landowners who will register their land in the future as a private reserve. Thus, an important product from the CEPF funded project was developing model documents that will be replicated at the national level.

7. By the end of the project, an additional 100 hectares of property registered with MIMARENA as a private reserve, totaling 569 hectares enrolled as private reserve status in the two Reserves buffer zone.

We helped organize and participated in a meeting of the National Network of Private Reserves in June, 2012. Our CEPF funded project and related project press has motivated many private landowners to consider dedicating their land as a private reserve. However, the first iteration of the private reserve regulation has significant limitations. There is a lack of clear incentives for landowners to register their land as a private reserve. Thus, until the private reserve regulation is amended to offer landowners clear incentives to protect their land, private reserve registration will remain limited.

MIMARENA has recognized the private reserve regulation limitations and is using the case study of Reserva Zorzal to make recommended adjustments to the regulation.

8. By the end of the project, a guide book/document that outlines the process for creating private reserves in the Dominican Republic adopted and disseminated by MIMARENA to the conservation sector in the Dominican Republic.

CAD completed a draft guide document in collaboration with MIMARENA. The document includes background information on private reserves, the draft management plan, among other necessary documentation for private reserve registration.

9. A model for the Dominican Republic's first private reserve established and process disseminated at national and international forums.

The dissemination of the model for the Dominican Republic's first private reserve was completed at the Biodiversity Congress of the Caribbean VIII held from January 29th – February 1st, 2014. CAD organized the symposium with other conference organizers (e.g. INTEC, MIMARENA etc.) related to payments for environmental services. It was an ideal venue to share the Dominican Republic's experience with an international and national audience. It is an important forum to disseminate information and lessons learned related to biodiversity conservation projects and for non-profit organization to replicate similar efforts in their own protected areas. We also presented the project's forest carbon offset experience at the conference. There was a total of approximately 25-35 participants who participated in each presentation.

10. A model for the Dominican Republic's first forest carbon project established and disseminated. 11. By the end of the project, a total of 442 hectares registered as a afforestation/reforestation carbon project under the Verified Carbon Standard. The 442 hectares will produce ~75,000 MTCO₂e and a total of \$750,000 of revenue generated from sale of forest carbon credits.

This short-term impact has been completed for 100 hectares. We completed the carbon quantification, initial planting system, and sale of the Caribbean's first forest carbon offset credits. The project is registered with the international carbon standard – Plan Vivo. Some of the project documentation can be found on the Plan Vivo website <http://www.planvivo.org/projects/registeredprojects/>

The revenue generated for the project from contracts from carbon offset sales is estimated at approximately \$100,000. While we did not reach our goal of 442 hectares and \$750,000, the project accomplished its goal of establishing the first forest carbon offset project in the Dominican Republic. We sold Plan Vivo certificates to two chocolate making companies in North America. The unique and novel aspect of the carbon offset sales is that we combined the sale of cacao beans with Plan Vivo offset credits. Thus, the project is more likely to be replicated at the national level.

The landmark events took place with several media outlets and social media announcements. See the web link here: http://espacinsular.org/spip.php?article19559&var_recherche=cepf . And the link to Listin Diario here: <http://www.listindiario.com/economia-and-negocios/2014/7/21/330629/EI-CAD-coloca-bonos-de-carbono-forestal#.U9AIBDU1IDo.facebook>

12. Reforestation of 442 hectares with native species by the end of the three years.

Reforestation of native species for the forest carbon offset project was initiated with the participation of 50+ volunteers from Boston, Massachusetts and 10 Dominican community members. To date, we have over 31,000 native species have been planted. We have not

reached the overall goal of 442 hectares, but expect the project to reach the goal off 442+ hectares in the next five years. The delay in reaching the stated goal was due to challenges in getting landowners interested in carbon offsets at the beginning of the project. Carbon offsets is a new mechanism in the Dominican Republic. Thus, we spent significant time in the first two years of the project on climate change education and capacity building. As a result of our education efforts, eight landowners have signed up to participate in the Plan Vivo program and we are actively planting trees on the enrolled properties.

We designed a unique planting system that considers three groups of species: 1) native species with fast growth of about 400 tree per hectare; 2) species with slow growth, but important for biodiversity in the area of about 533 trees/hectare; and 3) natives species with large canopy that accumulate a lot of carbon uptake. The goal is to design a planting system that mimics natural old-growth forest with complex horizontal and vertical structures. We believe this will structure will support the native flora and fauna and biodiversity.

13. Dissemination of information from experience and lessons learned from private reserve status and forest carbon development experience. This includes at least one national level dissemination workshop and description of CEPF project activities on the project website.

This short-term impact has been completed and exceeded. The national and international dissemination workshop took place at the Biodiversity Congress of the Caribbean VIII held from January 29th – February 1st, 2014. Additionally the press releases listed above in short-term impacts #10 discussed the private reserve component. The dissemination in national-level media is important, because currently landowners do not see an incentive in declaring their property as a private reserve. Demonstrating that incentive payments are made for reforestation efforts shows to landowners that there can be an incentive for registering their property as a private reserve.

A website for Consorcio Ambiental Dominicano was created and project activities were disseminated on CAD's website and facebook page. CAD's website in both Spanish and English is here <http://www.cad.org.do/>

14. 4 park rangers/local forest technicians trained on proper forest carbon inventory methods and monitoring methods.

This short-term impact has been completed and exceeded. We planned and executed a three day workshop with twenty-three community members from April 16-18, 2012. From August - November, 2013, we ground truthed aerial photos and conducted forest carbon inventories on five properties. We held a follow-up training exercise from the April 2012 workshop in November, 2013.

15. Based on CEPF civil society tracking tool, the institutional capacity of CAD is strengthened in managing project finances and reporting.

The CEPF civil society tracking tool was filled out by three institutions: SODIN, FLQE and CAD. The baseline assessment will help strengthen the principal institutions collaborating in the CEPF funded project.

Institutional capacity in project management and grant solicitation has been strengthened by CEPF project. For example, the two sub-grantees Fundacion Quita Espuela and SODIN both received CEPF small grants. Fundacion Quita Espuela also received additional funding from Vermont Center for EcoStudies and American Bird Conservancy to support project activities. CAD received funds from Global Environmental Facility to support project activities. In sum, the CEPF grant served as a catalyst in helping the institutions solicit, receive, and manage additional resources that may not have been possible without initial CEPF funds.

Actual Progress Toward Short-term Impacts at Completion:

Please provide the following information where relevant:

Hectares Protected: 569 hectares were protected with private landowners. Improved protection occurred at 10,033 hectares with management plans created with matching funds to the CEPF project.

Species Conserved: The Guaconejo and Quita Espuela Reserves support a high degree of unique and globally significant biodiversity. The moist broadleaf forests of Guaconejo and Quita Espuela that support many endemic flora and fauna have been identified as the most endangered habitat on the island (Latta and Lorenzo 2000). The CEPF project helped conserve a total of 581 and 639 plant species in Guaconejo and Quita Espuela, respectively.

Both Reserves have been designated as Important Bird Areas (IBAs) by BirdLife International (Perdomo and Arias 2008). The CEPF project helped conserve 26 (of the 34) Hispaniolan Endemic Bird Area (EBA) restricted-range species including the Vulnerable Hispaniolan Amazon (Amazona ventralis) and Hispaniolan Parakeet (Aratinga chloroptera). The CEPF project helped conserve four endemic frogs including the Critically Endangered Eleutherodactylus parabates, and E. inoptatus and nine reptiles.

Specifically, the biological inventory conducted on Reserva Zorzal (private reserve created during the CEPF project) indicates several species were on the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) red list, Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES) threatened species list, and the Dominican Republic's national red list of endangered and vulnerable species (Table 1 & 2).

Tabla 1. Plant species protected and/or endangered in Reserva Zorzal.

Scientific name	Common name (spanish)	CITES	IUCN	NRL
<i>Cedrela odorata</i>	Cedro		X	X
<i>Roystonea hispaniolana</i>	Palma real			X
<i>Calyptronoma plumeriana</i>	Manacla colorada			X
<i>Sabal domingensis</i>	Palma cana			X
<i>Prestoea montana</i>	Manacla			X
<i>Fevillea cordifolia</i>	Jayama			X
<i>Alchorneopsis floribunda</i>	Palo de gallina			X
<i>Carapa guianensis</i>	Cabirma de Guinea			X
<i>Columnea domingensis</i>				X
<i>Eugenia dictyophylla</i>	Gayabón			X
<i>Cyathea arborea</i>	Camarón			X
<i>Cyathea furfuracea</i>	Camarón			X
<i>Chimarrhis cymosa</i>				X
<i>Rollinia mucosa</i>	Candongo			X
<i>Mora abbottii</i>	Cola			X
<i>Swietenia mahagoni</i>	Caoba	X	X	X
<i>Bletia patula</i>	Palmita de monte	X		X
<i>Epidendrum carpophorum</i>		X		X
<i>Epidendrum difforme</i>		X		X
<i>E. nocturnum</i>		X		X
<i>E. rigidum</i>		X		X

<i>E. wrightti</i>		X		X
<i>Isochilus linearis</i>		X		X
<i>Jacquiniera globosa</i>		X		X
<i>Oeceoclades maculata</i>	Lengua de suegra	X		
<i>Polystachya foliosa</i>	Cañuela	X		X
<i>Tolumnia variegata</i>	Angelito	X		X

NRL= National red list

Tabla 2: Status of birds found at Reserva Zorzal.

Scientific name	Common name (Spanish)	NRL	IUCN
<i>Catharus bicknelli</i>	Zorzal migratorio	EE	VU
<i>Buteo jamaicensis</i>	Guaraguao	-	LC
<i>Falco sparverius</i>	Cuyaya	-	LC
<i>Tyto glaucops</i>	Lechuza cara ceniza	-	LC
<i>Amazona ventralis</i>	Cotorra	EE	VU
<i>Aratinga chloroptera</i>	Perico	EE	VU
<i>Patagioenas inornata</i>	Paloma ceniza	VU	NT
<i>Anthracothorax dominicus</i>	Zumbador grande	-	LC
<i>Chlorostilbon swainsonii</i>)	Zumbador Esmeralda	-	LC
<i>Mellisuga minima</i>	Zumbadorcito	-	LC
<i>Icterus dominicensis</i>	Cigua canaria	VU	LC
Total 11 species		5	11

Symbology:

National red list: EE= Endanger of extinction, VU= Vulnerable

IUCN: VU= Vulnerable, NT= Near threatened, LC= Least concerned

Corridors Created: We created one ecological corridor during this CEPF project (figure 1).

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

Were there any unexpected impacts (positive or negative)?

1) Carbon offsets

Importance of carbon offset sales and marketing

During the project proposal writing phase, we had several interested carbon offset buyers. However, we did not have a firm offer or contract. An unexpected success of our carbon offset sale is that it has had an impact on the chocolate industry and opportunities for the program to be replicated at the national level. Part of our marketing strategy is to "attach" carbon offsets to organic cacao sold to chocolate makers by offering climate change and climate adaptation outcomes to buyers in their supply chain. Appealing to companies who can address climate change in their own supply chain offers a unique opportunity for them to sell the "story" to their clients. We have been invited by representatives in the chocolate industry to share our story so others can replicate our efforts. For example, we presented the 2C1B project at the 2014 **Northwest Chocolate Festival**. Because we were able to appeal to artisan chocolate makers

who want to buy cacao with a “story”, we were able to sell offsets for \$12/ton which is 100% more than the market rate for Plan Vivo certificates.

Community participation in carbon offsets

Plan Vivo has a strong emphasis on community development and improved livelihoods. Plan Vivo requires a project to have 66% of the total carbon project area be from smallholders. Smallholders are defined as community members who live in the community and manage their property with the family. This Plan Vivo requirement will ensure our project does not just benefit large landowners, but that we include smallholders as part of a strategic effort in biodiversity conservation. The social and environmental benefits from the requirement to include smallholders in carbon offset projects offers an opportunity to improve smallholder income and directly address mosaic land-use degradation and forest conversion.

2) Bi-lateral engagement in conservation

The North-South exchange with CEPF grant recipients and an extended network of project partners who visited the United States has been key to empowering project stakeholders in the Key Biodiversity Areas to take responsibility for the project and desired conservation outcomes.

The exchange was successful in raising funds, but most importantly the cohort of 11 Dominicans who visited the United States learned about new innovative conservation mechanisms, such as conservation easements. The visit motivated individuals to take responsibility for project products. An example of this empowerment can be seen in the fact that 5 of the 11 visitors' travel costs was paid for by CEPF and Global Environmental Facility (GEF). Six of the visitors either paid for their own travel costs or found other resources to pay for their visit. A blog post about the Dominican/U.S. exchange can be found [here](#).

3) Private, public, and non-profit partnership

To achieve biodiversity conservation outcomes and affect protected area policy, the private, public, and non-profit sector must be integrally involved. Our CEPF project was a success, because we had private sector, public sector, and civil society equally invested. From a financial standpoint, the private sector provided 1:1 cash match for all grants received to date, including CEPF funds. The private sector provides critical long-term financing for our CEPF project and biodiversity conservation efforts.

Likewise, the government and civil society organizations must feel "ownership" in the project process, including project design, implementation, communication, and responsibility for outcomes. We involved relevant stakeholders at all levels of project implementation. Our core technical team is comprised of Ministry of Environment staff, including the national PES coordinator, Sol Teresa, NGOs and private sector. We consulted community members and included community groups in our project activities. For example, we chose the Plan Vivo standard as our carbon offset standard, because it requires us to work with small-scale landowners. While including multiple stakeholders and the government is important for transparency and capacity building, some tasks will take longer to achieve than expected.

Project Components

Project Components: *Please report on results by project component. Reporting should reference specific products/deliverables from the approved project design and other relevant information.*

Component 1 Planned: Investments from the private sector incorporated to create private reserves in the buffer zones and intervening corridor.

Component 1 Actual at Completion:

1. Between January and February, 2012 we had four meetings with the sellers and buyers of the property.
2. On January 17th and 20th, 2012 we had meetings with lawyers to develop business entity, review legal title and develop purchase and sales contract.
3. The landmark purchase of 469 hectares on April 23, 2012, serving as the Dominican Republic's first private reserve.

Component 2 Planned: Sustainable financing mechanisms developed with a focus on forest carbon offsets.

Component 2 Actual at Completion:

We exceeded the expectations of this project component. We developed and sold the first forest carbon offsets in the Dominican Republic. Two chocolate companies that purchased the carbon offsets were: 1) ChocoSol from Toronto, Canada; and 2) Dandelion Chocolate from San Francisco, California. The unique and novel aspect of the carbon offset sales is that we combined the sale of cacao beans with Plan Vivo offset credits. Thus, the project created a mechanism for companies to offset their climate change impact and is more likely to be replicated at the national level with small-scale producers.

The landmark events took place with several media outlets and social media announcements. See the web link here: http://espacinsular.org/spip.php?article19559&var_recherche=cepf . And the link to Listin Diario here: <http://www.listindiario.com/economia-and-negocios/2014/7/21/330629/EI-CAD-coloca-bonos-de-carbono-forestal#.U9AIBDU1IDo.facebook>

The most important aspect of the offset sales is that we established a replicable process for providing an incentive to landowners to reforest. From selecting a standard (Plan Vivo) that is flexible and allows small producers to easily participate to aligning the sale with a tangible commodity like cacao, the project will grow and be replicated at the regional and national level.

We also created a revolving fund for the project that allows us to obtain 50% greater value for our offsets. Bicknell's thrush Habitat Protection Fund (created from Private donations) is a revolving fund for forest carbon credits. The basis of the fund is to disperse funds in form of contractual agreements for landowners to plant native species and enter their land as a carbon offset project. The fund will be reimbursed with sale of offsets to companies like Dandelion Chocolate and ChosoSol in the United States, Canada and other countries.

The fund allows project participants to obtain more revenue because instead of relying on outside investors to fund start-up costs, the fund can cover the initial quantity of credits and reduce transaction costs. Thus, there is a greater return on investment for the project participants.

One of the products in this component was to train 4 forest park rangers and local forest technicians trained on proper carbon inventory methods. We exceeded this deliverable. We planned and executed a three day workshop with twenty-three community park rangers from April 16-18, 2012 (Figure 3). Participants were trained in forest carbon inventory techniques, including

use of a Global Positioning System, proper sample plot design, mensuration, data collection and Quality Assurance/Quality Control (QA/QC) procedures. Park rangers were equipped with GPS units and forest inventory equipment. Park rangers have conducted forest and habitat inventory on several properties, including Reserva Zorzal. In addition, a comprehensive habitat monitoring protocol has been developed and further training will continue to be conducted. We view the capacity training of local park rangers as a key component of a comprehensive monitoring program lead by local institutions and community leaders.



Figure 3. Park rangers and community members trained in forest carbon inventory methods.

Component 3 Planned: Procedures, management plans and guides for private reserve establishment developed within the National Protected Areas System.

Component 3 Actual at Completion:

A land use plan, biological inventory, and management plan was completed for this project in close collaboration with MIMARENA to ensure consistency with private reserve regulation. The management plan, land use plan, and biological inventory serves as a critical model for future landowners who will register their land as a private reserve. Thus, an important product from the CEPF funded project was developing model documents that will be replicated at the national level.

Component 4 Planned: Institutional capacity building for Consorcio Ambiental Dominicano to provide leadership and implement conservation programs at the national level increased.

Component 4 Actual at Completion:

CAD's institutional capacity to provide leadership and implement conservation programs at the national level has been increase as a result of the CEPF project. A strategic plan for CAD was completed during the project. This involved several meetings with members of CAD and a full strategic plan adopted and signed by the Executive Director or CAD. We also conducted financial audits during the CEPF project that strengthened CAD's accounting methods. Having recent financial audits is also important to meet eligibility requirements for international funds. CAD's fundraising ability was also strengthened through a USA fundraising trip to Massachusetts, New York, and Boston.

Component 5 Planned: Dissemination of information via a website and discussion forum for National Protected areas

Component 5 Actual at Completion:

As a result of the communications portion of CAD's strategic plan, we created multiple media venues to disseminate information.

Protected are forum: A moderator for the national web-based discussion forum has been working on the forum daily and sending out important protected area news. During the CEPF project, the subscriptions to the national forum increased by 68% (from 670 to 1,127 subscribed). We exceeded the stated the goal of increasing subscriptions by 20%.

Facebook: CAD started a Facebook page and posted CEPF funded activities. Facebook "likes" during the CEPF project total 469.

CAD also started a you tube channel:

<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCo4CKpJp9rw22Kcpi7xxPsQ>

Component 6 Planned: Subgrant to Fundation Quita Espuela to assist with organizing local project activities, including protected area dissemination workshops, forest carbon workshops and other activities.

Component 6 Actual at Completion:

On May 10th 2012, we had a meeting with five community members in the community of Carmentico (Quita Espuela Reserve). We had another meeting in the month of May, 2012 with an individual landowner who owns property in El Guineal, Los Brasitos and Los Guayuyos.

During the reporting period of January – June 2013, 1 community forest carbon aggregation meeting held during this reporting period in the buffer zone of Loma Quita Espuela.

2 communities and 30 community member benefited from the private reserve workshop held in the Quita Espuela buffer community.

Another private reserve dissemination workshop with community members was held in October, 2013. We also held a dissemination workshop, presenting CEPF results in December, 2014. CEPF, GEF, Quita Espuela Foundation, and other community members were present.

Component 7 Planned: Subgrant to SODIN/La RED cooperative to assist with organizing local project activities, including protected area dissemination workshops, forest carbon workshops and other meetings.

Component 7 Actual at Completion:

On May 9th, 2012 we had a meeting with four community members in the community of Los Guayuyos (Guaconejo Reserve). We explained how carbon markets function and signed up one landowner for the feasibility assessment.

Component 8 Planned: Measures of success and long-term monitoring procedures in the KBAs and new private reserves.

Component 8 Actual at Completion:

The GEF biodiversity scorecard was filled out for the CEPF project and Consorcio Ambiental Dominicano, Quita Espuela Foundation, and SODIN each filled out the civil society tracking tool.

Component 9 Planned: Enmienda Enero 2014.
Participación Activa en el VIII Congreso de Biodiversidad de Centroamérica y El Caribe con la realización del Simposio Experiencias en la gestión de los Servicios eco sistémicos en Centroamérica y El Caribe, en el marco del VIII Congreso de Biodiversidad Caribeña.

Component 9 Actual at Completion:

The VIII Congress of Biodiversity in Central America and the Caribbean was well attended. Several CEPF projects were presented, including two from this project and another from the INTEC CEPF funded project.

A conference book was completed with write-ups of the presentations. The book was well put together with a consistent format and important conservation lessons learned.

Were any components unrealized? If so, how has this affected the overall impact of the project?

We did not hold the private reserve community workshop in the Guaconejo Reserve. This did not have an effect on the overall impact of the project. We completed several private reserve workshops in the Quita Espuela Reserve in place of Guaconejo Reserve. The current private reserve regulation needs to be amended to have clear incentive mechanisms before it can be more widely adopted.

Please describe and submit (electronically if possible) any tools, products, or methodologies that resulted from this project or contributed to the results.

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)

We developed a conceptual framework (Figure 4) for the CEPF project which identifies key stages for expanding the existing protected area. The framework highlights important roles of non-profit, private and government sectors in making ecosystem valuation tools operational in

management. In the first stage, universities and NGOs collaborated to apply a valuation tool, TAMARIN (developed by World Bank and Conservation International) to the study area to identify priority conservation areas. Assistance from the University of Vermont and Conservation International to develop the model was necessary because TAMARIN model parameters were unknown to researchers and practitioners in the Dominican Republic. Second, TAMARIN findings were presented to private sector investors, which helped solidify necessary funds to expand the protected area. The application of a peer-reviewed Ecosystem Service Assessment and Valuation (ESAV) model based on sound science and economics was critical in gaining confidence from donors to invest in protected area expansion. Furthermore, modeling results helped secure additional funds from multi-lateral donors like Critical Ecosystem Partnership Fund.

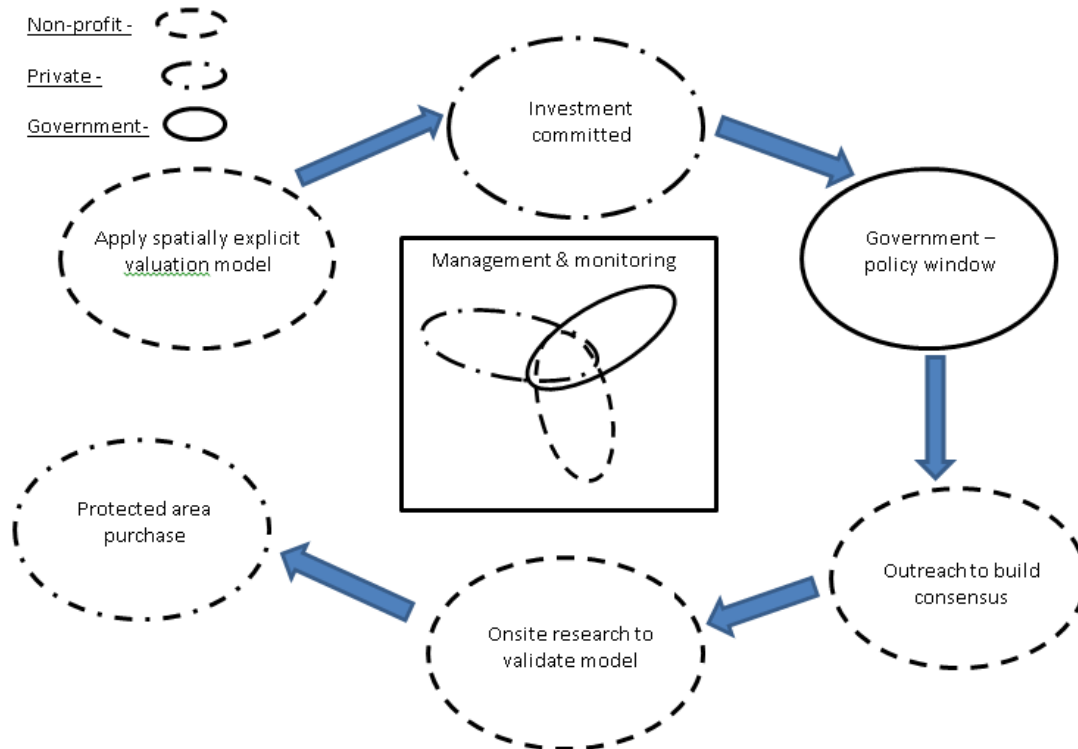


Figure 4. Conceptual framework outlining the necessary steps to expand a protected area system based on application of a spatially explicit valuation model.

In the third stage, recent political focus to incorporate private sector investment in conservation created a protected area “policy window”. The Dominican Republic government’s focus on private sector involvement coupled by a worldwide conservation trend in market-based mechanisms, created the political and legal environment to purchase land. The 2C1B project took advantage of a current policy window to hold multiple media events (Figure 5f), disseminate information, and generate national interest to leverage private sector investment.

Next, to identify gaps in the analyses and build consensus, researchers engaged a wide spectrum of stakeholders at an early stage in project development. Workshops were held with various stakeholders, including government, non-profit organizations, private sector, and community members to discuss the project and conduct a land tenure profile (Figure 5b). As Kasemir (2003) suggests “without integrating the points of views from citizens, local policy-makers, and industry representatives, environmental policy runs the risk of getting stalled in the early implementation phase”. In the fifth stage, grant funds from CEPF among others were secured to conduct onsite validation of TAMARIN results. Research focused on: 1) a social impact assessment; 2) a land tenure profile (Figure 5b); 3) property specific ecological and economic studies (Figure 5c); and 4) relevant policy advocacy (Figure 5e). Validating Bicknell’s

thrush presence and examining cost and revenue potential onsite was essential to complete the final stage of establishing the private reserve.

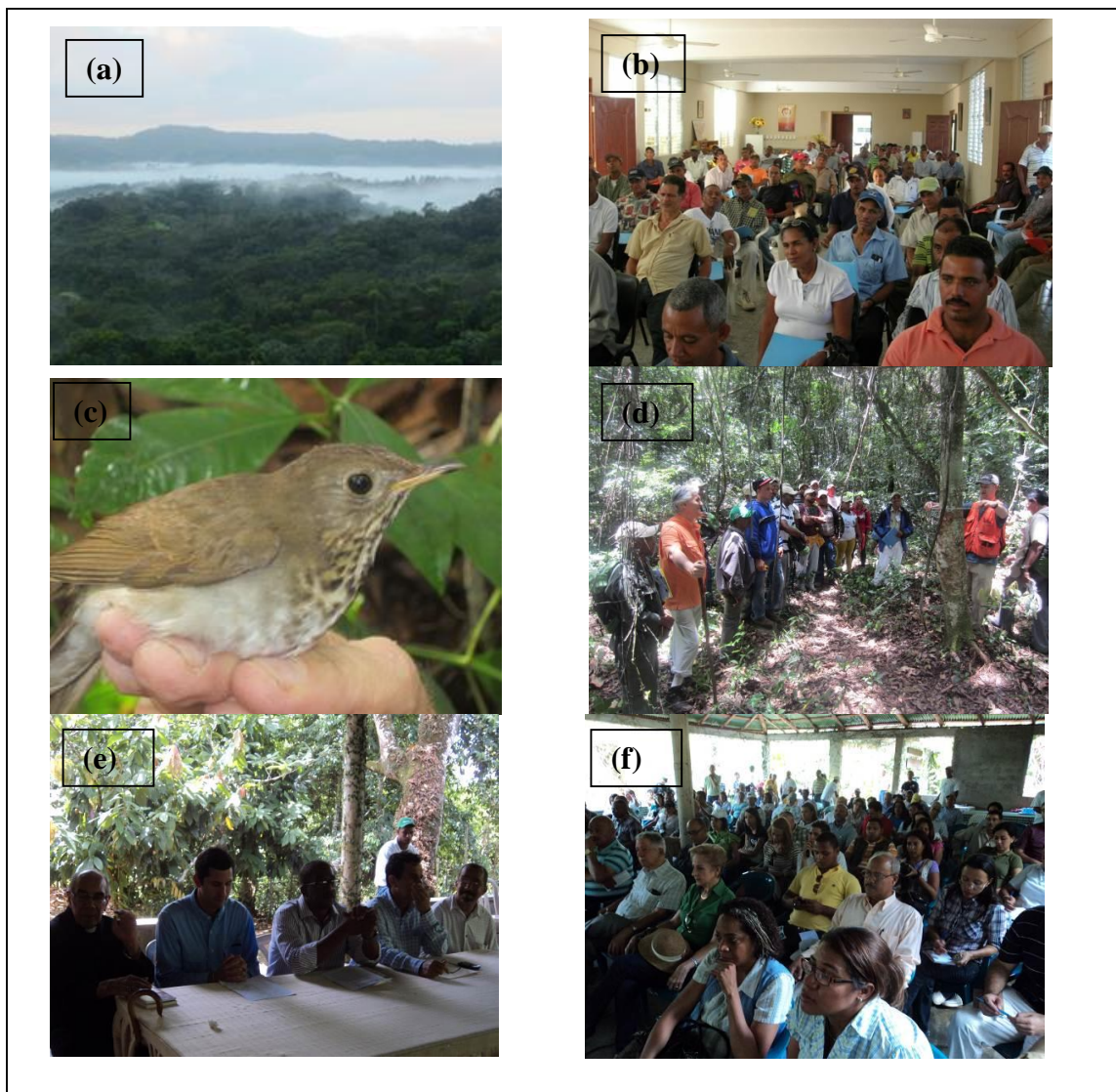


Figure 5. Pictures of conceptual framework: (a) Mist-laden clouds cover the northern half of Reserva Privada Zorzal (Bicknell's thrush private reserve), the land purchased in the CEPF project; (b) project dissemination and land tenure profile conducted in community meetings was key to building consensus and assessing property rights; (c) Bicknell's thrush netted and banded in the private reserve to ground truth TAMARIN results; (d) forest carbon inventory training and outreach was important to incorporate other community members in the project initiative; (e) Vice Minister of the Ministry of Protected Areas and other delegates pray before the inauguration of the private reserve; and (f) community members, media and other stakeholders also participated in the inauguration.

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

Table 3. Enabling factors and lessons learned from project implementation

Enabling Factors	
Spatial Valuation Model	Choosing a spatial valuation model suitable to adapt to the political reality of project implementation was key to build stakeholder consensus.
Bi-lateral Effort	Having investors who represent the spatial range of an ecosystem service (e.g. investors from breeding and overwintering grounds) was key to mobilize resources.
Diverse Stakeholders	Engaging stakeholders early in the valuation process was important to identify gaps in the analyses and build consensus.
CEPF grant Funding	Initial funding was essential for project development to leverage private sector investment.
Local Buy-In	Local NGOs, community groups and other institutions were critical to establish credibility and provide community outreach.
Lessons Learned	
Resource Availability	In expanding the current network of protected areas, it is important that new reserves do not take away human or economic resources from existing protected areas. Innovative finance mechanisms, including investment from the private sector and payments for ecosystem services, can provide additional revenue.
Model Estimates	Realized property costs were higher than estimated in the model. The spatial valuation model, TAMARIN, suggested an average price of US \$ 395/ha, but the property was purchase for an average of \$1,237/ha.
Policy Window	Protected area policy advocacy for private sector involvement in conservation was important to gain government support.

Other lessons learned relevant to conservation community:

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 the CEPF investment in this project.

Donor	Type of Funding*	Amount	Notes
Eddy Foundation, Moreno Bros & other private sector investment	Cash	US \$650,000	B
Global Environmental Facility	Cash	\$195,000	C
Helados Bon and VCE	Cash	\$5,000	B
US Fish and Wildlife	Cash	\$142,088	A

***Additional funding should be reported using the following categories:**

- 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.)*

Sustainability/Replicability

Summarize the success or challenge in achieving planned sustainability or replicability of project components or results.

By joining efforts of CAD, FLQE, SODIN, Ministerio de Medio Ambiente y Recursos Naturales, VCE, and other local stakeholders, we advanced the goal of creating a sustainable program for biodiversity conservation in Loma Quita Espuela and Loma Guaconejo. The active commitment of the private sector and international network of stakeholders, such as Eddy Foundation, Helados Bon and the involvement and experience of the 2C1B Project Team helped ensure the success of goals outlined in this proposal. The involvement of Sol Teresa, Coordinator for the National PES program for the Ministerio de Medio Ambiente ensured the long-term involvement of the government.

Demonstrating a return on investment to investors and sale of carbon offsets was critical to the long-term sustainability and replicability of the project. The establishment of the first private reserve in the country under the new regulation of the National Protected Area System provided a guide for future private reserves to be established in-country. Dissemination of information via media venues and presentations at the VIII Congress of Biodiversity in Central America and the Caribbean provided lessons learned to civil society and interested stakeholders so the project could be replicated in the Dominican Republic and broader Latin America.

Summarize any unplanned sustainability or replicability achieved.

An unplanned replicability component of our project was incorporating carbon offset sales with the sale of raw organic cacao. This program has had an impact on the chocolate industry and opportunities for the program to be replicated at the national level. Part of our marketing strategy is to "attach" carbon offsets to organic cacao sold to chocolate makers by offering climate change and climate adaptation outcomes to buyers in their supply chain. Appealing to companies who can address climate change in their own supply chain offers a unique opportunity for them to sell the "story" to their clients. The Dominican Republic is the 11th largest producer of cacao in the world and the number one producer of organic cacao. Thus, there is a unique opportunity to replicate the Plan Vivo carbon offset program with other landowners.

Safeguard Policy Assessment

Provide a summary of the implementation of any required action toward the environmental and social safeguard policies within the project.

The main social and environmental safeguard issue addressed was the inclusion of the Plan Vivo carbon standard in the project. Plan Vivo has a strong emphasis on community development and improved livelihoods. Plan Vivo requires a project to have 66% of the total carbon project area be from smallholders. Smallholders are defined as community members who live in the community and manage their property with the family. This Plan Vivo requirement will ensure our project does not just benefit large landowners, but that we include smallholders as a strategic effort in biodiversity conservation. The social and environmental benefits from the requirement to include smallholders will be far-reaching.

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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References

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- Latta, S. C., and R. Lorenzo (editors). 2000. Results of the national planning workshop for avian conservation in the Dominican Republic. Dirección Nacional de Parques, Santo Domingo, Dominican Republic.
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Performance Tracking Report Addendum

CEPF Global Targets				
(Enter Grant Term)				
Provide a numerical amount and brief description of the results achieved by your grant. Please respond to only those questions that are relevant to your project.				
Project Results	Is this question relevant?	If yes, provide your numerical response for results achieved during the annual period.	Provide your numerical response for project from inception of CEPF support to date.	Describe the principal results achieved from July 1, 2007 to June 30, 2008. (Attach annexes if necessary)
1. Did your project strengthen management of a protected area guided by a sustainable management plan? Please indicate number of hectares improved.	Yes	10,599 hectares with new management plans. 569 hectares of private reserve and forest carbon offsets, and management plans for 10,033 hectares of public reserves	10,599 hectares with new management plans. 569 hectares of private reserve and forest carbon offsets, and management plans for 10,033 hectares of public reserves	These results were achieved after June 30, 2008.
2. How many hectares of new and/or expanded protected areas did your project help establish through a legal declaration or community agreement?	Yes	469 hectares of new private reserve	469 hectares of new private reserve	Reserva Zorzal
3. Did your project strengthen biodiversity conservation and/or natural resources management inside a key biodiversity area identified in the CEPF ecosystem profile? If so, please indicate how many hectares.	Yes	10,033 hectares under 2 KBA's. The KBAs were Loma Quita Espuela and Loma Guaconejo Reserves	10,033 hectares under 2 KBA's. The KBAs were Loma Quita Espuela and Loma Guaconejo Reserves	
4. Did your project effectively introduce or strengthen biodiversity conservation in management practices outside protected areas? If so, please indicate how many hectares.	Yes	We strengthened 100 hectares outside the private reserve and public reserves through management plans with landowners in the forest		

		carbon offset program.		
5. If your project promotes the sustainable use of natural resources, how many local communities accrued tangible socioeconomic benefits? Please complete Table 1 below.	Yes	Three communities accrued tangible socioeconomic benefits		

If you answered yes to question 5, please complete the following table

