



Community Health and Safety Plan

May 19, 2022

CEPF Grant 112640

IUCN

Conservation action planning of selected threatened conifers and palm species in the Dominican Republic

Dominican Republic

Grant Summary

1. **Grantee organization:** International Union for the Conservation of Nature (IUCN)
2. **Sub-project title:** Conservation action planning of selected threatened conifers and palm species in the Dominican Republic
3. **Grant number:** 112640
4. **Grant amount (US dollars):** \$113,467.5
5. **Proposed dates of grant:** July 2022-July 2024
6. **Countries where activities will be undertaken:** Dominican Republic, USA, and the UK

7. Project components:

Overall, the project intends to gather new information concerning the conservation status of 18 species of palms and conifers that are endemic to Hispaniola and generate conservation action plans for use by the Ministry of Environment and Natural Resources in the Dominican Republic. This project is a collaboration of the following three organizations: IUCN, Grupo Jaragua and the IUCN Species Survival Commission Conservation Planning Specialist Group (IUCN SSC CPSG).

The project is comprised of three main components:

1. fieldwork within national parks to better determine the distribution and size of populations for the target conifer and palm species;
2. a participatory workshop to undertake conservation assessment through the use of the IUCN Red List system;
3. a participatory workshop to agree on conservation plans required to enable the restoration of populations of the target conifer and palm species.

Activities that involve community members revolve mainly around meetings and interactions during field research.

8. Risks to community health and safety:

There are a few anticipated risks to community health and safety for this project, with those identified listed below in Table 8.1.

Table 8.1: Description of potential risks during project activities.

Activity	Description of risk	Risk probability	Risk rating
<i>Component 1: fieldwork within national parks to better determine the distribution and size of populations for the target conifer and palm species</i>			
Facilitate face-to-face and virtual meetings to support fieldwork activities.	Transmission of communicable diseases, particularly COVID-19, to local stakeholders.	High	Medium
Conduct fieldwork activities within the national park.	Risks related to hurricanes, earthquakes and other natural disasters.	High	Substantial - High
	Physical injuries to field workers or community members who aid in the field (including risk of road	High	Substantial - High

	accidents). There is a risk of Sexual Exploitation, Abuse, and Sexual Harassment. Mitigation measures will be implementing and training on the code of conduct and the Grievance Mechanism.	Low	Low
<i>Component 2: participatory workshop to undertake conservation assessment through the use of the IUCN Red List system</i>			
Facilitate face-to-face and virtual workshops with overseas facilitators stakeholders, suppliers, etc.	Transmission of communicable diseases, particularly COVID-19, to local stakeholders.	High	Medium
	Risks related to hurricanes, earthquakes and other natural disasters.	High	Substantial - High
	Physical injuries to participants during transportation and participation at workshop.	Low	High
<i>Component 3: participatory workshop to agree on conservation plans required to enable the restoration of populations of the target conifer and palm species.</i>			
Facilitate face-to-face and virtual workshops with overseas facilitators stakeholders, suppliers, etc.	Transmission of communicable diseases, particularly COVID-19, to local stakeholders.	High	Medium
	Risks related to hurricanes, earthquakes and other natural disasters.	High	Substantial - High
	Physical injuries to participants during transportation and participation at workshop.	Low	High

9. Risk mitigation measures:

IUCN and Grupo Jaragua will work closely with the CEPF Secretariat, the RIT, and in-country consultants to make decisions that put the health and safety of everyone as the highest priority. IUCN and Grupo Jaragua will also work within the guidance issued by the World Bank on conducting public meetings and engaging stakeholders as outlined in the ESMF.

Mitigation against the risk of transmission of communicable diseases COVID-19

Throughout the project, the IUCN and GJ will monitor the national-specific regulations and guidelines related to COVID-19 on a frequent basis and will work closely with the CEPF Secretariat

and in-country partners to make decisions. These *can* include mask-wearing, social distancing, restricted numbers and provision of sanitizing supplies.

There will likely be limited community engagement in the fieldwork within the national park, and where there is, precautions will be taken to limit any spread of COVID-19. The Red List and Conservation Planning workshops will also have some risk of exposure to COVID-19 for the ~15 workshop participants. Overseas facilitators will undertake COVID-19 tests on arrival in Santa Domingo prior to interacting with workshop participants and adhere to any national travel requirements as it pertains to COVID-19 testing, vaccination and quarantine. Participants will be highly encouraged to be vaccinated prior to the meetings and to adhere to mask-wearing and other protocols. If deemed necessary, interactions can be facilitated virtually.

Mitigation against the risk of hurricanes, earthquakes and other natural disasters

Consideration will be given to the timing of activities, to where possible, be outside the Caribbean’s hurricane season (June to November). Flexibility will be shown in the timing and focus of project implementation to respond to changing situations. IUCN and Grupo Jaragua will be responsive to requests to adapt to changing circumstances and respond to immediate humanitarian and subsequent recovery needs. If weather forecasts for hurricanes are in place, any fieldwork will be delayed until all danger has passed.

Mitigation against the risk of physical injury to field community workers, and participants

Transportation (ground and air) under the project will be done using reliable and recommended suppliers. Navigation around difficult field terrain if any will be done by experienced drivers (minimum 10 years’ experience) who will follow the speed limit and other applicable aspects of the road code. Fieldwork teams will travel with first aid kits and be briefed on emergency procedures prior to conducting fieldwork.

10. Relevant laws in project countries:

Table 10.1 below outlines the key law(s) in the project countries and their relevance to this Community Health and Safety Plan. IUCN and GJ will ensure that staff adhere to these laws and guidelines.

Table 10.1: Relevant laws for community health and safety

Country	Law	Relevance to ESS4
Dominican Republic	General Health Law (2001)	Defines the role of the state in relation to fulfilling citizen’s rights to health.

11. Measures to avoid the risk of COVID-19:

In addition to what has been specified above, the IUCN and GJ will follow their own internal but undocumented guidelines that advise staff on all forms of travel and events while COVID-19 still poses a public health risk. This includes, for example, an internal IUCN ‘Information for Staff’ portal. These guidelines are subject to change based on national and international regulations and guidelines related to COVID-19. The guidelines state that in all cases, IUCN and GJ staff MUST follow all national regulations and guidelines and should strive to put enhanced measures and precautions in place for the safety of themselves and any other persons involved.

The following sections outline some of the guidelines for local events or meetings. In all cases project, direct workers will adhere to the relevant Government’s regulations and guidelines related

to COVID-19 and will work closely with local partners and liaisons to support their needs to plan and facilitate events, including ensuring all events have the proper safeguarding measures in place to protect participants and facilitators. This includes but is not limited to providing written guidelines to facilitators to follow before, during and after the event; providing resources for hand sanitisers, gloves and/or masks as needed; providing sufficient resources to ensure the venue of the event can adhere to the maximum number of allowed participants and social distancing requirements. Any other relevant guidance from the World Bank as outlined in the technical note, “Public Consultations and Stakeholder Engagement in WB-supported operations when there are constraints on conducting public meetings on March 20, 2020, will be followed, as relevant and appropriate.

General Meetings

- Virtual meetings remain highly encouraged to avoid too large gatherings of people in the same place or minimize the need for staff members to travel and use public transport. Videoconferencing also eliminates the constant need for keeping a safe distance from others. Virtual meetings remain on top in the order of priorities but were not feasible, physical meetings may take place.
- Maintain the prescribed physical distance between each other when participating in meetings, interviews, or similar gatherings
- Observe the number of participants as some regulations mandate restrictions to a maximum number when it comes to “large” groups
- Where possible, use meeting rooms with 2 separate doors and assign each specifically for entry and exit
- Avoid traditional greetings such as shaking hands
- Participants who feel unwell or have been coughing or sneezing should be advised to participate remotely

BEFORE the event:

- The local partner, liaison or mobilizer is required to send an email to the project manager outlining the up-to-date national guidelines and regulations in place for gatherings/events.
- The venue (as necessary) should adhere to social distancing and a maximum number of participants requirement. The venue should ideally also have facilities for handwashing.
- The organizer should send clear guidance to all participants and facilitators along with the event invitation, to explain what will be required to follow national protocols (e.g., wearing a mask) and other personal safety measures to reduce risk (e.g., using personal equipment and supplies).
- The organizer should purchase masks, gloves, hand sanitizer and/or cleaning products to sanitize the venue before and after use for the event.
- The organizer should ensure local transport is provided to and from the event, as needed and as far as possible, for facilitators and participants (e.g., arranging for a direct ride in one vehicle instead of asking people to take public transportation to reduce risk).

DURING the event:

- Sanitize the space on arrival and when setting up as much as possible.
- Set up seating at least 6 ft apart or have participants sit in alternate seats if there is fixed seating.
- Set up a registration table outside the door to screen participants for symptoms (e.g., temperature above 37°C indicating a fever) and ensure they provide their full name and email/phone # to enable contact tracing. Note if someone has symptoms or is believed to have been in contact with someone with COVID-19, they should not be allowed to enter the venue.
- Ensure participants sanitize their hands and put on a mask before they enter the venue.
- Recommend that participants use their own pen to register/for writing notes or supplying them

with one if needed.

- At the start of the event, remind participants of the COVID-19 guidelines that must be followed
- Provide hand sanitizer, gloves (if needed for field activities and/or group activities such as P3DM where participants have to share materials) and extra masks for participants and facilitators.
- Encourage facilitators and participants to speak up when wearing masks, rather than removing them to speak.
- Ensure social distancing practice is upheld.

AFTER the event:

- Sanitize space if required by owners
- Contact lists should be filed to ensure that they are accessible to facilitate contact tracing if needed.
- Lessons learnt should be discussed and used to update these guidelines if needed.

Travel :

- International and/or domestic travel will likely remain disrupted even when other restrictions have been lifted. National Civil Aviation Authorities will have their own restrictions and procedures on air travel. It is important to be aware of such restrictions and advisories at both exit and entry ports
- Some countries may also retain strict quarantine regulations that would restrict staff members from travelling to other destinations
- Therefore, all official travel of IUCN staff members will be restricted to essential travel only. As everybody had realized during the lockdown periods, meetings are possible/manageable through videoconferencing facilities
- In all cases, comply with instructions from local authorities regarding travel procedures such as proof of medical clearance and quarantine, among others
- Follow during any travel by plane or train the same protocols as when IN TRANSIT.
- Observe social distancing in public transport by allowing seats to remain vacant in between gaps
- Refrain from touching surfaces, handlebars, and straps. Use hand disinfectant when touching becomes unavoidable
- Avoid rush hours, vary times when coming to the office and returning home
- Wash your hands as soon as possible after every trip or use hand sanitizer
- Consider other forms of transportation. Walking and biking are healthy options
- Avoid using elevators unless occupied by one person at a time
- Wear masks when using mass transit

12. Emergency preparedness and response plan:

IUCN and Grupo Jaragua will follow any national guidelines as it relates to Emergency Preparedness Planning to guide its work in response to emergency events, including hurricanes, earthquakes, other natural disasters, as well as COVID-19 and other infectious diseases. This will include identifying possible emergency situations, outlining roles and responsibilities, and providing actions for before, during and after emergencies. All project direct workers will be briefed on the guidelines but especially before field trips, and group events.

13. Measures to mitigate risks relating to security personnel:

Not applicable.

14. Timeline and resources:

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

Table 14.1: Implementation schedule and estimated resources

Action	Cost Estimate (USD)	Implementation Schedule										
		2022				2023				2024		
Project manager and fieldwork supervisor ensure that the necessary mitigation measures are accounted for throughout the project	\$750 (% of their budgeted monthly costs combined)	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X		
Purchase COVID supplies (e.g., masks, sanitizer), and testing especially for the workshops March – May 2023	\$1,500	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Support for online meetings and mobilization (data, Zoom, and telephone calls)	\$500	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X

15. Monitoring arrangements:

IUCN and Grupo Jaragua will monitor and evaluate the effectiveness of the measures listed above through regular communication and coordination with staff, the CEPF Secretariat, the RIT, and key projects. IUCN and Grupo Jaragua will report on their efforts and results in bi-annual reports to the CEPF Secretariat as well as in bi-annual supervision missions.

16. Disclosure:

This plan will be made publicly available by our partner Grupo Jaragua (potentially through the organization’s website) and specific measures and steps within the plan will be communicated to stakeholders as needed (i.e., in preparation of meetings, workshops, events and other in-person gatherings).