



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

Community Health and Safety Plan

April 2023

CEPF Grant 113657

International Iguana Foundation

Improve Invasive Species Management to protect the Jamaican Rock Iguana, Hellshire Hills, Portland Bight Protected Area.

Jamaica

Grant Summary

1. Grantee organization: International Iguana Foundation

2. Sub project title: *Improve Invasive Species Management to protect the Jamaican Rock Iguana, Hellshire Hills, Portland Bight Protected Area.*

3. Grant number: 113657

4. Grant amount (USD\$): \$ 49,946.00

5. Proposed dates of grant: 1 July 2023 – 30 June 2025

6. Countries where activities will be undertaken: Jamaica

7. Date of preparation of this document: 20 December 2022

8. Overview of the Caribbean Hotspot Project

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

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

9. Project Components

To further protect the biodiversity of the dry forest ecosystem of the Hellshire Hills, PBPA (JAM-22), improving the resilience of Jamaica and ensuring conservation and improved management, we propose three components that will target the primary threat to this area, IAS. IAS caused the near extinction of the Jamaican Rock Iguana and are currently the greatest threat to this Critically Endangered, narrow-range endemic, species. Targeting actions that will further protect this flagship species, will enhance the resilience of the dry forest ecosystem in which they occur and ensure the protection of a variety of other species, dependent upon this area. All activities will be undertaken within the PBPA and the neighbouring communities.

The first component focuses on assessing the presence of IAS and native species within the core iguana zone, the newly constructed buffer zone, and the greater Hellshire Hills area. Component two focuses on assessing the density and distribution of IAS within the communities found at the boundary of the Hellshire Hills as these locations likely house source IAS populations and providing information on the dangers of IAS to reduce IAS prevalence in these areas and therein entering the Hellshire Hills. The third component addresses the living conditions at the remote field station in Hellshire Hills to ensure rigorous data collection and monitoring activities are optimally effective. The risks associated with this project include road accidents, hurricanes, and transmission of Covid-19. The purpose of this stakeholder engagement plan is to ensure a constructive relationships

between those involved in the project, ensure stakeholder views are considered and that there is inclusive engagement, information is shared, and there is a mechanism to raise concerns.

This project will include interviews with three local communities surrounding the Hellshire Hills, PBPA, Jamaica. It will also include field work with a small team within the Hellshire Hills, PBPA, Jamaica. There is a risk of disease transmission while conducting interviews as well as while the team is at the basecamp within the Hellshire Hills. Given the location of Jamaica there is a risk of hurricanes. Given that vehicle transport is involved to reach the interview communities and field site there is a risk of accident. Given that men and women are working together on the team there is a risk of sexual harassment.

10. Risk mitigation measures

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

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

| Key risks to Community Health & Safety | Risk probability (low / medium / high) | Level of Risk (low / medium / high) | Description | Mitigation Measures |
|---|---|--|---|--|
| Transmission of communicable diseases, such as COVID-19, to local stakeholders. | low | low | Project team will participate in the field work and community interviews. | We will follow the guidelines of the Jamaican government on Covid-19 at the time of the fieldwork and community engagement. |
| Risks related to hurricanes, earthquakes and other natural disasters. | medium | low | Jamaican is located in an area that experiences hurricanes. | The field supervisor, conservation biologist, and boat transport organization (CCAM) all monitor the weather very carefully. If there is a threat of a hurricane those in the field are evacuated and do not return until the threat has passed. From our experience there are not surprise hurricanes and thus people have always been able to evacuate well in advance of a threatening situation. |
| Sexual exploitation, abuse and harassment | low | low | Men and women work together on this project. | A grievance mechanism has been developed to address these issues and will be shared with all members of the project prior to the start of the project. All complaints will be taken seriously and resolved as quickly as possible. |

| | | | | |
|--|-----|-----|--|---|
| Accidents involving persons and vehicles | low | low | Movement by vehicle will be necessary to reach the interview communities and the field site. | NEPA oversees all vehicular movement of the field team and travel is done in a government vehicle with a government driver, following all government safety procedures. |
|--|-----|-----|--|---|

11. Relevant laws in project countries

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

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

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

12. Measures to avoid risk of COVID-19

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

13. Emergency preparedness and response plan

In case of general emergencies while in the field or during community interviews and surveys, the field supervisor will be immediately notified, and action will be taken following the government guidelines of NEPA. The field supervisor, conservation biologist, and boat transport organization (CCAM) all monitor the weather very carefully. If there is a threat of a hurricane those in the field are evacuated and do not return until the threat has passed.

14. Measures to mitigate risks relating to security personnel

N/A

15. 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 16.1: Implementation schedule and estimated resources

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

| Action | Cost Estimate (USD) | Implementation Schedule | | | | | | | | | | | |
|--|--------------------------|-------------------------|---|---|------|---|---|---|------|---|--|--|--|
| | | 2023 | | | 2024 | | | | 2025 | | | | |
| Salary of direct workers to implement the CHSP | In kind contribution FWZ | | x | x | x | X | x | x | x | x | | | |
| Covid-19 preparedness | \$100 | | x | x | x | X | x | x | x | x | | | |
| Emergency preparedness | 0 | | x | x | x | x | x | x | x | x | | | |
| | | | | | | | | | | | | | |

16. Monitoring arrangements

The field supervisor and conservation biologist will consult with each other on a regular basis to share all health and safety concerns. If any threat to health and safety is identified the field supervisor and conservation biologist will act immediately to ensure everyone remains safe. Any amendments to existing plans will be made as necessary.

17. Disclosure

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