



The World Bank

GPSA CARIBBEAN – COLLABORATIVE SOCIAL ACCOUNTABILITY FOR IMPROVED GOVERNANCE IN
PROTECTING BIODIVERSITY HOTSPOTS PROJECT (P173017)

Concept Environmental and Social Review Summary

Concept Stage

(ESRS Concept Stage)

Date Prepared/Updated: 08/10/2020 | Report No: ESRSC01538



BASIC INFORMATION

A. Basic Project Data

Country	Region	Project ID	Parent Project ID (if any)
Caribbean	LATIN AMERICA AND CARIBBEAN	P173017	
Project Name	GPSA CARIBBEAN – COLLABORATIVE SOCIAL ACCOUNTABILITY FOR IMPROVED GOVERNANCE IN PROTECTING BIODIVERSITY HOTSPOTS PROJECT		
Practice Area (Lead)	Financing Instrument	Estimated Appraisal Date	Estimated Board Date
Social	Investment Project Financing		7/9/2019
Borrower(s)	Implementing Agency(ies)		
Instituto Tecnológico de Santo Domingo (INTEC)	Instituto Tecnológico de Santo Domingo (INTEC), Integrated Health Outreach (IHO)		

Proposed Development Objective

The project development objective is to improve biodiversity conservation in biodiversity hotspots located in four Caribbean countries (Dominican Republic and Antigua and Barbuda with adaptive replication in Jamaica and Saint Lucia) through collaborative social accountability mechanisms between governments, citizens and civil society organizations (CSOs).

The project will employ a threefold approach for achieving the PDO:

- First, developing, testing, adjusting and iterating sustainable collaborative social accountability mechanisms and processes for protecting biodiversity hotspots;
- Second, developing and iterating a capacity development model to increase civil society-government capacities for joint monitoring and problem-solving; and,
- Third, producing adaptive learning on the use of collaborative social accountability for biodiversity conservation.

At the local level, the project will employ inclusive participation methods focused on engaging and empowering poor and marginalized populations, especially women, youth, the disabled and ethnic minorities, that are particularly vulnerable to the deleterious impact of biodiversity degradation and climate change resilience.

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Financing (in USD Million)	Amount
Total Project Cost	0.50

B. Is the project being prepared in a Situation of Urgent Need of Assistance or Capacity Constraints, as per Bank IPF Policy, para. 12?

No

C. Summary Description of Proposed Project [including overview of Country, Sectoral & Institutional Contexts and Relationship to CPF]

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D. Environmental and Social Overview

D.1. Detailed project location(s) and salient physical characteristics relevant to the E&S assessment [geographic, environmental, social]

The project will be implemented in four Caribbean countries: Dominican Republic, Antigua and Barbuda (A&B) with adaptive replication in Jamaica and Saint Lucia. The specific areas that have been identified at this stage are:

In the DR, there are 9 priority sites, comprising 2 clusters (in the Cordillera Central and Massif de la Selle – Sierra de Bahoruco – Hoya de Enriquillo Basin Binational Corridors) and two individual sites (Monumento Natural Cabo Samaná and Parque Nacional Los Haitises). Target communities will be identified together with the CEPF Regional Implementation Team (RIT) at CANARI, local stakeholders and public sector institutions.

In A&B, there are two priority sites: North East Marine Management Area and Fitches Creek Bay; and Redonda. Target communities will also be identified like in DR.

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In Jamaica, there are seven 7 sites, comprising 2 clusters (North Coast Forest-Cockpit Country-Black River Great Morass-Central Spinal Forest and Surrey Country Corridors) and 2 individual sites (Dolphin Head and Portland Bight Protected Area). Target communities will also be identified like in DR.

It is expected that a similar targeting approach will be followed in Saint Lucia, where there are three priority sites, comprising one cluster (Iyanola - Castries and Dennery Waterworks Reserve and Marquis-Mandele Protected Landscape) and one individual site (Pointe Sable).

In total, therefore, there are 12 geographies where the project could focus (5 clusters of priority sites and 7 individual sites). In consultation with the GPSA and the CEPF RIT, INTEC will select at least 8 of these geographies to target project interventions.

The project’s primary beneficiaries will be: i) relevant CSOs in the DR, A&B, Jamaica and St Lucia which will be identified through a stakeholder mapping. Additional organizations will be identified throughout project implementation as the project collaborates with CEPF in the identification of grant recipients. These organizations will be engaged in a capacity development process aimed at acquiring skills and abilities to apply social accountability mechanisms for monitoring biodiversity conservation. They will also benefit from activities to strengthen intra-civil society coordination and collaboration, particularly between sub-national CSOs based in the capital cities. Moreover, CSOs will have strengthened capacity to participate in environmental decision-making with emphasis on poor and marginalised populations most vulnerable to biodiversity degradation; ii) Relevant public sector institutions at the central government level and in target municipalities in all 4 countries as they will receive support to establish a collaborative social accountability mechanism jointly with CSOs for problem-solving and monitoring biodiversity conservation. The project’s secondary beneficiaries will be: (i) Population of targeted Caribbean islands that will benefit from improvements in environmental resilience as a result of better state-civil society collaboration, policies, and spending in biodiversity conservation; (ii) Public officials and development partners; and (iii) other key stakeholders, including other CSOs and professional associations.

There are no environmental risks or impacts posed by proposed project activities. The project will not finance any civil works, and its technical assistance activities (consultant services) will not aim to advise on any issues pertaining to environmental or ecological aspects of the four countries in reference. The project is expected to have positive social impacts as it will enhance the capacity of CSOs to better monitor conservation efforts. Any social risks (as documented below) will be easily managed through proper implementation support as well as the operationalization of the relevant project instruments.

D. 2. Borrower’s Institutional Capacity

The Santo Domingo INTEC -direct recipient of the grant-, will be the lead project implementing agency. As such, it will be responsible for the overall management and implementation of project activities, project monitoring, and internal evaluations. INTEC will retain the project’s overall fiduciary responsibility to the World Bank. The project will be primarily managed by INTEC’s Center for Government Industry and Society in collaboration with Intec’s Climate Change Observatory and Intec’s Gender based institute. INTEC will lead activities in the Dominican Republic and Jamaica, and coordinate activities with the Integrated Health Outreach (IHO) center in the other two countries (Antigua and Barbuda and St. Lucia).



INTEC has prior experience implementing WB projects related to social accountability, including the GPSA, such as the “Coalition Building Facility for Participatory Governance Reform (CBF) in the Dominican Republic Project” (P131044) (2017 – 2019). The capacity of INTEC to handle social requirements is limited at this time, mainly given the low knowledge on the World Bank’s Environmental and Social Framework (ESF). INTEC nor its selected implementation partner agency, Integrated Health Outreach (IHO) have any prior experience working with ESF. However, with the support of the WB E&S Team, the project team has been able to prepare the Environmental and Social Commitment Plan (ESCP), Stakeholder Engagement Plan (SEP), and Labor Management Procedures (LMP), which will be disclosed once the ESRS is approved. The Bank team plans to continue delivering training on ESF during preparation stage (prior to approval).

II. SCREENING OF POTENTIAL ENVIRONMENTAL AND SOCIAL (ES) RISKS AND IMPACTS

A. Environmental and Social Risk Classification (ESRC)

Low

Environmental Risk Rating

Low

The environmental risk is rated Low at the Concept stage, nature and scale of negative environmental risks and impacts of proposed project activities are expected to vary from moderate to even low, taken the project design is geared to improve the management, conservation and governance of the countries’ biodiversity through a collaborative social accountability process.

The project is intended to increase both the capacity of the countries to improve biodiversity conservation. Under Component 2, the objective is to integrate biodiversity values, climate resilience and citizen feedback into national and local planning to address ecosystem challenges and to improve hotspot monitoring by creating new or strengthening existing civil society and public sector-led participatory mechanisms, with a focus on mechanisms for collaborative problem-solving that will help accelerate state responsiveness. Focus will also be placed on establishing collaborative agreements with government counterparts to achieve the project’s objectives, outlining information-sharing terms, mutual commitments and joint actions. All these actions will favor a better biodiversity conservation benefiting local people and government.

Despite these environmentally positive design objectives at this concept stage, low risks include (i) an overall limited consideration and capacity for biodiversity conservation in general for planning demonstrated by the reduction of biodiversity; (ii) the need for longer-term work with conservation policies especially in relation to livelihoods, water supply, food security, and resilience to extreme events; (iii) the weakness of the countries and CSOs and CBOs to tackle challenges it faces for biodiversity conservation in general into the development plans of the countries to achieve behavioral changes; and (iv) an overall in-country low capacity.

Social Risk Rating

Low

The social risk rating of the project is low. The project involves capacity building and will not include any civil works nor will it purchase any equipment or vehicles. The project has a fairly large scope in that it will cover multiple countries and CSOs within the Caribbean region. While the implementing agency does have experience implementing projects of a similar nature for the World Bank and other international organizations, there is some concern

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surrounding the agency’s and its partner, IHO’s capacity, related to the additional requirements of the Bank’s ESF. Additionally, there is also some social risk as it relates to the exclusion of certain groups/organizations in accessing the capacity building training/exercises that will be offered through the project. With respect to labor, there will be some risk with respect to the labor practices of the CSOs. These risks can be easily mitigated through capacity building by ESF training, proper implementation support and monitoring, in depth stakeholder engagement to ensure no group is excluded and labor management through adherence to the practices outlined in the project’s LMP.

The Bank will review the Environmental and Social Risk Classification (ESRC) on a regular basis throughout the project life cycle to ensure it continues to accurately reflect the level of risk the project presents.

B. Environment and Social Standards (ESSs) that Apply to the Activities Being Considered

B.1. General Assessment

ESS1 Assessment and Management of Environmental and Social Risks and Impacts

Overview of the relevance of the Standard for the Project:

The project will support the Caribbean’s biodiversity conservation. By engaging multiple stakeholders to cooperate in order to better leverage the existing biodiversity conservation and management system (programs, policies, chains and decision-making arenas), the project attempts to contribute to addressing problems of lack of collaborative governance and the capacities needed for this. The project strategy will consist in deploying resources for supporting integrated and coordinated actions by both civil society groups and state institutions leading the biodiversity conservation agenda.

The project will implement a capacity development plan aimed at equipping community-based organizations (CBOs) and CSOs with the skills and abilities needed to use collaborative social accountability tools and mechanisms for problem-solving around biodiversity hotspots’ conservation. The goal of the activities under Component 1 will be to have local CBOs, CSOs and citizen groups with the capacity to independently lead biodiversity conservation, climate resilience and hotspot monitoring. The Project will also conduct a stakeholder mapping and inception meetings with project’s stakeholders—including central and local level civil society and public sector actors, and local organizations that previously participated in CEPF small grants program—in Dominican Republic and Antigua & Barbuda aimed at: (i) validating the project’s overall objectives and prioritizing key challenges and concrete problems that might be addressed through collaborative social accountability mechanisms; (ii) producing a list of stakeholders’ main needs and interests; (iii) co-creating a capacity development program through a “learning by doing” approach; (iv) strengthening links between local and central level stakeholders and agreeing on central level stakeholders’ roles, responsibilities and capacity needs, including those of government counterparts, and of civil society alliances; and (v) increasing capacities of key actors for sustainable change through activities such as training-for-trainers. The Technical Assurances to be supported by the project are considered type 2 (supporting the formulation of policies, programs, plans, strategies or legal frameworks) and type 3 (strengthening borrower capacity); accordingly, the requirements set out in paragraphs 14–18 of ESS1 will be applied to TA activities as relevant and appropriate to the nature of the risks and impacts. ToRs of all consultancy services under the technical assistance will be reviewed to ensure conformity with the ESSs requirements.



The project has prepared a draft Stakeholder Engagement Plan (SEP) with its Grievance Redress Mechanism (GRM) and Labour Management Procedures (LMP) with its GRM for project workers. The GRM will be operationalized prior to the start of project activities.

Given the nature of this small grant activity, the WB Team proposed to streamline the process and not require an ESRS Appraisal Stage.

Areas where “Use of Borrower Framework” is being considered:

None

ESS10 Stakeholder Engagement and Information Disclosure

The standard is relevant. The main project stakeholders will include INTEC as the implementing agency and IHO as its partner. Other stakeholders include journalists and activist groups, local councils, civil society organisations and community groups involved in conservation and biodiversity protection along with the communities in which these organisations will carry out the activities learnt in the project. Any vulnerable groups located within the project areas, such as women, low-income farmers, youth etc. will also be identified as stakeholders. While direct project beneficiaries will be CSOs, the project will ensure that the capacity building includes organizations that consist of or cater to the identified marginalized/vulnerable groups. The project will also ensure that vulnerable groups are aware of the project activities. In order to ensure that an inclusive and coordinated approach is taken to stakeholder engagement and project disclosure, INTEC, in consultation with the Bank, has prepared a draft Stakeholder Engagement Plan (SEP) which is proportionate to the nature and scale of the project along with its associated risks and impacts. The SEP will be implemented to ensure that stakeholder engagement is conducted on the basis of timely, relevant, understandable and accessible information. The SEP includes a) who are the key stakeholders; b) how they will be engaged; c) timing of stakeholder engagement throughout project life cycle; d) how feedback will be solicited, recorded and monitored over the project; e) who will be responsible for stakeholder engagement; f) budget etc. The SEP will also lay out a strategy to identify and map key stakeholders. The SEP identifies any vulnerable groups and outlines the methods which will be used to eliminate barriers to their participation in project consultations. Consultations will take into account the limitations on public meetings due to the COVID-19 health emergency and will be carried out in a manner consistent with the World Bank technical guidance on “Public Consultations and Stakeholder Engagement in WB-supported operations when there are constraints on conducting public meetings”, (March 20, 2020). A grievance redress mechanism (GRM) has also been included as part of SEP and will be operationalized for the project to allow for feedback from all interested parties including but not limited to both civil society groups and state institutions. INTEC will have a focal point handling proper development and implementation of SEP, as well as ensuring that the GRM is functioning. The SEP has been prepared and will be disclosed prior to approval and updated, as necessary, throughout the project cycle.

B.2. Specific Risks and Impacts

A brief description of the potential environmental and social risks and impacts relevant to the Project.

ESS2 Labor and Working Conditions

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It is expected that most of the labor procured for the project will be in the form of consultants engaged by INTEC, IHO and the CSOs. In collaboration with the Bank, INTEC has developed a project-level Labor Management Procedures (LMP) applicable to the project that references WB and WHO OHS guidelines. The LMP identifies the main labor requirements and risks associated with employing the staff. The LMP describes: (i) procedures relevant to each category of workers involved; (ii) overview of key potential labor risks (if any); (iii) overview of each of the country’s (where INTEC is located) labor legislation; (iv) description of grievance redress mechanism or mechanisms available for all project workers; and (v) determines types of work and the level of training to be provided. The project LMP also includes considerations towards the protection of project workers against COVID-19. While it is currently not clear whether community workers will be engaged, the LMP includes considerations for their inclusion. LMP is a living document and may be amended at any time during project cycle depending on the needs and developments in the project preparation and/or implementation.

ESS3 Resource Efficiency and Pollution Prevention and Management

The standard is not currently relevant for the project.

ESS4 Community Health and Safety

The standard is not currently relevant for the project.

ESS5 Land Acquisition, Restrictions on Land Use and Involuntary Resettlement

The standard is not currently relevant for the project.

ESS6 Biodiversity Conservation and Sustainable Management of Living Natural Resources

The standard is not currently relevant for the project. The activity is fully in line with the spirit and objectives of the standard, and the project will ensure that biodiversity conservation management and monitoring plans which are produced or updated/enhanced through the project will ensure consistency with the principles of sustainable forest/natural resource management as spelled out in under ESS6.

ESS7 Indigenous Peoples/Sub-Saharan African Historically Underserved Traditional Local Communities

The standard is not currently relevant for the project.

ESS8 Cultural Heritage

The standard is not currently relevant for the project.

ESS9 Financial Intermediaries

The standard is not currently relevant for the project.



C. Legal Operational Policies that Apply

OP 7.50 Projects on International Waterways No

OP 7.60 Projects in Disputed Areas No

III. WORLD BANK ENVIRONMENTAL AND SOCIAL DUE DILIGENCE

A. Is a common approach being considered? No

Financing Partners

N/A

B. Proposed Measures, Actions and Timing (Borrower’s commitments)

Actions to be completed prior to Bank Board Approval:

The following documents will need to be prepared and disclosed prior approval:

1. Draft Stakeholder Engagement Plan(SEP) with associated Grievance Redress Mechanism
2. Draft Labor Management Procedures (LMP) with its associated Grievance Redress Mechanism
3. Environmental and Social Commitment Plan.

Possible issues to be addressed in the Borrower Environmental and Social Commitment Plan (ESCP):

1. Maintaining E&S capacity throughout the project implementation;
2. GRM Establishment and operationalization;
3. Ensuring adequate implementation and reporting on LMP;
4. Implementation of the SEP.

C. Timing

Tentative target date for preparing the Appraisal Stage ESRS 28-Aug-2020

IV. CONTACT POINTS

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Borrower/Client/Recipient

Borrower: Instituto Tecnológico de Santo Domingo (INTEC)

Implementing Agency(ies)

Implementing Agency: Instituto Tecnológico de Santo Domingo (INTEC)

Implementing Agency: Integrated Health Outreach (IHO)

V. FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT

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VI. APPROVAL

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