Project Information Document (PID)

Concept Stage | Date Prepared/Updated: 16-Jun-2020 | Report No: PIDC29136

BASIC INFORMATION

A. Basic Project Data

Country	Project ID	Parent Project ID (if any)	Project Name
Caribbean	P173464		CRITICAL ECOSYSTEM PARTNERSHIP FUND – CARIBBEAN HOTSPOT PROJECT (P173464)
Region	**Estimated Appraisal Date**	**Estimated Board Date**	**Practice Area (Lead)**
LATIN AMERICA AND CARIBBEAN	Oct 30, 2020	Jan 29, 2021	Environment, Natural Resources & the Blue Economy
Financing Instrument	**Borrower(s)**	**Implementing Agency**	
Investment Project Financing	Conservation International	Conservation International	

Proposed Development Objective(s)

The project development objective (PDO) is to improve the capacity of civil society organizations to reduce threats to globally important biodiversity in the Caribbean Islands Biodiversity Hotspot.

PROJECT FINANCING DATA (US$, Millions)

SUMMARY

Total Project Cost	13.90
Total Financing	13.90
of which IBRD/IDA	0.00
Financing Gap	0.00

DETAILS

Non-World Bank Group Financing

Trust Funds	13.90
Critical Ecosystem Partnership Fund	13.90

Environmental and Social Risk Classification	Concept Review Decision

Substantial	Track II-The review did authorize the preparation to continue

B. Introduction and Context

Regional Context

1. **The Caribbean Islands Biodiversity Hotspot is an archipelago of biodiversity-rich tropical islands that comprises 30 nations and territories and stretches across nearly 4 million km^2 of ocean**. The Caribbean Islands Hotspot is one of 36 biodiversity hotspots in the world. The island geography and complex geology of the Caribbean has created unique habitats and high species diversity. The Caribbean Islands support exceptionally diverse ecosystems, ranging from montane cloud forests to cactus scrublands. The region has exceptionally high plant diversity: of the more than 10,000 species found there, 72% are thought to be found on only one island. The islands are also very rich in reptiles, with more than 600 species making their home among them; 82% of these reptile species are endemic. Over 95% of the hotspot's 200 amphibian species are unique to the region.

2. **The Caribbean Islands is one of the most severely threatened hotspots in the world.** There are 992 globally threatened species in the region due to overexploitation of living resources, habitat destruction and fragmentation due to agriculture, tourism, and urban development driven by population growth. Only 10% of the islands' original vegetation is in a pristine state. Waste management is a major environmental issue in the Caribbean, where growth in urban population, industrial activity, and tourism continues to outstrip infrastructural capacity to handle waste, and with waste often dumped in unlined land-fill sites. Riverine and coastal ecosystems are negatively affected by untreated or partially treated sewage. Many root causes underlie these direct threats, including poor land-use planning, inadequate financial resources, lack of awareness and political support, weak and ineffective legislation, limited availability of information, and inefficient or inadequate institutional capacity. Improved management of the hotspot's landscapes, freshwater and coastal ecosystems is essential for sustainable growth and development.

3. **The economies of the Caribbean Islands Biodiversity Hotspot nations and the rural poor are heavily reliant on this unique biodiversity asset.** Nature-based tourism contributes 20 to 60 percent of the GDP of most countries in the region. This sector has especially hit by the COVID-19 pandemic which has brought tourism to a halt, resulting in loss of income, employment and tax receipts. This is anticipated to have significant implications for biodiversity conservation in the short term as people turn to natural resources for income from poaching and deforestation and over the medium to longer term as diminished revenues from tourism forces government budget cuts. In addition, with most of their populations and key infrastructure in low-lying coastal areas, the small and open economies of the Caribbean Islands are vulnerable to external shocks such as natural disasters. For 2020 hurricane season, it is expected to be "above-normal season" with 60 percent chances.

4. **Caribbean civil society plays a crucial role in biodiversity conservation in the Caribbean hotspot.** With higher pressures on natural ecosystems and reduced funding to government agencies charged with their management, the role of Civil Society Organizations (CSOs) in strengthening the protection and management of biodiversity in the Caribbean Islands is more important than ever. CSOs support management through direct conservation action (some at a very large scale), and many have championed policy and legislative improvements in the hotspot and been drivers of change. In some Caribbean countries, CSOs complement the limited capacity of governments and contribute significantly to the achievement of the global agendas.

5. **Civil Society Organizations (CSOs) are crucial in contributing to the effective conservation and sustainable management of biodiversity, however, CSOs' capacity to implement conservation actions is constrained.** They are constrained by administrative, financial and technical limitations, which in turn hinder their ability to contribute to conservation impact due to isolation, lack of coordination and weak dissemination of good practice. Although there are some stronger non-profits that have advanced governance and management systems in place to contribute to their effectiveness and sustainability, the overall picture is of a sector that could benefit from further strengthening in targeted areas to support sustainability of the CEPF investment. Many of the region's conservation groups are small and under-capacitated, and some are quite isolated, especially in the smaller islands of the Lesser Antilles and in Haiti. Many have a small number of staff, and insufficient funds to hire the staff complement needed to maintain a fully functional organization.

Critical Ecosystem Partnership Fund (CEPF) Context

6. **The Critical Ecosystem Partnership Fund (CEPF) was created in 2000 in response to threaten ecosystems and limited CSOs capacity to implement conservation actions.** The CEPF was established to mitigate biodiversity threats and strengthen the capacity of CSOs to conserve critical ecosystems. The CEPF works across four pillars: biodiversity, civil society, human well-being, and enabling conditions. The mandate of CEPF is to enable civil society to protect the world's biodiversity hotspots: biologically rich ecosystems that are essential to humanity yet highly threatened.

7. **CEPF protects biodiversity, builds local conservation leadership and nurtures sustainable development by supporting the development of conservation strategies** driven by local, national and regional input, and by providing grants to CSOs (i.e., nongovernmental, private sector, community-based, cooperative, academic and parastatal organizations) to implement those strategies. Since its inception, CEPF has invested globally US$248 million in grants in support of efforts to strengthen the capacity of civil society to conserve biodiversity in 25 biodiversity hotspots. CEPF's approach combines grant making with capacity building, to allow funds to reach a greater range of actors (e.g., grassroots NGOs, community groups, cooperatives, etc.) than conventional donors and to strengthen these actors and create networks among them so that conservation efforts can be sustained into the long term. Providing small grants to CSOs can be a factor to generate localized biodiversity conservation impact on the ground.

8. **Between October 2010 and July 2016, CEPF has invested in the Caribbean Islands Biodiversity Hotspot strengthening the capacity of local CSOs and increasing the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity in the region.** CEPF strengthened the capacity of 58 local and regional Caribbean CSOs and contributed to bringing 111,496 hectares under new or expanded legal protection. This was achieved through the development of strategic plans, fundraising plans and financial manuals, communication strategies, upgraded websites and financial systems. Capacity was built in a range of areas, including project design and proposal development, monitoring and evaluation, effective environmental communications and engagement of the private sector. Technical skills were built in sustainable tourism, field data collection and monitoring, and invasive species eradication and management. CEPF support enabled grantees to build alliances, supported regional networking and consolidated multi-sectoral partnerships for biodiversity that crossed political jurisdictions and language barriers. For example, a new regional network of nine environmental CSOs, Nature Caribé, was created.

9. **Despite progress, significant gaps remain in the Caribbean government's ability to achieve its national biodiversity commitments and CSOs can help them overcome critical technical issues.** Policy and legislative frameworks often lack environmental impact and strategic environmental assessments and financing mechanisms. Access to and use of scientific data for decision-making is still limited and enforcement of existing regulations is insufficient. Greater understanding of the economic value of ecosystem services financial support for protected area management is

stymied by lack of information and knowledge. CSOs active in the region have the technical potential to provide support on a broad array of technical issues. What is lacking is the funding to further strengthen its capabilities and scale efforts across geographies and emerging technical issues. This financial support is especially needed to help the region during this critical period of COVID-19 response and recovery efforts.

Relationship to CPF

10. **Seven countries have been selected as the focus for the project.** Based on the analyses in the Ecosystem Profile[1], seven countries have been selected to receive investment under this project (see Table 1). These contain 32 of the 33 priority sites for investment, all 17 globally irreplaceable KBAs, and 97% of the globally threatened species found in the eligible countries. The one priority site not covered by the project is Morne Diablotin National Park, Dominica. This site is one of three targeted by *Leveraging Eco-Tourism for Biodiversity Protection in Dominica*: a US$3.65 million GEF project, implemented by the WB, which is currently under development.

Table 1: List of selected countries

Country	Priority sites	Irreplaceable KBAs	Globally threatened species
Dominican Republic	9	2	181
Jamaica	7	6	310
Haiti	7	3	204
Saint Lucia	3	1	61
The Bahamas	2	2	87
Antigua and Barbuda	2	2	54
St. Vincent and the Grenadines	2	1	58

11. **Dominican Republic.** The World Bank engagement in the Dominican Republic is described in the Country Partnership Strategy (CPS) for FY15-18. The overall strategic goal of the CPS is to support the Government's efforts to make growth sustainable and more inclusive. The CPS is organized around five strategic results areas: (i) improving the investment climate and fostering private sector development; (ii) improving access to efficient and reliable electrical distribution networks, ICT and other infrastructure; (iii) supporting the government in building resilience to external shocks; (iv) promoting equitable, efficient, transparent and sustainable management of public resources; and (v) strengthening social service delivery.

12. The project will contribute to results area (iii) Supporting Government in Building Resilience to External Shocks through enhancing civil societies' capacity to manage the destructive effects of natural disasters on ecosystems which support the national economy.

13. **Haiti.** The World Bank engagement in Haiti is presented in the Country Partnership Framework (CPF) for FY15-19. The CPF is based on three priority pillars and one cross-cutting pillar on governance: (i) Promote inclusive growth by creating greater economic opportunities; (ii) Strengthen human capital and access to services; (iii) Improve capacity to adapt to climate shocks; and (iv) Strengthen governance to improve State effectiveness.

[1] The ecosystem profile is an important, and unique, part of CEPF's strategy. Before funding projects in a biodiversity hotspot, a participatory assessment is conducted to understand why the hotspot is biologically important, how local people interact with the environment, what the threats to biodiversity are, and where previous donors have already made investments.

14. The project will complement pillar (iii) Improve Capacity to Adapt to Climate Shocks by investing in protecting ecosystems and globally important biodiversity inside and outside protected areas.

15. **Jamaica.** The World Bank engagement in Jamaica is described in the CPS for FY14-18. The overarching goal of the CPS is to support Jamaica in creating conditions for sustainable and inclusive growth. In line with the National Development Plan and in close cooperation with other development partners operating in Jamaica, the strategy will provide selective solution-oriented support in three areas: (i) Public Sector Modernization (ii) Enabling Environment for Private Sector Growth and (iii) Social and Climate Resilience. The WBG program will help address some of Jamaica's chronic structural challenges, but only consistent government policies and long-term engagement with all partners would bring growth acceleration over time.

16. The project will contribute to area the following outcomes under area (iii) Social and Climate Resilience:
    Outcome 6: Strengthened social protection programs and improved institutional capacity for their management
    Outcome 7: Increased opportunities for poor and vulnerable
    Outcome 8: Improved institutional capacity to plan and respond to climate change events and natural disasters

17. **OECS countries (Antigua and Barbuda, Grenada, and Nevis, St. Vincent and the Grenadines, St. Lucia, Dominica).** For the OECS countries, the World Bank engagement is defined through the World Bank Group FY15-19 Partnership Strategy. The overall strategic goal is to support the OECS in laying foundations for sustainable inclusive growth. To pursue this high-level objective, the activities are organized around three areas of engagement; all ranked as high priorities by governments and stakeholders: competitiveness, public sector modernization, and resilience. The project will contribute to the area of resilience.

    The Bahamas is a member of the World Bank, however there is no active portfolio there.

C. Proposed Development Objective(s)

The project development objective (PDO) is to improve the capacity of civil society organizations to reduce threats to globally important biodiversity in the Caribbean Islands Biodiversity Hotspot.

Key Results (From PCN)

i. Number of local/regional civil society organizations with increased organizational capacity, as measured by the civil society tracking tool.
ii. Percentage of civil society networks or partnerships supported to improve collaboration with and coordination among civil, public and private stakeholders.
iii. Area of priority KBAs within protected areas with improved management, as measured by the Management Effectiveness Tracking Tool (hectares).
iv. Area of priority KBAs outside protected areas with strengthened management of biodiversity (hectares).

D. Concept Description

18. The proposed project will contribute to addressing the threats to globally important biodiversity identified in the Caribbean Island Hotspot Profile and build on actions, efforts and lessons learned under the phase one program that require additional support for consolidation. It will support replication and scaling-up of good practice models implemented during phase one. The activities and results of phase one projects have been reviewed with a view to

identifying opportunities to add value through "continuity of action," as well as based on new and pending policy and other developments in the KBAs.

19. The Theory of Change of the project (see Annex 1) is based on the following five premises: (i) the Caribbean Islands Biodiversity Hotspot is home to millions of people who are dependent on healthy natural resources and biodiversity for their livelihoods; (ii) habitat protection and biodiversity conservation are important to enable post-COVID-19 economic recovery, as well as increase resilience of natural capital and the economic sectors it supports to the impacts of climate change; (iii) engaging with and strengthening local civil society is critical to the long-term success of conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity; (iv) civil society groups can offer innovative ideas and practical solutions to solving local challenges; and (v) collaborative social accountability presents a pragmatic solution for building partnerships of CSOs for constructive engagement with public and private sector actors through information sharing, joint capacity-building and actions for effective biodiversity conservation.

20. The project seeks to overcome two key constraints: first that CSOs' capacity to implement conservation actions is constrained by administrative, financial and technical limitations; and second that CSOs' ability to deliver conservation impact at scale is hindered by isolation, lack of coordination and weak dissemination and adoption of good practice.

21. To this end, the project will have five components, with Components 1-4 reflecting the short-term outcomes in the Theory of Change (see Annex 1) and Component 5 providing the administrative, management and monitoring and evaluation functions necessary for the effective implementation of the other components. The indicative value of financing against each component is indicative and subject to change during preparation as more information becomes available. The five components are:

    a) Component 1: Increased Share of Land and Sea in and around Priority KBAs under Improved Management (US$8.8 M)
    b) Component 2: Increased Capacity of CSOs in Conservation (US$2.0 M)
    c) Component 3: Increased Capacity of Regional Implementation Team (RIT) in Leadership and Coordination of CSO Conservation Actions (US$0.7 M)
    d) Component 4: Strengthened CSO Partnerships for Conservation (US$1.0 M)
    e) Project Management, including M&E (US$1.4 M)

22. Components 1-4 offer potential for exchange of experience between island states in the hotspot and with countries in other hotspots where CEPF is active, particularly ones containing Small Island Developing States, such as the East Melanesian Islands, and the Madagascar and Indian Ocean Islands Hotspots. CSOs in these hotspots face similar challenges to those in the Caribbean, and there may be opportunities to replicate good practice models, for instance in relation to nature-based approaches to post-COVID-19 recovery.

23. **Component 1: Increased Share of Land and Sea in and around Priority KBAs under Improved Management (US$8.8M):** Component 1 will support a grant mechanism that focuses on building capacity of CSOs to reduce threats to globally important biodiversity in seven Caribbean Island countries. At the site scale, grant-making will support conservation actions in and around 32 priority KBAs, covering a combined area of 1,171,033 hectares. Calls for proposals will be issued in a manner to attract project ideas that will generate cumulative impacts in a clearly defined

geographical area. For all grants that aim to strengthen the management of a protected area, the CSO will be asked to monitor impact by means of the Protected Area Management Effectiveness Tracking Tool (METT).

24. By applying the criteria of the new Global Standard for the Identification of Key Biodiversity Areas (IUCN 2016), the ecosystem profile presents a portfolio of sites from among the hotspot's KBAs with the highest biological values, ensuring that CEPF's investment will safeguard important, threatened biodiversity. Further site-based priority setting ensures that they represent sites with the highest biological values that are under the most threat, and where is it possible to work without major impediments.

25. Some priority KBAs are too small to support globally important biodiversity and the ecological processes on which they depend into the long term. Consequently, there is a need for complementary conservation actions in the surrounding landscape to buffer KBAs from threats, maintain ecological connectivity and facilitate gene flow essential to ensure that species populations retain long-term viability. To this end, CEPF grant making will also target seven priority corridors, covering 2.3 million hectares, and engage the CSOs able to work in these areas.

26. The grant mechanism will allocate resources to projects using two approaches: (i) a competitive allocation approach based on calls-for-proposals (accounting for at least 90% of the total budget allocated to Component 1); and (ii) a non-competitive allocation to projects under an agreed programmatic or cluster framework (to fill gaps in the portfolio that cannot be addressed through competitive calls). Under the competitive allocation approach, applications will be evaluated against a set of agreed criteria by the CEPF Secretariat, the RIT for Caribbean Islands Hotspot, the *Caribbean Natural Resources Institute* (CANARI), and a Regional Advisory Committee comprising representatives of civil society, governments, donors and other major conservation initiatives in the Caribbean Islands Hotspot. The non-competitive allocation approach will explore opportunities for a programmatic approach to build synergies across grants and scale up impact in sites and corridors. During the initial phase, there were examples of clustered grant-making, where linked grants were made to CSOs with complementary skills to address the conservation of a single site. The development of the programmatic frameworks will be led by the RIT (CANARI) and the *Instituto Tecnológico de Santo Domingo* (INTEC), as the Collaborative Social Accountability Team (CSAT), using a collaborative social accountability approach, financed under Component 4 of the project.

27. ***Sub-Component 1.1. Protection and Management of Priority KBAs.*** Under this sub-component, the project will finance technical and legal processes to strengthen legal protection for priority sites that are currently unprotected or under-protected. Sites that have been identified for protection in national biodiversity strategies will be prioritized. The project will also finance preparation and implementation of participatory management plans that support broad collaboration among stakeholders, including protected area authorities, private landowners and local communities. Where relevant, climate change impacts will be assessed and climate change adaptation measures will be integrated into management plans, to protect ecosystem functions and build resilience. The project will also support targeted activities to reduce threats to priority KBAs, especially by eradicating, controlling or preventing further spread of invasive plants and animals that are affecting globally threatened species populations at priority KBAs. CSOs that will receive grants under this sub-component will have to work closely together with the government authority that has the mandate for the management of protected areas in the country.

28. ***Sub-Component 1.2. Increasing connectivity and ecosystem resilience in priority corridors.*** Under this sub-component, the project will finance activities that contribute to the protection and sustainable management of

biodiversity in the wider landscape around priority KBAs, in order to buffer globally important biodiversity from threats, increase landscape-scale connectivity and enhance ecosystem resilience. Most of the activities supported will take place within production landscapes used for agriculture, forestry or other economic activities. Eligible activities include supporting sustainable livelihoods in agriculture, fisheries, forestry, and nature-based tourism that enhance ecosystem resilience and landscape-level connectivity and deliver gender-equitable benefits, in order to maintain the functionality of priority KBAs. In cooperation with relevant national and local government authorities, sub-grants could also prepare and support implementation of participatory local and corridor-scale land-use and watershed management plans to guide future development and conservation efforts. Other eligible activities may include promoting the adoption and scaling up of conservation best practices by private enterprises, to promote connectivity and ecosystem services in the corridors.

29. ***Sub-Component 1.3. Safeguarding priority Critically Endangered and Endangered species.*** Under this sub-component, the project will finance targeted activities to safeguard key populations of Critically Endangered and Endangered species. Eleven of the priority KBAs are considered wholly irreplaceable at the global scale because they contain the only known population of one or more Critically Endangered or Endangered species. These sites qualify as Alliance for Zero Extinction (AZE) sites: the most urgent site-level conservation priorities at the global scale. For most of these sites, measures to strengthen protection and management of natural ecosystems, while necessary, will not be sufficient to avert extinction of the most critically threatened species. Consequently, the project will support targeted activities to address threats to these species. To this end, the project will finance the preparation and implementation of a limited number of conservation actions plans for priority Critically Endangered and Endangered species. The project will also finance work to identify the impacts of climate change on priority Critically Endangered and Endangered species, formulate adaption measures, and integrate them into site management plans.

30. ***Sub-Component 1.4. Improving the enabling conditions for biodiversity conservation.*** For the impacts of conservation activities in and around priority KBAs to be sustainable, they need to take place within an enabling environment, with favorable public policies, sustainable financing mechanisms and, crucially, support from local communities and other stakeholders. To this end, the project will support the role of CSOs in policy dialogue and advocacy focused on government policies that impact priority KBAs, adopting the approach of collaborative social accountability. The project will finance activities that mainstream biodiversity conservation and ecosystem service values into development policies, projects, and plans by government and the private sector, with a focus on addressing major threats, such as unsustainable agriculture, mining, tourism and infrastructure development. The project will also help to establish and strengthen sustainable financing mechanisms. Although the project budget will not be used to capitalize trust funds, CSOs will be supported to raise financing from other sources, including the private sector. Other eligible activities will include targeted communication and information dissemination to build stakeholder and constituency support for the conservation of priority KBAs and priority species.

31. Where necessary to guide conservation planning and action, the project will support CSO efforts to fill critical gaps in knowledge and information, including through field surveys of sites and selected species, baseline monitoring assessments, and the preparation of community assessments or socioeconomic surveys.

32. **Component 2: Increased Capacity of CSOs in Conservation (US$2.0M):** This component will further strengthen the capacity of local, national and regional civil society in the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity through targeted capacity development activities (such as classroom-based trainings in proposal design, project cycle

management, gender mainstream, and managing environmental and social risks, hands-on mentoring, and development of online training materials) and dedicated knowledge exchanges.

33. This component will be executed through a combination of sub-grants to CSOs, to build local, national and regional institutional capacity and foster stakeholder collaboration, and direct training and mentoring of CSOs by the RIT (CANARI). The RIT (CANARI) has administrative and technical functions, and provision of capacity building to CSOs is one of its technical functions.

34. ***Sub-Component 2.1. Sub-grants for capacity building.*** Using a similar grant-making mechanism to that described under Component 1, the CEPF Secretariat and the RIT (CANARI) will solicit and award sub-grants to increase the capacity of Caribbean CSOs in conservation. In this way, the project will strengthen CSOs' technical knowledge and skills to implement practical, applied biodiversity conservation actions through short-term training in topics that will advance implementation of projects under Component 1. The project will also strengthen the administrative, financial, fundraising and project management capacity of strategic CSO partners to implement conservation activities. Moreover, the project will support local, national and regional information exchange, networking, mentorship, and coalition building among CSOs.

35. To ensure that sub-grants are accessible to lower capacity organizations, which have the greatest need for capacity building but also the least capacity to write competitive proposals, the project will ensure that: (i) a small grant mechanism is established under the direct management of the RIT (CANARI), with a simplified proposal template; (ii) the Regional Advisory Committee is requested to evaluate small grant applications based upon the potential of the work to contribute to the capacity building of Caribbean CSOs rather than the quality of the proposal; and (iii) proposals will be accepted in English, French and Spanish. Moreover, in the first year of the project, one or more grants could be awarded to higher capacity organizations to mentor very low capacity CSOs and strengthen their capacity in proposal writing, among other things. These CSOs could then go on to apply for sub-grants directly during subsequent years.

36. ***Sub-Component 2.2. Direct training and mentoring.*** Under this sub-component, the RIT will undertake an assessment of the institutional landscape and capacity development needs in each target country. Based on this, it will develop and deliver a comprehensive capacity development program during the lifetime of the project. Participants will include sub-grantees and CSOs that have potential to become sub-grantees or have expressed interest in conserving island biodiversity. Training sessions will be held in various formats, including workshops, lectures or hands-on activities in the field. The RIT (CANARI) will organize grantee knowledge exchange workshops at project mid-point and end, to facilitate exchange of experience practice among sub-grantees that implement or have implemented projects in similar thematic areas, and to document and disseminate good practice.

37. **Component 3: Increased Capacity of RIT in Leadership and Coordination of CSO Conservation Actions (US$0.7M).** This component will strengthen the role and widen the responsibilities of the RIT (CANARI) in the Caribbean Islands Hotspot vis-à-vis the CEPF Secretariat. The RIT is central to the delivery of Components 1, 2 and 4, because it provides strategic leadership and local knowledge to build a broad constituency of CSOs working across institutional and political boundaries toward achieving the conservation goals described in the ecosystem profile. The RIT's major functions and specific activities will be based on approved terms of reference.

38. This component will be executed by the CEPF Secretariat. The CEPF Secretariat has both administrative and technical functions; provision of capacity building to the RIT is one of its technical functions.

39. ***Sub-Component 3.1. Technical assistance program for the RIT.*** This sub-component will finance a RIT needs assessment based on which a technical assistance program for the Caribbean Islands RIT will be developed to improve its capacity to manage the grant portfolio and provide technical backstopping to all sub-grantees. The program will include training workshops on assessing the feasibility of proposed projects, identify technical and fiduciary risks of proposals and sub-grantees; and provide refresher courses on biodiversity conservation and share newest developments in the field.

40. **Component 4: Strengthened CSO Partnerships for Conservation (US$1.0M).** This component will apply social accountability methodologies and tools to facilitate partnerships for conservation. These partnerships will bring together central and local-level public sector institutions, CSOs, local communities and, where relevant, private sector actors, to co-create analyses of conservation problems and develop joint solutions. This recognizes that successful, sustained conservation actions depend upon good coordination among multiple actors, which leverage complementary skills, experience, networks and authority.

41. In the Dominican Republic, Antigua and Barbuda, Jamaica and Saint Lucia, this component will be led by the INTEC, the Collaborative Social Accountability Team (CSAT). In The Bahamas, Haiti and Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, this component will be led by the RIT (CANARI), learning from the experience of INTEC. The Global Partnership for Social Accountability (GPSA) will provide co-financing support and oversight to INTEC. This arrangement will allow the project to learn from global good practice developed under the GPSA, which was established by the WB in 2012 to promote constructive engagement between governments and civil society in order to create an enabling environment in which citizen feedback is used to solve fundamental problems in service delivery and to strengthen the performance of public institutions.

42. The CSAT (INTEC) and the RIT (CANARI) will work together to implement the following set of main activities:

    i. Develop and execute a harmonized capacity development plan aimed at providing training to CSOs on addressing conservation challenges through social accountability mechanisms. The social accountability mechanisms will be tailored to the contexts, capacities and needs identified collaboratively between local communities, CSOs, private and public sector stakeholders. They will be geared towards generating feedback on the status of problems and issues, and identifying actions to address them through joint problem-solving at both local and central levels through clearly defined commitments, coordination and cooperation across stakeholders. The mechanisms thus have a twofold aim: (1) to strengthen public sector institutions' capacity to respond to issues, problems and solutions over which they have primary responsibility and accountability, and (2) to strengthen civil society's capacity for co-producing (taking part in) the execution of such solutions and increasing their civic oversight capacities to hold public sector institutions' accountable for their commitments.

    ii. Create continuous collaborative spaces for bringing together CSOs, public bodies and other stakeholders to build partnerships for conservation at a sub-set of priority KBAs and/or corridors in each country. The focus of the conservation challenges to be addressed will be guided by the sub-projects led by CEPF grantee CSOs

as laid out in Components 1, 2 and 4. In each target area, INTEC and the RIT will guide grantee CSOs to facilitate the establishment of collaborative frameworks spelling out the terms of cooperation across stakeholders, including (i) information sharing, (ii) actions to be jointly addressed, and (iii) joint capacity-building and technical assistance activities that will enable such actions to be effectively executed.

iii. Design and implement knowledge-sharing and learning activities related to the experience with use of social accountability methodologies generated under the project. Specifically, INTEC and the RIT will collaborate to (i) develop K&L products tailored to their primary and secondary beneficiaries, that will help stakeholders to learn about the use of social accountability mechanisms for biodiversity conservation and management, and (ii) jointly design a common monitoring, evaluation and learning system to assess and adjust progress using adaptive management and learning approaches. The system will be developed as part of an independent evaluation of the social accountability activities to be implemented under the common GPSA-CEPF agreed upon activities.

43. **Project Management, including M&E (US$1.4M).** All activities related to administration and supervision of the project, communication, procurement and financial management as well as monitoring and reporting will be covered under this component. The Project Management Unit (PMU) will be the CEPF Secretariat, working in partnership with the RIT hosted at CANARI, and in close collaboration with INTEC, the lead implementer of the GPSA-supported activities under Component 4. The PMU and the RIT will be staffed with experts on technical and fiduciary matters, monitoring and evaluation and environment and social standards. Under this component, communication on the project, including gathering lessons learned from the implementation will be financed.

Legal Operational Policies	Triggered?
Projects on International Waterways OP 7.50	No
Projects in Disputed Areas OP 7.60	No

Summary of Screening of Environmental and Social Risks and Impacts

The Environmental and Social Risks Classification (ESRC) for this Project is Substantial.

The environmental risk is expected to be Moderate. The Project aims to improve the capacity of civil society organizations in the conservation and management of globally important biodiversity in selected Key Biodiversity Areas (KBA) in the Caribbean Biodiversity Hotspot, and will support conservation actions in and around 32 priority KBAs, covering a combined area of 1,171,033 hectares and target seven priority corridors to maintain ecological connectivity, covering 2.3 million hectares in seven Caribbean countries. Activities proposed are related to conserving biodiversity and strengthening protection of identified priority conservation sites and thus not likely to have significant or irreversible environmental impacts. No major civil works are anticipated. Moving towards sustainable practices in agriculture, fisheries and forestry in the landscapes around KBAs, will help maintain the integrity of the landscape (such as through maintaining soil quality, reducing soil degradation and conserving water) thereby enhancing landscape-scale connectivity and ecosystem resilience. The Project is expected to have positive environmental outcomes.

The social risk is expected to be Substantial. Some of the areas that will be included for protected area status and conservation are located on land that is currently used for agriculture and/or forestry by local populations. Consequently,

restrictions of use could result in loss of access to these lands, and potentially have some impacts on livelihood insecurity for the populations, albeit on a local scale. There is also some concern about the capacity of the sub-grantees to manage social risks in terms of exacerbation of existing patterns of social exclusion, participation, elite capture. With respect to labor, the main risk will be related the labor practices of the Regional Implementation Team, and the sub-grantee Civil Societies Organizations (CSOs). There is also some implications for project impacts on vulnerable groups, related to inclusive and significant participation, and including, but not limited to, households that depend on agriculture within the project area, and vulnerable people (women, single parent female headed household, the poorest, people living in slums, disabled, LGBT, youth at risks, the Windward and Leeward Maroons in Jamaica.) Consequently, the project will carry out a participatory and inclusive approach to improve collaboration with and coordination among civil, public and private stakeholders. The project will also further strengthening its social communication processes, citizen engagement, gender approach, and beneficiary feedback mechanisms, to ensure inclusion and active participation of beneficiaries from disadvantaged and vulnerable groups and to avoid any kind of discrimination and exclusion that might be present in the current system in participant countries, as well as at the regional level.

To avoid, minimize or mitigate the risks mentioned above, the grantee will prepare an Environmental and Social Management Framework (ESMF) which will cover integrated pest management prior to Project approval. A Labor Management Procedure (LMP), a Process Framework (PF), a Stakeholder Engagement Plan (SEP) and an Environmental and Social Commitment Plan (ESCP) will need to be prepared prior to appraisal. The ESMF, will also address the organizational structure capacity to support the management of environmental and social risks. The process framework will contain measure to mitigate potential impacts deriving from access restrictions in relation to legally designated parks, protected areas, or other common property in participant countries.

Eight Environmental and Social Standards (ESSs) are considered relevant to the proposed operations at this stage. These are: ESS1-ESS6, ESS8 and ESS10.

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Annex 1: Theory of change for the project