

ESS4 - Community Health and Safety



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

Community Health and Safety Plan

14th December 2023

CEPF115169

JEMS Environment Management Services

Project Name: Climate and Conservation risk mapping initiative in St Vincent and the Grenadines

Grant Summary
1. Grantee organization: JEMS Environment Management Services
2. Sub project title: <i>Climate and Conservation risk mapping initiative in St Vincent and the Grenadines</i>
3. Grant number: CEPF 115169
4. Grant amount (USD\$): \$ 48,635.00
5. Proposed dates of grant: 1 February 2024 – 31 January 2025
6. Countries where activities will be undertaken: St Vincent and the Grenadines
7. Date of preparation of this document: 18 December 2023

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

The project consists of implementing a pre-survey to assess the knowledge, perspectives and attitudes of residents/householders and critical stakeholders of the communities on the climate and conservation risks impacting the central mountain ranges and biodiversity corridors in St Vincent and the Grenadines. It is also concerned with utilizing participatory qualitative mapping approaches to extract the data and using GIS technologies to develop climate risk and conservation maps on the specific areas of the central mountain systems and the biodiversity corridors.

Residents in communities will participate in a series of exchanges and cultural and sporting programmes to develop their knowledge and resilience on the strategies to adapt to climate change and enhance their capacity to establish conservation practices and actions to address such challenges. Based on the extent of the climate and conservation challenges affecting the biodiversity corridors, the project will engage residents of communities in developing conservation and livelihood plans for the communities/biodiversity corridors to resolve the development challenges impacting the areas.

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 <i>(low / medium / high)</i>	Level of Risk <i>(low / medium / high)</i>	Description	Mitigation Measures
Transmission of communicable diseases, such as COVID-19, to local stakeholders.	low	low	Several components will involve the gathering of small groups of persons – e.g., training for persons to develop biodiversity/conservation plans and livelihoods plans, educational awareness sessions, climate risk mapping exercise and Sporting and cultural session.	The guidelines of the St Vincent and the Grenadines government on Covid-19 at the time of the fieldwork and community engagement will be followed.
Risks related to hurricanes, volcanic eruptions, earthquakes, and other natural disasters.	medium	low	St Vincent and the Grenadines is in an area that experiences storms and hurricanes. It has three active volcanoes (La Soufriere, Kick UM Jenny, and Kick Um Jim)	The Project Manager and Administrator/Field Office will monitor the weather very carefully. If there is a threat of a hurricane field activities will not occur. The government agencies (National Met Services and National Emergency Management Organization) give advance notice for hurricanes and volcanic eruptions. Once emergency notices are given people have always been able to evacuate well in advance of a threat.
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	Hiring of private vehicles will be necessary to conduct several project activities.	To minimize community risk, the vehicles to be used under the project will undergo routine checks and maintenance. Drivers who operate these vehicles will have the necessary licenses to operate such vehicles.

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 JEMS will ensure that members 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 (COVID-19) Amendment (No 2) 14 th March 2021	Provides a list of communicable diseases, including COVID 19, that must be notified to the competent authorities.
Disaster Preparedness and Emergency Management Act (2006)	Provides for disaster preparedness and emergency management measures.

12. Measures to avoid risk of COVID-19

The Grantee will follow the guidelines of the St Vincent and the Grenadines 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 gatherings, the Project Manager will be immediately notified, and action will be taken following the government guidelines. The Project Manager and Administrator/Field Officer will monitor the weather very carefully. If there is a threat of a hurricane and or volcanic eruption field activities will not occur.

14. Measures to mitigate risks relating to security personnel

N/A

Action	Cost Estimate (USD)	Implementation Schedule			
		2024- 2025			
Salary of direct workers to implement the CHSP (5% of Project Manager and 5% of Administrator/Field Officer)	\$450	x	x	x	x
Covid-19 preparedness, including cleaning of venues, maintaining COVID-19 protocols etc (5% of maintenance of building etc (\$2100).	\$105	x	x	x	x

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.

16. Monitoring arrangements

The Project Manager and Administrator/Field Officer 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 they will act immediately to ensure everyone remains safe. Any amendments to existing plans will be made as necessary.

17. Disclosure

The Grantee 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.