



## **Community Health and Safety Plan**

July 10, 2021

**CEPF Grant 111512**

Instituto Tecnológico de Santo Domingo (INTEC) and Integrated Health Outreach Inc. (IHO)

Collaborative Social Accountability for Improved Governance in Protecting Biodiversity Hotspots Project

Dominican Republic, Antigua and Barbuda, Jamaica, and Saint Lucia

## Grant Summary

1. **Grantee organization:** Instituto Tecnológico de Santo Domingo (INTEC)
2. **Project title:** Collaborative Social Accountability for Improved Governance in Protecting Biodiversity Hotspots Project
3. **Grant number:** 111512
4. **Grant amount (US dollars):** \$500,000
5. **Proposed dates of grant:** August 1, 2021 – July 31, 2025
6. **Countries where activities will be undertaken:** Antigua and Barbuda, Dominican Republic, Jamaica, and Saint Lucia.
7. **Date of preparation of this document:** July 2021

### 8. **Project components:**

This proposal presented by INTEC, in partnership with sub-grantee Integrated Health Outreach Inc. (IHO) in Antigua and Barbuda, is a joint effort by the World Bank Global Partnership for Social Accountability (GPSA) and Critical Ecosystem Partnership Fund (CEPF), to contribute to improving biodiversity conservation in KBAs located in four Caribbean countries (Dominican Republic and Antigua and Barbuda, during the first year, with adaptive replication in Jamaica and Saint Lucia during years 2 to 4) through collaborative social accountability mechanisms between governments, citizens and civil society organizations (CSOs). Accountability is the cornerstone of good governance. In the context of biodiversity conservation, it is an essential element of natural resource governance that balances the need for long-term protection and replenishment of natural capital with short-term development imperatives. Collaborative social accountability is a set of methodologies and tools for constructive engagement of citizens and civil society organizations (CSOs) with public-sector institutions, to bring about greater voice for citizen's concerns and responsiveness to their needs.

INTEC 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. INTEC will also support CANARI to replicate tools and lessons learned, to extend social accountability efforts to The Bahamas, Haiti, and St. Vincent and the Grenadines, which also are CEPF priority countries in its current investment phase.

The project's rationale takes into consideration the GPSA's theory of change, tailored in this case to target the Caribbean's biodiversity conservation context. By engaging multiple stakeholders, cooperation to better leverage the existing biodiversity conservation and management system (programs, policies, and decision-making arenas), the project addresses problems of lack of collaborative governance and the capacities needed for this. The project combines (i) civil society-led coalitions to work with government to solve problems that local actors have prioritized with (ii) sustained support to meaningful engagements, including implementation support, capacity building, facilitation, and brokering. The aim is to contribute to improved biodiversity conservation and management using collaborative social accountability mechanisms that also tackle obstacles to improving relevant service delivery.

9. **Risks to community health and safety:**

| Activity  | Description of risk  | Risk probability | Risk rating        |
|---|--|------------------|--------------------|
| <b>Component 1: Capacity-building for collaborative social accountability.</b>  |  |                  |                    |
| INTEC and IHO will undertake the development and piloting of a capacity development (CD) program; the CD program will be improved year by year based on the results of the previous year evaluation.  | Transmission of communicable diseases, particularly COVID-19, to local stakeholders. | High             | High               |
|   | Risks related to hurricanes, earthquakes and other natural disasters.                | High             | Substantial – High |
| <b>Components 2: Implementing collaborative social accountability mechanisms for improved biodiversity conservation and hotspot monitoring.</b>   |  |                  |                    |
| INTEC and IHO will establish non-binding collaborative agreements with government counterparts to integrate biodiversity values, climate resilience and citizen feedback into national and local planning and improve KBA monitoring by creating new or strengthening existing participatory mechanisms for collaborative problem-solving, outlining information-sharing terms, mutual commitments and joint actions. | Transmission of communicable diseases, particularly COVID-19, to local stakeholders. | High             | High               |
|   | Risks related to hurricanes, earthquakes and other natural disasters.                | High             | Substantial – High |
| <b>Component 3: Improving knowledge and learning on social accountability in the Caribbean biodiversity conservation sector and project management.</b>   |  |                  |                    |
| Establish a monitoring, evaluation and learning system for the project that covers both GPSA and CEPF results frameworks.   | Transmission of communicable diseases, particularly COVID-19, to local stakeholders. | High             | High               |
|   | Risks related to hurricanes, earthquakes and other natural disasters.                | High             | High               |

10. **Risk mitigation measures:**

INTEC and IHO (the CSAT) work will take place both virtually and face-to-face in all four years in the Dominican Republic and Antigua and Barbuda. In Years 2 to 4, consultants contracted in Jamaica and Saint Lucia will also engage both virtually and face-to-face. Face-to-face meetings will follow national

guidelines and COVID-related regulations. Throughout the project, each country’s specific regulations and guidelines related to COVID-19 will be updated on a frequent basis. The CSAT 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. The CSAT will also work within the guidance issued by the World Bank on conducting public meetings and engaging stakeholders as outlined in the ESMF.

Specifically, the CSAT will put the following measures in place during project implementation:

- **Meetings with stakeholders:** Face-to-face meetings and roundtables with CSOs, PSIs, and stakeholder partners will shift to virtual platforms on a case-by-case basis, following all national regulations and guidelines to safeguard people against transmission of COVID-19.
- **Capacity building:** The CSAT’s capacity building strategy will take into consideration capacity building activities that may take place at the community level and will outline appropriate mitigation strategies.
- **Supervision missions of the CSAT:** When in-country travel by the CSAT staff is possible, the CSAT staff may undertake field visits to partner countries, and then discuss their findings during the mission. These visits will be documented in site visit reports prepared by the CSAT, while the overall mission will be documented in a supervision mission report prepared by the CEPF Grant Director.
- **Training and liaising with CSOs and PSIs:** Where restrictions related to the COVID-19 pandemic remain in place, the emphasis will be on virtual mechanisms such as virtual meetings rather than face-to-face events. All face-to-face exchanges will comply with national guidelines on COVID-19 (outdoor meetings, face coverings, etc.).
- **Implementation of the collaborative social accountability programme with the RIT in The Bahamas, Haiti and St. Vincent and the Grenadines:** The CSAT will work with the RIT to ensure all necessary protocols are in place for in-person gatherings related to this component of the RIT’s project. Shifting to virtual means will also be done as needed.

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

Flexibility will be shown in the timing and focus of project implementation to respond to changing situations. The CSAT will be responsive to requests to adapt to changing circumstances and respond to immediate humanitarian and subsequent recovery needs.

#### Relevant laws in project countries

The CEPF Environmental and Social Management Framework (ESMF) outlines the following key laws in the project countries and their relevance to this Community Health and Safety Plan. The RIT will ensure that staff adhere to these laws and guidelines:

| Country             | Law  | Relevance to ESS4  |
|---------------------|--|--|
| Antigua and Barbuda | Environmental Protection and Management Act (2015) | Provides for measures for the control and mitigation of all forms of environmental degradation or pollution including the management of pesticides and other hazardous substances to protect human health and maintain the quality of the environment. |

| Country             | Law  | Relevance to ESS4  |
|---------------------|--|--|
| Antigua and Barbuda | Public Health Act (1957; amended)  | Makes provisions for various matters relating to public health, including with regards to notification and control of infectious diseases. |
| Dominican Republic  | General Health Law (2001)  | Defines the role of the state in relation to fulfilling citizen's rights to health.  |
| Jamaica             | Public Health Act (2003)   | Provides a list of communicable diseases that must be notified to the competent authorities.   |
| Jamaica             | Disaster Preparedness and Emergency Management Act (1993)                        | Provides for disaster preparedness and emergency management measures.  |
| Saint Lucia         | Public Health (Communicable and Notifiable Diseases) Regulations (1978; amended) | Provides a list of communicable diseases that must be notified to the competent authorities under the Public Health Act.                   |
| Saint Lucia         | Public Health Act (1975)   | Consolidates regulations for public health, including on the prevention, treatment, limitation and suppression of disease.                 |

#### 11. **Measures to avoid risk of COVID-19:**

The Project will also adhere to international guidelines related to Covid-19. These include:

- [ILO Occupational Safety and Health Convention, 1981 \(No. 155\)](#)
- [ILO Occupational Health Services Convention, 1985 \(No. 161\)](#)
- [WHO International Health Regulations, 2005](#)
- [WHO Emergency Response Framework, 2017](#)

The project will also ensure that adherence is made to the WHO's specific guidelines on Covid-19, along with the World Bank's guidance note, "Covid-19 Considerations in Construction/ Civil Works Projects".

The project will ensure the following:

- Occupational health and safety (OHS) training will include training for project workers on hygiene and other preventative measures.
- A communications strategy for regular updates on Covid-19 related issues and status of any workers that may be affected by the illness.
- Virtual sessions, including with project communities, will be conducted where viable.
- Where virtual sessions are not viable and sessions must be held in person, the project will ensure that proper Covid-19 protocols will be adhered (refer to the bank's guidance note as well as WHO's guidance).
- Project workers will be provided with the adequate PPE required to safely carry out their duties.
- A protocol will be developed in the event any project worker contracts Covid-19.

**12. Emergency preparedness and response plan:**

The CSAT will follow the RIT's Emergency Preparedness Plan to guide its work in response to emergency events, including hurricanes, earthquakes, other natural disasters, as well as COVID-19 and other infectious diseases. The CSAT will be guided by these plans.

**13. Measures to mitigate risks relating to security personnel:**

Not applicable.

**14. Timeline and resources:**

The implementation of mitigation measures will be throughout the entire timeframe of the CSAT project.

**15. Monitoring arrangements:**

The CSAT will monitor and evaluate the effectiveness of the measures listed above through regular communication and coordination with all its staff, consultants, the CEPF Secretariat, GPSA, the RIT, and key project stakeholders such as CSOs, PSIs, and other in-country partners. The CSAT will report on its 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 publicly available on INTEC'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).