



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

Community Health and Safety Plan (CHSP)

May 2023

CEPF Sub-Grant 113724

Fitches Creek Residents Association Inc.

Building a Community Constituency for Conservation of Fitches Creek Bay and the North East Marine Management Area, Antigua and Barbuda

Antigua and Barbuda

Sub-Grant Summary

- 1. Sub-Grantee organization:** Fitches Creek Residents Association Inc. (FCRA)
- 2. Sub-project title:** Building a Community Constituency for Conservation of Fitches Creek Bay and the North East Marine Management Area, Antigua and Barbuda
- 3. Sub-Grant number:** 113724
- 4. Sub-Grant amount (USD\$):** \$ 48,940.00
- 5. Proposed dates of sub-grant:** 1 July 2023 – 30 June 2024
- 6. Countries where activities will be undertaken:** Antigua and Barbuda
- 7. Date of preparation of this document:** May 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 Northeast Marine Management Area (NEMMA), inclusive of Fitches Creek Bay, is a large multi-use protected area located on the Northeast Coast of Antigua. They are both critically significant for its importance to biodiversity conservation and the role it plays in the economic development of Antigua and Barbuda. On the other hand, the area is also under severe pressure from tourism interests, fishing operators and private developers. Habitat alterations, overcrowding, pollution and improper disposal of solid waste are just a few of the drivers that threaten to deteriorate the natural environment. This sub-grant aims to provide more baseline information for environmental protection and creates the opportunity to build community awareness, capacity, and behavioural changes using an evidence-based social and behavioural approach. Below outlines the sub-grant components:

Component 1: Community Action Plan and Information Dissemination

The sub-project will build a constituency of support to strengthen the NEMMA and Fitches Creek Bay through the development and implementation of a targeted communications plan and campaign specific to the context of local populations in this area. This effort will be done in collaboration with the Lutheran Church and the collaborative social accountability (CSA) team. Some of the communication will be anchored in the rapid feasibility study. The protected area will be assessed (rapid feasibility study) to create a rapid local ecosystem profile and develop a community action plan.

Component 2: Strengthened CSO Partnerships for Conservation

The sub-project will be anchored in GPSA collaborative social accountability (CSA) methods to strengthen protected area governance through our collaboration with other NEMMA community groups, government institutions that are part of management decision-making processes, the private sector, and other stakeholders. Our constituency of CSOs located in the NEMMA and Fitches Creek Bay will work with one another and in close coordination with IHO, the government, private landowners, and the private sector to co-create analyses of and solutions to conservation challenges in non-confrontational ways.

10. Risks to community health and safety and 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.	Medium	Low	COVID-19 occurs globally and can be more likely to be transmitted through any work involving group gatherings such as community activities (e.g. mangrove restoration), training (e.g. environmental community ambassadors) or participation in continuous community meetings (Component 2)	Project workers will conduct group community activities following any national declarations or guidance given by the Government of Antigua and Barbuda. Where necessary meetings will be cleansed and/or participants provided with the necessary sanitizing material.
Risks related to hurricanes, earthquakes and other natural disasters.	Medium	High	Over the life of the project, it is possible that the country could be severely impacted by a hydrometeorological event or other natural disasters. The Caribbean region is up to seven times more likely to experience a natural disaster than larger states, and when one occurs, it incurs as much as six times more damage.	Acknowledging the natural disaster risk, workers will maintain vigilance to all weather advisories and will conduct community activities in adherence to any natural disaster and emergency guidelines from the Government of Antigua and Barbuda. Where possible, activities such as community engagement will occur outside of known hurricane season.
Sexual exploitation, abuse and harassment	Low	High	Project workers will engage physically with communities at different levels (from purchasing supplies to participating in workshops) which presents an opportunity	FCRA will implement a code of conduct, and training on the Grievance Mechanism of the Stakeholder Engagement Plan and the Labor Management Plan,

			for sexual exploitation, abuse and harassment.	and other related areas. Some of these activities will be in partnership with government agencies to raise awareness of these issues and move towards reducing the occurrence of these issues.
Physical harm resulting from accidents and exposure to elements	Low	Medium	<p>In some cases, project workers may be required to drive vehicles or take transportation to community areas which opens the risk of vehicular accidents in communities.</p> <p>Community activities such as mangrove restoration, clean-up days, etc. potentially can see participating community members experience minor harm from the outdoors (e.g. sunburn, scratches, dehydration etc.)</p>	<p>To minimize risk to communities, only vehicles deemed to be in good working condition will be used for activities. Drivers of the vehicle will have the necessary licenses to operate the vehicle in question and will be reminded of safe driving practices.</p> <p>For community activities, participating members will be provided with the necessary personal protective equipment (e.g. sunblock, gloves, water, etc.).</p>

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. FCRA will ensure that staff adhere to these laws and guidelines.

Table 11.1: Relevant laws for community health and safety in Antigua and Barbuda.

Act	Description
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.
Public Health Act (1957; amended)	Makes provisions for various matters relating to public health, including with regards to notification and control of infectious diseases.

12. Measures to avoid risk of COVID-19

Project workers will conduct group community activities following any national declarations or guidance given by the Government of Antigua and Barbuda. Where necessary meetings will be cleansed and/or participants provided with the necessary sanitizing material. 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

Acknowledging the natural disaster risk, workers will maintain vigilance to all weather advisories and will conduct community activities in adherence to any natural disaster and emergency guidelines from the Government of Antigua and Barbuda. Where possible, activities such as community engagement will occur outside of known hurricane season.

14. Measures to mitigate risks relating to security personnel

Not applicable.

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 15.1: Implementation schedule and estimated resources

Action	Cost Estimate (USD)	Implementation Schedule			
		2023		2024	
Salary of direct workers to implement the CHSP (5% of budgeted compensation)	\$550.00	X	X	X	X
Purchase of COVID-19 safety supplies (masks, hand sanitizer, rapid test results)	\$75.00	X	X	X	X
Personal protective equipment (e.g. sunblock, gloves, water, etc.).	\$200.00		X	X	

16. Monitoring arrangements

The Project Manager will be responsible for monitoring this CHSP. This will be through one biannual report on the progress and status of the achievement of results, where the learning and achievements of the use of communication and community participation mechanisms will also be explored.

18. Disclosure

Communication routes between different stakeholders and local authorities will seek to maintain the dissemination of information relevant to the project. This will include communication via email, phone calls, issuing reports (especially for funders and sub-grants), and during key moments of the project (start and end) socialisation meetings that will include the participation of the stakeholders involved.

Regarding the complaints system, it is proposed to socialise it from the beginning of the project, using the platforms for socialisation and discussion with the community to make it known. This mechanism will also be mentioned in each of the community meetings, whether they are meetings, community gatherings, or stakeholder meetings. It is proposed that a series of posters can be used on an ad hoc basis, to be displayed at each event or meeting. A specific space will be dedicated at

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

each meeting to explain this mechanism to encourage beneficiaries and local stakeholders to use it. The contact information will be the same as that available on the sign.