



**Ministerio de Medio Ambiente y Recursos Naturales**

República Dominicana

*"Año del Desarrollo Agroforestal"*

Santo Domingo, D. N.

30 OCT 2017

004276

Señor

**Gianluca Grippa**

Embajador- Jefe de la Delegación de la Unión Europea en República Dominicana

Ave. Cesar Nicolás Penson 85A, Gascue

Santo Domingo.-

Distinguido Señor Grippa,

Luego de un cordial saludo, tengo a bien remitirle la nota de concepto del proyecto "Building resilience in a coastal-mountainous gradient trough Ecosystem based Approaches (EbA) and Ecosystem based Disaster Risk Reduction (Eco-DRR) to increase adaptation". Este Ministerio Ambiente conector de la importancia de estrategias para la adaptación al cambio climático basadas en ecosistemas, propone este proyecto a la Alianza Global por el Cambio Climático (GCCA+) de la Unión Europea para solicitar apoyo en este importante tema.

De la misma manera, le solicitamos interponga sus buenos oficios para que la propuesta llegue al Consejo de la GCCA+.

Sin otro particular por el momento, queda de usted,

Muy atentamente,

**FRANCISCO DOMÍNGUEZ BRITO**  
Ministro de Medio Ambiente y Recursos Naturales  
FDB/PAF/toa



Cc: **Patricia Abreu F.**  
Viceministra de Asuntos Internacionales y Cooperación

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Viceministro de Gestión Ambiental

**Pedro García**  
Director de Cambio Climático



## Project Concept Note



### **Building resilience in a coastal-mountainous gradient trough Ecosystem based Approaches (EbA) and Ecosystem based Disaster Risk Reduction (Eco-DRR) to increase adaptation**

#### **1. Applicant Information**

**Lead Applicant:**

Ministry of Environment and Natural Resources

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Dominican Republic

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#### **2. Background Information**

Dominican Republic is considered as one of the most vulnerable countries to climate change of the Caribbean region. According to the 2015 Global Climate Risk Index, the country has been ranked 8<sup>th</sup> out of 10 nations affected by seasonal and frequent extreme events such as hurricanes, storms and droughts. The impacts of these phenomena associated with socio-economic conditions and demographic factors have exacerbated its vulnerability conditions.

The Dominican Republic is classified within the Small Island Developing States (SIDS) group and as such, faces common challenges for its sustainable development: the fragility of its ecosystems and environmental degradation. Also, it is exposed to anthropic and natural threats, a high vulnerability to climate change and high poverty rate. With 96% of its population living in risky conditions, the Hispaniola is the island with the highest vulnerability to cyclones in the region and is among the ten most vulnerable in the world. Indeed, with an economy highly dependent of tourism sector, the Dominican Republic is among the 20 countries with the greatest risk to their global economy due to disasters. The GCCA+ index, ranked Dominican Republic in position no. 69 and the GCCA+ map annexes placed the country with a high percentage of storm frequency, high inequality index (Gini) and also ranked 3<sup>th</sup> out of 5 in the disaster risk index global report.



However, Dominican Republic has been taking actions to strengthen its policies and developed long term strategies to reduce climate change impacts. For the Dominican Republic, adaptation to climate change is a priority reflected in the article 194 of the Constitution, which specifically refers to the need of adaptation to avoid climate change related hazards. The country ratified the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) in 1998, the Kyoto Protocol in 2002 and ratified the Paris Agreement in 2017. The country already presented its First, Second National Communications (presented to the UNFCCC in 2004 and 2009 respectively) and the Third National Communication is almost completed.

The National Development Strategy, established by law 1-12 in 2012, contains the long-term vision of the Nation, objectives, lines of action and a set of indicators and goals that the country intends to achieve by 2030. It also includes the commitments assumed by state powers and a proposal of pacts to be agreed with the political and social actors. The NDS articulated public policies around four specific axes and the fourth axis focuses specifically on adaptation to climate change. In addition, the country has issued its Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) in 2016, with mitigation commitments to reduce its CO<sub>2</sub> emissions per capita by 25% relative to base year emissions (2010), as an effort to meet international targets and reaffirm its commitment to international community. The framework for this commitment is based on the National Development Strategy 2030 (NDS), the National Policy on Climate Change, the Economic Development Plan Compatible with Climate Change (DECCC in Spanish) and the National Adaptation Action Plan (NAPCC-DR, 2015-2030). In this sense, it is important to mention that within the NDCs, for adaptation to climate change the following priority areas were identified: water, agriculture and food security, health, biodiversity and forests, marine and coastal resources, energy, infrastructure and human settlements and tourism. While in the National Adaptation Action Plan (NAPCC-DR) main targets are related to food and water security, smart climate infrastructure, healthy and resilient communities and ecosystems, and risk management and early warning systems. Moreover, the NAPCC-DR promotes climate change adaptation and mitigation integration into sectorial and national policies, disaster risk reduction, resilience, awareness and education, mainstreaming of gender equity, as well as knowledge and preparedness to climate change impacts.

### ***3. Justification and challenges***

The Ministry of Environment and Natural Resources is responsible for bringing the environmental dimension into the land management of territories. Moreover, Ecosystem based Approaches (EbA) and Ecosystem based Disaster Risk Reduction (Eco-DRR).

Start with a pilot project with up-scaling potential long-term sustainability Overall, the project has a great potential of replication in other provinces of the country. Integrating EbA and Eco-DRR into national and sectorial policies will promote land and territorial planning in a more sustainable manner.



#### **4. Project Overview**

The project **“Building resilience in a coastal-mountainous gradient through Ecosystem based Approaches (EbA) and Ecosystem based Disaster Risk Reduction (Eco-DRR) to increase adaptation”** aims to establish a climate change adaptation approach, aimed for efficient integration and management of adaptation and DRR into national development planning and programming, and enhancing the resilience of communities’ and livelihoods, to climate change and natural disasters at the national/sub-national level. According to the Dominican Republic’s NAPCC-DR, the country is experiencing changes in rainfall patterns that are reflected into periodic flooding or severe droughts. Both events have affected severely the vegetation cover and water availability. Targeted project areas, Hato Mayor and El Seibo, are both located in the eastern region of the island, severely affected by the hurricane season in 2017. According to Izzo et al. 2017 on the Critical Points for Vulnerability to Climate Change in the Dominican Republic, these productive provinces have been rated as 2 of the 14 provinces with the highest values of vulnerability index of the country, due to their low economic growth, high sensitivity of its main economic sectors, low adaptive capacity and high exposure to extreme events.

Hato Mayor and El Seibo provinces have been greatly impacted by extreme events such as droughts and floods. In 2015 a severe drought affected the country causing lost and damages in the agriculture and livestock sector mainly in this provinces. Other events such as hurricanes Irma and Maria hit the country on September of 2017 causing floods and infrastructure damages mostly in the east and north region of the country. Furthermore, the National Meteorological Office (ONAMET) indicated that Hato Mayor and El Seibo were the provinces that received the highest rainfall volume (400 mm) during Hurricane Maria.

In addition, other indicators such as the poverty index and human development index (HDI) support their vulnerability position. Hato Mayor and El Seibo are on the top provinces of the eastern region with the highest poverty index, 62.4% and 70.7% respectively and also have the lowest values on HDI Index. Hato Mayor has also ranked as the province with most gender inequality index.

The impacts of climate change combined with human activities in the project areas, result in a dramatic degradation of ecosystems that are the livelihoods of poor people in rural areas. There are serious threats to agricultural and livestock production due to climate change impacts such as water shortage, land degradation, soil erosion, and degradation of habitats among the most productive and sensitive zones such as mangroves and coastal areas.

The two project areas are already seriously affected negatively by climate change impacts in social, economic, and environmental aspects. It is expected that these impacts will worsen unless proper solutions are implemented. This project will promote adaptation measures to strengthen resilience and reduce vulnerability for local communities and natural systems through long-term solutions such as promotion of good agriculture practices that are resilient to climate change variability, reforestation of degraded areas in highlands and coastal zones and appropriate response for meteorological events.



## 4.1 Overall Objective

This project will establish a climate change adaptation approach, aimed for efficient integration and management of adaptation and DRR into national development planning and programming, and enhancing the resilience of communities' and livelihoods, to climate change and natural disasters at the national/sub-national level.

## 4.2 Expected Outcomes

At a broad scale the project will integrate EbA and Eco-DRR into national policies and plans. At the national/sub-national level, the project will contribute to increase resilience and reduce vulnerability in urban and rural communities as well as economic and environmental development of Hato Mayor and El Seibo provinces.

### **Outcome 1: Policy and Institutional context of EbA and Eco-DRR is strengthened**

Climate change adaptation, EbA, Eco-DRR mainstreamed into policies, sectoral strategies and integrated into relevant sectoral plans.

### **Outcome 2: Vulnerable areas are identified and EBA considerations are mainstreamed into territorial planning**

Increased resilience and decreased exposure of communities to climate change and natural disasters through mapping areas for integrated coastal management, restoration of degraded watersheds, sustainable agriculture and forest conservation.

### **Outcome 3: Sustainable land management and practices are integrated into production systems (agriculture, pasturelands and forest- protected areas)**

Sustainable agriculture measures are implemented by farmers and their livelihoods, food security is improved and their income sources is diversified.

### **Outcome 4: The capacity of vulnerable communities to cope with disasters is increased**

Knowledge and public awareness of the benefits of EbA and measures for eco-DRR has been increased. Capacities will be strengthened for climate - resilient planning among communities, integrating especially women and youth.

## 4.3 Cross-cutting issues

Gender equity, sustainable development, poverty reduction, ecosystem restoration, water management and secure ecosystem services constitute a cross-cutting issue in this proposal.

**4.4 Scope:** national, sub-national and local

**4.5 Period:** 5 years

**4.6 Budget:** approx. EUR 5 millions

**4.6 Beneficiaries**



At a national level the integration of EbA and Eco-DRR the Dominican Republic into plans and policies will have an impact over the almost 11,000,000 inhabitants living in the country. At a sub-national level, targeted provinces of Hato Mayor and El Seibo will benefit. Hato Mayor occupies an area of 1,318.30 km<sup>2</sup> and it is divided into three municipal districts: Hato Mayor del Rey, Sabana de la Mar and El Valle. El Seibo has a total area of 1,786.80 km<sup>2</sup> divided into two municipalities: Santa Cruz del Seibo and Miches and five municipal districts. The entire number of habitants living in rural and urban areas per province will benefit from this project. A total of 85,017 habitants (47,260 man and 40,200 women) for El Seibo and 87,680 habitants for Hato Mayor (43,342 men and 41,675 women).

#### **4.7 Other implementation partners**

This project will be implemented through the Ministry of Environment and Natural Resources (Vice-ministry of Forestry Resources, Vice-ministry of Coastal and Marine Resources and the Vice-ministry of Environmental Management). Other institutions will also be integrated as the Ministry of Agriculture, Ministry of Economy, Planning and Development, the Emergency Operational Center (COE), Civil Defense, among others. Additionally, local and sub-national governmental institutions as well as NGOs will participate in the process.

#### **5. Complementarity with other initiatives**

Within the EU portfolio, the proposal fits into the second focal area of the Regional Indicative Programme for the period 2014-2020: climate change, environment, disaster management and sustainable energy, including a) improving regional resilience to impacts of climate change and natural disasters affecting sustained economic and social development; and b) supporting regional capacity for the sustainable use of natural resources. Additionally, the Action Document of the 11th EDF Natural Disaster Facility on the CARIFORUM also promotes: 1) National and community level capacity for resilience building and operational readiness; 2) Integration of CDM into key sectors at the national level; 3) Capacity for Disaster Risk Management Coordination at National and Regional levels between CDEMA, Dominican Republic and other countries within the Caribbean region; 4) Local capacity for Disaster Risk Reduction Management in the Dominican Republic. From the last GCCA+: Support to the Climate Change Alliance Under the 10th Edf Intra-Acp Financial Framework, the Caribbean Region regional climate models, the weather stations and the nationals trained to conduct vulnerability risk and hazard assessments will accompany the project.

Moreover, the initiative is aligned with other EU funded projects as (GIZ- CCAD) on biodiversity and business to support private sector on restoring and protection of marine and coastal resources in the Caribbean and the Strengthening the Biological Corridor in the Caribbean. Furthermore, with other projects as Elaboration of Caribbean Marine Atlas (Phase II), Conserving Biodiversity in Coastal Areas Threatened by the Rapid Development of Tourism and Physical Infrastructure (GEF), Mainstreaming conservation of biodiversity and ecosystem services in productive landscapes in threatened forested mountainous areas (GEF) and others.