

Mrs. Milagros De Camps, Deputy Minister for International Cooperation
Ministry of Environment and Natural Resources
C/Cayetano Germosen Esquina Avenida Luperon
02487 Santo Domingo
Dominican Republic

30 November 2020

Dear Mrs. Milagros De Camps,

I am writing to let you know of the success of the proposal for National Ecosystem Assessments submitted to the International Climate Initiative (IKI) in 2019. This proposal extends the support that UNEP-WCMC is currently providing to countries to build capacity to undertake National Ecosystem Assessments, and I am pleased to confirm that along with three other countries, the National Ecosystem Assessment for the Dominican Republic was part of this proposal.

The National Ecosystem Assessments form part of a larger proposal led by UNDP supporting the Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services Network (BES-Net), in partnership with UNESCO and UNEP-WCMC. The project is also linked to two other projects focusing on building capacity for national ecosystem assessment: linking science and policy in eight other countries.

The overall aim is to build capacity at the national level to undertake ecosystem assessments and support the uptake of assessment findings into national decision-making. There are three core components we will be expecting countries to deliver:

1. A scoping report of a national ecosystem assessment
2. A technical report and summary for policy makers for the national ecosystem assessment
3. The development or enhancement of a national science-policy platform

These activities will be supported by a global capacity-building programme, which includes global training workshops with international experts, mentoring programmes, support on national dialogues, webinars, and knowledge exchange with other country teams developing national ecosystem assessments.

UNEP-WCMC is currently putting together contractual arrangements with each country's implementing including the one chosen by Dominican Republic. This will also include financial and reporting arrangements for the assessment.

The project will be launched through an Inception Workshop Series, which will include lessons learned from the work of the eight countries preparing or finalising their assessments. These are scheduled to take place online in January 2021 (final date to be confirmed). We would like to extend the invitation to you to attend these workshops, as they will provide an introduction into the work already being undertaken and the plans ahead.

We very much look forward to supporting the national ecosystem assessment to be developed by Dominican Republic, and please direct any enquires on this initiative directly to Shaenandhoa García Rangel (email: shena.garciarangel@unep-wcmc.org).

With my very best regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Neville J. Ash', written in a cursive style.

Neville Ash
Director, UNEP-WCMC