

Santo Domingo, D.N.
October 12, 2022

Mister
Robert D. Brumbaugh, Ph.D.
Executive director, Caribbean Division
The Nature Conservancy
Coral Gables, Florida, USA

RE: Letter of Intent for the CORALCARIB project

Dear Dr. Brumbaugh:

As a focal point of the International Climate Initiative (IKI) of the German Government, the Ministry of Environment and Natural Resources in the Dominican Republic hereby expresses its intent to support The Nature Conservancy and the countries involved in the project entitled: Pioneering a Strategic Approach for Conserving and Restoring Caribbean Coral Reef Ecosystems Targeted at Climate Resilient Refuges ("CoralCarib").

We understand that the project should include activities in five countries: Belize, Cuba, Haiti, Jamaica and the Dominican Republic. The Nature Conservancy will be the lead organization, including the Dominican Foundation of Marine Studies (FUNDEMAR), the Puntacana Group Foundation and the Center for the Conservation and Ecological Development of the Bay of Samaná and its Surroundings (CEBSE) as members of the country's Consortium.

We understand that the project's main objective is to improve marine biodiversity, specifically priority coral reef ecosystems, covering approximately 1,871 hectares in the four countries involved in the insular Caribbean through combined efforts on a regional scale. According to the organization, CoralCarib's goal is to obtain healthier and more resilient coral reefs, providing socio-economic benefits to people in the Caribbean and by pioneering a new strategic approach focusing on coral climate refuges, with activities to protect, restore and sustainably use coral reefs with a high potential to survive future climate impacts, along with sustainable livelihood activities.

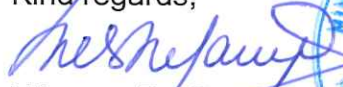
The project will be coordinated with the country's priorities to conserve and protect coral reefs in the Southeast Coral Reef Sanctuary, in coordination with the adaptation provisions to Climate Change and the 2030 National Development Strategy of the Dominican Republic 2030.

We hope that The Nature Conservancy will contribute to the country's priorities through the implementation of the following actions:

- a. Work Package I (Effective Management and Restoration of Coral Reef Ecosystems): For example: Develop coral reef threat mitigation plans, implement threat reduction, and conduct coral reef restoration and monitoring.
- b. Work Package II (Improved capacity to carry out sustainable livelihoods' activities for reef-dependent communities): For example: Conduct assessments of sustainable livelihood options and implement opportunities in local communities.
- c. Work Package III (Ecosystem services valuation and outreach): For example: Develop reef ecosystem service valuation studies based on government needs and communication products to share the results of the studies.
- d. Work Package IV (Policy proposal and resource mobilization): For example: Coordinate partners in regional coral reef action plans, policy framework assessments as well as knowledge sharing at the regional and global levels.

In this regard, we hereby express our support for the CoralCarib project and our commitment to attend the scheduled project coordination and planning meetings in order to guarantee effective collaboration.

Kind regards,



Milagros De Camps

Vice-Minister of Climate Change Adaptation and Sustainability
Ministry of Environment and Natural Resources
Dominican Republic

