DOMINICAN REPUBLIC
conserves its biodiversity with protected areas

Picture: Miguel A. Landestoy

Bahía de las Águilas, Jaragua National Park

Mirador Oeste Park

Grigi Lagoon

La Esperanza Island

Thanks to the initiative of national authorities, in the interest of protecting the native and endemic biodiversity, the Dominican Republic currently has 122 protected areas, which represent 25% of the country´s territory. The National System of Protected Areas was established by law in 2004 (Law 202-04) with 90 protected areas and in 2009 the Presidential Decree Num 571-09, based on an environmental gap analysis, added 32 new areas to the system, strengthening environmental legislation and ensuring adequate levels of protection for biodiversity at a national level. The Ministry of Environment, with support from the United States Agency for International Development (USAID), the US Department of the Interior, The Nature Conservancy and other national and international NGOs, has been steadily working to improve protected areas management thru training of park rangers and administrators, technical assistance and provision of equipment to facilitate monitoring and prevent illegal encroachment and poaching. With better transportation and communication equipment, as well as global positioning systems (GPS), park rangers can respond more rapidly to events and disturbances that may occur in protected areas. The Dominican Republic System of Protected Areas is comprised by 8 scientific reserves, 2 marine mammal sanctuaries, 2 biological reserves, 28 national parks, 2 submarines parks, 28 natural monuments, 17 wildlife refuges, 15 nature reserves, 10 panoramic routes, 3 national recreation areas and 3 ecological corridors. In addition, we have created more than 30 municipal protected ecological parks which are of great importance to local communities and have an enormous educational potential. The System of Protected Areas of the Dominican Republic contributes to the planet´s clean air and ecological balance.

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The Nature Conservancy
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PROGRAMA DE PROTECCION AMBIENTAL