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# Environmental Protection Program

Cooperative Agreement No. 517-A-00-09-00106-00

## Quarterly and Annual Report

Oct. 2010 – Sept. 2011



December 21<sup>st</sup>, 2011

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Photograph on report cover: Bayahibe's sunset. Susana Batista, @INTEC.

# The USAID/TNC Environmental Protection Program

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## Cooperative Agreement Information

The USAID Environmental Protection Program (USAID/TNC - EPP) seeks to strengthen the Dominican Republic's ability to comply with the requirements of the Central America-Dominican Republic-United States Free Trade Agreement (DR-CAFTA), promoting adequate levels of environmental protection and biodiversity conservation. As of the end of FY 11 the program is also working with national and local authorities and other stakeholders in promoting policies and strategies for climate change adaptation. It is a five-year initiative implemented through a cooperative agreement with The Nature Conservancy and sub-awards with the Technological Institute of Santo Domingo (INTEC), the Pro-Naturaleza Fund, Inc. (PRONATURA), the Center for the Conservation and Eco-Development of Samaná Bay and Its Surrounding Areas (CEBSE), the Dominican Institute for Integral Development (IDDI), and the Dominican Foundation for Marine Studies (FUNDEMAR).

## Reporting Period:-

This is the Quarterly and Annual Report for the USAID Environmental Protection Program (USAID/TNC-EPP) which covers activities carried out from October 1<sup>st</sup>, 2010 to September 30<sup>th</sup>, 2011. The USAID/TNC - EPP falls under Cooperative Agreement No. 517-A-00-09-00106-00 between The Nature Conservancy (TNC) and the United States Agency for International Development (USAID).

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**Acronyms:**

WIDECAST	Caribbean Sea Turtle Network
CCAD	Central American Commission for Environment and Development
CDSS	Caribbean Decision Support System
CEBSE	Center for the Conservation and Eco-Development of Samaná Bay and Its Surrounding Areas
CEDAF	Center for Agricultural and Forestry Development
CITES	Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora
CODOPESCA	Dominican Council of Fisheries and Aquiculture
CP	Cleaner Production
DR-CAFTA	Dominican Republic - Central America Free Trade Agreement
EBM	Ecosystem-Based Management
ECA	Environmental Cooperation Agreement
EMS	Environmental Management Systems
FONDO MARENA	National Fund for the Environment and Natural Resources
INTEC	Technological Institute of Santo Domingo
IDECOOP	Dominican Institute for Cooperatives Development
ME	Ministry of Environment and Natural Resources
NASA	National Aeronautics and Space Administration
NEPAssist	Tool to facilitate the environmental review process and project planning
NGO	Non Governmental Organizations
PMU	Program Management Unit
PRONATURA	Pro-Nature Fund, Inc.
RENAEPA	National Network of Businessmen for Environmental Protection
SECTUR	Dominican Republic Tourism Ministry
ME	Dominican Republic Ministry of Environment and Natural Resources
TNC	The Nature Conservancy
UGAMS	Municipal Environmental Management Units
UNFU	Pedro Henríquez Ureña National University
UICN	International Union for Conservation of Nature
USAID	United States Agency for International Development
USFS	United States Forest Service
USAID-DSTA	Dominican Sustainable Tourism Alliance
USAID/ELE	USAID/Excellence in Labor and Environment
USAID/RED	USAID/Rural Economic Diversification Project

# **I. Executive Summary and Program Highlights**

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The USAID/TNC –Environmental Protection Program is a five-year project implemented through a cooperative agreement with The Nature Conservancy (TNC) and sub-awards with Dominican institutions: the Technological Institute of Santo Domingo (INTEC), Fondo Pro-naturaleza (PRONATURA), the Center for the Conservation and Eco-development of Samaná Bay and its Surroundings (CEBSE), Dominican Institute for Integral Development (IDDI) and Dominican Foundation for Marine Studies (FUNDEMAR) . The Cooperative Agreement for this program was signed on March 2<sup>nd</sup> 2009, and the project was formally launched on June 2<sup>nd</sup> 2009.

The USAID/TNC Environmental Protection Program (USAID/TNC -EPP) seeks to strengthen institutional capacities, both public and private, to promote a more effective protection of environmental quality, biodiversity conservation and climate change adaptation. To this end, the Program is working closely with the Dominican Republic Ministry of Environment and Natural Resources (ME), the National Council for Climate Change and Clean Development Mechanism and local partners.

Since its inception, the project had envisioned that several lines of work would have been concluded by the end of the third fiscal year, and new ones would be identified. Also, the earmark of the funds being implemented has changed from DR-CAFTA environmental cooperation and biodiversity conservation, to adaptation to global climate change. In this regard, fiscal year 11 serves as a transitioning year, in which the program has completed most of its intended products related to environmental management while initiating work on climate change adaptation activities.

Currently, there is substantial concern over the effects of climate change on developing nations and small, island developing states (SIDS). In most cases, these are characterized by large poor, rural, and resource-dependant populations, hefty foreign debt and imports, and increased vulnerability to the effects of climate change. Hence, it is imperative that these countries initiate programs that adapt their populations to the imminent effects of climate change. The Program, in order to properly address and undertake all activities related to climate change adaptation and related assessments, has added two new partners: the Dominican Institute for Integral Development (IDDI) and the Dominican Foundation for Marine Studies (FUNDEMAR).

During FY2011 the process of revising the environmental impact assessment regulation was completed. The new regulation consolidates ten years of experience in the implementation of the EIA process in the Dominican Republic promoting a more transparent and effective process. It also consolidates all environmental permits and authorizations under a single administrative procedure, while maintaining the roles of the different technical areas of the Ministry with competence in the authorization process. The Ministry has been conducting a consultation process of the revised procedure, which is expected to conclude early in 2012.

Another major accomplishment for this period is the completion of the design of the national environmental audit system. The final proposal for the system was presented to the Environment Ministry in December 2010. The USAID/TNC-EPP also presented to the Ministry of Environment and Natural Resources the design of proposed system for follow up and monitoring of environmental compliance, thus completing the tools for effective implementation of the environmental legislation as it relates to environmental impact assessment and permitting. .

During this fiscal year, the USAID/TNC -EPP has continued providing support to the National School of Environment and Natural Resources. During this period, the USAID/TNC-EPP facilitated contact between the School and the Peace Corps, in order to support the school’s natural resources, ecotourism and sustainable technology areas. The program also supported the development of curricular content for the technical degrees on environmental management and natural resources management and facilitated educational equipment for classrooms and field practice. When fully operational the school will be able to prepare qualified technicians for the public and private sectors in key areas of environmental protection and conservation.

Also as part of the institutional strengthening component of the project, an extensive educational program has been developed and implemented by INTEC. This has included university certificate programs on Municipal Environmental Management, Micro-Watershed Management, Environmental Journalism and Environmental Leadership. Municipal management is also being taught by INTEC in informal educational sessions on selected municipalities, to reach a broader municipal audience.

To address the threat of overfishing to biodiversity conservation in Samaná Bay, the USAID/TNC-EPP has continued working with fishers associations in the Samaná Bay area to promote sustainable fisheries. Close collaboration with CODOPESCA and IDECOOP has made possible fishermen capabilities strengthening. The program has also been working closely with CODOPESCA to promote that fishers in the area enter into compliance with current fishing legislation.

Complementarily, a whale monitoring study was carried out with significant results that will serve as input for planning and the zoning proposal implementation. EPP's partner CEBSE is also providing technical assistance to develop the provincial environmental agenda for Samaná and several municipalities have received training and technical support to improve municipal environmental management. For FY12 USAID/TNC's EPP aims to prepare Samaná Bay for climate change adaptation and serve as a pilot for other areas of the country.

Protected areas have been another main focus of the USAID-TNC Environmental Protection Program during FY11. In November 2010 a regional workshop on environmental funding mechanisms was held in Punta Cana. Participants from seven Caribbean States and experts from the Caribbean, Latin America and the US, shared experiences and discussed the most viable alternatives for sustainable funding of conservation efforts. Among the topics discussed were payment for environmental services, debt for nature swaps and other funding and financial mechanisms. The vertical agreements that will regulate the operation of the Dominican protected areas trust fund in the context of the Caribbean Biodiversity Fund were presented and discussed.

Ecological Restoration activities started in National Park Valle Nuevo on August 13<sup>th</sup>, 2011 after a technical consultation process with the Ministry and other stakeholders to develop a proposal for intervention. Restoration is taking place in Aguas Blancas (El Castillo) and Nizaíto. Restoration activities are being complemented by extensive training to park rangers, follow up, RAPPAM evaluation of park management and signage of boundaries and main sites within the park.

To consolidate the program's biodiversity conservation work, key policy instruments such as the national biodiversity strategy, the national list of endangered species and the national plan for conservation of marine turtles have been prepared in collaboration with the Ministry of Environment and national experts. The final drafts of these three documents were presented to the Ministry during this reporting period. The national strategy for biodiversity conservation action plan was made official by the Ministry of Environment in Q4 FY11.

The consultation process for the national forest evaluation methodology and for the national forestry strategy has been completed and the final documents have been submitted for approval. The endemic plant seeds bank of Nigua was inaugurated and the USAID-TNC Environmental Protection Program is providing not only the necessary equipment but also training on seed identification and collection, as well as the development, socialization and validation of the proposal document for marketing and transportation of forest products. Complementarily, efforts on the strengthening of the operational capacity of the Environment Ministry in the process of collection and preservation of seeds were focused on finalizing the seed collection stage and completing the phenological calendar of forest species. USAID-TNC Environmental Protection Program partner PRONATURA has also carried out 14 training courses on basic techniques for forest fire control in different locations of the Dominican Republic.

The USAID-TNC EPP supported the design and implementation of a National Environmental Journalism award which was presented for the first time on June 2011. The award included two categories: written press and TV (reportage and documentary). Award winning journalists in the written press category were Ivonny Alcántara and Tania Molina, both from Diario Libre. These awards, as well as training activities carried out during the reporting period, are part of the program's strategy to promote awareness and public participation in

environmental protection by promoting the development of a network of environmental journalists in the country.

Also during fiscal year 11 the national award on cleaner production was developed and launched in September 2011. The awarding ceremony is expected to take place next February. The establishment of this award is part of a program supported strategy being implemented by the Ministry of Environment to promote voluntary improvements in private sector environmental performance. The program has also supported the development of the guidelines for environmental voluntary agreements between industry associations and the DRGov. These agreements will serve to create incentives for improved environmental compliance and for the implementation of clean production programs by the private sector.

Also in FY11, the USAID-TNC Environmental Protection Program has identified key areas of work for climate change adaptation and has brought on board new local partners to support such work. After completing the due diligence process, TNC signed sub-agreements in September 2011 with the Dominican Institute for Integral Development (IDDI) and with the Dominican Foundation for Marine Studies (FUNDEMAR). The main goal of IDDI's sub-award is to conduct a vulnerability assessment and to carry out an awareness and education campaign to promote public-private partnerships for climate change adaptation. FUNDEMAR will be working on coral reefs resilience and restoration for climate change adaptation, including community and tourism industry involvement and awareness.

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### III. MAJOR OUTPUTS AND PROGRESS BY COMPONENT

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#### *Component 1: Institutional Strengthening for the Effective Enforcement of Environmental Laws*

##### **1.1: Improving institutional capacities**

- **Coordinate the national and regional environmental agendas**

The USAID/TNC Environmental Protection Program supported the Dominican Republic participation in the DR-CAFTA environmental cooperation exhibit carried out on January 27 in Washington DC, organized by the Department of State. The program collaborated with the Environment Ministry to prepare the products that were presented at the exhibit. These include an 8 minutes video, two informative banners and several handouts. During the exhibit, the DR government focused on the improvements made in five main areas: endangered species (CITES), protected areas management, environmental impact assessment, environmental information systems and cleaner production.



FIGURE 1: DOMINICAN REPUBLIC'S STAND AT THE EXHIBIT

During FY11, the USAID-TNC Environmental Protection Program maintained open communication with the regional cooperation under DR-CAFTA, as well as other donors and agencies in the Dominican Republic, to promote synergies and prevent duplication of efforts. During the April-June quarter, the program participated of the donors table in climate change. In collaboration with UNDP/DR, the program currently co-finances the knowledge and perception on climate change survey, at the national level. Results are expected by Q1 FY12. The program has also facilitated coordination meetings and the development of a summary table of activities related to climate change adaptation to be carried out with USAID support by the USAID-DSTA/CDCT projects as well as USAID-RED project. This process served as a starting point for the negotiation of a sub-award with IDDI for the implementation of a work plan on climate change adaptation awareness and education, as well as to support the development of public-private partnerships for climate change adaptation policy and planning.

- **Develop and implement procurement plan to strengthen Environment Ministry and municipalities.**

To support institutional strengthening of the Environment Ministry, the USAID-TNC Environmental Protection Program provided equipment with a total value of US\$125,022.43, of which US\$58,744.57 correspond to this quarter's expenses. Included in this installment of the procurement aspect of the program are GPS units to be used in monitoring activities by the provincial directorates. Also computers, classroom and field supplies for the Environmental School in Jarabacoa; field equipment for protected areas management, including motorcycles; and office equipment for the Ministry's headquarters in Santo Domingo; the later was intended mainly to support the single access window and the environmental information departments. See in appendix B a list of the items delivered to the Ministry..

- **Promote Regulations on Inspection, Surveillance and Monitoring**

The program has completed the design of a national environmental compliance monitoring system. The proposed system has been presented to the Environment Ministry and work is being conducted to develop an implementation plan in several phases. The proposed system will complement USAID funded improvement in the environmental permitting process and it can be integrated with the Tracking System tool. As part of the support for the compliance monitoring system, the USAID/TNC-EPP has presented to the Ministry a diagnostic of current practices, as well as a draft of proposed regulation and procedures.

- **Support implementation of air quality and water quality regulation and monitoring**

The program is assisting the Ministry in the acquisition of supplies to maintain operations of the units that have been donated by USEPA to measure particulate matter of 10 µm or less in diameter (PM10). To support the implementation of the water quality regulation, the program has worked closely with the Environment Ministry to implement the classification of water bodies outlined in the regulation. The program has also supported the public participation process for the revision of the water quality regulations, and will support the publication and dissemination of the amended version of the norm. The program also began working with the Environment Ministry and experts from the Maine Department of Environmental Protection, to develop biological indicators for water quality monitoring in the DR. This work shall result in a water quality monitoring program that is reliable but much less expensive than chemical monitoring. Training was organized with INTEC's collaboration for Ministry personnel and the participation of the Environmental School in Jarabacoa.

With the aim to improve national capacity to implement wastewater regulations, and to complement work carried out by USAID regional program and US-EPA, the USAID/TNC Environmental Protection Program supported a week-long training on laboratory techniques and certification offered by experts for the University of Costa Rica. The training covered topics such as record keeping and quality assurance necessary for international accreditation of Dominican Government laboratories.

- **Support the Development of the Provincial Environmental Agenda for Samaná**

For the fiscal year 2011, the program provided support for the development of a Provincial Environmental Agenda (PEA) for the Samaná Province. This Agenda is part of an initiative of the Environment Ministry called Provincial Environmental Councils, which are a governance mechanism. The first steps towards putting together a PEA for Samaná include the drafting of a comprehensive environmental diagnostic of the province. During Q4FY11, in close collaboration with the Vice-ministry of Planning (Ministry of Environment) and the provincial direction of Samaná, this *environmental characterization* was finalized. During late July and August information gathering took place and the Directorate of environmental information (DIARENA) generated informational maps relevant to the assessment. Main findings and conclusion were presented to ME's technical personnel. After internal revision, the document's draft will be presented to Samaná stakeholders on October 27<sup>th</sup>, 2011. Once the characterization is final, the drafting process of the PEA will start.

Another governance tool already produced by the program- the Samaná Bay Ecological Zoning Plan- will require for its implementation to be adopted by private and public organizations with influence on the Bay. In order to facilitate this process and complementing the work on the PEA, the program is in the process of hiring a legal consultant to identify the relevant laws and regulation as well as to clarify the role of the different institutions. The result of the legal analysis will be integrated to the discussion process for the adoption and implementation of the zoning plan, in the context of the provincial environmental agenda.

## **1.2 Improving Environmental Impact Assessment**

The USAID-Environmental Protection Program continued collaborating with the Ministry of Environment and other USAID initiatives, taking important steps toward the improvement of the Environmental Impact Assessment process. The efforts, that have been ongoing since the USAID/TNC - EPP inception, have contributed – according to Ministry of Environment statistics – to a 105% improvement since 2009. During FY11 the process of revising the environmental impact assessment regulation was completed and approved by the Environment Minister. The new regulation consolidates ten years of experience in the implementation of the EIA process in the Dominican Republic promoting a more transparent and effective process. It also consolidates all environmental permits and authorizations under a single administrative procedure, while maintaining the roles of the different technical areas of the Ministry with competence in the authorization process. During August 2011 a change of leadership within the Ministry occurred, and the current Minister would like to submit the authorization to further public discussion. His perception is that there are additional aspects that could be improved and/or modified to make the new regulation more coherent with the Ministry's internal structure. Revision will take place during early FY12.

Terms of reference for the evaluation of EIA`s for the Construction, Agricultural and Manufacturing sectors were drafted and discussed with 35 ME technicians. These have been drafted to facilitate the revision process of impact studies. Revised versions of these ToR will be submitted by the EPP during Q1FY12 to the Department of Environmental Evaluation for proper internal processing and approval within the ME.

- **EIA University certified course (diploma)**

The third cohort of the university certificate program on EIA started on May 20th, 2011. Target population included college faculty and Environment Ministry`s staffers that work specifically in the Environmental Authorizations Department, for a total of 35 participants (of which, 37% are women; 93% of participants are Environment Ministry staffers). The purpose of this training is to strengthen the technical capacity of such human resources by developing techniques and methods inherent in the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA), and compliance with environmental regulations enforcement by examining quantitative data. The total number of people trained by the USAID-TNC Environmental Protection Program in Environmental Impact Assessment reached 102 people.

### 1.3. Improving Municipal Environmental Management

The University certificate course in Municipal Environmental Management ending November 12<sup>th</sup>, 2010 had a total of 36 participants who represented 32 provinces and municipalities. Of the 36 participants, six were women (17%) and 30 were men (83%). With this diploma, training was provided to municipal officials, providing the tools to enforce environmental regulations and contribute to the sustainable use of natural resources and effective environmental protection in their respective jurisdictions.

Approximately 64 additional people were trained in Municipal Environmental Management, through the workshops on the subject taught in Barahona and Galeras. The workshop held in Barahona had the participation of 39 people (31 men) and (08 women), while the workshop held in Galeras had 25 participants (6 women and 19 men). Several other topics have been taught in non-formal training sessions in the municipalities to broad local audiences.

Complementarily, technical assistance has been provided on a sustained basis to several municipalities of the Dominican Republic. The starting point has been the drafting of participatory environmental diagnosis of each municipality. Subsequently, technical legal assistance was provided to municipal councils to draft ordinances to address environmental problems affecting the towns.

**Table 1 : Municipal policies drafted with USAID / TNC – EPP`s assistance during FY11**

Municipality	Policy Instrument	Status
<b>Santa Bárbara de Samaná</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Special ordinance to control pollution caused by pig sties and hen farms located in proximity of rivers and creeks, within the municipality.</li> <li>• Ordinance to forbid the use of fishing methods that damage coastal marine fauna and proposal of best fishing practices</li> <li>• Ordinance to control noise pollution</li> <li>• Ordinance to regulate non hazardous solid waste within the municipality.</li> </ul>	Approved.
<b>Las Terrenas</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Special ordinance that forbids wastewater discharges to water bodies within the municipality of las Terrenas.</li> <li>• Ordinance to regulate non hazardous solid waste within the municipality.</li> <li>• Ordinance to control noise pollution</li> <li>• Ordinance to regulate car-washing within beaches and rivers of Las Terrenas municipality.</li> </ul>	Submitted, pending approval
<b>El Limón</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Special ordinance that forbids wastewater discharges to water bodies within the municipality of El Limón.</li> <li>• Ordinance to regulate non hazardous solid waste within the municipality.</li> <li>• Ordinance to control noise pollution</li> <li>• Special ordinance to control pollution caused by pig sties and hen farms located in proximity of rivers and creeks, within the municipality.</li> </ul>	Submitted, pending approval

<b>Jarabacoa</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ordinance to regulate non metallic mining within riverbeds and avoid damage to water sources in the Jarabacoa Municipality</li> <li>• Ordinance to control noise pollution</li> <li>• Special ordinance that forbids wastewater discharges to water bodies within the municipality of Jarabacoa.</li> <li>• Special ordinance to control pollution caused by pig sties and hen farms located in proximity of rivers and creeks, within the municipality.</li> <li>• Ordinance to regulate non hazardous solid waste within the municipality.</li> </ul>	Submitted, pending approval
<b>Bayahibe</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ordinance to Sustainable Fishing practices</li> <li>• Ordinance to control noise pollution</li> <li>• Ordinance to regulate non-hazardous solid waste within the municipality.</li> </ul>	Submitted pending approval
Total ordinances drafted: 20		

Other activities under this sub-component include:

- Formal incorporation of the Altamira – Puerto Plata Environmental Forum
- Meeting of Mayors of the Northeast region: where a discussion and training on municipalities responsibility in environmental management took place.
- Workshop on environmental enforcement in Altamira: for the technicians of the UGAMs. Thirty nine persons attended (10 of which were women).
- Public encounter to present findings of Jarabacoa`s environmental assessment
- Three workshops on neighborhood association`s role in municipal environmental management. These took place in coordination with the German Cooperation Agency (GIZ). 131 persons attended of which 57 were women. The workshops took place in Jarabacoa on September 2<sup>nd</sup>, 9<sup>th</sup> and 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2011.
- Public presentation and discussion of the manual of good practices for municipal markets and slaughterhouses. Final document is pending ME`s approval.
- Start up meeting for the drafting of Barahona province environmental agenda.
- Regional encounter for the Enriquillo region, to discuss municipal responsibilities and the importance of public participation in municipal environmental management. 74 people attended of which 25 were local mayors and 15 were women.
- Municipal Environmental management training in Sanchez, Samaná.
- Several municipal related workshops and trainings in Samaná, La Vega and Puerto Plata.

**• University certificate course on watershed management**

Thirty two people were trained in this university certificate course. Of these 12 were women. Participants included technical staffers from ME, the National Institute for Potable Water and Sewers (INAPA), the National Institute of Water Resources (INDRHI), the Dominican College of Engineers and Architects (CODIA), Plan Sierra, Pronatura, several municipalities and universities.

**• Microwatershed pilot projects assessment**

A diagnose and a management proposal was drafted for the following 5 microwatersheds: Río San Juan and Río Cosón (Samaná province), Arroyo Ancho (Jarabacoa), Arroyo Cruz de Cuaba (Constanza) and Arroyo Mijo (San Juan Province). The results were presented to the Ministry of Environment and Natural Resources and other government institutions, as well as the general public, in an event organized by INTEC. The studies quantified the need for improved watershed protection and management to ensure freshwater availability in the selected watersheds.

Under the USAID/TNC Environmental Protection Program, on January 17th the Ministry of Environment, the Technological Institute of Santo Domingo (INTEC) and The Nature Conservancy invited Dr. Dave Courtemanch and Dr. John Sowles, from Maine Environmental Protection Agency and University of Maine, to a short course on freshwater ecosystem restoration in mountainous systems. The training was attended by 43 participants from the Ministry of Environment and other government institutions related to water resources. The program also organized a



**FIGURE 2: ENVIRONMENTAL FLOWS SEMINAR INAUGURATION.**

seminar at UNPHU on the topic of environmental flows, which included presentations by Dominican experts.

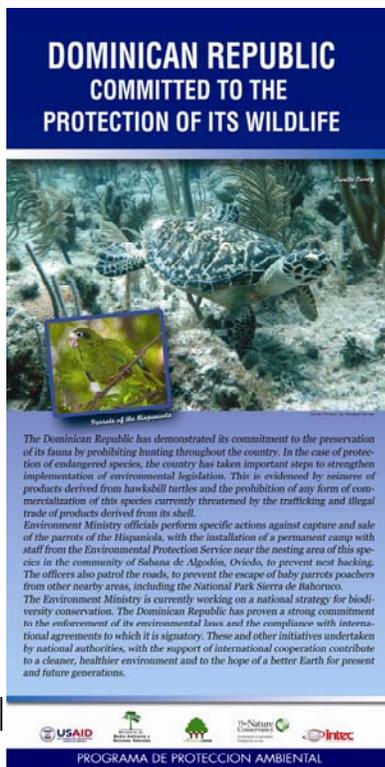
#### 1.4. Enhancing Citizen Awareness and Participation

- **Draft and submit regulations on Public Participation in the EIA process**

First draft of regulation was delivered by the consultant for revision and feedback. Regulation purpose is to provide an adequate framework to effectively incorporate public opinion regarding new investment projects that might have an environmental impact in the Dominican territory. Revised draft will be submitted to the Ministry of Environment during Q1FY12.

- **. Communications plan on DR-CAFTA and the environment**

During FY11, main activities under this component included:



a. Support to the Environment Ministry in the development of products to be presented at the Meeting of Ministers of Environment of the CAFTA - DR held in Washington. Among the products there are two posters, one on Protected Areas and other on Protection of Wildlife. The program also supported the translation, layout and printing of the Carey Turtle brochures and preliminary versions of the handbooks on Environmental Impact Assessment and Management of Protected Areas.

b. The communications component of the program also managed the participation of INTEC's municipal environmental management team and a USAID representative in the Economic Breakfast of El Caribe, a national newspaper. This interview showcased the program's actions towards the strengthening of municipalities to improve environmental management at the local level. Some of the main points raised during the interview are the importance of the establishment of environmental management units in each municipal territory; the need to raise awareness among mayors and counselors of the roles that by law the municipalities must play in environmental protection at the local level, as well as the importance of community participation.

c. Environmental Journalism Award:

On April, an environmental journalism award developed with program's assistance was launched by the Ministry of Environment. The call for nominations closed on May 20<sup>th</sup>. The award included two categories: written press and TV (reportage and documentary). Each category had a first place and an honorable mention. The USAID-TNC EPP provided the technical assistance to develop the award evaluation basis, as well as public coverage of the call. Award winning journalists in the written press category were Ivonny Alcántara and Tania Molina, both from Diario Libre. The TV categories were not awarded, due to the lack of suitable candidacies.

d. Regional workshops on Journalism and Environment

The regional workshops took place between June 3<sup>rd</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup>, with the participation of journalists from the following provinces: San Pedro de Macorís, La Romana, Higüey, Samaná and Sánchez ("East" region); Monseñor Nouel, La Vega, Santiago and Puerto Plata (Northern Region); and San Cristóbal, Baní, Azua Barahona, Bahoruco, San Juan de la Maguana and Pedernales (Southern Region). The workshops reached 55 journalists (20 from the Eastern region, 20 from the Northern Region and 15 from the southern region), of which 18% were women. Topics covered were: basic environmental management concepts,



FIGURE 3: JOURNALISTS OF THE EASTERN REGION ATTEND SEMINAR. PHOTO @INTEC.

protected areas management, environmental permits in the Dominican Republic, local environmental legislation, environmental research, and writing regarding environmental issues.

- **University Certified Diploma in Environmental Journalism**

This certified training course has taken place with the collaboration of FUNGLODE, which has contributed to the curriculum development. It aims to enhance the knowledge and approach of participants on environmental topics. Participants are 35 journalists of which 24 are women and 11 men, representatives of print media, television, radio, the Dominican College of Journalism and Communications Department of the Ministry of Environment. The course started during Q4FY11, and completion is foreseen by November 2011.

## ***Component 2: Biodiversity Conservation***

### **2.1. Combating Illegal Wildlife Trade**

- During FY 11, the USAID/TNC Environmental Protection Program made great progress with the final drafting of the Endangered Fauna List of the Dominican Republic. With the objective of reaching agreement on the current species on the list, include missing species, review taxonomy and orthography; experts from different fauna groups and research institutions focused on fauna conservation, reviewed the list divided in six working groups: terrestrial mammals, birds, amphibious and reptiles, fishes, marine invertebrates and terrestrial invertebrates. As a result from this workshop all species were reviewed and categorized. The Country has now a final list of Endangered Fauna, a practical tool that will enable the Environment Ministry to enforce biodiversity conservation regulations. There is also clarity on which species need more studies in order to determine its conservation status. Currently the list awaits official issuance by the Environment Ministry and periodical updates.
- A first draft of the "Action Plan for Recovery of Marine Turtles of the Dominican Republic" was presented during this period. This document provides recommendations for the recovery of sea turtles in the country. The recommended measures range from the protection of all life stages and habitats, developing public education programs (formal and informal), increased information exchange, to the promotion of international cooperation on this issue, among others. A workshop took place on July, to discuss the draft and agree on recommended action. Final draft will be delivered to the Environment Ministry on early FY12 for final approval and official issuance.
- Evaluation of CITES training programs implemented to date: In order to determine the most effective use of program's resources in CITES related training, INTEC carried out an evaluation of the capacity building programs conducted to date, most of which have been supported by US Gov funds thru USAID and DOI. Main findings are the following:
  - a. The country has an organized structure for the implementation of CITES coordinated by the Environment Ministry, with representatives and authorities established. This implementation structure has been the main beneficiary of the past training.
  - b. It is evident that the quality and quantity of training have been strengthened by the entry into force of the funds and partnerships of the DR-CAFTA Environmental Cooperation, mostly from the United States Government, through USAID and USDOJ.
  - c. National institutions involved in formal education are not involved with issues related to CITES, there are none specialized postgraduate courses (Masters, Specialist or Doctorate) on this subject being offered in the DR. This condition creates a lack of opportunities and gaps of information, becoming an ally of misinformation and an obstacle in meeting the objectives of the Convention.
  - d. Despite the completion of 27 trainings in 12 years, with a total of 509 people trained, the evaluation found that training has been insufficient for the demands and needs of the personnel involved.
  - e. Of the 27 training analyzed in this study 10 were international events and 17 were held locally. As for the strategies used in training the most frequently found were: workshops, conferences, presentation of case studies and self-education courses using CD-ROM.

As a general conclusion, the evaluation points out that any future training on CITES should be in the form of short courses, workshops or seminars; that they should address the three incidence groups already mentioned and complemented by an awareness building campaign.

## 2.2. Improving Protected Areas Management

- **University Certificate (Diploma) on Executive Environmental Leadership and Institutional strengthening**

On May 20th this certificate course started with 31 participants from the Environment Ministry and local NGO's, to strengthen their abilities in environmental management writ large. 42% of participants are women, and 48% come from regions of the country other than Santo Domingo.

- **Support the Implementation of the Protected Areas Master Plan**

The Master Plan including 3 strategies, 15 components, 82 objectives, 112 activities and 112 indicators was officially adopted by the GEF *Re-engineering of the Protected Areas System* as part of its by-products to be published accordingly. The Vice-ministry for Inter-institutional Affairs in charge of the minister's office has indicated that the Master Plan will be adopted by this new administration along with the following supporting documents: 1. Assessment of biological gaps in the National Protected Areas System; 2. Plan for capacities strengthening of the National Protected Areas System; 3. Financial plan for the National Protected Areas System and 4. Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan. The Master Plan along with supportive documents are being reviewed by the Ministry to be published and disseminated

- **Training on sustainable tourism**

Continuing with the objective of improving protected areas management a training program for Ministry of Environment personnel to specialize in the sustainable management of tourism in protected areas took place during FY11. The participants in this training gained knowledge of basic topics such as (1) visitors impact management and (2) sustainable finance planning for managing tourism in protected areas. They also learned how to use modeling tools to estimate tourism carrying capacity, and the sustainability threshold.

- **Invasive forest species**

During November The Nature Conservancy had two working sessions of the Fire and Invasive Team of Dominican Republic, sponsored by the Environmental Protection Program, in order to define the 5 most pervasive invasive alien plant species in the country that are related to fire, either those favored and dispersed by fire or those that can be controlled using fire. The five most dangerous species identified were: 1. *Melinis minutiflora*, 2. *Senna spectabilis*, 3. *Acacia mangium*, 4. *Leucaena leucocephala*, and 5. *Calliandra calothyrsus*.

- **Improve Site-level management**

### a. **Pilot projects implementation for ecological restoration of micro-watersheds in Valle Nuevo National Park (PNVN)**

Inauguration of intervention in Aguas Blancas/ El Castillo took place on August 13<sup>th</sup>, 2001 with the participation of local communities as well as Vice Minister of Protected Areas and other ME staffers, as well as stakeholders from Constanza. The activity included the symbolical planting of endemic pine trees (*Pinus occidentalis*) in proposed area for restoration. The Aguas Blancas/el Castillo sector has been used for intensive agriculture production for almost two decades. The Nizaíto sector was used as agricultural area for several years, and subsequently used for cattle grazing, until mid 2010 due to an intervention of the Environment Ministry that retired all animals from the area. Targeted area for restoration spans 279 ha in both sectors, in which introduced vegetation species predominate and



FIGURE 4: INAUGURATION OF RESTORATION INTERVENTION IN EL CASTILLO. PHOTO @PRONATURA

traces of pollution in water streams have been found, as well a proliferation of *algae*. First intervention stage aims to prioritize areas with 32° slopes or higher, as well as creeks' banks. Predominant ecosystems in the region include the following species: pine (*Pinus occidentalis*), "Palo amargo" (*Garrya fadyenii*), "Palo de cotorra" (*Brunellia comocladifolia*), and "Pita" (*Oreopanax capitatus*) which will be used for restoration.

- b. An additional **workshop on evaluation of biological indicators of quality of water quality** was held on September 28<sup>th</sup> with 14 participants. The workshop discussed the methodology to be used for sampling of water quality biological indicators (IBCA – Spanish acronym) and the importance of their use for characterizing surface water quality due its effectiveness and low cost. During the workshop it was also determine which sites will be sampled as well as necessary logistics. Sampling will begin in FY12.



FIGURE 5: PEDRO ARIAS ADDRESSES PARK RANGERS OF VALLE NUEVO NATIONAL PARK. PHOTO @PRONATURA

**c. Improving effective management of protected areas through public use signage:**

Protected areas of the Samaná Bay, specifically Salto El Limon Natural Monument and Los Haitises National Park, have a weak public use management. Eventually, tourism operations in these protected areas have become a threat to the integrity of the ecosystems health. The lack of personnel, weak surveillance and control and relatively low investment are reasons that have made tourism management a challenge for the managers of these two protected areas. Visitation has deteriorated not only the natural capital, but the quality of the visitors' experience. In order to mitigate tourism impacts in these conservation units, TNC under the context of the USAID-DSTA program, elaborated together with the Ministry of Environment staff, Visitor Impact Management and Monitoring plans VIMMP for each protected area. The plans recommendation was to design and implement signage master plans for both protected areas. Public use signage is an important protected area management tool to control visitation at different site. It is also an important approach to inform the tourists about places of interest and educate them.

In Valle Nuevo National Park, signage of boundaries and explanatory signage is undergoing. Signs have already been designed and installation is still pending due to access road damage from the south since the pass of tropical storm Irene. Completion is foreseen during Q1FY12. The format, content and location of signage has been agreed with the ME.

**d. Capacities strengthening:**

As part of the effective management of protected areas strategy, EPP's partner PRONATURA has carried out a refreshment course for NPVN park rangers. Topics covered included basic techniques for forest fires control, Ministry of Environment and protected areas roles and purposes, NPVN conservation plan, use and maintenance of technical equipment, roles and responsibilities of park rangers. 22 persons were trained, of which 3 were women. Several of these park rangers also participated in the RAPPAM evaluation of the park carried out on August 18<sup>th</sup> to identify current effectiveness in the park management.

To complement all initiatives regarding protected areas management strengthening, a training program for Ministry of Environment personnel to specialize in the sustainable management of tourism in protected areas has been developed. The first practicum facilitated by Mr. Andy Drumm, senior ecotourism consultant, took place at the Environmental National School in Jarabacoa from September 27 to October 2, 2010. The participants gained knowledge of basic topics such as (1) visitors impact management and (2) sustainable finance planning for managing tourism in protected areas. In addition, Mr. Drumm imparted tools to estimate tourism carrying capacity, and the sustainability threshold. Two additional complementary workshops have been carried out as well.

**e. Training course for Park rangers of coastal marine protected areas (National Parks Los Haitises, Del Este, and Marine Mammals Sanctuaries).**



**FIGURE 6: PATRICIA LANCHO TEACHES BASIC SWIMMING AND SNORKELING TECHNIQUES. PHOTO @FUNDEMAR**

Park ranger training in the Dominican Republic has traditionally been focused on the protection of terrestrial protected areas. EPP's partner FUNDEMAR had assessed that most coastal-marine park rangers lack the necessary skills to perform their duties. Relevant aspects of coastal-marine resources protection were covered by this training. It took place during September 27<sup>th</sup> to 29<sup>th</sup> the participation of thirteen (13) park rangers. Selection criteria included that all selected park rangers had fulfilled basic initial ranger training in the Environmental School in Jarabacoa, to begin with a homogenous and basic knowledge level

among participants. Curriculum focused on conservation and management of coastal marine resources with both theoretical and practical components.

**f. Whale population study for Samaná Bay**

This study was conducted to support the management of the Marine Mammal Sanctuary through the monitoring of humpback whales (see final report annexed). Seventy days of monitoring, 227 monitoring trips at sea, 311 sights, and 9000 photos permitted the identification of 172 humpback whales, which included: 24 pairs of mothers with their calves, and 73 tails photographed to be used for identification. Data gathered shows that whales remain in the bay for 22 consecutive days. Time series backdating to 1988 shows that calves' numbers have increased, indicating a potential recuperation of this endangered species. Punta Balandra is still the main gathering point for whales. Report indicates that proper regulation for whale watching is still a challenge and it recommends continuing strengthening the Environment Ministry capacity to enforce through training. To increase the sustainability of whale population monitoring in the bay area, a group of local volunteers was trained in monitoring techniques and to be tour guides in the local Whales Museum. Eighteen young people were trained, of which approximately half were women.

**g. Promote the implementation of Samaná Bay ecological zoning plan**

The zoning proposal is based on previous research regarding current situation in terms of resources use in Samaná Bay. Information collection activities have included:

- Survey to Fishermen, fish markets and fishing associations in different communities within the Samaná Bay, identifying -among other variables- preferred fishing techniques.
- Geo-referencing of fishing areas
- Identification of capture sizes and species collected.
- Secondary information compilation regarding related researches in the bay area.
- Assessment of equipment needs of key stakeholders to access pertinent information promptly, and to feed the Support System for Decision Making in the Caribbean (CDSS).

To promote the capacities of the marine protected areas' administrators, capacities strengthening activities have been carried out. To complement the decision making abilities of these stakeholders, they've been given access to geo-referenced information that TNC has collected and manages through an ArcGIS server. The main aspect of this activity is the submission to the Environment Ministry of the Marine Zoning Proposal for Samaná Bay, which presents multiple use zoning alternatives and explains the participatory methodological approach used to identify such alternatives.

**2.3 Sustainable Environmental Funding**

a. In November 2010 a regional workshop on environmental funding mechanisms was held in Punta Cana. The three day workshop was a joint initiative by the USAID-Environmental Protection Program and TNC's Caribbean Challenge initiative, co-funded by the McArthur Foundation. Participants from seven Caribbean States and experts from the Caribbean, Latin America and the US, shared experiences and discussed the most viable alternatives for sustainable funding of their conservation efforts. Representatives from the Dominican Republic's Environment Ministry and from FONDO MARENA participated in the event,

presenting the country's experience with payment for environmental services and learning about other funding and financial mechanisms. The vertical agreements that will regulate the operation of the Dominican protected areas trust fund in the context of the Caribbean Biodiversity Fund, was presented and discussed.

- b. **Assess viable financial mechanisms for the national system of protected areas:** An external Legal Review of Fondomarena recommended the design of an independent Trust Fund. TNC's legal department along with DR External Affairs is formulating the new financial instrument that will benefit from the Caribbean Biodiversity Fund ready to be release by mid 2012.
- c. **Draft Protected Areas Capitalization Strategy:** The capitalization strategy was drafted and is ready to be approved by Fondomarena's Board. An agreement with Fondomarena and the Office of the Re-engineering of Protected Areas Project was reached for the later to assume financial cost of the capitalization strategy to be implemented by the former.

## 2.4. Promoting sustainable fisheries

During FY11, CEBSE and TNC participated on the National Campaign for the legalization (licensing) of fishers and vessels for the providence of Samaná lead by the fishing authority CODOPESCA; CEBSE is collaborating with the fishing sector to make sure their views and concerns are incorporated into the Environmental Agenda of the providence of Samaná; the first meeting between the parties (selected fishing associations, CEBSE, Codopesca and TNC) took place to initiate work in the development of fishing co-management agreements before the end of 2011. Additionally, CEBSE continues implementation of sustainable fishery activities for Samaná Bay. The program has secured collaboration by the government department regulating cooperative association (IDECOOP). This institution is responsible for supporting community-based groups to organize themselves into functional cooperatives. Support activities include:

- Technical assistance and follow up to cooperative groups to establish a proper accounting system.
- Institutional strengthening workshops, to prepare fishermen to cooperative production in an effective manner. Final workshops will take place on October 2011.
- Technical assistance and follow up during constitution process into Cooperative system (accompaniment and facilitation of IDECOOP visits and monitoring, accompaniment and facilitation of assemblies, facilitation and participation constitution assemblies for *Grupo Cooperativo Espiritu Santo*, *Grupo Cooperativo Bahía San Lorenzo* and *La Unión*.
- Comprehensive training on sustainable fishing related subjects.

Unfortunately, internal issues of the cooperative group La Unión prevented them to carry out the mandatory constitutive assembly within scheduled timeframe. IDECOOP decided to postpone the constitution process until November in order to give them time to sort out internal problems. Constitution assembly is expected to take place on November 2011.

Eighty four (84) fishermen of the aforementioned 4 associations have been trained on specific topics related to cooperative production associations. Sustainability topics and information regarding the ecological importance of Samaná Bay have also been covered during training sessions. Details of training sessions during FY11 is presented in the following table.

Table 2 : Training towards sustainable fisheries, provided through USAID / TNC – EPP's assistance during FY11

Topics Covered	Location / Community	Date	# of participants	# of women
Drafting of Vision, Mission and objectives (with gender approach incorporated)	Sánchez	29/11/2010	16	8
Workshop: why cooperative production?	Santa Capuza, Sánchez	9/12/2010	24	3

Table 2 : Training towards sustainable fisheries, provided through USAID / TNC – EPP’s assistance during FY11

Topics Covered	Location / Community	Date	# of participants	# of women
Workshop on lobster ban and fishing periods	Samaná	8/3/2011	38	6
Knowledge exchange towards the interaction with humpback whales	Samaná	30/3/2011	14	4
Formation of cooperative management committees	Sánchez	31/3/2011	48	16
Basic Introduction to basic cooperative production	Sánchez	26/5/2011	68	12
Basic Introduction to basic cooperative production	Sánchez	27/5/2011	18	8
Formation of cooperative management committees and Basic Introduction to basic cooperative production	Los Cacaos, Samaná	28/5/2011	18	1
Cooperative legislation and operation of the cooperative structure	Sánchez	9/6/2011		
Cooperative legislation and operation of the cooperative structure	Los Cacaos,	11/6/2011	16	2
Leadership and role of the leaders	Sánchez	16/6/2011	63	16
Cooperative legislation and operation of the cooperative structure	Sánchez	17/6/2011	15	9
Leadership and role of the leaders	Los Cacaos	18/6/2011	16	1
Quality assurance of fish and seafood	Sánchez	14/7/2011	26	3
Quality assurance of fish and seafood	Sánchez	15/7/2011	16	8
Quality assurance of fish and seafood	Los cacaos	17/7/2011	10	1
IDECOOP follow up and accompaniment to cooperative groups to check progress son capitalization and membership	Los Cacaos	29/7/11	10	
IDECOOP follow up and accompaniment to cooperative groups to check progress son capitalization and membership	Sánchez	30/7/2011	8	2
Strengthening the organizational capacity of cooperative groups to create effective cooperative	Sánchez	10/9/2011	12	1
Pre-constitucional Assemblies of Bahía San Lorenzo and La Unión	Sánchez	17/9/2011	71	9
Strengthening the organizational capacity of cooperative groups to create effective cooperative	Sánchez	18/9/2011	11	3
Strengthening the organizational capacity of cooperative groups to create effective cooperative	Los Cacaos, Samaná	25/9/2011	14	2

### Other activities under this component:

EPP program sponsored the participation of three (3) partners and one (1) TNC staff in the International Marine Conservation Congress in Canada. The representatives of CEBSE (partner in Samaná Bay), Fundemar (partner in del Este National Park, Catalina Island Natural Monument, and marine mammals conservation) and CIBIMA (partner in Estero Hondo Marine Mammals Sanctuary and marine conservation in general) participated in a great variety of conferences and symposia, and commented that sessions on adaptation to climate change, ecosystem based management and community participation in fisheries management were specially useful for their present and future work. Professor Idelisa Bonelly de Calventi, Fundemar’s President, was one of the Congress’s invited speakers.



FIGURE 7: PROFESSOR BONELLY SPEAKS AT THE INTERNATIONAL SEMINAR IN CANADA. PHOTO @FUNDEMAR

Complementarily, an US and DR Marine Mammal Sanctuaries Exchange was organized by TNC in coordination with the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Agency (NOAA). The exchange was coordinated with Stellwagen Marine Mammal Sanctuary, a sister sanctuary with the Dominican Republic Mammal Sanctuary. From July 17<sup>th</sup> to 23<sup>rd</sup> a group of 7 people traveled to the U.S. to learn from their experiences in management of this type of protected areas.

## 2.6. Watershed Management for biodiversity conservation

- **Program for the recuperation of endemic and native plant's species**

a. **Seeds collection training:** farmers, forestry producers, local NGO's and other participated in the training which aim is to have a wider population that could contribute to the national bank of endemic and native plants seeds. Trainers include staffers from the Environment Ministry, Pronatura and National Botanical Garden.

Table 3: Trainings provided on endemic and native plants' seeds identification and collection

Date	Community	# of people trained	Men	Women
16/05/2011	Jarabacoa, La Vega	23	21	2
22/05/2011	Oviedo, Pedernales	28	24	4
30/08/2011	Nagua, María Trinidad Sánchez	24	22	2
13/09/2011	Cachote, Barahona	22	22	-
29/09/2011	Las Lagunas, Padre de las Casas, Azua	23	23	-
<b>Total</b>	5 locations in 5 different provinces	120	112	8

- b. **Nigua Seeds bank:** the bank was inaugurated on May 4th, 2011, with the presence of Dominican President, Mr. Leonel Fernández, the Minister of Environment, USAID representatives, local authorities and several organizations from the environmental sector.
- c. **Acquisition of equipment for the forest seeds bank operation.** Bidding, acquisition and installation of refrigeration chambers and other items started on FY11 with the support of TNC and the USFS and are foreseen to conclude on early FY12.
- d. **Forest seeds market:** CEDAF was hired to conduct the "Study for the development of a market for native and endemic tree seeds". In the information gathering and analysis process two workshops on public perception of the development of a national forest seed market (one in Santo Domingo and one in Santiago). Main conclusions are that to develop a national forest seeds market several conditions must be met, including: a coherent national strategy on sustainable management plans and commercial plantations, clear criteria for the purpose of reforestation and private sector's role in it and accurately identify and implement incentives for high-value plantations of both commercial and native and endemic species. First draft of the study is expected to be completed on Q1FY12.
- e. **Forest trees seeds collection calendar and tree guide:** During this reporting period, the list of species to be addressed by the initiative has been defined in a joint work effort with the Environment Ministry and technicians of the National Botanical Garden. With the support of these entities, PRONATURA carried out the species' identification process. The Botanical Garden will provide support specifically with pictures of the plants and previous identification with their *Herbarium* samples, and sampling of others species. A guide with detailed description and images of each individual plant is being prepared and is expected to be ready on early FY12.
- f. **Monitoring Water Quality and Defining biological Indicators.** Training on biological indicators of water quality was held at the Ministry of Environment's National Environmental School in Jarabacoa, from August 1<sup>st</sup> to 3<sup>rd</sup>. Local experts and invited scientists from Maine, Dave Courtemanch and John Sowles, implemented a short course on characteristics and assessment of Freshwater Ecosystem and the community

composition that could be use for evaluation of water quality. The training was attended by 32 participants from the Ministry of Environment and other government institutions related to water resources. The event is part of the Ecosystem Restoration Project under the Environmental Protection Program implemented by TNC sponsored by USAID.

- g. **Seminar on “Environmental Flows, Indicators of Hydrological Alteration and Climate Change:** On January 18th more than one hundred people from the academia, scientific community, government staff and conservation practitioners attended. During the event participants had the opportunity to listen to presentations from 10 national and international experts representing the DR Ministry of Environment, National Institute of Hydraulic Resources, DR Climate Change Committee, University of Maine, Maine Environmental Protection Agency, University of Puerto Rico, Universidad Pedro Henriquez Ureña and Universidad Agroforestal Fernando Arturo de Meriño and The Nature Conservancy. The audience exchanged ideas and opinions on the topics addressed by the seminar and at the end received a CD with TNC’s tools on Indicators of Hydrological Alteration.
- h. **Use of I<sup>2</sup>NFOP software for processing forestry inventory and decision making.** This software was initially developed by FAO in a consultancy for the Dominican Government. The Ministry of Environment requested support for capacity building of the technical staff working on drafting, implementation, supervision and design of forest plantations and natural pine forests in the Dominican Republic, as a means to complement all other activities aimed at forest conservation and management. It took place on July 6<sup>th</sup> to 8<sup>th</sup> in Los Montones (Plan Sierra facilities). 22 technicians were trained, of which 5 were women.

### ***Component 3: Market-Based Conservation***

#### **3.2 Assessing Opportunities in Sustainable Forestry**

During FY11 the Environmental Protection Program developed the final draft of the document "Proposed Methodology for National Forest Assessment (ENB) of the Dominican Republic." The workshop to validate the proposed methodology was coordinated and conducted on December 15<sup>th</sup> 2010, with Vice Minister of Forest Resources, Mr. Manuel Serrano, and was attended by 21 participants. The results reported in the document go beyond the definition of a methodology for carrying out a national forest inventory; it covers a procedure with the necessary guidelines to create a national forest information system, interactive and dynamic that would generate and share information differentiated by territory, topics, times and other details that can be defined by users at the time of inquiry.

During FY11, the program also finalized the development, socialization and validation of the proposal document for marketing and transportation of forest products. The proposal was socialized with stakeholders during a workshop on December 9th, 2010 at the Centre for the Development of Agriculture and Forestry, CEDAF. This workshop was attended by technicians, producers and traders of forestry. The final proposal was reviewed and adjusted to the new requirements set by the parties involved in the chain. Complementarily, efforts on the strengthening of the operational capacity of the Environment Ministry in the process of collection and preservation of seeds were focused on finalizing the seed collection stage and completing the phenological calendar of forest species.

- **Provide support to Environment Ministry in the implementation of the national strategy for forest fire control**

During this reporting period fourteen training courses on basic techniques for forest fire control were carried out. Courses were held from May 24<sup>th</sup> to 26<sup>th</sup> in the southwest region, encompassing the communities of Las Lagunas, Elías Piña province, Sabana Chen, municipality of Juan Santiago, where last workshop was in the municipality of Pedro Santana (Table 3). With these three training sessions the goal for FY11 has been surpassed (6 training sessions were planned). One of the aims of these workshops was to address Quisqueya Verde Brigades that work along the border. Since mid-2010 to the present a total of 495 people have been trained in forest fires control; this sustained effort has targeted the most fire-prone areas of the DR, and is reportedly having positive impacts given that the number of forest fires have decreased.

Table 4: Training Courses on Prevention and Control of Forest Fires			
Place	Date	# of people trained	# of Women
Sabana Clara, Restauración	20/10/2010	37	2
Rinconcito, Elías Pina	26/10/2010	19	1
Macacías	27/10/2010	22	5
Hondo Valle.	28/10/10	22	4
Guayajayuco y Calabacién, Restauración		37	3
Zapotén	11/10/10	22	5
Los Arroyos	17/10/10	41	4
La Romana	22/12/10	25	1
El Dajao, La Pionía, Naranjito – Santiago Rodríguez	23/2/2011	32	6
Capotillo y Cerro Juan Calvo	24/2/2011	25	4
Río Limpio	17/3/2011	27	3
Las Lagunas, Elías Piña	05/24/11	27	8
Rancho La Guardia, Elías Piña	05/25/11	30	6
Pedro Santana	05/26/11	17	2
<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>383</b>	<b>54</b>



FIGURE 8: VICE MINISTER SERRANO GIVES THE DIPLOMA TO ONE OF TRAINED TECHNICIANS. PHOTO @PRONATURA

The standard training course “Prevention and Control Operations of Forest Fires (COPCIF)”, took place from August 18<sup>th</sup> to the 27<sup>th</sup>, in Jarabacoa. Target audiences were technical staffers of the Environment Ministry and other environmental entities that could act as multipliers of knowledge and techniques taught in this course. Participants included representatives from of the Environment Ministry and other institutions and different parts of the country, acting both in response and in disaster risk management. 33 people were trained from Barahona, Dajabón, Sanchez Ramírez, Santiago Rodríguez, La Vega, San Cristóbal, El Seybo, San Juan de la Maguana, Monte Plata, Monseñor Nouel and San José de Ocoa. Due to the occurrence of Tropical Storm Irene, some participants from relief agencies in the country had to leave the course because of the emergency and standard procedures of corresponding agencies preventing them from full completion of training course. Of the

33 participants, (which included three women), 16 received Certificate of Approval and the rest received certification of participation.

#### *Component 4: Improved Private Sector Environmental Performance*

##### **4.1 Promoting Clean Production Mechanisms**

###### **4.1.1. Facilitate the signing of five voluntary agreements**

During reporting period technical assistance to two local companies – Agua Cristal and INDUVECA – started. These companies formally manifested their interest in having a cleaner production assessment and the subsequent environmental management system designed. Completion of the assessments and recommendations for both entities will be completed during early FY12. This technical assistance directly contributes with the goal of helping local companies in signing voluntary environmental compliance agreements, through their cleaner production assessments and environmental management systems design.

During July, 2011, Yolanda Salazar, Director of the Cleaner Production Center of El Salvador, visited the DR responding the invitation of the Ministry of the Environment and supported by the USAID Program for Environmental Protection. During her stay the following activities took place: a) Presentation on Voluntary Agreements to Ministry of Environment staffers; b) Meeting with Deputy Minister Rosa Urania Abreu. The goal of the visit was to present to DR-Gov authorities the proposed guidelines for the design of voluntary agreements and agree on the strategy to be followed as well as selection criteria for associations suitable for voluntary agreements signing; and c) Workshop / Conference on Voluntary Agreements for general public.



FIGURE 9: ENVIRONMENT MINISTER ERNESTO REYNA ADDRESSES THE AUDIENCE. PHOTO: @A. CHESTARO.

expected to take place in February 2012.

- **National Award on Cleaner Production**

The award was publicly launched on September 26<sup>th</sup>, 2011 in a ceremony attended by 133 people. It has been the result of joint efforts of the Ministry of Industry and Commerce, the National Competitiveness Council and the National Network of Business Support for Environmental Protection (RENAEPA) as part of the Organizing Committee along with USAID/TNC Environmental Protection Program. The ceremony was hosted by the Ministers of Environment and Industry and Commerce. The award application period will run until December 15, 2011 and is composed of four categories for projects nomination: Water, Materials, Energy and Environmental Management Systems. Private companies, public institutions and NGOs are allowed to apply. Awarding ceremony is

- **4.1.5. Coordinate with RENAEPa the implementation of cleaner production initiatives**

Through a brief ceremony took place the delivery of the results of the study "Institutional Strengthening of the National Network of Business Support for Environmental Protection (RENAEPA)." This document was submitted to the RENAEPa's President Roberto Herrera. The main objective of the technical assistance was to conduct a needs assessment in REANAEPa subsidiaries in North, East, South and Rio Haina Coalition, as well as designing an operational plan to improve their integration into the network and improve their environmental performance, by incorporating the results of the diagnosis.

- **4.1.9 University Certificate Course on Cleaner Production**

The Diploma in Cleaner Production was the result of a joint effort with the Central American Commission for Environment and Development (CCAD) and USAID/TNC's Environmental Protection Program. Faculty included teachers from the Cleaner Production Centers of Nicaragua and Guatemala. Classes took place from August 2010 to January 2011; the course was completed by 32 professionals - 21 men and 11 women- belonging to different public institutions such as the Ministry of Environment, Ministry of Tourism, private companies such as the Dominican National Brewery and Basic Energy, as well as various national universities.

Complementarily a training workshop on environmental management aimed at companies was developed and taught. Workshop's objective was to train technical personnel of enterprises in the basic concepts of cleaner production and environmental management systems, encouraging them to apply them in their facilities. The USAID/TNC Environmental Protection Program /INTEC provided technical support in conducting this workshop. 26 individuals attended (12 women and 14 men).

## **4.2 Promoting Environmental Management Systems (EMS)**

The final version of the proposed national system for environmental auditing was presented to ME early in FY11. The products of this technical assistance included the following: a) Manual for system processes and procedures, b) System Implementation Plan and c) Final Report. These products were formally accepted by the Ministry of the Environment. Also, a final draft of Procedural Guide for Environmental Management Agreements has been concluded and adopted by the Ministry of Environment.

## **Component 5: Climate Change Adaptation**

### **5.1. Climate change adaptation: public awareness and policies**

- Institutional agreements

During the April-June 2011 quarter, the USAID-TNC Environmental Protection Program facilitated a round table with the USAID/DSTA and USAID/RED projects and the Instituto Dominicano de Desarrollo Integral (IDDI-*Climacción* initiative), in order to coordinate actions from the different groups to promote awareness and



**FIGURE 10: OMAR RAMIREZ PRESIDES MOU SIGNING CEREMONY. PHOTO@TNC.**

education activities related to climate change adaptation and to identify potential activities to be included in each of the participating USAID projects. As a result of this round table, TNC has developed a sub-award with IDDI, which was signed in September, 2011. The work-plan to be carried out by IDDI includes a vulnerability analysis to climate change that will serve as the basis for prioritizing future support in the subject.

Complementarily, on August 24<sup>th</sup>, the Environmental Protection Program signed a Memorandum of Understanding with the DR Council on Climate Change, institution charged with policy development and implementation regarding climate change. This

agreement seek to incorporate the council in the technical assistance provided by the project and to assist them in initiatives related to institutional strengthening and policy making to facilitate DR `s adaptation to climate change.

- Information exchange and progress meeting: “Presentation of the strategy and work plan of the project Support to USAID-EPP-TNC communication/education strategy on climate change adaptation in the Dominican Republic”

An information exchange and progress meeting was carried out among members of IDDI’s Climaccion platform. The meeting took place on September 22<sup>nd</sup> 2011 in Santo Domingo. The objective of this meeting was to share with platform members the strategy and work plan for the project, in order to identify areas of collaboration for the development of activities, and to determine common goals in climate change adaptation.



**FIGURE 11: DIVING COMPANIES' REPRESENTATIVES ATTEND WORKSHOP ON REEF MONITORING. PHOTO @FUNDEMAR.**

- Community-based workshop: “First community-based workshop for the greater Santo Domingo on adaptation to climate change”

A community-based workshop took place with key members of the communities located in the north area of the National District of Santo Domingo. These included members of the Community Emergency Committees, Environmental Health Foundations, Ministry of Public Health representatives for the area and local schools. The workshop took place on September 23<sup>rd</sup> in Santo Domingo. The objectives of this workshop were: a) to teach the communities about climate change, its impact, and adaptation strategies; b) To socialize the strategies and activities of the project in the North Area of the National District of Santo Domingo. And c) to establish the groundwork for the creation of a climate change adaptation and response network among the communities in the area, supported on existing organizations such as the Emergency Committees and the Environmental Health Foundations, among others.

## 5.2. Adaptation to Climate Change: assessments and proposal for interventions

- **Workshop on reefs’ monitoring:**

With the participation of local Dive Shops staffers and owners (belonging mostly to resorts in the Bayahibe – Dominicus area) a workshop took place starting with a presentation of the results of biological monitoring conducted by TNC and FUNDEMAR and during the years 2010 - 2011 under the USAID-DSTA. Presentation focused on presenting the results of the health of coral reefs and impacts induced by human activities and climate change. Subsequently, the aims of the new monitoring and assessment phase under the USAID / TNC EPP were presented, explaining the scope and importance of coral reefs and climate change adaptation for coastal marine communities. Divers were consulted about the three most important reefs to be monitored – according to their experience and knowledge of the area. Complementarily, they were asked to voluntarily provide support with

monitoring during their regular daily excursions to which they agreed. A formal cooperation agreement with Divers will be signed on Q1FY12

- **Study: “Critical Points for Vulnerability to variability and Adaptation to Climate Change in the Dominican Republic”**

This activity started on September 1<sup>st</sup> 2011 and will be carried over the course of six months, finalizing on February 29<sup>th</sup> 2012. This study has been defined as the first stage in the analysis of vulnerability to variability and climate change in the Dominican Republic. It will help establish a baseline of climate change understanding in the country, its dynamics, highlight critical points and help define priorities for design and execution of climate change adaptation activities for the Environmental Protection Program. In this sense, the study will provide relevant information for the definition and implementation of specific activities in protected areas as well as for climate change adaptation policies. During September preliminary work plan and methodology were discussed and plan for data gathering and strategy were drafted.

**Performance Data Table, updated on September 30<sup>th</sup>, 2011.**

Indicator		FY11 New	FY11 Cum	FY12 New	FY12 Cum	FY13 New	FY13 Cum
<b>Outcome Indicators</b>							
<b>Indicator 1.1:</b> Improvement in the rate of processing on the national level of Environmental Impact Assessments (% improvement in the rate # EIAs processed per [x time]/#EIAs submitted per [x time]); FY09 = Baseline	Target	50%	50%				
	Actual	--	105.2%				
<b>Indicator 1.4:</b> DR private sector is more environmentally responsible (# of voluntary agreements with private sector firms for cleaner production or environmental management systems).	Target	3	5	5	5		
	Actual	0	0				
<b>Indicator 1.5:</b> Number of hectares (terrestrial) under improved natural resource management. (number of hectares)	Target	800	800	200	476	TBD	TBD
	Actual	276	276				
<b>Indicator 1.6:</b> Improved management in areas of importance for biodiversity conservation (% increase in overall score using adapted methodology)	Target	23%	23%	80.75 %	80.75 %	89.5%	89.5%
	Actual	70.6%	70.6%				
<b>Indicator 1.8:</b> Number of policies, laws, agreements or regulations promoting sustainable natural resource management and conservation that are implemented with project support	Target	3	3				
	Actual	0	0				
<b>Output Indicators</b>							
<b>Indicator 1.2:</b> Number of people, including staff of central and municipal government offices, trained in critical areas 9 necessary to support DR-CAFTA demonstrating improved knowledge/attitude/skills based on pre-/post- surveys.	Target	397	834	185	1691	TBD	TBD
	Actual	1069	1506				
<b>Indicator 1.3:</b> Number of regulatory laws, policies, regulations, administrative procedures, and supporting studies completed and submitted to relevant government agencies (# documents submitted).	Target	23	41				
	Actual	34	52				
<b>Indicator 1.7:</b> Number of biodiversity laws, policies, regulations, administrative procedures, and supporting studies completed and submitted to relevant government agencies (# documents submitted).	Target	5	8				
	Actual	5	8				

## **IV. OUTSTANDING ISSUES AND CHALLENGES**

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1. Change of Minister of Environment and Natural Resources have shifted some priorities from previous tenure, causing certain delays in implementation of some previously planned activities as well as change of counterparts in some departments. The program has met with key counterparts and with the new Minister of Environment to present its results from FY11 and the proposed work-plan for FY12, in order to facilitate on-going work and re-establish communication channels with new authorities.
2. Restoration intervention in National Park Valle Nuevo faces historical conflicts that can hinder its implementation. Agricultural activities have taken place both in Nizaíto and El Castillo for several decades. Since NPVN conformation tensions have characterized the relationship between authorities and settlers, who understand the lands they are occupying inside the park, are rightfully theirs. EPP's partner PRONATURA faces an important challenge to implement restoration in a participatory and efficient manner. They are considering the hiring of a conflict manager to facilitate interaction with the local community as well as understanding and acceptance of the restoration process.
3. An implementation challenge for FY11 has been the need to re-structure the program to integrate new objectives in climate change adaptation and to close off activities related to environmental management and clean production.
4. FY 11 has been a transition year for the USAID/TNC Environmental Protection Program, upon completion of most activities related with environmental management policy and compliance, the program is now shifting focus towards climate change adaptation activities, while continuing to work on biodiversity conservation. As of February 2012, INTEC will no longer be an implementing partner and two new partners have been incorporated.
5. The administrative burden of procuring, maintaining inventories and monitoring use of equipment and supplies donated to the Ministry and other institutions as part of the institutional strengthening component of the project, has proved to be one of the main implementation challenges of the USAID/TNC EPP.
6. For FY12 the upcoming presidential election presents several challenges: first of all a possible reduction of implementation pace and increase in response times by government counterparts; secondly potential changes in government representatives may result in shifting priorities. Adaptive management will be crucial to guarantee planned outcomes and sustainability of results.

## **V. Planned performance objectives for next quarter:**

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- Complete the implementation of FY11 procurement plan.
- Initiate implementation of sub-awards on climate change adaptation, including:
  - a. Begin monitoring of coral reefs resilience off the coast of Bayahibe
  - b. Conduct training on reef assessment methodology –AGGRA-
  - c. Conduct Stakeholders workshop for climate change adaptation
  - d. Support DR Congress in the organization of a workshop on Biodiversity Adaptation to Climate Change: legal gap analysis.
  - e. Develop indicators for vulnerability analysis

- National workshop on Climate Change Adaptation Policies and Ecosystems Based Adaptation, with participation of international experts.
- Signing of first voluntary agreement with banana producers association.
- Donation of office and field equipment to strengthen municipal environmental management units in selected municipalities.
- 4th donation of equipment to Ministry of Environment and Natural Resources
- Presentation of the environmental characterization of Samaná province.
- Presentation of the Samaná Bay zoning plan to Ministry of Environment and CODOPESCA
- Continue restoration activities with community participation in PNVN
- Finalize signage installation in PNVN
- Finalize national survey on public perception and knowledge regarding Global Climate Change