



GEF-6 PROJECT IDENTIFICATION FORM (PIF)

PROJECT TYPE: Full-sized Project
 TYPE OF TRUST FUND: GEF Trust Fund

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(a) PART I: PROJECT INFORMATION

Project Title:	Mainstreaming Conservation of Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services in Productive Landscapes in Threatened Forested Mountainous Areas		
Country(ies):	Dominican Republic	GEF Project ID: ¹	9424
GEF Agency(ies):	UNDP	GEF Agency Project ID:	5761
Other Executing Partner(s):	Ministry of Environment and Natural Resources	Submission Date:	March 4, 2016
GEF Focal Area(s):	Multi-focal Biodiversity, Land Degradation, SFM	Project Duration (Months)	72
Integrated Approach Pilot	IAP-Cities <input type="checkbox"/> IAP-Commodities <input type="checkbox"/> IAP-Food Security <input type="checkbox"/>		Corporate Program: SGP <input type="checkbox"/>
Name of parent program:	[if applicable]	Agency Fee (\$)	776,735

A. INDICATIVE FOCAL AREA STRATEGY FRAMEWORK AND OTHER PROGRAM STRATEGIES²

Objectives/Programs (Focal Areas, Integrated Approach Pilot, Corporate Programs)	Trust Fund	(in \$)	
		GEF Project Financing	Co-financing
BD-4 Program 9	GEFTF	4,720,183	31,174,748
LD-3 Program 4	GEFTF	705,594	4,660,140
SFM-3	GEFTF	2,750,388	18,165,112
Total Project Cost		8,176,165	54,000,000

B. INDICATIVE PROJECT DESCRIPTION SUMMARY

Project Objective: Mainstream the conservation of biodiversity and ecosystem services in public policies and practices to effectively buffer current and future threats across productive mountain landscapes						
Project Component	Financing Type ³	Expected Outcomes	Expected Outputs	Trust Fund	(in \$)	
					GEF Project Financing	Co-financing
Component 1: Systemic landscape management framework	TA	<p>1.1 Effective cross sectoral governance of 3 threatened mountain landscapes (dry forest 17,000 ha, broadleaf forest 25,000 ha, pine forest 2,196 ha) protects biodiversity patterns and process, resulting in:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Strategically Maintain/increase areas of priority ecosystems (e.g. dry forest, cloud forests and pine forest) especially adjacent to Protected Areas. - Increases in watershed resilience to Climate Change through the incorporation of CC in the National Territorial Ordinance Plan - Increases in ecosystem connectivity, between priority ecosystems (indices to be developed and baseline values to be determined during the PPG phase) - Increased inter-institutional coordination in the application and 	<p>1.1.1 Decision making tools for planning and enforcement to ensure that infrastructure, productive/extractive activities and forest clearance are not located in ecologically sensitive areas, e.g. vulnerable watersheds and buffer zones of Protected Areas, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Strategic Environmental Assessment of infrastructure or productive development programs. - Maps and database updated and integrated in an inter-institutional Geographic Information System to include biological importance, fragility and productive potential of the target areas. - Monitoring of the status of endemic and native species in priority zones of Madre de las Aguas. - Landscape-level land use plans take into account vulnerability to climate 		1,790,074	19,047,619

¹ Project ID number will be assigned by GEFSEC and to be entered by Agency in subsequent document submissions.

² When completing Table A, refer to the excerpts on [GEF 6 Results Frameworks for GETF, LDCF and SCCF](#).

³ Financing type can be either investment or technical assistance.

	<p>monitoring of standards (via the establishment of a coordination platform)</p>	<p>change impacts, land and forest degradation: applied in pilot sites and harmonized with the National Territorial Ordinance Plan.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Proscriptions of land uses in sensitive areas and establishment of special categories of land use in target areas, guaranteeing sustainable use of BD (e.g. promote MAB Program in Madre de las Aguas). - Guidelines for community-based environmental plans based on participatory analyses of resource management options and zoning. - Strengthening of early warning system of fires and for planning of fire management and control, including characterization of land units according to fire risk 			
	<p>1.2 Strengthened landscape management across institutions sustains conservation outcomes, resulting in:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Environmental land use plans covering 58,000 ha of productive landscape with inventory and planning instruments in place that incorporate practices that guarantee ecosystem connectivity and integrity - Land use plans for buffer zones along Protected Areas with a focus on threat/risk management and economically sustainable practices, especially tourism. - Financial sustainability options for ecosystem management in productive landscapes. The project will support the implementation/strengthening of these mechanisms in the different pilots described in Component 2. For example, it is envisioned that the target areas of Sierra de Neyba and Ozama would benefit from increased access to credit related to coffee, cocoa and other production systems. - Compliance indicator: Decrease in infractions derived from illicit activities (to be confirmed in PPG) - At least 10% increase in Capacity Development Scorecard ratings in these target institutions (baseline to be established during PPG) 	<p>1.2.1 Institutional capacities for ensuring compliance with the provisions of environmental regulations and land use plans, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Remote sensing and Geographical Information Systems applied to target areas to detect unauthorized changes of land use, water capture/quality, erosion and sedimentation, hot spots, bathymetries, weather stations and monitoring plots, including the necessary training to manage, interpret and apply acquired information. This will be linked directly to the GIS in Ouput 1.1.1, which will keep updated and accurate records of information on the biological importance, fragility and productive potential of the target areas. As such, these records will provide the basis for determining inappropriate land use changes. - Platforms for collaboration in monitoring and enforcement, involving Government institutions at the central, local and private sector levels, as well as community-based organizations. - Increased technical capacity of the abovementioned actors to promote sustainable production options compatible with BD conservation and CC resilience; apply regulations and uphold the legal framework; coordinate effectively. <p>1.2.2 Financial sustainability/ Financing framework for landscape management –</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Mainstreaming environmental sustainability criteria in coffee/cocoa credit policy, increase in availability of credits through national and local financial institutions - Establishment of sectorial credit mechanisms for sustainable management of production landscapes - Establishment of a Payments for 			

			Watershed Services scheme (Feasibility to be explored and details will be defined during the PPG.)			
		<u>1.3 Effective local participation in planning:</u> - Local capacity to plan and implement conservation corridors that connect BD-friendly productive ecosystems with nearby priority forests, watersheds and Protected Areas/Spaces. - Local capacity to generate, use to monitor and share geographic, socio-economic, and bio-physical information needed for spatial planning and management purposes.	<u>1.3.1 Local participation mechanisms</u> (10 municipalities) for effective participation in land use planning as well as programs that increase collective benefit through additional alliances.			
Component 2: Conservation compatible production systems in threatened mountain ecosystems and conservation corridors	TA	<u>2.1 Improved flows of global environmental benefits in key production zones</u> (variables and baseline/target values to be defined/confirmed during the PPG phase): - <u>Biodiversity: Reduction in threats / Improvement in habitat quality and connectivity</u> in unprotected priority landscapes, including environmental goods and services through: o Coverage - # hectares dedicated to sustainable production; - # hectares of productive and/or conservation forests - Ecological restoration in priority connectivity zones (degraded zones, corridors, sustainable farming, forests) - <u>SFM: Reduction in frequency and intensity/ area of wildfires</u> in target areas from strengthened capacity of local and community groups, equipment and tools for control, formation of community brigades (baseline and targets tbd during PPG) as measured by decrease in: o # fires in pilot areas o # hectares affected by fires in pilot areas. o # of tons of CO ₂ e mitigated (annual target 81,858 tCO ₂ -eq) through avoided deforestation - <u>Land Degradation: Reduced soil erosion rates</u> in areas under improved management - Reduction in impact on aquatic environments in areas practicing sustainable agricultural and using	<u>2.1.1 Capacities for the development, transfer and application of sustainable management of production systems,</u> enabling farmers to implement resource management practices that generate BD, SFM and LD benefits, including: - Integrated training modules for extension agents , aimed at encouraging sustainable land management - Integrated training and extension modules for producers , focusing on BD- and LD-friendly production practices - 3 Pilot/Demonstration Units under integrated management promoting biological connectivity in key areas for the demonstration and replication of BD-friendly productive options. - Promotion of Private Protected Areas strengthens connectivity through instruments of recognition. - Integrated fire management applied to the target areas including: o Prescribed burning , supported by technical training and equipment o Fire readiness across land holdings, backed up by farm-level plans and technical support, including equipment <u>2.1.2 Ecological restoration initiatives implemented</u> in areas affected by fires and other degrading activities that are key to the targeted production programs and resilience to CC. • Watershed protection zones, • Buffer zones of Protected Areas • Connectivity zones for priority forests		3,580,149	22,857,143

		clean technology. (Variables and precise targets to be defined during PPG phase)				
Component 3: Sustainable livelihoods mainstream BD-friendly practices	TA	<p>3.1 BD-friendly production systems and livelihoods mainstreamed in agriculture, forestry and tourism sectors, as indicated by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Application of agroforestry, silvo-pastoral, sustainable forest tourism systems resulting in reduced soil erosion rates in areas under improved management and increased biological connectivity across 3,000 ha (indices and targets to be confirmed during PPG) - # Micro-enterprises adopting BD-friendly production systems (indices and targets tbd during PPG) 	<p>3.1.1 Promotion of sustainable livelihoods in communities associated with pilot areas,</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Establishment of an extension package: establish field schools for producers promoting SLM and the development of BD-friendly production techniques. - Credit Access Package established for the promotion of sustainable livelihoods: - 3 Pilot Ecotourism units functioning for communities with potential for rural tourism, agricultural tourism, adventure and/or ecotourism, or as a destination of protected spaces. - 3 Local SFM Pilots functioning as models of options for sustainable forestry - Business development support / supply chain initiatives: for small producers. <p>3.1.2 Women and youth livelihoods promoted, including their empowerment and participation at local level through:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Capacity building - Insertion within value chains, - Improvement of income, - Integration/participation in decision making at the local level. - Existing gender relationships will be expanded and consolidated based on the valuation of women and youth potential and recognizing their role as revitalizing agents of local economies. 		2,416,600	9,523,809
Sub-Total					7,786,823	51,428,571
Project Management Cost (PMC) ⁴ GEFTF					389,342	2,571,429
Total Project Costs					8,176,165	54,000,000

For multi-trust fund projects, provide the total amount of PMC in Table B, and indicate the split of PMC among the different trust funds here: ()

C. INDICATIVE SOURCES OF CO-FINANCING FOR THE PROJECT BY NAME AND BY TYPE, IF AVAILABLE

Sources of Co-financing	Name of Co-financier	Type of Co-financing	Amount (\$)
Donor Agency	European Union / UNEP/CBC	Cash	1,090,000
Donor Agency	World Bank / REDD	Cash	2,500,000
Donor Agency	FAO	In-kind	100,000

⁴ For GEF Project Financing up to \$2 million, PMC could be up to 10% of the subtotal; above \$2 million, PMC could be up to 5% of the subtotal. PMC should be charged proportionately to focal areas based on focal area project financing amount in Table D below.

GEF Agency	UNDP	Cash	2,500,000
Recipient government	Ministry of Environment	Cash	3,600,000
Recipient government	Ministry of Environment	In-kind	5,400,000
Recipient government	Ministry of Agriculture	Cash	15,500,000
Recipient government	Ministry of Agriculture	In-kind	23,310,000
Total Co-financing			54,000,000

D. INDICATIVE TRUST FUND RESOURCES REQUESTED BY AGENCY(IES), COUNTRY(IES) AND THE PROGRAMMING OF FUNDS ^{a)}

GEF Agency	Trust Fund	Country/ Regional/ Global	Focal Area	Programming of Funds	(in \$)		
					GEF Project Financing (a)	Agency Fee (b) ^{b)}	Total (c)=a+b
UNDP	GEFTF	Dominican Republic	Biodiversity	(select as applicable)	4,720,183	448,417	5,168,600
UNDP	GEFTF	Dominican Republic	Land Degradation	(select as applicable)	705,594	67,031	772,625
UNDP	GEFTF	Dominican Republic	Sustainable Forest Management	SFM	2,750,388	261,287	3,011,675
Total GEF Resources					8,176,165	776,735	8,952,900

a) Refer to the [Fee Policy for GEF Partner Agencies](#).

E. PROJECT PREPARATION GRANT (PPG)⁵

Is Project Preparation Grant requested? Yes No If no, skip item E.

PPG AMOUNT REQUESTED BY AGENCY(IES), TRUST FUND, COUNTRY(IES) AND THE PROGRAMMING OF FUNDS

Project Preparation Grant amount requested: \$180,000					PPG Agency Fee: 17,100		
GEF Agency	Trust Fund	Country/ Regional/Global	Focal Area	Programming of Funds	(in \$)		
					PPG (a)	Agency Fee ⁶ (b)	Total c = a + b
UNDP	GEF TF	Country	Biodiversity	(select as applicable)	120,000	11,400	131,400
UNDP	GEF TF	Country	Land Degradation	(select as applicable)	25,000	2,375	27,375
UNDP	GEF TF	Country	Sustainable Forest Management	(select as applicable)	35,000	3,325	38,325
Total PPG Amount					180,000	17,100	197,100

⁵ PPG requested amount is determined by the size of the GEF Project Financing (PF) as follows: Up to \$50k for PF up to \$2m (for MSP); up to \$100k for PF up to \$3m; \$150k for PF up to \$6m; \$200k for PF up to \$10m; and \$300k for PF above \$10m. On an exceptional basis, PPG amount may differ upon detailed discussion and justification with the GEFSEC.

⁶ PPG fee percentage follows the percentage of the Agency fee over the GEF Project Financing amount requested.

F. PROJECT'S TARGET CONTRIBUTIONS TO GLOBAL ENVIRONMENTAL BENEFITS⁷

Provide the expected project targets as appropriate.

Corporate Results	Replenishment Targets	Project Targets
1. Maintain globally significant biodiversity and the ecosystem goods and services that it provides to society	Improved management of landscapes and seascapes covering 300 million hectares	58,000 Hectares
2. Sustainable land management in production systems (agriculture, rangelands, and forest landscapes)	120 million hectares under sustainable land management	3,000 Hectares
3. Promotion of collective management of transboundary water systems and implementation of the full range of policy, legal, and institutional reforms and investments contributing to sustainable use and maintenance of ecosystem services	Water-food-ecosystems security and conjunctive management of surface and groundwater in at least 10 freshwater basins;	Number of freshwater basins
	20% of globally over-exploited fisheries (by volume) moved to more sustainable levels	Percent of fisheries, by volume
4. Support to transformational shifts towards a low-emission and resilient development path	750 million tons of CO _{2e} mitigated (include both direct and indirect)	81,858 metric tons
5. Increase in phase-out, disposal and reduction of releases of POPs, ODS, mercury and other chemicals of global concern	Disposal of 80,000 tons of POPs (PCB, obsolete pesticides)	metric tons
	Reduction of 1000 tons of Mercury	metric tons
	Phase-out of 303.44 tons of ODP (HCFC)	ODP tons
6. Enhance capacity of countries to implement MEAs (multilateral environmental agreements) and mainstream into national and sub-national policy, planning financial and legal frameworks	Development and sectoral planning frameworks integrate measurable targets drawn from the MEAs in at least 10 countries	Number of Countries:
	Functional environmental information systems are established to support decision-making in at least 10 countries	Number of Countries:

PART II: PROJECT JUSTIFICATION

1. Project Description.

1) Global environmental and/or adaptation problems, root causes and barriers that need to be addressed:

Biodiversity

1. The Dominican Republic is one of the most biologically diverse countries in the Caribbean. The country has the highest altitudinal range in the region, extending from below sea level in the Enriquillo area to 3,175m at Pico Duarte. Mountain ranges account for around 27% of the national territory and produce a great diversity of habitat from pine forests to mangroves, and create over 30 major watersheds of which 16 are the most important. There are 17 productive zones that produce the majority of the country's surface water: in the Central Mountain Range, Madre de las Aguas concentrates the major number of productive zones of surface water, which feed into 3 of the country's most important rivers. 6,000 plant species have been documented including 300 species of orchid. Of the 306 species of birds reported for Hispaniola⁸, approximately 140 are residents in the DR. It is also important for at least 136 migratory species during the North American Winter. The DR's avifauna has exceptionally high levels of endemism with 34 species⁹. 23 species are classified as Globally Threatened.

2. The country's complex and diverse array of habitats supports a high degree of unique and globally significant biodiversity, in recognition of which it has been identified as a "Caribbean Hotspot". The country's

⁷ Provide those indicator values in this table to the extent applicable to your proposed project. Progress in programming against these targets for the projects per the *Corporate Results Framework* in the [GEF-6 Programming Directions](#), will be aggregated and reported during mid-term and at the conclusion of the replenishment period. There is no need to complete this table for climate adaptation projects financed solely through LDCF and/or SCCC.

⁸ Latta et al., 2006

⁹ Perdomo y Arias, 2008

terrestrial biodiversity shares an additional 30% co-endemism rate with the island of Cuba, making the Dominican flora and fauna of critical importance to the Antillean biodiversity profile. Three of the nation's terrestrial ecosystems -- the Hispaniola pine forest, the Hispaniola humid forests, and the wetlands of the Enriquillo basin -- are listed among the top conservation priorities in the Latin America and Caribbean Ecoregions.

Socioeconomic Context:

3. In recent decades, the Dominican Republic has maintained a constant economic growth, reaching 6.4% in 2015. Since 2014, it has been considered one of the countries with High Human Development (0.715). One of the most significant achievements has been the attainment of the target set in the Millennium Development Goals of reducing extreme poverty to 5.2%. Furthermore, good macroeconomic performance is evidenced by indicators of stable inflation and the start of new public policies (in 2012) for promoting rural micro credit projects, sustained investment of 4% in pre-university education, increased health insurance, literacy programs, and the expansion in coverage of the Conditional Cash Transfer program. However, important challenges persist in the country regarding redistribution and inclusion. According to the 2008 Human Development Report, while the general population is registered as economically Medium-high, there are important gaps in distribution of wealth and resources. Indeed, the majority of communities that live below the poverty line are found in mountainous areas (>500m) and represent some of the poorest and most marginalized segments of the Dominican population. This population is also the most vulnerable to Climate Change events. Dedicated to smallholder farming, and struggling to grow enough food for their families, rural montane communities are increasingly faced with severe land and water degradation problems, which steadily undermine their productivity and livelihoods.

Productive sectors:

Agriculture:

4. In recent decades, the Dominican Republic has maintained a constant economic growth, reaching 6.4% in 2015. Since 2014, it has been considered one of the countries with High Human Development (0.715). One of the most significant achievements has been the attainment of the target set in the Millennium Development Goals of reducing extreme poverty to 5.2%. Furthermore, good macroeconomic performance is evidenced by indicators of stable inflation and the start of new public policies (in 2012) for promoting rural micro credit projects, sustained investment of 4% in pre-university education, increased health insurance, literacy programs, and the expansion in coverage of the Conditional Cash Transfer program. However, important challenges persist in the country regarding redistribution and inclusion. According to the 2008 Human Development Report, while the general population is registered as economically Medium-high, there are important gaps in distribution of wealth and resources. Indeed, the majority of communities that live below the poverty line are found in mountainous areas (>500m) and represent some of the poorest and most marginalized segments of the Dominican population. This population is also the most vulnerable to Climate Change events. Dedicated to smallholder farming, and struggling to grow enough food for their families, rural montane communities are increasingly faced with severe land and water degradation problems, which steadily undermine their productivity and livelihoods.

Cocoa:

5. Cocoa production is an important economic agricultural activity for DR representing 0.6% of the GNP. Cocoa is produced in 8 regions, covering approximately 2.4 million *tareas* (150 mil has.) and generates about 36,000 permanent jobs and about 150,000 temporary jobs, and agribusiness generates more than 100,000 permanent jobs. Of the 3 levels of quality derived from the Cocoa plant, *criollo* is the most common in DR. A plantation can function for an average of 80 years and is therefore considered an important contributor to the country's forest cover as well as stability for watersheds. There are several options for certification in DR: Organic, Fair-trade, Bird-friendly, and Biodynamic (organic without certification). As such, DR is the world's largest producer of certified cocoa. While the profit differential between certified and non-certified cocoa is minimal, organic production is attractive to small producers since it is more cost-effective, requiring less investment in additives such as chemical pesticides. However, large-scale producers do not experience the same advantage with organic production and instead consider it to be much more labor-intensive than the price increase warrants. Bean and pulp extraction has a low environmental impact and requires no permit except for pruning, which must be authorized by MA. As such, cocoa production is deemed an ideal activity in buffer zones of Protected Areas.

Coffee:

6. Coffee production has historically been an important economic agricultural activity in DR and in 2000, the Dominican Coffee Council (CODOCAFE) was created to develop strategies and policies to regulate, maintain and improve the development of the coffee industry, including the grouping of distinct subsectors linked to its production and commercialization. Coffee is produced in 8 regions, covering approximately 2.2 million *tareas* (138,365 has.) and generates about 46,000 permanent jobs and about 70,000 temporary jobs, and agribusiness generates more than 4,000 permanent jobs. The most important production zones are found in the country's mountainous regions: the central mountains, the northern mountains, the Sierra de Neyba and the Sierra Bahoruco. Shade-coffee without fertilizers and pruning is the dominant production type, representing 92% of the country's production, while full-sun coffee with fertilizers and pruning represents the remaining 8%¹⁰. Coffee cultivation is key to the conservation of forest cover in mountainous areas of the country. Furthermore, it is also very important in the economy of small farmers living in mountain areas. Indeed, 19% of the country's farms grow coffee. The waterways of 18 provinces are fed by rivers and streams of coffee growing areas; the National District's waterways are fed by the San Cristobal-Bani-Ocoa coffee zone. In the cultivation and marketing of coffee there are three types of companies that can be classified by their labor, working capital and level of technology on: 1. Capitalist (technified and / or modern) covers 9,434 hectares and produces 50% of national production; 2. Renewed Family (moderately technified) covers 18,868 ha and produces 20% of national production; and, 3. Traditional Family (not modernized) covers 89,937 ha and produces 30% of national production. The area planted for coffee helps sequester about 12.7 million kilograms of CO₂ every day. In recent years, the production of this crop has been affected by notable losses due to the incidence of pests and diseases (rust) (some reports indicate the loss of 40% of production). Added to that is the impact of the severe drought affecting the Caribbean due to El Niño.

Forestry:

7. According to the 2012 Study on Land Use and Cover, forests cover 18,923.45 km², equivalent to 39.24% of the country's surface area. This coverage consists of open and dense coniferous forest, broadleaf cloud forest, humid and semi-humid, dry forest, the forest of freshwater wetlands (dragon trees) and brackish wetlands (mangrove). Forest cover is interspersed with areas of intense agriculture and grazing and is under threat from these activities. Regarding the processing of wood, according to the Vice Ministry of Forest Resources, there are 247 primary industries authorized of which 217 are in operation. The processing capacity is 177,840 cubic meters / year yet only 43% is being used. 33% of the mills only process pine wood, while 67% use a ratio of 20% other species and 80% pine. These mills are mostly located in the same municipalities where there are ongoing projects for management plans for both natural forests and plantations. At present there are a total of 921 forest management plans duly approved by the Ministry of Environment and Natural Resources, which cover a total area of 64,605.85 hectares (1,027.233 *tareas*), distributed throughout the country. Domestic production accounts for about 17% of domestic consumption of sawn wood and almost the entire consumption of round or unprocessed wood.

Tourism:

8. While the Dominican Republic is renowned for its coastal tourism, the southern region of the country has great potential for developing ecotourism based on its natural treasures. Protected Areas in the South are an important resource in the supply of nature-based tourism to complement the traditional tourism sector. The Ministry of Environment, through the Reengineering Project of the SINAP (National System of Protected Areas) has worked in the National Parks and provided infrastructure for incorporating public use, so as to serve as a platform for different tour operators and small hotels to offer tours to them and expand their offerings to tourists. In 2010, a comprehensive study was conducted, "Study of the National Strategic Plan for Development of Ecotourism in the Dominican Republic", by the International Cooperation Agency of Japan (JICA) and the Ministry of Tourism, through which a series of actions were compiled to develop sustainable tourism throughout the country, including the southern region of the country. This study has important implications for promoting sustainable development in the southern region. There are also some ecotourism initiatives, particularly in the interior of the country, many of which are strongly linked to rural and community tourism. The REDOTUR (Nonprofit Association (AFL) created by Resolution No. 057 of September 11, 2009, as established by Law 122-05, promotes the Dominican ecotourism sector organizations, their services and products in national and international markets in a joint inter-agency

¹⁰ Diagnostico de Caficultura Dominicana, 2009.

coordination process, promoting environmental, social and cultural responsibility, in a competitive and sustained environment, ensuring quality and safety in companies in order to contribute to a better quality of life. There is potential to expand these initiatives and make better livelihoods and contribute to conservation.

Threats to Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services in DR can be categorized as:

9. According to the Ministry of Environment's Fourth National Biodiversity Report (2010), the principle factors affecting biodiversity in mountain areas are:

- Conversion of habitats, mainly by expansion of agriculture and livestock, the expansion of tourism development and mining shares.
- Degradation of habitats and ecosystems functions, mostly caused by forest fires as well as land and water pollution
- Climate change

10. Conversion of Natural Habitat and Ecosystems: Ecosystems are mainly lost through habitat destruction. Deforestation and fragmentation of forests in the form of forest clearance to allow for urbanization, infrastructure development, agriculture developments, timber logging both commercial and small-scale (mostly illegal), forest fires and mining operations have been the main forces behind deforestation and land degradation, as well as the expansion of tourism development, mostly beach. 24% of the country's surface area is threatened by incompatible land use practices. Between 1993-1997, the agricultural sector grew at an average rate of 5 percent per year and tourism grew by 15 percent. These rates have continued to increase. In 2004, agricultural activities and pasture lands occupied 46.35 percent of the national territory. The impact of tourism is particularly strong in coastal forests, beaches, estuaries, swamps, coral reefs and seagrass beds, where ecosystems are seriously threatened.

11. Degradation of habitats and ecosystems functions: Two of the leading causes of habitat degradation in the country are: (1) forest fires; and (2) terrestrial and aquatic pollution. Increasing frequency and magnitude of forest fires represents a threat to biodiversity through the drastic reduction of populations and changes in the species composition. Between 1962 and 2004, there were 5,629 fires that affected a total area of 2,828 km². The areas most affected by wildfires are particularly pine forests and dry habitats in protected areas within the Cordillera Central and the Sierra de Bahoruco. The most destructive fires in history occurred in March 2005, affecting an area of 200 km². The threat of forest fires is exacerbated by the abandonment of rural areas. Historic low-productivity/return associated with cocoa and coffee production has led to the abandonment of many former production sites. Without proper management and oversight, these sites are vulnerable to forest fires, illicit activities. Furthermore, 12% of the country's Arid and Semiarid regions are under high and very high risk of erosion.

12. Vulnerability/impact of extreme climate events/conditions: Increasing temperatures will continue to strain agricultural systems and groundwater availability and quality due to the possibility of hotter and drier conditions. Increased frequency and intensity of flooding due to the combination of more intense storms and environmental degradation is likely to disproportionately affect already sensitive systems (e.g., livelihoods on the edge, people in poverty, coastal infrastructure). Populations on the margin of the economy (particularly those located in urban areas of Los Mina, Hoyo de Puchula, Fracatán, La Esperanza, and el Hoyo de Elias) as well as rural small farmers are more sensitive to impacts of disasters (floods, dry periods, and landslides) because they have limited resources with which to influence and increase adaptive capacity. Coastal zones (particularly mangroves and coral reefs) are particularly sensitive to sea-level rise and more extreme storms because of existing problems with critical habitat destruction from development pressures and overfishing, among other threats. Local livelihoods are very sensitive to these same factors, which will likely increase the risk to coastal communities of flooding, diminish fisheries stocks, and degrade natural tourist attractions in the absence of more comprehensive resource management planning. Agriculture and tourism sectors, as well as residential households, are highly dependent on ground and surface water supply, which are sensitive to localized land use and likely to experience decreasing recharge and quality due to evaporation and salt water intrusion. The quality of the water is worsened by inadequate sewage

management, where most raw sewage is dumped into the aquifer through injection wells called “pozos filtrantes” or directly into rivers and the ocean¹¹.

13. The project will promote a landscape approach to the conservation of threatened ecosystems that will benefit all the mountain ranges of the country. It will specifically promote field interventions in 3 landscapes although the final sites will be confirmed during the PPG phase: **(I) South side of the Sierra de Neyba; (II) Corridors that connect Valle Nuevo NP, La Humeadora NP, Barbacoa Reserve; and (III) Mid-watershed of Ozama River.** These areas have been identified as containing particularly high levels of biodiversity of global importance, generating environmental goods and services of national importance, and being vulnerable to a number of threats, of both anthropic and natural origin. Each of these areas contains a wide diversity of ecosystems, stretching from the coast up to the summits of the country’s most important mountain ranges. These areas are also of major importance for cocoa and coffee production, which constitute the mainstay of the local economy.

14. Specifically, the project will work to address the following **barriers**:

Barrier 1: Limited mainstreaming of environmental sustainability criteria that guarantee the conservation/resilience of ecosystems and biodiversity in land-use policies and plans in mountainous areas.

15. While the Dominican Republic has an extensive portfolio of environmental and sectoral policies and regulations regarding land-use and sustainable use of natural resources, there is very little practical on-the-ground experience in their application and compliance. Decisions regarding land-use planning oftentimes do not take into account the the locations, nature and magnitude of environmental values, biological integrity and connectivity, threats, the implications of climate change or the livelihood support needs of local communities. A national planning framework is missing in practice: a National Law of Territorial Ordinance was proposed but has yet to be approved in Congress. While there is existing regulation that defines the mandates of MA and the General Direction of Territorial Ordinance in matters of land-use planning, the lack of a national law is a barrier to the development of further policy and operational plans and programs of different sector institutions. Furthermore, current regulations do not adequately incorporate considerations such as tradeoffs and synergies between environmental and development considerations, regional biological connectivity, or the implications of climate change.

16. There are also deficiencies in the mechanisms for informed and balanced decision-making in relation to the cocoa and coffee sectors with implications for the status of biodiversity, the sustainability of the natural resource base, and resilience to climate change. Informed and balanced environmental decision-making (for example through Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA), Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) and territorial land use planning) is further hindered, however, by the inadequacy of mechanisms for ensuring that decision-makers are aware of and have timely access to the kinds of information that are required to maximize the objectivity of decision-making. This is exacerbated by the weak position of Environment as a sector and its perception as a barrier rather than ally to productive sectors.

Barrier 2: Limited capacity of sectors and producers to develop and apply plans and measures to avoid production practices that degrade mountain ecosystems.

17. Municipal authorities have limited capacity to: 1) collect, process, monitor, and evaluate the status of biodiversity and the ecological services it generates in cocoa and/or coffee farms and nearby forests; 2) develop and implement activities that enhance biodiversity such as conservation corridors between cocoa/coffee farms and nearby forests; and 3) identify cocoa/ coffee farms that are likely to go into unsustainable land uses. Furthermore, available technical knowledge and up-to-date information generated by organizations is not incorporated into municipal planning processes. This is particularly true with regard to information related to biodiversity conservation and sustainable use, as such information is not considered integral to any of the existing municipal sector-based institutions and processes.

18. Similar capacity gaps at institutional and local levels result in limited access by local people to alternative, more sustainable practices for cocoa and coffee production in vulnerable watersheds and for managing and exploiting other NTFP resources in a sustainable manner. This situation is compounded by a lack of consistency and

¹¹ USAID, Dominican Republic Climate Change Vulnerability Assessment Report, 2013, p. 49

harmonization between agencies and institutions and limited clarity on the environmental sustainability of alternative management practices. Furthermore, there is a lack of incentives to invite investment to improve and update the cocoa and coffee sectors with clean technology.

Barrier 3: Livelihoods rely on short-term, unsustainable practices

19. The intense work input of rural populations does not provide a sustainable livelihood to support these populations in the long-term and lift them out of poverty. Furthermore, there is a lack of opportunities to develop ecotourism and other productive ventures. One of the main challenges for ecotourism development in the South, for example, is the lack of trained personnel at all levels implicit in hosting tourism. Another challenge that faces tourism in the South is insecurity. Interagency cooperation is needed to provide unified forces to break down barriers and provide public security, access to roads in good condition, public transport, financial facilities, among other needs. Current security and transport/road conditions hamper producers' ability to get their products out, thus an improvement in these conditions would serve as an incentive to motivate the development of productive activities by providing the potential to move other products (agricultural, NTFP) to market.

20. In general, with regards to gender/youth engagement in productive activities, the intensity of work hours invested in producing coffee/cocoa, for example, is not always compatible with the other responsibilities associated with women (family/home duties) and/or youth (school). As such there is a need for developing productive practices that also incorporate these important community members.

21. The long-term **solution** to these barriers is to promote ecosystem connectivity and resilience beyond the limits of Protected Areas and demonstrate sustainable planning and production models in the agricultural, agroforestry and forestry sectors, e.g. cocoa and coffee. Ultimately, this will protect core refuge for endemic flora and fauna while addressing fragmentation from production practices in the landscape as a whole, and promoting connectivity at a landscape level. To accomplish this, the following is needed:

- Influence Plans for land-use, (re)zoning, incentives, etc to demonstrate greater value-added from incorporating BD conservation /ecosystem services considerations in relevant sectors.
- Dialogue with decision-makers regarding land use to stimulate uses/practices that are compatible with conservation and promote productivity and connectivity.
- Mainstream/Integrate BD conservation criteria in determining product quality.
- Promote BD-friendly production practices.
- Increase awareness of the economic costs associated with climatic events and poor land management practices.
- Promote increased ecosystem connectivity/integrity within the framework of reducing national vulnerability so as to increase climate change resilience (drought, precipitation patterns, etc.).
- Reduce the impact of harmful practices that disrupt the flow of ecosystem services, and influence the incentives that promote these practices.

2) Baseline scenario or any associated baseline projects:

22. The project will build upon the following baseline scenario:

23. National Cocoa Plan: DR is interested in stimulating an increase in cocoa production to satisfy an excess in demand. The National Cocoa Plan focuses on improving conditions for producers. Of the country's 36-40 thousand producers, 85% are small-scale (farms of less than 5 hectares). Small farmers are at a disadvantage because of low production, which translates into fewer resources to (re)invest in the integrity and management of the farm, thereby entering a vicious cycle of low production. As such, the production is insufficient to attract and maintain the interest of producers resulting in an increase of small-scale producers selling their farms. Furthermore, subsistence agriculture characterized by short cycles is labor intensive with small yields that often lead to degraded mountainsides that increase erosion and impact water quality downstream. However, through the adoption of best

practices in production, harvesting and processing, cocoa production has the potential to be beneficial to the environment. Indeed, it could provide important forest cover for watersheds, thereby maintaining/increasing connectivity between PAs, habitat for endemic species, soil/bank stability, water production and quality. In response to this, the Plan needs to promote the integration of sound management and nature-based farming, as well as provide training for farmers, youth, women, and improve living conditions with access to schools, medical attention, recreation options, etc. The PPG would conduct an analysis of different practices to define a minimum portfolio of practices/techniques to be integrated/mainstreamed into the Plan as well as aim to include some of the requirements for credit and / or access to other financial and technical resources.

24. National Coffee Plan: DR is striving to revitalize the coffee industry which has been recently plagued by drought, causing major losses. The government is currently undertaking a census of the country's forests, as part of the REDD initiative.

25. National Law of Territorial Ordinance – a National Law of Territorial Ordinance was proposed but has yet to be approved in Congress. Once approved, there is an urgent need to provide working models to demonstrate how to put this into practice in productive landscapes. Building upon draft guidelines elaborated by UNDP for municipalities, the project could provide an important opportunity to put these into practice.

26. Presidential targets:

- Increased forest cover (59,000 ha in 4-yr term),
- Watershed management of priority watersheds: Yuna, Ozama, Yaque del Sur.

27. National Forest Fire Management Plan

28. With regards to nature-based tourism, the Ministry of Environment, through the Reengineering Project of the SINAP (National System of Protected Areas) has provided infrastructure in the National Parks to encourage and facilitate public use, so as to serve as a platform for different tour operators and small hotels to offer tours to the NPs and expand their offerings to tourists. In 2010, an exhaustive study was carried out by the International Cooperation Agency of Japan JAICA and the Ministry of Tourism: "Review of the National Strategic Plan for the Development of Ecotourism in the Dominican Republic". This study compiles a series of suggested actions to develop sustainable tourism in the country, as a whole, and provides useful information for promoting sustainable development in the southern region. During the PPG, the recommendations of this study will be analyzed to determine which ones are pertinent to this project and define how to develop ecotourism initiatives in coordination with existing initiatives of different institutions like REDOTUR, which promotes the development of sustainable rural tourism.

29. The above-described Baseline demonstrates that the Dominican Republic has an extensive portfolio of environmental and sectoral policies and regulations regarding land-use and sustainable use of natural resources. However, as mentioned above in the Barriers section, there is very little practical on-the-ground experience in their application and compliance. Consequently, the baseline projects are not sufficient to achieve the **long-term solution** to the threats affecting the biodiversity of priority mountainous areas in Dominican Republic. As such, the proposed project will support the Dominican Republic to address the abovementioned **barriers** through the following proposed interventions.

3) Proposed alternative scenario, GEF focal area¹² strategies, with a brief description of expected outcomes and components of the project

30. In view of the above, the project proposes a multi-focal landscape approach (BD, LD, SFM). Integrated landscape management is indispensable for delivering the multiple environmental benefits required for maintaining a multi-functional and biodiversity-rich productive landscape in the DR.

¹² For biodiversity projects, in addition to explaining the project's consistency with the biodiversity focal area strategy, objectives and programs, please also describe which [Aichi Target\(s\)](#) the project will directly contribute to achieving.

31. The **project overall objective** is to mainstream the conservation of biodiversity and ecosystem services in public policies and practices to effectively buffer current and future threats across productive mountain landscapes.

32. The proposed project is aligned with **BD 4: Mainstream Biodiversity Conservation and Sustainable Use into Production Landscapes/Seascapes and Sectors**, specifically **Program 9: Managing the Human-Biodiversity Interface**. In compliance with GEF *Outcome 9.1*, the project will support an increased area of production landscapes that integrate conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity into management. This will be accomplished through supporting the development and application of land-use plans and practices that include environmental sustainability criteria to guarantee ecosystem health, connectivity and resilience in montane areas. The project is also aligned with *Outcome 9.2* and will support the incorporation of biodiversity considerations in Sector policies and regulatory frameworks.

33. With regards to **LD 3: Reduce pressures on natural resources by managing competing land uses in broader landscapes**, the project will focus on the application of **Program 4: Scaling-up sustainable land management through the Landscape Approach**. The project will support efforts to scale-up policies, practices, and incentives for improving production landscapes with environmental benefits, and will encourage wider application of innovative tools and practices for natural resource management.

34. Finally, the project is also aligned with **SFM 3: Restored Forest Ecosystems: Reverse the loss of ecosystem services within degraded forest landscapes**. In particular, the project will support the development and application of integrated landscape restoration plans to maintain forest ecosystem services. The project will support the implementation of these plans at appropriate scales by government, private sector and local community actors. This will be achieved through the development and application of production and management practices that restore forests and ecosystem services and ultimately contribute to increasing connectivity of native species. Ultimately, the project will support the protection and increase of vegetation cover that is key to mitigating climate change.

35. In order to remove the barriers detailed above and achieve global environmental benefits, the financial resources of GEF will be invested in an incremental way to the aforementioned baseline initiatives, as detailed below:

Component 1: Systemic landscape management framework.

36. This component will incorporate sustainable land management and biodiversity conservation objectives and safeguards in land use policy and planning processes through the following Outcomes:

Outcome 1.1 Effective cross sectoral governance of 3 threatened mountain landscapes (dry forest 17,000 ha, broadleaf forest 25,000 ha, pine forest 2,196 ha) protects biodiversity patterns and process, resulting in:

- **Strategically Maintain/increase areas of priority ecosystems** (e.g. dry forest, broadleaf forest and pine forest) especially adjacent to Protected Areas.
- **Increases in watershed resilience to Climate Change** through the incorporation of CC in the National Territorial Ordinance Plan
- **Increases in ecosystem connectivity**, as indicated by increases in connectivity, integrity and resilience indices and reduction in distance between priority ecosystems (indices to be developed and baseline values to be determined during the PPG phase)
- **Increased inter-institutional coordination** in the application and monitoring of standards (via the establishment of a coordination platform)

37. Outcome 1.1. will be achieved through Output 1.1.1 decision making tools for planning and enforcement to ensure that infrastructure, productive/extractive activities and forest clearance are not located in ecologically sensitive areas, including:

- **Strategic Environmental Assessment** of the impacts of infrastructural or productive development programs in vulnerable watersheds
- **Updated and accurate maps and database integrated in an inter-institutional Geographical Information Systems** and documents making information on the biological importance, fragility and

productive potential of the target areas available as supports to planning decision-making at different levels.

- **Monitoring of the status of endemic and native species** in priority zones of Madre de las Aguas, as well as any potential changes in species composition as a result of project interventions, i.e. establishment of corridors.
- **Landscape-level land use plans take into account vulnerability to climate change impacts, land and forest degradation:** applied in pilot sites and harmonized with the National Territorial Ordinance Plan, covering the whole of the target areas, defining priority areas for conservation and connectivity, including buffer zones along target sites, and the range of specific uses and management regimes appropriate to different site types, based on reliable, standardized and uniform data on vulnerability to CC and ecosystem degradation, and potential for ecosystem-based adaptation solutions.
- **Proscriptions of land uses** in sensitive areas and establishment of special categories of land use in target areas, guaranteeing sustainable use of BD (e.g. promote MAB Program in Madre de las Aguas).
- **Community-based environmental plans** based on participatory analyses of resource management options and zoning.
- **System for early warning of fires and for planning of fire management and control,** including characterization of land units according to fire risk (determined by factors such as vegetation type and proximity to agricultural areas, settlements and roads), vulnerability and ecological responses to fire, and definition of corresponding response strategies in the case of fire outbreaks.

Outcome 1.2 Improved capacities to plan, budget and enforce landscape management across institutions (national, including Local govt, M. of Env, M. of Agriculture, M. of Economy thru Direction of Land Planning, among others as required) sustain conservation outcomes, resulting in:

- **Environmental land use plans** covering 58,000 ha of productive landscape with **inventory and planning instruments** in place that incorporate practices that guarantee ecosystem connectivity and integrity.
- **Land use plans for buffer zones along Protected Areas** with a focus on threat/risk management and economically sustainable practices, especially tourism.
- **Proposal of financial sustainability options** for ecosystem management in productive landscapes
 - **Compliance indicator:** Decrease in infractions derived from illicit activities (to be confirmed in PPG)
 - At least 10% **increase in Capacity Development Scorecard ratings** in these target institutions (baseline to be established during PPG)

38. Outcome 1.2. will be achieved through Output 1.2.1 institutional capacities for ensuring compliance with the provisions of environmental regulations and land use plans, including:

- **Remote sensing and Geographical Information Systems applied to target areas** to detect unauthorized changes of land use, water capture/quality, erosion and sedimentation, hot spots, bathymetries, weather stations and monitoring plots, including the necessary training to manage, interpret and apply acquired information. This will be linked directly to the GIS in Output 1.1.1, which will keep updated and accurate records of information on the biological importance, fragility and productive potential of the target areas. As such, these records will provide the basis for determining inappropriate land use changes.
- **Platforms for collaboration in monitoring and enforcement,** involving Government institutions (executive and judicial branches) at the central, local and private sector levels, as well as community-based organizations. This will contribute to the strengthening of provincial offices of M. of Env, M. of Agriculture and other institutions involved in land planning and monitoring, as well as the Municipal Environment Management Units (UGAM) and local/municipal development councils. The project will support the development of mechanisms for monitoring and responding to environmental violations.
- **Increased technical capacity** of the abovementioned actors to promote sustainable production options compatible with BD conservation and CC resilience; apply regulations and uphold the legal framework;

coordinate effectively. Recipients of this capacity development will include local government, M. of Env, M. of Agriculture, M. of Economy thru Direction of Land Planning, among others as required.

39. Furthermore, this Outcome will be bolstered by Output 1.2.2 Financial sustainability/ Financing framework for landscape management through:

- **Mainstreaming environmental sustainability criteria in coffee/cocoa credit policy**, increase in availability of credits through national and local financial institutions;
- **Establishment of sectorial credit mechanisms** for sustainable management of production landscapes;
- **Establishment of a Payments for Watershed Services scheme** (Details will be defined during the PPG.)

40. The project will support the implementation/strengthening of these mechanisms in the different pilots described in Component 2. For example, it is envisioned that the target areas of Sierra de Neyba and Ozama would benefit from increased access to credit related to coffee, cocoa and other production systems. Meanwhile, taking into account a lesson learned from the GEF Sabana Yegua project, this project will not establish a traditional PES scheme *per se*, rather it will promote an Integral Compensation for Environmental Services scheme (*Compensación Integral para Servicios Ambientales – CISA*), which works with the different sectors in the area to help improve services and living conditions in the local communities as compensation. For example, rather than paying cash to the communities, they provide micro-credits to SMEs, incentives to local producers that adopt sustainable land-use practices, among others.

Outcome 1.3 Effective local participation in planning:

- **Local capacity to plan and implement conservation corridors** that connect cocoa and/or coffee farms and other BD-friendly productive ecosystems with nearby priority forests, watersheds and Protected Areas/Spaces.
- **Local capacity to generate, use to monitor and share geographic, socio-economic, and bio-physical information** needed for spatial planning and management purposes.

41. This outcome will be achieved through Output 1.3.1 Local participation mechanisms (10 municipalities) increase organization among communities and producers for effective participation in land use planning as well as programs that provide increased collective benefit through increased alliances. The project will promote the establishment/strengthening of local networks in coordination with the central level for coordination, management and conflict management related to unsustainable management of natural resources. It will ensure that at the local level, pilot sites' structures and coordination capacities and effective participation are established. Further details will be defined during the PPG based on specific pilot site confirmation.

Component 2: Conservation compatible production systems in threatened mountain ecosystems and conservation corridors

42. Under this component, the project will work to improve the connectivity of key biodiversity between production systems and forest protected areas through the development of capacities to realize sustainable forest landscape management and promote CC-resilient production systems in target areas. A preliminary selection exercise was conducted to determine potential intervention areas, based on the following criteria:

- Spaces with important biodiversity to conserve
- Spaces that are close to protected areas (PA) / basins.
- Threat of degradation
- Vulnerability to fire / CC
- Locations where there is opportunity to establish / expand sustainable production systems
- Locations where there is opportunity to develop value chains
- Areas where there are organized local communities
- Potential synergies with other projects
- Cofinancing

43. As a result of this initial analysis, the project will support interventions in the following target areas:

I. South side of the Sierra de Neyba National Park (NP) is a dry forest zone near the border with Haiti. It covers the provinces of Independencia and Bahoruco. It is close to several Protected Areas: Sierra de Neyba NP, Anacaona NP, M.N. Las Caobas, Lake Enriquillo NP.

1. Existing resources and biodiversity values / current productive activities / needs:

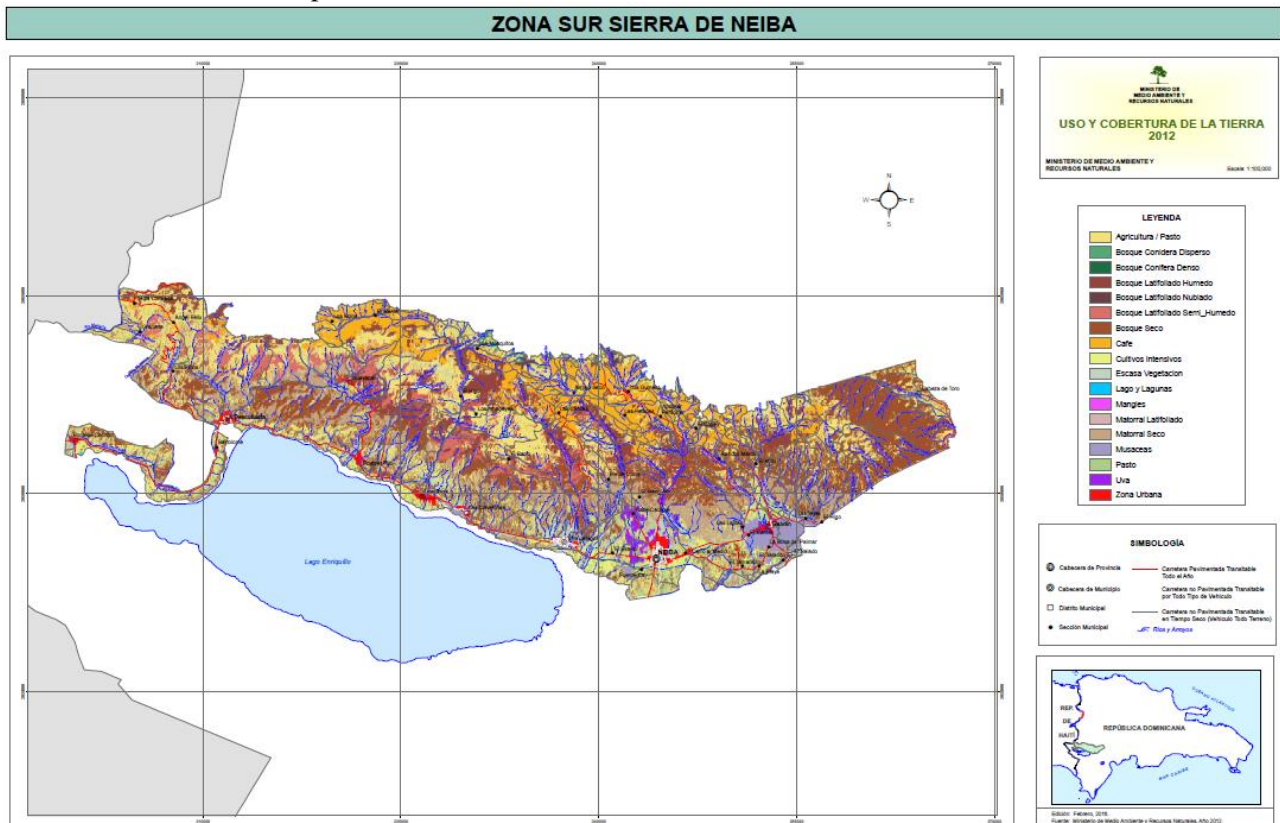
- High rate of endemism
- Large portion of dry forest outside PAs. Outdated forest management plans with FEPROBOSUR. Urgent need to update management plans.
- Dry Forest Producers Associations are already established.
- BD Values include Pine forest, cloud forest, mahogany forests (remnants)
- Current production focuses on coffee, avocado, short-cycle crops.
- Area subject to desertification and heavily degraded. See map of aridity index.

2. What can/needs to be done:

- Increase protection zone, increase forest cover in areas of pine forest transition.
- Promote restoration through dry forest management.
- Work with promoting sustainable forest production, stop advancing agricultural frontier.
- Management and prevention of charcoal production.
- Fire monitoring sites
- Coffee production
- Promote alternative agroforestry systems and livelihoods
- Work on forest protection, sustainable production (coffee, avocado), sustainable forest management, carbon, ecotourism
- Value chains: Beekeeping, Charcoal, Forest certification, Coffee

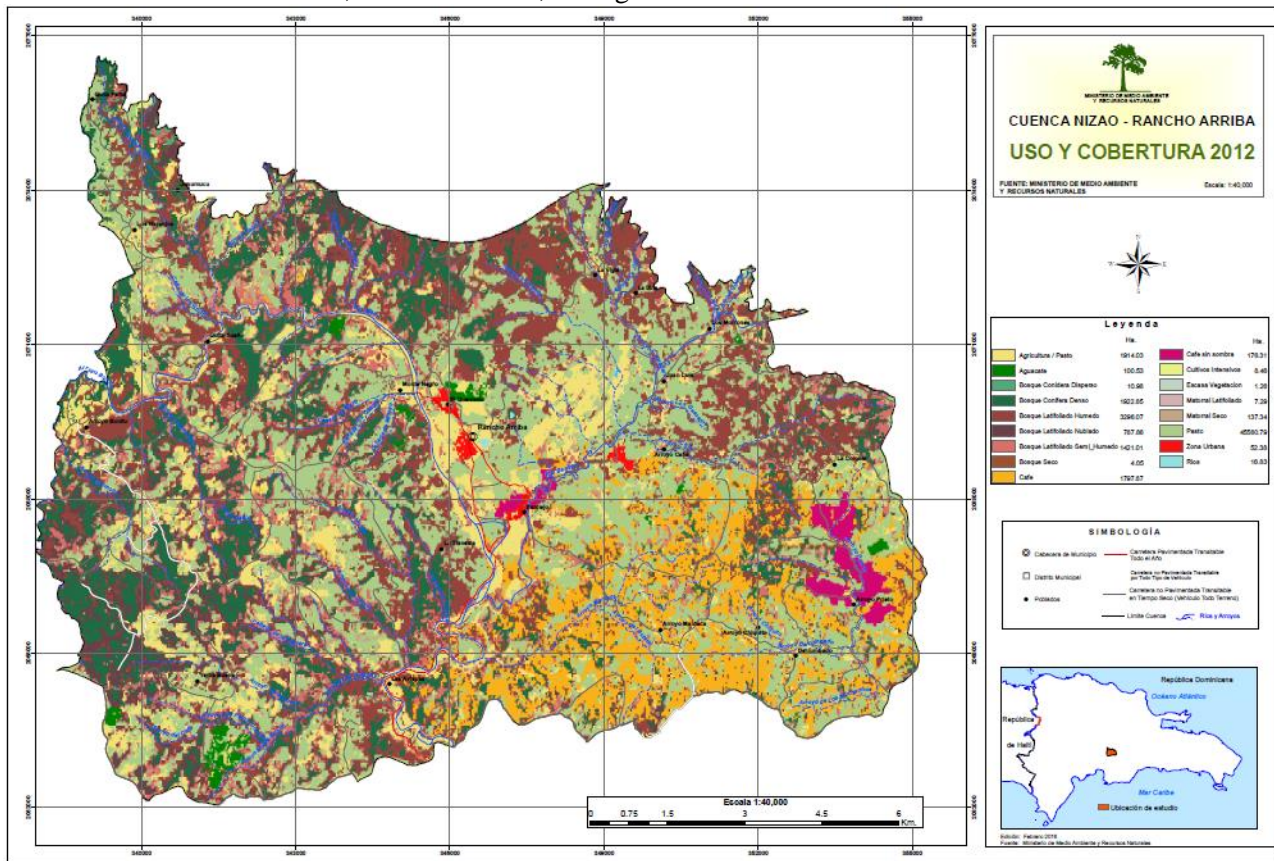
3. Other actors in the area / opportunities for cofinancing:

- PROMAREN, Debt swap
- EU/Pr Biological Corridor
- NGOs present in the area: CIEPO, World Vision.



II. Corridors that connect Valle Nuevo NP, La Humeadora NP, Barbacoa Reserve (southern part that drains toward Ocoa / La Nuez, Nizao River watershed).

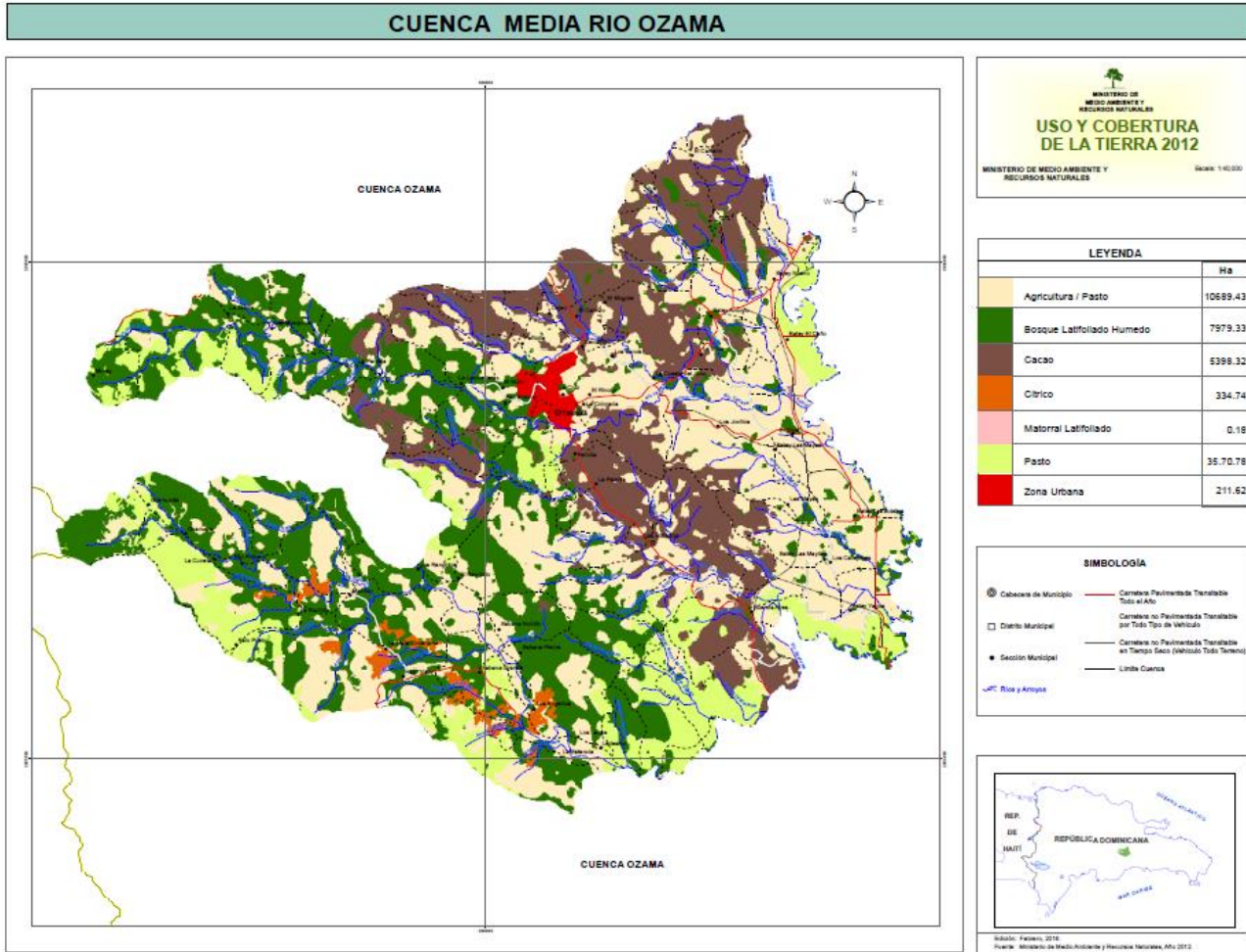
1. Existing resources and biodiversity values / current productive activities / needs:
 - Area of vital importance for water supply
 - Problems with fire and land degradation; high slope area requires coverage restoration.
 - Problems with strawberry growers and greenhouses: water pollution, water resources channeled by private producers (producing water imbalance).
 - Coffee production.
 - BD Values include humid broadleaf forest, cloud forest and dense pine forest
2. What can/needs to be done:
 - Sustainable land management
 - Sustainable forest management
 - Protection of headwaters
 - Strengthen management of buffer zones.
3. Other actors in the area / opportunities for cofinancing:
 - USAID, PRONATURA, M. Agriculture.



III. Mid-watershed of Ozama River (Colinas Bajas) coincides with the buffer zone of Los Haitises National Park. It is the area with the most favorable conditions of the three target sites chosen for this Project; it provides a good opportunity to show how to connect landscapes between production areas.

1. Existing resources and biodiversity values / current productive activities / needs:
 - Forest management
 - Cocoa production
 - BD Values include humid broadleaf forest
 - Search Ozama Quisqueya Verde and PA
2. What can/needs to be done:
 - Sustainable forest management

- Cocoa production
 - Agrotourism
 - Sustainable land management.
3. Other actors in the area / opportunities for cofinancing:
- Productive forest clusters Colinas bajas (CNC), Conacado, forestry cooperatives, various NGOs (REDDOM/USAID)



Land Cover and Use (Ha) in Target Areas

Type	South Side Sierra de Neiba Lake Enriquillo	Nizao / Rancho Arriba	Ozama	Total
Agric/grass	16,865.9	1,914.03	10,689	29,469
Scarce Vegetation	3,014.28	1.26		3,016
Intensive crop	3,592.17	8.46		3,601
Grape/vineyard	471.6			472
Broadleaf Forest:				
a. Humid	7,706.16	3,296.07	7,979	18,982

b. Semi-humid	3,538.26	1,421.01		4,959
c. Cloud	333.45	787.86		1,121
Cocoa			5,398	5,398
Coffee	8,298.63	1,497.87		9,797
Coffee –shade free		176.31		176
Citrus			335	335
Musaceas	1,221.84			1,222
Avocado		100.53		101
Broadleaf scrub/bush	65.34	7.29	0	73
Grass	2,650.23	4,556.79	3,570.78	7,207
Urban Zone	934.65	52.38	212	1,199
Pine Forest:				
a. Dense	55.08	1,922.85		1,978
b. Disperse	207.18	10.98		218
Dry forest	17,017.1	4.05		17,021
Dry scrub/bush	9,906.75			9,907
Mangroves	5.13	137.34		142
Lake and lagoons	16.83			17

44. Building on Component 1, the project will support the following Outcome:

Outcome 2.1 Improved flows of global environmental benefits in key production zones (variables and baseline/target values to be defined/confirmed during the PPG phase):

- **Biodiversity: Reduction in threats / Improvement in habitat quality and connectivity** in unprotected priority landscapes, including environmental goods and services through:
 - o **Coverage**
 - # hectares dedicated to sustainable production;
 - # hectares of productive and/or conservation forests
 - **Ecological restoration in priority connectivity zones** (degraded zones, corridors, sustainable farming, forests)
- **SFM: Reduction in frequency and intensity/ area of wildfires** in target areas from strengthened capacity of local and community groups, equipment and tools for control, formation of community brigades (baseline and targets tbd during PPG) as measured by decrease in:
 - o # fires in of pilot areas
 - o # hectares affected by fires in pilot areas.

- # of tons of CO₂e mitigated (annual target 81,858 tCO₂-eq) through avoided deforestation

- **Land Degradation:**

- **Reduced soil erosion rates** in areas under improved management
- **Reduction in impact on aquatic environments** in areas using clean technology in cocoa and coffee production (variables and precise targets to be defined during PPG phase)

45. This Outcome will be achieved through 2 Outputs. Output 2.1.1 Capacities for the development, transfer and application of sustainable management of production systems, enabling farmers to implement resource management practices that generate BD, SFM and LD benefits, including:

- **Integrated training modules for extension agents**, resulting in more effective and participatory delivery of extension services aimed at encouraging sustainable land management
- **Integrated training and extension modules for producers**, focusing on BD- and LD-friendly production practices
- **3 Pilot/Demonstration Units under integrated management** promoting biological connectivity in key areas and functioning as foci for the demonstration and replication of BD-friendly productive options (e.g. agriculture, forestry, agroforestry) and integrated approaches to natural resource management, with strategies for BD management, replication and training.
- **Promotion of Private Protected Areas** strengthens connectivity through instruments of recognition.
- **Integrated fire management applied to the target areas** led by FAO, as a Responsible Party for providing its technical expertise on activities related to forest fire management, and assuring technical assistance specifically linked to this, including:
 - **Prescribed burning**, supported by technical training and equipment
 - **Fire readiness** across land holdings, backed up by farm-level plans and technical support, including equipment

46. This Output would be complemented by Output 2.1.2 Ecological restoration initiatives implemented in areas affected by fires and other degrading activities that are key to the targeted production programs and resilience to CC.

- Watershed protection zones,
- Buffer zones of Protected Areas
- Connectivity zones for priority forests

47. The Project would also build upon the previous GEF-supported PA project by promoting the establishment of private/co-managed reserves and/or protected areas as one of the options for fostering connectivity. The private/comanagement model from the PA Project provides an opportunity to include BD-friendly production systems and enhance connectivity. Furthermore, by supporting the development and application of production methods that promote ecosystem connectivity, the project will indirectly promote restoration of some of the degraded landscapes in PA buffer zones. One of the mechanisms envisioned is the establishment of biological corridors that facilitate the natural flow of flora and fauna between PAs and productive landscapes. During the PPG phase, the proponents will engage local and institutional stakeholders to determine how to develop these corridors, where they are feasible, and who the key actors to involve are. This will be determined with the support of relevant research and/or scientific data where available. The details of the mechanisms and incentives to motivate and acquire the necessary labor force for this will be determined during the PPG.

Component 3: Sustainable livelihoods mainstream BD-friendly practices

48. The project will achieve this Component through support to **3.1 BD-friendly production systems and livelihoods mainstreamed in agriculture, forestry and tourism sectors**, as indicated by:

- **Application of agroforestry, silvo-pastoral, sustainable forestry and sustainable tourism systems** resulting in **reduced soil erosion rates** in areas under improved management and increased **biological connectivity across 3,000 hectares** (indices and targets to be confirmed during PPG)
- **# micro-enterprises adopting BD-friendly production systems**

49. Project support will provide results through Output 3.1.1 Promotion of sustainable livelihoods in communities associated with pilot areas from Component 2, that demonstrate appropriate management, access to financing mechanisms, training, and implementation of clean technologies. A financially sustainable extension service to review best practices, share experiences and support local stakeholders' adoption of the agreed best practices and biodiversity friendly production models.

- **Establishment of an extension package:** establish field schools for producers promoting SLM and the development of BD-friendly production techniques.
- **Credit Access Package established** for the promotion of sustainable livelihoods: access to credit for the development of sustainable production systems and the development of small business that contribute to the diversification of the local economy.
- **Pilot Ecotourism units functioning** as models of options for sustainable tourism that includes organization and generation of capacities for communities with potential for rural tourism, agricultural tourism, adventure and/or ecotourism, or as a destination of protected spaces.
- **Local SFM Pilots functioning** as models of options for sustainable forestry
- **Business development support / supply chain initiatives:** create conditions in small producers to ensure they have the capacity to insert themselves within the supply chain and develop it to guarantee value-added in production.

50. This will be complemented by Output 3.1.2 Women and youth livelihoods will be promoted, including their empowerment and participation at the local level through:

- Capacity building
- Insertion within value chains,
- Improvement of income,
- Integration/participation in decision making at the local level.
- Existing gender relationships will be expanded and consolidated based on the valuation of women and youth potential and recognizing their role as revitalizing agents of local economies.

51. Ultimately, livelihoods would not only be productive, but also linked to small and medium-sized enterprise (SME) opportunities. For example, the development of SME for local eco/agro-tourism and other small businesses linked to sustainable production, could serve to demonstrate benefits at the product level with the development of value chains as incentives. The restoration of mountain landscapes would require a mix of long-cycle crops, cocoa, coffee in the upper regions, among others – all of which would provide added sources of income and opportunity beyond the environmental benefits associated with BD-friendly production practices.

4) Incremental/additional cost reasoning and expected contributions from the baseline, the GEFTE, LDCF, SCCF, and co-financing;

52. The GEF increment will support the mainstreaming of ecosystem-friendly practices in productive landscapes. As mentioned in the Baseline, individual efforts and interventions need additional support to become systemic across Agriculture, Forestry and Tourism sectors.

53. The Cofinancing that has been identified at this time is expected to provide important synergies to the baseline and GEF increment. For example, the EU has approved a concept for a project that is expected to coincide with this project's implementation and is focused on developing a biological corridor for the Caribbean. As such, this project will coordinate with the EU initiative to ensure effective synergies with respect to the promotion of sustainable practices and management in the target areas in Component 2 (these areas would potentially be Sierra de Neyba and Nizao, to be confirmed during the PPG). The World Bank's REDD Readiness Project will strengthen the authority assigned to REDD, and would therefore ensure strong institutional support for the forest management and

monitoring activities in Components 1 and 2. FAO's cofinancing would be focused on leading forest fire management activities and contributing with its expertise and technical assistance in the development and implementation of Component 2. UNDP's cofinancing will support the strengthening of social protection and continued fight against extreme poverty in the target areas. Preliminary discussions have been held with all cofinancing institutions and will be confirmed during the PPG.

5) Global environmental benefits (GEFTF) and/or adaptation benefits (LDCE/SCCF);

54. The project will lead to major GEBs in three focal areas. In the **BD4** focal area, it will contribute to ensuring the long-term conservation status of globally important forest habitats in the project area, covering at least 17,000 ha dry forest, 25,000 ha broadleaf forest, 2,196 ha pine forest based on, and motivated by, the generation of sustained economic benefits by the forests from the sale of agroforestry products, cocoa, coffee, and NTFPs (i.e. honey). The locations and levels of NTFP extraction, together with the practices applied, will be determined on the basis of ecological carrying capacity/impact analysis and negotiations with the communities involved, in order to avoid the risk of direct negative impacts on the regenerative potential of target species, or indirect impacts such as decline in populations of frugivores (which are essential for seed dispersal and therefore regeneration) as a result of excessive hunting by NTFP collectors and others. Ecosystem function will further be promoted through a holistic approach in the promotion of alternative livelihoods that recognize the ecological interdependence of different components of the ecosystem, such as the requirements of the insects responsible for pollination for a range of other complementary species to maintain them throughout the year. In this regards, the project will support the development and strengthening of livelihoods such as ecotourism, shade coffee, BD-friendly cocoa and beekeeping, among others.

55. In the **LD 3** and **SFM 3** focal areas, the project will contribute to the adoption of integrated natural resource management practices across the broader landscape (in forest lands and neighboring agricultural/grazing landscapes). These will contribute to maintaining the functions and sustainability of natural ecosystems and agroecosystems (e.g. through ensuring sustainable levels of offtake and the application of agricultural practices that protect soil capital), and of flows of ecosystem goods and services (such as the sustainable productivity of NTFPs, and the protection of carbon sinks), as well as helping stabilize the current dynamics of demography and land-use change. As a result of project support, sustainable management practices (e.g. diversified cocoa plantations, coffee plantations and silvopastoral systems) will be applied over an area of non-forest lands and the landscapes immediately surrounding Protected Areas, and deforestation will be avoided.

56. This proposed project will also generate GEBs by contributing to Aichi Targets #1, 2, 7, 11, 12 and 14.

6) Innovation, sustainability and potential for scaling up.

57. The project is innovative in that it is the first project in Dominican Republic to address the mainstreaming of biodiversity conservation and sustainable forestry criteria in land use plans for productive landscapes. It promotes an integrated view of sustainable management of interconnected areas as an ecological corridor, which until now had been carried out under a sectorial vision. The project will support the integration of biodiversity conservation in agricultural/agroforestry/other productive practices, sustainable forest management and restoration, as key elements to sustainable regional development, ultimately fostering connectivity and safeguarding ecosystem goods and services.

58. The environmental, productive and social aspects of sustainability are closely related and will be addressed by the project in an integrated manner. Environmental sustainability will be ensured by supporting the incorporation of principles of sustainability into norms and plans that govern practices of productive landscapes, particularly in the Agriculture, Forestry and Tourism sectors, and into landscape level plans that will as a result take into account the productive potential and vulnerability of different landscape units and habitats. Productive sustainability will be safeguarded by promoting management prescriptions that respect the ecosystems' regenerative capacity, promoting regeneration and ensuring the viability of pollinator populations by promoting tree species diversity and biodiversity connectivity within the target areas. Social sustainability will be ensured by promoting the active participation of local stakeholders in the definition of management prescriptions and zoning, and in decision-making. Financial sustainability will be assured through Component 1 via the mainstreaming of environmental sustainability criteria in coffee/cocoa credit policy to increase the availability of credits through national and local

financial institutions; the establishment of sectorial credit mechanisms for sustainable management of production landscapes; and the establishment of a Payments for Watershed Services scheme, based on lessons learned from the Sabana Yegua project. This will be bolstered by the establishment of a credit access package in Component 3 to stimulate access to credit for the development of sustainable production systems and the development of small businesses that contribute to the diversification of the local economy (the details of which will be confirmed during the PPG). Furthermore, the Project will evaluate the possibility of reorienting the MARENA Fund to support the target areas. The Fund Works through several different programs and accounts, which open a call for bids when they go through replenishment. The project will coordinate with MA to include an opportunity for opening a call for bids to BD conservation areas in productive landscapes and biological corridors. The Project will support the development of various credit options, and will promote financial incentives for the production chain of coffee and cocoa. Furthermore, taking into account a lesson learned from the GEF Sabana Yegua project, this project will not establish a traditional PES scheme *per se*, rather it will promote an Integral Compensation for Environmental Services scheme (*Compensación Integral para Servicios Ambientales – CISA*), which works with the different sectors in the area to help improve services and living conditions in the local communities as compensation. For example, rather than paying cash to the communities, they provide micro-credits to SMEs, incentives to local producers that adopt sustainable land-use practices, among others.

59. Furthermore, GEF investment in this project represents an important opportunity to impact SDGs – both directly and as a catalyst for other sources of financing and support. It serves as a platform for the country to fulfill its SDG Agenda through catalytic investment.

60. This proposed UNDP/GEF project envisages the scaling up of the landscape approach at a broader scale based on the valuable information and lessons learned from the proposed pilot experiences. The proposed project will thus develop the capacity of institutions and producers to expand the coverage and programmatic scope to include additional producers in the target areas as well as the potential to replicate practices in other provinces. Although, the type of productive systems may vary depending on the region, the potential for sustainable coffee and cocoa in various regions has already been identified in their respective National Plans and constitutes a viable economic and sustainable production option for local farmers.

2. *Stakeholders*. Will project design include the participation of relevant stakeholders from [civil society](#) and [indigenous people](#)? (yes /no) If yes, identify key stakeholders and briefly describe how they will be engaged in project design/preparation.

Stakeholders	Project Implementation Role
Ministry of Environment and Natural Resources (MA) Vice Ministry Protected Areas and Biodiversity; VM of Soils and Water VM of Forest Resources	MA is the GEF focal point and the public agency responsible for the formulation of national policy related to the environment and natural resources and to ensure the sustainable use and management of renewable natural resources and the environment. MA will be in charge of guiding activities related to BD conservation, and policy issues through the implementation of national plans and policies related to conservation of BD. MA will expand ecotourism policies (developed in the Reengineering of PA project) and existing synergies with MITUR and other key stakeholders. MA will also guide activities related with SLM and erosion/degradation prevention, including strategic coordination with other Ministries and Local governments. Additionally, MA will lead sustainable forest management and forest fires prevention activities, in order to guarantee the protection and expansion of existing forest ecosystems. Specific dependent vice ministries and Directorates listed may be involved to a greater or lesser degree with specific aspects of implementation.
MITUR - Ministry of Tourism Direction of Ecotourism	Regulates and promotes the tourism sector. Will be co-implementer for several core Outputs of this project.
MEPYD –Ministry of Economy, Planning and	Responsible for land use planning and key role in determining financial flows, national budgets and so on.

Development	
ASOTURE	National Tour Operator Association
Dominican Consortium of Touristic Competitiveness (CDCT)	Groups the regional tourism clusters to promote competitiveness, sustainability and equity in the tourism sector. Functions of the consortium include providing technical assistance to the clusters on environmental protection, community engagement, product diversification and SME promotion.
UNIBE – Tourism Business School	Source of tourism research and research capacity.
Regional Tourism Clusters	Each region including those of the Pilot Project sites has a tourism cluster grouping tourism related SMEs and local organizations with an interest or involvement in tourism.
FAO	Responsible Party to lead forest fire management activities and contribute with its expertise and technical assistance in the development and implementation of Component 2
Fundación Taigüey	Managing a program on Certification of Sustainable Tourism - Kiskeya Alternativa
Dominican Network of Rural Tourism (REDOTUR)	REDOTUR is a network of tourism small business throughout the country, promoting rural tourism. Supported by UNDP/GEF Small Grants Programme MIMARENA, MITUR and CORDAID
Ministry of Agriculture	Institution responsible of the formulation and guidance of agricultural policies in DR. They support producers to improve their competitiveness and access to markets; in order to guarantee food security, employment generation, increase of foreign profits, and improvement of livelihoods.
CODOCAFE (Dominican Council of Coffee)	Public – private organization responsible of guiding coffee policies and supporting the development of the sector and producers.
National Cocoa Commission	Public – private organization responsible of designing the national cocoa policy, supporting increase and rehabilitation of cocoa farms, and improving cocoa quality.
Municipalities	Responsible for overseeing land-use management at local level, within their areas of jurisdiction, for ensuring that management strategies are appropriate to local needs and for ensuring that the needs of local stakeholders are taken into account in the definition of management strategies.
Local communities	Local communities and rural users of natural resources will be direct beneficiaries of the project in terms of enhancing capacities for governance systems, planning issues, participation tools.
NGOs	Civil society organizations make an important contribution to the management of PAs surrounding landscapes and to obtaining resources. They will be involved early on in providing technical assistance for the implementation of the project.

61. Furthermore, a strategic coordination framework will be established with FAO, designated as Responsible Party to lead forest fire management activities and contribute with its expertise and technical assistance in the development of Component 2.

3. *Gender Considerations.* Are [gender considerations](#) taken into account? (yes /no). If yes, briefly describe how gender considerations will be mainstreamed into project preparation, taken into account the differences, needs, roles and priorities of men and women.

62. Project preparation will ensure that gender consideration becomes an integral part of the proposed project strategy. During the project inception the mandatory UNDP gender marking will be applied. This requires that each

project in UNDP’s ATLAS system be rated for gender relevance. This will for example include a brief analysis of how the project plans to achieve its environmental objective by addressing the differences in the roles and needs of women and men. Furthermore, gender marking implies the production of the following data by the project’s year 2 and by its end:

- Total number of full-time project staff that are women
- Total number of full-time project staff that are men
- Total number of Project Board members that are women
- Total number of Project Board members that are men
- The number of jobs created by the project that are held by women
- The number of jobs created by the projects that are held by men

63. In order to ensure equality, these criteria will be integrated into the project design. For example, women represented 25% of the participants in consultative meetings for the National Plan of Cocoa, but it is estimated that 10% is truly involved in cocoa production activities. Culturally women carry a large burden related to home and family care, and as such, the project preparation and implementation activities will need to include these considerations in their design and execution.

4. *Risks*. Indicate risks, including climate change, potential social and environmental risks that might prevent the project objectives from being achieved, and, if possible, propose measures that address these risks to be further developed during the project design (table format acceptable).

Risk	Level	Mitigation
Political support to establish cross sectoral integration between Ministries as well as support decentralized management at site level is not forthcoming.	M	The project will mitigate this risk by seeking presidential and ministerial support and mandate for the initiative, as well as promotion and facilitation of policy dialogue, joint planning and problem solving between the relevant ministries, in particular Agriculture, Tourism and Environment. The project will also invest in training and awareness raising.
Conflicts of interest between productive and environmental sectors. Political support for policy changes including fiscal policy adjustments and investment from the coffee/cocoa private sector is not forthcoming.	M	The project will promote mechanisms for conflict resolution and will invest in education, training and awareness raising regarding the potential for synergies between productive and environmental considerations. A dialogue with industry will be undertaken as part of the process of revising policies and regulations—to obtain industry buy in and address concerns, so as to improve compliance. At an early stage the project will facilitate public-private sector policy dialogue with key trade associations. Emphasis on improving competitiveness, quality and security both of investments and of clients will be key.
Extreme natural events	M	Emphasis on promoting the diversity and resilience of natural and productive ecosystems to extreme natural events.
Climate change-induced changes in mountain ecosystem health and possible unforeseen challenges for biodiversity further undermine ecosystem functionality and services on which productive sectors depend, changing the baseline and increasing costs of necessary interventions.	M	The project will support the increase in management capacities of mountain areas and reduce threats to increase resilience to climate change impacts. Generation of capacities and systems for taking into account, in planning instruments, the implications of alternative climate change scenarios for BD status, such as spatial migration and fragmentation of ecosystems, changes in reproductive biology of target biota and increases in the frequency of forest fires.

5. *Coordination.* Outline the coordination with other relevant GEF-financed and other initiatives.

64. This project will build on and complement a number of initiatives in the areas of biodiversity conservation and sustainable tourism development. GEF/UNDP/MA's Re-Engineering of the PA system project focused on establishing the institutional and legal framework required to facilitate the financial sustainability of the PA system. The current project will build upon relevant results from that project with regards to promoting corridors between PAs, expanding the biodiversity monitoring system, and the promotion of private PAs. The project will also incorporate lessons learnt in the field of local land use planning and application of natural resource management tools from 3 earlier GEF funded initiatives through UNDP: Sustainable Land Management in the Upper Sabana Yegua Watershed System, Artibonito Binational project, and Capacity Development for SLM in DR. The project will build upon the experiences and results of the Poverty-Environment Initiative which developed models and tools: Vulnerability Index to Climate Shocks designed to identify and reduce the vulnerability of poor populations, and a series of Guides for Land Use Planning for municipalities. During the PPG phase, the project will also identify coordination mechanisms with the GEF SGP initiatives, as well as with key partners such as EU, FAO, IDB, UNEP, USAID and TNC and build upon the work currently underway described in the baseline section. The project will incorporate experiences learnt and scale up relevant site specific management and planning tools developed by these partners. In particular the project will capitalize on the progress made on tourism diversification and private sector engagement in the 3 pilot areas. Furthermore, FAO has implemented a number of forestry-related initiatives in the last decade, including the elaboration of forest management plans. The lessons learnt from these initiatives will be key to FAO's role as Responsible Party in the development and implementation of Component 2.

65. Ultimately, this project will support the consolidation of models produced by these other projects, especially those related to territorial governance for sustainable development. As such, this project is a logical complement to previous/current GEF investments, providing an innovative approach to put in practice these governance models in productive areas that promote connectivity and sustainable development with important contributions to a holistic portfolio for the country.

6. *Consistency with National Priorities.* Is the project consistent with the National strategies and plans or reports and assessments under relevant conventions? (yes /no). If yes, which ones and how: NAPAs, NAPs, ASGM NAPs, MIAs, NBSAPs, NCs, TNAs, NCSAs, NIPs, PRSPs, NPFE, BURs, etc.

66. This Project is consistent with Article 14 of the new Constitution of the Republic which establishes the state's responsibility to conserve ecological equilibrium and in addition it supports the following national priorities and plans:

67. The **National Development Strategy 2030 (END)** has an explicit relevant objective - *the protection and sustainable use of ecosystems goods and services, biodiversity and natural heritage, including marine resources*. The Strategy includes 14 lines of action. Specific short term goals include increasing forest cover by 1.1% or 400 square km. Additionally, it targets the establishment of a National Land use Plan, implementation of PES for water, installation of a system of environmental permitting in the Ministry of Environment (MA), installation of Regional Environmental Managers and the creation of local work commissions to combat desertification in arid areas.

68. The **National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan (NBSAP)** 2011-2020 provides a framework for interventions in support of biodiversity conservation and SLM. The NBSAP includes goals to increase investment in biodiversity, an analysis of perverse financial subsidies and incentives that negatively affect biodiversity, and a plan to reduce, reform and eliminate them. It also includes evaluations and actions to reduce the ecological footprint of government and business in the environment; a reduction by 25% of habitat loss and degradation; and a national campaign to finance the implementation of the strategy.

69. The project will also contribute to a number of other goals within the MA's programs, as mentioned in the Baseline.

70. With regards to the **United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification and Drought (UNCCD)**, the Dominican Republic, through the Ministry of Environment and Natural Resources as Focal Point, supported by the Vice Ministry of Land and Water and the Interagency Technical Group (GTI) is in the process of setting voluntary

Land-Degradation Neutrality (LDN) targets, through an internal process of consultation and evaluation of goals in the context of the Convention on Biological Diversity and Climate Change taking into account the intrinsic link of these specifications under "Land Degradation Neutrality: from Concept to Practice", using the UNCCD LDN indicator framework for voluntary national targets and monitor their achievement using an approach based on indicators:

- a) The synoptic utilization of trends in land cover / land use
- b) Trends in land productivity.
- c) Trends in carbon storage in the soil available in global databases.

71. The RD has determined that it is of utmost importance to establish voluntary LDN targets to achieve the country's environmental and socio-economic objectives as well as create synergies between the Convention of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD) and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) as agreed at COP 12, held in October 2015 in Ankara, Turkey.

72. As mentioned above, the proposed project will also support GoDR's efforts to meet commitments related to the Sustainable Development Goals with regards to:

- 1) Sectoral consistency
- 2) Financial coherence (investments in the field)
- 3) Policy coherence (conservation, mining, biofuel, food security)
- 4) Spatial alignment
- 5) Catalytic investments

7. *Knowledge Management.* Outline the knowledge management approach for the project, including, if any, plans for the project to learn from other relevant projects and initiatives, to assess and document in a user-friendly form, and share these experiences and expertise with relevant stakeholders.

73. Knowledge management will be an integral part of the project, enabling institutional memory, promoting learning and continuous improvement, generating documents for up-scaling of lessons and experiences and visibility strategies for capacity development. Results from the project will be disseminated within the project intervention areas through the different networks and forums available. The Project will strengthen MA's strategic communication initiatives aimed at the general public to facilitate this, as well as promote dissemination among relevant partner institutions and internal communication within the institutions themselves. In addition, the project will participate in the electronic platform for sharing lessons learned among managers established by the UNDP-GEF Regional Service Center (RSC).

PART III: APPROVAL/ENDORSEMENT BY GEF OPERATIONAL FOCAL POINT(S) AND GEF AGENCY(IES)


A. RECORD OF ENDORSEMENT¹³ OF GEF OPERATIONAL FOCAL POINT (S) ON BEHALF OF THE GOVERNMENT(S):

(Please attach the [Operational Focal Point endorsement letter](#)(s) with this template. For SGP, use this [SGP OFP endorsement letter](#)).

NAME	POSITION	MINISTRY	DATE (MM/dd/yyyy)
Patricia Abreu	Vice Minister of International Cooperation	MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND NATURAL RESOURCES	03/03/2016

B. GEF AGENCY(IES) CERTIFICATION

This request has been prepared in accordance with GEF policies¹⁴ and procedures and meets the GEF criteria for project identification and preparation under GEF-6.

Agency Coordinator, Agency name	Signature	Date (MM/dd/yyyy)	Project Contact Person	Telephone	Email
Adriana Dinu, UNDP-GEF Executive Coordinator.		3/28/2016	Lyes Ferroukhi, Regional Technical Advisor	+507 302-4576	lyes.ferroukhi@undp.org

C. ADDITIONAL GEF PROJECT AGENCY CERTIFICATION (APPLICABLE ONLY TO NEWLY ACCREDITED GEF PROJECT AGENCIES)

For newly accredited GEF Project Agencies, please download and fill up the required [GEF Project Agency Certification of Ceiling Information Template](#) to be attached as an annex to the PIF.

¹³ For regional and/or global projects in which participating countries are identified, OFP endorsement letters from these countries are required even though there may not be a STAR allocation associated with the project.

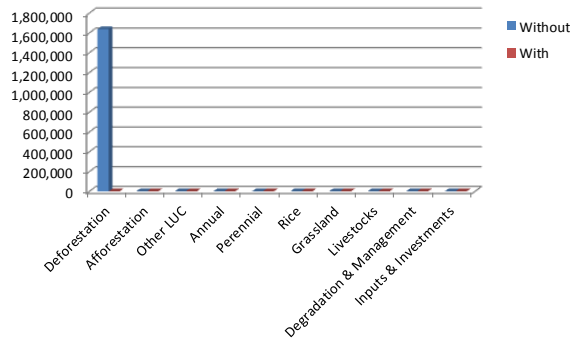
¹⁴ GEF policies encompass all managed trust funds, namely: GEFTF, LDCF, and SCCF

Annex 1: Carbon Calculations:

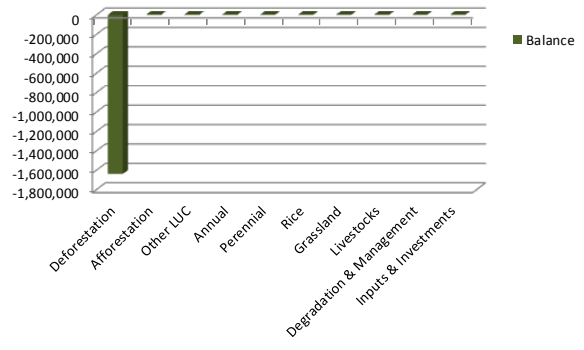
Deforestation in Dominican Republic is due to a number of factors including forest fires and clearing for agriculture and other uses. The FAO EX-ACT tool was used to estimate the carbon benefits associated with the project. The forest type selected for calculations was Tropical Moist. The project is expected to lead to a decrease in the national level of deforestation for the time period of the project. The sequestration was calculated based on a 20-year period. The annual carbon sequestration is estimated to be 81,858 tCO₂-eq. Please note that the tool will be reapplied during the project preparatory phase when more data become available. Please see the Results tab from the EX-ACT FAO tool copied below:

Project Name	0		Climate	Tropical (Moist)			Duration of the Project (Years)	20			
Continent	Central America		Dominant Regional Soil Type	LAC Soils			Total area (ha)	44196			
Components of the project	Gross fluxes			Share per GHG of the Balance					Result per year		
	Without	With	Balance	CO ₂			N ₂ O	CH ₄	Without	With	Balance
	All GHG in tCO ₂ eq			Biomass	Soil	Other					
	Positive = source / negative = sink										
Land use changes											
Deforestation	1,637,157	0	-1,637,157	-1,350,684	-242,166	0	-11,501	-32,805	81,858	0	-81,858
Afforestation	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Other LUC	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Agriculture											
Annual	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Perennial	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Rice	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Grassland & Livestocks											
Grassland	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Livestocks	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Degradation & Management	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Inputs & Investments	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Total	1,637,157	0	-1,637,157	-1,350,684	-242,166	0	-11,501	-32,805	81,858	0	-81,858
Per hectare	37	0	-37	-30.6	-5.5	0.0	-0.3	-0.7			
Per hectare per year	1.9	0.0	-1.9	-1.5	-0.3	0.0	0.0	0.0	1.9	0.0	-1.9

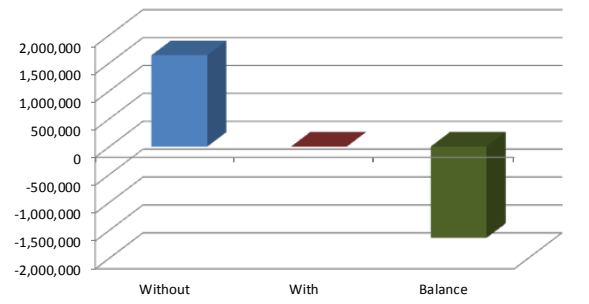
Fluxes per component



Balance per component



Total without and with project and balance



Share of the balance per GHG (plus origin for CO₂)

