

2019

Project Implementation Review (PIR)

**Coastal Areas Tourism Infrastructure**

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# Basic Data

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| **Project Information** | |
| UNDP PIMS ID | 4955 |
| GEF ID | 5088 |
| Title | Conserving Biodiversity in Coastal Areas Threatened by Rapid Tourism and Physical Infrastructure Development |
| Country(ies) | Dominican Republic, Dominican Republic |
| UNDP-GEF Technical Team | Ecosystems and Biodiversity |
| Project Implementing Partner | Government |
| Joint Agencies | *(not set or not applicable)* |
| Project Type | Full Size |

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| **Project Description** |
| This project aims to mainstream BD management and SLM into tourism sector development and associated physical development, to address multiple threats to BD and ecosystem functionality. It also aims to address the indirect impacts of tourism developmentÔÇöin catalysing other economic activities that are leading to land degradation. Tourism and accompanying physical development is directly leading to BD loss in sensitive areas; rapid tourism growth is also catalyzing the in migration of people into these areas, and spawning other indirect threats that are leading to land degradation. |

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| Project Implementing Partner | *(not set or not applicable)* |
| Other Partners | *(not set or not applicable)* |

# Overall Ratings

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| Overall DO Rating | Moderately Unsatisfactory |
| Overall IP Rating | Moderately Satisfactory |
| Overall Risk Rating | high |

# Development Progress

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| **Description** | | | | | | |
| **Objective**  **To ensure the conservation of biodiversity in ecologically important coastal areas threatened by the burgeoning tourism industry and associated physical development.** | | | | | | |
| **Description of Indicator** | **Baseline Level** | **Midterm target level** | **End of project target level** | **Level at 30 June 2018** | **Cumulative progress since project start** |
| Institutional and Policy Framework mainstreams BD conservation principles in the tourism sector | The legal framework for tourism does not properly address the issues of BD conservation or differentiate between projects / activities in PAs  Weak levels of collaboration between the institutions involved in the management and use of BD in tourist areas  The National Environmental Management System has gaps that do not ensure the BD conservation in areas of tourism development  The National Plan of Tourism is out of date and does not include criteria for BD conservation. | *(not set or not applicable)* | Legal framework for tourism incorporates BD aspects for all projects and tourism activities.  Strong strategic alliance between MA, MITUR and all institutions involved in the management and use of BD in areas of tourism development (Coordination Group)  National Environmental Management System fully strengthened to ensure BD conservation in areas of tourism development  New model of tourism includes the axis of sustainability and BD conservation in the National Plan of Tourism. | The Project Steering Committe (Apr-18) agreed on presenting the proposal among 1. In this reporting period a work meeting between Ministries Legal departments led to a common understanding of the proposed modifications to the legal framework, however, the key is to involve high decision makers to approve and apply the recommendations.  Viceministers and make a decision. Even so, no progress. Awaiting for the meeting in August.    2.The Project Steering Committe (Apr-18) agreed on presenting the proposal among Viceministers and make a decision. Even so, no progress. Awaiting for the meeting in August.    3. To enhance the scope and impact of the new Monitoring System of Species and Ecosystems, the project aimed to include considerations to the new coastal tourism projects. ToRs are elaborated seeking to include considerations of biodiversity to new tourism projects within the Environmental Management and Adaptation Plan (PMAA), a Plan required for all projects by the Ministry of Environment. At the time, some validation is still required in order to begin a consultancy no later than Q3 2018. The Ministry of Environment  reviews and updates the Red List of Fauna, the project helped and in this case includes the coastal and marine part that never been published.    4. The proposed change of approach (Environmental Guidelines) given the non-existence of a National Plan for Tourism Development was accepted. Therefore ToRs were elaborated, socialized and validated. As for now is in place the evaluation of consultancy proposals, expected to begin the process in August 2018 and finish by the end of the year. | 1. As for now the project has completed:  -“Critical analysis matrix for the coastal marine regulatory tourism activities”.  -"Gaps on regulated and non-regulated tourism activities linked to the conservation of coastal marine biodiversity"  -“Tourism services and activities Regulation’s Proposal for Dominican Republic”  -"Regulatory Framework for Strengthening the Conservation of Marine Coastal Biodiversity and Sustainable Tourism"    Even when these documents are very well addressed with the strong involvement of both ministries technical level, no response from decision makers within the Ministry of Tourism are in place.    The project continues to promote the need of a more environmental coastal legal framework. UNDP will have a meeting with the tourism minister in Q3 for this and other subjects of importance.    Voluntary agreements have been developed with private sector to be environment friendlier in their marine activities such as diving, snorkeling, boat-trips, water-sports and others.    As for biodiversity, the regulations for Whale-Watching are set in Samaná and being very useful for a proper organization of the activity.    2. An inter-institutional technical coordination mechanism has been designed based on the participation of different stakeholders from both Ministries. However, in this reporting period no advances can be presented. Even when the authorities have shown willingness to implement the proposal, no determination is translated to action.  The mentioned mechanism has been used as a basis for a coastal and beach management unit composed by both ministries, initiative that should be presented to presidency. The project aims to include critical aspects of the mechanism in this initiative.      3. A Mechanism for enhancing the Capacities of Supervision and Follow-up the Implementation of Environmental Adaptation Management Plans (PMAA) is in process for tourism projects.    The project completed an assessment of institutional capacities and activities that should be considered for the management of tourism projects giving a sound perspective on the issues to be corrected.    In addition, the protocols prepared for the Priority Coastal Species and Ecosystem Monitoring System are gathering substantial information. Adjustments were finalized for the protocols of reefs, seagrass, mangroves, birds and marine mammals that will be used for the above-mentioned mechanism. Collaboration networks have been established with local organizations for the application of monitoring. The project continues to enhance partnerships of monitoring with local tourism business who contributes with facilities, transportation and other important means for monitoring.    4. The Ministry of Tourism has not determined when to restart and/or conclude the National Tourism Development Plan. As an adaptatively initiative the project organized meetings between public and private sector in order to elaborate Environmental Guidelines to be considered in the National Tourism Development Plan when the Ministry of Tourism decides to begin the process. The mentioned Guidelines are concluded and approved by all sectors, which includes a draft resolution to inspire the use of these environmental aspects and apply in the meantime. More involvement is necessary from decision makers in order to proceed. The project has set some collaborative networks with other government agencies and private sector to implement. |
| Financial framework to support the National Plan for Sustainable Tourism Development in coastal areas | No specific financial instruments that promote the development of sustainable tourism in coastal areas, with emphasis on BD conservation | *(not set or not applicable)* | Financial instruments in place to ensure the implementation of actions related to tourism impact on the marine and coastal areas | The ToR for the Elaboration of a Financial Mechanism were validated. All applications for a support staff vacancy were received, but the selection and hiring process of the selected candidate is pending for Q3. | 1. The design of a financial mechanism for biodiversity and tourism conservation was elaborated through a wide socialization and revision of several viable international schemes, furthermore a wide process of local possible frameworks feasible to attain sustainable financing were compared in order to determine the best suited for DR in time and level of impact. The mechanism indicates that to achieve results in the lifespan of the project it is recommended to begin with a local scale and it has been proposed to carry out a pilot in the province of Samaná. At the moment, the project has formally confirmed and set a public-private board that aims to operationalize the mechanism composed of local businesses and authorities assessing to complete the steps programmed to finish all the requirements before the end of 2019. It is expected to have the mechanism capitalizing and in place by February 2020 and at least a set of projects financed by the fund by mid-2020. |
| # of hectares of critical ecosystem conservation | 13,180 ha. of mangrove forest  49,320 ha. of coral reefs  52,088 ha. wetlands  109,880 ha. landscape /seascape area directly covered by the project | *(not set or not applicable)* | No net loss of critical ecosystems as a result of tourism activities (overlay of infrastructure / tourism activities on critical ecosystems) | Maps of ecosystem update and land use were elaborated in the provinces of Samaná and Montecristi in coordination with the Environmental Information Directorate of the Ministry of the Environment. The coverage of mangroves in both provinces showed little difference from their original dimensions.    TBD ha. of mangrove forest  TBD ha. of coral reefs  TBD ha. wetlands | After an exhaustive revision of the changes between baseline and this reporting period, the project suggest  to adjust the baseline due to inconsistencies between the maps elaborated in the ProDoc, the numbers given in the logframe and the shapefiles of the prodoc. An analysis was made, and new values were determined, which is how it should correspond. The project also has updated values for this reporting period but is afraid to expose data in the PIR without a proper conclusion on the data analysis with other specialists, therefore no data can be presented until august 2019. |
| **The progress of the objective can be described as:** | | **Off track** | | | | |
| **Outcome 1**  **The policy, legal and planning framework in the tourism sector addresses the direct threats to biodiversity from coastal tourism development and activities.** | | | | | | |
| **Description of Indicator** | **Baseline Level** | **Midterm target level** | **End of project target level** | **Level at 30 June 2018** | **Cumulative progress since project start** |
| Regulatory and enforcement capacities to monitor, avoid, reduce, mitigate and offset adverse impacts of tourism on biodiversity | National Tourism Development Plan does not adequately address BD conservation criteria.  Gaps in the Environmental Management System with respect to BD conservation in tourism development areas | *(not set or not applicable)* | National Tourism Development Plan fully addresses the protection of BD resources  100% of tourism activities with impact on BD conservation are included within the Environmental Management System. | 1. The proposed change of approach (Environmental Guidelines) given the non-existence of a National Plan for Tourism Development was accepted. Therefore ToRs were elaborated, socialized and validated. As for now is in place the evaluation of consultancy proposals, expected to begin the process in August 2018 and finish by the end of the year.    2. To enhance the scope and impact of the new Monitoring System of Species and Ecosystems, the project aimed to include considerations to the new coastal tourism projects. ToRs are elaborated seeking to include considerations of biodiversity to new tourism projects within the Environmental Management and Adaptation Plan (PMAA), a Plan required for all projects by the Ministry of Environment. At the time, some validation is still required in order to begin a consultancy no later than Q3 2018. The Ministry of Environment  reviews and updates the Red List of Fauna, the project helped and in this case includes the coastal and marine part that never been published.    The inclusion and/or revision of procedures to regulate coastal tourist activities (gift shops, scuba diving school and aquatics - watersports) didn't report any advances. This will be persevered for Q3. | 1. The Ministry of Tourism has not determined when to restart and/or conclude the National Tourism Development Plan. As an adaptatively initiative the project organized meetings between public and private sector in order to elaborate Environmental Guidelines to be considered in the National Tourism Development Plan when the Ministry of Tourism decides to begin the process. The mentioned Guidelines are concluded and approved by all sectors, which includes a draft resolution to inspire the use of these environmental aspects and apply in the meantime. More involvement is necessary from decision makers in order to proceed. The project has set some collaborative networks with other government agencies and private sector to implement.      2. A Mechanism for enhancing the Capacities of Supervision and Follow-up the Implementation of Environmental Adaptation Management Plans (PMAA) is in process for tourism projects.    The project completed an assessment of institutional capacities and activities that should be considered for the management of tourism projects giving a sound perspective on the issues to be corrected.    In addition, the protocols prepared for the Priority Coastal Species and Ecosystem Monitoring System are gathering substantial information. Adjustments were finalized for the protocols of reefs, seagrass, mangroves, birds and marine mammals that will be used for the above-mentioned mechanism. Collaboration networks have been established with local organizations for the application of monitoring. The project continues to enhance partnerships of monitoring with local tourism business who contributes with facilities, transportation and other important means for monitoring. |
| Conservation sustained by institutional capacity to plan, budget and enforce land management | There are no specific criteria or guidelines that guide effective coordination to address issues of BD and sustainable tourism development.  Insufficient financial resources to guarantee needed actions for BD conservation. | *(not set or not applicable)* | Inter-institutional Consultative Group established between the Ministries of Tourism and Environment with appropriate guidelines and meetings.  Special Strategic Programme for Sustainable Tourism aligned with END 2010-2030, developed and implemented.  Portfolio of financial schemes created and implemented, i.e.: Loans to small entrepreneurs - credit instrument, i.e. "Green Credit". At least 1 financial mechanism established and under implementation within the pilot areas | 1. Project Steering Committee (Aph,18) decided to socialize the results among vice ministers and other decision making authorities in order to validate the proposed Interministerial Coordination Bureau. The project is insisting on having the mentioned meeting, however no advances can be noted. Given some coordination it is expected to have this meeting on August 2018, as the Project Steering Committee should gather early August.    2. At the time there is no specific direction on how to address the Special Strategic Programme for Sustainable Tourism. Some concerns regarding the elaborated ToRs suggested to have meetings with the Community Tourism project Unit of the Ministry of Tourism that is also seeking to implement Institutional arrangements for Sustainable Tourism. The project have had several meetings to establish synergies. However the decisions making is pending.    3. The ToR for the Elaboration of a Financial Mechanism were validated. All applications for a support staff vacancy were received, but the selection and hiring process of the selected candidate is pending for Q3. | 1. An inter-institutional technical coordination mechanism has been designed based on the participation of different stakeholders from both Ministries. However, in this reporting period no advances can be presented. Even when the authorities have shown willingness to implement the proposal, no determination is translated to action.  The mentioned mechanism has been used as a basis for a coastal and beach management unit composed by both ministries, initiative that should be presented to presidency. The project aims to include some aspects of the mechanism in this initiative.    2. At the time there is no specific direction on how to address the Special Strategic Programme for Sustainable Tourism. The Japan International Cooperation Agency have completed a program for sustainable tourism, the project is supporting this initiative as it complies with the expected results. JICA is working in the same region of the project with the programme and Mitur, the project is helping with the environmental aspect and the design of tourism products based on the biodiversity and environmental practices. In Montecristi some initiatives to mention are the setting of new trails, training of local guides, birdwatching sites setting and training, promotion, creation of new tourism activities for the fisherman, among others.    3. The design of a financial mechanism for biodiversity and tourism conservation was elaborated through a wide socialization and revision of several viable international schemes, furthermore a wide process of local possible frameworks feasible to attain sustainable financing were compared in order to determine the best suited for DR in time and level of impact. The mechanism indicates that to achieve results in the lifespan of the project it is recommended to begin with a local scale and it has been proposed to carry out a pilot in the province of Samaná. At the moment, the project has formally confirmed and set a public-private board that aims to operationalize the mechanism composed of local businesses and authorities assessing to complete the steps programmed to finish all the requirements before the end of 2019. It is expected to have the mechanism capitalizing and in place by February 2020 and at least a set of projects financed by the fund by mid-2020. |
| Capacity to recognize good practices and apply Sustainable Tourism Models that contribute to BD conservation | There is no national certification system for BD-friendly hotels and destinations. | *(not set or not applicable)* | Manual for the Dominican 'BD-friendly' Sustainable Tourism Certification, aimed at tourist destinations and tour companies.    At least 10% of tourism activities with BD-friendly certification within the pilot areas.  Dominican System of Indicators for Sustainable Tourism. | 1. The Manual depends on the development of the certification process, at the time is not completed. Consequently no process will be reported for this period.    2. There is an approach elaborated by the project in synergy with GIZ which consists of working with an agency endorsed by the Global Sustainable Tourism Council (GSTC) to introduced indicators and proposals for the implementation of the certification in both pilot provinces. A meeting with the Vice ministry of Quality to make decisions based on the possibility of implementing this approach is pending.    The first group of businesses to be regularized in Montecristi and Samaná was selected. The monitoring and support process for the regularization will begin Q3 2018.    3. A draft of the TOR for the development indicators was elaborated. The validation from the Ministries of this draft to proceed with its publication is pending. | 1. A Sustainable Tourism National Guide is currently in process of elaboration. The guide includes a hotels, restaurants, other natural and coastal activities. At the time the project is working with local stakeholders public and private and also with broader scope involving Punta Cana – Bavaro based on a collaborative partnership. The mentioned guide focus in the SDGs and OMT expected outcomes and could be presented as an innovative Guide for the region. The process is comprised within a set of steps for a National Wide Event for tourism sector in October in collaboration with Grupo Punta Cana and Banco Popular, at the event, the guide will serve as a basis of voluntary agreement to apply it in the private sector.    Furthermore a Sustainable Landscaping National Guide is being developed for hotels and businesses with a beach front in tourist areas. The guide considers the ecosystem services provided by the coastal zones and the native and endemic flora species recommended to plant. It also facilitates the implementation of the guide for new businesses and existing projects.    2. There is an initiative currently in place by the project in collaboration with GIZ which consists in working with an international agency (Tourcert) endorsed by the Global Sustainable Tourism Council (GSTC) to introduce indicators and proposals for implementing steps towards a certification in Las Galeras Samaná as a Sustainable Tourism Destination.    Correspondingly 72% (5 of 7) of the diving centers of Samaná were certified in friendly practices under the Green Fins scheme and the rest have already shown interest in obtaining the certification. It is estimated that all dive centers in Samaná will be certified before the end of 2019. In Montecristi, 100% (1) of the centers were certified. This certification is very important because diving tends to be the tourism activity that can directly cause effects on coral reefs. It is intended to minimize its incidence with good practices acquired through certification.    A Regularization Plan for tourism businesses on the coastal front was prepared. It served to diagnose the existing businesses in the coast front of Samaná and Montecristi and later choose businesses with potential and interest to be regularized. The first group of businesses selected to be regularized in Montecristi and Samaná is in pending process due to need of more involvement from decision makers.      3. A set of Indicators in Sustainable Tourism System was designed based on the institutional capacities available to gather and systematize data for the tourism sector. The System is based on segregate the data gathering processes due to the different sources of information in the tourism sector and the lack of data gathering culture that currently exists in the DR. At the time the project is working to formalize the System and commitment from all stakeholders of the system. In Q3 the project will focus the efforts on gathering the data for the system and have a sound perspective of the tourism development in the country. By the end of 2019 a complete report on the status and perspective of tourism sustainability will be presented to authorities with possibilities of a wide sharing in the private sector. |
| **The progress of the objective can be described as:** | | **Off track** | | | | |
| **Outcome 2**  **Operational framework to protect biodiversity , in areas highly vulnerable to the indirect effects of tourism development** | | | | | | |
| **Description of Indicator** | **Baseline Level** | **Midterm target level** | **End of project target level** | **Level at 30 June 2018** | **Cumulative progress since project start** |
| Capacity of sectoral ministries, the private sector, municipalities and community organizations to generate, use and share geographic, socioeconomic and biophysical information required for coastal and marine spatial planning, taking into account the indirect impacts of tourism on ecosystems | Capacity Development Scorecard :  Overall Average Score: 16  CR2/I4:1  CR4/I13:1  CR5/I15:0  Areas to be improved:  CR2/ I 4: Stakeholders are aware about global environmental issues, but not about the possible solutions, or if they know about the possible solutions, are unaware of how to participate.  CR4/ I13: Capacity and technological needs are identified as well as their sources.  CR 5 /I 15: None or ineffective evaluations are being conducted, with no adequate evaluation plan or the necessary resources | *(not set or not applicable)* | Capacity Development Scorecard : Scorecard:  Overall Average Score: 22  CR2/I4:3  CR4/I13:3  CR5/I15:2  Specific improvements addressed through Awareness and Training Program regarding Biodiversity and Sustainable Tourism aimed at Public, private and community sectors:  CR2/ I 4: Development of a program of awareness and training on efficiency in the implementation of solutions to address local environmental issues.  CR4/ I13: Development of a mechanism for updating and renewing Environment-based skills and technologies.  CR 5 /I 15: Development of a strategic environmental assessment process with sustainability criteria and appropriate action plans for tourist destinations. | Capacity Development Scorecard:  Overall Average Score: 19.5  CR2/I4: 2  CR4/I13: 1.5  CR5/I15:0    Target must be reviewed.  Specifically for CR4: i15, the project has little or no impact on changing or improving this indicator. Therefore, this indicator should not be considered. Changing the internal evaluation schemes of local stakeholder exceeds the scope of the project, moreover it depends only on the interest of the stakeholder. | Capacity Development Scorecard : Scorecard:  Overall Average Score: 23.5  CR2/I4:2.5  CR4/I13:1.5  CR5/I15:0    Capacity Development Scorecard: Scorecard:  Overall Average Score: 23.5  CR2/I4:2.5  CR4/I13:1.5  CR5/I15:0    Many activities of the pilot sites are fully committed to enhance the local capacities of implementing new solutions to environmental issues. The project has set a program with many of the local stakeholders and in different scopes of work in order to raise awareness and apply some solutions.    With local governments and other authorities, we celebrated workshops and training for every cause related to all environmental day of the year. Including Mangroves, Recycle, Oceans, Biodiversity, Wetlands, Birds, Turtles, Mammals, among others. This included visits from schools and local businesses to the activities.  More than 20 activities in each province.    A huge impact and threat is plastic pollution. The project and local NGOs launched a program for reduce/eliminate single use plastic in restaurants and hotels, this initiative is called “mejor sin calimete” (better without straw) and consist of a voluntary agreement with business owner to reduce or eliminate single use plastic and to commit with selling marine species out of the banned season. The project and the NGO trains the staff and offer alternatives.    As a collaborative initiative with local authorities the project set a floating plastic and pollution retainer in Las Terrenas river serving as a great solution. Other Municipalities are willing to have this device and the project aims to set at least 4 more no later than 2019. Correspondingly with local NGOs, the project is raising awareness for communities related to the river in order to reduce all the plastic that goes to the river.    Awareness on banned marine species for restaurants, fisherman and local consumption is very important for responsible tourism. The project and local communities worked on training and development of artworks to raise awareness and also serve a tourism attraction. Some audiovisual material was also elaborated and socialized.    Microcapital with Fundemar is developing capacity among many stakeholders locally. Coral Reefs monitoring, new marine trail in Las Ballenas diving site, expansion of the coral reef nursery for Las Terrenas, setting of a new Unit for coral surveys and maintenance financed by private sector. Training authorities, NGOs, youth groups, dive shops, among others. |
| Management effectiveness to address the pressures of visitors in marine / coastal ecosystems located in tourism sites (215.91 km2 of land area and 1,034 km2 of marine area) | No tourism carrying capacity threshold established for Samaná and Montecristi coastal/marine tourism sites  0 strategic plan / land use planning, or clear parameters for proper tourism development that integrates the coastal marine area and considers permitted, restricted and prohibited uses.  0 Tourism Land-Use Plans (POTTS) revised, adapted and applied | *(not set or not applicable)* | Sustainable tourism carrying capacity thresholds established for selected areas:  • Montecristi: Cayo Arenas.  • Samaná: Las Terrenas.  2 Community Based Integrated Plans for Sustainable Tourism Development:  • Integrated Sustainable Tourism Destination Plan of Samaná  • Integrated Sustainable Tourism Destination Plan of Montecristi  (2) Tourism Land-Use Plans (POTTS) revised, adapted and applied | 1. The Public Use Tourism Management Model for Cayo Arena initiated Q2-2018 and expected to be completed on Q3-2018. This includes the considerations of carrying capacity, ecological resilience and a monitoring system of visitors experience and ecosystems health of the site. On the other hand, Las Terrenas is a complex area with multiple threats, an experience of Tourism Capacity within another tourism similar coastal strip (Bayahibe) is being evaluated to replicate the applicable experiences in Las Terrenas. However most of the data about the coastal resilience of Las Terrenas is based on the ecosystems. This data was gathered in order to develop the Land Use Plan of Las Terrenas, where the project actively participated.    2. A Sustainable Tourism Guide/Model, included in the Territorial Land Management Plan (POTT), is being elaborated for Montecristi. Once this POTT is concluded, the POTT of Samaná will be updated with the corresponding Sustainable Tourism Guide/Model.    3. The POTT for Montecristi is being worked on as the first pilot for the test and application of the completed Guide for the elaboration and/or update of Tourism Land Use Plans, this is programmed to conclude at the end of 2018. The mentioned Guide will be published at the end of 2018. | 1. The Public Use Tourism Management Model for Cayo Arena was concluded. This includes the considerations of carrying capacity, ecological resilience and a monitoring system of visitors experience and ecosystems health of the site. Some included actions are the marine delimitation with mooring buoys, enhancing local capacity on management and the dispersion of tourist to other areas. For the latter, a proposal of a marine museum is being designed as an alternative strong sustainable tourist attraction and expected to end by the end of 2019. Furthermore, some behaviors are changing to positive from tour operators who are showing willingness to comply with the new regulatory framework for the public use of Cayo Arena. The project continues to implement some of the activities in coordination with the PA manager and other projects funded by the Fondo MARENA around US$200,000. By the end of 2019 it is expected to have quantitative data of the reduced impacts.    Comparing Las Terrenas with an experience of Tourism Capacity study within another tourism similar coastal strip (Bayahibe) determined that given the current conditions (after hurricane Maria) there is no possibility to establish a carrying capacity, for the beach is lost. However the project is trying to recover some dunes areas and restore native vegetation. More than 2km of the coastline in Las Terrenas has some level of the project restauration activities within a collaborative working scope with local government authorities and some hotels.    2. A Sustainable Tourism Guide/Model is included in the Territorial Land Management Plan (POTT), that is being elaborated for Montecristi. Once this POTT is concluded, the POTT of Samaná will be updated with the corresponding Sustainable Tourism Guide/Model. Details below.    3. The project completed and designed a Guide for the Elaboration and/or Updates of Tourism Land Use Plans (POTT). This Guide is being implemented in Montecristi and is being formulated as the first pilot for the test and application of the mentioned Guide. Because of reorientation of priorities inside the Ministry of Tourism, this POTT is re-planned to conclude during Q4 2019. Some information and baseline is currently being gathered among many sources, also visits to the territory, workshops and the main zones to be delimitated and regulated are determined. All the steps and lessons learned from the process that the Guide suggest are shared and documented, following the steps indicates that the process of the Montecristi POTT will be completed by the end of 2019. |
| Climate resilient landscape management tools for the development of sustainable tourism implemented by local communities in key biodiversity rich areas of the 2 selected project sites totaling 7000 ha | 0 BD-friendly certification for destination/ tourist services | *(not set or not applicable)* | Dominican Sustainable Tourism Certification implemented in phases in the 2 pilots:  • Samaná Destination Certification (Phase III)  • Montecristi Destination Certification (Phase I) | As a result of the completed Tourism Business Regularization Plan, the department of Companies and Services of the Ministry of Tourism and the project, are promoting a process to make the requirements of regularization more flexible for small destinations like Montecristi or Samaná. Without flexible regularization of these businesses the possibility of granting tourism quality badges is not possible. Regarding the badges, it was agreed with Mitur to introduce the necessary environmental guidelines to strengthen the existing Tourist Quality Distinctive of Mitur. Nevertheless, more involvement is necessary from decision makers in order to proceed. After a decision on how to address a certification/distinctive for tourism business and the National Sustainable Tourism Indicators System is completed, then it will be possible to conclude a certification for Sustainable Tourism destinations. | Progress on this matter is not as expected. A Regularization Plan for tourism businesses on the coastal front was prepared. It served to diagnose the existing businesses in the coast front of Samaná and Montecristi and later choose businesses with potential and interest to be regularized and certificated. However, without complying with local regulations, it is very difficult to have a certification. Anyhow, some other outcomes of the project as the designed Sustainable Tourism Indicator System and the initiative with GIZ and TourCert in Samaná, should serve as great instruments for a future certification program at a national level.    A collaboration is set with GIZ in the process of certification of Las Galeras, Samaná as a Sustainable Tourism Destination. Currently over 30 coastal businesses in Las Galeras are participants of the initiative. |
| Threats to BD caused by tourism infrastructure, operations and visitor activities  [1 of 8 sub-indicators] | Promotion of massive “sun and beach” tourist destinations accompanied by a lack of awareness and strategic marketing. | *(not set or not applicable)* | Communication and Awareness Campaign applied in Tourist Destination Pilots: "Different Tourism for a unique destination" | The project’s Visibility and Communication Strategy was designed. The person which will work part-time to implement this strategy was selected. Hiring is still pending, expected for August 2018.  The mentioned Strategy will not only focus on Biodiversity, it will include social elements such as gender equality in the tourism sector, among other important elements. | The project has its own communication strategy and currently being implemented. The strategy includes awareness and responsible tourism behavior among project pilot sites. The efforts in communication will be enhanced in the project last year. Currently the project has set agreements with local tourism clusters to enforce and prepare the campaign.    Visits to pilot sites with social-media influencers, media trips, audiovisual materials, are an on-going process including information of responsible tourism. |
| Threats to BD caused by tourism infrastructure, operations and visitor activities  [2 of 8 sub-indicators] | % Ecological damage to coral reefs due to tourism activities in Samaná  TBD in Year 1 | *(not set or not applicable)* | % Ecological damage to coral reefs due to tourism activities in Samaná  TBD in Year 1 and measured in Year 4 | The ecological damage that the coral reefs can received due to tourism in Las Terrena, Samaná was evaluated. The results were not determined due to the lack of conclusive elements. Other detailed evaluations and studies are required.    This goal must be considered for its dismissal given the complexity of properly assessing the environmental damage due to tourism activities. Other alternatives such as good scuba diving practices are being proposed by encouraging scuba diving centers/schools by creating programs of responsible activities with coral reefs certification. By narrowing the scope to this particular activity, it is possible to not only assess the damage but to also create a better way to involve tourism to consider biodiversity best practices. The project has already begin this process with GreenFins initiative and Reef Check DR. | As mentioned in previous PIRs this goal must be dismissed given the complexity of properly assessing the environmental damage due to tourism activities. The project proposed to use a more proper measure like the certification of dive centers in marine BD friendly practices. As for now 72% (5 of 7) of the diving centers of Samaná were certified in friendly practices under the Green Fins program and the rest, have already shown interest in obtaining the certification. It is estimated that all dive centers in Samaná will be certified before the end of 2019. In Montecristi, 100% (1) of the centers were certified. This certification is very important because diving tends to be the tourism activity that can directly cause effects on coral reefs.  Furthermore, comparing in time the results of coral reefs monitoring in selected locations in Samana and Montecristi, data shows and appears that no negative impacts are occurring. |
| Threats to BD caused by tourism infrastructure, operations and visitor activities  [3 of 8 sub-indicators] | 11 beaches known as turtle nesting sites in Samaná and 4 in Montecristi, with no conservation measures (e.g. controlled lighting) | *(not set or not applicable)* | 15 nesting beaches of sea turtles identified and under protection with monitoring, including establishment and compliance with a Regulation on lighting of nesting sites in tourist areas | Although there are other areas where sea turtles nesting has been reported,the majority of the chosen points in Montecristi didn't have reports of sea turtles nesting sighting in recent years, but the lighting of these areas does not represent a threat to the nesting because they are areas removed from the urban area. Signs to identified the beaches where turtle nest have been installed.    Samaná: signs were elaborated indicating the points where nests are found during the incubation process, as well as other signs indicating the proper precautions for the use of the beaches where Sea Turtles nest. | All Samaná selected beaches for turtle nesting have all the signs needed. Likewise the monitoring program is in place.    In addition the project is currently elaborating regulations and a guide for properly assisting and protecting a turtle nest. Likewise is working in a technical proposal for beach lightning with the private sector and local government. Is expected to be completed by the end of Q3. |
| Threats to BD caused by tourism infrastructure, operations and visitor activities  [4 of 8 sub-indicators] | Whale watching tours governed by a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between key actors in Samaná.  From January to March in Samaná Bay: relative abundance between 1.5 to 2.1 whales / hour for whale watching; mother and baby whales in the bay during the season: 20-36 | *(not set or not applicable)* | Proposal for an improved Regulation on whale watching in the Marine Mammal Sanctuary of the Dominican Republic  Historical seasonal variations of the abundance of humpback whale mothers and calves number maintained | The process of presentation of the formal regulations for the application of whale watching permits was facilitated, carried out, and put into execution early 2018.    Jan-March 2018:  107 Photo ID individuals  23 Female and calf  6 Female, calf and escort  1 dead calf stranded at Coson  1 calf alone at Las Galeras | The revised regulations are in place and operative, no problems reported.      Jan-March 2019:  TBD Photo ID individuals  34 Female and calf  1 Female stranded  2 calf stranded |
| Threats to BD caused by tourism infrastructure, operations and visitor activities  [5 of 8 sub-indicators] | 0% land-use/cover studies cover studies consider MA tourism development as a land use category | *(not set or not applicable)* | 100% land-use/cover studies consider MA tourism development as a land use category | Not a feasible target, out of the project scope. | Not a feasible target, out of the project scope. |
| Threats to BD caused by tourism infrastructure, operations and visitor activities  [6 of 8 sub-indicators] | Ecosystem coverage in pilot areas:  Montecristi  -8,447 Hectares of mangrove forest representing an estimated 12,670 tons / year of carbon capture  Samaná  -7,080 Hectares of mangrove forests representing an estimated 10,632 tons / year of carbon capture | *(not set or not applicable)* | Tourism-based measures for recovery and stabilization maintain or increase ecosystem coverage in pilot areas:  Montecristi  -8,447 Hectares of mangrove forest representing an estimated 12,670 tons / year of carbon capture  Samaná  -7,080 Hectares of mangrove forests representing an estimated 10,632 tons / year of carbon capture  -5 km dune stabilization in Las Terrenas Municipality | Maps of ecosystem update and land use were elaborated in the provinces of Samaná and Montecristi in coordination with the Environmental Information Directorate of the Ministry of the Environment. The coverage of mangroves in both provinces showed little difference from their original dimensions. Small patches of other marsh species (Drago) were not mapped and have been annexed. The mangrove area established …. for Montecristi and …. for Samaná.    Dune Stabilization: (33.2%)    343 mts La Playita  498 mts Playa Rincón  820 mts Playa Terrenas | Under an exhaustive revision of the changes between baseline and this reporting period, the project suggest  to adjust the baseline due to inconsistencies between the maps elaborated in the ProDoc, the numbers given in the logframe and the shapefiles of the prodoc. An analysis was made, and new values were determined, which is how it should correspond. The project also has updated values for this reporting period but is afraid to expose data in the PIR without a proper conclusion on the data analysis with other specialists, therefor no data can be presented until august 2019.    Dune Stabilization: (33.2%)    343 mts La Playita  498 mts Playa Rincón |
| Threats to BD caused by tourism infrastructure, operations and visitor activities  [7 of 8 sub-indicators] | 100% of the Gift Shops sell Crafts made ​​from protected species | *(not set or not applicable)* | 0% of the Gift Shops sell Crafts made ​​from protected species; Curios and crafts made and sold of local products, without any use of protected species. | Of the 13 identified, 2 of them are not working. During the last review carried out by the project’s staff in Samaná, one of them had for sale parts and derivatives of marine animals that were banned from commercialization by local legislation. It was determined that 90.9% of regulated gift shops comply with current regulations in the province of Samaná during this year. | Important to note that due some changes with the prosecutor office in the inspection procedure, a formal assessment couldn't be carried out by the project. However, in friendly visits to the shops, no threats were found in any. |
| Threats to BD caused by tourism infrastructure, operations and visitor activities  [8 of 8 sub-indicators] | 4 coastal PAs in pilot sites with partial visitor infrastructure, i.e. nature trails and observation decks, resulting in pressure impacts generated by tourists. | *(not set or not applicable)* | 4 coastal PAs in pilot sites with sufficient visitor infrastructure:  a) Cayo Arena PA Pilot in Montecristi has docks for boats  b) Signage:  -Montecristi: Cayo Arenas and El Morro  - Samaná: Las Terrenas and Marine Mammal Sanctuary  c) 2 Nature trails designed and built in Montecristi:  - El Morro (Terrestrial Trail)  - Cayo Arenas (Underwater Trail) | a) The study of carrying capacity of Cayo Arena concludes in Q3 2018. From this proposal, work to improve the anchoring space for boats will begin.    b) Road signs design for Montecristi is finished. Work will begin in Q3. Signposts are being designed for Cabo Samaná’s trail and is expected to be installed by the end of 2018.    c) The trail in El Morro is 50% completed, The Cayo Arena underwater trail depends on the study referred before in item A. However, synergies are being established with the Underwater Museum of Lanzarote, as an exchange of experience for the installation of a museum of this type in Dominican waters for Q3. The visitors center on the mangrove platform has been hired, it will be finished by Q4. | a) The study of carrying capacity of Cayo Arena determined to install mooring buoys for boats and area delimitation. Some other investments will be developed by the government.    b) Road signs design and installation for Montecristi is finished in all sites. Signposts are already designed to install in Cabo Samaná’s coastal trail and will be completed in Q3. Marine Mammal Sanctuary already has its signs and the Mirador in Punta Balandra was finished.    c) The trail in El Morro is completed, The Cayo Arena underwater trail should be completed by the end of the year. A proposal of a marine museum is being designed as an alternative strong sustainable tourist attraction and expected to end by the end of 2019. |
| **The progress of the objective can be described as:** | | **On track** | | | | |

# Adjustments

**Comments on delays in key project milestones**

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| **Project Manager: please provide comments on delays this reporting period in achieving any of the following key project milestones: inception workshop, mid-term review, terminal evaluation and/or project closure. If there are no delays please indicate not applicable.** |
| The MTR is the key milestone for the period, any other is not applicable. The MTR should have been carried out last year, however due to some troubles finding the evaluator, the evaluation started in January 2019 and concluded in May 2019. |
| **Country Office: please provide comments on delays this reporting period in achieving any of the following key project milestones: inception workshop, mid-term review, terminal evaluation and/or project closure. If there are no delays please indicate not applicable.** |
| The MTR took place in January 2019 and not in 2018. Different evaluators were contacted, the person finally selected was available in January 2019.  The MTR management response is in process of being cleared by the different partners. |
| **UNDP-GEF Technical Adviser: please provide comments on delays this reporting period in achieving any of the following key project milestones: inception workshop, mid-term review, terminal evaluation and/or project closure. If there are no delays please indicate not applicable.** |
| The MTR was delayed and carried out in this reporting period. It is still pending to be sent to the RTA for clearance. The MTR management response is also pending. |

# Ratings and Overall Assessments

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| **Role** | **2019 Development Objective Progress Rating** | **2019 Implementation Progress Rating** |
| **Project Manager/Coordinator** | Moderately Unsatisfactory | *- IP Rating provided by UNDP-GEF Technical Adviser and UNDP Country Office only -* |
| Overall Assessment | The project unit and UNDP-CO have put an enormous effort to balance the project ownership from government and thus emphasize actions at systemic level. Being careful to bring closer the project on-track to its mainly outcomes, the Ministry of Environment, Project Unit and UNDP-CO designed a multifunctional strategy and approximation to the tourism sector and the Ministry of Tourism. In this reporting period the Project has focused on previous PIRs recommendations and regain part of the time and efforts necessary to increase the impact of the component at the systemic level without neglecting the speed of the processes that is being implemented in the pilot provinces or site level.    Mainly, the project aimed to resume actions towards the elaboration of a National Tourism Plan, which is one of the project key outcomes. Until now, Mitur has not decided to begin the development of the aforementioned plan, therefore, the project has worked with Mitur to provoke decisions on the matter and implement actions and activities tending to derive in the plan. The project decided to propose a set of environmental guidelines to be considered in the pending plan. This initiative was completed with a wide support of the tourism sector and other related authorities, in fact, at some point of the elaboration process, the participants suggested the use of this document (Coastal and Marine BD Guidelines to be considered in the development of a National Tourism Plan) as a means to motivate the Mitur and begin the elaboration of the National Tourism Plan. These guidelines are one of the main outcomes of the project and is expected to serve as a basis for a deep reflection of the tourism model for the Dominican Republic. The mentioned Guidelines includes a draft resolution to inspire the use of these environmental aspects and apply in the meantime. More involvement is necessary from decision makers in order to proceed. The project has set some collaborative networks with other government agencies and private sector to implement.    Another outcome that helps to improve the systemic impact is the designed Financial Mechanism for the Management of Coastal Biodiversity and Tourism as a means to guarantee sustainable financing for marine conservation. For a feasible use of this mechanism, it was indicated to proceed with a local outline, although scalable to a national framework, the experience shows that doing a local process may well be beneficial to show palpable impacts in a relatively short time and within the project life horizon. At the moment, the project has formally confirmed and set a public-private board that aims to operationalize the mechanism composed of local businesses and authorities assessing to complete the steps programmed to finish all the requirements before the end of 2019. It is expected to have the mechanism capitalizing and in place by February 2020 and at least a set of projects financed by the fund by mid-2020. Furthermore, the project is addressing meetings and events with stakeholders at a national level in order to provoke wider discussions of a National Level financing architecture for BD and Tourism parallel to the local initiative.    In addition, the design of the National Sustainable Tourism Indicator System has been submitted in the interest that the country can reflect on its achievements in terms of sustainability and be able to make decisions based on criteria that guide steps towards SDGs. Another important outcome is the beginning of a process on a Landscape Guide for new or existing tourism projects based on the endemic and native coastal flora of the island that promotes and increase the resilience of coastal biodiversity.    A Sustainable Tourism National Guide is currently in process of elaboration. The guide includes hotels, restaurants, other natural and coastal activities. At the time the project is working with local stakeholder’s public-private, and also with a broader scope involving Punta Cana – Bavaro, based on a collaborative partnership. The mentioned guide focus in the SDGs and OMT expected outcomes and could be presented as an innovative Guide for the region. The process is comprised within a set of steps for a National Wide Event for tourism sector in October in collaboration with Grupo Punta Cana and Grupo Popular, two of the strongest finance and tourism groups and potential co-financers, at the event, the guide will serve as a basis of voluntary agreement to apply it in the private sector. This is one of the project best strategies to support more sustainable and environmentally innovative practices and tourism awareness.    In the country UNEP is supporting a project with the Ministry of Environment developing a Software for Environmental and Economic indicators in the coastal landscape, piloting Montecristi, one of the project sites. In agreement with the mentioned project, the Priority Coastal Species and Ecosystem Monitoring System that is currently gathering reliable data on corals, mangroves, seagrass, among others, its being used within the software, therefor the project will have the System completely functioning with the software and generating on time reports for action by the end of 2019.    Important achievements raisin awareness and commitment among local stakeholders has been a successful outcome of the project. Agreements, partnerships, voluntary agreements and other instruments of formal collaboration were developed. Establishments of pilot initiatives such as coral and coastal plants nurseries, educational programs, training programs, technology use, law enforcements, cleanups, best practices for tourism, regulations, gender equality perspectives, business BD friendly, dive shop certifications, among others.    The reporting period has shown significant advances, however more time is needed to enhance the proper ownership of the government, UNDP-CO has new representative and loose the momentum with Mitur should not be dismissed. Therefor UNDP should play a strategic role with high-level meetings-agreements with the Ministry of Tourism and accelerate the actions and outcomes being developed. Even with the noticeable outcomes of the project for this reporting period at systemic level and the acceleration of activities in pilot sites that should set a satisfactory rating, the project its being rated Moderately unsatisfactory, considering the remaining time of the project, the results delivered, and the impact of the outcomes expected by the end of project next year. Without losing the sight on the targets and keeping the momentum, the project will maintain in track and deliver the majority of the planned and expected outcomes. | |
| **Role** | **2019 Development Objective Progress Rating** | **2019 Implementation Progress Rating** |
| **UNDP Country Office Programme Officer** | Moderately Satisfactory | Moderately Satisfactory |
| Overall Assessment | A rating of MS is assigned, because despite the project is expected to partially achieve its end-of-project targets by project closure, steps are being taken in order to address the recommendations provided by the MTE.  The biggest challenge to achieve result 1 is related with pending political decisions from the Tourism government stakeholders to translate technical information produced by the project into policies at the national level. Following the recommendations of the MTE, the Ministry of Environment and UNDP expanded the scope of the work to private sector (tourism related business and companies), strengthened the work in tourism destinations and engaged with new stakeholders in order to mainstream sustainability in tourism business.  The new UNDP RR has agreed to meet with the Minister of Tourism in September 2019, in order to discuss the project challenges and strengthen Ministry of Tourism ’s engagement with this sustainability agenda. Additionally, she has engaged private sector, including those business and  A Forum for sustainable tourism with representatives of the tourism value chain in the most important destination in Dominican Republic, Punta Cana, will take place before the end of the year. The Forum is being organized with the Academy, Grupo Puntacana and the representatives of Grupo Popular, one of the most important Banks in DR. During the Forum, it is expected to present and promote the adoption of key products produced by the project (good practices, SDG approach, biodiversity conservation measures, etc).  Even though the proposed inter institutional coordination mechanism has not been formalized yet, dialogue, coordination and communication between the two Ministries and UNDP has improved during the last year. This has facilitated the discussion of topics relevant for the project goals and improved the decision making at the senior level. The project will continue to support the process of establishment of the inter-institutional technical coordination mechanism.  Environmental guidelines and indicators to be considered when the process of elaboration of the National Tourism Plan have been prepared, and during 2019 the implementation of these standards in the local tourism planning processes in the pilot zones.  The monitoring and enforcement system for the conservation of coastal and marine biodiversity has been in a trial period during the last year and adjustments have been done. It is expected to link the system with a regional GIS for marine monitoring. It is foreseen that both systems will be part of the coastal-marine related national/regional statistics system, that will inform not only biodiversity status, but also provide inputs for the SDG National Agenda monitoring.  As a result of an extensive capacity building process developed both at the national and local levels, several tourism businesses located in the pilot zone (hotels, restaurants, etc) have made voluntary commitments to implement environmentally friendly practices. Some business such as diving centers have obtained certifications (green fins).  Several facilities (small infrastructures) have been built in or in the nearby of protected areas (in those areas destinated for public use), in order to expand options for visitors and improve their experience in those destinations. The project needs to ensure the sustainability of all these investments and consolidate appropriate governance structures.  An innovative financial mechanism has been designed, and it is expected to be operative before the project finalization.  As a result of the implementation of the project communication strategy, influencers, youtubers, users of different social networks, newspapers, have been engaged and contribute to expand information related with the project goals. As recommended in the MTE, an expert in strategic communication is in process of being hired to position key messages and guide the project team and the Ministries.  The IP rating is Moderately Satisfactory (MS) because even though financial delivery is, by the end of June xx%, a close follow up is ongoing and there are important investments to be done during the second half of the year. Some activities are in risk, as they depend on MITUR.  The MTE recommended to adjust the project team approach to the work: strengthen the managerial role and hire technical support (experts, local NGO) to implement in the field. This process has started, and results are expected by the end of 2019.  The most critical risk identified persists (ownership of the project by the Ministry of Tourism), and different strategies are being addressed: technical meetings, Project Board, etc. As previously mentioned, UNDPs RR will meet with the Minister of Tourism to address the existing weakness of enforcement and took the concern to the Environment Minister so it can be addressed at the highest level. UNDP will continue to advocate for the ownership of the project by the Ministry of Tourism, both politically and technically.  The final year of project implementation will be an electoral year (2020). As strategy to accelerate the implementation of critical actions has been designed and an exit strategy for each project component is being designed, in order to ensure sustainability after the project completion. | |
| **Role** | **2019 Development Objective Progress Rating** | **2019 Implementation Progress Rating** |
| **GEF Operational Focal point** | *(not set or not applicable)* | *- IP Rating provided by UNDP-GEF Technical Adviser and UNDP Country Office only -* |
| Overall Assessment | *(not set or not applicable)* | |
| **Role** | **2019 Development Objective Progress Rating** | **2019 Implementation Progress Rating** |
| **Project Implementing Partner** | *(not set or not applicable)* | *- IP Rating provided by UNDP-GEF Technical Adviser and UNDP Country Office only -* |
| Overall Assessment | *(not set or not applicable)* | |
| **Role** | **2019 Development Objective Progress Rating** | **2019 Implementation Progress Rating** |
| **Other Partners** | *(not set or not applicable)* | *- IP Rating provided by UNDP-GEF Technical Adviser and UNDP Country Office only -* |
| Overall Assessment | *(not set or not applicable)* | |
| **Role** | **2019 Development Objective Progress Rating** | **2019 Implementation Progress Rating** |
| **UNDP-GEF Technical Adviser** | Unsatisfactory | Moderately Satisfactory |
| Overall Assessment | The Government of the Dominican Republic through the Ministry of Tourism and the Ministry of Environment requested assistance from the GEF to remove barriers to securing the long-term conservation of the country’s biological diversity in landscapes and ecosystems threatened by the expanding tourism industry. The ultimate project goal is to safeguard globally significant biodiversity of the Dominican Republic for the greater good of future generations. This is basically the main outcome expected from this initiative and the project proponent´s capacity to make it a national success and an example for the region will be assessed against this result. In the PRODOC, the project objective states that this initiative will ensure the conservation of biodiversity in ecologically important coastal areas threatened by the burgeoning tourism industry and associated physical development. The two main outcomes of the project are: 1) The policy, legal and planning framework in the tourism sector addresses the direct threats to biodiversity from coastal tourism development and activities; 2) Operational framework to protect biodiversity and ecosystems in areas highly vulnerable to the indirect effects of tourism development.    This is the third PIR produced by this project. Based on the progress described by the project team, the RTA fears that last year’s concerns have not been internalized by the project proponents. In the past PIRs, the RTA expressed that the project was dangerously moving off-track. The RTA also recommended to put the priority on addressing the political and institutional bottlenecks. It is also noteworthy to point out that after last year’s PIR, a steering committee meeting was organized to go through the RTA recommendations made. The recommendations were validated and the steering committee shared the same concern. Unfortunately, this didn’t translate in the development of an effective strategy to engage the Ministry of tourism and it seems that the project team has had no choice but to continue to apply a business as usual approach.    These past concerns are still valid now, as the Ministry of Tourism has refrained from direct engagement with the project, despite the project team effort and the fact that this proposal was itself prioritized by the country. The project is rated as unsatisfactory, given the lack of institutional ownership by proponents, and the fact that the project continues to be unable to resolve institutional and political bottlenecks that seriously diminish its ability to generate long term sustainable systemic changes. In practice the project continues to operate while the elephant in the room remains unaddressed. Just as reported in previous occasions and as discussed during the steering committee meeting, efforts to engage the technical personnel at the ministry and the private sector (which has proven more forthcoming than government in terms of promoting sustainability in the tourism sector) are still incipient.    The RTA is aware that the project team together with the CO office are working closely together to find operational and institutional solutions to resolve bottlenecks and unlock the potential of this initiative. However, it is worrisome to see that very little substantial progress has been achieved again at the systemic level and it is particularly disappointing to see that the main areas of concerns remain the same as those signaled in the last two years. These are: (i) uneven ownership of the initiative by all the key partners involved (ii) difficulties to kickstart strategic and game changing actions at the systemic level. Progress is reported in the third area of concern, namely dialogues have been initiated with the private sector that could leverage cofinance and more strategic momentum for this initiative. The RTA highly recommends that this engagement with the private sector be strengthened to go beyond the dialogue per se to actual collaboration. Dialogues are not enough, these need to translate into real commitments, policy outputs, joint initiatives and investments.    Ultimately, the project is supposed to achieve an impact on the development path of the country by supporting more sustainable and environmentally innovative practices in the productive sector which represents the engine of the economy in the DR. This is of course a very ambitious target, but it is after all the Government of the DR who sought international donor funding precisely to trigger a change in the way tourism business is conceived for the greater benefit of the country’s strategic ecosystems. To do so, under component 1, the project is supposed to stimulate a solid alliance between the Ministry of Environment and the Ministry of Tourism endorsed at the highest level. So far, this doesn’t seem to be happening. The formal inter-ministerial mechanism has not materialized, and it is not clear whether it will happen. An informal platform of discussion was put together two years ago which brings together technical staff essentially but no progress is reported under the current reporting period.    Together these two institutions are expected to support new legislative and policy frameworks that ultimately should result in GEBs. This is not happening either and so far, very little new ground has been broken. In the absence of progress on the development of a new National Tourism Plan, the project is doing what it can to adapt to the situation. Some advance is reported in the design of a financial mechanism for biodiversity and tourism conservation. The proposal was elaborated through a wide socialization and revision of alternatives. The financial solution selected is to channel hotel tips to conservation. This is an entirely private initiative, so it does not depend on government. To achieve results in the lifespan of the project implementation will begin at a local scale (pilot in the province of Samaná). The project has set a public-private board composed of local businesses and authorities that aims to operationalize the mechanism by the end of 2019. It is then expected to have the mechanism capitalized and in place by February 2020 and at least a set of projects financed by the fund by mid-2020. The project team hopes to hire an international consultant to guide this financial mechanism strategically. The RTA’s concern is that this timeline seems over optimistic, but recognizes the need to focus on financial solutions for biodiversity. Given the end of the project in July 2020, it is necessary to assess what is realistic in the last months of the project.    Under component 1, the project has little progress to report, mostly due to the governmental gridlock and lack of institutional buy in. The only reported advance of note is on the financial mechanism but the RTA would have expected more strategic progress on this activity at this stage.    Component 2 is where the project seems to have focused the bulk of its efforts. This is understandable given the weak institutional buy in at high-level under component 1. The updated for 2019 include  - The completion and design of a Guide for the Elaboration and/or Updates of Tourism Land Use Plans (POTT). This Guide is being implemented in Montecristi and due to reorientation of priorities inside the Ministry of Tourism, this POTT is re-planned to conclude during Q4 2019.  - Visits to pilot sites with social-media influencers, media trips, audiovisual materials, are an on-going process including information of responsible tourism.  - The trail in El Morro is completed, The Cayo Arena underwater trail should be completed by the end of the year. A proposal of a marine museum is being designed as an alternative strong sustainable tourist attraction and expected to end by the end of 2019.      So clearly the project has continued to focus on targeted site-specific activities in the field. This is of course good but questions remain: In the absence of solid institutional and legal frameworks, enforcement capacities, private sector engagement, policies for sustainable tourism and a vision that takes into account the value of ecosystem services for the greater good of the nation, how sustainable and strategic are these site-specific interventions on the long run? Can they secure GEBs in the long run? Ideally, the project should be making progress under component 1 in parallel with the execution of field activities. This is unfortunately not happening.    This situation should be a motive of concern both for the project proponents and the UNDP Country Office (CO). It should also be of serious concerns to the main partners of this initiative including the steering committee, the conventions focal points (CBD, UNCCD, UNFCCC) and ultimately the GEF national focal point. In the context of GEF 7 and of the Agenda 2030, the country needs to show the capacity to make optimal use of GEF resources to influence its development pathway and change the business as usual approaches.    As reported for the last 2 years, a lot of eyes are currently looking at this initiative. When it was designed, there was no other GEF initiative operating in the region with such a clear focus on the tourism industry. Since then, several countries have expressed their interest to access GEF resources to implement similar types of projects and the interest for lessons learnt from the Dominican Republic project is huge. The GEF and the CBD itself have put a lot of hope on these sorts of initiatives which they expect to be game changers and show that there are alternative win-win options to support a more sustainable and economically sound tourism industry. The DR just as the rest of the region is threatened by massive impacts from climate change and global extinction of biodiversity. This in itself should be a good reason to make optimal use of the GEF resources to support mainstreaming of BD conservation into productive sectors    Finally, a note on project team comments of indicators being out of scope or not applicable. While the MTR may have recommended changing some indicators, any changes need to be justified and formally approved and cannot simply be hand waved away. The UNDP CO needs to follow-up on this issue.    The progress on implementation is obviously closely linked to the challenges faced overall by the project. With the slow progress achieved so far on the systemic activities of the project, there is a strong problem of balance between components. Also, the difficulties to make substantial progress under component 1 affects the efficiency of component 2. This ends up affecting the delivery rates which continue to be very low. If we were to look strictly at the cumulative delivery the progress on implementation is unsatisfactory, however the RTA recognizes that the project has made an effort this year to accelerate delivery and it is therefore rated as Moderately Unsatisfactory. As of June 30th the annual execution stood at 61.63%. While this number is reasonable in general, it does not seem to help in catching up with accumulated delays in the project. Overall execution is also at 61.63%, indicating that the hopes of reaching full execution within the project implementation period (July 2020) are very low.    The MTR was carried out in this reporting period (very late considering the project is closing in July 2020). However, it has yet to be submitted to the RTA for clearance. A full management response to the MTR findings is also pending.    A last word for the UNDP CO, the project team and the steering committee. The recommendations from the last 2 years have unfortunately not been given proper responses. The delay of the MTR and the management response plan make it almost impossible to design an efficient response at this late stage of project implementation. A clear exit strategy considering no extension needs to be worked on for this project immediately after receiving the PIR. It should include ways to capitalize on progress achieved in the field and with the private sector. | |

# Gender

**Progress in Advancing Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment**

This information is used in the UNDP-GEF Annual Performance Report, UNDP-GEF Annual Gender Report, reporting to the UNDP Gender Steering and Implementation Committee and for other internal and external communications and learning.  The Project Manager and/or Project Gender Officer should complete this section with support from the UNDP Country Office.

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| **Gender Analysis and Action Plan:** *not available* |
| **Please review the project's Gender Analysis and Action Plan. If the document is not attached or an updated Gender Analysis and/or Gender Action Plan is available please upload the document below or send to the Regional Programme Associate to upload in PIMS+. Please note that all projects approved since 1 July 2014 are required to carry out a gender analysis and all projects approved since 1 July 2018 are required to have a gender analysis and action plan.** |
| *(not set or not applicable)* |
| **Please indicate in which results areas the project is contributing to gender equality (you may select more than one results area, or select not applicable):** |
| Contributing to closing gender gaps in access to and control over resources: No |
| Improving the participation and decision-making of women in natural resource governance: Yes |
| Targeting socio-economic benefits and services for women: No |
| Not applicable: No |
| **Atlas Gender Marker Rating** |
| **GEN1:** some contribution to gender equality |
| **Please specify results achieved this reporting period that focus on increasing gender equality and the empowerment of women.**    **Please explain how the results reported addressed the different needs of men or women, changed norms, values, and power structures, and/or contributed to transforming or challenging gender inequalities and discrimination.** |
| As mention in previews PIRs, the project doesn't have a Gender Analisis or Plan, however the project did consider how to contribute to gender equality. The project developed activities in the pilot sites such as trainings, workshops and plans with the participation of women. In the local context women often dont participate or empowers due to their obligations, the project always considers the best times of the day for their involvement and encourage women to gain the necessary empowerment in the decisions. Fortunately, every plan, training and decision process has a balanced gender perspective, not only in number but also in women authorities.The project continues to promote new alternative livelihoods to improve woman's income in the tourist sector. |
| **Please describe how work to advance gender equality and women's empowerment enhanced the project's environmental and/or resilience outcomes.** |
| Women have a central role in families and local schools, the best qualitative and notorious effort is the change and awareness they are bringing to students and families. This is due to the trainings, artworks, and involvement of women in the project activities and the effort the project puts on encouraging their participation. |

# Social and Environmental Standards

**Social and Environmental Standards (Safeguards)**

The Project Manager and/or the project’s Safeguards Officer should complete this section of the PIR with support from the UNDP Country Office. The UNDP-GEF RTA should review to ensure it is complete and accurate.

|  |
| --- |
| **1) Have any new social and/or environmental risks been identified during project implementation?** |
| No |
| **If any new social and/or environmental risks have been identified during project implementation please describe the new risk(s) and the response to it.** |
| *(not set or not applicable)* |
| **2) Have any existing social and/or environmental risks been escalated during the reporting period? For example, when a low risk increased to moderate, or a moderate risk increased to high.** |
| No |
| **If any existing social and/or environmental risks have been escalated during implementation please describe the change(s) and the response to it.** |
| *(not set or not applicable)* |
| **SESP:** [PIMS 4955 Coastal Marine Prodoc Annex UNDP Environmental and Social Screening Tool.docx](https://undpgefpims.org/attachments/4955/213708/1718034/1724902/PIMS%204955%20Coastal%20Marine%20Prodoc%20Annex%20UNDP%20Environmental%20and%20Social%20Screening%20Tool.docx)  **Environmental and Social Management Plan/Framework:** *not available* |
| **For reference, please find below the project's safeguards screening (Social and Environmental Screening Procedure (SESP) or the old ESSP tool); management plans (if any); and its SESP categorization above. Please note that the SESP categorization might have been corrected during a centralized review.** |
| *(not set or not applicable)* |
| **3) Have any required social and environmental assessments and/or management plans been prepared in the reporting period? For example, an updated Stakeholder Engagement Plan, Environmental and Social Impact Assessment (ESIA) or Indigenous Peoples Plan.** |
| Not Applicable |
| **If yes, please upload the document(s) above. If no, please explain when the required documents will be prepared.** |
| *(not set or not applicable)* |
| **4) Has the project received complaints related to social and/or environmental impacts (actual or potential )?** |
| No |
| **If yes, please describe the complaint(s) or grievance(s) in detail including the status, significance, who was involved and what action was taken.** |
| *(not set or not applicable)* |

# Communicating Impact

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| **Tell us the story of the project focusing on how the project has helped to improve people’s lives.**  **(This text will be used for UNDP corporate communications, the UNDP-GEF website, and/or other internal and external knowledge and learning efforts.)** |
| The project has contributed to improve people lives in several ways. All the actions developed to improve the health of coastal-marine ecosystems (mangrove restoration; sea turtles, humpback whales and parrot fishes monitoring and conservation; reef nurseries, among other) contributed to increase the value of tourism experiences in Dominican destinations.  The community of Las Terrrenas today prevents the deposit of plastic and waste in the sea, due to the establishment of mobile barriers in the rivers across the town.  The project has contributed to improve capacities of local guides of nature, strengthening tourist businesses and improving their competitiveness through more efficient and sustainable operations. The project has contributed to improve the capacities of local guides of nature and the strengthening of More than 200 people in Samaná and Montecristi provinces have benefited from technical training in tourism operations and have appreciated the support received by the project in their development and social well being  In Montecristi, after the investments done in 2018 with the building of attractions, the improvement of trails, the capacity building process of local guides, visitation raised from 100 to 1,000 persons/month. Local environmental guides are getting benefits from tours as never before, they are increasing their income by contributing and teaching about nature. This province has chosen a nature-based model of tourism, and decided to promote a more responsible model, demanding a more sustainable destination in restaurants and hotels.  A group of fishermen named &quot;Guardianes del manglar&quot; have been maintaining no-take areas to contribute with Fish bird. Their ships were painted with the different patterns and colors of the different varieties. today 52 fishermen and their families have better fishing equipment, but their ships contribute to increase to value of their community for tourists.. Additionally, they are expanding their work and provide tours in the manglar. |

**Knowledge Management, Project Links and Social Media**

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| **Please describe knowledge activities / products as outlined in knowledge management approved at CEO Endorsement /Approval.**    **Please also include: project's website, project page on the UNDP website, blogs, photos stories (e.g. Exposure), Facebook, Twitter, Flickr, YouTube, as well as hyperlinks to any media coverage of the project, for example, stories written by an outside source. Please upload any supporting files, including photos, videos, stories, and other documents using the 'file lirbary' button in the top right of the PIR.** |
| Project’s Website: www.proyectobcyt.com  Youtube channel: https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC2eBHa4uk1SgR1kBAubB-HQ  Facebook: https://www.facebook.com/proyectobcyt/?ref=bookmarks  Twitter: https://twitter.com/proyectobcyt  Instagram: https://www.instagram.com/proyectobcyt/  Project Page on the UNDP Website: http://www.do.undp.org  http://www.do.undp.org/content/dominican\_republic/es/home/projects/conservando-la-biodiversidad-en-las-areas-costeras-amenazadas-po.html |

# Partnerships

**Partnerships & Stakeholder Engagment**

Please select yes or no whether the project is working with any of the following partners. Please also provide an update on stakeholder engagement. This information is used by the GEF and UNDP for reporting and is therefore very important!  All sections must be completed by the Project Manager and reviewed by the CO and RTA.

|  |
| --- |
| **Does the project work with any Civil Society Organisations and/or NGOs?** |
| Yes |
| **Does the project work with any Indigenous Peoples?** |
| No |
| **Does the project work with the Private Sector?** |
| Yes |
| **Does the project work with the GEF Small Grants Programme?** |
| No |
| **Does the project work with UN Volunteers?** |
| No |
| **Did the project support South-South Cooperation and/or Triangular Cooperation efforts in the reporting year?** |
| No |
| **CEO Endorsement Request:** [PIMS 4955 GEF5\_CEO\_Endorsement\_DOM Tourism 25Feb2015.doc](https://undpgefpims.org/attachments/4955/213708/1676858/1677139/PIMS%204955%20GEF5_CEO_Endorsement_DOM%20Tourism%2025Feb2015.doc) |
| **Provide an update on progress, challenges and outcomes related to stakeholder engagement based on the description of the Stakeholder Engagement Plan as documented at CEO endorsement/approval (see document below). If any surveys have been conducted please upload all survey documents to the PIR file library.** |
| The project has been actively working with all stakeholders cited in the CEO Endorsement, except for the following:    Government agencies:  1. Technical VM of Ministry of Tourism: The focal point of the Ministry of Tourism (DPP) is taking all responsibility of the project activities and planning.  2. DGODT: The land use and planning for tourism is determined by the Ministry of Tourism. Therefor, no major engagement is necessary for the project scope.  3. Ministry of Treasury: As for the project interventions is not necessary to involve this Ministry for financial incentives. The impacts of the incentives policies promoted by the project are designed to influence the Ministry of Tourism.    NGO:  5. CDCT: Organisation is not working or operating at the time. However, the project is working the tourism cluster of Samana and Montecristi.    Multilateral or Bilateral Agencies:  6. ART GOLD RD: The project determined that is not of relevance to work with this organisation in the territory. |

# Annex - Ratings Definitions

**Development Objective Progress Ratings Definitions**

(HS) Highly Satisfactory: Project is on track to exceed its end-of-project targets, and is likely to achieve transformational change by project closure. The project can be presented as 'outstanding practice'.

(S) Satisfactory: Project is on track to fully achieve its end-of-project targets by project closure. The project can be presented as 'good practice'.

(MS) Moderately Satisfactory: Project is on track to achieve its end-of-project targets by project closure with minor shortcomings only.

(MU) Moderately Unsatisfactory: Project is off track and is expected to partially achieve its end-of-project targets by project closure with significant shortcomings. Project results might be fully achieved by project closure if adaptive management is undertaken immediately.

(U) Unsatisfactory: Project is off track and is not expected to achieve its end-of-project targets by project closure. Project results might be partially achieved by project closure if major adaptive management is undertaken immediately.

(HU) Highly Unsatisfactory: Project is off track and is not expected to achieve its end-of-project targets without major restructuring.

**Implementation Progress Ratings Definitions**

(HS) Highly Satisfactory: Implementation is exceeding expectations. Cumulative financial delivery, timing of key implementation milestones, and risk management are fully on track. The project is managed extremely efficiently and effectively. The implementation of the project can be presented as 'outstanding practice'.

(S) Satisfactory: Implementation is proceeding as planned. Cumulative financial delivery, timing of key implementation milestones, and risk management are on track. The project is managed efficiently and effectively. The implementation of the project can be presented as 'good practice'.

(MS) Moderately Satisfactory: Implementation is proceeding as planned with minor deviations. Cumulative financial delivery and management of risks are mostly on track, with minor delays. The project is managed well.

(MU) Moderately Unsatisfactory: Implementation is not proceeding as planned and faces significant implementation issues. Implementation progress could be improved if adaptive management is undertaken immediately. Cumulative financial delivery, timing of key implementation milestones, and/or management of critical risks are significantly off track. The project is not fully or well supported.

(U) Unsatisfactory: Implementation is not proceeding as planned and faces major implementation issues and restructuring may be necessary. Cumulative financial delivery, timing of key implementation milestones, and/or management of critical risks are off track with major issues and/or concerns. The project is not fully or well supported.

(HU) Highly Unsatisfactory: Implementation is seriously under performing and major restructuring is required. Cumulative financial delivery, timing of key implementation milestones (e.g. start of activities), and management of critical risks are severely off track with severe issues and/or concerns. The project is not effectively or efficiently supported.