Public Disclosure Authorized

Project Information Document (PID)

Concept Stage | Date Prepared/Updated: 18-Mar-2020 | Report No: PIDC26817

BASIC INFORMATION

A. Basic Project Data

Country	Project ID	Parent Project ID (if any)	Project Name
Dominica	P170846		GEF Leveraging Eco-Tourism for Biodiversity Protection in Dominica (P170846)
Region	**Estimated Appraisal Date**	**Estimated Board Date**	**Practice Area (Lead)**
LATIN AMERICA AND CARIBBEAN	Jul 31, 2020	Sep 24, 2020	Environment, Natural Resources & the Blue Economy
Financing Instrument	**Borrower(s)**	**Implementing Agency**	**GEF Focal Area**
Investment Project Financing	Ministry of Finance	Ministry of Environment Climate Resilience, Disaster Management and Urban Renewal	Biodiversity

Proposed Development Objective(s)

Project Development Objective is to improve management of Dominica's three national parks and the Waitukubuli trail

PROJECT FINANCING DATA (US$, Millions)

SUMMARY

Total Project Cost	3.65
Total Financing	3.65
of which IBRD/IDA	0.00
Financing Gap	0.00

DETAILS

Non-World Bank Group Financing

Trust Funds	3.65
Global Environment Facility (GEF)	3.65

Environmental and Social Risk Classification	Concept Review Decision
Moderate	Track II-The review did authorize the preparation to continue

Other Decision (as needed)

B. Introduction and Context

Country Context

1. **The Commonwealth of Dominica is a small upper-middle-income country in the Caribbean Sea, with a population of 73,543, predominantly dependent on tourism and agriculture.** With annual gross domestic product (GDP) of US$581.48 million, Dominica's economy depends predominantly on tourism and agriculture. Tourism, is largely dependent on protected areas, generating nearly 15 percent of GDP, providing not only direct revenues but also fueling growth in other industries. Poverty remains a pervasive development issue, with a poverty headcount of 28.8 percent at the time of the last Country Poverty Assessment (CPA) conducted in 2009.

2. **Dominica is affected by fiscal sustainability challenges, with public debt levels as high as over 82.7 percent of GDP, because of the country's exposure to natural disasters (tropical storms and hurricanes) and external shocks.** Average annual losses from weather-related events between 1996 and 2015 are estimated at 7.9 percent of GDP, making Dominica the second most affected country globally in terms of average GDP loss. Hurricane Maria, in 2017, a Category 5 hurricane, with 160 mph wind speed and higher gusts, affected directly to nearly 80% of the population, and damages and losses were estimated at around USD 1.3 billion, equating to 224% of Dominica's 2016 GDP (PDNA 2017). Fiscal losses arising from these events and the ongoing challenges of climate change, has been devastating and threatens to set back development gains and economic growth.

3. Government of the Commonwealth of Dominica (GoCD) has made disaster risk management and climate change adaptation utmost priorities. Dominica has been classified as one of the countries most vulnerable to climate change and to extreme weather events arising from meteorological and geophysical events. Over 90 percent of the population resides near the coastline, leaving infrastructure and people vulnerable to the impacts of natural disasters. Under the "National Resilience Development Strategy, Dominica 2030", GOCD has established a goal of making Dominica the world's first "climate-resilient" economy, incorporating hazard and risk mitigation into infrastructure design and planning, social sectors, and all aspects of national development.

4. **Dominica is also home to biodiversity of world significance.** The island geography and complex geology have created unique habitats and high species diversity, such as the conservation flagship species the Imperial amazon (*Amazona imperialis* - EN) of Dominica a parrot known to occur only there[1]. Dominica is part of the Caribbean Islands Biodiversity Hotspot, which is defined as holding at least 1,500 plant species found nowhere else and having lost at least 70% of their original habitat extent (Mittermeier et al. 2004). The Caribbean islands have among the highest number of

[1] The parrot is known locally as the *sisserou*.

globally threatened species of any hotspot in the world, supporting populations of endemic plants and vertebrates amounting to at least 2% of world's total species complement with high species endemism[2]. Key biodiversity habitats are part of Dominica's forest system, one of the richest and most extensive ones in the Lesser Antilles. The 'Nature Island' has the most extensive natural forests in the Eastern Caribbean of around 43, 000 ha and is home to the most diverse assemblage of wildlife among the smaller Caribbean islands. The vegetation types (flora) include littoral woodland, elfin woodland, semi-deciduous forest, mature rain forest, montane forest, scrub woodland and savannah. Other natural vegetation types are influenced by soil conditions including wetlands and fumarole vegetation. Dominica's fauna includes: 179 species of birds, 55 species of butterflies, 20 species of crabs, 11 species of crayfish and shrimp, 3 species of amphibians, 17 species of reptiles (4 snakes), 18 mammal species, 11 stick insect species, and around 45 species of inland fish.[3] Dominica is also the home of the only surviving community of indigenous *Carib* peoples. The *Kalinago* community amounts to around 3000 people living primarily in a specially designated *Kalinago* Territory and are recognized as being especially disadvantaged, considered among the poorest districts in Dominica with highest unemployment rate and income lower than the national average.

5. **Biodiversity in Dominica is intimately linked to its forests.** Approximately 60 percent of Dominica's surface area is covered with forests that provide important ecosystem services. Half of the total forest surface area is covered by mature rain forest. The usable forest estate is estimated between 6,000 hectares (cumulative surface of the forest reserves) and 11,000 hectares (forest reserves plus unallocated government land covered with forest). Forests, and especially forests within the National Parks, are vital for the protection of domestic water supplies, support to agriculture (e.g. by stabilizing soils and regulating water flow as well as providing shade and shelter and providing a habitat for pollinators and natural predators of agricultural pests), and are close to the region's only remaining indigenous community (the Kalinago community). Forest management planning and monitoring has been weak. It is estimated that Hurricane Maria impacted and uprooted 10-30 percent of trees, further threatening long-term sustainable management of this vital natural resource. The legislative framework4 regulating the forest sector is outdated and clearer provisions for forest management are required. Timber production is negligible (based on limited, available data) and not a recognized as an economic priority; wood industry, other than artisanal handicrafts and some furniture and joinery, is non-existent.

Sectoral and Institutional Context

6. **Biodiversity, however, is threatened by habitat loss due to mismanagement of agriculture and forestry, compounded by a weak protected areas management, and mismanagement of land resources outside of protected areas.** These threats result in adverse impacts on biodiversity and ecosystems, on the rural population dependent on them, and the broader regional and national economies. The region's biodiversity is at serious risk of species extinctions, even though destruction occurs in relatively small patches of habitat. By percentage, amphibians and mammals are among the most threatened of the taxonomic groups assessed, at 73% and 25% respectively for the region (Table 1). Biodiversity in Dominica is currently facing habitat loss, first, due to mass tourism development and almost no government control, with the most recent hotel scheduled to open in 2019 encroaching on turtle nesting site and wetlands in the Cabrits National Park. Although currently most tourists are daily visitors arriving in Roseau, the tourism sector in the north side of the island is expected to grow with investments planned for an international airport and

[2] Ecosystem Profile THE CARIBBEAN ISLANDS BIODIVERSITY HOTSPOT. 2018. Draft. Critical Ecosystems Partnership Fund.
[3] Dominica National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan (NBSAP), 2014-2020. Link: https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/content/documents/1446dominica.pdf
[4] The main legislative document is the Forest Act of 1958 which was amended in 1959 and 1972.

several international hotel chains expected to spur further Caribbean style tourism activity. Second, agriculture and land degradation including deforestation are two of the greatest contributors to loss of indigenous biodiversity, according to stakeholder consultations for the Dominica NBSAP, 2014-2020. Private landholdings of forested areas threaten biodiversity due to habitat fragmentation and poor agricultural practices such as the use of agrochemicals. Third, the NBSAP points to the weak legislative framework that is not conducive to strong biodiversity management. Constraints identified are limited available budgets, the low contribution to economic growth by biodiversity, and lack of both environmental impact assessments as well as carrying capacity assessments of eco-tourism sites and management. Dominica's exposure to extreme weather and long term climate change introduce additional complexities into biodiversity management and conservation, essentially placing great premium on maintenance of healthy ecosystems in anticipation of perturbations.

Table 1: Species Diversity, Endemicity and Global Threat Status in the Caribbean Islands Hotspot

Taxonomic Group	Species[1,2]	Hotspot endemics[3]	% Endemism	Globally Threatened	% Threatened
Mammals	104	51	49%	26	25%
Birds	565	148	26.2%	55	9.7%
Reptiles	602	494	82.1%	184	30.6%
Amphibians	200	191	95.5%	146	73%
Bony fishes	1,538	65	4.2%	42	2.7%
Cartilaginous fishes	83		0%	17	20.5%
Reef-forming Corals[4]	91		0%	15	16.5%
Seed Plants[5]	10,948	7,868	71.9%	507	4.6%
Grand Total	14,134	8,817	62.4%	992	7%

Sources: 1. IUCN Red List for mammals, bony, cartilaginous fishes and Reef-forming Corals; BirdLife/IUCN for birds; Caribbherp for reptiles and amphibians and Acevedo Rodríguez and Strong (2007) for seed plants.
2. IUCN and BirdLife figures refer to existent species only (EX and EW are not included).
3. Endemism figures not available for all taxa groups.
4. Corals figures include corals (Anthozoa) and fire corals (Hydrozoa).
5. Seed plants and their threat figures are included in the four following classes: Cycadopsida (Cycads), Pinopsida (conifers), Liliopsida (monocotyledons) and Magnoliopsida (flowering plants).

7. **Protected Area networks help to reduce biodiversity loss and provide significant contributions to conservation efforts.** While the surface area of designated protected areas (PAs) has steadily increased, the rate of biodiversity loss continues to rise, mainly due to ineffective management of PAs to deliver biodiversity outcomes. Impacts of activities on adjacent private land and public land lessen effectiveness of PAs on biodiversity. For instance, in the Dominica National Biodiversity Strategy it is explicitly state that environmental impact assessments (EIAs) are not enforced. In general, "EIAs are not undertaken for some major developments that have significant impact on biodiversity conservation. Even when EIA's are done, recommendations are not implemented due to the absence of a rigorous monitoring and evaluation program"[5].

8. **Management of PAs can be significantly improved by better planning and organization, including their integration into socioeconomic development.** In part due to their relatively low economic contribution as well as capacity and budget constraints, PAs are poorly managed. Management plans for the three major national parks (which are nearly completely forested), have either not been prepared, are essentially out of date, and have never been formally approved by Government and officially put into effect. Planning and management of public forests outside of parks (approximately 30,000ha, 60 percent of forest area) is minimal, and works, such as tree planting, timber harvest, stand tending, is extremely limited and conducted on an *ad hoc* basis related to emergency needs and resource

[5] Dominica National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan (NBSAP), 2014-2020. Page 10.

permitting. Improved budgeting for PAs management activities, underpinned by a sustainable financing strategy, are required to improve biodiversity conservation and long-term management of the PA systems, including effective monitoring. The management of parks should include effective conservation measures and controlling encroachment on park territory, which need to be strengthened. By investing in PAs planning and eco-tourism, associated revenues can be generated (e.g. through an increase in entry fee revenues, which are currently considered low), at least a part of which should be directed back into PAs management for biodiversity friendly development. Properly allocated, these supplementary revenues can increase the long-term effectiveness of biodiversity conservation and its sustainability.

9. **PAs management planning must give attention to nature-based tourism to create sustainable economic value for biodiversity.** There is evidence that sustainable tourism has broad-reaching economic benefits and enables economic growth and investment in a multitude of other sectors. Nature-based tourism can increase the value placed on natural resources and generate funds for conservation.[6] This requires a change in awareness among key stakeholders and policy makers of the desired approach along with better management of parks and trails, and improved eco-tourism activities. Dominica's tourism sector growth has been met with weak park management for eco-tourism purposes and lack of specific facilities in the parks. This has led to excessive utilization and congestion of some sites (with associated risks of degradation), reducing their appeal and imposing higher than justifiable operations and maintenance costs. Other sites that are under-developed and under-utilized could support eco-tourism and generate additional funds to support the long-term conservation of biodiversity. Properly managed, Dominica's PA system can support an overall much larger number of visitors, create greater opportunities for associated businesses and enterprises, provide a more appealing and satisfying visitor experience, and generally be a more valuable and dynamic resource. Sensible development of Dominica's eco-tourism sector has the potential to increase the value of biodiversity and PAs to the economy and local populations in the long run. It can also diminish current adverse impacts through properly placed tourism access points, walkways and viewpoints. Annex 1 shows the Theory of Change highlighting the interlinkages between biodiversity, forestry and eco-tourism further.

10. **Biodiversity conservation can significantly benefit from an improved budgeting of the PAs management activities.** Implementing biodiversity conservation and monitoring measures included in PAs management plans will need sufficient budgets to prove its effectiveness. By investing into eco-touristic facilities, the associated revenues can increase, but at least a part of them should be directed to PAs management biodiversity protection specific actions. It's difficult for the PAs administration to implement biodiversity conservation measures under present budgetary constrictions. By investing in PAs planning and eco-tourism, it is likely to have an increase in entry fee revenues. Properly allocated, these supplementary revenues can increase the effectiveness of biodiversity conservation and its sustainability.

11. **Dominica and the region have set good examples of how nature-based tourism can protect biodiversity**. Smaller adventure and outdoor recreation-oriented hotels, for example, have supported conservation of the resources upon which they depend (for instance, the Dominica Nature Island Standard of Excellence). Small-scale, community-run ecotourism ventures are now open for business in several countries (for example, the Jaragua National Park Key Biodiversity Area (KBA), Dominican Republic, and the Blue and John Crow Mountains Protected National Heritage KBA, Jamaica), and the potential exists for some operations to expand with spin-offs from larger resorts and cruise ships.

12. **The Waitukubuli National Trail (WNT) and Dominica's three national parks are a cornerstone for Dominica's eco-tourism potential.** The WNT is the first Caribbean long-distance hiking trail and needs stronger management to attract more visitors interested in eco-tourism. The trail spans 184 km, following generally north to south the ridgeline of the two major mountains of the island, each of which anchor national parks. The trail crosses all the major

[6] Tourism for Development, 20 Reasons Sustainable Tourism Counts for Development, World Bank / IFC Knowledge Series, 2017.

ecosystems of Dominica, provides unmatched opportunities for observing the country's biodiversity. The Waitukubuli National Trail (WNT) also comes in close proximity to waterfalls, hot springs, wildlife viewing opportunities and other natural attractions. It crosses the Kalinago Territory home to the indigenous Kalinago (Carib) people. Some 100-130 thousand international tourists visit parts of the WNT annually and contribute to a wide variety of tourism-based small enterprises ranging from hotels and guest houses to restaurants and guide services. The three national parks are the Morne Trois Pitons National Park in the island's center, the Morne Diablotin National Park in the northern mountain range and the Cabrits National Park in the north near the town of Portsmouth. The national parks and trail network are managed by the Forestry Division of the Ministry of Environment Climate Resilience, Disaster Management and Urban Renewal, in cooperation with the Ministry of Tourism and Culture, to the constrained extent that current levels of public budget permit. Services include trash removal, trail clearance, emergency evacuations and first aid, licensing of guides, promotion and management of access, but these have been severely constrained by lack of funds, staff and capacity.

13. **Policy and programmatic connections between biodiversity and tourism planning and management are weak and undeveloped.** Despite the labelling of Dominica as the "Nature Island"[7] there are few ways in which biodiversity and natural resource management are systematically linked. In particular, budgetary provisions for parks and the WNT are entirely divorced from the revenues realized by these assets and from the realistic costs of sustainable long term management and protection. Of greater hazard are weaknesses in implementation of safeguard provisions intended to ensure adequate protection of environmental and cultural resources from adverse impacts from tourism development investments. There is a need for measures to enhance local community (especially *Kalinago*) benefit from, and support for PA and WNT management and protection via generation of tangible benefits from linked enterprises and investments. There are promising arrangements for inter-sector collaboration between environment, tourism and agriculture agencies, especially with regard to the WNT. These would be strengthened under the proposed project.

14. **The project is intended to invest in PAs management and support initial operational costs of PAs management and implementation in a sustainable way, with important mutual benefits for biodiversity and the local economy.** The envisage project will support the effective elaboration and initial implementation of biodiversity conservation measures and sustainable PA and forest management. It is envisaged that the project will also raise awareness of the benefits of eco-tourism and its associated potential to raise revenues. If additional revenues are properly allocated to conservation and biodiversity measures, this will provide a basis to support long-term financial sustainability and continuity of PA systems. Given the post-disaster context, this is an opportune time to support Dominica in leveraging its significant biodiversity resource for sustainable development, including addressing current drivers of habitat loss and generating additional local economic returns through sustainable eco-tourism. Eco-tourism planning for PAs in Dominica needs to identify potential sites of interest and create short value-chains benefiting the local communities. A more satisfying visitor experience can be generated through an expanded activities portfolio as well as better management of trail services. Providing environmentally sound access through strategically placed view-points and trails will also disperse visitors and help contain pressures on habitats. The safety of the trail system needs to be ensured along dangerous stretches such as along steep cliffs, shorelines or hillsides. The national park management planning process should also fully integrate stakeholder engagement to benefit local and indigenous communities. In the same time, proper mechanisms should be established to assure that the increased eco-tourism generated revenues are used, in reasonable proportion, for PAs management continuity.

15. **The project builds on the Forest Country Note (in preparation) for Dominica.** Activities selected in this project aim to foster other actions by leveraging resources to management units at the Government level. The Forest Country Note's objectives are to identify what the key opportunities and challenges are for sustainable forestry and forest-smart

[7] Nature island is a coined name or brand by the Government of Dominica, as discussed in the "Dominica National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan 2014-2010", and the "National Resilience Development Strategy – Dominica 2030".

interventions, and how to address them. The draft version of the Forest Country Note has clearly identified important issues in the sector. First, it clearly mentions that policy and programmatic connections between biodiversity, forestry and tourism planning and management are weak and undeveloped. Second, the current institutional arrangements for forest resources management is difficult given the number of involved agencies, and lack of coordination mechanisms among these entities. Third, the legislation regulating forest sector in Dominica is rather old and, in many cases, obsolete. Fourth, there is no specific legislation regulating the use of privately-owned forests: private owners face far fewer restrictions and have limited sustainable management knowledge, and some of the practices employed can threaten ecosystems due to habitat fragmentation and poor agricultural/ forestry practices. Fifth, data to take informed decisions is lacking. For instance, the Land and Survey Division (under Ministry of Housing and Lands) has no data regarding total private/state owned land surfaces, and different data sources are quite contradictory.

16. **The proposed project will further build on existing GEF engagements and will optimize the impact of two WB investment operations.** The proposed project provides activities that are not implemented by any other organization. First, the GEF engagement in Dominica so far has concentrated on one of the national parks and as such this proposed work would build on and expand the activities, while focusing them on eco-tourism. The GEF-6 UNEP project (9978) "Strengthening Resilience of Agricultural Lands and Forests in Dominica in the Aftermath of Hurricane Maria" works on land degradation around Morne Trois Piton National Park (MTPNP). The GEF-5 UNDP project "Supporting Sustainable Ecosystem by strengthening the Effectiveness of Dominica's Protected Area System" is developing a site-specific management plan for MTPNP, ensuring the legal establishment of a buffer zone for MTPNP and creating community atlases for local communities in and around the buffer zone. Furthermore, the proposed activities will leverage two ongoing WB investment operations which advance protected area management and biodiversity protection – the Emergency Agriculture Project (P166328) and the Dominica Vulnerability Reduction Project (P166540). This activity is parallel co-financing with the Emergency Agriculture Project. This project is making investments in the protected areas such as trail rehabilitation, fauna survey, infrastructure and livelihoods. Specific investments include reforestation and restoration activities in 500 hectares. The second WB investment project is the Dominica Vulnerability Reduction Project which is investing in a flora survey and park infrastructure. Both projects are addressing currently urgent needs for the PAs such as data collection, propagation centers and emergency trail reconstruction but need programming for further investments, which this proposed project will supply. Annex 2 overviews the engagement of development partners in different aspects of PA management, using the METT categories.

Relationship to CPF

17. **World Bank involvement in Dominica is guided by the Regional Partnership Strategy for the Organization of the Eastern Caribbean States (RPS), the objectives of which is to contribute to laying the foundations for sustainable inclusive growth through two pillars: (i) fostering conditions for growth and competitiveness, and (ii) enhancing resilience.** Under the RPS, the WBG will focus on laying the foundations for increased private participation in the economy by creating a more effective investment climate and promoting the competitiveness of industries with high potential, including tourism. Over the long run, this is expected to contribute to higher investments, private sector activity, and ultimately growth and employment, as well as to poverty reduction in rural areas where many smallholders live. The proposed project will align with these objectives by strengthening the competitiveness of the tourism sector in Dominica through an expanded nature-based activity portfolio. It will support eco-tourism and PA investments that simultaneously address livelihood diversification, indigenous peoples, and modernization of Dominica's forest agencies. The project's intent is also to contribute to the WBG's goal of fostering climate mitigation and adaptation by, first, strengthening forest planning and management, including land use, and thus contributing to mitigation, and second, by providing alternative livelihoods to communities affected by climate change such as subsistence agriculture and fishing to foster adaptation. The project is fully aligned with Dominica Low Carbon Climate Resilient Development Strategy

2012- 2020 particularly in supporting adaptation of vulnerable households dependent on forest resources or working on landscapes surrounding the PAs.

18. **The project responds to the objective of GEF Biodiversity Focal Area.** GEF's biodiversity strategy to maintain globally-significant biodiversity in landscapes is supported through inclusive conservation and addressing direct drivers of habitats loss, through improved financial sustainability, effective management, and ecosystem coverage of the protected area estate. The project responds to the Biodiversity Focal Area by meeting two objectives, Objective 1-1 Mainstream biodiversity across sectors as well as landscapes and seascapes through biodiversity mainstreaming in priority sectors; and Objective 2-7 Address direct drivers to protect habitats and species and Improve financial sustainability, effective management, and ecosystem coverage of the global protected area estate -. It also contributes to the Aichi 2020 Targets, specifically, Target 1 and 2 under Strategic Goal A "Address the underlying causes of biodiversity loss by mainstreaming biodiversity across government and society" as the project will support the creation of a biodiversity-based value chain (Component 3) as well as through the establishment of multi-stakeholder landscape platforms that will promote integration of biodiversity values into national development and poverty reduction strategies and processes (Component 1). It will also contribute to Targets 5 and 7 under Strategic Goal B: Reduce the direct pressures on biodiversity and promote sustainable use. Finally, the project will contribute to Target 11 and 12 under Strategic Goal C To improve the status of biodiversity by safeguarding ecosystems, species and genetic diversity and Target 14 of Strategic Goal D: Enhance the benefits to all from biodiversity and ecosystem services.

C. Proposed Development Objective(s)

Project Development Objective is to improve management of Dominica's three national parks and the Waitukubuli trail

Key Results (From PCN)

The project performance toward the PDO will be measured through key outcome indicators detailed below:

i. Improved management of Protected Areas (hectares), using the METT score
ii. Forest area under improved management outside Protected Areas (hectares)

D. Concept Description

The proposed project aims to coordinate and optimize the Government's approach to PA and forest systems and support the Government in its efforts to conserve biodiversity as part of its pursuit to establish Dominica as an eco-tourism destination. This would be achieved by improving regulation and enforcement of its natural capital, and by improving the Government's capacity to mitigate potential negative impacts. The project would consist of four components each addressing key development and sustainability constraints for eco-tourism and biodiversity protection and mutually supporting the overall project development objective:

1. Protected Area Planning. This component would support updating and revising strategic and operational management plans for three national parks and for the WNT. Work would include preparation and finalization of Park and Trail Planning and Management Guidelines that would describe and mandate procedures, protocols

and standards for Plan preparation, content, consultation, review, approval and revision. Planning would include heightened attention to the long term financial and budgetary considerations as well as the benefits of a systemic and strategic approach to investments and planning.

This component will also include a thorough assessment on the role and value of ecosystem services and understand the direct and indirect values of the forest on biodiversity conservation, eco-tourism, natural hazards, climate change, water and regulation services, and agriculture. The assessment would highlight opportunities foregone by the current arrangements and point to the economic value of PAs from tourism and linkages between sustainable tourism development and economic growth.

Given that the project aims to leverage resources to management units at the Government level, the component would also provide limited equipment and supplies (survey equipment and tools, computers, printers, office supplies, etc.) to the Forest Division.

2. Biodiversity and Sustainable Ecotourism Operations. This component would conduct operations and installation of works and programs in line with current park and trail plans and with plans to be prepared and finalized during project implementation. The trail together with the National Parks are a cornerstone for Dominica's eco-tourism potential and it crosses all the major ecosystems of Dominica, provides unmatched opportunities for observing the country's biodiversity.

   Works and operations would be in line with best-practices for biodiversity conservation and sustainable tourism development and include, among other things, construction of visitor facilities (interpretation centers, gazebos, benches, viewing platforms, etc.); clearance, realignment and improvement of trails, trail repairs and renovations; scientific, archeological and user surveys.

   The component would include institutional strengthening support including preparation of a Divisional Operational Manual describing standard operational procedures for execution of forestry and parks works, linked to a broader, overall. This would be supplemented with training for field staff; urgently needed repairs and renovations to park and trail field stations; field equipment and supplies (safety equipment, tools, office supplies, motorcycles).

   The component would install a user fee and visitor management information and control system. The system would assist in revenue mobilization, would be linked to park visitor promotion efforts, would assist in managing congestion and would contribute to other management and operational concerns, such as emergency response and medical evacuations. The envisioned system would collect fees online, as part of an overall Dominica e-portal, and through small ticketing machines (e.g., at the airport and ferry entry points). The activities would include technical assistance for the system set-up on the logistics and project concept, as well as operations and maintenance; training, hardware and software. The current fee schedule for the WNT 2 weeks pass is USD 40, a day pass is USD 12 for 1 segment, and a partial segment is USD 10. A need for the revision, simplification and unification of the fee schedule was identified, such as for instance a weekly pass that covers all tourist sites and the WNT. Collaboration with hotels where a park fee is charged for each guest would be sought to eliminate the need for separate fee collection (e.g. for the Kempinski development that is surrounded by the Cabrits National Park and the WNT). The project will explore designing specific financing mechanisms to the PA system in collaboration with the Government.

3. Sustainable Livelihoods. This component would address pressing social development needs in the *Kalinago* Territory through investments associated with the WNT that transits the Territory. *Kalinago's* land is mostly of poor quality, with the worst soil erosion on the island and deforestation that has caused many streams in the area to dry up. As the Territory possesses unique social and administrative aspects, field implementation will be adapted to the special circumstances and detailed preparation and implementation will require arrangements to be concluded with the *Kalinago* Tribal Council. This component would also explore options for innovation drawing on best practices elsewhere and potentially scaling up for unprotected KBAs not only in Dominica but also in other areas (e.g. in the Lesser Antilles islands in the Caribbean Sea). A focus will be on ensuring the sustainability of activities beyond the lifetime of the project.

   The component would support mapping and preparation of a participatory land use plan for the *Kalinago* Territory (3,700 acres). Assistance would also be provided to the *Kalinago* Tribal Council on forest management planning. These results would be integrated into the revised WNT Management. Planning, analysis and consultations with *Kalinago* authorities would also examine revenue sharing justification and options. Activities will also concentrate on supporting women-led enterprises and improving women's decision-making participation.

   The component would support land use mapping, forest management planning and potential investments in eco-tourism facilities to be operated by the *Kalinago* community. These might include campground facilities or other projects aimed at generating local revenues from services provided to users of the WNT.

4. Project management. This component would finance project management and monitoring costs, within the funding limits established by GEF. This component would expand the capacity of the Project Implementation Unit of the ongoing Dominica Emergency Agriculture Livelihoods and Climate Resilience Project (DEAL). Support would include costs for additional procurement, financial management and safeguard expertise, and for additional support for the PIU's forestry subject matter specialist.

19. **The project will be implemented as part of the ongoing World Bank-financed Dominica Emergency Agriculture Livelihoods and Climate Resilience Project (DEALCRP)**, in line with the established Project Operational Manual procedures and relying on the existing Project Implementation unit (PIU). The reason for this arrangement is to minimize the risk of implementation delays. The project will provide incremental PIU staff to support demands for additional procurement and financial transactions and will support a specific PIU Focal Point specialist for the PA work. The ongoing project governance arrangements will be supplemented with provisions for input from WNT-concerned agencies not currently represented (e.g. Ministry of Tourism and Ministry of Kalinago Affairs). It should be noted that the DEAL project has been slow to disperse, reflecting serious capacity issues.

20. **Project Beneficiaries.** The project will have positive social and environmental benefits at local, national, regional and global levels. At the local level, direct project beneficiaries include communities and their members in targeted landscapes, and particularly: individual entrepreneurs, small, medium and micro-sized enterprises (SMMEs), community-based organizations (CBOs), such as co-operatives, communal property associations (CPAs), and community trusts. Benefits are expected to include improved access to skills training for business development, finance and markets, improved local governance, and subsequently more profitable community or individually-owned businesses and increased household income. Women bear the heavy burden of ensuring the livelihood sustainability of rural households. Moreover, restrictions on their participation in public consultations and decision-making spaces, and customary laws all play against women empowerment within the community. As such, the project envisages empowering women by (a) ensuring their active participation in project consultation and decision mechanisms at the community level; (b); increasing their integration into and access to value chains; (c) promoting greater participation of

women in credit and savings schemes and all forms of capacity building; and (d) providing access to training opportunities and benefits to increase their capacity on leadership conservation schemes. The project will also define measures to ensure that women and other vulnerable groups, especially youth, are adequately represented and participate in both project activities and decision-making processes. Private sector businesses that enter into partnerships with entrepreneurs in local communities will benefit from increased sustainability in their productive value chains. At the national level, the overall economy is expected to benefit from eco-tourism driven economic growth, increase in technical skills, new business opportunities, and enhanced resilience to climate change in rural areas, and further inclusion of historically-disadvantaged segments of the population. The project will also benefit the regional and global community through the protection of globally-significant biodiversity and natural habitats.

Legal Operational Policies	Triggered?
Projects on International Waterways OP 7.50	No
Projects in Disputed Areas OP 7.60	No

Summary of Screening of Environmental and Social Risks and Impacts

The project is rated as moderate due to the nature of the proposed activities. The activities will largely be focused on developing management plans for national parks with some small works being constructed on public land. Typical impacts and risks include noise, dust, worker and community safety related issues, waste management and possible impacts on cultural heritage. In general, the project will have a very positive impact on the environment.

Note To view the Environmental and Social Risks and Impacts, please refer to the Concept Stage ESRS Document**.**

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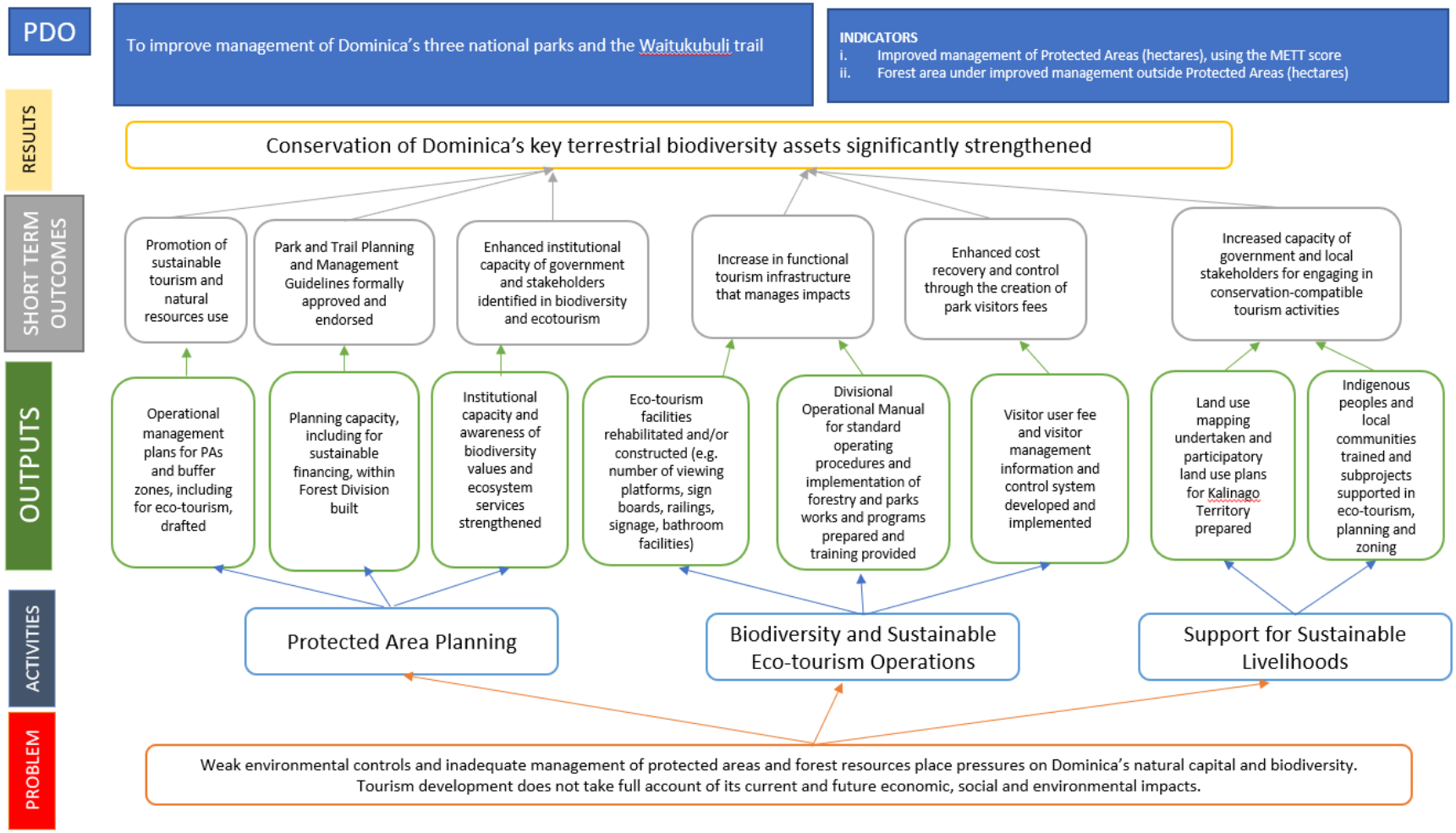
Practice Manager/Manager:		
Country Director:		

Annex 1. Theory of Change



Annex 2. Support to the PA sector in Dominica (preliminary assessment)

Components of METT	GEF-7	PROFOR	WB Ag Project	DVRP	UNDP GEF 5 on MTNTP	UNEP GEF 6	Other GEF
Diagnostics							
Overall analysis		X					
Data collection			Fauna	Flora			
Planning					X		
Legislation and Policy		X					
Protected area system design		X			X		
Management planning	Plans	Analysis			X		
Planning process	X						
Management					X		X
Resource management	X						
Budgeting	X	Analysis			X		
Staffing		Analysis					
Equipment			X				
Infrastructure			X	X			
Monitoring and evaluation	X	X					X
Mainstreaming							
Land and water planning		X			X	X	
Education and awareness							
State and commercial neighbors	X					X	
Indigenous people	X						
Local Communities	X				X	X	
Economic benefit	X	Analysis			X	X	
Visitor facilities	X	Analysis	X				
Fees	X	Analysis					