National Environment and Planning Agency

IWEco.Jamaica

Integrating Water, Land and Ecosystems Management in Caribbean Small Island Developing States

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Integrated Water, Land and Ecosystem Management in Caribbean Small Island Developing States (IWECO)

Objective:

This national project will promote conservation of internationally significant wetland biodiversity through the restoration of wetland ecosystem services and sustainable use of wetland biological resources. Actions will be undertaken to

- Restore the historical hydrological and other physical functions of the morass;
- Enhance and re-establish native vegetation communities to provide a sustainable habitat for wetland fauna;
- Eliminate issues that degrade ecosystem functions; and
- Implement institutional arrangements to ensure the longterm sustainability of the wetland biological resources

In addition, the project will support the Government of Jamaica (GoJ) policy, legal and institutional frameworks for sustainable land management, integrated management of water resources and the management of ecosystem services and taking into account climate change issues.

COMPONENT 1

Integrated Approaches to Land Management, Land Use, Pollution Management and Management of the Hydrodynamics of the Negril Environmental Protection Area

Hydrological Restoration of the Negril Environmental Protection Area

Land use and management planning for the Negril Environmental Protection Area

Baseline data compilation (including identification of priority problems and selection of indicators) for the project.

COMPONENT 2

Improvement of Water, Land, Ecosystems and Biodiversity Resources of the Negril Morass, Taking into Account Climate Change, Sensitive Ecosystems and Ecosystem Services

Pollution control and development of a monitoring protocol and system for assessment of project indicators

Habitat/ecosystem rehabilitation investments for conservation of internationally significant, endemic and migratory species.

COMPONENT 3

Strengthening of policies and legal and institutional frameworks and Capacity building for sustainable land management, integrated management of water resources and the management of ecosystem services, taking into account climate change

Local Institutional and Community Capacity Building

Build capacity for managing wetland Protected Areas.

COMPONENT 4

Communication, Awareness, Policy Dialogue, Sustainability and Lessons Learnt

Knowledge Building, Lessons Learnt and Research Activities

Best environmental practice investments by farmers and land owners (to address unsustainable land use within the wetland ecosystems), supported by GEF-SGP.

Overview

Implementing agency	NEPA
Implementing partners	Stakeholders of Negril EPA
Project duration	4 years (2018-2022)
Funding Agency	Global Environment Facility
Grant Funds allocated	US$3,114,685
Co-financing	US$10,343,678
Government of Jamaica	US$438,413

Key Activities

- Select appropriate hydrological models that determine specific restoration needs
- Apply hydrological solutions to control water level and movement geared towards hydrological improvement of zonal waters
- Undertake land use surveys to determine historical wetland boundaries
- Develop and pilot an integrated pollution control and management programme
- Implementation of the Green Business initiatives within Tourism related entities and related SCP strategy and action plan
- Assessment of the spatial distribution of seagrass beds within Long Bay
- Develop and implement an effective ecosystem restoration programme
- Integrated land tenure programme implemented to resolve the current issues affecting the Negril Great Morass
- Establish an interactive, interpretive research and knowledge sharing centre within the Negril Royal Palm Reserve
- Work with private land owners to reduce wetland impacts by employing best environmental practices for wetland conservation and protection
- Develop a marketing and management plan for the Negril Royal Palm Reserve
- Train farmers in sustainable farming practices and alternative livelihood programs, using best environmental practices (BEP).

Main Project Outputs

- The restoration of important elements of biodiversity of the Negril Great Morass that is significant nationally, regionally and globally;
- The reduction in the further degradation of peat resources, contributing to improved human health, water quality, air quality and ecosystem functions;
- Improvements in the livelihoods and strengthened land use practices within local communities
- Strengthened management of the Negril EPA.