



USAID
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DOMINICAN REPUBLIC USAID COMBATING WILDLIFE TRAFFICKING ACTIVITY

OBJECTIVE

USAID's Combating Wildlife Trafficking Activity addresses the illegal collection, poaching, and trafficking of endemic and threatened species from the Caribbean. The regional operation office, located in Antigua and Barbuda, coordinates with local partners in ten Caribbean countries: Barbados, Dominica, St. Lucia, St. Vincent and the Grenadines, Grenada, Bahamas, Haiti, Jamaica, Trinidad and Tobago, and the Dominican Republic.

REGIONAL SITUATION

The Caribbean region is one of the world's most diverse biodiversity hotspots. It contains endemic species that are in high demand in international and domestic markets, yet many of the species targeted by trade are unable to withstand even low levels of offtake due to their small population sizes and geographic ranges. International illegal trade activity is regional in nature, and is often led by wealthy individuals who hop from island to island to gather specimens and ship them from regional hubs onward to Europe or North America.

OUR WORK

The Combating Wildlife Trafficking Activity addresses the illegal wildlife trade at the regional level, by focusing in four main areas:

IN-SITU MONITORING & PROTECTION

Effective patrolling of the areas inhabited by the target species has proven to be an important deterrent for poachers in this region. Rangers, community wardens, and other enforcement personnel on the ground also regularly play important roles in communications and community

engagement by ensuring that local citizens and visitors are aware of the laws protecting wildlife and developing informal, local intelligence networks.

BUILDING LAW ENFORCEMENT AND JUDICIAL CAPACITY

By equipping conservation and law enforcement actors with locally relevant skills and tools to counter wildlife crime, these individuals will be better prepared to detect and respond to emerging trade trends regardless of species, leading to greater overall sustainability.

STRENGTHENING REGIONAL COORDINATION AND CITES IMPLEMENTATION

Learning from ongoing, coordinated efforts to tackle drug trafficking in the region, the activity will build capacity and cooperation among actors within each country, enabling enforcement agencies from the various countries to work together more closely to share intelligence and develop strategies to detect, disrupt, and build cases to prosecute cross-border wildlife trafficking.

SUPPORTING ATTITUDE AND BEHAVIOR CHANGE

The activity will implement pilot evidence-based behavior change and community engagement actions to reduce the demand, building on the very successful “pride campaigns” from the 1970s and 1980s, which helped transform the knowledge, attitudes, and behavior of the public with respect to endangered parrots in Saint Lucia and St. Vincent & the Grenadines.

EXPECTED RESULTS

- Enhanced wildlife crime surveillance in 100,000 hectares containing threatened species
- Ten site-based patrol teams trained on wildlife monitoring and data management
- Surveys to monitor the populations of target species in seven countries
- Enhanced capacities of six national wildlife trafficking enforcement agencies in international protection of target species
- Regional wildlife enforcement network created and supported
- Three communication campaigns to address the demand for target species implemented

Duration: March 2023 – March 2026

Budget: US \$3.0 million

Implementing Partner: Fauna and Flora International (FFI)

CONTACT

USAID/Dominican Republic

Email: drinfo@usaid.gov