

DOCUMENT OF THE INTER-AMERICAN DEVELOPMENT BANK  
MULTILATERAL INVESTMENT FUND

**TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO**

**EXPERIENCE NARIVA**

**(TT-T1106)**

**DONORS MEMORANDUM**

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**PROJECT SUMMARY  
TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO  
EXPERIENCE NARIVA  
(TT-T1106)**

The Experience Nariva project is one of eight applications selected through the Beyond Tourism Innovation Challenge, launched by IDB Lab in partnership with the United Nations World Tourism Organization in June 2020 to support the revitalization of the tourism sector in C&D and S&I countries in the Central American and Caribbean regions. The Challenge aimed to identify innovative solutions in two categories: environmental sustainability, and workforce development. The project was presented by the Caribbean Natural Resource Institute (“CANARI”), an organization with over 30 years of experience in working with small and rural communities across the Caribbean in promoting conservation of natural capital and sustainable livelihoods linked to long term health of these assets. The project objective is to develop a community-based low density eco-tourism model and framework for conservation of the Nariva wetlands, the largest and most ecologically diverse wetland in Trinidad and Tobago<sup>1</sup> consisting of 11,343 hectares, which is surrounded by eleven rural and low-income communities with an overall population of 17,622 people. CANARI is a sitting member of the Advisory Committee charged with supporting conservation of this ecosystem.

Studies have revealed that due to lack of alternative livelihoods, the area is being encroached and can be permanently degraded through subsistence agriculture on the perimeters of the wetlands, as well as overfishing, hunting and other extractive activities. The project will support the recommended implementation of a community-led design, development and operation of sustainable eco-tourism business activities that will emphasize education and non-extractive activities such as bird watching, nature tours and photography, this is a model based on low density traffic of visitors and the targeting of nature enthusiasts. The project will, in parallel, expose and develop a data driven model to plan and undertake conservation activities led by bordering communities financed through a dedicated Conservation Fund to be piloted through the project. The differentiating factor and innovation of the model presented is that community members are at the centre of mapping and monitoring the ecosystem using technology, conservation will be led and executed locally, and eco-tourism businesses will be developed by local MSEs and entrepreneurs with mentorship and small-scale financial support, as opposed to an externally driven model that is then expected to be embraced by the community members. The approach proposed by CANARI emphasizes a sustainable local economic development and conservation model that respectfully puts underserved rural communities at the centre of ideation and co-creation.

The project budget is US\$987,125 which includes US\$450,000 in non-reimbursable financing from IDB Lab and US \$537,125 in counterpart financing and will be executed by CANARI. The project will directly engage and benefit 11 rural and low-income communities that border the Nariva wetlands and the environment. Key targeted results include: Collaborative management model to support sustainable livelihoods and conservation of the Nariva Swamp Protected Area; 15,000 citizens engaged through conservation awareness sessions, training of 60 members of the community in Participatory Geographic Information Systems (PGIS).

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**ANNEXES**

ANNEX I	Results Matrix
ANNEX II	Budget Summary
ANNEX III	iDELTA

**APPENDICES**

Draft Resolution

**AVAILABLE IN THE TECHNICAL DOCUMENTS SECTION OF MIF PROJECT INFORMATION SYSTEM**

ANNEX IV	Diagnosis of Integrity and Institutional Capacity (DICI) [includes Integrity Due Diligence Analysis]
ANNEX V	Reporting Requirements and Compliance with Milestones and Fiduciary Arrangements
ANNEX VI	Procurement and Contracting Plan

## **ACRONYMS AND ABBREVIATIONS**

<b>CANARI</b>	Caribbean Natural Resources Institute
<b>CCB/CTT</b>	IDB Country Office in Trinidad and Tobago
<b>GIS</b>	Geographic Information Systems
<b>IDB</b>	Inter-American Development Bank
<b>IDB Lab</b>	Innovation Lab of the IDB Group (formerly, the Multilateral Investment Fund)
<b>LAC</b>	Latin America and the Caribbean
<b>MSE</b>	Micro and Small Enterprises
<b>NSPA</b>	Nariva Swamp Protected Area
<b>PA</b>	Protected Area
<b>SBG</b>	Sustainable Business Group
<b>SDG</b>	Sustainable Development Goal

**PROJECT INFORMATION**  
**TRINIDAD**  
**EXPERIENCE NARIVA**

**(TT-T1106)**

<b>Country and Geographic Location:</b>	Trinidad and Tobago's Nariva wetlands, the largest and most ecologically diverse wetland consisting of 11,343 hectares, which is surrounded by eleven rural and low-income communities with an overall population of 17,622 people.		
<b>Executing Agency:</b>	<a href="#">Caribbean Natural Resources Institute</a> (CANARI)		
<b>Focus Area:</b>	Climate-Smart Agriculture, sub area of Natural Capital for Regeneration and Sustainability		
<b>Coordination with Other Donors/Bank Operations:</b>	Contributes with IDB Lab's Strategy's cross-cutting theme of Climate Change, specifically with concrete actions aimed at adapting to, and mitigating, climate change which improve livelihoods.		
<b>Project Beneficiaries:</b>	20 microentrepreneurs and micro and small enterprises (MSEs) that will receive technical assistance to develop eco-tourism services, the environment, 15,000 residents of the 11 neighbouring communities as well as citizens that will be directly engaged in conservation activities and at least 60 members of the communities that will be trained and involved in participatory Geographic Information Systems technology (PGIS) and citizen science to map and support ongoing monitoring and conservation efforts of the ecosystem.		
<b>Financing:</b>	Technical Cooperation:	US\$ 450,000	46%
	Equity:		
	Loan:		
	Other (explain):		
	<b>TOTAL IDB Lab FUNDING:</b>	US\$ 450,000	46%
	Counterpart:	US\$ 537,125	54%
	Co-financing (if available; include a separate line for IDB Co-financing if applicable):		00%
	<b>TOTAL PROJECT BUDGET:</b>	US\$ 987,125	100%
<b>Execution and Disbursement Period:</b>	The project execution period will be 36 months and the period for disbursement will be 42 months		
<b>Special Contractual Conditions:</b>	None		
<b>Environmental and Social Impact Review</b>	This is a <b>Category B</b> Project, in accordance with IDB's Environmental and Social Policy Framework, since it is expected that its environmental and social ("E&S") impacts and risks, in general, will be reversible and can be mitigated using measures available with current technologies.		
<b>Unit responsible for disbursements</b>	CTT		

## I. The Problem

### A. Problem Description

- 1.1. This project will focus on the design and implementation of a low-density community based eco-tourism model at the Nariva Swamp Protected Area (NSPA), a legally designated Protected Area (PA) on the Eastern Coast of Trinidad<sup>2</sup>. The Nariva Swamp is the largest and most ecologically diverse wetland in Trinidad and Tobago<sup>3</sup> with global recognition<sup>4</sup>, consisting of 11,343 hectares which is surrounded by eleven communities in the Rio Claro/Mayaro municipality, with an overall population of 17,622 people (see Figure 1).<sup>5</sup> Within these communities, approximately 54% of households are considered low-income<sup>6</sup>.
- 1.2. This region encompasses a range of habitats and a rich biodiversity of plants and animals, some of which are rare and threatened<sup>7</sup>. This area is also geographically diverse consisting of coastal beaches, freshwater marsh, palm swamp and a mangrove forest. This area is therefore not only critical for biodiversity conservation but also provides a range of ecosystem services including watershed coastline protection, soil stabilisation, and supporting the removal of greenhouse gases.<sup>8</sup>
- 1.3. However, this wetland is facing several threats due to human activity. These threats include impacts of climate change, removal of vegetation and modification of hydrology, uncontrolled harvesting, and invasive species. Agricultural squatting, unsustainable agricultural practices (including using fire to clear land<sup>9</sup>, animal grazing, use of agrichemicals)<sup>10</sup>, unsustainable fishing, poaching (including for the illegal wildlife trade) are causes of ecosystem destruction and degradation in the NSPA. One of the root drivers is poverty in the surrounding communities.<sup>11</sup>
- 1.4. National statistics reveal that the communities in this rural region of the country demonstrate the highest levels of poverty on a national scale and have limited access to formal jobs and mainstream support services, given challenges in the availability of transportation and time for travel to the closest urban centres. These communities are typically engaged in small scale agriculture and are also dependent on the wetlands to generate subsistence livelihoods. A recent survey revealed that 44% of respondents from 11 bordering communities utilize the wetlands for extractive livelihoods, such

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<sup>2</sup> Protected Area Status are declared under the Forest Act (Chap 66:01), Conservation of Wildlife Act (Chap 67:01) and Environmental Management Act (Chap35:05). Nariva Swamp is one of 50 Protected Areas in Trinidad and Tobago

<sup>3</sup> The Nariva Swamp is also listed as a Wetland of International Importance under the Ramsar Convention

<sup>4</sup> Idib

<sup>5</sup> "Livelihood Assessment for Communities Surrounding the Nariva Swamp Protected Area, Trinidad" Dennis Sammy (3 December 2018)

<sup>6</sup> [UNDP, Consultation Report on Multidimensional Poverty in Trinidad \(2018\).](#)

<sup>7</sup> This includes protected species such as the West Indian Manatee (*Trichechus Manatus*). Other fauna includes 594 animal species and 319 species of plants.

<sup>8</sup> "Management Plan for the Nariva Swamp Protected Area 2019-2029" FAO (2019).

<sup>9</sup> The NSPA averages 24 fires a year destroying 233 HA on average "Management Plan for the Nariva Swamp Protected Area 2019-2029" FAO (2019).

<sup>10</sup> 7.4% of the NSPA already destroyed by agriculture, <sup>10</sup> "Management Plan for the Nariva Swamp Protected Area 2019-2029" FAO (2019).

<sup>11</sup> "Management Plan for the Nariva Swamp Protected Area 2019-2029" FAO (2019).

activities have emerged as a threat to the conservation of this protected area.<sup>12</sup> Community members practise subsistence agriculture and fishing but limited economic opportunities alongside growing demands for an improved standard of living have caused community members to engage in illegal hunting, fishing and unsustainable agriculture, which threatens the high biodiversity and ecosystem services provided by the NSPA. The communities have also been further affected by COVID-19 restrictions with reduced markets and consumers for their fish catch and agricultural products.

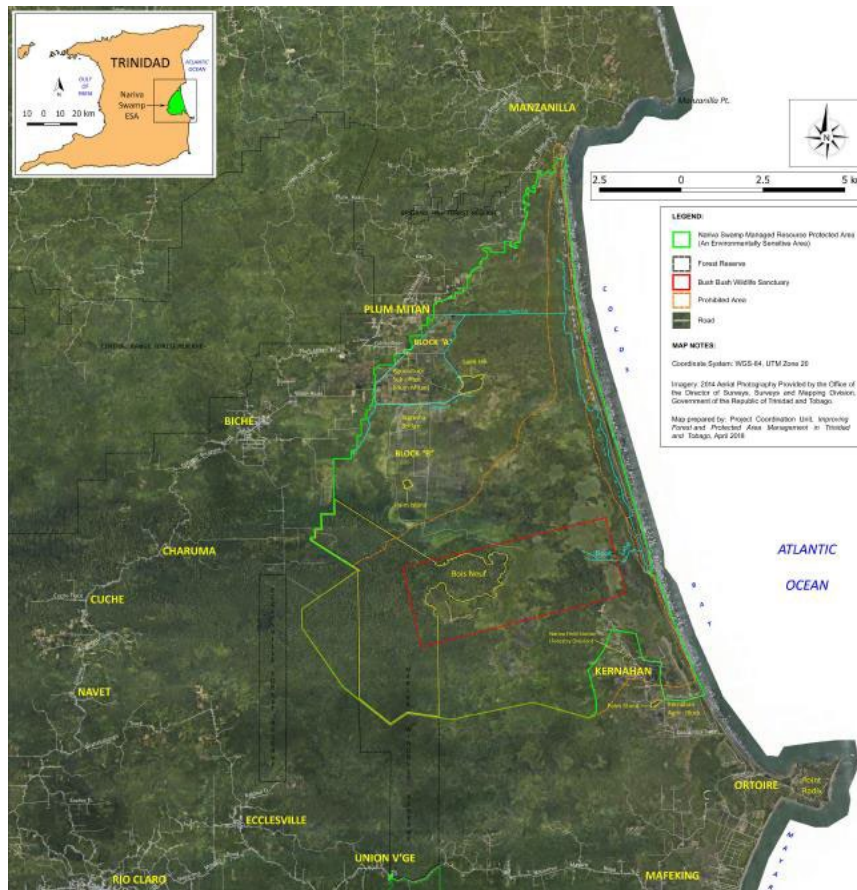


Figure 1: Map of the Nariva Swamp and surrounding communities (FAO 2018)

- 1.5 The project builds on a 2018 Livelihoods Assessment study which developed proposals as to how the resources of the NSPA can be sustainably managed, while providing opportunities for the very poor rural communities that border this area.
- 1.6 Several challenges that relate to protection of the Nariva wetlands in the 2018 Livelihoods Assessment, include: (i) lack of dedicated human and financial resources for conservation; (ii) governance and protection of the area is provided in diverse pieces of legislation making interpretation and authorization for enforcement problematic; (iii) there is a lack of sustained coordination and involvement of the bordering communities in ongoing conservation efforts; and (iv) lack of alternative and sustainable livelihood

<sup>12</sup> Survey conducted as part of the Livelihoods Assessment by the Food and Agricultural Association. The survey also found that 75% of the respondents use the swamp's natural resources



opportunities for these communities. However, the assessment also indicated that the promotion of the NSPA as a national tourism destination, presents a unique opportunity to improve the earning capacity of the residents and to protect the environmental assets of the wetlands, an approach that aligns with the Government's management plan for the protection of this area<sup>13</sup>.

- 1.7 This project will focus on the design and implementation of a low-density community based eco-tourism model at the NSPA, a model that has been successful in the North Eastern turtle nesting communities in Trinidad, where residents receive ongoing training and unite around conservation and environmental stewardship as an anchor for their livelihoods where eco-tourism attracts local and international visitors particularly *in the turtle nesting period*. This strategy included the development of a cluster of community enterprises; communities are involved in hosting/accommodation, food production and preparation, patrolling the beaches, research, tour guidance and craft production. Potential tourism opportunities for the communities within the Nariva area could include boat rides, tours, birdwatching, camping, food festivals and other unique cultural attractions that can attract local and international eco-tourists. Only limited ecotourism activities presently exist in the swamp consisting of a few informal micro and small enterprises (MSEs) such as boat tour operators, food and beverage vendors, fisherfolk, farmers and craft vendors. Most visitors are brought to the NSPA by tour operators from outside of the communities. Creating a new national and international ecotourism market is needed for the Nariva Swamp for an experience that is community-driven and managed to support the swamp's long-term sustainable use and conservation to achieve equity, well-being and resilience for the surrounding communities.
- 1.8 This approach is a very synergistic fit with the country's tourism thrust. Trinidad and Tobago does not cater to sun and sea all-inclusive holiday makers, the country has developed tourism around local festivals and eco-tourism. In eco-tourism the twin island is well recognized as a destination for bird watching and sighting of the endangered leatherback turtles. The development of the "Experience Nariva" product will complement the country's existing eco-tourism attractions – the Caroni Bird Sanctuary, the Wildfowl Trust and turtle watching. The inclusion of an additional attraction to visit Nariva's 11,000 + hectares of wetlands will add to the country's small scale established offerings to low density local and overseas visitors that wish to experience Trinidad and Tobago's biodiversity and natural beauty.
- 1.9 The development of an "Experience Nariva" product, requires a collaborative, co-management approach between the various national agencies that manage the Nariva Swamp Protected Area and members of the surrounding communities. Critical to this joint effort is increasing the capacity of community micro and small enterprises and catalyzing or strengthening partnerships and potential providers of ecotourism services, to ensure convergence around sustainable eco-tourism activities. Community groups have been described as possessing minimal capacity in business development and management, and many local entrepreneurs operate without plans, in isolation, and at various times, in competition with each other. The Management Plan for the Nariva Swamp Protected Area 2019-2029 has emphasized that

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<sup>13</sup> "Management Plan for the Nariva Swamp Protected Area 2019-2029" FAO (2019)

mobilisation, capacity building and active participation by the communities in the development and management of eco-tourism model is a cornerstone towards the development of viable tourism business operations that are anchored in conservation. In this regard, the involvement and co-ordination of a cluster of micro and small enterprises and community members engaged in developing a range of eco-tourism services to support a well-developed and branded “Experience Nariva” product will create livelihood opportunities within the bordering communities for visitor hosting, visitor education and tour operations.

- 1.10 **Beneficiaries:** Despite being a small country, the people of Trinidad and Tobago, particularly those in more urban and densely populated areas, tend to live in and relate to relatively small immediate communities. For example, persons living in the relatively affluent, urbanised western areas of Trinidad, where the capital city and the IDB office are located, would first ask if you live past the lighthouse, a colonial landmark marking the outer parameters of the capital city, that for them, would demarcate the limits of their known and commonly frequented communities. Residents of the East-West urban corridor located in the Northern half of the country would equate anywhere outside of this corridor as the rural south. These generalist descriptions underly a known reality for most of the population, that despite, being a relatively small twin island state, there are several communities, and by extension citizens, in the more remote and rural parts of the country who are both unseen and unheard by decision makers, central government, civil society, and more urban areas of the country (See Figure 2). It is these unseen and unheard communities, the invisible residents of small rural villages bordering the Nariva Swamp Protected Area that are the primary beneficiaries of the project.
- 1.11 The urban zones identified above are recognised and described as cities, towns, and boroughs where access to health care, jobs, schools, transport and more can be within walking distance. The beneficiaries for this project live in villages and pockets of communities, a term that is an apt description of this low density, rural region of the country. Many citizens of Trinidad and Tobago may not have heard of or know where the 11 communities targeted in this project are located. Others may have driven through some of the villages such as Kernahan or Plum Mitán on day trips or short term stays at clusters of beachfront vacation homes located an hour or more away. Driving through these areas, one would witness a line of small stalls populated with families and villagers selling the same produce, usually watermelon, melongene and other short-term crops, waiting on persons driving past on their way to or returning from beachfront vacation homes in the South Eastern coast who may stop to buy produce. Poor roadway conditions and the absence of public transportation mean that these families have limited access to markets, limited access to jobs in nearby urban areas and even limited access to schools. A child may be required to spend 4-5 hours daily waiting for transport and travelling to and from school, in current conditions of the pandemic their access to schooling may be limited to intermittent contact via mobile phone with teachers when parents or guardians have extra money for data. Young people therefore grow up with limited education, lack of exposure to entrepreneurship and undertake subsistence agriculture to provide for the basics for the next generation of children.
- 1.12 Families that have lived in these communities for generations rely on the land and natural resources around them to provide for their families. The main income sources for 39% of households surveyed are gardening, fishing and employment. 75% of

households use natural resources in the NSPA for their livelihoods, with 67% benefitting from commercial (for income) activities and the rest using resources for subsistence.<sup>14</sup> For the younger generations there is high unemployment and underemployment, which can result in a migration of this generation from the region. Despite these challenges, the residents are proud of the beauty of the natural landscape and wish to preserve the region and remain in what has been described as a peaceful oasis away from the traffic, noise, overdevelopment, environmental degradation, and high crime that plagues more populated areas of the country.

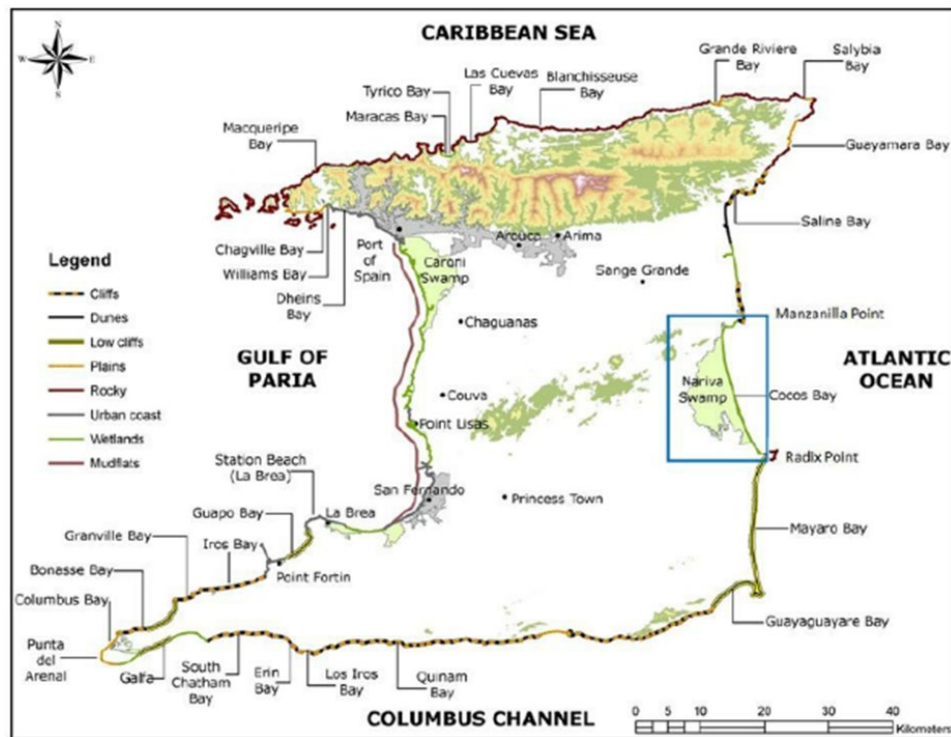


Figure 2: Map of Trinidad and Tobago showing remoteness of the NSPA and surrounding communities from urban centres<sup>15</sup>.

- 1.13 The project seeks to engage these citizens in a respectful and inclusive process of support as they participate in defining, building capacity for, and rolling out eco-tourism and related conservation services as an alternative to their current options. In addition, by connecting first local, and later, international visitors to these communities they will gain more visibility and can emerge as leaders in conservation efforts locally and internationally. The potential is real in Trinidad and Tobago, Winston Nanan who left school at 10 years of age is a self-taught field naturalist and conservationist, who has built a successful and sustainable eco-tourism business offering controlled boat tours in the Caroni Swamp bird sanctuary. Despite his lack of formal education, Winston through his involvement in eco-tourism became a contributor to National Geographic photographing the scarlet ibis that nest in this area and founding a successful boat

<sup>14</sup> "Livelihood Assessment for Communities Surrounding the Nariva Swamp Protected Area, Trinidad"  
Dennis Sammy (3 December 2018)

<sup>15</sup> [https://www.researchgate.net/figure/Map-of-Trinidad-Showing-the-Location-of-the-Study-Area-after-Darsan-et-al-2012\\_fig2\\_272789998](https://www.researchgate.net/figure/Map-of-Trinidad-Showing-the-Location-of-the-Study-Area-after-Darsan-et-al-2012_fig2_272789998)

tour company that is now passed on to and is managed by a third generation<sup>16</sup>. Winston Nanan and his family represent the type of success story this project seeks to support.

- 1.14 The solution targets the following beneficiary groups: 20 microentrepreneurs and micro and small enterprises( MSEs) that will receive technical assistance to develop eco-tourism services, 15,000 residents of the 11 neighbouring communities as well as citizens that will be directly engaged in conservation activities and at least 60 members of the communities that will be trained and involved in participatory Geographic Information Systems technology (PGIS) and citizen science to map and support ongoing monitoring and conservation efforts of the ecosystem.

## II. The Innovation Proposal

### A. Project Description

- 2.1 The project objective is to design and implement a community-based low density eco-tourism data-driven model for conservation of the Nariva Swamp Protected Area in Trinidad and Tobago. The proposed model will result in the creation of, “Experience Nariva”, which will support a transformation of the local eco-tourism offerings from a modality that is currently ad-hoc to one that is coordinated, inclusive of local MSE service providers and supports conservation of the Nariva Swamp and wellbeing of the surrounding communities.
- 2.2 The solution targets the following beneficiary groups: 20 microentrepreneurs and micro and small enterprises( MSEs) that will receive technical assistance to develop eco-tourism services, 15,000 residents of the 11 neighbouring communities as well as citizens that will be directly engaged in conservation activities and at least 60 members of the communities that will be trained and involved in participatory Geographic Information Systems technology (PGIS) and citizen science to map and support ongoing monitoring and conservation efforts of the ecosystem. The project will also benefit the environment, by promoting the conservation of the wetland and its biodiversity. This intervention will comprise of four components which will improve the coordination efforts amongst the local communities and national agencies, develop the capacity of microbusiness that support local eco-tourism as well as ensuring the sustainable management and conservation of the ecosystem that will anchor the “Experience Nariva” visitor experience and livelihoods. These four project components are as follows: (i) Tourism Cluster and Strategic Partnership Development; (ii) MSE Capacity Building; (iii) Development and Implementation of Participatory GIS Techniques; and (iv) Design and Capitalisation of a Conservation Fund.
- 2.3 **Innovation:** Innovation can be assessed in the context in which it is applied. For the targeted 11 communities that border the Nariva wetlands, the participatory approach to support community members in defining and implementing an eco-tourism experience that is sustainable, relevant, and culturally authentic as well as creating value for local and international visitors is innovative for a region that due to poverty and geographic isolation has either been overlooked or “told” what to do. In Trinidad and Tobago and the wider Caribbean and Latin American region, models have been

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<sup>16</sup> [Profile of Winston Nanan](#)

developed that demonstrate that by linking ecotourism livelihoods to the health of a habitat, communities are increasingly engaged in action that promotes and supports conservation. The translation and adaptation of this approach in the Nariva wetlands will generate opportunities for local economic development and inclusion for communities that are largely invisible and forgotten. The intervention supported by IDB Lab represents an innovation for the targeted communities and an innovative solution as to how this diverse ecosystem can be sustainably managed, a challenge that has plagued agencies responsible for management of this protected area for many years.

- 2.4 This model is unique for the targeted geographical area since no eco-tourism community led cluster has been developed in the NSPA, or any protected area in Trinidad and Tobago. Incorporating the use of a science and technology approach in the participatory GIS mapping will empower rural communities surrounding the wetlands to map and monitor resources and use a data driven approach to make decisions on ecotourism development, sustainable resource use and conservation activities. A web-based platform will host the community ecotourism plan featuring ecotourism sites, cultural/heritage sites and high biodiversity value areas and support marketing to local and international tourists. Innovative tools will be used to support development and climate-proofing of green social enterprises in the communities. The proposed solution which embraces citizen science and technology will leverage innovation in environmental sustainability creating a cluster of eco-tourism MSEs to sustainably use and safeguard the resources of the area.

2.5 **Component I: Tourism Cluster and Strategic Partnership Development (Total US\$264,626.84: IDB Lab US\$122,626.84, Counterpart US\$142,000)**

- 2.6 The existing Cabinet-appointed NSPA Management Advisory Committee includes representation of key government, civil society and community stakeholders advising on implementation of the NSPA management plan. This component will focus on mobilisation of the Committee and other key stakeholders to facilitate collaboration and coordination of economic and protective activities for development of sustainable community livelihoods and community stewardship for biodiversity conservation in the NSPA. The objective of this component is the mobilisation of key stakeholders to facilitate collaboration and coordination of economic and protective activities in the NSPA.

- 2.7 CANARI, as a member of the NSPA Advisory Committee will conduct a stakeholder mapping exercise in conjunction with key entities to develop a stakeholder communication and engagement plan that shall form the basis of CANARI's outreach activities. CANARI's role in the development of a collaborative governance model will be that of a trusted broker/interlocuter between national agencies that have the main responsibilities for the management of the NSPA, such as the Environmental Management Authority (EMA) and the national Forestry Division, private sector operators, and the members of the 11 communities that reside and rely on the assets of the region. Challenges will include reconciling the different agendas of each group, for example stakeholders in public agencies that wish to focus solely on the conservation and protection of natural assets, versus those groups that need to access and utilize these assets for sustainable livelihoods. Multiple studies acknowledge the involvement of community groups is essential to the protection of this area as they are

best positioned to act as stewards, to monitor and report on any potential hazardous uses of the land and will benefit from the sustainable management of these resources. This collaboration will be inspired by and learn from other models for community development and co-management of protected areas models in Trinidad and Tobago and across the Caribbean, drawing on CANARI's experience and networks. Outreach and awareness raising activities will also be conducted to promote public commitment to conservation of the NSPA and support for community eco-tourism as a sustainable livelihood.

- 2.8 CANARI will also work with the MSEs in the community as well as tourism and business experts to form a cluster management team that will be responsible for the creation of a tourism cluster plan which will identify and support realization of alternative livelihood opportunities benefitting members of the communities. These opportunities will support the development of the Experience Nariva eco-tourism model and will form the basis for incentivizing community participation. CANARI will retain technical support, and work in collaboration with the key tourism agencies, private tour operators and MSE community partners to develop a marketing strategy. CANARI will also develop a publicly accessible web platform to promote "Experience Nariva" and its range of activities with local and international visitors and tour operators.
- 2.9 **Component II: MSE Capacity Building (Total US\$395,621.60: IDB Lab US\$190,621.60, Counterpart US\$205,000)**
- 2.10 The objective of this component is to develop the capacity of local MSE's and potential service providers to fully leverage the economic opportunities available under this eco-tourism thrust. CANARI will work with at least 20 microenterprises that will undergo a needs assessment to determine the specific areas of support and resources that each entity will require using a tailored tool already developed and utilized by CANARI to engage and work with green and blue MSEs. Participating microenterprises will be given access to coaching, training, mentorship and receive a micro grant to finance the development or improvement of their ecotourism business.
- 2.11 CANARI as the executing agency will develop screening criteria for the selection of the 20 microenterprises, criteria may include considerations such as participants linkages to the eco-tourism sector, involvement in collective enterprises interested in and/or committed to environmentally sustainable business practices, and capacity and interest in engaging in the project, among other factors. Female and youth entrepreneurs will receive targeted consideration. Participants will be screened and selected by a team of mentors chosen from CANARI's network of partners that have experience engaging with the small and informal business enterprises and entrepreneurs. Mentors will be trained to conduct CANARI's Needs Assessment which consists of the following: (i) a Business Assessment to evaluate the entrepreneurs' skill and knowledge, use of technology, and examine their networks and access to resources. Upon completion of this analysis the mentor and the participants agree on priority areas to develop their eco-tourism business enterprise (ii) a Triple Bottom Line Assessment which utilises CANARI's Green Blue Enterprise Radar which examines the enterprise from a social, economic and environmental perspective and the business determines which areas to strengthen, e.g. reduction of waste, etc.; and, (iii) a Climate Change Vulnerability assessment in which each entrepreneur's value chain will be analysed to determine its vulnerability to climate change and subsequently

identify what can be done to build the business' resilience. After completion of the Needs Assessment 20 MSEs will receive support to develop a project and funding proposal based on priority capacity building areas identified and to utilise the proceeds of a micro grant to implement agreed interventions. In addition, all participants will receive training on sustainable tourism and international best practices to identify, manage and mitigate environmental and social risks.

**2.12 Component III: Development and Implementation of Participatory GIS (Total US \$129,990.78: IDB Lab US \$77,990.78, Counterpart US \$52,000)**

2.13 The objective of this component is to develop a cadre of community members to participate in the identification and protection of the natural assets of the Nariva Swamp and empower community members to lead stewardship activities, to conserve biodiversity and reduce the prevalence of illegal<sup>17</sup> and environmentally harmful practices.

2.14 Currently, there is no systematic way for the community to identify and monitor the natural assets of the NPSA. 60 residents selected from the 11 communities will be trained in participatory GIS mapping systems (PGIS) and other relevant citizen science approaches. PGIS involves engaging stakeholders in spatial mapping of the assets of the ecosystem uses and management issues. Data is added to satellite imagery and georeferenced to produce a map. This tool is highly visual, and therefore useful in fully engaging communities that may demonstrate varied and low levels of formal literacy. CANARI has successfully utilised this citizen science<sup>18</sup> approach in the past in a range of sectors across the region and view it as a means of increasing community engagement in conservation efforts.

2.15 CANARI's GIS team shall lead socially distanced field training sessions with 60 citizen scientists who will be trained to map biological assets, identify specific locales that will require conservation and/or stewardship activities and collect other relevant data points. The CANARI team will collate the data to create a baseline map at the inception of the project. Interim data will be collected during project execution which will inform specific stewardship and conservation activities conducted in each of the 11 communities and upon project completion, CANARI will undertake a comparative analysis to determine the level of positive impact of these activities on the NSPA.

2.16 Project resources will be used to provide the citizen scientists with the data collection and monitoring tools that they will need to conduct these activities. Continual monitoring and stewardship enabled by the adoption of GIS technology will help to maintain the quality of the eco-tourism offerings of NPSA. Consideration will be given

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<sup>17</sup> Poaching of protected, endangered species.

<sup>18</sup> "CANARI views citizen science as a participatory exercise where non-professionals engage in scientific research. Citizen scientists can include students and community members who collect and share data thereby adding to the body of scientific knowledge. As it pertains to natural resources management, citizen science often involves the collection of species, ecosystem and environmental data towards improved management of a particular natural resource".

to the use of technology that is compatible with the current IT and broadband infrastructure that exist in these rural communities. Required principles of digital design (Principles of Digital Design of the Digital Impact Alliance) will be applied to ensure the relevance, cost effectiveness, integrity, usability of the solution developed, and the ethical use of information supported by the system.

- 2.17 In addition, based on the mapping of the NSPA and its natural capital assets, and to support mitigation of environmental risks associated with an increase in visitors, project resources will be used to develop an environmental risk management plan that will identify and address key environmental risk factors.
- 2.18 **Component IV: Design and Capitalisation of Conservation Fund (Total US\$106,359.35: IDB Lab US\$45,359.35, Counterpart US\$61,000)**
- 2.19 Mobilizing funding for conservation activities is a critical element of sustainable eco-tourism. The objective of this component is to pilot a funding mechanism for sustainable management and conservation of the ecosystem. The governance team established under Component I will pilot a local conservation and management fund to ensure the continued protection of the NSPA. This fund will receive an initial US\$20,000 from project resources to finance initial stewardship activities. The governance team will create a fund advisory committee that will develop the operational guidelines for the fund including but not limited to the structure and management of the Fund, fund application process with a focus on transparent and equitable distribution of the resources and outline mechanisms for further capitalisation of the fund, inclusive of examining other localized conservation fund models in small states, and developing strategic partnerships with local and international donors that may contribute to the fund. Under this component resources are also allocated to fund community monitoring of the ecosystem to identify and raise alerts on potential environmental risks related to the introduction of increased visitor flow that can inform and trigger appropriate conservation and risk management actions to be financed from the conservation and management fund.

## **B. Project Results, Measurement, Monitoring and Evaluation**

- 2.20 Key project indicators include those that measure tourism related MSE initiatives and support citizen engagement, community-based tourism governance, alternative livelihood opportunities, knowledge exchange, use of innovative GIS methodologies, stewardship and sustainable financing of community tourism. The implementation of the project is expected to achieve the following results by the end of year 3 at the impact level: (i) Collaborative management and financing model established to support sustainable livelihoods and conservation (ii) 15 small grant recipients reporting new/increased streams of income and (ii) number of protected habitats in Nariva sustainably managed by the conservation practices promoted by the project.
- 2.21 The project contributes to the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals as follows (i) Goal #1 “End poverty in all its forms everywhere”, specifically target 1.4 “By 2030, ensure that all men and women, in particular the poor and the vulnerable, have equal rights to economic resources, as well as access to basic services, ownership



and control over land and other forms of property, inheritance, natural resources, appropriate new technology and financial services, including microfinance”; (ii) Goal #8 “Promote sustained, inclusive and sustainable economic growth, full and productive employment and decent work for all”, specifically target 8.9 “By 2030, devise and implement policies to promote sustainable tourism that creates jobs and promotes local culture and products”. This project also contributes to (ii) Goal #15 “Protect, restore and promote sustainable use of terrestrial ecosystems, sustainably manage forests, combat desertification, and halt and reverse land degradation and halt biodiversity loss”, particularly target 15.1 “By 2020, ensure the conservation, restoration and sustainable use of terrestrial and inland freshwater ecosystems and their services, in particular forests, wetlands, mountains and drylands, in line with obligations under international agreements.”

- 2.22 In accordance with IDB Lab requirements, CANARI will report on project results as outlined in the project results matrix every six months via the IDB Lab’s Project Status Reporting (PSR) system and will also complete a final Project Status Report on conclusion of the project.
- 2.23 CANARI will develop and implement a project monitoring system that enable the collection, analysis and reporting of key project indicators, based on the “Experience Nariva” Results Matrix. This system will be managed on a day-to-day basis by the technical coordinator of the project, reporting on a monthly and biannual basis to CANARI’s Programmes Director who will provide technical and financial project oversight. Project implementation will also be guided and monitored by the NSPA Management Advisory Committee, which will function as the project steering committee. They will particularly be interested in assessing the project’s contribution to implementation of the NSPA Management Plan. CANARI will use its participatory monitoring, evaluation and learning tools to facilitate input of community and other stakeholders. Results of evaluations will be made available to stakeholders

### **III. Alignment with IDB Group, Scalability, and Risks**

#### **A. Alignment with IDB Group**

- 3.1 This project is aligned with IDB Lab’s Action Plan for C&D and S&I Countries which indicates its commitment to support projects in these states in the LAC region, which includes Trinidad and Tobago, targeting the inclusion of poor and vulnerable groups.
- 3.2 The project is aligned with IDB’s Tourism Sectoral Framework (document consistent with the Second Update to the Institutional Strategy, 2020-2023), with respect to two lines of action to guide operational and knowledge activities in the tourism sector as follows: (i) placing local, poor, and/or vulnerable populations at the heart of tourism development strategies; and (ii) reinforcing the competitive position of local firms and human resources throughout the tourism value chain”<sup>19</sup>.

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<sup>19</sup> Tourism Sector Framework Document, July 2017

- 3.3 Finally, this project is aligned Trinidad and Tobago's National Development Strategy (Vision 2030) in that it will promote eco-tourism in conjunction with natural resource management.

## **B. Scalability**

- 3.4 CANARI's membership in several of the stakeholder management committees appointed to oversee several Protected Areas in Trinidad and Tobago will be key to ensuring the expansion and replication of this model nationally with potential to expand in any of the 50 Protected Areas in the country. Project resources have been allocated to ensure that knowledge, best practices, and innovations that emerge from "Experience Nariva" will be documented and shared with key stakeholders through national dialogues, expositions, and knowledge exchange events. These mechanisms will facilitate peer learning and foster strategic partnerships.
- 3.5 Additionally, a low density, community centric, eco-tourism model can be shared with other countries in the region that do not cater to the typical sun, sea and sand tourists, these countries include Guyana and Suriname where a similar eco-tourism model exists.

## **C. Project and Institutional Risks**

- 3.6 The technical risks and corresponding mitigation strategies identified for the project are as follows:
- 3.7 Inter-community conflicts may arise that threaten achievement of project objectives: There is potential that communities may view each other as competitors to access project resources. However, the CANARI team will ensure that each community is represented at the various decision-making levels and there is equity and transparency regarding participation in the project and distribution of project resources. CANARI possess a multi-disciplinary team, that possess both technical and soft skills such as conflict management and building trust amongst the residents of local communities.
- 3.8 Lack of visitors due to COVID-19 Pandemic: While the Trinidad and Tobago borders currently remain closed, the country has moved from its initial state of complete lockdown to one where members of the public and business can resume most of their daily activities while adhering to public health regulations. The closure of borders has increased demand from citizens for open-air family friendly local activities and a surge in local tourism. Additionally, access to the Nariva wetlands is available via a road linking major urban areas to beaches and vacation homes on the island's south east coast. A significant number of locals will drive through this area on their way to day trips or short-term stays and can partake in tourist activities or purchase locally made food, fruits etc for their stay. Budget has also been allocated for the purchase of PPE supplies and compliance with required COVID-19 public health mandates will factor into the capacity building and training activities led by CANARI, but also in the ensuing delivery of tourism activities.

- 3.9 Environmental and Social Risks: An increase in the number of visitors to the area, may result in changes in ecological and socio-economic conditions beyond acceptable levels. An increase in visitors to the Nariva Swap could potentially have the following environmental and social impacts: (i) generation of solid waste and domestic wastewater by tourists; (ii) atmospheric emissions and noise caused by boat rides; (iii) vegetation and wildlife disturbance, including increased pressure to threatened species; (iv) potential wildfires following camping activities; and (v) affectations to ecosystem services because of potential biodiversity loss. The development of the eco-tourism model and MSEs that will deliver services will explicitly consider and mitigate these risks through the definition and implementation of a comprehensive management plan that will be developed in Component III to manage key environmental risks in areas such as Waste Management, Air Quality Management, Biodiversity Monitoring and Biodiversity Management and Emergency Preparedness and Response. This plan will be informed by and aligned with the IDB's Environmental and Social Policy Framework and the General and Industry Specific Environmental, Health, and Safety Guidelines of the World Bank Group and will be completed in the first year of the project. As outlined under component 1, the executing agency will also develop a stakeholder engagement plan which will be used to identify key groups and persons that may be most impacted by the project and strategies to engage with these identified individuals and clusters. Additionally, the direct involvement of the NSPA Management Advisory Committee in project steering and engagement of community members in mapping and monitoring the natural capital assets of the NSPA and in environmental stewardship and conservation activities, combined with the emphasis on a low-density eco-tourism model will support mitigation of such risks.
- 3.10 The project has been assessed as low risk from an institutional and technical capacity perspective as per the DICI assessment.

#### IV. Instrument and Budget Proposal

- 4.1 The project has a total cost of US \$987,125.00 of which US \$450,000 will be provided by the IDB Lab, and US \$537,125 by the counterpart. Counterpart financing will include in-kind resources from the technical staff of executing agency and project partners. The instrument to be used is a non-reimbursable technical cooperation
- 4.2 The project budget summary is presented in the following table:

	<b>IDB Lab</b>	<b>Counterpart Cash and In- Kind</b>	<b>Total</b>
<b>Project Components</b>			
Component 1: Tourism Cluster and Strategic Partnership Development	122,626.84	142,000	264,626.84
Component 2: MSE Capacity Building	190,621.60	205,000	395,621.60
Component 3: Development and Implementation of Participatory GIS Technique	77,990.78	52,000	129,990.78
Component 4: Design and Capitalisation of Conservation Fund	45,359.35	61,000	106,359.35
Project Administration	13,401.43	77,125	90,526.43
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>450,000</b>	<b>537,125</b>	<b>987,125</b>
<b>% of Financing</b>	<b>46</b>	<b>54</b>	<b>100</b>

## **V. Executing Agency (EA) and Implementation Structure**

### **A. Executing Agency(s) Description**

- 5.1 The Caribbean Natural Resources Institute (CANARI) will be the executing agency for this project, the organisation is a regional non-profit technical institute based in Trinidad and Tobago and possesses more than 30 years of experience in community-based conservation of natural capital and sustainable livelihoods in the Caribbean region. CANARI promotes and facilitates stakeholder participation in the stewardship of the Caribbean's natural resources. CANARI's team has experience in participatory approaches to enhancing biodiversity conservation, building resilience to climate change and disasters, as well as supporting inclusive, sustainable, and resilient development models.
- 5.2 CANARI has been working closely with targeted communities bordering the Nariva Swamp for several years and sits on the Government appointed Nariva Swamp Management Advisory Committee with members from public agencies, CSOs, the local communities and environmental scientists that provide advice on management for protecting the biodiversity and ecosystem services provided by the Nariva Swamp and supporting development of sustainable community livelihoods.
- 5.3 CANARI is governed by an elected Board of Directors and daily operations are managed by the Executive Director, Programmes Director and senior technical staff.

### **B. Implementation Structure and Mechanism**

- 5.4 CANARI will contract a technical coordinator to manage and coordinate all project implementation activities. Key implementation arrangements include engagement with the NSPA Management Advisory Committee which will serve as the project steering committee together with rural community members, local MSEs, government agencies and business support agencies to provide technical oversight, expertise and resources when required.
- 5.5 CANARI will also establish an interim cluster management team comprising local business and other relevant partners who will oversee the development, coordination, and management of the Experience Nariva cluster and the creation of a Conservation Fund advisory committee that will provide oversight on fund architecture and management.

## VI. Compliance with Milestones and Special Fiduciary Arrangements

- 6.1 **Disbursement by Results, Fiduciary Arrangements.** The Executing Agency will adhere to the standard IDB Lab disbursement by results, Bank procurement policy<sup>20</sup> and financial management<sup>21</sup> arrangements as specified in Annex V and VI
- 6.2 **Results Based Disbursement.** The project will be monitored by the IDB's Country Office in Trinidad and Tobago. Monitoring will be undertaken in accordance with the performance and risk management policies (fulfilment of milestones), as established by the IDB Lab. Project disbursements will be contingent upon verification of the achievement of milestones (pre-determined outputs critical to achievement of the development objectives). Achievement of milestones does not exempt the Executing Agency from the responsibility of reaching the results matrix indicators and project's objectives.
- 6.3 **Financial Management and Supervision.** CANARI will establish and be responsible for maintaining adequate accounts of its finances, internal controls, and project files according to the financial management policy of the IDB Lab. The Executing Agency, which is a private non-profit entity, will use existing procurement procedures for the execution of the project.

## VII. Information Disclosure and Intellectual Property

- 7.1 **Information Disclosure.** This document will be disclosed and made available to the public upon approval.
- 7.2 **Intellectual Property:** The Executing Agency shall own the intellectual property rights to all works produced or results obtained under the project and will grant the IDB Group an irrevocable, worldwide, perpetual, royalty-free, and non-exclusive license to use, copy, distribute, reproduce, publicly display, and perform any and all Executing Agency intellectual property derived from execution of the project, as well as to create derivative works.

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<sup>20</sup> Link to the Policy: [Procurement of Works and Goods Policy](#)

<sup>21</sup> Link to the document [Operational Guidelines for Management of Milestones and Financial Supervision for MIF and SEP Technical Cooperation Projects](#)