

PROJECT FACT SHEET

ADVANCING CIRCULAR ECONOMY(ACE) FACILITY

Transforming marine litter to support local livelihoods and ocean health in coastal protected areas of eastern Cuba

Project duration	36 months	Total project costs	\$2,000,000
Country	Cuba	ACE Facility grant	\$1,600,000
Lead organisation	The Wildlife Conservation Society (WCS)	Match funding	\$400,000
Partners	Fundación Antonio Nuñez Jiménez de la Naturaleza y el Hombre (FANJ)		

All currency is stated in USD.



PROJECT LOCATION

This project will be implemented in three communities in Eastern Cuba: (i) Desembarco del Granma National Park (UNESCO World Heritage Site); (ii) Maisi-Caleta Natural Element; and (iii) Cañon de Yumurí Natural Element.

PROJECT SUMMARY

This project will apply circular economy solutions to reduce marine litter from the coastal ecosystems of eastern Cuba. This will be achieved through three main approaches: (i) removing plastic and aluminium waste from coastal areas while strengthening local waste management systems; (ii) promoting sustainable livelihoods by supporting the recycling and repurposing of recovered marine litter; and (iii) strengthening community and institutional capacity through research, training, and stakeholder engagement. By reducing litter accumulation and improving waste management, the project will help restore ecosystem health, create economic opportunities and foster multi-stakeholder collaboration. In doing so, it will also contribute to climate change mitigation by limiting landfill emissions and protecting vital carbon-sequestering coastal ecosystems.



KEY IMPACT & INDICATORS

1,000 tons of litter removed or prevented from entering the marine environment

6 local communities adopting improved waste management practices

24 marine litter removal activities conducted in target coastal areas

50% reduction in marine litter accumulation in targeted coastal ecosystems

6 new and improved waste management practices fostering circularity in local communities

10,000 hectares of climate adaptation-relevant ecosystems identified with reduced marine pollution stress

6 new/strengthened partnerships promoting circular economy

500 persons actively participating in implementation

15 knowledge-sharing activities per year documented

35 decision-makers trained in circular economy

50% of women and youth participating in circular economy livelihood initiatives

20 jobs created through circular economy livelihood initiatives

2 women-led or youth-led entrepreneurial initiatives established

10 market linkages established for circular economy entrepreneurs

5 educational materials developed, distributed, and actively used by local communities and stakeholders

10 project interventions aligned with the Regional Action Plan for Circular Waste Management in Coastal and Marine Protected Areas and Communities of Eastern Cuba

EXPECTED IMPACT

- Reduced marine litter in coastal and marine protected areas
- Improved ecosystem health and biodiversity conservation
- Improved local waste management and recycling practices
- Increased community resilience and livelihood diversification
- Strengthened community and institutional capacity for improved waste management through research, training, and stakeholder engagement
- Reduction of greenhouse gas emissions

ACTIVITIES AND AREAS OF WORK

- **Marine Litter Removal & Coastal Clean-Up:** Removing litter from priority coastal sites; organizing clean-up campaigns with Protected Area staff
- **Waste Management:** Introducing sorting, collection, and disposal systems; conducting waste stream assessments; implementing awareness campaigns promoting waste reduction and recycling
- **Circular Economy & Livelihoods:** Conducting feasibility analyses for recycled marine litter products; supporting women- and youth-led enterprises; transforming plastics and aluminum into marketable products; establishing municipal and provincial distribution partnerships
- **Capacity Building:** Training community members, entrepreneurs, and decision-makers on circular economy and waste management
- **Policy & Partnerships:** Facilitating multi-stakeholder collaboration; developing the CIRWASTE-Eastern Cuba Plan; aligning with Cuba's National Circular Economy Strategy

CARIBBEAN BIODIVERSITY FUND

The Caribbean Biodiversity Fund (CBF) is a regional umbrella environmental fund dedicated to sustaining nature and improving lives through innovative financing solutions. The CBF through its three strategic programs: Conservation Finance, Climate Change, and Nature-based Economies collaborates with governments, communities, and development partners across the Caribbean region.

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Caribbean Biodiversity Fund

Rachel Ramsey, Nature-based Economies Program Manager
rramsey@caribbeanbiodiversityfund.org / acefacility@caribbeanbiodiversityfund.org
caribbeanbiodiversityfund.org

Wildlife Conservation Society

Natalia Rossi, Cuba Country Director
nRossi@wcs.org
wcs.org