Introduction

The Foundation for Development Planning, Inc (FDPI) was registered in the United States Virgin Islands in 2010 as a non-profit corporation. The organization is classified by the United States Internal Revenue Service as a public charity under Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code.

The purpose of the FDPI is to engage in programs that lead to the sustainable development of Caribbean communities. That purpose is to be achieved by engaging with "relevant stakeholders to foster sustainable development in the Caribbean, integrating social, economic, and environmental dimensions".

In fostering engagement for Caribbean development, the FDPI aspires to function as an 'Institution of Place', defined as "an institution that serves as a steward of the communities and region in which it functions, a publicly engaged institution that plays an essential role in addressing issues of importance and facilitating the development of the communities and region it serves".

This report provides a summary of the activities of the FDPI for the period October 1, 2017 to September 30, 2018.

Corporate Governance

The affairs of the FDPI are guided by its board of directors, with policy and operational support provided by associates and well-wishers.

Board of Directors 2017-2018

- Lloyd Gardner, President
- Michael O'Neal, Vice President
- Noreen Michael, Secretary/Treasurer
- Alida Ortiz-Sotomayor
- Josephine Gumbs-Connor
- Selena Tapper
- Spencer Thomas
- Yvonne Webster-Pryce

Associates

- Barbara Lausche, Research Associate
- LaVerne Ragster, Research Associate
Program Highlights
The FDPI’s Program of Work 2016-2021 is comprised of six program areas and three cross-cutting themes. The program areas are:

- Water Resources Development
- Climate Change Adaptation
- Development Planning and Research
- Development of Decision Support Tools
- Strengthening of the Caribbean Civil Society Sector
- FDPI Institutional Development

Cross-cutting themes are:

- Capacity Development
- Public Engagement
- Governance

The devastation wreaked by Hurricane Irma and Hurricane Maria in September 2017 resulted in some constraints on the operations of the FDPI during the year. Nonetheless, the institution was able to advance its institutional development plans and maintain its engagement activities.

In response to the tremendous impacts resulting from multiple disasters during the second half of 2017 (floods and hurricanes), the FDPI considered potential forms of involvement in disaster recovery efforts in the Caribbean, particularly the post-hurricane recovery efforts in the U.S. Virgin Islands and Eastern Caribbean. Acknowledging that its resource constraints prevented immediate involvement in recovery efforts, the FDPI decided to collaborate with other institutions in exploring the issue of resilience to climate change and disasters. Potential areas of examination identified were:

- The relationship between health, particularly mental health, and social resilience.
- The extent to which the interplay between community health status, demographics, and social support systems influences social resilience.
- The role of culture and heritage in climate change adaptation planning and building social resilience.
Institutional Development

The FDPI maintained its good standing with the regulatory agencies by fulfilling its statutory reporting responsibilities to the Government of the U.S. Virgin Islands and the United States Internal Revenue Service.

During the fiscal year, the financial and other resources to support the operations of the FDPI were provided by the organization’s directors and associates.

Exploring Planning Concepts

Papers submitted for publication:

- Natural Neighbors as a framework for Re-imagining Kingston – submitted to the University of the West Indies.

- Use of complementary regulatory frameworks to protect wetlands in the U.S. Virgin Islands – submitted to IUCN Commission on Ecosystem Management for its Wetlands at Risk publication.

Institutional Development Highlights

- Appointment of Dr. Alida Ortiz-Sotomayor and Ms. Josephine Gumbs-Connor to the board of directors.

- Preparation and approval of guidance for FDPI's strategic planning process.

- Preparation and approval of the preliminary design for FDPI's institutional development plan.

- Articulation of a framework for FDPI's public engagement activities.
Public Engagement

The approval of FDPI's public engagement framework in 2018 resulted in the subsequent consolidation of its engagement activities into a public engagement strategy. That strategy "is intended to build synergies between individuals, institutions, and networks in the three social sectors", and focuses on "information sharing, institutional partnerships, inter-governmental arrangements, youth in development, and networking."

The FDPI continued its practice of disseminating information mainly through Caribbean regional virtual networks of development practitioners, though information is also shared with institutions and networks outside the Caribbean. In addition, discussion of Caribbean development issues was facilitated through FDPI's social media platforms:

- FDPI's LinkedIn Group: https://www.linkedin.com/groups/5027470/
- FDPI's Facebook page: https://www.facebook.com/DevPlanFoundation/

The Foundation continued its engagement with the governments of Puerto Rico and the U.S. Virgin Islands by: (i) maintaining membership in the Protected Areas Conservation Action Team of the Caribbean Landscape Conservation Cooperative; and (ii) participating in the climate change program of the U.S. Virgin Islands as a member of the U.S. Virgin Islands Climate Change Council.

The FDPI continued its participation in inter-governmental arrangements through its membership in the Civil Society Network of the Global Environment Facility (GEF-CSO Network), and subscription to the Regional Public Mechanism of the Regional Agreement on Access to Information, Public Participation and Justice in Environmental Matters in Latin America and the Caribbean ("Escazú Agreement").

The FDPI shared information with other Caribbean civil society organizations, and continued its advocacy for establishment of a formal mechanism for supporting development of the sector. These efforts included the annual update of the directory of regional civil society organizations. A similar initiative focused on the U.S. Virgin Islands, where the FDPI is exploring with local nonprofits the possibility of establishing an association of nonprofits for the Territory.

The Foundation's initial youth engagement activities have focused on young professionals. During the 2017-2018 year, FDPI met with and encouraged young professionals in the U.S. Virgin Islands to participate in a number of public policy initiatives. Additionally, a number of young professionals in the Caribbean were offered the use of FDPI's social media platforms to showcase their work, as well as invited to submit articles for publication on FDPI's website.
FDPI Objectives and Purposes

The Objectives and Purposes of the Foundation for Development Planning, Inc. (FDPI) as stated in its Articles of Incorporation are:

(1) To develop programs of study, research, and training aimed at improving the management of natural resources and the general environment of islands and island systems throughout the Caribbean and elsewhere.

(2) To develop methods, technologies, and programs to support the conservation of natural, cultural, and historical heritage resources throughout the Caribbean Region.

(3) To design and develop new techniques, methods, tools, and technologies for effective management of island ecosystems.

(4) To engage in the collection, management, and dissemination of scientific information.

(5) To support programs that lead to the sustainable development of Caribbean communities.

(6) To provide technical support, paid or unpaid, to community, national, regional, and other organizations in the design and implementation of studies, projects, and programs in environmental management and sustainable development.

Contributing to the FDPI

The FDPI is certified by the U.S. Internal Revenue Service as a 501(c)(3) public charity. As such, donations by U.S. institutions and citizens are tax deductible to the extent allowed by law. Tax ID Number: 66-0763692

Donations should be sent to:

Foundation for Development Planning, Inc
2369 Kronprindsens Gade, Suite 8-301
St. Thomas, U.S. Virgin Islands 00802, U.S.A.