



**FOUNDATION FOR DEVELOPMENT PLANNING, INC.**

# **Annual Report 2020**

**Planning for Sustainable Futures**

# FDPI Annual Report 2020

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## Introduction

The Foundation for Development Planning, Inc (FDPI) is a non-profit organization registered in the United States Virgin Islands. 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 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, 2019 to September 30, 2020.

## Corporate Governance

The affairs of the FDPI are guided by its board of directors, with input from its associates as appropriate.

### Board of Directors 2019-2020

Lloyd Gardner, President

Michael O'Neal, Vice President

Noreen Michael, Secretary

Yvonne Webster-Pryce, Treasurer

Alida Ortiz-Sotomayor

Jeremy Francis

Selena Tapper

Spencer Thomas

### Associates

Barbara Lausche, Research Associate

LaVerne Ragster, Research Associate

## Program Highlights

The six program areas and three cross-cutting themes that comprise the FDPI's **Program of Work** are consistent with the development priorities of the Caribbean and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. However, the widespread devastation resulting from multiple intense hurricanes and other natural disasters in the latter part of 2017 forced the FDPI to focus its efforts on issues and initiatives that address social resilience in the context of climate change and disasters.

The COVID-19 pandemic in 2020 further destabilized Caribbean countries, demonstrating the vulnerability and fragility of their economies, institutions, and communities.

In the context of the ongoing disruption of Caribbean economic and social systems from natural events, the FDPI, in addition to its normal engagement activities, undertook a planning process intended to position the organization strategically within national and regional inter-governmental arrangements relevant to the FDPI's program of work.

## Strategic Alliances

The board of directors of the FDPI approved six strategic alliances that will be pursued as part of the FDPI's Program of Work 2021-2031. Action commenced on two of the strategic alliances during the report period.

## Public Engagement

The FDPI maintained its routine engagement activities during the year, mainly:

- (i) Sharing information with institutions and professional networks within and outside the Caribbean.
- (ii) Facilitating information exchange and discourse on Caribbean development issues through the FDPI's **Facebook Page** and **LinkedIn Group**.
- (iii) Updated the FDPI's website to improve **publication of guest articles** written by associates and members of the public.
- (iv) Collaborated with civil society partners.
- (v) Participated in networks of civil society organizations.

The **Caribbean Family and Friends Engagement Initiative**, launched by the FDPI in July 2019, experienced uneven progress across the different facets of the initiative. The most progress achieved involved ongoing exchange with a group in Canada.

The FDPI contributed to discussions on establishment of a new network, the Climate Strong Islands Network (CSIN). The CSIN was proposed during the first Climate Strong

Islands Dialogue, held in September 2019 during Climate Week New York City 2019. The FDPI participated in the subsequent dialogues in February 2020 and September 2020, with the September 2020 dialogue focused primarily on the Network. The FDPI will continue its contribution to development of the CSIN, within the context of the FDPI's policies and resources.

Activities to commemorate the 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the founding of the FDPI are planned for the period October 2020 to April 2021.

## Institutional Development

The FDPI undertook a number of actions during the year to reposition the FDPI and strengthen its management systems, including:

- (i) Initiating actions intended to position the FDPI strategically within the development processes in the U.S. Virgin Islands and relevant inter-governmental arrangements in the Caribbean.
- (ii) Formalizing the process for assessment of board performance.
- (iii) Formalizing the process for appointment and engagement with associates.

Mr. Jeremy Francis joined the FDPI's board of directors in April 2020, with his expertise in human resources management immediately strengthening the policy processes of the organization.

The FDPI fulfilled its annual statutory reporting obligations to the Government of the United States 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. These included:

- (i) Direct financial contributions.
- (ii) Underwriting the cost of telecommunications, virtual meeting services, and other web-based services.
- (iii) Underwriting office overheads and other administrative costs.

## FDPI Objectives and Purposes

The Objects 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, USA

## Foundation for Development Planning, Inc.

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2369 Kronprindsens Gade, Suite 8 – 301  
St. Thomas, U.S. Virgin Islands 00802, USA  
E-mail: [info@fdpi.org](mailto:info@fdpi.org)  
<http://www.fdpi.org>

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