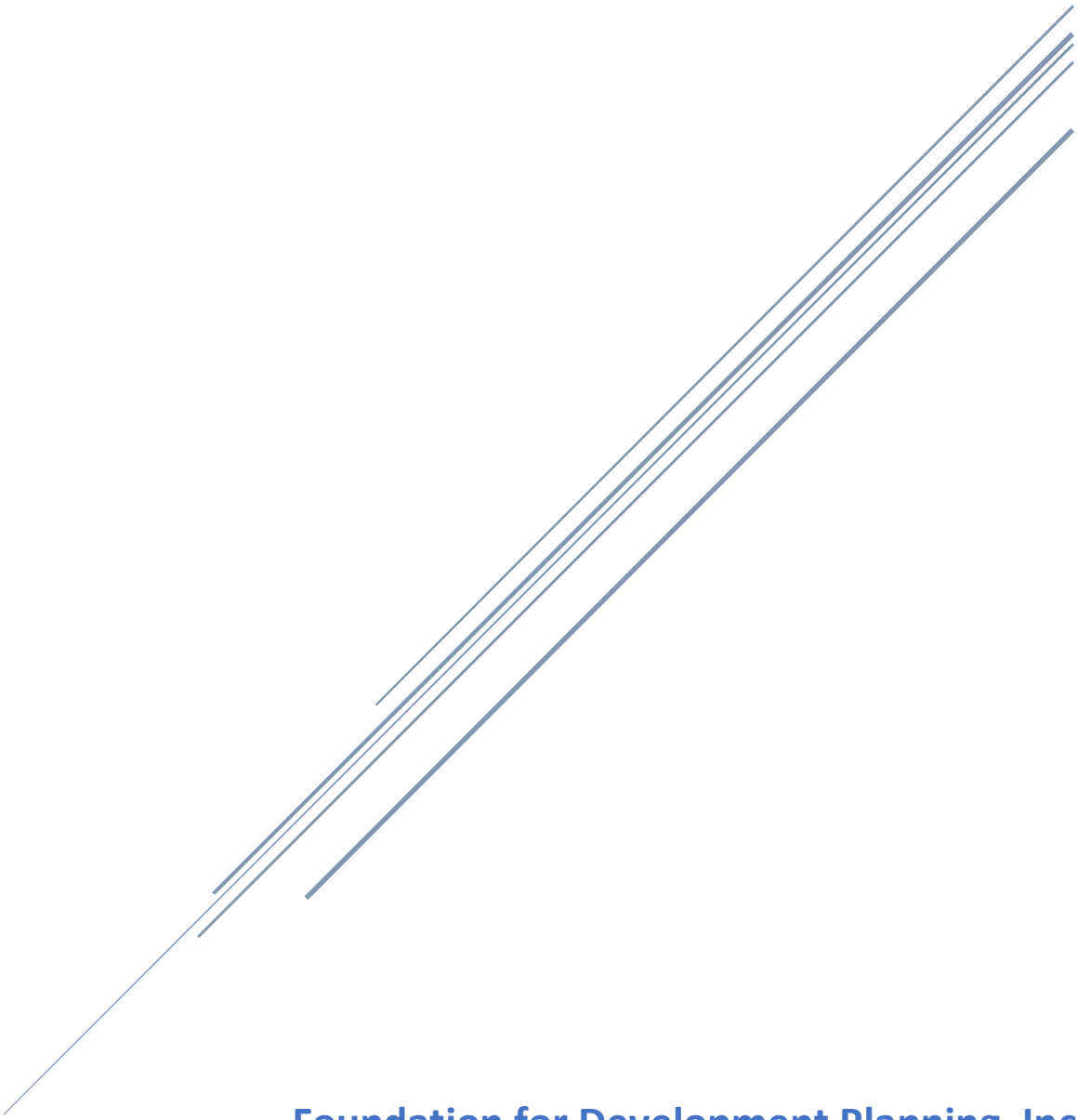




ANNUAL REPORT 2023



Foundation for Development Planning, Inc.
Building Sustainable Futures

FDPI Annual Report 2023

Introduction

The Foundation for Development Planning, Inc. (FDPI) is a non-profit organization registered in the United States Virgin Islands and 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 countries in the Caribbean. That purpose is achieved by engaging with "*relevant stakeholders to foster sustainable development in the Caribbean, integrating social, economic, and environmental dimensions*".

The FDPI endeavors 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 program highlights for the fiscal year October 1, 2022 to September 30, 2023.

Corporate Governance

The membership of the FDPI changed during the fiscal year, with changes in the composition of the board of directors and departure of the FDPI's Research Associates. Strengthening of [corporate governance](#) continued with revision of board policies and development of new procedures.

The members of the Board of Directors at the end of Fiscal Year 2022-2023 were:

- Floyd Homer, President
- Natasha Pettier, Director
- Rahanna Juman, Director
- Lloyd Gardner, Executive Director and Secretary

Program Highlights

Peer Learning and Knowledge Production

The FDPI continued its contribution to the preparation of the Puerto Rico and U.S. Virgin Islands (U.S. Caribbean) chapter of the U.S. Fifth National Climate Assessment (NCA5) during the year by compiling relevant information provided by its stakeholders and with the FDPI's executive directors functioning as an author for the chapter¹.

¹ NCA5 U.S. Caribbean chapter: <https://nca2023.globalchange.gov/chapter/23/>

The FDPI's contribution to knowledge production included co-authoring a chapter (Section 4, chpt. 1, pp 205-217)² in the book "Wetlands and people at risk", which was published by the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) in November 2022.

The FDPI explored a potential partnership with the Cipriani College for Labour and Co-operative Studies (CCLCS) (<https://cclcs.edu.tt/>) that will focus on knowledge production, research, and engagement with worker collectives on issues of climate justice, economic development, and just transitions. The FDPI's actions during the year to advance this partnership included:

- Support to and presentations at the CCLCS's Caribbean Climate Justice Conference on October 6-7, 2022.
- Presentation on 'Perspectives on Climate Justice' at the CCLCS's Student Climate Change Forum in October 2022. The forum supported the climate change requirements of the Caribbean Secondary Education Certificate syllabus.
- Submission of a paper (based on the presentation at the Caribbean Climate Justice Conference in October) for publication in the CCLCS journal, The Caribbean Social Justice Forum³.
- Presentation at the Caribbean World of Work Forum, organized by the CCLCS in September 2023.

During the year, the FDPI also participated in virtual and in-person events of the Climate Strong Islands Network and the Local2030 Islands Network's Community of Practice on Sustainable and Regenerative Tourism.

Participation in Inter-governmental Arrangements

The FDPI continued its participation in the United Nations Environment Programme-Caribbean Environment Programme/Convention for the Protection and Development of the Marine Environment of the Wider Caribbean Region (Cartagena Convention):

- Executive Director Gardner functioned as an expert in the Protected Areas Working Group established by the Scientific and Technical Advisory Committee of the Protocol Concerning Specially Protected Areas and Wildlife (SPA) in the Wider Caribbean Region.
- The FDPI participated in the following meetings of the Caribbean Environment Programme/Convention for the Protection and Development of the Marine Environment of the Wider Caribbean Region (Cartagena Convention) as an Observer: (i) Tenth Meeting of the Scientific and Technical Advisory Committee of the Protocol Concerning Specially Protected Areas and Wildlife, January 30 – February 1, 2023; and (ii) Sixth Meeting of the Scientific and Technical Advisory

² Gardner, L. and Henry, S. (2022). Great Pond, U.S. Virgin Islands: Protecting a wetland through complementary regulatory frameworks. In: Baigún, C., Minotte, P. and Lamizana, B. (eds.). *Wetlands and people at risk*. Gland, Switzerland: IUCN. pp. 205-217. <https://portals.iucn.org/library/node/50641>

³ Published in Vol.2, No.3, Aug-Dec 2023

Committee of the Protocol Concerning Pollution from Land-Based Sources and Activities, February 1-3, 2023.

Collaboration with Civil Society Organizations

The FDPI continued to support the Caribbean Natural Resources Institute in its management of the Critical Ecosystem Partnership Fund project in the Caribbean through review of applications for grant funding and participation in meetings of the Regional Advisory Committee.

The FDPI collaborated with other civil society organizations and experts to establish the SPAW Consortium in September 2023 (<https://monitorcaribbean.org/spaw-consortium>). The consortium is an alliance of organizations and experts that is intended to support implementation of the Protocol Concerning Specially Protected Areas and Wildlife (SPAW) in the Wider Caribbean Region⁴.

Public Engagement

The FDPI routinely shared information through its social media platforms, the electronic group that it manages for information exchange and peer-peer learning between professionals in the Caribbean civil society sector, and other Caribbean environment and development electronic groups.

- FDPI's LinkedIn Corporate Page: <https://www.linkedin.com/company/foundation-for-development-planning-inc>
- FDPI's LinkedIn Group: <https://www.linkedin.com/groups/5027470/>
- FDPI's Facebook page: <https://www.facebook.com/DevPlanFoundation/>
- Caribbean civil society sector e-group: <https://groups.io/g/Caribbean-CSOs>

The FDPI's Facebook page is designed to collate news and other writings on Caribbean development issues from multiple sources, while the LinkedIn Group facilitates discussion on Caribbean development.

The FDPI provides [multiple mechanisms](#) for individuals and institutions to engage with the FDPI, including utilizing the FDPI's website as a platform for publication of articles on Caribbean development. A [donation feature](#) was added to the website to simplify giving by persons who wish to support the FDPI.

⁴ The consortium was officially launched during the Sixth Conference of Parties to the Protocol Concerning Pollution from Land-Based Sources and Activities of the Wider Caribbean Region on October 4, 2023, in Aruba. <https://monitorcaribbean.org/consortium-of-civil-society-launched-in-support-of-the-spaw-programme-of-the-cartagena-convention>

Special Areas of Focus in 2024

During 2024, the FDPI will give special attention to the following initiatives:

Information Access and Knowledge Production: Access to information, knowledge production, and peer-peer learning networks are core components of the FDPI's programs. The collaborations with local, national, and regional organizations over the past two years were reminders of the urgent need for those three program components. As such, rather than waiting until grant funding is available to support development of those critical decision support systems, the FDPI launched its [Information Access and Knowledge Production Initiative](#), intended to mobilize support from stakeholders and the community.

Just Transitions in the Caribbean: The solutions to the continued destabilization of Caribbean economies and societies from natural and economic disruptions require collective action. The FDPI is exploring a collaborative initiative to mobilize community organizations and worker collectives for community economic development.

Caribbean Environment Programme: The FDPI will work with the other founding members of the [SPAW Consortium](#) to develop the alliance as an effective mechanism for facilitating collective action in support of the Caribbean Environment Programme.

Caribbean Civil Society Sector: The FDPI will re-double its efforts to facilitate strengthening of the civil society sector in the Caribbean, including by leveraging its membership in networks such as the Global Environment Facility Civil Society Network ([GEF-CSO-Network](#)).

Our Shared Work

Your support during the past year is appreciated. We look forward to your continued support, including donating financially to the FDPI's [Information Access and Knowledge Production Initiative](#).

Thank you.

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 United States 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. FDPI Tax ID Number: 66-0763692

Donate online: <https://www.fdpi.org/contribute/>

Donations can also be sent by mail to:

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P.O. Box 303387
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