



U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
Caribbean Ecological Services Field Office



**Expedited Processes for
Compliance with Section 7 of the
Endangered Species Act (ESA)**

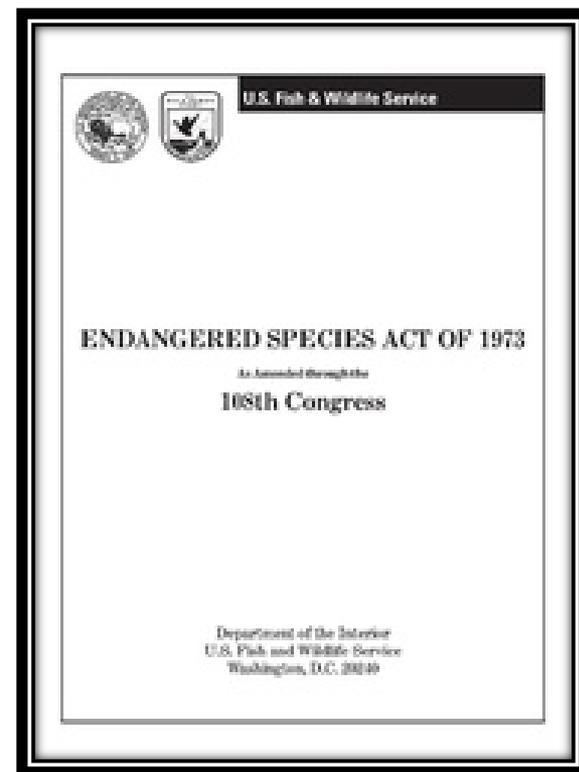
Marelisa Rivera
Deputy Field Supervisor
Caribbean Ecological Services Field Office
Angel Colon-Santiago
Student Trainee
June 19 & July 20, 2018



U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

Caribbean Ecological Services Field Office

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) is one of two lead Federal Agencies responsible for the protection and conservation of Federal Trust Resources, including threatened or endangered species listed under the Endangered Species Act of 1973 (16 U.S.C. 1531 et seq.) (ESA).



In the U.S. Caribbean, the USFWS has jurisdiction over **terrestrial plants and animals**, the **Antillean manatee** and **sea turtles when nesting**.

- NOAA handles all the marine species.



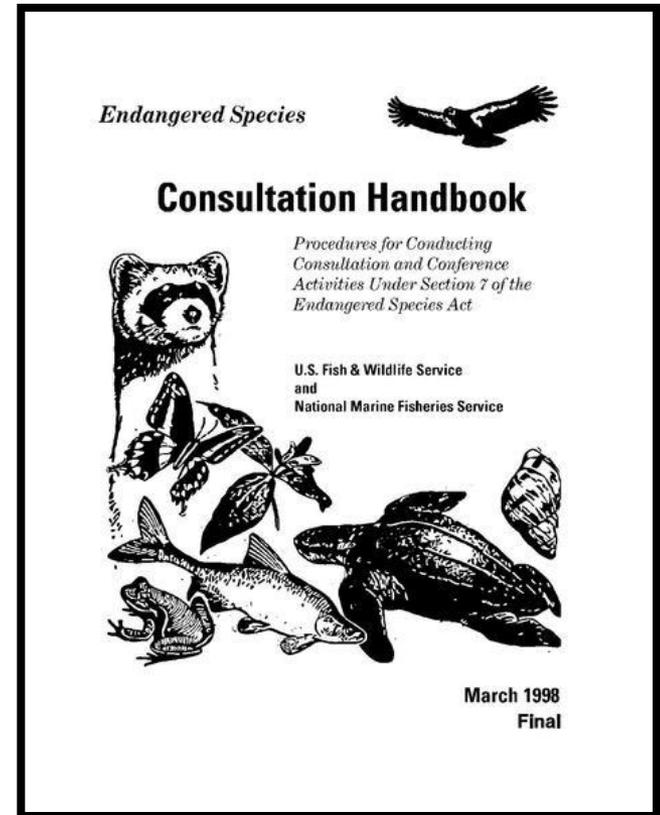


U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

Caribbean Ecological Services Field Office



The section 7 of the ESA requires Federal agencies to consult with the USFWS to ensure that actions they fund authorize, permit, or otherwise carry out will not jeopardize the continued existence of any listed species or adversely modify designated critical habitat.



The Consultation Handbook can be downloaded at:
https://www.fws.gov/endangered/esa-library/pdf/esa_section7_handbook.pdf



U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service



Caribbean Ecological Services Field Office

To assist Federal Agencies with the compliance of Section 7 of the ESA, the USFWS in the Caribbean has developed mechanisms to expedite the consultation process when:

- No listed species and/or designated critical habitat are present within the proposed action site.
- No effect (zero effect) on listed species or their habitats are anticipated even they are present.
- There are conservation measures that can be implemented to minimize possible adverse effects to the level of informal consultation (discountable, insignificant, beneficial effects).



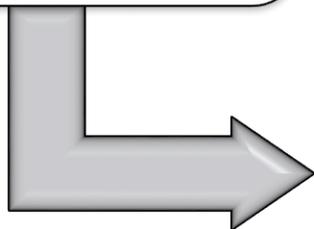
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

Caribbean Ecological Services Field Office

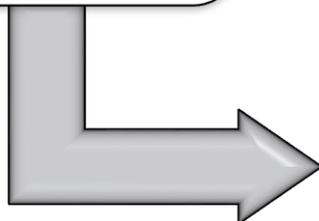


**How the expedited
process works?**

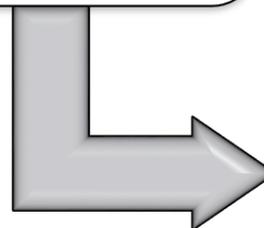
Prepare the
project
package for
CESFO



Documents
received at
CESFO



CESFO
revision



Filing and
out-
processing



Prepare the project package for CESFO

Packages must include:

- Brief description of the proposed project.
- Aerial photos.
- A map with the site identified.
- Latitude and Longitude Coordinates
 - Degrees/Minutes/Seconds

MEMORIAL EXPLICATIVO

DESCRIPCIÓN:

Nombre del Proyecto: Porta Coeli Bayamón Site
Localización: Carretera Estatal PR-855 Km. 0.1 Barrio Hato Tejas Bayamón, Puerto Rico
Coordenadas: Latitud: 18° 23' 57.90608"
Longitud: 66° 09' 56.92319"
Elevación: 31.10 metros
CRIM: 085-014-015-28

INTRODUCCIÓN:

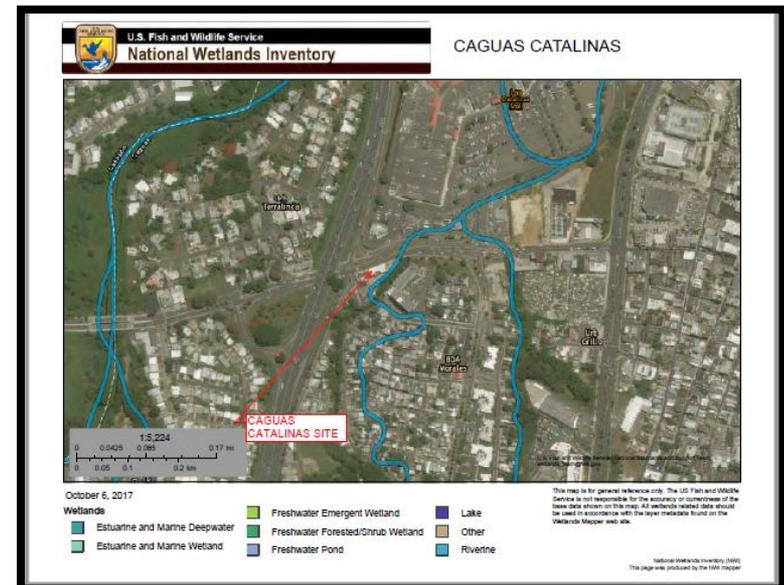
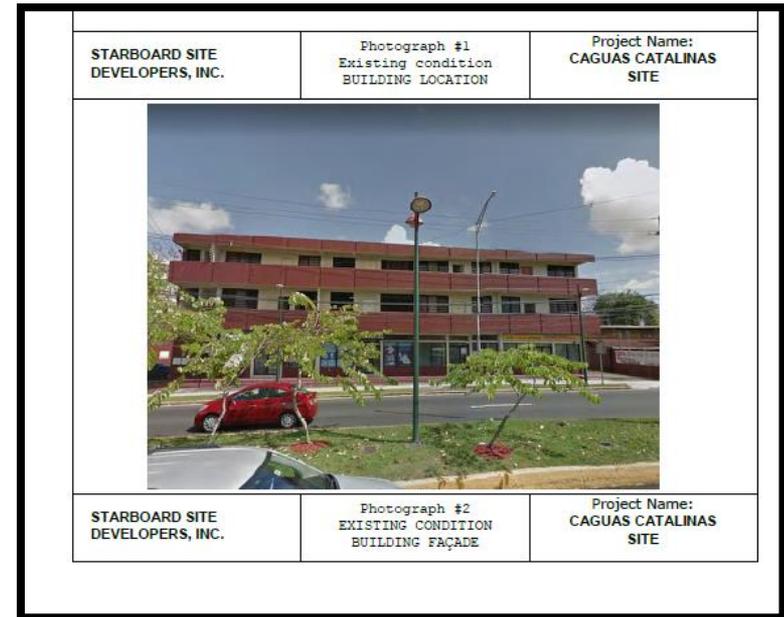
La compañía JI Sites Developers LLC, representada por es una compañía dedicada al desarrollo y telecomunicaciones para la ubicación de equipos elect



Prepare the project package for CESFO

Packages must also include:

- Photos of the site.
- Environmental Documents if available.
- Contact Information (mail address, email, phone number).
- Federal Nexus (Federal agency funding, permitting or conducting the project)

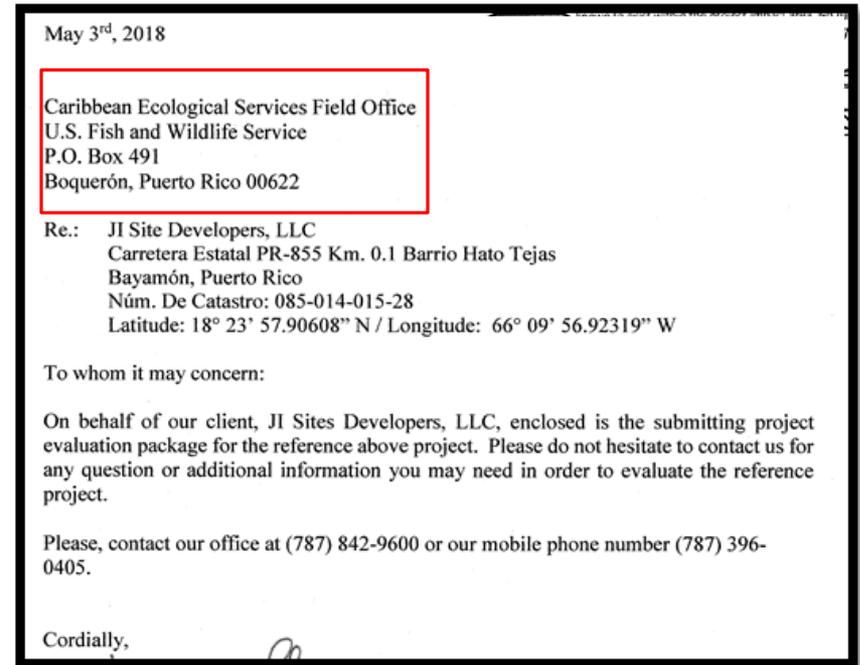


Documents
received at
CESFO

Documents should be send to:

Caribbean ES Field Office
Po Box 491
Boquerón, PR 00622

*Project packages with five pages and less can be send by email to marelisa_rivera@fws.gov



USFWS Office Facilities in Cabo Rojo, PR

Be aware that any document sent to our office is subject to the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) and may be disclosed to third parties.

CESFO staff
revision.

- Project packages will be screened by the field supervisors and review by a staff member.
- If no further information is needed, the package will be stamped (No spp, BCL) and send to out-processing (email).

BY MAIL

May 3rd, 2018

Caribbean Ecological Services Field Office
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
P.O. Box 491
Boquerón, Puerto Rico 00622

Re.: JI Site Developers, LLC
Carretera Estatal PR-855 Km. 0.1 Barrio Hato Tejas
Bayamón, Puerto Rico
Núm. De Catastro: 085-014-015-28
Latitude: 18° 23' 57.90608" N / Longitude: 66° 09' 56.92319" W

To whom it may concern:

Based on the information provided and currently available to us, no federally listed, proposed species, or designated critical habitat are known to exist within the project impact area. No further consultation pursuant section 7 of Endangered Species Act of 1973, as amended is needed.

 Reviewer: Angel Colón Date: 5/4/2018
[Signature] Date: 5/4/2018
Caribbean ES Field Supervisor

Filing and out-processing.



U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

Environmental Conservation Online System

ECOS Login

- We keep hardcopy and digital records of all the projects evaluated at our office.

- Each project is assigned an identification number and upload to the Environmental Conservation Online System (ECOS).

- For expedited projects, you will receive an email from our office with a digital copy of the project stamped.

BY MAIL

May 3rd, 2018

Caribbean Ecological Services Field Office
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
P.O. Box 491
Boquerón, Puerto Rico 00622

Re.: JI Site Developers, LLC
Carretera Estatal PR-855 Km. 0.1 Barrio Hato Tejas
Bayamón, Puerto Rico
Núm. De Catastro: 085-014-015-28
Latitude: 18° 23' 57.90608" N / Longitude: 66° 09' 56.92319" W

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Based on the information provided and currently available to us, no federally listed, proposed species, or designated critical habitat are known to exist within the project impact area. No further consultation pursuant section 7 of Endangered Species Act of 1973, as amended is needed.

Reviewer: Angel Colón Date: 5/4/2018
[Signature] Date: 5/4/2018
Caribbean ES Field Supervisor



U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

Caribbean Ecological Services Field Office



**What kind of Expedited Processes
do we have?**



U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

Caribbean Ecological Services Field Office



Blanket Clearance Letters and Self Certifications



U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

Caribbean Ecological Services Field Office



In order to expedite the consultation process, the Caribbean Ecological Services Field Office has developed Blanket Clearance Letters (BCL) to cover for activities and projects that typically result in no adverse effects to federally-listed species under our jurisdiction.





U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service



Caribbean Ecological Services Field Office

Active Blanket Letters

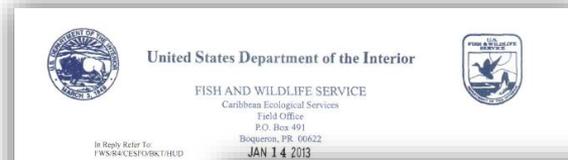
- HUD & RD - reconstruction of existing projects, construction of facilities in urban areas, activities within existing Right of Way, among others - **January 14, 2013**
- FHWA & FTA - rehabilitation of facilities of existing Public Transportation System (signs, bus stop, etc.), projects in urbanized areas or vacant lots with no forested vegetation - **January 14, 2013**
- FEMA – Hazard Mitigation and Public Assistance Grants Program – **July 24, 2014**

There is no Blanket Clearance Letter for Telecommunication Towers



- Projects will be evaluated on a case by case basis

Blanket Letter can be downloaded at: www.fws.gov/caribbean/es



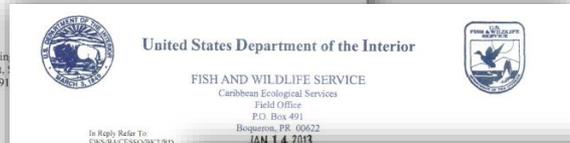
Mr. Efrain Maldonado
Field Office Director
U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development
235 Federico Costa Street,
San Juan, Puerto Rico 00911

Dear Mr. Maldonado:

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service is responsible for the protection of threatened or endangered species (U.S.C. 1531 et seq.) (ESA), terrestrial plants and animals, and National Marine Fisheries System resources. The ESA directs Specially Protected Areas and Wildlife, section 7 of the Act requires that actions they fund ensure the continued existence of the habitat. The USFWS issues part of this consultation pro

cedures of the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development. National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) review prior to the reconstruction of existing

In order to expedite the consultation process, the Field Office has developed this Blanket Letter for projects that typically result in minimal disturbance. If projects require consultation with the USFWS



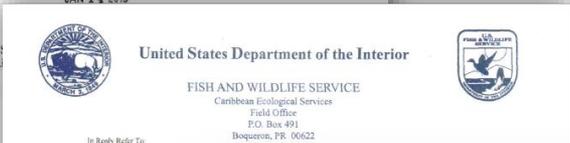
Mr. Jose A. Otero
Rural Development
654 Plaza, Muñoz Rivera
Suite 601
San Juan, PR 00918

Dear Mr. Otero:

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service is responsible for the protection of threatened or endangered species (U.S.C. 1531 et seq.) (ESA), terrestrial plants and animals, and National Marine Fisheries System resources. The ESA directs Specially Protected Areas and Wildlife, section 7 of the Act requires that actions they fund ensure the continued existence of the habitat. The USFWS issues part of this consultation pro

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In order to expedite the consultation process, the Field Office has developed this Blanket Letter for projects that typically result in minimal disturbance. If projects require consultation with the USFWS



Carlos Machado
Assistant Division Chief
Federal Highway Administration
350 Ave. Carlos Ch. G.
San Juan, Puerto Rico 00918

Dear Mr. Machado:

For several years, the Field Office has been providing technical assistance for project evaluation of certain federally sponsored projects in the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico and U.S. Virgin Islands. We developed this blanket clearance letter to facilitate the evaluation of projects located on urbanized areas, vacant lots covered by grassland and/or disturbed scrubs in the U.S. Caribbean. It is provided as technical assistance under the Endangered Species Act of 1973 (87 Stat. 884, as amended; 16 U.S.C. 1531 et seq.) and the Fish and Wildlife Coordination Act (48 Stat. 401, as amended; 16 U.S.C. 661 et seq.).

We have determined that these projects to be located on urbanized areas and vacant lots deprived of forested habitats are not likely to adversely affect federally-listed species under our jurisdiction. Furthermore, consultation pursuant section 7 of the Endangered Species Act would not be needed for projects in compliance with the following criteria.

1. Rehabilitation of facilities of an already established Public Transportation System (signs, sidewalks and ramps, bus stops and existing routes).
2. Expansion of Public Transportation facilities on an already disturbed area or on urbanized areas and vacant lots covered by grassland.
3. New construction of facilities for Public Transportation System on an already disturbed area or on urbanized areas and vacant lots covered by grassland.

Proposed construction of transportation projects nearby or in forested areas should be submitted to the Caribbean Ecological Services Field Office and will be reviewed in a case-by-case basis to assess possible adverse effects under the Endangered Species Act.



Ms. Yvette G. Taylor
FTA, Regional Administrator
230 Peachtree, NW
Suite 800
Atlanta, GA 30303

Re: Blanket Clearance Letter for federally sponsored projects, Federal Transportation Authority

Dear Mrs. Taylor:

For several years, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Caribbean Ecological Services Field Office has been providing technical assistance for project evaluation of certain federally sponsored projects in the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico and U.S. Virgin Islands. We developed this blanket clearance letter to facilitate the evaluation of projects located on urbanized areas, vacant lots covered by grassland and/or disturbed scrubs in the U.S. Caribbean. It is provided as technical assistance under the Endangered Species Act of 1973 (87 Stat. 884, as amended; 16 U.S.C. 1531 et seq.) and the Fish and Wildlife Coordination Act (48 Stat. 401, as amended; 16 U.S.C. 661 et seq.).

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1. Rehabilitation of facilities of an already established Public Transportation System (signs, sidewalks and ramps, bus stops and existing routes).
2. Expansion of Public Transportation facilities on an already disturbed area or on urbanized areas and vacant lots covered by grassland.
3. New construction of facilities for Public Transportation System on an already disturbed area or on urbanized areas and vacant lots covered by grassland.

Proposed construction of transportation projects nearby or in forested areas should be submitted to the Caribbean Ecological Services Field Office and will be reviewed in a case-by-case basis to assess possible adverse effects under the Endangered Species Act.

If the proposed project falls under the Blanket Criteria, you should complete a the BLK Certification

○ HUD & RD Criteria:

Project Criteria

1. Street resurfacing.
2. Construction of gutters and sidewalks along existing roads.
3. Reconstruction or emergency repairs of existing buildings, facilities and homes.
4. Rehabilitation of existing occupied single family homes, and buildings; provided that equipment storage or staging areas are not located on vacant property harboring a wetland and/or forested vegetation and that the lighting associated to the new facilities is not visible directly or indirectly from a beach.
5. Demolition of dilapidated single family homes or buildings; provided that the demolition debris is disposed in certified receiving facilities; equipment storage or staging areas are not located on vacant property harboring a wetland and/or forested vegetation.
6. Rebuilding of demolished single family homes or buildings, provided that the new construction is within the existing footprint of the previous structure and/or within pre-existing grassed or paved areas, and that the lighting associated to the new facilities are not visible directly or indirectly from a beach.
7. Activities within existing Right of Ways (ROWs) of roads, bridges and highways, when limited to actions that do not involve cutting native vegetation or mayor earth moving; and are not located within, or adjacent to, drainages, wetlands, or aquatic systems. These activities include the installation of potable water and sanitary pipelines.
8. Improvements to existing recreational facilities, including the installation of roofs to existing basketball courts, provided that the lighting associated to the facilities are not visible directly or indirectly from the beach.
9. Construction of electric underground systems in existing towns and communities, provided that the property is not a wetland area and the lighting associated to the facilities are not visible directly or indirectly from the beach.
10. Construction of facilities on vacant properties covered with grasses in urban areas, provided that the lighting associated to the facilities are not visible directly or indirectly from the beach.
11. Construction of houses, buildings or acquiring lands in urban areas covered by grass for relocation of low income families and/or facilities that have been affected by weather conditions.

FHWA & FTA:



In Reply Refer To:
FWS/R4/CESFO/BKT/FHWA

P.O. Box 491
Boqueron, PR 00622
JAN 14 2013

Carlos Machado
Assistant Division Administrator
Federal Highway Administration
350 Ave. Carlos Chardón, Suite 210
San Juan, Puerto Rico 00918-2161

Re: Blanket Clearance Letter for federally
sponsored projects, Federal Highway
Administration

Dear Mr. Machador:

For several years, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Caribbean Ecological Services Field Office has been providing technical assistance for project evaluation of certain federally sponsored projects in the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico and U.S. Virgin Islands. We developed this blanket clearance letter to facilitate the evaluation of projects located on urbanized areas, vacant lots covered by grassland and/or disturbed scrubs in the U.S. Caribbean. It is provided as technical assistance under the Endangered Species Act of 1973 (87 Stat. 884, as amended; 16 U.S.C.1531 et seq.) and the Fish and Wildlife Coordination Act (48 Stat. 401, as amended; 16 U.S.C. 661et seq.).

We have determined that these projects to be located on urbanized areas and vacant lots deprived of forested habitats are not likely to adversely affect federally-listed species under our jurisdiction. Furthermore, consultation pursuant section 7 of the Endangered Species Act would not be needed for projects in compliance with the following criteria.

1. Rehabilitation of facilities of an already established Public Transportation System (signs, sidewalks and ramps, bus stops and existing routes).
2. Expansion of Public Transportation facilities on an already disturbed area or on urbanized areas and vacant lots covered by grassland.
3. New construction of facilities for Public Transportation System on an already disturbed area or on urbanized areas and vacant lots covered by grassland.

Proposed construction of transportation projects nearby or in forested areas should be submitted to the Caribbean Ecological Services Field Office and will be reviewed on a case-by-case basis to assess possible adverse effects under the Endangered Species Act.

Completing the Blanket Letter Certification

The following is provided only as an example. Copy and paste the information below and modify as needed.

<http://www.fws.gov/caribbean/ES/Index.html>

(Insert Agency Template)

Self – Certification for the Compliance with Blanket Clearance Letter for USVI and Puerto Rico

Endangered Species Act (ESA) Certification

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Caribbean Ecological Services Field Office developed a Blanket Clearance Letter in compliance with the Endangered Species Act of 1973, as amended, and the Fish and Wildlife Coordination Act for federally funded projects. The Service determined that projects in compliance with following criteria are not likely to adversely affect federally-listed species.

Hence, Proponent, Municipality or Company Name, certifies that the following project (Project Name) funded by (agency name/optional) and located at (Project Location) complies with:

(Check one or more below)

Check	Project Criteria
	1. Street resurfacing.
	2. Construction of gutters and sidewalks along existing roads.
	3. Reconstruction or emergency repairs of existing buildings, facilities and homes.
	4. Rehabilitation of existing occupied single family homes, and buildings; provided that equipment storage or staging areas are not located on vacant property harboring a wetland and/or forested vegetation and that the lighting associated to the new facilities is not visible directly or indirectly from a beach.
	5. Demolition of dilapidated single family homes or buildings; provided that the demolition debris is disposed in certified receiving facilities; equipment storage or staging areas are not located on vacant property harboring a wetland and/or forested vegetation.

It is important to include the Blanket Letter you are Utilizing for your project



ESTADO LIBRE ASOCIADO DE PUERTO RICO
GOBIERNO MUNICIPAL DE ARECIBO
DEPARTAMENTO DE DESARROLLO MUNICIPAL
PROGRAMA HOME
PO BOX 1086 | ARECIBO, P.R. 00613



Endangered Species Act Certification

In compliance with Endangered Species Act of 1973, as amended, and the Fish and Wildlife Coordination Act for federally funded projects, the Fish and Wildlife Service, Caribbean Field Office at Boquerón, Puerto Rico, decided that the following minor actions and projects may be conducted with a blanket clearance, dated January 14, 2013, without adversely affecting the recovery and survival of listed species:

The Municipality of Arecibo, Puerto Rico, certifies that following Project: "Repavimentación Montaña Sector in Bo. Sabana Hoyos, Arecibo, Puerto Rico" complies with: (see next list)

(Check one or more below and place in the Environmental Review Record):

- 1. Street resurfacing, sidewalk reconstruction, home and emergency repairs of existing community buildings.
- 2. Rehabilitation of existing occupied single family homes and community buildings, provided that equipment storage or staging areas are not located on vacant property harboring a wetland and/or forested vegetation and that the lighting associated to the new facilities are not visible directly or indirectly from a beach.
- 3. Demolition of dilapidated single family homes or community buildings, provided that the demolition debris is disposed of in certified receiving facilities; equipment storage or staging areas not located on vacant property harboring a wetland and/or forested vegetation; and appropriate best management practices (BMPs) are implemented.
- 4. Rebuilding of demolished single family homes or community buildings, provided that the new construction is within the existing footprint of the previous structure and/or within pre-existing grassed or paved areas, and that the lighting associated to the new facilities are not visible directly or indirectly from a beach.
- 5. Activities within existing Right of Ways (ROWS) of roads and highways, when limited to actions that do not involve cutting native vegetation or major earth moving; and are not located within, or adjacent to, drainages, wetlands, or aquatic systems. These activities include the installation of potable water and sanitary pipelines.

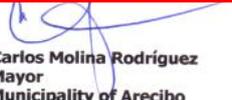
Arecibo... Una ciudad que crece.

Endangered Species Act Certification
Sabana Hoyos Ward
Page 2

- 6. Improvement to existing recreational facilities, including the installation of roofs to existing basketball courts, provided that the lighting associated to the facilities are not visible directly or indirectly from a beach.
- 7. Construction of electrical underground systems in existing towns and communities, provided that the property is not a wetland area and the lighting associated to the facilities are not visible directly or indirectly from a beach.
- 8. Construction of facilities on vacant properties covered with grasses in urban areas, provided that the lighting associated to the new facilities are not visible directly or indirectly from a beach.
- 9. In all situations, HUD and the municipalities are expected to implement BMPs, where applicable, to ensure that the impacts from erosion and stream sedimentation are appropriately minimized.


Eunice M. Mondéct Cruz
Municipal Development Office

Date: January 16, 2018


Carlos Molina Rodríguez
Mayor
Municipality of Arecibo
(Certifying Officer)

Date: January 16, 2018

c Marelisa Rivera
Fish & Wildlife Services
P.O. Box 491
Arecibo, PR 00622

Add what Blanket Letter you are utilizing and an email to receive the stamp.

Prepare the project package for CESFO



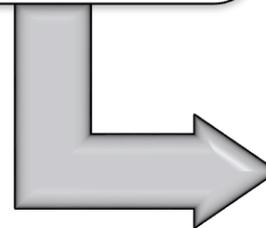
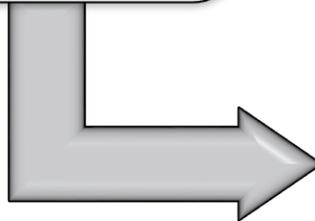
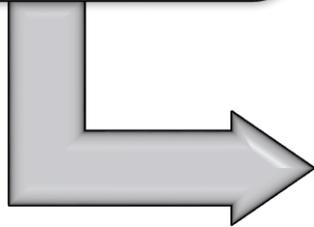
Blanket Letter Certification



Documents received at CESFO

CESFO revision

Filing and out-processing



COMMONWEALTH OF PUERTO RICO
OFFICE OF THE COMMISSIONER FOR MUNICIPAL AFFAIRS



Based on the information provided, we determined the project proposed qualifies for the blanket clearance letter. Nevertheless, if the project is modified this office should be contacted concerning the need for the initiation of consultation under section 7 of the Endangered Species Act.

Reviewer Angel Colón Date: 2/1/2018

[Signature] Date: 2/2/2018
Caribbean ES Field Supervisor

Municipality of AIBONITO

Endangered Species Act Certification

In compliance with Endangered Species Act of 1973, as amended, and the Fish and Wildlife Coordination Act for federally funded projects, the Fish and Wildlife Service, Caribbean Field Office at Boquerón, Puerto Rico, decided that the following minor actions and projects may be conducted within a blanket clearance, dated January 14, 2013. The purpose of the blanket letter is to cover activities and projects that typically result in no adverse effects to federally-listed species under the agency jurisdiction.

The Municipality of Aibonito, Puerto Rico, certifies that the following project *17-AE-05-004 Re- paved various municipal roads* complies with:

Check one or more below and place in the Environmental Review Record	
x	1. Street resurfacing.
	2. Construction of gutters and sidewalks along existing roads.
	3. Reconstruction or emergency repairs of existing buildings, facilities and homes.
	4. Rehabilitation of existing occupied single family homes and buildings; provides that equipment storage or staging areas are not located on vacant property harboring a wetland and /or forested vegetation and that the lighting associated to the new facilities are not visible directly or indirectly from a beach.
	5. Demolition of dilapidated single family homes or buildings; provided that the demolition debris is disposed of in certified receiving facilities; equipment storage or staging areas not located on vacant property harboring a wetland and/or forested vegetation.
	6. Rebuilding of demolished single family homes or community buildings, provided that the new construction is within the existing footprint of the previous structure and/or within the pre-existing grassed or paved areas, and that the lighting associated to the facilities are not visible directly or indirectly from a beach.
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	8. Improvements to existing recreational facilities, including the installation of roofs to existing basketball courts, provided that the lighting associated to the facilities are not visible directly or indirectly from a beach.



U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

Caribbean Ecological Services Field Office



Blanket Clearance Letters do not apply for project with impacts to wetlands and water bodies

- USACOE Projects
 - Programmatic consultation for SAJ-85
 - Case by Case basis



U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

Caribbean Ecological Services Field Office



Programmatic Consultations & Other Expedited Processes:

- EPA Construction General Permit (CGP) Notice of Intent (NOI) - NPDES
 - Technical Assistance process to Agency or Consultants
 - Conservation Recommendations Provided
 - NOIs are uploaded
 - We receive Notification
 - 14 days to review and respond (if needed)

EPA NPDES:

Pollutant	Causing Impairment?	TMDL ID	TMDL Name
Arsenic	Yes		
Turbidity	Yes		
Copper	Yes		
Cyanide	Yes		
Lead	Yes		
Mercury	Yes		
Oil and grease	Yes		
pH	Yes		
Selenium	Yes		
Surfactants, as CTAS, effluent	Yes		
Oxygen, dissolved percent saturation	Yes		
Thermal Discharge	Yes		
Coliform, fecal general	No	42515	FECAL COLIFORM BACTERIA TMDL FOR ASSESSMENT UNITS IN THE COMMONWEALTH OF PR (SEPTEMBER 2012)

Stormwater Pollution Prevention Plan (SWPPP)

First Name, Middle Initial, LastName: Brian Doreste
 Title: Quality Control Manager
 Phone: 609-723-0500 Ext.
 Email: brian@eastence.com

Endangered Species Protection

Using the Instructions in Appendix D of the CGP, under which criterion listed in Appendix D are you eligible for coverage under this permit? Criterion D

Provide a brief summary of the basis for criterion selection listed above (the necessary content for a supportive basis statement is provided under the criterion you selected.):

Consultation was made with U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service. USFWS review determined that the project site lies within the range of the endangered Puerto Rican Boa. USFWS recommended the implementation of conservation measures as part of the project plan. USFWS review letter is dated April; 18, 2018

Copies of any letters or other communications between you and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service or National Marine Fisheries Service.

Name	Created Date	Size
20180418_end spp ltr_ACP Buchanan_agcs.pdf	04/27/2018 9:33 AM	756.67 KB

Historic Preservation

Are you installing any stormwater controls as described in Appendix E (https://www.epa.gov/sites/production/files/2017-02/documents/2017_cgp_final_appendix_e_-_historic_properties_reqs_508.pdf) that require subsurface earth disturbances? (Appendix E (https://www.epa.gov/sites/production/files/2017-02/documents/2017_cgp_final_appendix_e_-_historic_properties_reqs_508.pdf), Step 1)

YES NO

Have prior surveys or evaluations conducted on the site already determined historic properties do not exist, or that prior disturbances have precluded the existence of historic properties? (Appendix E (https://www.epa.gov/sites/production/files/2017-02/documents/2017_cgp_final_appendix_e_-_historic_properties_reqs_508.pdf), Step 2):

YES NO

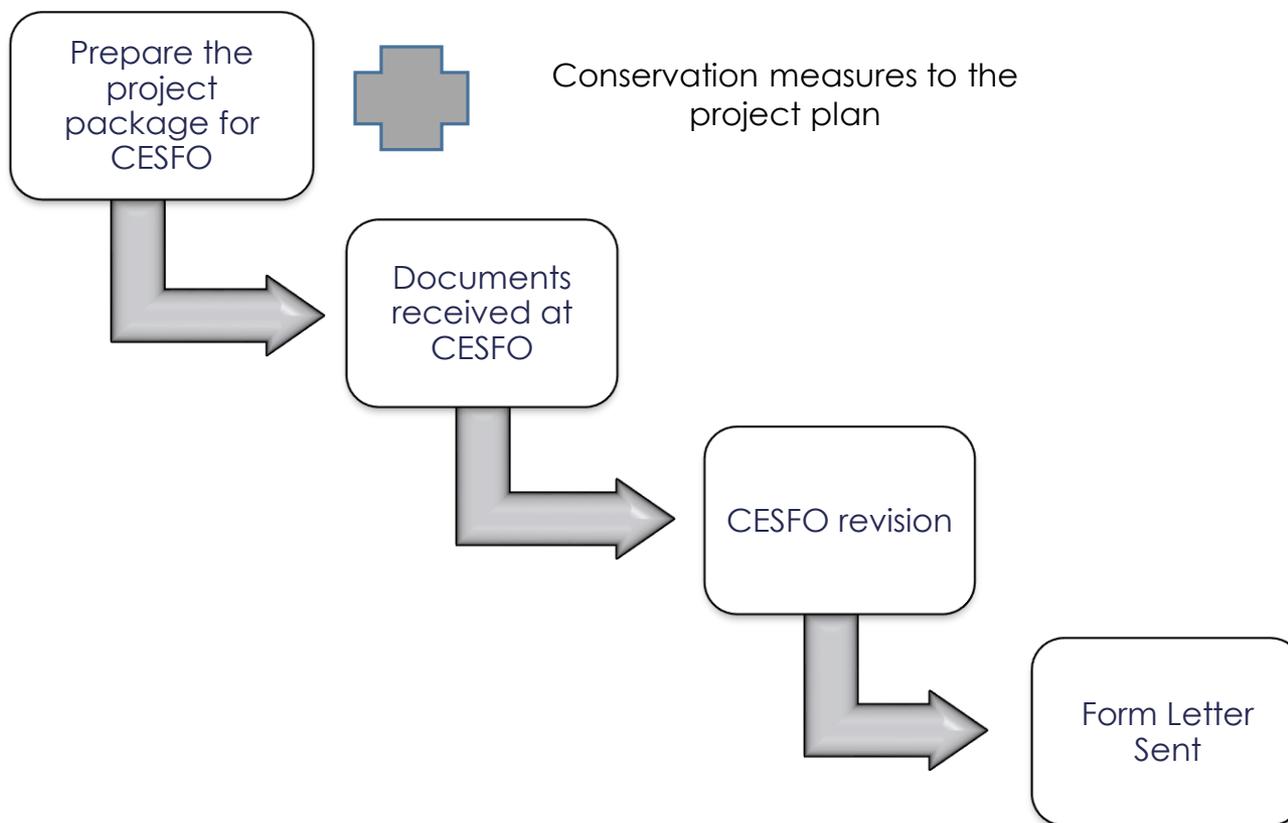


U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

Caribbean Ecological Services Field Office



- Projects where Conservation Measures should be implemented to minimize possible adverse effects





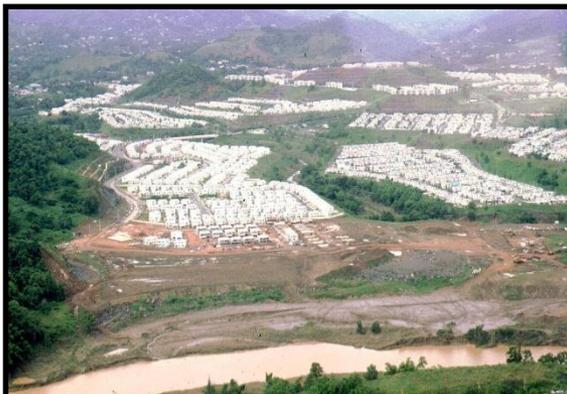
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Conservation Measures

- Minimize impacts on species and habitats
- Establish buffer zones between project and habitats
- Establish set backs, lighting plans, reforestation plans
- Conservation easements, mitigation/compensation
- Protocols for searching and protect species (e.g., PR Boa)





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Conservation Measures Are Available For Some Listed Species:

- Puerto Rican boa and VI boa
- Antillean manatee
- Sea turtles
- Amphibians (Guajon & Sapo Concho)
- Birds and Plants



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Conservation Measures for PR Boa

- Inform personnel, bring expertise to identify and handle boas, coordinate with PRDNER
- Inspect machinery every morning
- Inspect site (vegetation, debris, holes, abandoned structures) before work starts
- Inform any siting
- Live boas should be safely relocated at least 1 km away within forested habitat
- Dead boas should be reported immediately



VI Tree Boa: Site Clearance Protocol

VI Boa:

- Northeast PR (Ceiba, Fajardo, Humacao, Luquillo, Rio Grande, Culebra)
- St Thomas, USVI

Tracts of wooded habitat and associated understory outside the footprint and setback of the building and not required for infrastructure should be retained as tree boa habitat. Connections with habitat on adjacent property should be left intact.

All personnel will be instructed in identifying this harmless snake and photographs of the VI Tree Boa are to be prominently displayed on this notice at the site.

At least 10 days prior (if under 1 acre) to the use of heavy machinery on the site, the site is to be flagged and vegetation cut by hand, saving trees where possible. Any stone walls or naturally occurring rock piles must be carefully dismantled by hand as these are refuges for the snake. This will allow any boas present to vacate the site without injury. If the area to be cleared exceeds 1 acre then the resting period is 14 days.

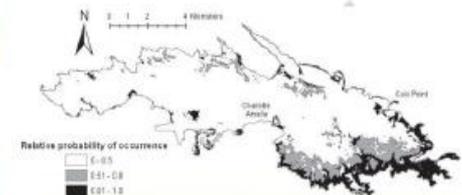
Any trees with trunks greater than 7 cm diameter that are felled should be placed in a undisturbed location to allow snakes hiding in tree holes to vacate.

The Division of Fish and Wildlife (DFW) or an on-site agent should be notified of any snakes observed or captured. If a snake is in imminent danger, the snake can be moved to undisturbed habitat outside the construction area that has been pre-approved by DFW. If no undisturbed habitat exists near the site, the landowner or agent shall identify a suitable release site in collaboration with DFW prior to any vegetation clearance. A permit from DFW under section 2(b) of the Cooperative Agreement will be required for all personnel involved in any snake handling or relocation activities.

Once these measures have been completed and the hand-cleared site has been inspected for the presence of any boas, heavy machinery may be used to clear the remainder of the site.

All personnel involved in site preparation and construction must be verbally instructed on the importance of snake protection and preservation and all procedures developed for that purpose. Personnel will be informed of the penalties for injury to any snake encountered.

The Division of Fish and Wildlife may be called during any of the above steps to assist with snake removal or to verify compliance with this protocol. Please note that any boas killed or injured at the site will constitute a violation under the federal Endangered Species Act, which can be avoided by carefully following the preceding steps. For further information, please contact the Division of Fish and Wildlife at (340) 775-6762.





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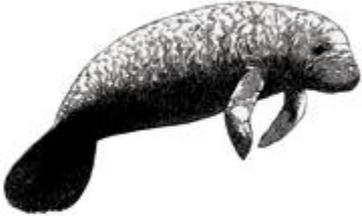


Conservation Measures for Antillean manatee for In-water Projects

- Personnel should be advised and trained on manatee protection and identification (trained and experienced spotters)
- Surveys area for manatee presence at least one hour before
- No activities should start or continue if manatees are observed within 100 ft from activity
- Manatees must not be herded or harassed into leaving
- Any collision should be reported immediately
- Manatee signs installed (temporary and permanent)-approved by USFWS
- No-wake / idle speed at all times

Let's Protect our manatees

Caution Boaters
Watch for Manatees

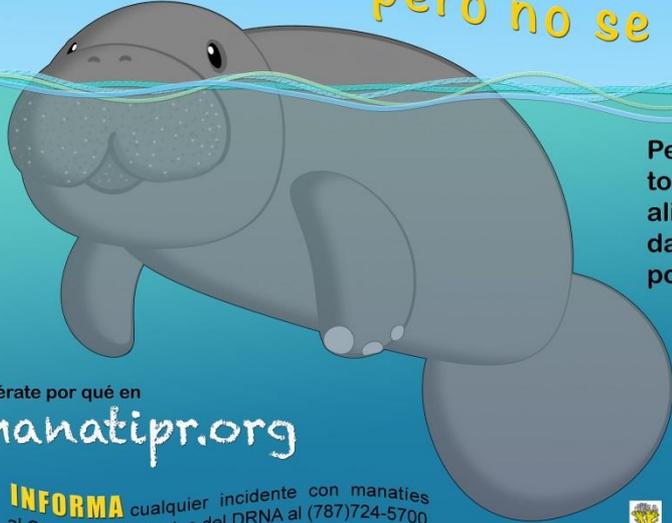


Wildlife Alert:
1-888-404-FWCC(3922)
cell *FWC or #FWC

Report collisions, sick, dead or injured manatees



¡Se mira... pero no se toca!



Perseguirlos, tocarlos, y hasta alimentarlos o darles agua, los pone en riesgo.

Entérate por qué en manatipr.org

INFORMA cualquier incidente con manatíes al Cuerpo de Vigilantes del DRNA al (787)724-5700.



Sea Turtle Conservation Measures in Coastal Areas

- Set Back from the beach (50 meters from high tide).
- Lighting Plan - Sea Turtle Friendly lights not seen from beaches - emit a wavelength of 450 nanometers or longer (Low – Pressure Sodium or LEDs) LEDs should be of the proper wavelength (true red, orange or amber colored diode) and not white or blue LEDs with filter material.
- Landscape with plants such as sea grape, button wood, and other coastal salt tolerant vegetation that can also be used to screen the night time lighting from the beach.

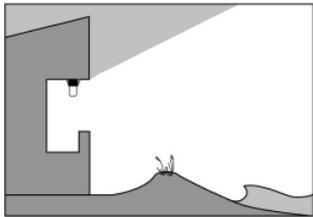
The project construction plans should include a lighting plan indicating the placement of lights, type of bulb and light orientation. The planting of vegetation, can also be included as part of the lighting plan.

<http://seaturtlelighting.net>

http://www.superiorlighting.com/Turtle_Friendly_Lights_s/864.htm

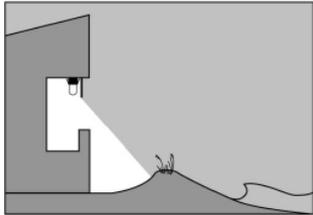
<http://www.ledsource.com/blog/leds-provide-turtle-friendly-lighting>

<http://myfwc.com/wildlifehabitats/managed/sea-turtles/lighting/>



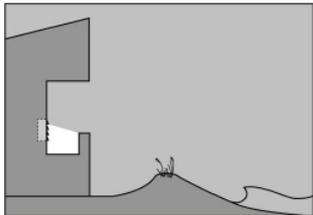
POOR

Poorly directed balcony lighting can cause problems on sea turtle nesting beaches.



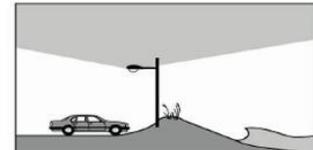
BETTER

Completely shielding fixtures with a sheet of metal flashing can reduce stray light reaching the beach.



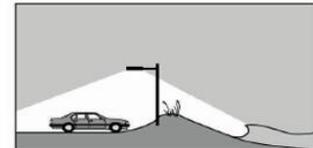
BEST

Louvered step lighting is one of the best ways to light balconies that are visible from nesting beaches.



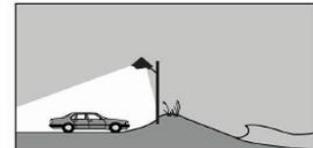
POOR

Poorly directed parking lot lighting can cause problems on sea turtle nesting beaches.



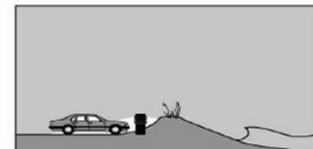
BETTER

Fixtures with 90 degree cut off angles can reduce the amount of stray light reaching the beach.



MUCH BETTER

Fully hooded fixtures can direct light accurately and reduce stray light even more.



BEST

Low-mounted, louvered bollard fixtures are the best way to light parking lots near nesting beaches.





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Examples of Conservation Measures content

- Species searching and monitoring by qualified personnel (permits)
- Avoid breeding seasons (e.g., birds) (February September)
- Minimize impacts to suitable or occupied habitat
- Propagation and reintroduction of plants (permits required)
- Relocation of individuals (last option - plants)



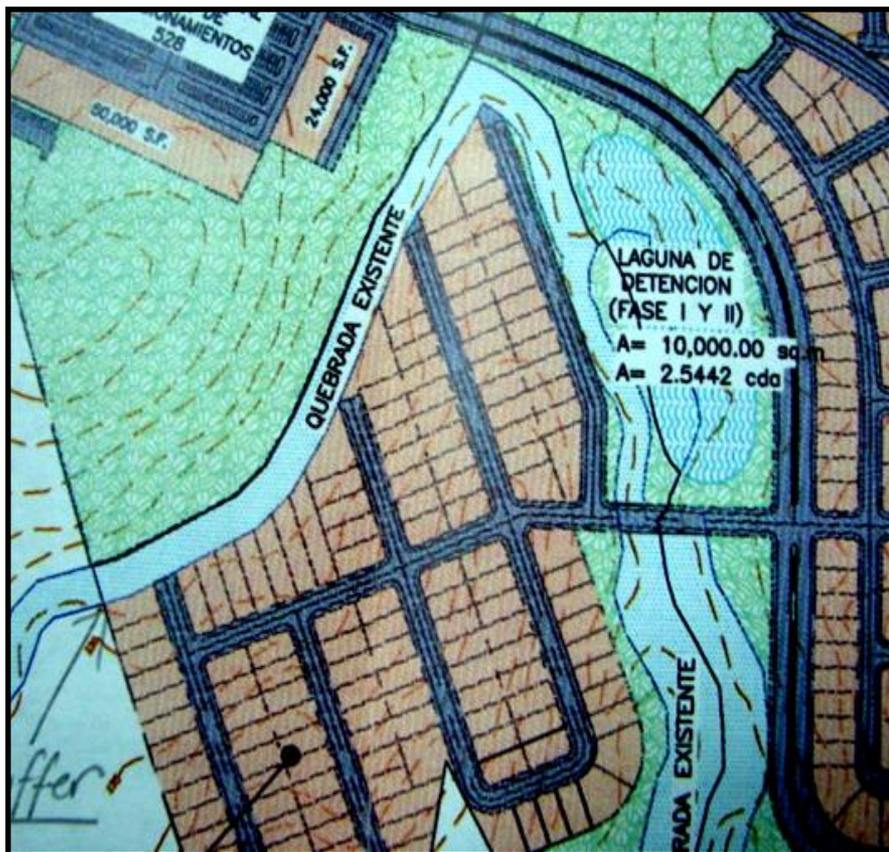


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Best Management Practices for Projects



- Lots should not end on water bodies
- A street between the water body and the lots avoid further invasion into the water
- The 5-m buffer zone is for maintenance work. An effective buffer should be more than that.

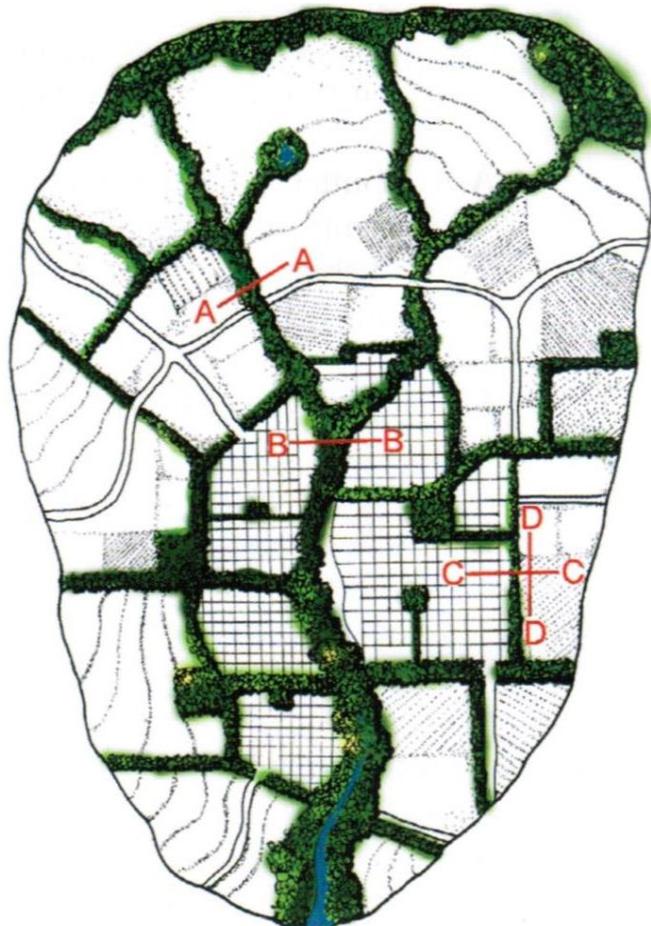


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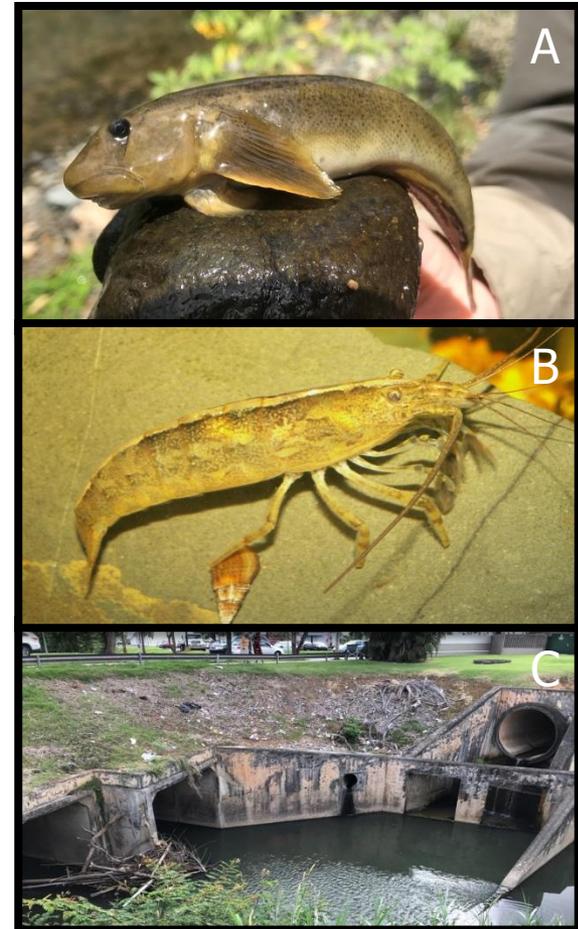
Examples of Conservation Measures content



- A strip of unaltered vegetation on both edges of a creek is an effective measure to maintain the integrity of the ecosystem
- The minimum width of that buffer may vary depending on the existing resources, but we do not recommend less than 10 m.

Stream crossings design and guidance

- Island's freshwaters are inhabited by diadromous native aquatic fish and shrimps.
- Diadromy is a term to describe the life history of migratory species. These species depend of the connectivity between freshwater and marine environments to complete their life cycles.
- Migratory pattern can be disrupted by the presence of stream crossings such as culverts and bridges.
- Conventional stream crossings without the appropriate design to maintain the ecological connectivity alter the physical habitat and integrity of the ecosystem.



(A) At-risk species Sirajo goby, photo UPRM/J. Cancel; (B) Spinning basket shrimp, photo UPR-RP/O. Pérez-Reyes and (C) Stream crossing structure with multiple culverts at San Antón creek, photo USFWS/A. Galindo

Stream crossings design and guidance

- **Standard Culvert Design Criteria** - prevent adverse effects to aquatic species and their habitat, in compliance with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Aquatic Life Movement NWP general condition
- Use of bottomless culverts or single span bridges in lieu of either single or multiple pipes or culverts with bottoms, particularly in streams that support native fish species.
- *If bottomless culverts or a single span bridge are not feasible, box or round culverts placed in streams must be installed to maintain low flow conditions and avoid impacts to stream bed and bank. This will allow for passage of native stream fauna and comply with the above referenced NWP general condition.*
- For the complete list of criteria please refer to the **U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Caribbean Ecological Services Field Office, Culvert Design and Construction Guidance.**

Stream crossings design and guidance

Please refer to the following documents for detailed information of stream crossings design and guidance in Puerto Rico:

USFWS Post-Disaster Guidance for Repair, Replacement, and Clean-up Projects in Streams and Waterways of Puerto Rico from Hurricane María

USFWS Caribbean Ecological Services Field Office, Culvert Design and Construction Guidance

PRDNER Guide to maintain the ecological connectivity in crossing structures of the rivers and streams of Puerto Rico

Photo: USFWS/A. Galindo





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Recommendations

- Start early and familiarize with processes
- Establish effective communication channels (agencies, consultants, proponents)
- Use the best available science
- Promote collaboration
- Facilitate interagency cooperation



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