

Technical Panel Meeting Minutes March 21, 2020

Duration: 15:30 – 16:15 CET

Participants: Michael Dutschke (MD, minutes), Kaysara Khatun (KK), Peter Schlesinger (PS), Eder Zanetti (EZ)

Topics

1. CCT submission of PIN for Atlantic coast umbrella project
2. Latest developments for Gunacaste project
3. Miscellaneous

1 CCT submission of PIN for Atlantic coast umbrella project

On 9 March, the [Centro Científico Tropical](#) submitted a PIN covering the three Conservation Areas (1) Arenal Huetar Norte, (2) La Amistad Caribe and (3) Tortuguero. After a formal review, MD recommended the TP to accept the PIN submitted.

Usually, after acceptance, the TP would send two experts for a validation mission to the project area. On their return, they would prepare an Assessment Report to be presented to the TP. If the project is found to follow GCS rules and principles, the TP would then approve the project.

Due to the current international coronavirus crisis, the mission cannot take place. In order for the project to go ahead and receive funding, MD pledges to modify the procedure for this particular PIN, given the trust in the project proponent and the project participants. The Nacional System of Conservation Areas SINAC, gives full support to the project.

After discussing the pledge, the TP unanimously decides the following:

- The CCT Atlantic Coast Project PIN submission is formally accepted.
- After a thorough review by MD and EZ, the Project can be provisionally approved on the next TP meeting for the first year.
- A Conservation Agreement with the proponent will be signed thereafter.
- The validation mission is envisioned to take place in early 2021.

Once the review of the PIN and its accompanying documentation, the TP will meet and decide on the provisional project approval.

2 Latest developments for Gunacaste project

To-date, the FUNDECODES Gunacaste project has not signed the Conservation Agreement, although the draft agreement was sent to FUNDECODES on two occasions. MD will contact Jorge Vásquez again to find out the reason for the delay.

Ristic (now owned by Shore.eu), one of the two current project sponsors, has failed to make their annual donations for 2019 and 2020. On March 13, MD spoke the CEO Ralph Sanders, who asked to resend the 2018 donation receipt and promised to pay up the 10,000 EUR due.

3 Miscellaneous

EZ informs that Greenfarm has not yet decided to submit a PIN to the GCS. However, they have an interesting system for fundraising, which he will present in writing, to be discussed in a time-near manner.