



U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service



Caribbean Ecological Services Field Office

Project Evaluation Process and Compliance with Section 7 of the Endangered Species Act Training

June 19 & July 20, 2018

San Juan, Puerto Rico

Edwin E. Muñiz, Esq.

Field Supervisor

Caribbean Ecological Services

Field Office



U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

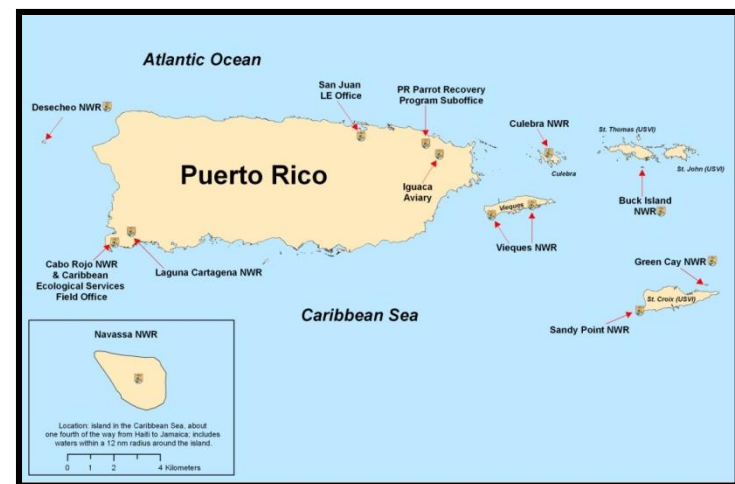


Caribbean Ecological Services Field Office

U.S. Fish and Wildlife in the Caribbean

Three divisions in the U.S. Caribbean – 60 employees

- ***Caribbean Islands National Wildlife Refuge Complex – 9 refuges***
- ***Law Enforcement Division / Airport Inspector***
- ***Ecological Services***
 - ***Puerto Rican Parrot Recovery Program – Rio Grande Station***
 - ***Field Office – Boquerón Station***
 - ***Endangered Species Program***
 - ***Habitat Restoration Programs (PFW & CP)***
 - ***Habitat Conservation and Contaminants Program***





U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service



Caribbean Ecological Services Field Office

Our Mission:

...to work with others to conserve, protect and enhance fish, wildlife and plants and their habitats for the continuing benefit of the American people.



Catesbaea melanocarpa



U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service



Caribbean Ecological Services Field Office

Legal Authorities

- Fish and Wildlife Coordination Act - FWCA
- Coastal Barriers Resource Act - CBRA
- Marine Mammal Protection Act - MMPA
- Migratory Bird Treaty Act – MBTA
- Partners for Fish and Wildlife Act - PFW
- Endangered Species Act - ESA



U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service



Caribbean Ecological Services Field Office

What do we do in Puerto Rico and USVI?

- List, Recover and Re-classify Threatened and Endangered Species
- Promote Priority Recovery Actions to Conserve Listed Species
- Conduct Section 7 Consultations for Projects with Federal Nexus
- Provide Technical Assistance on Non-Federal Projects with Potential Impacts to Listed Species
 - Local Agencies and consultants
 - Promote the Implementation of Conservation Measures



U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service



Caribbean Ecological Services Field Office

What do we do in Puerto Rico and USVI? Continue....

- Provide Technical and Economic Incentives to Restore Habitats to Benefit Listed Species
 - Coastal Program – Public and Private lands
 - Partners for Fish and Wildlife – Private lands only
- Provide technical assistance and expertise on oil spill responses, cleanup activities, and Natural Resources Damage Assessment and Restoration actions (NARDAR)



U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service



Caribbean Ecological Services Field Office

Review of Development Projects

- Federal Nexus – Projects with Federal funds, permits or actions (HUD, RD, USACE, EPA, FEMA, FCC, DTOP, among others)
- State or Territorial Projects – Projects submitted by local agencies and consultants



U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service



Caribbean Ecological Services Field Office

What You Will Learn on This Training

- What is Section 7 of the ESA and what are the Basic Steps for compliance with Section 7
- What are the minimum requirements of a project packages for Section 7 Consultation
- Learn about Expedited Processes currently available for low effect projects to comply with Section 7 consultation of the ESA
- Proactive Conservation Measures for Listed Species
- Learn about tools available for effective consultation

Agenda

9:15 - 9:45 am	Inter-agency coordination for future reconstruction actions following the passage of Hurricanes Irma & María, FEMA
9:45 -10: 30 am	Consultation Process under Section 7 of the Endangered Species Act - José Cruz Burgos, Endangered Species Program Coordinator, CESFO.
10:30-11:00 am	Break
1:00-11:45 am	Expedited processes to comply with Section 7 of the Endangered Species Act and proactive conservation measures for the conservation of threatened and endangered species - Marelisa Rivera, Deputy Field Supervisor, CESFO
11:45 - 1:15 pm	Lunch
1:15 – 2:00 pm	Use of Ipac and other cyber tools for an effective consultation - Angel Colón, CESFO
2:00 – 2:30 pm	Section 7 consultation for the former Roosevelt Roads Naval Base- an example of a valid consultation in Puerto Rico - Marelisa Rivera
2:30 - 3:30pm	Discussion, question and answers.