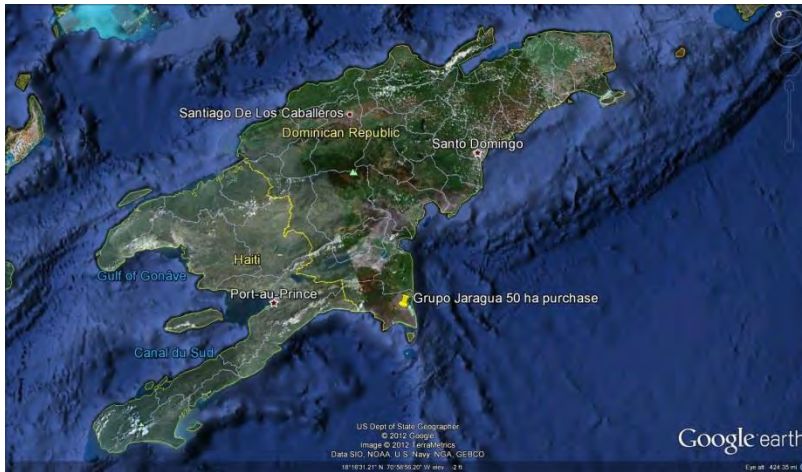


Tropical Forest Forever Fund Supports Expansion of Jaragua-Bahoruco-Enriquillo Biosphere Reserve, Dominican Republic

The **Bahoruco–Jaragua Corridor** in the southwest of the Dominican Republic, lies between the Jaragua and Sierra de Bahoruco National Parks within the UNESCO Jaragua-Bahoruco-Enriquillo Biosphere Reserve. These parks are partly contiguous but much of the forest currently linking them is unprotected, and extremely important for biodiversity. These forests are highly threatened by illegal encroachment and conversion to other uses. Between 1996 and 2003, 15% of all forests within the Biosphere Reserve were either deforested or degraded.



Both parks have been identified as Important Bird Areas, and the region holds more than 40 threatened species including Endangered birds such as Black-capped Petrel *Pterodroma hasitata* and Bay-breasted Cuckoo *Coccyzus ruficularis*, six Critically Endangered

frogs, and two Endangered endemic land mammals — the Hispaniolan Solenodon *Solenodon paradoxus* and Hutia *Plagiodontia aedium*, Hispaniola’s only extant native land mammals.

Migrant birds include Bicknell’s Thrush *Catharus bicknelli*, American Redstart *Setophaga ruticilla*, Ovenbird *Seiurus aurocapilla*, Black-and-white Warbler *Mniotilta varia*, Black-throated Blue Warbler *Dendroica caerulescens* and Cape May Warbler *Dendroica tigrina*.



The current focal point for land purchase is Fondo Paradí, several plots of unprotected transitional Caribbean dry forests are being offered for sale, and Grupo Jaragua (BirdLife in the Dominican Republic) recently purchased a total area of 50 ha with the support of the **GCBO's Tropical Forest Forever Fund**. Grupo Jaragua had previously acquired six plots totaling 113 ha in the corridor, which are co-managed with the National Protected Areas agency of the Dominican Republic.

Grupo Jaragua, Inc. is the BirdLife Partner in the Dominican Republic. It is a national environmental NGO founded in 1987 to work for the sustainable management of biodiversity in Hispaniola, with a focus on the UNESCO Biosphere Reserve Jaragua-Bahoruco-Enriquillo. They have been co-managing 153,600 ha of the Jaragua National Park with the National System of Protected Areas for 21 years. Since 2010, as part of BirdLife's global Forests of Hope program, Grupo Jaragua has been working to protect forest corridors and create private reserves. This is deemed to be the most effective approach to forest conservation for this region. They have been setting up fences and installed three viewing platforms for parrot monitoring in the area which will also serve for forest management. Educational trails are in place and used for schoolchildren.

GCBO is proud to have played a role in protecting the forests of the Jaragua-Bahoruco Corridor and the many vulnerable bird species there including: Black-capped Petrel, Bay-breasted Cuckoo, La Selle Thrush, Hispaniolan Crossbill, Hispaniolan Amazon, White-necked Crow, Northern Potoo, Antillean Piculet, Flat-billed Vireo, Ashy-faced Owl and White-crowned Pigeon.

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To view property on Google Earth use these coordinates: 17°47'31.71"N, 71°26'10.40"W