



Grenada Land Actors Platform
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Friday, September 11, 2020

Mr. Carlton Frederick
Head of the Physical Planning Unit
GCNA Building Lagoon Road
St George's, Grenada

Dear Mr. Frederick,

The Grenada Land Actors Platform is a network of professionals, CBOs, NGOs, Private land users and concerned citizens, who are interested in sustainable land management and governance in Grenada. The platform was created in 2018 under the project "Improving the Quality of Life for Persons Impacted by Inequality in Land Rights" where a number of civil society organizations were consulted on land governance issues. The platform is coordinated by the 'GAEA Conservation Network', a Grenadian NGO, with support from the International Land Coalition, Birds Caribbean International and Bluespace Caribbean. We count over 130 followers and 75 active members.

Our group has become increasingly concerned about the lack of public consultation and transparency in development of the projects taking place in Mt. Hartman, La Sagesse and Levera. From the reaction of the public, it is apparent that the sites of these current projects are highly valued by our local communities. At the moment, the project proposals available to the public suggest that these projects bear a tremendous risk of causing irreparable damage to our natural heritage and vital community assets. We would like to ascertain the full extent of the development plans submitted for the aforementioned projects, so that our experts can review and provide constructive recommendations for safeguarding the environment and our public interest. To that end, we are making the following requests:

- 1) In the interest of transparency and public participation, we request a copy of the "approved notice of grant of permission for development of land subject to conditions", inclusive of all addendums, environmental impact assessments and approved plans for the following developments:
 - La Sagesse Six Sense Resort by Range Development, Phase 1 and Phase 2
 - Mount Hartman Estate resort planned by Hartman Resort Group Ltd.
 - Levera's Grenada National Resort Project by the Singapore Heng Sheng (Grenada) Development PTE LTD



- 2) Further, we need to highlight the erection of the workers accommodation at Levera and whether the proximity of these dwellings to the designated Levera Ramsar site allow for an adequate buffer zone.
- 3) Following on, we are concerned about the violations to the approved EIA by the La Sagesse Six Sense Resort. Physical Planning has conceded that there were infractions and that they would be repaired, but no timeline has been established. With major construction at the La Sagesse Six Sense Resort slated to commence in October, we are particularly concerned about the proposed steps of restoration of the La Sagesse pond and mangroves, as well as the mitigation and restitution measures in place with regard to this ecologically and culturally critical habitat. Similarly we are concerned about the status of the EIA and the monitoring and oversight which should be accompanying the work being done by the Mount Hartman Resort Group Ltd.

Accordingly, we would like to request that a timeline be agreed upon by all parties for completion of these requirements to ensure competent and faithful execution of this important restoration work.

- 4) Finally, we note that the Physical Planning and Development Control Act empowers the Minister to develop regulations to give effect to the public participation process throughout the preparation and publicization of the EIA report. We understand that no such regulations exist yet, and in the absence of this, can you clarify what mechanism exists to engage the public in this crucial role? Please advise how the public can become informed and involved in the EIA process so that we can better support the Planning Authority in meeting its objectives under the law.

We thank you for your kind cooperation in this matter. Given the speed at which these developments are advancing we request a response, as well as access to the requested documents by Friday, September 25, 2020.

Sincerely,

The members of the Grenada Land Actors Platform