

NATIONAL STUDY ON  
**THE SITUATION  
OF BUSINESS  
INTEGRITY  
IN SPECIFIC  
SECTORS,  
MAIN COMPANIES  
WITH RISK OF  
CORRUPTION  
AND/OR  
ENVIRONMENTAL  
AND CLIMATE CRIMES**  
IN THE DOMINICAN REPUBLIC

Jourdain, S.R.L.



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January, 2024





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## ABBREVIATIONS AND ACRONYMS\*

<b>PC</b>	Citizen Participation
<b>TCRD</b>	Constitutional Court of the Dominican Republic
<b>INAPA</b>	National Institute of Drinking Water
<b>EGEHID</b>	Dominican Hydroelectric Generation Company
<b>INDRHI</b>	National Institute of Water Resources)
<b>PGR</b>	Office of the Attorney General of the Republic
<b>MP</b>	Attorney Prosecutor's Office
<b>CD</b>	Dominican Constitution
<b>CESFRONT</b>	Border Security Specialized Body
<b>MIDE</b>	Ministry of Defense
<b>MIMARENA</b>	Ministry of Environment and Natural Resources
<b>MEPyD</b>	Ministry of Economy, Planning and Development
<b>MIREX</b>	Ministry of Foreign Affairs
<b>MEM</b>	Ministry of Energy and Mines
<b>ONU</b>	United Nations
<b>CN</b>	National Congress
<b>SCJ</b>	(Supreme Court Justice
<b>DP</b>	Ombudsman
<b>SENDH</b>	Second National Human Rights Survey
<b>ONE</b>	National Statistics Office
<b>SINAP</b>	National System of Protected Areas
<b>TCRD</b>	Dominican Constitutional Court

\*This list of acronyms and abbreviations, in Spanish, will be use throughout this document.



## INTRODUCTION

Within its specific objectives, this “National Study on the situation of business integrity in specific sectors, the main companies with the risk of corruption and/or environmental and climate crimes in the Dominican Republic” proposes the following:

- a) Verify the environmental management policies of these companies, verify if they are audited by the competent organizations of the Dominican Republic and/or by international organizations.
- b) Compile information about the commitments of these companies to Social Responsibility; specifically investigate what percentage of their budgets they dedicate to the execution of activities to improve the climate, environment and/or combat corruption.
- c) Inquire into the continuous improvement and training mechanisms that these companies receive from the competent organizations to carry out their activities in a comprehensive and transparent manner.

In a general sense, this study presents the state of the situation and the political, socioeconomic, cultural context and, particularly, of the system of criminal prosecution in environmental matters focused on the provinces of Dajabón and Montecristi. The ultimate goal of this document is to provide the most accurate diagnosis possible on the effectiveness and sustainability of the management of the Dajabón or Masacre River basin, which runs through the entire Dajabón province with its estuary in the Manzanillo Bay, in Montecristi.

Special attention is paid to the early detection of risks with considerable hypothetical impact on the rule of law, human rights, gender equality and the socioeconomic balance, particularly business, of the territories adjacent to the mentioned hydrographic basin.

A mixed and varied methodological approach was adopted, based on a participating approach of the main actors involved in the topics of interest, with the ultimate goal of obtaining a series of conclusions and offering recommendations with the greatest alignment to the real needs concerned to the territories.



All the tools used, such as interviews with judicial and ministerial officials, the finding and analysis of open data accredited by the Government of the Dominican Republic, the obtaining and analysis of information from actors and stakeholders, both public and private in the terrain, revolve around our fundamental principles of action for this report:

- 1) Neutrality;
- 2) Objectivity;
- 3) Transparency and;
- 3) Human rights and gender approach.

**Regarding the principle of neutrality and objectivity**, it is kept in mind at all stages of the investigations that were carried out, both in the office and in the field, to eliminate any ideological, religious or political bias that could undermine the search for the truth or at least, most of it. Likewise, under the principle of transparency, the veracity, accreditation and publicity of the data collected and its sources duly supported by public and private institutions of the Dominican Republic are taken into account.

**Regarding the last principle**, throughout this study we tried to keep in mind and legally analyze how reforestation and protection plans for water resources in the territories included can improve the general situation of human rights, diffuse interests and women's rights, particularly in the middle and long term.





## METHODOLOGICAL ASPECTS

This report is based on a "legal research" methodology, focused on constitutional, legal, regulatory and practical aspects that would provide an overview of the risks and opportunities for improvement of business integrity, as well as the effectiveness of the actors. State institutions called to exercise stewardship of the environment and criminal prosecution of crimes against it in the Dajabón or Masacre River basin, located in the Dajabón and Montecristi provinces.

Likewise, extensive use is made of open data sources by institutions of the Central Government and other powers of the State, such as the Supreme Court of Justice, the Public Prosecutor's Office and the Ombudsman of the Dominican Republic.

Another of the key tools for the preparation of this report has been the relocation to the provinces of Dajabón and Montecristi, in order to carry out a set of interviews with authorities involved in the process of environmental, business stewardship and criminal prosecution in both locations. For this, priority has been given to the provincial offices of the Ministry of Environment and Natural Resources (MIMARENA), as well as the executives and executive secretariats of the Chambers of Commerce and Production of both provinces. Likewise, high importance has been given to the interview conducted with the Technical Director Magistrate of the Specialized Attorney General's Office for the Defense of the Environment and Natural Resources, which reveals data of great importance in this investigation.



The relocation carried out for two (2) consecutive days were to the municipality of Dajabón, the town of Cañongo, the Pepillo Salcedo municipality, the Port of Manzanillo and the municipality of San Fernando de Montecristi.

The interviews were intended to make transparent and validate data on the general situation of access to fundamental rights and gender diversity. The people interviewed were the following:

NOMBRE	FUNCIÓN	DEMARCACIÓN
Judge Yissel Acevedo	Technical Director of the Environment PGE	Dominican Republic
Ing. Oneyda González	Dajabón Province Director MIMARENA	Dajabón Province
Licenciate Yudelmys Rivas	Executive Secretary of the Chamber of Commerce and Production of Dajabón	Dajabón Province
Licenciate Ana Rebeca Rodríguez	Executive Director of the Chamber of Commerce and Production of Montecristi	Montecristi Province
Rafael Socías Engineer	Environmental Manager of the Montecristi City Council	San Fernando de Montecristi Municipality.

In addition, there is a considerable amount of in situ impressions from citizens of both provinces, members of the National Police, members of the National Environmental Protection Service (SENPA), members of the Army of the Dominican Republic (ERD) and its intelligence services stationed at several road checkpoints in the Northwest Region and members of the Specialized Land Border Security Corps (CESFRONT), who have requested anonymity in this report, a fundamental right protected in article 44 of the Constitution of the Republic that has been fully respected granted to them.



## FRAMEWORK

**Broadly speaking, the social and democratic clauses of the Rule of Law force it to overcome the classic design of the simple separation of powers and the protection of individual freedoms.**

The new constitutional regime born on January 26th 2010, opened a new horizon of social, economic, cultural and environmental purposes not only from the perspective of fundamental rights, but also from the perspective of benefits on the part of the Dominican State. Furthermore, the social and democratic clauses of the Rule of Law even guide it to act in a prioritized and anticipated manner, so that new systematic situations of discrimination, exclusion and poverty do not occur.

### The Environmental Constitution of the Dominican Republic

The Dominican Republic, in accordance with the provisions of article 7 of its Political Constitution, is defined as a *“Social and Democratic State of Law, organized in the form of a unitary Republic, founded on respect for human dignity, fundamental rights, work, popular sovereignty and the separation and independence of public powers.”*

Likewise, article 8 of the Constitution defines the essential function of the State, pointing out that it is *“the effective protection of the rights of the person, respect for their dignity and obtaining the means that allow them to perfect themselves in an equal, equitable and progressive manner, within a framework of individual freedom and social justice, compatible with public order, general well-being and the rights of all.”*

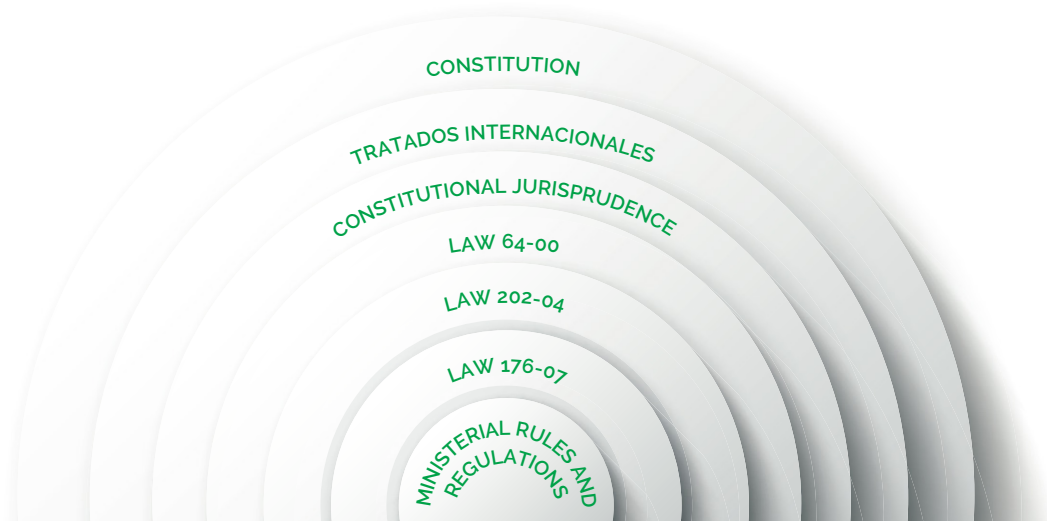
Although it is true that the environment was protected before the proclamation of the Constitution of the Republic of 2010, it is no less true that with the latter, the right to a healthy environment, as a legally protected asset, acquires levels protection, defense and promotion, through different elements that reaffirm it:

- 1) The guarantee of the environment as a diffuse interest;
- 2) The conservation of the ecological balance of fauna and flora;
- 3) The protection of natural resources;
- 4) The guard of protected areas and;
- 5) The express consecration of the fundamental right to access to drinking water.

In this sense, the general framework of legal protection of the fundamental right to a healthy environment in the Dominican Republic is formed as follows in hierarchical order:

1. Constitution of the Republic;
2. International treaties on the environment;
3. Jurisprudence of the Constitutional Court on the environment and protected areas;
4. Law 64-00 of 2000 General Environment and Natural Resources;
5. Law 202-04 of 2004 Sectoral Protected Areas;

6. Law 176-07 of 2007 of the Municipalities and the National District;
7. Regulations and standards issued by the Ministry of Environment and Natural Resources.



Source by the author.

The Political Constitution of the Dominican Republic establishes a structure for the protection and guarantee of the fundamental right to a healthy environment, taking into account the different elements that constitute it legally, namely:

- 1) The guarantee of the environment as a diffuse interest;
- 2) The conservation of the ecological balance of fauna and flora;
- 3) The protection of natural resources;
- 4) The guard of protected areas and;
- 5) The express consecration of the fundamental right to access to drinking water.

The central axis of the protection, guarantee and recognition of the fundamental right to a healthy environment is found in article 66 of the Constitution, which provides as follows:

*"Article 66.- Collective and diffuse rights. The State recognizes collective and diffuse rights and interests, which are exercised under the conditions and limitations established by law. Consequently, it protects: 1) The conservation of the ecological balance of fauna and flora; 2) Environmental protection; 3) The preservation of the cultural, historical, urban, artistic, architectural and archaeological heritage."*



In this sense, the Fundamental Law of Dominicans contemplates the essential obligations and benefits of the State around the fundamental right to a healthy environment. This is how article 67 details the catalog of the stated benefits. These are transcribed below:

*"Article 67.- Protection of the environment. It is the duty of the State to prevent pollution, protect and maintain the environment for the benefit of present and future generations. Consequently: 1) Every person has the right, both individually and collectively, to the sustainable use and enjoyment of natural resources; to live in a healthy environment, ecologically balanced and suitable for the development and preservation of different forms of life, the landscape and nature; 2) The introduction, development, production, possession, marketing, transportation, storage and use of chemical, biological and nuclear weapons and internationally prohibited agrochemicals, as well as nuclear waste, toxic and dangerous waste, are prohibited; 3) The State will promote, in the public and private sectors, the use of non-polluting alternative technologies and energies; 4) In the contracts that the State celebrates or in the permits that are granted that involve the use and exploitation of natural resources, the obligation to preserve the ecological balance, access to technology and its transfer, as well as restore the environment to its natural state, if it is altered; 5) The public powers will prevent and control the factors of environmental deterioration, impose legal sanctions, objective liability for damage caused to the environment and natural resources and demand their repair. Likewise, they will cooperate with other nations in the protection of ecosystems along the maritime and land border."*

In the same way, the Political Constitution establishes provisions and principles regarding the management, administration, exploitation and use of natural resources. Below are the fundamental provisions in this regard:

*"Article 14.- Natural resources. The non-renewable natural resources found in the territory and in maritime spaces under national jurisdiction, genetic resources, biodiversity and the radioelectric spectrum are the Nation's heritage.*

*Article 15.- Water resources. Water constitutes strategic national heritage for public use, inalienable, imprescriptible, unseizable and essential for life. Human consumption of water has priority over any other use. The State will promote the development and implementation of effective policies for the protection of the Nation's water resources.*

*Paragraph. - The upper river basins and areas of endemic, native and migratory biodiversity are subject to special protection by public powers to guarantee their management and preservation as fundamental assets of the Nation. The national rivers, lakes, lagoons, beaches and coasts belong to the public domain and are freely accessible, always respecting the right to private property. The law will regulate the conditions, forms and easements in which individuals will access the enjoyment or management of stated areas.*

*Article 17.- Use of natural resources. Mining and hydrocarbon deposits and, in general, non-renewable natural resources, can only be explored and exploited by individuals, under sustainable environmental criteria, by virtue of concessions, contracts, licenses, permits or quotas, under the conditions determined by the law. Individuals can take advantage of renewable natural resources in a rational manner with the conditions, obligations and limitations established by the law. Consequently: 1) The exploration and exploitation of hydrocarbons in the national territory and in the maritime areas under national jurisdiction is declared of high public interest; 2) The reforestation of the country, the conservation of forests and the renewal of forest resources is declared a national priority and of social interest; 3) The preservation and rational use of the living and non-living resources of the national maritime areas is declared a national priority, especially the set of marine shallow water and banks within the national maritime development policy; 4) The benefits received by the State from the exploitation of natural resources will be dedicated to the development of the Nation and the provinces where they are located, in the proportion and conditions established by law.*

*Article 16.- Protected areas. Wildlife, the conservation units that make up the National System of Protected Areas and the ecosystems and species it contains, constitute heritage assets of the Nation and are inalienable, non-seizable and imprescriptible. The limits of protected areas can only be reduced by law with the approval of two-thirds of the votes of the members of the chambers of the National Congress.*



## Access to drinking water as a human right

The human right to water finds its antecedent implicitly in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights proclaimed in Paris, France, in 1948, which in its article 25 provides that: *"Everyone has the right to an adequate standard of living that safeguards the person, as well as his family, health and well-being, and especially food, clothing, housing, medical assistance and the necessary social services..."* Without access to drinking water, neither life, health, nor general well-being is possible.

In November 2002, the Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights of the United Nations (UN) adopted General Comment No. 15 on the right to water. Article I. 1 establishes that *"the human right to water is essential for a dignified life."* The aforementioned observation also defines the right to water as *"the right of everyone to have sufficient, healthy, acceptable, physically accessible and affordable water for personal and domestic use."*

On the other hand, through Resolution No. 64/292 of 2010, the United Nations (UN) General Assembly explicitly recognized the human right to water and sanitation, reaffirming that *"clean drinking water and its sanitation are essential for the realization of all human rights."* Likewise, the UN General Assembly adopted the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development in September 2015. This agenda proposes 17 objectives with 169 goals of an integrated and indivisible nature, which cover the economic, social and environmental spheres. Sustainable Development Goal 6 (SDG) proposes to *"ensure the availability and sustainable management of water and sanitation for all."*

In the Dominican Republic, the Political Constitution expressly establishes the fundamental right to drinking water. In its article 61, paragraph 1, it states that *"Every person has the right to comprehensive health. Consequently: 1) The State must ensure the protection of the health of all people, access to drinking water, the improvement of nutrition, health services, hygienic conditions, environmental sanitation, as well as providing the means for the prevention and treatment of all diseases, ensuring access to quality medicines and providing free medical and hospital assistance to those who require it."*



On the other hand, the Constitution itself upholds in its article 15 important principles of use of water as a natural resource saying that *“water constitutes strategic national heritage for public use, **inalienable, imprescriptible, can't be confiscated** and is essential for life. **Human consumption of water has priority over any other use. The State will promote the development and implementation of effective policies for the protection of the Nation's water resources.**”*

Law 64-00 of 2000 General Environment and Natural Resources, in its article 35, provides that among the objectives of protected areas are: *“5) Conserve and recover the sources of water production and execute actions that allow their effective control, in order to avoid erosion and sedimentation.”* This law contains the main penalties for crimes related to water sources. For its part, Law 202-04 of 2004 Sectoral Protected Areas, in its article 7 paragraph 3 establishes that the *“conservation objectives of the National System of Protected Areas are: 3) Protect hydrographic basins and water resources.”*

Other important legislative acts related to water in the Dominican Republic are:

- A) Law 487 of 1969 on Control of the Exploitation and Conservation of Groundwater;
- B) Law 5852 of 1962 on Public Domain of Terrestrial Waters and Distribution of Public Waters;
- C) Law 203-98 of 1998 that creates the Leading Office for the Reform and Modernization of the Drinking Water and Sanitation Sector.

The main institutions related to the supply of drinking water in the country are:

- 1) National Institute of Hydraulic Resources (INDHRI);
- 2) National Institute of Drinking Water and Sewage (INAPA);
- 3) Santo Domingo Aqueduct and Sewer Corporation (CAASD);
- 4) Santiago Aqueduct and Sewer Corporation (CORAASAN), among others.

**In another order of ideas, Law 1-12 of 2012 that Establishes the National Development Strategy 2030, in its article 8 provides that the Second Strategic Axis of all public policies is to achieve “a society with equal rights and opportunities”.** Within this, *“territorial cohesion”* is established as a general objective (2.4). Within this general objective, a specific objective is also established to *“guarantee universal access to drinking water and sanitation services, provided with quality and efficiency.”*

For the purposes of this report, it is important to note that the Dominican State has divided the national territory into different hydrographic regions for the purposes of administration and management of water and forest resources. The Dajabón and Montecristi provinces, as well as the hydrographic basin of the Dajabón or Masacre River, are located in the Yaque del Norte Hydrographic Region, which is the territory with the largest number of dams intended for flood control, water provision and production of hydroelectric power.

Following, the national distribution of the dams:

DAMS IN THE DOMINICAN REPUBLIC			
YAQUE DEL NORTE HYDROGRAPHIC REGION	YUMA-CAMÚ HYDROGRAPHIC REGION	OZAMA-NIZAO HYDROGRAPHIC REGION	YAQUE DEL SUR HYDROGRAPHIC REGION
Tavera	Pinalito	Jigüey	Palomino
Bao	Hatillo	Aguacate	Sabana Yegua
López-Angostura	Río Blanco	Valdesia	Villarpando
Jimenoa	Tireito	Las Barías	Sabaneta
Maguaca	Arroyón	Mijo	El Salto
Chacuey	Rincón		Las Damas
Cabeza Caballo	Mejitas		Palma Sola
Monción	Las Lagunas		
Monción Contraembalse	Arroyo Hondo		
Guanuma			
Las Cayas			
Caño Salado			
El Charcazo			
Los Amaceyes			
Los Tomines			

**The Monte Grande and La Piña dams are under construction**

The Monte Grande dam began its construction in the province of Barahona in 2009 by President Dr. Leonel Fernández Reyna. It has been continued by President Danilo Medina Sánchez. It is being built on the Yaque del Sur River. Destined for flood control, hydroelectric production, supply of aqueducts and irrigation canals for the benefit of the provinces of Barahona, Bahoruco and Independencia.

La Piña dam began its construction in 2015 by President Danilo Medina Sánchez. Built on the La Piña stream. Intended for the irrigation of the area of Dajabón and surrounding communities.

Source: INDRHI



Presa de Tavera



Presa de Monción



## GENERAL SOCIOECONOMIC CONTEXT AND THE RULE OF LAW IN THE DOMINICAN REPUBLIC

According to data from the National Statistics Office (ONE) corresponding to the 2023 National Population and Housing Census, the Dominican Republic has a population of 10.7 million inhabitants, of which 50.5% are female and 49.5% are male. 50.6% of the population is concentrated in the Metropolitan or Ozama administrative regions (National District and Santo Domingo province), and Cibao Norte (Santiago, Puerto Plata and Espaillat); the remaining 49.4% are dispersed in 28 provinces.

In socioeconomic terms, the country maintains a growth rate of the Gross Domestic Product (GDP) above the average of Latin America and the Caribbean, despite external repercussions frequently mentioned such as the coronavirus pandemic or Russia's war against Ukraine (CEPAL, 2023). These events contributed to an increase in monetary poverty during the years 2020 and 2021. However, by 2022 overall poverty was reduced from 30.7% to 27.7%. By June 2023, general monetary poverty was reduced to 23.4%, which means 2.5 percentage points below the pre-pandemic poverty level (Ministerio de Economía, Planificación y Desarrollo (MEPyD), 2023).

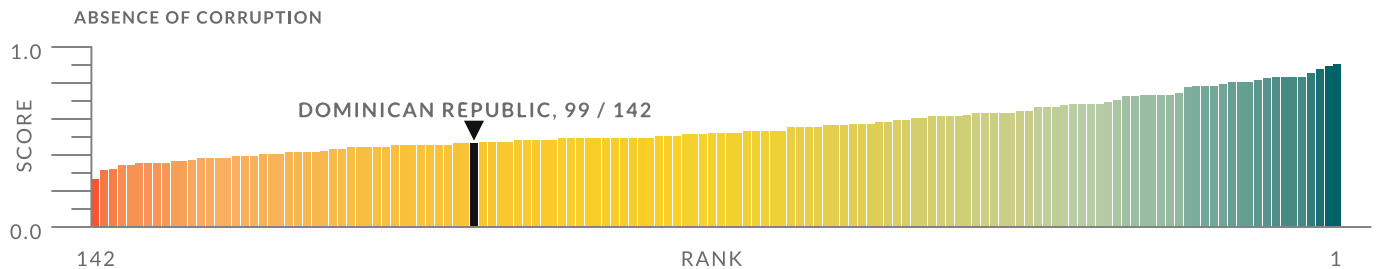
**On the other hand, the Dominican Republic is classified as a medium-performing democracy in the Global State of Democracy Index managed by International IDEA.** In its report on *"The state of democracy in the world 2021"*, it is stated that Latin American and Caribbean democracies are inert. Only two (2) countries show considerable dynamism and progress in the quality of democracy, one of them is the Dominican Republic. *"Both Ecuador and the Dominican Republic demonstrate that democracy in the region is not only resilient, but also has the necessary potential to continue improving (IDEA International, 2021)."*

**For the 2022 report, it is notable that the country had the best democratic performance in Latin America and the Caribbean.**

At a global level, the Dominican State was ranked 99th out of 142 States in the absence of corruption index, an improvement of 3 positions compared to 2022.

## Dominican Republic Ranked 99th Across 142 Countries, 2023

Compare 2023 score rankings for Dominican Republic by toggling between global, Latin America & Caribbean regional peers, and Upper middle income peers. **GLOBAL** REGION INCOME GROUP



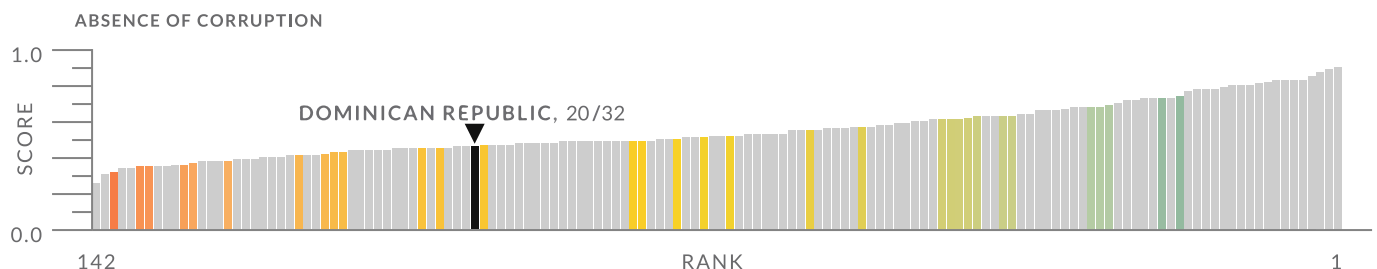
Source: WJP

For more detailed information, please visit the World Justice Project's website at <http://www.worldjusticeproject.org/>

At the regional level, the Dominican State was ranked 20th out of 32, maintaining the same position with respect to 2022 in terms of the corruption index.

## Dominican Republic Ranked 99th Across 142 Countries, 2023

Compare 2023 score rankings for Dominican Republic by toggling between global, Latin America & Caribbean regional peers, and Upper middle income peers. **GLOBAL** REGION INCOME GROUP



Source: WJP

For more detailed information, please visit the World Justice Project's website at <http://www.worldjusticeproject.org/>

Broadly speaking and seen from the general perspective, the Dominican Republic is positioned on a scale of 0.39, which on the World Scale Justice Project is located in the range of countries with medium corruption, or medium absence of it.



For the purposes of this report, it is worth highlighting the results presented regarding the strength of the criminal justice system in the country, which results in an improvement of five (5) positions compared to the years 2021 and 2022, which It results in a positive aspect to consider when conceiving policies and plans for reforestation and environmental improvement based on international cooperation funds. But later it will be seen that said strengthening of criminal justice does not necessarily translate into a strengthening of environmental criminal prosecution in the Dominican Republic.

**FACTOR 8 | CRIMINAL JUSTICE**

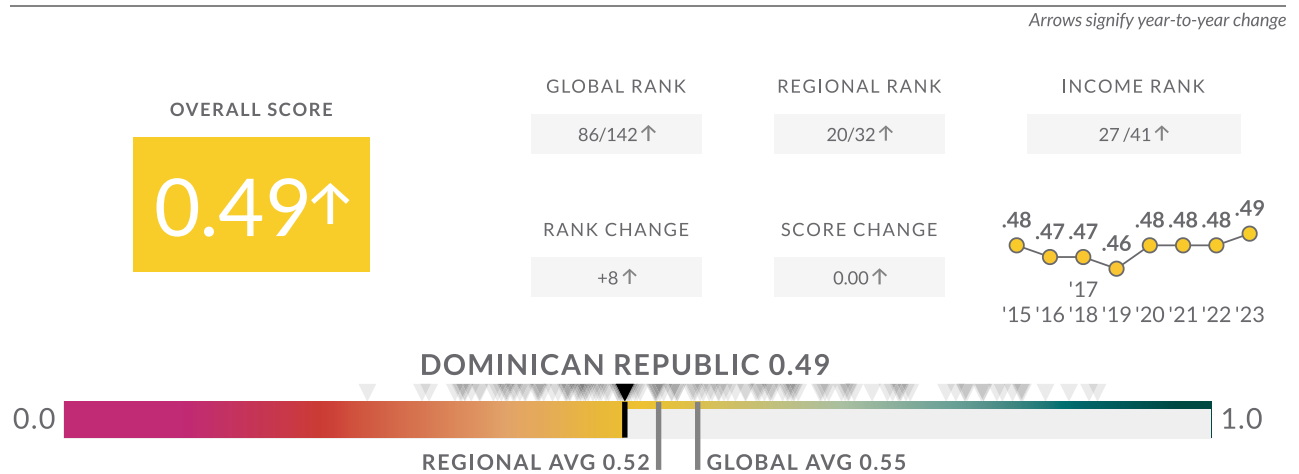


Source: WJP

For more detailed information, please visit the World Justice Project's website at <http://www.worldjusticeproject.org/>

In conclusion, and following the line of interest of the background of this report, it is necessary to emphasise that for the year 2023, the Dominican State reported an overall average improvement in the World Justice Project's Rule of Law Index of 8 positions with respect to the year 2021 and 2022, ranking 86th out of 142 nations.

**Dominican Republic Overall Score, 2023**



Source: WJP

For more detailed information, please visit the World Justice Project's website at <http://www.worldjusticeproject.org/>

**Therefore, it can be generally deduced that in the last two (2) years there has been a considerable strengthening of the Rule of Law in the Dominican Republic,** mainly in terms of the criminal prosecution of administrative corruption, freedom of expression and dissemination of thought, as well as the legal security provided for and protected as a fundamental right, principle and constitutional value by article 110 of the Dominican Supreme Law.



## ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION IN THE NATIONAL DEVELOPMENT STRATEGY 2030

The law 1-12 of 2012, which establishes the National Development Strategy 2030, defines the strategic axes, general objectives, specific objectives, indicators, actions, principles, transversal axes, medium reforms and large reform pacts necessary for an establishment route of a Social and Democratic State of Law by the year 2030. This law, of an organic nature in the Dominican legal system, would be translated as a law of constitutional nature in the French legal system. Because all public policies, understood as everything that the State and the Government deliberately do or fail to do, must be strictly aligned with the parameters of this National Development Strategy.

This is how article 10 of this Law 1-12 establishes the Fourth Strategic Axis, calling it the one that *“strives for an Environmentally Sustainable Production and Consumption Society that Adapts to Climate Change.”* It defines its specific content as *“A society with a culture of sustainable production and consumption, which equitably and effectively manages the risks and protection of the environment and natural resources and promotes adequate adaptation to climate change.”*

The General Objectives that are sought to be achieved in the Fourth Strategic Axis are the following:

- **General Objective 4.1.** Sustainable environmental management.
- **General Objective 4.2.** Effective risk management to minimize human, economic and environmental losses.
- **General Objective 4.3.** Adequate adaptation to climate change.

Within the specific objectives and lines of action outlined by this law, there are some of supreme interest for the purposes of this report, that is, directly related to reforestation activities, climate change, guarantee of the right to clean, healthy and sustainable drinking water and the environment. These are transcribed below with their lines of action (right side):

<b>4.1.4 MANAGE WATER RESOURCES EFFICIENTLY AND SUSTAINABLY, TO GUARANTEE WATER SECURITY.</b>	<b>4.1.4.1.</b> Develop a legal and institutional framework to ensure sustainable and efficient management of surface and groundwater resources.
	<b>4.1.4.2.</b> Plan in a coordinated and comprehensive manner, the management of water resources, with the hydrographic basin as a central element, for a sustainable allocation to human, environmental and productive use, and to support decision-making in development planning regional.
	<b>4.1.4.3.</b> Conserve and sustainably manage surface and underground water resources, with the purpose of mitigating the effects of climate change.
	<b>4.1.4.4.</b> Modify the philosophy of water policy to move from a management model historically focused on the expansion of supply to a model that emphasizes demand control and increasing efficiency in water use.
	<b>4.1.4.5.</b> Expand and maintain the infrastructure for the regulation of water volumes, prioritizing investments in multipurpose works, with a sustainable development approach.
	<b>4.1.4.6.</b> Strengthen the participation and co-responsibility of users of irrigation systems in their conservation, improvement and environmentally and financially sustainable use.
	<b>4.1.4.7.</b> Promote resources, means and assistance for the modernization and conservation of irrigation infrastructure, in order to improve efficiency in water use and its impact on agricultural productivity.
	<b>4.1.4.8.</b> Develop a system for organizing and qualifying water quality in rivers, reservoirs and coasts that includes monitoring and control mechanisms, as well as control of discharges into bodies of water.

<b>GENERAL OBJECTIVE 4.3 ADEQUATE ADAPTATION TO CLIMATE CHANGE</b>	
<b>4.3.1 REDUCE VULNERABILITY, ADVANCE ADAPTATION TO THE EFFECTS OF CLIMATE CHANGE AND CONTRIBUTE TO THE MITIGATION OF ITS CAUSES.</b>	<b>4.3.1.1</b> Develop studies on the impacts of climate change on the island and its environmental, economic, social and political consequences for different population groups, in order to support the adoption of public policies and raise awareness among the population.
	<b>4.3.1.2</b> Strengthen, in coordination with local governments, the system of prevention, reduction and control of anthropogenic impacts that increase the vulnerability of ecosystems to the effects of climate change.
	<b>4.3.1.3</b> Promote the development and transfer of technology that contributes to adapting forestry and agricultural species to the effects of climate change.
	<b>4.3.1.4</b> Promote the decarbonization of the national economy through the use of renewable energy sources, the development of the biofuels market, energy savings and efficiency, and efficient and clean transportation.
	<b>4.3.1.5</b> Develop capacities for international negotiations on climate change.
	<b>4.3.1.6</b> Prevent, mitigate and reverse, in coordination with national and local authorities, the effects of climate change on health.

As can be seen in the previous table, line of action number 4.3.1.2 indicates that it is a legal mandate to promote reforestation at the national level, taking into account the need to acquire the technology to adapt or create species that contribute to confronting climate change more efficiently.

But the legal mandate in terms of reforestation is clearer when it establishes a goal towards the year 2030 of a reduction in deforestation on a scale of -0.2, starting from the baseline taken in 2005, which was 0.1. The following table details it clearly:

INDICADORS	UNIT/SCALE OF MEASUREMENT	BAS LINEE		FIVE-YEAR GOALS			
		YEAR	VALUE	2015	2020	2025	2030
4.1 Carbon dioxide emissions	Metric tons per capita	2010	3.6	3.4	3.2	3.0	2.8
4.2 National protected areas	Percentage of total territorial area	2009	24.4	24.4	24.4	24.4	24.4
4.3 Average annual deforestation rate	Percentage of total forest area (negative values indicate increases in total forest area)	2005	0.1	-0.1	0.2	-0.2	-0.2
4.4 Efficiency in the use of water in water distribution systems and networks and its final application in irrigation systems.	Percentage of distributed water that was used	2010	28.0	36.5	45.0	45.0	45.0

The law's mandate regarding political, legal and regulatory reforms around the Fourth Axis is utmost interest, which naturally includes environmental protection and climate change management. These associated reforms are found in article 32 and are the following:

1. The Comprehensive Risk Management System, including matters related to seismic and climate risk management, will be consolidated in a period of no more than five (5) years.
- 2. The reform of the water and sanitation sector will be designed, approved and the implementation process will begin within a period of no more than five (5) years.**
3. The regulation of energy savings and efficiency, as a way to contribute to the mitigation of the causes of climate change, will be approved and applied within a period of no more than two (2) years.
- 4. A Land Use Plan that allows managing public policies in the region, regulating land use, encouraging the sustainable use of resources and facilitating comprehensive risk management at the national and local level, will be designed, approved and applied, in a term not exceeding three (3) years.**



5. The legal framework that determines the single planning regions will be designed, approved and applied within a period of no more than two (2) years.

**6. The regulations regarding payment for the environmental services of ecosystems and biodiversity and the use of economic instruments in environmental management will be approved and applied within a period of no more than three (3) years.**

As can be seen, some of the above-mentioned reforms suffer from quite extensive delays in expiration, considering that Law 1-12 was promulgated in January 2012. By the way, reform number 2 on the water sector has great obstacles in the National Congress who have not been able to approve the Water Code or Law. On the other hand, reform number 4 on territorial planning has at least achieved the promulgation of Law 368-22 of 2022 on Land Planning, Land Use and Human Settlements.

**This standard is still pending approval of its implementing regulations, which is why has not being executed at the date of delivery of this report.** This law is of vital importance for determining the use of land and the assessment they can obtain, and which should have been approved before or with the Law 202-04 of 2004 on Protected Areas.

With respect to reform number 6, regarding the establishment of payments for environmental services, fundamental for a new vision of environmental protection and the improvement of reforestation programs, particularly from the private sector, progress has been made. In this sense, it is worth mentioning the promulgation of Forest Sector Law 57-18 of 2018 of the Dominican Republic, as well as its application regulations through Decree 627-21 of 2021. On the other hand, it is worth mentioning the progress achieved through the promulgation of Law 44-18 of 2018 on Payments for Environmental Services, **but whose application regulations have not yet been issued. Consequently, it is a law that suffers from serious execution problems, despite the fact that payments for this concept are being made from the Dominican State.**

Empirical evidence shows that public policies based on this idea of environmental services turn out to be the most effective in all latitudes where they have been implemented. The Spanish ideologist José Esteve Pardo has developed extensive theorizing on the legal foundations and contractual mechanisms through which this very beneficial modality of reforestation is carried out.

**The protective forests are the private forests under greater public intervention and regulation:** their use regime is established through land planning strategies, repopulation is encouraged and controlled. The most intense uses are subject to authorization, the incompatibility of usage and occupation rights can be declared for the protective purpose of the forest, a declaration that entails compensation for the excluded right. (Pardo, 2008).

**Forestry consortiums are always based on an agreement, a legal transaction, between the private owner and a public entity with powers in forestry matters, in the Dominican case, MIMARENA.**

Usually, the management of the forest's flight, that is, the flight over the forest trees, is transferred to the public entity, and the most frequent thing is that this management also has as its objective the reforestation of the forest. The forestry consortiums have thus been an instrument that has been widely used in reforestation policies. The owner of the mountain, for his part, maintains full ownership of the land and obtains the compensation established in each case for the flight session, which could be, if there is any productive provision, a participation in the net value of the products that are obtained. (Pardo, 2008).



Source: MIREX

For more detailed information, please visit the MIREX website at <https://mirex.gob.do/plan-nacional-de-derechos-humanos/>

## Environment in the National Human Rights Plan 2018-2024

The second axis strategic of the National Human Rights Plan (PNDH) for the period 2018-2024 (Ministerio de Relaciones Exteriores (MIREX), 2023) seeks to promote the comprehensive well-being of people through the protection of the human right to the environment and access to work, education, and health; and to social services to ensure the satisfaction of the essential needs for a dignified life in accordance with the provisions of articles 50 to 67 of the Constitution of the Republic, and with the international commitments assumed by the Dominican State and appropriately ratified.

Among these international commitments, the International Agreement on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, to which the country acceded on January 4, 1978. Likewise, the Additional Protocol to the American Convention on Human Rights on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (Protocol of San Salvador), signed by the Dominican government on November 17, 1988 and **which is still awaiting ratification by the National Congress**.

This protocol recognizes in its article 11 the right to a healthy environment. Additionally, Resolution No. 76/300 of the United Nations General Assembly that recognizes the human right to a **clean, healthy and sustainable environment**.

This strategic axis 2 of the PNDH 2018-2024 contains 4 strategic objectives, 37 expected results, 128 indicators, 108 actions and programs, 35 institutions responsible for execution and 47 institutions involved in the implementation of the actions and programs. Among the most interesting results for the purposes of this report, the following can be highlighted::

- The State strengthens the regulatory framework on the right to a clean, healthy and sustainable environment. This involves the Ministry of Environment and Natural Resources (MIMARENA) as responsible and involved institutions, as well as the National Congress, the Specialized Environmental Prosecutor's Office, city councils and provincial governments.
- The State strengthens its institutional and management capacity for the application of legislation on the environment and natural resources. This involves MIMARENA, as well as the National Congress, as responsible and involved institutions.
- The State strengthens its capacity to protect and provide assistance to people and organizations that defend the

human right to a clean, healthy and sustainable environment. This involves the Attorney General's Office, MIMARENA, the Ombudsman and the National Police as responsible and involved institutions.

- The State strengthens the preservation of national parks and green areas by adopting a national policy to guarantee the right to a clean, healthy and sustainable environment. This involves MIMARENA as the responsible institution.
- The State promotes and supports, the exercise of cultural rights, with equality and without discrimination and with a focus on environmental, sociocultural and economic sustainability of tourism development. This involves the Ministry of Tourism, the Ministry of Education and the Ministry of Culture as responsible institutions.

As can be seen, reforestation actions are not expressly protected in the PNDH, however, it is important to highlight that these actions are clearly implicit in the programs and actions conceived by this plan.

Therefore, it is imperative to take advantage of all the content of Strategic Axis 2 of the PNDH, especially in relation to environmental sustainability, climate change and the revaluation of economic activities linked to the preservation of the environment, as a means of justification and guidance of performance of any reforestation program in any province of the Dominican Republic.



Source: MIREX

For more detailed information, please visit the MIREX website at <https://mirex.gob.do/plan-nacional-de-derechos-humanos/>



## GENERAL CONTEXT OF THE DAJABÓN OR MASACRE RIVER BASIN



### Dajabón province

This province is part of the Cibao Region in the Northwest of the country, located in the border area. It has an area of 1,009.13 km<sup>2</sup>. It is made up of five municipalities: Dajabón, which is the main municipality, Loma de Cabrera, Partido, Restauración and El Pino. According to the National Population and Housing Census of 2023, the population of this province is 74,809 inhabitants, representing 0.7% of the total population of the Dominican Republic.

The vegetation present varies from dry forest through broadleaf forest to coniferous forest. The 2003 Land Use and Cover study, carried out by the Ministry of Environment and Natural Resources, through the Directorate of Environmental Information and Natural Resources (DIARENA), indicates that the forested area for that date was 238.57 km<sup>2</sup>, equivalent to 24% of the province; The scrublands made up of dry and broadleaf bushes occupied approximately 19%, while the area dedicated to agricultural activity occupies 57% of the province, and includes grass, coffee, rice and mixed agriculture, the latter being the largest proportion with 42% of the total surface.

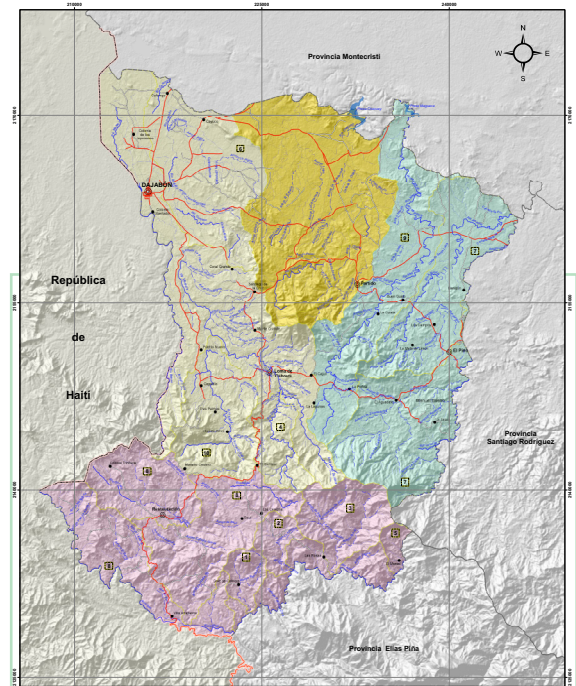
This province has a great diversity of water resources and a relevant biological importance, represented in four (4) protected areas, which are part of the National System of Protected Areas (SINAP). In the Management Category Habitat/Species Management Area, there are Laguna Saladilla and Río Chacuey. In the Category of Natural Reserves are found the Cayuco and Cerro Chacuey Forest Reserves.

According to the study "Recognition and Evaluation of the Natural Resources of the Dominican Republic" carried out by the Organization of American States (OAS) in 1967, in the province there are six (6) classes of soils, which range from Class III to Class VIII. (Organización de Estados Americanos (OEA), 1967).

Soils from Classes III to Class IV, considered suitable for crops with specific use and management practices, occupy 19% of the total area of the province. Class V soils, considered non-cultivable except for rice and grass crops due to drainage problems, occupy 29%. Those of class VI, VII and VIII, considered non-arable soils, occupy 52%, where class VII has a percentage of 38%. These soils are considered suitable for perennial crops and forestry uses, respectively, and Class VIII soils for conservation and wildlife.

According to the classification system of Life Zones or Ecological Zones by Leslie R. Holdridge, carried out in the Dominican Republic by the OAS in 1967, in the Dajabón province there are five (5) life zones and a transition zone. The life zones that occupy the largest areas within the province are the Subtropical Humid Forest (Bh-S) with an area of 684.63 km<sup>2</sup> equivalent to 68% and the Subtropical Very Humid Forest (Bmh -S) with an area of 215.02 km<sup>2</sup>. corresponding to 21.30% of the area of the province, and the remaining 11% is distributed between the dry forest, very humid Low Montane Forest and the transition zone from humid forest to dry forest.

According to the 2012 Land Use and Cover Study, the forest cover occupies 390.63 km<sup>2</sup>, equivalent to 38.67% of the province's surface, where the dry forest occupies 70.09 km<sup>2</sup> (6.94%), the coniferous forest occupies 88.31 km<sup>2</sup> (8.74%), and broadleaf 232.2 km<sup>2</sup> (22.99%). The agricultural area composed of perennial or permanent crops, intensive annual crops and pasture has an area of 582.04 km<sup>2</sup>.



**LEYENDA**

CUENCAS	km <sup>2</sup>	%	SUBCUENCAS
 Río Artibonito	260.60	25.83	1. Arroyo El Montazo 2. Arroyo Los Cerezos 3. Arroyo Naranjito
 Río Chacuey	167.10	16.56	5. Río Dajao
 Río Masacre	319.94	31.71	6. Río El Maniel 7. Río Guajabo
 Río Yaque del Norte	261.40	25.91	8. Río Guayubin 7. Río Libón 9. Río Maguaca 10. Río Manatí

As can be seen in the previous map, the Dajabón province is divided into 4 fundamental basins, namely:

- 1) Artibonito River Basin;
- 2) Chacuey River Basin;
- 3) Dajabón or Masacre River Basin and;
- 4) Yaque del Norte River Basin

Most of the population and the urban and industrial centers of the province are concentrated precisely in the territory that includes the Dajabón or Masacre River basin.

Source: MIMARENA

For more detailed information, please visit MIMARENA's website <https://ambiente.gob.do/informacion-ambiental/informacion-provincial/DAJABON/>.

## Business situation in the Dajabón province

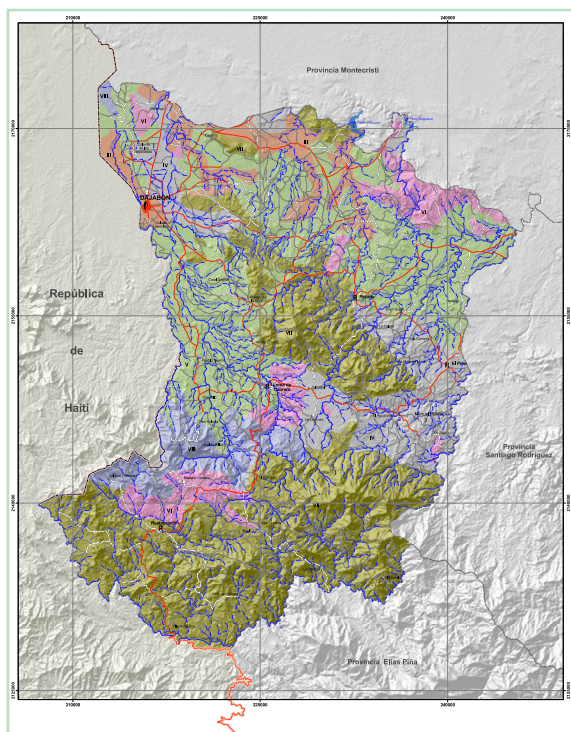
Supported by a team of professionals, we moved to the provinces of Dajabón and Montecristi on January 4, 5 and 6, 2024, in order to collect information in situ from both actors and those involved and from institutional documentary sources. In the same way, raise the general first-hand perception of the situation in these provinces regarding the validity of the Rule of Law and the general protection of the fundamental right to a healthy environment.

First, an interview took place at the headquarters of the Chamber of Commerce and Production of the Dajabón province, in the person of its **Executive Secretary, Yudelmys Rivas**. She has already served four (4) years in the mentioned position and has sufficient knowledge and hierarchy to carry out the interview. This visit was made in order to learn, from the commercial registration department, the level of commercial formalization of the province, as well as some appropriately registered companies dedicated to economic activities related to forestry and environmental services in general.

The Dajabón province has 795 properly registered companies, most of which are limited liability companies (SRL). There is a simplified public limited company (SAS) and several public limited companies (SA), some of which do not legally correspond to mentioned terminology given by Law 479-08 of 2008 on Commercial Companies and Individual Limited Liability Companies.

According to data revealed by the entity that brings together commercial companies, the gender distribution of the management of commercial companies in the Dajabón province is 90% male and 10% female. Regarding the ownership of the shares or social quotas of these companies, the female population usually maintains a bond of consanguinity or affinity (marriage or common-law marriage) with the managers of these commercial companies.

Regarding the composition of the Board of Directors of the Chamber of Commerce and Production of this province, it is made up of 8 people, of which 6 are males and 2 are females. The president, Mr. Quirino Escoto, is accompanied by two vice presidents, in which the first VP is a woman. This entity affirms that the livestock and agriculture are the main commercial activities in the province. Aside from both metallic and non-metallic mining activities.



LEYENDA			
Clases	Descripción	km <sup>2</sup>	%
III	Cultivables, aptos para riego, sólo con cultivos muy rentables. Topografía llana, alomada o suavemente alomada y con factores limitantes de alguna severidad. Productividad mediana con prácticas intensivas de manejo.	62.87	6.23
IV	Suelos limitados para cultivos, no aptos para riego, salvo con cultivos muy rentables. Presentan limitantes severos, y requieren prácticas intensivas de manejo.	128.93	12.78
V	Presentan limitantes de drenaje. Aptos para pastos y cultivos de arroz, con productividad alta si se realizan buenas prácticas de manejo.	290.81	28.82
VI	Aptos para bosques, pastos y cultivos de montañas, tienen limitantes muy severos de topografía, profundidad y rocosidad.	77.38	7.67
VII	Incluye terrenos de montañas, con topografía accidentada. No cultivables, aptos para fines de explotación forestal.	391.13	38.77
VIII	No cultivables, aptos solamente para parques nacionales y zonas de vida silvestre.	57.83	5.73

As can be seen, the bulk of class VII lands, which are not arable and are suitable for forest usage purposes, represent 38.77% of the province's territory. Furthermore, most of this type of land is located in the area corresponding to the Artibonito River basin and not in the Dajabón or Masacre River basin.

Source: MIMARENA

For more detailed information, please visit MIMARENA's website <https://ambiente.gob.do/informacion-ambiental/informacion-provincial/DAJABON/>.

From an exhaustive analysis of the database provided by this Chamber of Commerce, it has been possible to identify some entities related to the central purpose of this report and consultancy. Of the 795 registered companies, some are directly related to forestry and environmental services activities. In general, these are:

- 1) **Restaura Bosque (REBOSA), S.R.L.**
- 2) **Los Hijos del Bosque, S.A.**
- 3) **Agromadera Fénix, S.R.L.** dedicated to the production of timber trees on a large scale.
- 4) **Faña & Estévez, S.R.L.**, oriented to environmental advisory services, forestry services, environmental impact assessment, maintenance and management of green areas, environmental appraisal, etc.
- 5) **Procesadora Industrial (PI), S.A.S.**, dedicated to the management and administration of agroforestry projects, among others.
- 6) **Agrociencia, S.R.L.**, which has a research laboratory for the analysis, certification and patenting of discoveries in the agricultural area, as well as an agricultural teaching and training school.

Within the framework of an improper practice typical of this province and that is not supported by law, the Chamber of Commerce and Production has also registered some non-profit associations related to agricultural activities, forestry and environmental services in general, these are:

ENTITY	SUBJECT
Chacuey Maguaca Basin Council Association, S.A.,	Protection and management of the Chacuey Maguaca basins and its protected area Cerro Chacuey, belonging to the Dajabón and Montecristi province.
Monte Verde Vermiculture Association (ASOVERDE), S.A.	Organic humus fertilizer producers' group.
Association of Livestock Breeders of Chacuey, Candelón, Sabana Larga (ASOGACHACASA), S.A.	Implement programs to improve pasture and genetics of cattle and dairy farmers, in order to obtain better performance.
Association of Small Water Processors of the Northwest Line (ASOPPROALINO), S.R.L.	Information not available.
Association for the Recovery and Development of the Masacre River Basin (AREDECUMA), S.A.	Promote and motivate preservation, restoration activities, as well as the protection of the natural resources of the Masacre River basin.

As a result of the "Formalize Yourself" campaign by PRO-DOMINICANA and the Chamber of Commerce and Production of the Dajabón province, the level of formalization of commercial activities has been significantly promoted. However, the person who was interviewed stated that *"culturally it is a difficult province for training and training activities."*



## Montecristi

This province is part of the Cibao Region in the Northwest of the country, located partly in the border area and partly on the Atlantic coast. It has an area of 1,895.09 km<sup>2</sup>. It is made up of five municipalities: San Fernando de Montecristi, which is the main municipality, Pepillo Salcedo, Castañuelas, Villa Vásquez, Guayubín and Las Matas de Santa Cruz. The population in 2022 was 123,519 inhabitants, representing 1.1% of the total population of the Dominican Republic.

The vegetation present varies from dry forest through broadleaf forest to coniferous forest. The 2003 Land Use and Cover study, carried out by the Ministry of Environment and Natural Resources, through the Directorate of Environmental Information and Natural Resources (DIARENA), indicates that the forest area for that date was 238.57 km<sup>2</sup>, equivalent to 17.59% of the province. The scrublands made up of dry and broadleaf scrub occupied approximately 20%, while the area dedicated to agricultural activity occupied 53.95% of the province, and includes grass, coffee, rice and mixed agriculture, with rice being the largest proportion with 19.61% of the total surface.

This province has biological importance, represented in nine (9) protected areas, which are part of the National System of Protected Areas (SINAP). In the Strict Protection Area Category is the Villa Elisa Scientific Reserve; In El Morro National Parks, Estero Balsa Mangroves and Montecristi Underwater National Park, in the Habitat/Species Management Area, there are the Cayo Siete Hermanos, Laguna Saladilla and Río Chacuey wildlife refuges; and in the Category of Natural Reserves are the Las Matas and Río Cana Forest Reserves; These represent 25% of the total area of the province.

According to the study "Recognition and Evaluation of the Natural Resources of the Dominican Republic" carried out by the Organization of American States (OAS) in 1967, in the province there are seven (7) classes of soils, which range from Class II to Class VIII. (Organización de Estados Americanos (OEA), 1967).

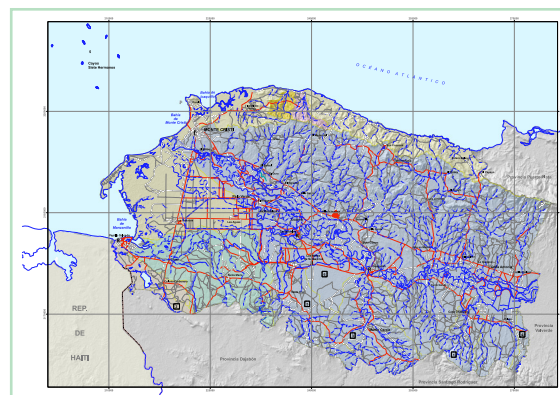


Soils from Classes II to Class IV, considered suitable for crops with specific use and management practices, occupy 31.58% of the total area of the province. Class V soils, considered non-cultivable except for rice and grass crops due to drainage problems, occupy 33.64%. Those of class VI, VII and VIII, considered non-arable soils, occupy 34.78%, where class VII has a percentage of 6.28%. These soils are considered suitable for perennial crops and forestry uses, respectively, and Class VIII soils for conservation and wildlife.

According to the classification system of Life Zones or Ecological Zones by Leslie R. Holdridge, carried out in the Dominican Republic by the OAS in 1967, in the Monte Cristi province there are two life zones and two transition zones. The life zones that occupy the largest area within the province are the Subtropical Dry Forest (bs-S) with an area of 1,788.91 km<sup>2</sup> equivalent to 94.50%, then there is the Subtropical humid forest (bh -S) with an area of 69.93 km<sup>2</sup> corresponding to 3.69% of the province's area, and the remaining 1.81% is distributed between the dry transitional forest to subtropical humid forest (bs-S >) and the transitional humid forest to subtropical dry forest.

Personnel from this office also made a trip to verify the situation of the Dajabón or Masacre River in the town of Pepillo Salcedo and the Port of Manzanillo. It was verified that access to the tributary is completely prohibited by the new Perimeter Fence being built by the Dominican Government on the border with the Republic of Haiti, at a distance of between 10 and 20 meters from the slope of the river. It is a militarized zone in which it is not possible to carry out any activity other than surveillance by CESFRONT and the Army of the Dominican Republic, thus creating a *de facto new protected area*.

The vegetation of this area of the Dajabón or Masacre River, mainly of the mangrove type, is currently not subject to predation from the Dominican side. It was verified that no considerable damage could be seen with the naked eye on the Haitian side of the tributary either. This is the reason why this report will not dedicate greater investigative efforts with respect to the Montecristi province which, unlike Dajabón, essentially locates its population and economic core in the Yaque del Norte River basin.



LEYENDA				
CUENCAS	km <sup>2</sup>	%	SUBCUENCAS <input type="checkbox"/>	
	Cañada del Muerto	13.73	0.72	1. Río Cana
	Caño del Caimán	11.62	0.61	2. Río Guajabo
	Costa	333.99	17.63	3. Río Guayubín
	Río Chacuey	179.22	9.46	4. Río Gurabo
	Río Masacre	45.52	2.40	5. Río Maguaca
	Río Yaque del Norte	1,308.98	69.09	6. Río Yaque del Norte
	Río de La Jaiba	1.61	0.08	

As can be seen in the previous map, the Masacre or Dajabón River basin also runs through the territory of the Montecristi province. However, this basin, the object of study in this report, barely represents 2.40% of the territory, for an area of 45.52 square kilometers, located mainly in the Pepillo Salcedo municipality.

Source: MIMARENA

For more detailed information, please visit MIMARENA's website <https://ambiente.gob.do/informacion-ambiental/informacion-provincial/monte-cristi/>.

## Situation of companies in the Montecristi province

The staff of this legal office also made a trip to the city of Montecristi, capital of the province of the same name, in order to visit the Chamber of Commerce and Production, its **Executive Director is Ana Rebeca Rodríguez**. She has been in office for more than two years now. The interview delivered the following data:

1. In the province there are 1,100 properly registered companies;
2. At the moment there are no companies dedicated to mining or forestry registered in this chamber. Because this is an eminently agricultural province, there is a large number of registered companies dedicated to agriculture. These companies in turn also have as their objective the livestock.
3. It can be said that at the moment there are 75% of formalized companies in this province. It should be noted that in recent years more and more companies and merchants are going to the formalize sector.
4. There is no culture of corporate social responsibility rooted in the territory.

**It is imperative to mention that this province is exempt from all types of mining activity, both exploration and exploration, according to MEM data. This is unlike the Dajabón province.**



## GENERAL SITUATION OF THE PUBLIC MINISTRY IN THE DAJABÓN-MONTECRISTI-SANTIAGO RODRÍGUEZ REGION

On December 12th, 2023, the main headquarters of the Specialized Attorney General's Office for the Defense of the Environment and Natural Resources located in the National District was visited. It was done for the purpose of conducting an interview with the **Judge Yissel Acevedo**, who is the Technical Director of mentioned entity from the Attorney's Office.

It has been operating since 2000 together with the General Law 64-00 of the Environment and Natural Resources, beginning with representation in 6 provinces apart from the National District. Currently it is only found in 20 provinces and in the National District, due to budgetary reasons and lack of human resources. They are assisted by ordinary prosecutors in those provinces where they do not have a presence. Montecristi does have a specialized Fiscal Attorney. Since 2022, Dajabón does not have a Fiscal Attorney specialized in environmental matters, but it does have the assistance of the specialized Fiscal Attorney of Montecristi.

To this purpose, the 2023 National Human Rights Report of the Ombudsman of the Dominican Republic states that the main problems for which the population demands a more effective guarantee of the right to justice were exposed by leaders of civil society organizations, local and business leaders in the Regional Participatory Consultations. In these activities, participants also ranked justice in the top six in order of relevance. According to them, the main problem that the system suffers from, is that it denies the people accessibility, timely and free justice. This claim was more persistent in the consultation of the **El Valle-Enriquillo and Cibao Noroeste regions**. (Ombudsman of the Dominican Republic, 2023).

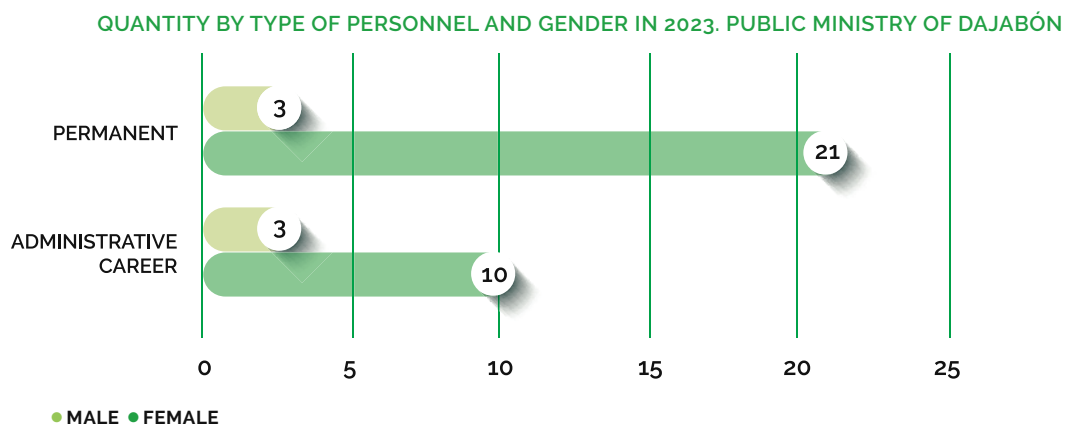
The magistrate affirms that they encourage citizen participation in the reporting of environmental wrongdoings and crimes, as well as in the prosecution of these, mainly from civil society organizations.

**In the border area, there is not a considerable number of illegal extraction of materials from rivers and other aquifer tributaries.** This crime is recorded more in San Cristóbal and Peravia. This wrongdoing is the third crime nationwide. The first one is noise pollution. The second is the illegal chopping of trees. In the border area, the most reported crime, in the border provinces, is the illegal chopping of trees.

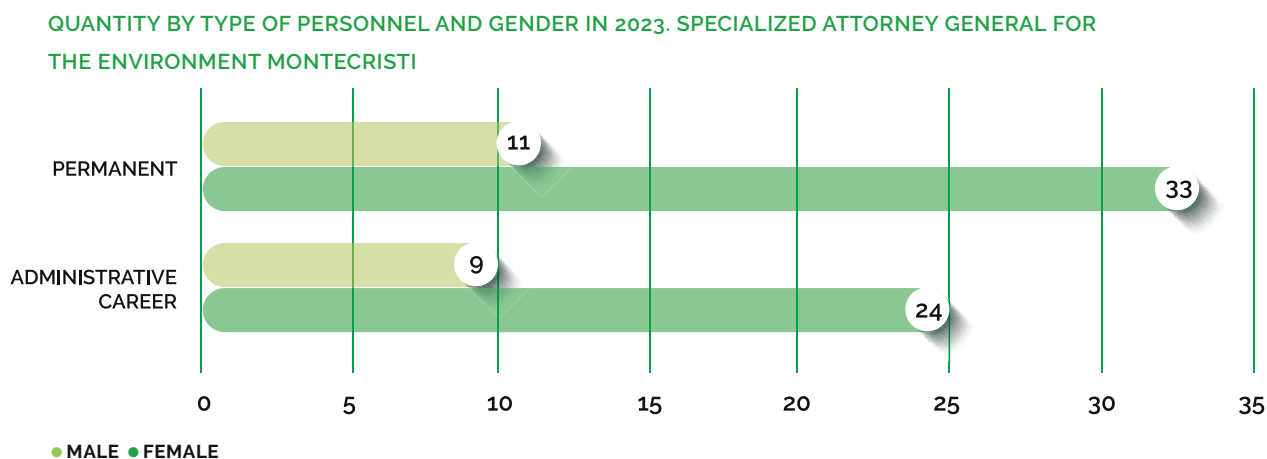
Most cases culminate in a conciliation. The percentage of curt due process with final sentences is quite low. Currently, the conditional suspension of the process is being used, reporting great effectiveness for the Public Ministry. Only one process against a company and procedure for lifting the corporate veil for a serious case of illegal chopping of trees in the province of Ocoa is under appeal.

There is currently an amount of RD\$170,000.00 per month for operating expenses of the entire Specialized Attorney General's Office at the national level. There is a lack of economic resources and greater military security for the Attorney General's Office personnel. Most of the attorneys are court attorneys and almost 100% are career attorneys from the public ministry. In La Vega and the National District, they have two prosecutors with moving disabilities. The need for researchers specialized in ecology and biology is patent and evident, because INACIF does not have this type of professionals.

The situation of the attorney general's office personnel in both provinces is quite homogeneous, as indicated in the following tables:



Source: Own elaboration based on information from the Public Ministry.



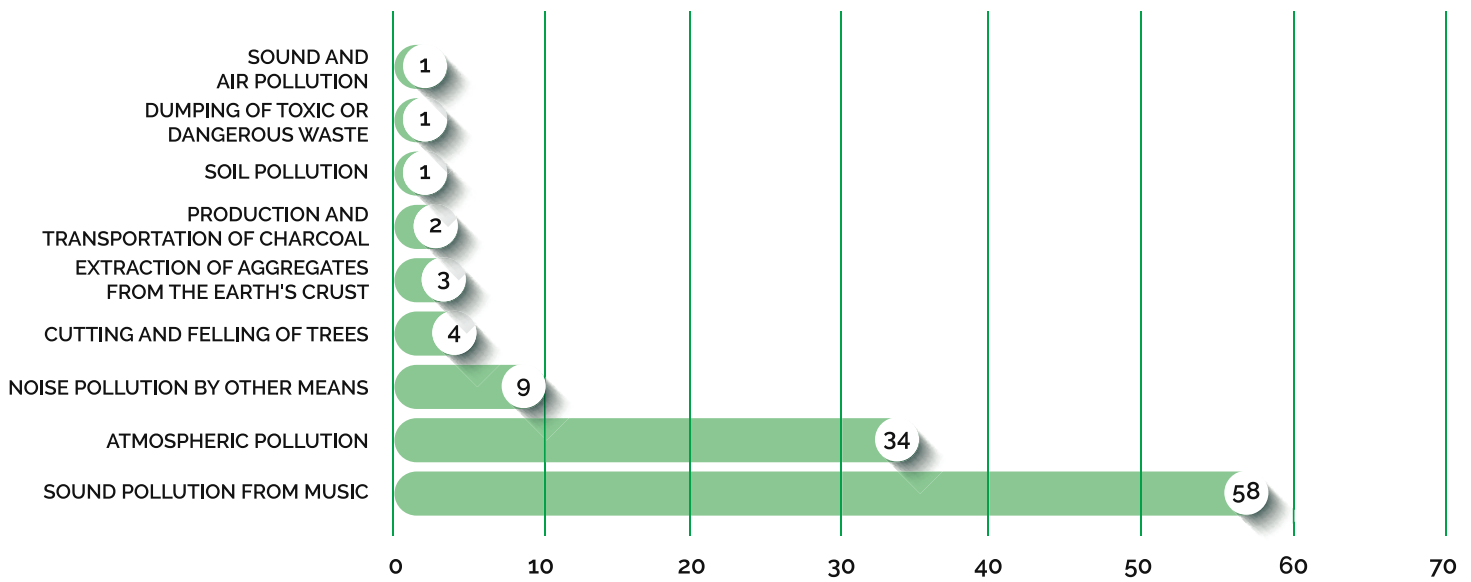
Source: Own elaboration based on information from the Public Ministry.

In general, a majority of the female gender can be observed in the Public Prosecutor's Office of Dajabón and in the Specialized Environmental Prosecutor's Office in Montecristi. Likewise, the career staff in both divisions, which is smaller than the regular permanent staff, has a considerably female majority.

Which suggests that it is a reflection of a general situation of the legal community at the national level, since it is known that the majority of law students are women. A situation that is also verified in the Public Prosecutor's Office and in the Judiciary at the national level. Therefore, this data, although it is important to know the nature of the institution, is not different from the global trend.

The statistics of this specialized attorney general's office are only available from 2019 and for the moment, for the most part they are grouped by special regions created by the institution without disaggregation by provinces. In the case at hand, an analysis was made of the data corresponding to the Public Prosecutor's Office region made up of the provinces of Dajabón, Montecristi and Santiago Rodríguez.

Regarding the main environmental crimes committed and prosecuted by the Public Prosecutor's Office in 2019, those directly related to the forest (chopping of trees, production and transportation of charcoal) and sources of drinking water (dumping of toxic or dangerous waste, aggregate extraction) did not have a considerable impact in the region, as can be seen in the following table:

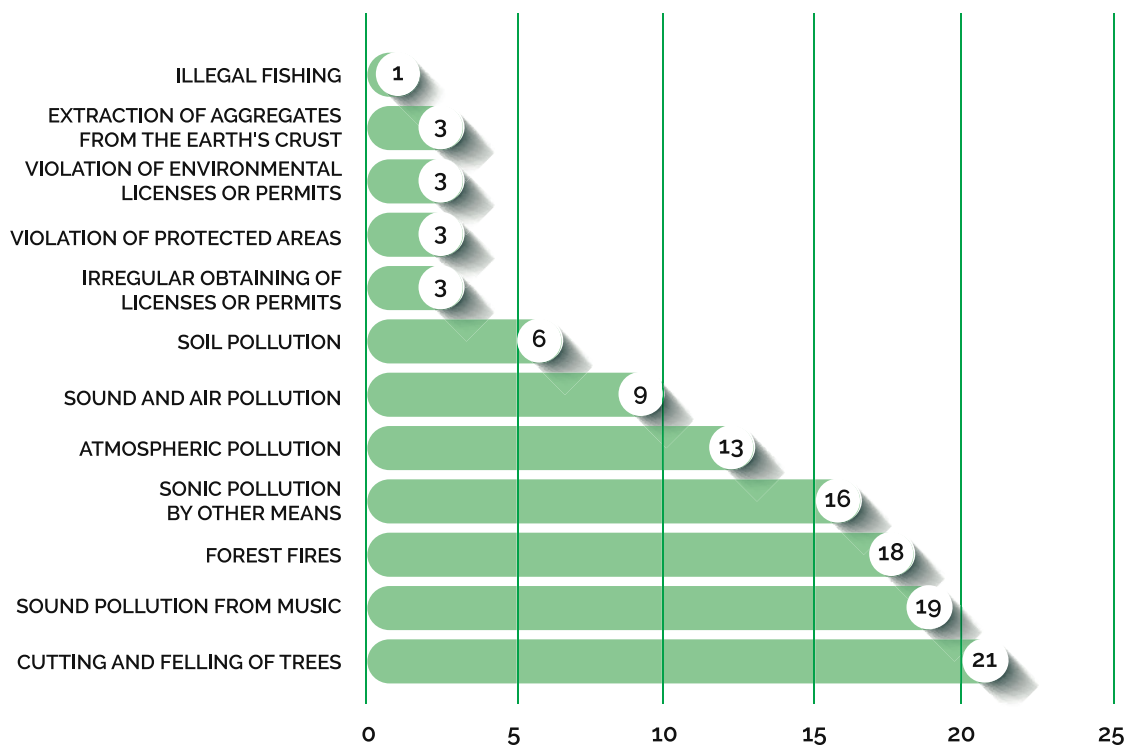


● 2019

Source: Own elaboration based on information from the Public Ministry.

As can be seen from the previous table, the region in question presents the same trend at the national level in terms of conducting environmental crimes, with noise pollution and air pollution being the main crimes committed, reported and prosecuted by the Public Prosecutor's Office during the year 2019.

However, for the year 2020, the institution made a change regarding the registration of crimes, adding others such as illegal fishing, violation of protected areas, forest fires, as well as others of an administrative nature such as irregular obtaining or violation of environmental permits and licenses:

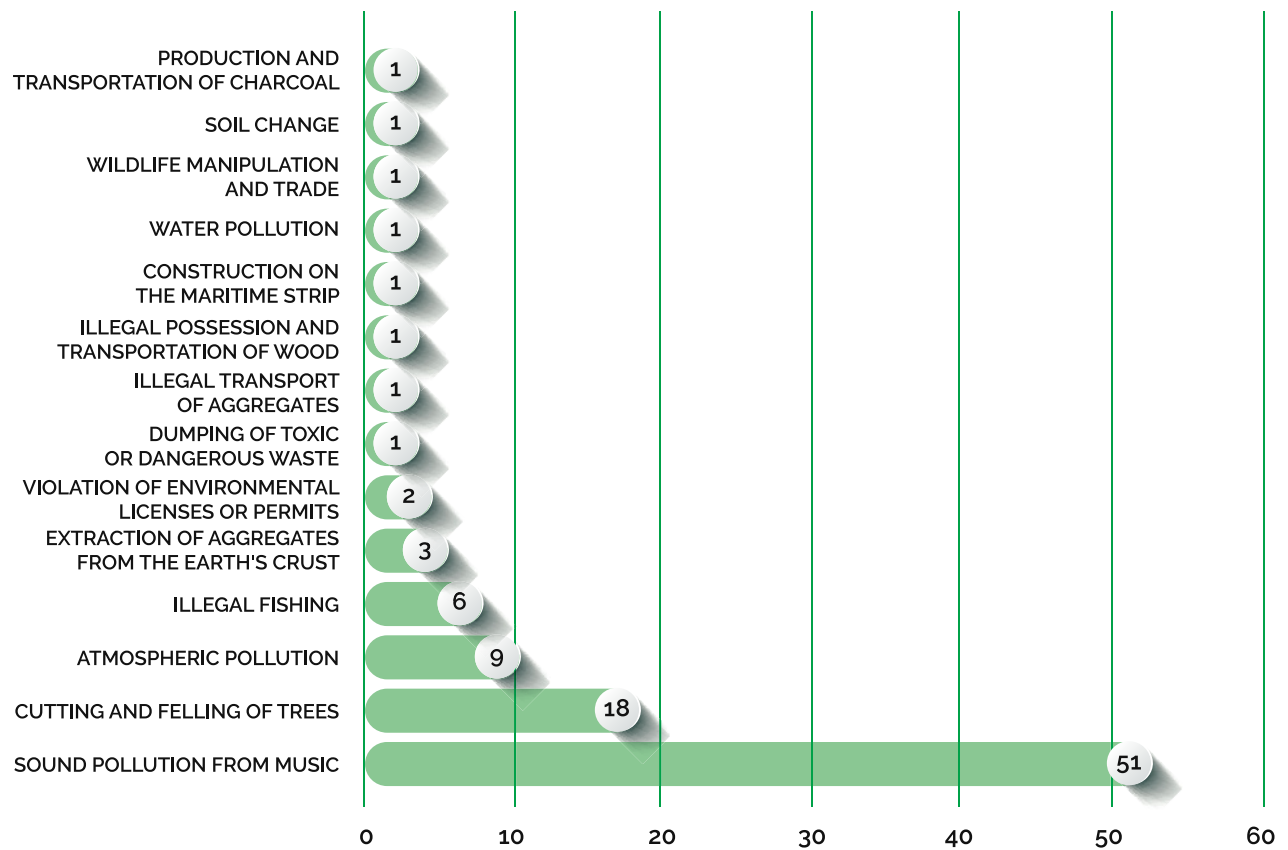


● 2020

Source: Own elaboration based on information from the Public Ministry.

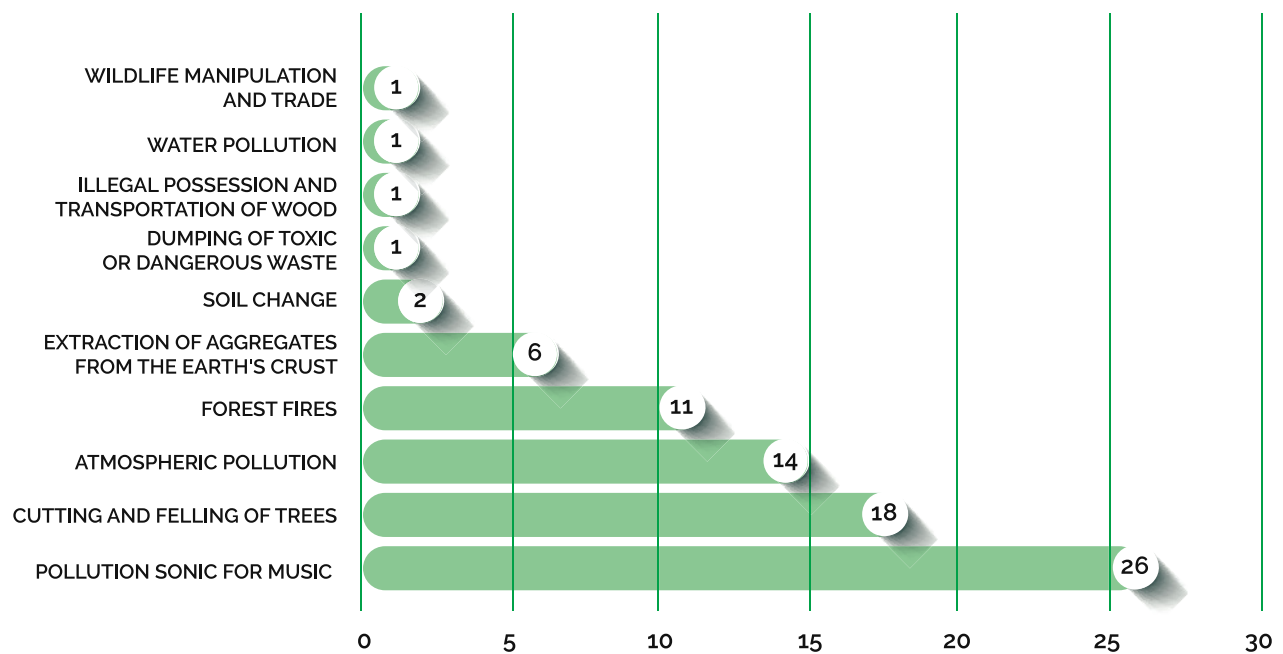
As can be seen, in 2020 there was a notable change in the approach of the attorney general's office, with crimes related to the forest (illegal chopping of trees, forest fires) being the most reported and prosecuted by the institution. However, noise pollution continues to occupy a top place, consistent with the national trend.

However, for both 2021 and 2022, there was a return to the situation of 2019, with crimes related to forestry and water pollution becoming considerably less reported and prosecuted by the attorney general's office, versus the noise pollution crimes.



● 2021

Source: Own elaboration based on information from the Public Ministry.



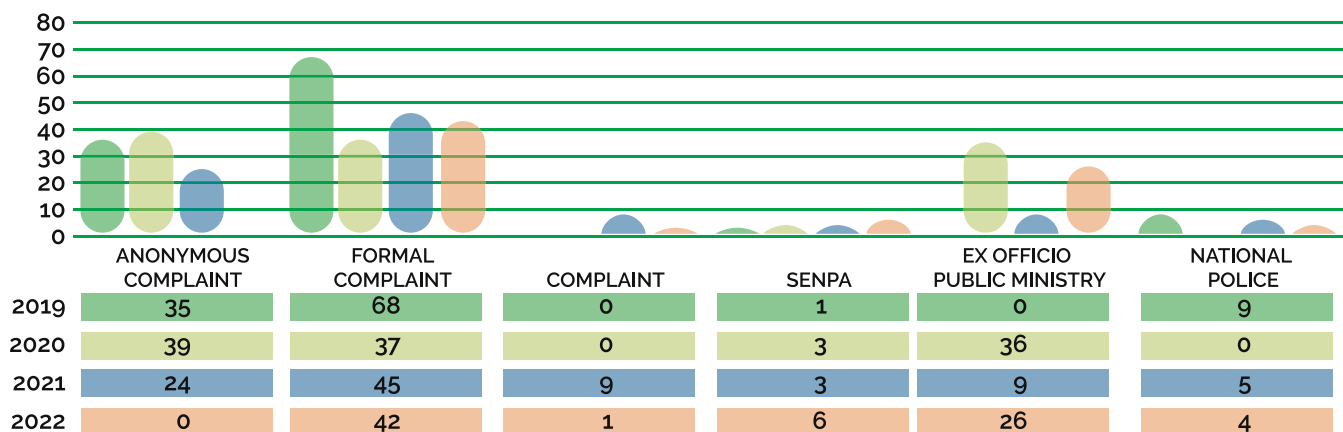
● 2022

Source: Own elaboration based on information from the Public Ministry.

The predominance of noise pollution, whether due to music or another source, is justified by the fact that it is regularly the crime that most affects the coexistence and ordinary life of the inhabitants of a territory. Furthermore, it is a reflection of the precarious level of education and culture of respect for rights that the country suffers from, both at the national and regional levels.

Regarding the ways in which environmental crimes enter the criminal process in the Dajabón-Montecristi-Santiago Rodríguez region, a constant can be seen in terms of citizen participation in reporting environmental crimes, as evidenced below:

NUMBER OF ACCESS ROUTES FOR CASES ATTORNEY GENERAL'S OFFICE- YEARS 2019-2023\*



\*In 2022, the figures only correspond to the Montecristi province

Source: Own elaboration based on information from the Public Ministry.

From the previous table it can be inferred that the reason why complaints, both anonymous and formal, hold the primacy of the access routes for cases to the attorney general's office, is due to the fact that noise pollution is the one with the greatest impact, this crime regularly, is constantly denounced directly by the victims. In coherence with the aforementioned, it is verified that the year in which the attorney general's office had the greatest ex officio actions (2020), was precisely the year in which crimes related to the forest (chopping of trees, production and transportation of charcoal), were the ones with the greatest impact in the region.

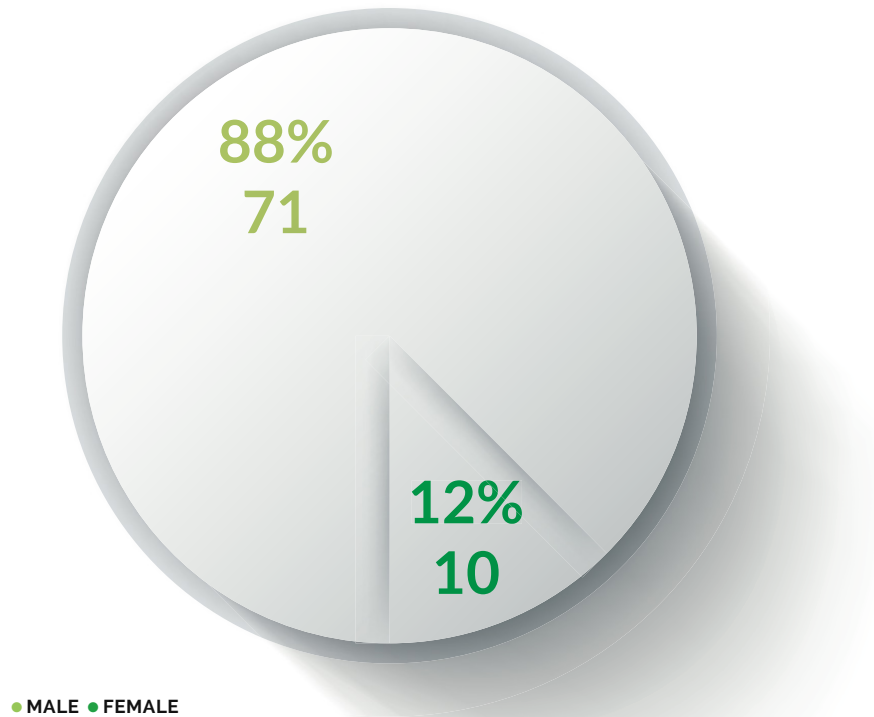
Therefore, it can be concluded that environmental crimes other than noise pollution and related to the ecosystem are prosecuted on the initiative of the attorney general's office and not as a result of anonymous or formal complaints filed by citizens of the region.

Another fact that is revealed from the previous table is the evident weakness of the presence of the SENPA in the territory in question, due to the small number of cases processed through that institution during the period 2019-2022. Likewise, little or no coordination of the attorney general's office in the region with the provincial executives of MIMARENA and local administrations (municipal and municipal districts) can be seen, a reality that may be due to discrepancies in legal criteria regarding the application of environmental laws, or some type of rivalry between institutions still unknown.



On the other hand, the Montecristi province continues to maintain consistency with the national trend in terms of the gender of the people subdued by the attorney general's office, in this case for environmental crimes. This reaffirms the idea rooted in the national legal community that crime "has the face of a man." The following table confirms this statement:

**GENDER OF PEOPLE SUBJECTED TO ENVIRONMENTAL CRIMES BY THE PUBLIC MINISTRY  
IN THE MONTECRISTI PROVINCE - YEAR 2022**

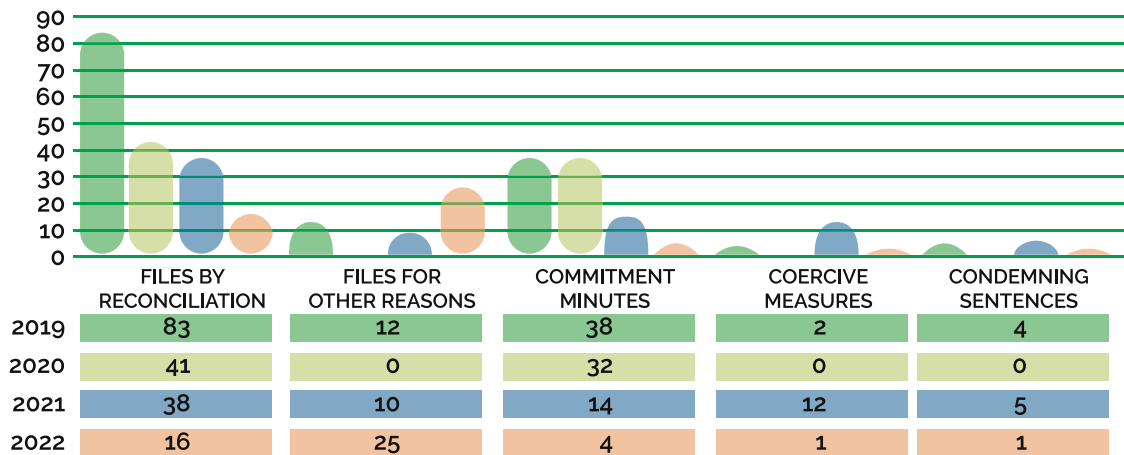


Source: Own elaboration based on information from the Public Ministry.

It is necessary to point out that data related to the gender of those accused of environmental crimes in the region are being recorded starting in 2022 and only in the Montecristi province. Therefore, this data is unknown in the Dajabón province and in the Santiago Rodríguez province. However, it is the trend at the national level even in terms of the population of detention centers.

In another order of ideas, the process actions of the attorney general's office in the region are predominantly prejudicial and not judicial. As evidenced in the following table:

**NUMBER OF PROCEDURAL ACTS FOR ENVIRONMENTAL CRIMES  
OF THE PUBLIC MINISTRY - YEARS 2019-2022\***



\*In 2022, the figures only correspond to the Montecristi province

Source: Own elaboration based on information from the Public Ministry.

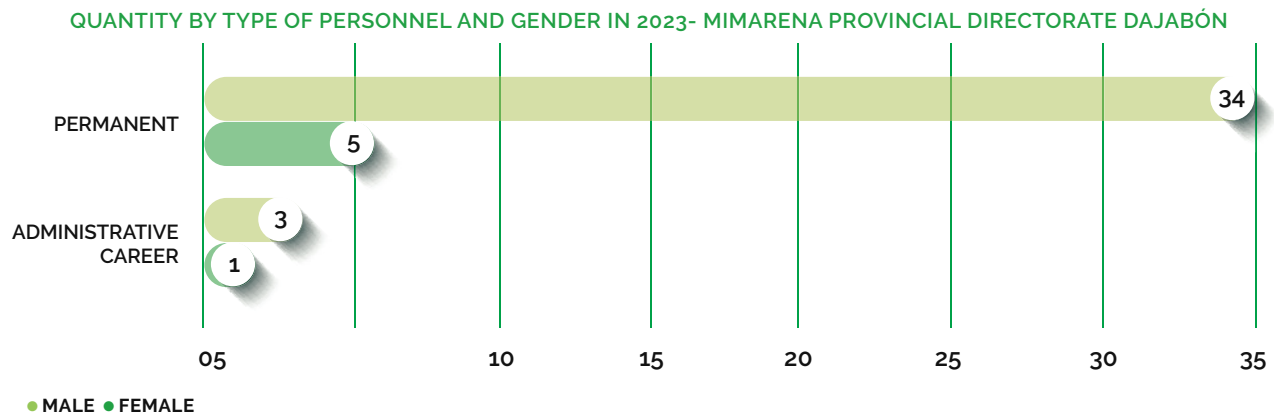
Although the region is not known for being the safest in the country, there is evidence of a small number of convictions, at least in terms of environmental crimes, with only ten (10) sentences obtained in the first instance between the years 2019 and 2022. However, the number of files for conciliation and other reasons, as well as the "compromise letter", show almost total control of the actions of the attorney general's office.

This may be due to several reasons: One of them is that it is possible that the majority of the cases processed by the institution are being classified as very mild, minor or having little social and environmental impact. Another reason is the fact that only in the Montecristi province there are personnel from the Specialized Attorney General for the Environment, with Dajabón and Santiago Rodríguez lacking this fundamental qualitative component in their respective judicial apparatus.

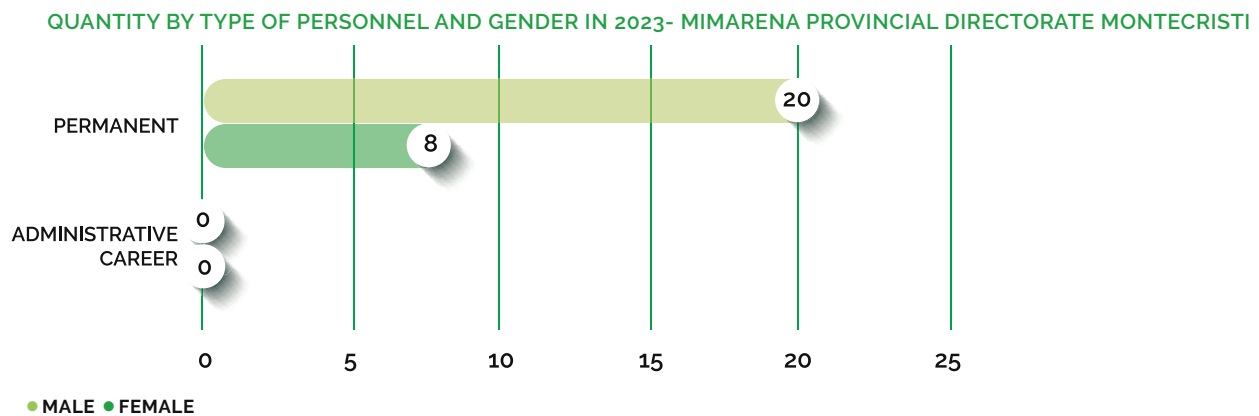


## SITUATION OF MIMARENA IN THE PROVINCES OF DAJABÓN AND MONTECRISTI

The radically difference between the attorney general's office of both provinces and the composition of the staff of the Ministry of Environment and Natural Resources in both provincial executives are striking. Unlike the Public Ministry, which is predominantly female, the MIMARENA staff in both provincial board of directors is predominantly male.



Source: Own elaboration based on information from the Public Ministry.



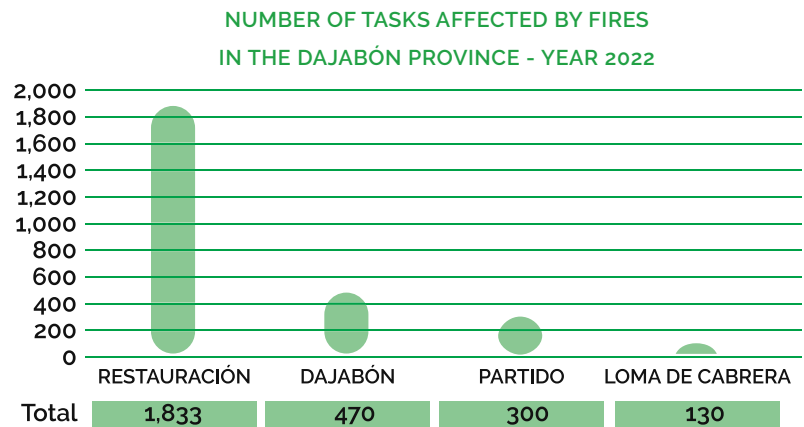
Source: Own elaboration based on information from the Public Ministry.

What is constant in both institutions is that administrative career and attorney general's office personnel are considerably in the minority in Dajabón and non-existent in Montecristi. This situation, without a doubt, with all the problems of insecurity and job instability that it generates, tends to generate less efficiency and effectiveness in institutional work.

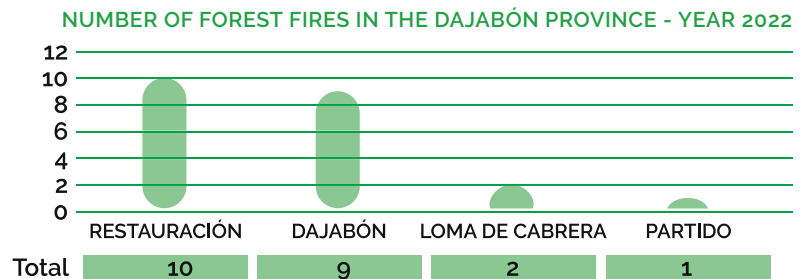


## THE PROBLEM OF FOREST FIRES IN THE DAJABÓN AND MONTECRISTI PROVINCES

There was a transition made to the office of the Provincial Board of directors of the Ministry of Environment and Natural Resources, the director, **Engineer Oneyda González**. She declared to us that the Dajabón province is one of the provinces that reports the most forest fires nationwide. They are regularly caused by human hands and "not criminal but negligent hands" by informal and subsistence farmers and ranchers with bad practices. Although there are some criminal structures for the illegal production and trafficking of charcoal made up of people of both Dominican and Haitian nationality. Below is the list of forest fires provided by MIMARENA:



Source: Own elaboration based on information from the Ministry of the Environment.



Source: Own elaboration based on information from the Ministry of the Environment.

The previous tables show that of the municipalities of the Dajabón province, those that report the greatest number of fires are Dajabón and Restauración. The number of fires recorded in 2022 is indistinct between both municipalities. However, a substantial difference can be seen in terms of the devastation caused by these fires, in terms of tareas or land tasks destroyed, with the Restauración Municipality presenting an amount four (4) times greater than that presented by the Dajabón municipality. This could be due to the fact that in the main municipality there are larger and better structures to deal with this type of accident, such as fire departments, SENPA members, members of the Armed Forces and volunteers.

Regarding this issue, a consultation was made via email to engineer Oneida González, about the reasons for the marked difference in tareas, land tasks, carried out between both municipalities. She responded the following: *"Regarding your query, this is because, in Restauración, being an area of mountains and terrain that is more rugged due to the height, access to the areas when forest fires occur is difficult to reach." and since it is mostly coniferous forest, the fire advances more quickly. Very different from Dajabón, since in Dajabón we only have the Cerros de Chacuey with these characteristics and the other areas have smaller steep slopes and grasslands."*

On the other hand, in the Montecristi province there is a very different situation from the Dajabón province, the former presenting a substantially lower number of fires recorded in its main municipality in the year 2022, this number being only two (2), affecting just eighty-two (82) tareas, according to MIMARENA data. The reason for this substantial difference in records is unknown.

The causes that produced these forest fires, according to the reports of the personnel who fought them, were: conuquismo (38%); unknown (23%); intentional (21%); livestock (8%); electric shocks (1%); walkers (3%); others 6% (hunters, fishermen, garbage burning, among others). Ministry of Environment and Natural Resources, 2023.





## STATUS OF REFORESTATION PROGRAMS IN THE PROVINCES OF DAJABÓN AND MONTECRISTI

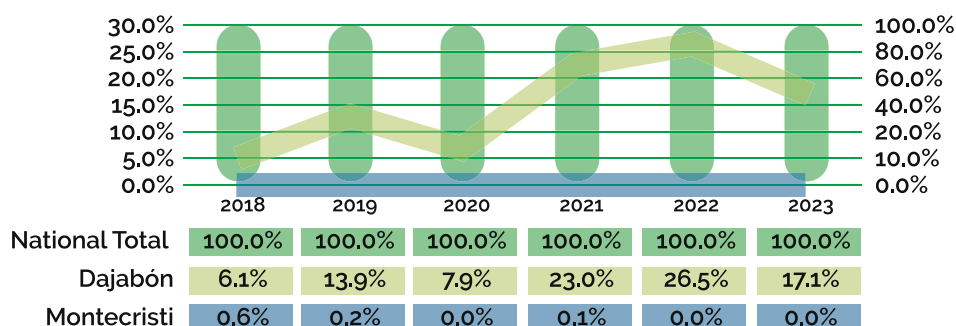
In the same way, the **Engineer Oneyda González** reports of intense reforestation activity throughout the province by MIMARENA with the help of other institutions, churches, schools, high schools, among others. Below is the list of improvements in the matter. Throughout the province there is a staff of around 200 people hired by MIMARENA, with a remuneration of between RD\$15,000.00 and RD\$20,000.00 Dominican pesos. However, despite having SENASA health insurance, they do not have the protections of a regular and permanent employment contract.

The number of trees planted in both provinces between 2018 and 2019 are shown below:

PROVINCE	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
Dajabón	624,372	1,219,624	456,037	1,237,551	449,450	1,101,783
Montecristi	62,050	13,300	2,760	6,000	0	0
Total Nacional	10,163,303	8,748,548	5,751,279	5,371,746	1,697,616	6,444,340

Source: Ministry of Environment and Natural Resources , 2023

### PROPORTION OF TREES PLANTED IN THE PROVINCES OF DAJABÓN AND MONTECRISTI VS. NATIONAL TOTAL - YEARS 2018-2023



Source: Own construction with information from the Ministry of the Environment

As can be seen, the Dajabón province presents considerable differences in terms of reforestation with respect to the Montecristi province. In the years 2021, 2022 and 2023 it ranked first nationally with respect to the goals achieved in the MIMARENA reforestation programs. The reason for this situation may be due, among other things, to the fact that the Dajabón province has a much greater quality strategic in terms of the hydrographic basin of the Dajabón or Masacre River, housing a huge number of highlands and sources of tributaries.

Another reason could be due to the fact that, unlike Montecristi, the Dajabón province has a larger and more stable structure of personnel dedicated solely and exclusively to reforestation work. Furthermore, it also has a higher level of development of commercial activities related to forestry services. According to data from MIMARENA, Environment and Natural Resources Office, 2023, the number of forestry industries authorized in the Dajabón province amounts to thirty-seven (37) and those that are currently operating amount to twenty-seven (27). While this activity is non-existent in the Montecristi province.

It is imperative to highlight that the Dominican Republic has conceived forestry policy as the main of its environmental management and climate change management, following the example of countries with a much greater weight in the biosphere, such as Brazil. (Konrad Adenauer Stiftung, 2019).



## MINING CONCESSIONS FOR EXPLORATION AND EXPLOITATION IN THE DAJABÓN PROVINCE

According to data provided by the General Directorate of Mining of the Ministry of Energy and Mines (MEM) (Ministerio de Energía y Minas (MEM), 2023), there are currently 4 metallic mining exploration concessions granted in the Dajabón province, namely:

HEADLINE	MINERALS	DUE DATE	AREA (HA)	MUNICIPALITY
UNIGOLD RESOURCES, INC.	Copper, Gold, Silver, Lead, Zinc	27/03/2026	10,902.5472	Loma de Cabrera, Restauración
BOHIO RESOURCES DR, SAS	Copper, Gold, Silver	05/01/2026	9,009.5059	Loma de Cabrera, Pedro Santana, Restauración, Villa Los Almacigos, El Pino
BOHIO RESOURCES DR, SAS	Copper, Gold, Silver	28/11/2025	4,365.4600	Restauración, Villa Los Almacigos, El Pino
BOHIO RESOURCES DR, SAS	Copper, Gold, Silver	21/12/2025	3,149.4717	Loma de Cabrera, El Pino

Source: Ministry of Environment and Natural Resources , 2023

From an internet search, it is revealed that the company Unigold Resources, Inc. is an exploration and development mining entity based in Quebec, Canada. Its official website ([www.unigoldinc.com](http://www.unigoldinc.com)) shows extensive experience in corporate social responsibility. This is a demonstration of overrated company humanity that is very typical of mining companies, which are among the worst regarded by public opinion in the countries where their mines operate.

About the company Bohio Resources DR, SAS, no further information is found on the network, which suggests that it is a company quite active in requests for exploration and exploration concessions before the Dominican State, but about which no information is relevant value.

Regarding non-metallic mining exploration concessions, one has been granted in the Dajabón province. Below is its data:

HEADLINE	MINERALS	DUE DATE	AREA (HA)	MUNICIPALITY
CEMENTOS CIBAO, S. A.	Clays, Siliceous Sand, Limestone, Conglomerates	22/05/2024	2,154.0000	Pepillo Salcedo, Dajabón

Cementos Cibao, SA, is a company with extensive knowledge among the Dominican population, dedicated to the production and sale of construction materials. We raise an alert for the purposes of this report, in order to investigate the environmental impact of this exploration and possible exploitation concession, because due to its location it is deduced that it is directly related to the Masacre or Dajabón River basin.

Regarding metal mining exploitation concessions, the Ministry of Energy and Mines reports that none are currently being executed in the Dajabón province. The same occurs with NON-metallic mining until the date of delivery of this report. Mine and Energy Office (MEM), 2023.



## CONCLUSIONS

Activities with high environmental impact in the Dajabón and Montecristi provinces, such as metallic mining, non-metallic mining, forestry management and services, as well as large industry (hydroelectric energy, free zones, large government or private civil works), count with considerable and active supervision by provincial directorates. This is not the case with other economic activities with considerable environmental impact, but less economic power, such as livestock farming and agriculture, which receive a much lower level of attention from the authorities.

The problem of fires caused by survival conuquismo seems to be a situation that escapes the effective control of the authorities, given the characteristics of those who commit this type of practices and their situation of extreme poverty, in some cases of destitute people.

Therefore, although it is true that the level and strength of supervision in these provinces of both the administrative governing bodies (MIMARENA and MEM) and the governing body of policy and criminal prosecution (attorney general's office), it is no less true that a remarkable effort has been made to fulfill its missions, taking into account budgetary and personnel limitations and the dominant culture in the area.

On the other hand, the concept of social responsibility that predominates in large capital and high impact companies in the region is reduced to the minimum level which, in our opinion, consists of basic compliance with the norms and rules regarding the environment, environment and public order. But it is evident that in both provinces the few companies with large capital and/or high environmental impact have not deployed greater efforts of social responsibility, tending to contribute to the remediation of social problems related directly and indirectly and to the social and economic sustainability of both demarcations.

**Following the statistics of the attorney general's office, which show a practically zero level of illegal obtaining of environmental permits and licenses, as well as the violation of their clauses, they reveal that at least at the highest level of activities with high environmental impact, there is no deep-rooted practice of environmental administrative corruption.** This assertion can also be accredited by the level of approval and maintenance of environmental permits and licenses in favor of companies by both the Ministry of Environment and Natural Resources (MIMARENA) and the Ministry of Energy and Mines (MEM).



With respect to the aforementioned, it is however necessary to take into account what was expressed by Professor Leonardo Schvarstein, who affirms that organizations that comply with current regulations are socially responsible by imposition, which does not deny that it may be by choice if they were not imposed beyond what the law requires of them. Failure to comply with these rules constitutes a crime subject to punishment (Schvarstein, 2004). Therefore, it does not make sense to impute an absolute lack of social responsibility to companies with considerable environmental impact duly authorized by MIMARENA, in a generalized and indiscriminate manner.

The situation of MIMARENA, in the opinion of this law office, is similar to the situation of other government entities with lower levels of specialization, technology and budget. Therefore, the amount of public information not available ex officio, the slowness with which the access to information office operates, the little or no updating of online data (even some as fundamental as the directories of national and provincial officials), as well as the difficulty in communicating by telephone, has no justification.

The concern generated by the aforementioned situation is aggravated by the fact that the Constitutional Court of the Dominican Republic, through a ruling marked with number TC/0076/23 dated January 25, 2023, in functions of preventive control of international treaties, declared unconstitutional the Regional Agreement on Access to Information, Public Participation and Access to Justice in Environmental Matters in Latin America and the Caribbean, signed in Escazú, Costa Rica, in 2018.

The legal arguments outlined in mentioned ruling revolve around constitutional principles of national sovereignty, legal security and legality that, in the professional opinion of this legal office, suffer from a deeply questionable and unconvincing construction and use in the case.

Finally, this report takes the opportunity to note the considerable difficulty in obtaining the fundamental information for the preparation of this report as far as MIMARENA is concerned. **Very different from the Attorney General's Office, which exhibits a much more deep-rooted and widespread culture of government transparency, open data and data published ex officio, which greatly facilitates any investigation regarding the public ministry and the criminal policy of the State refers.**



## RECOMMENDATIONX

As a result of the investigations carried out and the interviews held with the competent authorities in the two provinces that make up the Dajabón or Masacre River basin, we would like to make the following final recommendations:

1. Reforestation plans in the basin must place special emphasis on the construction and effective management of nurseries that provide the plants and seeds required by the personnel and organizations involved in the reforestation programs in the required time. This is one of the strongest weaknesses identified by the Dajabón Provincial Directorate of the Ministry of Environment and Natural Resources itself.
2. Establish a follow-up and monitoring mechanism for reforestation plans and their level of survival on the ground, over the first two years with the extensions of universities that offer a degree in environmental or related sciences.
3. Promote the strengthening of non-profit associations related to the environment and agricultural production, particularly in the Dajabón province, which is the one that presents serious legal anomalies in terms of their registration and control.
4. Promote in the two provinces the actions of Strategic Axis No. 2 of the National Human Rights Plan 2018-2024 in the provinces of Dajabón and Montecristi.
5. Promote the inclusion in the regulations of environmental licenses and authorizations of the human rights clause and the gender approach in the environmental impact assessments required by the Ministry of Environment and Natural Resources.
6. Strengthen the staff of the Specialized Attorney General's Office for the Defense of the Environment and Natural Resources in the Dajabón and Montecristi provinces.
7. Promote the ratification by the National Congress of the San Salvador Protocol.
8. Promote the issuance of the regulations for the application of Law 44-18 on Payments for Environmental Services.
9. Improve the labor and social security of workers hired by MIMARENA for reforestation work in the Dajabón and Montecristi provinces.
10. Address with the MEM the issue of the scope and impact of the concession for exploration and possible exploitation of non-metallic mining granted to the company Cementos Cibao, SA, in areas of Dajabón and the Pepillo Salcedo municipality of the Montecristi province.
11. Extend the reforestation plans to the other hydrographic basins of the province, mainly the one corresponding to the Artibonito River basin



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- Law 368-22 of 2022 on Territorial Planning, Land Use and Human Settlements
- Law 57-18 of 2018 Forestry Sector of the Dominican Republic
- Presidential Decree 627-21 of 2021
- Law 44-18 of 2018 on Payments for Environmental Services
- International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, to which the country acceded on January 4, 1978
- Additional Protocol to the American Convention on Human Rights regarding Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (Protocol of San Salvador), signed by the Dominican government on November 17, 1988 and still awaiting due ratification by the National Congress
- Sentence marked with number TC/0076/23 dated January 25, 2023 issued by the Constitutional Court of the Dominican Republic (TCRD)

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## ANEXXES

### **I) QUESTIONNAIRE APPLIED IN THE PERSONAL INTERVIEW WITH JUDGE YISSEL ACEVEDO, TECHNICAL DIRECTOR OF THE SPECIALIZED ATTORNEY GENERAL'S OFFICE FOR THE ENVIRONMENT AND NATURAL RESOURCES:**

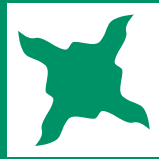
1. What is the Specialized Environmental Prosecutor's Office?
2. In what year did this attorney's office come into operation?
3. In which laws are environmental criminal types found?
4. What is the objective of penalizing behavior that is harmful to the environment?
5. What are the 5 types of crimes most reported by citizens?
6. What types of environmental crimes are the most pursued by the Public Ministry?
7. Who are the principal offenders in environmental matters?
8. What are the main environmental crimes committed in the Dajabón and Montecristi provinces?
9. What is the maximum penalty in environmental matters?
10. What is done when the damage is inflicted by a company and not by civilian?
11. Currently, what are the main needs of this attorney's office?
12. What are the most important challenges that this attorney's office currently faces?
13. Is there a need for environmental courts in the Dominican Republic?

### **II) QUESTIONNAIRE USE ON THE INTERVIEW WITH ENGINEER ONEYDA GONZÁLEZ, PROVINCIAL DIRECTOR OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND NATURAL RESOURCES:**

1. What public function do you hold?
2. How long have you been in the role?
3. In summary, what is your professional training on?
4. What is the forest situation in the province?
5. What is the main reason for the forest fires that have occurred in this province?
6. What is the situation of the province's water resources, including the Dajabón or Masacre River?
7. What is the impact on the environment of the construction of a canal on the Haitian side of the Dajabón River?
8. What is the situation of mining extraction and its impact on the environment?
9. What are the most common environmental crimes in the province?
10. What percentage of these crimes are prosecuted and convicted in court?
11. What are the most pressing needs of this provincial leadership?

12. What is the relationship of agricultural and livestock entrepreneurs with the environment?
13. What suggestions would you have for a hypothetical reforestation plan in the Dajabón or Masacre River basin and the Dajabón province?
14. What is the level of coordination of this directorate with the other directorates of the northwest region?
15. What has been the impact of the construction of the border fence on the environment of the province?
16. What is the impact of illegal Haitian migration on the protection of the province's forest?





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