DESTINATION DISASTER RECOVERY FUND

focuses on restoring & rebuilding tourism resources and infrastructure that have been impacted by natural disasters to support communities & destinations’ tourism recovery.


$97,711 Disbursed in 2019.

Funds Raised

Over $35,965 U.S. was raised through Tourism Cares Destination Disaster Recovery Fund through partnerships and outreach during the Hurricane Dorian storms. These funds will be granted to organizations in the Bahamas in 2020.

Funds Disbursed

Over $97,711 U.S. was disbursed as grants to entrepreneurs, micro-enterprises, small-to-medium enterprises, non-profit organizations, and community cooperatives in 2019. An additional US $13,327 was granted through equipment and resource purchasing for small shareholder farming communities in Southern Puerto Rico.
Dominica Community Tourism Association Inc. (DCTAI): Dominica Community Tourism Association Inc. is an umbrella NGO charged with the responsibility of community tourism development in Dominica. The organization provides training, upskilling, and promotion to 17 community groups across the region. Tourism Cares provided a grant to DCTAI to enhance the Kalinago Territory and strengthen the indigenous tourism experiences and products on the island. Funds were used to restore and enhance the L’Escalier Tête de Chien, a heritage site and one of the primary attractions on the island that had been damaged from Hurricane Maria.

The Buffalo Bayou Partnership: The Buffalo Bayou Partnership is a non-profit organization revitalizing and transforming Buffalo Bayou, Houston’s most significant natural resource. After Hurricane Harvey, Tourism Cares provided the Buffalo Bayou Partnership with a grant to restore the Sabine Promenade, a publicly-owned green space critical to serve the physical and mental health of neighbourhoods adjacent to the bayou corridor. The grant was used to purchase and plant native species of erosion resistant vegetation, strengthening the ecosystem and providing improved habitat for wildlife.

Accessible through two hiking trails, L’Escalier Tête Chien consists of an ancient geological formation that emerges from the sea. Hurricane Maria severely affected the site, damaging the hiking trails and destroying all existing infrastructure. The funds from this grant will be used to construct an improved climate resilient and sustainable infrastructure to bring tourist back to this region.
Foundation for Puerto Rico: The Foundation for Puerto Rico is a public charity that promotes opportunities for social and economic development in Puerto Rico mostly focused on promoting the visitor economy and transforming Puerto Rico as a destination for the world. The FPR was provided seed funding and emergency cash grants to small businesses that depended on the visitor economy in San German, Cabo Rojo, Ponce, and Guanica.

Local Guest: Local Guest is a women-owned travel company dedicated to co-creating and promoting authentic tourism experiences by working hand in hand with local communities and entrepreneurs in order to build a new tourism ecosystem based on sustainable development practices. Local Guest was provided with a grant to develop and host a design course for 20 small-to-medium tourism businesses on how to troubleshoot and strengthen the network of tourism local businesses in Puerto Rico.

La Fundación Cortés: The Fundación Cortés is a non-profit organization whose mission is to educate and inspire passion for the Caribbean arts. The organization was provided with a grant to support 33 homeless children with EducaCortes Program: an Art, Wellness, and Mental Health Program. The demand for the program has increased to a total of 600 children and youth. The Fundación Cortés was also a participant in Tourism Cares Social Enterprise Connector during Tourism Cares with Puerto Rico’s Meaningful Travel Summit in 2019.

Puerto Rico al Sur: Puerto Rico al Sur is a community-tourism organization whose mission is to build and launch community impact projects that have social and environmental benefits in the south of Puerto Rico. Puerto Rico al Sur was provided an emergency cash grant to distribute resources to rural and remote communities in the South.
Tourism Cares for Puerto Rico focused on the United Nation’s Sustainable Development Goal #3: Zero Hunger. Three of the seven DDRF Puerto Rico Grantees in 2019 focused on strengthening local food systems and food security in Puerto Rico, while diversifying livelihoods and spreading the benefits of tourism across the island.

**El Departamento de la Comida:** (The Food Department) is a non-profit, non-governmental collective for the advancement of sustainable, resilient, and regenerative food projects in Puerto Rico. The organization was provided with a grant to help small shareholder farmers in the South gain access to emergency assistance and develop an economy-sharing resource and tool library.

**World Central Kitchen**

**Plow to Plate Program**

World Central Kitchen is a not-for-profit, non-governmental organization devoted to providing meals in the wake of natural disasters. Plow to Plate is World Central Kitchen’s long-term commitment to strengthening local food systems and food security throughout the Caribbean and Central America region. Plow to Plate also works to integrate tourism as an economic engine for its agritourism projects. World Central Kitchen received a grant from Tourism Cares to support the investment of the Plow to Plate Program in Puerto Rico. The Grant was disbursed to Tourism Cares with Puerto Rico’s Meaningful Travel Summit partner, Centro de Microempresas de Tecnologia Sustentables (CMTAS). An additional DDRF Grant was provided to World Central Kitchen to support the emergency response activated #ChefsForPuertoRico which was implemented shortly after seismic activity began occurring in early 2020.
The Yauco Inc. Center for Micro-enterprises and Sustainable Agricultural Technologies (CMTAS) is a non-profit organization and multi-sectoral alliance between community organizations, academics, the private sector through farmers and agronomists in the southwestern area of Puerto Rico. The mission of the Center is to create and maintain community agricultural micro-entrepreneurs from socioeconomically disadvantaged areas, provide training and educational services in sustainable agriculture and micro-entrepreneurship, develop agritourism, and contribute to the economic development of communities and social strengthen of families.

Tourism Cares Grant supported the build out a community kitchen facilities to host workshops for micro-entrepreneurs, and host tourists and volunteers. Construction and equipment that was purchased and installed included:
- Renovations and retrofitting to standardized the space into a commercial kitchen
- Extractor/ hood installation
- Fire suppression system
- Purchase of industrial fridge, cooking equipment (pots & pans)

CMTAS hosted Tourism Cares 160 volunteers in the kitchen and on the community farm - allowing us to be an active part of the change CMTAS will bring to this community.

**CENTRO DE MICROEMPRESAS DE TECNOLOGÍA SUSTENTABLES (CMTAS)**

**DDRF PROCESS**

**FUNDRAISE**
When a natural disaster happens, we work with our network of tourism partners to initiate a DDRF campaign.

**DISBURSE**
We disburse funds within 12-18 months to high-impact community-level organizations and social enterprises to help tourism recovery.

**STRENGTHEN**
We work with our community-level partners to strengthen their capacity to sustain the destination.

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