

Participation of the Dominican Republic in the EASA Assistance Projects with the European Union Funding

By Judit De Leon (IDAC) and Eleonora Italia (EASA)

INTRODUCTION

The Dominican Republic notified its official entry into the ICAO Carbon Offsetting and Reduction Scheme for International Aviation (CORSIA) on October 5, 2018, with the aim of participating from the outset in the process of adapting CORSIA implementation elements to the national context. On July 16, 2020, through communication 2054, and during the pandemic, the CORSIA Aviation Capacity Building Project for Africa and the Caribbean was notified of its interest in participating in the project. This took into account the positive results obtained in the first ICAO-EU project, completed in 2018, and the challenges faced by the Dominican State as a Small Island Developing State (SIDS).

The project provided support for the harmonization, and where necessary, the design, of the national legal framework necessary to address the impact of aviation on climate change, including the dissemination of ICAO Annex 16 Volume IV, which creates the legal basis for CORSIA implementation.

The EU-CORSIA Africa and Caribbean project activities included:

- Promote knowledge and understanding of aviation's impacts on climate change and related policy measures through (regional) workshops and dedicated training



FIGURE 1: Official Correspondence from the Dominican Republic's Civil Aviation Authority (IDAC) Formal letter issued by IDAC expressing interest in international collaboration on aviation environmental matters.

courses, while promoting collaboration with national transport, aviation, and environment and climate entities;

- Regional workshops and training on environmental management systems;
- Regional workshops and training on the importance of using monitoring and evaluation (M&E) procedures and indicators to track climate adaptation initiatives, plans, and actions at the project and sectoral levels;

The objective of this project was to mitigate greenhouse gas emissions from the civil aviation sector and, more specifically, to assist selected States in complying with their measures under the Chicago Convention in relation to United Nations Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) No. 13: “Adopt urgent measures to combat climate change and its impacts”. The project was planned to run from 2020 to 2022. As the project phases were completed and its impact was evaluated, the project has been extended until the 12 October 2025.

CORSIA entered the pilot phase from 2021 to 2023. This phase required airline operators eligible for CORSIA to submit an emissions monitoring plan. The Instituto Dominicano de Aviación Civil (IDAC) had to approve it. The following year, after approval, the plan had to be verified by a verifier accredited under the CORSIA scheme by the national accreditation body, in this case the Organismo Dominicano de Acreditación (ODAC).

To comply with the scheme, the following tasks were carried out:

1. July 2021: Signing of the IDAC-ODAC Interinstitutional Agreement. The ODAC will create a scheme that allows for the accreditation of national or international validation and/or verification bodies that meet the requirements contained in the ISO 14065:2013 Standard entitled “Greenhouse Gases.”
2. In 2020, we started with only one Emissions Monitoring Plan (EMP), and by 2023, five were submitted (EMP). This is due to the increase in the number of airline operators eligible for the CORSIA scheme, as can be seen in Chart 1.
3. In January 2023, Dominican Aeronautical Regulation No. 16 (RAD16) on environmental protection was published, in compliance with the recommendations of the International

Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO) under Annex 16 Vol. 4 CORSIA. It describes, based on compliance with the Carbon Offset and Reduction Plan, Implementation Phases of the International Aviation Carbon Offset and Reduction Plan, Emission Offset and Reduction Requirements, Administration of the Offset Plan, among others.

Chart No. 1
**Number of Airlines
Applicable to CORSIA**
(Number of AOs)

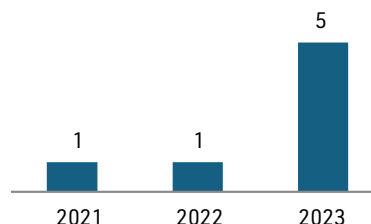


FIGURE 2: Number of airlines applicable to CORSIA.

Source: Prepared by the authors, with data from the approval of the EMP.

IMPLEMENTED ACTIVITIES AND EVOLUTION

1. From March 9-10, 2022, a CORSIA MRV Virtual Seminar was held: Key Concepts of ICAO ANNEX 16, Volume IV, “First Edition.” Sixteen airline operators were invited, with the participation of 16 people from different organizations.
2. From April 28-29, a workshop was held on Accreditation to ISO 14065:2013—The Foundation for CORSIA Program Implementation by National Accreditation Bodies (NABs) and Verification Bodies (VBs). This workshop was coordinated with the Dominican Accreditation Body (ODAC). Sixteen people from the accreditation team, a technical expert, and verifiers participated.
3. From May 17 to 19, 2022, the first regional seminar on CORSIA was held in Antigua under the framework of the project, with the participation of an 8-person delegation, including: the Accreditation Body, the Air Operator, the Ministry of Environment and Natural Resources, the Climate Change Council and the Clean Development Mechanism, and the IDAC.



FIGURE 3: Regional Seminar on CORSIA held in Antigua.

4. From September 1st to 2nd 2022, the workshop “ISO 14064-1:2006 TRAINING” was held, taught virtually by a Project Expert in Accreditation, Standardization, Conformity Assessment and Greenhouse Gases, with the participation of 24 people representing ODAC, INDOCAL, IDAC, Ministry of Environment, Verification Body and Council of Climate Change and Clean Development Mechanism.



FIGURE 4: ISO 14064-1:2006 Training.

5. On October 25 and 26 2022, the ISO 14064-3 and ISO 14065 training workshops were held, with 14 participants. The objective of this training was to expand knowledge in conformity validation/verification. The entry requirement was identified as preferably auditors or individuals with knowledge of conformity verification or validation.

6. On October 2-4, 2023, the 2nd regional seminar on CORSIA was held at the Higher Academy of Aeronautical Sciences (ASCA), where the Dominican delegation had a

representation of 20 people, including ministries and air operators, which increased from 1 to 5. The procedures created by the ODAC for the accreditation scheme of the verifying body were presented as a result of this seminar.



FIGURE 5: 2nd Regional Seminar on CORSIA held at the Higher Academy of Aeronautical Sciences (ASCA) in Dominican Republic.

7. In September 2023, a compliance audit was conducted on the verifier to accredit the validation/verification processes in CORSIA.

8. On November 9, 2023, the CI-ATABEY Foundation was accredited as the first national and Caribbean verifier for CORSIA with accreditation number 011/OVV-001.

9. The session on terminology related to SAF (Sustainable Aviation Fuel) and CEF (CORSIA Eligible Fuel) was held on April 9, June 25, and June 28, 2023. Technical Certification and Sustainability Certification were attended by 64 people from different institutions, including the SAF panel.



FIGURE 6: Session on terminology related to SAF and CEF.

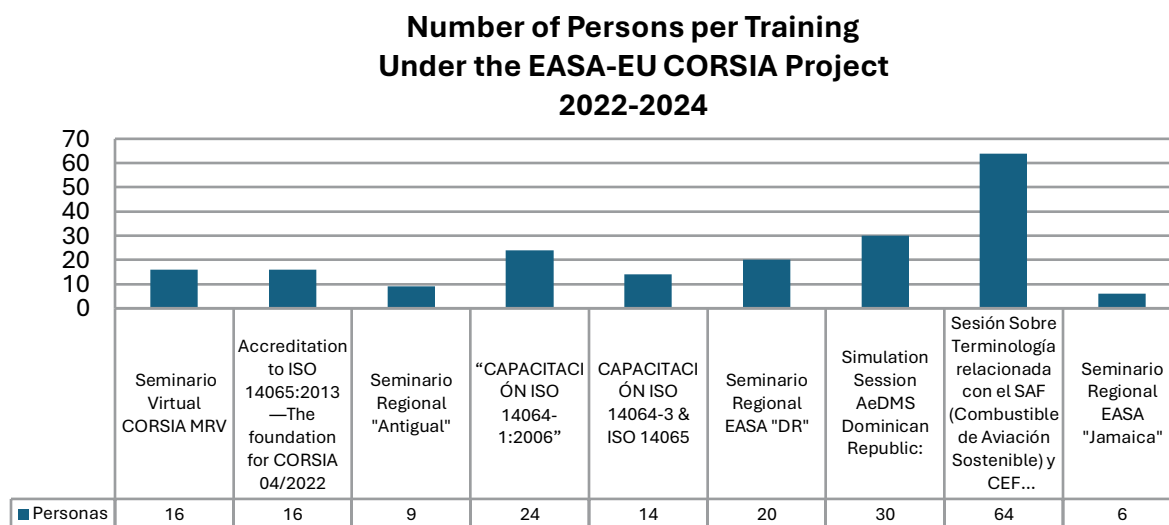


FIGURE 7: Number of persons per training under the EASA-EU CORSIA Project 2022-2024.
Source: Prepared by the authors, obtained from the participant list and other records.

CONCLUSIONS

A total of 199 people were trained in the various training courses provided under the project framework (Figure 7).

The impact of the training can be represented in the following graph (Figure 8): 30% was provided to national and international airline operators, 64% to public institutions such as the Civil Aviation Board, the Airport Department, ODAC, INDOCAL, the National Council for Climate Change and Clean Development Mechanism, and the Ministry of the Environment, among others; and 6% to the private sector, such as ground service operators, airport managers, and verification bodies other than the public sector, among others.

Participation in the training

■ Aircraft operators ■ Public institutions ■ private sector

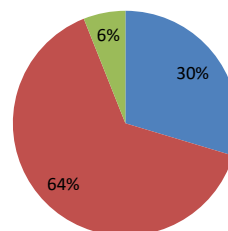


FIGURE 8: Participation in the capacitation per type of organization. Source: Prepared by the authors, obtained from the participant list and other records.