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PRESS RELEASE

THE CONSERVATION TRUST OF PUERTO RICO IS AWARDED OUTSTANDING RECOGNITION TO ITS ORGANIZATIONAL EXCELLENCE

The Conservation Trust of Puerto Rico was just awarded the accreditation seal of Land Trust Accreditation Commission, one of the most important recognitions in land conservation in the United States acknowledging that the organization meets the highest standards of ethics, transparency, and excellence in all its operations.

The Land Trust Accreditation Commission is an independent program of the Land Trust Alliance, which serves as national coordinator, strategist, and representative of more than 1,700 land trusts in the United States since 1982, of which only 158 have obtained this important accreditation. Involves a conservation community of 1.5 million professionals and volunteers for a total of 37 million acres under protection.

“It is an honor for the Conservation Trust of Puerto Rico to receive this accreditation, which validates our professional ethics, the transparency of our financial processes, and the quality in which we manage our natural protected areas,” expressed Fernando Lloveras San Miguel, Executive Director of this non-profit organization.

“By obtaining this accreditation, we assure the public that we meet the highest standards of excellence in all our endeavors, that our conservation work is permanent, and that the tax incentives from private land conservation are used according to law. It also ratifies a significant reference of credibility and respect amongst our land conservation donors, members, and partner organizations in Puerto Rico, the Caribbean, the United States, and Latin America”, highlighted Lloveras San Miguel.

Tammara Van Ryn, Executive Director of the Land Trust Accreditation Commission, highlighted: “Our accreditation seal confirms that the accredited organization has been subject to a deep and strict external audit in relation to its administrative processes, land transaction procedures, and land conservation and management policies.”

As part of this rigorous accreditation process, the Trust demonstrated that it complied with 12 standards and 88 legal, ethical, and technical practices for land trusts. These standards and practices are divided into two principal areas, one of organizational strength and ethical principles and the other of the quality of land transactions. The Accreditation Commission

evaluated diverse components of the organizational practices of the Trust, including its mission, compliance with laws, board accountability, management of conflicts of interest, fundraising, financial and asset management, and volunteers, staff, and consultants, as well as ensuring sound land transactions and conservation easement and fee land stewardship.

“This arduous accreditation process was valued by all our staff because it motivated us to take a ‘deeper look’ at our organizational capacity, infrastructure, and land transaction and management processes. We are extremely satisfied with the work achieved and even more committed to our mission” added the Trust’s Executive Director.

Founded in 1970, the Conservation Trust protects more than 24,000 acres of land in Puerto Rico and involves thousands of participants in its nature immersion activities, voluntary programs, and conservation efforts. Through this mark of distinction, the Trust will be able to use this exclusive seal of accreditation in its communications as a reflection of its superior status and quality.

ABOUT THE CONSERVATION TRUST OF PUERTO RICO

The Conservation Trust of Puerto Rico (CTPR) is a private, non-profit organization whose mission is to secure functional and healthy ecological systems of the islands of Puerto Rico and to inspire its people to be stewards of nature and together realize our shared social, economic and quality-of life goals. CTPR believes that we can achieve our full potential, both individually and collectively, if we can sustain the ecosystem services of the islands of Puerto Rico and respect all forms of life with which we share our natural environment.

The Trust carries out this mission since 1970 through the acquisition and donation of lands of great ecological, aesthetic, historic and cultural value, as well as the establishment of conservation easements, among many other initiatives. The only beneficiary of the Conservation Trust is the people of Puerto Rico.

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