

Registration Form

ACI Latin America and Caribbean Green Airport recognition 2025



Submission deadline: September 5, 2025

ACI-LAC will send an acknowledgment of receipt via email after receiving each form.

● **Participating Airport Information**

Name: Luis Muñoz Marín International Airport - SJU / Aerostar Airport Holdings, LLC

Airport Group (if applicable): N/A

Full name: Jaime Pabón

Position: Sustainability Director

Email: jaime.pabon@aerostarairports.com

Project's name: SJU Bee Conservation and Management Program

Project website (if applicable):

<https://www.instagram.com/reel/Cn9hWLYtSCs/?igsh=MWFoempobWp4aTQ0>

● **Official/Alternate Representative for ACI-LAC**

Signature of the official/alternate representative for ACI-LAC:

Full name:

Position:

Email:

● **Recognition conditions**

I accept that the information provided (executive summary and graphics/images) be published at the discretion of ACI-LAC.



Biodiversity and Nature-Based Solutions (NbS)

The **Green Airports Recognition 2025** offers a valuable platform for airports across Latin America and the Caribbean to showcase their successful efforts in biodiversity preservation and the implementation of Nature-Based Solutions (NbS) within the aviation sector. Initiatives may include (but not limited to) wetland restoration and creation, restoring ecosystems, and leveraging NbS for carbon removal. Examples of eligible practices range from in-house horticulture and airport nurseries, plantation for carbon reduction and community benefits, ecological rejuvenation of wetlands, marine life conservation efforts led by airports, and basket of measures for biodiversity.

Important note: Projects currently under implementation are eligible, provided they are mature enough to

produce measurable, quantitative outcomes in accordance with the evaluation criteria. Participating airports or airport groups may submit only one (1) project

- **Evaluation**

Each application evaluated must meet the following recognition criteria:

- 1. Involvement of the airport's senior management**

Demonstrate active participation and endorsement from airport senior management during any phase of the project's development or implementation.

- 2. Sustainability Benefit**

Detailed description of the sustainability benefits of the project/program supported by quantitative data and objective sustainability indicators where possible.

Indicate the level to which the project contributes to the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals

- 3. Stakeholder Engagement**

Present evidence of collaboration with internal teams and external partners—such as government agencies, NGOs, community groups, or industry stakeholders—in the planning and execution of the initiative

- 4. Innovation**

Demonstrate that the project/program exceeds standard industry practices.

In addition, ACI-LAC will present a Special Recognition to the project demonstrating exceptional achievement. To be eligible, the participating airport must hold accreditation at any level within the Airport Carbon Accreditation (ACA) program.

The weighting of the criteria for special recognition is indicated below:

1. Involvement of the airport's senior management (20%)
2. Sustainability Benefit (30%)
3. Stakeholder Engagement (30%)
4. Innovation (20%)

- **Instructions to participate.**

Complete and submit the form with the project information in MS Word and send to fmedela@aci-lac.aero before **September 05, 2025**.

1. Summary Executive (maximum 350 words)

Please include an Executive Summary of the project in a maximum of 350 words. In case your project meets the criteria of the ACI-LAC *Green Airport Recognition*, this Executive Summary will be included in the Best Environmental Practices Document that seeks to promote best practices that minimize the impact of airports on the environment, in addition to recognizing the achievements of airports in the region in their environmental projects.

Luis Muñoz Marín International Airport (SJU), managed and operated by Aerostar Airport Holdings, LLC (Aerostar), is Puerto Rico's largest airport and serves as the island's international gateway to Latin America and the Caribbean. The ***SJU Bee Conservation and Management Program*** is a nature-based initiative aimed at conserving the local bee population, while enhancing operational safety and sustainability at SJU. Implemented by Aerostar in partnership with certified beekeepers and key community stakeholders, this program represents an innovative approach to environmental conservation in an active airport environment.

Bees are essential pollinators that support regional ecosystems, enriching the airport's green areas and neighboring environment, through pollinating native vegetation. At SJU, they influence a broad natural area within a two-mile radius, including the Piñones State Forest, which is the largest mangrove forest in Puerto Rico. Benefits also reflect on the flora and fauna of San Juan Bay Estuary (160 species of birds, 124 species of fish, 19 species of reptiles and amphibians and over 300 species of wetland plants), which are all interrelated as part of this high ecological value system. However, bee swarms in operational areas pose risks to employee and passenger safety. To address this, Aerostar established a proactive relocation program for the safe removal and transfer of bee swarms to a protected and secluded forested area within airport property. There, they are housed in hive boxes managed by certified professionals, allowing them to thrive without interfering with airport operations, while still providing regional ecological benefits.

Beyond conservation and risk mitigation, the Program promotes environmental awareness through key initiatives, including specialized training for airport personnel on bee care, educational outreach for community members and stakeholders, and programs that highlight the essential role of pollinators in our ecosystem. The initiative also features honey extraction for sustainable gifting, guided educational tours, media coverage to amplify impact, and other engagement efforts that showcase the importance of sustainable airport practices. As an integral component of SJU's environmental strategy, the ***SJU Bee Conservation and Management Program*** exemplifies how airports can harmonize operational continuity, environmental stewardship, and community engagement—setting a benchmark for best practices in the region.

2. Project Background (maximum 150 words)

Please describe the background of the project or program (Why was it necessary to develop this project/program?)

The ***SJU Bee Conservation and Management Program*** was developed in response to recurring bee swarms within operational areas of SJU. Since Aerostar assumed airport operations in 2013, approximately 20 swarms per year were consistently reported, often settling on aircraft, boarding bridges, or ground equipment—posing safety concerns for both employees and passengers, and disrupting operations. Initially viewed as a nuisance (removed), these swarms became an opportunity for Aerostar to adopt a more sustainable and responsible approach. Recognizing the critical role of bees as pollinators, and the global decline in bee populations, the airport prioritized their conservation rather than elimination. Bees support biodiversity in and around the airport, pollinating green spaces and adjacent ecosystems. This Program reflects Aerostar’s commitment to both aviation safety and environmental sustainability, balancing operational needs with the protection of natural systems. It also promotes stakeholder engagement and strengthens Aerostar's leadership in adopting nature-based, eco-conscious airport management practices.

3. Project scope (maximum 50 words)

Describe the area of implementation of the project, for example: area of operations, terminal, the entire airport, etc.; as well as agents involved in it: airport staff, other stakeholders, NGOs, environmental groups, etc.

The Program relocates swarming bees from operational areas to a forested secluded zone of SJU, north of Runway 08-26. Certified beekeepers from *Cooperativa de Servicios y Equipaje*, working alongside SJU Wildlife Coordinator, secure the bees in hive boxes, promoting their protection. Our Sustainability Director and Environmental Coordinator are actively engaged.

4. Project Description (maximum 100 words)

Describe how the project was implemented.

Aerostar partnered with the *Cooperativa de Servicios y Equipaje (maleteros)* to establish ***Abejas SJU***, a dedicated bee management team. Trained staff use certified practices and beekeeping equipment to safely capture and relocate swarms from critical areas to a designated forested and secluded site within the airport property. There, bees are housed in hive boxes and monitored to ensure their health and continued pollination of surrounding ecosystems. The initiative also supports a pilot honey harvesting project and includes employee training and educational outreach. This nature-based sustainable solution enhances safety, protects pollinators, and integrates biodiversity conservation into the airport’s core operational practices.

5. Project results and benefits **(maximum 300 words)**

Describe the results of the project highlighting its achievements. Please emphasize data, for example: cost savings, recognized environmental benefits, evidence of innovation, etc.

Since its launch, the ***SJU Bee Conservation and Management Program***, which is championed by our Sustainability Director, has successfully improved operational safety, enhanced biodiversity, and advanced environmental innovation at the airport. The Program maintains seven active beehive boxes in a secure, forested area within airport property, but varies seasonally due to climate conditions and swarming activity. This approach ensures both effective bee conservation and operational safety through a nature-based solution.

The Program significantly reduced the need for emergency responses to bee swarms in high-traffic sensitive areas, minimizing flight disruptions, equipment issues, and passenger concerns (75% reduction in nuisance bee swarms in 2025 when compared to previous years). By proactively relocating swarms of bees, SJU has benefitted from improved operations and indirect cost savings, all associated to bee disruptions avoidance.

Ecologically, the program safeguards pollinators that support ecosystems within a 2-mile radius of SJU, including the Piñones State Forest and San Juan Bay Estuary. By protecting native bee populations, the initiative supports the health of local flora like mangroves, which represent critical barriers for coastal resiliency, and significantly contributes to biodiversity preservation. Our first honey harvest produced 50 bottles of raw honey, with distinctive Caribbean coconut flavor, proving the successful pollination of regional coastal palm areas. This honey has been shared with key stakeholders and airlines, turning conservation into an opportunity for education, gratefulness, and engagement.

Through its integration of certified beekeeping, staff training, and a relocation-first protocol, the Program serves as a nature-based model for sustainable airport practices. It demonstrates how environmental stewardship, safety, and operational efficiency can coexist through innovative planning and cross-sector collaboration. Furthermore, by aligning with global sustainability goals, Aerostar's initiative exemplifies how airports can embrace ecological responsibility while maintaining high safety standards, turning potential risks into opportunities for community involvement, education, and long-term environmental impact.

6. Graphics and Images (maximum 4)

Include a maximum of 4 graphs, including tables or photographs, with a brief description. This information will also be included in the Best Environmental Practices Document.



Exhibit 1

Area of bee influence around Luis Muñoz Marín International Airport (SJU)..



Exhibit 2

Abejas SJU Management Team

From left to right: Marisleissis Orona, Environmental Coordinator; Jaime Pabón, Sustainability Director; Rafael Ríos, Wildlife Coordinator and Ernesto González, Apiario Guare Master Trainer.



Exhibit 3
Hive boxes maintenance in
preparation for bee relocation.



Exhibit 4
Bee swarm in active operational
area.