



# Community-Based Adaptation FAST FACTS

## JAMAICA

### Reducing erosion and landslide risk through sustainable agriculture

**Grantee:** Jamaica Conservation and Development Trust (JCDDT)

**Type of organization:** NGO

**Number of participants:** About 2,600

**Location:** Woodford, St Andrew and Cascade, Portland, Jamaica

**CBA Contribution:** \$50,000 USD

**Project Partners:** Forest Conservation Fund, USAID/JA FARMS Project

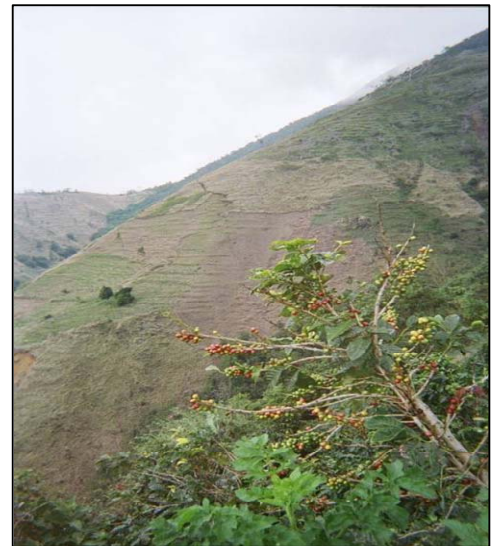
**Co-financing** JCDDT (\$78,291 USD)

**Project Dates:** September 2008-January 2010

### BACKGROUND

The Community-Based Adaptation Programme (CBA) is a five-year United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) global initiative funded by the Global Environmental Facility (GEF) within the Small Grants Programme (SGP) delivery mechanism. The UN Volunteers partners with UNDP and GEF/SGP to enhance community mobilization, recognize volunteers' contribution and ensure inclusive participation around the project, as well as to facilitate capacity building of partner NGOs and CBOs. In addition, funding is provided by the Government of Japan, the Government of Switzerland, and AusAID. The CBA's goal is to strengthen the resiliency of communities to address climate change impacts.

This CBA project, "Reducing Erosion and Landslide Risk through Sustainable Agriculture", is implemented by the Jamaica Conservation and Development Trust (JCDDT). This project is active in the towns of Woodford and Cascade outside Jamaica's capital city of Kingston. Located near the Blue and John Crow Mountains National Park, Woodford is home to 1,800 residents. The community is in the mid-reaches of a watershed that is important to Kingston's water supply. The neighboring community of Cascade is located just outside the National Park and has a population of 800. Most area inhabitants make a living by growing cash crops, primarily bananas and Blue Mountain coffee. Farming on steep slopes, residents often resort to unsustainable agricultural practices such as slash and burn. The productivity of community farms is being reduced by soil degradation, and climate change is likely to exacerbate land damage.



*Deforested slopes in a coffee-growing region in Jamaica's Blue Mountains. Hills in these areas are particularly prone to erosion and landslides due to intense rainfall events and hurricanes, which are projected to increase with climate change*

### CLIMATE CHANGE RISKS

Climate change is expected to bring more severe weather, higher intensity rainfall, longer droughts, and warmer temperatures to Jamaica. These changes are likely to speed soil erosion, especially on steep slopes, leading to landslides. Unsustainable land management practices have further altered the area's cool, moist microclimates. As temperature increases, farmers may be forced to cultivate lands further up mountainsides,



### LOCAL VOICES

*Project volunteer Robert Hall, 26, attends workshops about climate change and forest restoration. "I feel compelled to teach others about alternative farming practices," Hall says, "and help them to understand climate change and its effect on their crops." Hall sees the impact of unsustainable practices on his environment. "I understand that what we do affects the climate," he says.*

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seeking conditions favorable to coffee and other crops. Agricultural encroachment is already a pressure on the bordering National Park and could cause deforestation to the internationally significant protected area.

## PROJECT DESCRIPTION AND ADAPTATION MEASURES

The CBA project builds on JCDT's existing sustainable agriculture activities to address additional climate change pressures. The project reforests steep slopes and raises community awareness about climate-resilient practices. To increase farmers' capacity to adapt to climate change, the project promotes sustainable agricultural practices. The following activities will help the project reach its goals:



Woodford community members work together in constructing a greenhouse

- Technical capacity building for farmers so they can apply cost effective soil conservation techniques in steep slope environments.
- The promotion of alternative livelihood practices including greenhouse farming and training in high-value organic farming.
- Planting trees on degraded slopes that are vulnerable to erosion and landslides.
- Involvement of key government bodies relating to water, forestry, and agriculture to ensure best practices are integrated into policy.

By reducing soil erosion and decreasing climate-driven pressures, farmers will be less likely to clear and cultivate protected areas further upslope. Alternative techniques and capacity building will help maximize the profitability of existing croplands. Community involvement and greater awareness will contribute to sustainable agro-ecosystem management in the face of climate impacts.

### FOCUS ON...

#### Global environmental benefit

*The project helps protect the community against land degradation by promoting forest and tree cover on slopes that are vulnerable to climate change-driven increases in erosion and landslide risks. The project also promotes environmental friendly agriculture techniques such as greenhouse farming and organic farming that help increase incomes and mitigate against climate risks.*

#### Community ownership and sustainability

*The Woodford community has played an essential role in the development of the project and is entirely committed to its implementation. For example, a diverse group of men and women is volunteering their time, knowledge, labour and resources to construct greenhouse farming. JCDT continues to seek funding to expand and ensure the sustainability of the work started under this project.*

#### Policy influence

*The project seeks to influence two policies on land degradation focal area either at the local or the national level.*

**For more information about CBA or CBA projects visit: [www.undp-adaptation.org/project/cba](http://www.undp-adaptation.org/project/cba)**

Further information, lessons learned, and experiences gathered from climate change adaptation activities globally can be found at the Adaptation Learning Mechanism: [www.adaptationlearning.net](http://www.adaptationlearning.net)



