



Community-Based Adaptation FAST FACTS

Jamaica

Climate Change Adaptation in the Communities of Bellevue, Cornwall Barracks, Moore Town & Rio Grande Watershed

Grantee: Portland Environment Protection Association (PEPA)

Type of organization: NGO

Number of participants: About 2,000

Location: Bellevue, Cornwall Barracks, Moore Town, Rio Grande Watershed (Portland, Jamaica)

Project Partners: Forestry Department, Rural Agricultural Development Authority (RADA)

CBA Contribution: \$43,407

Co-financing: \$88,763

Project Dates: March 2011-September 2012

BACKGROUND

The Community-Based Adaptation (CBA) project 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. UNDP partners with the United Nations Volunteers (UNV) programme and GEF-SGP to enhance community mobilization, recognize volunteer contributions, ensure inclusive participation in the project, and facilitate capacity building of partner non-governmental organizations (NGOs) and community-based organizations (CBOs). The Government of Japan, the Government of Switzerland, and AusAID provide additional funding. The goal of the CBA project is to strengthen the resiliency of communities to address climate change impacts.

This CBA project focuses on the communities of, Bellevue, Cornwall Barracks, Moore Town, and the Rio Grande Watershed located in Portland, Jamaica. These areas experience tropical storms and hurricanes during Jamaica's rainy season (October-February), and the communities are hardest hit in June through November. The climate-change induced heavy rainfall leads to erosion and landslides, which impacts local farming, the main source of income for the communities.

Approximately 2,000 people reside in Bellevue, Cornwall Barracks, and Moore Town, and another 23,000 residents live in the surrounding Rio Grande Watershed area. Local residents mainly consist of self-employed farmers, traders, carvers and rafters. The farmers are predominantly males and the traders are mostly women. Both groups depend on the land for their livelihood: the men on hillside land for farming and the women on trade cash crops (banana and coffee) they acquire from the farmers. The farming sector is employing more people as the unemployment rate increases and population rate grows. This is leading to unsustainable farming practices that further degrade the already fragile soil. The heavy rainfall, hurricanes, improper hillside farming practices and soil erosion damage farms, make roads inaccessible, and increase the cost of crop production due to topsoil loss and the need to purchase fertilizer. The CBA project is increasing community resilience to climate change risks through awareness raising presentations and capacity-building demonstration plots.



Community shop in Bellevue, Portland

CLIMATE CHANGE RISKS

Climate change predictions for Jamaica include more severe weather events such as intensified hurricanes, higher precipitation variability, heavier rains, longer droughts and warmer temperatures. These changes are likely to increase soil erosion, leading to increased risk and magnitude of landslides. Intensified hurricanes will also damage crops. Residents will suffer from economic and social displacement as a result of farm damage and landslides. The habitat loss due to increased land degradation and deforestation will severely affect numerous endemic species of flora and fauna, and effects of warmer temperatures will likely result in loss of species diversity. The intensity of floods caused by global warming will be coupled with more intense periods of drought, which will further destabilize communities.

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PROJECT DESCRIPTION AND ADAPTATION MEASURES

The objective of this CBA project is to educate and inform community stakeholders about climate change risks and the sustainable practices that the community members can take to adapt to these impacts. The project was prepared through a participatory process carried by the Portland Environment Protection Association (PEPA) and community stakeholders. The project is multifaceted, featuring a comprehensive education programme being implemented simultaneously with the practical land management measures required to reduce environmental degradation in the watershed. The following actions provide benefits to the communities:



Soil erosion in Bellevue

- Reduce land degradation by demonstrating new and improved land management techniques including alley cropping, check dams, trenches and live barriers use.
- Minimize soil erosion through reforestation, including the planting of fruit and timber seedlings to increase soil stability, and the introduction of 5000 native trees with a higher resistance to strong winds and crops with greater tolerance to dry conditions such as pineapples and cassava.
- Increase the local communities' capacity through awareness raising presentations in schools and varied community group venues on climate change impacts and the sustainable adaptive practices to combat climate change risks.
- Sharing experiences of the local farmers through audio-visual testimonials highlighting the climate change challenges they face and the adaptive practices needed.
- Increase biodiversity and improve water quality by reducing turbidity and nitrate content and introducing non-traditional crops to predominantly mono-cropping farms.
- Influence local policy relating to climate change risks as a result of advocacy efforts announced by state agencies.

FOCUS ON...

Global environmental benefit

Adaptive practices on deforestation to reduce carbon emissions, improve soil fertility and stability and protect biodiversity.

Community ownership and sustainability

Community members participated in consultations throughout the project development process and will continue to be involved during the implementation stage. Local farmers will provide their land for the project, as well as volunteer their labour and expertise in planting and instituting sustainable land management practices. The community will also be involved in participatory monitoring and replication through demonstration plots and school presentations.

Policy influence

Policymakers will be able to view demonstration plots that showcase the project's local and national economic and environmental benefits. Additionally, the project may produce a guidebook for farmers on how to use the project techniques to address soil erosion issues. The manual will be based on lessons learned through project activities.

For more informative about CBA or CBA projects visit: 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

