



Community-Based Adaptation FAST FACTS

JAMAICA

Increasing Community Adaptation and Ecosystem Resilience to Climate Change in Portland Bight

Grantee: Caribbean Coastal Area Management Foundation (CCAMF)

Type of organization: CBO

Number of participants: 20,000

Location: Portland Bight, Clarendon

CBA Contribution: \$48,000USD

Project Partners: Ministry of Agriculture, Social Development Commission, National Environment and Planning Agency, Office of Disaster Preparedness and Emergency Management, Forestry Department, NCB Foundation, Clarendon and St. Catherine Parish Development Committees, Community Councils, Portland Bight Fisheries Management Council, Jamalco, JCRMN Development Authority

Co-financing: \$46,000 USD (in cash), \$10,200 USD (in kind)

Project Dates: May 2010–November 2011

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 the Government of Australia. The CBA's goal is to strengthen the resiliency of communities to address climate change impacts.

The CBA project, "Increasing Community Adaptation and Ecosystem Resilience to Climate Change in Portland Bight" seeks to increase the resilience of vulnerable coastal communities and ecosystems of Portland Bight in Jamaica to climate change. Jamaica is an island nation of the Greater Antilles in the Caribbean Sea. With a population approximating 2.8 million of people, Jamaica is the third most populous Anglophone country in the Americas. The climate is generally pleasant, with average temperature of 25.5°C in the winter and 28°C in the summer. The site of the project encompasses Portland Cottage, Salt River, Cockpit and Old Harbor Bay. The population is approximately 20,000 people. They rely directly or indirectly on fishing, sugar or bauxite for income and livelihood. Furthermore, local ecosystems form the foundation of community livelihood, providing critical services such as nurseries for fisheries, habitat for threatened species, and coastal protection against climate hazards. The area is economically depressed and conditions are likely to worsen because all the main sources of revenue and livelihood are declining from the adverse impacts of climate change.

Mangroves Damaged by Hurricane



CLIMATE CHANGE RISKS

Long term climate change predictions for Jamaica forecast a reduction in mean annual precipitation and an increase in annual temperature. Historically, the Portland Bight area has been vulnerable to flooding, storm surge, hurricanes, fire and drought. In the recent years, the frequency and intensity of these events have magnified, making natural disasters an annual event. Rising temperatures and increased number of flood events will threaten coral reefs, reducing coastal productivity and destabilizing coastlines. Increasing sea-levels will affect coastal wetlands, beaches, anthropogenic landscapes and structures, reducing nesting area for turtles and crocodiles. The capacity of coastal cays, reefs, sea-grass beds and mangroves to recover from multiplying frequency of hurricanes and storms will be reduced by other human influences such as fragmentation, disturbance and clearance.

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PROJECT DESCRIPTION AND ADAPTATION MEASURES

This CBA project seeks to address climate-driven threats to critical coastal ecosystems which include augmenting of hurricane damage, increasing in the frequency and intensity of coral bleaching events, and rising of the intensity of other severe weather events. It has been developed by CCAMF through a participatory process involving the different stakeholders of the communities of Portland Bight. In the face of climate change, the project empowers the communities to manage ecosystems more sustainably through the following activities:

- Capacity building of the communities to monitor threatened ecosystems;
- Development of alternative livelihood options to reduce reliance on climate sensitive natural resources;
- Development of response measures in the face of intensifying climate-related pressures;
- Awareness-raising of the local communities on climate change impacts, and advocacy for their integration into development frameworks.

In addition the above activities, the project implements counterpart activities such as the establishment, monitoring and management of fish sanctuaries, and the development of ecotourism plan and feasibility studies.

A mangrove Lagoon in Salt Harbour Area (Portland Bight)



FOCUS ON...

Global environmental benefit

The project creates alternative sources of revenue for the communities to relieve the pressure on climate-sensitive natural resources and ensure supply does not exceed demand. Increased adaptive capacity of the local communities, thru the project's technical support, decreases the human influences that negatively impact the natural ecosystems, and strengthens its ability to recover from the growing challenges posed by climate change. In addition, the project also contributes to the establishment of fish sanctuaries and to their management. CCAMF is also working with UNESCO and other stakeholders to have the Portland Bight protected area as a biosphere reserve.

Community ownership and sustainability

The communities of Portland Bight have played an important role during the development of the project. They have also committed to volunteer their time, labor, and knowledge for its implementation.

Policy influence

The project will also advocate for the incorporation of climate change considerations into development frameworks.

For more information 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

