

GUATEMALA

Grantee: Asociación de Proyectos de Desarrollo Integral de Comitancillo (APRODIC)

Type of organization: CBO

Number of participants: 40 people (13 Men; 27 Women)

Location: Aldea Taltimiche, Comitancillo in the San Marcos Department

CBA Contribution: \$19,376.44 USD

Project Partners: None

Co-financing: \$39,335.21

Project Dates: February 2011 – December 2012

Tree Nursery Activities “Txe Talmich” for reforestation in the Taltimiche plains.

BACKGROUND

The Community-Based Adaptation Programme (CBA) is a five-year UNDP global initiative, largely funded by the Global Environment Facility (GEF) along with other donors. Delivering through the GEF-Small Grants Programme (SGP) and UNDP Country Office, the goal of the Project is to strengthen the resiliency of communities addressing climate change impacts. UNDP partners with the United Nations Volunteers (UNV) programme to enhance community mobilization, recognize volunteers’ contributions and ensure inclusive participation around the project, as well as to facilitate capacity building of partner non-governmental organizations (NGOs) and community-based organizations (CBOs). Testing the Vulnerability Assessment Reduction (VRA) and other community-engagement tools, the Project is generating invaluable knowledge and lessons for replication and upscaling. The Government of Japan, the Government of Switzerland, and AusAID provide additional funding.

The CBA project “Tree Nursery Activities “Txe Talmich” for reforestation in the Taltimiche plains” is located in the volcanic highlands of Guatemala’s San Marcos department.. The project area is surrounded by forests and by land that is not suitable for agriculture production. It is home to the indigenous peoples (Mayan-Mam) who are subsistence farmers and rely on native species such as corn, beans and potatoes. In 2005, Hurricane Stan, the 18th named tropical storm and 11th hurricane of the 2005 Atlantic



Lands in the project area are losing forest cover due to climate change.

hurricane season in Central America, obliterated many lands, including the project area. To cope

with the damages, the community members started planting tree nurseries using their own money. However, climate change variabilities such as torrential storms with strong winds and frosts in the winter seasons led to mudslides and flooding, while the higher temperatures and prolonged periods of droughts in the summer seasons led to water scarcity. These adverse impacts exacerbate the soil erosion, loss of forest cover and water availability in the area. In turn, such impacts lead to the loss of agricultural production of basic grains and threaten the food security of the community members who locally produce 70-80% of the food they consume. In addition to relying on agriculture for subsistence, the community members also rely on agricultural for income generation.

CLIMATE CHANGE RISKS

The First National Communication on Climate Change of the Ministry of Environment and Natural Resources forecast the continuity of the increasing warming trend in Guatemala. The increasing temperatures during the summer season (November-April) lead to the extended range of the hottest months (December-January). On the other hand, there will

be less rainfall and more aridity during the rainy season (May–October), especially during the months of June–August due to the observed changes in atmospheric circulation in the Pacific-North America zone. Additionally, the weather events (hurricanes, torrential storms and cold fronts) associated with the El Niño phenomenon will be magnified.

PROJECT DESCRIPTION AND ADAPTATION SOLUTIONS

The CBA project aims to strengthen the communities' resiliency to climate change through awareness-raising workshops and capacity-building activities on natural resource management. Using a participatory approach, the project is implemented by the Asociación de Proyectos de Desarrollo Integral de Comitancillo (APRODIC), the project partner CBO. The project increases the adaptive capacity of local communities through the following activities:



Community members remove plants that harm trees and monitor for pests and disease incidences.

- Soil conservation on .88 hectares of land through the establishment of irrigation ditches and barriers and application of the terracing technique to improve the soil fertility and prevent flooding and soil erosion. It also addresses the water contamination and the health risks associated flooding. These sustainable techniques lead to improvement of agricultural production.
- Rehabilitation and conservation of native species (pine alder, oak, cypress) and planting of 35,000 trees used for reforestation to maintain the coniferous cover that agricultural production rely on.
- Providing training sessions on organizational, administrative and financial management, in addition to knowledge-enhancement workshops on the sustainable soil conservation, reforestation and land management, to capacitate the community members in the operational aspects of the project. These leaves them resource tools which increase their sustainability.

FOCUS ON...

Global environmental benefit

The project's reforestation practices enrich and secure energy forests. Thus, the carbon sequestration promotes global environmental benefits.

Community participation and sustainability

All community members were involved in the project development and implementation. All strategies and activities are easy to understand, low-cost and easily replicated to ensure the ownership and sustainability of the communities.

Policy Influence

Best practices are aimed to be integrated into local and national policies.

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 are available at the Adaptation Learning Mechanism: www.adaptationlearning.net



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