

Resilient Caribbean Communities

Newsletter 7.

2024 Annual Partner Meeting of the Caribbean Resilient Communities Project: A Commitment to Resilience and Collaboration

From September 9th to 14th, 2024, the Caribbean Resilient Communities (CCR) project held its Annual Partner Meeting in Dajabón, Dominican Republic. The event brought together all project partners from the three implementing countries—Cuba, Haiti, and the Dominican Republic—as well as the coordinating organizations from Germany. Together, these partners share a commitment to promoting climate change adaptation within their communities.



Throughout the week, the event fostered the exchange of experiences and strengthened collaboration, laying the groundwork for future initiatives. Key partners included Welthungerhilfe, OroVerde, Enda Dominicana, Upsa, Bioeco, Centro Naturaleza, and Concert-Action. Additionally, we welcomed participants from the Caribbean Biological Corridor, along with a political focal point from Haiti and a technical focal point from Cuba.

The meeting began with a presentation of progress, discussing the 2023 achievements and plans for the upcoming year. Innovations such as the use of QR codes to facilitate access to information about intervention areas were highlighted, along with accomplishments in reforestation and capacity building across various communities. In parallel, the Ecosystem-based Adaptation (EbA) governance session explored strategies for implementing effective conservation and restoration policies, emphasizing the importance of raising awareness and building capacities within communities. The session also addressed ways to strengthen collaboration among local and regional actors, promoting inclusive and sustainable resource management.

Throughout the event, multiple sessions covered essential topics for the CCR project's success. A review of the logical framework allowed participants to assess progress in implementing AbE measures, reflect on success indicators, and refine verification methodologies.

The practical sessions, such as the lessons learned session, provided a platform to exchange experiences and best practices, while the field visit offered a first-hand view of the initiatives implemented within the communities, highlighting their impact and key takeaways. Each of these activities helped consolidate an integrated and collaborative approach, essential for addressing the region's climate challenges.

One of the event's highlights was the communication session, which was conducted in a playful and engaging manner. Participants took part in interactive activities, including role-playing games, promoting dynamic learning and reinforcing the spirit of collaboration. This hands-on approach allowed partners to explore the importance of communication in a creative, participatory environment.

The meeting concluded with a strong commitment from all partners to continue integrating AbE measures within their communities and to strengthen communication and knowledge exchange. Looking ahead, the CCR project reaffirms its dedication to building more resilient communities in the face of climate change, fostering collaborative efforts that benefit all stakeholders involved.



Concert-Action - Haiti

Fostering Environmental Awareness in New Generations

To strengthen local capacities in environmental planning, climate change adaptation, and risk management, the CCR project organized nine awareness sessions in Le Borgne and Vallières for 1,098 students, of whom 529 were girls. These sessions targeted elementary-level students (from 3rd grade to NS III), fostering greater awareness of the most relevant environmental issues in their communities.

During the sessions, key concepts were addressed, including the relationship between humans and the environment, waste management, environmental degradation, and air and water pollution. Students also learned about climate change, its causes and consequences, with a particular focus on the increasing duration of drought periods. Furthermore, the importance of tree planting was emphasized as a vital measure to mitigate the negative effects of climate change.

These activities, conducted in six schools across the two municipalities where the project is implemented, not only enabled students to acquire new knowledge but also motivated them to act as agents of change within their communities. Each session lasted approximately one hour, providing a dynamic space for idea exchange and raising awareness.



OroVerde-Germany

Tropical Forest Day:

A Call to Protect the Green Lungs of Our Planet



On September 14th, we celebrate Tropical Forest Day, a moment to focus on a vital ecosystem that not only provides a home for countless species but also plays a crucial role in combating the climate crisis. Tropical forests store CO₂, protect biodiversity, and provide livelihoods for millions of people worldwide. However, these forests are severely threatened.

In the Caribbean, the CCR project promotes ecosystem-based solutions (EbA) to preserve and restore forests, such as mangrove protection and the promotion of agroforestry systems, safeguarding both ecosystems and local livelihoods.

Nicasio Viña Dávila, Director of the Caribbean Biological Corridor (CBC) and project partner, emphasizes the urgency: "Without forests, there would be no life in the Caribbean. We rely exclusively on the water drawn from forest." Tropical forests are, therefore, much more than the planet's green lungs; they ensure the survival of both people and nature.

Let us come together on Tropical Forest Day to protect these essential forests—for the Caribbean and for the world!

Concert-Action - Haiti

Soil Conservation: A Strategy for Agricultural Sustainability in Northern and Northeastern Haiti

As part of the CCR project, soil conservation practices have become essential for protecting sloped fields from erosion in the areas of Le Borgne and Vallières in Haiti. These measures not only safeguard the land but also enable farmers to produce forage for their livestock and food crops such as pineapple, thereby improving their food security.

Through project training, farmers apply the concepts learned, transforming knowledge into tangible benefits for their communities and promoting agricultural sustainability.



Bioeco & Upsa - Cuba

Integrating Gender in Community Resilience: Initial Steps and a Success Story in Cupeyal del Norte



The CCR project in Cuba has initiated a crucial process to ensure that the response to climate change is inclusive and guarantees equal opportunities for women, men, girls, and boys. Currently, a consultancy led by Dr. María Julia Jiménez Fiol, president of the Gender Chair at the University of Oriente, is being conducted to integrate a gender perspective into the project's actions.

Between July and August, a diagnostic assessment was carried out involving both the project coordination team in Cuba (Bioeco and Upsa) and the beneficiary communities. This assessment primarily aims to: 1.1. Evaluate and document the extent to which project activities and the two executing partners in Cuba apply a gender-sensitive approach; 1.2. Identify lessons learned and best practices, and provide practical recommendations on how to enhance gender sensitivity and the integration of the gender perspective within the project; and 1.3. Offer practical recommendations on how improvements could be made within the project's framework, based on the analyses conducted in points 1.2 and 1.3.

A notable example of this integration occurred in Cupeyal del Norte, in Polygon 1, where a training workshop marked a milestone in promoting equity within climate resilience actions. This workshop addressed concepts such as gender, inclusion, and participatory diversity, employing dynamic techniques that engaged both women and men equally.

Participants explored how climate change affects each gender differently and how they can contribute to change based on their roles. The training promoted equitable distribution of responsibilities and raised community awareness about the importance of gender equity in natural resource management. These actions aim to generate a positive impact on both the daily lives of the community and their efforts to adapt to climate change.



Strengthening Community Resilience:

CCR Project Meeting with the Container Group

Centro Naturaleza - Dominican Republic

Centro Naturaleza has held various meetings with community leaders and the new municipal authorities in the areas of intervention of the CCR Project: Villa Los Almácigos, El Pino, and Loma de Cabreras, in the northwest of the Dominican Republic. These authorities have recently joined the container group, which was formed as a coordination space among various sectors and actors to create local governance for Ecosystem-based Adaptation (EbA). During these activities, the project's activities and objectives were presented, based on:

- Implementing EbA measures: These measures aim to protect and improve the quality of ecosystem services, essential for the well-being of our communities.
- Strengthening the resilience of ecosystems: Through sustainable community activities, we work to ensure that our ecosystems can withstand and recover from the impacts of climate change.
- Ensuring the sustainability of initiatives: We focus on strengthening local governance structures for EbA, ensuring that our actions are effective in addressing current and future environmental challenges.

During the meeting, the board of the Container Group was established with the following objectives:



- Support and monitor the activities of the CCR project.
- Encourage active community participation in the conservation and improvement of ecosystem services.
- Ensure the continuity and effectiveness of adaptation measures so that the implemented actions are sustainable and effective in the long term.
- Reinforce governance related to climate change adaptation, ensuring the integration of all population groups.

These meetings represent an important step toward building a more resilient and sustainable future for our communities. Collaboration and the commitment of all are essential elements to address the challenges of climate change and protect our valuable ecosystems.

Enda - República Dominicana

Promoting Gender Equity:

Challenges and Reflections from the Community in El Cercado



What is needed to establish equitable relationships between men and women in the family, community, and productive activities? These and other relevant topics were addressed in the gender equity workshop held on August 20th, 2024, at the Comprehensive Attention Center for Children and Families (CAFI) in El Cercado, San Juan province. This event gathered 25 participants, including four facilitators from the team, two members from Enda Dominicana, and 19 teachers from CAFI.

To address these concerns, the CCR project, through Enda Dominicana, facilitated a space for socialization where ideas were exchanged regarding the current situation of women and men in terms of their opportunities, conditions, and treatment. The dialogue took into account the particularities of each group, aiming to ensure that both have full access to the rights that correspond to them as citizens.

Identified Challenges:

- Strengthening the understanding of how stereotypes affect the perception and self-esteem of women and men.
- Participants normalize that men hold power and that women's roles are tied to domestic tasks, even if they have productive jobs.
- Reinforcing the concepts of equity and the lack of opportunities and access for women as guarantees of their rights.
- Limitations for women to speak about themselves and, above all, to recognize their bodies.
- It is important to maintain a collaborative transversal approach with the integration of both women and men.
- Strengthening the self-esteem and empowerment of both women and men based on their own realities.



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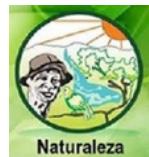
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The project

The Resilient Caribbean Communities (CCR) project, implemented in Cuba, Haiti, and the Dominican Republic, aims to develop nature-based solutions and adaptations to the impacts of climate change in the Caribbean Biological Corridor. The project employs a participatory approach, focusing on working directly with community members to strengthen the ecosystems on which they depend.

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