Resilient Caribbean Communities Newsletter 6.

Resilient Caribbean Communities

Enda- Dominican Republic

Training on Coffee Berry Borer Control: Promoting Ecosystem-Based Adaptation

On May 1st, 2024, a training workshop on coffee berry borer control was held at the farm of a project participant in the CCR project. The educational event took place at a farm in the community of La Culebra, El Cercado, in the San Juan province, generously provided by a local resident. The workshop was conducted for students from the Juan González Montero Polytechnic School, with technical support from the CCR project team and facilitator Héctor Vicente Suero from the Dominican Coffee Institute (INDOCAFE). The workshop emphasized the importance of equipping individuals with knowledge to understand nature and adapt to climate change effects using ecosystem services.

During the workshop, participants learned about the coffee berry borer, a harmful beetle pest native to Africa that is one of the most damaging pests for coffee crops globally. The female beetle drills into the coffee fruit and creates galleries where it lays between 35 and 50 eggs. It was explained that the coffee borer develops in humid environments and can be found in fallen fruits after the rain. Students also had the opportunity to learn about the coffee cultivation process, the specifics of a successful harvest, and the socio-economic benefits that contribute to improving the quality of life in the community.

The workshop also included practices related to Ecosystem-Based Adaptation (EbA), highlighting how these methods can help farmers manage pests more sustainably and enhance the resilience of their crops against climate change. For instance, agroforestry systems, which mimic forest structures, can manage pests without the need for chemical controls. Active community participation in these practices is crucial for promoting sustainable agricultural management and protecting local ecosystems.

Centro Naturaleza - Dominican Republic

Silvopastoral Systems: A Pillar of Ecological Sustainability

In the northwest region of the Dominican Republic, livestock farming is a major economic activity, providing significant employment and food sources for the community. It is a crucial livelihood for small and medium-scale producers across various rural areas. However, livestock farming in this region faces several significant challenges that impact its productivity and sustainability.

One of the primary issues is extreme drought events, which have led to decreased livestock production and endangered animal welfare due to the scarcity of water for feed (pasture, forage, and protein banks). Climate change has intensified the frequency of such events, negatively affecting productivity and performance in livestock systems, resulting in reduced incomes for producers.

To address this issue, the Caribbean Resilient Communities (CCR) project employs silvopastoral systems, which integrate livestock with forestry and agriculture, creating a sustainable and integrated ecosystem. This production system not only benefits producers but also plays a crucial role in ecosystem conservation, enhancing resilience and productivity.

Silvopastoral systems offer numerous benefits: they are optimal for enhancing biological diversity, provide water balance in the soil by retaining moisture, prevent damage caused by erosion, improve soil quality by incorporating nitrogen-fixing species, and contribute to atmospheric carbon capture, thus mitigating the effects of climate change. Their implementation not only improves livestock productivity but also protects and restores ecosystems, ensuring a greener and more prosperous future.

Bioeco - Cuba

Training: An Essential Tool for Adapting to Climate Change

Training for community members residing in the areas of intervention of the Caribbean Resilient Communities (CCR) project in Santiago de Cuba is crucial for sustaining actions in natural ecosystems and locations affected by climate change. To achieve this, specialists from the Eastern Center for Ecosystems and Biodiversity conducted two workshops with residents of La Gran Piedra, Las Guásimas, and Carpintero on May 15th and June 4th. These workshops led to the formation of Local Management Groups, participatory governance bodies aimed at involving various sectors of the local society to promote and manage the implementation of EbA measures.

Each workshop served as a crucial platform for imparting knowledge about EbA measures, the services provided by nature, and the effects of climate change in these areas, such as intense rainfall and extreme drought. These exchange sessions also facilitated the preparation of diagnostics, definition of socioeconomic and ecological vulnerabilities, and assessment of adaptation capacities against climate change. Through these initiatives, communities are better equipped to face climate challenges and protect their natural environments.

Welthungerhilfe Thiotte - Haiti

Distribution of Agricultural Resources in Haiti

As part of the Caribbean Resilient Communities (CCR) project, we have continued to strengthen food security and promote agricultural sustainability in the communes of Thiotte, Grand-Gosier, and Anse-à-Pitres. Recently, we distributed a significant amount of agricultural resources to 172 participants, including 41 women and 131 men, as part of our Ecosystem-Based Adaptation (EbA) strategies.

The distributed resources included 72,000 coffee seedlings, 7,200 banana suckers, 7,200 pineapple cuttings, 7,200 yam cuttings, as well as 1,800 Samán trees and 1,800 Sucrín plants. These actions enhance local agricultural practices and improve the resilience of communities against the impacts of climate change.

Centro Naturaleza - Dominican Republic

Exploring Water Sources: Strengthening Capacities in Ecosystem-Based Adaptation

Since February, the Diploma in Integrated Watershed Management at the Universidad Autónoma de Santo Domingo (UASD) Mao Campus has been training students in sustainable water resource management. On May 5, the diploma students visited the CCR project intervention area in northwestern Dominican Republic, where they closely observed the Ecosystem-Based Adaptation (EbA) measures implemented to protect and enhance ecosystem services and promote water recharge in the region.

Proper and responsible water resource management is crucial to ensure water availability in both quantity and quality, meeting the needs of ecosystems and populations while avoiding future scarcity issues. EbA leverages biodiversity and ecosystem services to help communities adapt to the adverse effects of climate change, thereby promoting resilience and sustainability. This approach aims to ensure that communities have the necessary amount of water for survival and also improve its quality, balancing human needs with those of the environment while minimizing pollution.

The students also learned about the importance of environmental education and community involvement in water resource management. They were shown how sustainable strategies implemented by Centro Naturaleza within the CCR project are integrated into daily life and how individuals can contribute to water conservation. This approach fosters a culture of respect and care for conservation objects, ensuring that future generations inherit a greener and more prosperous world.

Upsa - Cuba

Impact of Illegal Mining and Mitigation Strategies in Cuba

One of the research objectives of the Caribbean Resilient Communities (CCR) project is to assess the damage caused by illegal mining (gold searching and extraction) on people and the environment, and its relationship with Ecosystem-based Adaptation (EbA). Studies in the intervention area have concluded that this activity is unsustainable and harmful to the environment. Investigating this issue is crucial as it provides scientific evidence on the impacts of illegal mining on natural resources, community well-being, and the increase in social problems affecting human subsistence.

Illegal mining has become a livelihood for many people in local communities, and studies have identified the social and economic factors that facilitate its persistence and expansion. In the Polígono No. 3, Farallones de Moa, Holguín, this activity is notably persistent. Therefore, actions are being implemented to eradicate and mitigate its effects, strengthening multisectoral strategies with well-structured governance. Educational talks with local farmers are conducted to enhance understanding of this issue and encourage group reflection.

Illegal mining causes soil erosion, water and air contamination, and can lead to the extinction of plant and animal species. It also destabilizes river basin terrains, affects landscapes, and displaces endangered species. The CCR project aims to change the mindset of those involved in this activity by promoting a healthy interaction between people and ecosystems. In the Polígono No. 3, educational talks about the damages of illegal mining are held, and actions for the sanitation and rehabilitation of the La Presita watershed, a vital water source for the community, are carried out.

OroVerde - Germany

Share and Acquire Knowledge: Friends of EbA Knowledge Day

The OroVerde team returned from the 10th EbA-Knowledge Day, organized by the FEBA (Friends of EbA) network in Bonn in early June 2024, with valuable insights and new contacts. The event aimed to highlight the benefits of Ecosystem-based Adaptation (EbA) and its role in achieving climate, biodiversity, and land use goals.

A key takeaway for the CCR project in the Caribbean Biological Corridor was the discussion on integrating the EbA concept into National Adaptation Plans (NAPs). The exchange on synergies among the three major international environmental agreements—the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD), and the Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD)—was also enlightening. It became clear that EbA can act as a unifying element. While global conventions provide important guidelines, their successful implementation requires locally adapted measures. Widespread use of EbA can have positive ecological and social effects worldwide.

Participants and contributors to the knowledge exchange came from Ecuador, Costa Rica, Ghana, Senegal, Cambodia, the USA, universities, IUCN, WWF, IKI/BMUV, UN agencies, and convention secretariats, among others. This gave international visibility to our CCR project, allowing us to share some of our EbA experiences from Cuba, Haiti, and the Dominican Republic within the FEBA network link to FEBA network.

This participation once again underscored the importance of collaboration and knowledge transfer in the international cooperation sector, as we collectively tackle climate change challenges and develop long-term solutions.

Bioeco - Cuba

La Gran Piedra: A Unique Place in the Caribbean

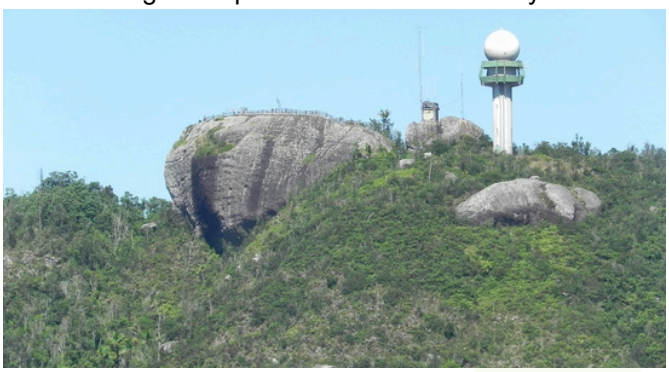
La Gran Piedra (The Great Stone in english) is one of those stunning sites where the view cannot fully capture its majesty. Located in the Sierra de La Gran Piedra, at the heart of the Baconao Biosphere Reserve, its unique features make this area in Santiago de Cuba an important biodiversity hotspot in the Insular Caribbean. This ecosystem is rich in natural and social values, with a wide range of geological sites of interest, recently recognized by the Cuban government as the second Geopark in the country, following Viñales.

The enormous rock block, measuring 51 meters in length, 25 meters in height, 30 meters in width, and weighing approximately 63,000 tons, distinguishes this area in both Cuba and the Caribbean, as there is no other similar formation where a “Great Stone” is perched at the top of a mountain at an altitude of 1,213.7 meters.

Its biological diversity is vast, with most of its forests, plant species, and animals recognized as conservation priorities within the Baconao Biosphere Reserve and its core zones, due to their ecological importance and vulnerability to natural or anthropogenic disturbances.

Additionally, it has unparalleled historical value, with UNESCO-designated World Heritage sites, including the 121 ruins of Franco-Haitian coffee plantations established in the Sierra de La Gran Piedra in the late 18th century as a result of the Haitian Revolution of 1791.

This unique mountainous area, along with its small community, will be one of the beneficiaries of the CCR project.



CCR now in digital

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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.

Our partners

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Supported by:
Federal Ministry for the Environment, Nature Conservation, Nuclear Safety and Consumer Protection
based on a decision of the German Bundestag
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