

Resilient Caribbean Communities Newsletter 8.

 Bioeco & UPSA
Cuba

Visit of the overall CCR project coordination team to implementing partners in Cuba

In December last year, Alexander Voets, Head of the tri-national Resilient Caribbean Communities (CCR) Project, and Carlota Mato, Coordinator in charge of Monitoring and Evaluation, visited the areas of action in Cuba, one of the three countries where the project is being implemented.

The work agenda included meetings with the coordinating team in Cuba, composed of the **Centro Oriental de Ecosistemas y Biodiversidad** and the **Unidad Presupuestada de Servicios Ambientales Alejandro de Humboldt**.

During the visit, tours were conducted in the communities of the Baconao Biosphere Reserve, in Santiago de Cuba, and Cuchillas del Toa, in Guantánamo. This allowed the international coordination team to interact with the local populations and learn about their participation in the project.

In the communities of Las Guásimas and Carpintero, farms and plots where the implementation of Ecosystem-based Adaptation (EbA) measures will begin with Bioeco's support to address climate change were observed.

The community members highlighted the positive impact of the project on their lives, expressing their joy at being part of the initiative and their desire to continue working together with the specialists to empower their localities and turn them into resilient communities.



BIOECO and UPSA teams together with the general coordinators of the CCR project.



Visit to community beneficiaries of the CCR project



Community members with the general coordinators of the CCR project

Watch the special report on the **CCR project in Cuba**, made by the TV program **Observatorio Científico**. Find out more about our initiatives and achievements in minute 20:56 of the report.



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 WHH Thiotte
Haiti

Distribution of endangered seedlings in Savanne Zombie



Members of the Thiotte Community Container Group and CCR project staff.

In the community of Savanne Zombie in Thiotte, Haiti, the CCR project **distributed 880 seedlings of endangered species, Tamarillo and Mulberry**, to 44 beneficiaries, of which 17 were women and 27 men.

This distribution was made to members of three producer organizations in the area, including a local cooperative. Each beneficiary received 20 seedlings, of which 10 were of Tamarillo and 10 of Morera.

Planting and distributing these seedlings is a crucial step in the conservation of endangered species. This not only helps to increase the population of these species, but also contributes to biodiversity and environmental health, as well as contributing to food security and increasing people's income.

Actions to involve the community in these conservation efforts raise awareness about the importance of protecting endangered species and promote sustainable practices that can be replicated in other areas.

 Enda Dominicana
DR

Systematization meetings in El Cercado, San Juan

In December 6 and 13, 2024, in the municipality of El Cercado, San Juan, Dominican Republic, a space for systematization was created for the CCR project family and for reflection on the implementation of EbA measures with the support of **Enda Dominicana**.

These workshops were attended by beneficiaries from the community with the objective of developing competencies for the compilation of experiences. Lessons learned from communities that have faced adverse situations were analyzed, providing a space of empathy to share stories, strategies and results.

The meetings enriched collective knowledge and promoted the replicability of successful practices, which were documented and evaluated, strengthening the communities' capacities to face challenges.

The creation of this space for dialogue and reflection among different Caribbean communities facilitated the building of support and collaboration networks, which in turn enhances regional resilience and are essential for the exchange of knowledge, experiences and resources.



Community members participating in the meeting



Community members during the systematization workshop

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 Centro Naturaleza
DR

Strengthening governance and educating new generations in Villa Los Almácigos, Santiago Rodríguez province.

In Villa Los Almácigos, Santiago Rodríguez province, important activities have been carried out within the framework of the CCR project. These initiatives, with the support of Centro Naturaleza, seek to strengthen local governance and educate the community about the importance of sustainability, adaptation to climate change and the implementation of EbA measures.

Strengthening Local Governance

The Container Group, created by the CCR project as a governance structure for the promotion of EbA, held a workshop to consolidate leadership, strengthen the organizational structure and promote values such as solidarity and transparency. Topics such as the group's vision and mission, the selection of members, the implementation of a rotating leadership model and the group's tasks were discussed and the Operational Plan for 2025 was established.



Community members of the Container Group

Educating for a Sustainable Future

At La Piña school, a climate change talk was held to educate students about the importance of caring for the planet.

Strategies to adapt to the impacts of climate change were highlighted and how affects communities, including natural disasters, food security, public health and displacement of people was explained.



Talk on climate change to students of La Piña school in Los Almácigos

 Bioeco
Cuba

Presentation of Experiences of the CCR Project in Cuba at the International Symposium on Community Resilience

From November 19 to 22, at the University of Havana, the CCR project was presented at the 2nd International Symposium on Community Resilience. M.Sc. Mayelín Silot Leyva, from Bioeco, presented the experiences and results of the CCR project in the Baconao Biosphere Reserve, highlighting the natural and socioeconomic characteristics of the areas of action and the recommendations for the implementation of EbA measures.

The symposium, focused on community resilience to risks and disasters, included the participation of projects from Spain, El Salvador, Puerto Rico, the United States, Mexico and Chile, promoting a fruitful exchange of experiences and best practices.



M.Sc. Mayelín Silot Leyva, Bioeco, at International Symposium

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OroVerde
Germany

The trees we plant are a promise

Over the past year, CCR project partners have worked to develop key documents for their regions. The EbA plans detail concrete strategies for communities to adapt to the growing challenges of climate change. For example, choosing resilient tree species or implementing more efficient irrigation methods. The results of participatory workshops and climate risk analyses have also been integrated into these plans. Next year, all these plans will be available to the public on the project website: ccr-project.com

Numerous measures to increase resilience

So far, more than **1.7 million plants** have been planted through the project: fruit trees, native forest species and crops. Thanks to the project, water supply has also been guaranteed to some **700 households**, and AbE measures have been implemented in more than **1,200 households**. So far, **more than 2,200 hectares of degraded forests and fields have been cultivated, planted and protected**. In addition, training and awareness campaigns have reached more than **10,000 people**. These campaigns are as diverse as the project itself: training courses, community meetings and information events on climate change are helping to create widespread awareness of the need to protect the environment as a way of adapting to climate change.

Other measures are not just on paper, but are already having an effect on the ground. Agroforestry, silvopastoral systems and erosion control measures have been implemented in several regions. In many households, tree nurseries, reforestation projects and new orchards are helping to protect the soil and increase self-sufficiency. «The trees we plant are a promise,» says Alexander Voets, Head of Project at Welthungerhilfe, "they are our answer to increasing droughts and floods."



Future prospects

The year 2024 shows how comprehensive and multifaceted the CCR project is. From the concrete implementation of EbA measures and the empowerment of women to cooperation with political actors in the Caribbean, the work continues. The project's technical coordinator, Johannes Horstmann, sums it up: «Every tree, every training course and every partnership is a step towards a more resilient future.»



Ecosystem-based adaptation and forest restoration in vulnerable rural communities of the Biological Corridor in the Caribbean.

Our partners:



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