

Newsletter 11

Resilient Caribbean Communities

The **Resilient Caribbean Communities (CCR)** project, led by **Welthungerhilfe (WHH)**, strengthens local capacities to address climate change, conserve ecosystems and implement **Ecosystem-based Adaptation (EbA)** measures. Together with our partners **Bioeco** and **CESAT** in eastern Cuba; **Concert-Action** (north and northeast) and **WHH Thiotte** (southeast) in Haiti; **Enda Dominicana** (southwest) and **Centro Naturaleza** (northwest) in the Dominican Republic we carry out technical actions supervised by **OroVerde** from Germany with presence in the localities. With the active participation of producers, women, youth and community leaders, we create and strengthen networks of governance, entrepreneurship and innovation that promote sustainability and environmental justice.

CCR Coordination
Coordination

Exchange of best practices between WHH Thiotte and Concert-Action

In November 2025, teams from WHH-Thiotte and Concert-Action conducted an exchange visit to the communities of Borgne and Vallières, aimed at sharing experiences, lessons learned, and progress made by the Resilient Caribbean Communities (CCR) Project. Accompanied by the coordination and technical advisory team (WHH & OroVerde), the meeting allowed for on-site observation of Ecosystem-based Adaptation (EbA) measures such as water harvesting, reforestation, erosion barriers, gardens, and agroforestry systems. It facilitated direct dialogue with beneficiaries and local host groups and promoted the identification of improved technical practices. These sessions strengthened institutional collaboration and served to adjust working methodologies adapted to local conditions, with an emphasis on the inclusion of women and young people.

These sessions strengthened institutional collaboration and served to adjust working methodologies adapted to local conditions, with an emphasis on the inclusion of women and young people. In addition to the other activities reported in this newsletter, technical training, mass distribution of seedlings, workshops on soil management, Monitoring, Evaluation, Accountability, and Learning (MEAL) and reforestation actions, the visit to the Concert-Action intervention area contributes to a synergistic effect: it increases the technical capacity of teams and communities, optimizes the implementation of EbA measures, and improves the sustainability of interventions. Together, these actions strengthen territorial resilience, promote local ownership of solutions, and increase the efficiency and impact of interventions in favor of safer and more sustainable livelihoods.



Exchange day between Concert-Action and WHH Thiotte



Visit to one of the community nurseries implemented by C-A beneficiaries

Course-Workshop on good agricultural practices in agroforestry systems with cocoa

Centro Naturaleza
DR

The CCR project organized a workshop on good agricultural practices in agroforestry systems with cocoa in two locations: El Cadillar (Loma de Cabrera) on September 29 and 30, and La Piña (Villa Los Almácigos) on October 16 and 17, 2025.

Twenty-seven producers from the Caribbean Biological Corridor participated in these workshops with the aim of strengthening their technical capacities and promoting sustainable practices in cocoa management within agroforestry systems, thereby contributing to improved productivity, soil conservation, and climate resilience in the territories.

The workshop addressed key topics such as soil conservation and plot selection, pruning and debudding techniques, early weed control, tool and waste management (including composting of pods), and harvest planning to ensure quality and food safety. The methodology was participatory, combining local knowledge and technical content, which made it possible to identify practices to be corrected and agree on gradual adjustments for their implementation.

Participants appreciated the relevance and applicability of the course; the information generated will also be used to develop communication materials that will highlight the project's impact on networks and other channels, thus encouraging the replication of these good practices in other communities.

In addition, a workshop on agricultural microenterprises and value chains was held in Manuel Bueno, and the project made progress in terms of infrastructure with the construction of a reservoir in El Cercado that will benefit 410 families, improving access to water and resilience to climate change.



Facilitators distribute support materials to participants



Some of the beneficiaries of the CCR project during the workshop



Teamwork among participants

Water reservoir will benefit families in El Cercado

En la Dominicana
DR



Construction of the community reservoir



Delivery of the reservoir to the community



Sign posted on the water reservoir

The CCR Project is making progress in strengthening water infrastructure with the construction of a new reservoir that will supply the communities of La Guama, La Mulata, and La Jagüita in the municipality of El Cercado.

This project is a milestone in improving access to water in the Caribbean Biological Corridor: it will directly benefit 410 families—approximately 2,050 inhabitants—and guarantee supply for domestic and productive uses, thereby increasing local resilience to droughts and extreme events linked to climate change.

The intervention is part of the EbA measures promoted by the CCR and complements other infrastructure implemented in the region, such as community cisterns, rural aqueducts, and distribution kiosks that have already improved access to water for hundreds of households.

In addition to ensuring a more stable supply, the reservoir will help reduce pressure on natural sources, optimize resource management, and strengthen community organization around responsible water use.



Community reservoir

Exchange and dissemination of evidence-based practices, monitoring, and capacity building

Concert-Action
Haiti

Concert-Action actively participated in the 6th edition of Village Alternatiba, a national event dedicated to climate action under the slogan "let's change the system, not the climate," which was held from September 19 to 21.

The CCR project delegation had a stand where they presented with field results (posters and samples of grenadine production), gave a lecture on EbA actions, and held discussions with various institutions, producers, and environmental organizations.



Explanation of the CCR Project during the event

This public outreach made it possible to showcase the project's best practices, promote its replication in other communities, and strengthen the local network of actors committed to climate resilience.

At the same time, field interventions progressed with technical and training activities aimed at ensuring the sustainability of EbA measures. In mountainous areas, soil conservation and anti-erosion structures were installed to protect the topsoil, increase water infiltration, and generate co-benefits (areas for fodder or pineapple cultivation).



Information sharing meeting (Vallières)

The MEAL team conducted follow-up visits to granadillo pergolas, orchards, agroforestry systems (coffee and cacao), treated plots, and composting systems, verifying yields and assisting families with management. In addition, key training was provided on goat breeding, risk and disaster management, and organic pesticide preparation to strengthen local capacities and encourage the replication of good practices for effective and lasting adaptation.



Workshop during a training session on DRM (Borgne)

EbA actions, community training, and agroecological strengthening in southeastern Haiti



Training on EbA measures

In terms of ecological restoration and productive improvement, extensive seedling distribution campaigns were carried out in the communes of Thiotte, Grand-Gosier, and Anse-à-Pitres, with more than 45,000 fruit and forest seedlings delivered among the three communes. These included coffee, cedar, citrus, chadèque, timber, mangoes, avocados, grevillea, and endangered native species such as grenadine and calbacique, benefiting more than 540 people, including both men and women.

These actions not only contribute to soil restoration, watershed protection, and agricultural diversification, but also strengthen food security and livelihoods, consolidating the impact of the CCR in building communities that are more resilient to climate change.



Delivery of seedlings as implementation of AbE

During the quarter, the CCR project made significant progress in strengthening local capacities through specialized training and practical activities aligned with EbA measures. Highlights included training sessions on climate change and EbA for 53 participants in Grand Gosier, as well as a workshop on BIOL (organic pesticide) production with 23 young people in Thiotte.



Planting seedlings as an AbE measure

The activities carried out allowed for a deeper understanding of ecosystem services, governance, biodiversity, climate risks, and sustainable techniques, promoting community ownership of EbA measures. Likewise, participatory spaces were created with local organizations that continue to strengthen community leadership in climate resilience.

Exchange strengthens technical cooperation and climate resilience within the framework of the CCR Project

Bioeco & CESAT
Cuba

A delegation from Enda Dominicana, made up of specialists and beneficiaries of the CCR project, was welcomed by the Bioeco and CESAT teams in Santiago de Cuba for a program of technical exchange and institutional strengthening.

During the exchange, visitors learned about the center's scientific work, the characteristics of the Baconao Biosphere Reserve, and the progress made in implementing the CCR in Cuba, while also sharing the progress achieved in the Dominican Republic.

The visit included tours of rural communities in Santiago de Cuba and Guantánamo, promoting mutual learning between producers and local actors from both countries.

As part of these actions, the delegations conducted field visits to Las Guásimas–El Sapo, El Refugio–La Caridad, and La Gran Piedra, key areas of action for the CCR. There, specialists and beneficiaries shared experiences on agroforestry systems, soil conservation, water management, and other EbA measures. Participants highlighted the similarity between the climate challenges faced by rural areas in Cuba and the Dominican Republic, as well as the effectiveness of nature-based community solutions that strengthen the resilience of these territories.

The working agenda concluded at the Tomás Romay Natural History Museum, headquarters of Bioeco, where the cooperation commitments between Enda Dominicana, Bioeco, and CESAT were reaffirmed. During the closing ceremony, lessons learned, best practices, and technical materials were exchanged, including publications on rapid biological inventories, which will serve as a reference for replicating AbE measures in other territories. This meeting laid a solid foundation for continuing to consolidate tri-national alliances around climate adaptation.

Expanded exchange with national projects and scientific networks

The AdaptHabana project facilitated a space for coordination between research centers and adaptation projects in Santiago de Cuba and Guantánamo, with the participation of institutions such as the Institute of Geophysics and Astronomy, the Center for Multidisciplinary Studies of Coastal Areas, the National Institute of Land Use and Urban Planning, the Alejandro de Humboldt Center, and the CITMA delegate. The CCR presented its actions and results in EbA for Baconao and Cuchillas del Toa; the dialogue was productive and renewed the commitment to promote joint strategies that enhance resilience and sustainable development in communities.



Exchange of experiences between Bioeco (Cuba) and Enda Dominicana (Dominican Republic)



Exchange of experiences between Bioeco (Cuba) and Enda Dominicana (Dominican Republic)

Exchange strengthens technical cooperation and climate resilience within the framework of the CCR Project

OroVerde
Germany

During November 2025, OroVerde conducted technical visits to the implementing partners of the CCR project in Haiti (WHH Thiotte and Concert-Action) and in the Dominican Republic (Centro Naturaleza and Enda Dominicana) to facilitate interactive workshops on AbE replication models.

These models are key to the project's success in implementing and promoting EbA in the CCR's regions of intervention and beyond. They provide practical guidance for developing AbE plans as a climate change adaptation strategy, as well as for the more effective implementation of specific measures, based on the experiences accumulated by the project partners and adapted to local contexts.

The main objective is to enable other actors in the project countries to replicate the CCR's AbE approach, taking advantage of its lessons learned, successful experiences, and key success factors, while avoiding obstacles and challenges already identified during the project's implementation.

It should be noted that knowledge about EbA planning and implementation has already been widely disseminated throughout the project, through actions such as radio campaigns targeting the local population, awareness-raising processes with young people in educational centers on climate change and environmental protection, as well as participation in networks, working groups, and conferences where good practices in AbE were shared.

In this context, replication models represent an additional step toward systematizing and communicating the experiences of the CCR project in a structured and lasting manner, facilitating access to clear and applicable information for other interested actors.

In this way, the achievements of the CCR will transcend the duration of the project and contribute to strengthening ecosystem-based climate resilience for the benefit of other communities and landscapes in the Caribbean.



Exchange of experiences between WHH Thiotte and Concert-Action



Workshop on replication models



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

Our partners:



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