

Newsletter 9

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.

WHH Santo Domingo
Coordination

Strengthening the sustainability of the RCC Project

At its headquarters in Santo Domingo, the CCR Project coordination team held an exchange workshop with its implementing partners in the Dominican Republic, led by Petra Speier-Werner (*Civil Society Academy*) with the aim of deepening knowledge of governance and the Multi-Actor Partnerships (**MAP**) approach.

During the workshop, participants analyzed the strategies and objectives of the Container Groups and their links with municipal structures such as the Development Council

and the Environmental Management Unit, collectively designing routes to ensure their autonomy and sustainability beyond the end of the project.

Collaboration and monitoring mechanisms were outlined to strengthen the link between the Container Groups and the AbE Plans. This action strengthens local capacities and ensures the continuity of community resilience initiatives in the long term.



Coordinating team together with Petra Speier-Werner and the teams of Enda Dominicana and Centro Naturaleza at the joint workshop



Work teams during the workshop

[Photo Gallery](#)



Agroecological innovation and community empowerment in Borgne and Vallières, Haiti

Various climate change adaptation actions were promoted in these communities in Haiti. The **Concert-Action** team held seven awareness-raising sessions in five schools, reaching **393 students**. In addition, **186 people** were trained in **leadership and membership**, and **139 in conflict management**.

More than **190 beneficiaries** participated in training on the environment, reforestation, agroforestry, and soil conservation. The cultivation of passion fruit was

promoted through **33 new pergolas**, as well as the cultivation of vegetables as a source of income and food security, benefiting farmers such as Mr. Fabius Laurency in Vallières.

Local community structures continued to meet to coordinate agricultural actions and priorities. In March 2025, the project was visited by a delegation from the European Union, CIAT, WHH, and the Haitian Ministry of the Environment, who saw firsthand the progress made.



Reforestation trainings by the CCR project team



European Delegation with local teams



Granadillo Cultivation

WHH Thiotte
Haiti

Communities adapting and thriving in southern Haiti

In Thiotte, the CCR project has promoted multiple actions to strengthen community resilience and environmental sustainability. During the first quarter of 2025, awareness sessions on climate change and the environment were held in five schools, reaching **207 students** at the primary and secondary levels.

In addition, training on vermicomposting was conducted in Anse-à-Pitres with nine producers,

who learned about organic waste management and soil fertility.

In the community of Savane-Zombie, Thiotte, **21 beneficiaries** received mulberry and tamarillo seedlings, while in Thiotte and Anse-à-Pitres, beehives were distributed to **42 beekeepers** who had previously been trained in sustainable beekeeping techniques.



Climate change training for women in Anse-à-Pitres



Delivery of bee boxes to beekeepers trained by the CCR project.

Committed to environmental work in the northwest of the Dominican Republic

Weaving resilience from local governance

In the northwest of the Dominican Republic, under the implementation of the **Centro Naturaleza**, the CCR project's Container Group has been a leader in community governance, transforming ideas into sustainable actions.

During an evaluation led by Petra Speier-Werner (Civil Society Academy) and Kristina Osen (OroVerde), collaborative dynamics were applied to measure impact and strengthen local autonomy. Highlights included the inclusion of a gender perspective in decision-making, transparent collaboration, the development of strategic skills, and the strengthening of a collective identity that drives problem-solving and community action.



Container group at the empowerment session facilitated by Petra Speier-Werner and Kristina Osen

Community environmental commitment

In Villa Los Almácigos, El Naranjito organized a solid waste cleanup day with local institutions such as Centro Naturaleza, Cáritas, the Senatorial Office, and the Environmental Network.

This activity improved the environment and strengthened citizen commitment to responsible waste management. In addition, environmental education was promoted: good practices were shared, waste separation at source was encouraged, and children and adults were made aware of the impact of their habits, reinforcing the building of resilient communities.



Solid waste cleanup day

Enda Dominicana
DR

Boosting the local economy: sustainable entrepreneurship in southwestern Dominican Republic



Antonio Rodriguez with Jenifer Montero

As part of its commitment to sustainable economic development, the CCR project, with the implementation of **Enda Dominicana**, has accompanied a new family business in Jorgillo, municipality of Vallejuelo, San Juan: "**Café Mi Campo Aldianita**", a microenterprise inspired by the coffee tradition of grandmother Aldianita. Her granddaughter, Jenifer Montero, leads this initiative that combines agricultural heritage and entrepreneurial vision, betting on sustainability, local economy and community empowerment.



Café Mi Campo Aldianita

Advances in governance and sustainability in the Baconao Biosphere Reserve, Cuba

In the communities of Las Guásimas and El Carpintero, residents are becoming key players in decisions that affect their environment. Through the tri-national CCR project, they are moving toward more participatory and equitable governance committed to environmental justice.

One of the most significant actions has been the formation of local management groups or container groups, made up of farmers, cooperative members, housewives, community leaders, and authorities.



Discussion with local producers

These groups ensure that EbA measures respond to local needs and have social support.

In addition, a multisectoral Facilitation Committee, made up of representatives of key stakeholders in the area, such as the State Forestry Service, the Aguas Santiago company, the National Association of Small Farmers, and the government, accompanies the process, with the role of ensuring transparency and shared responsibility among stakeholders and mediating in possible disagreements.



Bioeco team with local producers

CESAT
Cuba

*UPSA has changed its identity (name and logo), it is now **CESAT**.

Knowledge exchange in Cuchillas del Toa strengthens adaptation

In the municipality of Yateras, located in the Cuchillas del Toa Biosphere Reserve, Guantánamo province, the team from the **Alejandro de Humboldt Center for Environmental and Technological Services (CESAT)** conducted a technical visit that included training for 11 farmers, producers, and community leaders, with notable female participation, on the effects of climate change on agriculture and livelihoods.



Talking to locals about the CCR project

A key aspect was the revaluation of traditional local knowledge, which demonstrated a deep understanding of the environment. This dialogue of knowledge paved the way for the integration of community and academic knowledge, enabling the generation of innovative and culturally relevant solutions.



Talking to locals about the CCR project

Protect the water with the power of nature!

Water is the basis of all life and, at the same time, one of the most threatened resources. In the Caribbean, the consequences of climate change are already clearly visible: droughts, erosion, falling water tables, and polluted water are endangering the water supply of entire communities.

The CCR project is tackling these challenges with a well-defined strategy: Ecosystem-based Adaptation (EbA) to ensure a safe and sustainable water supply. The project implements various measures that strengthen both people and nature:

Reforestation and watershed protection promote groundwater recharge, stabilize soils,

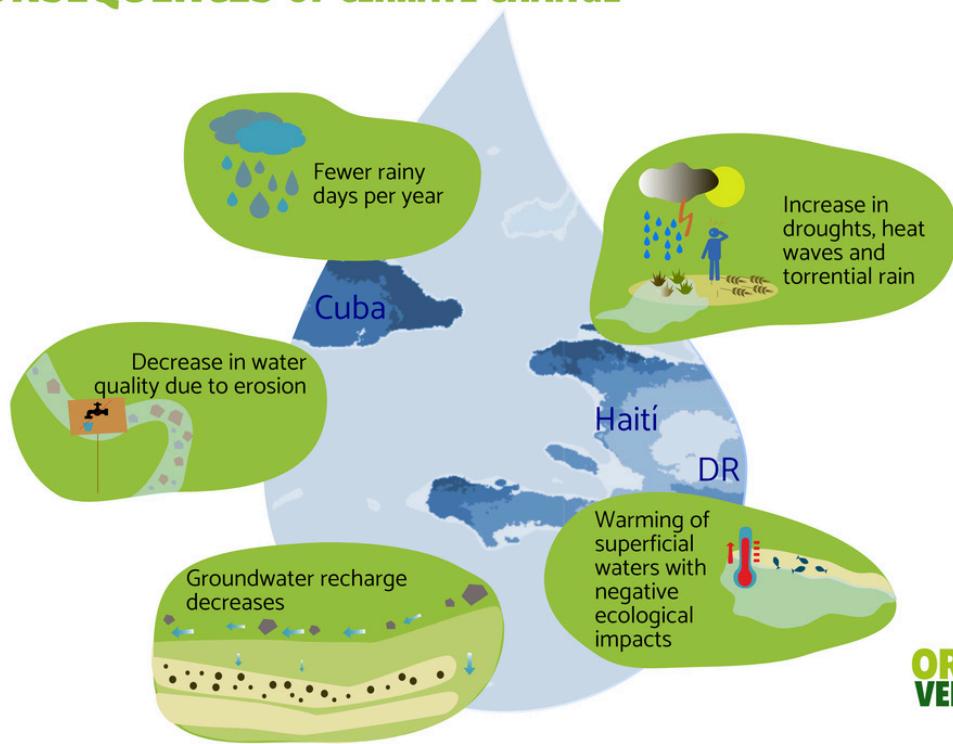
and improve the water retention capacity of the landscape. This increases resilience to prolonged droughts. Forests—in contrast to deforested hills and slopes—also help mitigate the effects of extreme rainfall.

Rainwater harvesting systems, well construction, and drip irrigation enable efficient water use and help overcome shortages during dry seasons.

Sustainable agriculture and erosion control—for example, through the creation of terraces or agroforestry systems—prevent soil degradation and ensure long-term harvests.

BETWEEN TORRENTIAL RAIN AND DROUGHTS CONSEQUENCES OF CLIMATE CHANGE

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The transfer of knowledge about EbA and its integration into local, sectoral, and national policies ensures that climate change adaptation becomes everyday practice: training, local networks, and partnerships strengthen the capacity for action at the local level. This leads to climate-resilient communities that not only secure water, but also livelihoods. Protecting water begins with protecting ecosystems.



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

Our partners:



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