

Newsletter 12

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

The CCR Project participates in the Committee Scientific and Technical Officer for the Caribbean Biological Corridor

On March 10 and 11, the Caribbean Biological Corridor (CBC) Scientific and Technical Committee meeting was held in Dajabón, serving as a key platform for regional coordination on biodiversity conservation and environmental management. Alex Voets, head of the CCR project, participated in this meeting alongside specialists and representatives from member countries, with the aim of reviewing progress and defining strategic priorities for the region.

During the sessions, topics such as the Action Plan for Target 3 of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework, marine conservation planning, and regional initiatives such as EcoAdap, BioAtlas, and CBC Ocean 2030 were addressed.

On the second day, innovative initiatives were presented, such as the use of Information and

Communication Technologies for monitoring climate change in protected areas of the Dominican Republic. In this context, the CCR project stood out for presenting its progress and the recommendations derived from the assessment on the integration of Ecosystem-based Adaptation (EbA) into national policies and plans, establishing itself as a technical reference in the region. This assessment was carried out with the support of an external consultancy conducted by LandNetwork.

The CCR project's participation in this forum reaffirms its commitment to regional cooperation and the strengthening of evidence-based decision-making, helping to drive sustainable solutions that promote climate resilience, ecological connectivity, and sustainable development in the Caribbean islands.



Alex Voets, CCR Project Chief, during his presentation on the project's progress



Participants of the meeting

El Pino is making progress in implementing its Ecosystem-Based Adaptation Plan

Centro Naturaleza
DR

The municipality of El Pino held a workshop to raise awareness of its EbA Plan, organized by Centro Naturaleza as part of the CCR project.

The event brought together municipal officials, the local governance group, and community stakeholders, who learned about and endorsed this key tool for addressing the challenges of climate change at the local level.

This initiative reinforces the project's participatory approach, promoting local ownership and community leadership in the implementation of nature-based solutions.

During the event, participants analyzed the main climate risks affecting the municipality, such as droughts, rising temperatures, extreme weather events, deforestation, and water shortages, as well as projections pointing to even more critical scenarios in the future.

The EbA Plan proposes specific measures such as reforestation, agroforestry and silvopastoral systems, soil conservation, beekeeping, and family gardens, aimed at strengthening resilience, improving ecosystem services, and boosting the local economy.

The strategic role of the Municipal Environmental Management Unit (UGAM) was also highlighted, as was the importance of coordination between the City Council, local communities, and partner organizations to ensure the plan's effective implementation.

The next steps include presenting the initiative to key municipal authorities and strengthening partnerships to mobilize resources and ensure its sustainability.

In addition, the workshop placed special emphasis on the need to mainstream the inclusion of women and young people in all phases of implementation. Their participation and direct involvement not only ensure a more equitable distribution of the new livelihoods created, but also guarantee the generational transition that is essential for keeping these conservation practices alive in the long term.

With this step forward, El Pino is reinforcing its commitment to building a sustainable future in which the community and its ecosystems are better equipped to cope with climate change.



CEDAE staff giving a presentation to workshop participants



Some of the workshop participants

Strengthening Water Security in Communities in the southern part of the country

Enda Dominicana
DR



Community reservoir

The CCR project continues to implement concrete measures to improve access to water and strengthen communities' resilience to climate variability in the southern region of the country. In the municipality of El Cercado, construction of a water reservoir in the community of La Guama was completed as part of an initiative carried out in collaboration with the beneficiary communities, who actively participated by providing labor for the construction, with support from Enda Dominicana.

This infrastructure will benefit 360 families—approximately 1,800 people—in La Guama, La Mulata, and La Jagüita, and will improve the storage, availability, and community and productive use of water resources.



Community members are working to bring water to nearby communities

The reservoir has a capacity of 36,750 liters and features a continuous filling and drainage system. Its construction is part of the CCR project's strategy to address periods of water scarcity and strengthen sustainable water management in vulnerable rural communities.

In addition, work is also progressing on the extension of the water pipeline from the community of El Barrero to Cañada, in the municipality of Hondo Valle. At this stage, community members themselves have been directly involved in transporting and installing the pipes near their homes, an effort that will improve access to drinking water for 60 families in the area.



Community members and technicians are working to bring water to nearby communities

These initiatives highlight the value of collaboration between the project and the communities, which actively participate in the management and sustainability of these projects. The community has expressed its gratitude for helping to resolve long-standing drinking water supply issues, bringing this service to more households and promoting well-being, health, and hope.

Community solidarity and sustainable practices in northern Haiti

Concert-Action
Haiti

In northern Haiti, the CCR Project promoted community organization by establishing collective vegetable nurseries, a strategy that has strengthened social cohesion and the exchange of knowledge in rural areas.

Thanks to ongoing technical support, families were able to adopt sustainable agricultural practices that resulted in bountiful harvests of cabbage and chili peppers. These advances not only ensure household food security but also boost the local economy through the sale of surplus produce in markets.

With the aim of diversifying livelihoods and protecting ecosystems, beneficiaries established shade-grown coffee agroforestry systems. This initiative achieves a perfect balance between economic profitability and biodiversity conservation, preventing the felling of mature trees.

At the same time, soil conservation works were carried out on sloping land through the installation of erosion barriers, which allowed for the optimization of space to integrate complementary crops such as pineapple.

As a highly valuable outcome, the project succeeded in revitalizing the cultivation of passion fruit on trellises, thereby rescuing a species with high nutritional value that was at risk of disappearing in the region.

All these interventions are part of a long-term vision where climate resilience and community well-being go hand in hand. By empowering local families to lead the comprehensive management of their natural resources, while promoting the active participation of women and youth across the board, the project ensures that these AbE practices endure over time, transforming the rural environment and guaranteeing truly sustainable development in the face of future challenges.



Community event featuring a chili pepper harvest



Information Session



Community vegetable garden

More income, fewer losses: EbA initiatives are transforming communities in southeastern Haiti

WHH Thiotte
Haiti



Training on EbA measures



Training on EbA measures



Training on EbA measures

The WHH-Thiotte team presented the results of the three EbA Plans to the members of the three core groups in Thiotte, Grand-Gosier, and Anse-à-Pitres.

During these sessions, the technical team explained the main pillars of each plan, as well as the roles and responsibilities of the steering groups in the process of implementing, monitoring, and replicating EbA measures in the various municipalities.

The presence of Thiotte-Infos helped expand media coverage and bring the information closer to the community. In addition, the terms of reference for the core groups were ratified, defining their mission, vision, objectives, and operating mechanisms.

During the same period, the WHH-Thiotte coordination team presented the annual report on the CCR project, highlighting the main progress, challenges, and future work plans in the three target communities.

A follow-up survey was also conducted among beneficiaries of the planting activities to assess the condition of the plots, participant satisfaction, the adoption of recommended practices, and the need for technical support.

The results revealed that the suggested EbA measures were bearing fruit, and participants reported increasing their incomes and reducing losses due to weather events.

These actions reflect the strength of the CCR Project in technical support, community participation, and the strengthening of local capacities to ensure the sustainable implementation of EbA initiatives.

Working visit and new agreements strengthen the CCR's regional coordination



Workshop with the project coordination team

From February 16 to 23, six Cuban representatives from the CCR project participated in a coordination, monitoring, and planning meeting in Santo Domingo, led by the project's coordination team. The meeting provided an opportunity to review the project's technical, financial, and administrative status, as well as the actions and projections for the current year. The agenda also included meetings with the Secretariat of the Caribbean Biological Corridor and Enda Dominicana.

In this context, Enda Dominicana and Bioeco signed a Scientific, Technical, and Community Collaboration Agreement for Sustainable Development, with the aim of promoting joint actions in environmental conservation, climate change adaptation, community development, and participatory land management. The agreement strengthens cooperation between both institutions in areas such as biodiversity, water resources, agroecology, and ecosystem restoration.

This partnership opens up new opportunities for joint work to further strengthen applied research, training, and biodiversity conservation in the Caribbean, in line with the objectives of the CCR project.



Workshop with the project coordination team



Staff from the Bioeco and Enda Dominicana teams



Workshop with the project coordination team

Communicating and Building Resilience in Alejandro de Humboldt National Park

CESAT
Cuba

During the first quarter of 2026, the CCR Project's communication strategy in Alejandro de Humboldt National Park focused on highlighting the value of biodiversity and its connection to community development and climate resilience.

Through radio, television, and social media, activities such as meetings with community groups, visits to project sites, and exchanges with local communities were publicized, fostering greater engagement, local dialogue, and international visibility for the project. These efforts also highlighted the project's cross-cutting focus on gender equity, empowering women and promoting their participation in new sustainable practices.

In the field, training activities focused on the implementation of Biointensive Horticulture (BIH) using the deep-bed method, a technique that optimizes water, space, and human labor, achieving yields up to four times higher than those of conventional agriculture.

This methodology, fully aligned with the EbA measures prioritized by the communities of the municipality of Yateras, was shared with key stakeholders, including farmers, local authorities, academics, and forest rangers.

The results are already evident: on the Daima family farm (Polígono No. 1, Rihito-Piedra la Vela), this technique is boosting local production, ensuring food security, and demonstrating the vital role women play in adapting to climate change, while inspiring new generations to continue working in agriculture.

To consolidate these advances and improve project management, a technical meeting was held with staff from the Baracoa Conservation Department (Zone No. 4) and specialists from the Center for Environmental and Technological Services (CESAT). During the meeting, the team received training on the use of the CommCare Mobile digital tool, which was adopted to optimize data collection in the field, and progress was made in planning the Replication Models (MdR) for the EbA plans and measures.

These technological and methodological tools are essential steps toward strengthening participatory governance of natural resources and promoting local development in the face of the challenges posed by climate change in the region.



Workshop on EbA for beneficiaries



Workshop on EbA for beneficiaries

Trust and cooperation that strengthen climate adaptation within the framework of the CCR Project

OroVerde
Germany

During a recent exchange visit to the Dominican Republic, Kristina Osen, a representative from OroVerde, participated in joint work sessions, learning activities, and social gatherings with the teams from ENDA Dominicana, Centro Naturaleza, and Welthungerhilfe.

Beyond the technical meetings, the visit reaffirmed that trust between partners and local teams is an essential element for the success of EbA actions, especially in areas highly exposed to drought, extreme events, and loss of forest cover.

During the exchanges, progress was made on strategic issues such as developing replication models to scale up successful EbA experiences in other communities, as well as reviewing practical solutions related to forest protection, agroforestry systems, water security, and sustainable livelihoods.

Concrete results of agroforestry systems in the face of extreme events were also highlighted, such as Hurricane Melissa, where shade trees helped reduce damage to coffee and cocoa crops,

demonstrating the value of these measures in strengthening regional resilience.

The visit also highlighted the close relationship between climate adaptation and local economic development. One example was the assessment of community infrastructure, such as the coffee pulping machine provided to a women's group, which helps generate greater added value in the region and improve the economic security of producers.

Likewise, the group learned about the work of a local water committee, which for more than 25 years has voluntarily managed the community's water supply, underscoring that the protection of forests and ecosystems is also an indispensable condition for ensuring water and life in communities. As one of the participants summed it up: "You're not a guest; you're one of us"—a phrase that reflects the spirit of collaboration underpinning the project.



Kristina Osen with beneficiaries of the CCR Project



Beneficiaries alongside part of Enda Dominicana's technical team

The EbA-Plans for the 5 intervention areas of the CCR project in Northern, Northeastern and Southeastern Haiti are now available!

Documents available in French only

SCAN THE QR CODE TO LEARN MORE!

Anse-à-Pitres



Thiotte



Grand Gosier



Borgne



Vallières



OR VISIT:

https://ccr-project.com/resources_en/



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

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