Comunidades Caribeñas Resilientes

May-Jul 2025

Newsletter 10
Resilient Caribbean Communities

The project **Resilient Caribbean Communities** (**CCR**), 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 a presence in the communities. With the active participation of producers, women, young people, and community leaders, governance, entrepreneurship, and innovation networks are created and strengthened to promote sustainability and environmental justice.

WHH Santo Domingo
Coordination

Visit by the coordinating team to Cuba

From June 6 to 13, the international coordination team of the Caribbean Resilient Communities (CCR) project visited its partners in Cuba: Bioeco (Santiago de Cuba) and CESAT “Alejandro de Humboldt” (Guantánamo). Alex Voets, Carlota Mato, Veronique Simón, Víctor Tejeda, and Emmanuel Batista (WHH) worked with local teams to assess progress indicators, governance strategy, finances, communication, actions for replication, and overall planning. They also met with delegates from the Cuban Ministry of Science, Technology and Environment (CITMA) and with the platform created by the Turquino Plan.

During their stay, they conducted field trips in Palenque, municipality of Yateras, and the Baconao Biosphere Reserve, where they exchanged views with beneficiaries of the Container Groups and learned about the Ecosystem-Based Adaptation (EbA)measures being implemented, as well as discussing the different training courses being offered in these areas of the country, such as rainwater harvesting, living and dead barriers against erosion, natural forest regeneration, agroforestry and silvopastoral systems, and soil management and seed conservation practices.

These joint actions strengthen technical cooperation and local governance, consolidating a network capable of replicating EbA solutions throughout the region. With the participation of producers, women, and young people, the CCR project is moving toward its goal of building truly resilient Caribbean communities.

Coordinating team together with the BIOECO team, during the working day.

Team coordinator together with the CESAT team and the Yateras container group, after touring the municipality

Photo Gallery

Delivery of 63,000 seedlings strengthens community resilience

Enda Dominicana
DR

As part of the actions of the CCR project, **63,000 seedlings** were delivered to beneficiaries in El Cercado, Hondo Valle, Juan Santiago, and Vallejuelo (southwest Dominican Republic). The species distributed include 23,000 coffee plants, 23,000 musaceae (plantains/bananas), 5,000 avocados, 5,000 lemons, 5,000 oranges, and 2,000 guamas, to promote production and environmental restoration in rural areas vulnerable to climate change.

This initiative aims to strengthen food security, diversify livelihoods, and increase vegetation cover through reforestation with productive species. As part of the agroecological component of the project, the delivery of seedlings promotes concrete measures for community adaptation and resilience, reaffirming the CCR's commitment to sustainable development in the region.



Some of the beneficiaries of the CCR project who received seedlings as part of AbE actions

Full Article

Centro Naturaleza
DR

Prevention and action: community workshops on forest fire prevention

In Ceiba de Bonet, as part of the CCR project, CEDAE held a workshop for forest firefighters and reforestation brigades, **training 30 people** in theoretical and practical fire control techniques, the use of water backpacks, machetes, and rakes, emergency coordination, and the construction of firebreaks. The workshop included a controlled drill to apply and evaluate the measures in real conditions, strengthening the local response to fires.

The intervention responds to regional issues such as itinerant citrus cultivation and slash-and-burn agriculture, practices that increase vulnerability to fire by dismantling vegetation cover in micro-basins. Recent records show a worrying trend: between 2019 and 2024, there were approximately **106 fires**, and so far in 2025, there have been approximately **23,** not including agricultural burning or intentional clearing.

Participants during the workshop

Practical part of the forest fire workshop

Full Article

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Progress in training and reforestation in Haiti

WHH Thiotte
Haiti

During the second quarter of 2025, the CCR project intensified its awareness-raising and training work in Thiotte and Anse-à-Pitres: **175 schoolchildren** from five centers received sessions on climate change and AbE; 67 members of RACINOS (Rassemblement des Citoyens pour une Nouvelle Société) completed a two-day workshop; and **132 people** participated in days on plastic pollution, adaptation and environmental protection together with ANAP (Agence Nationale des Aires Protégées), KPDTS and COPROBEA (Groupe Conteneur d'Anse- à-Pitres).

At the same time, **12,868 native and fruit seedlings** were distributed to promote reforestation and diversify livelihoods (deliveries in Thiotte, Grand-Gosier, and Anse-à-Pitres), and the project's progress was presented at the Sacré-Cœur patron saint's day celebration in Thiotte, where the community reaffirmed its commitment. Through training, governance, and reforestation, the CCR continues to strengthen local resilience and demonstrate the impact of EbA in the face of climate change. These actions strengthen knowledge and encourage community participation in sustainable measures.

Delivery of seedlings as an EbA measure

Training

Training

Concert-Action
Haiti

Promoting agroecological resilience in Haiti

During the last quarter, the CCR project strengthened food security and climate change adaptation in Borgne and Vallières through coordinated actions: quantification of cabbage, pepper, and leek harvests to ensure family income; distribution of **4,463 fruit and forest seedlings** to 112 producers (38 women) and planning for **88,000 seedlings** per year in 15 local nurseries.

Meetings with the Container Groups consolidated governance and defined new initiatives—crop transformation center, beekeeping, goat breeding, and water source protection—while agroforestry production (coffee and cocoa) and anti-erosion systems with pineapple and sugarcane are already showing results, demonstrating that AbE promotes sustainable livelihoods and community resilience.

Participants in training on EbA measures

AbE planting supervision

Bioeco & CESAT
Cuba

CCR project present at Cuba's most important environmental event

From July 1 to 5, the CCR project brought Ecosystem-Based Adaptation (EbA) to the XV International Convention on Environment and Development in Havana. More than 700 delegates from 12 countries learned about the experiences of Baconao and Cuchillas del Toa, where rural communities are implementing measures that protect ecosystem services.

At the 11th Climate Change Congress, Dr. Arturo Salmerón (Bioeco) presented "Climate Change Scenarios for the Sierra de la Gran Piedra". Together with Dr. C. Yamilka Joubert (CESAT), they presented the results of the CCR project to date in the Baconao and Cuchillas del Toa reserves; and at the 10th Ecosystem Management Congress, Dr. Amado Martínez, coordinator of the Yateras container group, presented his AbE strategy, based on his experience in the municipality. Eight other presentations detailed the CCR's diagnoses, actions, and results in forums and panels.

At the exhibition fair, the stands of Bioeco, CESAT, and the Caribbean Biological Corridor (CBC) displayed posters and audiovisual presentations about the project, facilitating direct interaction with the public. In addition, Arianna González, MSc, coordinator of the CCR project in Cuba (Bioeco), signed a letter of intent with the Matanzas Environmental Services Center for future partnerships.

To conclude, a National Workshop of the Cuban Network of Biosphere Reserves was proposed to share lessons learned, an initiative supported by representatives of the six Cuban reserves and representatives of other UNESCO programs. With this meeting, the CCR project expands the replication of its actions in Cuba and reinforces its commitment to regional sustainability.

Part of the Bioeco team and CCR project technicians who participated in the Convention

Dr. Arturo Salmerón during his presentation to the participants

Dr. Barbaro Zabala, head of governance for CESAT, and Arianna González, MSc, coordinator of the CCR project in Cuba

Part of the CESAT team and the Yateras Container Group that participated in the Convention

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OroVerde
Germany

Harvesting water, restoring ecosystems: an EbA overview

Changes in rainfall patterns, soil degradation, and increasing pressure from agriculture are causing springs to dry up and crops to fail, threatening the livelihoods of many people. For this reason, the CCR project focuses on Ecosystem-based Adaptation (EbA), with concrete measures that improve water availability, strengthen the climate resilience of the local population, and contribute to biodiversity conservation at the same time. EbA plans are now available in all project regions; on this basis, we provide an overview of the planned and implemented measures here.

Dominican Republic

Reforestation adapted to the slopes in the Dominican regions covered by the project helps to maintain soil moisture and stabilize the region's water balance in the long term. In addition, small water storage facilities are being built to retain rainwater and help better cope with the dry season.

Drip irrigation has been installed to save water in domestic gardens. Agroforestry systems with coffee, cocoa, and shade trees create a positive microclimate that reduces soil drying and promotes groundwater recharge.

Haiti

In Haiti, natural water sources are also protected through buffer zones and selective planting in the catchment area. Native plants stabilize the soil and prevent erosion, while breadfruit and mango trees also contribute to food security. In addition, living barriers against erosion made of elephant grass, sugar cane, or pineapple help stabilize the soil through their roots and slow down surface water runoff, thereby increasing soil moisture and groundwater recharge.

At the same time, rainwater harvesting systems are being reactivated: by repairing cisterns and integrating water-saving irrigation techniques, the overall availability of water is increased locally and, therefore, so is resilience to periods of drought, which are becoming increasingly frequent or intense due to climate change.

Cuba

In eastern Cuba, the focus is on protecting and restoring degraded wetlands and riparian strips that function as natural water reservoirs. Rainwater harvesting systems are also being installed in homes to ensure water supply during droughts and reduce pressure on natural sources. On the other hand, erosion control measures and the revegetation of degraded soils increase the water storage capacity of the landscape. Agroecological farming practices and the promotion of varieties adapted to local conditions also contribute to reducing water demand in agriculture.

Reforestation of an area identified as an EbA measure

Rainwater harvesting system

The climate crisis does not stop at national borders and solutions must start where they have the greatest impact. That's why we collaborate on the CCR project to promote natural solutions, conserve water sources and protect livelihoods.

Resilient
Caribbean Communities

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

Our partners:

WELT HUNGER HILFE

ORO VERDE

BIOECO

ALEJANDRO DE HUMBOLDT CESAT Centro de Servicios Ambientales y Tecnológicos

CONCERT-ACTION Concertation et Action pour le Développement

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