

# Resilient Caribbean Communities Newsletter 4.

## 2023: A year of adaptation

A challenging, yet successful year 2023 comes to a close for the CCR project, in which we have been relentlessly working with communities across Cuba, Haiti and the Dominican Republic to implement ecosystem-based adaptation measures, and exchange, learn and advocate for resilient ecosystems and livelihoods.

The year started off with the production of a short video about our work in Thiotte, Haiti. If you missed it, you can watch it here: [CCR in Haiti](#). While you are here, please also have a look at our project video for the North-West of the Dominican Republic, [our project in the northeast of the Dominican Republic](#).

Our annual partner meeting was held in March in Santo Domingo. The meeting was a great opportunity to exchange on lessons learned, challenges and opportunities. Meetings like this not only improve our technical capacities but also add to team spirit, which we highly value as we work across two islands, three countries and three distinct cultures.

During the whole year, partners advanced with the elaboration of EbA plans, capacity building activities, sensitization, and the implementation of EbA activities in the field that contribute to ecosystem restoration and improved livelihood security for families. These include reforestation, agroforestry and silvopastoral systems, the installation of family vegetable gardens or beekeeping. Since the beginning of the project, we have managed to support over 1000 families with EbA measures, and we have rehabilitated and conserved over 1500 hectares of land.

We have also managed to advance our Multi-Actor Partnership process, with many valuable lessons learned and positive experiences. Each project region has now created so-called “container groups” comprised of important stakeholders from different sectors of society, who participate in the implementation of activities and exchange regularly with our project teams.

The project is also advancing with its advocacy work at national and regional levels. Towards the end of the year, for example, we participated in the CBC’s annual technical and ministerial meetings, in which we were able to make valuable contributions as well as formulate direct recommendations to the member states.

We are excited to start the new year, in which we will reach some important milestones that will bring us even closer to our collective goal: Strengthening the resilience of ecosystems and agricultural production systems to climate change.

**The CCR family wishes you a peaceful end of the year and a happy New Year 2024!**

### Upsa - Cuba

## "Ecology for Everyone, My Healthy Environment"

In Polygon No. 3, Farallones de Moa, the initiative "Ecology for Everyone, My Healthy Environment" is being implemented as a socio-ecological endeavor to combat and mitigate environmental pollution from domestic solid waste in mountain communities targeted by the CCR project. The initiative involves bi-monthly gatherings, incorporating a gender-focused approach with the participation of children, youth, women, and men. The primary goal is to conduct environmental cleanups, collecting all solid waste generated by the community members and transporting it to a designated site. The waste is sorted based on a circular economy vision—usable items are repurposed, and the rest is treated appropriately.

Due to its significance and positive impact in the area, this initiative is expanding and being implemented across all implementation areas of the CCR project. This innovative approach serves as a mitigating or eliminating factor for environmental impacts that compromise ecosystem health and people's quality of life. It addresses a global biophysical shift affecting the world significantly today.

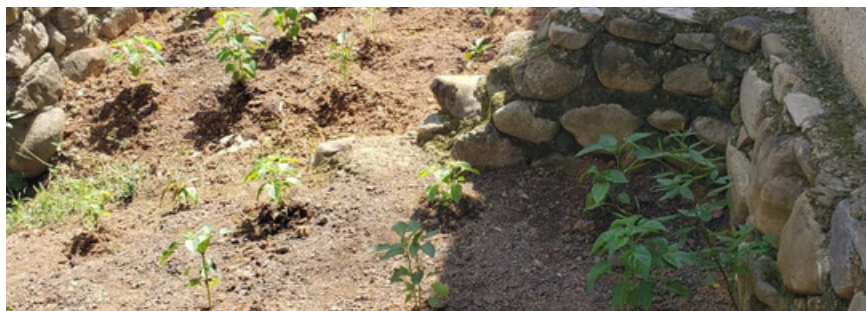




Concert-Action - Haiti

## Promoting horticulture

With the aim of continuing to promote activities related to the use of adapted and sustainable productive practices, Concert-Action, within the framework of the CCR project, conducts training sessions in horticulture. Each session covers theoretical aspects of horticulture on the first day, followed by hands-on activities on the second day, including the installation of a seedbed for germinating garden seeds.



From the project

## Great news! The CCR project website is now available

Explore key information, updates, and details about our initiatives for climate change adaptation. Visit us now and join in building stronger ecosystems for people and nature!

<https://www.ccr-project.com/home/>

## Restoring ecosystem services through EbA measures



Regarding the restoration of ecosystem services through the implementation of EbA plans, Concert-Action conducted training sessions on environmental conservation and reforestation, followed by sessions on agroforestry and soil conservation. Following this training, aimed at strengthening established agroforestry systems and establishing new ones, various groups of farmers took advantage of the rainy season to plant seedlings of fruit species (cacao (*Theobroma cacao*), coffee (*Coffea arábica*), lime (*Citrus aurantifolia*), mango (*Mangifera indica*), cashew (*Anacardiumouest*)) primarily sourced from local seedling production nurseries. A total of 45,117 seedlings, produced in nurseries with local products, have already been distributed to farmers for the year 2023.

Enda Dominicana - Dominican Republic

## Building EbA Plans

In the second half of 2023, three participatory workshops were conducted in communities within the provinces of San Juan and Elías Piña, Dominican Republic (El Cercado, Hondo Valle, Juan Santiago, and Vallejuelo). The primary objective of these workshops was to develop Strategic Plans for Ecosystem-Based Adaptation (EbA). The implementation of EbA measures in the Caribbean Biological Corridor and their replication will enhance livelihoods and strengthen the resilience of ecosystems, particularly forests and agricultural systems, in the face of climate change.

Representatives from the communities, women producers, formal leaders, and decision-makers actively participated in these sessions. Discussions revolved around the deforestation cycle, its initiation, and its duration when continuously using land. Additionally, the workshops prioritized EbA measures to be implemented in the project across different categories. Participants assessed key elements of each EbA measure and established goals until 2030 that each municipality aims to achieve for each project EbA measure.

El Ciclo de la Deforestación en el municipio Hondo Valle

Paso No.	Actividad	Año
1	Se corta y se quema.	1
2	Se pica y se siembra.	1
3	- Mantenimiento a los cultivos	1
4	Cosecha y venta de productos.	1
5	Siembra, cosecha y venta.	2
6	Se siembra, se cosecha y se vende	3
7	Se cosecha, se vende	4
8	Se cosecha y se vende.	5
9	Busca otro bosque nuevo.	5

*Centro Naturaleza - Dominican Republic*

## Participatory workshops for prioritizing EbA measures

Within the framework of the CCR project, participatory workshops for the development of strategic EbA plans were conducted in the communities of El Cadillar, Manuel Bueno, and La Piña. These workshops included an exercise to prioritize adaptation actions with the participation of community members belonging to the project's target group, as well as members of the MAP container group. A total of 77 individuals participated, with 43% representing women and 57% representing men.

During these workshops, various important topics were addressed, including key points from the Biophysical, Socioeconomic, and Vulnerability Analysis of the CCR project area in the northwest region of the Dominican Republic. Notably, the environmental situation was highlighted, graphically illustrating the impact of deforestation and its contribution to forest loss in recent years. The workshops also addressed the detrimental effects of climate change, including the impacts of drought on the area's main productive activities.

Another crucial topic was the climatic situation, where the historical behavior of the area was explained through a graph depicting precipitation and temperature trends over the years. According to this historical data, there is a decreasing trend in precipitation and an increasing trend in temperature. In conclusion, the Participatory Workshops for the Development of AbE Strategic Plans represent a fundamental tool for planning the adaptation of vulnerable Caribbean communities to the negative effects of climate change.

*Welthungerhilfe Thiotte - Haiti*

## Planting for community well-being

In the municipalities of the Resilient Caribbean Communities project in three municipalities of Thiotte, Haiti, 102,200 fruit and forest trees were planted. Planting plays a significant role in temperature regulation, groundwater recharge, and increased water flow. Once fully developed, the fruit trees will contribute to improving the nutrition of families and can add value to participants' incomes.

## Reforestation: A key tool for the adaptation of vulnerable caribbean communities



As part of the initiatives of the Resilient Caribbean Communities project, reforestation campaigns are being carried out as part of Ecosystem-Based Adaptation (EbA) measures. These measures are essential to ensure the sustainability and resilience of ecosystems and the people who rely on ecosystem services for their livelihoods. Forests play a crucial role in climate regulation, biodiversity conservation, soil and water protection, and mitigating the effects of climate change. Additionally, they are a significant source of food, medicine, and materials for local communities.

In the CCR project, reforestation has been identified as a priority EbA measure. These measures focus on the restoration and conservation of natural ecosystems to increase their capacity to adapt to climate change. Furthermore, reforestation enhances the ability of forests to provide essential ecosystem services.

In the CCR project in the northwest region of the Dominican Republic, a total of 261.6 hectares have been reforested, with 224.1 hectares located in areas previously degraded by deforestation and other activities. The remaining 37.5 hectares are situated in areas of paramount importance for water conservation, such as riparian forests and areas near water sources.



*Bioeco - Cuba*

## Participatory workshops: hand in hand with the community



During the months of September to November, the Bioeco team conducted several field expeditions with the aim of completing the diagnosis of the working area. Additionally, two workshops were held to assess the community's perception of ecosystem services in the operating area.

1. The first workshop took place on September 12th for the development of the context analysis in the Las Guasimas community, one of the implementation areas of the CCR project. Among the main vulnerabilities identified was the availability of drinking water; several artisanal wells in the area only supply a minority. This aspect will be taken into account in the Strategics EbA Plans.

2. On September 21st, the community workshop for the assessment of ecosystem services in the coastal area, specifically in the Siboney Community, was conducted. The objective was to identify the community's perception of the ecosystem services in the socioecosystem where they are located. Similarly, mangroves were identified as important, but currently facing challenges.

*Upsa - Cuba*

## A different approach in agriculture in Cupeyal del Norte

The UPSA team in Cuba is implementing the biointensive double-tillage tree planting method adapted to banana in agroforestry systems in Polygon No. 2, Cupeyal del Norte. This agroecological methodology comprehensively improves the soil for banana cultivation, resulting in better plant development, faster expansion of the clump, and larger, more appealing fruits.

This approach has shown a significant increase in yield, serving as a chemical-free biological alternative. It utilizes crop residues as fertilizer, reducing production costs and yielding harmless products that increase their value by promoting human health. This benefits farmers and producers, contributing to food sovereignty and national security.

In response to climate change in the area, characterized by disruptions in precipitation and temperature patterns, this methodology emerges as a solution to mitigate negative impacts on biodiversity, agriculture, and society.



## The project

The Resilient Caribbean Communities (CCR) project, implemented in Cuba, Haiti, and the Dominican Republic, aims to develop nature-based solutions and adaptations to the impacts of climate change in the Caribbean Biological Corridor. The project employs a participatory approach, focusing on working directly with community members to strengthen the ecosystems on which they depend.

Learn more here: <https://www.ccr-project.com/home/>

### Our partners



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based on a decision of  
the German Bundestag