

# Resilient Caribbean Communities NEWSLETTER No. 2



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CCR Project // March 2023

## Always in favor of strong ecosystems: annual project partner meeting

For the seven partner organizations of the Resilient Caribbean Communities (CCR) project, this year's meeting held in Santo Domingo was the second opportunity for a comprehensive and participative knowledge transfer with the teams of all of the project countries.



Systematically, the partners from Cuba, Haiti, the Dominican Republic and Germany examined the development of **Ecosystem-based Adaptation (EbA)** plans, solutions for **multi-actor partnerships, communication strategies** and **gender sensibility** issues. All of them are key components of the project, the core of which is the development of EbA measures to face the impacts of climate change. As replicable elements, these measures can be applied sustainably and in the long term beyond the regions and the project duration.

Two equally intensive days in the project region of Enda Dominicana in the southwest of the Dominican Republic brought theory into practice. The visit of many plots of land where adaptation measures are already being implemented ensured **constructive discussions** and **valuable findings** among the partners. One of the elementary insights gained by the participants was that there is no single correct solution for the implementation of EbA measures, rather, it is necessary - for example, when setting up a coffee agroforestry system - to understand and take into





account various specific factors in order to then be able to follow a **tailored and goal-oriented strategy**. This requires not only the expertise of the project staff, but also a good connection to the participating smallholders enabling them to find appropriate solutions based on their vast experience.

Thanks to the fruitful transfer and the new inspirations each of the nearly 40 participants took away from the time shared together, the CCR project regions are now embarking on **further implementation with fresh vigor**. Strong ecosystems to promote the resilience against climate change and secure the livelihoods of affected families are always the primary project goal.

The organization of this year's meeting is thanks to Enda Dominicana as host and to Welthungerhilfe as project manager.

## EbA: an infinite field of best practices

### Examples from the project regions



In the regions where the CCR project intervenes, various Ecosystem-based Adaptation (EbA) measures are being implemented to address climate change and promote food security. The combination of these measures contributes to forging a path towards more resilient and sustainable communities in the Caribbean.

[Centro Naturaleza // Dominican Republic](#)

### Promoting food security: family gardens



Family gardens are food production systems for self-consumption that contribute significantly to improving food and nutritional security in communities. Also, they are a key strategy for conserving the local agrobiodiversity and for providing a variety of foods, mainly vegetables, throughout the year. Other species of plants with medical, aromatic and pest repellent functions are integrated additionally.

The systems have a protective structure that is capable to adapt to extreme weather events like hurricanes and cyclones in order to avoid crop loss. Another advantage is that the responsibility for implementation and maintenance is shared among the family members, with an emphasis on the role of women who play a fundamental part in actively contributing to the cultivation and the training of agricultural techniques. This allows the community to be involved in the development and the success of these productive units. Family gardens are established in all the localities that belong to the project area of Centro Naturaleza in the northwest of the Dominican Republic.

[Concert-Action // Haiti](#)

### Trainings as a recipe for success



The implementation of seedling production programs in local tree nurseries has also been a valuable strategy for the CCR project. Concert-Action conducts training sessions for nurserymen on nursery management. Since the start of the teachings, 15 local nurseries have been established and will produce a total of 63,000 seedlings.

Also, in relation to the restoration of ecosystem services through the implementation of EbA plans, training sessions were held on environment, reforestation, agroforestry, and soil conservation. The training was accompanied by the distribution of some 40,000 seedlings produced in local nurseries among beneficiary farmers to strengthen agricultural and agroforestry production in the region.

With respect to activities on the use of adapted and sustainable production practices, workshops were held on horticulture and composting. Each session included theoretical aspects of horticulture and composting techniques, followed by practical activities where banks were built for the upcoming germination of horticultural seeds and composting.





[Welthungerhilfe Thiotte // Haiti](#)

## Grafting fruit trees: securing livelihoods



Southeast Haiti, like many other regions in the Caribbean, suffers from extreme weather events such as prolonged drought periods. To adapt to these changes, the CCR project helps smallholder farmers ensure their subsistence. One of the most efficient activities in this context is the grafting of fruit trees. This method increases the economic value and the resistance of fruit trees such as mango, avocado and citrus. This provides environmental, economic, and social benefits to the residents of Thiotte, Grand Gosier and Anse-à-Pitres.

For example, a variety of avocado is introduced that is not in season and is harvested in February, while the normal harvesting season is August and September. This allows people to have fruit to sell during the hunger period. In addition, four mango varieties with high market value are used: Corne, Francique, Madan Blanc and Rosalie. Among citrus, mandarin grafting has been successful. By increasing the economic value of the grafted trees, it also prevents them from being cut down. This improves the biodiversity of the area. So far, about 10,000 plants have been grafted in the project region.

[CCR Project](#)

## Diagnostic studies as a key element for EbA

The detailed analysis of climate risks and the vulnerability of a given area, its landscapes and its inhabitants to the current and future effects of climate change serves to establish clarity. These findings and perspectives allow us to identify the most urgent, appropriate and priority adaptation measures for each region with its particular characteristics. These are the ecosystem-based adaptation solutions that will become the heart of the strategic plans for EbA that are currently being developed. In the meantime, EbA diagnostic studies of our CCR project partners were completed in Haiti by Concert-Action in the North and Welthungerhilfe Thiotte, as well as in the Dominican Republic by ENDA Dominicana and recently by CEDAE / Centro Naturaleza.

**These documents with information and analysis specific to the project regions will soon be available to the public in downloadable formats from the new CCR project website. If you are interested in using these documents, e.g. to prepare adaptation (EbA) and resilience building processes in other Caribbean communities, please contact the CCR-Coordination by e-mail through the contacts indicated on the last page of this newsletter.**

[Bioeco - UPSA // Cuba](#)

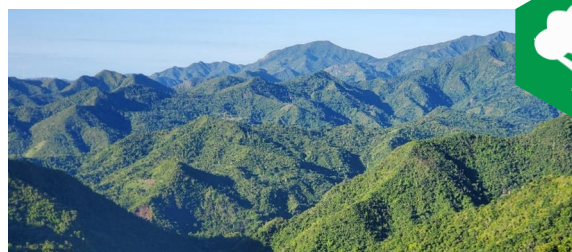
## Moving ahead in rapid steps Project progress in Cuba's East

**It has been an intense process of paving the way, but after Cuba's Ministry of Foreign Trade and Investment**

**(Ministerio de Comercio exterior y la inversión extranjera, MINCEX) has granted its official approval, the CCR project is now moving forward in both project regions materializing the EbA approach.**

Prior to this, it was necessary for the project partner organizations in Cuba to elaborate the terms of reference and update the detailed project planning. To prepare for and directly initiate the practical implementation, at the end of 2022 the teams from Bioeco, UPSA and Welthungerhilfe visited the project regions - the "Baconao" Biosphere Reserve and the "Cuchillas del Toa" Biosphere Reserve in the south and southeast of Cuba. Working meetings, visits to pilot sites and exchanges with key stakeholders in both areas were held.

With this excellent basis, things have been progressing well since the beginning of the year. The data collection for the diagnostic study has been completed: the climate risk analysis and the assessment of the vulnerability of the area to the consequences of climate change make it possible to





identify appropriate EbA solutions (see the article "Diagnostic studies" on the previous page of this newsletter). Parallel to this, planning for the implementation of EbA measures was being carried out in the form of workshops and trainings with the previously defined target groups.

Of crucial importance in defining strategic plans for EbA is close cooperation with the population in both project regions. For this, the simultaneous expansion and strengthening of local and cross-sectoral governance structures is key to building EbA governance. It is very important to establish the objectives and measures for climate change adaptation in a participatory and sustainable manner, on a broad basis of acceptance and involvement of stakeholder groups.

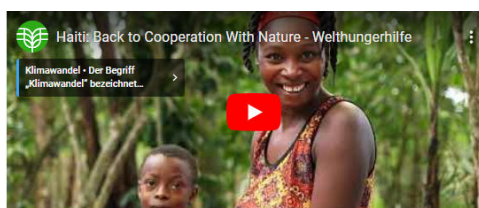


## Videos, display boards and round tables

### News from the communication section

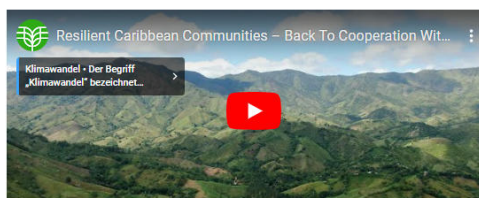


The participation in events, media outreach, and the installation of display boards are just a few of the strategies that are contributing to generate consciousness and knowledge about the effective advantages of EbA and the protection of biodiversity in Caribbean communities. These efforts are strengthening the implementation of sustainable and resilient measures in areas affected by climate change.



With this message in mind, Welthungerhilfe has recently released two videos reporting on the CCR project's work in northwestern Dominican Republic and southeastern Haiti. The examples from the areas of Centro Naturaleza and Welthungerhilfe Thiotte leave no room for doubt: a return to cooperation with nature is important and necessary.

Both partner organizations work with the CCR project participants directly on the ground to address the consequences of climate change. The videos offer us insights in the current situation in the communities, personal experiences and observations of changes in climate and biodiversity, and early ecosystem-based adaptation measures that help successfully to reduce these.



The videos are available on Youtube:

Dominican Republic - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=VIPuBEZF2Mo>

Haiti - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6TE5l3Dh4j4&t=15sdocumentsos>

#### Concert-Action // Haiti

One of Concert-Action's strategies to reach a wide audience has been the installation of display boards at strategic points of high public affluence. These panels, serving to promote sensitization, contain messages on various topics related to the project, seeking to raise awareness and generate greater knowledge. Their scope ranges from information on the importance of EbA, proven farming methods, promotion of local food consumption or more general topics such as nature protection or environmental education.



#### Enda Dominicana // Dominican Republic

The project has also had prominent participation in important events and spaces for dialogue. At a workshop organized by the Dominican Institute for Integral Development, the CCR project team and its implementing partner, Enda Dominicana, had the opportunity to share experiences and knowledge on EbA and biodiversity protection. The EbA measures that have been implemented to date were presented, highlighting the progress and results obtained.

The dissemination of the project has also reached the media. The CCR Project coordinator for Enda Dominicana, Mr. Alberto Roa, participated in a radio program on the radio station La 104.7 FM of Las Matas de Farfán, on the occasion of the International Day of Climate Change. During the interview, the importance of the Resilient Caribbean Communities project was emphasized and how it is contributing to the implementation of EbA measures in the communities of Vallejuelo, El Cercado, Juan Santiago and Hondo Valle.



## Events

### ► LACCW 2023

The Latin America and Caribbean Climate Week (LACCW) is one of four Regional Climate Weeks held this year to build momentum ahead of the UN Climate Change Conference COP 28 in Dubai.

**23 - 27 October 2023 // Panama City**

### ► Committees of the Caribbean Biological Corridor (CBC)

Meeting of the Ministerial Committee

**24 October 2023 // Panama City**

Technical committee including the presentation of progress of the CCR project

**10 - 11 October 2023 // Santo Domingo**

### ► 9th EbA Knowledge Day

The 9th EbA Knowledge Day aims to link with global climate change efforts, where the focus is set on enhancing and accelerating adaptation efforts globally and ways to scale up EbA and NbSA as a portfolio of solutions to implement the SDGs.

More information: <https://friendsofeba.com/events/>

**21 September 2023 // Virtual event**



## Communication

### Upcoming: CCR project website

- The new website of the CCR project will provide comprehensive information on the approach, governance and all EbA-related activities, as well as news, publications and best practice materials developed during the project.

- **Newsletter No. 3: 4 December 2023** (date scheduled)

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## Project partners



## Political partners

### Cuba

Ministry of Science, Technology and Environment (CITMA)

National Centre for Protected Areas (SNAP)

### Haiti

Ministry of Environment

### Dominican Republic

Ministry of Environment and Natural Resources

### Regional partner:

Caribbean Biological Corridor (CBC) Secretariat

### Deutsche Welthungerhilfe e.V.

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