



CANADA-UNDP
Climate Change Adaptation Facility



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STRENGTHENING ADAPTIVE CAPACITY TO ADDRESS CLIMATE CHANGE THREATS ON SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT STRATEGIES FOR COASTAL COMMUNITIES IN HAITI



Haiti is one of the most vulnerable countries to the impacts of climate change, particularly the agriculture sector which employs 66% of the population. As a result, food insecurity will be further exacerbated.

CONTEXT

Haiti is one of the most vulnerable countries to the impacts of climate change, given its acute poverty, rapid population growth and unplanned urbanization. Climate change is already impacting the population in Haiti through increased temperatures, decreased precipitation, more erratic rainfall, sea level rise and increased frequency of climatic hazards. These changes, directly impacting soil conditions, water availability and extreme events, will affect the agriculture sector which employs 66% of the population. As a result, food insecurity will be further exacerbated, when 30% of households are already 'moderately food insecure'. Women, who represent 43% of the agricultural labour and produce half of the country's food crops, will bear most of the burden.

To address these challenges, the Government of Haiti and UNDP, with support from the Global Environmental Facility's Least Developed Countries Fund (LDCF), initiated a project in 2011 to address the priorities set forth in the 2006 National Adaptation Programme of Action, namely: reduce the vulnerability of coastal areas and address food and water security issues. In 2013, the Government of Canada provided additional funding to build on and scale up the results of the LDCF project under the Canada-UNDP Climate Change Adaptation Facility (CCAF). The CCAF project aims to strengthen adaptive capacities of the population and of productive sectors, particularly in the coastal area of the South.



Proposed Interventions

Under the Canada-funded phase of this project, the following concrete and innovative adaptation measures are being implemented with a focus on the South Department of the country, while the LDCF-funded project continues to support work in other coastal regions:

1. **Enhancing resilience of low-elevation coastal zones** through reforestation activities both in the watersheds of Aquin-St. Louis and the mangroves ecosystems;
2. **Providing support to farmers to develop and implement individualized 'Farming Plans'** to increase productivity and resilience of their farming plots; and
3. **Establishing and strengthening Watershed Management Committees** to support communities in sustainably managing natural resources within designated watershed zones.

Mrs. Veline Eliassaint, along with 11 other farmers, was trained on how to graft mango trees. As a result all the mango trees of Veline Eliassaint's farm have been grafted with the Madame Francisque variety. Veline says: "Now that I know how to do the grafting, I can earn my living by grafting my neighbour's mango trees and also by selling good quality mangos in the market. I encourage all my neighbours to protect their mango trees and to stop cutting them down."



Key Achievements to Date

The CCAF project in Haiti has made significant progress towards expected results as demonstrated below:

- **21 existing Watershed Management Committees (WMC)** being provided with a variety of logistical and technical support (e.g. meeting procedures, documentation, selection/election processes, etc.). These WMCs are now supporting the Ministry of Environment to manage the reforestation activities (2,500 hectares of the watersheds) and disseminate awareness raising campaigns in climate change and other environmental issues;
- **8 new WMCs (60 members, 26% women) were created** at the Tiburon/Port Salut Hydrographic Unit, and the capacity of their members built in organizational management and sustainable watershed management techniques;
- **267,479 mangrove plants have been planted** by the Ministry of Environment in collaboration with members of farmers associations and the WMCs;
- **Monthly awareness raising activities on climate change** and other environmental issues are being organized in collaboration with WMCs through radio programmes (2 hours weekly), door to door awareness raising (**1,200 visited families per month**), and **community-based organizations (12 visited per month)**;
- **23 members (2 women) of the project team** (UNDP, Ministry of Environment, Ministry of Agriculture and civil society [NGOs]) trained on gender mainstreaming in environmental/ climate change projects resulting in 10% increase in women participation in project activities and WMCs; and
- **Approximately 50 extension agents trained on climate-resilient agriculture** approaches and farming planning methodology.

EMERGING LESSONS

An integrated landscape approach to watershed management is essential to resilience of local communities to climate change impacts. The WMCs are following a landscape approach, emphasizing adaptive management, multi-stakeholder engagement and dialogue, and multi-functionality. This approach has proved valuable in bringing together relevant stakeholders to address challenges and provide integrated adaptive strategies to the population living in the watershed.

A comprehensive approach to reforestation helps secure sustainability of project interventions. The project is following an approach which combines reforestation activities with policy strengthening and awareness raising. This provides a more integrated way to address the underlying challenges of deforestation, while sustaining project interventions.



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