



Building Resilience through Effective Communication

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Climate change impacts are already being observed globally, but not all regions are equally vulnerable. The Caribbean is one of the most vulnerable regions due to its relative affectedness by climate change, but also in terms of its limited capacity to adapt. The region's response to climate change over the last two decades has primarily focussed on national policy changes and adaptation planning. Only very recently has there been a concerted effort to collectively target specific stakeholder groups as a means of increasing awareness and, ultimately, resilience to inevitable adverse impacts. Consequently, there are few examples in the region of comprehensive climate change information and learning tools targeted to the region and exploiting opportunities.

The CARIBSAVE Partnership works with governments, the private sector and communities in the Caribbean to address the impacts and challenges surrounding climate change, the environment, economic development, tourism and community livelihoods across the Caribbean Basin, using an integrated and holistic approach. A key component in the recently completed 2-year CARIBSAVE Climate Change Risk Atlas (CCRA) project was the democratisation of climate science. This was done through targeted awareness raising, tools (data visualisation, short films) and participatory approaches (workshops and vulnerability mapping) to improve stakeholder knowledge and understanding of what climate change means for them.

As a result, stakeholders have benefitted from new science and have enhanced their capacity to respond to climate change. Additionally, this unique evidence-based work conducted in the Risk Atlas has led to other significant projects which are now underway, all of which retain the same participatory approach to building resilience:

The Partnership for Canada-Caribbean Climate Change Adaptation (ParCA) Project – This project seeks to integrate scientific and local knowledge from comparative 'learning sites' in Canada and the Caribbean to understand the multi-scale socioeconomic, governance and environmental conditions that shape vulnerability and capacity to adapt to climate change.

Climate Change, Coastal Community Enterprises, Adaptation, Resilience and Knowledge (CCCCE-ARK) – This project focuses on adaptation to climate change for coastal communities of the Caribbean through knowledge networks, enterprise development for MSMEs, the implementation of adaptation plans, and the building of strategic alliances across the tourism, fisheries and crafts sectors.

The Caribbean Fish Sanctuaries Partnership Initiative (C-FISH Initiative) – The primary objective of the project is to improve the management of coastal and marine resources and sustainable livelihoods of the local populace by improving the effectiveness of fish sanctuaries.

The CARIBSAVE Partnership has also recently worked with the Caribbean Community Climate Change Centre (CCCCC), the Caribbean Natural Resources Institute and Panos Caribbean to develop a Regional Climate Change Communication Programme as part of the Regional Implementation Plan which has been endorsed by the CARICOM Heads of Government. While communication and education remain key components of all of CARIBSAVE's projects, these activities are in congruence with this programme and funds are being sought to implement the programme's region-wide initiatives.