

Restoration and Community Co-Management of Mangroves (RECCOMM)

A brief from the Integrated Climate Change Adaptation Strategies (ICCAS) Programme



Challenge

In the low-lying northern Telescope area, in the north-east of the island of Grenada, coastal communities are highly vulnerable to the adverse effects of climate change such as storm surges and sea-level rise. The area is experiencing heavy coastal erosion partially due to past sand mining activities. Additionally, the mangroves which act as the first natural line of defense are being reduced by deforestation and unsustainable harvesting practices in order to produce charcoal. The communities living in this area are some of the most impoverished on the island.

Objective

The Restoration and Community Co-Management of Mangroves (RECCOMM) pilot project aims to increase the health of the surrounding mangrove forest and associated ecosystems in order to reduce vulnerabilities to the adverse impacts of climate change.

Partners

This project was initiated by the Forestry Department and the Environment Division of the Ministry of Climate Resilience, the Environment, Forestry, Fisheries, Disaster Management and Information of the Government of Grenada, and the German Agency for International Cooperation (GIZ). It commenced in November 2014 and is being implemented by a community and government co-management board.

Approach

The project will focus on ecosystem restoration, community capacity building for habitat conservation and increased socio-economic benefits for the local community. Implementation would be multidisciplinary thus taking into consideration the contributions from key institutional stakeholders, non-governmental organisations, and community stakeholders in order to facilitate the co-management structure of the project.

Impacts - What has been achieved so far?

- An extensive biological and socio-economic baseline study of the project area was completed. This study consisted of beach profiling, soil sampling, community surveys and the selection of different implementation sites within the allocated area.
- A community and government co-management board has been established. It comprises of 5 members from the local community, one member from a local NGO, representatives from the Ministry of Tourism as well as from the Forestry, Fisheries, Agriculture and the Environment divisions. The board meets on a monthly basis and is responsible for the implementation of the different project activities and for liaising with the local community.
- 20 community members were engaged in an introductory beekeeping course which was held at the T.A Marryshow Community College Campus in St. Andrews in April, 2015. The training focused on honey bee biology, use of beekeeping equipment, and honey extraction.
- These community members then participated in a rigorous 3-day workshop at the Caribbean Bee College held by the



East Caribbean Bee Research and Extension Centre (ECBREC) in May 2015. This course covered topics such as pollination and pesticides and honeybee pests and disease.

- Equipment to aid in the sustainable production of charcoal in the project area was procured and handed over to the Forestry Department.
- Project members were trained in the collection and propagation of mangrove seedlings. Two collections were done and 1900 red mangrove seedlings were propagated in a makeshift nursery. These seedlings were transplanted to the project site in a community planting in November of 2015.
- The transplanted seedlings are continuously monitored by members of the community.
- A beekeeping programme was conducted in 2016. The apprentices worked closely alongside established local beekeepers. Here, mangrove species as well as nearby agricultural lands can provide excellent pollen sources for the bees. This will create added value for the mangroves and dissuade their unsustainable use.
- Additional equipment was procured for the beekeepers.
- A community based organisation was developed through capacity development sessions.



Beekeeping training

Next steps

- Placement of project billboards and noticeboards throughout the community.



Seedlings planted inside the mangrove continue to show good growth



Preparing for the extraction of honey

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