



Advancing Caribbean Climate Adaptation through Natural Solutions

► Why Do We Need Resilient Islands?

The impacts of climate change are increasingly severe and the need for action is more urgent than ever. Caribbean islands are among the world's most vulnerable, with storm frequency and intensity, flooding, wind damage and sea level rise all predicted to worsen, increasing threats to hospitals, power plants, freshwater sources, roads, houses and schools. Island communities must work together to prepare for disasters caused by natural phenomenon and minimize the impacts they will endure. Evidence shows that key ecosystems, like coral reefs and mangroves, can help reduce these risks while enhancing sustainable economic development.

► Our Approach

Resilient Islands is a four-year initiative to protect islands against the impacts of climate change by promoting the use of coastal habitats to reduce risks, and by helping governments, partners and communities implement sustainable development plans that prioritize nature.

The Nature Conservancy and the International Federation of the Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC) will work with communities and agencies to design innovative tools, train leaders, and implement demonstration projects within vulnerable coastal communities in the Dominican Republic, Grenada, and Jamaica.

Our Goal

Governments and communities in the Dominican Republic, Jamaica, and Grenada will integrate community- and ecosystem-based adaptation into their local, national and regional decisions in order to reduce community vulnerability and boost adaptive capacity.

Countries

Dominican Republic | Grenada | Jamaica

Timeline

2017-2021

Funder

[The German Federal Ministry for the Environment, Nature Conservation, Building and Nuclear Safety](#)

Implementing Organizations

[The Nature Conservancy](#)
[The International Federation of the Red Cross & Red Crescent Societies](#)

Partners

Caribbean Community Climate Change Centre (5Cs)
Caribbean Disaster Emergency Management Agency (CDEMA)
Caribbean Biodiversity Fund
Grenada Ministry of Climate Resilience, the Environment, Forestry, Fisheries, Disaster Management & Information
Dominican Republic National Council for Climate Change and the Clean Development Mechanism
Dominican Republic Ministry of Environment and Natural Resources
Jamaica Ministry of Economic Growth and Job Creation
Grenada Red Cross Societies
Dominican Republic Red Cross Society
Jamaica Red Cross Society



RESILIENT ISLANDS

▶ Together We Will



Build awareness by developing ecosystem-based adaptation (EbA) ambassadors and hosting training and awareness activities. Approximately 15-45 leaders will be trained in each country to advance nature-based solutions within their communities or organizations.



Create an adaptation toolkit that will synthesize data and promote better decision-making around disaster risk management and climate adaptation. Thousands of people will benefit from locally tailored, nature-based solutions identified with guidance from the toolkit.



Develop new and existing legislation to emphasize climate adaptation. Increased cooperation across government agencies will advance adaptation implementation strategies that preserve natural resources and protect communities.



Implement demonstration projects in 1-3 vulnerable communities in each country. These sites will become regional models that demonstrate the importance of natural resources and their ability to enhance food security, economic development and physical protection against flooding and other climate-related risks.



Launch the Resilient Caribbean Coalition to connect stakeholders with knowledge platforms and financial opportunities to scale-up demonstration projects and integrate EbA into national and regional policy.

▶ A Stronger Caribbean

Although Caribbean nations contribute little to the causes of climate change, the negative impacts are already affecting people, homes, businesses and infrastructure along their coasts. In response to increasingly dangerous hurricanes and rising vulnerability, Resilient Islands will address the need for urgent action by developing adaptation toolkits, best-practice models and access to funding. As a result, the project will achieve resilient communities and governments that are empowered to significantly increase investments in the protection and restoration of key ecosystems to meet adaptation, risk reduction and development goals.



This project is part of the International Climate Initiative (IKI). The Federal Ministry for the Environment, Nature Conservation and Nuclear Safety (BMU) supports this initiative on the basis of a decision adopted by the German Bundestag.

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