

Goal of Approach:

The Climate Vulnerability Monitor states: *The physical vulnerability of the Dominican Republic is evident, given its clear exposure to hurricanes and intense tropical weather. Flooding, which is becoming more prevalent and severe with climate change, is a particular cause of concern, and accounts for the majority of climate related extreme weather damages affecting the Dominican Republic.Most models expect less rainfall, more heat, including more frequent hot days and thus likely more droughts...Wider risk transfer via insurance or catastrophe bonds to the private sector would strengthen resilience against major economic damages from increasingly severe weather incidents.*

The USAID-supported Environmental Protection Program (EPP), implemented by The Nature Conservancy (TNC), supports the Dominican Republic's ability to adapt to global climate change and reduce the risk of loss and damage from climate shocks by involving stakeholders at the local and national levels in a comprehensive approach that includes capacity building, policy development, and ecosystem-based adaptation in selected sites, mainly Samaná Bay and Bayahibe.

USAID is also launching a new project to help smallholder farmers in the Dominican Republic access and use a widened menu of climate risk management tools. These tools address loss and damage by helping farmers reduce and transfer their risks. Each tool will be targeted at the risks that it can most appropriately and cost-effectively address. This project will support the development of one or more sustainable, market-based insurance products that complement risk reduction efforts, reflect small farmers' needs, and are replicable and marketable in communities across the country by local insurers in subsequent years. It will also motivate and facilitate the adoption of risk reduction practices and technologies that can complement the insurance and address shocks that are more frequent but less severe.

Input provided by: United States (USAID/Dominican Republic)

Main elements of the implementation strategy

The EPP builds Dominican capacity to interpret information on climate change and its impacts, to coordinate among government offices at all levels, NGOs, and the private sector to develop the enabling policy environment for climate adaptation actions, and to implement on-the-ground adaptation interventions that build society's resilience to climate change. This is a five-year initiative implemented through a cooperative agreement with The Nature Conservancy and sub-awards with the Technological Institute of Santo Domingo (INTEC), the Center for the Conservation and Eco-Development of Samaná Bay and Its Surrounding Areas (CEBSE), the Pro-Naturaleza Fund, Inc. (PRONATURA), Dominican Institute for Integral Development (IDDI) and Foundation for Marine Studies (FUNDEMAR). Major activities regarding climate change adaptation have included:

- Identifying gaps in public policy tools (including legislation), and supporting the development of key instruments to address long term impacts of climate change to the DR. The USAID/TNC EPP is working closely with the Council for Climate Change and the Environment Ministry to engage key stakeholders in this effort.
- Increasing public awareness of climate change at local and national levels through activities with partners and producing reliable information for decision making and demonstrations of adaptive measures. Additionally, a broad effort to inform, educate and engage private sector, NGOs, CBOs and the public in general is being carried out through various methods including a public awareness survey and campaign.
- Creating the first community-based climate change adaptation network with 32 different community based organizations - representing popular neighborhoods of Santo Domingo and some government entities.

The project will also include modeling of climate change impacts on the hydrological cycles in major watersheds and support for the integration of climate change adaptation in municipal planning in 6 municipalities in the DR.

Meanwhile, the new project on climate risk management tools for Dominican farmers will:

- Provide climate change and agriculture technical training for farmer groups, and increase farmer knowledge on climate change impacts
- Increase farmers' access to climate and weather information for decisionmaking
- Increase farmers' adoption of risk reduction measures, such as water storage
- Increase farmers' access to risk transfer mechanisms such as index insurance for climate-related risks to agriculture

This project will partner with agricultural producer clusters, an international reinsurer, and local insurance companies, among others.

Targeted beneficiaries

These projects will increase climate change awareness and planning capacity among a range of stakeholders, and also contribute to on-the-ground measures that directly reduce the risk of loss and damage from adverse climate change impacts.

With increased adaptive capacity and resilience to climate change, Dominican farmers will be able to increase their agricultural and therefore economic productivity, thereby improving the country's food security.

Any significant lessons learned

Resource requirements

These projects are identifying and addressing key capacity needs, including among government decision makers at different levels, the private sector, NGOs, CBOs, farmers, and the general public.

Experiences from other developing countries show that implementing weather index insurance often requires addressing data gaps and building capacity among local insurers, target beneficiaries, and/or government officials and regulators.

Potential for replication or scaling-up

These projects will demonstrate adaptation measures in agriculture and other sectors; exposure to successful measures can motivate additional communities and individuals to implement similar actions.

In addition, as Dominican insurance companies become increasingly familiar with innovative products like index insurance, these products could be scaled to other parts of the country and marketed by more companies, thereby reducing costs.

Any additional information