

MANGROVES AND AGRICULTURE

Lessons Direct From Our Partners Across The Region

JAMAICA C-CAM (MANGROVE RESTORATION)

Lessons Learnt:

It is important to have an assessment of the sites at the time of project preparation and immediately before implementation to ensure that changes to the site are mitigated quickly before they become too costly. Also it is important to ensure that the resources, human and financial, are sufficient to properly implement the project. Use the volunteers on the project to help identify and encourage other persons in their community who could participate. Having become aware of the time sensitive nature of the restoration costs once mangroves are lost, it is best to direct much more resources to site stabilization or preparation as that is potentially the most expensive activity, and is crucial to the potential for long term maintenance of the site. Consideration could be given to the preparation of our own planting material locally as seedlings transported from a nursery environment often have difficulty acclimatizing to conditions of the restoration site.

Beneficiaries

Portland Bight Protected Area Communities in Southern Clarendon and Southern St. Catherine.

Farmers and fishers – livelihoods are protected and enhanced.
Householders – houses are protected.
Women / Girls – families, houses and livelihoods are protected.
Men/ boys – livelihoods, families, businesses and property are protected.
Disabled – property is protected.

At least 100 community representatives (including fisher folks) and agency representatives were sensitised about *climate change* impacts, and how maintaining healthy wetlands can provide effective protection from disasters and adaptation to climate change. 200 community members, students, fisher folks and agency representatives participated in a mangrove awareness exposition focusing on the importance of mangroves to livelihood protection. The Portland Bight Protected Area (PBPA) is home to some 4,000 fishers. It is expected that the livelihoods of more than 2,000 fisher folks who fish in the area, will be protected through maintenance of the coastal mangrove fish nurseries. An estimated 40 persons participated in the training and planting exercises. The indirect beneficiaries were those who participated in the public awareness sessions, which was estimated at 350.

JAMAICA JEFFREY TOWN FARMERS ASSOCIATION (AGRICULTURE)

Lessons Learnt:

Make sure your budget is realistic and have meetings with beneficiaries in each area of the project, so that responsibilities are clearly defined. Document with as many photos and notes as you can, so that the final report is more accurate. Also label all of your receipts as you collect them.

Beneficiaries

Based on the number of single parent households, women are perhaps the biggest long term beneficiaries from this project because they have access to sufficient water, we see family members going to Carter Mtn to do washing as everyone is harnessing rain water, the distance to carry water to the home is greatly reduced for those using the community access points. Women will also benefit from the pine when they begin to bare. Much of the manual labour was carried out by men however women did day work to assist with labour. Pine and tree planting was carried out at the ratio of 3/2 women to men. The tank bases were built by families, where some of the younger members helped. The media aspects were completed by a team of both male and female at a ratio of 3/2 women to men.

Both women and men attended training and had equal access to the educational programmes. More than twenty households were trained specifically in how to treat water. The unexpected beneficiaries include those who now come to the community water stations to collect water who have not been able to count. During the dry month of 2013 the Spring garden water station was commissioned in front of the Governor General of Jamaica, numerous groups came to visit and people both in and out of the community came to collect water. This station has the added benefit of drip feeding water to the organic farm directly and at a separate T off along the line the farming community have access to running and stored water for their farms.

SURINAME ANTON DE KOM UNI. (MANGROVE RESTORATION)

Lessons Learnt:

Study other projects and make your own adaptations. Improve accessibility and walkways as part of the project. June is the rainy month, when accessibility is especially poor. To enhance this, additional wooden bridges/ walk ways have to be constructed and the application of innovative transportation methods in the soft mud to drag weight, such as bamboos. Additionally, rail construction must be part of the plan. Give more attention to the monitoring and repairing of the permeable wooden dam (PVD). In this respect, a technically adapted and simple to operate vehicle should be made available. Go for selected bamboos, rather than other wooden materials. Attack of the crabs on the mangrove plants have to be considered and taken into consideration when selecting locations, under tall trees. Produce a huge number of mangrove juveniles from the beginning and involve locals from the beginning with this part of the work, especially women. Train more people in the benefits derived (goods and the services) from the mangrove ecosystem. Convincing and training people in a new mindset takes time.

Beneficiaries

The community of Weg naar Zee (WnZ), is comprised mainly of farmers, fishermen, followers of the Hindu Pilgrimage and Cremation Resort and other inhabitants. The area is prone to coastal flooding. Community trained in coastal zone management through awareness raising and developing and administering a training program.

Main groups that benefitted:

- 100 Schoolchildren
- 15 Elders
- 50 The religious community
- 50 Farmers
- 100 Neighbouring communities as a spin off
- 100 Students

The general public also benefited from awareness raising activities. Birdwatchers have been seen in the Sediment Trapping Unit (STU), using the board walk to get close to the birds. Students from abroad, particularly from the Netherlands, including the PhD students now have access to do more research and compare a rehabilitated mangrove forest with the undisturbed mangrove forest.

There is long term community engagement and the establishment of a volunteer organization. Due to the increase in biodiversity (e.g. birds), there is interest in promoting bird watching and associated tourism activities in the area. Males (about 15) learned new techniques on how to gain land and to plant mangroves. They acquired this knowledge through learning by doing. These men and boys have become the ambassadors of this concept, clearly promoting and defending this concept as needed. Women and men became advocates and promoters of the project, and both groups planted seedlings.

JAMAICA DOLPHIN HEAD (CLIMATE SMART AGRICULTURE)

Lessons Learnt:

Going forward the team will endeavour to ensure that the selected time for activities will allow us to reach as many persons as possible.

Beneficiaries

Approximately 15-20 farmers trained and at least 5 schools engaged in an exchange visit to DHLFMC and/or participating farms. Community immersion - Mobilizing community members who may be interested in training and bringing the Farmer Field School (FFS), facilitators and the community together to discuss the training needs. With support from LFMC members they reached approximately 74 persons in 5 communities: Dias, Flamstead and Flower Hill, Ginger Hill and Haughton Court.

The majority of persons reached through mobilization activities for example are men (approximately 70%). Women who engage in farming enterprises, have full access opportunity to participate. The team was aware that most women in the community go outside of the community to earn a living. This was a challenge in some instances.

"I can say there is success from the training because they are farmers that are already using the things they learnt..."

Chairperson of Dolphin Head Local Forest Management Committee
COLLETT GRANT

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CANADA CARIBBEAN DISASTER RISK
MANAGEMENT FUND (CCDRMF)
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