

JAMAICA/CCCCC



GREEN
CLIMATE
FUND

GLOBAL
PROGRAMMING
CONFERENCE

Project title Water is Life: Actions and Tools for Enhancing Resilience in Upper Watershed- Communities in Jamaica

Result areas

- Most vulnerable people and communities
- Health and well-being, and food and water security

Sector

Public

Total financing, USD

9.887M

GCF financing, USD

9.667M

Financial instrument

Grant

Description of specific climate change problem and how the project will address it

- Watershed communities in Jamaica are extremely vulnerable to the impacts of climate change. Majority of the watershed-communities depend predominantly on the agriculture sector; however, drought conditions have impacted and will continue to impact agriculture causing significant losses to farmers and create greater dependence on water from the catchment areas, which are critical for supplying potable water for domestic and commercial purposes.
- Furthermore, flooding events have threatened the livelihoods and households of many residing in close proximity to catchment areas and channels for runoff including rivers.
- As the frequency and intensity of climate-related risks change, watershed communities in Jamaica must be prepared and adapt.
- Making climate data and information accessible, timely and relevant to watershed communities can help them make informed and appropriate responses to protect their homes and livelihoods from climate risks. Knowledge on cost-effective adaptation technologies can make communities become more climate resilient in drying times.
- This project aims to enhance the adaptive capacity of upper watershed-communities to climate variability and change. The project intends to improve decision making related to climate risks and build the resilience of communities through an integrated watershed management approach, climate information services and adaptation technologies and actions at the local level.

Alignment with key country priorities and stakeholders engaged

The project is aligned with policies and policy related documents: Vision 2030 – National Development Plan (National Outcome 14: Hazard Risk Reduction & Adaptation to Climate Change), 2015 Climate Change Policy Framework, Medium Term Socio-Economic Framework (2018-2021), Draft Water Policy, Third National Communications (TNC) which defines early warning systems as a priority for Jamaica, Nationally Determined Contributions which support Jamaica's intention to take concrete adaptation action

Stakeholders Engaged: Meteorological Services of Jamaica, Water Resources Authority, Rural Agricultural Department Authority.

Other stakeholders to be engaged: National Environment and Planning Agency, Office of Disaster Preparedness and Emergency Management, National Water Commission

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Activities

- Introduce water adaptation technologies (rain water harvesting, micro-drip irrigation, retrofitting of ponds) and develop community water security plans
- Support ICT infrastructure – Water Watch Jamaica website with real time information highlighting locations where hydrologic events are occurring
- Installation of automated weather stations to collect climate data
- Improve provision of climate information services – provision of agro-meteorological information/alerts to farmers
- Strengthen knowledge of local communities in water management, flood control and other adaptation initiatives
- Increase youth engagement – on-farm internships, school curriculum, youth forum
- Document lessons learned and best practices

Expected outcomes

- Government agencies have adequate tools to make informed decisions and disseminate information to relevant stakeholders.
- Over 200,000 beneficiaries benefit from the provision of climate information services and climate change adaptation technologies for water.
- Approximately 60,000 students enrolled in primary and secondary schools will increase their awareness of climate change and the impact of agriculture and watershed.
- At least 150 structural measures established/strengthened.

Paradigm shift potential

- The key innovation is the utilisation of tools and delivery of climate information for decision making at all levels.
- This can be replicated across the island and utilised by various sectors
- The knowledge generated can transform farming communities encouraging the adoption of climate change adaptation technologies to be the norm
- Communities will have a meaningful participation in watershed management