CityAdapt

Ecosystem-based Adaptation in El Salvador, Mexico & Jamaica

2017-2022

Supported by the Least Developed Countries Fund

SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS

Establishing sustainable agriculture practices on 1,000 hectares, and providing training in edible mushroom cultivation

Providing access to reliable water supplies for 100+ families and nearly 30 schools and community buildings

Improving the' sustainability of 3 cities using ecosystem-based adaptation, while reducing flood risk for 115,000 people in San Salvador alone.

Training 190 planning officials to integrate ecosystem-based adaptation into planning processes, while producing a range of adaptation tools

Restoring 1,150 hectares of coffee farms and critical ecosystems, along with 3,600m of riparian areas.

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PROJECT TITLE:

CITYADAPT - BUILDING CLIMATE RESILIENCE OF URBAN SYSTEMS THROUGH ECOSYSTEM-BASED ADAPTATION (EBA) IN LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN

NATIONAL PARTNERS:

- Ministry of Environment and Natural Resources, **El Salvador**
- Ministry of Land and Environment, **Jamaica**
- Ministry of Planning and Environmental Policy, **Mexico**

KEY TARGETS:

194,090

Individuals benefitting from the project

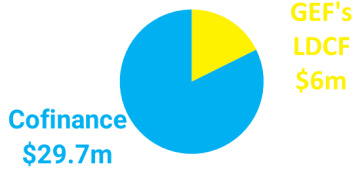
190

Decision-makers and planning officials trained in ecosystem-based adaptation

55+

Rainwater harvesting systems and water retention structures built

FUNDING:



IMPLEMENTING PARTNERS:

Mexico: Fondo Golfo de México AC (FGM). Jamaica: Forestry Department of Jamaica; Jamaica 4H Clubs. El Salvador: Fundación Salvadoreña de Desarrollo y Vivienda Mínima (FUNDASAL); Asociación de Proyectos Comunales de El Salvador (PROCOMES)

INTRODUCTION

- The Latin America and Caribbean (LAC) region is undergoing urbanization at rates twice the global average. Furthermore, the rapid deforestation in urban areas for farming and agriculture is worsening the impacts of climate change.
- CityAdapt's goal is to build the capacity of government and local communities to adapt to the effects of climate change through the integration of Ecosystem-based Adaptation (EbA) into urban planning.
- EbA is the holistic strategy of using ecosystems – and the services they provide – to reduce the negative impacts of climate change on people.
- The project is being implemented in 3 cities - Xalapa (Mexico), Kingston (Jamaica), and San Salvador (El Salvador).

CLIMATE IMPACTS

- In Xalapa city in Mexico, fluctuating temperatures and rainfall patterns are destabilizing the mountain slopes around the city, leading to frequent landslides and floods.
- A Caribbean island home to nearly 3 million people, Jamaica is highly vulnerable to climate change, leading devastating floods and droughts in the capital Kingston.
- In recent years, climate change has made extreme storms more common in El Salvador. They are especially harmful around the capital San Salvador, home to over 1 million people.
- These challenges are worsened by urbanization and deforestation because urban forests provide a buffer and defence against floods, droughts, and landslides – the 3 main climate hazards facing these cities.

PROJECT LOCATION

CityAdapt is taking place in 3 cities in El Salvador (green), Jamaica (yellow), and Mexico (blue)

CONTACTS

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TECHNOLOGIES & METHODS

- CityAdapt is carrying out **ecosystem restoration** in the 3 target cities to reduce the impacts of climate change. See Box 1.
- CityAdapt is conducting **vulnerability assessments** to identify the most at risk areas from climate change, and to understand the importance of ecosystems in reducing this risk.
- The project is building resilience to drought by constructing over 25 **rainwater harvesting systems** and over 30 other types of water retention structures.
- CityAdapt is collaborating with schools to create **community crop gardens** as a means of increasing food security and raising public awareness of climate change.
- Community members are being trained in **climate-resilient alternative livelihoods,** such as edible mushroom cultivation.
- In addition, a strategy is being developed to **sustain and upscale EbA** across urban areas in the 3 countries. This involves training 190 decision-makers and planning officials with increased capacity to **integrate EbA into urban development** planning.

Box 1. Ecosystem-based Adaptation in Action

- In **Xalapa**, 3,600m of riparian areas are being restored to improve river flow to prevent floods and droughts, along with a 200m connectivity corridor between reforested areas, which improves the health of the ecosystems.
- In **Kingston**, the project is restoring 2 hectares of wetlands to reduce coastal erosion and flooding, along with 2.3 hectares of an urban park with 1,400 trees.
- In **San Salvador,** 1,150 hectares of coffee farms and ecosystems are being restored to reduce flooding and landslides. The project is also creating 62km of infiltration ditches to mimic the drainage that streams provide naturally.

BUILDING EBA KNOWLEDGE

- CityAdapt is generating **scientific evidence** on urban EbA strategies via research and monitoring partnerships with local universities. A **web-based platform** is disseminating this research (https://cityadapt.com/en/).
- Some of the EbA tools, knowledge products, and trainings developed by CityAdapt include:
  * Virtual Urban EbA Course with participants from 14 LAC countries, which will be developed further into a Massive Open Online Course - link
  * Protocols on urban wetland and riparian restoration, rainwater harvesting, infiltration ditches, urban food gardens, fruit harvesting, mushroom production, agroforestry, and beekeeping - link
  * Vulnerability assessments and technical guidelines to facilitate officials' understanding of climate risk - link
  * For more, please visit the project website - link

MULTIMEDIA & STORIES

- Kingston Case Study – link
- Xalapa Case Study - link
- San Salvador Case Study - link
- Video: Regreening San Salvador to fight climate change - link
- Story: "Sponge City": San Salvador uses nature to fight floods - link
- Story: Banking on nature: a Mexican city adapt to climate change - link

CityAdapt
RECONNECTING CITIES WITH NATURE
LATINAMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN

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MINISTERIO DE MEDIO AMBIENTE Y RECURSOS NATURALES
MINISTRY OF ECONOMIC GROWTH AND JOB CREATION
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