

SIDS COMMUNITY-BASED ADAPTATION PROJECT
NATIONAL CBA REVIEW REPORT FOR JAMAICA



Prepared by
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Reviewed by
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- GEF SGP Country Team
- United Nations Development Programme
- Key Government Partners – Planning Institute of Jamaica (PIOJ), Rural Agricultural Development Authority, Social Development Commission, and the Climate Change Division and the Forestry Department of the Ministry of Economic Growth and Job Creation.

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List of Acronyms

CBA	Community-Based Adaptation
CBO	Community-Based Organization
CC	Climate Change
CPDCBS	Clarendon Parish Development Committee Benevolent Society
CPS	Country Programme Strategy (under the CBA project)
CMC	Clarendon Municipal Corporation
CSO	Civil Society Organization
DFAT	Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade (Australian Government)
DRR	Disaster Risk Reduction
GEB	Global Environmental Benefits
GEF	Global Environment Facility
IDP	International Development Partner(s)
IPCC	Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change
NGO	Non-Governmental Organization
PIOJ	Planning Institute of Jamaica
SGP	Small Grants Programme
SIDS	Small Island Developing States
UNDP	United Nations Development Programme
UNFCCC	United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change
VRA	Vulnerability Reduction Assessment

Executive Summary

This is the final country programme report for the SGP SIDS CBA in Jamaica. The report is prepared to present the achievements, challenges and recommendations. The community-based adaptation (CBA) pilot project in Jamaica spans a period of 8 years (2012-2020). The objective of the CBA programme in Jamaica was to integrate climate change risk management into sustainable community management of natural resources. The project responded to some of the gaps outlined in Jamaica's initial (2000), second (2011) and third (2014) National Communication to the UNFCCC, the goals of the Vision 2030 Development Plan, as well as the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

Project components included several measures that addressed the additional risks posed by climate change, the percentage of area concerned in which climate change risk management activities and the number of local and national level policies adjusted as a result of lessons from CBA projects. The expected outcomes of the Country Programme, as outlined in the CBA Project document were:

- Necessary capacity strengthened among the NGOs and CBOs for designing and implementing community-based adaptation measures
- Adaptation to climate change mainstreamed at the community level
- Relevant national policies and development programmes revised based on the lessons from the project
- Lessons based upon effective approaches for implementing community adaptation measures documented

On March 5, 2020, a close-out evaluation workshop was conducted where key results, challenges and recommendations were shared with stakeholders from all sectors. It was concluded that the CBA project had made great impact on the lives of some of the poorest and most vulnerable communities in Jamaica, as evidenced in the remarks of both the persons who gave remarks.

The review conducted by the consulting team shows that the CBA project has made the following contributions to environmental protection and sustainable development:

- Increased capacity and awareness among various professionals, more so policy-makers within the Government, enabling them to plan and appropriately target communities for development and policy interventions.

- Further enabled informed decisions in development planning, while increasing dialogue around climate change impacts and the resulting strain on the country's resources, which further intensifies poverty and general suffering of the population.
- Global Environmental Benefits which were achieved through sustainable land management and conservation.

The CBA project has also made the following contributions to gender equality and the empowerment of women:

- Increased number of women and youths participating in activities that culturally were recognised for males
- Increased number of women managing projects and having decision-making roles and having ownership rights to land.

The consulting team concludes that the CBA project has had significant achievements in addressing the goals of the AusAID SIDS CBA programme consistent with the Country Programme Strategy (CPS) and Project Document for some of the poorest and most vulnerable communities in Jamaica. However, several challenges remain in the priority areas – agriculture sector and coastal zone with a focus on public awareness, capacity building and climate science. We therefore recommend the development and implementation of a National Programme on Community-Based Adaptation in Jamaica that is directly in line with the national priorities of the Government of Jamaica, as articulated in Jamaica's National Development Plan – Vision 2030 Jamaica. Relevant National Outcomes under this Plan include: Outcome #13 – Sustainable Management and Use of Environmental and Natural Resources; National Outcome #14 – Hazard Risk Reduction and Adaptation to Climate Change and; Outcome #15 – Sustainable Urban and Rural Development.

Introduction and Background to SIDS CBA Project

Climate change continues to be one of the greatest challenges facing our planet and humanity today, and local communities and Small Island Developing States (SIDS) continue to be at the frontline of its impacts. Drought and rising temperatures, excessive precipitation and flooding, sea level rise and salt-water intrusion, coastal erosion, loss of agricultural crops, degradation of coral reefs due to coral bleaching, increased instances of pests and diseases, and extreme storms and weather events are just some of the challenges experienced by SIDS. These variations in climate not only affect the environment and the resilience of natural ecosystems, but also has ripple effects on every sector of the economy and society including economic stability, agriculture and food security, access to water and sanitation, health and wellbeing, education, tourism and livelihoods.

Understanding the effects of climate change, and associated enhanced climate variability and sea level rise, at the local and national levels is critical for adaptation, as is the capacity to select and apply appropriate methods and tools to prepare for adaptation. Furthermore, the development of technology; the use and integration of traditional knowledge (TK) and the communication of science in ways that can be understood and used by SIDS policy makers and their constituencies are also crucial. This includes the need to link scientific analysis to downstream social and economic effects.

SIDS often experience acceleration and/or intensification of climate change impacts due to their small land areas, susceptibility to natural disasters, geographical isolation, limited natural resources and sensitive ecosystems. Many of these natural resources are often already facing other anthropogenic pressures such as overexploitation, overharvesting, pollution, deforestation and degradation. In addition, many SIDS also struggle with fragile economies, political instability, high import bills and heavy dependence on external aid. Many countries do not have the resources to combat climate change on their own, and further degradation of natural resources and ecosystems will increase poverty, hunger and economic and social inequalities. Thus, climate change can significantly limit progress towards achieving sustainable development.

With these challenges in mind, in 2009 the GEF Small Grants Programme (SGP) entered into a partnership with the Australian Overseas Aid Programme, now assimilated with the Australian Government's Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade (DFAT).

With US\$12.4 million in funding from DFAT, the objective of the partnership was to improve the resilience of local communities in 42 countries, including 37 SIDS with Jamaica being one of these countries.

Country Context

Jamaica is a small island developing state situated in the Caribbean Sea with an area of 10,991 km². Approximately 70% of the population lives in the coastal zone. Jamaica is largely dependent upon its coastline. Key infrastructure such as the airport and many industries are located in coastal regions. Most of the country's agricultural development and industrial and urban centres lie along the south coast of the island. A recent (2014) risk evaluation estimates that the value of social and economic assets and infrastructure exposed to hazards is US\$18.6 billion. A significant portion of this exposure lies in the coastal zone, highlighting the need for incorporating climate change risk into policies and plans that impact on these areas.

Climate Change poses serious risks to the island's natural and built environments. Climate change scenarios were generated under the Initial and Second National Communications to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), listing the main climate change risk hazards as: sea level rise increases in extreme events – precipitation and drought, more intense storms and storm surges and increased temperatures. These scenarios and reports by the Inter-governmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC, 2007) have indicated that there is a 90% likelihood that temperatures will increase by between 1°C and 1.6°C by 2050 in the Greater Antilles where Jamaica is located.

The SIDS CBA initiative addressed a number of these challenges at the local level through capacity building initiatives and improved natural resource management. This was accomplished primarily through the implementation of six (6) demonstration projects that simultaneously generated Global Environmental Benefits (GEBs) and made ecosystems resilient to climate variability and change. The CBA worked closely with current national adaptation interventions considering the Second and Third National Communications to the UNFCCC to ensure the utilization of the most current and accurate information to guide adaptation priorities and options.

The results of the Initiative allow for lessons learnt from community-based interventions to be scaled up at the national level, thereby providing opportunities for incorporation into national adaptation and planning policies. Based on priorities identified in the initial and second national communications, the coastal zone and agriculture sector was targeted primarily for project interventions. The National Agriculture Sub-Sector Plan under Vision 2030 has identified undue reliance on rain-fed agriculture; insufficient harvesting of water resources for storage and conveyance to productive areas and vulnerability to natural hazards among the main constraints affecting the performance of the agriculture sector.

Tourism is a key activity in the coastal zone and, according to the Jamaica Tourist Board, the earnings in 2018 were US\$3.3 billion. The cost to protect Jamaica from a one metre sea level rise was estimated by the IPCC, in 1990 to be US\$462 million which equates to a cost of US\$197 per person or an annual cost that is 19% of GNP. (Jamaica's First National Communication to the UNFCCC). The CBA project in Jamaica was delivered through the mechanism of the Global Environment Facility Small Grants Programme (GEF SGP) and in the context of the SGP national country programme procedures and under the overall guidance of UNDP country office.

Country Allocation (Grants and non-Grants) and Portfolio of Projects

Jamaica received a total grant allocation of US\$300,000 (3 tranches) and a US\$50,000 non-grant allocation for programme operations. A total of 10 projects (full and planning grants) were funded, focusing on capacity building, development of knowledge products and climate change awareness targeting youths, persons with disabilities and local community groups (NGOs and CBOs). Five projects were successfully completed, and one terminated before completion; while two planning grants were completed and two are under implementation at the time of review. **Table 1** below gives a snapshot of the completed full-size projects supported under the CBA programme including some of the key results achieved.

Table 1 – List of full-size projects supported under the CBA Programme

Implementing Partners	Project Title and Number	Project Summary, Objective and Key Results	Grant (USD)
Clarendon Parish Development Committee Benevolent Society	Construction of Water Harvesting Infrastructure and improving the Community's Adaptive Capacity to Natural Hazards JAM/SIDS-CBA/12/01	<p><u>Objective:</u> To strengthen the communities' resilience to climate change impacts, and its variability, through awareness-raising and capacity building activities in water security and natural resource management.</p> <p><u>Key results:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Rehabilitation of 100,000-litre water community water catchment tank • Total number of beneficiaries - 1,500 • 1,625 square meters of land, previously used for bauxite mining, is now being managed using sustainable agro-forestry management techniques. • Installation of solar-power system to produce electricity for the water pump • Community benefits include: Improvement in healthy domestic practices, sustainable water supply, access to water to irrigate crops, improved agriculture productivity, strengthened local governance through community cooperation, community is better prepared and organized to undertake more development projects, reduction in hygiene related illnesses and reduction of diseases • Project has influenced the local authority to seek funding to improve the community water scheme in the neighbouring Mocho Area • Project was replicated/upscaled at the local, national and regional levels by two donors, partnering with the UNDP. • Co-financing contribution - US\$82,348 <p>This project was developed/featured as a success story by UNDP Jamaica</p>	50,000
Security & Upliftment Association of Dawkins & Surrounding Districts	Strengthening the Adaptive Capacity of Farmers through the Construction of a Water Harvesting System JAM/SIDS-CBA/12/02	<p><u>Project objective:</u> To develop a sustainable water harvesting system, build awareness on the productive use of rainwater harvesting and increase the community's capacity to apply adaptive management tools in Sustainable Land Management.</p> <p><u>Key results:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Installation of solar system and holding tanks • Total beneficiaries - 15 households (4 persons per household) • Several community sensitization meetings held on the importance of utilizing natural resources such as rainwater to cope with climate change • Co-financing contribution – US\$37,120 <p>During the site visit observation was made that the ponds are not being utilised by the farmers as the group is no longer active.</p>	20,000

Colouden New Testament Church of God	Colouden Brae Head Water Harvesting Project JAM/SIDS-CBA/13/03	<p><u><i>Project objective:</i></u> To provide access to drinkable water, reducing water-borne diseases and increasing agricultural production through the implementation of a water harvesting system that will provide good quality drinking water to the 6,000 residents in the community</p> <p><u><i>Key results</i></u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 15 hectares of land sustainably managed • 6,324 community members benefited • Number of households impacted: Triple the number of households benefitting from new water supply (at least 50%) • Capacity developed: 25 households, small businesses such as grocers, hardware suppliers are already engaged in vulnerability reduction/adaptive capacity development activities; Training of community operators in Material implementation and maintenance of the water harvesting system; Community members learned about new Plumbing technology; One mile of road paved by the Government of Jamaica • Beneficiary involvement: Residents provided co financing of J\$29 000, land for the construction of the tank plus sweat equity in the form of labour and food supplies for labourers • Innovation: Three innovations: (1) Gravity fed technology for harvesting water from the spring into a tank; (2) New piping technologies with a 100-year life-span connected to a source stream and six standpipes strategically located; (3) A 22,000 gallons water tank constructed with unique features set-up for safety and security • The project was replicated/upscaled by the USAID • Co-financing contribution – US\$38,464 <p>This project was developed/featured as a success story by the UNDP Jamaica</p>	45,000
Ewarton Watershed & Farmers' Co-operative Society Ltd	Combating Climate Change through Ecosystems Management and the use of Renewable Energy Technology JAM/SIDS-CBA/13/04	<p><u><i>Project objective:</i></u> To construct rainwater harvesting system for domestic and agricultural use that will provide sustainable livelihood options for community members</p> <p><u><i>Key results</i></u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Direct beneficiaries – 105 (15 youths, 30 females and 60 males) • Beneficiaries receiving training in implementation of specific adaptation measures or decision-support tools – 1,500 persons • Days of food shortage reduced by 275 days. Example the crops such as plantain, cassava usually takes approximately 365 days. Since the project, crops such as cabbage, sweet pepper, pumpkin, sweet potato, are now available within 90 days • Installation and construction of new technologies – 3 greenhouses, solar pump and solar panels • Persons trained in project development, business model, Greenhouse technology, use and maintenance of solar pump, – 60 • 2.5 acres or 1 hectare of productive land restored/regained • Co-financing contribution – US\$39,400 	25,000

		During the site visit observation was made that the greenhouses were dismantled, and group members are now involved in open-air farming. This was due mainly because the group was not together for a while and no one took on the responsibility of maintaining the greenhouse. Nonetheless, the group members indicated that they will be reviving the project as they had seen the benefits when it was first constructed. The members indicated that the ponds are still being used as they depend on the water for their crops.	
Pedro Plains/Hounslow Development Committee	Application of Flooding Mitigation Measures and Forestry Conservation in the Bigwoods Community, JAM/SIDS-CBA/13/05)	<p><u>Project objective:</u> To construct retaining walls and gabion baskets to reduce and prevent land slippage in the vulnerable community of Big Woods.</p> <p><u>Key results</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Construction of drain, culvert and retaining wall • 6.9 hectares (17 acres) of land sustainably managed/improved • Number of community members benefited - 1,000 (Men: 290; Women: 400; Children: 200; Elderly:100; PwDisabiliteis:10) <p>Efforts were made in contacting the group to conduct a site visit but were unsuccessful, however the Grantee's file was reviewed, and the above information was noted. Also noted was that the project was terminated before time. Enquiry was made with the National Coordinator, who informed that this was due mainly because the group was able to construct the drain, culvert and retaining wall which was their major challenge, thereafter key members of the group left and no one took on the responsibility to ensure project completion.</p>	30,000
Mustard Seed Communities	Securing a Reliable Water Supply in the Community of Jacob's Ladder, while Improving the Members' Adaptive Capacity to Climate Change Impacts JAM/SIDS-CBA/15/06	<p><u>Project objective:</u> To construct on-site water catchment/storage facility with capacity of 2M gallons and expand agroforestry system to include drought resistant crops.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Co-financing contribution – US\$96,680 <p><u>Key results</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Benefited 100 men and women with physical and mental disabilities • Construction of 750,000-gallon water catchment pond • 50 hectares of land applying sustainable forest, agricultural and water management practices tthrough reforestation with drought resistant crops and timber trees 	50,000

The two projects under implementation are focused on building resilience and adaptive capacity (to the impacts of Climate Change and Disaster Risk Reduction) of persons with disabilities and other vulnerable groups islanwide. Activities include development of appropriate knowledge management products, compilation of climate change training tools and materials for NGOs and CBOs, conversion and dissemination of educational materials on CC and DRR converted for the blind and the visually impaired. Organisation of poster, essay, poetry, talent and special projects competitions for targeted schools.

Methodology and Process of the Review

The review was considered as two components: review of each individual community project and strategic review of the overall country project. Both components were subjected to quantitative and qualitative analyses, although the individual community project review required more quantitative data while the strategic review was more on a qualitative approach. The Logical Framework Analysis (LFA) was utilized as the tool for the review of the individual community projects. The LFA is a versatile instrument which has been used as the basis of project planning and evaluation for many decades. The main use of this tool was to classify the goals and objectives of the projects, the required inputs and the output indicators which can be objectively verified as well as the risks and assumptions which were considered. Data were collected utilizing the following sources:

- Desktop Review – this involved a review of all project documentation inclusive of proposals, reports, case studies, publications, websites, internal communications and other relevant materials. The reviewer also viewed the website of the GEF Small Grants Programme to obtain any additional information on the CBA projects.
- Structured interviews – these were conducted with project leaders, volunteers and other internal stakeholders. Questions in these sessions were presented in a format that enabled quantitative analyses. These were supplemented by personal (and anecdotal) observations of the respondents, although off-the-record responses were kept confidential. Key external stakeholders, namely teachers in community schools, community leaders and local businesspeople were also interviewed. These latter data were more qualitative in nature.
- Focus Groups - Inputs from the project participants/beneficiaries were the cornerstone of this review. As such, focus group sessions were conducted at all project sites that were visited. Identical themes relating to the project planning, inputs, outputs and sustainability were discussed at all the sessions which allowed for the collection of data that facilitated comparisons across projects.
- Site Visits – Four sites were visited once during the review period. These visits followed the completion of the relevant desktop review to enable an informed assessment of the project. Given the constraints of time, site visits incorporated various activities such as interviews or group meetings to include community groups and key stakeholders.

For the strategic review of the country project, the primary objective of which was to assess the contribution of the CBA project against the goals as outlined in the Country Programme Strategy, the activities comprised mainly desktop review and structured interviews. The main documents reviewed were the Country Programme Strategy for Jamaica and government policy documents (i.e. the 1st, 2nd and 3rd National Communication to the UNFCCC).

Interviews were conducted with key officers of the government and other state agencies, academics, representatives of international agencies, National Steering Committee members, media practitioners and civil society groups. The document review and interviews were structured to inform conclusions on the following strategic issues:

- Whether the project improved the adaptive capacity of communities and reduced vulnerability to the adverse effects of climate change
- Whether the communities were provided with concrete ground-level experience on local climate change adaptation
- Whether the project provided clear policy lessons
- Whether there are opportunities for adaptation, replication, up-scaling and mainstreaming of the outputs
- Whether there are opportunities for international cooperation in design and implementation of adaptation measures

VRA Results

Conducting the Vulnerability Reduction Assessment (VRA) sessions proved to be quite challenging for several communities as, in most cases, no mid-term assessment had been conducted. No final assessment could be done in the case of the project which was terminated before completion. Nonetheless, the outcomes of the VRA were critical in assessing the vulnerability of these communities which showed significant reduction when compared to the initial and final VRA scores. This was evident during the review of project and site visits. The VRA scores of each group are reflected in **Table 2** below. Because of the technical nature of VRA, the SGP country team was able to train one of the groups who was able to support other groups in conducting their VRA assessments. Going forward, more groups could be trained on how to use the methodology, as more project partners are requesting the use of the tool. It should be noted that VRA was the only methodology used during implementation of the CBA project.

Table 2 – VRA results/scores of each participating group

Project Number/Implementing Partner	Initial scores	Mid Term scores	Final Scores
JAM/SIDS-CBA/12/01/Clarendon Parish Dev Comm.BS	2	2.75	4.5
JAM/SIDS-CBA/12/02/Security Upliftment	1.75	None was done	2.67
JAM/SIDS-CBA/13/03/Colouden	2	3	4.5
JAM/SIDS-CBA/13/04/Ewarton Watershed	2	None was done	4.5
JAM/SIDS-CBA/15/05/Pedro Plains	2	None was done	None was done
JAM/SIDS-CBA/15/06/Mustard Seed Communities	1.75	None was done	4.65

CBA Project Outcomes

Outcome 1: Necessary capacity strengthened among the NGOs and CBOs for designing and implementing community-based adaptation measures.

During project implementation of the CBA programme in Jamaica, several training workshops were held as well as one-on-one discussions with groups on their capacity to implement CBA projects. This was critical, based on the methodology and reporting requirements of the programme. For groups to conduct Vulnerability Reduction Assessments (VRA) which was mandatory, they had to have a full understanding of what to do, and as such the SGP team organised several training sessions with over twenty-five (25) community groups which included representatives from the relevant government agencies that would give support to groups during project implementation.

Other training was done on the use of the reporting template, which most organisations indicated was a little different from the regular SGP template and proposal writing which was critical for upscaling/replication of CBA initiatives.

The training sessions on climate change sought to improve knowledge of climate science, enhance understanding of climate change risk and build awareness of climate risks among members NGOs and CBOs and how to interpret climate data and information and use them in decision-making and adaptation planning.

There was evidence during project implementation of built/strengthened capacities among groups. One example was the engagement of an SGP grantee by other donor partners to conduct VRAs. Some groups were able to prepare and submit very sound proposals on a timely basis, the outcome of which was successful. Other groups were able to complete reports based on requests from some of the SGP's government partners such as the Planning Institute of Jamaica (PIOJ). These reports are normally prepared by SGP country team, however based on the information being requested, the SGP decided to request the report from the Grantees just to test their capacity in report writing. This was another area of success which convinced the SGP team that the groups were ready to meet and present their project results to government.

The process and steps taken was that the SGP team engaged several government agencies mainly the PIOJ – the agency that coordinates/monitors the work of all International Development Partners (IDPs) in the country - through telephone discussions, meetings and even visits to the sites of some of the groups on having our Grantee Partners presenting their project report. After several internal discussions at various levels, SGP was given the greenlight to organise our Grantee Partners to make their presentation directly to the government. Having Grantee Partners presenting, has had a huge impact on both the organisations and the individuals alike. This opportunity has this allowed for government to get first-hand information on what local communities are doing in making their contribution to addressing communities and their vulnerabilities and ultimately contributing to national development and how they, as government, can better assist these groups.

Government has expressed satisfaction with the groups and indicated that they have seen a vast difference with the groups who benefited from SGP projects when compared to other donors. As a result of this exposure, several CBA initiatives were upscaled/replicated, and this continues to happen. Some SGP CBA groups were invited to participate (as members of the Government delegation) in the UNFCCC Conference of Parties which further strengthened the organisations' capacities as they are now able to better understand the environmental conventions and understand that they too can play a role in supporting Government's obligations under these conventions and other international commitments. These groups have indicated a greater level of confidence and are more aware of climate change issues and how to utilise natural resources to make a difference in the lives of some of our most poor and vulnerable communities.



SGP Photos: Awareness and Training sessions on Climate Change for CBOs and NGOs

Outcome 2: Adaptation to climate change mainstreamed at the community level (environmental, social and economic impacts)

Over the years, shifting rainfall patterns due to climate change had reduced potable water which resulted in land degradation and deforestation in some of the most rural and vulnerable communities in Jamaica. But as potable water dwindled, livelihoods were threatened, even reduced, and increasing use by animals and people contaminated rivers and streams, posing a health risk. While residents struggled to gather water for everyday needs, not far beneath their feet were aquifers bursting with water in some communities.

Community groups have demonstrated how much they can do with very little and as such, during the implementation of the CBA programme, 73 hectares of land were restored and improved due to climate change adaptation strategies employed by these groups. Activities included new farming techniques, application of new technologies and planting of climate resilient crops: most groups decided on the agroforestry farming methodology based on the multiple benefits that it generates immediately and over the long term.

Some 2,200 community members have already realized increased income, especially those who previously had to purchase water on a weekly basis for both domestic and agricultural uses. The estimated cost to purchase and transport water on a monthly basis by these community members was approximately US\$2,000. The farming community has also benefited from planting more crops. Also, some community members have started to do farming due to the availability of water and there are others, such as returning residents, who indicated that now that water is available, they will invest in farming as food is too expensive to buy.

Some farmers were able to restore their livestock business (chickens & pigs) and indicated that productivity has been improved because they now have access to running water on a regular basis. This has also contributed to increased income for some community members. One group shared their experience that crops such as plantain, cassava usually takes approximately 365 days, but since the CBA project, it was now possible also to produce crops such as cabbage, sweet pepper, pumpkin, sweet potato within 90 days. Basically, all the groups were agriculture-based with their major problem being drought which left several farming communities without any form of sustainable livelihoods, as farming is their only source of income.

Several groups indicated that “water is life” and now that they have water, they have their lives back. Some 4,700 community members now have access to safe water. In terms of baseline information, while there are no quantitative data, groups indicated that nothing was going on for them, some even migrated from their communities to seek other sources of income, while those who stayed indicated that they could not find much to harvest due to drought. However, since the CBA project they were able to reap in abundance, as they were now able to invest in technologies and crop diversification that facilitate greater yields.



SGP Photos: Use of new technologies and increased vegetation

Most groups have indicated that at least forty percent (40%) of their community population has attended awareness-building programmes to increase their knowledge and understanding of the risks and opportunities associated with climate change. In addition to attending awareness-building programmes, community members, including children and persons with disabilities, were trained in water resource management including watershed management and rainwater harvesting.

As seen in the vulnerability reduction assessment (VRA) scores of the projects that were successfully completed, the community members are confident that they now have the skills, coping mechanisms and capacity that make them less vulnerable to the impacts of climate change. Most communities were able to generate both immediate and long-term benefits, in terms of sustainable livelihoods and other social and economic benefits from their projects. Some of the immediate benefits generated were: improvement in healthy domestic practices, access to water to irrigate crops, strengthened local governance through community cooperation, reduction in hygiene-related illnesses, increased income and food security, while long term benefits included: sustainable water supply, improved agricultural productivity, better preparation and organization of the community to undertake more development projects, reduction of diseases and development of skills to write project proposals.

Outcome 3: Relevant national and sub-national policies and development programmes revised based on lessons from SIDS CBA initiatives.

Several projects have influenced the local authority (Government) to seek funding to improve water access and distribution to communities that are without access to water supply, as well as the preparation of the rainwater harvesting policy and the local authority's thrust to rehabilitate rural water systems across several parishes in Jamaica. The projects also influenced the creation of strategic objectives in the Local Sustainable Development Plans which speak to promoting rainwater harvesting as a supplementary source of water, energy efficiency and conservation, as well as encouraging youth to participate in agriculture through training.

Other indications of policy impacts from one project may be seen in a speech by the then Minister of Water, Land, Environment and Climate Change, who, at the official handing over ceremony held in November 2013 (JAM/SIDS-CBA/12/01- link: <https://jis.gov.jm/minister-pickersgill-appeals-rainwater-harvesting/>), said that this initiative was welcomed given that the Ministry of Water, Land, Environment and Climate Change was in the process of preparing a policy on Rainwater Harvesting and would draw some of the lessons from the Pleasant Valley and White Chapel communities' experiences. In addition, CBA projects have supported Government's plans for promoting youth in agriculture and the Rural Water Policy some elements of which are being implemented at both national and community levels. CBA initiatives have also directly and indirectly impacted the following Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs):

- Goal 1: End Poverty in all its forms everywhere
- Goal 2: End hunger, achieve food security and improved nutrition and promote sustainable agriculture;
- Goal 6: Ensure availability and sustainable management of water and sanitation for all;
- Goal 9: Build resilient infrastructure, promote inclusive and sustainable industrialization and foster innovation;
- Goal 10: Reduced Inequalities (through participatory engagement and social inclusion approach)
- Goal 13: Take urgent action to combat climate change and its impacts
- Goal 15: Life on Land - Protect, restore and promote sustainable use of terrestrial ecosystems, sustainably manage forests, combat desertification, and halt and reverse land degradation and halt biodiversity loss

The key steps taken in achieving these results were the establishment of new partnerships as well as strengthening existing ones. Based on the work of the UNDP in terms of its support to Government, SGP was able to demonstrate to Government, through these project initiatives, the importance of formalising these initiatives through policy, plans and strategies. In some cases, site visits were organised for policy makers to visit these local communities and the process also entailed giving local communities a voice at the table through consultations and review of various documents.

Outcome 4: Upscaling practices and sharing knowledge for increased uptake of community-based adaptation experiences from SIDS CBA documented for replication purposes

Before planning to upscale, it is important to take the time to ensure that there is leadership support throughout the community. Many types and levels of leadership are necessary for an upscaling effort to succeed and endure. Several SGP-funded initiatives have either been replicated and or upscaled by several local and international donors, for example the very successful water harvesting project (JAM/SIDS-CBA/12/01). This CBA project focused on empowering communities to plan and implement adaptation interventions in a deliberate and proactive manner, reducing reliance on the Government of Jamaica to provide already scarce resources for climate change adaptation.

The project was replicated through the UNDP-implemented Japan Caribbean Climate Change Partnership regional project through which two (2) additional community water harvesting facilities were rehabilitated. This was accomplished after the CPDCBS went through UNDP's rigorous assessment and audit process - the Harmonized Approach to Cash Transfer (HACT) process. The CPDCBS is now undertaking the construction and rehabilitation of water systems under the UNDP-implemented UN Human Security Trust Fund Project which is the scaling up of another CBA initiative (JAM/SIDS-CBA/13/03). It is expected that the project will directly benefit approximately 43,400 community members and approximately 300,000 persons will indirectly benefit at the national level.

The process of replicating/upscaling entails building the community's self-reliance to enable project participants to tailor adaptation tools and technologies to specific needs. At the local level, new technologies, or traditional technologies used in new ways, were promoted to ensure that productivity and sustainability of livelihoods are maintained under a range of future climate change scenarios. These adaptation actions and associated technologies or practices will build on the natural resilience and innovativeness of these local communities to build their self-reliance and capacity to continue the adaptive process. More specifically, an effective adaptation solution for vulnerable communities involves the availability of seasonal forecasts and assistance in interpretation of forecasts for implementation in their respective livelihood measures.

Through forecasts and climate information services, individuals can make informed decisions and take advanced adaptive actions as necessary. These vulnerable communities were trained in the use of climate information. Adaptation strategies such as climate-smart agriculture, integrated and diversified farming systems, improved management of farmland and other ecosystems, diversification of livelihood options are all critical elements for a long-term adaptation solution designed to mitigate the risks and vulnerabilities of Jamaica.

One group, the Clarendon Parish Development Committee Benevolent Society (CPDCBS), established the first formal partnership with the United Nations Development Programme to implement and launch the Human Development Report in a rural community for the first time, due to the demonstrated competence and improved capacity of the organisation in implementing the SIDs CBA project.

The SGP country team is currently in dialogue with the PIOJ/European Union for the upscaling of CBA and SGP initiatives. Because these communities have demonstrated the need and the communities' capacity to sustain these initiatives, more and more donors are expressing interest in partnering with GEF SGP Jamaica. Adaptation to the impacts of Climate Change are the real challenges local communities face and the community members in most cases, know what to do, only requiring a little "seed money". Based on several requests from other countries on how to upscale SGP's initiative, SGP Jamaica has developed a knowledge product entitled ***"A Guide to Scaling up Community Initiatives (MSP/FSP) funded under the GEF SGP – The Jamaican Experience"***. This document was shared with CPMT as well as SGP Nigeria.

Additional Outcomes

Community Mobilization, Participation and Empowerment: The community ownership of the projects was directly related to the solid successes of the initiatives as well as the priorities/needs of the communities and, by extension, the respective parishes and country as it relates to vulnerabilities to climate change. Additionally, the in-kind contribution by the community evidences the participation of locals in the implementation and sustainability activities. Communities have been maintaining the projects. Groups that experienced challenges mainly experienced leadership transitions and lack of succession planning.

Sustainability: Participants felt that project activities are sustainable as the cross-cutting issues such as livelihoods and capacity building are very practical and meaningful to community members. Most communities are already reaping the benefits of the CBA intervention. For example, protected agriculture with the use of greenhouses, agro-forestry with the planting of fruit trees and behavioural change resulted from training on the impacts of climate change. With the establishment of a Climate Change Division and the involvement of CBA initiatives this will also motivate groups to sustain the activities.

Based on the high degree of community ownership and solid collaborations, the replication and upscaling of the CBA projects have been successfully maintained over the years since implementation and will continue to be sustained over the mid to long-term. These projects have been sustained due to the solid partnerships developed with stakeholders and community ownership.

Communities are well locked in the donor network where SGP assists groups in preparing and submitting proposals for replication/upscaling of initiatives – resource mobilisation. Some organisations have employed community members to monitor/maintain these initiatives. The CBA programme is now mainstreamed into local community sustainable plans. A few of the CBA project sites have been targeted as national demonstration sites that are accessed on a regular basis by national and international groups, organisations, schools, donors, researchers among others.

Partnerships: The establishment and maintenance of partnerships were key factors in the success of the CBA Project in Jamaica. During the reporting period, several partnerships were established that generated much attention to the project, in relation to policy impact, replication and upscaling of activities as well as participation in national consultations of both the SGP Country Team and implementing partners. Most notable was partnership with the private sector which contributed cash funding for the construction of earth ponds, gave mined-out lands to community groups as well issued long-term lease agreements benefiting mostly women. These partnerships have evolved with the support of the National Steering Committee Members and the United Nations Development Programme in Jamaica.

To date the partnerships have resulted in the following:

- CBA initiatives on the ground are being used as excellent examples and have impacted policy change in the area of Climate Change mainly at the local level.
- CBA initiatives supporting Government's international obligations relating to Climate Change – working with the Climate Change Division in participating in national dialogues and organising a contingent of NGOs/CBOs to participate on Government's delegation to the UNFCCC Conference of Parties. This gave the groups the opportunity to share and learn from others.
- Participation in the Planning Institute of Jamaica's (PIOJ) "Annual Project Review Meeting" – an avenue for SGP along with Grantee Partners to report on programme/project activities. This opportunity ensures that CBA initiatives are mainstreamed in national priorities, as well as to mobilise funding for upscaling/replicating which is currently happening as seen stated under Outcome 4 above. This is also an opportunity to promote the work of the SGP.

The key partnerships strengthened and their contributions to the CBA project during implementation are as follows: -

- Forestry Department (Government) – provided timber trees and training in agro-forestry to implementing partners
- Rural Agricultural Development Authority (Government) – provided technical expertise and training in soil management and crop production
- Social Development Commission (Government)– provided training in Governance, proposal writing and development of business plans
- Office of Disaster Preparedness and Emergency Management (ODPEM) – provided expertise in development of community disaster plans
- United Nations Development Programme (IDP) – establishing policy linkages with the Government and technical programming support
- Meteorological Service of Jamaica (Government) – technical guidance and data on implementing CBA projects especially those that addressed gaps identified in the National Communications to the UNFCCC.
- Clarendon Municipal Corporation (Local Government) - for monitoring and quality control of water catchment facilities.

Financing and Co-financing (CBA project level and portfolio level): One of the main criteria in awarding grants to implementing partners is the generation of 1:1 matching co-financing, which remains the biggest challenge for NGOs/CBOs in project implementation. However, despite the many challenges to secure co-funding over the review period, the SGP Country Team was able to secure cash funding of US\$50,000, while grantees secured co-funding of US\$434,310 (cash – US\$173,095 and kind – US\$261,215). Co-financing at the community level came from individuals from the communities, government and private organisations who have given cash, volunteered their time and technical expertise.

Efforts have been made to mobilise additional funding for replication and or upscaling but not much has been accomplished. However, with the lessons, visibility, and the impact that the CBA project has had and the resources now available for climate change activities, there is much anticipation that this process will bear fruit for replication, upscaling and or mainstreaming of project activities. Details of the co-financing raised during project implementation are outlined in **Table 3** below.

Table 3 - List of Co-financing raised over review period

Donor	Amount (USD)	Type of Agreement	Comment
Environmental Foundation of Jamaica	50,000	Parallel Funding	The SGP country team was able to mobilise parallel funding with this organisation to support initiatives based on synergies
Grantee Partners (Government, private sector and individuals)	434,310	Commitments letters and cash deposits to Grantee Partners accounts	Representing cash and in-kind co-financing from Organisations within/outside the community who have contributed to project activities by way of volunteering expertise, procurement of materials, training, meals among other things

Social Inclusion (gender, persons with disabilities, youth, indigenous peoples): In most communities, women tend to be the head of households and as such they have the responsibility to ensure their families are well taken care of. For most of these communities, farming is the life-blood as such it is important for women to have equal rights to the use of land even though they may not own the land. This is one item on the agenda on which the SGP would like to work with local authorities - that is, to support the ownership of lands (government-owned) being managed/used by females.

Men on the other hand in most cases allowed women to do what they want to do, as they (men) always say women are better managers than men and that women know how to get a lot from very little. All grantees indicated that there was a deliberate strategy to engage all genders, youth and persons with disabilities. Women benefitted from the implementation of the project. For water projects, the women no longer had to walk long distances to access water. The grantees also ensured that all genders participated in the decision-making processes. Under the project carried out in Jacob's Ladder, St. Ann by Mustard Seed Communities, 102 members of the community who are persons with disabilities benefitted by now being able to access a reliable source of water.

Effectiveness: Overall, the CBA country programme has been very effective at both the national and community levels in many ways, first by providing primary data for several key partners; secondly in proving that climate issues are real and that communities have the solutions and are able to sustain their interventions; and thirdly, through the incorporation of community/local knowledge which is critical to successful implementation.

Finally, because of the nature of CBA, which in most cases was very difficult for local communities to understand, SGP was able to forge partnerships with various agencies and organisations to ensure that the local communities understood what was happening and what they could do. This has resulted in behavioural change among community members in how they manage their natural resources.

Several community groups have become advocates for environmental management, for example, no “*slash and burn*”, and no unnecessary cutting down of trees. Additionally, because of the uniqueness of these local communities, where it is not a “one size fit all”, grantees were able to find innovative measures that best suited their communities. The strengthened capacities of the groups added value to the work of the Grantees in successfully completing projects. The CBA project in Jamaica has proven that local actions can have big impacts (bottom-up approach) with very little resources.

Challenges, Solutions and Lessons Learned: Mobilising co-financing - implementing CBA projects required substantial funding: this was probably by far the biggest challenge that the project encountered both at the programme level and community level. Having a 1:1 matching fund is always a challenge for these community groups. Getting some communities to change their way of doing things was also a challenge as well as mobilizing them to participate in project activities. Limited human resources at the programme level was also a challenge as SGP operated without a Programme Assistant for most of the time. Having community groups implementing projects within a one- or two-year timeframe was very challenging especially for those NGOs/CBOs who were implementing projects with funding from international donors for the first time.

Because climate change is of a scientific nature and is not widely understood among local communities, there were insufficient participatory methodological guidelines for developing or designing climate change adaptation projects. The pace of the CBA project was somewhat hampered by the need to adequately and timely coordinate project activities at the community level. These activities focused mainly on land and water management and livelihoods which was mainly agriculture. Local climate data were a bit difficult to obtain. In most cases reliance on the knowledge of older community members was the only method of obtaining any form of data. Some communities found the CBA project to be too scientific-based. Researchers and other technical specialists need to be on board from inception.

Leadership and management transitions caused conflicts within some of the communities. It is recommended that for project management and the overall success of implementation to be sustained, all community leaders and stakeholders must be fully engaged and participate in decision-making and capacity development initiatives. For technical projects, expert advice must be secured to ensure value for money. Engaging the responsible authorities and building partnership from design through to implementation of a project is a fundamental aspect of sustainability of the projects. (For example, grantees who engaged the local authority for water projects ensured the sustainability of project results, creating possibilities for upscaling). Succession planning is key to ensuring that the projects are effective and successful. There were several cases where groups stopped operating because the key persons had migrated from the community. Project design and implementation must include local knowledge and expertise despite the use of technical knowledge.

There were many lessons learnt that have significantly contributed to the SGP Country Team, community members, partners in all sectors and, most important, the country. The main lessons learnt were the vast difference volunteerism can make in project implementation and how communities can get so much done with very little financial support in a short period. One noticeable trait was the vast amount of knowledge that these communities have and how, despite how vulnerable their situations were, they still rose to the challenge. They found ways and means to sustain their family on very little. There is still the need to strengthen the capacities of these local communities especially their governance structure.

During project implementation, the SGP Country Team was able to contribute in this area, by working with targeted partners especially in the Government sector to conduct workshops, training sessions and project exchanges. There is a lot more to be done. With the intervention of the CBA project, policy makers are more appreciative of the work of these NGOs/CBOs and are now willing to work with them. One of the contributing factors is the endorsement of Government and policy makers in that the project activities were tangible and beneficial to the communities in which the projects were implemented and, by extension, the country. The greatest benefit to the community and the Government was the fact that the CBA project funds were used to implement initiatives that would have been normally funded from the Local Government budget.

Other lessons learnt were that the bottom-up approach really works best when dealing with communities. Nobody knows a community more than the community members themselves.

Because of the wealth of knowledge gained while obtaining baseline data, the development of project proposals in terms of project activities was never a challenge. Even when some stakeholders doubted the capacity of some NGOs/CBOs, the groups proved themselves capable of implementing successful projects once they apply the right strategy, which is to establish key partnerships - and this most groups managed very well.

Impacting policy with community-based initiatives is never an easy task, but once these initiatives are supporting the mandate of Government, they can be recognised and make an impact on the process. Establishing and outlining the linkages of project activities with these NGOs/CBOs helped in project implementation. For example, the SGP Country Team always stressed the linkages of project activities at the local level, then the national level as outlined in the Vision 2030 development plan, the CPS and at the global level. In other words, local, national and global benefits will be generated from the work they do in their communities. The Country team made every effort to highlight outstanding project activities in the media, publications, national and international events to motivate and to build team morale among these groups.

Prior knowledge in proposal writing can make a big difference, and this was evident among community groups that have benefited from previous grants when compared to those who were benefiting for the first time. This has generated a need for ongoing training in proposal writing even though project documents differ among donors. Where necessary, the relevant permits for certain project activities should be obtained prior to project implementation as this will prevent lengthy delays in project implementation. Grantee partners were encouraged to include all the key stakeholders (especially those issuing permits for some project activities) at the project concept stage.

National, regional, international awards and recognition: Three of Jamaica's CBA projects were featured nationally in the media and globally on the UNDP Jamaica's website as very successful stories. In addition, two knowledge products (case studies) were developed and shared at all levels. Also, two CBA project beneficiaries (CPDCBS 2015 and Colouden 2017) participated in the UNFCCC Conference of the Parties where the initiatives were highlighted/shared through presentations and panel discussions.

See links below to success stories.

- (JAM/SIDS-CBA/12/01) - <https://jis.gov.jm/minister-pickersgill-appeals-rainwater-harvesting/>
- (JAM/SIDS-CBA/13/03) - <https://drive.google.com/file/d/1kHJKiBg8qzk3utKcvyEEeTylpiJBzxob/view?ts=5a2a93ee>
- <http://www.jm.undp.org/content/jamaica/en/home/presscenter/articles/2017/05/23/new-life-flows-into-northern-clarendon-communities-.html>
- (JAM/SIDS-CBA/15/06) - <http://jamaica-gleaner.com/article/lead-stories/20180803/jacobs-ladder-example-people-power-under-trying-circumstances>

Conclusion

Communities under the SIDS CBA Project demonstrated that they can offer a platform for developing replicable/scalable initiatives that can provide real climate change solutions at all levels. One of the results of the project was the identification of the need to increase local capacity. It was evident during implementation, that more technical guidance was required by local communities to better understand and implement measures to adapt to the impacts of climate change. Another area was partnership selection - working with the right local partner was important. Working with various government and local agencies, allowed communities access to critical climate data and technical expertise and other advantages; in other cases, however, differing expectations weakened the partnerships.

Long-term sustainability was a key concern of the SIDS CBA interventions, that is, would the communities sustain and maintain the behavioural and physical improvements implemented under the project? Clear mechanisms for achieving sustainability must be formulated through consultations with the community, particularly when developing project documents. While there are some indications that communities have to date continued to maintain the initiatives carried out under the project, more extensive and extended community capacity building and support to the community organisations are required for sustainability, but this was beyond the scope of this SIDS CBA project.

Resource Materials

Government of Jamaica	First, Second and Third National Communications to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate
CPS (Jamaica)	Country Programme Strategy
Vision 2030	Jamaica's National Development Plan
SGP Database	Access to data on Implementing Partners
CPDCBS	File folder and Case Study
MSC	File folder and success story article
Colouden	File folder and success story article
Ewarton Watershed	File folder
UWI	File folder
Security Upliftment	File folder