

**CASE STUDY: ICCAS PROJECT**

**Implementing a Community Climate Change Adaptation Fund: Grenada**



**Submitted**

By

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| **Integrated Climate Change Adaptation Strategies (ICCAS): Thematic Report** | | | |
| **Title: Implementing a Community Climate Change Adaptation Fund** | | **Period:** Mid 2016 – Current | |
| **IMPLEMENTING AGENCIES** | | | |
| United National Development Programme (UNDP) | **Environment Unit, Ministry of Agriculture, Lands and Environment** | | German Development Cooperation (GIZ), BMUB |

**Background:**

The Integrated Climate Change Adaptation Strategies (ICCAS) project was designed to provide a holistic approach to climate change adaptation and mainstreaming in Grenada. The overall aim of the ICCAS project was to increase resilience of vulnerable communities and ecosystems to climate change risks on the three islands: Grenada, Carriacou and Petite Martinique. The project, which has four Components, used a comprehensive, integrated approach for analysing and implementing adaptation strategies. It also used a unique approach of establishing the institutional and operational framework for building adaptation and resiliency with direct support for the implementation of small-scale adaptation initiatives through a community-based climate change adaptation fund. This fund contributed immensely in informing ordinary citizens about the impacts of climate change and demonstrated, through actual interventions, how they can initiate various activities, in their homes, schools and communities to build resiliency.

The complete ICCAS Programme was comprised of four (4) components out of which a number of projects were conceived and executed as part of the Community Climate Change Adaptation Programme. These projects can be grouped along the following themes:

* Agriculture and water
* Marine and coastal areas
* Education and awareness
* Flood mitigation
* Recycling
* Land degradation

**The Purpose of CCCAF**

The CCCAF addressed component 3 of the ICCAS program which mandated the increase of the adaptive capacity of communities through a community fund. The CCCAF made USD1.3 million available for small community projects aimed at increasing the resilience of vulnerable communities and ecosystems to climate change risks through the implementation of concrete community-based adaptation activities in Grenada, Carriacou and Petite Martinique. The CCCAF provided grants of up to US $50,000 to community-based projects of a climate adaptation nature that includes activities related to agriculture, fishing, tourism, health, water, education and awareness, marine and coastal areas, livelihoods and others. Out of 162 project concepts submitted by community groups and innovators the CCCAF gave grants to 27 projects more than 90% of which have been completed with some success.

Establishment of the Operational Guidelines for CCCAF: The Operational Guidelines for the fund were developed drawing on local, regional and international experiences. In particular, research and collaboration were done with the Global Environment Facility Small Grants Programme (GEF SGP) and the Indonesian Climate Change Adaptation Trust Fund.

**Programme Impact**

There is little doubt that the readily available CCCAF was an effective instrument in providing communities with opportunities to implement projects which mitigated against the risks of climate change, improved the quality of life in small communities, and were vehicles for conveying messages about climate change adaptation, and resilience building both among young persons and adults.

The successful implementation of community projects created a sense of satisfaction and left many stakeholders with greater confidence in their abilities to manage the implementation of similar projects and even feeling empowered to take on larger projects. Some, like the Carriacou fishers, are of the view that that opportunities should be explored for pooling resources and scaling-up their level of organisational cooperation to enable them to provide a larger and more varied set of services to their members. That could include the establishing co-operatives to enhance the financial capacities both individually and collectively.

A notable feature of the ICCAS community funded projects was the central role played by women. Women’s groups were at the helm of a few projects while several women served in a leadership role of several of the entities funded under the project. Notwithstanding their pivotal role, the women themselves praised the efforts of the men in providing timely and appropriate assistance

Additionally, in terms of the longer-term development objectives of the country, the fact that this project has been successful has enhanced Grenada’s profile in the global development funding arena and has made it a more attractive target for funding particularly for projects related to climate change adaptation and climate change resilience. This is key in light of Grenada’s particular vulnerability to climate change impacts and is a necessary component for the implementation of its National Adaptation Plan.

**Positive Lessons that can be Extracted from this Community Based Funding Approach**

1. The large number of proposals submitted makes it clear that there was a high level of need in the communities and the communities were motivated to participate.
2. The implementation of these small projects in communities have a direct impact on the life of those in the community.
3. Because the projects are small most of the funds go directly into project implementation and therefore benefit the community members
4. The capacity of community members is enhanced as they are directly involved in project concept development and in implementation
5. The sense of project ownership is greater as well since they are so directly involved in the application and subsequent administration of the funds.

**Areas for improvement when replicating this Project Approach**

1. The UNDP model for small grants disbursement was difficult to manage in the context of the very small communities which had little project management capacity and did not have formalized structures for receipt and disbursement of funds. This created delays and in some instances lack of enthusiasm within the community.
2. Having registered community groups helped in project administration and management so this should be a first step in developing community projects. An example of administrative problems created by lack of a formal NGO or other group through which the project could be administered was in disbursements of funds (given no bank account and no legal entity to act as executing agency funds could only be disbursed after expenditure and there was no kind of petty cash system.) This resulted in late payment to some contractors and instances where contractors did not want to do the work because of payment delays. While community groups need to formalize their structures in future to facilitate grant funding, formalization may hinder inclusiveness in some cases.
3. The selection process of the projects focused more on national needs than on project quality. This resulted in some of the project scopes time and resources being grossly over or under-estimated. Expert assistance at the concept stage would help in avoiding this problem.
4. More training of community members in maintenance of facilities would contribute to long term sustainability of projects in construction/water and related sectors.
5. The provision of technical expertise from the inception of the individual projects helped to ensure successful completion, minimized delays and avoided wastage. This should be a standard approach when dealing with small communities and funds should be included for this kind of project support
6. Additionally, training and development, including mentorship, allows for community capacity building and long-term project sustainability and funds should also be set aside to provide this kind of community development.
7. The issue of sustainability is also of considerable concern as it raises questions about the ability of some projects to sustain themselves beyond the funding cycle provided under the CCCAF. For many of the persons associated the opportunity to earn a wage, albeit for a few months, was the motivating factor.
8. In order to ensure a sustained culture of climate change awareness, adaptation, and best influence social or behavioural change, it is imperative that projects take cognizance and demonstrate an understanding of the cultural and socio-economic norms of the country/people/community and ensure that adequate support mechanisms are provided to ensure sustained involvement, participation and buy-in.

**Key Comments on the CCCAF from stakeholders**

Those in the project office say that the best thing about ICCAS and the CCCAF is that it reaches directly out to the community and as a result it has a direct positive impact on the community. An example of this is the fishermen in Carriacou who now have access to pipe-borne water and they say

“I am having a shower as if I am on Grenada!”

**Resources:**

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Location of Project: Caribbean/OU/Grenada

MHT: What is the Major Habitat Type for this partnership? national

Types of Partners: Government, International Agencies, Place-based NGO, International NGO, Community Based Organization etc.

Priority: all sectors

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Links: <http://www.iccas.gd/?q=about-iccas>

<http://adaptation-undp.org/projects/bf-grenada>

<https://www.weadapt.org/placemarks/maps/view/28681>

<https://undp-adaptation.exposure.co/integration-and-action>