



Hearing Community and Vulnerable Voices in Climate Change and Natural Resource Management:

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Panos Caribbean

What am I going to tell you?

- Nothing for us without us
- Communication
- Participation and engagement
- These are critical elements for working with the vulnerable.
- Panos – regional NGO – uses this approach for all its work in communicating for sustainable development

Who are the most vulnerable?

- Mostly the disabled and the sick
- Children and elderly
- Farmers
- People in low-lying areas
- Fisherfolk
- People living in sub-standard housing.



How will CC affect communities

- More hurricanes and storms - the country is experiencing at least one storm event per annum
- Land and sea getting hotter so there could be loss of agricultural productivity; loss of coral reefs and loss of fisheries and livestock
- longer dry seasons leading to drought conditions, often followed by intense rains, leading to flooding and landslides
- Loss of land along the coast due erosion from high wave and storm surge activity causing beach loss and damage to coastal infrastructure,
- bush fires leading to loss of crops and livestock

- Water Resources Authority - several rivers are in deficit, causing water lock offs and limits in water supply. The Hope River, Rio Cobre and Rio Minho areas are under stress. It is not clear whether Jamaica has enough storage to provide water supplies to adequately meet all demands during periods of below average rainfall (Ja's second national communication)

- Mocho youth journalists enjoying the Peace River



Making the CC link

- Few people in Jamaica make the connection between CC and increased incidents of vector borne diseases such as dengue, malaria, West-Nile Fever, air pollution, and a variety of water borne and food diseases that are likely to increase with CC
- impact that CC may have on respiratory illnesses such as asthma
- CC will likely impact food prices and possibly nutrition levels. Nor do they know how home gardening may be able to help mitigate the effects of food price increases due to CC
- Mangrove replanting



What's happening with communities?

- Good news:
- Awareness increasing:
- Panos working with communities and CC since 2005
- Scoping report done for Cropper Foundation: 11 communities in 3 islands, Ja, Haiti and the Dominican Republic

Key findings

- Communities want to:
- Explore alternative farming methods such as Greenhouse Farming
- More research needed into solar panel manufacturing. Encourage the duty free importation of solar panel parts.
- What are the options for alternative energy supply for communities?
- Need more information on adaptation options for small farmers

What communities want?

- Alternative livelihoods – since fish stocks are declining, what are the options for us?
- Need more attempts to include the voice of the community when building and doing developments there
- Explore community warning systems for hurricanes etc – train the community to identify natural indicators such as the reaction of ants, insects and animals before a hurricane



What communities say?

- Change cultural practises – eat less parrot fish so that they can clean the reefs. Also if fishermen change to line fishing they will get different type of fish than snapper and parrot, so community needs to adjust their taste.
- Sanitation and health interventions – stagnant water in communities after heavy rainfall, infestation of pests, children get sores from mosquito bites, more asthma and skin rashes etc
- Need for more detailed information on and within the micro-climate patterns of the country and the integration of water resources planning

Snapshot of vulnerable communities

- **Climate change observations in Portland Cottage:**
- Sea-level rise (still recovering from the major sea surge in Hurricane Ivan in 2004 killed 8 persons in the community)
- Overfishing: damaged coral reefs
- Beach erosion: dying mangroves
- Fluctuations in water levels (declines in March and April, increases in May and June) saltwater intrusion
- Flooding (causing relocation of 193 families since 2004)
- Health related issues – more mosquitos and other pests (17 cases of dengue reported over the last four months).

Portmore

- Several communities are below 1.5 metre (4.5 feet) above sea-level and will be increasingly threatened by sea-level rise. Although an evacuation plan is in place, some of the evacuation routes themselves are also at low elevations. In particular the Mandela Highway is subjected to flooding almost annually, and crosses land below 1.5 metre (4.5 feet) above sea-level.
- Further drainage of the wetland and low area between Ferry and Kingston should be carefully monitored, with frequent levelling to check any elevation changes, and effort should be directed towards reducing flooding problems there.



Voices from Mocho

- The hurricane came first, after the hurricane came the drought, after drought then the fire. The fire truly affected us because vegetation in the surrounding area were destroyed and that brings more heat in the community. I think that also help to cause the flooding to be more destructive than if we had the vegetation in place if the fire did not pass through.”
- Mocho Resident

Voices from Mocho

- “Well you have less yield for we depend on rainfall as we don’t have irrigation system and if we aren’t getting rainfall to develop our crops, we therefore must be getting less crop yields.”
- *Mr. Irwine Francis, male, Chairman, Local Coffee Industry Board; Chairman of the Amalgamated People’s Co-operative Bank in Clarendon*

What Panos is doing?

- Giving community voice – train communities to do their own productions such as community videos, books, newsletters
- Projects:
- FAO – working with 5 Ja Communities on CC and Agriculture Disaster Risk Management (Halls Delight, Rocky Point, Old Harbour, Cascade, New Market)
- Communicating CC and biodiversity – funded by GEF – working in Mocho and Portland Cottage – doing community CC plans and engaging local government

Panos work

- Voices for Climate Change education – 31 artistes going into communities and schools among other things (funded by EFJ, Met Office, Christian Aid etc)
- Production of National Climate Change Communication log frame including communication outreach for communities
- Regional partnership with Caribbean Natural Resources Institute (CANARI) and CERMES to ensure stakeholder participation in natural resource management
- Pilot early warning system for persons with disabilities living in Portmore – funded by CDRFM, working with ODPEM and PWD groups.
- Fellowships for community persons to speak at international conventions – Mocho was in Copenhagen in 2009

Recommendations

- Community organizations (CBOs) are grappling with ways to integrate activities relating to climate change. And, although still considered a “technical” issue, it is becoming clear that communities need to access the information in a more people-friendly and usable way.
- Community media and local organizations should act as a “bridge” between national policy makers and authorities and the local people

Recommendations

- Strengthen partnerships: to share information on what has been done already and garner resources to tackle what still needs to be done
- And remember:
- Nothing for us without us
- Communication
- Participation and engagement
- **THANK YOU FOR LISTENING**