

DOMINICAN REPUBLIC

BASIC FACTS ABOUT PEI DOMINICAN REPUBLIC

Timescale: Preparatory Phase (2010). Phase 1 (2012-2014).

Partners: Ministry of Economy, Planning and Development (MEPYD); Social Cabinet; Single System of Beneficiaries (SIUBEN); and the Ministry of Environment and Natural Resources.

Focus: Reduce vulnerability of poor households to climate shocks through integration of poverty-environment linkages in national and subnational development planning processes in synergy with REGATTA (UNEP's Regional Gateway for Technology Transfer and Climate Change Action in Latin America and the Caribbean).

MAINSTREAMING CONTEXT

Although the Dominican Republic has one of the fastest growing economies in the region, more than one-third of its population lives in poverty and almost 12 % live in extreme poverty. The Dominican Republic is mostly an urban society, where 69% of the total population lives in urban areas. The Global Climate Risk Index ranks the country as one of the most affected by extreme weather events. These events include hurricanes, tropical storms, flooding and droughts and disproportionately affect the poor. Deforestation, land degradation and water availability are among the top environmental issues in the country negatively impacting the livelihoods of vulnerable groups.

MAIN ACTIVITIES

Increase awareness among key institutions and civil society on the long-term benefits to poverty reduction and to the environment from mainstreaming poverty-environment linkages into development planning.

Elaborate a vulnerability index to climate shocks at household level.

Develop and strengthen the Directorate General of Land-use Planning and Development (DGODT) capacities to coordinate and lead the creation of public policies integrating the poverty, environmental and climate change dimensions into territorial planning processes.

Develop and implement capacity strengthening programmes for key stakeholders, such as the Ministry of Planning, Economy and Development (MEPYD), the Single System of Beneficiaries (SIUBEN), and the DGODT, as well as civil society partners, and support donor coordination in poverty-environment mainstreaming.

Develop and implement a pilot project to identify good practices oriented to reduce poverty and climatic vulnerability at household level in the Lake Enriquillo Region.

ACHIEVEMENTS

Poverty-environment and climate linkages integrated in the National Development Strategy (2010–2030) across its four thematic pillars.

First worldwide Environmental Vulnerability Index (IVAM) at household level for the whole country elaborated.

Guide for the creation of Municipal Territorial Development Plans incorporating the poverty reduction, climate change and vulnerability approaches elaborated; these dimensions have been included into the National Territorial Development Plan elaboration process.

Climate change adaptive solutions fair at household level in the lake Enriquillo Region celebrated with the participation of key national actors to make more visible the poverty and environment links and the repercussions of climatic shocks into poverty reduction strategies.

Microcredits fund to finance vulnerable population affected by climatic extreme events in the lake Enriquillo Region launched with two local NGOs.

LESSONS LEARNED

It is key to identify as entry points issues that show clear poverty-environment linkages and design project activities that can result in measurable benefits on both the poverty and environment policy areas. Even if at government level the links between climate change events and environment with poverty are clearly identified and visible, improved coordination mechanisms are needed in order to mainstream this approach into national poverty reduction strategies and social protection programmes. In a highly extreme climate change events affected country as the Dominican Republic it is key to integrate poverty-environment linkages into territorial planning.

WAY FORWARD

Through UNDP CO, coordination mechanisms and spaces must be stimulated between key stakeholders identified during the process in order to ensure the integration of climate change and environmental criteria into national poverty reduction strategies and programs.

Project products and studies must be disseminated and promoted at regional and national levels in order to increase impact, visibility, South-South exchanges and cooperation opportunities.

Use the findings from REGATTA's pilot project around Enriquillo Lake to identify best practice in local policies aimed at reducing poverty and climate vulnerability of households and feed it into PEI's ongoing support to the Dominican Republic.