



GOJ/EU/UNEP CLIMATE CHANGE ADAPTATION & DISASTER RISK REDUCTION PROJECT



Alternative Livelihood to Withstand Climate Change

Prepared by Public Education and Corporate Communication Branch, NEPA



View of Belmont Fishing Beach in Westmoreland

It goes without saying, money talks, but what are your options when the resources used to earn a living is being threatened by changes in nature? The concern is not far-fetched for a number of coastal residents whose dependence on the sea's assets is being severely stifled due to the ocean's rapidly depleting resources.

Over the years, Jamaica has developed a reputation for having the Caribbean's most overfished waters which has resulted in the depletion of the country's fish stock. A major contributor to this problem is the increasing

use of damaging fishing methods and gear. Blasting and small mesh apertures in fish pots result in excessive fish being killed, and large quantities of juvenile fish being caught before they become mature enough to breed. This reduces the quantity of the next generation of fish.



Fishermen tending to their trade.

Then there are those who depend on the health of coral reefs to earn. In a 2004 World Resources Institute publication, titled *Reefs at Risk in the Caribbean*, a Reefs at Risk analysis provided an in-depth look at the negative factors affecting the island's coral reefs.

LOCATION	Grant Allocation	
	Minimum application amount	Maximum application amount
St. Thomas	1.12M	4.03M
Westmoreland Negril Bluefields	1.02M	2.04M
St. James	1.12M	4.03M
Clarendon	1.02M	2.04M

The analysis showed that overfishing pressure affects approximately two-thirds of reefs; watershed-based sources, such as pollution, threaten over 60 percent of the reefs; coastal development threatens over half, and marine-based sources threaten over 30 percent. With diseases and rising sea temperatures, caused by climate change, also threatening to damage coral reefs across the Caribbean, the island is facing significant economic loss with the continued degradation of our reefs (coupled with other problems such as invasive

the island's coral reefs.



Break-out Group Session at the Westmoreland Workshop

alien species eg. Lionfish).

The Climate Change Adaptation and Disaster Risk Reduction Project at the National Environment and Planning Agency is actively promoting alternative livelihood for residents whose overexploitation of the marine environment has caused further damage and whose earning potential will be affected by these marine changes.

Through the Alternative Livelihood Grant Programme, more than twelve (12) million Jamaican dollars has been allocated by the European Union, the Government of Jamaica, through the United Nations Environment Programme, and coordinated through the Planning Institute of Jamaica (PIOJ). The funds are available to eligible individuals or groups to invest in alternative jobs. Individuals and groups are encouraged to submit a proposal of their alternative livelihood idea to apply for allotted funds.

The Grant programme is currently being implemented in St. Thomas, Westmoreland, St. James, and Clarendon; the four parishes at the heart of the Climate Change team's coastal ecosystem rehabilitation work. Activities include; mangrove, seagrass, and coral reef restoration, improving the management of Marine Protected Areas, and monitoring sea temperatures.



Alternative Livelihood Workshop Presentation

Working extensively through the respective community-based organisations, the Climate Change Adaptation team has conducted a number of workshops sensitizing residents of not only the impact their actions are having on the environment, but also the availability of the funds to finance alternative ventures, and how to write a business/programme proposal.



Break-out Group Session at the St. Thomas Workshop

With overwhelmingly positive feedback and interest at each workshop, the team is optimistic it will receive a number of applications.

The Climate Change Adaptation and Disaster Risk Reduction Project is a 30-month long programme started in 2011 and is scheduled to end in April 2013. However, through programmes such as the Alternative Livelihood Grant Programme, its work will be far reaching even after the curtains are drawn.