



International Collaborative Co-Development in the U.S. Virgin Islands to Advance and Scale Adaptation and Resilience Efforts in the Caribbean Region

BACKGROUND

Funded by NOAA's Adaptation Sciences Program, this project involves working directly with communities in the U.S. Virgin Islands on strengthening their resilience capacity for facing major climate disruptions. The lessons learned will be shared with islands across the Caribbean to help inform their resilience planning efforts for adapting to increasing disruptive climate events.

The project team includes researchers from the University of the Virgin Islands (UVI), the Global Resilience Institute at Northeastern University (GRI), and the Puerto Rico Science and Technology Research Trust (PRSTRT). Together, they will work with local partners across three different neighborhoods in St. Thomas to co-develop a "community resilience baseline assessment" as a starting point for planning new resilience-building actions. The objective is to inform the concrete actions and steps that will help to enhance the community's ability to adapt to changing climate conditions.

GOALS

GOAL ONE

Organize and facilitate *collaborative resilience workshops* with three communities in St. Thomas to identify community-supported climate adaptation efforts for addressing climate risks while also advancing blue and green economic development for the region.

GOAL TWO

Organize and host an Implementation Clinic in early 2026 that brings together federal program managers, philanthropic program officers, and private sector investors to engage with them on potential sources of support for community-driven plans and project aspirations identified through the collaborative resilience workshops.

GOAL THREE

Help advance capacity and network building across St. Thomas, the U.S. territories at large, the Caribbean region, and other Small Island Developing States (SIDS) to undertake similar community resilience and climate adaptation work.

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