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ADVANCING COMMUNITY CLIMATE RESILIENCE PLANNING IN THE CARIBBEAN REGION (BARBADOS AND DOMINICA)

BACKGROUND

The project's aim is to improve community resilience and climate adaptation for managing the risks associated with extreme weather events and sea level rise, while also advancing the development of blue and green economies. The project team includes senior researchers from the University of the West Indies (UWI), the University of Hawai'i at Mānoa (UH), and the Global Resilience Institute at Northeastern University who will be working with students and faculty at universities and colleges who are members of the Caribbean Islands Higher Education Resilience Consortium (CIHERC). The project is working with two communities in Barbados and one in Dominica to prepare community resilience baseline assessments that can identify gaps and inform interventions that will bolster community and climate resilience. Additionally, the project will bolster the capacity for the CIHERC higher education partners to play a key supporting role in assisting Caribbean Island Nations in undertaking similar efforts to mitigate and adapt to the effects of climate change.

GOALS

GOAL ONE

Collaborate with two communities in Barbados and one in Dominica to identify community-supported climate adaptation efforts that mitigate the risks associated with climate change and advance the development of blue and green economies.

GOAL TWO

Bring together international funders, philanthropic organization, and private sector (ESG) investors to identify potential pathways for financing community resilience and climate adaptation projects.

GOAL THREE

Help advance the capacity across the Caribbean region and other Small Island States to undertake community resilience and climate adaptation work by positioning CIHERC members to be able to support similar efforts in their own island communities.

ANTICIPATED RESULTS

1. *Integrate* faculty and students from CIHERC members and representatives from relevant public sector and non-profit organizations into the design and implementation of the overall project.
2. In partnership with two pilot communities in Barbados and one in Dominica, *produce community resilience baseline assessments*.
3. Organize and facilitate *community resilience and climate-adaptation planning collaborative sessions* in the pilot communities to develop community-identified actions that potentially may align with climate resilience funding opportunities.
4. Organize and host an *Implementation Clinic* that brings together international funders, philanthropic, and private sector (ESG) investors to identify potential pathways for financing community resilience and climate adaptation actions identified by the pilot communities.
5. Document, assess, and incorporate lessons learned from the three communities into *Best Practice Templates* that can inform and catalyze community-led, CIHERC-supported efforts to strengthen climate resilience across the Caribbean region and other Small Island States. The templates will also be incorporated into higher education curriculum and support workforce development efforts at Caribbean colleges and universities.

CONTACT INFORMATION

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