

UP-SCALING COMMUNITY RESILIENCE THROUGH ECOSYSTEM-BASED DISASTER RISK REDUCTION

Over the past decade, disasters linked to natural hazards have exacted a significant toll on human lives, livelihoods, assets and economies. Ecosystem-based Disaster Risk Reduction (Eco-DRR) is an approach where the regulatory functions of ecosystems (such as forests, wetlands and mangroves) are systematically harnessed to mitigate, prevent, or buffer against disasters. Eco-DRR recognizes that ecosystems can provide disaster risk reduction services as well as offer other ecosystem services of productive and cultural value, which also contribute to building local resilience to disasters and climate change.

The European Commission has awarded a three-year project to UN Environment, in collaboration with Partners for Resilience (PfR), to focus on scaling-up Eco-DRR interventions and promote large scale implementation of Eco-DRR in countries. The main aim of this project is to develop different models for demonstrating large-scale implementation of Eco-DRR, which advance implementation of the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction and the Sustainable Development Agenda.

PfR is formed an alliance of 5 Netherlands-based NGOs: the Netherlands Red Cross, CARE Netherlands, Cordaid, the Red Cross Climate Centre and Wetlands International. Since 2010, PfR partners have been implementing field projects and policy dialogues that integrate ecosystem management, disaster risk reduction and climate change adaptation. The project will be managed by UN Environment's Crisis Management Branch which also houses the secretariat of the Partnership for Environment and Disaster Risk Reduction (PEDRR), a global alliance of 24 international agencies, NGOs, and specialist institutes. PEDRR has a weekly newsletter and well-established social media that reach over 15,000 readers daily and through which many project lessons learned will be disseminated. PEDRR Eco-DRR regional networks are being created for greater regional capacity and expansion of communities of practice.



MAIN PROJECT COMPONENTS

1. LEVERAGING - Public and private investment for scaling up Eco-DRR

Eco-DRR approaches will be integrated in planned or ongoing large-scale public and private investments for poverty alleviation, development, risk reduction and climate change mitigation/ adaptation in India and the Philippines.

2. DEMONSTRATING – Models for scaling-up Eco-DRR with local actors

Projects that demonstrate community-based Eco-DRR will be planned and implemented in 5 countries (see next page). Building on existing pilot projects of PfR partners, the approach will be implemented across broader landscapes, to demonstrate the full potential of Eco-DRR and create and document models for scaling-up community-based Eco-DRR.

3. MAINSTREAMING – To catalyze new investments in ecosystems and new Eco-DRR initiatives through capacity-building.

This component includes:

- Developing and upscaling Eco-DRR capacities through universities, training institutions and on-line courses;
- Eco-DRR Opportunity Mapping Tool identifies areas for ecosystem protection and restoration to attract public and private sector investments in project countries;
- Developing guidelines and trainings to support implementation of Eco-DRR-related components of key international framework agreements.
- Virtual Global Support Center which provides technical assistance on Eco-DRR globally through the PEDRR secretariat.

KEY COUNTRY ACTIVITIES:



Indonesia

Extension and upscaling of Indonesia Peatland Partnership Fund for improved community-based peatland management and use to prevent both flooding and drought;



Haiti

Enhancing and upscaling Eco DRR activities to drought-affected areas to strengthen communities' coping capacities and tackle food insecurity;



Uganda

Strengthening river catchment management through multi-stakeholder engagement to reduce and prevent flood, drought and soil loss, in order to tackle food insecurity.



India

Upscaling and mainstreaming Eco-DRR approaches to lake basins and a dry land area in order to manage water induced risks in urban spaces;



Ethiopia

Upscaling Eco-DRR through integration in existing planning and risk management processes to prevent drought, diseases and conflict over water sources



For more information: www.partnersforresilience.nl/en/eco-drr

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