

GCCA PROJECT COORDINATOR'S REPORT

December 27

2014

This project closure report outlines the milestones, issues and recommendations of the project 'Enhancing Belize's Resilience to Adapt to the Effects of Climate Change.'

The Global Climate Change Alliance (GCCA) project began in July of 2012. Entitled 'Enhancing Belize's Resilience to Adapt to the Effects of Climate Change', this project saw the laying of the foundation for the establishment of two new government Authorities namely the National Climate Change Office and the National Integrated Water Resources Authority. These two new government entities would be the main agencies for addressing climate change in Belize especially targeting issues of water availability and conservation.

Additionally, the project included the implementation of five (5) pilot projects across three (3) different Ministries and one (1) NGO in the south of Belize. These pilots aimed at addressing climate change issues of adaptation through direct community interventions.

I began working as the GCCA Coordinator on the 1st of October, 2013, more than one year after the project began. By this time, many of the project activities had already started and I had to catch up. From what I experienced in this project, I found the following:

On relevance:

1. The climate change interventions implemented through this project were well aligned with the needs of the final beneficiaries including the governments department and the NGO that received some much needed improvement in capacity.
2. The cattle farmers of the project have expressed their gratitude to the project for all the help they received either through the training, equipment or other inputs for their farms.

On effectiveness:

3. The GCCA project, through its many stakeholder communications and involvement was very effective not only in implementing the activities of the project, but more importantly in the dissemination of relevant climate change information to people of rural areas of Belize and also top ranking officials of the Government. The interventions of this project can be seen as a big step in getting Belize prepared to deal with climate related issues.
4. Both the institutional and human capacity development interventions of this project make this GCCA project, especially the pilots, a viable instrument

for practical, on the ground activities to be continued and sustained throughout the country.

5. The scholarships offered to public officers and training sessions in climate change contributed to effective capacity building for many government departments.

On efficiency/ performance:

6. Due to many setbacks throughout the project, the efficiency of the delivery of outputs was severely impacted.

- Some components didn't begin on time
- Some components were held back due to miscommunication
- Changes in component management
- One assistant was used for two pilots
- Delays in the approval processes for some activities.
- Transportation issues

7. The project components did, however, lean upon each other in getting many of their activities completed. The synergies between them clicked on many occasions that allowed for harmonisation of their work plans.

On impact:

8. This project has significantly contributed to achievement of overall title set out. 'Enhancing Belize's Resilience to Adapt to the Effects of Climate Change' is exactly what has been garnered over the months of this project. Not only are we now geared up to establish a full National Climate Change Office, but also an Authority directly managing the sustainable use of the country's water supply. These are significant gains especially seeing that the water sector is so vital to us and yet so vulnerable to changes in our climate.

9. The name GCCA is now being seen in some of the most rural areas of Belize. For many people in these areas, the direct interventions of this project, individuals and communities now work together to talk about climate change and have them actively participating in their own adaptation projects. Our GCCA open day for Europe Day, water day and others have significantly

contributed to the visibility and a good reputation of the EU's actions in the field of climate change in Belize.

On sustainability:

10. The sustainability of a project such as this with many pilots projects would be difficult without additional funding to purchase the items necessary for any additional community that could be added. This would be a lot easier however, because of the institutional capacity building that has resulted from this project.

11. The two new Authorities that came from this project are expected to be sustainable through the financial and governance structures produced in this project. Once implemented, these Authorities should be able to continue benefitting the country of Belize.

Lessons Learned:

12. Having only worked with the project for 15 months, I was able to glean some important lessons:

- Ensure that you know of all decisions made about the project before starting
- Keeping everyone involved and informed about project deliverables will aid in streamlining activities
- Effective implementation requires decisive action
- Needing too many approvals from different persons will ultimately add weeks in delay
- Clearly defined Terms of References are needed to get the best consultants
- Community involvement is always great, but can delay the best made plans
- Be concise in reporting. Much of what you write will never be read.

Post Project Tasks:

10. Although the project closed in November 2014, there are still some tasks ongoing that should be completed by March 2015.

- Setting up of water tanks in the rural communities
- Ongoing consultancies
- Community projects in the south

- Ongoing cooperation with the Forest Dept.
- Inauguration of the communal pen in Willow's Bank for cattle Farmers
- River keepers and early flood monitoring training by NEMO

Project Recommendations:

10. From this project objectives and activities, I would recommend the following:

- Establishment of the National Integrated Water Resources Authority (NIWRA) and putting a commencement date for it to begin working – the momentum for it has been started with a very dynamic advisory council. This should include the establishment of the posts and governance structure of the NIWRA.
- Establish the positions of the National Climate Change Office under the prescribed governance structure outlined in the report.
- Upscale and continue the farmer field schools in other parts of the country using the tools created under this project.
- Continue finding resources for water and sanitation access in the parts of the country that have limited or no access.
- Find ways of streamlining approval processes for activities.