CANADA CARIBBEAN DISASTER RISK MANAGEMENT FUND

Island Snapshot

Dominica

About the CCDRMF

The Canada Caribbean Disaster Risk Management Fund (CCDRMF) is one component of Global Affairs Canada's[1] (GAC) larger regional Caribbean Disaster Risk Management Program. The CCDRMF is a competitive fund which is designed to support community-driven projects that seek to enhance the resilience of communities and reduce risks from natural hazards (e.g. floods, droughts, tropical storms, hurricanes) and climate change.

Established in 2008 as a CAD $3.0 M small grant facility, the CCDRMF finances projects ranging from CAD $25,000 to CAD $75,000, and up to CAD $100,000 in exceptional cases. The targeted audience is community-based organisations, non-governmental organisations, civil-society organisations, and government agencies wishing to undertake community projects in the following beneficiary countries[2]: *Antigua and Barbuda, the Bahamas, Barbados, Belize, Dominica, Grenada, Guyana, Jamaica, Montserrat, St. Kitts and Nevis, St. Lucia, St. Vincent and the Grenadines, Suriname,* and *Trinidad and Tobago*.

For the purposes of the CCDRMF, a 'community' is defined as '*a group of people living in the same geographical area (such as a neighbourhood, district, city or town)*' or *'a group of people with similar interests (such as youth and women) or livelihoods (such as farmers or fishers)'*.

To date, the Fund has supported twenty-nine (29) community sub-projects totalling CAD $1,770,517.11, of which twenty-three (23) are completed and six (6) are on-going. The Fund has also provisionally allocated CAD $1,017,338.66[3] to eleven (11) projects that are under consideration for execution during the period 2017 to 2019.

[1] Previously the Department of Foreign Affairs, Trade and Development (DFATD)
[2] In addition, one small community project was approved for the British Virgin Islands
[3] Subject to amendment

Island Overview

With a total land area of 754 km^2, the volcanic island of Dominica is the most mountainous and rugged island in the Lesser Antilles and home to two of the highest peaks in that geographic region: Morne Diablotins (1,447 m) and Morne Trois Pitons (1,394 m). Dominica's landscape is covered with multiple layers of virgin rainforest, and has one of the highest drainage densities in the world with some 365 rivers flowing in deep, narrow valleys over short distances to the sea. With its lush and varied flora and fauna (over 1,000 species), Dominica has earned the title "The Nature Island of the Caribbean".

Dominica's tropical marine climate averages annual temperatures of 26 °C to 27 °C in coastal areas, decreasing to 19 °C to 21 °C in mountainous areas. There are two distinct seasons, a dry season from January to May and a wet season from June to December. More than 80% of the island receives an annual rainfall of at least 2,500 mm.

According to the 2011 Population and Housing Census, the total population of Dominica numbers 71,293 persons (51% males and 49% females). Since there are very limited gentle sloping lands available, most of the population is clustered along the coast, with roughly a third living in the parish of St. George, in or around the capital of Roseau. The volcanic interior is sparsely populated. Similarly, level ground for agriculture production is scarce and largely confined to river flood plains and coastal strips.

In the past, the Dominican economy was based predominantly on agriculture, primarily bananas. However, the eradication of the preferential treatment of tariffs for Windward Island bananas compelled the island to further diversify its economy. Over the past decade, the tourism industry and the services sector have played a major role in the economy, with the Government seeking to promote the island as an "ecotourism" destination. According to 2015 estimates, the leading sectors' contributions to gross domestic product (GDP) were as follows: Services (68%), Agriculture (16.5%) and Industry (15.5%) (CIA, 2016).

Dominica is vulnerable to numerous meteorological and geophysical natural hazards. The most common, probable and historically significant are tropical storms and hurricanes. For example, the 2013 "Christmas Eve Storm and Floods" resulted in massive landslides, community isolations, an estimated 185 persons affected, and loss of land and biodiversity. More recently in 2015, Tropical Storm Erika passed over Dominica producing extraordinary high rainfall that resulted in intense and rapid flooding. In its wake, Dominica suffered severe infrastructural damage, primarily related to transportation, housing and agriculture; with the worst damage occurring in the south and south-eastern parts of the island. A Rapid Damage and Impact Assessment by the Government determined that 11 persons were confirmed dead, 22 missing, 574 homeless and 713 evacuated; with approximately 7,229 impacted in disaster declared areas. Overall, Erika was estimated to have resulted in total damages and losses of EC$1.3 billion (US$483 million), equivalent to approximately 90% of the country's GDP.

The island has nine (9) potentially active volcanoes, and is therefore also affected by volcanic, geothermal and seismic activity. An estimated 90% of the population lives within 5 km of a live volcano. Other hazards include drought, floods, landslides, bush fires, storm surges, coastal erosion and tsunamis. Of course, like other small island developing states (SIDS), Dominica is also vulnerable to the impacts of climate change,

including changes in temperature and precipitation, intensified hydro-meteorological events and associated hazards, and sea level rise.

CCDRMF Projects in Dominica

The CCDRMF is a competitive small grant facility and between 2008 and 2015, there have been nine (9) Calls for Proposals. In total, the Fund received 212 project applications but only forty-three (43) projects, 20%, from thirteen (13) countries met the criteria and were deemed eligible for consideration.

From Dominica, the CCDRMF has received twenty-three (23) project applications. Of these, only two (2) community-based projects were approved. These projects support disaster risk management through shelter upgrades and the introduction of renewable energy technology. A brief overview of the completed projects can be found in the table below.

Figure 1: Before and after pictures of the Riviere Cyrique hurricane shelter

Project	Organisation	Objective(s)	Project Period	GAC Contribution (CAD$)	Total Project Cost (CAD$)
Project Shelter – Enhancing Disaster Risk Management in the Riviere Cyrique/Morne Jaune Community.	Morne Jaune/Riviere Cyrique Village Council	To provide the Morne Jaune/Riviere Cyrique community with a secure building facility that functions as a multi-purpose community hurricane shelter.	2009-2010	$42,892.00	$46,933.00
Shelter Storage and Equipment and Renewable Energy Technology (RET)	Morne Jaune/Riviere Cyrique Village Council	To reduce the level of hurricane-related risk to which children, women, men, the elderly and the disabled are exposed when using the Riviere Cyrique hurricane shelter by installing: water storage capacity, shower	2013-2014	$27,417.00	$30,899.00

Project	Organisation	Objective(s)	Project Period	GAC Contribution (CAD$)	Total Project Cost (CAD$)
		facilities, uninterrupted photo-voltaic electricity supply, secure emergency supplies storage and refrigeration.			
				$70,309.00	$77,832.00

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