CLIMATE CHANGE RESILIENCE

of the
North-east Tobago UNESCO
Man and the Biosphere Reserve
Management Plan

SUMMARY SITUATIONAL ANALYSIS

The negative impacts of climate change (CC) on NE Tobago's communities, ecosystems, biodiversity, and economy are measurable, undeniable, and annually increasing. Various sources forecast an increase in annual mean temperature, storms and coastal erosion, sea level rise of 1m, a decrease in overall rainfall but stronger showers. Already, seasonal fish migrations are changing, coral reefs are declining, more sargassum, rivers dry out, forest fires are increasing, and we lose shorelines and valuable properties in our communities.

Inevitably, the impact of climate change that NE Tobago's residents already experience will dramatically increase over the next years leading to severe economic and social challenges. Especially the fisheries, agriculture, and tourism sectors are under threat. Unfortunately, many stakeholders do not care about the forecasted impacts of CC on this and the next generation. Despite these severe threats and availability of significant funding from international organisations, there is no coordinated effort for CC adaptation, no THA Division has made CC resilience a priority, and the willingness of residents to act and change behaviour is very low.

HIGH LEVEL GOAL

Coordinated, multisectoral, community-based CC adaptation creates a level of CC resilience that reduces CC impacts on our communities and regenerates ecosystem services across the NE Tobago UNESCO Man and the Biosphere Reserve.

PRIORITY NEEDS

- A Climate Change Adaptation (CCA) strategy is implemented by 2025;
- CCA efforts are coordinated across all sectors and focus on community-based initiatives;
- sufficient resources are allocated to CCA programmes and projects;
- climate change research and monitoring is coordinated, involves community stakeholders, and is publicly available and easily accessible; and
- the importance of CCA is communicated to all stakeholders guided by an assessment of knowledge, attitude, and practise.

STRATEGIES

- Develop and implement a CCA Plan by 2025;
- TOBIMA to coordinate CC action with key THA Departments, CBOs, and the private sector;
- secure funding for immediate projects as well as a long-term NE Tobago CCA trust fund;
- TOBIMA to coordinate CCA research and monitoring;
- implement a CCA communication plan;
- build technical and collaboration capacity of all key stakeholders.

KEY PROPOSED ACTIVITIES

Facilitate:

- securing funding for a CCA Plan;
- establishment of a cooperative, coordinated, accountable, and integrated institutional mechanism for CCA;
- anchoring CCA financing in the annual THA budget and establishing a special trust fund,
- conducting vulnerability and risk assessments as well as a monitoring programme;
- seeking collaborations with international research organisations and institutions; and
- implementing awareness programmes for easily implementable and affordable CCA techniques specific to NE Tobago stakeholders.