



**USAID**  
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# DOMINICAN REPUBLIC

## FACT SHEET: INCREASED RESILIENCE OF PEOPLE TO THE IMPACTS OF CLIMATE CHANGE

**COUNTRY SITUATION:** According to the 2016 Germanwatch Climate Risk Index, the Dominican Republic is the 11th most vulnerable country in the world to climate change. Climate change is already negatively impacting the stability of the water supply and critical coastal resources important for food and energy security, economic wellbeing, ecosystem survival, and disaster risk reduction, with disproportionate effects on vulnerable populations and the tourism industry. The 2012 CARIBSAVE Climate Change Risk Atlas: Climate Change Risk Profile for the Dominican Republic predicted that due to sea level rise, by 2030, the Dominican Republic could lose 29 percent of the Bavaro beach in Punta Cana, one of the country's most profitable tourist destinations. According to the African and Latin American Resilience to Climate Change assessment, virtually all of the Dominican Republic's critical marine resources are at risk and 70-90 percent of coral reefs are already dead.

### OUR WORK

USAID is working to increase the resilience of communities to the impacts of climate change in order to reduce insecurity and economic losses caused by the havoc of climate change-induced severe weather events. To achieve this overall climate change objective, USAID is working with local, national, and regional organizations on information management, land use planning, and implementation of small-scale adaptation actions. These focus areas are critical for municipalities to manage and protect human life, property, and infrastructure. Furthermore, as the threats related to climate change grow, these efforts are vital to help ecosystems function naturally as they should with carbon sequestration from forests, water filtration by wetlands, plant pollination by bees, and more.

To accomplish this, USAID is improving the ability of local populations to acquire, understand, and manage climate change information and use this information to improve municipal land use planning. Target areas are Santo Domingo, Santiago, Las Terrenas, and San Pedro de Macoris. The four cities will be helped to design and implement climate resilient, participatory, and transparent municipal development plans. Other municipalities will be encouraged to become involved and replicate best practices.

Additionally, USAID is helping small farmers strengthen their livelihoods and climate resilience through the implementation of climate smart approaches to agriculture (which builds in climate change resilience and/or removed greenhouse emissions when possible), enhanced cocoa production and processing, and the development of a climate index insurance product.

### **EXPECTED RESULTS:**

- Using a participatory process, at least four municipal land use plans, that include climate change adaptation considerations, will be developed and implemented.
- A web-based climate change information observatory containing climate data, projections, and research tools, which work with 26 state of the art weather stations established.
- A micro-insurance product, marketed by local companies, for Dominican small-dairy producers to protect their investments against drought developed.
- 262 state of the art weather stations installed in data poor regions of northwest Dominican Republic.
- In the Yaque del Norte Watershed’s farming communities, sustainable agricultural livelihoods improved and food security increased.
- Agroforestry-based cocoa and coffee production and small-scale processing systems, established by farmer and womens associations improved.



Photo by: Ron Savage



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Photo by: Jerry Bauer

## **CONTACTS**

Ron F. Savage  
Climate Change Officer  
USAID Climate Change Office Chief  
United States Embassy in the Dominican Republic  
Avenida República de Colombia 57,  
Santo Domingo, D.N.  
Phone +809-567-7775  
Email [drinfo@usaid.gov](mailto:drinfo@usaid.gov)