

## **Panos' comments re Jamaica's Adaptation Fund Project**

**June 14, 2012**

The project proposal submitted by the National Implementing Entity, the Planning Institute of Jamaica took roughly 9-10 months to be developed. From the development of the concept, Panos Caribbean and Association of Development Agencies have been two of the key civil society groups participating in and supporting the process to ensure the inclusion of certain key principles (meeting the needs of the most vulnerable and participation and input of grass roots voices etc).

The proposal delivered does include activities that will impact the most vulnerable as it will be working in parishes such as Clarendon, St Thomas and St Mary which are among the parishes ranked among the top seven poorest parishes in Jamaica. Improving access to water in these parishes as a result of drought related impacts will go a long way to boosting livelihoods for the poor and marginalized in these parishes.

The proposal shows that there was quite a bit of consultation – 7 meetings with community and other key stakeholder groups plus input from consultations done in the same area before by other agencies. It is clear that input from these stakeholders has changed the nature of the proposal for eg one notes the suggestions made during the Negril consultations re using volunteers to establish the seawater beds. It is good to see that the community people are willing to volunteer and contribute to the project. The use of and number of volunteers would demonstrate community acceptance and buy in.

In the field trip done by Panos Caribbean and Germanwatch last year it was noted that there were some concerns among the fishermen in Negril re their inclusion in adaptation options for the beaches and fisheries there. This was duly communicated to the PIOJ and it seems that some consideration was given to ensuring that they were included in the consultations.

Another example of stakeholder input being used was In Component 2 of the proposal where following consultations and field checks, the idea for large scale reservoirs was replaced by several smaller storage areas which will cover a wider geographical area.

Panos was also able to share the document guiding consultations and including the voices of the vulnerable that was done by the Adaptation Fund Board and circulated among the AFB NGO network. According to PIOJ, it was very useful and they were able to include some of its recommendation in the proposal although they wished they had gotten it earlier than they did.

It was also good to see that the criteria used for site selection in the farming communities included areas that were of concern to civil society:

- degree of vulnerability of the areas to climate change risks
- degree of poverty among the population
- existence of complementary projects in the area
- existing initiatives in the area which would complement planned intervention
- existence of community organisations or systems able to sustain intervention

It is a very comprehensive proposal that should put Jamaica in a much better place for adapting to climate change if it is approved.