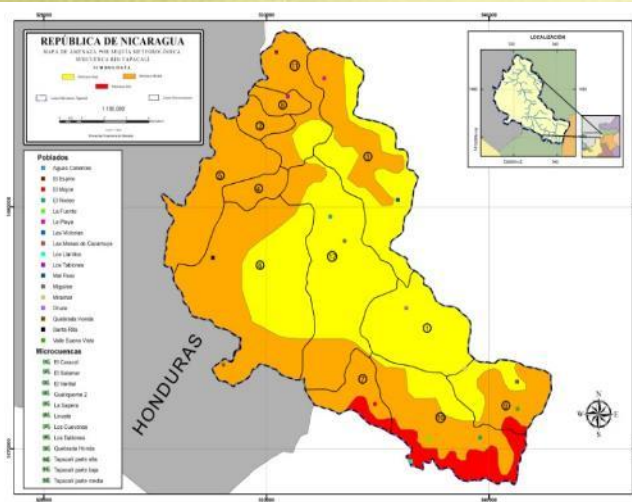


NICARAGUA:

Climate-proof Disaster Risk Reduction Programme

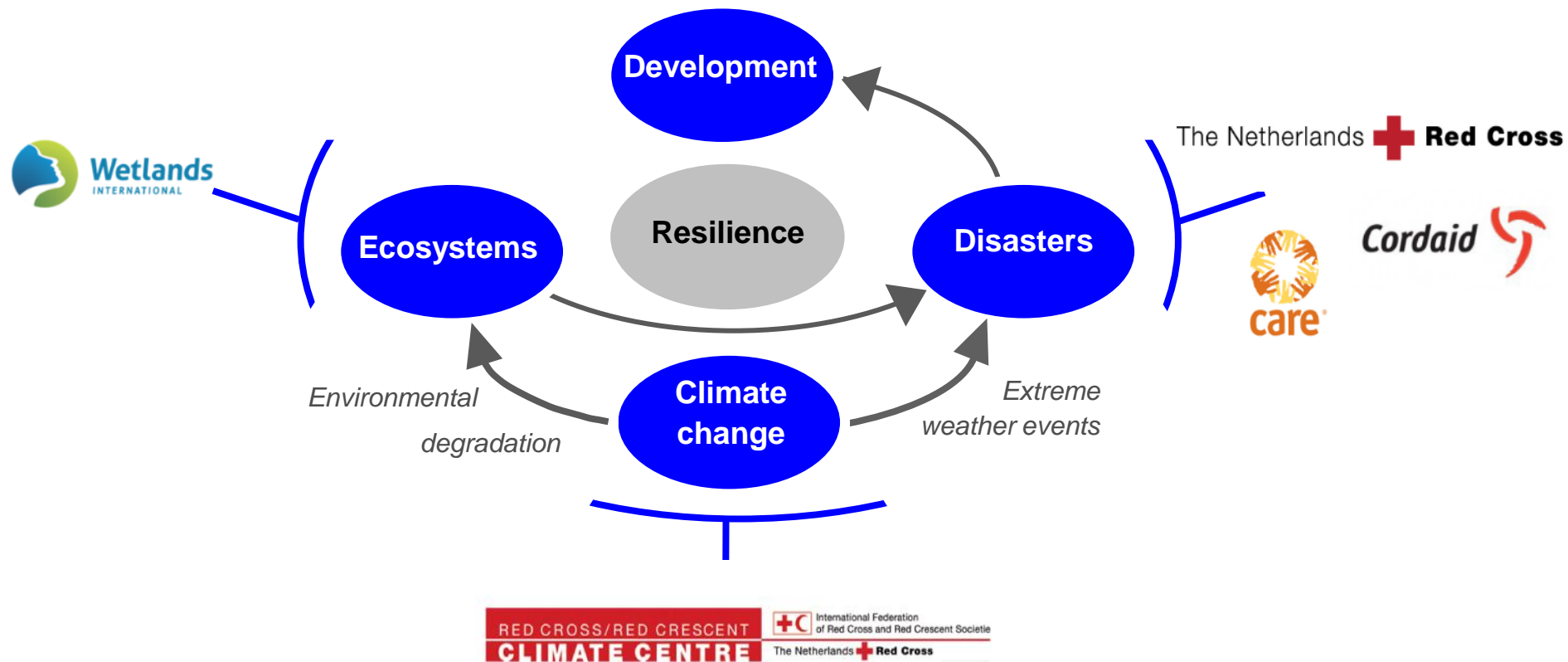


Maya Schaerer
Country & DRR Delegate
Netherlands Red Cross in Nicaragua,
2010-2015

Bern, 21 March 2016

Overall aim

Reducing the impact of natural hazards on the livelihoods of vulnerable communities



PfR intervention areas



- Climate change and climate variability
- Environmental degradation (deforestation and inadequate agricultural practices)
- ➔ Unpredictable rains, extremes in hurricanes/storms, droughts and floods.

Northern Caribbean Coast:
more frequent and intense
hurricanes, storms and floods.



Department of Madriz:
likelihood of droughts at least once
every three years.

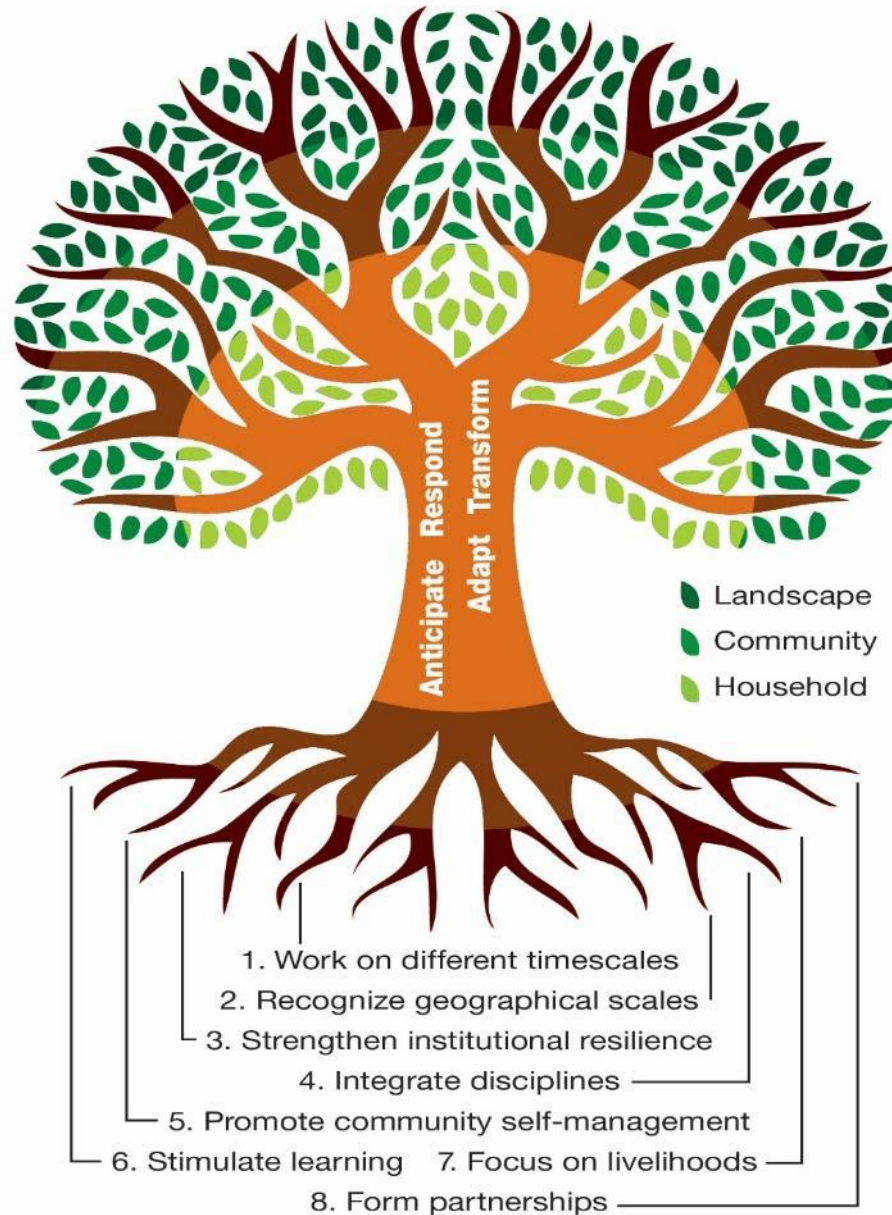
Video



6 min : <https://youtu.be/rApS1jPH4rM>

15 min : <https://youtu.be/QFKF6WgaWCg>

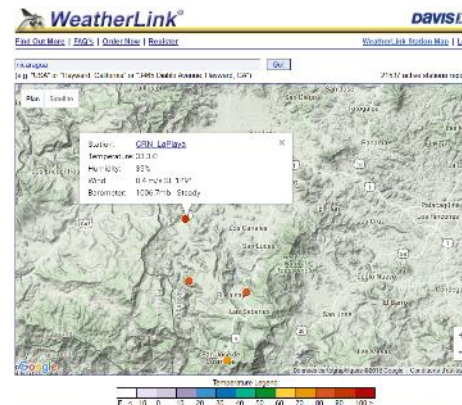
Growing a vision for Resilience





1. Work on different timescales

- 10-20 years climate change (adaptation) strategies for autonomous region and municipalities
- Installation of real-time climate monitoring system with research centre, university and NGO
- Indigenous knowledge on DRR/CCA/EMR
- Training and equipment of disaster response brigades
- Support annual winter / summer municipal risk plans





2. Recognize geographical scales

- Watershed management approach, interconnectedness between communities, municipalities and countries
- Little impact on climate change globally but possibility to lower the temperature locally through agroforestry, protect water springs, etc.





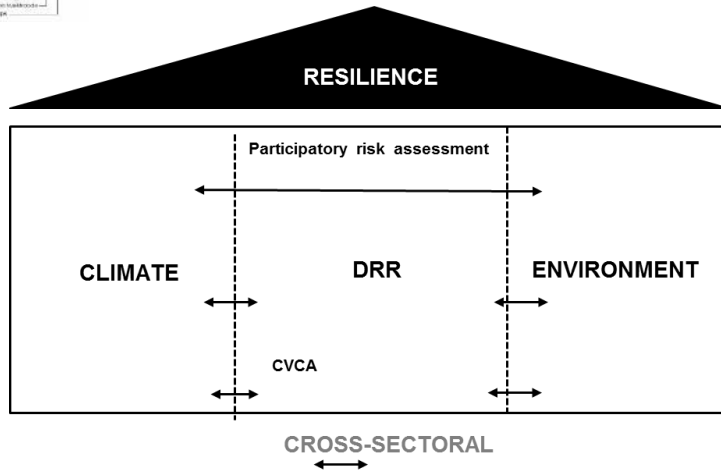
3. Strengthen institutional resilience

- Work with local governments, disaster management committees, schools, universities, youth networks, Red Cross branches, ministries of agriculture / environment / health, etc.





4. Integrate disciplines



- Disaster management
- Climate change
- Environmental management and restoration
- Agriculture
- Health (first aid, dengue)
- Water & sanitation
- Land use planning
- Social sciences (indigenous knowledge, education, games, community self-organization)
- Etc.





5. Promote community self-management

- Vulnerability and capacity assessments
- Selection, participation in implementation and supervision of small-scale DRR/CCA/EMR projects
- Community action plans, disaster management plans
- Support creation of disaster management and watershed management structures (as per national law)
- Ownership of CC strategy (RACCN)





6. Stimulate learning

- Positive environment, solutions to problems
- Academic diplomas for key stakeholders and community leaders
- Thesis, internships
- Participatory video
- Eco-tourism
- Bicycle rally, cooking competition, recycling (kites, murals, science fair)





6. Stimulate learning (cont)

- Forums
- Games
- Private sector (e.g. coffee, cooperatives)
- Case studies written by staff (writeshops)
- Exchanges with Guatemala and PfR global conferences
- Videos



(https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=P_LQxbdttGZmeCAzaafWJwz0z3aO4h_CoCU)



7. Focus on livelihoods

- Crop diversification, agroforestry and silvopastoral systems
- Flower production in landslide-prone area, to diversify income, support women, limit deforestation to grow basic crops, protect highest part of the watershed
- Eco-tourism project (natural lagoon), in a drought and flood-prone area, to diversify livelihoods and reduce disaster risk
- More efficient stoves
- Seed bank





8. Form partnerships

The programme collaborated with:

- 66 organizations and government entities
- 14 civil society networks
- 8 universities
- and 33 schools.



Successes of resilience approach

- Positive approach focusing on solutions rather than problems
- Look for long-term impact, a chance to tackle root causes
- Flexibility, possibility to better adapt to perceived needs
- Creativity, look for new ways of doing things, new partners
- Interesting learning experience for all involved



Challenges of resilience approach

- Complex approach, can be confusing for staff, partners and communities
- Why only focus on DRR, CCA and EMR (and not agriculture, health, etc.)?
- How flexible are the funding and timeframe to adapt to local priorities?
- Requires qualified staff/volunteers from diverse backgrounds ready to learn and adapt their ways of working
- Can be difficult to work with partners with other interests or focus
- More time required for decision-making processes and implementation in general



Photos: Nicaraguan Red Cross, RCRC Climate Centre

Questions and discussion



- Is DRR/CCA/EMR (or resilience) a priority for communities and municipalities?
- What does building resilience really imply?
- Is resilience just another buzzword or does it mean real change in programming?
- What is the time necessary to strengthen resilience?
- Do partnerships work?
- Are actions sustainable?