In the Caribbean, responses to climate change impacts have been sought mainly at the policy level, with few specific actions to build resilience at the landscape or site level. Local traditional knowledge must be considered in order to "climate proof" key sectors such as tourism and agriculture, and communities engaged to implement policies on the ground. In the absence of location-specific scientific data, insights from diverse stakeholders can provide sound information to advise land use development planning.

The solution uses Information Communication Tools to effectively engage residents of Tobago. It captures their inputs regarding site-based vulnerabilities and helps to identify those needs and opportunities which can increase the community’s resilience to climate change. Stakeholders produce an impressive three-dimensional model of the island, depicting sites and resources that are at risk, analysing impacts on people and crafting simple yet effective solutions to specific local problems.

Participatory tools such as three-dimensional modeling and video bring crucial local knowledge into decision-making while increasing community capacity, cross-sectoral coordination and collaboration for joint action on climate change.

Our vision is a world-class protected area that is well managed by the community. Our community organisation actively advocates, educates, monitors and co-manages the natural resources that support our local livelihoods,” says Smokey, a local community leader and member of Eco Marine Park Rangers from Speyside, Tobago.

When invited to the modeling session, Smokey used every opportunity to share his experiences and raise passionate discussions on how fishermen like him cope with the impacts of climate change. His inputs were key in refining and validating information submitted by various stakeholders.

Selected by his peers to represent them at the ceremony where the model was handed over to the local government, Smokey highlighted the key issues that need to be addressed to build climate change resilience in Tobago.

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This solution is being implemented by the Caribbean Natural Resources Institute (CANARI).