



**WWF** *for a living planet*<sup>®</sup>

February 25, 2011

## **Final technical report to GS/OAS**

**Project title: *Incorporating climate adaptation into marine turtle conservation: capacity strengthening for planning and implementation***

**Funding Period:** October 2010 to March 2011

**Progress Report Period of Activity:** October 2010 to March 2011

**Grant Amount:** US \$26,000

**Principal Researcher:** Dr. Marianne R. Fish, WWF LAC Marine and Coastal Adaptation Leader, [mfish@wwfcanada.org](mailto:mfish@wwfcanada.org)

### **I. Summary of progress to date**

A training workshop was held in early November, convened at the 63rd annual meeting of the Gulf and Caribbean Fisheries Institute (GCFI) in Puerto Rico, and attended by 15 participants from 10 countries throughout the Wider Caribbean Region. The workshop was designed to lead participants through the steps involved in incorporating climate adaptation into their ongoing programs and consisted of a mixture of presentations, exercises, discussions and training in monitoring techniques. Feedback on the workshop has been very positive and participants have already incorporated the tools, materials and techniques into their work. New support materials for the training have been developed based on feedback from previous OAS-funded workshops and a new version of WWF's Adaptation to Climate Change Toolkit will be ready for distribution in April 2011.

Un taller de capacitación se llevó a cabo a principios de noviembre durante la reunión anual del Instituto de Pesquerías del Golfo y del Caribe ("Gulf and Caribbean Fisheries Institute (GCFI)") en Puerto Rico, al cual asistieron 15 participantes de 10 países del Gran Caribe. El taller fue diseñado para conducir a los participantes por todos los pasos necesarios para la incorporación de adaptación al cambio climático en sus programas a través de una mezcla de presentaciones, ejercicios, discusiones y capacitación en metodologías de monitoreo. Los comentarios sobre el taller han sido muy positivos y los participantes ya han incorporado las herramientas, materiales y técnicas en su trabajo. Los nuevos materiales de apoyo para la capacitación han sido desarrollados en base a los comentarios de anteriores talleres financiados por la OEA y una nueva versión de la caja de herramientas estará lista para su distribución en abril de 2011.

## II. Project Objectives:

Objective	Activity	Progress
1. By March 2011, produce and disseminate an enhanced training package for hands-on, coastal adaptation to climate change that incorporates the adaptation knowledge base of the WWF-LAC Marine Turtle and Climate Change Program and the WIDECAST network and includes an updated WWF Adaptation Toolkit, a practical adaptation planning guide and other relevant tools and resources (Activities 1 + 2).	1. Finalization of an adaptation planning guide, vulnerability assessment manual and beach monitoring manual to be included in an updated WWF Adaptation Toolkit for coastal habitats  2. Dissemination of a refined and enhanced Adaptation Toolkit and other adaptation resources generated by this project through at least five pertinent web portals	New reports are written and in the final stages of production, ready for distribution in April  Webportals have been identified and the updated Toolkit will be uploaded in April 2011
2. By March 2011, train at least 20 conservation practitioners and decision-makers of relevant government agencies in Latin America and the Caribbean in climate vulnerability assessment and monitoring techniques and adaptation planning for coastal habitats essential to marine turtles (Activity 3)	3. Regional climate adaptation workshop in San Juan, Puerto Rico, convened at the 63rd annual meeting of the Gulf and Caribbean Fisheries Institute (GCFI)	Completed on November 3, 2010

## III. Methodology employed and activities carried out:

*Objective 1. By March 2011, produce and disseminate an enhanced training package for hands-on, coastal adaptation to climate change that incorporates the adaptation knowledge base of the WWF-LAC Marine Turtle and Climate Change Program and WIDECAST and includes an updated WWF Adaptation Toolkit, a practical adaptation planning guide and other relevant tools and resources (Activities 1 + 2).*

Activity 1. New reports, for addition to WWF's Climate Adaptation Toolkit, are in the final stages of production. The new tools are:

- What is adaptation? An introduction to adaptation planning

This new introductory guide provides a brief summary of the steps involved in incorporating climate change adaptation into ongoing conservation programs (e.g. stakeholder analysis, vulnerability assessment, identification and prioritization of adaptation measures and monitoring and evaluation). This guide will serve as a background text for future training workshops.

- Beach Monitoring Guidelines

A manual developed from the instructions for beach profile monitoring used at the training workshops. The manual has gone through several drafts and been tested by participants at three different workshops. All workshop participants received a draft copy of the manual and guidelines as well as a template worksheet for analyzing profile data that should assist with data analysis and reporting.

Activity 2. The current Toolkit is available from the project website:

WWF-Adaptation to Climate change for marine Turtles (ACT)

<http://www.panda.org/lac/marineturtles/adaptation> as well as numerous other websites, including:

- [WHMSI Pathway](#)
- Linking Climate Adaptation - Community Based Adaptation - [Tools and practice](#)
- The [Climate Adaptation Knowledge Exchange](#)
- NOAA's [coastal climate adaptation site](#)
- [Caribbean Community Climate Change Centre \(CCCCC\)](#)
- [WIDECAST](#)

The new reports will be uploaded to the above websites in April 2011. In addition a new dedicated Climate Adaptation for Marine Turtles group has been set up at [Adaptation Learning Platforms](#). This website has additional networking functions beyond those available at the WWF project site, and provides a number of ways to connect and collaborate with other group members:

<p><b>Members</b> View member profiles and the projects they are working on</p>	<p><b>Group posts</b> Connect to the group, ask questions and provide project updates</p>	<p><b>Wiki Docs</b> A space to work on projects and documents together</p>	<p><b>Files</b> Upload project reports, papers and other materials</p>	<p><b>Group Events</b> Post information about upcoming events of interest</p>
---	---	--	--	---

This new group site will act as the central hub for uploading new tools, connecting training workshop participants and other adaptation practitioners and keeping up to date with participants' progress post-workshop.

*Objective 2. By March 2011, train at least 20 conservation practitioners and decision-makers of relevant government agencies in Latin America and the Caribbean in climate vulnerability assessment and monitoring techniques and adaptation planning for coastal habitats essential to marine turtles (Activity 3).*

- A three-day training workshop was held at the 63rd Gulf and Caribbean Fisheries Institute (GCFI) Annual Meeting in San Juan, Puerto Rico (1-3 November, 2010)
- Fifteen participants from 10 countries attended the workshop, including managers of several marine turtle programs, marine park and coastal/marine resource managers, government representatives, educators and students

- The workshop consisted of a mixture of presentations, exercises, discussions and training, designed to lead participants through the steps involved in incorporating adaptation to climate change into their ongoing programs
- At the end of the workshop, and to gain certification, participants were asked to briefly present how they were intending to incorporate what they had learned into their work and a plan of action for the following six months to a year
- Feedback was very positive, with all participants showing interest in incorporating climate change into their work and identifying concrete examples of how they have already begun to act on the information provided in the training, e.g. using material from the workshop in university classes and grant proposals, starting to monitor beach profiles, designing a hurricane assessment protocol, scheduling a meeting with landowners to address climate change
- We have also received useful suggestions to improve future training (please see accompanying workshop report)
- All participants were presented with an Adaptation Toolkit and copies of the training materials to use in their own workshops
- An online evaluation survey was sent to all participants after the workshop (see accompanying workshop report)

#### **IV. Lessons learned, problems and possible solutions**

Fortunately no major problems have been encountered. Production of the updates to the Adaptation Toolkit has been slightly delayed, however, new tools are in the final stages of production and will be ready for distribution by April 2011. Workshop participants will be sent an updated version once complete.

We had planned for 20 participants at the workshop. While we had considerable interest in the training, some people were unable to attend due to other commitments. The workshop appears to have had the desired multiplier effect, however, as several local workshops are planned by participants and materials, tools and lessons learned have already been shared with others.

##### *Lessons learned*

- The decision to hold the workshop concurrent with the GCFI meeting enabled sponsored participants from WIDECASST to take advantage of the learning and networking opportunities of attending the region's largest gathering of marine scientists, researchers, managers and fishers and also allowed us to reach a broad range of participants. There were a few disadvantages with holding the meeting alongside a conference, however; namely that some participants had other commitments that took them away from some workshop sessions. As the workshop is designed to be progressive, these absences were challenging. It was necessary to review material the participants had missed in order for them to take full advantage of the activities following the session they were absent from. Every effort was made to accommodate participants' prior commitments and ensure that their workshop experience was as complete as possible.

The agenda was timed to fit in with the GCFI meeting sessions so that workshop participants could take advantage of meal and coffee breaks for meetings and networking. Unfortunately, on occasion this led to participants arriving late to the workshop, which was disruptive to other participants. The benefits of reaching a broad audience outweighed logistical challenges, however, and we would take advantage of future opportunities to hold workshops concurrent with regional conferences and meetings.

- The workshop has been re-structured and new content added based on feedback and evaluation from previous workshops, including CIDI/OAS funded workshops in 2009. Feedback related to these changes has been positive although there were still some comments that extending the workshop would be useful.
- The practical training component of the workshop continues to be one of the most popular sessions. Holding the workshop at the coast is essential to be able to include this session.
- Workshop participants' experience and knowledge of climate change, vulnerability and adaptation is always variable and it has been useful to cover the basics of climate change in the workshops so that all participants are working from a similar starting point.
- The workshop provided an excellent opportunity for participants to interact with other individuals and groups working on similar issues. Participant feedback indicated that this was an important part of the workshop experience and expressed a desire to keep in contact with other participants to share results and lessons learnt. The Adaptation Learning Platforms site has been set up to facilitate these collaborative relationships.
- Based on experience and feedback from other larger training workshops, keeping participant numbers below twenty is beneficial for participants as it allows time to work with each individual during practical exercises. It also facilitates group cohesion and discussion, which encourages networking post-training.
- The evaluation survey has provided some excellent ideas for ways to improve the workshop. Most notably, one participant commented that it would be useful if there were additional funds attached to the workshop to be used by participants for implementing their own workshop with local stakeholders based on what they learned. WWF is currently exploring options and funding opportunities for providing greater follow up to this, and other, climate adaptation training opportunities. We will continue to develop this and other ideas from participants to enhance future training.

**Contact:**

Dr. Marianne R. Fish  
WWF LAC Marine and Coastal Adaptation Leader  
*c/o WWF Canada*  
*Suite 1588 - 409 Granville Street*  
*Vancouver, BC, Canada V6C 1T2*  
*+1 604 678 5152 ext. 6655*  
*mfish@wwfcanada.org*