



RISK FINANCING
& INVESTMENT



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Implemented with the European Union,
the World Bank and the Global Fund
for Disaster Risk Reduction (GFDRR)



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GFDRR
Global Facility for Disaster Reduction and Recovery



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CASE STUDY

RISK REDUCTION INVESTMENTS

Built for Resilience: Risk-Informed Infrastructure in Dominica

The Intra-ACP DRRP is supporting efforts to embed risk reduction investments at the planning stage that lay the foundation for resilient infrastructure. Through World Bank/GFDRR ACP-EU DRM Program, technical assistance in Dominica has strengthened the enabling environment for climate-resilient investment by generating pre-investment risk analytics, building local capacity, and risk-informing infrastructure design, positioning the country to advance its climate resilience goals.



226 %
GDP LOSS
AS A RESULT OF
HURRICANE MARIA

After Hurricane Maria struck Dominica as a Category 5 storm, 95% of homes were destroyed.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

01

COUNTRY/REGION/LOCATION

Dominica

02

RISK ADDRESSED

Floods – river, urban, coastal; Landslides;
Tropical Cyclones

03

IMPLEMENTATION PERIOD/TIMEFRAME

August 2023 to June 2025

04

ACTORS/IMPLEMENTING AND LOCAL PARTNERS

EU, World Bank and GFDRR working with national
authorities

05

KEY BENEFICIARIES

Government of the Commonwealth of
Dominica, local communities

CONTEXT AND CHALLENGE

Dominica is increasingly vulnerable to climate and disaster risks due to its exposure to multiple hazards, limited land space, and dependence on climate-sensitive sectors. In 2017, Hurricane Maria caused losses equivalent to 226% of its 2016 GDP, underscoring this vulnerability. As climate change intensifies extreme weather events, weakens natural ecosystems, and erodes development gains, accelerating climate-smart development is critical.

Dominica has established climate-resilient development strategies, but implementation remains hindered by technical and institutional challenges. Overcoming these barriers requires practical, risk-informed infrastructure measures that leverage nature-based solutions and strengthen infrastructure resilience. Equally important is the technical capacity needed to translate these measures into action that safeguards services, livelihoods, and long-term development gains.

WHY THIS ACTION MATTERS?

Climate-related hazards threaten critical infrastructure and the services they provide. This was evident during **Hurricane Maria**, which disrupted essential services, intra-island connectivity, livelihoods, and the wider economy.

Post-Maria, Dominica established a vision of **becoming the world's first climate-resilient nation**. By translating risk information into practical guidance for resilient infrastructure, Dominica is better equipped to implement plans to achieve its resilience goals.

Through targeted technical support, the **ACP-EU DRM program** has supported Dominica to safeguard critical infrastructure, protect communities, and secure development gains.

See the intervention and results on page 2 →

INTERVENTION AND APPROACH

World Bank/GFDRR, through the ACP-EU DRM program, supported Dominica with technical assistance to accelerate climate resilience. Technical support generated detailed risk analyses of 14 slopes along the East Coast, including geometric feature assessments and stability analyses.

These analyses directly informed the design of the East Coast Road Rehabilitation Programme, translating pre-investment risk data into site-specific engineering guidance. The work also produced a dedicated nature-based solutions guidebook for slope stabilisation, providing actionable, context-specific measures to reduce hazard impacts. Technical assistance further supported technical and financial analyses of the Rehabilitation Programme and the financial analyses development of

a comprehensive Terms of Reference for the Resilient Dominica Physical Plan, creating an actionable framework for risk-informed infrastructure planning. In parallel, regional training strengthened national capacity in Environmental and Social Safeguards, equipping project staff to design and implement investments that minimise environmental harm and protect communities.

These activities are informing the third phase of the Eastern Caribbean Regional Disaster Vulnerability Reduction Program, demonstrating how targeted technical assistance catalyses significantly larger resilience investments.



RESULTS AND CHANGE

- Enhanced application of climate-smart solutions.** Detailed slope analyses provide the foundational risk information needed to guide resilient infrastructure design.
- Strengthened local capacity for climate-smart investments.** The nature-based solutions guidebook and training have equipped government stakeholders with the skills to apply these solutions in infrastructure planning and design.
- Improved governance for risk-informed investments.** The Terms of Reference provides a blueprint for integrating risk into infrastructure planning.
- Stronger quality assurance in infrastructure delivery** Technical oversight of the East Coast Road Rehabilitation is supporting efforts to ensure quality, accountability and efficiency, strengthening confidence in resilient infrastructure investments.

EARLY CONCRETE UPTAKE IN ONGOING INVESTMENTS:

BUILDING RESILIENCE THROUGH NATURE-BASED

The work on nature-based solutions (NBS) in Dominica is already being referenced by the Government's project team to further guide NBS design and implementation along the East Coast Road Rehabilitation Programme for slope stabilisation.



TECHNICAL SUPPORT ENABLING INDEPENDENT AUDIT OVERSIGHT

The Technical and Financial Audit Terms of Reference developed through technical support provided, has enabled the recruitment of a firm to lead the audit for quality assurance and financial integrity in the East Coast Road Rehabilitation programme.



PROGRAMME OUTPUT ALIGNMENT



RISK REDUCTION INVESTMENT

This work supports the Intra-ACP DRRP by advancing investment in resilience. Strengthening infrastructure investment planning is helping to guide infrastructure investment decisions while simultaneously leveraging climate-smart urban planning solutions to build long-term resilience.

KEY ENABLERS OF SUCCESS



Investment-driven risk analysis



Strong enabling policy framework for climate resilience



Strong partnerships with local authorities