



Assessing vulnerability to climate change in the Speyside community, Trinidad and Tobago

The Caribbean Natural Resources Institute (CANARI) and the Department of Marine Resources and Fisheries – Tobago House of Assembly engaged fisherfolk and their organisations, other community members and the public and private sector in Speyside in 2020 to assess the vulnerability of their fisheries and wider community to climate change and identify priorities for adaptation.

How was vulnerability to climate change assessed?

The assessment utilised three tools, participatory geographic information systems (GIS), surveys and an impact and capacity matrix, for data collection and analysis as follows:

- 1. Participatory GIS** used paper maps printed to scale to capture and integrate local and scientific knowledge on resource use, livelihoods and areas critical to the fisheries sector with community stakeholders. The paper maps were then converted to digital maps that can be compared and integrated with other GIS and technical data to support planning and decision-making.
- 2. Surveys** collected information and perspectives from fisherfolk and the wider community on attitudes/ perceptions, environmental, economic, social and political issues shaping vulnerability to climate change at the local level.
- 3. Impact and capacity matrix** allowed for identification of the hazards that have the most serious impact on the community, who and what are most vulnerable, and existing and potential coping and adaptation strategies to address these hazards. This supported prioritisation of needs and actions.



Key climate change impacts identified by Speyside stakeholders



Coastal erosion and flooding impacting infrastructure, livelihoods and ecosystems



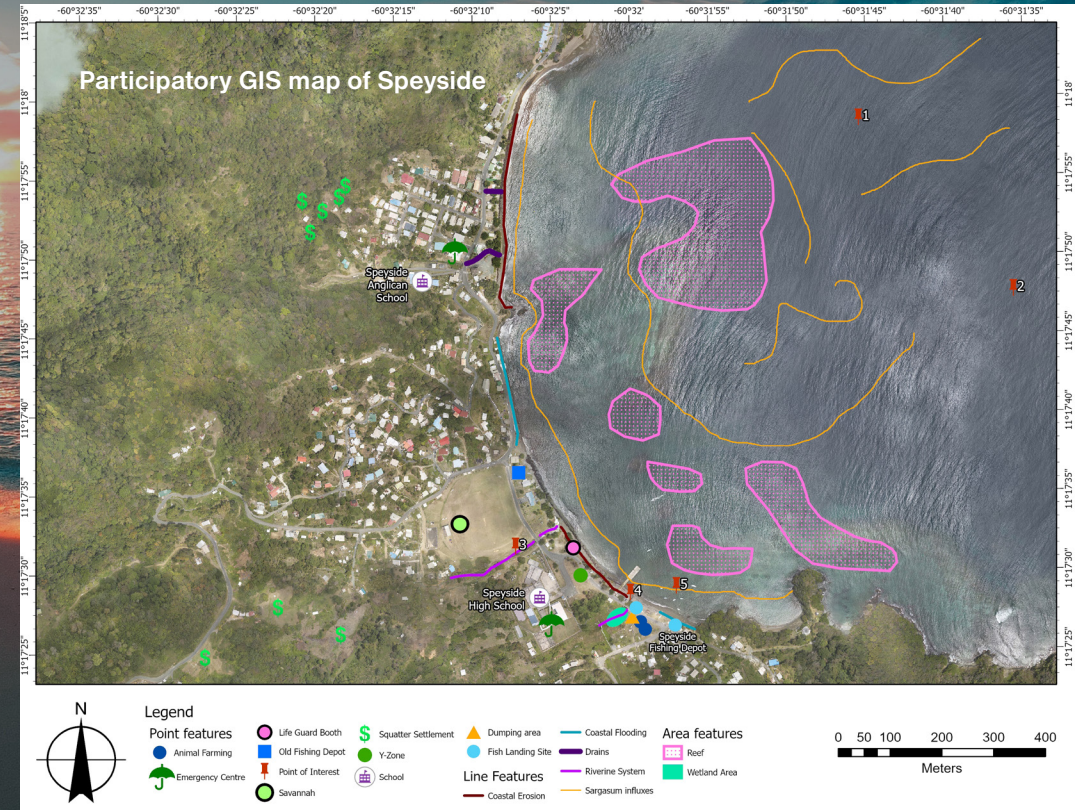
Sargassum influx impacting fishers, tourism and coastal areas



Rough seas, storms and storm surges



Reduced rainfall and water shortages



Adaptation priorities for the Speyside community

- develop and implement a community disaster preparedness and recovery plan, including identifying new emergency shelter;
- build a slipway or provide a tractor to the community for hauling in boats for safe storage;
- provide equipment for clean-up of sargassum influxes by local community groups; and
- improve marine conservation through set up of the NE Tobago Marine Protected Area.

