ADAPTATION PRIORITIZATION CASE STUDY

Consider this Fishing Community…

In this community, hurricanes occur occasionally, causing loss and damage to vessels, the landing site, and other assets. Air and sea temperatures are increasing, as is the frequency of intense rainstorms.

Most households are involved in fishing and bring their catch to a nearby landing site for sale without the use of refrigeration. Some households are also involved in small-scale farming.

There’s a small marine protected area nearby that encompasses coral reef and seagrass habitat, but these habitats have become degraded in recent years. The park is still in good enough condition to attract ecotourism. However, decreasing fish populations outside the park have led to illegal fishing inside the protected area that is depleting fish populations. Fisherfolk report that it’s getting harder and harder to catch reef fish in traditional near-shore fishing grounds around the protected area.

The lack of refrigeration makes fish trading and processing sensitive to increasing temperatures. Households that generate their income from diverse sources like farming and fishing have a greater adaptive capacity than households relying only on a single source of income. Households with access to transportation and family in other areas have a greater adaptive capacity to evacuate in the case of hurricanes or landslides.

New leadership in the fisheries cooperative has brought more opportunities for climate change adaptation and disaster risk reduction (DRR). The new president has brokered a partnership with a locally-based university researcher and community members are considering applying for small DRR grants. Many community members are part of the cooperative and actively involved in its initiatives.