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**Public preferences towards climate change
adaptation in Curaçao: a national survey**

Peter J. Robinson, Pieter van Beukering, Renske R. Pin, Timo Kelder, Pédzi Girigori

This report is released by: Peter J. Robinson
Institute for Environmental Studies, Vrije Universiteit
Amsterdam



This report was prepared as part of the project *Supporting Curaçao in developing a National Adaptation Strategy* of the International Panel on Deltas and Coastal Areas (IPDC) Dutch Caribbean. The study contributes to the evidence base for the development of Curaçao's National Climate Adaptation Strategy.

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Research implementation

Fieldwork and data collection were carried out by trained fieldworkers, including students from the University of Curaçao, under the coordination of the independent research bureau RE-Quest. The survey was conducted at various public locations across Curaçao, including supermarkets and hardware stores, where short face-to-face interviews were held in Papiamentu, Dutch, English, and Spanish.



REGERING VAN CURAÇAO

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We gratefully acknowledge the supermarkets and other venues that granted permission to conduct the survey on their premises. We also sincerely thank all respondents for their willingness to share their time, experiences, and perspectives by participating in the survey. Their contribution was essential to the success of this study.

Citation

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Executive summary

Curaçao faces a number of escalating climate risks that are already affecting daily life of residents, and further threaten the long-term economic and social stability on the island. This report presents the results of a nationwide public survey conducted in October-November 2025 across Curaçao as input to the development of Curaçao's National Adaptation Strategy (NAS-Ç). The survey, completed by 555 respondents, provides critical evidence on citizens' lived experiences and perceptions of climate impacts, their adaptation priorities, expectations on leadership, and willingness to act at the individual level. Its insights can be used to strengthen the legitimacy and long-term durability of adaptation policy by bridging the gap between technical planning and public sentiment.

The findings indicate that many respondents already experienced significant climate impacts in recent years, particularly via rising costs of energy, water, fuel and food, frequent heatwaves, and disruptions to electricity, public services and infrastructure. Cost of living pressures, such as higher household utility costs are also expected to be especially problematic in the future. Extreme heat and flooding stand out as both the most widely experienced climate risk, and a notably concerning future risk for productivity and quality of life. While longer-term environmental threats such as sea-level rise, coral degradation and coastal changes are recognized, they are generally perceived as less impactful, compared to heat- and specific cost-related pressures.

Overall, support for climate change adaptation is high, with more than three-quarters of respondents considering adaptation to be important or a top priority. Despite respondents' expectations that government should take the lead on adaptation, trust in government was not complete, i.e., a large share expressed distrust in government or took a neutral stance. Low observed trust was also an outcome of the post-fieldwork evaluation. Taken together, this points to a need for visible government leadership, accompanied by transparent decision-making, accountability and meaningful public engagement to enhance public trust. Public recommendations refer to visible action at the neighbourhood level that combine water infrastructure maintenance and employment, and are therefore recommended to be prioritized, to build trust through community-based maintenance and jobs. Moreover, respondents' reluctance to accept higher taxes for funding climate measures suggests that effective strategies may include alternative funding sources, such as international support, for lower priority actions.

In terms of adaptation priorities, respondents placed the greatest weight on securing the health of people and nature, ensuring a safe living environment, and using resources wisely. Furthermore, across the different climate themes presented to respondents, there is large support for nature-based measures, such as tree planting, green spaces, restoration of natural drainage channels, and financing solutions for nature protection. These measures were seen as preferable to large-scale hard infrastructure solutions, like seawalls. Cost of living concerns further shape adaptation preferences, for example, respondents prioritize the creation of affordable loans for low-income families to invest in climate solutions. Therefore, the government may play a key role in working with the financial sector to provide such loans, e.g., via risk sharing mechanisms.

Even though a large share of respondents reported financial and informational barriers to adaptation, and perceive adaptation as primarily a government responsibility, there is generally a high willingness to take certain individual actions. Strong willingness was reported for taking low-cost and practical measures, such as saving water and energy, preparing emergency kits and buying local food. Government may stimulate these actions, while addressing informational constraints, via targeted communication and practical guidance. Financial incentives (e.g., low-interest loans and/or means-tested subsidies) may help residents adopt costlier adaptation measures that many are willing to take in principle, such as building upgrades to cope with natural disasters, home greening and tree planting, and expanding insurance coverage.

1 Introduction

Small islands such as Curaçao occupy a frontline position in the global climate crisis, characterized by a substantial vulnerability. This vulnerability is not only related to exposure to physical climate hazards but is deeply rooted in a combination of geographic, ecological, and socioeconomic factors that create a condition of systemic risk. Islands like Curaçao face serious threats from heat, drought and sea-level rise, which jeopardizes coastal infrastructure and freshwater resources, as well as from the degradation of critical marine ecosystems like coral reefs, which are vital for both coastal protection and economic prosperity (Nurse et al., 2014). This physical exposure is exacerbated by characteristics common to many small islands, including limited economic diversification, a high dependence on climate-sensitive sectors like tourism, and constrained financial and technical capacity for large-scale adaptation, all of which contributes to their overall adaptive weakness (IPCC, 2022). Consequently, for Curaçao climate change functions not as a straightforward challenge but as a large risk multiplier, intensifying environmental pressures and socioeconomic inequalities, thereby requiring urgent, strategic, and context-sensitive adaptation planning (Thomas & Benjamin, 2018). A recent Dutch court ruling concerning Curacao's sister-island Bonaire underscores the unequal climate adaptation position of Caribbean islands, finding that the Dutch state failed to provide adequate protection against climate risks for its residents (The Guardian, 2026).

Curaçao's specific climatic risk profile presents a unique set of challenges that demand a proactive and tailored response. Geographically situated in the fringes of the principal Atlantic hurricane belt, the island is somewhat shielded from the most acute tropical cyclone threats. However, this relative advantage is offset by significant exposure to chronic climate impacts. Sea-level rise poses a direct and escalating threat to low-lying coastal zones, including the UNESCO World Heritage site of Willemstad's historic districts and the economically critical port and industrial facilities at Schottegat (Kelder et al., 2022), with associated risks of coastal erosion and saltwater intrusion into freshwater (Government of Curaçao, 2021). Simultaneously, ocean warming and acidification are driving the degradation of the island's coral reefs, undermining a natural coastal defense system and jeopardizing the marine biodiversity that underpins a substantial portion of the tourism economy – a cornerstone of the national GDP. Furthermore, climate projections indicate a trend toward more intense and frequent droughts and heatwaves, which stress the island's already limited freshwater supplies, increase energy demands for cooling, and elevate public health risks (World Bank Group, 2021; IPDC, 2025). The concentration of population, assets, and economic activity along Curaçao's coastline, combined with fiscal constraints, means that a reactive approach to these cascading risks is unsustainable. Integrating climate resilience into the core of spatial planning, infrastructure investment, and ecosystem management is, therefore, crucial for safeguarding long-term social well-being and economic stability.

However, the development of a technically sound adaptation plan is only one component of a climate adaptation plan. A growing body of scholarly work emphasizes that the effectiveness of adaptation planning is fundamentally mediated by social

factors, particularly public perceptions, values, and priorities. Adaptation strategies without meaningful engagement with local communities often encounter resistance, low uptake, or failure, regardless of their technical merits (Adger et al., 2013). In island contexts, where communities frequently have deep-rooted traditional knowledge of environmental patterns and strong cultural attachments to place, top-down driven plans can be especially problematic. They often overlook locally salient risks, for instance, where communities perceive immediate storm damage as a more pressing concern than gradual sea-level rise, or propose solutions, such as large-scale seawalls, that conflict with cultural values, access to coastlines, or community cohesion, potentially leading to inferior solutions (Latai-Niusulu et al., 2020). This evidence highlights a critical insight: successful adaptation is not just an engineering or ecological challenge but a complex sociopolitical process (Mildenberger et al., 2025). It calls for participatory approaches that deliberately integrate scientific assessments with an understanding of local knowledge systems, perceived vulnerabilities, and community-defined desires to foster real ownership and enhance the legitimacy of resilience actions (Nalau et al., 2018).

It is within this participatory framework that the present study and its associated public survey are situated. As part of the structured process to develop Curaçao's National Adaptation Strategy (NAS-Ç), this survey represents a core mechanism for bridging the gap between technical planning and public sentiment. The survey is formally embedded within the NAS-Ç development process, specifically in the phase dedicated to the prioritization of adaptation options. Here, it functions as one of three essential evidence streams, alongside scientific data from an inventory of adaptation measures and expert input from a specialized pool. The primary purpose of the survey is to systematically capture public preferences, risk perceptions, and adaptation priorities directly from the residents of Curaçao. By doing so, it ensures that the eventual selection and ranking of adaptation measures are not determined solely by techno-financial criteria but are also informed by the values and acceptance levels of the community whom the strategy will ultimately affect.

The findings from this survey are designed to feed directly into the decision-making architecture of the NAS-Ç. The results will be synthesized and analyzed by thematic coordinators and presented to the inter-ministerial Subcommittee on Climate Adaptation. This process will allow policymakers to validate, and where necessary, adjust evidence-based priorities considering public opinion before these priorities are subjected to broader stakeholder validation. Ultimately, this channel of direct public input is intended to bolster the social legitimacy and practical feasibility of the final NAS-Ç. A strategy that resonates with the lived experiences and future visions of the people of Curaçao is far more likely to secure the necessary community support, encourage cooperative implementation, and maintain long-term relevance, thereby turning the blueprint for adaptation into a tangible reality of enhanced resilience.

This report describes the methodology, findings, and implications of this crucial public survey. It begins by outlining the research design and implementation process, then presents a comprehensive analysis of the collected data on residents' climate change experiences, concerns, and attitudes toward adaptation. The report concludes with a discussion of the key insights and their direct relevance for informing a robust, inclusive, and actionable climate adaptation strategy for Curaçao.

2 Methods

2.1 Survey implementation

The survey was conducted on public attitudes, experiences and perceptions related to climate change adaptation among residents of Curaçao. Fieldwork was conducted over a 17-day period, from 25 October to 10 November 2025, and occurred daily at varying times (morning, midday and afternoon), with the aim of achieving a heterogeneous and representative sample. Moreover, an official press release was issued to inform the public about the survey and encourage participation, which was adopted by a wide range of news outlets.¹

The survey was administered at nine retail locations across Curaçao, namely: Luna Park (Caracasbaaiweg), Mangusa Hypermarket (Cas Coraweg), Centrum Supermarket (Mahaai), Kooyman Mega Store (Zeelandia), Inner City, Goisco (Biesheuvel), Mangusa (Rio Canario), Esperamos (Jan Noorduynweg), and New California (Weg naar Westpunt). Three field teams operated concurrently, each assigned to one location per day. Teams rotated between sites throughout the fieldwork period, ensuring that every location was covered for at least two full days. The end of the month was intentionally included in the fieldwork schedule, as increased consumer traffic following salary payments was expected to enhance the diversity of the sample.

Prior to the commencement of data collection, the research team conducted on-site visits to each location to obtain formal permission from store management. Each manager received an official request letter issued by The International Panel on Deltas and Coastal Areas (IPDC) program manager. Following completion of fieldwork, the research team revisited all sites to express appreciation and deliver formal letters of thanks.

The survey targeted all adult residents of Curaçao aged 16 years and older. To promote inclusivity and minimize barriers to participation, no questions were asked regarding legal residency status. Ethics approval for the survey was also obtained prior to data collection from the research ethics review committee of the Faculty of Science of Vrije Universiteit (VU) Amsterdam (BETHCIE). The survey was available in four languages: Papiamentu, Dutch, English and Spanish. All translations were produced by professional translators and verified by native speakers to ensure linguistic precision and cultural appropriateness.

Data were collected through the Qualtrics online survey platform hosted on servers operated by VU Amsterdam, following the university's data protection policies. Data collection took place face-to-face in public spaces, specifically at the aforementioned

¹ See for example: Curacao Chronicle - <https://www.curacaochronicle.com/post/local/climate-adaptation-survey-curacao-2025-launched/>, EANEWS - <https://www.eanews.com/climate-adaptation-survey-curacao-2025-kicks-off/>, Paradise FM - <https://paradisefm.cw/klimaat-adaptatie-survey-curacao-2025-is-deze-week-van-start-gegaan/>, Curacao.nu - <https://www.curacao.nu/nieuws/consument/81214/klimaat-enquete-start-deze-week-op-curacao>, Headliner.nl - <https://curacao.headliner.nl/item/klimaat-enquete-start-deze-week-op-curacao-curacaonu-1151>, Kiko ta pasando - <https://www.facebook.com/100044658333732/posts/enkuesta-adaptashon-di-klima-k%C3%B2sou-2025-ta-kumins%C3%A1-willemstad-24-%C3%B2ktober-2025-e/1340521410779791/>

selection of large and small supermarkets and hardware stores, and the inner city of Willemstad. These sites were strategically chosen for their accessibility and capacity to attract a socioeconomically and geographically diverse cross-section of the population. Conducting fieldwork in high-traffic locations facilitated extensive engagement with residents in an everyday context.

Surveyors were recruited in Curaçao, including among students of the University of Curaçao. This ensured that all field staff possessed relevant knowledge of the cultural, linguistic, and social context of the island. Six surveyors participated in a half-day training and team-building session facilitated by the research team. The training addressed both technical and interpersonal competencies, including the use of tablets for digital data collection, approaches to building rapport, maintaining confidentiality, and managing practical challenges in the field. A key component of the training involved familiarization with the survey and data collection procedures. For identification purposes, each surveyor was issued a name badge displaying their photograph, role, and a verification contact number. Surveyors also wore red T-shirts labeled “Survey Team” to ensure clear visibility during fieldwork.

Surveyors approached potential respondents both at store parking lots, entrances and within the stores, enabling interaction at multiple touchpoints. This approach afforded respondents the opportunity to complete the questionnaire privately and at their own pace digitally using tablets, often within a comfortable, air-conditioned environment or e.g., in their car at the parking lot while waiting for a shopping family member or friend.

Participation required respondents to meet two eligibility criteria: (1) being 16 years of age or older, and (2) being a resident of Curaçao. Surveyors verified these conditions verbally prior to handing over the tablet. Individuals who did not meet one or both criteria were excluded from participation. In addition, informed consent was obtained from all participants before data collection commenced. Upon survey completion, respondents returned the tablets to the surveyors, who remained available to provide clarification or assistance when needed.

2.2 Post-fieldwork evaluation

Upon completion of the fieldwork, a structured evaluation session was held with the full survey team of six trained surveyors. The purpose of this session was to reflect on the data collection process, document field experiences, and identify contextual observations that could enrich the interpretation of findings.

During fieldwork, surveyors frequently interacted with respondents while interviewing, distributing and retrieving tablets. Many participants shared unsolicited reflections or anecdotes during or after completing the questionnaire, providing qualitative insights that complemented the quantitative data. Similarly, interactions during the recruitment phase offered the surveyors an impression of respondents’ attitudes, concerns, and engagement with the topic. These field-based observations were systematically captured during the evaluation session and are presented in Appendix A as supplementary outcomes. While not part of the formal dataset, these insights enhance the contextual understanding of the survey outcomes and contribute to a more nuanced interpretation of the results.

2.3 Questionnaire

The survey questionnaire was developed based on the overarching objective of the IPDC, i.e., to support the development of the NAS-Ç by identifying and prioritizing climate adaptation options. As a starting point, questions were adapted from large, established cross-country surveys with the aims of assessing citizens' attitudes towards climate change and adaptation (EIB, 2024; Flynn et al., 2024). Further refinement tailored questions to the specific climate threats and impacts, feasible adaptation actions, as well as the socioeconomic and governance conditions on the island.

The questionnaire began with eligibility screening questions on age and residence, followed by a language preference selection and an informed consent section. The consent form provided information on the study objectives, the organizations responsible for implementing the survey, the expected completion time, data confidentiality, and contact details for further inquiries.

The first questions focused on experiences with specific problems caused by climate change and the extent to which certain hazards have actually negatively impacted respondents' daily lives. This was followed by questions on how worried they are that climate change may affect their daily lives in the future and perceptions of the severity of various specific climate impacts.

The next questions addressed climate change adaptation. Respondents were asked: (1) whether adaptation should be a priority and why; (2) at what level adaptation should be led; (3) to choose the adaptation goals that are most important to them; (4) which actions Curaçao should prioritize first within several climate themes (Nature & food, water & coastal management, culture & living environment, and economy & finance); (5) what criteria they think are most important in adaptation decision-making; (6) which subgroups of the population should be helped first when dealing with climate change; (7) whether they would be willing to change their own lifestyle to adapt; (8) what actions they would be willing to take; and (9) what makes it difficult for them to take action. Note that questions whose answer options had no natural ordering were presented to respondents in a random order. By contrast, questions with naturally ordered answer options (e.g., Likert-scale responses) were presented in their original order.

The survey concluded with a question on trust in government, and several standard sociodemographic questions, i.e., age, gender, location, income and education. A few open questions were also asked on whether respondents have advice for the government of Curaçao for preparing for climate change and if they have further comments to share. The full questionnaire is included in Appendix B.

2.4 Data analysis

Survey responses with categorical answer options are presented descriptively as the proportions of respondents selecting each option, shown in bar charts. Inferential statistical analysis is also used to examine how respondents' location is associated with (1) specific problems experienced in the past 5 years due to climate or weather conditions; (2) whether respondents have been largely negatively impacted in the past 5 years by specific climate hazards in daily life. The problems experienced and largely negatively impacted by specific climate hazards variables are specified as binary

dependent variables. Separate logit regression models are used to model the associations. Average marginal effects are also computed to interpret the associations between the location of respondents and the likelihood of problems experienced as well as having been largely negatively impacted by specific climate hazards.

All regressions control for age, gender, income and education (see Appendix C for a description of these variables). Age, income, and education are coded as ordinal variables, with higher values indicating higher age, income, and education levels. The lowest category for each of these variables is coded as 1, and the highest category is coded as the maximum value. Gender is a dummy variable coded as 1 for female respondents and 0 for male respondents. The different location variables are also dummy coded, with the omitted (reference) category always given by respondents who reside in Rayon 1: Brievengat to Oostpunt.

The open-ended responses are analyzed differently. Responses entered in Papiamentu and Dutch were first translated to English. For the analysis of the open-ended responses, AI-assisted text analysis was used as a supportive tool to identify recurring themes, patterns, and illustrative quotations across the large volume of answers. The AI output was subsequently reviewed, interpreted, and validated by the researchers to ensure accurate coding, contextual understanding, and consistency with the aims of the study.

3 Results

3.1 Sample characteristics

In total, 600 respondents provided informed consent and participated in the survey, of which 555 fully completed the questionnaire. Note that the sample size is slightly lower for certain questions due to them being skipped by a few respondents. Overall, the sample size provides a robust basis for analyzing public perceptions and preferences across different sociodemographic groups on the island.

Table C1 of Appendix C displays the individual sample sociodemographic characteristics. The table also shows how these characteristics compare to the general population statistics based on census data from the Central Bureau of Statistics (CBS) of Curaçao.² The majority of our sample can be categorized as either aged 40 years and above (53%), living in a household that earns 5,000 Caribbean guilders (XCG.) or less per month after tax (56%), or having at least secondary vocational education (SBO) (57%). Furthermore, 47% are male and 49% are female, with the remaining respondents listing *other* or *prefer not to say* as their gender category.

Although the sample achieved a good level of diversity across the various sociodemographic variables, it is important to mention that it is not exactly representative of the general population. Namely, our sample under-represents older subgroups, especially those from the 60+ age category, high earners and lower education subgroups. There is also a slight under-representation of females. Moreover, many of our respondents preferred to not report their income and level of education attainment (23% reported *prefer not to say* for each variable).

The sample is located across five districts, i.e., Brievengat to Oostpunt (32%), Souax, Sta. Maria and vicinity (20%), St. Michiel to Mundu Nobo and Otrabanda (17%), Asiento, Punda and Steenrijk (11%), and Westpunt to Tera Kora (16%). 5% preferred not to report their location.

3.2 Climate change experiences, worries and perceptions

Figure 3-1 shows proportions of respondents who selected various problems they experienced in the past 5 years due to climate or weather conditions (respondents could choose all that apply). Respondents chose *higher costs for energy, water, or fuel* and *higher food prices* most often (each 48% of the time), followed by *power cuts or energy problems* (38%), *public services stopped (school closed, no/delayed waste collection) due to weather* (34%), *stress or anxiety because of weather or climate* and *roads or transport blocked due to weather* (each 26%), *less outdoor activities* (25%), *health problems (illness, heat stroke)* (23%), *nature near your home damaged* (22%), *less work productivity* (20%), *damage to your home/garden (roof, flooding, erosion)* (19%), *problems for pets* (17%), *higher insurance costs or can't get insurance* (14%), *problems with drinking water* (12%), *home or land lost value* and *loss of cultural traditions/heritage* (9% each), and *had to move because of disaster* (8%). The *other* and *none of these categories* were chosen 2% and 10% of the time, respectively. In response to the *other* category, four respondents mentioned other climate-related problems,

² <https://senso.cbs.cw/>

highlighting local infrastructure limitations, direct household flooding, additional medical expenses, and a sense of having to cope with situations beyond their control. One respondent specifically pointed to the need to improve the sewage system in Koraalspecht to prevent water accumulation during heavy rainfall.

Outcomes of the logit regression models (Table D1, Appendix D) based on specific problems experienced in the past 5 years due to climate or weather conditions are as follows (all percentage point changes are relative to respondents residing in *Rayon 1: Brievengat to Oostpunt*). Respondents in *Rayon 5: Westpunt to Tera Kora* are, on average, 17 percentage points more likely to experience *power cuts or energy problems*, holding other sociodemographic variables constant (significant at the 5% level). Respondents in *Rayon 3: St. Michiel to Mundu Nobo and Otrabanda* are, on average, 17 percentage points more likely to experience *stress or anxiety because of weather or climate* (significant at the 5% level). Respondents in *Rayon 4: Asiento, Punda and Steenrijk* are, on average, 13 percentage points more likely to experience *higher insurance costs or can't get insurance* (significant at the 5% level). There are no other significant effects of location on problems experienced at the 5% level.

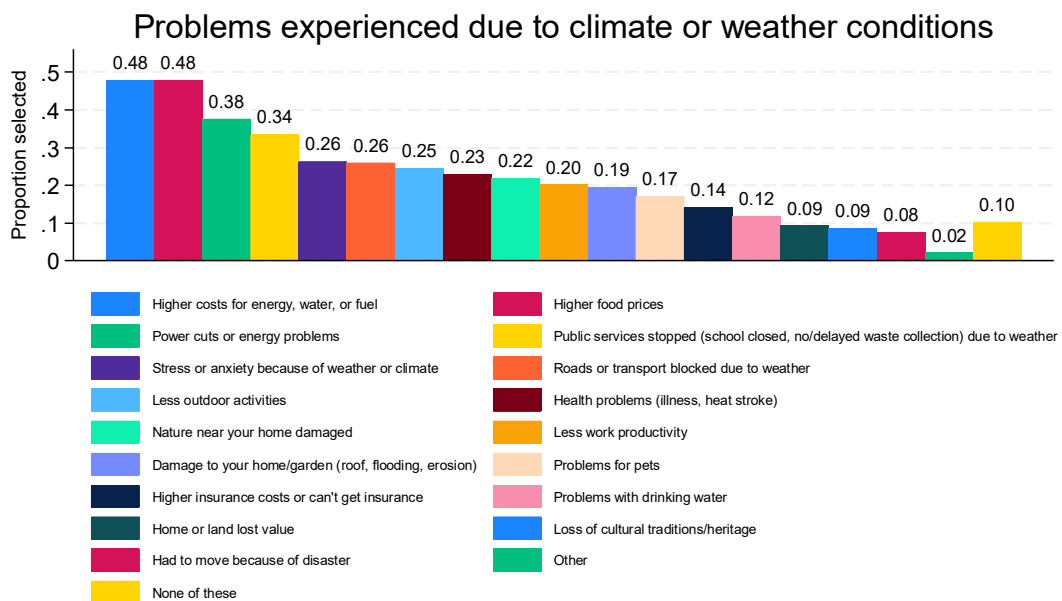


Figure 3-1 Experienced problems in the past 5 years due to climate or weather conditions (respondents could choose all that apply) (N = 555)

Figure 3-2 displays proportions of respondents who have been largely negatively impacted in their daily life by different types of climate hazards in the past 5 years. The majority (55%) have been largely affected by *very hot days or heatwaves*. A moderate share of respondents have been largely impacted by *heavy rain* (21%), *strong winds and storms or hurricanes* (18% each), and *flooding in streets or neighbourhoods* and *drought / water shortage* (14% each). A lower proportion of respondents have been largely

affected by *flooding near the coast and changes in the sea (like coral bleaching)* (7% each).

Outcomes of the logit regression models (Table D2, Appendix D) based on whether respondents were largely negatively impacted in the past 5 years by specific climate hazards in daily life are as follows (all percentage point changes are relative to respondents residing in *Rayon 1: Brievengat to Oostpunt*). Respondents in *Rayon 3: St. Michiel to Mundu Nobo and Otrabanda*, *Rayon 4: Asiento, Punda and Steenrijk* and *Rayon 5: Westpunt to Tera Kora* are, on average, 19, 29 and 28 percentage points less likely to have been largely negatively impacted by *very hot days or heatwaves*, holding other sociodemographic variables constant (significant at the 5%, 1% and 1% levels, respectively). Respondents in *Rayon 5: Westpunt to Tera Kora* are, on average, 20 percentage points less likely to have been largely negatively impacted by *heavy rain* (significant at the 5% level). Respondents in *Rayon 5: Westpunt to Tera Kora* are, on average, 29 percentage points less likely to have been largely negatively impacted by *storms or hurricanes* (significant at the 1% level). Respondents in *Rayon 5: Westpunt to Tera Kora* are, on average, 41 percentage points less likely to have been largely negatively impacted by *strong winds* (significant at the 1% level). There are no other significant effects of location on being largely negatively impacted by specific climate hazards in daily life at the 5% level.

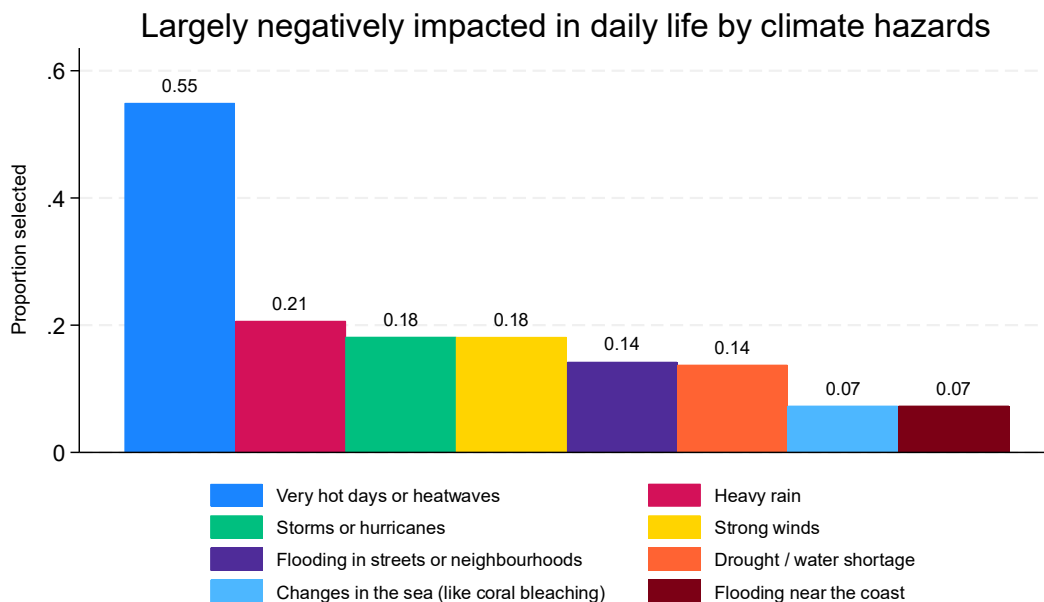


Figure 3-2 Largely negatively impacted in the past 5 years by climate hazards in daily life (N = 550, 548, 547, 548, 547, 547, 547 and 549 from the highest to lowest proportion, respectively)

Figure 3-3 presents the proportions of respondents who think various climate-related risks would have a very large impact if they were to occur in the next 10 years. The majority of respondents think that *higher water and energy bills* (57%) and *hotter and dryer weather* (51%) would have a very large impact. Moreover, a significant share also thinks that it being *too hot for work, school and daily life* (47%), *damage to nature, homes, roads* (42%), *damage to tourism* (40%), *health problems* (37%), and *stronger storms and hurricanes* (35%) would have a very large impact. A smaller share thinks *rising sea levels, more flooding and fewer fish* (22% each), *damage to the coast* (19%), *beach loss* (18%), *more coral damage* (17%), and *hotter seas* (13%) may have a very large impact.

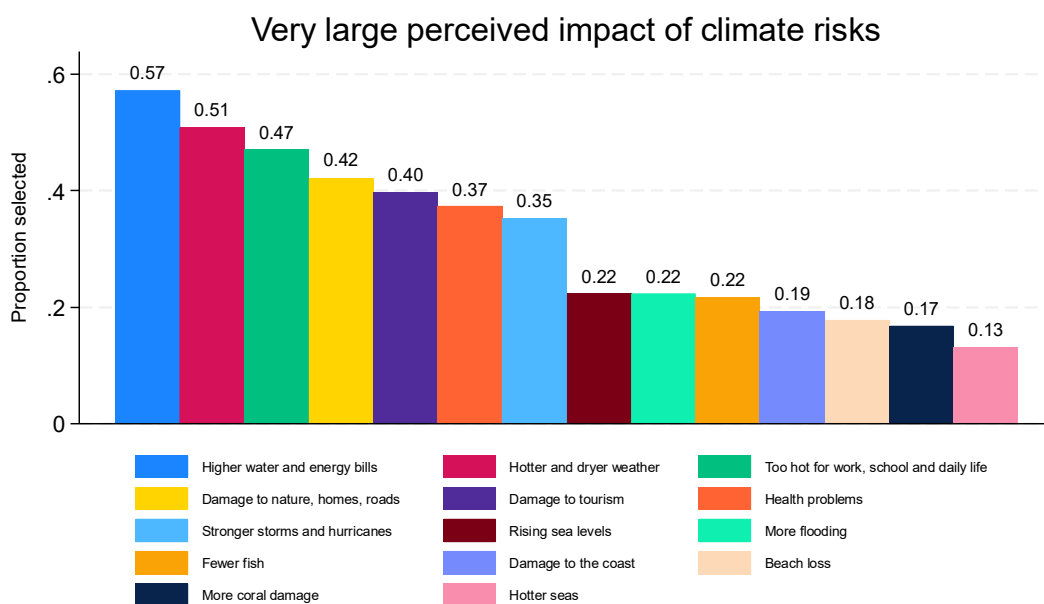


Figure 3-3 Very large perceived impact of climate risks if they were to occur in the next 10 years (N = 547, 548, 548, 547, 549, 549, 547, 550, 550, 548, 548, 546, 548 and 547 from the highest to lowest proportion, respectively)

Moreover, in a separate question, 20% reported to be *very worried* about climate change affecting their life in the next 10 years, 27% are *quite worried*, 30% are *a bit worried*, 14% are *not worried*, and the remaining respondents (9%) don't know whether they are worried about climate change or not.

3.3 Attitudes towards climate change adaptation

Overall, 40% of respondents think that adapting to climate change should be a *top priority*, while 36% think it is *important, but not a top priority*. A further 10% think it is *not important*, and the remaining respondents (14%) are unsure. In the open explanations (by 351 respondents), respondents who considered climate adaptation a *top priority* most often referred to already-felt impacts, especially extreme heat and

related health risks (including concerns about older people, children at school and sickness), and the sense that impacts are worsening and visible. Many also stressed the need to prepare in advance for disasters (e.g., storms and flooding) and to strengthen infrastructure and maintenance (e.g., drainage and electricity/water systems). A smaller but clear set linked adaptation to protecting nature and tourism/the economy, and to shared responsibility and awareness, sometimes mentioning practical actions such as planting more trees or renewable energy.

Respondents who said adaptation is *important, but not a top priority* often combined recognition of climate impacts with competing priorities, such as cost of living, poverty, health and social security, education, roads/infrastructure, and public safety. Some expressed limited perceived control (“it’s nature / not in our hands”) or argued the issue is more long term, while still calling for better information, preparedness, and government action (including making water/electricity more affordable and providing shaded public areas or shelters).

Those who said adaptation is *not important* mainly voiced low risk perception (“nothing will happen here”), fatalism/faith (“This is in God’s hands”), and the belief that people cannot influence nature, alongside references to other priorities (jobs, salaries and social security). The unsure group largely cited lack of information and uncertainty about what will happen, sometimes combined with doubts about what government can do or whether preparedness is even possible.

Regarding leadership on climate change adaptation, the largest share of respondents (48%) think that the Curaçao government should take the lead in preparing Curaçao for climate change, followed by the Kingdom of the Netherlands (i.e., all 6 Caribbean islands plus the Netherlands) (23%), international organizations (10%) and local, neighbourhood- or community-led initiatives (7%). 5% of respondents think that none of these stakeholders should take the lead, while the remainder (6%) are unsure who should be responsible.

Figure 3-4 shows the proportions of respondents who selected each goal they consider most important for making Curaçao strong and prepared for climate change (respondents could select up to two goals). *Healthy people* and *healthy nature* were each selected by 39% of respondents. A *safe living environment* was selected by 38%, a *strong economy* by 31%, and a *strong society* by 24%.

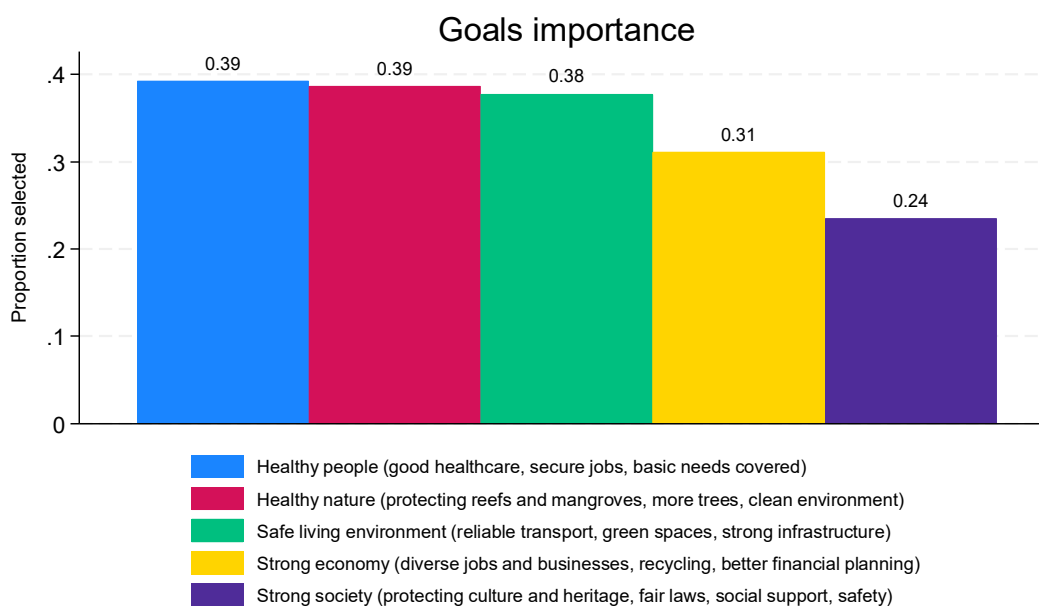


Figure 3-4 Importance of different goals for making Curaçao strong and prepared for climate change (respondents could choose up to 2) (N = 553)

Figures 3-5, 3-6, 3-7 and 3-8 display proportions of respondents who selected each adaptation option Curaçao should focus on first to prepare for climate change within the different themes of *nature & food*, *water & coastal management*, *culture & living environment* and *economy & finance*, respectively (respondents could select up to two adaptation options per theme). The following bullet points summarize the findings based on adaptation options that were chosen most to least often per theme.³

- **Nature & food:** respondents chose *plant more trees and green spaces* most often (41% of the time), followed by *raise awareness about local food and healthy meals* (33%), *grow more local food that can handle heat/drought* (29%), *protect coral reefs, mangroves, and sea life* (26%), *reduce food waste and improve recycling* (25%), and *removal system for sargassum/seaweed* (18%).
- **Water & coastal management:** respondents chose *restore dam capacities and natural drainage (rooien)* most often (37% of the time), followed by *improving infrastructure to prevent floods while catching water for local use* (35%), *better disaster planning, more storm shelters and emergency response* (31%), *keep beaches and coastal areas safe from climate impacts and accessible for everyone* (27%), *promote large-scale wastewater reuse (e.g., irrigation, toilet flushing, gardening)* (25%), and *build sea walls or coastal protection* (11%).
- **Culture & living environment:** respondents chose *lower household costs through energy and water savings* most often (39% of the time), followed by *promote healthier lifestyles and well-being to better cope with extreme heat*

³ Including entries with incomplete data (i.e., survey drop-outs) does not change the ranking of items among the main variables for judging the prioritization of adaptation options (Appendix E).

(31%), improve healthcare and social support for climate impacts (27%), better home cooling and insulation (26%), promote art and cultural education promoting adaptation (e.g., in schools and after-school programs) (21%), and strengthen cultural values and awareness towards climate adaptation (19%).

- Economy & finance:** respondents chose create affordable loan programs so low-income families can invest in climate solutions (e.g., cooler homes, lower bills, storm protection) most often (45% of the time), followed by create ways to fund nature protection and reward climate-friendly choices (43%), facilitate new industries and green jobs (e.g., hydrogen, circular economy, innovation) (32%), and make sure banks and insurers prepare for climate risks (e.g., floods, hurricanes, heatwaves) (24%).

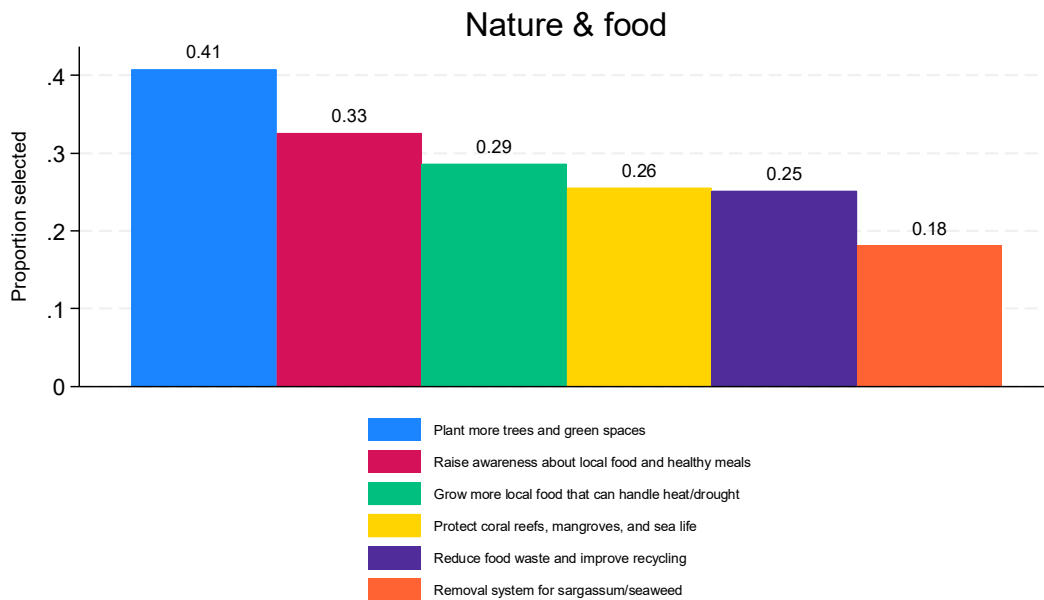


Figure 3-5 Adaptation options Curaçao should focus on first to prepare for climate change within the theme of nature & food (respondents could choose up to 2) (N = 552)

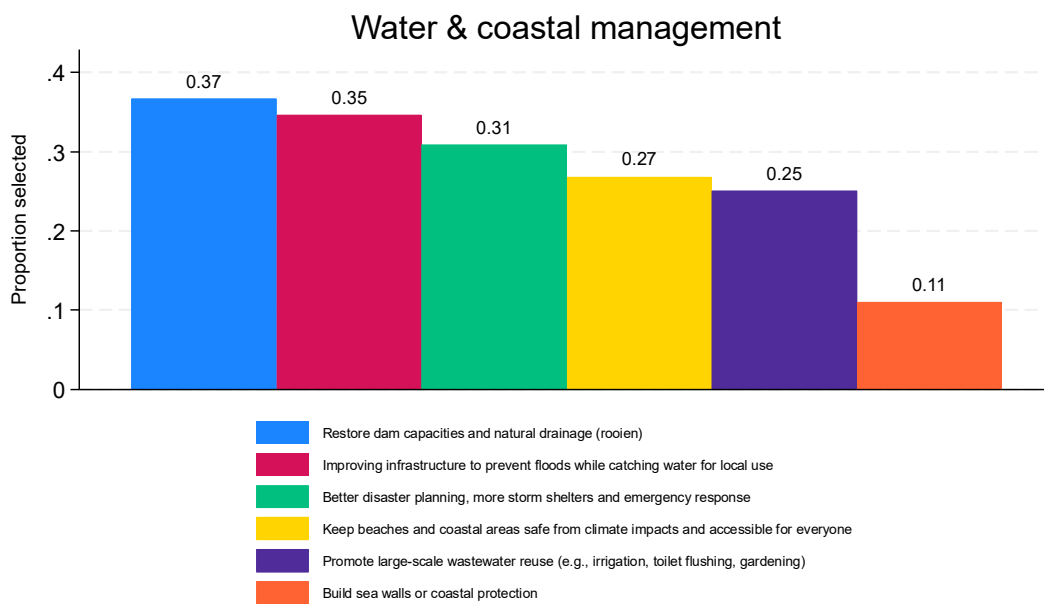


Figure 3-6 Adaptation options Curaçao should focus on first to prepare for climate change within the theme of water & coastal management (respondents could choose up to 2) (N = 551)

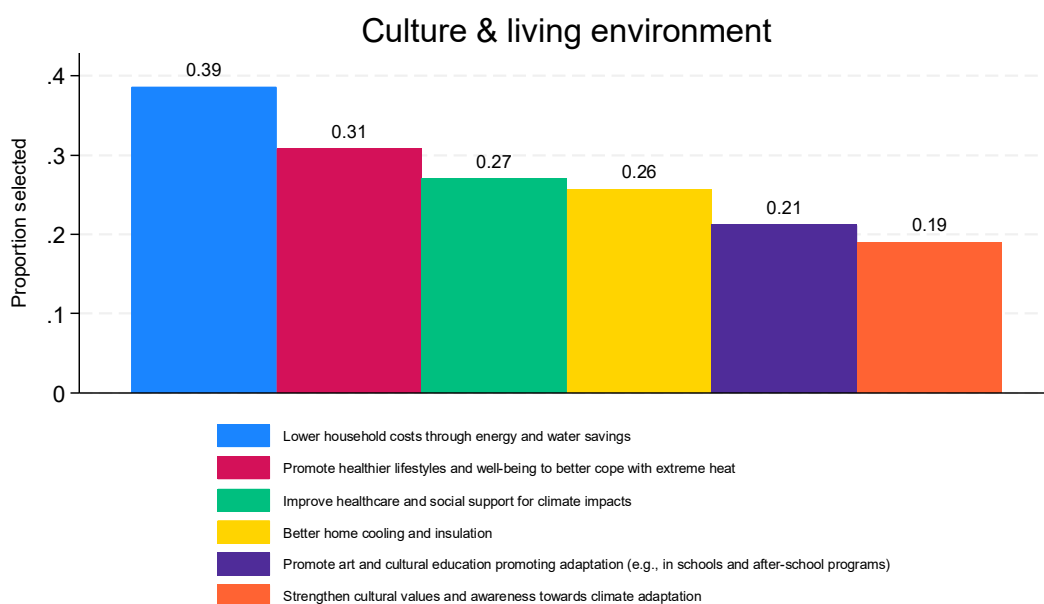


Figure 3-7 Adaptation options Curaçao should focus on first to prepare for climate change within the theme of culture & living environment (respondents could choose up to 2) (N = 552)

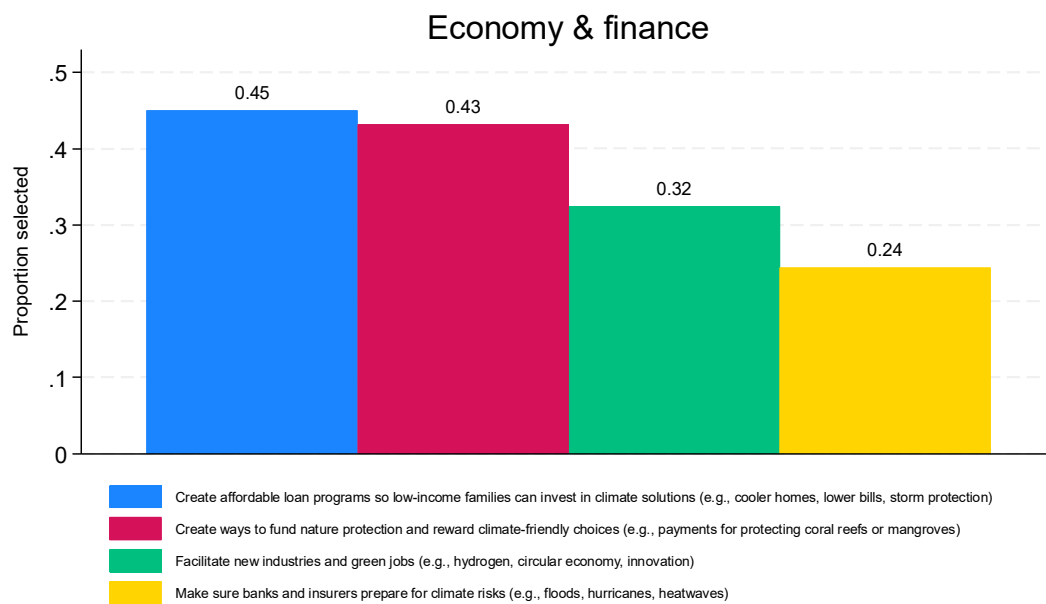


Figure 3-8 Adaptation options Curaçao should focus on first to prepare for climate change within the theme of economy & finance (respondents could choose up to 2) (N = 548)

Figure 3-9 presents proportions of respondents who selected each value they believe is most important to guide government decisions on climate change adaptation (respondents could select one value only). *Supporting nature and the environment* was selected most often by 29% of respondents. *Protecting our community* was selected by 27%, *spending money and resources wisely* by 25%, and *ensuring equity, inclusivity, and fairness across generations* by 19%. When asked whether they can trust the government to act in the best interest of Curaçao, 14% of respondents reported *yes completely*, 31% reported *yes*, 37% indicated a *neutral* stance, and 9% each reported *not at all* or *no*.

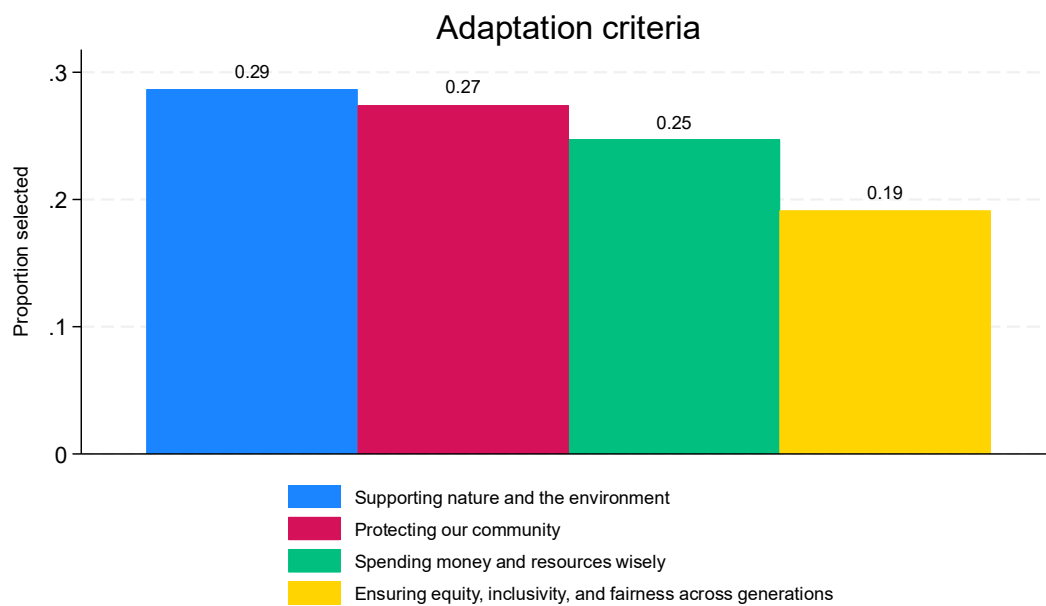


Figure 3-9 Values to guide government decisions on climate change adaptation (N = 554)

Figure 3-10 presents the proportions of respondents who selected each group they believe should get help first to deal with climate change (respondents could select up to two groups). *Help everyone equally* was selected most often by 42% of respondents. The *elderly* was selected by 23%, *people in high-risk areas* by 21%, *people with disabilities* by 16%, *low-income people* and *children* by 14% each, and *immigrants* by 4%. The *other* and *none* categories were chosen 2% and 1% of the time, respectively. Eight respondents used the *other* option. Most of these answers emphasized equality and universal need, for example stating that “everybody needs help one way or another” and “we are all equal and a family.” Others pointed to specific combinations of vulnerability, such as low-income people with disabilities or “people who really need help,” while one respondent mentioned the need for more knowledge. One answer stood out by referring humorously to “my dog,” reflecting a personal interpretation of vulnerability.

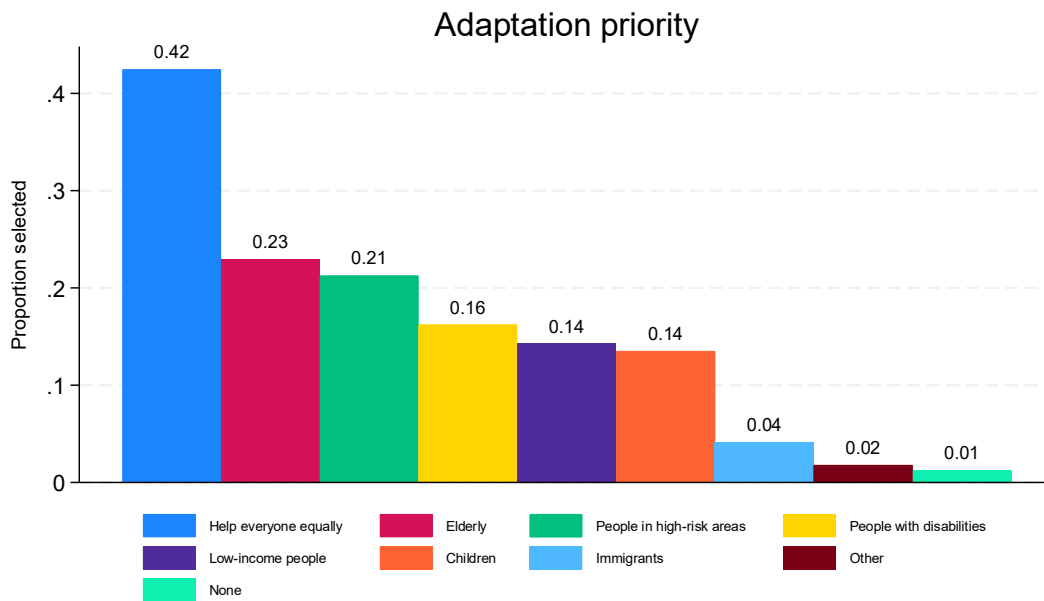


Figure 3-10 Groups to prioritize to deal with climate change (respondents could choose up to 2) (N = 554)

While 35% of respondents indicated they would definitely be willing to change their lifestyle to help Curaçao adapt to climate change, 56% said they might be willing to do so, and 9% said they would not be willing. Figure 3-11 shows the proportions of respondents who would be definitely willing to take specific adaptation actions. Most respondents indicated *preparing an emergency kit* (67%), *save water and energy at home* (54%) and *buy more local food* (51%) as measures they would be definitely willing to take. Moreover, a large share also selected *adapting one's building to cope with flooding/hurricanes* (47%), *plant trees or protect nature* (43%), *harvest rainwater at home* (38%), *avoid paving the yard, create more green* (35%), *maintain drains in my neighbourhood* (34%), *expanding insurance coverage against climate hazards* (32%), and *join voluntary cleanups (nature and drainage)* (31%). While fewer respondents are willing to *use more public or green transport* (19%) and *pay more tax for climate measures* (10%).

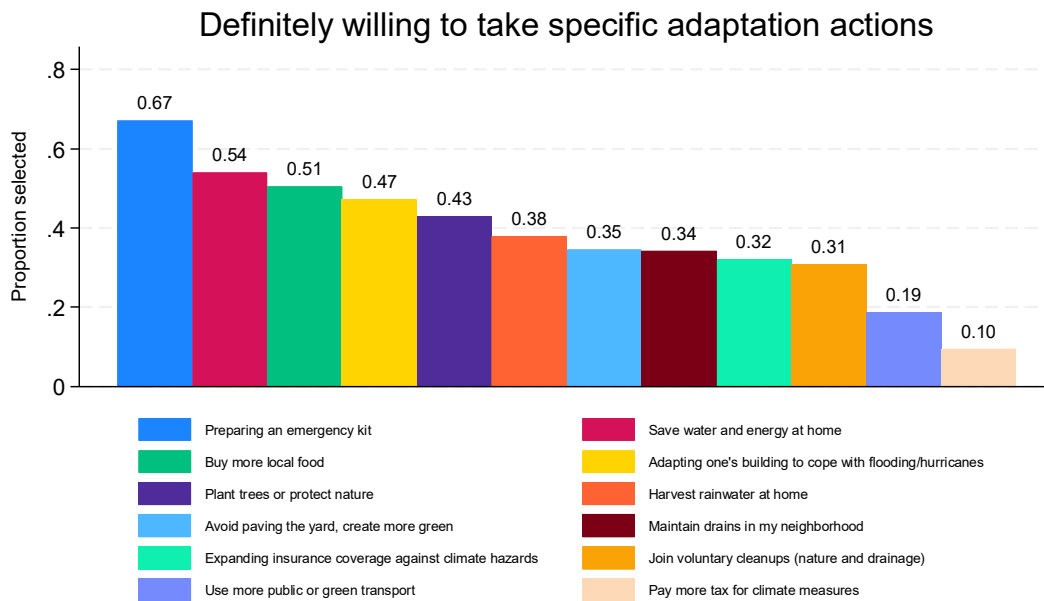


Figure 3-11 Definite willingness to take specific adaptation actions (N = 549, 548, 544, 545, 545, 545, 541, 549, 545, 545, 544 and 545 from the highest to lowest proportion, respectively)

Figure 3-12 displays the proportions of respondents who selected various obstacles that make it difficult to take action against climate change (respondents could choose all that apply). Respondents chose *the government should be responsible, not me* most often (39% of the time), followed by *I don't have enough information* (35%), *too expensive* (29%), *takes too much time* (21%), and *I don't think it makes a difference* (19%). The *other* category was chosen 14% of the time.

Among the 72 respondents who specified *other* obstacles, many answers revolved around the idea that climate action requires collective effort, with repeated references to the need to “do this together,” for everyone to be “on the same page,” and for shared responsibility between government and community. At the same time, several respondents expressed a sense of limited personal agency, stating that they “can't do it alone,” “don't know where to start,” or feel only responsible for their own household. Another clear theme concerns lack of information, education, and guidance. Respondents indicated that the public is not well informed, that education is needed, and that clearer goals or plans are required to know what actions to take. In addition, financial constraints were frequently mentioned, for example referring to the high cost of solar panels or simply not having enough money. Some responses also reflected fatalistic or faith-based views, suggesting that climate change is inevitable, “not up to humans,” or in God's hands. Finally, a smaller number of respondents expressed distrust or criticism of government, or a perception that government is not cooperating or prepared.

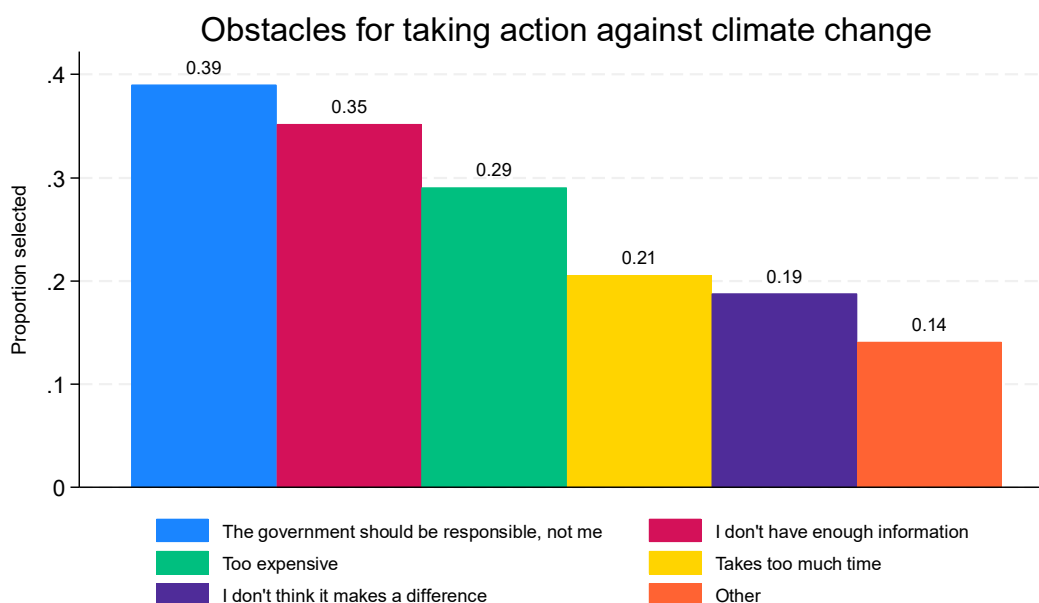


Figure 3-12 Obstacles that make it difficult to take action against climate change (respondents could choose all that apply) (N = 554)

3.4 Recommendations of the public

3.4.1 Key insights from open-ended questions at the end of the survey

Across both the *recommendations* (293 responses) and the *additional remarks* (116 responses), respondents provided a rich and consistent set of practical suggestions that revolve around five main lines of action for climate adaptation on Curaçao. First, there is a very strong emphasis on *basic environmental maintenance and infrastructure* as the foundation of adaptation. Many respondents repeatedly referred to cleaning and maintaining *waterways, dams, sewage systems, roads, and drainage*, noting that even small amounts of rain already lead to flooding because infrastructure is not functioning properly. Fixing roads full of potholes, preventing construction in natural waterways, maintaining dams, protecting trees, and ensuring that water can flow to the sea were among the most frequently mentioned concrete actions. For many respondents, climate adaptation starts with “getting the basics in order.”

Second, respondents stressed the need for *more greenery, nature protection, and local food production*. Planting more trees, stopping deforestation for housing, creating greener neighbourhoods, protecting beaches and the coast, investing in agriculture, and promoting recycling and clean-up actions were common suggestions. Several respondents explicitly linked this to reducing heat, improving liveability, and protecting tourism and fisheries.

Third, a dominant theme is *information, education, and awareness*, especially directed at *youth and schools*. Many respondents called for seminars, school programs, media campaigns (radio, TV, social media), neighbourhood visits, and continuous public

education about what climate change means for Curaçao and what people can do themselves. Respondents frequently indicated that people are willing to help, but “don’t know where to start” or “don’t have enough information.”

Fourth, respondents highlighted the importance of *collective action between government and community*. There are repeated calls for teamwork, neighbourhood involvement, government leadership by example, and better listening to citizens. Suggestions include taskforces, clear plans, working with neighbourhoods, rewarding green initiatives, and creating structured cleaning days supported by government tools and coordination. At the same time, many responses show frustration that government “only talks” or “does not listen,” and that follow-through is missing.

Fifth, many recommendations connect climate adaptation to *cost of living and social wellbeing*. High prices of electricity, water, gas, and food are seen as barriers to adaptation. Respondents suggested lowering utility costs, investing in solar and wind energy, installing solar panels on public buildings and schools, increasing salaries and pensions, and giving people jobs (for example, to clean waterways and maintain green areas). For a substantial group, people cannot meaningfully engage in climate adaptation if daily survival is already financially difficult.

Overall, respondents’ recommendations show that climate adaptation is not seen as a separate technical issue, but as closely tied to *infrastructure, cleanliness, nature, education, governance, and socio-economic conditions* on the island.

3.4.2 What climate adaptation means to residents in practice

Residents of Curaçao do not describe climate adaptation as an abstract environmental or technical issue. Across the open recommendations and additional remarks, a remarkably consistent and practical understanding of adaptation emerges. For many respondents, adaptation starts with addressing what is already visibly failing in the living environment. Repeated references are made to cleaning and maintaining waterways, dams, sewage systems, roads, and drainage, because even limited rainfall already leads to flooding in several neighbourhoods. In this sense, climate adaptation is strongly associated with “getting the basics in order” through proper maintenance of infrastructure and public space.

At the same time, respondents closely link adaptation to greenery, nature protection, and liveability. Planting trees, creating greener neighbourhoods, protecting beaches, and promoting local food production are frequently mentioned as ways to reduce heat, improve quality of life, and safeguard tourism and fisheries.

A dominant theme throughout the responses is the strong connection between climate adaptation and the cost of living. High prices of electricity, water, gas, and food are seen as barriers that prevent people from engaging in adaptation measures. Many respondents therefore view adaptation as inseparable from lowering household costs and making basic services more affordable.

Respondents further emphasize that adaptation requires visible collective action between government and community. There are repeated calls for teamwork, neighbourhood involvement, and government leadership by example. Many suggestions involve structured cleaning days, taskforces, and community-based activities supported by government coordination and tools.

Importantly, several respondents explicitly connect adaptation to employment opportunities. Giving people jobs to maintain drainage systems, green areas, and public space is seen as a way to simultaneously address climate risk, improve neighbourhoods, and support social wellbeing.

Taken together, these insights show that residents primarily view climate adaptation as a practical, community-based effort focused on maintenance, greenery, affordability, and visible cooperation between government and citizens, rather than as a distant environmental or technical planning issue.

4 Discussion of key insights for policymakers

This survey of Curaçao residents offers key insights into how they perceive climate risks, their past experiences with such events, the adaptation measures they prioritize for the future, and their willingness to take individual action. The survey reveals that a large share of residents already experienced significant impacts from climate and weather events in recent years, especially in terms of higher living costs (food, utilities or fuel), as well as disruptions to power, public services and infrastructure. This suggests that the economic impacts of climate risk are highly salient among the general public, as was also an outcome of the post-fieldwork evaluation. The economic impacts are further expected to remain significant in the future. Of the different possible climate impacts presented to respondents, the highest share viewed higher household utility costs as the most problematic. Moreover, of all the climate hazards on the island, the largest proportion of respondents reported being strongly affected by very hot days and heatwaves, while a notable but lower share experienced significant impacts from heavy rainfall, storms, drought or flooding.

The reported experiences also align with the future climate risks that respondents considered to be most impactful, with heat-related challenges (e.g., for productivity and daily life) selected by a high share (around half) of respondents. Other immediate, tangible effects such as damage to nature, homes, roads and tourism, and health issues were perceived to have a potentially large future impact as well. Nevertheless, issues connected to longer term environmental changes, like sea-level rise, coral damage, warming seas, lower fish stock and coastline changes were perceived as having a significant future impact by fewer respondents. These insights are broadly consistent with the post-fieldwork evaluation, in which proximate issues elicited more concern than more distant or abstract ecosystem topics. It is important, however, to consider the relatively short (10 year) time horizon over which respondents were asked to judge these impacts in the questionnaire.

The expectations about future climate risks are reflected in general levels of concern and support for adaptation. Overall, most respondents expressed some level of concern about climate change impacting their life in the future, with over three-quarters considering adaptation as either important or a top priority. Therefore, there is an expectation that policymakers can pursue ambitious adaptation plans with reasonable public backing. Nevertheless, given that around one-quarter of respondents were either not convinced of the importance of adaptation or were unsure, measures should be coupled with strong justification and communication to ensure they are politically sustainable.

Aside from the broad general support for adaptation, respondents articulated clear expectations on responsibility. There is demand for strong institutional leadership on preparedness by a large subgroup given the expectation that the government should lead adaptation efforts by slightly less than half of respondents, followed by the Kingdom of the Netherlands. However, when respondents were asked about their trust in government, a majority share expressed distrust or took a neutral stance. These findings are perhaps further reflected in the post-fieldwork evaluation, where it was concluded that respondents expressed frustration that the government does not take sufficient action and there is general mistrust towards government and official

information. All things considered, it can be expected that the government take visible leadership by a large share of citizens, which may be combined with mechanisms that enhance public trust, such as transparent decision-making processes, accountability, and inclusive co-design (Nunan, 2018). Another challenge for government action is that there is some reluctance among Curaçao residents to pay higher taxes to fund climate measures, suggesting that successful strategies on the island may need to harness low-cost actions and/or alternative funding mechanisms such as international donations.

Respondents also had clear views on how adaptation efforts should be distributed over the island's the population. While most respondents identified at least one vulnerable group (i.e., among this sample subgroup the elderly, those residing in high-risk areas, people with disabilities or low-income groups were most often selected) to help first in adaptation efforts, the most common response was that everyone should be helped equally. This indicates public support for measures that benefit the broad population with some additional support based on social vulnerability (Cutter and Finch, 2008). Explicit communication on why some groups receive additional assistance may be important for maintaining policy legitimacy (Lockwood, 2010).

Beyond views on who should benefit from adaptation, respondents outlined priorities regarding the principles that should guide decision-making. A considerable share of respondents indicated that criteria like supporting of nature and the environment, community protection and using resources wisely should guide government decisions on adaptation, and to a lesser extent ensuring equity, inclusivity, and fairness across generations. The findings further indicate that residents almost equally prioritize goals that support health (of people and nature) and a safe living environment in adaptation. The economy and other societal goals, like protecting culture and heritage, were seen as important but not dominant. In sum, this suggests that policy decisions on adaptation should balance environmental sustainability, societal well-being and protection, as well as cost-effectiveness to be societally acceptable. Focusing to some extent on measures that simultaneously integrate nature, safety and health, such as nature-based solutions (NBS) (Cohen-Shacham et al., 2016), can align with these public priorities on adaptation.

Across multiple themes (i.e., *nature & food* and *water & coastal management*), respondents consistently favored such NBS, like tree planting and creating green spaces as well as restoring natural drainage channels. In addition, creating financing solutions for nature protection to prepare for climate change received a large share of support within the theme of *economy & finance*. Hard infrastructure solutions like building sea walls received notably less support. Stimulating the adoption of NBS can offer an integrated approach to addressing both climate change and biodiversity loss, while delivering additional co-benefits such as recreation and amenity values (Seddon et al., 2020). On the other hand, it is also our view that policymakers consider analyses of NBS effectiveness for reducing climate risk, which can be inherently driven by factors such as local ecological conditions, land availability and long-term maintenance (Chausson et al., 2020; Fernandes and Guiomar, 2018).

Furthermore, climate change adaptation preferences are strongly shaped by cost of living pressures on the island. In the *culture & living environment* and *economy & finance* themes, respondents prioritized measures that lower household costs via energy and water savings, and improve financial access for low-income families through the provision of affordable loans for investing in climate solutions. Thus, to stimulate

individual-level adaptation, the government may play a key role in working with the financial sector to provide low-interest, means-tested loans that spread the oftentimes large upfront costs of climate adaptation over time (Botzen and Kunreuther, 2022), or to stimulate the adoption of climate-friendly choices that result in lower costs of basic utilities.

Despite the aforementioned economic constraints, as well as the large share of respondents who believe that they lack the necessary information to take action and that adaptation should be led by government, it is heartening that most respondents indicated they may be willing to change their lifestyle to help Curaçao adapt to climate change. The post-fieldwork evaluation also indicated that most believe adaptation should be to some extent implemented by individuals. The questionnaire revealed that there is a strong willingness of individuals to take low-cost, practical measures, like preparing an emergency kit, saving water and energy, and buying local food. To trigger these potentially low-hanging fruit actions whilst addressing perceived informational barriers that were further highlighted in the post-fieldwork evaluation, public communication may emphasize the benefits of these actions for reducing climate risk whilst providing practical guidance on their uptake. Moreover, financial incentives, such as low-interest loans and/or means-tested subsidies may provide a way forward for stimulating the individual adoption of some potentially costly individual measures that a large share appear to be, in principle, willing to take (e.g., building adaptation to cope with natural disasters, home greening and tree planting, and expanding insurance coverage).

There are a few caveats to keep in mind when interpreting the survey findings. That is, several developments occurring during the survey period may have influenced how respondents engaged with the topic. First, significant media attention around the tax-collection scandal involving the Alfonso Trona-led tax office, in which millions of guilders were reportedly lost, may have contributed to a general atmosphere of reduced trust in government institutions.⁴ Second, the decision to close all schools due to forecasts of severe rainfall that ultimately did not occur may have shaped perceptions that the government either overreacts or seeks to appear active without delivering meaningful results.⁵ Third, extensive news coverage of the severe damage in Jamaica caused by Hurricane Melissa may have heightened awareness of the real and destructive impacts of extreme weather in the region.⁶ Together, these developments may have shaped the emotional tone, levels of trust, and the willingness of respondents to express concerns or opinions during the interviews, although the extent of their actual influence cannot be determined with certainty.

Moreover, while we believe the questionnaire is informative insofar as it generated useful insights on public support for specific adaptation measures, it may also reveal potential adaptation blind spots. That is, it is uncertain to what extent the relatively lower support for specific actions (e.g., implementing removal systems for sargassum/seaweed, building hard coastal infrastructure measures, strengthening

⁴ <https://nos.nl/artikel/2587586-om-curacao-onderzoekt-misstanden-bij-belastingdienst-na-misgelopen-miljoenen>

⁵ <https://www.curacao.nu/nieuws/algemeen/81011/alle-scholen-curacao-dicht-vanwege-verwachte-zware-regenval>

⁶ <https://nos.nl/artikel/2588332-enorme-schade-op-jamaica-na-orkaan-melissa-nu-onderweg-naar-cuba>

cultural values and ensuring the financial sector is well-prepared for climate risk) is driven by limited public understanding of their long-term benefits, systemic nature and/or effectiveness under future climate conditions. Therefore, further qualitative and deliberative research may be needed to better distinguish between genuine public preferences and awareness-related constraints on support.

5 Implementation: Linking the survey results to the NAS outcomes

The results of this national survey provide direct societal evidence for the choices embedded in Curaçao's National Adaptation Strategy (NAS-Ç). While previous chapters described residents' experiences, concerns, priorities, and willingness to act, this chapter translates these findings into their concrete relevance for the strategic outcomes and outputs of the NAS. The survey provides the types of evidence required to support NAS development, namely:

- public perceptions of climate impacts (Section 3.2; Figures 3-1 to 3-3);
- identification of socially vulnerable and at-risk groups (Section 3.3; Figure 3-10);
- societal support for specific adaptation measures (Section 3.3; Figures 3-4 to 3-8, 3-11);
- insights into institutional issues such as trust, values, and governance preferences (Section 3.3; Figures 3-9, 3-12);
- public support for nature restoration, cultural heritage, social protection, infrastructure strengthening, economic innovation, and financing mechanisms (Section 3.3; Figures 3-5 to 3-8).

In this way, the survey functions as a bridge between technical adaptation planning and societal legitimacy.

5.1 Increased resilience to the consequences of climate change

Healthy people

The survey clearly shows that health impacts, particularly those related to extreme heat, are among the most tangible climate experiences for residents. More than half of respondents (55%) report being strongly affected by heatwaves (Section 3.2; Figure 3-2). Health problems and heat stress are also frequently mentioned in reported experiences and future concerns (Section 3.2; Figures 3-1 and 3-3). This is reflected in adaptation priorities, where 39% of respondents select *healthy people* as a primary adaptation goal (Section 3.3; Figure 3-4).

Several NAS outputs are directly supported by these findings:

- **Improved public health services**

Residents frequently describe extreme heat as one of the most tangible and worrying climate impacts on daily life. More than half of respondents report being strongly affected by heatwaves, and many open responses refer to concerns for older people, children at school, and general health risks. This public perspective directly supports this output, as it shows that investments in public health services that explicitly address heat stress and climate-related health impacts respond to clearly experienced and recognized risks among the population.

- **Basic services secured for vulnerable households**

Residents consistently frame climate adaptation in relation to the affordability of water, energy, and food for households in general, not only for vulnerable groups. Higher costs for these basic services are the most frequently experienced climate-related problems (Figure 3-1) and are repeatedly mentioned as barriers to adaptation. In addition, respondents strongly prioritize lowering household costs through energy and water savings (Figure 3-7) and the creation of affordable loan programs for low-income households (Figure 3-8). This demonstrates that residents view climate adaptation as directly linked to the affordability of basic services.

- **Safe animal care and management**

A notable share of respondents (17%) report problems affecting pets due to climate or weather conditions (Figure 3-1), indicating that animal welfare is also perceived as part of household vulnerability.

Resilient living environment

A safe and liveable environment is a clear priority for residents: 38% select *safe living environment* as a key adaptation goal (Figure 3-4). When asked which actions Curaçao should prioritize, respondents overwhelmingly choose measures such as:

- planting more trees and creating green spaces (41%) (Figure 3-5);
- restoring natural drainage channels (rooien) (37%) (Figure 3-6);
- improving infrastructure to prevent flooding while retaining water for local use (35%) (Figure 3-6);
- keeping beaches and coastal areas safe and accessible for everyone (27%) (Figure 3-6).

Across the survey, residents repeatedly describe climate adaptation as starting with the visible condition of their neighbourhoods. Cleaning and maintaining drainage systems, repairing roads, planting trees, and creating greener public spaces are mentioned far more often than large technical infrastructure. This public perspective directly supports this output, as the strong preference for planting trees (41%), restoring natural drainage (37%), and improving flood-preventing infrastructure (35%) reflects a societal desire for multifunctional public spaces that combine water management, greenery, and liveability rather than hard infrastructure solutions such as seawalls (11%).

Resilient society

Residents describe climate adaptation not only as an environmental or infrastructural issue, but as a societal effort that requires cooperation between government and community. At the same time, a recurring theme in the responses is the perception that climate change is ultimately “in God’s hands,” reflecting a limited belief in human influence. This underscores the need for communication strategies that strengthen a sense of agency by clearly outlining what individuals and communities can do and how collective action contributes to tangible resilience outcomes. Many open responses call for teamwork, neighbourhood involvement, structured cleaning days, and visible government leadership by example. At the same time, respondents express limited trust in government despite high expectations that government should lead. This public perspective directly highlights the importance of participatory approaches, transparency, and community-based action to strengthen social resilience and trust.

These findings substantiate several outputs:

- **Cultural identity and heritage**

Several respondents refer to the need to “do this together,” emphasize that “we are all family,” and suggest education, youth involvement, and awareness through schools and community activities. Preferences for art, cultural education, and strengthening cultural values in adaptation reflect the view that climate resilience is also about social cohesion and shared identity. This directly supports this output, where arts, culture, and education are seen as vehicles to connect people, policy, and learning for long-term resilience.

- **Equal protection and trust**

Low trust scores (Section 3.3) and governance-related remarks (Section 3.4) underline the importance of transparency and reliable institutions.

- **Crisis and disaster risk management**

31% prioritize better disaster planning and shelters (Figure 3-6), and 67% indicate willingness to prepare emergency kits (Figure 3-11).

- **Inclusive social protection**

The strong link respondents make between climate impacts and cost of living (Figures 3-1 and 3-7) supports the inclusion of measures that reduce household costs and create employment through community-based maintenance and environmental upkeep, which respondents frequently connect to climate adaptation.

5.2 Conservation and regeneration of biodiversity and ecosystem services

Ecosystems safeguarded

Residents strongly connect climate adaptation with nature protection. 39% select *Healthy nature* as a key goal (Figure 3-4), and planting trees and more green spaces is the most selected adaptation action (41%) (Figure 3-5). There is also considerable support for protecting coral reefs, mangroves, and for financing nature restoration (Figures 3-5 and 3-8).

These preferences directly support:

- **Environmental quality maintained and improved;**
- **Restored biodiversity.**

5.3 Achieving net-zero greenhouse gas emissions

Although the survey focused on adaptation, it reveals clear support for measures that also contribute to mitigation.

- **Energy**

48% report higher energy costs (Figure 3-1), and respondents prioritize lowering household costs through energy and water savings (Figure 3-7). A majority (54%) indicate willingness to save energy at home (Figure 3-11).

- **Transport**

The relatively low willingness to use public or green transport (19%) (Figure 3-11) indicates that additional awareness and incentives are needed in this area. However, post-fieldwork observations show that public transport was frequently mentioned as a priority concern, with respondents linking reliable and accessible services directly to improved access to work, education, and healthcare.

5.4 Harnessing opportunities presented by climate change

Residents link climate adaptation also to economic opportunity, particularly where it reduces household costs, creates employment, and strengthens local production. Public recommendations frequently connect renewable energy, agriculture, recycling, and environmental maintenance to affordability and job creation (Section 3.4). This perspective substantiates the strategic direction of Impact 4.

New economic sectors

Residents do not generally speak about “economic diversification” in technical terms. Instead, they express concern about rising energy and food costs, dependence on imports, and limited local employment opportunities. In this context, many respondents link climate adaptation to strengthening local production, expanding renewable energy, and promoting more sustainable forms of agriculture and consumption (Section 3.4; Figure 3-5). The prioritization of new green industries by 32% of respondents (Figure 3-8), combined with the fact that 48% report higher energy costs (Figure 3-1), indicates that residents view sector development primarily as a way to reduce structural vulnerability and improve long-term economic stability. These findings substantiate several outputs:

- **Diversified economy to reduce dependence on traditional sectors**

Public support for renewable energy development and energy-efficient technologies substantiates investments in alternative energy sources. References to sustainable agriculture, eco-friendly production, and ecosystem services align with policy directions aimed at strengthening locally anchored and climate-resilient activities.

- **Diversified economy to reduce dependence on traditional sectors**

Frequent suggestions related to recycling, reuse, waste reduction, and local production (Section 3.4; Figure 3-5) provide societal backing for integrating circular economy principles into production and consumption systems, particularly where these improve resource efficiency, reduce external dependence, and create local economic value.

New jobs

Employment is repeatedly mentioned in the survey as a central condition for effective climate adaptation. Many respondents explicitly connect adaptation measures to job creation, particularly in renewable energy, sustainable agriculture, recycling, and environmental maintenance (Section 3.4). For a substantial group, economic insecurity limits the ability to engage in climate action. As a result, adaptation is viewed not only as environmental protection, but also as a pathway to more stable and locally rooted employment opportunities.

- **Employment created in emerging sectors**

Public recommendations frequently suggest creating jobs linked to renewable energy installation, sustainable food production, circular economy initiatives, and the maintenance of drainage systems and green areas (Section 3.4). This demonstrates support for employment generation in emerging and sustainability-oriented sectors, particularly where new workforce roles contribute directly to local resilience and energy transition. In this way, job creation is understood as both an economic and adaptation measure.

5.5 Enabling institutions and finance

Residents consistently emphasize that economic opportunities linked to climate adaptation require clear government leadership, access to finance, and practical information. While expectations toward government are high, trust remains limited, and many respondents call for clearer plans, better coordination, and visible follow-through (Section 3.4). At the same time, 35% indicate that they lack sufficient information about climate adaptation (Figure 3-12). These findings show that institutional capacity, financing mechanisms, and knowledge systems are viewed as essential conditions for translating adaptation ambitions into economic reality. These views substantiate the role of institutions as facilitators:

- **Financial risk management systems** is supported by the view that banks and insurers must prepare for climate risks (24%) (Figure 3-8).
- **Innovative financing mechanisms** is strongly legitimized by the top priority given to affordable loan programs for low-income households (45%) and financing nature protection (43%) (Figure 3-8). Combined with the reported rise in energy costs (48%) (Figure 3-1), this demonstrates that residents view access to finance as a key enabler of adaptation, particularly for reducing household costs and supporting small-scale investments in renewable energy and efficiency.
- **Institutional frameworks** are supported by frequent calls for coordination, clear plans, and neighbourhood cooperation (Section 3.4).
- **Research and knowledge systems** are legitimized by the fact that 35% of respondents indicate they lack sufficient information (Figure 3-12) and repeatedly call for education and awareness (Section 3.4).

6 Conclusion

This survey reveals that residents of Curaçao do not perceive climate adaptation as a distant environmental issue, but as a highly practical and immediate concern connected to daily life, neighbourhood conditions, and the cost of living.

Respondents who considered climate adaptation a top priority most often referred to already-felt impacts, especially extreme heat and related health risks, concerns for older people and children at school, the need to prepare for storms and flooding, and the visible failure of infrastructure such as drainage, roads, and sewage systems. Those who considered adaptation important but not a top priority frequently linked climate risks to competing priorities such as poverty, health, education, public safety, and the affordability of basic services.

Across responses, higher costs for water, energy, and food are the most frequently experienced climate-related problems. These same costs are also described as key barriers that prevent people from taking adaptation measures themselves. As a result, respondents strongly associate adaptation with lowering household costs, investing in renewable energy, and making basic services more affordable.

At the same time, expectations towards government are high: nearly half of respondents believe government should lead adaptation efforts, yet trust in government is not complete. This tension is reflected in repeated calls for collective action between government and community. Respondents ask for visible action at neighbourhood level, structured cleaning and maintenance efforts, and government leadership by example.

Many recommendations therefore revolve around very tangible actions: maintaining waterways, dams, sewage systems, roads, and drainage; planting trees and creating greener neighbourhoods; protecting beaches and coastal areas; investing in local food production; and organizing community clean-up and maintenance activities supported by government coordination.

Importantly, a share of respondents connect these actions to employment opportunities. Providing jobs to maintain green areas and water infrastructure is seen as a way to simultaneously address climate risk, improve neighbourhood conditions, and strengthen social wellbeing.

These public priorities translate clearly into the scoring of adaptation options in the survey. The most supported actions include planting more trees and green spaces (41%), restoring natural drainage (37%), lowering household costs through energy and water savings (39%), creating affordable loan programs for households (45%), and financing nature protection (43%).

The survey therefore demonstrates that the NAS-Ç is most societally supported where it aligns with four key themes emerging from the public perspective:

1. maintenance and repair of basic infrastructure;
2. greenery and nature-based solutions;
3. affordability of basic services for households;
4. and visible, community-based cooperation between government and residents.

By grounding adaptation policy in these lived experiences and practical priorities, the NAS-Ç can strengthen both its societal legitimacy and its long-term effectiveness.

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Appendix A Outcomes of post-fieldwork evaluation

During the post-fieldwork evaluation, surveyors reported a wide range of recurring themes from conversations held at supermarkets and hardware stores across Curaçao. Respondents frequently demonstrated strong local knowledge and shared detailed personal experiences related to extreme weather and environmental change.

Engagement and concern were significantly higher when issues were perceived as proximate, such as failing roads, flooding of streets, school closures or infrastructure breakdown. In contrast, when the topic concerned more distant or abstract ecosystem topics, e.g., coral reefs or mangroves, this elicited less urgency.

Concerns about inadequate infrastructure surfaced consistently. Respondents frequently cited poor drainage, damaged roads, and limited public transportation, alongside frustration that the government does not take sufficient action to prepare communities or maintain the physical environment.

While many participants expressed that climate and weather events are “in God’s hands” and beyond individual control, most also believed responsibility should be shared between citizens and government. Some respondents highlighted community initiatives such as neighbourhood clean-ups and informal watch groups, while others stressed the need for more information starting from school age.

Conversations also revealed mistrust toward official meteorological information, references to past political events, and occasionally conspiracy-related beliefs about weather manipulation. Differences by age were observed, with older residents more likely to focus on protecting their families, while younger respondents tended to engage less in discussion.

Despite this wide range of perspectives, several priorities emerged consistently across survey locations. Infrastructure improvements, better public information, and stronger enforcement of environmental regulations were the most frequently mentioned adaptation needs.

Appendix B Questionnaire

Climate Adaptation Survey Curacao 2025: Help Curaçao Prepare for Climate Change

Start of Block: For the surveyor 1

For the surveyor:

Name surveyor:

Name of surveyor 1

Name of surveyor 2

Name of surveyor 3

Name of surveyor 4

Name of surveyor 5

Name of surveyor 6

Other, namely: _____

Location:

- New California – Weg naar Westpunt
- Esperamos Supermarket – JNDweg
- Sambil – Veeris
- Home Plus – Winston Churchillweg
- Bon Bini Supermarket – Brievengat
- Mangusa Hypermarket – Cas Coraweg
- Centrum Supermarket – Mahaai
- Kooyman Mega Store – Zeelandia
- Wah Son Supermarket – Weg naar Fuik
- Other namely: _____

Date and time:

- Sat 25 Oct: 12:30–17:00
- Sun 26 Oct: 9:00–13:30
- Mon 27 Oct: 10:00–14:30
- Tue 28 Oct: 14:30–19:00
- Wed 29 Oct: 10:00–14:30
- Thu 30 Oct: 14:30–19:00
- Fri 31 Oct: 10:00–14:30 (extra day)
- Other namely: _____

End of Block: For the surveyor 1

Start of Block: For the surveyor 2

Intro surveyor: Hi, good day. My name is [name] and I'm from the University of Curaçao. We're doing a short survey about climate adaptation — it takes about 10 minutes. Are you living in Curaçao, age 16 or older? (@surveyor: No problem if person is not registered at Kranshi, but tourists/visitors are not included.) What language do you prefer? (select for participant and hand over tablet)

End of Block: For the surveyor 2

Start of Block: Page 1

Informed consent: **We're doing a short survey about what people in Curaçao think about climate change and how we can prepare for it.** It's part of a study by the University of Curaçao and VU University Amsterdam to help create a national strategy for climate adaptation. It takes about 10 minutes. All data from the research will be kept confidential and stored in a secure and password-protected location. You can stop at

any time. If you have any questions, you can contact: info@requestcaribbean.com. **Do you understand the above information and agree to take part?**

Yes

No

Skip To: End of Survey If = No

End of Block: Page 1

Start of Block: Page 2

Climate change means long-term changes in temperature and weather. It can lead to problems such as droughts, water shortages, wildfires, rising sea levels, flooding, stronger storms, and the disappearing of plants and animals.

In the past 5 years, have you had any of these problems because of climate or weather?
(Choose all that apply)

- Power cuts or energy problems
- Problems with drinking water
- Damage to your home/garden (roof, flooding, erosion)
- Nature near your home damaged
- Health problems (illness, heat stroke)
- Stress or anxiety because of weather or climate
- Roads or transport blocked due to weather
- Public services stopped (school closed, no/delayed waste collection) due to weather
- Higher insurance costs or can't get insurance
- Higher costs for energy, water, or fuel
- Problems for pets
- Higher food prices
- Home or land lost value
- Loss of cultural traditions/heritage
- Less outdoor activities
- Less work productivity

- Had to move because of disaster
- Other: _____
- None of these

End of Block: Page 2

Start of Block: Page 3

In the past 5 years, to what extent have the following climate hazards negatively affected your daily life?

	No impact	Small impact	Medium impact	Large impact
Very hot days or heatwaves	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Heavy rain	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Drought / water shortage	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Strong winds	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Storms or hurricanes	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Flooding near the coast	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Flooding in streets or neighbourhoods	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Changes in the sea (like coral bleaching)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

End of Block: Page 3

Start of Block: Page 4

Thinking about the next 10 years, how worried are you about climate change affecting your life?

- Very worried
- Quite worried
- A bit worried
- Not worried
- Don't know

End of Block: Page 4

Start of Block: Page 6

If you think about the following climate-related risks that might affect Curaçao in the next 10 years:

How serious do you think the impact would be if it happens?

	Very small	Small	Average	Large	Very large
Rising sea levels	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
More flooding	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Beach loss	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Damage to the coast	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Hotter and dryer weather	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Health problems	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Higher water and energy bills	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Too hot for work, school and daily life	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Hotter seas	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
More coral damage	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Fewer fish	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Stronger storms and hurricanes	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Damage to nature, homes, roads	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

Damage to
tourism

End of Block: Page 6

Start of Block: Page 7

Adapting to climate change means taking action to adjust to its present and future impacts. In the coming years, should adapting to climate change be...

- A top priority
- Important, but not top priority
- Not important
- Don't know

Why do you think so?

End of Block: Page 7

Start of Block: Page 8

Who should take the lead in preparing Curaçao for climate change?

- Local (your neighborhood / community)
- National (Curaçao government)
- Kingdom (all 6 islands + the Netherlands together)
- International organizations
- None of these
- Don't know

End of Block: Page 8

Start of Block: Page 9

For Curaçao to be strong and prepared for climate change, which goals are most important to you? (Choose up to 2)

- Strong economy (diverse jobs and businesses, recycling, better financial planning)
- Healthy people (good healthcare, secure jobs, basic needs covered)
- Safe living environment (reliable transport, green spaces, strong infrastructure)
- Strong society (protecting culture and heritage, fair laws, social support, safety)
- Healthy nature (protecting reefs and mangroves, more trees, clean environment)

End of Block: Page 9

Start of Block: Page 10

In the next 3 years, which actions should Curaçao focus on first to prepare for climate change? (Choose up to 2 per theme)

[Dashed box for answer]

Nature & Food

- Plant more trees and green spaces
- Protect coral reefs, mangroves, and sea life
- Removal system for sargassum/seaweed
- Grow more local food that can handle heat/drought
- Reduce food waste and improve recycling
- Raise awareness about local food and healthy meals

[Dashed box for answer]

Water & Coastal Management

- Promote large-scale wastewater reuse (e.g., irrigation, toilet flushing, gardening)
 - Restore dam capacities and natural drainage (rooien)
 - Build sea walls or coastal protection
 - Keep beaches and coastal areas safe from climate impacts and accessible for everyone
 - Improving infrastructure to prevent floods while catching water for local use
 - Better disaster planning, more storm shelters and emergency response
-

Culture & Living Environment

- Improve healthcare and social support for climate impacts
- Better home cooling and insulation
- Lower household costs through energy and water savings
- Promote healthier lifestyles and well-being to better cope with extreme heat
- Strengthen cultural values and awareness towards climate adaptation
- Promote art and cultural education promoting adaptation (e.g., in schools and after-school programs)

Economy & Finance

- Facilitate new industries and green jobs (e.g., hydrogen, circular economy, innovation)
- Make sure banks and insurers prepare for climate risks (e.g., floods, hurricanes, heatwaves)
- Create affordable loan programs so low-income families can invest in climate solutions (e.g., cooler homes, lower bills, storm protection)
- Create ways to fund nature protection and reward climate-friendly choices (e.g., payments for protecting coral reefs or mangroves)

End of Block: Page 10

Start of Block: Page 11

When the government takes climate adaptation actions, which value do you think is most important to guide their decisions? (choose one):

- Protecting our community
- Supporting nature and the environment
- Spending money and resources wisely
- Ensuring equity, inclusivity, and fairness across generations

End of Block: Page 11

Start of Block: Page 12

Which groups should get help first to deal with climate change? (Choose up to 2)

- Elderly
- Children
- Low-income people
- Immigrants
- People with disabilities
- People in high-risk areas
- Other: _____
- Help everyone equally
- None

End of Block: Page 12

Start of Block: Page 13

Would you be willing to change your lifestyle to help Curaçao adapt to climate change?

- Yes, definitely
- Yes, maybe
- No

End of Block: Page 13

Start of Block: Page 14

Which of these actions would you be willing to take?

	Yes, definitely	Yes, maybe	No
Save water and energy at home	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Harvest rainwater at home	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Avoid paving the yard, create more green	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Plant trees or protect nature	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Maintain drains in my neighborhood	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Use more public or green transport	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Buy more local food	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Pay more tax for climate measures	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Join voluntary cleanups (nature and drainage)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Preparing an emergency kit	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Expanding insurance coverage against climate hazards	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Adapting one's building to cope with flooding/hurricanes	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

End of Block: Page 14

Start of Block: Page 15

What makes it difficult for you to take action against climate change? (Choose all that apply)

- Too expensive
- Takes too much time
- I don't have enough information
- I don't think it makes a difference
- The government should be responsible, not me
- Other: _____

End of Block: Page 15

Start of Block: Page 16

To what extent do you agree with the following statements:

	Strongly disagree	Somewhat disagree	Neutral	Somewhat agree	Strongly agree
I feel jointly responsible for the well-being of my neighborhood	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
I have good contact with my immediate neighbors	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
People in my neighborhood are willing to help each other	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

Can you trust the government to act in the best interest of Curaçao?

- Not at all
- No
- Neutral
- Yes
- Yes completely

End of Block: Page 16

Start of Block: Page 17

How old are you?

- 16-17
- 18-29
- 30-39
- 40-49
- 50-59
- 60+
- Prefer not to say

[Empty dashed box for additional input]

What is your gender?

- Male
- Female
- Other
- Prefer not to say

[Empty dashed box for additional input]

In which area of Curaçao do you live?

- Rayon 1: Brievengat to Oostpunt
- Rayon 2: Souax, Sta. Maria and vicinity
- Rayon 3: St. Michiel to Mundu Nobo and Otrabanda
- Rayon 4: Asiento, Punda and Steenrijk
- Rayon 5: Westpunt to Tera Kora
- Prefer not to say

End of Block: Page 17

Start of Block: Page 18

What is your household's total monthly income (after tax)?

- Less than XCG. 3,000
- XCG. 3,001 – 5,000
- XCG. 5,001 – 9,000
- More than XCG. 9,000
- Don't know
- Prefer not to say

What is your highest completed education?

- Primary school/No formal education
- Preparatory secondary vocational education (VSBO)
- Secondary vocational education (SBO)
- Senior general education (HAVO/VWO)
- HBO/WO Bachelor
- HBO/WO Master
- PhD
- Prefer not to say

End of Block: Page 18

Start of Block: Page 19

What advice would you give the Curaçao Government about preparing for climate change?

Do you have any other comments or ideas you want to share?

End of Block: Page 19

Appendix C Descriptives tables for individual sociodemographic characteristics and the main adaptation questions of interest

Table C1: Individual sample sociodemographic characteristics

<i>Variable</i>	<i>Question</i>	<i>Proportion (frequency)</i>
Age	How old are you?	16-17 years = 4% (24) 18-29 years = 18% (99) 30-39 years = 20% (110) 40-49 years = 19% (106) 50-59 years = 17% (96) 60+ years = 17% (97) Prefer not to say = 4% (23) N = 555
Gender	What is your gender?	Male = 47% (260) Female = 49% (274) Other = 1% (7) Prefer not to say = 2% (13) N = 554
Income	What is your household's total monthly income (after tax)?	Less than XCG. 3,000 = 34% (187) XCG. 3,001 – 5,000 = 22% (120) XCG. 5,001 – 9,000 = 8% (45) More than XCG. 9,000 = 5% (26) Don't know = 8% (47) Prefer not to say = 23% (129) N = 554
Education	What is your highest completed education?	Primary school/No formal education = 9% (49) Preparatory secondary vocational education (VSBO) = 12% (66) Secondary vocational education (SBO) = 25% (137) Senior general education (HAVO/VWO) = 9% (49) HBO/WO Bachelor = 14% (78) HBO/WO Master = 6% (33) PhD = 3% (15) Prefer not to say = 23% (128) N = 555
Place of residence	In which area of Curaçao do you live?	Rayon 1: Brievengat to Oostpunt = 32% (177) Rayon 2: Souax, Sta. Maria and vicinity = 20% (110) Rayon 3: St. Michiel to Mundu Nobo and Otrabanda = 17% (94) Rayon 4: Asiento, Punda and Steenrijk = 11% (60) Rayon 5: Westpunt to Tera Kora = 16% (87) Prefer not to say = 5% (27) N = 555

General population statistics are as follows for age, gender, income and education:

Age: 15-29 years = 16.5%, 30-39 years = 12.8%, 40-49 years = 13.9%, 50-59 years = 17.8%, and 60+ years = 38.8%.

Gender: Of the 15+ years of age category, 45% are male and 54.9% are female, and less than 0.1% are in the unknown gender category.

Income: At the household level for gross income, 39% report to earn up to XCG. 3,000, 16% earn XCG. 3,001 – 5,000, 20% earn XCG. 5,001 – 9,000, and 25% earn more than XCG. 9,000.

Education: Primary school or no formal education = 20.9%, preparatory secondary vocational education = 36.1%, secondary vocational education = 16.8%, senior general education = 5.6%, HBO/WO Bachelor = 11.8%, HBO/WO Master = 6.7%, and PhD = 0.1%.

Appendix D Logit regressions of associations between respondents' location and specific problems experienced due to climate, as well as whether respondents have been largely negatively impacted by specific climate hazards in daily life

Table D1: Logit regression results of the likelihood of experiencing specific problems due to climate or weather conditions

	Model 1	Model 2	Model 3
Rayon 2: Souax, Sta. Maria and vicinity	0.127 (0.072)	0.068 (0.070)	0.003 (0.053)
Rayon 3: St. Michiel to Mundu Nobo and Otrabanda	0.063 (0.082)	0.167* (0.072)	0.011 (0.058)
Rayon 4: Asiento, Punda and Steenrijk	0.014 (0.096)	0.152 (0.083)	0.130* (0.054)
Rayon 5: Westpunt to Tera Kora	0.174* (0.076)	0.123 (0.072)	-0.036 (0.061)
N	328	328	328

Notes:
Average marginal effects are provided with standard errors in parentheses.
*Significant at 5%.
Age, income, education and gender are controlled for, but their marginal effects are suppressed in the regression output.
N is lower than the full sample size due to *prefer not to say*, *other* and *don't know* responses for certain sociodemographic variables.
Only models with significant marginal effects related to location are presented:

- Model 1: Power cuts or energy problems;
- Model 2: Stress or anxiety because of weather or climate;
- Model 3: Higher insurance costs or can't get insurance.

Table D2: Logit regression results of the likelihood of being largely negatively impacted by specific climate hazards

	Model 1	Model 2	Model 3	Model 4
Rayon 2: Souax, Sta. Maria and vicinity	-0.049 (0.073)	0.019 (0.056)	0.016 (0.052)	-0.021 (0.050)
Rayon 3: St. Michiel to Mundu Nobo and Otrabanda	-0.186* (0.078)	0.013 (0.062)	0.013 (0.058)	-0.028 (0.056)
Rayon 4: Asiento, Punda and Steenrijk	-0.286** (0.090)	-0.128 (0.086)	-0.084 (0.077)	-0.089 (0.074)
Rayon 5: Westpunt to Tera Kora	-0.283** (0.073)	-0.203* (0.083)	-0.292** (0.108)	-0.408** (0.138)
N	328	328	327	327

Notes:
Average marginal effects are provided with standard errors in parentheses.
**Significant at 1%; *Significant at 5%.
Age, income, education and gender are controlled for, but their marginal effects are suppressed in the regression output.
N is lower than the full sample size due to *prefer not to say*, *other* and *don't know* responses for certain sociodemographic variables.
Only models with significant marginal effects related to location are presented:

- Model 1: Very hot days or heatwaves;
- Model 2: Heavy rain;
- Model 3: Storms or hurricanes;
- Model 4: Strong winds.

Appendix E Robustness check for results of main adaptation variables of interest: including non-100% data entries, i.e., drop-outs

Goals importance ranking:

- *Healthy people* was selected by 40% (224 of 567 respondents);
- *Healthy nature* by 39% (221 of 567 respondents);
- *Safe living environment* by 38% (213 of 567 respondents);
- *Strong economy* by 31% (175 of 567 respondents);
- *Strong society* by 23% (132 of 567 respondents).

Adaptation options ranking:

Nature & food

- *Plant more trees and green spaces* was selected by 41% (234 of 565 respondents);
- *Raise awareness about local food and healthy meals* by 32% (182 of 565 respondents);
- *Grow more local food that can handle heat/drought* by 28% (161 of 565 respondents);
- *Protect coral reefs, mangroves, and sea life* by 25% (144 of 565 respondents);
- *Reduce food waste and improve recycling* by 25% (141 of 565 respondents);
- *Removal system for sargassum/seaweed* by 18% (103 of 565 respondents).

Water & coastal management

- *Restore dam capacities and natural drainage (rooien)* was selected by 37% (206 of 564 respondents);
- *Improving infrastructure to prevent floods while catching water for local use* by 35% (197 of 564 respondents);
- *Better disaster planning, more storm shelters and emergency response* by 31% (173 of 564 respondents);
- *Keep beaches and coastal areas safe from climate impacts and accessible for everyone* by 27% (151 of 564 respondents);
- *Promote large-scale wastewater reuse (e.g., irrigation, toilet flushing, gardening)* by 25% (140 of 564 respondents);
- *Build sea walls or coastal protection* by 11% (63 of 564 respondents).

Culture & living environment

- *Lower household costs through energy and water savings* was selected by 38% (217 of 565 respondents);

- *Promote healthier lifestyles and well-being to better cope with extreme heat* by 31% (174 of 565 respondents);
- *Improve healthcare and social support for climate impacts* by 27% (154 of 565 respondents);
- *Better home cooling and insulation* by 26% (146 of 565 respondents);
- *Promote art and cultural education promoting adaptation (e.g., in schools and after-school programs)* by 21% (117 of 565 respondents)
- *Strengthen cultural values and awareness towards climate adaptation* by 19% (107 of 565 respondents).

Economy & finance

- *Create affordable loan programs so low-income families can invest in climate solutions (e.g., cooler homes, lower bills, storm protection)* was selected by 45% (253 of 561 respondents);
- *Create ways to fund nature protection and reward climate-friendly choices* by 43% (244 of 561 respondents);
- *Facilitate new industries and green jobs (e.g., hydrogen, circular economy, innovation)* by 32% (181 of 561 respondents);
- *Make sure banks and insurers prepare for climate risks (e.g., floods, hurricanes, heatwaves)* by 24% (137 of 561 respondents).

Adaptation criteria ranking:

- *Supporting nature and the environment* was selected by 29% (163 of 566 respondents);
- *Protecting our community* by 27% (155 of 566 respondents);
- *Spending money and resources wisely* by 25% (140 of 566 respondents);
- *Ensuring equity, inclusivity, and fairness across generations* by 19% (108 of 566 respondents).