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**Report on the Adaptation: Rapid Institutional Analysis (ARIA) Informational Meeting  
with Civil Society Organisations**

**Laventille, Trinidad and Tobago**

**May 1, 2013**



Representatives from various CSOs and State Agencies attend ARIA Informational Meeting (Photo credit: CANARI)

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## Introduction

The Caribbean Natural Resources Institute (CANARI) together with the World Resources Institute (WRI) and the Saint Lucia National Trust has undertaken a research project to assess climate change adaptation readiness in Trinidad and Tobago and Saint Lucia. The project seeks to address the need for civil society engagement in policy and institutional analysis for climate change adaptation and will involve pioneering the use of the WRI's *Adaptation: Rapid Institutional Analysis* (ARIA) toolkit in the Caribbean. The specific objectives of the project are: (i) to facilitate and support participatory research by civil society on climate change adaptation policy, institutions and actions; (ii) to analyze the current state of policy, institutions and actions; (iii) to identify high-priority and low-cost “next steps”; (iv) to influence policy and adaptation processes; (v) to catalyze, facilitate and support opening of decision-making processes and action to greater participation of civil society; and (vi) to develop island-specific approaches to vulnerability assessment. This project is being funded by the Climate and Development Knowledge Network (CDKN).

On May 1<sup>st</sup> 2013, CANARI hosted an informational meeting on use of the ARIA toolkit for the benefit of civil society groups and some Governmental representatives. The ARIA toolkit aims to enhance access to environmental information, public participation, and access to justice in national-level climate change adaptation with the goal of improving the quality of adaptive actions by the Government of Trinidad and Tobago, the private sector, and public citizens. This meeting follows an [orientation workshop](#) which was held on April 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> 2013 which was jointly facilitated by CANARI and the WRI and at which other Governmental representatives were in attendance.

Thirteen representatives from two state agencies and ten civil society groups attended the meeting. The two state agencies represented were the Ministry of Food Production and the Trinidad and Tobago Meteorological Services. A complete list of participants can be found in Appendix 1 of this document. Proceedings of the meeting followed the format of a prepared meeting agenda which can be found in Appendix 2.

## Meeting Proceedings

### *Introductions and Project Overview / Outline of the CANARI project*

The meeting started at 9:05 a.m. with a round of introductions and a review of the goals of the meeting. An apology was extended on behalf of Keisha Sandy whose name was on the agenda but who was unable to attend the meeting due to illness.

An introduction to CANARI's Climate Change and Disaster Risk Reduction Programme was provided by Celeste and an outline of the current project was shared with meeting participants..

### *Phase One of research - Main areas of survey and Indicators*

The basic elements of the Phase One research in ARIA were shared using Worksheet 1A of the Phase One Workbook. This led to a discussion on assessments and adaptation work that is ongoing by different state agencies and civil society groups. One attendee advised that CANARI invite key persons with relevant knowledge to contribute to the research in an attempt to make the results 'marketable'. One concern that was expressed was whether this project was going to be too time consuming for representatives who agree to participate and what would be the benefits for participating parties (i.e. what are they going to get out of it). One attendee expressed concerns over the floods and landslides that took place in Diego Martin last year; however, another attendee expressed that the flooding can be a result of building approval process being improper and these improper processes should not continue. Another attendee expressed that the project is good but the results will have to be properly evaluated. Different groups agreed that they have access to information or contacts which may be useful for Phase One of the project. Such groups include the Trinidad and Tobago Meteorological Services, Sustain T&T, the Energy Chamber and the Association of Trinidad and Tobago Insurance Companies (ATTIC).

### *The Advisory Panel*

Attendees were advised of the importance and roles of the Advisory Panel by Farzaana. She pointed out the need to include persons who could act as 'champions, networkers, and quality control agents' and indicated that a mix of persons from academia, government, civil society and media was preferred. Current nominations for the Advisory Panel were shared with attendees, who were invited to propose more nominees; these additional suggestions are listed as follows:

- Judith Gobin - School of Natural Sciences, the University of the West Indies (Quality Control)
- Peter O'Connor - Asa Wright Nature Centre (Champion)
- Edmund Charles - Forestry Division Representative
- Professor Indar Ramnarine - the University of the West Indies/Institute of Marine Affairs
- Mark Rudder - Ministry of Energy Representative
- Trinidad and Tobago Meteorological Services
- Buccoo Reef Trust

### *Identification of Priority Areas*

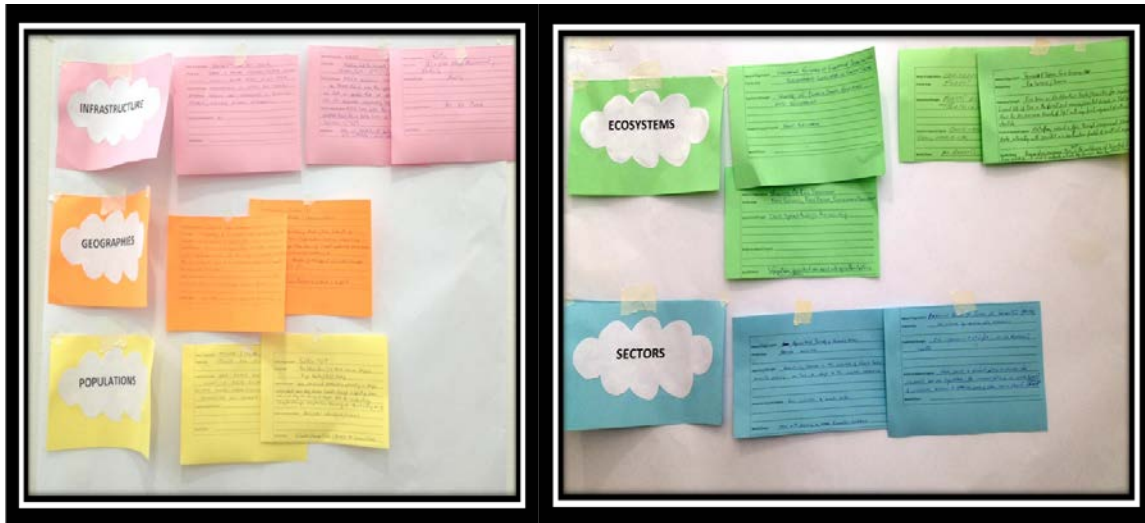
Attendees were invited to document their areas of interest and capacity to be involved in Phase Two of the project, should certain priority areas emerge for further study. Celeste explained that five broad categories - Ecosystems, Geographies, Infrastructure, Populations and Sectors - were identified for classifying the possible priority areas. Meeting participants completed a simple form to capture their feedback on areas of interest and capacity, whether they have access to reports/research they may have conducted, how the research may benefit their organisation or how they may be able to share the research. Some participants shared information on their areas of expertise and experience (for Phase Two of the project); others gave feedback on how their organisation can benefit or share the information (Advocacy Phase). A summary of the results of this exercise is provided in Table 1 below.

Table 1: Feedback from Identification of Priority Areas Exercise

Categories	<b>Organisations and features</b>
Ecosystems	<b>Trinidad and Tobago Tour Guides Association</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Most of my research is done through recognised Ecology Books, interacting with specialists in the field and practical experiences.</li> <li>• Because of my time spent in the wilderness I can contribute with what I witness by damages done by climate change.</li> </ul>
	<b>Caribbean Forest Conservation Association</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Southwest peninsula, Matura ESA, Tobago Main Ridge.</li> </ul>
	<b>Ministry of Food Production</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Information generated can assist with agricultural policy formulation.</li> </ul>
	<b>Caribbean Network of Fisherfolk Organisations</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Worked on climate change resilience and networking. Many reports are available.</li> </ul>
Sectors	<b>Energy Chamber</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Company specific plans for fence line communities exist on early warning systems, etc. The 350 members of the Chamber can have access to reports and act as pressure groups.</li> </ul>
	<b>National Centre for Persons with Disabilities</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• There exists a national policy on persons with disabilities but no legislation. Current policy is inadequate and requires review to address among other areas, climate change.</li> </ul>
	<b>Agricultural Society of Trinidad and Tobago</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Helps with planning (crops and weather conditions)</li> </ul>
Populations	<b>Sustain T&amp;T</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Has access to anecdotal interviews/ videos and can share climate change film and access to communities.</li> </ul>
	<b>Trinidad and Tobago Meteorological Services</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Profound knowledge in climate change</li> </ul>
Geographies	<b>Sustain T&amp;T</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Access to media/ films about climate change events and causes, etc.</li> <li>• Benefits are films, platforms, events, support</li> </ul>
	<b>Trinidad and Tobago Meteorological Services</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Data and summaries which are done monthly can be shared.</li> </ul>
Infrastructure	<b>Association of Trinidad and Tobago Insurance Companies (ATTIC)</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Statistical data on flood events and insurance claims are available on website <a href="http://www.attic.org.tt">www.attic.org.tt</a></li> </ul>
	<b>Retiree (rep for Host Home Association)</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Access to reports on Google</li> </ul>
	<b>Trinidad and Tobago Meteorological Services</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Knowledge on climate change impacts and trends, research carried out including climate modelling.</li> </ul>



Attendees record their areas of interest during the Identification of Priorities Exercise (Photo credit: CANARI)



Results of the Identification of Priorities Areas Exercise are pictured above (Photo credit: CANARI)

### *Phase Two of research - CSO activity and advocacy*

Attendees were then given a brief description of Phase Two of the research. It was expected that with civil society's input into the second phase of research, CANARI would want to broaden the format of the outputs (papers, policy brief) to include other types of communication products. Communication tools will be considered early on in Phase Two of the research.

### *CSO representatives' views on the project*

Meeting attendees were asked to provide feedback on the meeting. One person suggested that CANARI use the previous ARIA reports (from the other countries where it was implemented) to guide this project in Trinidad and Tobago and in Saint Lucia to ensure that this project is done properly and the results can be more marketable. The Trinidad and Tobago Meteorological Services was grateful to be invited to participate early in the process. All attendees found the meeting to be informative, interesting or refreshing. Some comments were: *“I have some understanding of what we want to achieve. But the process and procedure seem to be sound. I would like to contribute to this project in the future. I would like to see the report from Sri Lanka”* and, *“Critical for formulizing the national climate change policy.”* Two attendees requested copies of the ARIA Phase One Workbook.

## Appendix 1: List of attendees

Name	Organisation	Address	Telephone	Email
Mr. Carver Bacchus	Sustain T&T		868 385 1158	<a href="mailto:sustaintt@gmail.com">sustaintt@gmail.com</a>
Dr. Beverly Beckles	National Centre for Persons with Disabilities	7-21 New Street San Fernando	868 652 4880 868 678 9392	<a href="mailto:ncpd@carib-link.net">ncpd@carib-link.net</a> <a href="mailto:bbeckles@hotmail.com">bbeckles@hotmail.com</a>
Mr. Ivan Charles	Trinidad and Tobago Tour Guides Association	19 St. Joseph Road Arima	868 685 6206	<a href="mailto:Charlo74@hotmail.com">Charlo74@hotmail.com</a> <a href="mailto:ierinatureadventures@hotmail.com">ierinatureadventures@hotmail.com</a>
Ms Joanne Fitz-Andrews	Agricultural Society of Trinidad and Tobago/ Matura Farmers Association	#2 George Street Sangre Grande	868 321 2137	<a href="mailto:Myers_joanne@gmail.com">Myers_joanne@gmail.com</a>
Mr. Louis Guy	Council of Presidents of the Environment	77B Saddle Road Maraval	868 622 2322	<a href="mailto:Cfca.ngo.tt@gmail.com">Cfca.ngo.tt@gmail.com</a> <a href="mailto:Copett2011@gmail.com">Copett2011@gmail.com</a>
Mr. Kenneth Kerr	Meteorological Office	Piarco Airport Piarco	868 669 5465 Ext 182/122	<a href="mailto:K_kerr45@hotmail.com">K_kerr45@hotmail.com</a> <a href="mailto:dirmet@tstt.net.tt">dirmet@tstt.net.tt</a>
Mr. Kaidar Kissoon	Meteorological Office	Piarco Airport Piarco	868 669 5465	<a href="mailto:kaidarkissoon@gmail.com">kaidarkissoon@gmail.com</a>
Mr. Matthew Lee	Ministry of Food Production	St. Clair Circle St Clair	868 622 5953	<a href="mailto:mlee@fp.gov.ttmlee7536@hotmail.com">mlee@fp.gov.ttmlee7536@hotmail.com</a>
Mr. Joslyn Lee Quay	CNFO/ TTUF	Upper Village Blanchisseuse	868 481 0181 868 374 7520	<a href="mailto:Joslee_56@outlook.com">Joslee_56@outlook.com</a> <a href="mailto:leequayj@yahoo.com">leequayj@yahoo.com</a>
Mr. Sherwin Long	Energy Chamber of Trinidad and Tobago	Unit B203, Atlantic Plaza, Atlantic Avenue Point Lisas	868 636 3749 Ext 33 868 769 1391	<a href="mailto:Sherwin@energy.tt">Sherwin@energy.tt</a>
Mr. Harry Pritheesingh	Host Home Association	Mayaro		<a href="mailto:harryandmonica@gmail.com">harryandmonica@gmail.com</a>
Ms Sarah Seerattan	Association of Trinidad and Tobago Insurance Companies	8 Stanmore Avenue Port of Spain	868 625 2940	<a href="mailto:mail@attic.org.tt">mail@attic.org.tt</a>



## Appendix 2: Meeting Agenda



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### 9:00 – 9:15 Welcome and introductions

*Keisha Sandy will welcome attendees to the meeting and will invite participants to introduce themselves and their organizations. She will then review goals of the meeting:*

- 1. To familiarize attendees with the CANARI project.*
- 2. To welcome suggestions for nominees to the Advisory Panel.*
- 3. To identify opportunities for involvement of CSOs in the project.*

### 9:15 – 9:30 Outline of the CANARI project

*This project is funded by the Climate and Development Knowledge Network and is taking place in Trinidad and Tobago and Saint Lucia, with project partners, the World Resources Institute and the Saint Lucia National Trust.*

- Celeste Chariandy will give a brief insight into CANARI's Climate Change and Disaster Risk Reduction Programme and an outline of the current project.*

### 9:30 – 10:00 Phase One of Research - Main areas of survey and Indicators

*Areas covered in the ARIA survey will include national assessment, prioritization, coordination, information management, and mainstreaming of adaptation policy.*

- Farzaana Baksh will present the basic elements of the Phase One research in ARIA.*

### 10:00 – 10:15 The Advisory Panel

- Keisha Sandy will identify key players nominated for an advisory panel that will review and publicize our final analysis.*
- Participants will be invited to suggest other nominees for this panel.*

### 10:15 – 11:00 Identification of Priority Areas

*A key part of the ARIA rollout will be to determine key areas for action, so-called "Priority Areas." One of the most important aspects of the approach is cooperation with government and the media; while pushing for accountability and capacity as we develop a civil society agenda, we are looking for uptake of ideas by government.*

- Celeste Chariandy will lead a presentation on identifying Priority Areas for Phase Two of research.*
- Attendees will be invited to participate in an exercise to document their areas of interest and capacity to be involved in Phase Two of the project, should certain priority areas emerge for further study.*

### 11:00 – 11:15 Phase Two of Research - CSO activity and advocacy

- Celeste Chariandy will outline very broadly the expected activities that will take place in Phase Two of the project, including the development of communication products.*

### 11:15 – 11:20 Wrap Up and Close

- Keisha Sandy will lead the wrap-up and close of the meeting.*