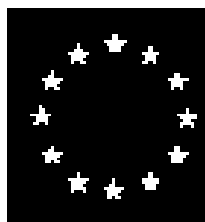




THE NATIONAL
FOREST PROGRAMME
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FOREST AND LIVELIHOODS REGIONAL CONFERENCE

“Forests for People, People for Forests: Forest-based livelihoods in the Caribbean”

May 4th – 7th, 2010

Cascadia Hotel, St. Anns, Port of Spain, Trinidad

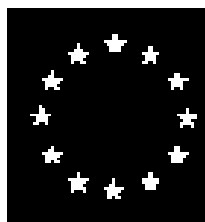
THEME

a. Adaptive, collaborative, ecosystem-based approaches to forest management
Ecosystem management, adaptive management, and participatory or collaborative management approaches have been developed to respond to the wider social, economic and ecological challenges for forest management in the 21st century, including a changing global climate. Yet, these new approaches are not being systematically applied in the Caribbean. The full range of state and private forests is generally not being effectively managed at the landscape scale and for multiple purposes that recognise multiple sectoral and stakeholder interests. Forest management takes place in the absence of unit management plans at national, regional, and local scales. Forest policies, laws, rules and regulations are often outdated, conflict with other sectoral policies, and do not effectively link with national development policies. As part of this theme, CANARI will report on recent work facilitating participatory planning and policy development in addition research on environmental mainstreaming. Presentations and discussions on this theme may explore questions such as:

- What is the right scale for forest management planning? How can cross-scale management be achieved?
- How can issues of land tenure and multiple, competing interests be handled in an ecosystem management approach?
- How can management of the range of state and private forests be facilitated and coordinated across ownerships and landscapes?
- How is forestry governance evolving in the Caribbean? Are forestry departments restructuring, and if so, how? What new policies and innovative programmes are being developed?
- How can participatory processes enhance forest management? How are partners in civil society and the private sector getting involved?
- How can forest management more effectively support national development and the needs of other sectors?



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b. Opportunities for forest-based livelihoods from abandoned agricultural estates

The history of the cultivation of large agricultural estates (sugar cane, cocoa, cotton and coconuts) has left a landscape of abandoned or under-utilised estates across the Caribbean. Many of these lands have been left fallow for years, often as a result of unclear tenure or conflicts over ownership. They are often viewed as common property and provide areas for the community to forage for fruits and herbs, to hunt and graze animals. Rather than explore viable forest-based alternatives, in many cases governments have resorted to converting these lands into housing developments. Presentations and discussions on this theme may explore questions such as:

- How can land use planning facilitate effective use of abandoned agricultural land?
- What are the tenurial issues and obstacles to potential common property or other effective and equitable arrangements for optimising benefits from these lands?
- How can agricultural, forestry, tourism, and other sectors work together to take advantage of the opportunities these lands offer for supporting sustainable rural livelihoods?
- What is the potential for reforestation of abandoned estates to contribute to climate change initiatives?

c. Forests for sustainable livelihoods and poverty reduction

In many islands of the Caribbean, forest managers are recognising the need to shift from commercial harvesting of timber and other forest products to managing forests to support sustainable livelihoods in rural communities and thereby to meet broader economic development and poverty reduction goals. CANARI will report on findings on forest-based sustainable livelihoods drawn from action learning and research projects. Presentations and discussions on this theme may explore questions such as:

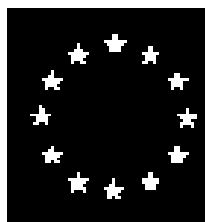
- What have been experiences of Caribbean CBOs and their partners with developing forest-based livelihoods?
- What policies, laws and structures need to be in place to enable sustainable forest-based livelihoods for the rural poor?
- Are poverty reduction strategies and programmes recognising the contributions of forests?

d. Valuation of ecosystem services and its role in forest management

Difficulties in quantifying and demonstrating the value of the multiple benefits that accrue from forest resources have contributed to the failure of decision-makers and the wider public to recognise their importance to sustainable livelihoods and the economy as a whole. Given the competing interests over land for the extractive and tourism industries, it could be argued that forest economic valuation serves a more



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important purpose when it is used to inform decision-making regarding land use and incentive structures rather than direct payment for ecosystem services. CANARI will present findings from recent research on payments for watershed services and policy and management implications arising from valuation of forests in Montserrat.

Presentations and discussions on this theme may explore questions such as:

- What do we know about the value of forest goods and services in the Caribbean?
- What are the issues in forest valuation in small Caribbean islands? What are some lessons about appropriate valuation methods?
- What are sustainable financing options for forest management?
- How can mechanisms be established to ensure that compensation flows to the vulnerable people providing the ecosystem services or suffering from lost opportunities?
- What are the opportunities and risks associated with carbon markets in the Caribbean?

e. Climate change and forests in small islands

In addition to the complex institutional landscape for forest management in the Caribbean, climate change and its impacts offer yet another challenge to the management of forest in the region. In some locations, increased intensity and frequency of storm and the changing flowering and fruiting seasons has lead to reactive changes in forest management rather than the planned, strategic approaches needed to contribute to resilience of forests in the Caribbean. Under this theme CANARI will present the results of its recent collaborative research project to assess the impacts of climate change on forest biodiversity in the Caribbean, resulting impacts on forest-based livelihoods, and the resulting policy and research recommendations.

Presentations and discussions on this theme may explore questions such as:

- What are the current and projected impacts of climate change impact on forests in the Caribbean? What will be the resulting impacts on forest-based livelihoods?
- What responses are needed at the policy level and on the ground to adapt to these changes?
- What is currently being done in the Caribbean to address these challenges?
- How can Reducing Emissions from Deforestation and Forest Degradation (REDD) and regional policy initiatives be applied in the Caribbean to best support livelihoods for the rural poor?