



ACP FLEGT Forest Law Enforcement, Governance and Trade Support Programme for African, Caribbean and Pacific Countries



Regional knowledge sharing initiative on improved governance and influencing policy for community forestry and sustainable forest-based livelihoods

16 November 2012
Webinar Report

1. Introduction

The Caribbean Natural Resources Institute (CANARI) was contracted by the Food and Agriculture Organisation of the United Nations (FAO), in support of the “**Regional knowledge sharing initiative on improved governance and influencing policy for community forestry and sustainable forest-based livelihoods**”.

The objective of this project is to influence policy and practice and facilitate knowledge sharing on community forestry and sustainable forest-based livelihoods to enhance governance in the Caribbean region by drawing lessons from past projects and condensing key messages in user friendly "Guidelines for Participatory Forest Management and Participatory Governance" combined with other information products.

2. Participants

CANARI selected a pool of forest managers from the region to participate in the lessons learning process and invited them to virtual meetings. Two meetings were held prior to this meeting to introduce the project and key documents to participants. Participants in this final meeting are listed in Appendix 1.

Participants selected are all forest managers trained in facilitation under the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization under its Forest Law Enforcement, Governance and Trade Support Programme for African, Caribbean and Pacific Countries (ACP-FLEGT Programme) and the project entitled “Building capacity for participatory forest management for good governance in the Caribbean region”.

3. Objectives

The specific objectives of this final webinar were the following:

- select key messages, pathways, target audiences and products on community forestry;
- set up teams to input into drafting of specified products; and

- present and received feedback on the draft outline for the guidelines on community forestry.

The agenda for the webinar is attached as Appendix 2.

4. Method

The virtual meetings were held using the GoToMeeting platform that allows for up to 25 participants to attend a webinar. Once a meeting has been set up by the meeting host, attendees can log on using an Internet or telephone connection. The screen sharing option, used by the meeting host, allows participants to see slide presentations or any other supporting documents during discussions.

5. Findings

A summary table of messages selected by project participants is attached as Appendix 3 and outlines the target audience and pathways for each message, as well as the reasons these particular pathways were selected.

Forest managers in attendance at the third webinar discussed some of the messages and suggested recommended pathways to communicate the messages. Key points discussed on the three options submitted are summarised below.

- Radio to communicate messages on forest management

A radio programme was suggested to communicate the message that by "***working together, members of a community can achieve great things such as caring for natural assets while enriching the lives of the people***".

Participants agreed that radio has a wide reach in the Caribbean region and is still very popular among Caribbean people, and a key means of obtaining information among rural communities. Several examples of successful initiatives using radio programmes were mentioned: in Dominica, farmers have successfully used radio to share information and raise issues in radio programmes leading to positive action.

In St. Vincent and the Grenadines, a radio magazine format was used to encourage positive attitudes towards forest management. The Forestry Division in St. Vincent and the Grenadines was able to leverage use of government broadcasting spots to air the programmes which were pre-recorded and which featured a miniseries (soap opera type) programme and music with relevant messages.

It was also suggested that radio talk shows could be used, where listeners have the option to call in the programme, as a low-cost means of sharing information with and getting feedback from the public.

Subsequent to the discussions, it was proposed that a "how-to" kit for use of radio in communication for communities be developed.

- Use of an online newsletter with feedback opportunities to target forest management personnel

Discussions suggested using an online newsletter for the message "***partnering with communities expands your capacity to manage forest resources and provides you with invaluable local knowledge***." It was pointed out that an online newsletter would allow for sharing of information among a selected group of stakeholders. The format should be simple,

since it would not be designed for widespread dissemination. Besides, the online newsletter is a useful means of documenting experiences while the format reduces the cost of producing a printed document.

The online forum already set up by CANARI was also suggested as a formal avenue for feedback and discussion. However, constraints due to project duration and budget may not allow this suggestion to be pursued at this time.

- Develop a PowerPoint presentation targeting policy makers

A PowerPoint presentation was suggested as a way to support face-to-face communication with policy makers, to communicate the message "***by supporting communities as they develop their capacity to manage the country's natural resources, you will be assuring the country's long-term viability***". It was further suggested that the presentation should also be accompanied by a fact sheet (one-page) to which forest managers can contribute information. The one page fact-sheet can also be left with government representatives and policy makers who may not have time for a face-to-face meeting.

To make the presentation even more effective, participants agreed that it could include a short video presentation. Participants acknowledged that participatory video is a useful way for documenting and sharing experiences. It allows people to tell their stories in their own voice. It also speaks to the need to promote successful experiences in community forestry, and can be a great opportunity for forest users and managers to state exactly how they have been experiencing the impacts of climate change, for instance.

6. Follow-up and next steps

It was agreed that:

- CANARI would compile messages submitted and communicate to participants the selected messages, products and pathways within the context of funds and time available under the project
- CANARI would draft products
- Participants agreed to provide feedback on draft products
- Participants agreed to complete and submit evaluation forms to CANARI

Appendix 1- Participant list

| # | First Name | Last Name | Job Title | Organisation | Address 1 | State/ Province | Country | Tel (W) | Tel (M) | Fax | Email 1 |
|---|------------|--------------------|------------------------------|---|---|--------------------|---------------------|------------------------------------|----------------|----------------|--|
| 1 | Kathleen | Belcon | Assistant Conservator Forest | Ministry of Agriculture, Lands and Marine Resources | Farm Road | St. Joseph | Trinidad and Tobago | (868) 645 1203 | (868) 460 0023 | (868) 645 1203 | kathleen.belcon@hotmail.com |
| 2 | Betty | Perry-Fingal | Independent Consultant | | Goodwill Upper St. Aroment | PO Box 1915 Roseau | Dominica | (767) 449 0859 | 767 448 8100 | | bfingal@cwdom.dm |
| 2 | Allison | Rangolan-McFarlane | Executive Officer | Forest Conservation Fund | Suite 203, 85 Hope road | Kingston 6 | Jamaica | (876) 978 2927 | | (876) 978 9080 | a.mcfarlane@infochan.com |
| 3 | Noel | Bennett | Rural Sociologist | Forestry Department, Ministry of Agriculture | 173 Constant Spring Road | Kingston 8 | Jamaica | (876) 905 1270 (876) 924 2667-8 | (876) 381 8012 | (876) 931 2856 | nbennett@forestry.gov.jm |
| 4 | Loïza | Rauzduel | Technical Officer | Caribbean Natural Resources Institute (CANARI) | Building No. 7, Unit 08, Fernandez Industrial Centre, Eastern | Laventille | Trinidad and Tobago | (868)626 6062 | | (868) 626 1788 | loiza@canari.org |

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|---|---------|-------------------|-----------------------------|--|---|------------|---------------------------|--------------|--|----------------------|--|
| 5 | Neila | Bobb- Prescott | Senior Technical Officer | Caribbean Natural Resources Institute (CANARI) | Building No. 7, Unit 08, Fernandez Industrial Centre, Eastern Main Road | Laventille | Trinidad and Tobago | (868)6266062 | | (868) 626 1788 | neila@canari.org |
| 6 | Celeste | Chariandy | Senior Technical Officer | Caribbean Natural Resources Institute (CANARI) | Building No. 7, Unit 08, Fernandez Industrial Centre, Eastern Main Road | Laventille | Trinidad and Tobago | (868)6266062 | | (868) 626 1788 | celeste@canari.org |

APOLOGIES

| | | | | | | | | | | | |
|--|---------|--------|---------------------------|---|---------------------------------|------------------|---------------------------|----------------------------------|-------------------|----------------------|--|
| | Zakiya | Wadada | Executive Director | Emancipation Support Committee | 5b Bergerac Road, Maraval | Port of Spain | Trinidad and Tobago | (868) 628 5008 | (868) 340 2662 | (868) 645 5936 | zakiyau@gmail.com |
| | William | Trim | Head of Watershed Unit | Botanic Station c/o (DNRE) Department of Natural Resources and the Environment Office | Highmoore | Scarborough | Trinidad and Tobago | (868) 660- 2079/ 660 -7636 | 868 735 4351 | 868 639 5232 | trim20031@yahoo.co.uk/trim20031@gmail.com |

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|--|--------|-------|--|---|------------------------|-------------|---------|---------------------|--|----------------------|---|
| | Marlon | Beale | | Jamaica Conservation Development Trust | 29 Dumbarton Avenue | Kingston 10 | Jamaica | (876) 960 2848/9 | | (876) 960 2850 | jamaicaconservation@gmail.com/ beale_4@yahoo.com |
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Appendix 2: Webinar Agenda



CARIBBEAN NATURAL RESOURCES INSTITUTE

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"Regional knowledge sharing initiative on improved governance and influencing policy for community forestry and sustainable forest-based livelihoods

Webinar II
Friday 16th November, 2012

OBJECTIVES

The **webinar objectives** are to:

- Select key messages, pathways, target audiences and products on community forestry;
- Set up teams to input into drafting of specified products; and
- Present and received feedback on the draft outline for the guidelines on community forestry.

DRAFT AGENDA

| Time | Topic | Lead Facilitator |
|---------------|--|---|
| 9:45 - 10:00 | Registration and log on | Loïza Rauzudel |
| 10:00 – 10:30 | Welcome and introductions. Objectives and overview of meeting Ground Rules Summary of last meeting | Neila Bobb- Prescott Loïza Rauzudel |
| 10:30-11:00 | Report on messages selected by participants Selection of pathways, target audiences and products Allocation of teams | Neila Bobb- Prescott Celeste Chariandy |
| 11:15 – 11:30 | Update on Guideline Next steps Wrap up and close. | Neila Bobb- Prescott |

Appendix 3: Summary table of key messages, pathways, target audiences and products on community forestry

| Message | Target Audience | Pathway | Reason/Comment |
|---|-------------------------------|--|--|
| Working together, the community can achieve great things for its members – caring for its natural assets while enriching the lives of the people | Community | ½ hour weekly radio programme run for 6 week and sponsored by concerned businesses | Radio is best vehicle for reaching rural communities, message needs to be repeated and people need opportunity to respond and expand on the basic message |
| Partnering with communities expands your capacity to manage forest resources and provides you with invaluable local knowledge | Forest management personnel | Monthly on-line newsletter with option of commenting | Provides new information and allows managers to share experience and question experience of others |
| By supporting communities as they develop their capacity to manage the country's natural resources, you will be assuring the country's long-term viability. | Policy makers | In-person presentation with power point with photos from projects | These people need personal attention away from the daily routine and lots of examples to be able to hear the message |
| 'Keeping abreast with international multi lateral environmental agreements' | Politicians and Policy makers | Fact sheets | One page, easy and quick to read highlighting the country's international obligation due to Multi Lateral Environmental agreements and the importance of community involvement for the success of any sustainable forest management effort |
| 'Contemporary environmental issues and You' | Wider population | Newspaper articles | These articles will be used to inform on current environmental issues and their actual impacts (forest degradation and flooding) to anticipated impacts (climate |

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| | | | change and sea level rising). So as to increase the public's perception and knowledge on the importance of not only sustainable development but also the role they can play in lobbying for change within policies. The change within policies so as to reflect government's willingness to invest in sustainable forest management along with communities. |
| 'We are in this thing together' | Community groups | Roving caravan/bus | To spread the message of the rights, roles and responsibilities of the state and rural community members in conserving the environment and utilizing tools and technologies to adapt and mitigate against climate change |
| Enabling policies, laws, structures, and processes are needed to promote and support community forestry. | Government and CBOs | Short bullet point case studies via Powerpoint illustrating successes and failures. Consultations which will allow information sharing, discussion and possibly consensus about what the CBOs need and what the government can provide. | All parties need to understand what will work effectively on the ground and what can be accommodated in the existing policies etc and what changes should be considered to facilitate community forestry. |
| Sustained and long-term support and capacity building of the community and local organisations is required to enable them to participate | Government, donors, CBOs | Short bullet point case studies via powerpoint illustrating successes and failures. | Many organisations fail to realise that it takes time for an organisation to develop the capacity to be self-sustaining and effective. |

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| effectively in community forestry initiatives. | | | |
| Co-management arrangements of protected areas are providing economic and livelihood benefits to surrounding communities for example through ecotourism | Government Officials | Government Official Communication (e.g. Green Paper) | |
| Improvement of livelihoods requires long term commitment of resources | <p>All levels:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Regional Government • National/Local Government Authorities (e.g. Forest Managers) • Communities/Community Groups, • Non-Government Organisations • *General communities outside of Forested areas | <p>Government Official Communication (e.g. Green Paper)</p> <p>Policy Document</p> <p>Posters, Flyers, Public Service Announcement, Meetings</p> | |
| Commitment to the project often differs depending on the demographic of the communities i.e. communities that have fewer alternatives for livelihoods options are more willing to see a project through the difficult nascent stages | <p>National/Local Government Authorities (e.g. Forest Managers)</p> <p>Communities/Community Groups</p> <p>Non-Government Organisations</p> | <p>Case Study</p> <p>Policy Document</p> | |