Caribbean Natural Resources Institute

Field Notes of the site visit to Morne Longue, Grenada.

October 2009

1. MORNE LONGUE, GRENADA
Visited during the fifth ALG, October 2009

1.1 Background

Location	Morne Longue (long hill) community is located in the parish of St. Andrews on the eastern side of Grenada. The community is approximately 18 miles from the capital, St. George's.
Type of forest	Tropical rain forest.
Who are the key stakeholders?	Key stakeholders include (in no particular order): 1. Morne Longue community 2. Morne Longue Progressive Community Group 3. Grenada Education and Development Project (GRENED) 4. Forestry Department 5. Grenada Board of Tourism 6. United Nation Trust Fund for Human Security (UNTFHS)
Description of the initiative	The Morne Longue Progressive is presently implementing the Morne Longue – Fedon Camp trail development project,. The project entails the development of a trail to Fedon Camp as well as training of community members in the history of the site, customer service, marketing and first aid.. GRENED became involved with the community through a project to develop a road that was being coordinated by Grenada Rural Enterprise Project (GREP). GRENED conducted an assessment to determine what could be done in the area. This assessment proposed the development of the trail. GRENED then approached UNTFHS for financing for the development of the trail and the capacity building for the community. The proposal was accepted and funds are being disbursed through Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO). The trail was developed by members of the community and the Forestry Department. 15 people, eight men and seven women, worked on the trail along with Forestry for three months to clear the trail. During this time theGrenada Board of Tourism coordinated training on safety and first-aid and Dr. Curtis Jacob, renowned historian on the Fedon Camp rebellions, hosted sessions on the history of the site. There was training on team building, customer care and self esteem.
Brief background/ context of wider community (e.g. population, economic activities) – livelihoods issues/ context	Morne Longue is a poor rural community where residents depend mainly on agriculture, hunting and fishing to sustain their livelihoods. The community is located at the lower elevations of the historically significant "Fedon Camp" which dates back to the 18th century when Fedon led a rebellion, which resulted in his troops controlling, between March 1795 and June 1796, all of Grenada except the parish of St George's, the seat of government,. During those insurgent months 14,000 of Grenada's 28,000 slaves joined the revolutionary forces in order to write their own emancipation and transform themselves into "citizens"; some 7,000 of these self-liberated slaves would perish in the name of freedom. http://www.bigdrumnation.org/notes/fedonrebellion.html

1.2 Description of the institutional arrangements

What are the objectives / broad goals of the arrangement / any collaborative management initiatives?	The objective is explicitly stated but the field trip analysis suggests that the objective of the project is to provide a sustainable forest –based livelihood for the community of Morne Longue through the development of the Fedon trail.
Policies and laws	The Forestry Department believes that its work with this group is mandated under the Forest Policy of Grenada.
Relationships between organisations (formal/informal)	Morne Longue Progressive is receiving assistance from several external bodies: • GRENED is playing a pivotal role by providing mentoring for the group. • The Forestry Department provides technical support, equipment, material and assists with planning. • Board of Tourism has provided training in customer service.
Institutional and organisational structures	Morne Longue Progressive is not registered and has no bank account. The group has a set of rules for governing the organisation and an executive consisting of a President, Assistant President, Secretary and Public Relations Officer. The organisation started with 15 members and now has seven. Morne Longue Progressive was formed 10 years ago in response to what the community perceived was the need to: • bring people closer together • provide training • develop a playing field • help deal with social problems of alcohol abuse and fighting
Agreed practices and processes	Not determined.
What is the degree and type of participation / perception(s) of key stakeholders of current type and degree of participation (see table below) and what changes have occurred since inception (speed/direction of change)	The type of participation seems to be a mix between participation for material incentives and functional participation. Morne Longue Progressive has contributed resources, time, labour, in return for cash. However, the capacity of the group is being built through the various training activities and the members of the group will benefit from the development of the trail. In reference to functional participation, participation is seen by GRENED and Forestry as the means to achieving project goals. Major decisions seem to be made by these two external groups but this is can be attributed to the low capacity of Morne Longue Progressive.

1.3 Enabling and disenabling factors that shaped the arrangement

External forces that have influenced the management arrangements and the way that benefits are allocated among beneficiaries (e.g. markets/trade regimes external donors funding priorities)	Not determined.

National/local/internal environment that enabled and shaped the initiative and influenced the way that benefits are allocated among beneficiaries - policies or laws - roles played by key individuals - skills - technical help - funding - political support - equitable participation	Forces that enabled and shaped the initiative and influenced the way that benefits are allocated among beneficiaries include: • GRENED's skills and experience to act as trainers and mentor to Morne Longue Progressive. • The presence of the mandate in the present Grenadian Forest policy for participatory management.
Capacities: *(internal capacities of partners in the arrangement)* What - skills - knowledge - world view - culture - structure - adaptive strategies - relationships/linkages - material/financial resources do the partners have that: enable the arrangement? - enable negotiation of their role in the arrangement? - enable their securing benefits from the arrangement? Are the existing capacities being effectively leveraged? Are key capacities lacking or weak?	The following skills were identified by the respective partners. • GRENED- proposal development, project management, mentoring • Forestry – technical expertise in trail development, facilitate participatory planning and management • Morne Longue Progressive- ability to work together, cooperation/ cohesiveness of the group, spirit of commitment Morne Longue Progressive has an extremely low capacity and GRENED has acknowledged that the group will need to build capacity on different areas, as the need arises, over time.

1.4 Lessons learned

How effective are the arrangements in achieving the stated objectives (socio-economic benefits or other benefits)?	Not determined
Is there a relationship between different levels/types of participation and the level of benefits?	Not determined.
Other	There was concern identified about GRENED's ability to disengage from the community and having the Morne Longue Community assume management responsibility for the Fedon trail and associated activities.

TYPES OF PARTICIPATION[1]

Type	Characteristics
1. Manipulative participation	Participation is simply a pretence, with 'people's representatives on official boards but who are unelected and have no power
2. Passive participation	People participate by being told what has been decided or has already happened. It involves unilateral announcements by an administration or project management without any listening to people's responses. The information being shared belongs only to external professionals
3. Participation by consultation	People participate by being consulted or answering questions. External agents define problems and information gathering processes, and so control analysis. Such a consultative process does not concede any share in decision-making, and professionals are under no obligation to take on board people's views
4. Participation for material incentives	People participate by contributing resources, for example labour, in return for food, cash or other material incentives. [People] … are involved in neither experimentation nor the process of learning. It is very common to see this called participation, yet people have no stake in prolonging technologies or practices when the incentives end
5. Functional participation	Participation is seen by external agencies as a means to achieve project goals, especially reduced costs. People may participate by forming groups to meet predetermined objectives related to the project. Such involvement may be interactive and involve shared decision-making, but tends to arise only after major decisions have already been made by external agents. At worst, local people may still only be co-opted to serve external goals
6. Interactive participation	People participate in joint analysis, development of action plans and formation or strengthening of local institutions. Participation is seen as a right, not just the means to achieve project goals. The process involves interdisciplinary methodologies that seek multiple perspectives and make use of systemic and structured learning processes. As groups take control over local decisions and determine how available resources are used, so they have a stake in maintaining structures and practices
7. Self-mobilisation	People participate by taking initiatives independently of external institutions to change systems. They develop contacts with external institutions for resources and technical advice they need, but retain control over how resources are used. Self-mobilisation can spread if governments and NGOs provide an enabling framework of support. Such self-initiated mobilisation may or may not challenge existing distributions of wealth and power.

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[1] From Bass, S., Dalal-Clayton, B. and Pretty, J. (1995) Participation in Strategies for Sustainable Development International Institute for Environment and Development. Environmental Planning Issues No. 7