



## Community sharpens focus on climate change

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**Laventille (CANARI) 23 August 2012** – Over the past four months, residents of the Caura Valley community have sharpened their focus on climate change, taking steps to identify ways in which their livelihoods may be at risk, in order to build a plan of response to the impacts of this global phenomenon. Facilitated by the Caribbean Natural Resources Institute (CANARI), the community's proactive stance is being made in a one year project which is funded through the Global Environment Facility Small Grants Programme of the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP GEF SGP).

The project at Caura included a 3-day climate change awareness building workshop and training in participatory video, a technique which helps the community to document their issues and communicate them in their own voice. They have also been gathering information on ways to reduce their vulnerability through interactive session with officers of the Office of Disaster Preparedness and Management (ODPM) and on rainwater harvesting with an independent consultant.

In the month of July, the community has been actively engaged in the documentation process, recording video and collecting photographs which show their concerns on climate change, and which present their recommendations for building resilience. A few photographs provided here give an example of their findings.



Community members walking on an overgrown trail from Caura to El Tucuche, a possible access route out if there is need for community evacuation during a natural disaster. Currently the Caura Royal Road is the only road into and out of the community.

Dumping of tyres in Caura facilitates the creation of breeding sites for mosquitoes. Climate change is believed to cause increases in pest populations, so people need to counter this through more responsible actions.





The livelihood of farmers in the farming community of Caura can be affected by more intense dry seasons due to climate change. In 2010, some 40 farmers abandoned their lands due to lack of water for their crops.

A pipe-borne water supply from a water treatment plan is uncommon in most households in Caura. Many residents use water supplied to communal community water tanks that is pumped from rivers and springs by WASA. Some buy bottled water for drinking purposes, as they are uncertain that the water supplied to tanks is free of all contaminants.



Over the next few months, the community will take further steps to educate others about their work and build wider awareness to climate change issues through their interaction with key stakeholders. CANARI will continue to assist the community in this project and will also document the process in a case study at its conclusion.

### About CANARI

The Caribbean Natural Resources Institute is a regional technical non-profit organisation which has been working in the islands of the Caribbean for more than 20 years. Our mission is to promote and facilitate equitable participation and effective collaboration in the management of natural resources critical to development in the Caribbean islands, so that people will have a better quality of life and natural resources will be conserved, through action learning and research, capacity building, communication and fostering partnerships.

### **For further information, please contact:**

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