



CARIBBEAN NATURAL RESOURCES INSTITUTE

Fernandes Industrial Centre • Administration Building • Eastern Main Rd. • Laventille • Trinidad W.I.
Tel: (868) 626 6062 • Fax: (868) 626 1788 • Email: info@canari.org • Website: www.canari.org

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

CANARI aiding community action on climate change

Port of Spain (CANARI) 16 February 2012 "Climate is what you expect and weather is what you get" is an old meteorological adage, and an especially wet start to this year's dry season is a very real reminder of the issue of climate change and its impact on our everyday lives. The issue comes into sharp focus in 2012, through a pilot project that will be undertaken by the Caribbean Natural Resources Institute (CANARI) in one rural community in Trinidad which is particularly vulnerable to the impact of climate change. Funded by the United Nations Development Programme's Global Environment Facility Small Grants Programme (UNDP GEF SGP), the project will seek to build awareness on climate change in this community, help residents identify their areas of livelihood vulnerability, and develop and implement a plan to reduce vulnerability and build resilience.

CANARI recently signed the contract to initiate the project at the UNDP office in Port of Spain and has already set about meeting with a variety of state and civil society stakeholders to develop criteria and select the community which can benefit from this exercise. There is heightened interest among the stakeholders, as the processes followed in this project and its outcome will contribute to a better understanding of the methods for engagement of communities in building understanding on this global issue, and in taking action to address impacts on their livelihood activities. This project will pilot an approach that can be implemented in communities throughout Trinidad and Tobago.

The project will take place over the period of one year and will be documented thoroughly to capture information on the steps taken to achieve its objectives and critical lessons learned in the execution of a relatively new approach to climate change communication and local adaptation. CANARI looks forward to continuous engagement with other stakeholders in the process and is committed to sharing the project outcomes with the wider national, regional and international audiences at its conclusion.

This pilot project is part of CANARI's programme of work on Climate Change and Disaster Risk Reduction which is being implemented throughout the Caribbean islands. CANARI has already developed toolkits to facilitate communication about and community adaptation to climate change, facilitated civil society planning for adaptation, and coordinated teams of scientists to assess the specific impacts of climate change on the Caribbean islands. For more information on CANARI's programme of work please see <http://www.canari.org/climate.asp>.



Stakeholders discuss community vulnerability to climate change impacts with CANARI