

Report	
Date	May 4 <sup>th</sup> – 6 <sup>th</sup> 2010
Name of Participant	<b>Stephen Mendes</b> , Environment Technician-Education <b>Department of Environment, Ministry of Agriculture, Land, Housing &amp; the Environment</b> , P.O. Box 272 Brades, Montserrat, WI. <i>Tel: (664) 491-9278 Fax: (664) 491 9276 E-mail: <a href="mailto:mendess@gov.ms">mendess@gov.ms</a></i>
Name of Event	<b>“Forests for People, People for Forests: Forest-based livelihoods in the Caribbean”</b>
Location of Event	Cascadia Hotel, Ariapita Rd. St. Ann’s, Port of Spain, Trinidad. Tel: (868) 6234 4208/9
Participation funded by	<b>Joint Nature Conservation Committee (JNCC)</b> Monkstone House, City Road Peterborough PE1 1JY United Kingdom Tel: +44 (0) 1733 866919; fax: +44 (0) 1733 555948 <a href="http://www.jncc.gov.uk/UKOTCD/">http://www.jncc.gov.uk/UKOTCD/</a>
Brief overview of workshop	The Conference was designed to bring foresters, administrators, NGO’s CBO’s and forest users together from across the Caribbean. The programme exemplified policies and practices that support sustainable forest-based livelihoods in the islands of the Caribbean. It focused on raising the standards of person’s dependant on natural resources for their livelihood and raise their awareness to issues such as climate change, poverty alleviation, sustainable consumption and production, and biodiversity conservation. This was facilitated by sharing stories, experiences and lessons learned by participants, most of whom were involved in Phase 1 of CANARI’s project funded by the Food and Agricultural Organisation (FAO) National Forest Programme

	<p>Facility. This project was funded by the European Commission (EC) Programme on Tropical Forests. Additionally intra and extra regional expertise were available to share knowledge and partners closely associated with CANARI also participated.</p>
<p>Main points of information/interest from the workshop</p>	<p>There were 5 main areas that the workshop attempted to cover.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Adaptive, collaborative, ecosystem-based approaches to forest management</li> <li>2. Potential uses of abandoned agricultural estates to develop forest-based livelihoods</li> <li>3. Forests for sustainable livelihoods and poverty reduction</li> <li>4. Valuation of ecosystem services and its role in forest management</li> <li>5. Climate change and forests in small islands</li> </ol> <p>A detailed breakdown of the various thematic areas will be available in Appendix I Appendix II will list in detail the various presentations that were made at the conference. Included in this document is the background information to each of the field trips.</p>
<p>Main points that would be useful for the region</p>	<p>One of the main advantages of these conferences that bring persons together from across the region is that it fosters new linkages. It also highlights the wealth of expertise available (professional/local knowledge) that could be tapped into. Lessons learnt from other's experiences are extremely useful and sharpens focus to issues of regional concern. In addition it allows for better strategic planning especially when approaching donor agencies who favour projects with fresh and innovative ideas that encompass not only the local situation but extend regionally. Key messages for the region would include;</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Implementing management plans for the natural resources reap maximum benefits over the longer term.</li> <li>2. Climate change will affect the Caribbean and preparations to mitigate against negative impacts should begin now to lessen the effects.</li> <li>3. Biodiversity services have value and that should be factored into management plans as a means of financial sustainability.(i.e. payment for these services)</li> <li>4. For optimum forest management, local stakeholders play a vital role and need to be recognized as a</li> </ol>

	<p>vital part of the planning processes.</p> <p>5. The region is close, yet, though we have similar shared cultures, each is uniquely diverse. What may work for one country may not fit another. Local/regional consultation can construct a better fit to an application.</p>
Main points that would be useful for the territory	It would be interesting to study the various collaborative agreements between Government, private landowners and persons who depend on the environment for their livelihood. Having a wider knowledge of what works and what doesn't, what needs to be formalized and what can be agreed on mutually. Studying these nuances could provide insight into strengthening regulations for environmental laws on island.
To follow up	Possible future 5 year assessment of the same areas to see how various initiatives have progressed.
Conclusions	The Workshop was well organized, from travel arrangements, accommodation to the plenary sessions. There was a wealth of information, experiences and knowledge exchanged. I am sure participants are looking forward to receiving the report of the outcomes, as it should be a credible resource.
Recommendations	<p>Perhaps there needed to be more time devoted to this workshop. However one is cognizant of the costs involved. Each of the 5 themes of the conference was of extreme interest to all participants however various components of each had to run concurrently in the interest of time. There were times where it was difficult to choose. One possible solution is to film/video tape the sessions and stream them to allow participants to view them at a later date. This will also serve as a useful archival tool. This scenario would also apply to the field trips.</p> <p>A little more emphasis could also be placed on the Poster/brochure aspect of the conference.</p>
Territory background reports	Appendix I Report on the Centre Hills Evaluation Project. (as separate document)
Any other information where the detail might be interesting to OT's in the region	Receiving a summary report of the conference proceedings
Useful contacts	Appendix IV Participants list and contact details (as separate document)

<p>Appendices</p>	<p>Appendix I Report on the Centre Hills Evaluation Project (as separate attachment)  Appendix II Summary of regional meeting (included in document)   Appendix III Forests for People, People for Forests: Forest-based livelihoods in the Caribbean Programme (as separate attachment)  Appendix IV Participants list and contact details. (as separate attachment)</p>
<p>Appendix II Summary of regional meeting</p> <p><b><u>SUMMARY OF REGIONAL MEETING</u></b></p> <p><b>Title:</b> “Forests for People, People for Forests: Forest-based livelihoods in the Caribbean”</p> <p><b>Dates:</b> May 4<sup>th</sup> – 7<sup>th</sup>, 2010</p> <p><b>Venue:</b> Cascadia Hotel, St. Ann’s, Port of Spain, Trinidad</p> <p><b>Overarching goal:</b> To identify and promote policies and practices that support sustainable forest-based livelihoods in the islands of the Caribbean, based on sharing of stories, experiences and lessons learned.</p> <p><b>Target group:</b> 80 participants working at the local, national and regional level, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Representatives of community-based organisations (CBOs), non-governmental organisations (NGOs), private sector organisations, private landowners, and individuals from civil society working on forest conservation and forest-based livelihoods;</li> <li>• Policy-makers and technical staff from government agencies working in key sectors such as forestry, environmental management, tourism, land use planning, watershed management, poverty alleviation and community development;</li> <li>• Academic institutions</li> <li>• Technical and financial support agencies</li> <li>• Intergovernmental agencies</li> </ul>	

**Target countries:** All islands of the Caribbean (English-, French-, Spanish-, Dutch- and Creole-speaking), including the dependent territories. The conference will be conducted in English and funding will be sought for simultaneous translation into as many of the above languages as possible.

**Themes:**

- a. Adaptive, collaborative, ecosystem-based approaches to forest management
- b. Potential uses of abandoned agricultural estates to develop forest-based livelihoods
- c. Forests for sustainable livelihoods and poverty reduction
- d. Valuation of ecosystem services and its role in forest management
- e. Climate change and forests in small islands

**Programme overview:** The conference will feature two days of meetings and one day of field trips, with a pre-conference one-day workshop for CBOs to share experiences and build capacity for participation in the conference. The focus is on sharing of practical experiences and making recommendations for change in policy and practice. Each theme will be introduced via a plenary session, followed by a set of simultaneous breakout sessions. Key policy messages from all five themes will be identified and validated at a concluding plenary. The conference will be immediately followed by a session with policy makers at which these key messages will be presented. A poster exhibition will run throughout the conference.

**Conference partners:** Food and Agricultural Organisation (FAO) National Forest Programme Facility, European Commission (EC) Programme on Tropical Forests. Additional sponsorship is being sought.

### **DETAILED OVERVIEW OF REGIONAL MEETING**

**Objectives:**

- a. to share lessons from research, practices and policy initiatives that facilitate the development of sustainable forest-based livelihoods for the rural poor;
- b. to facilitate dialogue among participants to build their understanding of, and capacity to participate in, decision-making about forest management in ways that support sustainable livelihoods and reduce poverty, including
- c. on key issues currently on regional and international agendas (such as climate change, poverty alleviation, sustainable consumption and production, and biodiversity conservation);
- d. to formulate key recommendations from the region for presentation by stakeholders at the Latin American and Caribbean Forestry Commission meeting and Conference of the Parties (COP) to the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) meetings in 2010, as well to

the Organisation of American States (OAS), the Caribbean Community (CARICOM), and the Organisation of Eastern Caribbean States (OECS).

**. Outputs:**

- a. A regional meeting report inclusive of abstracts of papers and recommendations.
- b. Policy briefs with key messages on regional issues for regional and international fora.

**. Short-term outcomes:**

- a. Enhanced understanding of, and appreciation for, methods and approaches that facilitate the effective involvement of stakeholders in the management of forest resources and the development of forest-based economic activities that benefit the poor.
- b. New and strengthened networks among forest users and managers in the region across sectors and among local, national and international levels.

**. Medium and long-term outcomes:**

- a. Improved implementation of collaborative adaptive management regimes for forests that benefit livelihoods without compromising forest health.
- b. Collaboration between land owners, government agencies and local resource users resulting in more productive use of abandoned lands.
- c. New policies and programmes that support the development of local forest-based enterprises; increase in the number of successful local forest-based enterprises.
- d. Value of forests increasingly reflected in poverty reduction initiatives and decisions for national development.
- e. More effective advocacy at regional and international forums on key regional issues related to forest-based livelihoods and poverty reduction.

**. Speakers:** Speakers from regional and international development, policy and academic fields will be invited to present on forest-based livelihoods in the Caribbean under the five themes. CANARI will present the results of its regional research and capacity-building projects under its Forests and Livelihoods programme funded under the Food and Agricultural Organisation (FAO) National Forest Programme Facility (NFPF) and the European Commission (EC) Programme on Tropical Forests.

**. Detailed thematic areas for invited papers:**

a. Adaptive, collaborative, ecosystem-based approaches in 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 21<sup>st</sup> 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?

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 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 led 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?