



Promoting participation in forest management

Laventille (CANARI) 16 January 2012 – Forestry stakeholders in the islands of St. Vincent and the Grenadines gained new insight into methods of promoting participation in forest management in 2011, through a project funded by the Food and Agriculture Organization's National Forest Programme Facility (NFPF).

The project devised and tested a range of communication products - some highly interactive - to assist in promoting stakeholder involvement in the wise use and management of forests.

The promotion campaign began with a series of newspaper articles which were published in the Searchlight Newspaper. These articles built awareness of the value of forests, the range of livelihood activities connected with forests and the benefits to be derived from co-ordinated management through stakeholder participation.

A poster series, developed for use by the Forestry Department highlighted some of the livelihood activities associated with forests in the Caribbean and also promoted the participatory approach to management.

A highly interactive workshop was held with civil society and state agency representatives to develop a four part radio magazine series - "Bush Talk". This product was produced to go on air in St. Vincent and the Grenadines in 2012. "Bush Talk" incorporates interviews, opinions from the man-in-the-street, Caribbean music and a highly entertaining and informative drama segment "Bush Melee" which altogether highlight the need for forest conservation and management through everyone's involvement.

Two communities in St. Vincent benefited from a community caravan which was another interactive exercise in communication. The caravan took the form of an exhibition which featured the activities of various forest stakeholders to showcase their role in wise use and management of forest resources, as well as a stakeholder discussion session which enabled exchange of success stories and project plans. This latter discussion yielded ideas for future collaboration among the groups and for addressing current challenges in proposed plans.

Video and photographic documentation of some of these activities were captured and are available on CANARI's Facebook page and YouTube channel, while a complete project report inclusive of the final products is carried on the CANARI Forests and Livelihoods webpage at: <http://www.canari.org/testingcommproducts.asp>.



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 equitable participation and effective collaboration in managing natural resources critical to development. Our programmes focus on research, sharing and dissemination of lessons learned, capacity building and fostering regional partnerships.

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