



Three-dimensional model of Tobago to be presented to the THA Secretary for the Environment

Laventille (CANARI) 10 October 2012 – A three-dimensional model of Tobago, ten times smaller than the actual size of Tobago and built by residents of Tobago, to be used for planning for the impacts of climate change, will be presented to the Tobago House of Assembly on Friday 12th October 2012 . The handover takes place at the auditorium of the Trinidad and Tobago Hospitality and Tourism Institute Tobago campus at Mt. St. George at 9:00 a.m.

This is the climax to a two week long project that piloted, for the first time in the region, the use of participatory three-dimensional modelling. Participatory three-dimensional modelling is a tool that can be used to facilitate effective participation by local communities and other stakeholders in the identification of general policy priorities, as well as specific policies and actions needed on the ground at the landscape and site level to address the impacts of climate change and extreme climatic events.

The model was built by stakeholders of Tobago. These included students from Scarborough Secondary, Signal Hill Secondary, the University of West Indies Open Campus and members of the Tobago Cocoa Farmers Association, Tour Guide Association of Tobago, Hunters Association, Roxborough Police Youth Group, Anse Fomage, Mary's Hill Community Group, members of the Association of Tobago Dive Operators, a Boys Scouts divisional leader, Delaford Fisherfolk, Castara Fisherfolk, Speyside Fisherfolk, South West Fisherman Association, Save Our Sea Turtles and members of the Belle Garden community inclusive of the village council and the fisherman's association and many other residents of Tobago.

The process was facilitated by the Caribbean Natural Resources Institute (CANARI), the University of the West Indies (UWI), the Tobago House of Assembly, Division of Agriculture, Marine Affairs, Marketing and the Environment (DAME) and the Partners with Melanesians (PwM). The project is funded by the Technical Centre for Agricultural and Rural Cooperation (CTA) and the United Nations Development Programme and the Global Environment Facility (GEF) Small Grants Programme (SGP).

The exercise also included training of 21 participants from the region (including three from Tobago) on facilitating participatory processes. Participants included representatives from Barbados, Dominican Republic, Grenada, Haiti, Jamaica, St. Vincent and the Grenadines and Trinidad. Observers from Caura village, Brasso Seco Tourism Action Committee, Forestry Division, Trinidad and Nature Seekers also visited during the construction of the model. Lessons learned and experiences are being documented and shared using a variety of media including participatory video, blogs, Facebook and policy briefs.

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:

Neila Bobb-Prescott - Manager, Forest, Livelihoods and Governance Programme
Caribbean Natural Resources Institute at neila@canari.org

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