



**Social protection to foster sustainable management of natural resources and reduce poverty in fisheries and forestry dependent communities in Trinidad and Tobago and St. Vincent and the Grenadines**



Organic jewellery made from bamboo, calabash, coconut and cedar from the Caura forest, Trinidad and Tobago

**Port of Spain (CANARI), September 04, 2015** – The Caribbean Natural Resources Institute (CANARI) is implementing a Food and Agriculture Organisation of the United Nations (FAO) funded research project to examine the linkages between social protection, natural resource management, women and overall people’s empowerment and poverty alleviation in fisheries and forestry communities in the islands of Trinidad and Tobago and St. Vincent and the Grenadines.

The livelihoods of small scale fisherfolk and forest-users in the Caribbean are highly vulnerable, due to the high exposure to risks such as resource depletion, climate change, as well as their limited assets to adapt to these risks.

This project therefore seeks to evaluate how social protection and poverty reduction policies and related initiatives in Trinidad and Tobago and St. Vincent and the Grenadines are affecting fisherfolk and forest users in terms of building resilience of their livelihoods.

Further to a desk study of regional and national policies relevant to social protection and sustainable forestry and fisheries development, CANARI conducted semi-structured interviews with key informants in each country: forest users, fisherfolk and community leaders in 2-3 selected fisheries, and forestry-dependent communities; key public sector agencies (forestry, fisheries, poverty alleviation, etc.) and

other key support agencies. Preliminary findings from each country will then be presented for validation and analysis by stakeholders.

Findings from this research project will contribute to the overall goal and aims of a FAO project which seeks to enhance national social protection systems to empower rural communities, so that these can help the transition towards more sustainable and equitable natural resource management and poverty reduction.

See [here](#) for more information on the project, and [here](#) for photos from the field interviews in Trinidad and Tobago.

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#### 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.

**Connect with us:**



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