Stakeholders invited to input into development of regulations and action plan to enhance conservation and environmental management in Montserrat

Brades, June 25, 2018 – The Caribbean Natural Resources Institute (CANARI) and Department of Environment, Ministry of Agriculture, Trade, Lands, Housing and Environment (MATLHE) in Montserrat are inviting stakeholders to input into the national consultation to enhance implementation of the Conservation and Environmental Management Act (CEMA).

On June 14, 2018, a second national workshop was held at the Montserrat Cultural Centre, which engaged key government and civil society stakeholders in reviewing and providing input on supporting regulations and an action plan for CEMA. The proposed regulations address six key issues, including environmental approvals and permits, forests and forest fires, protected areas, noise and other forms of pollution. The draft action plan identifies concrete priorities and a three-year implementation budget for operationalising CEMA.

At the opening ceremony, the Honourable Minister of Agriculture, Trade, Lands, Housing and the Environment, Mr. David Osborne, noted that, “the introduction of the regulations is critical for effective implementation and complementary to the parent legislation, CEMA.” Additionally, the Minister hoped that there would be wide stakeholder buy in and compliance with the new regulations, and noted that restrictions and fees aim to be reasonable so as not to deter young and upcoming entrepreneurs who use the natural environment as a platform for their work.

The wider public and other interested parties are now invited to review and comment on the six draft regulations and draft action plan for CEMA to ensure they reflect local needs and interests. The documents are available for download at: http://www.canari.org/enhancing-the-conservation-and-environmental-management-act-in-montserrat. Feedback can be sent via email to info@canari.org or corbette@gov.ms with the subject heading CEMA Action Plan and Regulations - Montserrat. All feedback should be submitted by July 31 2018.

This initiative is under the Organisation of Eastern Caribbean States (OECS) Global Climate Change Alliance project, iLAND Resilience - Promoting a Climate of Change, funded by the European Union (EU). CANARI is providing technical assistance to support the Department of Environment, MATLHE under this initiative to create an enabling institutional framework for conservation and sustainable management of Montserrat’s natural heritage and resources.

#### END ####
About iLAND Resilience - Promoting a Climate of Change: iLAND Resilience - Promoting a Climate of Change is the brand for the Organisation of Eastern Caribbean States (OECS) Global Climate Change Alliance (GCCA) project on Climate Change Adaptation and Sustainable Land Management in the Eastern Caribbean. The overall aim of the iLAND Resilience project is to support the implementation of the OECS St. George’s Declaration of Principles for Environmental Sustainability, namely the protection and sustained productivity of the OECS countries’ natural resources. This project is funded by the European Union (EU). CANARI is implementing the Technical Assistance for the Development of Frameworks aimed at Enhancing Environmental Management component on behalf of the OECS under the project, and providing co-financing through its EU funded project Powering Innovations in Civil Society and Enterprises for Sustainability in the Caribbean (PISCES). This component seeks to develop institutional frameworks for improved environmental management and resilience to climate change in four OECS member states, Grenada, Montserrat, St. Kitts and Nevis and Saint Lucia. See here for more information on the iLand Resilience project: http://iland.oecs.org/.

About CANARI: The Caribbean Natural Resources Institute (CANARI) is a regional technical non-profit organisation which has been working in the islands of the Caribbean for more than 25 years. Our mission is to promote equitable participation and effective collaboration in managing natural resources critical to development. Our programmes focus on capacity building, policy planning and development, research, sharing and dissemination of lessons learned, and fostering regional partnerships. See here for more information on CANARI: http://www.canari.org/.

About DOE: The Department of Environment (DOE) is part of the Ministry of Agriculture, Trade, Lands, Housing and the Environment (MATLHE) in Montserrat. Its goal is to achieve long-term protection and sustainable productivity of Montserrat’s natural resources and the ecosystem services they provide in support of optimal and equitable economic, social and cultural development for present and future generations. Its mandate includes: ensuring the sustainable management and use of natural resources; protecting and conserving biological diversity; reducing the impacts of climate change and natural disasters; promoting sound pollution prevention and control and waste management; and fostering environmental health. The DOE strives to ensure effective participation in environmental decision making and promote best practices by individuals and institutions in the public, private and civil society sectors.

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