

For people, by people, with people

Community participation in forest management contributes to improvement in livelihoods

People in rural communities who are involved in managing forests are getting many benefits that are improving their livelihoods, or quality of life. Benefits are seen in improved “assets” in several areas:



Clozier Youth Farmers in Grenada



Keepers of the Environment in St. Vincent



Buff Bay Local Forest Management Committee in Jamaica



Cockpit Country Local Forest Management Committee visitor center

Increased skills and knowledge

- Members of Clozier Youth Farmers in Grenada are selling anthuriums to the hotel industry and gaining skills and knowledge in nursery management, marketing, and business skills.

Improved access to and quality of natural resources

- Keepers of the Environment in St. Vincent improved the quality of the river running through the Chatebeulair village through river cleanups, tree planting, and community education.
- The Buff Bay and Pencar Local Forest Management Committees in Jamaica have improved forest cover through their reforestation work.

Improved social and community relationships

- Community groups that are participating in forest management activities in the Caribbean islands are sharing information and experiences to help each other.

Enhanced roads and other infrastructure

- Members of the Cockpit Country Local Forest Management Committee manage a visitor center and conduct tours about the area's rich Maroon history.

Increased financial assets

- Members of the National Reforestation and Watershed Rehabilitation Programme community group in Argyle, Tobago are involved in a “sou sou” that helps to encourage savings and provide financial support.
- Fondes Amandes Reforestation Project sells some of the seedlings from its nursery operations to bring income into the group.
- Cockpit Country Local Forest Management Committee produces bags, jewellery boxes, and other handicraft from banana leaves and sells them to raise money for the group.

Enhanced influence on key decision makers

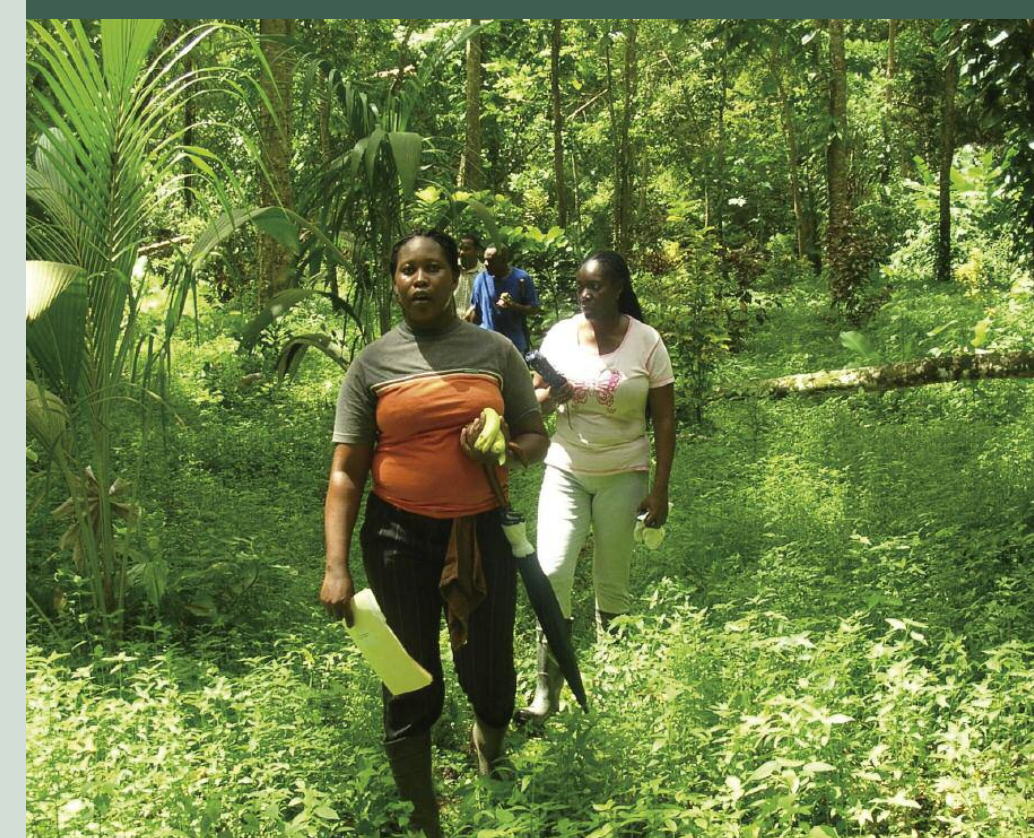
- Community members are able to speak directly with decision-makers in international and governmental agencies to get their point of view heard.

Better appreciation of culture and heritage

- The Maroon Community Group in Nevis educates people about how the maroons used the forest resources as an important part of Caribbean heritage.



Cockpit Country Local Forest Management Committee



National Reforestation and Watershed Rehabilitation Programme community group in Argyle



Keepers of the Environment member speaking directly with representative of an international organization