Participatory budgeting for forests
Project Status Update

Second Quarter is Here!

In the first quarter (January 1 to March 31, 2023), the technical study and political economy analysis (PEA) were completed. The success of the first quarter was only possible because of the commitment and involvement of members of the CSO Coalition for Forests including participation in the CSO Coalition workshop held on January 25, 2023, at the Alhambra Inn, Kingston, Jamaica. At the workshop, the findings of the technical study were reviewed and input given to incorporate into the final report.

Additionally, at the workshop the drivers and stakeholder relationships in the budgeting process for forests in Jamaica were mapped, and a strategy developed to guide the advocacy and action learning. These fundamental achievements have prepared the Coalition for its next critical stage of work – the advocacy training and action and learning activities slated for the second quarter.

Accomplishments Q1 (January–March 2023)
- Coalition workshop held January 25, 2023.
- Technical report on budgeting/PFM processes for the forest sector with recommendations finalised.
- Political Economy Analysis for suitable mechanisms for stakeholder engagement finalised.
- Advocacy approach and three action learning groups established.

Next steps Q2 (April–June 2023)
- April
  - CSO Coalition for Forests quarterly meeting.
- May and June
  - Online advocacy clinic for Coalition members.
  - Launch work by three action research and learning groups led by C-CAM, JCDT and STEA, and CANARI.
- June
  - Workshop to engage relevant government agencies in planning for the 2024/2025 budget cycle.
- Ongoing
  - Engagement and knowledge sharing by CSO Coalition for Forests.
Based on the literature review, participatory budgeting is seen as a means for:
- advancing democracy by increasing citizen engagement in government decision-making;
- helping marginalised citizens and communities increase the share of public spending that benefits them and addresses their needs; and
- in local settings as an element of devolved governance.

2. Comprehensive mapping of the Government of Jamaica’s annual budgeting process, as well as the process for accessing external funding for forest conservation, identified potential entry points for engagement by the Coalition.

3. The roles, responsibilities and interests of key stakeholders involved in the budgeting process for forest management and conservation and opportunities to potentially engage and collaborate with them were analysed (see Figure 1).

4. Key challenges are faced by CSOs to engage in forest budgeting processes, and the significant contribution that they are making to forest management and conservation may not be fully appreciated.

5. The strategic approach for the CSO Coalition was established:
   - Action learning: to gain skills and knowledge through gathering information, developing materials and building relationships to use for advocacy activities that feed back into learning.
   - Engagement with key stakeholders at multiple levels to influence.
   - Strategic timing to influence at key moments in the budget cycle.

Figure 1: An outline of the national budget cycle and opportunities for engagement by civil society.
Source: CANARI
Socialise with the CSO Coalition for Forests members!

Learn more about the project!

HTTPS://CANARI.ORG/GREEN-ECONOMY/JAMAICA-PARTICIPATORY-BUDGETING/

Meet the CSO Coalition for Forest Budgeting/PFM for forests

Volume 2
April 30, 2023

1. Caribbean Coastal Area Management (C-CAM) Foundation
2. Caribbean Natural Resources Institute (CANARI)
3. Caribbean Policy Research Institute (CAPRI)
4. Clarendon Parish Development Committee Benevolent Society
5. Cockpit Country North Local Forest Management Committee
6. Constitution Hill Local Forest Management Committee
7. Environmental Foundation of Jamaica (EFJ)
8. Hanover Bee Farmers’ Co-operative Society Limited
9. Jamaica Accountability Metre Portal (JAMP)
10. Jamaica Coffee Growers Association (JCGA)
11. Jamaica Conservation and Development Trust (JCDT)
12. Jamaica Environment Entrepreneur’s Advocacy Network (JEEAN)
13. Jamaica Environment Trust (JET)
14. Jamaica Organic Agriculture Movement (JOAM)
15. Local Initiative Facility for Urban Environment (LIFE)
17. Nature Preservation Foundation
18. Negril Area Environmental Protection Trust (NEPT)
19. Northern Rio Minho Local Forest Management Committee
20. Rise Life Management Services
21. Sawyers Local Forest Management Committee
22. Southern Trelawny Environmental Agency (STEA)
23. Spring Dunrobin Local Forest Management Committee
24. St. Thomas Environmental Protection Association (STEPA)
25. The Nature Conservancy (TNC)
26. The Sustainable Livelihood Network Ltd.
27. Watermount Community Development Committee