Participatory budgeting for forests

Project Status Update

'Participatory budgeting for forests' is a two-year project funded by the European Union. The project's objective is to enhance the awareness and capacity of the Jamaican civil society to engage in participatory budgeting and public finance management (PFM) for the local forest sector. The action is a novel approach intended to increase transparency and accountability throughout the budgeting process, assuring the sustainable management of ecosystem services and natural capital provided by forests.

Long-term sustainability is vital to the project's outcomes. Consequently, the activities aim to establish a national coalition for forests; access and disseminate new knowledge and build awareness through consultations, research and training; constructively engage policymakers through workshops, meetings and ongoing dialogue; conduct a technical study and political economic analysis (PEA) on forest budgeting, plan and implement action learning and an advocacy campaign. Work will focus especially on three sites: Blue and John Crow Mountains National Park, Cockpit Country Protected Area, and the Portland Bight Protected Area.

Project name:
Building civil society awareness and capacity to engage in participatory budgeting and financial management for the forest sector in Jamaica (Participatory budgeting for forests project).

Donor: European Union (FED/2021/428-620)

Timeframe: Dec 1, 2021-Nov 30, 2023

Project lead: Caribbean Natural Resources Institute (CANARI)

Project co-implementors: Jamaica Conservation and Development Trust (JCDT) and Caribbean Coastal Area Management (C-CAM) Foundation.

Highlights from the results for capacity assessment survey

- Coalition members operate at the community and national levels.
- ~75% involved or partnered with government agencies.
- ~83% never consulted during the budgeting process.

Capacity building targets

- Knowledge about national priorities for the forest sector.
- Knowledge about the process for national budgeting in the forest sector.
- Understanding of participatory budgeting approaches.
- Skills in advocacy.
- Competencies to value the contribution made by CSOs to the forest sector.

Other areas for suggested action

- Knowledge sharing and collaboration.
- Strengthening access to financial resources.
- Knowledge of government budgeting process and opportunities for engagement.
- Capacity to lead advocacy initiatives.
Established the national Civil Society Organisation (CSO) Coalition for Forests with 27 members working together to engage in collective analysis, advocacy and dialogue with key government agencies to promote the development of mechanisms for public finance management for the forest sector.

Workshop held in September 2022 on budgeting processes of the Forestry Department and National Environment and Planning Agency (NEPA).

Draft technical report produced on budgeting/PFM processes for the forest sector with recommendations.

Political Economy Analysis for suitable mechanisms for stakeholder engagement initiated.

Capacity assessment survey conducted with Coalition members and capacity building priorities identified.

Virtual webinars held:
- Priorities for management of the forest sector, November 2022, by JCDT and C-CAM.
- National budget process, December 2022, by JAMP.

Next Steps in 2023 Year 2

January
- Technical study and PEA workshop.

March/April
- CSO Coalition for Forests meetings.
- Initiate work with three action research and learning groups led by C-CAM, JCDT, and STEA.
- Virtual advocacy training.
- Develop stakeholder awareness and advocacy strategy.

June
- Engage NEPA and Forestry Department in planning for the 2024/2025 budget cycle.

Ongoing
- CSO Coalition for Forests engagement and knowledge sharing.
Meet the CSO Coalition for Forest Budgeting/PFM for forests

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December 31, 2022

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 (STEA)
25. The Nature Conservancy (TNC)
26. The Sustainable Livelihood Network Ltd.
27. Watermount Community Development Committee

Socialise with the CSO Coalition for Forests members!

Learn more about the project!

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