Participatory budgeting and financial management for the forest sector in Jamaica

PROJECT BRIEF

Background

The Government of Jamaica has undertaken a programme to strengthen its public finance management (PFM) to improve governance, accountability, fiscal control, efficiency and effectiveness in resource use. With support from the European Union (FED/2021/428-620), the Caribbean Natural Resources Institute (CANARI), in partnership with the Caribbean Coastal Area Management (C-CAM) Foundation and the Jamaica Conservation Development Trust (JCDT), will directly support this effort by focusing on participatory budgeting/PFM for the forest sector that will provide stakeholders a voice in the process and assurance that forest resources can continue to support their needs.

The project ‘Building civil society awareness and capacity to engage in participatory budgeting and financial management for the forest sector in Jamaica’ seeks to raise public awareness on PFM topics and to strengthen capacity of Civil Society Organisations (CSOs) to support the budgetary cycle. It will also mainstream gender considerations and contribute to using PFM as a tool to promote gender equality. The action will build capacity of a national coalition of at least 25 Jamaican CSOs to engage in collective analysis, advocacy and dialogue with key government agencies to promote development of mechanisms for participatory budgeting/PFM for the forest sector. This will enhance capacity, build readiness and catalyse continued action by key CSOs working in the forest sector to engage in strategic budget formulation, budget analysis and debate, budget execution and reporting, and evaluation for accountability.

Project in brief

Outcome: Strengthened citizen engagement in and support for sustainable management of forest ecosystems and biodiversity in Jamaica to benefit livelihoods, socio-economic development, and human well-being.

Objectives:

- Enhanced awareness and capacity of Jamaican civil society to engage in participatory budgeting and public finance management (PFM) for the forest sector.
- At least 25 CSOs will be engaged as part of a national civil society coalition advocating for and leading engagement in participatory budgeting/PFM for the forest sector.

Lead: Caribbean Natural Resources Institute (CANARI)

Co-implementors: Caribbean Coastal Area Management (C-CAM) Foundation, Jamaica Conservation Development Trust (JCDT)

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

Project country: Jamaica

Target sites: Portland Bight Protected Area, the Blue and John Crow Mountains, Cockpit Country (to be confirmed)

Budget: €290,065

Duration: December 1, 2021, to November 20, 2023

Project webpage: https://canari.org/green-economy/jamaica-participatory-budgeting/

Activities

1. Develop a national coalition of CSOs
   At least 25 CSOs will be engaged as part of a national civil society coalition advocating for and leading engagement in participatory budgeting/PFM for the forest sector.

2. Conduct study on budgeting/PFM processes for the forest sector
   Research will be conducted, and a technical report will be developed on budgeting/PFM processes for the forest sector. This will include identifying existing mechanisms and recommendations for potential opportunities for participatory budgeting/PFM approaches based on good practice in other countries, given that this is new to the Caribbean.

3. Conduct national capacity building workshops
   Capacity building workshops will be held for the CSO coalition members on participatory budgeting/PFM, with participation of key government agencies. At the end of the action, the coalition will be supported to develop its strategy for moving forward to encourage sustainability and impact of the initiative.
4. **Conduct action research and learning processes**
Action research and learning processes will be facilitated at Portland Bight Protected Area, the Blue and John Crow Mountains and Cockpit Country (to be confirmed). This will facilitate stakeholder engagement at the local level in participatory budgeting/PFM for the forest sector. Case studies will be developed documenting experiences, lessons and recommendations.

5. **Develop awareness and advocacy campaign**
An awareness and advocacy strategy will be developed identifying communication objectives, key target audiences, messages, products and pathways, and indicators for evaluation. This will provide the framework to guide development of tailored communication products and a collective campaign by the CSO coalition to raise awareness of key target audiences on the findings and recommendations developed for participatory budgeting/PFM for the forest sector.

**Target groups and beneficiaries**
The primary target group for the action is Jamaican CSOs which have interests, rights, and responsibilities in forest management, including co-management of forested protected areas, research, and conservation activities, or as advocates for forest sustainable management, conservation and restoration.

The secondary target group is public sector forest managers, policy makers and budget decision-makers. This includes two key government agencies managing state forested lands – the Forestry Department and the National Environment and Planning Agency (NEPA).

The final beneficiaries include direct forest users, the Jamaican public which is dependent on forest ecosystem services and see forests as part of their national cultural and ecological heritage, and government agencies managing delivery of services from forests to support national development.

For more information, please see [https://canari.org/green-economy/jamaica-participatory-budgeting/](https://canari.org/green-economy/jamaica-participatory-budgeting/) or contact Nicole Leotaud at nicole@canari.org

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