

**CANARI WORKSHOP
BUILDING CAPACITY FOR PARTICIPATORY FOREST
MANAGEMENT FOR GOOD GOVERNANCE IN THE
CARIBBEAN REGION**

**Knutsford Court
New Kingston, Jamaica
April 11th – 15th 2011**

**Report Submitted by:
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DAY ONE¹

The workshop was opened by Neila Bobb-Prescott Senior Technical Officer, Manager Forest and Livelihoods Programme and Manager Climate Change and Disaster Risk Reduction Programme.

Mrs. Bobb- Prescott, welcomed participants and introduced her co-facilitator Nicole Leotaud, Executive Director of CANARI. This was followed by the introduction of participants. Participants were drawn six Caribbean Countries included: Dominica, Grenada, Jamaica, St. Lucia, St. Vincent and the Grenadines and Trinidad and Tobago.

Mrs. Bobb-Prescott stated the objectives of the workshop are:

- Explain key concepts in participatory approaches to forest management;
- Apply key tools in facilitating participatory management:
- Demonstrate effective facilitation techniques;
- Identify key issues in forest management and governance which can be addressed through participatory approaches;
- Discuss lessons learnt on facilitating participatory forest management in the Caribbean islands from case studies and field trips;
- Input into the development of a tool kit on facilitation of participatory processes for effective forest governance in the Caribbean and;
- Contribute to developing a work plan for facilitation or co-facilitation of participatory processes in project countries

The topic that was covered on the first day was forest Governance and capacity needs, participants were placed in small groups to discuss their countries forest laws and outline their capacity needs. This was followed by the presentation of the group work in the afternoon. From the presentations it was concluded that there were similarities in all of countries governance situation in that where forest laws are present they lack regulation/ enforcement and this needs to be addressed if the laws are really supposed to be effective.

A number of capacity needs were indentified and were common among the countries present these included:

- Diverse Training of Forest officers to include other areas of Forest Management
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- Better equipment to more efficiently carry out task and
- More Human resources (Staff)

The session closed at 4.00 p m.

DAY 2

On day two we looked at Facilitating participatory forest Management, we received information on ***what is participation, the guiding principles of participation and the various types of participation***

We learned that participation in the natural resource context can be described as a process that:

- Facilitates dialog among all actors
- Mobilizes and validate popular knowledge and skills
- Encourage communities and their institutions to manage and control resources
- Seek to achieve sustainability, economic equity and social justice and
- Maintains cultural integrity

One thing I have learned from the above session is that an important focus in facilitating participatory processes is giving voice to stakeholders who are less powerful and may otherwise be marginalized from the process

The guiding principles of participation

We looked at some characteristics of effective participatory planning process these were They:

- Adapt the process to respond to emerging needs
- Respect the process and the decision reached
- Have active informed and equitable participation of all interested stakeholders through out the process

Under types of participation, seven types were identified, participants were then asked to share any real life experiences they have had and group the under the respective type of participation. The types of participation identified were:

- Manipulative - Participation is a pretense
- Passive – People participate by being told what has been decided or already happened
- Consultation – people participate by being consulted or asked questions
- Material incentive – people participate by contributing resources eg, labour for food
- Functional – people participate to meet goals, objective
- Interactive – participation is seen as a right, not just to meet goals
- Self mobilization – people participate by taking initiative independently

During the afternoon session we were introduced to a tool kit called facilitating participatory Forest Management for Forest Managers in the Caribbean. The tool kit contained five (5) tools:

1. Stakeholder Identification
2. Identifying key Stakeholder
3. Stakeholder analysis – rights, responsibilities, interest and capacity
4. Institutional Mapping and
5. Livelihoods analysis

We dealt with tools 1 and 2 this day during the afternoon session.

Tool one Stakeholder Identification

In tool one (1), we learned who is a stakeholder, the characteristic of a stakeholder based on their rights to, responsibilities for and interest in a resource and we reviewed who potential stakeholder could be in the Caribbean context.

The definition provided for a stakeholder are, individuals, groups or organizations that are involved in or may be affected by a change in the condition governing the management of a resource.

Typical stakeholders in forest Management include: Government agencies, Private sectors, CBO's, NGO's technical assistance agencies, academic institutions, media and donors.

Tool two Identifying key stakeholder

Key Stakeholders

Key stakeholder can be defined as stakeholders with the highest level of rights to, responsibilities or and interest in a resource, they are the key to the decision making process. Factors to take into consideration when identifying key stakeholders include: their purpose,

interest and mission, their level of power, the size of their stake and their capacity to be involved.

Tool three Stakeholder analysis – rights, responsibilities, interest and capacity

In this tool we were exposed to a number of ways to determine stakeholder's rights to, responsibilities for and interest in to resources for e.g Stakeholders have a right to resources if their livelihood depend on it, they have a responsibility for it if they derive economic benefits or well being from it and an interest in it if they have cultural attachment it.

The session Ended at 4.30 pm

Day three

Tool four, Institutional Mapping

The objective of this session was to analyze relationships among stakeholders, policies and laws in an institution.

During this session we looked at what is an institution, we reviewed the roles that an institution play in natural resource management and we broadly discussed institutional arrangements. The session started with a definition given for what is an institution.

We were provided with a definition for institution in the context of natural resources it is the collective governance arrangements for a natural resource, including the stakeholders involved as well as the laws, formal and informal policies, plans and structures that guide how the stakeholder interact.

Additionally we understood that institutional arrangement can be defined as the manner in which rights, and responsibilities over the use and management of the resources are distributed, regulated, and applied.

To better or further understand an institution we were looked at a football game, the team of players, the referee and the spectators are examples of the stakeholders involved.

We learned that Institution is different from organization, organizations are types of groups functioning within institutions. For e.g, The Forestry Department is an organization that functions within the protected area management institution.

We received information on how to analyzing power relations and relationships.

We were then presented with a case study document on the Fondes Amandes community, and were told to conduct an institutional mapping using a pyramid of decision making power. At the end of this exercise we learned new skills on how to conduct institutionally mapping and the various facts that we need to take into consideration to conduct institutional mapping.

In the afternoon we were placed into groups and spent the rest of the evening preparing for of team's presentation the following day.

The session ended at 4.00 p.m

DAY four, Field Trip to the HolyWell site.

On this field trip we were taken on a small tour of the Holywell site, where we learned of its day to day operations including management issues.

After the tour was ended, the various groups made their presentation on the five tools we previously learnt of during the first three days.

This process was participatory and the participants represented staff at the Holywell site and members from neighboring communities of Holy well.

Each group's presentation was evaluated by peers/participants and by the CANARI facilitators. Here we saw a number of strengths and areas for improvement identified.

The session ended at 4.30 pm.

DAY five

On the final day there was a debriefing on facilitation and tools application. Individual evaluation was done, where each participant spoke about their experience in the team planning and presentation that was done at Holywell.

We received further evaluation of the entire process from the CANARI facilitators.

We then went into country teams to prepare a work plan as we are expected to apply the tools in a participatory manner within our respective Countries. This was followed by the presentation of works plans and discussion.

Next steps

Ms. Bobb- Prescott informed that, a follow up meeting is scheduled where each country team would have make a presentation on the process which they have worked on, the group selected, outcomes and challenges. This meting is scheduled for Dominica during the third week of September 2011.

Conclusion

I have learned a lot from this workshop, having had the opportunity to participate I was exposed to a large number of knowledgeable and experienced individuals who work daily in Forest Management and community Forestring.

They brought a wealth of experience to the workshop and I am very great full to have been amongst such people.

My knowledge has increased and I have learned quite a number of new skills (the tools) in facilitation. I look forward to passing this knowledge on to members of CYEN.

We were given a file with information and this will be shared with members of CYEN and others.

One of the high points for me was the practical session on the day of the field trip. The group I was placed in dealt with identifying stakeholders we, had to apply what we were taught to persons we never met before in a way that would encourage their participation. This was challenging but possible.

We left Jamaica on Saturday 15th April 2011.

ⁱ Building Capacity for participatory forest management for good governance in the Caribbean region