



## RBC Blue Water Project grant for CANARI

**Port-of-Spain, Trinidad, Wednesday, May 15, 2013:** Members of several prominent community groups and non-governmental organisations came together recently to discuss the issues affecting their work in watershed management at a national workshop hosted by the Caribbean Natural Resources Institute (CANARI).

Watershed management integrates planning for land and water, taking into account both ground and surface water flow. It recognises and plans for the interaction of water, plants, animals and human land use found within the physical boundaries of a watershed.

The CANARI workshop, which was held at the NIHERST/NGC National Science Center, D'Abadie, forms part of a project that seeks to strengthen the capacity of community groups involved in watershed management in Trinidad and Tobago.

An RBC Blue Water Project™ grant of US \$30,000 to CANARI last year is funding this initiative. A second tranche will be made in 2013 for a total commitment of US \$60,000.

CANARI's project will be marked by a series of activities which will encourage community groups to share their experiences with each other and train groups to enhance and improve techniques in watershed protection.

Another critical element of the project is to help groups build public awareness of their role in ensuring we all have clean water to drink.

At the national workshop Neila Bobb-Prescott, Senior Technical Officer/Manager – Forest, Livelihoods and Governance Programme, CANARI outlined the scope of the project

In her address to participants she underscored the importance of informing the public about the role community groups played in watershed conservation.

“There is a lack of knowledge about the contribution of healthy watersheds to water quality and quantity. The work you do in the forest ensures that our watersheds are healthy and protected,” Bobb-Prescott said.

She added, “We need to be able to tell people about the importance of the work that you are doing in the forest. What you do ensures that the public gets a good water supply.”

Watershed protection programmes and projects that focus on the protection and restoration of sensitive natural areas, community-based watershed stewardship, sustainable water use and conservation or watershed awareness form part of the focus of the RBC Blue Water Project.

The RBC Blue Water Project is a wide-ranging, multi-year programme to help foster a culture of water stewardship, so that people have clean fresh water today and tomorrow. So far, we've pledged over CA\$42 million to more than 500 organizations and initiatives



Neila Bobb-Prescott speaks recently at a national workshop which focused on watershed management. Bobb-Prescott is the Senior Technical Officer/Manager – Forest, Livelihoods and Governance Programme, CANARI.

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