



CARIBBEAN NATURAL RESOURCES INSTITUTE

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Saint Lucia citizens' agenda for climate change

The Caribbean Natural Resources Institute (CANARI) is implementing a project in Saint Lucia that will catalyse action by civil society to counteract the negative impacts of climate change. This is being done in partnership with the Saint Lucia National Trust.

The project will help stakeholders from civil society to understand more completely how climate change will impact the forest, coastal and marine ecosystems, and to examine impacts on the livelihoods of the many Saint Lucians who depend on these ecosystems for goods and services, including coastal protection and erosion control on hillsides. The project will also help civil society to identify what it can do to participate in decision-making and action to adapt to climate change.

A national civil society consultation will be held in November 2011 in Castries, Saint Lucia with various stakeholders engaged in natural resource management and livelihood activities. The consultation will be based on the various policies and plans of the Saint Lucian Government, but will emphasise the role of civil society in identifying and dealing with climate change impacts. A civil society plan of action to address climate change in Saint Lucia will be developed.

Funding for this project was made available to CANARI by a grant of €25,000 from the Federal Republic of Germany. The funding agreement was signed at the German Embassy's Port of Spain office on September 6th 2011.

20th October 2011

For more information, contact Nicole Leotaud at 1-868-626 6062, nicole@canari.org or info@canari.org



Fig. 1: Senior Technical Officer, Neila Bobb-Prescott, and CANARI's Executive Director, Nicole Leotaud, signed the agreement with Stefan Schlüter, Ambassador and Ulrich Kinne, Counsellor, Deputy Head of Mission at their office in Port of Spain, Trinidad

About CANARI

The Caribbean Natural Resources Institute is a regional technical non-profit organisation which has been working in the islands of the Caribbean for more than 20 years. Our mission is to promote equitable participation and effective collaboration in managing natural resources critical to development. Our programmes focus on research, sharing and dissemination of lessons learned, capacity building and fostering regional partnerships.



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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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NEWS RELEASE

Saint Lucia Civil Society Coalition to address Climate Change

Climate change isn't waiting... it's happening now! We must act now!

These were the sentiments expressed by representatives of civil society organisations in Saint Lucia, who gathered on November 22-24, 2011 to hammer out a civil society agenda for climate change. The group also committed to the formation of a 'Civil Society Coalition for Action on Climate Change' to promote the agenda which was presented to government representatives on November 25th 2011. Among this group was the Head of the Sustainable Development and Environment Division, Mr. Crispin d'Auvergne, who left soon afterwards to take part in global climate talks in Durban, South Africa.

This agenda was formulated through a participatory process facilitated by the Caribbean Natural Resources Institute (CANARI) through discussions and analysis of: main climate change impacts experienced in Saint Lucia, understanding of stakeholder rights, responsibilities and interests, information sharing on the work being undertaken by civil society groups to address climate change impacts, and plans to deal with climate change that are set out in the Saint Lucia National Climate Change Policy and Adaptation Plan (2003). More information on the process and discussions that were hosted is on CANARI's Facebook page.¹

The groups examined the effects of climate change impacts, which, through their cross-cutting nature threaten the health, well-being and daily lives of all Saint Lucians. Priority areas which emerged for attention are: water resources, food security, livelihoods and culture, biodiversity, infrastructure and coastal and marine resources. These will be tackled by civil society groups through on-the-ground work, collaboration and advocacy, through their newly formed coalition. As a next step in their action-oriented approach to this issue, groups will convene again in January at a meeting hosted by the Saint Lucia National Trust. For more information on the upcoming meeting, please contact the Saint Lucia National Trust at 758-452-5005 or email: natrust@candw,lcc.

¹ <http://www.facebook.com/pages/Caribbean-Natural-Resources-Institute/159735514051858>