



Piloting community-based management planning for the sustainable use of forest resources in Trinidad and Tobago

Fist workshop report

Brasso Seco Visitor Centre, Brasso Seco, Trinidad

7th February 2012

1.0 Introduction

In 2011, the Government of the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago approved a new Forest Policy giving stakeholders the opportunity to participate in management of the nation's forests. There are many communities engaged in forest-based livelihoods in Trinidad and Tobago, but none have attempted to develop a formal plan to sustainably manage the use of the resources on which their livelihoods depend. In addition, there is an absence of formal forest management plans developed by the Government.

The United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization has provided a grant to CANARI to implement a pilot project for the formulation of a community-based site plan for sustainable use of forest resources in Trinidad and Tobago. CANARI is working with the Forestry Division (FD) of Trinidad and Tobago to undertake this pilot project in the community of Brasso Seco in the northern range of Trinidad.

2.0 Objectives of Workshop

The objectives of the workshop were to:

- introduce the project to residents of the community of Brasso Seco;
- identify forest resources in the Brasso Seco community that are important for maintaining their livelihoods;
- facilitate the selection of the site for the execution of the project; and
- draft a work plan for the project.

3.0 Participants

There were eleven participants most of which were members of the Brasso Tourism Action Committee (TAC) and one representative from the Farmers Association and one from the Village Council. Appendix 1 is a listing of participants.

4.0 Methods

A variety of methods were used to facilitate the workshop. These included an ice breaker, lectures and probing questions to facilitate discussion. The workshop agenda is provided in Appendix 2 and the presentations in Appendix 3.



Photo 1 Brasso Seco TAC member participating in the ice breaker.

5.0 Findings

5.1 *Potential project sites*

Five areas were identified as possible project sites. These were:

- Brasso Road
- Brasso Seco Trail
- Marianne River
- Paria Bay Trail
- Madamas Road
- Mt. Bleu Range

5.2 *Agreed selection criteria for project sites*

- Important to livelihoods in Brasso Seco
- Accessibility (due to the short duration of the project the area chosen had to be close and easily traversed)
- Must have plans for projects or existing projects in the area
- Area should be featured or markets on Brasso Seco TAC's website

5.3 *Listing of forest resources in one selected project site*

Brasso Road was selected as the project site and the following were suggested as resources:

- Cocoa house
- Leased forested land
- Forest trees of cultural importance
- Wildlife
- Hiking trail
- Agroforestry plots

5.4 Draft work plan for development of the forest management plan

ACTIVITY	RESOURCES	RESPONSIBLE PARTNER	DATE	DURATION
Preliminary visit/ training in the field	GPS units, first aid kits, water/ refreshments	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Mobilise 8-12 people to work (Brasso Seco TAC) Provide resources (FD) 	10 th February 8:00 a.m.	5 hours
Collect data, GPS, photos, video	GPS units, first aid kits, water/ refreshments	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Mobilise 8-12 people to work (Brasso Seco TAC) Provide resources (FD) 	8 th , 15 th and 17 th February	5 hours
Update session	Workshop kit	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Mobilise community to attend (Brasso Seco TAC) Provide resources (FD) Prepare agenda and materials (CANARI & FD) 	7 th March	3 hours
Data analysis	Workshop kit	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Mobilise community to attend (Brasso Seco TAC) Provide resources (FD) Facilitate (FD) 	Early March	3 hours
Final workshop	Workshop kit	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Mobilise community to attend (Brasso Seco TAC) Provide resources (FD) Prepare agenda and materials (CANARI & FD) 	Late March	3 hours

6.0 Evaluation

All workshop objectives were achieved. The workshop participants found that the workshop was informative and said that the project was appropriate to their needs at this time. They also commended the facilitators on the approach and expressed how excited they were to launch into full implementation of the project.



Photo 2 Forestry Officer, Raynaldo Phillips facilitating the work planning session

7.0 Conclusion

The approach used enabled the participatory development of the project work plan and contributed to stimulating interest and in some instances excitement about the project.

Appendix 1- Listing of participants

Name	Organization	Telephone number	Email
Francis Francois	B.S.T.A.C	759-6095	
Carl Fitzjames	B.S.T.A.C	493-4358	carlfitzjames@hotmail.com
Eddie Hill	Village Council	487-0869	
Raymond Pereira	Farmers Association	491-5873	
Lester Fuller	B.S.T.A.C	472-1120	
Lisa Hernandez	B.S.T.A.C	487-4978	
Gail Harford	B.S.T.A.C	722-7798	
Elaine F Phillip	B.S.T.A.C	667-4376 or 715-5953	junglequeenxena@live.com
Camille Lewis	B.S.T.A.C	728-4771	
Doinille Mansingh	B.S.T.A.C		
Melanie Bastaldo	B.S.T.A.C		
Raynaldo Phillips	Forestry Division		Raynaldo.phillips@gmail.com
Neila Bobb-Prescott	CANARI		neila@canar.org
Vashima Bhimsingh	Forestry Division		
Avita Maharaj	Forestry Division		

Appendix 2 - Workshop agenda

Piloting community-based management planning for the sustainable use of forest resources in Trinidad and Tobago

Workshop agenda
Brasso Seco Visitor Centre, Brasso Seco
7th February 2012

1:45- 2:00 p.m.	Registration	FD
2:00 – 2:10 p.m.	Prayer	FD
	Welcome and introductions Objectives and overview of meeting	CANARI
2:10 - 2:40 p.m.	Introduction to project	FD
2:40 – 4: 30 p.m.	Selection of site	CANARI/FD
4:30 – 5:00 p.m.	Drafting work plan	FD
5:00 – 5:30 p.m.	Evaluation, closing remarks, way forward and closure	CANARI

Appendix 3- Presentations

Introduction to Project

- Title - *piloting community-based forest management planning for the sustainable use of forest resources by a selected community of Trinidad and Tobago*
- Background
- Outputs
- Activities
- Duration and Timing
- Monitoring & Progress Reporting

Background

- FAO Funded
- CANARI contracted
- Forestry and CBO partners
- A new forest policy
- Forest-based livelihoods
- Objective: *to pilot community-based forest management planning for the sustainable use of forest resources by a selected community of Trinidad and Tobago*

Outputs

- Report on initial workshop
- Report on progress of field work and preliminary analysis of data
- Site management maps
- Interactive digital maps describing how resources will be sustainably used by community
- Final report including lessons learnt and recommendations

Activities

- Host an introductory and planning workshop
- Conduct field training – data collection methods and use of gps
- Host an update workshop – present finding thus far
- Host final workshop – present analysis of data
- Document the process, lessons learnt and experiences

Duration and Timing

- 3 month Jan-Mar 2012
- Schedule to be worked out with community

Monitoring and Progress Reporting

- By FAO Forestry Officer
- By FD, State Lands & Green Fund



The End