



## **Civil society action to address climate change in Tobago**

---

**Laventille (CANARI) 22 August 2012** – Civil society groups in Tobago will soon be building their awareness and sharing their experiences in addressing climate change, through a 3-day workshop which will produce a civil society agenda to tackle this global issue in the island. This activity will be facilitated by the Caribbean Natural Resources Institute (CANARI), through the support of grant funding from the Federal Republic of Germany.

This workshop will utilise a three-dimensional model of Tobago, facilitated by the Caribbean Natural Resources Institute (CANARI), the University of the West Indies, the Tobago House of Assembly, Division of Agriculture, Marine Affairs, Marketing and the Environment, the Partners with Melanesians (PwM), and the Technical Centre for Agricultural and Rural Cooperation (CTA), developed with input of over 200 residents of Tobago. .

Civil society action is a key mechanism for promotion of effective action on climate change, through public education, advocacy and collaborative efforts. In the course of the workshop, participants will examine and discuss some of the strategies for action set out in the National Climate Change Policy. They will present and discuss how their own efforts fit in with national priority sectors and areas of concern requiring priority attention and action.

The project replicates an exercise conducted by CANARI in Saint Lucia in November 2011 (<http://www.canari.org/ccddr3.asp>) that was also supported by funding of the Federal Republic of Germany. That activity generated interest and feedback in response to a draft civil society agenda document that was presented to government officials. It is hoped that the activity in Tobago will build the capacity of civil society to participate in decision-making and action to address the negative impacts of climate change on natural resources and associated livelihoods.

On Wednesday 22 August 2012, officials of the German Embassy in Trinidad and officers from CANARI undertook the formal signing of the contract to undertake this project.

### 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 and facilitate equitable participation and effective collaboration in the management of natural resources critical to development in the Caribbean islands, so that people will have a better quality of life and natural resources will be conserved, through action learning and research, capacity building, communication and fostering partnerships.

**For further information, please contact:**

Celeste Chariandy - Manager, Climate Change and Disaster Risk Reduction Programme  
Caribbean Natural Resources Institute at [celeste@canari.org](mailto:celeste@canari.org)

**Submitted on 24 August 2012**



Counsellor Ullrich Kinne signs the technical assistance agreement together with CANARI staff at the Embassy of the Federal Republic of Germany in Port of Spain.



CANARI receives a signed copy of the technical assistance agreement to undertake the project in Tobago.

*Left to right: **Britta Salecker**, First Secretary and **Ullrich Kinne**, Deputy Head of Mission and Counsellor (both of the Federal Republic of Germany in Port of Spain), **Nicole Leotaud**, Executive Director CANARI and **Celeste Chariandy**, Senior Technical Officer CANARI.*