



## **Tobagonians to build model of Tobago to plan for impacts of climate change and extreme climatic events**

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***Laventille (CANARI) 21 September 2012*** –Residents of Tobago will start building a three-dimensional model of Tobago on Friday 28th September at the Blenheim Sheep Multiplication Research Project in Mt. St. George. The model will contribute to formulating responses to the impacts of climate change and extreme climatic events.

Five secondary schools (Bishop's High School Tobago, Scarborough Secondary, Signal Hill Secondary, University of West Indies Open Campus and Roxborough Secondary) have committed to assisting with building the model. Other participants will include the Tobago Cocoa Farmers, Roxborough Police Youth Group, Anse Fomage, Mary's Hill Community Group, Speyside Fisherfolk, Save Our Sea Turtles, Charlotteville village council and members of the Belle Garden community inclusive of the village council and the fisherman's association.

The process will be facilitated by the Caribbean Natural Resources Institute (CANARI), the University of the West Indies (UWI), the Tobago House of Assembly, Division of Agriculture, Marine Affairs, Marketing and the Environment (DAME) and the Partners with Melanesians (PwM). The project is funded by the Technical Centre for Agricultural and Rural Cooperation (CTA) and the United Nations Development Programme and the Global Environment Facility (GEF) Small Grants Programme (SGP).

The project will pilot, for the first time in the region, the use of participatory three-dimensional modelling. Participatory three-dimensional modelling is a tool that can be used across the Caribbean islands to facilitate effective participation by local communities and other stakeholders in the identification of general policy priorities, as well as specific policies and actions needed on the ground at the landscape and site level to address the impacts of climate change and extreme climatic events. This tool will allow inclusion of relevant knowledge (including traditional / indigenous knowledge), increase capacity, facilitate coordination and collaboration across sectors, and build buy-in for implementation of plans for resilience to climate change and extreme climatic events.

In this regard, 22 trainees from the region (including five from Tobago) will be trained to facilitate the building of the model, and nearly 50 observers from the region will visit during the construction of the model. Lessons learned and experiences will be documented and shared using a variety of media including participatory video, blogs and policy briefs.

### 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:**

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