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Knowledge Network

Report on the Adaptation: Rapid Institutional Analysis (ARIA) Phase II Research Meeting with Civil Society Organisations

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1 Introduction

The Saint Lucia National Trust (SLNT), together with the World Resources Institute (WRI) and the Caribbean Natural Resources Institute (CANARI), has undertaken a research project to assess climate change adaptation readiness in Saint Lucia and Trinidad and Tobago. The project seeks to address the need for civil society engagement in policy and institutional analysis for climate change adaptation and will involve pioneering the use of the WRI's *Adaptation: Rapid Institutional Analysis* (ARIA) toolkit in the Caribbean. The specific objectives of the project are:

- (i) to facilitate and support participatory research by civil society on climate change adaptation policy, institutions and actions;
- (ii) to analyze the current state of policy, institutions and actions;
- (iii) to identify high-priority and low-cost “next steps”;
- (iv) to influence policy and adaptation processes;
- (v) to catalyze, facilitate and support opening of decision-making processes and action to greater participation of civil society; and
- (vi) to develop island-specific approaches to vulnerability assessment.

This project is being funded by the Climate and Development Knowledge Network (CDKN).

On July 2nd, 2013, the SLNT hosted an informational meeting with civil society organisation representatives on the use of the ARIA toolkit. The toolkit aims to enhance access to environmental information, public participation, and access to justice in national-level climate change adaptation with the goal of improving the quality of adaptive actions by the Government of Saint Lucia, the private sector and the general public. This current meeting, facilitated by the Trust, followed the one held in July 2013.

A complete list of participants¹ and the meeting agenda² are appended to this report.

Meeting Proceedings

2 Welcome and Introductions

Mr. Bishnu Tulsie, Director, Saint Lucia National Trust, welcomed the participants to the proceedings.

3 Brief Overview of the Project

The Director provided the purpose of the meeting and gave a brief overview of the project. Participants were informed about the broad-based nature of the research to develop civil society awareness about climate change. Some of the key findings, listed below, from the Phase I assessment were also shared with the group.

Key findings from the ARIA Phase I Assessment:

¹ Appendix 1 – List of meeting participants

² Appendix 2 – Meeting Agenda

- There are a plethora of undertakings related to climate change in St. Lucia, but all within the confines of the Government.
- There are projects and programmes on climate change and climate change related activities, however the information is not being disseminated widely enough.
- Activities are not based on the needs of the civil society but on the needs of the donors providing the resources/funding.

4 Principle 10: Access Rights

SLNT Communication and Advocacy Officer, Mrs. Karetta Crooks-Charles, made a presentation to participants on *The Access Initiative: The Latin American and the Caribbean Declaration on Principle 10*. This meeting was seen as an opportunity to inform civil society organisations about Principle 10 and to help citizens obtain information and participate in decision making.

The Latin American and the Caribbean (LAC) Declaration on Principle 10 is a political commitment made by Governments in the region to work to change the current status of decision making processes. The Declaration seeks to ensure that all people in LAC have a say in the environmental decisions that directly impact them. To date, fifteen (15) countries of LAC have joined. Saint Lucia has not signed onto the Declaration, but it is anticipated that they would sign in the not too distant future.

Signatories of the Declaration met in November 2012, and agreed on a road map to ensure full implementation of Principle 10. A Declaration Steering Committee was approved and is comprised of the governments of Chile, Mexico and the Dominican Republic. In April 2013, the Steering Committee agreed on an Action Plan that would be implemented during 2013-14. Civil Society was included in this process as many of the environmental decisions made by governments directly impacted them. It is anticipated that the Civil Society Coalition will encourage the government of Saint Lucia to sign onto Principle 10.

Technical support is being provided by the Secretariat for the LAC Declarations on Principle 10, United Nations Economic Commission of Latin America and the Caribbean (UNECLAC).

5 Training on ARIA Phase II Workbook Utilising the three Priority Areas Identified

An introduction to the ARIA Phase II Workbook was given, utilising a priority area to demonstrate the use of the workbook, with the caveat that the quality for the indicator should be measured and not the indicator. Discussion ensued on "Quality 3" to identify whether to use the term "assessment" or "assessment development" within the document. The consensus was to delete the word "development" and the quality would be on the "assessment".

Participants found the exercise very informative as it gave them insight into the structure of the workbook and the level of the research to be conducted to complete the exercise.

Following the review of the workbook, an overview of the report outline was presented to participants. The report template included a summary of the report, the methodology used in conducting the research, key findings and recommendations.

6 Identify Researchers and Timelines to Conduct Phase II Research

The floor was opened for civil society organisations to identify one of the three priority areas "Food Security", "Freshwater Resources" and "Livelihood and Culture" to work on. Following discussions regarding the research to be conducted, the following assignments were agreed to:

- | | |
|-----------------------------|---------------------------------------------|
| (1) Food Security | - Saint Lucia Agriculture for Youth (SLAFY) |
| (2) Freshwater Resources | - Trust for the Management of Rivers |
| (3) Livelihoods and Culture | - Laborie Development Foundation. |

7 Role of the Advisory Panel

A presentation highlighting the role and responsibilities of the Advisory Panel was given. The Advisory Panel will, *inter alia* provide a technical review of the findings; identify and advise on relevant communication pathways and products for effective transmittal of these findings to pertinent audiences and provide feedback on the selected Priority Areas for research in Phase II.

The functions of the Advisory Panel are to propose products for communication of research findings; participate in processes (including virtual meetings, etc.) as needed to facilitate and/or contribute to discussions on research findings; and contribute to building the credibility of the outputs of the research and encourage implementation of the findings.

8 Civil Society Coalition

One of the outcomes of the 2011 Civil Society Agenda on Climate Change meeting was the establishment of a Civil Society Coalition for Action on Climate Change. This Coalition, which garnered support at the 2011 meeting, had not made much progress since then. In the absence of a formal brief, a short presentation was made to the group identifying challenges such as a proliferation of ideas and concepts that created bottlenecks, and "turf" which people sought to protect and defend that resulted in compartmentalizing, instead of making work easier.

Participants were informed that by establishing the Ministry of Sustainable Development, the government intended to promote a participatory process in relation to the environment that would impact on the marginalized and invisible. The meeting was further informed that the Coalition would co-opt the marginalized to participate in its activities. Also, the Coalition would be established within a formal structure to interact on various matters, including financial arrangements, with other agencies, such as the Global Environment Facility Small Grants Programme (GEF SGP). The Coalition should write about topics for dissemination and should not have a political stand. It would need to explain to the public the basic concepts on environment such as climate change; sustainable livelihoods; and science and technology innovation in parallel with various government initiatives. It is anticipated that the government would partner with the Coalition on the various topics for meaningful information dissemination.

9 Next Steps

It was agreed that confirmations of each group's willingness to conduct the research would be submitted to the Trust on October 23rd, 2013, following which arrangements for signing of contracts would be done. The deadline for submission of the first draft on research is the end of 1st week of December 2013. Upon receipt, reports would be forwarded to the Advisory Panel for review and comments and the Panel's feedback to the researchers will be incorporated. The revised reports would then be submitted to the Trust for dispatch to the CANARI and WRI offices.

10 Conclusion

The Director thanked all for their participation and revisited the timelines for the groups' confirmation to undertake the research, and for submission of the reports.

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Appendix 1

LIST OF PARTICIPANTS

NAME	ORGANISATION
Anita James	Consultant – Phase 1 Researcher
Augustine Dominique	Laborie Development Foundation
Dr. Donates St. Aimee	CAPSICUM
Jeannine Compton - Antoine	Soufriere Marine Management Association Inc.
Hilary LaForce	Folk Research Centre – Saint Lucia
Marcia Haywood	CARITAS Antilles
Karetta Crooks - Charles	Saint Lucia National Trust
AtheniasVerniulle	Trust of the Management of Rivers
Sharmine Melville Edwin	St. Lucia Agriculture Forum for Youth
Murlina Murray	Saint Lucia National Trust
Shirlene Simmons	Saint Lucia National Trust
Bishnu Tulsie	Saint Lucia National Trust

Appendix 2

MEETING AGENDA



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Analyzing Climate Change Policy and Institutions in Saint Lucia and Trinidad and Tobago: Piloting a Caribbean process

Phase II Workshop with Civil Society Organisations

October 18th, 2013

9:00am

KOKO KREOLE RESORT, RODNEY BAY, GROS - ISLET

AGENDA

1. Welcome and Introductions
2. Overview of the ARIA project
3. Principle 10: Access Rights
4. Training on ARIA Phase II workbook utilizing the 3 Priority Areas identified
5. Identify researchers and timelines to conduct Phase II Research
6. Role of the Advisory Panel
7. Civil Society Coalition – Dr. D. St. Aimee
8. Next Steps