



CANARI: Capacity Building for Resilient Societies

Franklin McDonald, CANARI Elected Partner & Visiting Scholar, York University

**“Globalization, Climate Change and Rural Resilience:
The Challenge of Sustainable Development in the Caribbean and Beyond”
International Conference | 9 – 11 May 2012 | Mona, Jamaica**

Sir Arthur Lewis Institute of Social and Economic Studies (SALISES)
Fifty-Fifty: Critical Reflections in a Time of Uncertainty



CANARI

- The Caribbean Natural Resources Institute is a regional, non-profit organisation which has worked in the Caribbean islands including the English and Dutch Overseas territories and the French Departments) for over 20 years
- CANARI's mission: To promote equitable participation and effective collaboration in managing the natural resources critical to development



CANARI Governance

- CANARI is legally managed by a Board under the Companies Act, but in practice operated as a Partnership between Elected Partners (Board members) drawn from all over the region and senior staff.
- CANARI collaborates closely with CANARI Associates (former employees that contribute to the Programmes of CANARI) and has a full-time staff of 9 persons.



CANARI's work

CANARI main **Thematic Programmes** are:

- Forests and Livelihoods
- Coastal and Marine Governance and Livelihoods

It also carries out work in 4 **Issue Programmes**:

- Civil Society and Governance
- Climate Change and Disaster Risk Reduction
- Green Economy
- Rural Livelihoods



CANARI's work

CANARI's work in these programme areas is carried out using the elements of :

- Action Research and Learning – incorporates identifying gaps, developing and implementing projects and examining lessons learned
- Communication – public education, networking, horizontal and vertical sharing of experiences
- Capacity Building – working with stakeholders



Rural Resilience

- CANARI's strategic action research and learning has identified gaps in knowledge and policy which inhibit growth in rural resilience
- In the area of climate change, for example, there is a disconnect between scientists and policy makers, and policy makers and communities which leave key stakeholders vulnerable to the impacts of climate change



Rural resilience

- CANARI's ability to work across all sectors and at all levels enables networking, stakeholder engagement and genuine participation
- Capacity needs to be built and communication needs to be improved to facilitate resilience-building



Examples of CANARI's work

Building capacity of rural stakeholders for entrepreneurial activities based on sustainable use of natural resources (March 2011)

Trinidad & Tobago



Capacity-building workshop and Community Expo





Examples of CANARI's work

Sharing of experiences and transfer of information and lessons learned, contributing to effective collaborations and the sustainability of livelihoods



Community groups sharing experiences in forest-based projects at Chateaubelair and Georgetown community caravans in St. Vincent



Examples of CANARI's work

Engagement of stakeholders for novel communication:

Regional Workshop on climate change communication

Saint Lucia



*Participants in workshop perform at Laborie Market, Saint Lucia
- Photo credit: I. McLymont-Lafayette*



Examples of CANARI's work

- Building capacity to assess vulnerability: Collaborative work with the Red Cross Society in Mayaro, Trinidad (coastal community)
- Formulation of tools: Climate Smart Community Disaster Management Handbook for the Caribbean Disaster and Emergency Management Agency (CDEMA)





Examples of CANARI's work

3-day workshop to develop a Civil Society Agenda to address Climate Change in Saint Lucia

Civil Society groups shared experiences and observations and identified areas of vulnerability in development of the agenda.





Rural resilience and climate-proofing of livelihoods

UNDP GEF SGP-funded one-year pilot project with a vulnerable community in Trinidad and Tobago (2012)

<http://www.canari.org/ccddr4.asp>.

- Project will increase awareness, guide community self-assessment of livelihood vulnerability, develop and initiate a resilience building plan.
- Includes documentation of process and lessons learned via participatory video and photo journals.
- Builds capacity of key stakeholders in tools for participatory ecosystem management and the development of effective response strategies.



Other work to be undertaken in climate change

- Will establish Action Learning Groups on Climate Change Communication and Climate Change Adaptation
- Has MOU with the Caribbean Community Climate Change Centre (5Cs) to lead on the development and implementation of the public education and outreach communication plan of Regional Implementation Plan



Rural resilience and participatory management

Participatory management of natural resources is critical to this sustainability, however different Caribbean islands are at different stages of incorporating this governance model, e.g.:

- Jamaica: formalised participatory management of forests
- Trinidad & Tobago: management committees in some protected areas



Rural resilience and Green economy

- Dialogue begun on Caribbean Green Economy
- Action Learning Group has been established
- A Policy Brief has been developed
<http://www.canari.org/documents/CANARIGrEcoPB13-2012final.pdf>



CANARI's GE Policy Brief 13

- Need expressed for new economic model
- Resilient/greener more secure, equitable, participatory path desired
- GE aims at long-term prosperity
 - Equitable benefit sharing
 - Effective management of eco-resources
 - Viable, resilient, self-directed
- Opportunities / Convergence / Synergies favouring GE exist
- Need exists for ongoing dialogue



GE Foundations

- Shared vision
 - Human security / equity
 - Good governance, transparent, fact based, interactive systems
 - Engaged, informed citizenry
 - Engaged groups (youth, minorities etc.) and mobilised civil society
 - Commitment to integration / Pan-Caribbean cooperation

 - Build through GE Action Learning Group (CANARI open to dialog / partners)
- See <http://www.canari.org/greeneconomy.asp>



CANARI Policy Brief 13

Opportunities

- Learn from / scale up best practices
- Integrated development planning approach
- Regional trade / political networks
- Negotiate agreements that add to / reinforce resilience
- Include incentives for sustainability



CANARI Policy Brief 13

Opportunities

- Move production / industries up value chain
- Diversify (services/export) markets
- Build innovative local (niches)
e.g. our diaspora/culturally connected
- Normalise business continuity across (CS + PP)
sectors to cope with shocks / CCA



CANARI publications

1. Towards a green and resilient economy for the Caribbean, CANARI Policy Brief No.13: 4pp
<http://www.canari.org/documents/CANARIGrEcoPB13-2012final.pdf>
2. Building capacity to facilitate stakeholder participation in forest management in the Caribbean islands, CANARI Policy Brief No. 12: 5pp
http://www.canari.org/documents/12Buildingcapacitytofacilitatestakeholderparticipationinforestmanagement_002.pdf
3. Communicating Climate Change – A toolbox for local organisations in the Caribbean
<http://www.canari.org/documents/CommunicatingclimatechangeAtoolboxforlocalorgansationspdf.pdf>



Contact Information

**Caribbean Natural Resources Institute (CANARI)
Building 7, Fernandes Business Centre
Eastern Main Road, Laventille
TRINIDAD, W.I.**

Tel: (868) 626-6062

Fax: (868) 626-1788

e-mail: info@canari.org

Website: www.canari.org



Thank you

Gracias

Merci

franklin.jmcd@gmail.com