

THE TRUST FOR SUSTAINABLE LIVELIHOODS

Work Programme Summary: 2007-2010

Context

Caribbean communities have utilized and continue to depend on wetland, coral reef and forest goods and services. Despite management interventions, much of these resources have not been used sustainably. There is still a large discrepancy between commitments and action among government departments and NGOs; in part, due to severe cutbacks in funding to public agencies, and a lack of, or inadequate capacity to mobilise resources and to implement targeted strategies. Hence, the Trust's approach will be to help build capability within these organisations and targeted communities through the provision of technical and financial assistance.

To address the causes of natural resources degradation in the Caribbean we shall promote sustainable management in the context of improved livelihoods for our communities, through engagement of key stakeholders. We shall develop or assist in the development of policy, programmes and projects relevant to people's priority needs.

Over the next three years our efforts will focus on :

- Training
- Awareness Building
- Wise Use of Natural Resources
- Environmental Governance
- Fund Raising

The mechanism for implementation of the work programme will involve:

1. Networking among and partnering with institutions, NGOs and CBOs in the region.
2. Formulation and implementation of projects through direct technical assistance and financing.
3. Performance review and project evaluation
4. Participation in local, regional, and international meetings and workshops.
5. Participation in advisory bodies.

Training

Training activities for clients will be facilitated using either Trust personnel or other organizations. Areas of emphasis will include:

1. Project design, preparation and implementation
2. Project monitoring, evaluation and reporting systems
3. Forest, wetland and coral reef resources evaluation and management.
4. Environmental impact assessment and impact mitigation design.

Awareness Building

Awareness building will have two major components. Firstly, some stakeholders need to become more aware of the implications of their impacts on natural resources before a change in practice can be encouraged. Secondly, some stakeholders need to become more aware of how sustainable benefits can be derived by alternative uses of their natural resources. Key activities will be to:

1. Raise stakeholders awareness on environmental/developmental issues and the role they could play in improved management and the benefits that could be derived.
2. Build institutional awareness on national obligations under international agreements and opportunities for implementation.
3. Suitably package and disseminate relevant information

Wise Use of Natural Resources

Wise use of natural resources requires an evaluation of the best option for providing sustainable benefits for key stakeholders. The Trust will focus on the following areas:

1. Protected areas management and the development of sustainable livelihood opportunities for communities living in or near protected areas.
2. Impact assessment and impact mitigation design.
3. Forest, wetland and coral reef resources evaluation and management.
4. Brokering and developing collaborative arrangements between land-owners and CBOs/NGOs/communities for mutual use/benefits.

Environmental Governance

Many government agencies are unaware of their obligations under international agreements or are under-resourced to adequately perform the required tasks. Interventions proposed by the Trust will include:

1. Building institutional capacity to discharge national obligations under international agreements, including monitoring of compliance.

2. Engaging key stakeholders in governance issues and the development of good governance.

Fund Raising

Most NGOs in the region have become dependent on foreign and local donors for their year-to-year existence. Financial independence requires a guaranteed long term source of income that can meet recurrent and development costs. The Trust will pursue sustainable financing through development of its identity and strategic fundraising to include:

1. Maintenance of website
2. Revise and implement fundraising strategy
3. Establishment of a Trust Fund.
