



Participatory approaches to ecosystem restoration in the Caribbean

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Caribbean Natural Resources Institute - CANARI



Mission

CANARI promotes and facilitates stakeholder participation in the stewardship of natural resources in the Caribbean.

CANARI is a non-profit, technical institute operating across the Caribbean since 1989.



People with whom we work/partner

- Resource users/nature-based enterprises in rural communities
- Community-based and other civil society organisations (CBOs & CSOs)
- Academic institutions
- Donors, technical assistance organisations
- Government and intergovernmental agencies



Often function as an intermediary for CBOs and CSOs



Participatory approaches in the context of natural resource management (Renard and Valdés-Pizzini 1994)

- facilitates dialogue among all actors;
- mobilises and validates popular/local knowledge and skills;
- encourages communities and their institutions to manage and control resources;
- seeks to achieve sustainability, economic equity and social justice;

More attention of the value of this approach towards success and sustainability of restoration initiatives



Presentation focus



Examples of recent CANARI restoration projects



Highlight tools and resources



Less of a technical focus



Best practices/guidelines for ensuring a participatory approach or supporting community led restoration.



Recent restoration projects

- [Strengthening nature-based enterprises and livelihoods in support of the GEF-IWECO project](#) -
- Nature based enterprises (e.g. beekeepers associations, tour guides, nature parks) and CBOs supported for ecosystem stewardship (including restoration), climate proofing.
- Support through mentoring, business strengthening, organisational strengthening, and microgrant funding to enable them to do technical work.
 - Ecosystem stewardship/restoration part of a package/model of support
 - How is the restoration project relevant to their needs e.g. natural resources for their businesses, disaster protection- long term success of the initiative.
 - How the activities can be tailored to meet their needs. Influences the choice of species e.g. more fruit trees rather than forest species



Hanover Bee Farmers Association (Jamaica)





Recent restoration projects

- IAF funded - [Empowering civil society and local communities to build resilience to hurricanes and climate extremes in the Eastern Caribbean.](#)
- [USFS NICAR program- Ecosystem restoration to build Caribbean resilience to climate change.](#)



Barbuda Fisher's Association

Enhancing mangrove restoration to build local resilience in Codrington Lagoon, Barbuda

1. Aerial assessment of mangrove in Codrington Lagoon
2. Additional clean up of mangrove to support natural regeneration and monitoring
3. Stakeholder awareness



Environmental Awareness Group (Antigua)

Microgrant financing **PLANT** invasive
species removal on Redonda -
Managing Guinea Grass
(*Megathyrsus maximus*)

Soil solarization- Patches of guinea
grass were covered and monitored





Best practices for effective participation





Project design

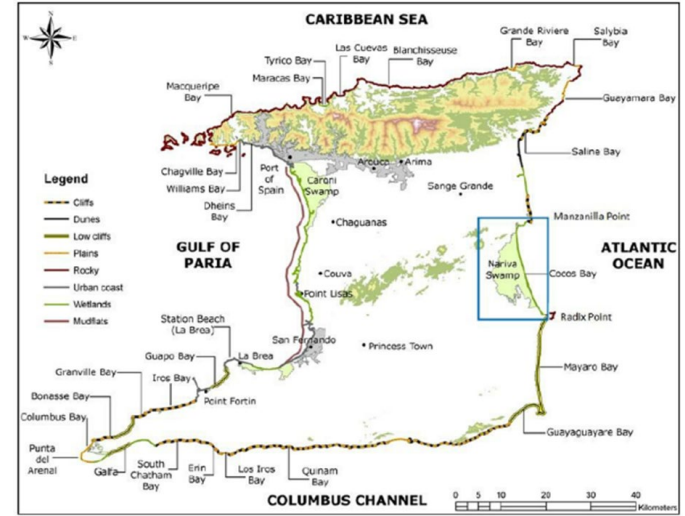
- Local stakeholders must be involved in design of the restoration project
- Prioritize the needs and interests of the community and tailor projects, focusing on long-term benefits
- Allotting sufficient time for community engagement consultation and dialogue prior to project activities - investing additional time for planning, timing, and preparation





Local knowledge: citizen science

- Capture local knowledge and perspectives e.g. community mapping/Participatory GIS
- Complemented by technical research/expertise e.g. University researchers and Gov't technical agencies







Mentoring, coaching, capacity building to enable effective participation.

- Small size of CSOs and absorptive capacity – limited staff, time, resources
- Role of intermediary organisation –
 - Approach is very time intensive; needs to be managed and resourced properly
 - Frequent check-ins
 - Recognise personal challenges e.g. health
 - On the ground mentors/advisors
- Need to strengthen/support the organisation overall e.g. financial management – receiving/managing funds
- Creating mechanisms and opportunities for continuous engagement - face-to-face interactions, formal and informal meetings, involvement in training and directly in implementing activities
- Valuing their time- Offering compensation or cost supplementation for work- timing of meetings.





Ensure on the ground local technical and organisational support for effective participation

- Technical support and coaching for project development and implementation, including adaptive management
- Local technical experts with understanding of local context (Forestry Division etc.)
- Mentors who provide general support and coaching
- Sourcing and using technical support/advice from external experts
- Building partnerships with national and international institutions to enhance technical capacity





Community mobilisation

- Understand context and leverage community resources
- Need to conduct stakeholder identification and analysis
- Use of local mobilisers, community champions
- Timing of meetings e.g. early evenings
- Advertising meetings through mic/megaphone on a moving vehicle





GIS story map on civil society and community-led ecosystem restoration work in the Caribbean

- Civil society and community led ecosystem restoration in the Caribbean region
- Synthesises lessons, recommendations and best practices intended to further guide restoration work in the Caribbean
- enhance awareness and recognition of actions by local communities and civil society organisations (CSOs) in restoring and protecting critical ecosystems.
- It draws from experiences, knowledge and lessons from complementary projects implemented CANARI under its Biodiversity and Ecosystems and Resilience programmes, as well as wider inputs from Caribbean stakeholders and practitioners working in this area.



GIS story map on civil society and community-led ecosystem restoration work in the Caribbean

<https://storymaps.arcgis.com/stories/c329c8350b6b4b829147205cc1fb5960>



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in Caribbean Small Island Developing States*

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Thanks!

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