

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Table of contents		i
Acronyms and abbreviations		iii
1.0 Opening Session		
1.1 <i>Welcome</i>	<i>Dr. P. Francis</i>	iv
1.2 <i>Opening remarks</i>	<i>Mr. A. Creighton</i>	v
1.3 <i>Remarks - GFC</i>	<i>Mr. J. Singh</i>	vi
1.4 <i>Remarks - CARICOM</i>	<i>Mr. S. Lawrence</i>	vii
1.5 <i>Remarks - UG</i>	<i>Ms. R. Urlin-Knights</i>	ix
1.6 <i>Remarks - FAO</i>	<i>Mr. C. Eckelmaan</i>	xii
2.0 Executive Summary		xv
2.1 Objectives of the Consultation		xvii
3.0 Country Profile Presentations		
3.1 Antigua and Barbuda		1
3.2 Barbados		3
3.3 Dominica		5
3.4 Guyana		9
3.5 Jamaica		14
3.6 St. Lucia		17
3.7 Trinidad and Tobago		20
4.0 Group Presentations		
4.1 Group 1 Presentation		24
4.2 Group 2 Presentation		29
4.3 Group Discussion		
4.31 <i>Mode of Communication</i>		35
4.32 <i>Steering Committee Representation</i>		
4.33 <i>Location of Regional Centre</i>		36
4.34 Action Plan		
4.4 Closing Remarks		

5.0 Appendices

5.1	Appendix 1 - Group Discussion Questions	37
5.2	Appendix 2 - List of Participants	39
5.3	Appendix 3 - Budget for the Regional Centre	41

ACRONYMS AND ABBREVIATIONS

CANARI	Caribbean Natural Resources Institute
CARICOM	Caribbean Common Market
CARISEC	CARICOM Secretariat
CIDA	Canadian International Development Agency
CLA	Caribbean Lead Agency
COTED	Council for Trade and Economic Development
DFID	Department for International Development
ECIAF	East Caribbean Institute of Agriculture and Forestry
EU	European Union
FAO	Food and Agriculture Organization
GDP	Gross Domestic Product
GSA	Guyana School of Agriculture
GTZ	Gesellschaft für Technische Zusammenarbeit
IIBC	Institute for International Business
IITF	International Institute of Tropical Forestry
ITTO	International Tropical Timber Organization
NGO's	Non-Governmental Organizations
NMRU	Natural Medicine Research Unit
OECS	Organization of Eastern Caribbean States
RTP(A)	Regional Transformation Programme (Agriculture)
UG	University of Guyana
UNFF	United Nations Forum on Forests
USAID	United States Agency for International Development
USDA	United States Department of Agriculture
UWI	University of the West Indies
WWF	World Wildlife Fund

1.0 OPENING SESSION

1.1 WELCOME – Dr. Patsy Francis

The Opening Ceremony was chaired by Mr. Godfrey Marshall, Project Director, Forestry Training Centre.

Dr. Patsy Francis, Dean of the Faculty of Agriculture and Forestry, University of Guyana, welcomed participants to the two-day workshop and stated the objectives of the workshop:

- (a) Review the status and needs of the regional stakeholders and prepare guidelines for the development of a regional forestry research management and development strategy.
- (b) Establish a Regional Steering Committee
- (c) Establish the Centre for Forestry Management and Development

Dr. Francis gave a brief historical background on the project, stating that the Faculty of Agriculture and Forestry, University of Guyana, was given a mandate to coordinate the establishment of such a Centre in the Region, and that the Faculty has been committed, along with its partners, to the process. Dr. Francis also said that an Interim Steering Committee which had been in place for the last three years considered issues important to forestry in the CARICOM region. The activities of the regional steering committee were fully supported by CARICOM and more specifically by Mr. Sam Lawrence, Advisor, CARICOM.

Dr. Francis charged the participants to start by promoting forestry in the region. She further stated that the world must know that the forestry sub-sector is important to our economies and to the well-being of the world. She also said that regional stakeholders must continue to fight to place forestry and allied industries on the map, and that ways must be sought to involve young people in this process.

1.2 OPENING REMARKS – MR. AL CREIGHTON, VICE-CHANCELLOR (ag.), UNIVERSITY OF GUYANA

Mr. Creighton informed the participants that the University was very pleased to hear that the Caribbean Community has designated the Faculty of Agriculture and Forestry as lead training institution for tertiary forestry education in the Caribbean. He also pointed out that the activities of this Consultation served as a catalyst towards moving the process forward. Mr. Creighton firmly believes that the Faculty can provide forestry training in both the Guyanese and regional context.

Mr. Creighton emphasized the value of partnership and stated that the Regional Forestry Consultation hosted by the Faculty and other stakeholders is as a result of such partnership. He assured participants that the University of Guyana valued its friends with whom it can work in partnership.

Mr. Creighton urged the Faculty, and more specifically the Forestry Department, to take advantage of the opportunity for institutional strengthening and to move forward with the fortification of its programmes. He cautioned of the impending regional competition from other extra-regional Universities and encouraged greater marketing of forestry training programmes by the University of Guyana for the entire Caribbean Region.

He also asked the Faculty to take advantage of the opportunity to build on the impetus and goodwill of partners. He observed that the goodwill is made even sharper because of the exercise being currently conducted over the two days. The University has placed great expectations on what they hope will come out of the Faculty because it is one of the most progressive Faculties in terms of the aggressive nature in which they pursue research.

Mr. Creighton suggested that the Faculty should strive to introduce post-graduate programmes to the PhD level because research and post-graduate studies go hand-in-hand. He believes that there are enough human resources in Guyana to mount these programmes at the University. He also said that the University now has a partnership with the University of the West Indies where the use of laboratory facilities can be negotiated. Mr. Creighton gave the Faculty the mandate to move forward with its role as lead agency.

1.3 REMARKS – MR. JAMES SINGH, COMMISSIONER, GUYANA FORESTRY COMMISSION

Mr. James Singh spoke on behalf of the Minister responsible for Forestry, the Honorable Mr. Harripersaud Nokta. Mr. Singh gave a brief insight into the state of Guyana's forestry sector. He said that Guyana has always been blessed with a rich tropical forest. Utilization of these forest resources provides employment for many, and many hinterland communities are very dependent on the forest for their livelihood.

The forestry sector has been contributing at least 4 – 5 % of the GDP for the past five years. As Guyanese, we are committed to ensuring that the utilization of our forest resources is done in an environmentally-friendly manner. As such, the Guyana Forestry Commission is responsible for the management of the state forest estates. Several guidelines have been developed to assist this sector to reach its local and international obligations. These include the Code of Practice for Forestry Operations and Guidelines for Forest Industries. These guidelines are available on the Guyana Forestry Commission's website.

Guyana also has in place National Forest Policy and State Forest Legislation. The sector is dependent on competent, trained personnel who can interpret and implement these guidelines, and thus ensure that utilization is done in an efficient, competent and beneficial manner. This is where the Guyana Forestry Commission look towards training institutions such as the University of Guyana, the Guyana School of Agriculture and the Forest Commission Training Centre for assistance. There are also several NGOs such as IWOKRAMA, WWF, and Conservation International which provide training in specialized areas.

An independent consultancy done for the International Tropical Timber Organization has listed Guyana as one of the six countries that have taken significant steps to implement sustainable forest management at the level of forest concession.

Mr. Singh urged participants to take advantage of training facilities offered by Guyana, take advantage of the many guidelines that Guyana has produced and to feel free to adapt them to their specific needs. He said that Guyana is well-represented at many international forestry fora such as the International Timber Trade Council, and many of the countries represented at this Consultation are members of the Council. Many issues are currently being debated at these fora which have great implications for all of us. He sees the developing countries at a serious disadvantage because of our debt burdens and our specific socio-economic problems. Therefore, it is important that we attend these meetings with a unified approach and a common voice. He urged participants to use occasions such as this consultation to address issues that are currently being debated in forestry, and to arrive at common positions.

1.4 REMARKS – MR. SAM LAWRENCE, ADVISOR, CARICOM

The CARICOM Secretariat deems it a pleasure to be associated with Forestry Stakeholders consultation and I convey the Secretary General's warmest greeting and his profound wish that the consultations will be successful and the outcome there from will further enhance the integration of the Caribbean Community. The Secretariat adds to the welcome extended to all participants and in particular those from the various Member States.

The University of Guyana, Faculty of Agriculture and Forestry should be congratulated and the community owes the University of Guyana a debt of gratitude for their leadership and efforts in thriving to bring the Forestry sector of the region in line with the spirit of Caribbean integration. It is expected that the consultation will seek to establish a mechanism whereby the region's Forestry resources will be exploited and managed in a manner that will make these regional resources sustainable.

There is full recognition of the difficulty experienced in the process of Caribbean integration due mainly to the territorial separation, and long history of not working together but we at the Secretariat recognize that our common bonds outweigh all the difficulties that may seek to keep us separate and with efficient use of modern telecommunication technologies we are more together than apart.

It is necessary to provide an overview on the CLA and the background to this consultation. When the Heads of Government Conference in 1996 adopted the RTP for Agriculture as the strategic framework to promote and implement the Region's Agricultural Policy as set out in Chapters 56 thru 62 of the Revised Treaty they so provided a mechanism to co-ordinate the development and implementation processes that mechanism was the CLA. It involves the naming of different regional agricultural agencies/institutions as Lead Agency for specific Thematic areas such as..... The major problem was and still is that the institutions/agencies were never provided with the resources to effect the development/ implementation activities consequently the poor or at worst the non implementation of the RTP for Agriculture.

The non implementation or slow implementation of the RTP(A) gave rise to the necessity for a new initiative to drive the transformation process in Agriculture. Using the old CLA mechanism The U of G decided to mobilize resources to jump start the process in developing a strategy for the development and management of the regional forestry resources which has resulted in this our first consultation.

These few remarks would be incomplete if it did not raise a few specific issues associated with the developmental needs of the forestry industry in the region and which certainly will be considered in the deliberations during the consultation:

Regional integration of the Forestry Industry – as a regional resource requires that consideration must be given to:

- The total inventory of the regional forestry resources to present the regions supply and demand position to make the sector consistent with the Single Market concept; and positioning the region in the context of the international market disregarding our size.
- The inventory of the potential for development of the Region's Forest Sector – Information is not readily available on how many hectares of our idle land resources can be subjected to economic afforestation, but it maybe necessary to start at that point of collecting the information which I hope will come out of the Country Profiles.
- The preparation of a regional strategic Forestry development plan as composite of national strategic plans and presented as part of the regional strategic sustainable development. (Eco tourism)
- Fourthly the evaluation of the potential of forestry to contribute the improvement of the environment (watershed protection, reduction in global warming and stability in global climate change).
- Integration of the Private in the development, marketing and management of the Forestry Resources.
- Lastly, but of great importance, the forestry sector as a rural development tool.

These are only a few ideas without any supporting technical or statistical base, but I am quite aware that as you the participants/technicians take on the task ahead of you over the next few days the technical response will be forthcoming based on available statistics along with implementation and a coordinating mechanism.

This leaves me only to encourage the participants and wish for us all a successful consultation.

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1.5 THE ROLE OF THE UNIVERSITY OF GUYANA IN FORESTRY RESEARCH, MANAGEMENT & DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMMES

Ms. R. Urlin-Knights

The National Forestry Action Plan states that “all development in the forestry sector is contingent on the availability of trained human resource”. For almost two decades the University of Guyana has been providing the forestry sectors locally and regionally with forestry professionals. The year 1987 marked the commencement of tertiary forestry education at the University of Guyana with the introduction of the Diploma in Forestry Programme at the Turkeyen Campus. In 1996 the University initiated the Bachelor of Science Degree in Forestry Programme, the first of its kind in the English speaking Caribbean. During the 90’s there was also the development of a Master of Science in Forest Biology through collaborative efforts with the University of Guyana, the University of Utrecht Netherlands and the Tropenbos Guyana Programme.

Forestry education is crucial for the achievement of sustainable forest management and development goals nationally and regionally. The University of Guyana is responsible for addressing the forestry sectors’ needs for formal education and training. The University must ensure the development of training capacity and improvement of delivery to provide forest sector personnel skilled, trained and educated to nationally and regionally recognized standards.

In 1996 as part of CARICOM’s Regional Transformation Programme for Agriculture, the University of Guyana was identified as Lead Agency for Forest Management and Development in the Region. The initial approach adopted by the University in addressing this mandate involved coordinating and strengthening forestry education and training initiatives in the region. To this end the following was accomplished:

- i) The curricula for the BSc. and Diploma Forestry Programmes were revised to meet the needs of local and regional stakeholders.
- ii) Post graduate training for staff at the University was provided.
- iii) The University of Guyana was endorsed by CARICOM countries as Lead Institution for Forestry Education in the Region.
- iv) A new building was established at Turkeyen Campus through support from the Department for International Development (DfID) to house a Forestry Resource Centre.
- v) Field sites were provided by the Guyana Forestry Commission for formal training activities.
- vi) Forestry Training Needs and Capacity Analysis were conducted for Guyana and the Caribbean Region.
- vii) A two-day workshop titled, “Forestry Education and Training in the Caribbean Region – Towards a Regional Network,” was held in 2002 by the University of Guyana. The objectives of the workshop were:
 - a) To share information on the status of forestry education and training in the region.

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- b) To identify competency and knowledge requirements of employers of forestry graduates in the region.
 - c) To identify areas of collaboration and linkages among training institutions and to explore the feasibility and basis for a regional forestry education and training network.
- viii) In recent times the University of Guyana has restructured its Forestry research activities to support regional forestry research needs. Staff members from the Forest Services in St. Lucia and Trinidad and Tobago have been trained by the University and have undertaken their research projects in their home country while others have conducted theirs in Guyana. These projects included an analysis of factors affecting the natural regeneration of commercial species in St. Lucia.

Staff members have also been involved in on-going research. Projects include:

- a) A Comparison of the drying rates of local timber species using air drying versus solar energy, aimed at improving the quality of furniture produced by small manufacturers.
- b) A Taxonomic documentation and Economic Evaluation of Edible Mushrooms in Guyana aimed at providing alternative sustainable livelihood options for indigenous communities.
- c) A mangrove conservation study designed to investigate the quality status of mangroves and compare it with that of optimal levels required for proper growth.

Having addressed Forestry Education and Training Initiatives in the Region the University of Guyana in its capacity as Lead Agency expanded its focus and in May 2002 at the 13th Meeting of the Council for Trade and Economic Development I was privileged to present on behalf of the University a paper titled, "Forestry Management and Policy Initiatives for the Caribbean. Four core areas that could be of benefit to the Caribbean were identified, namely:

- a) Ecotourism
- b) Biodiversity Conservation
- c) Watershed Management and
- d) Forest Industries

The third and perhaps most important step taken by the University since being designated Lead Agency is this very Regional Forestry Stakeholders Consultation which is the result of the diligent planning of an Interim Steering Committee comprising of staff from the Faculty of Agriculture and Forestry, the local forestry sector and CARICOM. The theme of this two-day consultation is Harmonization of Forestry Management, Research and Development Programmes. Key objectives of the consultation are the Establishment of the Caribbean Centre for Forestry Research,

Caribbean regional consultation on forest research, management and development, University of Guyana, Georgetown, Guyana, 25-26 July 2006

Management and Development and the selection of a Regional steering committee to coordinate the activities of the centre.

The University must ensure as Lead Agency that the Centre conducts research work relevant to the development of the forestry sectors needs in region. Immediate needs include an assessment of the regions forestry resources. On a management level UG must ensure that regionally there is promotion of good land use practices and the provision of technical assistance to develop appropriate land use and forest policies.

Programmes must be developed to address the needs of the core areas identified.

In order to function effectively as Lead Agency the University will have to receive support from the private sector, Ministries of Agriculture & Forestry, Research Organizations such as CARDI and other regional organizations.

The development of the Master of Science Degree in Forest Resource Management and Development must be forwarded and introduced into the forestry programmes at UG.

There must be closer collaboration with other Universities in the region notably the University of the West Indies.

Staff members from the University of Guyana must receive training at the PhD level in order to contribute more effectively to research work being undertaken in the region particularly in areas of biodiversity conservation, watershed management, ecotourism, economic evaluation of forest, and ecosystems management.

In concluding it is my sincere hope that the deliberations of this two-day workshop will improve our understanding of the status and needs of forest management and research in the region so as to aid the development of more structured programmes to meet these needs.

1.6 An Overview of the Forestry Sector in CARICOM Countries and FAO's Support towards closer Regional Cooperation in Forestry

By Claus-Martin Eckelmann
FAO Regional Forestry Officer
FAO Sub Regional Office for the Caribbean

The forestry sector in the CARICOM countries is characterized by two very distinguished groups or countries.

Island countries on one side have little of their original forest cover remaining. With the exception of a few countries for example Dominica, in general less than 30 % of the total land area is covered with forest. The population density on islands is rather high and most of the forest was cleared to be used for agriculture. Especially in the smaller islands forest utilization is confined to small scale artisanal timber harvesting and the use of the forest for ecotourism activities. In general the focus of forest management on islands is more oriented towards the protection of critical watersheds and for the provision of potable water.

On the other side the continental CARICOM countries have a rather low population density with large tracks of remaining forests and limited pressure to convert existing forest to agricultural land. The main objective of forest management is for timber production and throughout the continental countries there is a strong emphasis to increase the production of value added forest products and to reduce the export of unprocessed round wood.

Despite these differences a commonality within the English speaking CARICOM countries is that most of the forest is in public ownership.

The disparity in the distribution of forest resources within CARICOM offers the opportunity for economical synergies among CARICOM countries. The island countries import more than 90 % of the wood and wood products and most if it is from outside the Caribbean. However there is still a considerable potential to increase the sustainable production of lumber and wood products in the continental countries. Up to today only few timber species are traded and exported (80 % of Guyana's wood exports is made up by only two timber species) while many of the lesser known timber species are neither harvested nor exported; mainly because they are not known on the market and there is little demand for them.

To encourage the sustainable use and trade of lesser know timber species would assist the island countries to reduce their import bill for wood products and will open additional employment and business opportunities in the continental countries.

The production and export of the traditional agricultural crops of the Caribbean such as sugar or bananas reduced considerably over the past years and a further decline is likely to happen. As a result of this process agricultural land is no longer cultivated and in many CARICOM countries it can be observed that land formerly used for agriculture reverts back to bush and later forest. While these voluntary forests protect the soil against erosion and land degradation and the older these forests get they will harbor an increasing number of plant and animal biodiversity they can not be considered productive as far as timber production is concerned. Ecologically sound forest plantations management will provide similar advantages like the naturally regenerated forest but will be economically more profitable. Worldwide it is expected that timber resources will continue to diminish and it may be advisable to reduce the very high dependency on foreign wood imports of the Caribbean islands. The following figures may serve as examples to highlight the situation. The Forestry Department in Jamaica identified 67000 ha of land with the potential for reforestation; most of it is marginal land in private ownership. An FAO study for St. Vincent indicated that with 1500 ha of forest plantations the country could be almost self sufficient with regards to its wood imports.

In addition to forest land the main requirement for sustainable forest management are human resources. The need for well trained human resources begins at the level of forest workers and spans to senior forest managers. Because of the limited size of the forestry sector in all CARICOM countries the training of forest personal should be offered and coordinated in a regional context. Trinidad and Guyana have well established forest training institutions and the exchange of expertise and students should be facilitated further. Because of the rather small number of professional foresters in the Caribbean an increased movement of forest managers throughout the Caribbean including the relevant government departments may lead to a better and more efficient use of human resources within the Caribbean and will certainly be beneficial for the forestry sector in the Caribbean.

1

The Forestry Commission of Latin America and the Caribbean is the forum to discuss forestry issues at the regional level. The Forestry Commission can best be described as the forestry parliament for the region. It is the highest international forestry forum and it is organized and supported by FAO. The Forestry Commission is organized in four sub groups one of which is the Caribbean Subgroup; this group embraces all CARICOM countries.

The work programme of the Caribbean Subgroup is defined at the biannual forestry commission meetings and all the Directors of the national forest administrations of the regions are invited to attend.

The work plan for the Caribbean Subgroup identified the following main thematic areas of common interest

- Communication, exchange and management of information
- Forest fire management
- Forest research

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- Development of a methodology to validate environmental services in relation to forest

The Caribbean Subgroup agreed to implement its work programme in small regional working groups. The purpose of the smaller working groups is that the cooperation will be more focused if it concentrates on countries with similar ecological and social background.

Presently three working groups are established:

1. Small and medium English-speaking island states: Jamaica, St. Kitts & Nevis, Antigua & Barbuda, Dominica, St. Lucia, St. Vincent and the Grenadines, Grenada, Trinidad & Tobago, Barbados.
2. Countries with extensive forest cover: Belize, Guyana, French Guyana, Suriname.
3. Spanish and French speaking islands: Cuba, Dominican Republic, Puerto Rico – (USA), Haiti

Defining these working groups is not exclusive. The participation in any regional activity will depend on the interest of the respective country. Countries from different sub-regional groupings participated in past regional workshops and meetings of other working groups.

This is to say that the CARICOM countries with the Caribbean Subgroup of the Latin American and Caribbean Forestry Commission already have a regional mechanism to discuss and coordinate a common approach to support the forestry sector in the Caribbean and FAO is committed to continue its support for this important regional forestry forum.

2.0 EXECUTIVE CONSULTATION SUMMARY

Caribbean regional consultation on forest research, management and development, University of Guyana, Georgetown, Guyana, 25-26 July 2006

2.1 Objectives of the Consultation:

- (i) Review the status and needs of regional stakeholders
- (ii) Prepare guidelines for the development of a regional forestry research, management and development strategy including the Centre for Forestry Research Management and Development.
- (iii) Establish a Regional Steering Committee