

Semi- Annual Report of the CNIRD/PISLM
Support Office
for the
National Focal Points of the Partnership
Initiative on Sustainable land Management.

January 2nd – June 30th, 2010

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St. Augustine, Trinidad & Tobago

Introduction

The Partnership Initiative for Sustainable Land management PISLM was developed as a result of the National Focal Points of the United Nations Convention to combat Desertification recognizing the need for a systematic approach for the implementation of the UNCCD in Caribbean SIDS and the call from the Forum of Ministers for Partnering initiatives.

The PISLM was developed in support of combating land degradation in Caribbean SIDS by assisting country parties in the implementation for the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification. At the 10th Latin American and the Caribbean Regional UNCCD the Caribbean represents the conceptual framework of the Caribbean Sub-Regional Action Programme for the coordination of new and existing initiatives. The PISLM was also designed to be an integral part of the Caribbean SIDS Programme, to provide a framework for addressing the land management components of the BPOA and the M-S/BPOA in Caribbean SIDS.

To facilitate the implementation of the PISLM, an institutional structure was established consisting of a Sub-Regional Task Force and a Network of the UNCCD Focal Points supported by a Support Office.

The Support Office for the PISLM is hosted by the Government of Trinidad and Tobago through the Caribbean Network for Integrated Rural Development based on the recommendations of the Sub-Regional Task Force which recognized the need for the establishment of a support unit to coordinate the activities of the PISLM.

The second Sub-Regional Task Force Meeting was convened in Grenada 12-13 January 2010 with the primary aim of approving the two year rolling working of the PISLM Support Office and identifying possible funding sources for the implementation of the activities of the approve work plan.

The following is a report of activities of the Support Office for the period January to June 2010.

JANUARY 2010

1.1 The Annual General Meeting for the PISLM Task Force took place in Grenada, January 12th - 13th, 2010 at the national Stadium conference facilities. This meeting was attended by the members of the Regional Task Force. The Sub Regional Task Force Meeting was divided into three segments:

- I. Submission of various reports
- II. The Finalization and approval of a 2-year work plan for the Support Office
- III. The identification of potential funding for the activities of the approved Work Plan.

The two day meeting was chaired by the acting NFP for Belize Mr. Denis Gonguez. The meeting was conducted in plenary format and decisions were made via consensus.

Members who were invited to AGM of the PISLM Task Force Meeting included Bahamas, Belize, Barbados, Cuba, Dominica, Grenada, Guyana, Haiti, Jamaica, St. Kitts and Nevis, Trinidad and Tobago, FAO, UNEP, GM/UNCCD, CARICOM Secretariat, UWI, CNIRD and the St. Elizabeth Environmental Protection Association.

The primary objective of this meeting was to bring together governments, regional economic integration organizations, inter governmental organizations and civil society organizations and other partners to identify ways to propelling the PISLM forward and strengthening the network among stake holders to sustain this initiative.

The AGM of the PISLM Sub Regional Task Force began with a formal opening ceremony, where the Permanent Secretary Mrs. Vida Victor Bruno of the Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries, Government of Grenada, gave the featured address.

This was followed by a report from the PISLM Support Office entitled “Year End Report of the PISLM Support Office for 2009”. This document was presented by the Director of CNIRD Mr. Calvin James.

Some pertinent issues which were addressed included:

- I. The consideration for the **hiring a coordinator** for the PISLM Support Office, since at present the Director of CNIRD carries out the said Function. The Task Force agreed that the present staff complement of the PISLM Support Office be ratified and that the Director of CNIRD serve as coordinator of the PISLM Support Office in the short term while commitment from other partners is sort for the hiring of a coordinator.
- II. The **successful completion of the Belize Project**: This project was launched in August 2009 and was completed in December 2009. The objectives of the project were to contribute

to the sustainable development of the MAYA Golden Landscape thereby reducing the level of poverty that exists in this region and to initiate integrated agro- forestry and eco tourism.

- III. The **report of the NFP Meeting held in St. Lucia:** On November 16th-20th, 2009 the Integrated Financial Strategies meeting sponsored by the GM and UNDP, brought together some of the UNCCD NFP's. The Director of CNIRD met with these NFP's to discuss ways in which the Support Office may assist in lending capacity to the mainstreaming process.
- IV. The **drafting of a two year work plan tabled by the Support Office:** This work plan was presented to the Task Force, amendments were made and final draft approved by the Task Force. The Task Force then identified possible sources of funding for the activities identified in the work plan.

1.2 The Director of CNIRD Mr. Calvin James attended the Regional Conference on the Treatment of Labour in International Trade. This conference was held on 28th-29th January, 2010 at the Grand Barbados Beach Resort Barbados. This conference was hosted by the Caribbean Policy Development Centre in Barbados and the Government of Canada.

The conference was the first of three components under the project and had specific objectives. The objectives were to facilitate informed dialogue among relevant stakeholders on the issue of how to treat labour in trade agreements and to build consensus for a regional position, which would inform the negotiation of trade and labour agreements.



The conference was attended by close to ninety participants from across the region, including Barbados, Guyana, Trinidad and Tobago, and St. Lucia, St Kitts, Nevis, Belize, St. Vincent and the Grenadines, Antigua and Barbuda, Dominica, Jamaica, Suriname, Brazil, the Bahamas. There were also participants from the United States and Canada. The participants represented a wide and varied cross section of interests which comprised of employers organizations, labour movements, government (trade and labour) ministries as well as nongovernmental organizations.

1.3 Whilst at this conference the Director took the initiative to meet with the affiliate member of the Caribbean Policy Development Centre to kick off the **Your Change for the Environment** project. He made a presentation about what this project entailed and solicited the support of the members of CPDC to act as an advisory board to this project. The members agreed to be the advisory board and will act on the bases of formulating policies and approving the operational guidelines for the Your Change for the Environment.



“Your change for the Environment”



1.4 The members of the Board for the Your Change for the Environment include:

- Caribbean Network for Integrated Rural Development (CNIRD)
- Caribbean Policy Development Centre (CPDC)
- Caribbean Youth Environmental Network (CYEN)
- Windward Island Farmers Association (WINFA)
- Barbados Association for Non Governmental Organization (BANGO)

FEBRUARY 2010

2.1 The official launch of the CNIRD/ PISLM website was unveiled. The website contains information for both sectors. This included blogs, gallery, forums, resources, etc. All PISLM National Focal Points and officials were added to the E-Group.

To view the website: <http://www.cnirdregional.org>

MARCH 2010

- 3.1 The Caribbean Policy Development Centre (CPDC) invited CNIRD as one of their Coordinators and organizing committee members to attend the 1st and 2nd Regional training workshop for both newly established and older established National Working Committees on Trade (NWCT). These workshops are scheduled to take place from the 2nd- 6th March, 2010 in Georgetown, Guyana.
- 3.2 The Director of CNIRD whilst in Guyana took the opportunity to meet with the various associates of PISLM. These included the representative from FAO, Mrs. Lystra Fletcher Paul, and the PISLM National Focal Point for Guyana Dr. Doorga Persaud, the UNDP representative Mr. Trevor Benn. Mr. James also held discussions with Dr. Edward Greene Assistant Secretary General to CARICOM and the CARICOM representative for PISLM Ms. Anya Thomas. Their discussions ranged from the past successes of the PISLM in the region to the inclusion of PISLM in CARICOM's upcoming fiscal year.

The FAO representative assured the Director of CNIRD that FAO is committed to assist CNIRD and the PSILM Support Office in their upcoming ventures.

- 3.3 At the 2010 Regional Task Force Meeting the CARICOM representative recommended that the Support Office build capacity in project proposal writing and indicated that CARICOM was about to host a project management workshop. As such, CNIRD was a participant at the Project Cycle Management Training Workshop for Senior Environmental Professionals held in Barbados on March 22nd-26th, 2010. This workshop was hosted by the Caribbean Community (CARICOM) Secretariat, in collaboration with the Caribbean Development Bank and the Inter-American Development Bank, and was held at the Caribbean Development Bank's Conference Centre in Bridgetown, Barbados.



- 3.4 CNIRD and the PISLM Support Office attended The Caribbean Preparatory Meeting for the MSI+5 Review which was being held in conjunction with the 23rd Session of the ECLAC Caribbean Development and Cooperation Committee (CDCC). The broad objective of the 23rd session of the CDCC was to undertake an assessment of the current development trends for the

Caribbean and define ECLAC's strategic role in support of regional integration and national development aspirations.

The main objectives of Caribbean Regional Meeting for the MSI+5 Review were:

- to provide a forum for the SIDS of the Caribbean region to evaluate continuing national and regional challenges in implementing the Mauritius Strategy as outlined in the respective national assessment reports,
- to assess ongoing monitoring and evaluation activities,
- to discuss common priorities for action,
- and to prepare a regional synthesis report for the preparatory committee for the high-level review of the Mauritius Strategy in September 2010

This meeting was being held March 16th-18th, 2010, hosted by the Government of Grenada.

- 3.5 The Director of CNIRD was able to present a status report on PISLM and liaised with the representative of UNEP in getting the work of SLM in the region captured in ECLAC's report.

APRIL 2010

- 4.1 The PISLM Support Office was represented at the XVII FORUM OF MINISTERS OF THE ENVIRONMENT OF LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN. The High-Level Preparatory Meeting of Experts of the Seventeenth Meeting of the Forum of Ministers of Environment of Latin America and the Caribbean was held from 26th to 28th April, 2010, in Panama City, Panama.

The main objective of the High-Level Meeting of Experts is to make an assessment of the lessons learned and the challenges posed by the implementation of the RAP and to consider a conceptual revision of its structure and modes of execution during the intercessional period, as well as to make recommendations in this regard.

The Preparatory Meeting of Experts was attended by Government representatives from countries of the region, Secretariats of Multilateral Environmental from Intergovernmental Agencies, Non-Governmental Organizations, and special invitees.



The Director of CNIRD worked assiduously to ensure that PISLM was included on the agenda of the meeting and collaborated with the GM, UNEP and UNCCD in ensuring that SLM was part of and mainstreamed into the 2010-2011 workplan of UNEP/LAC.

JUNE 2010

The CNIRD /PISLM Support Office held a teleconference with the new Minister of Housing and the Environment for Trinidad and Tobago, Honourable Dr. Roodal Moonilal. The new Minister pledged continued support for PISLM Support Office and was pleased to hear about the work that the Support Office had been carrying out.