



Government of the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago
Ministry of Planning and Development



Food and Agriculture
Organization of the
United Nations

BIOREACH:

*Biodiversity Conservation and Agroecological Land
Restoration in Productive Landscapes of Trinidad
and Tobago*

PROJECT PREPARATION GRANT PHASE

Validation Workshops

19 and 20th January,
2020

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Agenda

Validation

Context

PPG Phase

- What it entailed
- Role of stakeholders
- Summary of supporting Consultancies

Next step towards making the project a reality

Why the Validation workshop?

The goal of the Validation workshop is to finalize all the key elements of the project design and support for the project by key stakeholders.

These workshops will serve to:

- Serve as the forum to present the project framework, financing, methods of execution, monitoring & evaluation with key project stakeholders;
- Managing expectations around timing and funding;
- Explain the next steps in the project cycle;
- Validate project with relevant stakeholders

What is Bioreach?

The Goal is to promote **biodiversity conservation**, to **restore degraded lands** and **improve livelihoods** of rural communities in targeted productive landscapes

Why?

- These landscapes and biodiversity play important roles
- Biodiversity and productive landscapes face many threats
- Their depletion therefore has an impact on livelihoods, health, agriculture, the environment

Root Causes of Biodiversity loss and land degradation

Poverty

Agricultural Legacy

Lack of Knowledge

Poor Governance

IAS & Disease

Climate Change & Natural Disasters

Can we continue doing business as usual?

How did we get to this stage?

The Global Environment Facility (GEF) was established to help tackle our planet's most pressing environmental problems; grant funding available to countries to help with this.

In July 2018, the Ministry of Planning and Development, requested formally the support from FAO to develop a GEF 7 proposal to address these issues

Submitted a Project Identification Form (PIF) to the GEF in April 2019 after consultation with key stakeholders; described the current situation and broad objectives

Approval of PIF granted in June 2019 and issued the PPG to guide the design of the project.

A Project Steering Committee was convened guide the design and outputs of various consultants and to undertake the technical development of the project

First draft of project produced in Nov; reviewed and second FULL draft now prepared and presented

Project Preparation Grant (PPG)

Before the funds are released, the current situation and needs of the Country must be examined and understood.

In order to assist with this and ensure we get it right, the GEF granted USD \$150,000 in the form of a Project Preparation Grant to the FAO for development and delivery of the Project Document that will guide Bioreach

Deliverables include:

- **Scoping and Baseline studies**
- CoFinancing commitments
- Socio economic Analysis
- Legislation, Policy and Capacity Development Needs Assessment
- Knowledge Management, Monitoring and Evaluation (M&E)
- **Stakeholder Consultations conducted with gender and youth sensitivity: Inception, Validation, Focus groups**

Stakeholders' role during the PPG

Provide information that will specify the **future project's focus** and ensure that project incremental reasoning, cost-effectiveness, risk and mitigation issues are addressed through a widespread and thorough consultation process with all stakeholders and project partners

Examine and assess the work plan, project objectives, **sites and activities**

Provide information on present/ planned projects, ensure the **programme fits in to your development goals**

Inception Workshops & Stakeholder Consultations

Held in October 2019. Project was introduced along with the PPG phase and requirements from Stakeholders in shaping the project.

Series of stakeholder consultations took place following the workshops by the Project team. Utilised various methods of engagement.

Stakeholders assisted in setting the focus of Bioreach; importantly, we were able to develop a model for execution of the project (who has capacity and who can do what).

Stakeholder Consultations

Agency/ Institution	Agency/ Institution
Division of Food Production, Forestry and Fisheries - THA	Dept. of Life Sciences – UWI
Division of Infrastructure, Quarries and the Environment - Tobago House of Assembly	Forestry Department - THA, NGO's and Sabre-wing expert - Tobago
Division of Food Production, Forestry and Fisheries - THA	Tobago Agribusiness Cooperative Society Limited
Fondes Amandes Community Reforestation Project	Department of Environment and Natural Resource Management – THA
Organic Agriculture Stakeholders Association of Trinidad and Tobago	Division of Food Production, Forestry and Fisheries – THA and the Tobago Cassava Products Limited
Ah Grow	Tobago Agriculture Society
Wa Samaki Ecosystems	National Reforestation and Watershed Rehabilitation Programme – Forestry Division
Pineapple Farmers, Tableland	Marillisa Farms
Estate Management Business Development Agency	The Santa Cruz Green Market
Ministry of Agriculture, Land and Fisheries – Regional South	UWI – Faculty of Agriculture - Soils Department
Moruga Hill Rice farmers/ Pineapple farmers and other farmers	UWI – Faculty of Agriculture – Life Sciences
National Quarries/ IWECO/ SusTrust	Forestry Division
Land Settlement Agency	Asa Wright Nature Centre
Ministry of Agriculture, Land and Fisheries	IADB
Ministry of Energy and Energy Industries	CABI – Launch of Lead Farmer Curriculum
National Reforestation and Watershed Rehabilitation Programme – Forestry Division	Ministry of Agriculture, Land and Fisheries
National Agricultural Marketing and Development Corporation (NAMDEVCO)	Institute of Marine Affairs
Forestry Division	
Cocoa Development Company of Trinidad and Tobago Ltd (CDCTTL)	Caribbean Agriculture Research and Development Institute (CARDI)

Outcomes of Stakeholder Consultations

Selecting of sites to focus activities

Suggesting activities to achieve objectives

Providing data and background information on past projects and initiatives

Pointing us to persons/ groups already involved in similar or would be interested in the project

Showing us what is already happening and how the project can support ongoing initiatives

Form/ forge partnerships

Committing themselves to executing certain elements

What did we learn?

Already an undercurrent of change – capture this

No shortage of plans; little execution – support existing

Overburden agencies – partnerships with ngo's, cooperatives

Youth and women already in agriculture – challenges with sector have led to innovations

Farmers do not want to be told something works – want to see results

Tobago farmers known for more environmentally friendly practices

Farmer organisation seems to be lacking; how to effectively communicate?

Chemical companies filling the gap in extension services

Project Team, Roles and Findings

Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations preparing the Project Document for the GORTT; guided by the PSC and Stakeholders

Team includes:

- Claus Ecklemann – Lead Technical Officer
- Asif Khan – PPG National Coordinator
- Erum Hasan – GEF Design Specialist
- Beverly Chase – Environmental, Socioeconomic and Gender
- Dept Life Sciences, UWI – Land degradation & restoration aspects
- CABI – Agroecology and Green value chains
- Andrew Dalip – Legal consultant

Legal Consultancy

Examined the listing of laws and regulations that govern land ownership, land use and planning in TT; analyse whether the project elements and activities listed under Component 1 of the project could be implemented in the current legal framework of the country

Concluded that the critical pieces of legislation that govern land use and land use planning while containing many conflicts, is wide enough to allow for the incorporation of the proposed multi-stakeholder committee in the planning process by a participatory process; also legislated is the provision of sustainable communities

Gender, Enviro and Socio-Economic Consultancy

Conduct a gender analysis in relation to the sectors of intervention, prepare the Stakeholder Engagement Plan and the socio-environmental analysis

Developed a stakeholder engagement plan, which considers sectors, groups and their level of influence on the project

Mapped out the role of Civil Society and the Private Sector in the project

Gender Equality and Women's empowerment – gender at the national level, gender and income + poverty, gender and agriculture and the environment

Strategic gender entry points in the project

Land Degradation & Restoration Consultancy

Assess and identify degraded sites suitable for restoration and provide justification why these sites were selected and to develop options and recommendation for restoration work; developed in consultation with the FD.

Proposed strategies include:

- Restoration of Productive Forests
- Rehabilitation of Fire Burnt Areas
- Riparian Zone Restoration, inclusive of wetlands
- Agricultural Land Restoration

Site	Owner/Tenure	Area (ha)	Present Condition
Restoration of Productive Native Forests			
Cats Hill Open Range. VMFR	FR. GoRTT	100	Depleted forest
Moruga Open Range. VMFR	FR. GoRTT	100	Depleted forest
Cedros Forest Reserve	FR. GoRTT	100	Depleted forest
TOTAL		300	

Site	Owner/Tenure	Area (ha)	Present Condition
Riparian Zone Restoration			
Between Mt Tamana and Tumpuna Forest Reserve (4km long 40m wide)	Private land	16	Degraded riparian forest
Aripo River between Northern Range and Caroni River (10km long 40m wide)	Private land. Water course reserve	40	Degraded riparian forest
Cumuto River between Arena Forest and Mt Tamana (13km long 40m wide)	Private land. Water course reserve	52	Degraded riparian forest
Charuma River between Central Range Reserve and Nariva Swamp ESA (6km long 40m wide)	Private land. Water course reserve	24	Degraded riparian forest
Hydrological restoration of the Kilgwyn Swamp in Tobago	State land	34	
Restoration of fresh water marshes in the Caroni Basin	State Land (Fomer Caroni 1975 Ltd)	15	
Riparian restoration of Courland Watershed	State and Private land	150	Degraded riparian/watershed
TOTAL		331	

Agricultural Land Restoration			
Bunsee Trace, Siparia	FR. GORTT	50	Lastrow. Abandoned agricultural land
Tunapuna, behind Hillview College. Agricultural Lands	Private land	20	Degraded agricultural land
Aripo Livestock Station	Private land	40	Lastrow. Abandoned agricultural land
UWI Orange Grove Field Station	UWI private land	5	Abandoned agricultural land. Fire climax grassland
NIHER ST Science City	NIHER ST private land	10	Abandoned agricultural land. Fire climax grassland
Felicity	GORTT	150	Monoculture, abandoned land
TOTAL		275	

Rehabilitation of Fire Burnt Areas			
Tunapuna, behind Hillview College. State Lands	HDC/GoRTT	10	Fire degraded forest broken canopy
Todds Road Forest Reserves (N and S)	FR. GoRTT	10	Fire degraded forest broken canopy
Freeport Mission Reserve	FR. GoRTT	10	Fire degraded forest broken canopy
Courland Watershed to Anse Fromage	Private	20	Fire degraded watershed
TOTAL		50	

Agroecology and Green value chains Consultancy

Provide baseline information on ongoing and potential agroecology initiatives in T&T. Contribute to the project strategy with inputs to the logical framework and project implementation plan with respect to the component on Agroecology

Examined the local agricultural sector and its suitability/ use of agroecological practices. Also, examined specific commodities (Cocoa, Coconuts, Pineapple, Avocado, Roots & Tubers; Moruga Hill rice) and strategies inclusion of agroecology principles into their production.

Looked at finding opportunities for the 'green' value chains (production to marketing)

Developed a standardized curriculum for Lead Farmer training in TT; that will seek to promote sustainable agriculture in farmers utilizing the FFS model

Suggestions for integrating agroecology into local policy

Summary of Curriculum Sequence

1. Definitions of agroecology .
2. Components of the environment.
3. Sustainable agriculture concepts and principles.
4. Soil health and recycling.
5. Strengthening the “immune system” of agricultural (crop & livestock) production systems.
6. Water management.
7. Biodiversity and food sovereignty.
8. Climate change impacts on food systems.
9. Market creation and biodiversity-based value chain.
10. Transitioning to agroecology.
11. Building a community of practice.

Next Steps

Finalisation of the Project Document for submission

- Full draft is now complete
- Consult with stakeholders via the validation workshops; ensure concerns are addressed and integrated
- Seek approval of the PSC and the Focal point
- Capacity Assessment of executing agencies
- Submission to the FAO/ GEF Unit by 10th March 2020; then to the GEF for approval

Expected launch of Bioreach – August 2020; project is designed to be executed in four years