

DRAFT

Caribbean Natural Resources Institute (CANARI) Ramsar Wetlands for the Future Fund (WFF) /

Policies and institutions for wetlands management: Training for managers from the Insular Caribbean

**Forestry Department Conference Room,
Saint Lucia
13 October, 2005**

1.0 Background

Caribbean Natural Resources Institute (CANARI) in partnership with the Forestry Department facilitated a one day consultation on national wetland policy in St. Lucia at the Forestry Department on 12 October 2005 as part of its regional Ramsar project entitled *“Policies and institutions for wetlands management: Training for managers from the Insular Caribbean”*.

This consultation set out to achieve the following:

- a. Identify and review the institutions that have influenced wetland policy development and their influence on national wetland management over the past decade.
- b. Identification and review of institutional linkages between agencies governing wetland management since 2000.
- c. Identification of policy and institutional outcomes that can be attributed wholly or partially to the Ramsar process.

2.0 Introduction

Meeting was chaired by Michael Bobb (Assistant Chief Forest Officer / Ramsar focal point) who noted the timeliness of this consultation given St. Lucia's participation in the upcoming Ramsar Conference of Parties in Uganda (8-15 November, 2005). He also noted a need for greater institutional collaboration regarding wetlands and specifically in the implementation of the Ramsar Convention. This collaboration is needed particularly between the Department of Fisheries and the Forestry Department as the two leading natural resource management agencies with responsibility for wetland resources.

Michael Andrew (Chief Forest Officer) in his opening remarks noted the need for more to be done regarding wetland conservation in St. Lucia given the rate of loss occurring with this ecosystem from 320 hec. to 192 hec. due to pressures from development. He expressed the need for greater efforts at:

- implementation of the Ramsar Convention on Wetlands
- establishing the National Wetlands Committee
- establish links with other MEAs including UNCCD, and CBD

- accessing funding opportunities to assist in building capacity for wetland management in St. Lucia

2.1 CANARI presentation- L. John

Typically, Forestry and Fisheries Departments as resource management agencies in the Caribbean have responsibility for wetlands management. CANARI has identified a demand from technicians for materials and mechanisms that can help them to understand and develop policies and institutions for more effective and efficient natural resource management including wetlands. By addressing this in the context of the Ramsar Convention on Wetlands, this project aims to improve the understanding of policy and institutions for improved wetlands management in particular and encourage additional Caribbean Island States to join Ramsar.

This project focuses on extracting lessons from the experience of the policy and institutional experiences in Trinidad & Tobago, Jamaica, and St. Lucia (3 of the Caribbean member states of Ramsar) regarding wetlands management in relation to promotion of participatory planning and management.

It was noted that natural resource managers seldom have opportunities to examine policy impacts and to analyse gaps, due to time and resource constraints. In the absence of such a process, a policy by default emerges which can have unintended negative impacts.

St. Lucia Wetland Facts

A brief summary on the status of St. Lucia's wetlands was presented as follows:

- ❖ Functions of coastal wetland ecosystems: flood mitigation, fisheries and wildlife habitat, erosion control, shoreline stabilization, groundwater recharge, nutrient retention, sediments and pollutants removal of aquatic sediments, recreation
- ❖ Total wetland area in St. Lucia has been reduced due to the following activities; deforestation, construction, reclamation, and solid waste disposal. Deforestation is the leading cause for reduction in water table and increased evaporation.

Activities impacting on wetlands

- ❖ Charcoal and firewood production : Mankote, Esperance, Volet
- ❖ Land reclamation: Reduit, Sans Soucis, Choc
- ❖ Solid Waste Disposal: Choc, Volet, Ciceron, Cul de Sac, Black bay and Mankote
- ❖ Drainage for Agriculture: Belfon Lake, Belleplaine Wetland, Etang Lake, and Desrache
- ❖ Marina developments : Rodney Bay, *Praslin*

Wetlands are declared as Marine Reserves (1984) in St. Lucia. These include:

- ❖ Esperance, Mankote, Savannes, Praslin, Marigot, Fond D'or, Bois d'Orange, Louvet, Marquis, Choc, Grande Anse, Cas-en-bas
- ❖ St. Lucia ratified the Ramsar Convention in 2002 and designated Mankotè Mangrove and Savannes Bay as Wetlands of International Importance (Ramsar sites)

- ❖ While small by international standards, Mankòtè at 63 hectares, is the largest singular stand of mangrove area left on the island.
- ❖ Although designated as St. Lucia's Wetlands of International Importance under the Ramsar Convention, these sites still face pressure from development interests.

Who should be involved in wetland policy development and management?

Definition of a Stakeholder: This following table helped identify the various categories of stakeholders who should be involved in wetland policy issues in St. Lucia.

Stakeholders have rights to a resource if they:	Stakeholders have responsibility for a resource if they	Stakeholders have interest in a resource if they
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • have a traditional link to it 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • undertake actions that change the nature of it 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • have a cultural attachment to it
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • depend on it for their livelihood 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • derive economic benefits or well-being from it 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • derive some enjoyment from it
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • own the land or access to it 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • are formally or informally managing it 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • are actively involved in its conservation
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • have been conferred rights via some legal mandate 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • have a statutory responsibility 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • have an intellectual association with it (e.g. through research)

Legacy of participation in St. Lucia

- LJ noted that St. Lucia has a legacy of participation in wetland management dating back to early 1980's when the Department of Fisheries and Forestry Department collaborated with CANARI in working with local charcoal producers and part time fishermen who were active in the management of the Mankòtè mangrove.
- The role of the OECS Harmonized Fisheries Legislation served as a platform in establishing the institutional framework for the participation in its Local Fisheries Management Authority.
- The Aupicon Charcoal and Agricultural Producers Group (ACAPG) were formally recognized by the Department of Fisheries when they were granted the status of a Local Fisheries Management Authority (LFMA).
- Aside from stakeholders being involved in policy setting, they can also have a valuable role in monitoring and evaluation. This can range from stakeholders simply gathering data to their involvement in designing monitoring and evaluation goals and analysis.

LJ pointed out against this backdrop, the meeting was interested in the following:

- ☐ Identifying the wetland management stakeholders in St. Lucia
- ☐ Discussion on Wetland related policies (Legislative & Management) and institutional arrangements affecting wetland management since 2000
- ☐ Assessment of participatory approaches adopted to Wetland management
- ☐ Ramsar impacts on Participatory Based Approaches (PBA) to wetland management
- ☐ Policy and institutional gaps and challenges to PBA
- ☐ Methods to promote national wetland policy change and Ramsar implementation (i.e. What does it take to make Ramsar more effective in St. Lucia?)

This information was gathered in addition to what was in the attached framework (Annex 1) which was circulated to participants.

3.1 Status of wetland policy and institutional arrangements in St. Lucia

The meeting agreed that there is no direct policy statement governing wetlands in St. Lucia. It is mentioned by other environmental policies and legislative articles (e.g. Coastal Zone Management Policy (2002); Forest, Soil and Water Conservation Act, and Fisheries Legislation. Although wetlands are not given significant consideration, it is believed to be given most comprehensive coverage in the Coastal Zone Management policy (2004) which was developed with public consultation. A strategic plan has been developed and a Coastal Zone Management Unit is established within the Ministry of Physical Development, Housing & Environment. It was also felt that there was a need to widen the definition of wetland ecosystems in national policy (e.g. sea grass beds) as many of these coastal sites are being lost to development interests.

Participants believed that current policy arrangements including legislative and management programmes are insufficient and that development sector interests are exploiting policy and management gaps resulting in further losses of coastal wetlands. While the two lead natural resource management agencies, Department of Fisheries and the Forestry Department are under the same Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry & Fisheries, the meeting revealed a need for closer collaboration between the two agencies in management of wetlands.

The designation of coastal mangroves as Marine Reserves which comes under the jurisdiction of the Fisheries Department has led to little direct involvement and no management planning done by the Forestry Department to cover wetlands. However, representatives of the Fisheries Department consider the management of mangroves to be part of the Forestry Department's mandate, since they are largely coastal forests and the Forestry Department has national responsibility for all forests. The Fisheries representative considers current Forest legislation allows for management of mangroves by the Forestry Department. They also noted that Fisheries legislation does not specifically address mangrove ecosystems and that the legislation speaks to wetlands (i.e. Marine reserves) mainly in terms of economic fishery resource protection.

Institutional arrangements are further complicated by some wetlands which are designated as “Marine Reserves” being vested under lands administered by the St. Lucia National Development Cooperation (NDC). Mankòtè mangrove is one such site that falls directly under the management of the NDC, yet it is one of the two sites designated as Wetlands of International Importance under the Ramsar Convention. The concern was expressed that since “development” is the mandate of that agency, Mankòtè as a designated Ramsar site should be divested to either Forestry or Fisheries for management purposes. This would reduce the likelihood of it being designated to alternative uses.

3.2 Legislation

The following articles of management policies and legislation were suggested as impacting on wetlands.

- Fisheries Legislation (1984)
- Forestry legislation 1946 (amends. 1983)
- Forest management plan (1992-2002)
- Wildlife protection Act (1980)
- St. Lucia National Trust Act (1975)
- Coastal zone management policy 2002
- National Conservation Act
- National Environmental Policy (2005) and National Environment Management Strategies (NEP/NEMS)
- Water Policy (2004?)

It was suggested that new legislation for natural resource management should state definite legal limitations, however, the trend is to be less prescriptive. Specific management arrangements (e.g. open and closed seasons) are best left to regulations and to the discretion of managers thereby leaving room for negotiation.

3.3 Role of regional/sub-regional organisations in wetland policy development

Concern was raised regarding the emphasis of regional development goals and the impacts on wetland ecosystems in the region (e.g. Development in the tourism sector leading to high demand for coastal lands for hotels, marinas, and golf courses)

The question was asked about the role of regional / sub regional governments in supporting wetland policy development processes. The Organisation of the Eastern Caribbean States (OECS) Harmonised Regional Fisheries Legislation arose out of a process supported by FAO after an expression of interest by sub regional governments. It was a response to the recognition that fisheries are a mobile resource which requires joint effort at management at a regional level. However, the use of a regional approach for an environmental policy response has to be cost effective. The question remained as to whether such an approach would be an effective strategy for wetland policy development at a regional level. It was felt that since wetlands were a stationary resource that policy development was best handled in a national context.

There are initiatives being developed by the OECS that are suited for possible frameworks/templates for adapting to wetland issues (e.g. Model Environmental

Legislation). The OECS Protected Areas and Associated Livelihoods (OECS-OPAAL) project provides an opportunity for appraisal and updating of national systems plans and presents an opportunity to address wetland issues. In St. Lucia, this opportunity may exist for the System of Protected Areas (1988) produced under the St. Lucia National Trust which was never adopted by Government but is still referenced as a guide by local agencies.

3.3 Ramsar and other Multilateral Environmental Agreements (MEAs)

Government is currently scrutinising the process of MEA ratification due to limited capacity for implementation and the often burdensome reporting requirements. There is also a lack of capacity to prepare proposals to procure funding for related initiatives. Ministry of Physical Development, Housing and Environment is conducting a National Capacity Self Assessment project with support from UNDP to determine implementation and capacity issues.

Participants felt there was a need to synergise Ramsar with other MEAs including UNCCD, FCCC and CBD since many of the objectives are similar.

4.0 Wetland management stakeholders in St. Lucia

Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry & Fisheries: This Ministry through its Forestry Department and the Department of Fisheries is ultimately the lead national agency responsible for wetland conservation and management in St. Lucia. The two Departments are responsible for enforcement of legislation and implementation of management plans in wetland areas.

Ministry of Physical Development, Environment & Housing: This Ministry is responsible for decision making regarding national infrastructural development. This Ministry also includes the Crown Lands Division which is responsible for some coastal public lands. It also administers several MEAs that are of significance to wetlands including the Cartagena Convention and its affiliated protocols (e.g. SPAW protocol) and the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC).

Local Fisheries Management Authorities (LFMAs): This institutional arrangement is administered by the Department of Fisheries under the Fisheries Act (1984). The LFMA facilitates participatory management of state owned resources by community based groups (e.g. ACAPG). However, the Soufriere Marine Management Authority is the only legally existing LFMA and all others are operating under expired permits. Currently permits are granted for extractive (e.g. charcoal production) and non extractive resource management (e.g. ecotourism-turtle watching)

National Development Corporation (NDC): The NDC is a state agency with a mandate of encouraging private sector investment in St. Lucia. It is responsible for administration of public lands some of which include coastal wetlands (e.g. Mankòtè mangrove lands).

Farmers; Participants felt that farmers impacted on coastal wetlands due to inland agricultural practices. However, there has been a substantial reduction in involvement in the banana sector which was largely responsible for watershed degradation and the subsequent negative impact on coastal environs.

Caribbean Environmental Health Institute: The Integrated Watershed and Coastal Area Management project's demonstration site in St. Lucia include wetlands and the project can influence attitudes to wetlands (e.g. Fond d'Or, Mabouya Valley)

Charcoal producers: Charcoal has traditionally been produced from mangrove species including the red and black mangrove. The Aupicon Charcoal and Agricultural Producers Group of Vieux Fort was the first legally recognised LFMA based on the Groups production of charcoal in Mankòtè.

Tourism sector: Much of St. Lucia's development for the tourism sector occurs at or near the coast. The demand for lands for resort construction, marinas, and golf courses has reduced many of the coastal wetland systems.

Fishermen and Fishermen Cooperatives: Fishermen use wetlands for seasonal fishing, moor and shelter boats, or erect jetties. Fishermen Cooperatives tend to be mainly rural community based organisations administered by fishermen.

Regional non state organisations: It was suggested that regional natural resource management organisations can and have influenced the management of wetlands (e.g. CANARI, CCA)

Water Resource Authority: The Authority will administer management of water resources through granting permits for extraction and establishing quotas. This could impact on levels of flow remaining for maintenance of ecosystem services.

5.0 Sector linkages for wetlands management since 2000

Participants felt there were no cross sectoral links developed specifically for addressing wetland management issues. They recommended establishing *formal* links between Forestry and Fisheries Departments to address wetland issues and extend it further to include Ministry of Physical Development, Environment & Housing in arrangements.

5.1 Participatory approaches to wetlands management

Participants believed that policy statements are becoming increasingly participatory by practice but legislation to support such practice (e.g. co management) is lagging. It was suggested that for Community Based Organisations (CBOs) or other resource user groups to be fully engaged in management they needed to be represented on advisory and resource management committees.

However, there is a recognised need to build capacity in CBO's to facilitate meaningful participation and their ability to function as a partner in management.

5.2 How can Civil Society Organisations or Community Based Organisations become more sustainable?

Participants recognised that very few CSOs or CBOs involved in wetland management or otherwise have survived over the years in St. Lucia, including those that have been able to leverage various kinds of support from government. Both the Department of Fisheries and the Forestry Department have had various levels of success in their ability

to partner with CSOs and function in areas that may have been traditionally under the purview of CSOs in other states. Participants suggested the following as important to sustaining CSO involvement and partnership in management.

- *Stakeholder identification process:* A need to identify important resources to the community and those who rely on them,
- *Identify community needs and give support:* Participants believed that communities are often approached with an agenda by government departments. Natural resource management departments should allow community members to identify needs for which the government departments should provide technical support.
- *Devolution of authority:* Government tends to retain interest in managing at all levels, thereby creating dependencies. In many instances there has not been true devolution of authority to CSOs / CBOs and this has weakened the role of CSO partners. An example was made of LFMA partners who do not have authority to exclude other resource users (e.g. ACAPG). Their authority can and is often challenged by other community members since they lack legal power to exclude others from access to common property resources.

The SMMA is the only notable exception in which devolution has occurred, yet their management arrangement includes Government partnership.

- *Public awareness of rights and privileges of CBO groups:* Coupled with true devolution of authority and a role in management, there should be public acknowledgement of the role, rights and privileges of such organisations.
- *Need for framework:* There's a need for a general plan [or framework] for resource management including wetlands and it should indicate to CSO's where they fit in the structure.
- *Strengthen organisational capacity:* Most CBOs have insufficient organisational skills and weak institutionalised processes. The loss of membership weakens knowledge of agreements and the specific terms and conditions of arrangements with authorities. Education among CBO membership is often a handicap which limits their capacity for management
- *Financial sustainability:* Most CBOs tend to be dependent on extractive resource use for their livelihood and lack of financial management skills hampers the viability of the organisation.
- *Conflict management:* New CBO members may wish to try fresh approaches whereas more traditional users may have traditional approaches and this creates conflict.
- *Volunteerism:* participants also felt that "volunteerism" should be promoted based on the traditional "koudmeh". This is particularly useful for student groups who should be encouraged to get actively involved in natural resource management (e.g. naturalist clubs). However, this needs to be balanced against a crucial need

for sustainable livelihoods and addressing rural poverty of those who depend on wetland resources.

A participant noted that many of the challenges identified for CBO groups were remarkably similar to weaknesses experienced in the Cooperative sector in St. Lucia. The Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry & Fisheries includes a Co-operative Department that deals with informal groups. It was suggested that maybe some assistance can be gained from that Department for partner CBOs.

6.0 What is needed to strengthen implementation of Ramsar in St. Lucia

Participants acknowledged that little progress had been made in implementation of the Ramsar Convention since ratification in 2002. This has been due largely to limited capacity by the Forestry Department to implement the Convention and a lack of involvement of key stakeholders in implementation of the Convention. The following were identified as important to fostering implementation.

- *Establish a National Wetlands Committee:* Although this was recommended in 2002, it had not been addressed. This meeting provided a forum for discussion on establishing the Committee which should consist of key stakeholders and on suitable terms of reference for the Committee and its composition
- *Public education and awareness on the Ramsar Convention:* There is need for a public education and awareness programme on wetlands in St. Lucia and the Ramsar Convention. The St. Lucia public is largely unaware of the Convention and the designation of Savannes bay and Mankòtè mangrove as Ramsar sites.
- *Strengthen institutional linkages:* Need to foster closer collaboration between environmental and natural resource management agencies responsible for wetland management.
- *National wetland policy statement:* The statement should indicate the importance of wetland ecosystems and the services they provide. It should outline strategies for effective management.
- *Enforcement linkages:* Need to include enforcement agencies as part of wetland management strategies (e.g. police)
- *Capacity building:* Training of technical officers and others involved in wetland management.
- *MEAs:* Need to synergise Ramsar with the implementation of other MEA's
- *Identify priorities:* Need to identify site management priorities for support from Ramsar. It was noted that OPAAL can assist on this.

Conclusion

1. the institutions that have influenced wetland policy development and their influence on national wetland management over the past decade.

The Fisheries Department, Forestry Department and the St. Lucia National Trust are the lead institutions that have been actively involved in wetland management issues over the past decade. Within more recent times, the Ministry of Physical Development, Environment and Housing has been responsible for additional environmental policies and institutions that are of significance to wetlands management including the Coastal Zone Management Policy (2002) and the establishment of the CZM Unit. This Ministry also administers the Cartagena Convention and the UNFCCC which are of significance to wetlands.

2. Identification and review of institutional linkages between agencies governing wetland management since 2000.

The consultation revealed a need:

- to strengthen institutional linkages between agencies with direct responsibility for wetlands and coastal forest ecosystems.
- for clarity on the definition of wetland ecosystems and for closer collaboration on wetland management arrangements between governmental agencies and NGOs (e.g. SLNT).
- for a greater level of inclusion among civil society and community based stakeholders in wetland management.

3. Identification of policy and institutional outcomes that can be attributed wholly or partially to the Ramsar process.

There has not been any significant policy and institutional change as a direct result of Ramsar ratification in 2002 due to limited implementation of the Convention. However, the meeting served as a forum in which the Forestry Department tabled a draft Terms of Reference for establishing a National Wetlands Committee which is expected to involve a wider group of stakeholders in the achieving the objectives of Ramsar and national wetland management.

Annex 1 . Ramsar\WFF Wetland Policy Impact

Project title: Policies and institutions for wetlands management: Training for managers from the Insular Caribbean

Background :

This project will focus on ***extracting policy lessons from the experience of three Caribbean member states of the Ramsar Convention on Wetlands regarding wetlands management in relation to promotion of participatory planning and management***. The project will focus on the policy and institutional experiences underway in Trinidad & Tobago, Jamaica, and St. Lucia. These states are three of the six island states of the insular Caribbean that have ratified the Convention. They face common challenges posed by the need to achieve sustainable development without compromising the quality of natural resources that are the basis for such development. This project allows for an analysis of the regional experience in implementation of the Ramsar Convention, identification of common policy and institutional challenges, and identification of requirements for the promotion of participatory based approaches to effective wetlands management.

Objectives of study:

1. To identify the policy and institutional requirements for efficient and effective wetlands management
2. To analyse the impact of joining the Ramsar Convention as a tool in support of policies and institutions for efficient and effective wetlands management;
3. To transfer learning on policy and institutional requirements for effective and efficient wetlands management to decision makers.

This framework is developed based on St. Lucia as an example

Context for national wetlands management	Wetland management Actors (<i>stakeholder ID</i>)	Wetlands related Policies (Legislative & Management ¹)	Participatory approaches adopted to Wetlands management	Ramsar impacts on participatory based approaches to Wetland management	Policy & institutional gaps and challenges to participatory based approaches
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Regional OECS Fisheries legislation & LFMA policy Establishment of 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ACAPG Fisheries Department 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Fisheries Legislation (1984) Forestry 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <i>LFMA status granted to community based</i> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <i>To be determined</i> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <i>To be determined</i>

¹ These programmes and projects may be supported by *documented policies* that advocate co-management or by *principles of practice* in management agencies

² Not sure if following italicized Acts incorporate co-management arrangements

<p>Marine reserves</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Aupicon Charcoal and Agricultural Producers Group use of Mankòtè mangrove ▪ <i>Mangrove resource status</i> ▪ <i>Forestry co-management policy</i> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Forestry Department ▪ CANARI ▪ St. Lucia National Trust (SLNT) ▪ <i>Ministry of Planning?</i> ▪ SMMA ▪ <i>Land Conservation Board (inactive)</i> 	<p>legislation 1946 (ammends. 1983)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Forest management plan (1992-2002) ▪ Wildlife protection Act (1980) ▪ St. Lucia National Trust Act (1975) ▪ Coastal zone management policy 2002 ▪ <i>Fisheries² snorkelling (2000)</i> ▪ <i>Fisheries Regulations (1994)</i> ▪ <i>Land Conservation Act (1992)</i> 	<p><i>organizations</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ <i>Co-management³ Agreement (s)</i> ▪ <i>Fisheries Legislative review (2005) more inclusive</i> ▪ <i>Capacity building needs of CBOs assessed and addressed</i> 		
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³ Fisheries and Forestry Departments have their own versions to these agreements

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ <i>National Conservation & Improvement Act (1999)</i> ▪ <i>Water Resource Act (Draft?)</i> 			
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Participatory work St. Lucia includes the following practices which can be identified as key indicators of co-management:

- Co-management agreements
- Stakeholder identification and analysis
- Participatory base approaches to planning and management
- Conflict resolution practices
- Capacity building for CSO partners

The research should reveal the extent to which these practices have been adopted in documented wetland management policies and/or practice by wetland management agencies and should assess the impact of the Ramsar Convention in promoting the adoption of participatory processes in wetland management.

Annex 2

DRAFT **TERMS OF REFERENCE FOR WETLANDS COMMITTEE**

The Committee will agree to function by:

- To provide technical and scientific advice on issues related to conservation, management and wise use of the country's wetland resources.
- To advise on the implementation of the Ramsar Convention and make recommendations, particularly in respect of :
 - a. The selection of suitable wetlands for inclusion in the list of wetlands of international importance.
 - b. The conservation, management and wise use of wetlands and their flora and fauna.
 - c. Training in the field of wetland research, monitoring and management
 - d. Promoting of research and exchange of information regarding wetlands and their flora and fauna.
- To co-ordinate and oversee activities related to the implementation of the Ramsar Convention and the [National Wetlands Policy⁴]
- To formulate and review development plans for wetland areas
- To develop and review management plans for wetland sites in St. Lucia.
- To develop and implement educational/public awareness programmes related to the conservation and management of the country's wetland resources.
- Foster, establish and maintain links with relevant stakeholders that have a direct or indirect link to wetland resources.
- Identify and establish financial mechanisms in support of the activities of the NWC in implementing the [National Wetlands Policy]

COMMENTS from participants

1. Needs to state where the objectives of the NWC will feed into National Environmental Strategy
2. Show linkages to other national MEA committees
3. Should state length of term for membership, [preferably at least a year, as frequent changes reduces efficiency]
4. Representation on the NWC should reflect both technical and social needs

⁴ St. Lucia does not have a National Wetlands Policy in place.

**Caribbean Natural Resources Institute (CANARI) in collaboration with St. Lucia
Forestry Department**

**National Wetlands Policy consultation
*Policies and institutions for wetlands management: St. Lucia***

**Wednesday, 12 October 2005
Forestry Department Conference Room
Union, Castries.**

Preliminary Agenda

09.00 – 9:15	Welcome and Introductions
09:15– 10:00	Policy context of wetlands management in St. Lucia
10:15- 12:00	Wetland management actors (<i>stakeholder ID</i>). Wetlands related policies (Legislative & Management ⁵) (Discussion) Assessment of participatory approaches adopted to Wetlands management Ramsar impacts on participatory based approaches to Wetland Management in St. Lucia (Discussion) (4) Policy & institutional gaps and challenges to participatory based approaches (Discussion) (5) <i>Methods to promote national wetland policy changes and Ramsar implementation (?)</i>
12:00- 12:45	<i>Lunch</i>
12:45 – 1:30	St. Lucia National Wetland Committee (NWC) nominations and structure (M. Bobb)

⁵ These programmes and projects may be supported by *documented policies* that advocate co-management or by *principles of practice* in management agencies

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