



# Forestry Division News Letter

Issue 1  
July- December  
2018

## GCCA OECS Mango Biodiversity Project

### *Inside this Issue:*



The Mango Festival which was held on the last day of August, 2018 was one of the activities held to create awareness about the Global Climate Change Alliance (GCCA) OECS Mango Biodiversity Project which is funded by the European Union (EU).

The aim of this project is to help foster an awareness and sensitization of the general public, communities, rural residents, and other resource users on sustainable land management, with a specific focus on watershed management, in the face of climate change.

Through the implementation of climate-resilient measures, it is expected that this project will ultimately lead to the rehabilitation of vulnerable watersheds by facilitating slope and riverbank stabilization –using mango-, while generating sustainable livelihoods and food and nutrition security.

This mango festival captured the attention of all media houses and the hundreds of visitors to the various booths who sampled everything mango were delighted. There were mango pops, tarts, cakes, brownies, mango juices and cocktails too. The local music and entertainment was a welcomed refreshment on this last Friday of the month.

The public got to enjoy and appreciate the varied culinary uses of the super fruit king “mango”. They also learnt that because of its deep tap root system it’s the perfect plant for riverbank and slope stabilization which makes us more resilient to the impacts of climate change. All in all, it was a time well spent!

- *GCCA OECS Mango Biodiversity Project*
- *World Snake Day Exhibition*
- *Climate Change Exhibition*
- *Pencil Cedar Project*
- *GEF Knowledge Fair*
- *World Food Day Exhibition*
- *Drone Training Workshop*

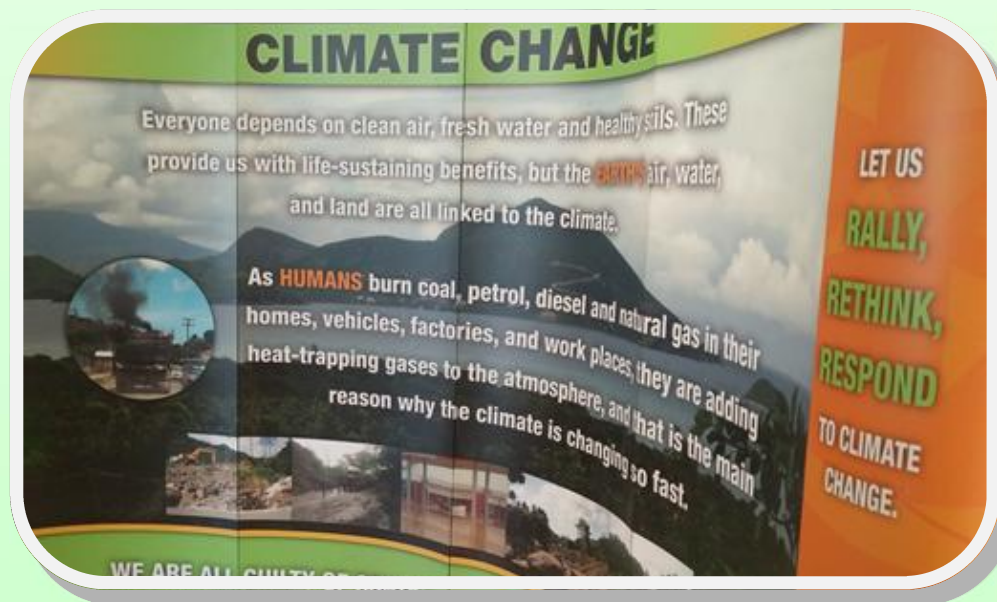


# Climate Change Exhibition

The Department of Forestry collaborated with the Organization of Eastern Caribbean States (OECS) in spearheading activities to raise awareness and public engagement on the impacts of climate change on Small Island Developing States; the role of biodiversity in climate mitigation and the small steps we can each take to make a difference.



The exhibition was held at the Harbor Club Hotel from October 8th to 12th 2018 under the theme "***Building Resilience on the Frontlines of Climate Change: OECS Action***". Over 300 students were lectured daily on mango biodiversity and climate resilience, importance of forests, St. Lucia endemics and medical uses of plants. Our interactive sessions were adapted to the students particular learning ability and students had an up-close opportunity to see our endemic species such as the St. Lucia Parrot, St. Lucia Iguana and St. Lucia Boa Constrictor.



# Pencil Cedar Project



**The pencil cedar** (*Juniperus Barbadensis var barbadensis*) is an elusive conifer. The last remaining stand in St. Lucia is found only on the very top of Petite Piton which is not easy to access. In July of 2018, two Professional cliff and tree climbers from the UK supported by Fauna and Flora International (FFI) and Global Tree Campaign assisted the Forestry Department in surveying the existing pencil cedar population. Adult trees were tagged, locations photographed, GPS points taken and counts made. The collection of seeds, seedlings, branches and soil samples were taken off Petite Piton.

Prior to this in June of 2018 the Forestry Department surveyed 200 persons in Choiseul and Soufriere; locations thought to be the epicenter of the pencil cedar. It was found that only about 15% of persons interviewed had any knowledge of the plant and only two live trees were identified in these areas. The respondents especially senior citizens interviewed remembered seeing the pencil cedar in abundance in their younger years. They attributed the plants decline to residential and various other development which led to most and in some cases all the trees being cut down.

The Forestry Department in collaboration with FFI aims to study and propagate this plant outside of its known habitat in the hope of preventing its extinction in St. Lucia. The pencil cedar is a Lesser Antillean endemic and is found only on Petite Piton in St Lucia and known to be extinct in Barbados. This plant is considered critically endangered and its population is in sharp decline.

# Drone Training Workshop

## UAS Flying & Mapping Methods

Training Course Held in Balata, Babonneau November 19<sup>th</sup>-23<sup>rd</sup>

Marine Spatial Information Solutions Inc.



The Caribbean Aqua -Terrestrial Solutions (CATS) programme, the German development cooperation organisation (GIZ) and the Caribbean Public Health Agency (CARPHA), the Environmental Health and Sustainable Development Department (EHS) in Saint Lucia jointly implemented a training workshop which strives to improve research and data collection for environmental management in St. Lucia and the wider Caribbean region. A central pillar to effective environmental management is accurate, reliable, and up -to -date information for decision-making. The procurement of a Unmanned Aerial Systems (UAS) for environmental research by the CATS Programme of the CARPHA is setting a new standard in conservation both nationally and regionally. Training in both UAS operating procedures and aerial mapping techniques was conducted to promote the safe, efficient and lawful operation of the drone by CARPHA and CATS Partners. **To this end, this UAS project collaborated with national UAS stakeholders in both St. Lucia-St. Lucia Air and Sea Ports Authority (SLASPA). (Jonathan I don't understand what this sentence is saying).**



The objective of the CATS Drone Training Course was to provide practical training for thirty -four (34) persons across Saint Lucia, Grenada, and Curacao in the use of Unmanned Aerial Systems (UAS) and aerial spatial mapping and monitoring techniques. Four five-day UAS training courses were conducted from November 19th-December 14th 2018, on the flying and safe operation of the UAS for research and environmental management applications. The utility of UAS as an environmental management tool was highlighted throughout the course, in part through the collection and processing of aerial imagery at two demonstration sites (e.g. terrestrial, coastal) at each of the four training locations.

## Puzzle

G E S U O M H N W R B W C W L  
X D A Q H J X O O M L T H W J  
B W S H N L H T P I C R A W M  
Y W M E F F A R I G L K D O G  
R C K R R R S Y K T H I P P O  
J T O W I E F B X X L Q R J E  
D R O T A G I L L A E B Z H X  
T H N X P I C L F C R V Z S Z  
V N H R S T H E T D R I B I Q  
N Z A C S T Y X L W I N H F L  
W U Q H K L J A E A U F A H F  
V Q Q D P O Y K N V Q Z A T V  
X M T L Q E T J Y E S Y R C H  
T A C K Q C L K M O N K E Y R  
P T S H W L Y E T D R A H T L

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CAT	HIPPO	MOUSE	TIGER
DOG	SQUIRREL	MONKEY	
BIRD	GIRAFFE	ALLIGATOR	
ELEPHANT	FISH	LION	

## WAYS TO PROTECT THE ENVIRONMENT

- Conserve energy. You'll lower your utility bills .
- Plant a tree. Trees absorb carbon dioxide, a greenhouse gas
- Don't let the water run while you brush your teeth
- Take a reusable bag to the grocery and re-use it each time you shop
- Water your lawn in the early morning, when the water will soak in and not evaporate in the heat of the day
- Park the car. Walk or use public transportation whenever you can.

## ENVIRONMENT QUOTE

*"Our task must be to free ourselves by widening our circle of compassion to embrace all living creatures and the whole of nature and its beauty." -Albert Einstein*

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