



United Nations Convention to
Combat Desertification

REPORT

GIS TRAINING

NAP/SAP Consultancy

Consultants
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1. Introduction

As part of the tasks and activities of the consultancy to formalize the process of Sustainable Land Management (SLM), through the completion of the National Action Plan (NAP) and the Strategic Action Plan (SAP) to Combat Land Degradation and Drought in Saint Lucia, the locally contracted firm AGRICO Ltd, conducted a training programme in GIS in four (4) one day workshop sessions in the north and south of the island between the 11th – 15th November 2008.

This consultancy falls under the EU Special Framework of Assistance (SFA) 2003 programme, Economic and Agricultural Diversification and Poverty Reduction through Integrated Natural Resources Management and is managed by the Ministry of Agriculture, Lands, Forestry and Fisheries.

The GIS training programme was developed and administered by Elizabeth Charles-Soomer and Andrina Abraham (Facilitator).

2. Target Group and Participation

The workshops targeted organised groups and agencies with responsibility for land, environmental and disaster management at the local and national levels. These included Development Foundations and related organisations, Community Based Environmental groups, National Disaster Committees from each of the nine (9) regions nationally, Village and Town Councils, Community Development Officers (CDOs), Agricultural Extension Officers and Forestry Officers (**Appendix 4** provides a list of all participants).

A total of 71 participants were invited and confirmed attendance. A total of 51 actually attended. Participation was therefore 71%.

3. Contents of and delivery of the Training Programme

The training programme emphasised the utility of GIS in several areas of application but had a strong emphasis on:-

- Land Degradation and related applications
- GIS basics, technical aspects of GIS including geo-referencing and projections
- Hands-on Training in the basic use of ARC VIEW GIS.

The latter was guided by a training manual designed by the consultants using local data related to Hazard Assessment and Land Degradation. The manual was produced in two (2) parts:

- Part 1 covered GIS ARC VIEW basics including the development of map outputs for printing.

- Part 2 covered the more advanced topics of data capture and map database development, coverage clipping and hyper-linking pictures to the GIS dataset.

Because of the novelty in the use of GIS by all but three (3) participants, only Part 1 of the training was delivered. Participants however expressed satisfaction with the training programme, delivery of the hands-on training and material as well as the presentations. In retrospect, the expectation that two (2) training modules could be delivered to entry level users was ambitious.

- The Training Programme delivered is outlined in **APPENDIX 1**
- Presentations in **APPENDIX 2**
- Training Manual, Parts 1 and 2 in **APPENDIX 3**.

As part of training programme copies of the ARC VIEW programme were provided to the participants in the south due to the late receipt of CDs. The same can be extended to participants in the north.

4. Achievements

Judged from the response, performance of participants and reception to the training programme, the four one day sessions achieved the following objectives:-

- Creating awareness of the use of GIS in combating and monitoring Land Degradation
- Providing first time users with skills in the GIS data manipulation, basic analysis and map output creation using ARC VIEW GIS.

5. Recommendations

To effectively encourage the use of GIS in the combat and assessment of Land Degradation, it is envisaged that specific training programmes on an individual agency basis would be required to further develop the initial trainees using agency specific information and GIS applications to drive the training programme.

Additionally if the locally based agencies are to contribute to the gathering and capture of field data required to enhance the monitoring of the NAP and evaluation of the same, a clear framework for GIS data collection, data definitions, protocols (data collection responsibilities, data quality, transferring of data to a national central agency, regularity of updates etc) would have to be established and administered by a coordinating agency.