

# Community Models for Sustainable Development

Presented By Lucia Mings  
Environment Tourism Consulting

FACILITATING ACTION THROUGH TRAINING

# Modern Challenge: Climate Change

- Biodiversity Loss
- Drought
- Flooding
- Stronger Hurricanes
- Sea Level Rise
- Increased temperatures
- New Diseases
- Crop losses/Food Insecurity
- Coral bleaching

# Fixes?

- Protection and sustainable management of our:
  - ▣ Biodiversity,
  - ▣ Watersheds and Wetlands,
  - ▣ Marine and Cultural Resources
- Sustainable livelihood development
- Faster transition to renewable energy sources
- Mindset - We are not above or separate from the rest of nature - We are an interconnected, interdependent part of nature!
- We should be constantly striving to achieve **balance.**

# Hurdles

- These issues are often times under represented in the national development discourse.
- Leading to isolation/silos and a great segment of our people feeling like they have no voice and are unable to affect change.
- Urbanization aides in disconnect people from nature.
  - ▣ Most daylight hours are spent outside of their community,
  - ▣ Shift rom agriculture to “office jobs”.

# BPW - Community Forestry & Livelihoods

- *Partnership between WAR, ETC, EAG, CDD and Funded by GEF SGP*
- Workshops - Swetes, Bendals, Buckleys, Sawcolts and John Hughes Villages
- In a 1721 Act the Leeward Islands Assembly declared BPW protected for “purposes of the public and for the management of the waters to reduce the impacts of droughts.
- Supplied St. John’s with water and were considered the crown jewels of Antigua.

# Activities: Identifying Community Resources

- Traditional crop varieties – used to grow strong and healthy pumpkins, squash, cherry tomatoes, pigeon peas, potatoes, etc.
- They were acclimatized and able to stay longer without being refrigerated or spoiling.
- Eg. Traditional mango varieties:
  - Round
  - Hacket
  - white kidney
  - Peach
  - tough skin
  - john marshall

# Community Resources Cont'd

## Swetes Village

- Churches
- Sports teams
- Irene B. Williams Secondary School
- Only Blacksmith shop in Antigua
- Health Clinic
- Computer centre

## Bendals Village

- Churches
- Bendals Primary School
- Quarry
- Green Castle Agri. Station
- Health Clinic
- Water Treatment Plant
- Bendals Community Grp.
- Famers

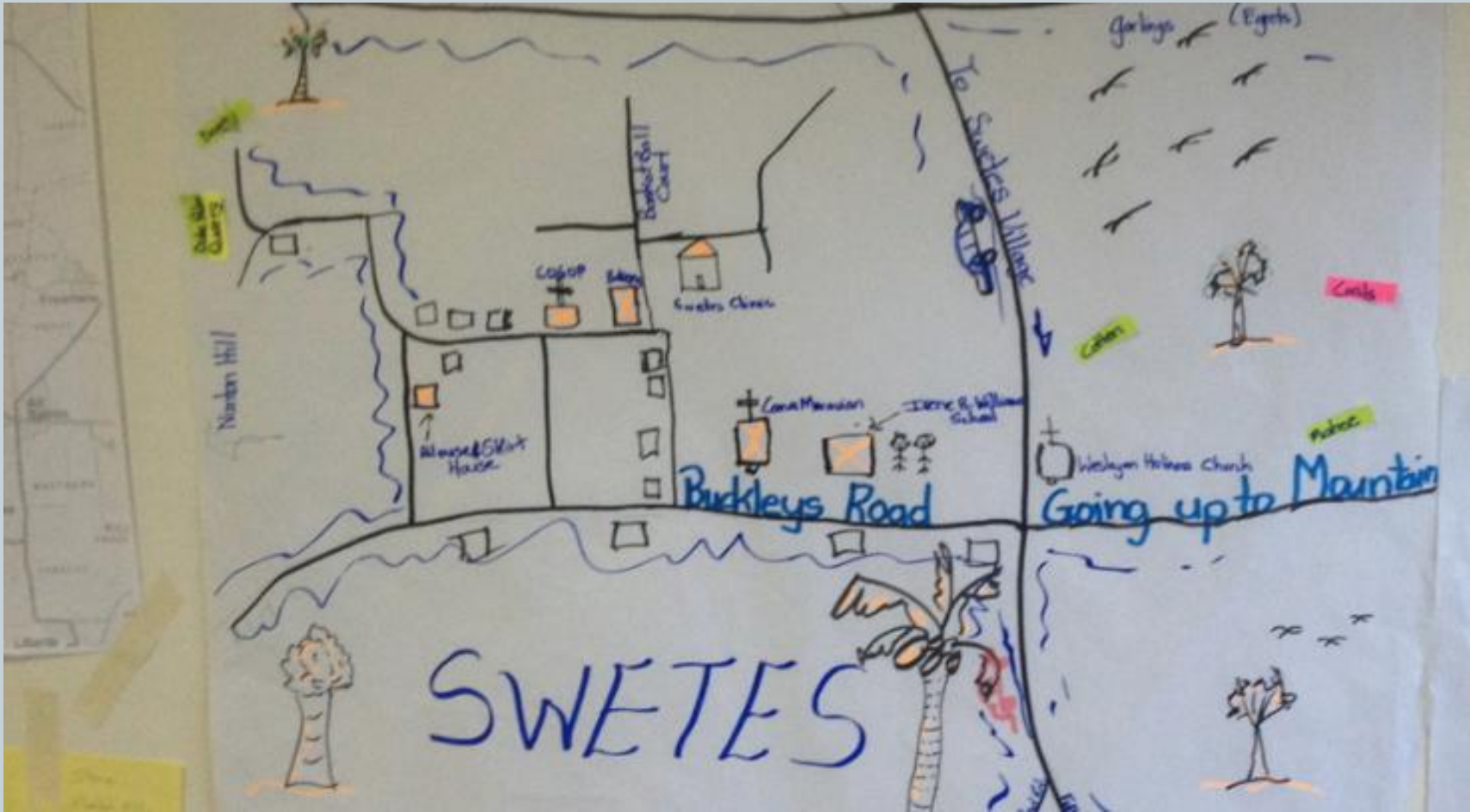
# Community Resources Cont'd

- Ashes from coal – pot scrubbing, cleaning teeth
- Corn Silk/Hair – detoxes the body
- Dry Sorrel - Sorrel jam, wine
- Jumby beans - Coffee, jewelry, used in kerosene oil lamps
- Calabash – bowls
- Sage - colds and flus
- Cattle tongue - colds
- French thyme - cold, asthma, seasoning
- Soursop - fever, cold
- Guinip - used with other plants for colds
- Raspberry - pleasant drink and high blood pressure



# Community Asset Mapping

- Means of collecting our heritage and preserving them to:
  - ▣ Educate younger generations (murals by local artists such as Mr. Burnes)
  - ▣ Livelihoods
- Participants mapped:
  - ▣ Folklore - Jumbie trees, cemetery and (Obeah) Bush
  - ▣ Wild Food and Fruits - wild cherries, coco plum, cashews,
- Maps could used for merchandising on mugs, t-shirts, place mats, etc.



# 2016 priorities

- Community Tourism as a business
- Develop a professional, organized plan:
  - ▣ marketing activities
  - ▣ Assigns responsibilities to persons in the group
  - ▣ Quality service standards
  - ▣ Customer service standards and training
- Renovate the Blouse and Skirt House – 100 yr. dwelling house with a unique shape and antique furniture
- Establish community herb garden
- Register Swetes Village Uncovered Community Group

# Communities Adapting to Climate Change

- Golden Grove Christian Union Church, ETC, CDD & GEF SGP
- Cashew Hill, Golden Grove, Potters, Barnes Hill, Freetown
- **Aim:** Connect urban areas to the nearby natural systems that sustain and protect them through training manual, workshops and community action.
- Raise awareness of the language and concepts associated with climate change discussions.
  - ▣ Adaptation and Mitigation
  - ▣ Antigua and Barbuda's INDCs
  - ▣ Green infrastructure
- Causes and effects
  - ▣ Severest drought since the 1980s causing debilitating water shortages.
  - ▣ Intense storms

# Natural Protections

- Benefits of healthy ecosystems to the urban environment.



New York City



Catskills Watershed

# Why Not Us?

- Watersheds cleared of native forest vegetation.
- large areas of productive agricultural land lost to urban expansion;
- Unsustainable agricultural practices;
- Residential and tourism development coastal areas affecting coastal ecosystems;
- Invasive alien species and limited management capacity threaten the integrity of protected areas.
- Country's capacity to provide basic needs – food security and water resources – reduced.

# Community Action: Restoring reservoirs



# Green Infrastructure



BioSwale – slows storm water flows

- Replenish groundwater reserves
- Reduce urban heat island effect
- Shading and cooling



# Livelihoods

## □ Waste Management/Upcycling



# Closing Thought

- IUCN Pakistan quote

- “ Local peoples may not have the viable options for supporting protected areas until they achieve higher productivity in their core economic activities and meet their basic needs.”



THANK YOU!