

FONDES AMANDES COMMUNITY GROUP GETS GREEN FUND SUPPORT TO PROTECT ST. ANN'S WATERSHED



On December 21, 2009, the Honourable Minister of Planning, Housing and the Environment, Dr. Emily Gaynor Dick-Forde, certified a grant from the Green Fund of One Million, Nine Hundred and Fourteen Thousand, Eight Hundred and Six Dollars (\$1,914,806.00) to the community group 'Fondes Amandes Community Reforestation Project (FACRP)'. The group will use this grant to continue their reforestation initiative entitled '*Sustainable Community Forestry Initiative [SCFI] – Phase 1*' in the Fondes Amandes Watershed in the heart of St. Ann's, on the outskirts of Port of Spain.

The funding from the Green Fund will be used mainly to complete the reforestation activities within WASA's lands in the watershed, upgrading infrastructure of the facilities on site, and to continue their outreach/educational activities. The funds will also be used to pay FACRP staff, purchase equipment and to conduct a feasibility study and business plan which will be done by a consultant to further develop the micro enterprises aspect of the project. These activities will be conducted during the first phase of the project in 2010. This is to be followed by a second phase to complete the reforestation in other State Lands in Fondes Amandes watershed and later a third phase to complete the reforestation in Private Lands in Fondes Amandes watershed.

Additional Information on the Organization.

The Fondes Amandes Community Reforestation Project (FACRP) is a community-based organization situated in Fondes Amandes Hills, St Ann's. FACRP focuses on environmental issues that are interconnected to reduce and prevent the degradation of the Fondes Amandes forest and watershed. The underlying objective of FACRP is the development of the community and the upliftment of its residents through environmentally enhancing activities.

This initiative was first started in 1982 by the late Mr. Tacuma Jaramogi to initially halt the forest degradation of the Fondes Amandes watershed through the practice of agro-forestry activities. His wife, Mrs. Akilah Jaramogi, is FACRP's current Managing Director. The group engages in watershed management, soil, forest and wildlife conservation and eco-tourism. They are also engaged in a variety of educational activities that teach ecologically restorative techniques and a respect for biodiversity.

Over the years the Management Committee of FACRP developed several Modules to implement its strategic goals and address important social issues within the community. These Modules include:

- Organic gardening/permaculture
- Clean Tree Organic Nursery
- Community Eco-Tourism
- Forest fires prevention
- Tree planting
- Community recycling/composting
- Craft and cottage industry
- Music and culture and community empowerment

Source:

Fondes Amandes Community Reforestation Project - <http://www.facrp.org/aboutfacrp.htm>

