



04 September 2018

Dear Sir or Madame,

Re: Training Opportunity in Governance, Communications and Environmental Monitoring

The Cropper Foundation, in collaboration with Environment Tobago, Fishermen and Friends of the Sea, the Network of Rural Women Producers of Trinidad and Tobago, and the Oilfield Workers Trade Union is executing a project funded by the European Union that will create a governance mechanism for environmental transparency in Trinidad and Tobago's extractive industries (oil, gas and quarrying).

The project will enhance Trinidad and Tobago civil society's understanding and oversight of extractive processes, create a mechanism by which civil society can collect, independently verify and publicly disseminate extractive-industry environmental information from the Government and companies.

Extractive-sector activities have caused considerable environmental degradation. For instance, there were 104 reported oil spills in 2017; and 70 percent of our northern watercourses (which provide most of the country's potable freshwater) are either polluted or overloaded with mine-based silt. The environmental impacts are especially detrimental to communities adjacent to these operations. Oversight of the sector's actions must involve civil society and community groups, as the people own both the resources and the environments that are perturbed to extract them.

The project will help civil society and community groups to become better organized and structured, and to collaborate more effectively to achieve common goals. Representatives from participating organizations will also receive training in environmental policy and legislation, the deciphering and verification of State and company environmental data, lobbying and advocacy, public communication and media production. It is hoped that participating organizations will become part of a national mechanism for oversight of extractive-industry environmental transparency, allowing members to engage directly with Government agencies and companies to prevent, and hold offenders accountable for, environmental damage.

If your organization wishes to participate in this project, please contact The Cropper Foundation. We will provide any additional information you may need.

Yours faithfully,
Caterina Argentini
Project Coordinator