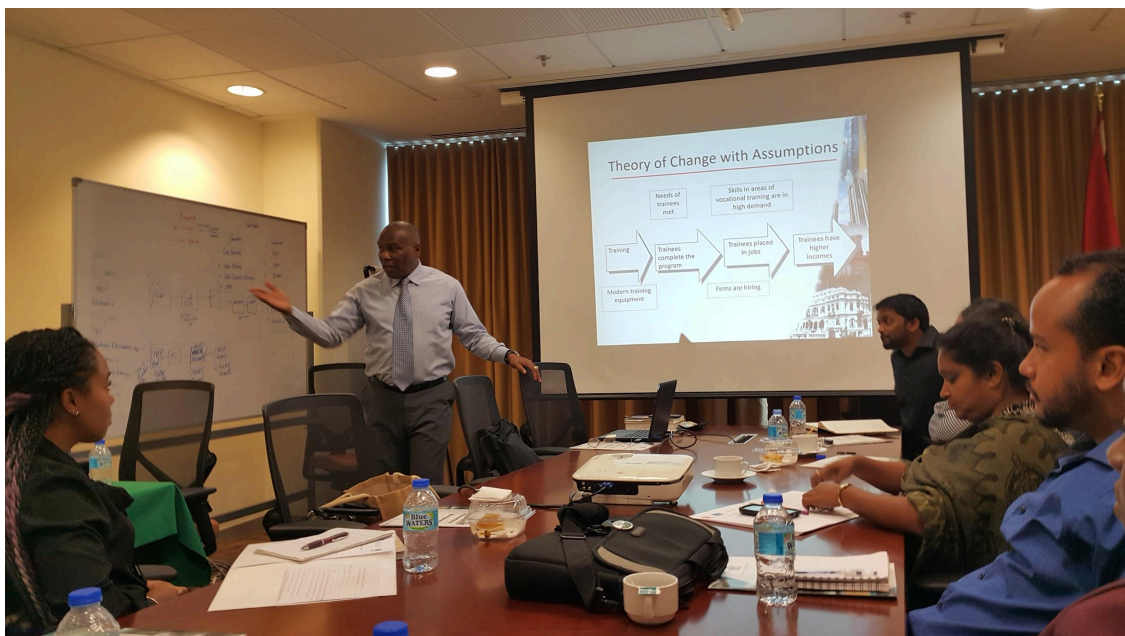


A team of fourteen persons participating in the current “Improving Forest and Protected Area Management in Trinidad and Tobago” recently took part in a workshop to gain an introduction to the tool of Monitoring and Evaluation. This workshop was facilitated by Mr. Ephraim Serrette, Coordinator, Monitoring and Evaluation of the National Transformation Unit, Ministry of Planning and Development.

After completing a training exercise, constructing a building, or purchasing much needed equipment, the question that may be asked is “So what?” The “So what” question is a simple but powerful way of interrogating the outcomes of a project intervention, essentially a means of assessing whether the results have addressed the root cause of the problem initially identified. Monitoring and evaluation, or M&E, is a management tool which will help to not just answer the “so what” question, but will help to ensure that the answer is given with specific and measureable content.

Participants in this workshop were introduced to key terminology of M&E including the difference between monitoring from the pure project management perspective and results-based monitoring which is demonstrated in M&E. The distinction between outputs and outcomes and the understanding of the Theory of Change were crystallised in simple exercises conducted during the workshop.



*Photo: Ephraim Serrette, of the National Transformation Unit facilitates the training Workshop*

Workshop participants agreed that the activity was a useful one and others considered it to be a timely intervention, noting that their new understanding of M&E will assist in improving their project design and management. The team of participants also saw the value of gaining this new knowledge towards their assessment of progress in the current project.

Reading resources as well as an introduction to the National Transformation Unit resource of trained officers were shared with the participants, who represented both Government and non-governmental stakeholders involved in the project. The intervention contributes to building the skills and knowledge of protected area managers in Trinidad and Tobago.



*Photo: Mr. Terrence Holmes, Fisheries Division THA extends thanks on behalf of participants at the close of the workshop*