

Press Release

(17th August 2010)

On Sunday 15 August 2010, a youth retreat was held at Hope Beach, East Cost Demerara. The retreat was host by the Mangrove Restoration Project as part of its commitment to work with communities to raise awareness for the conservation and protection of mangroves, now a protected species within Guyana. Hope Beach was selected as a site for the replanting of mangroves. Mangroves in the Hope Beach area provide natural sea defense for residents of this low-lying flood-prone area.

Approximately 45 participants attended with ages that ranged from 8-17 years. Children were also accompanied by chaperones.

During the session which started at 9:30 hrs and ended at 13:00 hrs, the participants were guided through an interactive learning session on the importance and uses of mangroves. In addition, the participants had an opportunity to discuss the main problems and brainstorm some ideas on how to solve these problems that affect mangroves. One problem identified was littering and participants conducted a beach cleanup around nearby surroundings. The participants collected and analyzed the different types of litter found along the beach. Everyone was asked to classify the items found into degradable and non bio-degradable things and presented finding their findings to the group.

The participants suggested that more activities of this nature be organized that could benefit the community. The Mangrove Restoration Project will continue to work along with Hope Beach residents to build ownership for these kinds of activities. The session was organized by the Community Development Specialist, Paul McAdam. The youth session is planned as one of several to be implemented among the communities selected for replanting of mangroves. The project will be implemented over the three years with NARI as the lead institution with support from the Ministry of Agriculture and donor support from the European Union.