



Resilient Futures INTERNATIONAL

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RFI to Conduct a Week of Sustainability Seminars in Aruba

Oranjestad, Aruba - The national interest in Aruba's improved sustainability has greatly increased in recent years. Various reports that have been produced by all sectors of Aruban society attest to the fact that Arubans are increasingly concerned about the health of the local environment, the current population, and of future generations. Because Aruba is a small island nation, it is absolutely essential that its rich natural resources are well-preserved and that sustainable systems are implemented as soon as possible. All sectors of Aruban society recognize this critical next step and are ready to begin the journey towards enhanced sustainability.

As a small island nation with the possibility that global warming will seriously impede the future of Aruba itself, it is a crucial time for Aruba to take control of its own ability to attain social, economic, and environmental sustainability. This is especially important with regards to the availability and use of fresh water.

In addition to the issue of fresh water, Aruba has become increasingly dependent on food imports and the majority of the food production is through "conventional" methods. Food security in Aruba is tenuous at best, as access to almost all products is dependent upon other nations.

The food that Arubans have regular access to is often highly processed and there is also very little access to organic products. Studies have shown that non-organic farming, which uses substantial amounts of chemicals, is not only seriously detrimental to those who consume such products but to the environment as well. All peoples everywhere have the right to access sufficient, healthy food.

RFI believes that a major step in addressing some of Aruba's most pressing issues is developing a "sustainability toolbox" that enables Aruba to take charge of its own health and well-being, to ensure that the dietary needs of Aruba's people are met while the island's natural resources are well-preserved for future generations. The permaculture trainings proposed for the spring of 2011 are intended to work with the many stakeholders of Aruba to develop this toolbox.

Resilient Futures International staff will conduct a full week of presentations and trainings for a variety of government agencies, local organizations, and other interested parties beginning April 11th 2011. The result of this service shall be for local stakeholders to gain a solid understanding in the possible applications of permaculture in a variety of settings to improve the agricultural productivity, ecological biodiversity, and economic independence of Aruba.