



# Report of Regional Dialogue - Delivering Caribbean Climate Ambitions: Climate Finance, Civil Society and Partnerships

under the  
Regional Green Climate Fund Readiness Project: **Enhancing Caribbean Civil Society's Access and Readiness for Climate Finance**

March 16-18, 2021



## 1. Introduction

Recognising the importance of engaging CSOs in climate finance and decision-making at the national and regional level, the project “[Enhancing Caribbean Civil Society’s Access and Readiness for Climate Finance](#)” is being implemented from 2020 to 2022 by the Caribbean Natural Resources Institute (CANARI) and national designated authorities across the Caribbean Community (CARICOM), including Antigua and Barbuda, Belize, Grenada, Jamaica, Saint Kitts and Nevis, Saint Lucia and Suriname. The goal of the project is to enhance civil society's capacity, including knowledge, skills and organisational structures, and the enabling external institutions to improve access to climate financing and delivery of climate change adaptation and mitigation in the Caribbean. The project is funded by the Green Climate Fund (GCF) Readiness and Preparatory Support Programme.

Key outcomes of the project include:

- Mechanisms for CSO engagement in climate change decision-making developed and/or enhanced at the national and regional levels in the Caribbean
- Increased uptake of innovative climate change solutions among Caribbean CSOs and their public and private sector partners to scale up impact and build local resilience
- The technical and organisational capacity of Caribbean CSOs strengthened to directly access climate finance and effectively deliver climate change adaptation and mitigation
- Enhanced awareness and actions to integrate CSO-driven interventions and strengthen the pipeline of climate change projects/programmes nationally and regionally for the GCF and other climate funds

As part of the thrust to build CSOs’ capacity to access and deliver climate finance, CANARI convened a regional dialogue for CSOs, national designated authorities, accredited entities and other key partners and stakeholders to identify potential roles and priorities for improving CSOs’ access to GCF. The three-day virtual event “**Delivering Caribbean Climate Ambitions: Climate Finance, Civil Society and Partnerships**” was held as a from March 16-18, 2021. CANARI facilitated the dialogue in collaboration with technical partners, Climate Analytics and the International Institute for Sustainable Development (IISD).

This report provides an overview of the objectives, approach, and key findings and recommendations from the regional dialogue.

## 2. Participants

The regional dialogue targeted participants from a range of stakeholder groups across Caribbean countries and territories, as well as their international partners, including:

- Regional and national CSOs
- National designated authorities to GCF
- National authorities responsible for climate change
- Accredited entities to GCF operating in CARICOM and the wider region
- GCF, other climate funds and bilateral and multilateral partners
- Intergovernmental and other key technical agencies

Over 200 participants from these groups attended the sessions held over the 3 days. The list of participants can be accessed here:

<https://www.dropbox.com/sh/xz1fpx5aoh2znia/AAB6G5Od2VvnIOigqN5dTs-la?dl=0>.

### 3. Workshop goal and objectives

The overarching goal of this regional dialogue was to bring together key stakeholders in the Caribbean – including national designated authorities, accredited entities, funders, technical agencies and CSOs – and international partners to discuss and explore options for accessing climate finance with a focus on civil society’s role and capacity, expanding multi-stakeholder engagement in climate decision-making, and leveraging partnerships to realise national and regional climate ambitions.

The specific objectives were to:

1. introduce Caribbean CSOs and key partners, including national designated authorities, accredited entities and the private sector, to the current state of play on climate financing;
2. explore success stories, challenges and innovations in civil society’s access to climate finance and engagement in climate change decision-making;
3. validate the mapping report and scoping study on engagement mechanisms and levels of access to climate finance for CSOs across the CARICOM region; and
4. identify the potential roles and priorities for action to enhance Caribbean civil society’s readiness for climate finance.

It is expected the regional dialogue will contribute to the following outputs:

- Validated and finalised mapping report and scoping study on engagement mechanisms and levels of access to climate finance for CSOs across the CARICOM region
- Identified priorities for action to enhance Caribbean civil society’s readiness for climate finance

See **Appendix 1** for the detailed workshop concept and Agenda.

### 4. Approach to the regional dialogue

The regional dialogue was co-facilitated by CANARI and the technical partners, Climate Analytics and the International Institute for Sustainable Development (IISD). To ensure the safety of participants while maintaining a discussion-friendly format, the event was held virtually on Zoom, over the three days.

Each day explored a distinct theme, employing technical presentations by CANARI and experts from IISD and Climate Analytics, interactive panel discussions, thematic breakout groups and informative videos. Sessions were designed to maximise interactivity and exchange between participants to encourage the sharing of experiences from across the region.

### 5. Key findings and recommendations

Key findings, discussion points and recommendations from the 3 days of the regional dialogue are shared in the sections below.

See **Appendix 2** for relevant presentations and recordings from the sessions.

#### 5.1 Day 1: Access to Climate Finance

The first day of the workshop featured **3 key events** surrounding enhancing stakeholder understanding of climate finance access.

Alec Crawford of IISD delivered a **presentation summarising the key findings from the Scoping Study** as they relate to climate finance, followed by an interactive discussion on the findings and their implications. Participation from audience members was active and encouraged. It was noted that a draft version of the Scoping Study is being finalised based on stakeholder feedback and will be circulated by June 2021.

This was followed by a **moderated discussion centred around applying lessons and innovations in financing CSOs and local communities to build climate resilience**. The panel featured four key panelists:

- Diann Black-Layne, Department of Environment, Antigua and Barbuda
- Nayari Diaz-Perez, PACT
- Nicole Leotaud, CANARI
- Donneil Cain, CCCCC

Topics discussed during the panel session included key actions being taken; best practices and innovations to inform GCF's and other climate funds' investments; current challenges, needs and priorities for action; and opportunities that can be leveraged.



*Figure 1. Panelists share insights on lessons and innovations in financing CSOs and local communities to build climate resilience*

Day 1 concluded with three hour-long **breakout group discussions**, where CANARI, Climate Analytics and IISD experts presented on and discussed key climate finance topics with attending stakeholders.

**Breakout 1 focused on “Getting accredited to the GCF”**. Facilitated by Christian Ledwell of IISD, the breakout discussion had 19 participants. The group objective was to discuss challenges for CSOs to become accredited to the GCF. Some key findings from the breakout room are summarised below:

- The GCF accreditation process was identified as being tedious, even for financial institutions that have climate project experience and strict regulations. The need for assistance to meet GCF accreditation conditions was also highlighted.
- The need for a Caribbean-wide focus was also raised. Organisations such as the Association of Caribbean States (ACS) were suggested as platforms for creating enhanced regional linkages.
- Record-keeping and capacity building for CSOs was considered a key and necessary action for accreditation, as maintaining robust project documentation and demonstrating foresight for collaboration and financing can demonstrate requisite capacities to access GCF funds.
- Collaboration among CSOs—both nationally and regionally—was another critical gap identified. Stakeholders agreed that CSOs needed to enhance their capacities to share information and guidance with one another to facilitate the transfer of GCF accreditation process knowledge.

Alongside the development of guidelines by experienced CSOs, the development of a regional database for tracking and collaborating on initiatives was suggested as a potential approach.

- Sustainability of actions was also considered critical, with stakeholders recommending the implementation of succession planning to ensure that CSOs retain their knowledge and capacities, and thus maintain GCF confidence and guarantee the endurance of initiatives across generations.

**Breakout 2 focused on Leveraging the GCF's Enhanced Direct Access (EDA) Modality.** Facilitated by Frances Fuller of Climate Analytics, the group objectives were: to build a better understanding of the GCF's EDA Modality and its importance to CSOs; to discuss current opportunities within the GCF's EDA Modality that CSOs could capitalise on; and to identify how the GCF's EDA Modality or other innovative financial instruments can be used to finance CSO and local communities' climate priorities. Some of the key discussions are summarised below:

- The EDA Modality does provide a means for national and regional entities to establish small grant mechanisms that CSOs and other actors to access funds, recognising that most CSOs would typically not be able to access the minimum size grant of US\$10 million for a full GCF project.
- A current example through which useful lessons are being learned is the GCF-funded project being led by the Antigua and Barbuda's Department of Environment on "Integrated physical adaptation and community resilience through an enhanced direct access pilot in the public, private and civil society sectors of three Eastern Caribbean small island developing states" from 2019 to 2023. It aims to support integrated adaptation and 'climate proofing' of infrastructure owned by communities and individuals and their businesses to withstand more intense hurricanes and climate extremes through responsive small grant and loan mechanisms. The target countries are Antigua and Barbuda, Dominica and Grenada. This is one of two GCF EDA pilots that have been approved globally so far.

**Breakout 3 focused on Improving the delivery of climate finance in the region.** Facilitated by Ainka Granderson of CANARI, the group objectives were: to discuss current opportunities for CSOs to access climate finance from GCF and other funds; to gain inputs from CSOs on their key needs and challenges faced in accessing and delivering climate finance from GCF and other funds; and to identify potential measures to build CSO's capacity and readiness to access and deliver climate finance and priorities moving forward. Some of the key discussions are summarised below:

- Key challenges were noted in terms of limited CSO human resource capacity with the same persons having to fill multiple roles in coordinating and implementing projects in some cases
- It was noted that collective CSO action, CSO networks and coalitions including at regional level is an opportunity as different groups have different capacities, resources and strengths that can be leveraged. Example shared from Belize highlighted that this type of approach is well received by GCF in the development of concept note currently. However, a key challenge highlighted by others is the general lack of trust amongst CSOs working on the ground even where CSOs have strong networks and capacity.
- CSOs highlighted arduous processes for accessing funding but highlighted the GEF SGP as a model that works well and that could be replicated. A key success and motivational factor for CSOs was having a national coordinator who is competent and effective in guiding grantees through the process.



- Setting up small and medium grant programs could help channel resources especially for smaller CSOs and the GCF and Adaptation Fund are being encouraged to set up similar mechanisms to diversify options for funding.
- Empowering women and community stakeholders on the ground to participate in activities and forums that affect their communities and environment was highlighted as being beneficial. This helps to build capacity and readiness of local organisations to engage and to partner effectively with government and private sector.
- It is critical to have parallel technical capacity building of CSOs to roll out relevant projects to address climate change and CSO organisational capacity strengthening to ensure CSOs have strong internal systems to support effective working. Over time this will influence ability to scale up and have more impact.
- Other best practices include use of higher capacity CSOs to function as intermediaries, which can help to channel funds and also provide mentoring and capacity building to lower capacity CSOs. Mentoring of smaller organisations was noted as being of particularly important but will not happen overnight. Working in coalitions or as part of an umbrella organisation providing oversight and support was noted as being extremely useful for mentoring.



*Figure 2. Snapshot of challenges for accessing climate funds and implementing projects*

## What measures could be taken at the national or regional level that would assist in building CSOs' capacity to deliver climate finance?

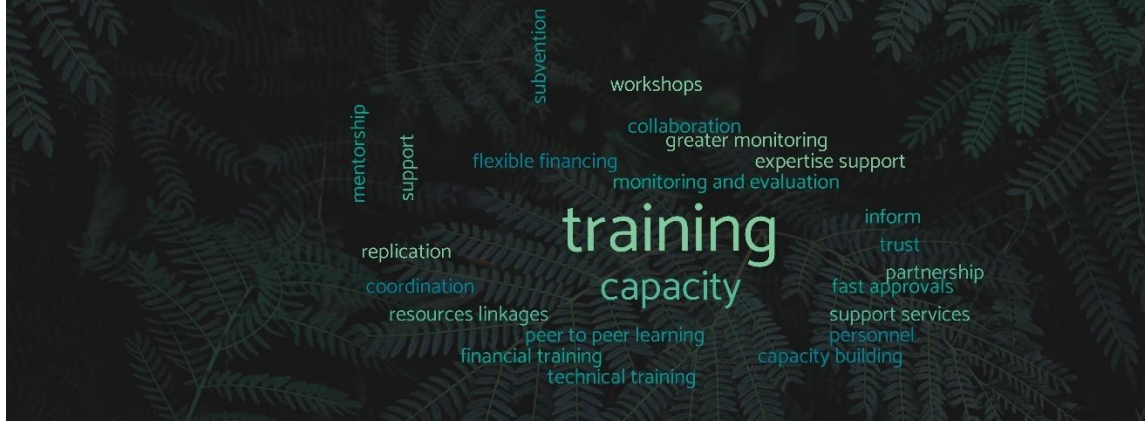


Figure 3. Snapshot of recommendations for building CSO capacity for delivering climate finance

### 5.2 Day 2: Multi-stakeholder Engagement and Decision-Making

The second day of the workshop was held in a similar format and featured **4 key events** aimed at discussing multi-stakeholder engagement and decision-making with participants.

Frances Fuller of Climate Analytics delivered a **presentation summarising the key findings from the recently-concluded Scoping Study<sup>1</sup>**, particularly in relation to the effectiveness of CSO engagement in climate change decision-making.

The second event of the day was a **panel discussion centred around “Enabling pro-poor and inclusive climate change decisions and investments nationally and regionally”**. The panel consisted of:

- Una-May Gordon, Climate Change Division, Jamaica
- Leroy Martinez, Ministry of Economic Development & Petroleum, Belize
- Dylan Williams, Dominica Civil Society Technical Working Group
- Chamberlain Emmanuel, OECS Commission

Topics discussed during the panel session included key mechanisms for national and regional engagement; current engagement challenges and gaps; the potential role of CSOs in decision-making processes, and the platforms that can be leveraged for that; the best practices and innovations to inform Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs), National Adaptation Plans (NAPs) and other decision-making processes; and the best practices and innovations to inform climate financing.

The panel discussion was followed by a presentation by Angie Daze, a Gender Specialist at IISD. The presentation, which focused on mainstreaming gender in climate change divisions and investments, was well-received and saw particularly considerable engagement from the participants.

<sup>1</sup> N.B. A draft version of the Scoping Study is being finalised based on stakeholder feedback and will be circulated by June 2021.

Day 2 concluded with three hour-long **breakout group discussions**, where CANARI, Climate Analytics and IISD experts presented on and discussed key stakeholder engagement mechanisms and CSO-led activity.

**Breakout 1 focused on strengthening multi-stakeholder engagement mechanisms nationally and regionally.** Facilitated by Paolo Cozzi, the group's objectives were: to build a common understanding of the role(s) and purpose(s) of stakeholder engagement in climate change decision-making; to identify key challenges to stakeholder engagement and limitations in existing multi-stakeholder engagement mechanisms; and to establish essential components of an effective multi-stakeholder engagement mechanisms. Some of the key discussions are summarised below:

- Participants broadly agreed that stakeholder engagement was important to the GCF because it facilitated local and civil society buy-in and collaboration, as well as to ensure the sustainability of the project.
- Engagement was also seen as a facilitator of critical local knowledge and data transfer. However, there was also consensus that greater awareness is needed among citizens and societies regarding their roles and responsibilities in policy and project development processes.
- Existing mechanisms and structures, such as the global Climate Action Network and its Latin America chapter, were perceived as valuable and there needs to be greater and more structured engagement with such mechanisms by Caribbean CSOs at the regional and national levels.
- Participants further agreed that capacity constraints—in terms of CSO structure, staff size, and technical staff turnover—were major weaknesses in non-state actor engagement in the region.
- Concerns were also raised about the potential impact of poorly executed engagement, whereby interventions by funders can lead to competition for resources amongst CSOs, thus potentially dividing communities in the process.
- Limited, and unconsolidated data on CSOs, focal areas, and intervention impact were identified a key barrier to effective and sustained engagement. Further disaggregation of data was also suggested to accurately cover geographic, gender, and disability dynamics.
- Participants lastly discussed potential solutions to the aforementioned weaknesses. External support was raised often, with core funding provision and GCF-led national multi-stakeholder data collection exercises being raised as potential approaches. Longer timelines that account for CSO capacity constraints were also suggested.
- Coordination and communication among CSOs across the region were also seen as an existing weakness.

**Breakout 2 focused on promoting gender equality and social inclusion (GESI) in climate finance.**

Facilitated by Angie Daze of IISD, the group's objectives were: to increase awareness on gender, environmental and social safeguard requirements for accessing and delivering climate finance; to identify key barriers and challenges in promoting GESI in climate change and resilience building initiatives; and to discuss opportunities to address GESI, and the potential role of CSOs in the process.

Some of the key discussions are summarised below:

- Capacity-building—such as training on gender-inclusive decision making— was identified as a key need by participants. Greater access to training resources was welcomed, with UN Women, CC Learn, and Learning for Nature identified as potential resources.
- Limited data was also identified as an existing constraint. Participants agreed that there is a need for targeted, sector-specific gender analysis, as well as maintaining continuous data collection in highly vulnerable or marginalized communities.



- Lastly, the direct integration of gender analyses into national policy frameworks was suggested as more holistic and effective than project-specific GESI approaches. GESI should also be integrated into project management, communications and monitoring and evaluation activities. The overall need to change general awareness, attitudes and behaviours surrounding GESI was highlighted.

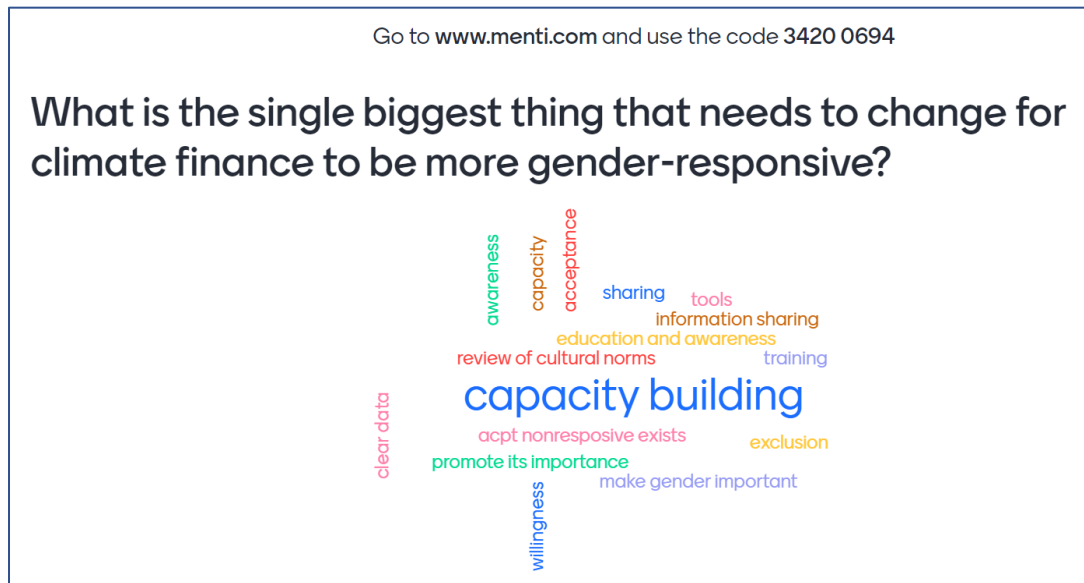


Figure 4. Snapshot of needs and recommendations for making climate finance more gender-responsive

**Breakout 3 focused on enabling collective CSO action on climate change.** Facilitated by Ainka Granderson of CANARI, the group's objectives were: to enhance awareness among CSOs and other stakeholders of the potential value in collective action for improved access to and delivery of climate finance; to identify key barriers, best practices and innovations in collective action by CSOs and other stakeholders; and to identify potential measures to catalyse or enhance collective action by CSOs for improved access and delivery of climate at national and regional levels. Some of the key discussions are summarised below:

- Participants agreed on the need to catalyse and support CSOs networks and coalitions including strengthening the capacity of organisations that serve as umbrella organisations. This is potentially useful for enhancing human capacity, providing mentoring and increasing the available pool of resources, knowledge and skills.
- Joint action including at the regional level is key to have more voice and influence.
- Mechanisms for improving joint working include regular and consistent engagement for building trust and a community of practice, action learning networks to facilitate regular learning and knowledge exchange on key issues, access to relevant information portals and platforms (especially for awareness on what others are doing and opportunities for collaboration) and focus on multi-lingual training to facilitate better communication and diversifying options for collaboration across the region.
- Work by APAMO in Belize and the SDGs Catalysts Network, which was convened by CANARI under an EU-funded CSOs for Good Governance (2017-2020) project, were highlighted as good models to consider in terms of collective CSO action.
- In terms of barriers and challenges, there is often limited CSO capacity coupled with limited support for them to effectively administer and implement projects. The lack of coordination and

communication among non-state actors locally and regionally was noted as a core weakness. Limited collaboration and competitive nature of NGOs and CBOs was also highlighted; there is a need to focus on building trust and a culture of cooperation instead of competition amongst CSOs.

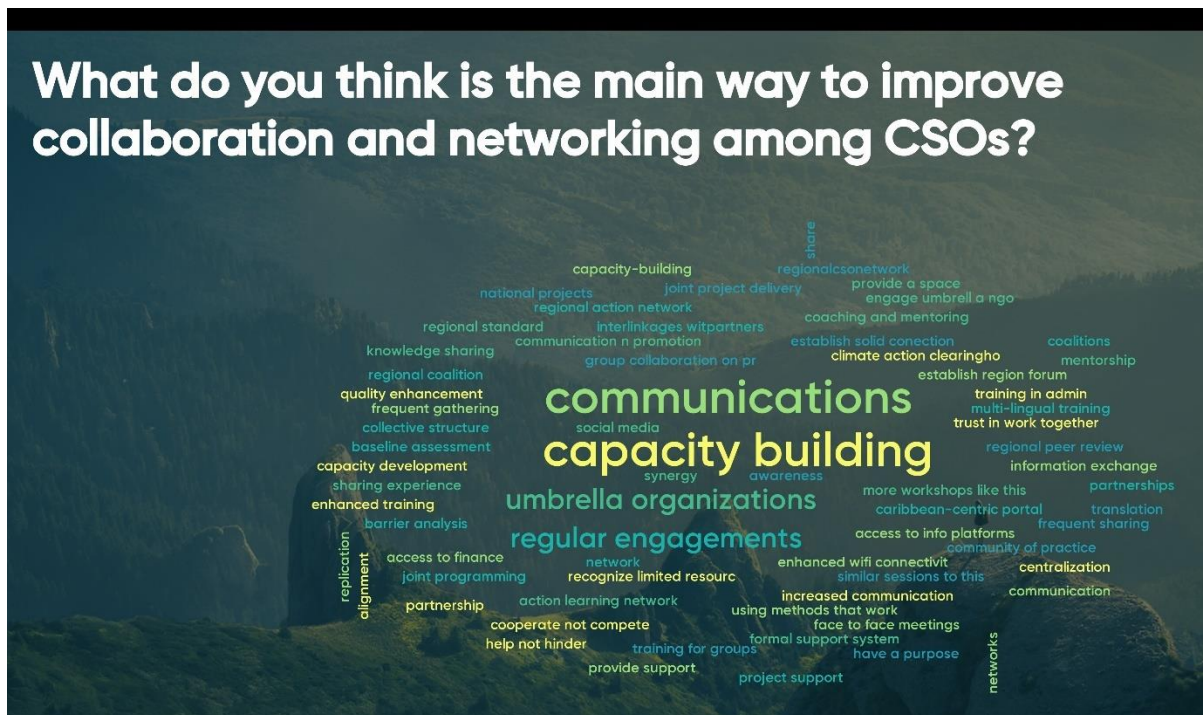


Figure 5. Snapshot of recommendations for improving collaboration and networking among CSOs

### 5.3 Day 3: Leveraging Partnerships and Realising Ambitions

The third and final day of the workshop featured **3 key events** that focused on leveraging partnerships and realising ambitions.

The first event of the day was a **panel discussion centred around making the GCF work for inclusive, low-carbon and climate resilient development in the Caribbean**. The panel consisted of:

- Neranda Maurice-George, Green Climate Fund Regional Advisor
- Mrs. Donette Chalery, Department of Economic Development, Transport and Civil Aviation, Saint Lucia
- Mr. Omar Mohammed, The Cropper Foundation, Trinidad and Tobago
- Dr. Donneil Cain, Caribbean Community Climate Change Centre

Topics discussed during the panel session included key challenges and needs in engaging CSOs and other stakeholders to effectively design and deliver GCF projects; identifying priorities for actions; and exploring partnerships that could be leveraged.

The second event was a **launch and overview of the regional Caribbean Climate Finance Action Network** by Ainka Granderson, CANARI. The Network aims to bring together key civil society, government and private sector stakeholders for shared learning, partnership building and developing practical solutions improve climate finance access and delivery in the region.

The third and final events of the Regional Dialogue were **7 country-specific breakout group discussions, where the National Coordinator and Civil Society Liaison for each target country hosted discussions on defining priorities for action; and 1 breakout discussion on regional priorities facilitated by CANARI.**

The objectives of each discussion were: to gain inputs from CSOs on their key needs and challenges in accessing and delivering climate finance from the GCF and other funds; to discuss opportunities to further engage CSOs and build their capacity and readiness for climate finance access and delivery; to identify priorities and key players for action to improve CSOs' access and delivery of climate finance in each of the target countries; and to ensure that CSOs in each country are aware of the GCF CSO Readiness project, its aims and activities, and how it will build on the outcomes of the regional dialogue.

Some of the key discussions for each country are summarised below:

Target Country	Key Takeaways from Discussion
Antigua and Barbuda	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Several projects currently being implemented by CSOs were identified. They included Environment Awareness Group (EAG) programs, Youth for Climate Action, and youth attendance at COP 25 through UNICEF and Caribbean Youth Environment Network (CYEN).</li> <li>• Key needs and challenges include limited funding for core operational costs, and constraints surrounding project accreditation e.g. financial auditing</li> <li>• Communication and collaboration between CSOs, and leveraging of organisations such as EAG were seen as key opportunities for action</li> <li>• The Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) was seen as the primary way for government engagement with CSOs, despite its representation gaps</li> <li>• Top priorities for addressing the challenges identified include a structured mechanism for CSO engagement with the government; funding for CSO operational costs; dedicated national budgets for CSO work; training and capacity-building; and annual data collection on CSO activities.</li> <li>• Sharing of best practices for grant writing, skill-sharing, and other CSO activities was seen as a key partnership to leverage in the future.</li> </ul>
Belize	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Several projects currently being implemented by CSOs—mostly protected area management and Ecosystem-based Adaptation— were identified, including Locally Empowered Area Protection (LEAP) projects</li> <li>• Lack of knowledge, misinterpretation of social information, knowledge sharing and capacity building were identified as major needs and challenges for the country's CSOs. Turnover or scarcity of technical staff was also a key challenge.</li> <li>• Greater collaboration between CSOs was seen as a major internal need for CSOs, alongside improving organisational frameworks, and the uptake of evidence-based social data and information.</li> <li>• Recommendations for addressing the challenges include the provision of stipends to attract CSO volunteers, creation of livelihood opportunities for community members, and the development of a regional platform for information sharing and networking.</li> </ul>
Grenada	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Few cases of CSO-led climate projects were referenced. An Aquaponics project for climate-smart agriculture was referenced, but faced significant funding, deadline and networking challenges</li> </ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>CSOs face significant challenges in developing and submitting successful proposals or grant requests</li> <li>Key priorities that require addressing include training and sensitisation for community members on climate action engagement; and a more holistic and integrated engagement/implementation approach that promotes collaboration and prevents duplication of efforts or projects.</li> </ul>
Jamaica	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Several projects currently being implemented by CSOs, including mangrove rehabilitation and Impact Youth Sustainability Jamaica.</li> <li>Lack of capacity or support with project proposal development, alongside CSO governance mechanisms, were identified as key needs and challenges facing CSOs</li> <li>Several resources were identified as opportunities for CSOs to leverage. They include opportunities for consultations with international organisations e.g. UNDP and GEF; online resources for learning and certification; and a hub for consolidating CSO data.</li> <li>Top priorities include supporting CSOs to better understand national priorities and accordingly align proposals, develop strategic partnerships with public and private stakeholders, and facilitate peer-to-peer learning.</li> </ul>
St. Kitts and Nevis	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Several initiatives currently being implemented by CSOs were identified, such as the monitoring of nesting beaches, and reforestation activities.</li> <li>Key challenges facing CSOs in the country include lack of technical skills and capacity; lack of funding; privatisation of land and mangroves; and challenges with staff turnover</li> <li>Priorities for action include contributing to national development plans and projects; capacity building and enhanced regional cooperation on projects by CSOs; and the development of succession plans to limit turnover.</li> <li>Stipends for CSO staff were also suggested, alongside the calibration of government agencies to serve as linkages for multi-stakeholder climate action and coordination.</li> </ul>
Saint Lucia	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The Saint Lucia National Trust was identified as a CSO that is engaged in ongoing projects focused on the south of the country.</li> <li>Key needs identified by CSOs include technical support for proposal development, project design and reporting. The development of templates and facilitation of peer-to-peer learning across the region were also critical needs that could support CSO climate finance access and delivery.</li> <li>Key recommendations include the development of meaningful and CSO-friendly engagement strategies and the enhancement of CSO collaboration</li> </ul>
Suriname	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Tropbenbos Suriname's livelihood improvement initiative was identified as a project being implemented by CSOs in the country</li> <li>Key needs include funding for the implementation of a holistic approach to measurable behaviour change, with access to funds (both locally and internationally) identified as a major challenge.</li> </ul>

For the breakout group focused on regional priorities, key discussion points are summarised below:

1. Regarding CSOs' needs in accessing funds and implementing climate change projects at the regional level:

- There is a critical need for capacity building and cooperation around data at the regional level which can help inform the pipeline of projects that can access finance. A better mechanism is needed to coordinate and better cooperate around data collection, management and sharing. Regional clearinghouses e.g. through CCCCC do exist, but citizen science is not incorporated currently. This is an area CSOs can contribute.
- Regional efforts to advocate for and access funds need to be better integrated and mainstreamed, including through continued engagement and collaboration with the various NDAs and other relevant entities across the region.
- There is a need for more movement building, more effective collaboration amongst CSOs and formation of CSO networks and coalitions that will potentially have more voice and impact at regional level. A key limitation is that there isn't often a lot of funding to support regional networks and partnerships. Additionally, noting challenges of true partnerships between CSOs and larger executing/financing partners, the suggestion was made that a model of what true partnership should look like, may need to be communicated and formalised across the region.
- There have been experiential challenges in developing (joint?) proposals to GCF, particularly fisheries sector projects, where a key issue had been the distinction between adaptation and development projects (not considered fundable by GCF), as well as difficulty in getting multi-country projects approved versus national-level projects. This is a concern for sectors such as fisheries which by its nature is trans-boundary and issues often go beyond national-level.
- International funders do not fully grasp the culture of the Caribbean. Investment is needed in CSOs especially in building their capacity and supporting efforts for regional advocacy for e.g. on a Caribbean specific agenda for climate action, highlighting SIDS specific needs, demanding access to financing etc. Identification of champions at the political level and inclusion of civil society in key regional fora e.g. heads of govt meetings were suggested as means of improving advocacy efforts.
- Communication is a key area to address to support effective regional climate action; this includes different aspects addressing language skills, ability to communicate/document in multiple languages and reliability of internet communication.
- There is a need for technical coaching and mentoring (via a hub or other mechanism) to help CSOs understand and 'speak the language of the grants' and support proposal development. In addition, there must also be evidence of capacity to handle small projects before handling larger projects.
- Other comments spoke to the need to focus on gender equality and gender-responsiveness of climate actions; and for alignment with the SDGs and other key frameworks and commitments made regionally and globally.

The top priorities for action to improve access to climate funds regionally were noted as:

- Improving partnerships at regional level and support for regional networks and coalitions
- Advocacy for more flexible funding at the regional level which is responsive to needs on the ground (i.e. has to do with funder requirements and advocating to ensure these are realistic for the Caribbean context, SIDS and especially smaller CSOs working on climate action)
- Technical and organisational capacity building, coaching and mentorship of CSOs to submit proposals, including for translation and financial systems guidance, and successfully manage/implement projects.
- CSO movement building and regional advocacy (including engaging political champions) on access to climate finance and climate action in general



- Support for citizen-led science and connecting academia and communities/civil society for sharing of knowledge and best practices and more informed action on adaptation, mitigation and building resilience.
- Identification of high impact sectors for focus e.g. food/agriculture, energy, water and waste management nexus were considered areas for opportunity.

## 6. Next steps

Following the regional dialogue and taking into account the key findings, recommendations and priorities for action identified to enhance Caribbean civil society's readiness for climate finance, the draft **Scoping Study** on engagement mechanisms and levels of access to climate finance for CSOs across the CARICOM region will be finalised and circulated by June 2021.

In addition, the **Caribbean Climate Finance Action Network** will be convened and meet virtually, every 4-6 months, to continue shared dialogue and specifically to engage national and regional CSOs, national designated authorities and accredited entities to GCF and other funds and the private sector for shared learning, partnership building and developing solutions to improve access to and delivery of climate finance in the Caribbean region.

## Appendix 1: Concept Note and Agenda



### Regional Dialogue Delivering Caribbean Climate Ambitions: Climate Finance, Civil Society and Partnerships

March 16-18, 2021  
10:00 am - 1:00 pm (Eastern Caribbean time; UTC-4)

Under the project  
“Enhancing Caribbean Civil Society’s Access and Readiness for Climate Finance”

#### CONCEPT NOTE

##### **Background**

As small island developing states (SIDS), Caribbean countries are disproportionately vulnerable to external economic shocks and natural disasters that can instantly erase years – if not decades – of development gains. Compounding the Caribbean’s exposure to climate risks, national governments and other key stakeholders such as civil society and the private sector are also facing significant capacity constraints, limited fiscal space and insufficient domestic financing to respond adequately to the challenges posed by climate change.

Unlocking international climate finance is a key priority for increasing climate resilience in an under-resourced and over-exposed region. However, this has proven to be a very competitive and lengthy process for many Caribbean SIDS. The Green Climate Fund (GCF) and other climate funds aim to help address this by not just expanding and accelerating access to climate finance to governments, but also civil society organisations (CSOs) and the private sector. CSOs, in particular, can play a significant role in planning and implementing adaptation and mitigation actions as well as helping to monitor and evaluate the success of actions undertaken by governments and businesses. They are often a strong force for making the voices of marginalised and vulnerable communities heard and amplified. They can also be instrumental in ensuring that the prioritisation of projects aligns with country needs, and that climate action and access to climate finance remains people-centred. Building the lasting in-country capacity for CSOs to contribute to this process, and to access the financing they need to do so, is crucial.

Recognising the importance of engaging CSOs in climate finance and decision-making at the national and regional level, the project “[Enhancing Caribbean Civil Society’s Access and Readiness for Climate Finance](#)” is being implemented from 2020 to 2022 by the Caribbean Natural Resources Institute (CANARI) and national designated authorities across the Caribbean Community (CARICOM), including Antigua and Barbuda, Belize, Grenada, Jamaica, Saint Kitts and Nevis, Saint Lucia and Suriname. The lead national designated authority for the project is the Climate Change Division, Ministry of Housing, Urban Renewal, Environment and Climate Change in Jamaica. The project is funded by GCF.

##### **Purpose**

This regional dialogue, to be hosted online, will bring together key stakeholders in the Caribbean – including national designated authorities, accredited entities, funders, technical agencies and CSOs –

and international partners to discuss and explore options for accessing climate finance with a focus on civil society's role and capacity, expanding multi-stakeholder engagement in climate decision-making, and leveraging partnerships to realise national and regional climate ambitions. It is being co-facilitated by CANARI and the technical partners, Climate Analytics and the International Institute for Sustainable Development (IISD).

### **Objectives**

The main objectives of the workshop will be to:

1. introduce Caribbean CSOs and key partners, including national designated authorities, accredited entities and the private sector, to the current state of play on climate financing;
2. explore success stories, challenges and innovations in civil society's access to climate finance and engagement in climate change decision-making;
3. validate the mapping report and scoping study on engagement mechanisms and levels of access to climate finance for CSOs across the CARICOM region; and
4. identify the potential roles and priorities for action to enhance Caribbean civil society's readiness for climate finance.

### **Event Format**

The event will be held as a virtual forum from Tuesday 16 March to Thursday 18 March, 2021 from 10:00 am to 1:00 pm (Eastern Caribbean time; UTC-4) each day. It will be hosted using Zoom. Please register at: <https://zoom.us/meeting/register/tJAuceitqTMjG9LbmPnhpzmJi79DVRTAWWUa>

### **Target Group**

Participants from a range of stakeholder groups will be engaged across Caribbean countries and territories, as well as their international partners, including:

- Regional and national CSOs
- National designated authorities to GCF
- National authorities responsible for climate change
- Accredited entities to GCF operating in CARICOM and the wider region
- GCF, other climate funds and bilateral and multilateral partners
- Intergovernmental and other key technical agencies

### **Approach**

The regional dialogue will feature a mix of presentations, moderated panel discussions and breakout groups. Sessions will be designed to maximise interactivity and exchange between participants to encourage the sharing of experiences from across the region.

### **Key outputs**

The regional dialogue will contribute to the following outputs:

- Validated and finalised mapping report and scoping study on engagement mechanisms and levels of access to climate finance for CSOs across the CARICOM region
- Identified priorities for action to enhance Caribbean civil society's readiness for climate finance

**For more information, please contact:**

**CANARI Senior Technical Officer Ainka Granderson at [ainka@canari.org](mailto:ainka@canari.org)**



# AGENDA

## Day 1: Access to Climate Finance

Tuesday 16 March, 2021

10:00am	Welcome & Introductions	Mrs. Una-May Gordon, Climate Change Division, Jamaica
10:10am	Opening remarks	Dr. Orville Grey, Green Climate Fund
10:20am	Brief remarks	H.E. Mrs. Diann Black-Layne, Ambassador of Climate Change and Department of Environment, Antigua and Barbuda
10:30am	Overview of the GCF readiness project: Enhancing Caribbean Civil Society's Access and Readiness to Climate Finance	Dr. Ainka Granderson, Caribbean Natural Resources Institute (CANARI)
10:40am	Presentation: Findings from Scoping Study on Caribbean Civil Society's Access to Climate Finance	Mr. Alec Crawford, International Institute for Sustainable Development (IISD)
	Interactive Q&A session	
11:10am	<b>Panel Discussion – Applying lessons and innovations in financing civil society organisations and local communities to build climate resilience</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. What are the key actions being taken?</li> <li>b. What are the best practices and innovations to inform GCF's and other climate funds' investments?</li> <li>c. What are current challenges, needs and priorities to action?</li> <li>d. What are opportunities that can be leveraged?</li> </ul>	Moderator: Ms. Frances Fuller, Climate Analytics  Panellists: H.E. Mrs. Diann Black-Layne, Ambassador of Climate Change and Department of Environment, Antigua and Barbuda  Mrs. Nayari Diaz-Perez, Protected Areas Conservation Trust  Ms. Nicole Leotaud, CANARI  Mr. Nicholas Ross, Caribbean Development Bank
	Interactive Q&A session	
12:00pm	<b>Breakouts:</b> Breakout 1 – Getting accredited to the Green Climate Fund Breakout 2 – Leveraging the Green Climate Fund's Enhanced Direct Access Breakout 3 – Improving delivery of climate finance	Facilitator: Mr. Christian Ledwell, IISD Facilitator: Ms. Frances Fuller, Climate Analytics Facilitator: Dr. Ainka Granderson, CANARI
1:00pm	End of Day 1	

## **Day 2: Multi-Stakeholder Engagement & Decision-making**

*Wednesday 17 March, 2021*

<b>10:00am</b>	<b>Welcome &amp; Re-cap of Day 1</b>	Dr. Ainka Granderson, CANARI
<b>10:15am</b>	<b>Presentation: Findings from Scoping Study on Effectiveness of CSO Engagement in Climate Change Decision-making</b>	Ms. Frances Fuller, Climate Analytics
	Interactive Q&A session	
<b>10:45am</b>	<b>Panel Discussion – Enabling pro-poor and inclusive climate change decisions and investments nationally and regionally</b>	Moderator: Mr. Alec Crawford, IISD
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. What are the key mechanisms for engagement nationally and regionally?</li> <li>b. What are current challenges and gaps?</li> <li>c. What roles can civil society play in decision-making processes and what spaces/platforms can be leveraged?</li> <li>d. What are the best practices and innovations to inform NDCs, NAPs and other decision-making processes?</li> <li>e. What are the best practices and innovations to inform climate financing (e.g. GCF Country Programmes)?</li> </ul>	Panellists: Mrs. Una-May Gordon, Climate Change Division, Jamaica  Mr. Leroy Martinez, Ministry of Finance, Economic Development & Investment, Belize  Mr. Dylan Williams, Dominica Civil Society, NGO & Private Sector Technical Working Group  Ms. Jhannel Tomlinson, Caribbean Youth Environment Network
	Interactive Q&A session	
<b>11:30am</b>	<b>Presentation + video: Mainstreaming gender in climate change decisions and investments</b>	Ms. Angie Dazé, IISD
	Interactive Q&A session	
<b>12:00pm</b>	<b>Breakouts:</b> Breakout 1 – Strengthening multi-stakeholder engagement mechanisms nationally and regionally Breakout 2 – Promoting gender equality and social inclusion in climate finance Breakout 3 – Enabling collective civil society action on climate change	Facilitator: Mr. Paolo Cozzi, Climate Analytics  Facilitator: Ms. Angie Dazé, IISD Facilitator: Dr. Ainka Granderson, CANARI
<b>1:00pm</b>	<b>End of Day 2</b>	



### **Day 3: Leveraging Partnerships & Realising Ambitions**

Thursday 18 March, 2021

<b>10:00am</b>	<b>Welcome &amp; Re-cap of Days 1 and 2</b>	Dr. Ainka Granderson, CANARI
<b>10:15am</b>	<b>Brief remarks</b>	
<b>10:25am</b>	<b>Panel Discussion - Making the Green Climate Fund work for inclusive, low-carbon and climate resilient development in the Caribbean</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. What are key challenges and needs in engaging CSOs and other stakeholders to effectively design and deliver Green Climate Fund projects for adaptation and mitigation?</li> <li>b. What are the priorities for action?</li> <li>c. What partnerships can be leveraged?</li> </ul>	Moderators: Ms. Frances Fuller, Climate Analytics & Mr. Alec Crawford, IISD  Panellists: Mrs. Neranda Maurice-George, Green Climate Fund  Mrs. Donette Chalery, Department of Economic Development, Transport and Civil Aviation, Saint Lucia  Mr. Omar Mohammed, The Cropper Foundation  Dr. Donneil Cain, Caribbean Community Climate Change Centre
	Interactive Q&A session	
<b>11:20am</b>	<b>Launch and overview of the regional Climate Finance in Action Network</b>	Dr. Ainka Granderson, CANARI
<b>11:35am</b>	<b>Breakouts on Defining Priorities for Action:</b> Breakout 1 – Antigua & Barbuda  Breakout 2 – Belize  Breakout 3 – Grenada  Breakout 4 – Jamaica  Breakout 5 – Saint Kitts and Nevis  Breakout 6 – Saint Lucia  Breakout 7 – Suriname Breakout 8 – Regional Priorities	Facilitator: Ms. Refica Attwood  Facilitator: Mr. Jose Perez, Association of Protected Areas Management Organisations Facilitator: Mrs. Sandra Ferguson, Inter Agency Group of Development Organisations Facilitator: Faradaine Forbes-Edwards Facilitator: Mr. Terry Morris  Facilitator: Mrs. Barbara Jacobs-Small, Right Angle Imaging Facilitator: Ms. Grace del Prado Facilitator: Dr. Ainka Granderson, CANARI
<b>12:50pm</b>	<b>Closing Remarks &amp; Thanks</b>	Mrs. UnaMay Gordon, Climate Change Division, Jamaica
<b>1:00pm</b>	<b>End of Dialogue</b>	

## **Appendix 2: Presentations and recordings**

All PowerPoint slides, handouts and other materials from the dialogue, and recordings from Days 1-3 can be accessed at the Dropbox link:

<https://www.dropbox.com/sh/xz1fpx5aoh2znia/AAB6G5Od2VvnIOigqN5dTs-la?dl=0>.