

A group of five people are engaged in planting mangrove saplings in a coastal area. They are bent over, working in the dark, muddy soil. In the background, there is a body of water and some greenery. The scene is outdoors and appears to be a community or environmental activity.

# Unlocking Climate Finance for Locally-Led Action in the Caribbean

November 3, 2021

11:00 am - 12:00 pm (AST/UTC-4) | 3:00 – 4:00 pm (BST)

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

## CONCEPT NOTE

### Background

Unlocking climate finance is a priority for building climate resilience in vulnerable and under-resourced Caribbean small island developing states (SIDS). In particular, there is a need to expand and accelerate actions that are bottom-up and locally-led that engage civil society, and effectively meet the needs of the most vulnerable. Civil society organisations (CSOs) 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 also a strong force for making the voices of marginalised and vulnerable communities heard and amplified. 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.

A scoping study was conducted across the Caribbean Community (CARICOM) region by the Caribbean Natural Resources Institute (CANARI), Climate Analytics and International Institute for Sustainable Development (IISD) from September 2020 to June 2021 to (1) assess current levels of CSO access to and delivery of climate finance, including from the Adaptation Fund, Green Climate Fund and Global Environment Facility; and (2) identify and assess current mechanisms for multi-stakeholder engagement, including of CSOs, in climate change decision-making at regional and national levels and their effectiveness. The study highlights key barriers and opportunities and provides concrete recommendations for improving access to climate finance for civil society, and improving their engagement in climate action, in the region.

The study was commissioned under the Green Climate Fund-funded readiness project being implemented from 2020-2022 by the Caribbean Natural Resources Institute (CANARI) and national designated authorities across 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 aims to enhance civil society’s capacity, including knowledge, skills and organisational structures, and the enabling institutional framework to improve access to climate finance and delivery of climate change adaptation and mitigation in the Caribbean. See: <https://canari.org/csos-ready-for-climate-finance>

## Purpose

This virtual side event will be held at the Association for Small Island States (AOSIS) Pavilion at COP26 and bring together key stakeholders in the Caribbean – national designated authorities, accredited entities, technical agencies and leading regional and national civil society organisations – and our international partners for the official launch of the new report from the scoping study on “Enhancing Caribbean Civil Society’s Access and Readiness for Climate Finance”.

COP26 in Glasgow, UK represents a critical moment to ensure the pledge of US\$100 billion per year to developing countries to support climate change adaptation and mitigation is fulfilled, and to highlight pathways for channeling this finance to address the needs of the most vulnerable communities and wider civil society in Caribbean SIDS and globally.

## Event Format

The meeting will be held virtually using Zoom on Wednesday 3 November, 2021 from 11:00-12:00 Eastern Caribbean Time/ 15:00-16:00 BST. It will be hosted at the AOSIS Pavilion at COP26. Please register at: <https://us06web.zoom.us/join/91012021000>

## Target Group

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

- Regional and national CSOs
- National designated authorities to Adaptation Fund, Green Climate Fund and other funds
- Accredited entities to Adaptation Fund and Green Climate Fund operating in CARICOM and the wider region
- Adaptation Fund, Green Climate Fund and other international climate funds and bilateral and multilateral partners
- Intergovernmental and other key technical agencies

## Key outputs and materials

Key outputs and materials to be shared at the event:

- Scoping report on “Enhancing Caribbean Civil Society’s Access and Readiness for Climate Finance”
- Summary infographic on Caribbean civil society’s access to climate finance
- Short video summarising the key findings and recommendations from the scoping report

## Event Contact

Organiser: Ainka Granderson, Senior Technical Officer, CANARI, [ainka@canari.org](mailto:ainka@canari.org)  
Contact at COP26: Arica Hill, Executive Director, Environmental Awareness Group, [arica.eag@gmail.com](mailto:arica.eag@gmail.com)



# AGENDA

**Wednesday 3 November, 2021**

<b>15:00</b>	<b>Welcome &amp; Introductions</b>	Mr. Alec Crawford, Senior Policy Advisor, International Institute for Sustainable Development
<b>15:05</b>	<b>Opening remarks</b>	Ms. UnaMay Gordon, Principal Director, Climate Change Division, Jamaica
<b>15:10</b>	<b>Remarks</b>	Dr. Osmond Martinez, Chief Executive Officer, Ministry of Finance, Economic Development and Investment, Belize
<b>15:15</b>	<b>Launch of the Scoping Report – Enhancing Caribbean Civil Society’s Access and Readiness for Climate Finance</b>	Dr. Ainka Granderson, Senior Technical Officer and Resilience Lead, Caribbean Natural Resources Institute (CANARI)
<b>15:35</b>	<b>Q&amp;A and interactive discussion session</b>	Moderator: Mr. Alec Crawford, Senior Policy Advisor, International Institute for Sustainable Development
<b>15:55</b>	<b>Closing Remarks</b>	Amb. Dessima Williams, Founder and Director, Grenada Education and Development Organisation and CANARI SDGs Champion
<b>16:00</b>	<b>Close</b>	

