



# Strategy for the Caribbean Sea Innovation Fund (CarSIF)

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## Introduction

Over the past twelve (12) years, the Caribbean Natural Resources Institute (CANARI) has managed and administered a number of small grant programmes for civil society organisations in 18 Caribbean islands on behalf of various donors working in the Caribbean in the areas of biodiversity conservation, climate change adaptation and resilience, sustainable livelihoods, participatory governance and organisational capacity building. Donors include the Darwin Initiative, Critical Ecosystem Partnership Fund (CEPF), European Union (EU) and the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organisation (UN FAO) amongst others. CANARI uses small grants as one of their capacity building strategies to increase CSO capacity for participatory natural resource governance and management in the Caribbean. CANARI has established the Caribbean Sea Innovation Fund (CarSIF) to serve as a framework to design and implement small grants programmes related to coastal and marine governance and management in the Caribbean.

## Caribbean Sea Innovation Fund (CarSIF)

### Purpose

There have been many successful examples of effective use of small grants implemented by countries and/or partner organisations in the Caribbean which promote and supports CSOs to work on coastal and marine biodiversity conservation and sustainable livelihoods. The Caribbean Sea Innovation Fund (CarSIF) a small grants facility established by CANARI to support innovation and best practices by CSOs and community enterprises to address priorities needs and actions in the Caribbean on marine and coastal governance and management.

The CarSIF directly aligns with and will support implementation of the priority strategies of the [Civil Society Action Programme for Sustainable Management of the Shared Living Marine Resources of the Caribbean and North Brazil Shelf Large Marine Ecosystems \(CLME+ C-SAP\)](#). The CLME C-SAP was developed by civil society for civil society and outlines the role that CSOs can play in contributing to the implementation of the politically endorsed 10-year [Strategic Action Programme for the Sustainable Management of the Shared Living Marine Resources of the Caribbean and North Brazil Shelf Large Marine Ecosystems \(CLME+ SAP\)](#). The CLME+ SAP (2015-2025) aims to contribute to the achievement of the long-term vision of “a healthy marine environment in the CLME+ region that provides benefits and livelihoods for the well-being of the people of the region.”

The CarSIF will be managed by CANARI and serve as a framework for implementation of small grants programmes being implemented by CANARI on marine and coastal governance and management.



CANARI is coordinating implementation of this project funded by the European Union (ENV/2016/380-530) *Civil society and small and micro enterprise innovation for marine and coastal conservation in the Caribbean.*

These will be managed as separate funding windows, utilising common administrative processes but with specific funding priorities and requirements based on different donors. Inclusion of related small grants under this one framework will enhance efficiencies and synergies.

## Objective

The objective of the CarSIF is to serve as a small grants facility to support innovation and best practices to enhance coastal and marine biodiversity conservation, build resilience to climate change and natural hazards and support development of sustainable community livelihoods by FFOs, CBOs, NGOs and SMEs in the Caribbean.

## CarSIF Advisory Group

An Advisory Group of between 6 to 10 persons, will be established to support the design, implementation monitoring, evaluation and learning on the CarSIF. The Advisory Group will be comprised of regional experts from government agencies, academic organisations, technical assistance agencies, intermediaries and donors actively working in coastal and marine governance and management in the Caribbean islands and with experience working collaboratively with CSOs. The Advisory Group will be guided by a Terms of Reference which defines its purpose, membership, functions and duties, meetings and conflict of interest.

## Strategy for CarSIF development and implementation

The strategy for the development and implementation of the CarSIF includes:

- Development of a Strategy to guide the effective engagement of key stakeholders in the development of the CarSIF to ensure quality, credibility and usefulness of the small grants facility mechanism
- Establishment of the CarSIF Advisory Group including development of terms of reference and hosting a first meeting of the Group
- Development and approval of grant application process including:
  - application form and reporting templates
  - detailed application guidelines which include:
    - the objectives and results to be obtained with the small grants
    - the different types of activities eligible for financial support
    - financial management requirements including procurement and record-keeping
    - desired collaboration with other FFOs, CBOs, NGOs and other stakeholders
    - guidelines on ensuring synergies with other initiatives
    - requirements for monitoring, evaluation, reporting and visibility
  - call for proposals by invitation only to the 20 FFOs, CBOs and NGOs targeted under specific CANARI-managed projects
  - project selection criteria and process
  - monitoring and evaluation requirements
  - a workplan for actions towards CarSIF implementation (see below for proposed timeline for implementation)
  - a process for CANARI-trained mentors to provide mentoring and coaching support to FFOs, CBOs and NGOs in project development and proposal writing, implementation and evaluation under the CarSIF (as necessary and relevant to specific project outcomes)
- Review and selection of project proposals by the Advisory Group and development and approval of smalls grant contracts to successful applicants
- Roll out and implementation of projects under the CarSIF including monitoring, evaluation and leaving, communication and reporting

## PISCES window under the CarSIF

### Background

[The Powering Innovations in Civil Society and Enterprises for Sustainability in the Caribbean \(PISCES\) Project \(2017-2020\)](#) aims to support innovative actions and civil society and coastal community small and microenterprises (SMEs) for conserving marine and coastal biodiversity and developing sustainable and resilient livelihoods in the Caribbean. Key actions under PISCES are:

- awareness raising
- capacity building
- fostering collaboration
- supporting implementation of practical actions
- advocacy to influence policy

The project is taking place in 10 countries: Antigua and Barbuda; The Bahamas; Dominica; Grenada; Haiti; Jamaica; Saint Kitts and Nevis; Saint Lucia; Saint Vincent and the Grenadines; and Trinidad and Tobago. It will benefit fisherfolk organisations (FFOs), community-based organisations (CBOs), national non-governmental organisations (NGOs) and SMEs and focus on marine protected areas/ marine managed areas (MPAs/MMAs).

PISCES is being funded by the European Union EuropeAid programme and is being managed through the office of the Delegation of the European Union to Barbados, the Eastern Caribbean States, the OECS and CARICOM/CARIFORUM. PISCES is being implemented by the Caribbean Natural Resources Institute (CANARI) in partnership with the Caribbean Coastal Area Management Foundation (C-CAM), the Caribbean Network of Fisherfolk Organisations (CNFO), the Environmental Awareness Group (EAG), the Fondation pour la Protection de la Biodiversité Marine (FoProBiM), Sustainable Grenadines Inc (SusGren), and the Saint Lucia National Trust (SLNT).

PISCES will contribute to addressing priority issues and needs in the Caribbean by enhancing marine and coastal biodiversity conservation, sustainable livelihoods and socio-economic development. This will be achieved through conserving and building resilience of natural resources upon which the fisheries, tourism and other economic sectors depend, strengthening the small-scale fisheries sector, supporting sustainable and community tourism, strengthening community SMEs and enhancing marine and coastal governance generally as well as specifically within selected priority MPAs/MMAs.

Component 3 of the PISCES project which provides small grants to support innovation actions by FFOs, CBOs and NGOs to enhance the conservation of biodiversity and build resilience to the impacts of climate change and natural hazards in MPAs/MMAs. Component 4 of the PISCES project provides small grants to strengthen formal and informal community small and micro enterprises (SMEs) based on small scale fisheries and ecotourism to build resilience and enhance economic benefits to rural communities, particularly women.

### Funding Priorities

The CarSIF PISCES window will be launched in 2019 with a total funding amount of 80,000 Euros and will operate to the end of the PISCES project on December 31, 2020. Small grants of between 5,000 to 10,000 Euros will be awarded under the CarSIF PISCES window and will support projects which address priorities needs and actions in the Caribbean on marine and coastal governance and management, including efforts to conserve biodiversity, build resilience to climate change and natural hazards, and support sustainable livelihoods. Small grants may also support organisational capacity building (e.g. organisational strengthening, communication, outreach to members, resource mobilisation, promoting establishment or strengthening of local networks, networking with

partners) and engagement in policy influencing activities (e.g. participation at policy and planning meetings, development and dissemination of policy influencing products). Collaborations amongst FFOs, CBOs, NGOs and SMEs will be strongly encouraged.

For 2019, the CarSIF PISCES window will prioritise funding for projects on coastal and marine governance and management from FFOs, CBOs and NGOs in the Caribbean that address one or more of the following strategies of the CLME+ C-SAP:

- Implement ecosystem-based management of reef and associated ecosystems (e.g. seagrass beds, mangroves, reef slopes and coastal lagoons) (Strategy 1)
- Implement an ecosystem-based approach for pelagic fisheries (Strategy 2)
- Strengthen civil society's role to conduct and participate in research and monitoring for management of the coastal and marine environment (Strategy 4)
- Strengthen civil society's participation in governance of the coastal and marine environment (Strategy 5)
- Develop and enhance livelihoods based on the sustainable use of coastal and marine resources (Strategy 6)
- Enhance communication to raise awareness and advocate for issues impacting the coastal and marine environment (Strategy 7)

The priority countries and targeted MPAs/MMAs under the PISCES project are as follows:

- Antigua and Barbuda – [North East Marine Management Area](#)
- Saint Lucia – [Pointe Sable Environmental Protection Area](#)
- Haiti – [Three Bays National Marine Park](#)
- Jamaica – [Portland Bight Protected Area](#)
- Grenada/ St. Vincent – [Tobago Cays Marine Park and Sandy Island/Oyster Bed MPA](#)

## Eligibility

For 2019, the CarSIF will be restricted to the 20 FFOs, CBOs and NGOs targeted under PISCES. Application for the small grants will be competitive, but by invitation to the 20 beneficiary FFOs, CBOs and NGOs engaged under PISCES. These are:

1. Environmental Awareness Group – Antigua and Barbuda
2. San Salvador Living Jewels – The Bahamas
3. St Marks Fisherfolk and Tourism Cooperative Society Ltd – Dominica
4. Centre where adolescents learn to love and serve (CALLS) – Dominica
5. WildDominique – Dominica
6. Grenada Education and Development Organisation (GREDED) – Grenada
7. St Andrew's Development Organisation (SADO) – Grenada
8. Fondation pour la Protection de la Biodiversité Marine (FoProBiM) – Haiti
9. Plate-forme pour l'amélioration de la pêche Artisanale et du Développement Intégré (PADI) – Haiti
10. Fondation Corail – Haiti
11. Caribbean Coastal Area Management Foundation (C-CAM) – Jamaica
12. Half Moon Bay Fishermens Cooperative – Jamaica
13. Capisterre Fishermen's Marketing and Supplies Cooperative Society Limited (Dieppe Bay Cooperative) – St. Kitts and Nevis
14. Newcastle Bay Foundation – St. Kitts and Nevis
15. Au Picon Charcoal and Agricultural Producers Group – Saint Lucia
16. Mayreau Explorers Cooperative Society – St. Vincent and the Grenadines
17. Sustainable Grenadines Inc (SusGren) – St. Vincent and the Grenadines
18. Union Island Environmental Attackers – St. Vincent and the Grenadines

19. St. Vincent and the Grenadines National Fisherfolk Organisation (SVGNFO) – St. Vincent and the Grenadines
20. Future Fishers – Trinidad and Tobago

Applicants will be encouraged to network and collaboration among each other and with other CSOs on proposed projects and this will be explicit in the application guidelines.

### Desired Outcomes

At least 10 innovations supported by 2020, including focus on gender issues, with at least one undertaken by an organisation with women in leadership positions

### Key Message

The Caribbean Sea Innovation Fund (CarSIF) supports civil society organisations and community enterprises to contribute to biodiversity conservation, climate change and natural hazards resilience and sustainable livelihoods for enhanced coastal and marine governance and management in the Caribbean.

## Proposed Timeline for CarSIF Implementation (2019 to 2020)

