



Empowering Caribbean civil society to build coastal resilience using nature-based solutions

Caribbean Natural Resources Institute (CANARI)

February 2020



Who is the Caribbean Natural Resources Institute (CANARI)?

- The Caribbean Natural Resources Institute (CANARI) is a regional technical non-profit organisation working to promote and facilitate **stakeholder participation and stewardship of natural resources in the Caribbean** for over 30 years.
- CANARI conducts **research, facilitates policy and planning processes, develops innovative approaches, raises awareness and builds capacity, conducts advocacy, and supports on the ground actions** by civil society and rural communities.



CANARI uses nature-based and community-based solutions to build climate and disaster resilience

Our goal is “to improve the resilience of communities, livelihoods and ecosystems in the Caribbean to climate change and disasters”



Capacity building of civil society and resource users to use ecosystem-based and community-based solutions



Enhancing participatory processes for climate change and disaster governance

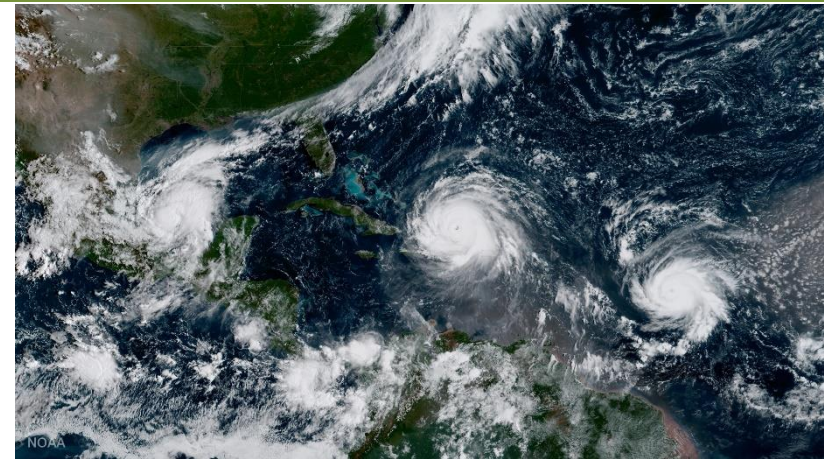


Mobilising knowledge, partnerships and finance for innovation and action to build resilience



Caribbean SIDS are vulnerable to the impacts of climate change and natural disasters

- The Caribbean region is experiencing severe **coastal erosion**, **drought** which is affecting small scale farming and local food prices, **torrential rains** causing severe **flooding** and catastrophic **hurricanes**.
- The cost to Caribbean islands in terms of increased hurricane damage, infrastructure damage and loss of tourism revenue is projected to reach **\$22 billion by 2050 or 10% of the current regional economy**.





Why use nature based solutions?

Nature-based solutions involve sustainably managing, conserving and restoring natural ecosystems to provide the services that allow people to address climate change.

- Coastal protection
- Erosion protection
- Flood control



Nature-based solutions are ideal in the Caribbean context



- **Less costly** and resource intensive than engineering solutions and maintain themselves
- **Based on existing tools** for ecosystem-based management already used in the Caribbean
- **Provide co-benefits** as ecosystems also serve as “carbon sinks” to reduce greenhouse gas emissions
- Natural ecosystems also **support key economic sectors and livelihoods** (tourism), provide food security (agriculture and fisheries) and water security (watersheds)
- **Can be implemented by local communities** after capacity building



Integrating nature-based and community-based solutions is key

Nature based solutions



Community based solutions



Ecosystem principles

- **Managing ecosystems to provide goods and services**

Human rights principles

- **Empowering local communities to reduce their vulnerability**



Civil society plays key roles in nature-based and community-based solutions

Photo credit: Environmental Research Institute Charlotteville



- **Innovators** – ability to think “outside the box”
- **Implementers** - trusted partners to deliver solutions for coastal communities and resource users
- **Advocates** for changes in policy and practice
- **Mobilisers** of resources (e.g. as intermediary)



BEST PRACTICES FROM NATURE-BASED SOLUTIONS IN THE CARIBBEAN



Using innovative ICTs in participatory vulnerability assessments, adaptation planning and documenting local knowledge



Participatory three-dimensional modelling has been used in Anguilla, Dominica, Grenada and Carriacou, Montserrat and Trinidad and Tobago. Here local communities, civil society, government agencies and private sector work together to build a model their landscape that identifies vulnerabilities and potential adaptation actions.



Developing innovative tools to 'climate proof' community enterprises

CANARI has developed a **tool to help community enterprises to assess climate change impacts along their value chain** and identify practical nature-based and technology solutions to build their resilience.

For example, businesses can use more drought resistant species and install rainwater harvesting systems to build resilience to drought. They can reforest watersheds to protect against landslides and flooding that blocks access roads and destroys electricity lines. They can also use small solar power systems.



Caribbean Natural Resources Institute
Guidelines Series

'Climate-proofing' local green enterprises



Produced with funding from





Small grants and mentoring is effective at supporting practical actions by coastal communities



Developing a snorkelling trail to provide income and reduce fishing pressure in Prickly Pear Marine Park in **Anguilla**



Reducing other pressure on ecosystems builds their resilience

Restoring island ecosystems by managing invasive species on 13 offshore islands in **Antigua and Barbuda** and **Saint Lucia**





Nature-based solutions should provide co-benefits for community livelihoods



Implementing mangrove restoration actions and alternative livelihoods to reduce unsustainable resource use and provide income in **3Bays MPA, Haiti**



CANARI, working with Caribbean civil society, has been delivering nature-based solutions from 2010-2019

Capacity

- **Built the capacity of 78 CSOs across 13 Caribbean countries** through enhancing their knowledge and skills to address climate change, biodiversity conservation and livelihoods

Innovation

- **Piloted six new innovative and participatory tools** for assessing local vulnerability and adaptation planning and actions

Access to finance

- **Enhanced the access of CSOs and communities to finance** as an intermediary providing **95 small grants totalling US\$7.1 million** to build resilience, including co-managing marine protected areas

Voice

- **Enabled civil society to have a voice** in climate and disaster decisions through facilitating **participatory development of national climate policies, plans and legislation in 5 countries**



OPPORTUNITIES & RECOMMENDATIONS

Photo credit: FAO



Work with community enterprises



Engaging and strengthening local natural resource-based enterprises through **small business development training, micro financing and 'climate proofing'** represents a key emerging opportunity to build livelihood resilience.



Build capacity where it is needed

- Dedicated support is needed for capacity building of civil society and community organisations and enterprises, including organisational strengthening as well as technical capacity building and funding, to enable ‘on the ground’ actions.
- Effective capacity building combines training, coaching, mentoring, peer exchanges, action learning and small grant support for “learning by doing”.





Foster knowledge sharing

Documenting and sharing lessons, innovations and best practices is key to improve understanding and scale up adoption of nature-based solutions for adaptation, mitigation and disaster management.





Getting funding where it's needed

Getting funding to civil society and community organisation requires coordinated small grant mechanisms and intermediaries (such as CANARI) to channel funds to the local level to benefit the most vulnerable and ensure just and equitable outcomes.





Foster partnerships

Developing strategic partnerships among civil society, entrepreneurs, policy makers, academia and donors can foster knowledge exchange and build synergies for nature-based and community-based solutions to build local resilience.





Include civil society priorities in global initiatives



To scale up impact of civil society, and expand on this innovative work to build climate resilience, global agreements and initiatives need to explicitly support community-based and nature-based climate action.



For more information please contact:

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This presentation was produced with the assistance of the European Union (ENV/2016/380-530) *Civil society and small and micro enterprise innovation for marine and coastal conservation in the Caribbean*. The contents of this publication are the sole responsibility of CANARI and can in no way be taken to reflect the views of the European Union.