



For Immediate Release

CANARI launches toolkit for advocacy by Caribbean civil society on sustainable development issues

Port of Spain, August 27, 2020 – Civil society has a key role in advocating for good environmental governance and sustainable development priorities in the Caribbean which will help to ensure a green, resilient and just COVID-19 recovery for the region.

Support for this advocacy effort is now available with the release of the new toolkit ‘An advocacy toolkit for Caribbean civil society organisations’ by the Caribbean Natural Resources Institute (CANARI).

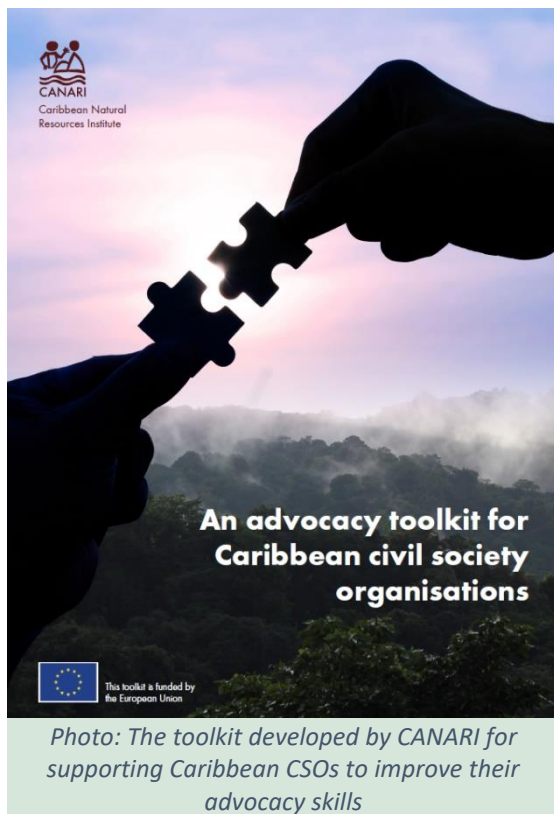


Photo: The toolkit developed by CANARI for supporting Caribbean CSOs to improve their advocacy skills

The toolkit provides practical guidance on tools, techniques and best practices for designing and conducting effective advocacy at the local, national, regional or international level. Mini case studies capture examples of civil society advocacy that will inspire actions by others.

The toolkit was used to train over 30 civil society participants from 11 Caribbean countries in a virtual online short course over June and July 2020 held by CANARI. Participants benefited from networking and peer exchanges among participants and facilitators and came away with increased knowledge and understanding of the core steps involved in building an advocacy strategy, including defining clear advocacy goals, target audiences and developing and tailoring clear messaging. They also gained practical knowledge on how to develop realistic action plans to support implementation. They plan to use their strengthened advocacy capacity to call on governments to strengthen environmental governance, protect biodiversity and build climate change resilience, among other issues.

The toolkit and virtual short course were supported under two projects being implemented by CANARI: CSOs For Good Governance: Enhancing Civil Society’s contribution to governance and development processes in Trinidad & Tobago (CSOs4GoodGov) and Powering Innovations in Civil Society and Enterprises for Sustainability in the Caribbean (PISCES), which are both funded by the European Union.

The toolkit can be downloaded in full here: https://canari.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/08/CANARI_CS0-advocacy-toolkit.pdf

About the projects:

The **CSOs4GoodGov** project was implemented from 2017 to 2020 and aimed at catalysing transformation to a more environmentally sustainable, socially just, inclusive, accountable and resilient model of development and governance through supporting the effective involvement of civil society organisations (CSOs) in implementation of the 2030 Sustainable Development Agenda in Trinidad and Tobago. The project was supported by the European Union (CSO-LA/2016/382-815). See: <https://canari.org/csos4goodgov/>

The **PISCES** project is being implemented by CANARI from 2017 to 2021 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 project is supported by the European Union (ENV/2016/380-530) *Civil society and small and micro enterprise innovation for marine and coastal conservation in the Caribbean*. See: <https://canari.org/pisces>

About CANARI: The Caribbean Natural Resources Institute (CANARI) is a regional technical non-profit organisation which has been working to promote and facilitate stakeholder participation in the stewardship of natural resources in the Caribbean for over 30 years. See <http://www.canari.org/>.

Connect with us:

For further information, please contact:

Nicole Leotaud, Executive Director, CANARI at nicole@canari.org or call: + 1 868 638 6062