



CSOs For Good Governance: Enhancing civil society's contribution to governance and development processes in Trinidad and Tobago

The SDGs Catalysts Network

Background

Project in brief

Geographic focus: Trinidad & Tobago

Timeframe: April 2017-March 2020

Supported by: European Commission,
EuropeAid/151176/DD/ACT/TT

CANARI budget: €108,508
from the EU & €74,900 CANARI
co-financing

The Caribbean Natural Resources Institute ([CANARI](#)) is a member of a consortium of seven¹ leading civil society organisations (CSOs) on a three-year [project](#) '*CSOs For Good Governance: Enhancing civil society's contribution to governance and development processes in Trinidad and Tobago*' (CSOs4GoodGov), which is aimed at strengthening participation and effective involvement of civil society organisations in implementation of the 2030 Sustainable Development Agenda and the Sustainable Development Goals ([SDGs](#)) in Trinidad and Tobago (T&T).

CANARI's overarching role in the project is to facilitate collaboration on advocacy and integrated working among CSOs across different sectors. As such, CANARI is the lead for Component 1 and co-lead on Component 2 of the project which respectively seek to 1) establish a mechanism for CSOs to effectively engage in implementation of the SDGs in T&T in partnership with government and other stakeholders and 2) support early advocacy actions by CSOs to hold government accountable for implementation of the SDGs in priority areas. At the heart of these objectives lies the establishment of an **SDGs Catalysts Network**, an informal cross-sectoral network of leading CSOs designed to serve as the mechanism for effective engagement of civil society in T&T in the national SDGs process, and the axis around which many other project activities revolve.

CANARI will facilitate this work under its [Civil Society & Governance Programme](#).

Outputs & Outcomes

The *SDGs Catalysts Network* will deliver project outputs and outcomes as follows:

Outcomes:

- CSOs engaged in development, implementation, monitoring and reporting on the national agenda for SDGs as model for CSO engagement in development and policy processes
- Innovative approaches to civil society advocacy for strengthening government transparency and accountability are developed and piloted in key areas, with potential for replication and scaling up

Outputs:

- Mechanism developed to facilitate civil society engagement in implementation of the SDGs in T&T
- Civil society actively engaged in identifying national priorities, implementing actions in their sectors, reporting on their contribution, and providing additional independent monitoring and reporting on the SDGs in T&T
- Advocacy models developed and case studies of their application documented in a toolkit and made available online for use by civil society organisations in T&T

¹ Caribbean Natural Resources Institute (CANARI), Environment Tobago (ET), Network of NGOs for the Advancement of Women, United Way Trinidad and Tobago (UWTT), University of the West Indies-Institute for Gender and Development Studies (UWI-IGDS), Veni Apwann (VA), Women's Institute for Alternative Development (WINAD)

Key activities

The outputs and outcomes will be achieved through the following key activities

- **Establishment and facilitation of the *SDGs Catalysts Network*:** Members were identified on the basis of pre-defined criteria and through a collective process by project partners. This, cross-sectoral group of leading CSOs in T&T – the *Catalysts* – further engage CSOs in their respective sectors and other CSO networks, catalyse joint action and develop and amplify civil society’s voice on the SDGs. The resulting ‘network of networks’ enables broad based collaboration of CSOs in T&T for development, implementation, monitoring and reporting on the SDGs. Throughout the project, elements of ***peer sharing and learning*** will be incorporated in meetings and other activities of the *Catalysts*. See [Terms of Reference](#) and [members](#).
- **Development and maintenance of an online *SDGs Knowledge and Advocacy Platform*:** A dedicated platform will facilitate communication and knowledge sharing by the *SDGs Catalysts Network* and wider civil society for awareness and advocacy on the SDGs in T&T. The platform will be used as a forum to directly support CSO engagement on the SDGs and provide a virtual space to highlight practical experiences, ideas and voices from across civil society in T&T.
- **Supporting actions by Catalysts to mobilise CSOs in their sectors and other networks:** A ***guidance package*** of information on the SDGs will help identify opportunities and support *Catalysts* to mobilise and engage with their sectors on collective advocacy and action on the SDGs. A ***list of critical governance issues*** requiring advocacy by civil society will be researched, documented and shared, along with a ***report of successful examples of advocacy actions*** to provide inspiration and guidance to the *Catalysts*. An ***advocacy toolkit*** will document lessons learnt throughout the three years, as well as models and ***case studies*** of successful advocacy actions.
- **Developing and advocating a collective civil society position on priorities for the national SDGs agenda:** A ***national consultation workshop*** will be held to synthesise a joint civil society position on the SDGs in T&T. A collective ***advocacy campaign*** will be developed and implemented to widely promote and amplify civil society’s position.
- **Developing and promoting a mechanism for CSOs to partner on implementation of the SDGs, including monitoring and reporting:** The *SDGs Catalysts Network* will recommend an appropriate ***civil society focal point*** to liaise with government and facilitate civil society input into the prescribed national mechanism established by government for implementation of the SDGs in T&T. Actions, results and information on the contribution of civil society to the implementation of the SDGs in T&T will be documented and disseminated via specific communication products. ***Annual reports*** documenting the contribution of civil society to the implementation of the SDGs in T&T and a ***final evaluation report*** on the *SDGs Catalysts Network* as a mechanism for civil society engagement in national development will be prepared and disseminated.

For more information

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