



Report on the SDGs Catalysts Network 3rd Quarterly Meeting

under the project

***CSOs For Good Governance:
Enhancing civil society's contribution to governance and development processes in
Trinidad and Tobago (CSOs4GoodGov)***

June 06, 2018

Caribbean Natural Resources Institute, Barataria, Trinidad & Tobago

1 Introduction

This report presents the findings of the *SDGs Catalysts Network's* third Quarterly meeting held on June 6, 2018 at Caribbean Natural Resources Institute's Office, Barataria, Trinidad. The report provides an overview of the participants, objectives and methods, and recounts the main activities. Areas of discussion included:

- Year 1 recap/progress reports
- Plans for Year 2
- Review of the CSOs4GoodGov annual evaluation - Year 1 survey of Catalysts;
- Reports on cluster meetings around the [SDGs report card](#), including next steps to prepare a civil society position statement on SDGs implementation; and sharing by Catalysts on key events and items of interest.

1.2 Participants

Thirteen (13) persons, representing 10 of 23 members of the *SDGs Catalysts Network*, attended the third Quarterly meeting.

See *Appendix 1: List of participants*.

2 Meeting Objectives

The specific meeting objectives were to:

1. Provide Catalysts with Year 1 project component status reports and share proposed Year 2 work plan.
2. Check-in with Catalysts on their activities relevant to the project and provide opportunities for sharing.
3. Review CSOs4GoodGov annual evaluation - Year 1 survey of Catalysts results.
4. Discuss the draft SDGs report card and invite further Catalysts participation to develop a joint civil society statement.

See *Appendix 2: Specific workshop agenda*.

3 Methodology

PowerPoint and verbal presentations were used by component leads to recap the project and share project component updates and Year 2 workplans. A presentation and plenary discussions on results of the Year 1 survey of Catalysts (annual evaluation) was conducted. A summary presentation was delivered on results of series of smaller cluster meetings *Catalysts* members engaged in around the SDGs report card, and discussion facilitated on next steps to develop a joint statement on SDGs implementation. Handouts with supporting material including copy of proposed CANARI Year 2 workplan and information on the SDGs report card – summary dashboard, were provided. All meeting materials can be accessed [here](#).

4 Review of Key Sessions / Discussion and findings

4.1 Progress reports and presentation of Year 2 work plans

CANARI provided project component updates for Component 1 including a review of Year 1 activities and shared Year 2 work plan. See the presentation and handouts provided [here](#). Highlights of Year 1 included CSO mapping initiatives, advocacy capacity building via workshop and advocacy case studies. The case studies were shared and provided good practice examples and inspiration for *Catalysts* doing future advocacy work under the project. Year 2 will focus joint advocacy opportunities – advocacy campaigns, further work documentation including shadow reporting/case studies, and the development of the SDGs Knowledge and Advocacy Platform. The Platform

is now back on track, with an estimated first draft timeline of September 2018. A joint civil society statement was also being developed to coincide with the UN High Level Political Forum (HLPF) on 9-18 July 2018.

Veni Apwann, Component 2 project lead, summarized their focus for Year 2 to include:

- leadership development for Catalysts centred on the SHIFT! Caribbean model and advocacy workshops (proposed for July and October 2018)
- To help Catalysts with coaching and support to develop full proposals which can access funding from the project's small grants facility.
- Veni Partage sessions specifically focused on previously identified interest areas i.e. human resources and financial management, that will reinforce coaching aimed at strengthening advocacy by Catalysts.
- Finalising the Community Agreement presented at the 2nd Quarterly meeting.
- Caribbean policy Development Centre (CPDC) knowledge platform/ capacity building hub and pending joint workshop by CPDC/Veni on developing a civil society fiscal brief.

UWTT indicated the Year 1 Annual Report (narrative and budget review) was submitted to the EU and would be shared once final feedback was received. Updates were also provided on small grants (component 3) and progress of component 4. It was noted a consultant was contracted to update a CSOs Advocacy Paper on improving the Legal, Fiscal and Funding Framework for CSOs operating in T&T and a CSO consultation meeting will be held soon. As a means to promoting further action in this area, they were also engaging with the Attorney General's office and attempting to leverage current attention on CSOs and the issue of money laundering/terrorism.

4.2 Review of preliminary results from CSOs4GoodGov annual evaluation - Year 1 survey of Catalysts

CANARI presented preliminary results from an annual evaluation Year 1 survey of the Catalysts. The survey was based on the participatory monitoring and evaluation (PM&E) framework drafted by CANARI, with Catalysts input in November-December 2017. This short survey asked *Catalysts* to share their views on the **most significant change** attributed to the project to date, and to assess any behaviour and relationships changes identified based on the **outcome mapping** methodology. A copy of the survey questions, and presentation of preliminary results can be accessed [here](#). The survey can be accessed on SurveyMonkey [here](#):

Discussion focused on validation of results and identification of lessons / recommendations for moving forward under the project, as well as how to improve Catalysts' survey participation. Key discussion points included:

- Participants agreed the survey results already started showing the shift in focus on SDGs and that it could help to identify/define where future focus needs to be.
- Participants generally appreciated that the survey was designed to provide an avenue or open space for sharing and it was clarified it didn't require members to give specific details of what they were doing, or how they were changing (already being addressed under other project activities)
- While individual Catalysts representatives themselves may have undergone changes in the year and are more aware of SDGs and linkages to their work, there were questions on effective transfer of knowledge and learnings to other organisation members/networks. It was suggested for future that Catalysts can do survey of its own members.
- Some questions need to be reviewed including to ensure clarity in what is being asked. The length of the survey was also flagged as a potential barrier to participation, with feedback including to deploy the survey as a series of smaller more digestible mini-surveys and notify respondents up-front about what could be expected, and estimated time needed for completion.

CANARI committed to follow up actions to review content/questions and approach/seek means to ensure greater participation in the survey for example, through additional focus groups or interviews. The Capacity Building Working Group could be leveraged to assist.

4.3 Discussion on SDGs report card and developing a joint statement by civil society

CANARI gave an overview of the SDGs report card which looks at performance of countries in terms of SDGs implementation. CANARI also updated all on proposals to use the report card as the basis for developing a joint statement on civil society perception of SDGs implementation T&T to highlight ways local CSOs are helping to deliver results on the SDGs (also practical opportunity for Catalysts to work together and demonstrate key message on collaboration). The idea originated at the advocacy write-shop in May 2018 aimed leverage media attention around the UN High Level Political Forum (HLPF) in July 9-18, 2018. To this end, SDGs cluster groups were formed to facilitate more focused and effective discussions and develop inputs. Information relevant to this session, can be found [here](#).

Given limited inputs collected from cluster groups in the available time, capacity constraints, and concerns over adequate time for formulating a joint position, the general consensus was that CANARI would prepare a first draft for review and further refinement by Catalysts. The approach would be to incorporate big messages that had been accumulated over the past months since the Network was established. Catalysts would also be encouraged to submit individual stories.

5 Informal sharing and announcements

Sharing by participants included the following updates:

- Network for NGOs representative Ms. Terry Dale Ince informed of new NGO focused on reporting on gender convention; Dr. Reddock was elected to convention
- Habitat for Humanity representative highlighted ongoing advocacy work centred on housing for persons with disabilities
- Environment Tobago representative noted potential advocacy opportunity based on current immigration situation involving neighbouring Venezuela.
- CANARI is preparing comments for submission on Samoa Pathway
- CANARI is exploring potential opportunity through our networks and Board members to invite Amena Mohammed – Deputy UN Secretary General, to Trinidad, to share on civil society and the SDGs.

Question was raised on how does Government decide who to engage with. It was noted again the need to have shared Calendar and project specific Facebook page. CANARI new communications officer will take lead on addressing these, in consultation with other team members.

6 Next Steps for the SDGs Catalysts Network

- Catalysts to provide review of the joint statement which CANARI will lead on drafting in time for UN HLPF 2018; Catalysts review and endorse and share on social media, week 9-18th July 2018.
- **The next quarterly meeting of the SDGs Catalysts Network would be held most likely in August/September period.** Joint work-planning was encouraged and VA/UWTT were welcomed to use the meeting for their activities engaging Catalysts.

Appendix 1: List of participants

	Name	Organisation	Contact No.	Email
1.	Kristen Francis	United Way Trinidad & Tobago (UWTT)	625-8286	kfrancis@uwtt.com
2.	Candice Ramkissoon	Caribbean Natural Resources Institute (CANARI)	626-6062 / 779-0407	candice@canari.org
3.	Nicole Leotaud	Caribbean Natural Resources Institute (CANARI)	626-6062	nicole@canari.org
4.	Kevin Garcia	Caribbean Natural Resources Institute (CANARI)	626-6062	kevin@canari.org
5.	Sarah MacIntosh	Veni Apwann (VA) (Project lead/ CBWG)	682-1416	tocosarah@gmail.com
6.	Colleen Davis	Veni Apwann (VA)	741-1139	daviscolleen99@gmail.com
7.	Tracy Hutchinson-Wallace	Habitat for Humanity	702-4663	contactus@habitat-tt.org
8.	Ms. Elizabeth Nicholas	National Centre for Persons with Disabilities (NCPD)	652-4880, 657-4363	ncpdtrinidad@gmail.com
9.	David Shim	ACSOTT	633-4724/787-7815	assoc.csott@gmail.com
10.	Mohammed Hallim	Agricultural Society of Trinidad & Tobago	361-4290	moahmedhallim@outlook.com
11.	Terry Dale Ince	Network of NGOs of Trinidad and Tobago for the Advancement of Women (Network)	627-4807	networkngott@gmail.com
12.	Krista Hamel-Smith	Caribbean Kids and Families Therapy Organisation (CKFTO)	628-3268	gmanager@ckfto.org
13.	Bertrand Bhikarry	Environment Tobago	620-2080	bertrand@bhikarry.net bertrand@environmenttobago.net

Apologies sent by TTTI, FIA, FPA, IAMovement

Appendix 2: Meeting Agenda



SDGs Catalysts Network 3rd Quarterly Meeting

under the project

CSOs For Good Governance: Enhancing civil society's contribution to governance and development processes in Trinidad and Tobago (CSOs4GoodGov)

CANARI Conference Room

June 06th, 2018

9:00am – 12:30pm

Meeting Objectives:

5. To provide Catalysts with Year 1 project component status reports and share proposed workplans for Year 2
6. To check-in with Catalysts on their activities relevant to the project and provide opportunities for sharing
7. To review results of the CSOs4GoodGov annual evaluation - Year 1 survey of Catalysts
8. To discuss the draft [SDGs report card](#) and invite further participation of Catalysts in activity to develop joint statement by civil society

AGENDA

8:45am	Registration	
9:00am	Welcome and introductions	CANARI
9:10am	CSOs4GoodGov project updates (Year 1 recap & Year 2 workplan): <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Year 1 Donor report, Legal, fiscal and funding framework and small grants (UWTT) ▪ Component 1 SDGs Catalysts Network (CANARI) ▪ Component 2 Capacity building (Veni Apwann) 	Project component leads
10:00am	Review of CSOs4GoodGov annual evaluation - Year 1 survey of Catalysts	CANARI
10:30am	Introduction to the SDGs Report Card <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Sharing by SDGs cluster groups & discussion ▪ Way forward 	CANARI & SDGs Cluster Coordinators
11:45am	Informal sharing by Catalysts (lessons and best practices) Calendar of events –announcements	All
12:15pm	Recap of meeting and next steps Wrap up and close	CANARI