



CSOs for Disaster Resilience: Empowering civil society and local communities to build resilience to hurricanes and climate extremes in the Eastern Caribbean

Caribbean Natural Resources Institute
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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

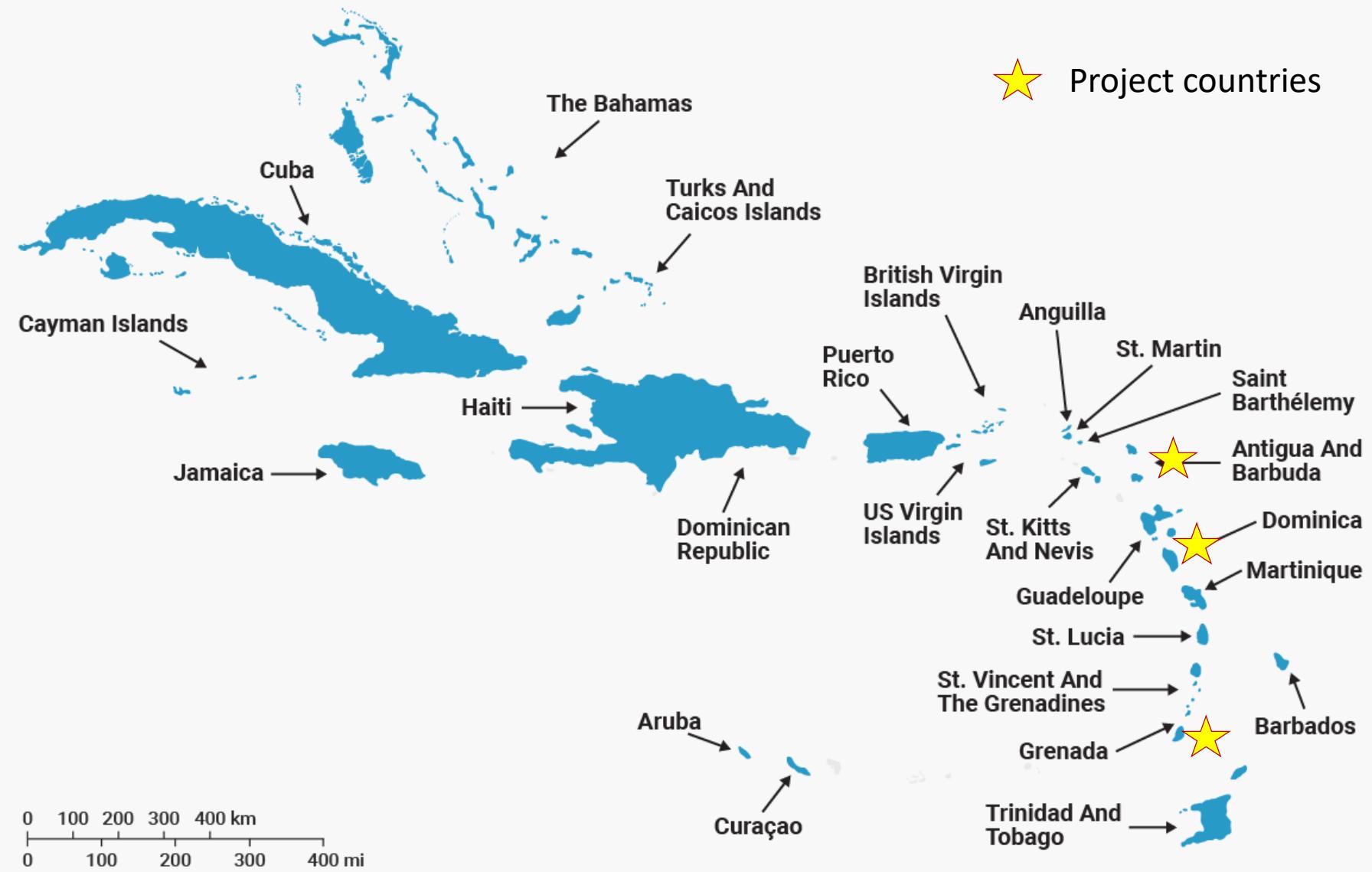
Project In Brief

Lead: Caribbean Natural Resources Institute (CANARI)

Budget: US \$350,000 grant from the Inter-American Foundation

Target countries: Antigua and Barbuda, Dominica and Grenada

Timeline: September 2019 – September 2022



Goal

Improved **resilience** for local communities, associated livelihoods and **ecosystems** to hurricanes and climate extremes in the Eastern Caribbean through implementing community-based and ecosystem-based disaster risk reduction (CBDRR/Eco-DRR).



6 Partner CSOs

Antigua and Barbuda:

- Environmental Awareness Group
- Barbuda Fisherfolk Association



Dominica

- WildDominique
- Anse Kouanari Tourism Association



Grenada

- Grenada Education and Development Organisation (GRENED)
- Leo Club of St. Andrew



The need



- Significant hurricane impacts in the Caribbean
- More focus needed on building resilience of local communities, associated livelihoods and ecosystems to reduce impacts and adapt
- More effective engagement of local communities and civil society organisations (CSOs) in disaster risk reduction and building resilience
- Consideration of natural solutions, engaging at-risk communities

Project Components

1

Strengthening CSOs to deliver integrated CBDRR and Eco-DRR

- **Technical capacity building** of CSOs – regional training of trainers, virtual training
- **Organisational strengthening** of CSOs – mentoring, coaching, peer exchanges
- Technical & organisational **capacity assessments**

2

Supporting practical DRR actions

- **Participatory vulnerability assessments & action planning** with target high risk communities
- Designing and implementing **pilot practical action projects** with target communities (supported by small grants)

3

Knowledge mobilisation and partnerships

- Mapping of resilience initiatives
- Facilitating **regional dialogue** on local/community resilience in the Caribbean context
- **Action learning**
- **Communication** of results, lessons, best practices, innovation

A group of people are working in a mangrove forest. In the foreground, a man in a white shirt and blue shorts is bending over, digging a hole in the dark, wet soil with a wooden tool. Behind him, two other men are working: one in a blue shirt and shorts, and another in a white shirt and shorts. In the background, a body of water reflects the surrounding greenery. The sky is clear and blue.

Nature based solutions

Integrating nature-based solutions into disaster risk reduction strategies

ECO-DRR and CBDRR

CANARI views Eco-DRR as the conservation, sustainable management and restoration of natural ecosystems to reduce disaster risk and help people and systems adapt to climate change and build resilience.

CANARI treats CBDRR as actions designed and implemented in partnership with at-risk stakeholders in communities to promote appropriate and sustainable solutions to current and future impacts of disasters and climate change.

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

Integrating nature-based and community-based solutions is key



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 hazards and changing climate

- Coastal protection
- Erosion protection
- Flood control



Examples:

- Marine and Coastal ecosystems
 - coastal habitat restoration e.g. coral reef and mangrove restoration
 - Sustainable fishing
- Agriculture and Forest ecosystems
 - Agroforestry / sustainable forest management interventions
 - Forest restoration
- Water ecosystems
 - integrated water resource management
 - Conservation of wetlands
 - river basin restoration (supporting flood protection and drought management)
- Livelihood diversification

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





Community Resilience Action Learning Group

To further dialogue on community resilience and facilitate peer learning and exchange on addressing key vulnerabilities and promoting CBDRR and Eco-DRR solutions for building disaster resilience.



Community Resilience Action Learning Group

- **Action Learning is a process which involves working on real challenges using the knowledge and skills of a small group of people combined with skilled questioning to reinterpret old and familiar concepts and produce new ideas**
- ALG will be a form of capacity building and support to partner CSOs from, or representing vulnerable communities with practical learning
- Partner CSOs form core members
- CSOs can bring real challenges from implementing the project to the table, engage in group questioning to explore and openly discuss the issues related to each challenge, and collectively identify potential approaches and solutions. The idea is that group members will be able to take action to test potential solutions and they will share the experiences, results and lessons with the whole group for further analysis and development of recommendations.



For more
information

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