



Organisation of  
Eastern Caribbean States



## OECS strategy to guide engagement of civil society and private sector in sustainable development

For Immediate Release

**Castries, July 20, 2021** – The OECS Commission is developing a strategy to enhance engagement of civil society and private sector across the Eastern Caribbean in environmental management and related sustainable development initiatives.

The Caribbean Natural Resources Institute (CANARI) is providing technical assistance to the OECS Commission to develop this Stakeholder Engagement Strategy as part of the Memorandum of Understanding between the two organisations. This initiative will fulfil a mandate from the OECS Council of Ministers for Environmental Sustainability (COMES). It is being supported by the European Union as part of the OECS Commission's BioSPACE project.

The Strategy will provide guidelines for engagement of civil society (including national and community-based groups) and private sector stakeholders (including resource users, user associations and nature-based micro-enterprises). It will be used by public sector agencies in the OECS, the OECS Commission, and their partners working on biodiversity and ecosystems management in the OECS region. It will cover all members of the OECS: Anguilla, Antigua and Barbuda, the British Virgin Islands, Commonwealth of Dominica, Grenada, Guadeloupe, Martinique, Montserrat, Saint Kitts and Nevis, Saint Lucia, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines.

The process to develop the Strategy will include review of key policies, strategies, plans, and initiatives in the OECS as well as consultations with stakeholders from key target groups through interviews, focus groups and webinars over August and September 2021. It will draw on previous experiences, lessons learned, best practices and recommendations of stakeholders to provide a practical guide on mechanisms and tools to reach different target groups so that they can effectively engage in environmental management in the OECS. Ultimately, this will protect ecosystems and biodiversity, ensure food and water security, enhance climate resilience, while supporting economic development, livelihoods and well-being of OECS people.



*CREDIT: Natalie Boodram*

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**About CANARI:** The Caribbean Natural Resources Institute (CANARI) is a regional technical non-profit organisation which has been working in the islands of the Caribbean for over 30 years. Our mission is to promote and facilitate stakeholder participation in the stewardship of natural resources in the Caribbean. Our work focuses on Biodiversity and Ecosystems, Equity, Participatory Governance and Resilience. See here for more information on CANARI: <http://www.canari.org/>.

**About the OECS:** The Organisation of Eastern Caribbean States (OECS) is an international inter-governmental organisation dedicated to regional integration in the Caribbean. The vision of the organisation for 2020-2024 is a better quality of life for the people of the OECS and the mission is to drive and support sustainable development through regional integration, collective action and development cooperation. See here for more information on: <https://www.oecs.org/en/>.

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For more information on development of the Stakeholder Engagement Strategy please see [www.canari.org/OECSstakeholders](http://www.canari.org/OECSstakeholders).