Development of a Stakeholder Engagement Strategy for the OECS

PROJECT BRIEF

Background
The Caribbean Natural Resources Institute (CANARI) is providing technical assistance to the Organisation of Eastern Caribbean States (OECS) Commission to develop a strategy that can guide its engagement of key stakeholders in the civil society and private sectors to contribute to efforts aimed at the management and sustainable use of marine and terrestrial biodiversity in the OECS. The Stakeholder Engagement Strategy developed will fulfil a mandate from the OECS Council of Ministers for Environmental Sustainability.

Project in brief

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Outcome:</th>
<th>Strategy developed for effective engagement of civil society and private sector in management and sustainable use of marine and terrestrial biodiversity in the OECS.</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Project countries:</td>
<td>OECS members</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Budget:</td>
<td>€20,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Duration:</td>
<td>June 2021 to September 2021</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Project webpage:</td>
<td><a href="http://www.canari.org/OECSstakeholders">www.canari.org/OECSstakeholders</a></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The Strategy will be informed by policy directions and requirements for stakeholder engagement in environmental management as described in OECS strategies and plans, including under the Treaty of Basseterre (1981) and The Revised Treaty of Basseterre (2010), the St George’s Declaration of Principles of Environmental Sustainability, the OECS Development Strategy and specific strategies and plans developed by the Environmental Sustainability Division. This work is part of the OECS Commission’s BioSPACE project (OECS/BioSPACE/2021/SER_02) funded by the European Union.

Focus of the Strategy
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, St. Kitts and Nevis, Saint Lucia, St. Vincent and the Grenadines.

CREDIT: Natalie Boodram
Over the three months, CANARI will work with the OECS Commission to engage stakeholders in development of the Stakeholder Engagement Strategy through five phases of work.

**Contents of the Strategy**
- A definition of stakeholder engagement in the OECS context
- A list of guiding principles for effective stakeholder engagement
- A clear process including a list and definition of key steps to engage stakeholders
- A list of stakeholders by relevant categories
- A list of proposed engagement approaches, methods and tactics
- Key messages, products and dissemination pathways that can contribute to changes in knowledge, attitudes and behaviours of target stakeholders

**Activities**

**Conduct preliminary stakeholder identification and analysis**

| July 1-A | ... via desk review and interviews with OECS Commission and collating information from existing experiences. |

**Elicit input from stakeholders on engagement objectives and strategies**

| July A-B | ... via interviews with private sector, civil society and government stakeholders on their needs, expectations, lessons, good practices and opportunities for effective engagement. |

**Prepare draft Stakeholder Engagement Strategy**

| Aug B-C | ... to provide a guide for the effective engagement of civil society and private sector by governmental and regional agencies. |

**Facilitate stakeholder input and feedback on the draft Strategy**

| Aug C-D | ... via a regional webinar and outreach including via social media and other platforms. |

**Produce the final Strategy, 3-page summary and infographic**

| Sept D-E | ... to communicate about the Strategy to both government users who want to engage stakeholders in their work, as well as private sector and civil society stakeholders who will be engaged. |

**For more information**

For more information on the project please see [www.canari.org/OECSstakeholders](http://www.canari.org/OECSstakeholders) or contact Nicole Leotaud at [nicole@canari.org](mailto:nicole@canari.org) or Norma Cherry-Fevrier at [norma.fevrier@oecs.int](mailto:norma.fevrier@oecs.int).