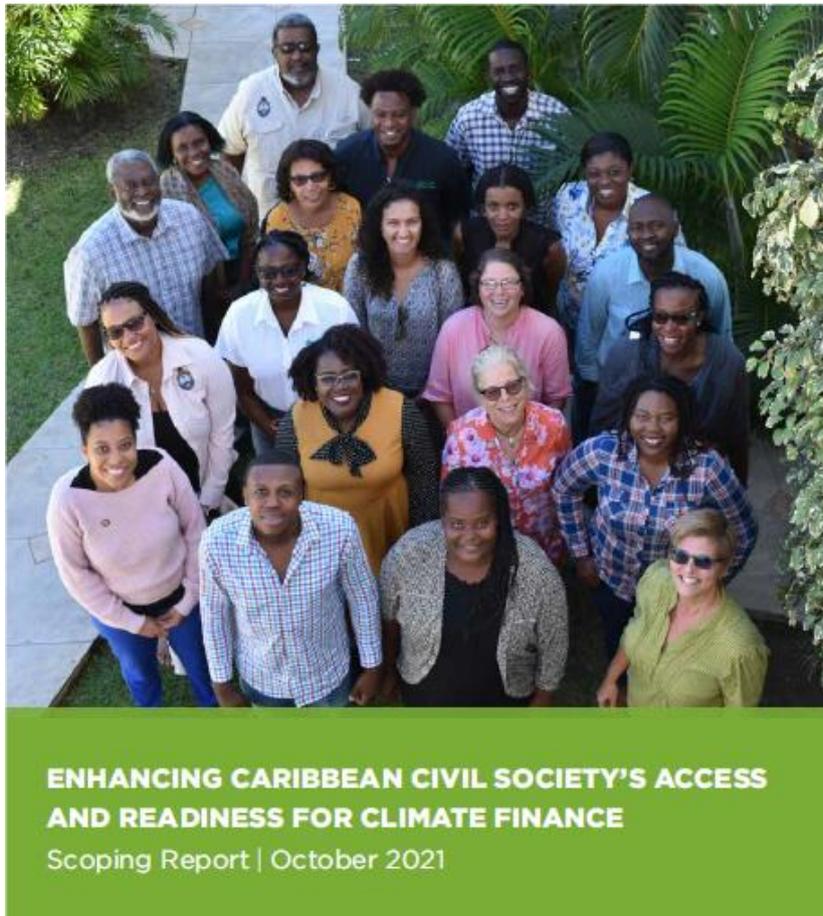


Unlocking climate finance for locally-led action & COP26

The global climate change meeting, COP26, in November 2021 in Glasgow, UK, is a critical moment for ensuring the pledge of US\$100 billion per year to support developing countries to effectively reduce emissions and adapt to climate change impacts is fulfilled. It is also an important opportunity for finding modalities and pathways for channelling this finance to address the needs of the most vulnerable communities and wider civil society in the Caribbean islands and other developing countries.



A new study by the Caribbean Natural Resources Institute (CANARI), Climate Analytics and the International Institute for Sustainable Development (IISD) highlights key barriers and opportunities for civil society organisations (CSOs) in accessing climate finance and improving their engagement for climate action in the Caribbean region. Research was conducted across the Caribbean Community (CARICOM) between September 2020 and June 2021 to: (1) assess current levels of CSO access to, and delivery of climate finance; and (2) identify and assess current mechanisms for multi-stakeholder engagement, including of CSOs, in climate change decision-making at regional

and national levels and their effectiveness. The study also provides concrete recommendations for improving access to climate finance for CSOs and the vulnerable communities they serve, which can inform conversations at COP26.

Firstly, the study illustrates the unique and important role played by CSOs in locally-led climate actions and achieving climate ambitions in the Caribbean as part of a 'whole of society approach'. More than 300 civil society-led climate change projects and programmes that took place between 2016-2020 were mapped during the study. These spanned community to regional-level projects ranging from US\$10,000 for a six-month project to more than US\$5 million for a four-year project. Of



these, 60% of projects included an adaptation component, 22% had a mitigation component and 18% had both.

However, there are a number of barriers to CSOs' access to climate finance according to the study, including capacity constraints due to their small size and staff, limited awareness of options, limited experience in proposal development and project and financial management, and onerous application processes for many of the international climate funds. To overcome these barriers, we need to:

- Ensure CSOs are engaged in the full project cycle from project design and development to implementation and monitoring and evaluation to tap into their expertise and ensure projects are tailored to local priorities and needs.
- Improve readiness and capacity building support for CSOs to strengthen their human resources, policies and systems to deliver climate finance.
- Expand small grant mechanisms, which are specifically designed to cater to the needs of CSOs operating at the local level, to help ensure that funding is available for delivering meaningful climate action. Also, enhance the role of local intermediaries (including regional and national CSOs) in these mechanisms to better channel finance to the local level.
- Facilitate CSOs' role in the integration of citizen science and local and indigenous knowledge to help improve access to information on local climate impacts and viable solutions to strengthen the climate rationale of projects and inform actions.
- Ensure strong coordination mechanisms between CSOs and government agencies; between CSOs and climate funds; and among CSOs themselves nationally and regionally.

The study was commissioned under the project, *“Enhancing Caribbean Civil Society’s Access and Readiness for Climate Finance”*, being implemented from 2020-2022 by CANARI and national designated authorities across CARICOM, including Antigua and Barbuda, Belize, Grenada, Jamaica, Saint Kitts and Nevis, Saint Lucia and Suriname. The project aims to enhance civil society’s capacity, including knowledge, skills and organisational structures, and the enabling institutional framework to improve access to climate finance and delivery of climate adaptation and mitigation in the Caribbean. It is funded by the Green Climate Fund.

To learn more about the study, join our official virtual launch at COP26 on November 3, 2021, at 11am-12pm AST: <https://us06web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZEpcqtrTsqGdOCDfGfppFI-DQ3AILdxpN>

Or visit our project webpage at: <https://canari.org/csos-ready-for-climate-finance>