



Action Learning Group on Financing Local Green-Blue Enterprises in Trinidad and Tobago

Terms of Reference

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1. Background

- 1.1. The Caribbean Natural Resources Institute (CANARI) is continuing its work to promote and support transformation to more environmentally sustainable, inclusive and resilient economic development in the Caribbean¹. In the context of the Caribbean, Caribbean stakeholders have defined a Green Economy as one that aims for long-term prosperity, rather than solely for growth, through equitable distribution of economic benefits and effective management of ecological resources. It is economically viable and resilient to both external and internal shocks; self-directed and not driven by external agendas or funding opportunities, and self-reliant by being based predominantly on domestic production and investment. A Caribbean Green Economy is pro-poor and generates decent jobs and working conditions that offer opportunities for self-advancement for local people (CANARI 2021)². CANARI considers that definition also applies to the associated Blue Economy concept, which emphasises economic opportunities from coastal and marine resources.
- 1.2. Micro, small and medium enterprises (MSMEs) were identified by CANARI as a key pathway in this transformation but require enhanced support, including finance (CANARI 2014)³. Building on earlier collaborative work, CANARI is partnering with the [Green Economy Coalition](#) (GEC) to implement the global project “Civil society participation for sustainable finance reforms: global coverage” funded by the European Union (DCI/ENV/2020/417-985) to address this need. CANARI is leading implementation of the project in Trinidad and Tobago⁴, with other GEC partners implementing the project in India, Mongolia, Peru, South Africa, Senegal and Uganda. [Finance Watch](#) is also a project partner.
- 1.3. Within this project, CANARI’s work will continue to focus attention on how nature-based micro-enterprises can be more effectively supported, given that these are key in the Caribbean economy, particularly for the rural poor and marginalised, but are highly vulnerable to climate change and other threats. The project will support local and national dialogues to convene Local Green-Blue Enterprises (LGEs) and support agencies and partners (from the civil society, public and private sectors) and their networks at local, sector and national levels and

A LGE is defined as micro, small or medium sized enterprise (MSME) that has a potential positive effect on the global or local environment, community, society, or economy, and is a business that strives to meet triple bottom line returns (economic, environmental and social). LGEs consist of informal and formal MSMEs and social enterprises that use green business models, develop green products or green their business practices. They are important actors within local economies and societies, and key economic players to drive inclusive and sustainable development in low and middle-income countries throughout the world. The challenges that face LGEs relate to both their green and social aspirations as well as to their status as MSMEs.

¹ To learn about past work see <https://canari.org/green-economy/>.

² <https://canari.org/towards-a-green-and-resilient-economy-for-the-caribbean/>

³ <https://canari.org/supporting-small-and-micro-enterprises-to-be-pathways-to-a-caribbean-green-economy/>

⁴ For information on the project see <https://canari.org/lgesfinance>.

connect their perspectives into policy dialogues with governments to address key constraints to investments and promote good governance.

1.4. The project aims to:

- a) create opportunities for participation of stakeholders in green-blue economy policy development;
- b) improve national/local government and financial institution policy processes to enhance the investment climate for LGEs;
- c) improve institutionalisation of networking between and among LGEs and other stakeholders; and
- d) establish/expand platforms for knowledge sharing between LGEs and other stakeholders.

1.5. An Action Learning Group on Financing Local Green-Blue Enterprises (LGEs Finance ALG) will be established in Trinidad and Tobago to accomplish this.

1.6. An action learning approach will be used. This seeks to build knowledge and capacity by engaging a small group of change agents in a facilitated peer support and learning process to collectively explore solutions to complex challenges. The change agents are seen as the 'experts' who can best work together to solve the complex problems that they are facing. Action learning promotes sustainability and achievement of results by focusing on building relationships and facilitating collaboration, ensuring ownership of the actions, and building capacity.

2. Purpose of the LGEs Finance ALG

2.1. The overall goal of the LGEs Finance ALG is to explore current initiatives, needs, constraints and opportunities for enhancing financing and other support to LGEs as a pathway to a green-blue economy in Trinidad and Tobago.

2.2. The objectives of the LGEs Finance ALG are to:

- a) input into, validate and analyse findings on a Contextual Finance Analysis (CFA) study on the financial landscape and laws, policies, regulations, practices and key stakeholders and initiatives financing LGEs in Trinidad and Tobago to identify signature issues for dialogue and policy engagement;
- b) engage in dialogues and action learning processes with other key stakeholders to identify and test possible solutions to address the signature issues identified and so contribute to strengthening financing and other support to LGEs;
- c) build and share evidence-based knowledge to enhance understanding and capacity;
- d) collectively advocate to influence policy and practice in Trinidad and Tobago.

2.3. The LGEs Finance ALG achieves this purpose by:

- a) participating in meetings of the ALG to:
 - share information relevant to their sector;
 - advise CANARI on priorities and strategies for shaping a Caribbean vision, position, and action on green-blue economy;
- b) analysing emerging views, ideas, perspectives, and information on improving the contribution of SMEs to green-blue economy approaches in the Caribbean;
- c) discovering and documenting best practices on using MSMEs as a transition to a green-blue economy;
- d) identifying potential areas for action on SMEs and the green-blue economy and catalysing action by partners (which may include organisations with which ALG members are affiliated); and
- e) facilitating sharing of information among partners involved in action around the green-blue economy in Trinidad and Tobago and the wider Caribbean through online platforms, meetings, and other fora.

3. Membership of the LGEs Finance ALG

- 3.1. The LGEs Finance ALG will include a diversity of perspectives.
- 3.2. The LGEs Finance ALG is comprised of persons appointed in their individual capacity from government agencies, civil society organisations (national, regional and international and including community-based organisations [CBOs], non-governmental organisations [NGOs], academic institutes), inter-governmental technical agencies and donors from or actively working in Trinidad and Tobago.
- 3.3. The LGEs Finance ALG consists of 15 to 35 members.
- 3.4. The membership of the LGEs Finance ALG will include:
 - a) representation of LGEs;
 - b) representation from organisations providing technical and financial support across government, private sector, non-profit sector, inter-governmental technical agencies, academic institutes and donors;
 - c) representation from various sectors such as fishing, agriculture, forestry, tourism, energy, construction, forestry, etc.; and
 - d) representation from marginalised groups such as women, youth and indigenous people.
- 3.5. Members of the LGEs Finance ALG can identify additional expertise needed and propose new members.
- 3.6. Members serve on the LGEs Finance ALG on a voluntary basis without financial compensation.
- 3.7. Members will be appointed by CANARI and may resign from the ALG by written notification to CANARI.

4. LGEs Finance meetings and communications

- 4.1 The LGEs Finance ALG will meet virtually and/or face to face. CANARI will function as secretariat and convener for the LGEs Finance ALG and is responsible for facilitating communication among members, for sending out notices of meetings, and for maintaining and circulating records of all meetings and actions taken. In addition, CANARI will present the LGEs Finance ALG with updates on the status and progress of the project's activities.



CANARI is co-implementing the project “Civil society participation for sustainable finance reforms: global coverage” funded by the European Union (DCI/ENV/2020/417-985) and managed by the Green Economy Coalition (greeneconomycoalition.org).

