

Caribbean Climate Justice Alliance

Concept

April 2023

Why a Caribbean Climate Justice Alliance?

The overall purpose of the proposed *Caribbean Climate Justice Alliance* is to build a regional coalition and grassroots movement to transform policy and practice and catalyse action for climate justice and a just transition. It will bring together leading civil society organisations (CSOs), academia, creatives and other non-state actors and their networks working across different sectors and aspects of climate justice – economic, environmental and social justice – to spark greater awareness, engagement, collaboration to influence policy and deliver concrete change on the ground.

Establishment and strengthening of the Alliance is being supported under the project, *A Caribbean Climate Justice Alliance for Advocacy, Action and Accountability*. This project is being implemented by the Caribbean Natural Resources Institute (CANARI) with funding from the Open Society Foundations.

Rationale - Changing the narrative

Putting climate resilience, biodiversity conservation, and economic inclusiveness at the centre of COVID-19 economic recovery and the development agenda is critical to address the existential and intertwined risks from the climate emergency, biodiversity decline, and systemic social inequities. Despite widespread global calls for a transformative approach, and a recognition that governments alone cannot address these risks, stakeholder engagement remains limited and there is little evidence of a focus on inclusive, green and resilient approaches.¹ Supporting vulnerable and marginalised groups to advocate for pro-poor, inclusive, environmentally sustainable, and climate resilient approaches to COVID-19 economic recovery and development in the Caribbean is critical to ensure fair, equitable and just outcomes.

It is therefore critical to bring together what are now small and disconnected efforts by CSOs and other non-state actors on climate justice to leverage synergies, enhance knowledge sharing and facilitate joint learning and action to build a strong regional movement by and for rights holders. This will help build a unified, coherent and amplified civil society voice to enhance effectiveness, efficiency and impact of calls for climate justice for the most vulnerable in the Caribbean. They can also hold governments and their development partners accountable for delivery of COVID-19 recovery and other key commitments, including under the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) and its Paris Agreement and the 2030 Agenda and its Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

What are the objectives?

The proposed objectives of the Caribbean Climate Justice Alliance are:

- **Advocacy** – Develop a shared Caribbean Climate Justice Agenda that reflects the needs, priorities and realities of the region, and enable collective advocacy to amplify the voices of the most vulnerable and influence national, regional and global policies for a pro-poor, inclusive, environmentally sustainable and climate resilient approach to COVID-19 economic recovery and development as part of a new eco-social contract²
- **Action** – Mobilise and encourage practical action by CSOs, local communities and enterprises, and other non-state actors on climate justice and hold governments accountable for their commitments to deliver climate action and a just transition

¹ IMF. 2020. Policy Responses to COVID-19. *Policy tracker*, December 18. <https://www.imf.org/en/Topics/imf-and-covid19/Policy-Responses-to-COVID-19>

² UNRISD. 2021. A New Eco-Social Contract. *Issue Brief 11*, March 2021.

[https://www.unrisd.org/80256B3C005BCCF9/\(httpPublications\)/2D51D21D694A94D4802586A1004D18FC?OpenDocument](https://www.unrisd.org/80256B3C005BCCF9/(httpPublications)/2D51D21D694A94D4802586A1004D18FC?OpenDocument)

- **Learning** – Document and share experiences, lessons, best practices and innovations to inspire actions among CSOs, local communities and enterprises, other non-state actors and their partners to scale out and up for impact
- **Partnerships** – Foster collaboration and strengthen capacity for more effective and strategic partnerships among civil society and other non-state actors and between civil society, government and other development partners to promote climate justice

Who constitutes the Alliance?

The Alliance does not have formal members, and it is anticipated that it will bring together at least 30-40 leading CSOs, including community-based organisations and national and regional non-governmental organisations, academic and research institutions, creatives, individual champions, media and other non-state actors and their networks working across different sectors and aspects of climate justice – access to finance, environmental sustainability, gender equality, youth, indigenous peoples and social inclusion, human rights, labour and workers’ rights, and loss and damage.

Participants will be identified through a collective process by the project partners and other key actors and invited to join based on the following criteria and any others deemed suitable:

- Are credible and recognised organisations or experts in their relevant fields or sectors, respected by other civil society and government actors
- Possess capacity to engage
- Demonstrate willingness to engage in advocacy and action for climate justice
- Demonstrate willingness to work with other CSOs and other non-state actors, including in other sectors or fields
- Represent different countries/territories in the Caribbean region to ensure adequate geographic coverage

What is the approach?

The approach will be to establish a Caribbean Climate Justice Alliance which will collaborate to develop and implement a Caribbean Climate Justice Agenda that will be discussed and developed jointly to guide collective and coordinated advocacy. The constituents of the Alliance will sign a pledge committing to help deliver the joint Agenda.

CANARI will function as the secretariat, act as convener of the Alliance and provide technical support for its operation in the initial phase.

Thematic working groups will be established to coordinate the work of the alliance on key identified themes, and will be co-convened with allies with relevant expertise. Key themes include:

- Access to finance
- Adaptation and loss and damage
- Gender
- Human rights
- Just, nature-based solutions
- Just transition
- Youth

What are the desired outcomes and impact?

1. CSOs and other non-state actors collaborating on a broad grassroots movement and amplifying the voice of the most vulnerable and the broader public for enhanced awareness, inspiration and commitment to personal behaviour changes and civic engagement supporting climate justice and ambitious climate action.
2. A strong and cohesive civil society voice advocating on climate justice issues in the development and implementation of national, regional and global policies and plans.
3. CSOs better positioned to engage with government, private sector, academia and regional and international agencies to contribute to enhanced regional and national efforts to achieve targets under the Paris Climate Agreement and SDGs.
4. The principles and objectives of climate justice are better reflected in public policy statements and instruments, and translated into the programmes and actions of the public, private and civil society sectors.

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