

# SUPPORTING CIVIL SOCIETY ENGAGEMENT IN CLIMATE FINANCE MECHANISMS in Dominica

**Mechanism:** Dominica's Private Sector, Civil Society, NGO Technical Working Group within the National Climate Finance Coordination Mechanism **Location:** Dominica **Duration:** 2020-present



## Overview

Dominica's Private Sector, Civil Society, Non-governmental Organisation (NGO) Technical Working Group was established in 2020 as part of the process to develop Dominica's Low-Carbon Climate Resilient Strategy, which recognised a critical need for broader engagement in climate decision-making, including representation from private sector, civil society, women, youth and Indigenous groups.

The Technical Working Group falls under the remit of the Ministry of Economic Affairs, Planning, Resilience, Sustainable Development, Telecommunications and Broadcasting, which is the National Designated Authority (NDA) to the Green Climate Fund (GCF) in Dominica.

The Technical Working Group consists of representatives from seventeen organisations who meet on a monthly basis. It is currently chaired by the national civil society organisation, Dominica Organic Agriculture Movement.

In terms of its focus and role, the Technical Working Group complements, supports and reports to the NDA, serving in a technical advisory capacity with representatives from key stakeholders within civil society.

These efforts build on a comprehensive mapping of civil society organisations, the private sector and other non-state actors that was undertaken in 2018 by the government. This exercise aimed to identify the current contribution of civil society and other non-state actors to building climate resilience, determine needs and formulate plans for future engagement in national climate change planning and implementation. It served as a key step to enhancing engagement of various stakeholder groups in the planning and development of future project proposals for climate action, and defining the role they will play in project execution and delivery.



## KEY RESULTS

- The Technical Working Group has contributed to relevant research and analysis for implementation of GCF projects, including to provide the evidence base to inform the implementation strategy in Dominica for the regional Enhanced Direct Access pilot project that is being implemented in Antigua and Barbuda, Grenada and Dominica and led by the Department of Environment of Antigua and Barbuda from 2018-2023.
- The Technical Working Group has provided a key opportunity to bring the needs and concerns of civil society and other non-state actors to the forefront and facilitates the active and central role they can play in executing climate action.
- An inclusive and participatory approach has been central to the effectiveness of the Technical Working Group. It formally includes 17 civil society organisations, which represent a wider network of over 95 organisations across Dominica addressing a range of issues. This includes representatives of the Indigenous Kalinago.



## Innovations and Lessons

The establishment of the Technical Working Group acknowledges the need for a more representative, inclusive and participatory approach for the successful implementation of climate action in Dominica. The Technical Working Group is more broadly representative of a network of more than 95 organisations from a wide cross section of Dominican society, covering issues of employment, environment, ecosystem-based adaptation, climate change, food security, agricultural diversification, women's rights and youth. Notably, the Indigenous Kalinago are also represented, who are unique in being the last community in the Caribbean that claims direct descent from the Indigenous Kalinago that originally populated the entire region.

Within the Technical Working Group, strategic selection of representatives who can further engage others has enabled inputs from a wide range of civil society and other non-state actors. Nominated representatives are responsible for engaging with and obtaining inputs from other organisations in their networks, regarding GCF engagement. It was also agreed that representatives are selected to ensure that all six regions in Dominica are represented on the Technical Working Group and any subsequent membership.

In addition, recognising the need to build civil society's capacities and facilitate access to climate finance through GCF and other funds, it was agreed that the role of the Technical Working Group would be to guide the capacity building process for NGOs and community-based organisations. This capacity building process is focused on current and future GCF Readiness projects in Dominica, and the Enhanced Direct Access pilot project currently being implemented. To further support capacity building, a website is being developed as a training and information sharing tool on GCF for civil society, and training utilising the website will be piloted by the Technical Working Group.

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*This case study has been developed under the Enhancing Caribbean Civil Society's Access and Readiness to Climate Finance project. Its content is the sole responsibility of the Caribbean Natural Resources Institute (CANARI) and does not reflect the position of the Green Climate Fund or other partners.*