



Ecosystem restoration to build Caribbean resilience to climate change

Caribbean Natural Resources Institute
September 2023



About CANARI

CANARI is a regional, non-profit, technical institute that has worked for over 30 years across the Caribbean to **promote and facilitate stakeholder participation in the stewardship of natural resources in the Caribbean.**

Our work centres on four main themes under our Strategic Plan (2021-2030):

- Biodiversity & Ecosystems
- Equity & Justice
- Participatory Governance
- Resilience.



Ecosystem restoration to build Caribbean resilience to climate change



PROJECT IN BRIEF

- **Lead:** Caribbean Natural Resources Institute (CANARI)
- **Target countries:** Antigua and Barbuda, Dominica and Grenada
- **Partners:** 5 CSO partners working at national and community levels in the target countries
- **Budget:** US\$65,000 grant under the Natural Infrastructure for Caribbean Resilience (NICaR) program

(funded by the U.S. Department of State's Bureau of Oceans, International Environmental and Scientific (OES) Affairs and implemented by the USFS)

- **Timeline:** November 2021 - September 2023



GOAL: To build climate and disaster resilience of six high-risk communities in three Caribbean countries through mangrove, upland forest, and post disaster landscape restoration

3 project countries, 5 partner CSOs, 6 target communities



Antigua and Barbuda:

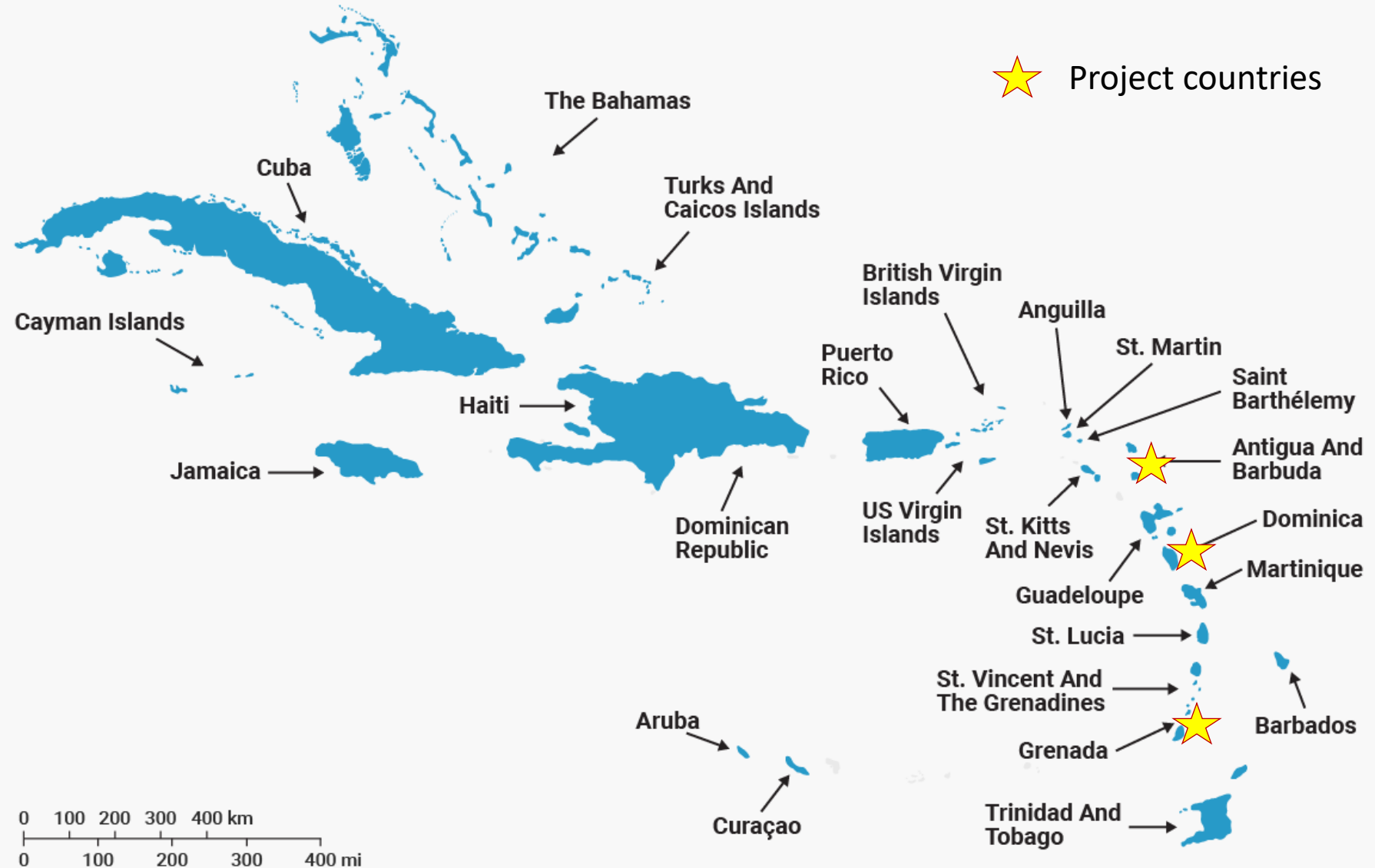
- Barbuda Fisherfolk Association ([Codrington](#))
- Environmental Awareness Group ([Redonda Island](#))

Dominica

- WildDominique ([Coulibistrie](#))
- Anse Kouanari Tourism Association ([Good Hope](#))

Grenada

- Grenada Education and Development Organisation (GRENEDE)
- Balthazar and Telescope community groups ([Balthazar and Telescope](#))



Project Approach and Components



1

- **Technical assessment of restoration projects initiated under the CSOs for Disaster Resilience project:** Technical assessment of project proposals from the CSOs for Disaster Resilience project will be conducted to identify follow on actions and help the target CSOs to enhance or strengthen ecosystem restoration activities.

2

- **Implementation of a micro-grant facility** with sub-awards provided to CSOs to expand or enhance restoration work initiated under the CSOs for Disaster Resilience project, with technical advice and coaching support

3

- **Documentation and knowledge sharing on best practices/guidelines for restoration in the Caribbean.** Knowledge product/guidelines on restoration will be developed and disseminated.





HIGHLIGHTS:

- 6 sub-grants completed (valued at US\$37,800)
- 6 virtual sessions for technical support to CSOs / knowledge exchange
- GIS StoryMap (knowledge product) developed

CSO SUB-PROJECTS





Anse Kouanari Tourism Association

Strengthening upland forest restoration for landslide reduction in Good Hope, Dominica”

Key activities:

1. Replanting drives on bare hillsides
2. Maintenance and monitoring
3. Community sessions (targeting farmers and residents) to increase awareness of land use best practices and landslide disaster risk reduction strategies





WildDominique

“Enhancing community resilience through riverbank restoration in Coulibistrie, Dominica”

Key activities:

1. Replanting drives on degraded riverbank and maintenance and monitoring
2. Community sessions on reforestation techniques & community disaster management
3. HAM-radio training (EW/preparedness)





Barbuda Fisher's Association

“Enhancing mangrove restoration to build local resilience in Codrington Lagoon, Barbuda”

Key activities:

1. Aerial assessment of mangrove in Codrington Lagoon
2. Additional clean up of mangrove to support natural regeneration and monitoring
3. Stakeholder awareness





Environmental Awareness Group

“Enhancing ecosystem restoration in Redonda Island, Antigua and Barbuda via invasive species removal”

Key activities: Eradicating Guinea Grass on the offshore island of Redonda

- Fieldwork to identify sites, bio-checks and guinea grass removal
- Monitoring





GRENEED + Balthazar River view community group

“Strengthening riverbank restoration for flood resilience Balthazar, Grenada”

Key activities:

1. Additional planting drives
2. Monitoring and maintenance – fencing, signage
3. Community session on flood vulnerability, linking restoration and livelihoods



Partner projects

GRENEED + Telescope community group

“Youth engagement for scaling up coastal ecosystem restoration and stewardship in Telescope, Grenada”

Key activities:

1. School coastal stewardship programme
 - School education drive
 - Practical restoration engaging schools in site visits and planting
2. Monitoring and maintenance activities



Some lessons from our experience..



- **CSO capacity and capacity building**

- Small size of CSOs and absorptive capacity – limited staff, time, resources
- Technical knowledge in restoration is needed but also organisational strengthening to deliver effective projects
- Leverage existing capacities, skills and experience in design/implementation of projects (AKTA experience with farmers, GRENEED experience in youth development programs, engaging and working with interested CBOs)
- Dedicated project manager/coordinator

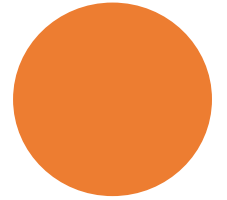


Some lessons from our experience..



- **Ensuring technically sound projects**

- Technical support and coaching for project development and implementation, including adaptive management
- Value of relationship building - facilitating connections and encouraging engagement of local technical experts with understanding of local context (Forestry Division etc.)
- M&E – virtual monthly check-ins, could be stronger with on the ground presence
- Approach is very time intensive; needs to be managed and resourced properly



Some lessons from our experience..



- **Community engagement and mobilisation**

- Understand context and leverage community resources (NEP Beautification team, community leaders/champions)
- Need to conduct stakeholder identification and analysis
- Buy in and ownership – need emphasis on raising awareness and expanding technical knowledge on ecosystem restoration with CSOs and local communities – importance, benefits, roles they can play, options
- Need to explore partnerships for more impact – info sharing, technical advice/support, additional resources, visibility





Thank you!

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