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Gender Statement

May 2025

CBF EbA Facility Grant EbA4_013

Caribbean Natural Resources Institute

***Advancing the Ecosystem Approach to Fisheries for Resilient Caribbean
Coastal Communities and Livelihoods***

Saint Lucia, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Trinidad and Tobago

Grant Summary

Grantee organisation: Caribbean Natural Resources Institute (CANARI)

Project title: Advancing the Ecosystem Approach to Fisheries for Resilient Caribbean Coastal Communities and Livelihoods

Grant number: EbA4_013

Grant amount (US dollars): \$897,913

Proposed dates of grant: January 10, 2024 – July 9, 2026

Countries where activities will be undertaken: Saint Lucia, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Trinidad and Tobago

Implementing partners: Department of Fisheries, Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries, Food Security and Rural Development, Saint Lucia; Fisheries Division, Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry, Fisheries and Rural Transformation, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines; Fisheries Division, Ministry of Agriculture, Land and Fisheries, Trinidad and Tobago; Caribbean Network of Fisherfolk Organisations (CNFO); University of the West Indies – Centre for Resource Management and Environmental Studies (UWI-CERMES)

About the project: The project will promote mainstreaming of the ecosystem approach to fisheries (EAF) to support ecosystem-based adaptation (EbA). EAF recognises that fisheries are social-ecological systems and addresses sustainability by balancing ecological and human well-being through good governance. Using EAF, the project will design and deliver adaptation and stewardship actions to address risks from climate change and ecosystem degradation in six target communities and their surrounding coastal ecosystems. It will also enable conservation and sustainable management of the key mangrove, seagrass and coral reef ecosystems upon which local fisheries and related livelihoods depend, as well as ensure sustainable fisheries and local livelihoods. This will involve strengthening capacity and coordination among fisheries and other coastal resource managers and users, towards integrating EAF in their management planning and implementation as well as supporting local stewardship. Applying knowledge on best practices and innovations for EAF is then expected to further support scaling-up and replication.

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The **Advancing the Ecosystem Approach to Fisheries for Resilient Caribbean Coastal Communities and Livelihoods (EbA4_013)** project is committed to promoting gender equality and social inclusion as part of its approach to sustainable fisheries management. Recognising that women, men, girls and boys, and persons of non-binary identities experience different challenges and opportunities in the fisheries sector, we aim to ensure that project activities support equitable participation and benefits for all stakeholders.

This commitment aligns with **CANARI's Gender, Equality, Disability and Social inclusion (GEDSI) Policy**, which outlines CANARI's commitment to equality and inclusion across all programmes, activities, and operations and notes that:

“CANARI is committed to fostering an inclusive and equitable environment that ensures the active participation of all individuals, regardless of their gender, disability, geography, social background, religion, race, ethnicity, age, sexual orientation, or economic status or other identity. The Institute recognises that diversity enriches our organisation and our work and, enhances our ability to deliver sustainable development solutions for the Caribbean region. to integrate gender considerations into natural resource management and climate resilience efforts.”

Our commitments to gender equality under the *Advancing the Ecosystem Approach to Fisheries for Resilient Caribbean Coastal Communities and Livelihoods (EbA4_013)* project are:

1. Encouraging inclusive participation

- The project will actively engage women, men, girls, boys and persons of non-binary identities in fisheries governance, adaptation planning, and ecosystem-based adaptation and stewardship.

2. Promoting equitable access to resources and opportunities

- Training and capacity-building activities will be open to all, with specific efforts to ensure participation by women, youth (under the age of 35), and poor and marginalised small-scale fisherfolk.
- The project will consider potential barriers to participation for vulnerable groups and identify ways to make engagement more accessible.

3. Applying a gender-sensitive approach to planning

- The project will seek input from a diverse range of stakeholders, ensuring that different perspectives are reflected in ecosystem stewardship and climate adaptation actions.
- Gender and age disaggregated data will be collected to help assess participation and benefits across different groups.

4. Fostering a respectful and safe environment

- The project will promote respect and inclusivity in all engagements and will not tolerate discrimination or harassment.

5. Monitoring and learning

- The project will track participation and engagement trends to identify areas where improvements can be made.
- Lessons learned will be shared to inform future approaches to inclusive fisheries management.

By integrating these commitments, the project aims to support a more inclusive and resilient small-scale fisheries sector, ensuring that all stakeholders have the opportunity to contribute and benefit.