Developing a Natural Capital and Biodiversity Action Plan for the Caribbean Development Bank

Background

The Caribbean region's rich biodiversity provides invaluable benefits to millions across the region, supporting ecosystem services such as climate regulation, disaster risk reduction, food security, and sustainable livelihoods.

However, human impact on the environment in the form of habitat loss, invasive species, over-exploitation, pollution and climate change all threaten the region's natural capital, affecting climate resilience and sustainable development throughout the Caribbean.

In response, the Caribbean Development Bank (CDB) is developing a Natural Capital and Biodiversity Action Plan (NCBAP) to mainstream biodiversity and natural capital into its operations, in pursuit of resilient, nature-positive development.

Project in brief

Aim: Develop a Natural Capital and Biodiversity Action Plan (NCBAP) to mainstream natural capital and biodiversity into CDB's programmes, policies and operations

Timeframe: April – November 2026

Budget: US$67,500

Funded by: Caribbean Development Bank

Key terms

Biodiversity: The variety of all living organisms and the associated ecological systems of which they are a part. Biodiversity supports stable ecosystems, food security and resilience to diseases, climate change and natural disasters.

Natural Capital: The natural resources (plants, animals, air, water, soils and minerals) that directly or indirectly provide benefits (ecosystem services) to people.

Ecosystem Services: The direct and indirect benefits people obtain from ecosystems, such as food and water, climate regulation and disaster mitigation, recreation and tourism.

Mainstreaming biodiversity: Integrating actions and policies related to or impacting biodiversity across all of society and the economy.

About the NCBAP

The NCBAP will target the unique vulnerabilities of the Caribbean's natural capital and biodiversity and support the work of CDB's Borrowing Member Countries (BMCs) to achieve nature-positive outcomes through key sectors in which CDB operates, including:

- agriculture, food security and rural development;
- fisheries and the blue economy;
- transportation;
- tourism;
- water, sanitation and watershed management;
- disaster risk management and climate resilience; and
- social protection and poverty reduction.

NCBAP development process

Between April and November 2026, the Caribbean Natural Resources Institute (CANARI) will engage CDB stakeholders and external partners from governments, regional institutions, civil society organisations, development agencies and peer Multilateral Development Banks to inform the development of the NCBAP. In this role, CANARI will:

1. Develop the technical and conceptual foundation for the NCBAP, in the form of a detailed Approach Paper.
2. Map and engage key stakeholders at international, regional, national and Bank levels through structured virtual interviews, targeted focus groups and consultations to inform the NCBAP.
3. Conduct a comprehensive desktop situational analysis to establish a baseline and identify opportunities to strengthen natural capital and biodiversity mainstreaming in CDB's operations.
4. Develop and finalise the full NCBAP, including its review and validation by key CDB stakeholders.

Photo Credit: Natalie Boodram

What does the NCBAP hope to achieve?

The NCBAP seeks to provide an operational framework and roadmap for the integration and prioritisation of biodiversity and natural capital into CDB's operations. CDB will be better enabled to support BMCs to advance biodiversity and natural capital commitments and priorities.

For more information

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