

# THREE ARE BETTER THAN ONE GOVERNMENT, CIVIL SOCIETY, PRIVATE SECTOR

Joint efforts in Caribbean Countries toward sustainable development





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## GOVERNMENT, CIVIL SOCIETY, PRIVATE SECTOR

**Joint efforts in Caribbean Countries toward sustainable development**

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# ACRONYMS

CARICOM	The Caribbean Community
CSO	Civil Society Organizations
CBO	Civil Based Organization
ConSoC	Civil Society Consulting Groups
GHG	Greenhouse Gas Emissions
SIDS	Small Island Developing States
UNFCC	United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change
CCCC	Caribbean Climate Change
CMO	Caribbean Meteorological Organization
CDERA	Caribbean Disaster Emergency Response Agency
CBO	Community Based Organizations
BREEF	Bahamas Reef Environmental Educational Foundation
BDRC	Building Disaster Resilient Communities
ASOG	Learning Cycle and the Ateneo School of Government
LDC	Least Developed Countries
ECOSOC	Economic and Social Council
GDP	Gross Domestic Product
BAU	Business as Usual
GCF	Green Climate Fund
EPOC	Economic Program Oversight Committee
DESA-DSD	Economic Affairs - Division for Sustainable Development
SIDS	Small Island Developing States
UN ECLAC	UN Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean
ICT	Information and Communications Technology (ICT)
MEAs	Multilateral Environmental Agreements
NGO	Non-Governmental Organization

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## THE IDB GROUP

### **About the Inter-American Development Bank**

The Inter-American Development Bank (IDB) is a leading source of long-term financing for economic, social, and institutional projects in Latin America and the Caribbean. Besides loans, grants, and guarantees, the IDB conducts cutting-edge research to offer innovative and sustainable solutions to our region's most pressing challenges. Founded in 1959 to help accelerate progress in its developing member countries, the IDB continues to work every day to improve lives.

### **About the Inter-American Investment Corporation**

The Inter-American Investment Corporation (IIC), a member of the Inter-American Development Bank Group (IDB Group), is a multilateral development bank committed to supporting the private sector in Latin America and the Caribbean. The IIC finances sustainable enterprises and projects to achieve financial results that maximize social and environmental development for the region. With a current portfolio of US\$11 billion under management and 350 clients in 21 countries, the IIC works across sectors to provide innovative financial solutions and advisory services that meet the evolving demands of its clients.

### **About the Multilateral Investment Fund**

The Multilateral Investment Fund (MIF) serves as an IDB Group innovation laboratory to promote development through the private sector by identifying, supporting, testing, and piloting new solutions to development challenges and seeking to create opportunities for poor and vulnerable populations in the LAC region. To fulfill its role, the MIF engages and inspires the private sector and works with the public sector when needed.



**THOUGH IT'S A MARVELOUS AND RICH IN RESOURCES REGION, THE CARIBBEAN FACES DEVELOPMENT CHALLENGES THAT NEED TO BE ADDRESSED.**

## INTRODUCTION

The Caribbean is a well-known magnificent region. It holds cultural heritages, folk traditions, and an exquisite gastronomy. It is also the home of breathtaking sceneries where tourism is a big attraction. In fact, the tourism sector represents 14%<sup>1</sup> of total region GDP. In addition, very diverse flora and fauna exist, most countries contain 21% to 30% of their territory covered by a wide variety of trees<sup>2</sup> contributing to the already exotic environment there is in the Caribbean. Moreover, the Caribbean is extremely rich in natural resources, which contributes to the economic development, especially those countries that produce precious stones such as: gold, bauxite, iron, nickel, and timber. In fact, the Caribbean alongside the Latin America region holds about 12.5% of the conventional reserves.<sup>3</sup>

Looking at the Caribbean promising resources and land, it is shocking to acknowledge that this region faces many challenges that threaten its magnificence and its sustainable development. It is assumed that due to Climate Change, the region is now more often exposed to storms, hurricanes, and thunderstorms that affect the production of goods (i.e., agriculture and extractive industries) that are exported to other countries and thus develop the economy. The health sector is threatened by both communicable and non-communicable diseases that affect the regions' productivity and overall economic growth; Caribbean data on health shows that the obesity rate was 14.8% in 2010<sup>4</sup>. In addition, high energy

costs erode productivity to sustain local production and businesses, which increase cost of living, not to mention the extensive damage it does to climate change and sustainability. Other challenges include: gender inequalities, biodiversity and natural resource management, fiscal policies, and open and participatory governance.

To address these challenges and improve the region's potential, it is vital to foster a sustainable development culture in the Caribbean. This sourcebook "Three are better than one: Civil Society, Government, Private Sector: Joint efforts in Caribbean Countries toward sustainable development" seeks to create a common language and to share information, promote constructive dialogue, improve consultations, foster collaborations and partnerships among the main actors of sustainable development: Governments, Private Sector and Civil Society to:

- Identify and explore the common development challenges in the Caribbean region; Identify opportunities for collaboration and partnerships among civil society, governments, and private sector to address these challenges<sup>5</sup> and Strengthen the institutional capacity of Civil Society organizations to add their efforts to governments' development goals.

1. Caribbean Journal <http://www.caribjournal.com/2013/09/30/tourism-and-the-caribbean-economy/#>

2. <http://botany.si.edu/Antilles/WestIndies/> - The amount of forest that remains nowadays varies from 3.2% (Haiti) to nearly 84% (in the Bahamas). Another interesting feature is that the Caribbean possesses 2.6% of the world's plant species.

3. <https://publications.iadb.org/bitstream/handle/11319/7372/Extractives%20in%20LAC%3A%20The%20Basics%20-%20TN-906.pdf>

4. This rate doubled from 7.4% in 2000. This increase in obesity rate is alarming.

5. A section about calls for action under five levels of engagement: information, dialogue, consultation, collaboration and partnership and a regional agenda based on in site missions' exchanges as well as topics discussed with Caribbean CSOs during the IDB Caribbean Civil Society meetings, are included.



## BACKGROUND

The Inter-American Development Bank (IDB Group) is the leading source of development financing for Latin America and the Caribbean. It supports efforts by Latin America and the Caribbean countries to reduce poverty and inequality and bring about development in a sustainable, environmentally-friendly way. The Bank works to promote development with Governments and Private Sector and Civil Society through five steps of engagement: information, dialogue, consultations, collaboration and partnerships.

The role of Civil Society Organizations (CSOs) with their Governments and Private Sector in addressing development challenges in the region has been enhanced through innovative methods of engagement in partnerships and collaborations with international organizations, governments and enterprises. . Today's trends reveal information and communication technologies (ICTs) have created increasing civic spaces for CSOs to also add their technical expertise and influence stakeholders across geographical boundaries allowing them to amass support in addressing these challenges.



Three are better than one: Government, Civil Society, Private Sector

CHAPTER 1:  
FROM THE CLASSIC REPRESENTATIVE  
DECISION-MAKING PROCESS TO  
PARTICIPATORY DECISION-MAKING:  
A new Caribbean context



**Traditional approaches to decision-making were born to the colonial and immediate post-emancipation era; it typically involved a top down approach with little engagement with Civil Society. This chapter explains the different views of decision making in the Caribbean region.**

## **MOVING FROM A CLASSICAL APPROACH OF CIVIL SOCIETY ORGANIZATIONS**

The traditional views of Civil Society and their role were premised on a much more limited participation and indirect influence through advocacy. They are now moving towards becoming social technical partners with governments and private sector and providing expertise, research and leadership in a variety of innovation matters that pertain to the advancement of development goals<sup>6</sup>. On this direction, CSOs need to strategize their work getting more and more technical skills in a way that they keep on playing a significant role.

As it will be mentioned in next chapters, Civil Society is increasingly engaged in social entrepreneurship and social innovation initiatives to tackle development issues. Civil Society in the Caribbean is operating in different levels, national as well as regional with the creation of networks and processes that increase their influence and impact. This allows for collaboration across borders and for different actors (including governments and intergovernmental organizations) with diversification away from the traditional channels of participation that are associated with national governments.

## **CRUCIAL FORCES AND TRENDS FOR CIVIL SOCIETY IN THE UPCOMING YEARS**

External factors have changed the context for Civil Society actions and created new opportunities for partnerships with state actors. Worldwide use of technologies and social networks allows CSOs to make impact at local, regional and international level. This fact sheds new light on the future role of CSOs and its added value as change agents.

Civil Society participation in national decision-making is increasingly recognized as effective means of addressing development challenges including management of natural resources, economic development and social equality. For instance, Caribbean states were among the 178 countries that adopted the Rio Declaration on Environment and Development recognizing among other things, that “environmental issues are best handled with the participation of all concerned sizes, at the relevant level<sup>7</sup>. On other hand, the Caribbean Community (CARICOM) adopted the Civil Society Charter<sup>8</sup> in which they committed to adopt and implement all appropriate measures to ensure good governance, which is “just, open and accountable”.<sup>9</sup>

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6 See chapter 4 - Social Innovation

7 Principle 10 of the Rio Declaration on Environment and Development adopted at the United Nations Conference on Human Development and Environment, 1992.

8 Adopted by CARICOM Heads of Government at their Eighth Inter-Sessional Meeting, 1997

9 CARICOM Charter of Civil Society, Art XVII

## CIVIL SOCIETY PARTICIPATION IN NATIONAL DECISION-MAKING IS HAPPENING ON A NATIONAL AND REGIONAL LEVEL.



Caribbean states were among the 178 countries that adopted the Rio Declaration on Environment and Development

**On a national level,** governments are establishing permanent forums to engage with Civil Society. The Government of Jamaica entered a high-level partnership agreement with private sector and CSOs including environmental NGOs, women's groups, trade unions and the Church to address critical development challenges in the country Fiscal Consolidation (with Social Protection and Inclusion), Rule of Law Adherence (and Timely Justice Outcomes), Ease of Doing Business and Employment Creation and Energy Diversification and Conservation. The Partnership for Transformation is chaired by the Prime Minister meets on a regular basis to share information and ideas to meet these challenges.

Barbados's ministry of Youth in association with the Parliament of Barbados established The National Youth Parliament (BNYP), as a platform to engage the youth in political affairs and dialogue advance the youth agenda in Barbados, increase the participation in voting, the branches of government and the legislative processes to draft the model legislation. A similar youth parliament also exists in Suriname. Many citizens now enjoy improved rights to obtain information from their governments under freedom of information legislation enacted in the last twenty decades.<sup>10</sup>

**On a regional level,** several good practices exist of inter-governmental processes that provide mechanisms for public engagement in negotiations<sup>11</sup>. The UN Major Groups was established to create high level public engagement in UN sustainable development activities. These groups are coordinated by Organizing Partners responsible for nine sectors and serve as the main channels for public participation to ensure that the views of these sectors are incorporated as UN processes. These sectors include Women, Children and Youth, Indigenous Peoples, Non-Governmental Organizations, Local Authorities, Workers and Trade Unions, Business and Industry, Scientific and Technological Community, and Farmers.

The UN Department of Social and Economic Affairs – Division for Sustainable Development (DESA-DSD) and UN Non-Governmental Liaison Service (UN-NGLS) established a Civil Society steering committee for the Third International Conference on Small Island Developing States held in Samoa in 2014. The mandate of the steering committee included facilitating outreach in the SIDS regions and the nine major groups constituencies, facilitating engagement in the Preparatory meetings and the Conference and helping to facilitate joint advocacy and development of positions. The steering committee is comprised of 18 members: one representative from each of the 9 Major Groups and 9 representatives from SIDS-based CSOs, including 3 from the Caribbean region.<sup>12</sup>

<sup>10</sup> Antigua and Barbuda, Bahamas, Belize, Guyana, Jamaica, St. Vincent and the Grenadines, Trinidad and Tobago have enacted freedom of information legislation. Barbados, Grenada, St. Kitts, St Lucia have draft legislation.

<sup>11</sup> The Barbados Museum and Historical Society provides consultative advice and assistance to the Government of Barbados with regard to meeting the terms of international agreements and public education and information on developmental initiatives, and in implementing training workshops for to benefit national and regional developmental initiatives. Veni Apwann in Trinidad and Tobago, provides management support for the civil society sector, through technical grants from Organizations including the Government of Trinidad and Tobago's Citizen Security Programme of the Ministry of National Security.

<sup>12</sup> Alianza ONG in the Dominican Republic, the Caribbean Youth Environmental Network and CaFAN in Antigua and Barbuda

The UN Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (UN ECLAC) established a process to elect six (6) representatives of the public including two from the Caribbean, to serve as liaison and maintain continuous dialogue between the public and the Presiding Officers for the Regional Agreement on Access to Information, Public Participation and Justice in Environmental Matters for Latin America and the Caribbean. Virtual meetings and webinars have been organized with the representatives and the public to share information on the process and to obtain input into the Regional Agreement.

## **FACEBOOK, TWITTER, SNAPCHAT, INSTAGRAM? INFLUENCE OF SOCIAL NETWORK**

Information and Communications Technology (ICT) is changing the way in which Civil Society engages with its members and stakeholders providing opportunities to overcome geographical and physical hurdles and support greater collective action. Social media platforms (i.e. Facebook, Youtube, Twitter, Instagram, and Snapchat) are increasingly being used by Governments, Private Sector and Civil Society to create social change. Well documented and well informed CSOs are effectively sharing videos with the public and write and share online blogs to increase awareness of social and environmental issues and as a platform for fundraising to support their work.

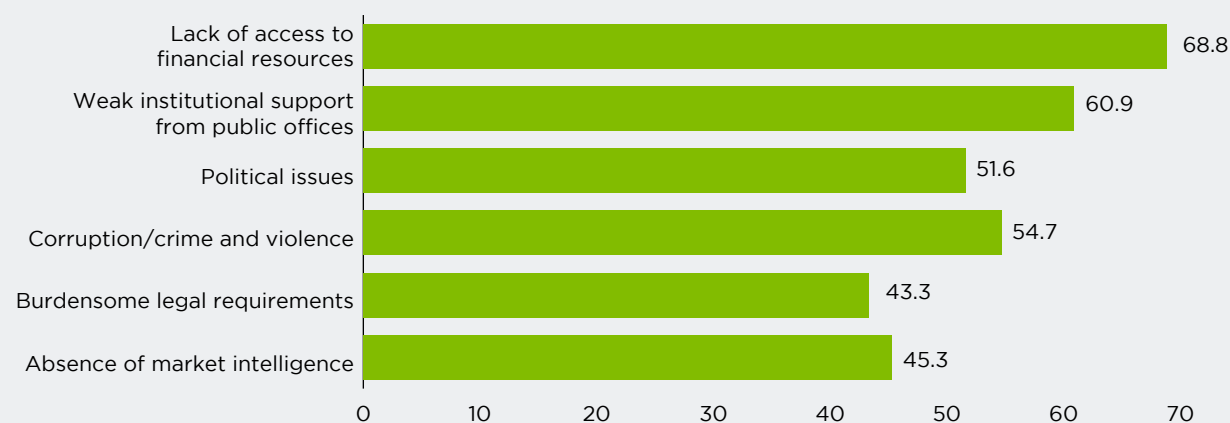
**SOCIAL MEDIA PLAYS AN INNOVATIVE ROLE IN INFORMING  
DEVELOPMENT ISSUES AND SOLVING THEM BY RAISING  
SOCIAL AWARENESS.**

Environmental CSOs in the Caribbean are also effectively using these platforms in alignment with Governments environmental efforts. The Jamaica Environment Trust launched an anti-litter campaign “Nuh Dutty Up Jamaica” in partnership and in collaboration with the Ministry of Tourism and businesses. Social media plays a significant role in the campaign which features online videos to spread the message. Youth Media Guyana (YMG) produces multimedia materials for young people. YMG focuses on educating the youth, especially teenagers on social media who forget about their rights and responsibilities.

Three are better than one: Government, Civil Society, Private Sector



**Graph 1: Constraints to investing in the Caribbean**



## **PUBLIC- PRIVATE PARTNERSHIPS & LESSONS LEARNED FROM CASES WORLDWIDE**

### **THE DIASPORA OPPORTUNITIES AND LESSONS LEARNED**

The Caribbean diaspora has grown consistently and considerably in the last decades with remittances providing a key measure to support economies by reducing poverty and debt and supporting businesses. In 2012, remittances as a share of GDP were 25% in Haiti, 17% in Guyana and 14% in Jamaica. 6% in Dominican Republic.<sup>13</sup> A 2014 IDB Group study of 67 Caribbean diasporic companies documented their experiences in financial transfers and remittances, diasporic tourism

and travel, freight and shipping, creative and media nostalgic exports.<sup>14</sup>

Successful partnerships with private sectors and diaspora were noted in the study and include Golden Krust Bakery, a privately-owned corporation manufactures and distributes Caribbean food products. The company which began as a family-run business now operates over 120 franchises in the United States. Golden Krust has partnered with hospitals, schools, correctional institutions, food service and sporting facilities, and other retail outlets for the sale of its products and has partnered locally with the Ministry of Agriculture and the Jamaica Agricultural Society (JAS) for the supply of herbs and spices. The main constraints to investing in the Caribbean are presented in Graph 1.

<sup>13</sup> IDB 2013

<sup>14</sup> Dr. Keith Nurse and Dr. Claremont Kirton, Caribbean Diasporic Entrepreneurship Analytical Report, IDB. 2014

These issues under the addressing power of Caribbean governments can also be supported by well-prepared CSOs to influence of the diaspora to grow economies.

### **Case Studies: Examples of Public-Private Partnerships including Civil Society Organizations**

#### ***Partnering for Sustainable Development in Trinidad and Tobago***

The Government of Trinidad and Tobago established national focal points for Multilateral Environmental Agreements (MEAs)<sup>15</sup> in the public sector, CSOs and CBOs to promote participatory management and decision making on national environmental issues. The role of the MEA focal points includes:

- Liaising with the Ministry responsible for MEA implementation
- Providing advice and inputs into strategies and actions to be taken at the national level in the implementation of obligations under the MEA and climate change
- Providing information to facilitate MEA reporting requirements

#### ***Partnership for Economic Progress in Jamaica***

The Government of Jamaica established an independent oversight committee – the Economic Programme Oversight Committee (EPOC) to monitor the progress of the country’s policy targets under its agreement with the International Monetary Fund’s (IMF) for a four-year loan programme. EPOC is comprised of public sector, private sector and civil society including trade unions and financial institutions. EPOC receives data on the quantitative and

policy targets from the government which are reviewed and then uses the media to advise the public about Jamaica’s progress and any concerns or developments in meeting its targets under the loan programme.

#### ***The Salud Mesoamérica Initiative: Partnering to Combat Infant Mortality in Mesoamérica***

The Salud Mesoamérica Initiative is a five-year public-private partnership between the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation<sup>16</sup>, the Carlos Slim Health Institute (ICSS), the Government of Spain, the Inter-American Development Bank (IDB) and eight countries of the Mesoamerican region (Belize, Costa Rica, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, Nicaragua, Panama, and the State of Chiapas in Mexico). The goal of the project is to reduce by an average of 15 percent infant mortality among the poorest 20 percent of the region’s poorest population; provide health services for approximately 260,000 children to reduce chronic malnutrition; and increase by 50 percent of births attended by skilled personnel, to reduce deaths of mothers and newborns, among others issues. The Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation, ICSS and the Government of Spain are contributing US\$142 million to finance projects in the areas of reproductive health, maternal and neonatal health, maternal and child nutrition, and immunization. The IDB is the executing agency responsible for designing projects jointly with Ministries of Health which, in turn, allocate counterpart resources.



provide health services for some 260,000 children to reduce chronic malnutrition; and increase by 50 percent of births attended by skilled personnel

<sup>15</sup> Source: Environmental Policy and Planning Division of Trinidad and Tobago <http://eppd-tt.blogspot.com/p/mea-focal-points.html>

<sup>16</sup> Source: <http://www.iadb.org/en/salud-mesoamerica-initiative/the-initiative/salud-mesoamerica-2015-priority-areas,2756.html>

CHAPTER 2:

# COMMON DEVELOPMENT CHALLENGES IN THE REGION:

*What can be done? How Civil Society can add its technical expertise and add efforts to governments' development agenda and private sector initiatives*





The Caribbean region has achieved relatively strong institutions in the sectors of health, education, justice and social welfare sectors<sup>17</sup>. However, it has experienced moderate to low economic growth since 1970, with an average growth rate falling below 3%. In the fiscal sector, specifically, the Caribbean debt was 1.7 times the average of the rest of small economies<sup>18</sup>. Despite this fiscal challenge, the Caribbean region – except for Haiti – is classified as high or middle income countries which makes it difficult to access development assistance<sup>19</sup>. In general, Caribbean countries share common economic, environmental and social vulnerabilities. The biggest threats are the following:

THE CARIBBEAN  
REGION FACES  
DEVELOPMENT  
CHANGES AT  
A SOCIAL,  
ENVIRONMENTAL,  
AND PUBLIC  
POLICY LEVEL.

- Heavy dependence on natural resources for economic prosperity with common sectors being agriculture, forestry, fishing, tourism, mining, and light manufacturing;
- Sensitivity to international trade which affects macroeconomic behavior;
- Lack of economies of scale, which affect productivity;
- High transportation, energy and communication costs; which make it expensive to produce local goods and services;
- Extremely high vulnerability to natural disasters;
- Despite having rich flora and fauna, as well as natural resources, the region is threatened by water scarcity;<sup>20</sup>
- Increased pressures on coastal and marine environments; and
- Sensitivity in fiscal policies.

17 United Nations Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean, 2015. The Caribbean and the post-2015 development agenda, Studies and Perspectives Series – The Caribbean – No 43, p.8

18 Is there a Caribbean Sclerosis? Stagnating economic growth in the Caribbean, Inder Ruprah, Karl Melgarejo, Ricardo Sierra, IDB. 2014

19 World Bank development indicators

20 The Caribbean region, particularly the Eastern Caribbean, could see declines in average annual rainfall by between 30-50 percent, the dry seasons will become more intense and result in problems with water supply.  
<http://www.ipsnews.net/2012/03/caribbean-looks-ahead-to-stave-off-fresh-water-scarcity/>

ACCESS TO CLEAN ENERGY AND HIGH COSTS REMAIN A SIGNIFICANT AND MOUNTING CHALLENGE FOR THE CARIBBEAN REGION.



“The local civil society has been able to learn and share with other stakeholders on efficient ways to save energy.”

These difficulties to address common development challenges are compounded by limited capacity (human, technological and financial) to sustainably manage and use scarce resources. This introductory section seeks to summarize the following development challenges for the region:

1. Energy
2. Climate Change
3. Gender Equality
4. Biodiversity and Natural Resources Management
5. Open and Participatory Governance
6. Health
7. Opportunities for social inclusion
8. Fiscal policies

## ENERGY

Energy is crucial input to produce nearly all the goods and services in the modern world<sup>21</sup>. Per the World Economic Forum, energy is the lifeblood of the global economy<sup>22</sup>. It not only affects the economy but also social development and the environment. And yet, access to clean energy and high costs remain a significant and mounting challenge for the Caribbean region. Except for Trinidad and Tobago, which has its own supply of oil, all other Caribbean countries are fully dependent on fossil fuel imports for up to 95% of their energy needs.<sup>23</sup>

Twelve of the fifteen members' states of the Caribbean Community (CARICOM) have entered the Petro Caribe alliance with Venezuela. This alliance serves to purchase oil under preferential payment terms<sup>24</sup>. Marginally, Barbados draws on supplies of bitumen deposits. In Haiti, charcoal is regularly produced and efforts have been made to distribute solar photovoltaic (PV) to increase access to affordable electricity<sup>25</sup>.

In most Caribbean countries, the transmission and distribution of on-grid electricity is controlled by a monopoly. This contributes to developing new challenges such as low quality of service, deteriorating and inefficient infrastructure, and overall high rates of technical and non-technical losses. Because of these factors and the reliance on imports of diesel and heavy fuel oil, energy costs in the region are among the highest in the world, and are vulnerable to oil price shocks. Electricity rates were more than US\$0.40 per kWh in 2011 in some countries. These high costs threaten the region's competitiveness and are a burden on the poor. Issues related to energy particularly affect women and children, as well as indigenous people and Afro-Caribbean populations. It is estimated that in 2013 the average low-income household spends 7% to 11% of its income in electricity.<sup>26</sup>

21 Lights on? Energy needs in Latin America and the Caribbean to 2040, Lenin H. Balza, Ramon Espinasa, Tomas Serebrisky, IDB 2015

22 World Economic Forum, 2012

23 Caribbean Natural Resources Institute, 2014. *Outline of a Caribbean strategic position on sustainable development in the context of the post-2015 global agenda on sustainable development: Instilling resilience in economic, natural, social and political systems*, p. 2.

24 This does not include Barbados, Montserrat and Trinidad and Tobago.

25 United Nations Environment Programme, 2008. *Climate Change in the Caribbean and the Challenge of Adaptation*. UNEP Regional Office for Latin America and the Caribbean, Panama, p. 15; Alexander Ochs et al., *Caribbean Sustainable Energy Roadmap and Strategy (C-SERMS): Baseline Report and Assessment* (Washington, DC: World Watch Institute, 2015).

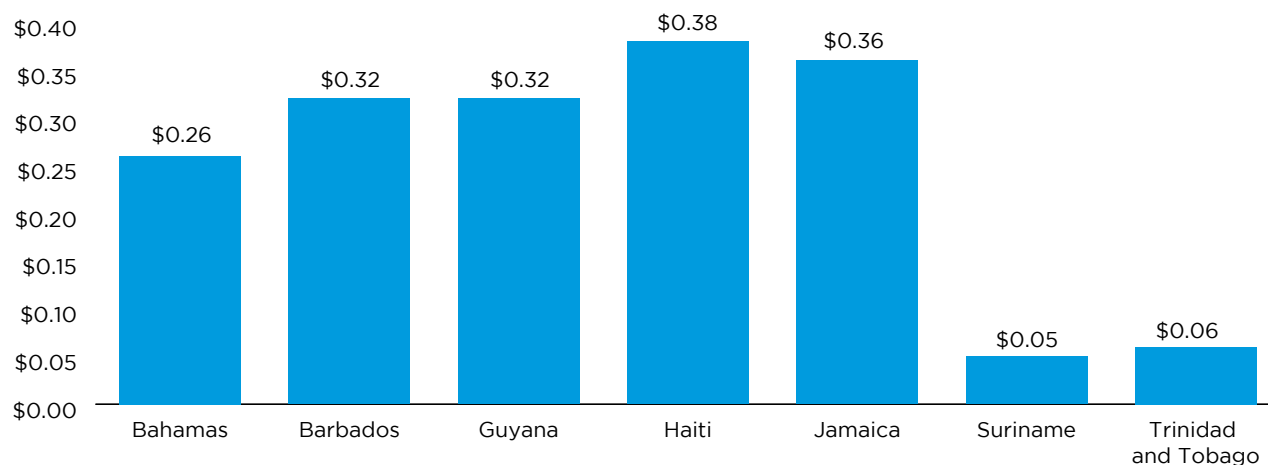
26 Jayawardena, M. et al, 'Promoting Growth in the Caribbean: Geothermal Renewable Energy' in *Making Reforms Work in the Caribbean: A collective action approach to Growth*, World Bank, 2014.

Aside from high electricity costs, other factors such as expansion, rapid urbanization, and the rise of the middle class have attributed to an annual increase of 5.4% in electricity consumption in Latin America and the Caribbean from 1973 to 2013, reaching over 1,333 TWh in 2013<sup>27</sup>. Graph 2 below shows the average retail tariffs per utility in the Caribbean. It shows that Haiti has the highest rate in the region.

The diversification of energy sources is a high priority for the Caribbean to promote poverty reduction, improvements in the quality of life of the population, economic development and regional integration. In addition, extra efforts and investments in renewable

energy have the potential to mitigate climate change. Currently, renewable energy amounts to less than 3% of the Caribbean's total electricity consumption.<sup>28</sup> The introduction and scaling up of geo-thermal, solar, wind, biomass and hydro-power, among other renewable sources, will further conservation efforts, increase productivity and competitiveness, and improve the lives of the ordinary citizen as well as the poor. The CARICOM Energy Policy 2013 and the Strategic Plan for The Caribbean Community 2015 - 2019 sets ambitious targets to increase the share of renewable energy in the region's total energy supply mix in the short term (20% by 2017), medium term (28% by 2022), and long term (47% by 2027).

**Graph 2: Average retail tariffs per energy cost in the Caribbean**



Source: C. Barton, L. Kendrick, and M. Humpert, *The Caribbean has some of the world's highest energy costs - now is the time to transform the region's energy market*, IDB, *Caribbean Dev Trends*, Nov. 14 2013

<sup>27</sup> Lights on? Energy needs in Latin America and the Caribbean to 2040, Lenin H. Balza, Ramon Espinasa, Tomas Serebrisky, IDB 2015

<sup>28</sup> United Nations Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean, 2015. *The Caribbean and the post-2015 development agenda*, Studies and Perspectives Series - The Caribbean - No. 43.



## WHAT CAN BE DONE? OPPORTUNITIES AND GOOD PRACTICES IN RENEWABLE ENERGY AND ENERGY CONSERVATION

Civil society can play an important and active role in advancing the energy sector in their countries through specially designed products, initiatives, activities and programs. Addressing the issue of energy conservation and renewable energy is a priority for the IDB. Several projects and technical cooperation initiatives during 2014-2015 focused on the electrification of isolated communities with renewable energy<sup>29</sup>.

Civil society groups have been particularly involved in many good practices through the five levels of engagement. The Bahamas ConSoC, carried out an energy conservation initiative with an initial focus on electricity to facilitate **dialogue** and encourage citizens to conserve energy in their homes. Participants of this initiative included The Nature Conservancy, Young Marine Explorers, The Bahamas National Trust College, and College of the Bahamas, the Society of Engineers and the Bahamas Reef Environment Educational Foundation.

In Trinidad and Tobago, **information** on IDB projects and initiatives focusing on different aspects of energy has been widely disseminated. The local civil society could learn and share with other stakeholders on efficient ways to save energy.

Through **collaboration**, civil society can actively participate in citizen education programs focused on energy conservation, from domestic energy savings to schools<sup>30</sup>. In Suriname, CSOs member of the ConSoC collaborated with the National Energy Company of Suriname EBS on an initiative to develop guidelines for efficient energy use. In addition, 75% of the thematic roundtables conducted in the country in 2014-2015 were related to energy.

An efficient way civil society can impact sustainable development is through **partnerships** that result in projects and knowledge products. Between 2014 and 2015, CSO members of the ConSoC in Trinidad and Tobago and Jamaica, developed several knowledge products related to Energy issues,<sup>31</sup> such as studies on the impact of saving energy by individual households. Outside of the Region, the Bolivian organization Energética Foundation, received a grant of US\$ 700,000 from the IDB to implement a distribution and maintenance system to access clean energy products and primarily photovoltaic panels and solar lamps for poor rural communities. With this project, Energética is the micro franchisor of 100 micro entrepreneurs from rural communities. This initiative is expected to raise their standard of living and improve their productive opportunities for at least 10,000 families<sup>32</sup>.

29 Projects being implemented in Peru and Ecuador. IDB Group - Civil Society Engagement Review 2014-2015.

30 See IDB Group - Civil Society Engagement Review 2014-2015 <https://publications.iadb.org/handle/11319/7496?locale-attribute=en&locale-attribute=es&7496>

31 IDB Group Civil Society Engagement Review 2014 - 2015

32 Bolivia, Development of Micro franchises for Access to Clean Energy in Rural Areas (Bo-M1056) <http://idbdocs.iadb.org/wsdocs/getdocument.aspx?docnum=39608377>

## CLIMATE CHANGE

Since the Caribbean is extremely vulnerable to the detrimental effects of climate change, building resilience to climate change and natural disasters is another significant challenge for the region. Even if the Caribbean region is the one that least contributes to the world's greenhouse emissions (less than 1%) they face numerous economic, social and environmental risks that are among the first to be adversely impacted by climate change<sup>33</sup>. Being small islands developing states (SIDS), Caribbean countries are vulnerable to sea level rise, beach erosion, coral bleaching and acidification of the ocean which are expected to adversely affect fisheries and tourism sectors, increasing frequency and intensity of extreme weather events (ie, floods, storms, coastal settlements) and reduction in freshwater resources (it is expected that by mid-century, resources are reduced due to decreased rainfall and saltwater intrusion).

Other effects also include increased invasion by non-native species because of higher temperatures, reduced agricultural yields due to shortening of the growing season and drought, loss of mangrove forests and coral reefs due to sea level rise. Also, an increase in vector borne and water borne diseases such as: malaria, dengue, leptospirosis, chikungunya, Zika. All these diseases are happening because of changing precipitation or weather patterns<sup>34</sup>.

Another feature is natural disasters. Between 1990 and 2014, 324 natural disasters were recorded in the Caribbean<sup>35</sup>. This claimed more than 240,000 lives and causes more than US\$ 39 billion in damage.<sup>36</sup> The 21<sup>st</sup> session of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) held in Paris, the parties reached an international climate change agreement by 2020. They voluntarily pledged to reduce greenhouse emissions and limit the increase in the global average temperature (to below 2°C) pre-industrial levels, to pursue efforts to limit the temperature increase to 1.5°C, to focus on climate change adaptation, and to provide financial support for climate resilience.

**CLIMATE CHANGE PRIORITIES  
ARE BEING ADDRESSED ON AN  
INTERNATIONAL, REGIONAL, AND  
NATIONAL LEVEL.**

33 Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change Fifth Assessment Report: Working Group 11 - Impacts, Adaptation, Vulnerability, Chapter 29, IPCC, 2014.

34 Source: IPCC 2007b, UNFCCC 2007a, IPCC 2014a

35 United Nations Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean, 2015. *The Caribbean and the post-2015 development agenda*, Studies and Perspectives Series - The Caribbean - No. 43 with information from Emergency Disasters Database (EM-DAT).

36 United Nations Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean, 2015. *The Caribbean and the post-2015 development agenda*, Studies and Perspectives Series - The Caribbean - No. 43, p.14; Between 2007 and 2011, the World Bank estimated a loss of approximately US\$9 billion. The United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) projected that the Caribbean's annual cost of delay in countering hurricane damages, tourism losses and infrastructure damages due to sea level rise is \$22 billion annually by 2050 and \$46 billion by 2100. (Resilient coastal cities: the economic, social and environmental dimensions of risk" in Making Reforms Work in the Caribbean, World Bank 2014, p. 74; Climate Change in the Caribbean and the Challenge of Adaptation, UNEP Regional Office for Latin America and the Caribbean, Panama 2008, p. 25)



## CLIMATE CHANGE ADAPTATION NEEDS TO INCLUDE WELL INFORMED CIVIL SOCIETY, PRIVATE SECTORS' AND GOVERNMENTS

Climate change priorities at the **international** level include:

- The implementation of the Paris agreement; Intended Nationally Determined Contributions (INDCs);<sup>37</sup>
- The provision of adequate financing for climate change adaptation and resilience through the Green Climate Fund;
- The application of the Warsaw “Loss and Damage” mechanism to promote implementation of approaches to address loss and damage associated with the negative effects of climate change, adopted by UNFCCC<sup>38</sup>

In contrast, on a **regional** level, climate change priorities are:

- In its strategic plan for the Caribbean Community, CARICOM, agreed that “Climate Adaptation and Mitigation and Disaster Mitigation and Management” would be a high priority to be discussed over five years starting in 2015 until 2019. The goals of this reduce vulnerability to disaster risk and the effects of climate change and ensure effective management of the natural resources across CARICOM members’.
- Several regional institutions have been established to undertake research and coordination of a Caribbean response to climate change. For example, the Caribbean Community Climate Change. For example, the Caribbean Community Climate Change

Centre (CCCCC) based in Belize, the Caribbean Meteorological Organization (CMO) located in Port of Spain, Trinidad and Tobago, the Climate Studies Group, at the UWI Mona Campus in Jamaica, and the Caribbean Disaster Emergency Response Agency (CDERA).

On a **national** level, the efforts to build engagement will require climate adaptation strategies, including continuing with the development and implementation in the region of National Adaptation Plans to reduce the negative impacts of climate change on key economic sectors. It also plans to provide technical support and capacity building for disaster risk reduction, climate modeling, and impact assessment. Another feature is to provide integrated water resource management to address the effects of changing rainfall patterns. Finally, the improvement of health care systems to respond to increasing cases of non-communicable diseases and outbreaks of new and emerging diseases such as the Zika and Chikungunya virus<sup>39</sup>.

### WHAT CAN BE DONE? OPPORTUNITIES ON PROMOTING GOOD PRACTICES FOR CLIMATE CHANGE ADAPTATION

The IDB Group is committed to achieving Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and has posed attention in confronting climate change. To be effective, climate change adaptation needs to include well informed civil society, private sectors’ and governments. Since climate change and sustainability is one of the top priorities

<sup>37</sup> Lights on? Energy needs in Latin America and the Caribbean to 2040, Lenin H. Balza, Ramon Espinasa, Tomas Serebrisky, IDB 2015

<sup>38</sup> The mechanism states that at least two members of the Caribbean and one member from Small Island Developing States must help develop initial two year work plan: <http://unfccc.int/resource/docs/2014/cop20/eng/102.pdf>

<sup>39</sup> Caribbean Natural Resources Institute, 2014. *Outline of a Caribbean strategic position on sustainable development in the context of the post-2015 global agenda on sustainable development: Instilling resilience in economic, natural, social and political systems.*

for the IDB Group, the IDB has created several projects that involve Civil Society<sup>40</sup>. Specifically, the region has been involved in good practices in the following levels of engagement: information, dialogue, consultation, collaboration and partnership.

The IDB Group Technical Cooperation RG-T2912 “Contribute to the advancement of Government’s Climate Change and Sustainability agendas by adding Civil Society in LAC (especially in the implementation of the INDCs)” represents a **partnership** that seeks to support governments in consolidating their Climate Change and Sustainability agendas by adding well informed civil society groups to governments’ sustainable efforts. As a first step, a regional diagnostic will determine best practices to shed light on the best implementation opportunities of the climate agendas. Secondly, a road map with the findings of the diagnostic, will guide the due diligence in implementing climate changes initiatives.

An example of **partnership** outside of the Region is the Philippines, where the Filipino Civil Society Network, Rice Watch and Action Network (RWAN), established with local governments the state weather bureau PAG-ASA that creates Climate Resilience Field Schools (CrFS). This served to train municipal agriculturalists and farmers in understanding weather and climate change information and impacts to their agricultural crops.

Raising awareness and supporting the opportunities available is the role of **information** initiatives with

CSOs and community based organizations. These allow civil society to create user friendly tools and outreach material. For instance, the Bahamas Reef Environmental Educational Foundation (BREEF) created a Climate Change Toolkit for Educators with the IDB Group to give primary and secondary teachers more information about the impacts of adaptation and marine conservation.<sup>41</sup>

The St. Lucia National Trust and Caribbean Natural Resources Institute (CANARI) used an indicator based survey known as the ARIA toolkit developed by the World Resources Institute. It serves to assess the scope and level of access to climate change related **information** in St. Lucia and Trinidad and Tobago, the goal was to build civil society understanding of effective climate change adaptation policy, institutions and actions and improve the quality of adaptive actions by governments, the private sector and citizens.

CSOs can also help determine the extent of impact of climate change on local communities as well as their response and through **dialogue**. The Caribbean Youth Environment Network, a non-profit organization implemented The Caribbean Youth Climate Change Mitigation Project. Its objective is to raise youth awareness of climate change through a range of activities including managing an interactive website to promote dialogue and interest in climate change activities with blogs from young people in the Caribbean, training youth leaders in electrical energy auditing and small business management.<sup>42</sup>

40 IDB Group Civil Society Engagement Review 2014-2015, p. 20 IDB organized a pilot project with indigenous groups in Latin America to strengthen civil society capacity to develop climate change plans, train indigenous groups on reducing emissions resulting from deforestation and forest degradation, indigenous rights, and national and international legal frameworks regarding climate change and biodiversity and provide indigenous leaders with opportunities to engage in dialogue with policy makers.

41 IDB Group Civil Society Engagement Review 2014-2015, p. 30.

42 Caribbean Youth Climate Change Mitigation Project, <http://www.cyen.org/climatechange/documents/cyccproject.html>



DESPITE HUGE  
ADVANCEMENT,  
GENDER  
INEQUALITY IS A  
HUGE PROBLEM  
AFFECTING  
CARIBBEAN  
COUNTRIES.



the Caribbean  
female  
unemployment  
rate is high  
averaging 12.4%.

**Consultations** are useful to foster social innovation by adding pertinent inputs from well-informed CSOs that can articulate their views and proposals to work with governments and private sector towards addressing common challenges. For instance, World Wide Views Alliance, a network of partners that include public councils, think tanks, and parliamentary technology organized a global citizen consultation on climate change, where nearly 10,000 citizens and 76 countries participated. This consultation was launched at a high-level event in New York during the General Assembly of the United Nations.

In **collaboration** with government planning there can be multiple resources to local communities that are most impacted by climate change. In the Philippines, for example, civil society groups Aksyon Klima Pilipinas, the Building Disaster Resilient Communities (BDRC), Learning Cycle and the Ateneo School of Government (ASoG) designed a toolkit that helps on planning and budgeting processes<sup>43</sup>.

## GENDER INEQUALITY

The LAC region was the first one to achieve gender parity in primary and secondary education. Women's political participation has also increased with Jamaica and Trinidad and Tobago having elected female heads of state in 2014.<sup>44</sup> In Trinidad and Tobago, a legislation which prohibits

discrimination in relation to employment, education, the provision of goods and services and employment based on sex, ethnicity, origin, religion, marital status or disability establishes an Equal Opportunity Commission to receive and investigate allegations of discrimination<sup>45</sup>. In 2013, Trinidad and Tobago announced the development of gender-responsive guidelines for financial allocation of institutionalizing gender equality, equity and women's empowerment and gender-mainstreaming practices in government ministries.

However, despite these advancements, gender inequality is a huge problem affecting Caribbean countries. In 2016, Bahamian people voted "no" to four proposed amendments to the Constitution that would have promoted gender equality in citizenship. These amendments would allow children born overseas to obtain citizenship from either their Bahamian father or *mother*; would enable a non-Bahamian man married to a Bahamian *woman* to obtain Bahamian citizenship, to include the right not to be discriminated against based on sex and to give citizenship to the child of an unmarried Bahamian man and a non-Bahamian woman<sup>46</sup>.

Among the concerns in the region there are: increased violence against women, unequal pay and labor conditions for women, poor representation of women in politics, and lack of participation and performance of males in education<sup>47</sup>. Compared to East Asia and the Pacific where female unemployment rate is on

43 R. Bolinas, The role of civil societies in managing climate risks after Yolanda, May 8, 2014, <http://www.gmanetwork.com/news/story/360146/opinion/the-role-of-civil-societies-in-managing-climate-risks-after-yolanda#sthash.PyRd4jzY.dpuf>

44 United Nations Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean, 2015. *The Caribbean and the post-2015 development agenda*, Studies and Perspectives Series - The Caribbean - No. 43

45 Equal Opportunity Act, 2000

46 Provided there is DNA evidence proving paternity. <http://www.caribbean360.com/news/voters-bahamas-say-no-gender-equality-changes-constitution>

47 Caribbean Human Development Report 2012, p. 29.



average 6.6%, the Caribbean is high averaging a female unemployment rate of 12.4%.<sup>48</sup>

Note that gender inequality has direct impacts on poverty levels. The IDB Group considers gender inequality to be vital to human development, productivity, and economic growth. It believes that increasing female labor participation can lead to per capita income growth and poverty reduction. So far, the IDB Group has invested approximately US\$ 10.8 billion in the LAC region to improve gender equality and empower women<sup>49</sup>.

The impact of gender equality and its importance to poverty alleviation requires action if Caribbean nations are to achieve sustainable development goals. Gender equality is among CARICOM's social development strategies. CARICOM's Strategic Plan for the Caribbean Community (2015-2019) is to "advance human capital development: key skills in education, reform and youth development" by among other things mainstreaming inclusiveness, gender, persons with disabilities, and age in the public sector and member states.

### WHAT CAN BE DONE? ALIGNMENT WITH LOCAL GOVERNMENTS' ON GENDER INCLUSIVENESS

Governments, private sector and civil society have a role to play in promoting and advocating for inclusiveness in their countries. The IDB launched the Gender Equality Network<sup>50</sup> as a forum to exchange ideas, discuss challenges and explore solutions to attain gender equality,

## THE IDB GROUP HAS INVESTED APPROXIMATELY US\$ 10.8 BILLION IN THE LAC REGION TO IMPROVE GENDER EQUALITY AND EMPOWER WOMEN

and developed an Operational Policy on Gender Equality in Development to ensure gender mainstreaming, direct investment and gender safeguards in its operations in the LAC region. There are several innovative practices in the world that showcase opportunities for civil society through the five levels of engagement:

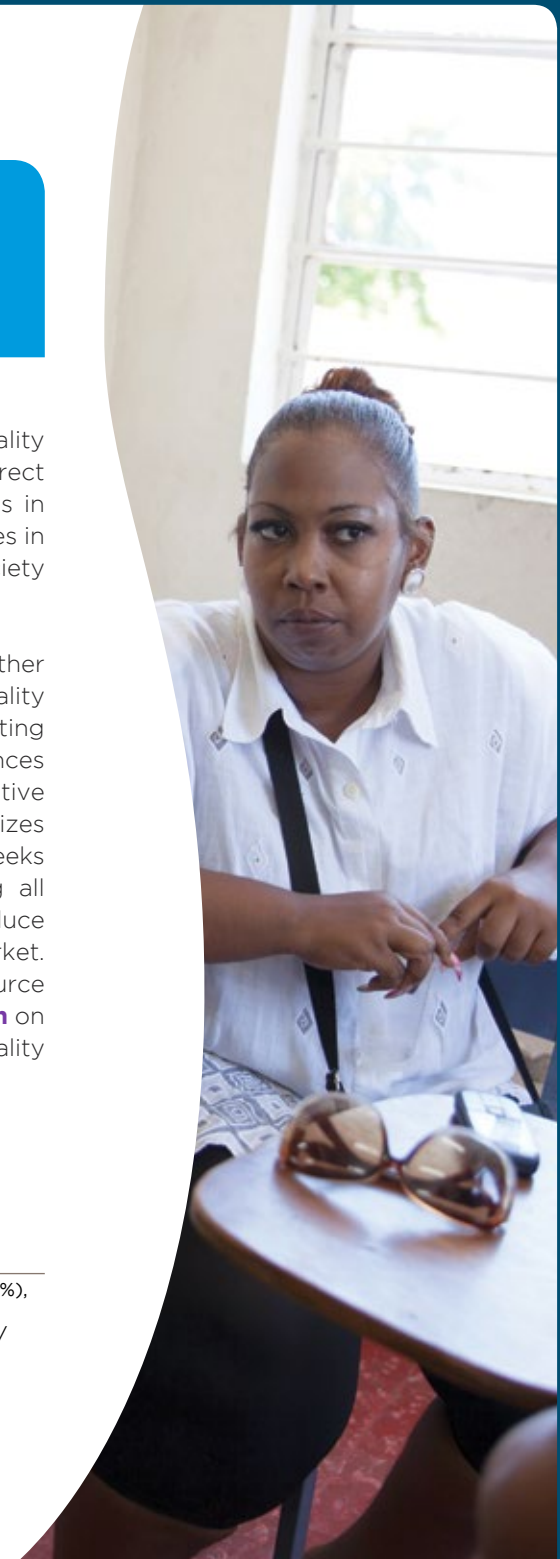
Civil society can share **information** with other stakeholders to raise awareness on gender inequality through the internet and social media, also by posting guides for good practices and organizing conferences and training workshops. For instance, Agro Cooperative Wi, a network of rural women's group which specializes in the production of cassava, based in Suriname, seeks to empower women in agriculture by addressing all activities in the agriculture value chain to produce quality end products for the local and export market. Similarly, in Belgium, the "Amazone"<sup>51</sup> National Resource Centre developed data banks to provide **information** on employment and training initiatives on gender equality and on gender mainstreaming tools.


48 World Bank, World Development Indicators. Female unemployment data was available for 8 countries: the Bahamas (14.1%), Barbados (13.5%), Belize (17.0%), Guyana (13.8%), Haiti (7.9%), Jamaica (16.7%), Suriname (10.0%), and Trinidad and Tobago (6.2%).

49 IDB, *Mainstreaming Gender in Rural Development Projects in Latin America and the Caribbean*, Technical Note No. IDB-TN-763, 2014; <http://rjnnewsonline.com/regional/lac-will-not-meet-mdg-on-maternal-mortality-in-2015>

50 <http://www.genmyanmar.org/>

51 Amazone, [www.amazone.be](http://www.amazone.be)





**BIODIVERSITY AND NATURAL RESOURCE MANAGEMENT REPRESENT THE BIGGEST BARRIER IN SOLVING THREATS TO BIODIVERSITY. ESPECIALLY SINCE FUNDING FOR BIODIVERSITY PROTECTION IS TYPICALLY SHORT-TERM AND PROJECT DRIVEN, WHICH MAKES IT DIFFICULT TO SUSTAIN INSTITUTIONS WHOSE FOCUS IS TO ADDRESS BIODIVERSITY AND NATURAL RESOURCE MANAGEMENT.**

Robust national **consultations** mechanisms help by giving CSOs a seat at the table on national advisory councils to provide development with meaningful technical knowledge, a powerful voice to ensure that women's views are considered in the public debate and to provide input to gender mainstreaming initiatives at the national level. As a model from Europe, the Women's National Commission (WNC) is an umbrella organization that represents women and their Organizations in the UK. It is also an advisory body to the UK government responsible for commenting on government policy for gender equality and women's issues.

Also, **collaborations** with governments in delivering education programs on gender equality in Latvia can inspire the Caribbean: The Women's Resource Centre "Marta"<sup>52</sup> (an association coordinating cooperation among women's CSO's and government agencies) has contributed to the preparation of a draft law on gender equality.

Finally, through **partnerships**, civil society can provide information to reveal gender inequalities. Portugal established the Commission for Equality in Labour and

Employment (CITE)<sup>53</sup>, a national mechanism comprised of representatives from government and civil society partners (trade unions) that pursues equality and non-discrimination between men and women at work, employment and vocational training.

## **BIODIVERSITY AND NATURAL RESOURCE MANAGEMENT**

The Caribbean holds a wide biodiversity with 11,000 species, of which 72% are endemic to the region. The vertebrates are characterized by high levels of endemism: 100% of 189 amphibian species, 95% of 520 reptile species, 74% of 69 mammal species and 26% of 564 bird species are unique to the region<sup>54</sup>. There are approximately 749 protected areas in the Caribbean, however there is limited awareness of the importance of ecosystem services and consequently under evaluation or destruction of these protected areas<sup>55</sup>. In poorer countries, such as Haiti, the expansion of squatter settlements, especially in coastal areas and lack of access of improved sanitation, contributes to greater pollution. Biodiversity and natural resource management represent

52 Council on Equal Opportunities for Women and Men, [www.conseildelegalite.be](http://www.conseildelegalite.be) Women's Resource Centre "Marta", <http://marta.lv/about-marta/the-background>

53 The Commission for Equality in Labor and Employment, [www.cite.gov.pt](http://www.cite.gov.pt)

54 Sites for priority biodiversity conservation in the Caribbean Islands Biodiversity Hotspot. *Journal of Threatened Taxa* 4(8): 2806-2844.

55 Critical Ecosystem Partnership Fund, Socioeconomic, Policy and Civil Society Context of the Region: Caribbean Islands 2011

the biggest barrier in solving threats to biodiversity. Especially since funding for biodiversity protection is typically short-term and project driven, which makes it difficult to sustain institutions whose focus is to address biodiversity and natural resource management.

### WHAT CAN BE DONE? ENGAGE WITH STAKEHOLDERS TO PRESERVE NATURAL RESOURCES

Governments, private sector, and civil society are tackling and promoting awareness of natural resources conservation given the importance it represents for sustainable development. For instance, the IDB support to strengthen the Guyana's institutional capacity for the effective implementation of Guyana's Low Carbon Development Strategy.<sup>56</sup> There are many innovative practices in the world that showcase opportunities for civil society engagement through five levels: information, dialogue, consultation, collaboration, and partnership.

Supporting governments by sharing **information** with stakeholders to raise awareness of the importance of natural resources, is a feature civil society can use. For example, in Jamaica, a member of The Jamaica Environment Trust<sup>57</sup> developed a website to promote transparency and public involvement around projects that impact the environment and public health called Development Alerts. This website features information on applications for proposed new projects. It also allows the public to get information, view and comment on proposals.

In addition, **consultations** to address development challenges are recognized as an effective means of national decision making. In the Environmental Impact Assessments process in the Caribbean, thirteen countries enacted public participation during the approval process for projects. The laws are related to environmental management legislation.

Scaling up long terms solutions proves that **collaboration** is guaranteed within countries. For instance, Belize has established a Civil Society Liaison Officer of the Policy Coordination and Planning Unit in the Ministry of Natural Resource and Agriculture strengthening of the Ministry of Natural Resource and Agriculture policy and operational methods to collaborate effectively with CSOs and providing ongoing liaison between the Ministry and civil society.

Enhancing **partnerships** ensures appropriate development in planning and in local communities. For example, Jamaica, has established national coordinating bodies such as local Parish Development, which is partnership between the private sector, the community, the service agency, the national and local government representatives to parish sustainable development planning, implementation and monitoring.<sup>58</sup>



Since 1994 a total of seven CARICOM countries have enacted a national law on freedom of information and four countries have enacted legislation.

<sup>56</sup> IDB Country Strategy with The Cooperative Republic of Guyana 2012–2016

<sup>57</sup> This kind of tool is mentioning on all those cases that scientifically based information as well as stakeholders' interests and questions are shared with the scope to the best implementation of projects.

<sup>58</sup> IDB Group Civil Society Engagement Review 2014 – 2015.



By ensuring availability of civic spaces, countries foster legitimacy and social innovation when receiving well informed CSOs inputs and a healthier environment for civic movements to both strengthen dialogue with governments and contribute to a more systematic way on policy outcomes.

## OPEN AND PARTICIPATORY GOVERNANCE

Caribbean countries have engaged in regional activities to strengthen access rights. Trinidad and Tobago alongside Guyana have joined the Open Government Partnership<sup>59</sup>. Six Caribbean countries are among the 21 Latin American and Caribbean Countries that signed the 2012 Declaration on the application of Principle 10 of the Rio Declaration on Environment and Development, with the aim of working towards a regional instrument that provides access to information, public participation and justice in environmental matters.<sup>60</sup>

The Caribbean region has made considerable progress in introducing participatory processes in national decision-making. They have ensured that citizens have the proper rights to information, public participation, and justice. Freedom of information laws have been developed (either in draft or fully enacted) in most Caribbean countries. Since 1994 a total of seven CARICOM countries have enacted a national law on freedom of information<sup>61</sup> and four countries<sup>62</sup> have enacted legislation.

CSOs serve an important role in implementing government public policies. CSOs are an intermediate in channeling the interest of citizens and marginalized groups/communities into public policy processes. In this sense, it is necessary to engage CBOs throughout key stages of the development process, like consultations about identification and analysis of environmental impacts, to decision making on policies and plans. A regional trend

in Latin America is that the classical representative democracy model is moving to participatory democracy ones.<sup>63</sup> By ensuring availability of civic spaces, countries foster legitimacy and social innovation when receiving well informed CSOs inputs and a healthier environment for civic movements to both strengthen dialogue with governments and contribute to a more systematic way on policy outcomes.<sup>64</sup>

## WHAT CAN BE DONE? CREATING TOOLS TO IMPROVE PARTICIPATORY DEMOCRACIES IN THE CARIBBEAN

Participatory processes can improve equitable economic and social development (particularly for marginalized communities) by ensuring inclusion in decision-making on how to manage and allocate resources, for instance. On this line, advancements and increasing use of information and communication technology (ICT), open data and social media by governments and civil society have rapidly changed the way in which stakeholders communicate with each other. Information exchange occurs more rapidly and for wider audiences. Well informed and technically prepared CSOs can serve a critical role in matching community needs with the development of new tools through a range of actions including providing additional sources of data and promoting community use of the data.

There are several innovative practices in the world that showcase opportunities for civil society engagement through five levels: information, dialogue, consultation, collaboration, and partnership:

59 <https://www.opengovpartnership.org/about>

60 Antigua and Barbuda, the Dominican Republic, Grenada, Jamaica, St. Vincent and the Grenadines, Trinidad and Tobago

61 Antigua and Barbuda, Bahamas, Belize, Guyana, Jamaica, St. Vincent and the Grenadines, Trinidad and Tobago.

62 Barbados, Grenada, St. Kitts, St Lucia

63 IDB Group - Civil Society: Engagement Review 2014-2015

64 United Nations Development Programme, *UNDP Strategy on Civil Society and Civic Engagement*. 2012.

Civil Society can share **information** with Governments and other stakeholders in order to raise awareness and support democracy. In UK, the NGO My Society developed an online website and services to promote democracy including tools to monitor Parliament such as Pombola, which published information on politicians, and matches citizens to the politicians who represent them. To encourage new **dialogue**, governments<sup>65</sup> around the world have included citizens' participation on decisions about government expenditure. Thus, participatory budgeting is now practiced widely in several countries and cities in Latin America, Europe and Africa. In Morocco, a NGO created a Legislation Lab based on a **consultation** to collect the opinions of average Moroccan citizens about changes to the constitution. Within the first two months, it received more than 10,000 comments.<sup>66</sup>

Regarding other initiatives, the government of Trinidad and Tobago joined the voluntary Extractive Industries Transparency Initiatives (EITI) in 2010. This **collaboration** is committed to declare annual revenues received from companies engaged in the extractive industries. In turn, a Multi-Stakeholder Steering Committee comprised of six government agencies, four private extractive industries, and eight CSOs oversees and guides the EITI implementation process. Another interesting feature is **partnerships** outside of the region, where governments can develop identify and address the needs of local communities. The opportunity project was developed with tech developers' experts and local government to help media and local communities access federal and

local open data to evaluate neighborhoods and help policymakers identify opportunities to invest in improving inequities in their countries.

## HEALTH

The Caribbean region has collectively recognized the need to invest energies and strategies to tackle existing and emerging health risks. Given that the Caribbean is deeply affected by Non Communicable Diseases (NCDs) such as diabetes, strokes, hypertension, heart disease, cancer, and respiratory ailments<sup>67</sup> the heads of State and Government of the Caribbean Community (CARICOM) adopted the Declaration entitled "Uniting to stop the epidemic of chronic non-communicable diseases", and adopted a Political Declaration of the United Nations General Assembly<sup>68</sup> on the Prevention and Control of Non-Communicable Diseases, which acknowledged the global threat of non-communicable diseases (NCDs).

In terms of communicable diseases, the Caribbean is prone to mosquito-borne communicable diseases such as Malaria, Yellow Fever, Dengue, Chikungunya and more recently the Zika virus (ZIKV), which has been confirmed in 11 Caribbean countries. Two severe conditions associated with the Zika virus are microcephaly, a condition where a baby is born with an abnormally small head due to incomplete brain development and Guillain-Barré syndrome (GBS), a rare nerve disorder that causes muscle weakness and even limb paralysis.



Substantial progress has been made in reducing HIV since the number of HIV deaths has fallen by 54%

65 Governments such as Ecuador, Perú, Bolivia, and El Salvador

66 Stefaan Verhulst, *Legislation Lab*, GovLab Digest, May 19, 2015, <http://thegovlab.org/legislation-lab/>

67 United Nations Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean, 2015. *The Caribbean and the post-2015 development agenda*, Studies and Perspectives Series - The Caribbean - No. 43.

68 [http://www.who.int/nmh/events/un\\_ncd\\_summit2011/political\\_declaration\\_en.pdf](http://www.who.int/nmh/events/un_ncd_summit2011/political_declaration_en.pdf)



Moreover, after Africa, the Caribbean region has the second highest rate of new HIV infections among all developing regions<sup>69</sup>. The Caribbean has a 1.1% of HIV prevalence in the Region<sup>70</sup>. However, substantial progress has been made in reducing HIV since the number of HIV deaths has fallen by 54%<sup>71</sup>. The access and treatment to HIV and anti-retroviral drugs has been increased from 20 to 55 percent.<sup>72</sup> In addition, maternity mortality rate is an issue. The numbers of maternal deaths reported in 2013 were all below the 1990 levels. 190 deaths per 100,000 live births. This rate exceeds all maternity mortality rates in other developing regions.

Child obesity is an increasing problem in the Caribbean. A PAHO report from seven Eastern Caribbean countries shows that between 2000 and 2010 the rates of overweight and obesity in children aged 0 to 4 years doubled from 7.4% in 2000 to 14.8%. There is also a consistent link among the rates of obesity prevalence and deaths from diabetes and hypertension in several Caribbean countries.<sup>73</sup>

### WHAT CAN BE DONE? CREATING AWARENESS OF HEALTH RISKS AND OPPORTUNITIES TO ACCESS FOR HEALTHCARE

CSOs are well positioned to access marginalized or rural communities, obtaining and disseminating health information to improve informed decisions on public health, undertaking health research, advocating for addressing health issues in policy and helping to shift social attitudes towards illnesses and prevention methods.

The reduction and prevention of both communicable and non-communicable diseases can be achieved by providing **information** to stakeholders. In 2015, the IDB group conducted the Caribbean Civil Society Forum, which gave special attention to the child obesity issue while engaging civil society in direct **dialogue** on the issue<sup>74</sup>. The Caribbean Vulnerable Communities Coalition (CVC) for community leaders and non-governmental agencies also provide information to people who are especially vulnerable to HIV infection or have restricted access to treatment and healthcare programs. The CVC has created communication material to help service providers including a toolkit to sensitize police officers about the relationship between human rights, HIV, and AIDS.

India is also facing those health challenges and a coalition of government, agencies, academia, local bodies, and CSOs, was created to **consult** and advocate for policy and programme direction to improve Reproductive, Maternal, Newborn, and Child Health Coalition (RMNCH). In contrast, the African Network for Health Knowledge Management and Communication, **collaborates** with other technology to partnered with advanced technologies and develop e-learning platforms, mobile health solutions that included apps to track children's vaccinations. These kinds of **partnerships** make more efficient the capacity building for health workers. The Christian Health Association of Malawi (CHAM) partners with the government under a memorandum of understanding to deliver health services and sits on technical working group for Malawi's Ministry of Health.

69 [http://www.un.org/millenniumgoals/MDG2011\\_la\\_EN.pdf](http://www.un.org/millenniumgoals/MDG2011_la_EN.pdf)

70 <https://www.avert.org/professionals/hiv-around-world/caribbean>

71 <https://www.avert.org/professionals/hiv-around-world/caribbean>

72 [http://www.un.org/millenniumgoals/MDG2011\\_la\\_EN.pdf](http://www.un.org/millenniumgoals/MDG2011_la_EN.pdf)

73 FJ Henry, Obesity prevention: the key to non-communicable disease control, West Indian med. J. vol.60 no.4 Mona June 2011

74 As an example, from outside of the Caribbean, in Kenya, the Health NGOs Network (HENNET) productively engaged in direct **dialogue** with the government and influenced amendments to the Public Benefits Organizations Bill of 2013.

## OPPORTUNITIES FOR SOCIAL INCLUSION AND EQUALITY

Given its history of inequality and discrimination during the periods of slavery and colonization, the Caribbean region faces a harsh challenge of overcoming social exclusion and inequality. Unemployment remains a concern in the region, with an average rate of 5% and human development index (HDI) of 0.7<sup>75</sup>. Caribbean countries, with some punctual exceptions like Haiti where most of the population is in the same social range, continue to perform well in education yet tend to have higher illiteracy rates (4%) than other developing regions.<sup>76</sup> The high unemployment rate in the region continues and is projected to remain high over the short to medium term.<sup>77</sup> Approximately a fifth to more than a third of the population in Caribbean countries live in poverty (less than US\$1.25 a day) - the exceptions were Belize at 41.3%, Haiti at 77% at one end of the curve, and the Bahamas at 12.5%, and Suriname at 10.1%, at the other end of the curve.<sup>78</sup> The factors that affect the poverty level include a decline in the traditional agricultural sector, social problems of crime and insecurity. Also, the socioeconomic impacts of HIV/AIDS, the aging population, the burden of high debts, and the laws pertaining to sexual orientation reinforce exclusion.

There is much empirical evidence so that Caribbean countries can scale up public and social policies. Scaling up policies that work can improve the overall wellness of the Caribbean population in terms of health, education, and income. The IDB Group has supported

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several programs to address barriers to social inclusion for marginalized groups. The resources are allocated in financing partnerships, information, guidance and support, coaching, and effective training to individuals with disabilities.

### WHAT CAN BE DONE? RAISING AWARENESS AND BUILDING ACTIONS ON SOCIAL MONITORING

By using the five levels of Civil Society engagement, organizations can improve monitoring and raise social awareness supporting their Government's development efforts. It can address the societal challenges that are needed to advocate for change.

In Barbados, a business strategy led by a private firm, to provide an integrated package of business mentoring, start-up loans and grants, gave **information** to support services to young underserved persons between 18 and 35 years. An example of **dialogue** experience could be the one implemented in Mozambique served to create a Poverty Observatory to monitor the implementation of

<sup>75</sup> <http://www.caribbeaneconomics.org/overview>

<sup>76</sup> Critical Ecosystem Partnership Fund, Socioeconomic, Policy, and Civil Society Context of the Region: Caribbean Islands, 2011.

<sup>77</sup> United Nations Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean, *The Caribbean development report: Exploring strategies for sustainable growth and development in Caribbean small island States, Studies and Perspectives Series - The Caribbean - No. 40*, 2015.

<sup>78</sup> United Nations Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean. *The Caribbean and the post-2015 development agenda, Studies and Perspectives Series - The Caribbean - No. 43*, 2015.

the government's poverty reduction strategy. In Uganda, the U Report programme, a free and anonymous SMS social monitoring tool that engages young people to voice their opinions on issues of concern for them, served as a **consultation** technique so people can know the effects of female mutilation, outbreaks of disease, safe water, early marriage, education, health, and inflation. In **collaboration** with Civil Society, Verité joined Manpower Group, a human resources firm to develop the Ethical Framework for Cross-Border Labor Recruitment to combat trafficking by improving the ability of firms in different countries. **Partnerships** between government and private sector are useful to deliver services and meet societal needs. In Bangladesh, CARE, has established a joint venture with Danone, to provide income generating opportunities for marginalized women to sell goods sourced from hubs that connect to producers.

The Caribbean region lacks a proper fiscal discipline, as all countries except for Trinidad and Tobago have had fiscal deficits for more than a decade<sup>80</sup>. In 2008 and 2009 the collapse of the Lehman Brothers Bank<sup>81</sup> provoked a recession. Debt ratios increased to 85% and 140% of the GDP in the region. Debt burdens increased the region's vulnerability to external and internal economic shocks since they must incur in high interest rate costs, and detract from other spending priorities. This makes economies more prone to have bad growth indicators, which threaten sustainable development. In contrast, countries that have healthy fiscal systems have more means for opportunities and investment in the productive sectors. It also means a backup for any external shocks that a country faces (i.e. natural disasters - which the Caribbean region is very prone to - and unexpected macroeconomic shocks).

On the institutional front, reforms need to go beyond a simple restoration of the pre-crisis fiscal frameworks. The goal should be to building features that avoid procyclicality, and ensure a symmetric response to both downturns and expansions, and incorporating well defined-escape clauses. Stronger institutions and raising the efficiency of public spending would support the continued provision of public goods and services while stemming spending growth. Governments should also make efficient budget decisions. Beyond being the primary tool of fiscal policy, budget is a tool that allows allocating resources to determine how institutions need to have an efficient expenditure.<sup>82</sup>

## FISCAL POLICIES

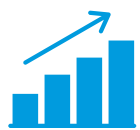
Fiscal policies are the set of means by which the government adjusts spending levels and tax rates. It is a set of tools that improves the overall status of an Economy. Properly implemented fiscal policies can help to improve the quality of jobs, alleviate poverty and most importantly, reduce gender income gaps. Fiscal policies are useful to stabilize the local aggregate demand and moderate the macroeconomic volatility and contribute to medium and long term growth<sup>79</sup>. It is said that the increase in the stabilizing capability of fiscal policy is related with a 20% of the GDP volatility.

79 Fatas y Mihov, 2011; Aghion y Marinescu, 2008

80 <https://publications.iadb.org/handle/11319/6695?locale-attribute=en>

81 <https://www.imf.org/external/pubs/ft/sdn/2015/sdn1506.pdf>

82 <https://publications.iadb.org/handle/11319/6695?locale-attribute=en>



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## WHAT CAN BE DONE? USING FISCAL POLICY TO FINANCE SUSTAINABLE GROWTH

By using the five levels of Civil Society Engagement, organizations can improve Governments' efforts by monitoring and raise social awareness. It can address the societal challenges that are needed to advocate for change in how the population perceive fiscal policies.

In Uruguay, for instance on the levels of **information/dialogue** activities with civil society participants, such as events and meetings, are used extensively to listen the population's main concerns. This type of activities has become the norm on how people get informed regarding fiscal policies. Thus, Uruguay's population has become more empowered and knowledgeable regarding the services the government offers and how the taxes they pay reflect on public goods (i.e., parks, roads, hospitals, schools). By using **consultations**, the population can be more informed about their governments policy choices and provide their inputs about current policies or other relevant topics. For instance, the Dominican Republic civil society, including people from all socioeconomic backgrounds, carried out several strikes in response to a fiscal reform that took place in 2012<sup>83</sup>. However, subsequent information sessions were carried out to explain to the population how low the tax load in the country was, and how the fiscal reform occurred to help solve the big deficits the DR was facing.

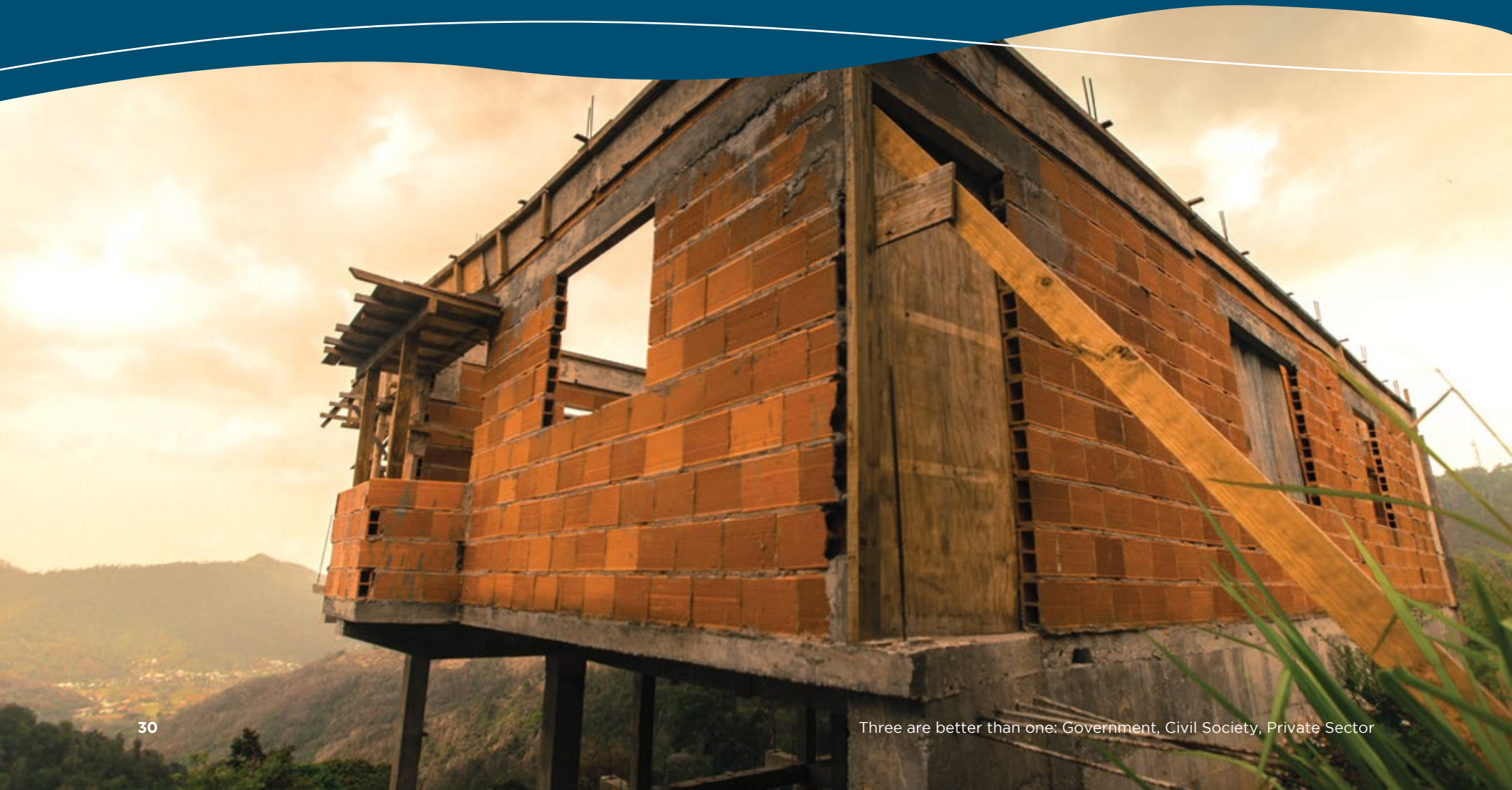
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83 [http://abcnews.go.com/ABC\\_Univision/News/dominican-republics-fiscal-reform-protests-deficit-problems/story?id=17708900](http://abcnews.go.com/ABC_Univision/News/dominican-republics-fiscal-reform-protests-deficit-problems/story?id=17708900)



## CHAPTER 3:

# OPPORTUNITIES IN THE CARIBBEAN TO ADDRESS COMMON DEVELOPMENT CHALLENGES



**There are numerous ongoing and important regional initiatives to address the common challenges mentioned in the previous chapter. The following initiatives seek to promote sustainable development in the Caribbean. Also, they represent an innovative, inclusive, and thoughtful opportunity so that Civil Society works alongside governments to achieve sustainable development.**

## **THE PARIS AGREEMENT**

The Paris Agreement signed within the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) deals with greenhouse emissions mitigation, adaptation and finance of Climate Change. It brings all nations into a common cause to undertake ambitious efforts to combat climate change and adapt to its effects, with enhanced support in assisting developing countries to do so. To date, 139 of 197 parties have ratified the Convention<sup>84</sup>. In that note, SIDS have been long recognized as countries which have special vulnerabilities to Climate Change based on risks from sea level rise, more intense warming of the oceans, storm intensity and changes in weather patterns. Climate change is having impacts on livelihoods, coastal infrastructure, agriculture, and increased risk to local populations from vectors. SIDS successfully acted as a negotiation block and selected proposals that were included in the new Paris agreement signed in 2016. The

primary importance are provisions ensuring that global temperatures are limited to 1.5 degrees Celsius above pre-industrial levels, loss and damage, and providing funds for adaptation and mitigation. This new Climate Change agreement offers a few new opportunities for engagement to civil society in both national and regional efforts to support the implementation of the agreement.

## **A INTENDED NATIONALLY DETERMINED CONTRIBUTIONS (INDCS)**

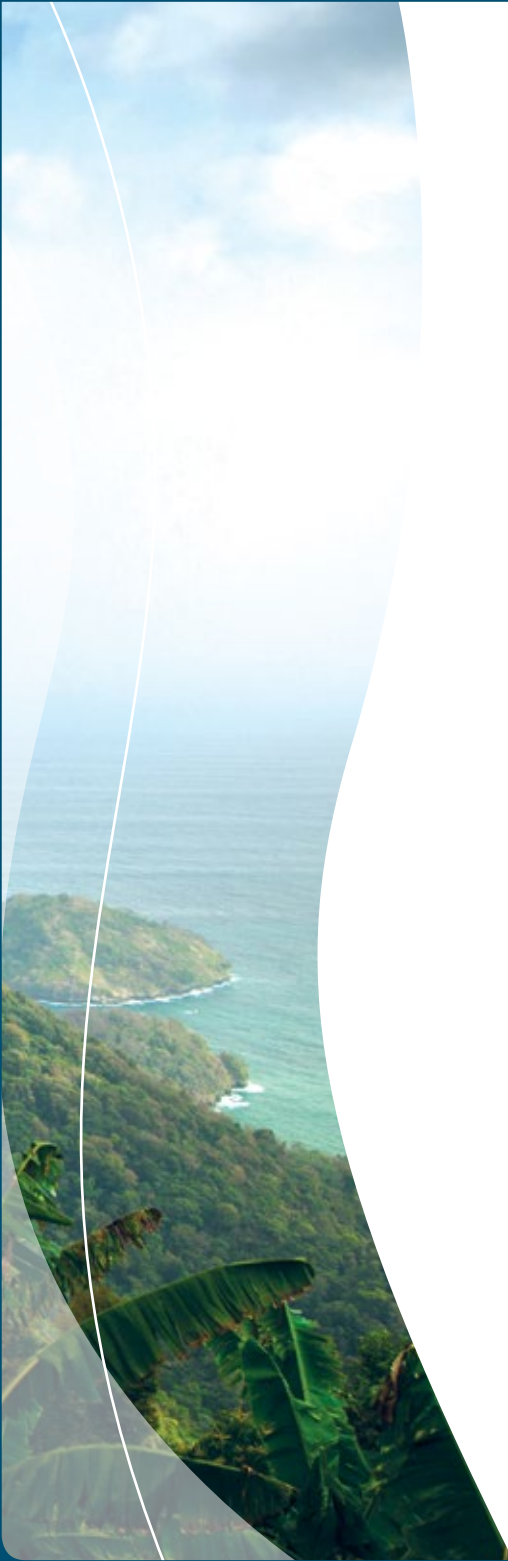
To prepare for the Paris Agreement, countries agreed to provide Intended Nationally Determined Contributions (INDCs) which is a term used under the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) for reductions in greenhouse gas emissions that all countries that signed the UNFCCC were asked to publish in the lead up to the 2015 United Nations Climate Change Conference held in



Climate change is having impacts on livelihoods, coastal infrastructure, agriculture, and increased risk to local populations

**THERE ARE IMPORTANT REGIONAL INITIATIVES TO ADDRESS THE COMMON CHALLENGES SUCH AS THE PARIS AGREEMENT, THE INTENDED NATIONAL DETERMINED CONTRIBUTIONS (INDCS), AND SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS.**

84 [http://unfccc.int/paris\\_agreement/items/9485.php](http://unfccc.int/paris_agreement/items/9485.php)



Paris, France in December 2015. Post Paris, these INDCs have become national climate action plans/ goals for the post 2020 time period of countries that have submitted to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) for which a road map of climate action must be prepared at the country level. INDCs provide one opportunity for civil society to engage with their governments in tracking and monitoring meeting targets. Jamaica, Barbados, Suriname, Trinidad and Tobago, Haiti and Guyana have all submitted INDCs<sup>85</sup>:

- **Jamaica:** covers actions in the energy sector. The objective is to mitigate the equivalent of 1.1 million metric tons of carbon dioxide per year by 2030 versus the BAU scenario. The focus of the INDC is on pursuing opportunities for conservation and efficient modernizing energy infrastructure for the legal and regulatory framework for the energy sector that facilitates stakeholder involvement and engagement in moving towards a green economy.
- **Barbados:** Barbados INDC focuses on achieving an economy-wide reduction in GHG emissions of 44% compared to its business as usual (BAU)
- **Trinidad and Tobago:** aims to achieve its re an overall emission by 15% from BAU, which is absolute terms is an equivalent of one hundred and three million tonnes (103,000,000) of Coe). Trinidad and Tobago focuses on reduction of its public transportation emissions.
- **Suriname:** implementation on National Climate Change Policy and Action Plan (NCCPSAP). This includes a focus on management of its forest, enhanced efforts at monitoring to address illegal logging as well as the

adoption of tools such as Reduced Impact Logging (RIL) and development of national forest protection system. The INDC focuses on implementation of a National Energy Plan 2013-2033 and passage of an Electricity Bill with a focus on micro-hydro power projects, wind energy as well as biomass-to-energy.

- **Haiti:** reduce its emissions by 31%, representing an absolute reduction of 42.24 MtCO
- **Guyana:** policies, measures and actions in the energy and forestry sector, focusing on achieving a green economy using a low emission strategy pathway and adaptation.

Countries need to take steps to bring the Paris Agreement into effect since this will help alleviate or prevent climate change effects. In most countries, signing and adopting the treaty still needs to take place. Civil Society can support this process as well as engage in the necessary determinations to support the bringing into effect of this agreement at the national level. Where countries have indicated that they intend to adopt new policies to support meeting their nationally determined contributions, civil society may take a pro-active role in engaging the development of a new policy

## SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS (SDGs)

Lack of sustainable growth, conservation of the environment, and addressing high levels of inequality remain out of reach. Therefore, in 2015, Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) were adopted by the United Nations. These goals set a new development model to

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85 Summaries taken from CAIT <http://cait.wri.org/indc/>

address poverty, hunger, good health and wellbeing, decent work and economic growth, industry, innovation and infrastructure, reduced inequalities, sustainable cities and communities, responsible consumption and production, climate action, life below water, life on land, peace, justice and strong institutions. The implementation of these goals is meant to happen by 2030.

The SDG went into effect into January 1, 2016. They go beyond the Millennium Development Goals and address people, the plants, the prosperity, peace, and partnerships to provide a clear method on addressing the means of implementation and partnerships. The process for development of the goals was created with the active participation of stakeholders through “Major Groups” including: Women, Children and Youth, Indigenous People, Non-Governmental Institutions, Local Authorities, Workers and Trade Unions, Business and Industries, Scientific and Technological Community and Farmers.

To achieve the proposed goals, the participation of Civil Society is needed. It requires the inclusion of the voices of civil societies through formal and informal partnerships during the entire process of planning for their implementation and review. Civil Society can build their capacity and ability to engage in the process of the implementation (follow up and review) both through national and international forums.

**International Forums:** high level political forums allow stakeholders to participate in the implementation and review of the SDGs as part of the post-2015 process. Its mandate includes “providing political leadership, guidance and recommendations on the Agenda’s

Implementation and follow-up; keeping track of progress, spur coherent policies informed by evidence, science and country experiences; as well as addresses new and emerging issues”.<sup>86</sup> A draft decision on the manner of participation is still under discussion.<sup>87</sup>

**National Forums:** The SDGs offer a real opportunity so that civil society can monitor government’s actions on the achievement of sustainable development goals at the national level through monitoring the achievement of targets and review of the indicators. While national level consultations will be held in many countries, it is expected that civil society will have opportunities to engage in partnerships and build their capacity to engage in discussions on implementation. These capacity building events will aim to “foster multi-stakeholder cooperation for accountability and transparency, and support national efforts that provide strategy for future engagement with the implementation, follow-up and review of the 2030 agenda”.<sup>88</sup> submitted to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) for which a road map of climate action must be prepared at the country level. INDCs provide one opportunity for civil society to engage with their governments in tracking and monitoring meeting targets. Jamaica, Barbados, Suriname, Trinidad and Tobago, Haiti and Guyana have all submitted INDCs<sup>89</sup>:

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86 <https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/hlpf>

87 [http://www.un.org/ga/search/view\\_doc.asp?symbol=A/69/L.46&Lang=E](http://www.un.org/ga/search/view_doc.asp?symbol=A/69/L.46&Lang=E)

88 <https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/majorgroups/national-capacity-building>

89 Summaries taken from CAIT <http://cait.wri.org/indc/>

Countries have indicated that they intend to adopt new policies to support meeting their nationally determined contributions, civil society may take a pro-active role in engaging the development of a new policy.

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Small Islands Development States (SIDS) is a part of the United Nations on Conference on Small Island Developing States. It is an international framework for action to address the special vulnerabilities of SIDS<sup>90</sup>. The SAMOA Pathway focuses on the implementation of SIDS international commitments and challenges SIDS's to take leadership in addressing sixteen issues through partnerships to achieve change on the ground. The pathway covers:

- sustained and sustainable inclusive and equitable economic growth with decent work for all;
- climate change;
- sustainable energy;
- disaster risk reduction (DRR);
- oceans and seas;
- food security and nutrition;
- water and sanitation;
- sustainable transport;
- sustainable consumption and production (SCP);
- health and non-communicable diseases (NCDs);
- gender equality and women's empowerment;
- social development;
- biodiversity, including desertification, land degradation, drought and forests;
- invasive alien species (IAS);

<sup>90</sup> The SAMOA Pathway was endorsed by the United Nations General Assembly in its resolution A/RES/69/15. The pathway was created to directly link into the implementation of post 2015 Development Agenda. It provides a clear basis for advocating for SIDS issues throughout the United Nations system. It is expected that Governments would undergo a process to make the goals in the Pathway relevant to their local context and support their implementation.

A document entitled "Small Island Developing States Accelerated Modalities of Action" outline the means of implementation, financing, requirements for trade, capacity-building, technology, data and statistics, and institutional support for SIDS. Means of capacity building are nearly addressed with a focus on coordinated and coherent UN system-wide capacity building programs for SIDS, a dedicated intensive training program in the University Consortium of Small Island States; ensuring that women benefit from capacity development. The IDB created a tailored-made program to support the institutional capacity of CSOs and add human capital to their Government efforts to advance development in their countries. For Caribbean nations, the Pathway build on the Barbados Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of SIDS (BPOA), adopted in May of 1994.

The Pathway means of implementation requires countries in the Caribbean to integrate the SAMOA Pathway into national planning and deepen engagement between SIDS and partners. Operationalization happens through an Action Platform which has been developed to allow engagement through a partnership framework and Platform. A Matrix has also been created to identify cross cutting issues and roles and responsibilities in implementation throughout the UN.



## THE ROLE OF CSOs IN THE PATHWAY

Civil society and non-state actors participate in the Pathway actions through their accreditation as major groups and stakeholders articulated in Agenda 21. This requires accreditation to the United Nations and having Consultative status with the Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) or accreditation to previous Small Island Developing States events. In addition, the Partnership framework provides a means of engagement of major groups and stakeholders into the process. It allows for the creation of a Steering Committee on partnerships for Small Island developing States that is open to all States Members of the United Nations which is required to meet on a regular basis, to support the follow-up of existing, and promote and advocate the launching of new, small island developing States partnerships. Major Groups and Stakeholder can participate only by explicit invitation of the Steering Committee. Many of the current partnerships in the Platform for the Caribbean addresses a core set of issues:

- Disaster risk reduction,
- Climate change adaptation and resilience
- Protected areas
- Renewable energy and energy efficiency
- Forestry
- Fisheries and Biodiversity
- Sustainable Tourism

Major Groups and stakeholders have created explicit partnerships in the SAMOA Pathway including a few regional Caribbean CSOs. The SAMOA Pathway holds potential opportunity to address all the main identified development challenges and common topics in the

Caribbean in this report. However, it will be important for them to address cross cutting issues dispersed throughout the Outcome document<sup>91</sup>. In Samoa, SIDS strongly reaffirmed their categorization as a special group in need of special attention, but also showcased new leadership in presenting island partnership opportunities as “exciting, valuable opportunities for the global community”.<sup>92</sup>

## ENGAGEMENT IN REGIONAL PROCESSES: CARICOM

CARICOM has the [Charter of civil society for the Caribbean Community](#) and a more formal engagement on Climate Change is possible through the Caribbean Community Climate Change Centre which coordinates the Caribbean region’s response to climate change. It seeks to provide climate change-related policy advice and guidelines to the CARICOM Member States through the CARICOM Secretariat and to the UK Caribbean Overseas Territories. The Center does offer a platform for engagement with civil society to facilitate projects for communities-at-risk and to expedite community “buy-in” on adaptation measures. It offers joint programs and partnerships with Regional and international agencies, educational institutions, non-governmental organizations (NGOs), and other civil organizations.

The Caribbean Community Climate Change Centre prepared a [Regional Framework for Achieving Development Resilient to Climate Change](#) which defined CARICOM’s strategic approach for coping with climate change. To ensure the implementation of the framework an [Implementation Plan](#) was created that defines the

91 <http://www.sids2014.org/content/documents/336SAMOA%20Pathway.pdf>

92 <http://www.sids2014.org/partnershipframework>



Region's strategic approach for coping with climate change for the period 2011 – 2021. It includes the following elements:

1. Establishing how regional and country bodies will work together
2. Securing investment to support the action plan
3. Proposing a monitoring and evaluation system
4. Obtaining buy-in from Governments and relevant funders across the region

### **FUNDING FOR ACTIVITIES TO MITIGATE CLIMATE CHANGE RISK AND PREPARE FOR ADAPTATION: GREEN CLIMATE FUND (GCF)**

The Green Climate Funds purpose is to seek to contribute to the achievement of the ultimate objective of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC). It supports efforts for low-emission and climate-resilient development pathways by providing support to developing countries to limit or reduce their greenhouse gas emissions and to adapt to the impacts of climate change, considering the needs of those developing countries particularly vulnerable to the adverse effects of climate change. The fund seeks to provide funding for adaptation and mitigation, and seek a balance while promoting environmental, social, economic and development co-benefits and taking a gender-sensitive approach. Countries are required to submit funding proposals through National Designated Authorities and accredited agencies. The Climate Change Center has been accredited as the regional implementing entity by the board of the Green Climate Fund (GCF) and will likely be central to supporting the delivery of funding for the region. All countries which are part of the fund Convention can receive funds. Funds may also be accessible through NGOs that meet the criteria for funding.

Opportunities for engagement of civil society are possible at all stages of delivery of funding including (i) assessment of readiness (ii) developing country strategies and priorities (iii) approving projects (iv) implementing projects. A broad level of civil society participation is possible including engagement with the private sector in partnerships to request funding. Countries must designate national focal points for funding who serve as the basis for decision-making on engagement. Regional engagement and learning platforms may be possible but have yet to be determined. The Fund will focus its investments on:

- Transforming energy generation and access
- Creating climate-compatible cities
- Encouraging low-emission and climate-resilient agriculture
- Scaling up finance for forests and climate change
- Enhancing resilience in Small Island Developing States (SIDS)

**Opportunities for engagement of civil society are possible at all stages of delivery of funding including (i) assessment of readiness (ii) developing country strategies and priorities (iii) approving projects (iv) implementing projects.**



## THE REGIONAL AGREEMENT ON ACCESS TO INFORMATION, PARTICIPATION AND JUSTICE IN ENVIRONMENTAL MATTERS

To realize the vision of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), it is advisable to adopt rules that facilitate the improved governance and greater participation of civil society, since it is a vital ingredient to achieve sustainable development. The Regional Agreement on Access to Information, Participation and Justice in Environmental Matters is an initiative that looks forward to delivering this goal. This initiative is also complementary to the Paris Agreements as both look to move forward Climate Change and Sustainable Governments' agenda.

At the 2012 United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development (Rio+), ten Latin-American countries signed the Declaration on the application of Principle 10 of the Rio Declaration on Environment and Development in Latin America and the Caribbean (The LAC Declaration). These countries agreed to negotiate a regional instrument to promote Principle 10. Note that Principle 10 recognizes the three important pillars in environmental decision making that all individuals should have:

- Access to environmental information,
- Opportunity to participate in decision making processes, and
- Effective access to judicial and administrative proceedings.

The LAC Declaration is open for all Caribbean countries to join. It aims to support collaboration and capacity building among governments for the implementation of Principle 10. To date, 21 government of the LAC Region have signed the LAC declaration. It states that "the promotion of broad and diverse participation by

the public is grounded in the ultimate objective of this regional process". A significant feature of this process is that although it is an inter-governmental process as with other multilateral negotiations, the public has a unique and progressive opportunity to participate in the negotiations. This process includes multiple modalities for public participation which allows the public to obtain information on the process as it evolves and to actively participate in the negotiation of the regional agreement by doing the following:

### **REGISTRATION IN THE PUBLIC REGIONAL MECHANISM**

ECLAC has created an online database for registration of the public. This Public Regional Mechanism is not only used in the accreditation of members of the public to attend meetings but it also provides a communications tool for members of the public to learn about the process as well as receive funding from ECLAC to attend the negotiation meetings

### **PARTICIPATION IN MEETINGS, AD HOC WORKING GROUPS AND IN OTHER FORUMS FOR FURTHER NEGOTIATIONS**

The public can attend the negotiation committees' meetings and have access to official meeting documents, including draft documents. Meetings held by webcast are contemplated where possible. If space is limited, priority is given to those participants with residence in any Latin American or Caribbean country. This ensures

that differently abled persons can participate fully under equal conditions. Appropriate measures are taken to ensure that they have priority access to the physical space, as well as information and communications. The public has the right to request the chair of the session for the floor and the chair of the meeting is to give the floor in the order in which is requested. This happens regardless of whether the respective speakers are government representatives or representatives of international agencies, elected representatives of the public or their alternates, or members of the public (natural or legal person/community). This guarantees that everyone is heard and that the meeting is effective.

### **RECEIVING AND SHARING INFORMATION**

The public has the right to share information with and to submit proposals on the specific topics under discussion to the government representatives, experts or representatives of international agencies in writing, at informal meetings or at side events. Many civil society groups and individuals including academic groups and environmental NGOs have submitted language proposals for the regional agreement. These groups include The Access Initiative, the Caribbean Working Group on Principle 10, and several Latin American Organizations and academic institutions including FUNDAR, Pronatura Mexico, Andrés Bello Catholic University and Universidad Santa María, CEMDA, IDAMHO, Alianza Regional por la Libre Expresión e Información, Casa de La Paz, FIMA, Proaceso, Zonta Internacional y Felipe Pizarro Venegas: Sociedad Peruana de Derecho Ambiental (SPDA).

CHAPTER 4:  
SOCIAL INNOVATION AND  
SUSTAINABLE GROWTH  
TO FACE DEVELOPMENT  
CHALLENGES IN THE CARIBBEAN



**This chapter seeks to provide a definition for the concepts of social innovation and sustainable growth. Harnessing these concepts will assist Civil Society in handling future development challenges.**

Social innovation is defined as a novel solution to a social problem that is more effective, efficient, sustainable, or just than current solutions where the value created accrues primarily to society rather than to private individuals.<sup>93</sup> It can have the format of a product, a production process, technology, principle, idea, or legislation that seeks to address a specific issue: “The increasing use of mobile technologies has resulted in emerging brands and products that can help tackle development challenges and realize positive social changes. The Easy Taxi, a mobile app, was created in response to the Ebola virus in West Africa, and offers Nigerian cab drivers lessons on how to diagnose and prevent the disease.”

Shifting views on the roles of businesses in effecting social change have led to the creation of social innovations through collaborations between non-profits, businesses, governments and multilateral development banks. For instance, the construction of the Marriott Hotel in Jamaica financed by the IDB was also a source of internships for five at-risk-inner-city youth to work on its development.

*“Haitian NGO – VETERIMED, implemented a social innovation project to improve the living conditions of rural Haitian families working in dairy farming and make it profitable. They established Lemonade’s first micro-dairy which used simple machinery and technology that did not depend solely on electricity for production and produces top quality long-life milk and yogurt at competitive prices. They also worked with the Agriculture Ministry to secure land tenure for the farmers (15 year renewable leases). The impact of this project was significant. In 2010, it was reported that 30 micro-dairies had been established and 250 new jobs had been created. This project showed social innovation through the collective partnership with the NGO, farmers and government and the ability to adapt the production process to meet the realities and circumstances in Haiti.”*

THIS CHAPTER SEEKS TO PROVIDE A DEFINITION FOR THE CONCEPTS OF SOCIAL INNOVATION AND SUSTAINABLE GROWTH. HARNESSING THESE CONCEPTS WILL ASSIST CIVIL SOCIETY IN HANDLING FUTURE DEVELOPMENT CHALLENGES.

93 James A. Phillis Jr., Kriss Deiglmeier, & Dale T. Miller, *Rediscovering Social Innovation*, Stanford Social Innovation Review. 2008, Vol. 6, Issue 4 Fall 2008



Sustainable Growth is defined as maintaining growth without creating other significant economic problems in the future. This means avoiding the pitfalls and trade-offs between rapid economic growth today which can lead to depletion of scarce natural resources in the future.

### **SUSTAINABLE GROWTH AND SUSTAINABLE INTERVENTIONS IN HEALTH AND ENVIRONMENT**

The One Eleuthera Foundation, a non-profit organization based on the Eleuthera Island in the Bahamas, implements social entrepreneurship programs that include:

1. Tour services to provide logistical support for local, national and international individuals and groups who volunteer their time and resources to projects on Eleuthera.
2. Community farms to provide residents with affordable, organic, locally grown helping to provide food security and sustainable agriculture.
3. Imaging services, especially for breast health screenings.
4. The One Eleuthera Cooperative Credit Union One, which lends money to its member at a lower rate than commercial banks aiming to help them start small businesses, farms, build family homes and provide education for their children.
5. A recycling program which uses recycled glass to make decorative fixtures and produces mulch for sales. A Centre for Training and Innovation that provides apprentices with skills training in carpentry and farming.

Well informed and technical civil society can support their countries to achieve sustainable growth by finding collaborative solutions with private sector and government. Tapping into community needs to build users with services, promoting civic engagement and sharing resources and information towards common goals. Civil Society is an important agent of change which can provide the knowledge and necessary tools to address these challenges.

### **SUSTAINABLE GROWTH AND OPEN DATA**

The Slashroots Foundation, a non-profit organization based in Jamaica, partners with government agencies, development organizations, academic institutions and private sector organizations to design digital services and tools to improve services and create innovative solutions to problems<sup>94</sup>. One initiative is a partnership with other organization to host the Developing Caribbean (DevCa) annual Hackathon held across several Caribbean countries that brings together innovators from the public sector, civil society, entrepreneurs and researchers to build technology tools to tackle development issues including an SMS based app for police to tackle prandial larceny and a price comparison app for consumers.

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<sup>94</sup> Source: 'Openness as a Catalyst for Innovation: The DevCa Approach', Presentation by David Soutar, IDB Group - Caribbean Civil Society VI Annual Meeting, Nassau, Bahamas, June 1 2016

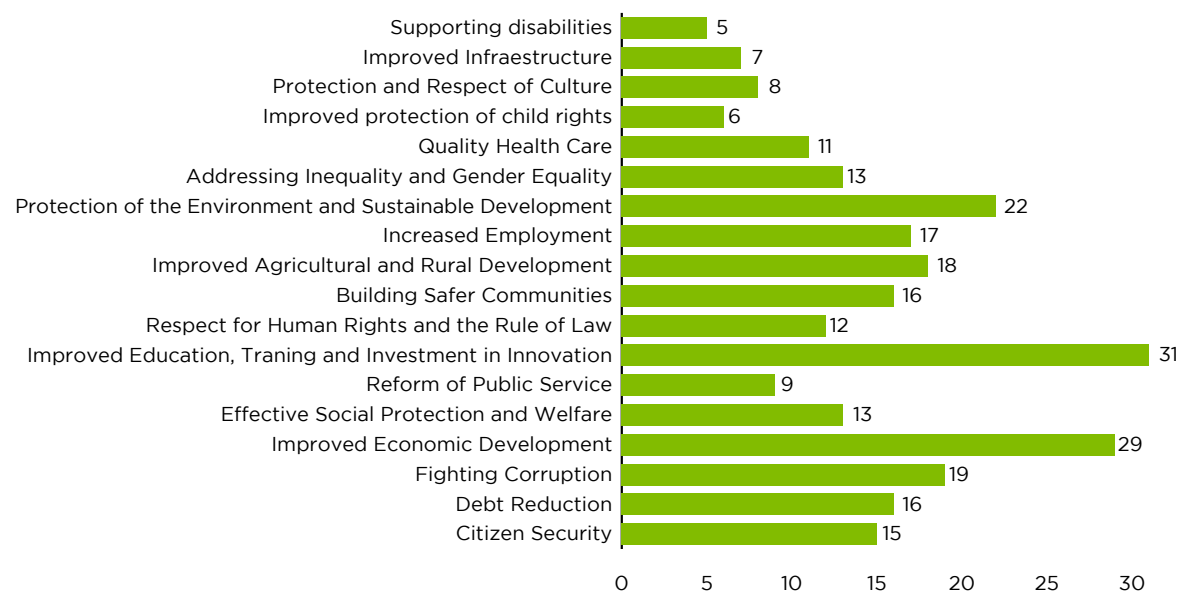
CHAPTER 5:  
“I AM WORRIED” -  
STRATEGIC CONCERNS OF  
CIVIL SOCIETY LEADERS





To properly document the regional challenges mentioned in the last chapters, a survey was conducted by the IDB with Caribbean CSOs<sup>95</sup> which revealed perceptions of development challenges in their country and their views of the strengths and weaknesses that CSOs practices resilience.<sup>96</sup> Therefore, CSOs agreed that Environment and Sustainable Development was one of the main challenges in the region. Perceptions also showed that the role of CSOs in addressing these challenges were primarily in the areas of capacity-building and education and awareness and through partnerships, collaboration and dialogue with governments.

Figure 1: Perception from CSOs on top development challenges in the Caribbean



### PERCEPTION: TOP 5 DEVELOPMENT CHALLENGES FOR THE CARIBBEAN

Most of these CSOs felt that the main challenges for the Caribbean were in the following areas:

- Education, Training and Investment in Innovation
- Economic Development
- Protection of the Environment and Sustainable Development
- Fighting Corruption
- Agricultural Development

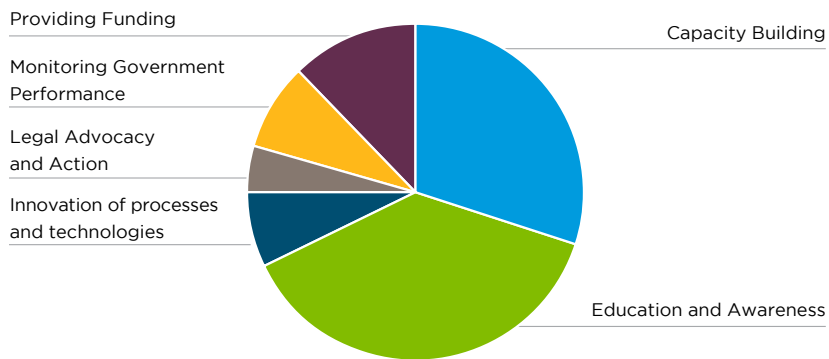
<sup>95</sup> Bahamas, Barbados, Guyana, Haiti, Jamaica, Suriname and Trinidad & Tobago

<sup>96</sup> See Annex C for a list of the organizations that participated in the survey.

## PERCEPTION: CSOs ON SUPPORTING DEVELOPMENT

Generally, most CSOs felt that their most important roles in supporting development were in the areas of capacity building (37%) and education and awareness (39%). Note that Caribbean CSOs did not feel that their contribution to development through innovation or processes and technologies or legal advocacy and action were significant.

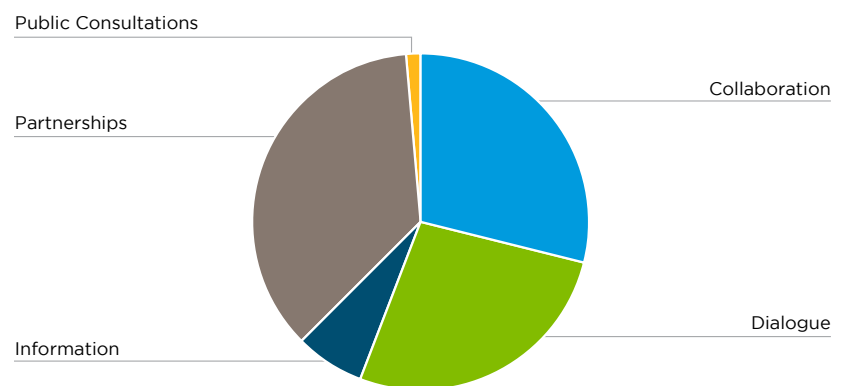
**Figure 2: Perceptions of Civil Society on supporting development**



## PERCEPTION: MOST EFFECTIVE PATH OF ENGAGEMENT WITH GOVERNMENT

The CSOs surveyed perceived Partnerships (32%), Collaboration (27%) and Dialogue (25%) as the most effective avenues of engagement with Governments to influence policy and legislation. Comparatively, Information (6%) and Public Consultations (10%) were not viewed as effective.

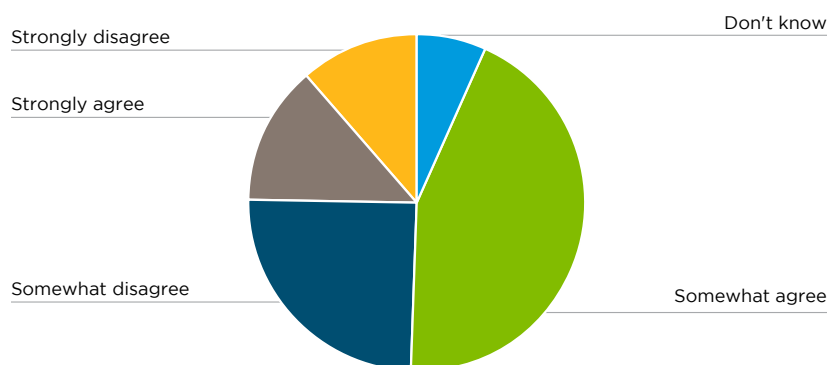
**Figure 3: Perception of the most effective path to development**



## PERCEPTION: CITIZEN AWARENESS OF CSO'S ROLES

There is a perception among many of the CSOs that participated in the survey that citizens are not aware of their work and its importance. 23% somewhat disagreed and 10% strongly disagreed with the statement that citizens were aware, with 49% somewhat in agreement. This raises the issue of ensuring that CSOs are using appropriate and effective methods to communicate with their target audiences and beneficiaries.

**Figure 4: Citizen Awareness of CSOs Roles**



There is a perception among many of the CSOs that participated in the survey that citizens are not aware of their work and its importance.

## FROM “NAMING AND SHAMING” TO “KNOWING AND SHOWING”: STAKEHOLDER ENGAGEMENT TOOLKIT

This toolkit provides basic recommendations to assist CSOs to better contribute to the development of their countries and the region and become more resilient by achieving long-term funding, sustainability and capacity building.

CSOs include a range of Organizations including Non-Government Organizations (NGOs), community based organizations (CBOs), academia, media associations, faith-based organizations and trade unions. These CSOs get their funding through various means, through grants and donations which can be irregular, sporadic, or inadequate to meet their objectives.

Six essential steps to build capacity are:

1. Stakeholder engagement
2. Partnership formation
3. Capacity needs assessment Elevation of CSOs technical expertise to get a prestigious voice on the negotiations tables<sup>97</sup>.
4. Establishing partnerships with stakeholders including other CSOs, government bodies, private sector and donor agencies is a key component to promote development.
5. Partners need to clarify why a partnership is needed and how it can be developed over time through monitoring, evaluation and learning for the partners to deliver shared objectives.<sup>98</sup>

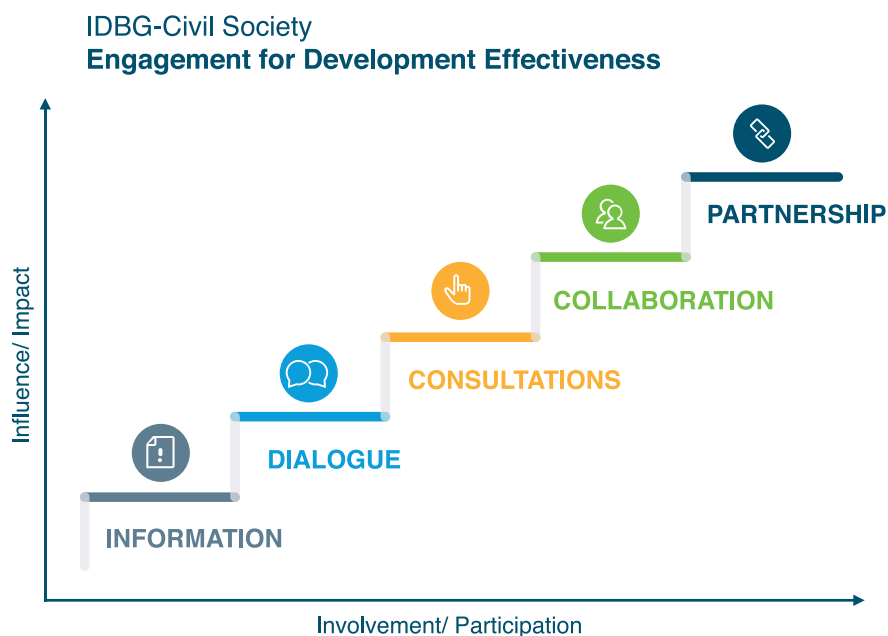
<sup>97</sup> The IDB Group developed the program IDB Group-Civil Society Institutional Capacity supporting development by adding qualified CSOs who received fellowships to be trained on Project Cycle Management and Project Management for Results. For more information see: <http://www.iadb.org/en/civil-society-v3/home,19183.html>

<sup>98</sup> WWF Partnership Toolbox, [http://assets.wwf.org.uk/downloads/wwf\\_partnershiptoolboxartweb.pdf](http://assets.wwf.org.uk/downloads/wwf_partnershiptoolboxartweb.pdf)

CHAPTER 6:  
CONNECTING IN 5 LEVELS:  
IDB Group – Civil Society  
Engagement Approach



The IDB recognizes the value and importance of civil society participation in public policy development and implementation. Over the years, the IDB Group has developed a relationship with civil society to encourage inclusion, engagement and support in promoting the development agenda of Latin American and Caribbean countries<sup>99</sup>. The Vice Presidency for Countries (VPC) leads the IDB Group-Civil Society Engagement by applying five levels of engagement: partnership, collaboration, consultations, dialogue and information.



## PARTNERSHIP

The IDB Group also advances development by funding technical CSOs through, technical cooperation, implementation of project or projects' components, those specific projects, projects' components or/and technical cooperation's are implemented jointly with IDB specialists and other actors.<sup>100</sup>

## COLLABORATION

IDB specialists exchange technical expertise with CSOs, creating knowledge products on a wide range of matters. With the scope to add human capital to the region, the IDB also provides scholarships to CSOs to build their institutional capacity,<sup>101</sup> To date, more than 600 representatives from the 26 countries, including all the Caribbean countries where the IDB is working, have benefitted from the

<sup>99</sup> Civil society includes organizations, associations, academia, not-for profit professional and corporate social responsibility groups, non-governmental and not-for profit organizations, trade unions, foundations, faith-based institutions, and formal and informal organizations which belong to or represent interests based on communities.

<sup>100</sup> For more information see: <https://publications.iadb.org/handle/11319/7496?locale-attribute=en&locale-attribute=es&> as well as "Strengthening Civil Society in LAC - "The Caribbean" (RG- T2393) funded by the Institutional Capacity Strengthening Thematic Fund (ICS).

<sup>101</sup> The program is funded by the Vice Presidency for Countries (VPC) with the support of the Department of Knowledge and Learning (KNL), and the Inter-American Institute for Economic and Social Development (INDES), members of the IDB Group.

**THE PM4R PROGRAM OFFERS SCHOLARSHIPS FOR ALL SIX CARIBBEAN COUNTRIES PLUS HAITI AND BELIZE. FROM 2014-2017 THE PROGRAM HAS REACHED APPROXIMATELY 45 CSOS FROM THE CARIBBEAN.**

Institutional Capacity Program through fellowships in Project Management for Results (PM4R/Civil Society) with the additional value to achieve the international certificate in Project Management Associate (PMA), and Project Cycle Management. The IDB also sponsors the Civil Society Building Knowledge Program, in a series of technical webinars with the scope to create shared value agendas with CSOs to advance specific development issues.

### **CONSULTATIONS<sup>102</sup>**

Following international and legal regulations, as well as IDB Group Operational Policies and best practices, the IDB regularly received input from civil society during public consultation on policies, strategies and projects, with the scope to improve the issues and subject-matter of the consultations. . In this context, civil society groups as NGO, CBO, indigenous groups, afro decedents associations, etc, give inputs and regarding projects, strategies and policies. The Bank's scope is to improve the issues and subject-matter of the consultations<sup>103</sup>.

### **DIALOGUE**

The IDB organizes regular exchanges, virtual and face to face meetings with civil society across Latin America and the Caribbean with Bank specialists on development issues. Annually more than 500 from the 26 countries are physically reunited for a two days' technical discussions and exchanges on the region development topics. Additionally, for the Caribbean it is organized the IDB Group-Caribbean Civil Society to share development issues and next steps with CSOs representatives from Bahamas, Barbados, Guyana, Haiti, Jamaica, Suriname and Trinidad & Tobago. At the country level, CSOs working on one or more pillars of their country strategy interact on the ConSoC, on working roundtables to advance specific topics.

### **INFORMATION**

The IDB is highly committed on transparency and good governance. The Bank is hosting and supporting programs and initiatives on open and big data<sup>104</sup>. A special portal lets users find in a single place a variety of specialized datasets with indicators and raw data on topics such as education, labor markets, poverty, gender participation, global integration and agriculture policy. Through the IDB's Access to Information Policy the Bank even improved civil society on getting access to information on projects, strategies and policies. .

102 See "Public Consultations with Civil Society: Guidelines for Private and Public Executing Agencies" Flavia Milano/Andrea Sanhueza <https://publications.iadb.org/handle/11319/7499>

103 For more information see: <https://publications.iadb.org/handle/11319/7496?locale-attribute=en&locale-attribute=es&>

104 See <https://data.iadb.org/>

# ANNEXES

## ANNEX A: HOW TO INTERACT WITH THE IDB GROUP? COUNTRY STRATEGY PILLARS! <sup>105</sup>

The Inter-American Development Bank (IDB) has supported to advance the Caribbean development agenda through loans, grants, technical assistance and research based on priority areas identified in IDB's Country Strategies.

The best way for CSOs to interact with the IDB Group Country Representatives is to read and know the priorities the Bank has in that specific country. The IDB Country Strategies for **The Bahamas, Barbados, Haiti<sup>106</sup>, Guyana, Jamaica, Suriname and Trinidad & Tobago** are tailored to the specific development objectives and challenges of these countries.

The implementation timeframes for each strategy varies and each strategy is periodically revised. These strategies are aimed at alignment with government initiatives focusing on economic and social stability.

It is not surprising given the enormous challenge presented by sustainability and climate change as well as the energy crisis that these cross-cutting themes are common areas of focus in all Caribbean Country Strategies. Private Sector Development, Transportation, Agriculture, Social Protection and Public Sector Management are also prioritized in most of these country strategies.

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<sup>105</sup> See <http://www.iadb.org/en/about-us/country-strategies,7809.html>

<sup>106</sup> Haiti is considered as part of other region for the IDB Group organizational purposes, it is included in this analysis given that civil society from Haiti participates in the IDB Group-Caribbean Civil Society annual meetings.



## **ANNEX B: REGISTER OR NOT REGISTER? THAT IS THE QUESTION: Legal Framework for the operation of Civil Society Organizations in the Caribbean**

The registration of CSOs in the six (6) Caribbean countries and Haiti, can be done through several means including a company, benevolent society, co-operative or non-governmental organization. Whichever registration process is chosen, it is best to select the legal structure best suited to the needs of the CSO considering its purpose, its intended size, management capability and statutory requirements for the several types of registered entities.

Registration offers several advantages to CSOs:

- Clarifying the legal relationship and obligations of the management or governing body (e.g. directors) of the CSO towards its members
- Accessing loans and grants
- Obtaining contracts
- Operating bank accounts in the CSO's name

Some Caribbean countries have sought to introduce legislation that seeks to provide additional registration requirements which determine whether CSOs can benefit from tax exemptions<sup>107</sup>. The procedure in the Caribbean varies from country to country. There are financial and technical barriers that may limit the ability of CSOs to register as legal entities or to benefit from tax exemptions and other concessions. These include:

- Fees for registration of CSO
- Multiple registrations with several State entities to benefit from exemptions or concessions (Jamaica)
- Multiple filing requirements with several State entities to retain registration status or exempt status (Jamaica)Applicable taxes for operation of CSOs (Trinidad and Tobago)

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<sup>107</sup> The Charities Act 2013 (Jamaica), The Civil Society Organizations Encouragement Bill, 2005 (The Bahamas)

### **The Charter of Civil Society for the Caribbean Community (CARICOM)**

The Charter of Civil Society for the Caribbean Community requires the Member States of CARICOM to ensure rights and freedoms for its citizens.

#### **Member States are required to:**

“Adopt and implement all appropriate measures to ensure good governance which is just, open and accountable”, and “to recognize that integral to the concept of good governance are the complementary roles of government, the social partners and the citizenry, and to ensure that the rights and responsibilities of all are clearly established and that the appropriate environment for their exercise and discharge, as the case may be, is fostered”.

#### **Article XVII(3) of the Charter of Civil Society for the Caribbean Community**

“Respect the fundamental human rights and freedoms of the individual without distinction as to age, colour, creed, disability, ethnicity, gender, language, place of birth or origin, political opinion, race, religion or social class” which includes “freedom of conscience, of expression and of assembly and association within the meaning of the constitutions of States”.

#### **Article II (d) of the Charter for Civil Society in the Caribbean Community**

The Charter also recognizes that every person has the right to the enjoyment of freedom of expression including the right “to hold opinions and to receive and communicate ideas and information without interference and freely to send or receive communications by correspondence or other means and to seek, distribute or disseminate to other persons and the public information, opinions, and ideas in any form whatever”.

## ANNEX C: CARIBBEAN CSOs PROFILE: PARTICIPANTS IN THE IDB GROUP SURVEY

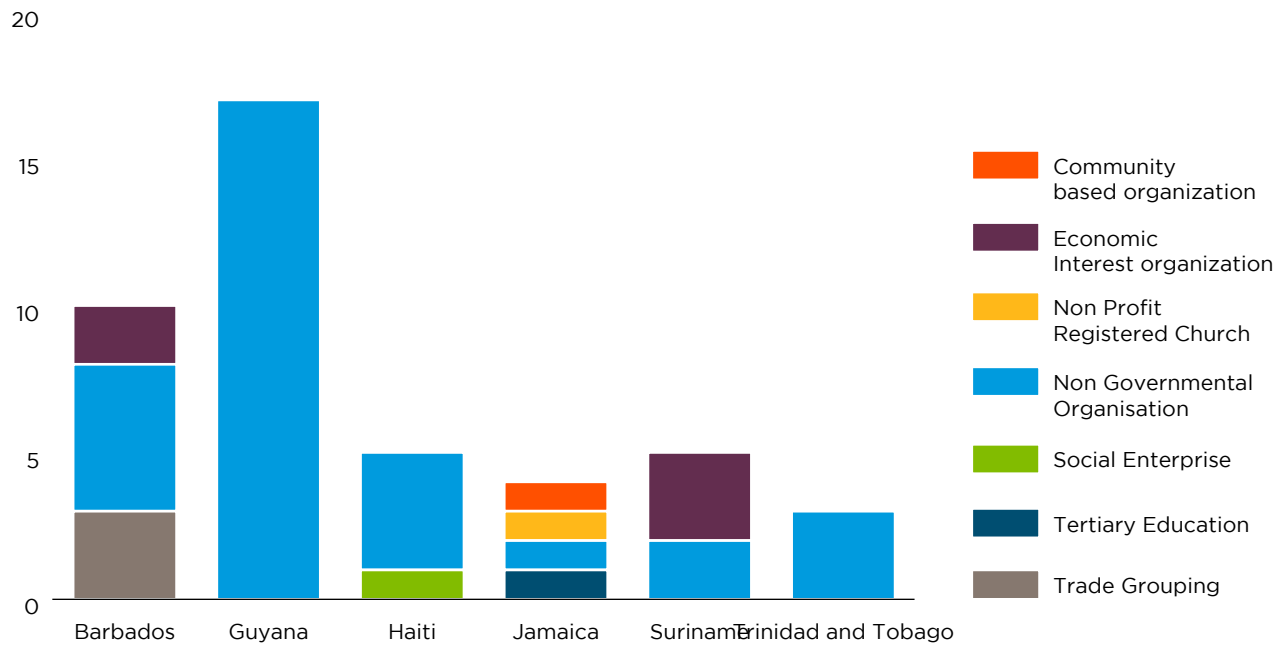
Table 2 presents a summary of the Civil Society Organizations that participated in the Survey.

Table 2: Civil Society Organizations participants in the survey

Country	Civil Society Organization	Country	Civil Society Organization
Barbados	Barbados Hotel and Tourism Association	Haiti	Initiative de la société civile
Barbados	Barbados Agricultural Society	Haiti	Centre de recherche et de formation économique et sociale pour le développement (CRESFED)
Barbados	Barbados Youth Business Trust	Haiti	Rassemblement des Objectifs des Jeunes Techniciens de Taïwan (ROJETAT)
Barbados	Barbados Museum & Historical Society	Haiti	PRODEVA
Barbados	Young Men's Christian Association	Haiti	Rassemblement des Objectifs des Jeunes Techniciens Agricoles de Taïwan (ROJETAT)
Barbados	Barbados Museum & Historical Society	Haiti	ROJETAT
Guyana	Youth Media Guyana	Jamaica	Breds, Treasure Beach Foundation
Guyana	Rotary Club of Demerara	Jamaica	Covenant Life Christian Church
Guyana	Habitat For Humanity Guyana Inc.	Jamaica	Joy Town Community Development Foundation
Guyana	Guyana Women Miners Organisation	Jamaica	University of Technology Jamaica
Guyana	WUSC	Suriname	Wi! Uma Fu Sranan
Guyana	Habitat for Humanity Guyana	Suriname	Association of Economists in Suriname
Guyana	Society Against Sexual Orientation Discrimination (SASOD)	Suriname	Agro Cooperatie Wi! Uma Fu Sranan
Guyana	Caribbean Youth Environment Network - Guyana	Suriname	Wi Uma fu Sranan
Guyana	Partners of the Americas, Guyana Chapter	Trinidad & Tobago	Families in Action
Guyana	Society Against Sexual Orientation Discrimination	Trinidad and Tobago	The Cropper Foundation
Guyana	Partners of the Americas	Trinidad and Tobago	Asclepius Green
Guyana	GAPE	Trinidad and Tobago	The Centre for Grassroots Organizations of Trinidad and Tobago
Guyana	Habitat for Humanity	Trinidad and Tobago	Veni Apwann
Guyana	Guyana National Youth Council		
Guyana	Partners of the Americas (Guyana Chapter)		
Haiti	Initiative de la Société Civile (ISC)		
Haiti	Initiative de la société civile (ISC)		

Figure 5 below shows the type of CSO by country and indicates that most CSOs that completed the survey were NGOs.

**Graph 1: CSOs Sector by Country**

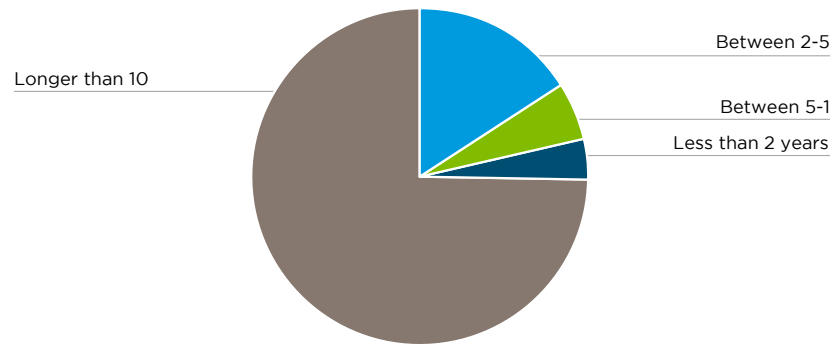


## FINANCIAL SUSTAINABILITY, STAFFING AND LONGEVITY

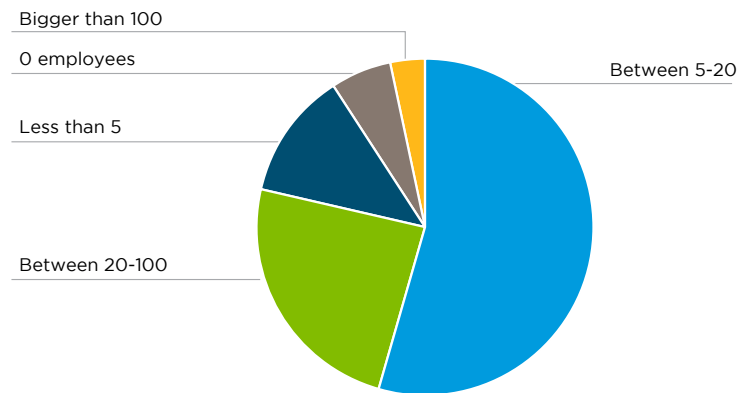
The results of the survey indicate that most CSOs that participated are doing well in terms of longevity and financial sustainability.

Figures above and below show that many CSOs (76%) that completed the survey have been in operation for more than ten years and have a staff between 5 and 20 employees (55%).

**Graph 2: Organization's Maturity**

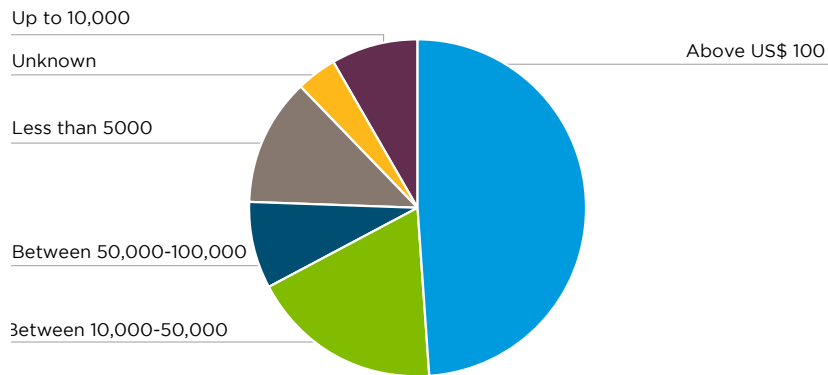


**Graph 3: Staffing in Organization**



49% of the CSOs that participated have an approximate annual budget of above USD100,000. Notwithstanding, these CSOs generally perceived that their prospects for sustainability in the short-term and medium-term were fair and average, respectively, with one CSO receiving short-term contributions and considering that they were on the verge of closing.

**Graph 4: Size of annual budget**



Graph 5: CSOs Financial Sustainability

