

Tracking the green economy in the Caribbean

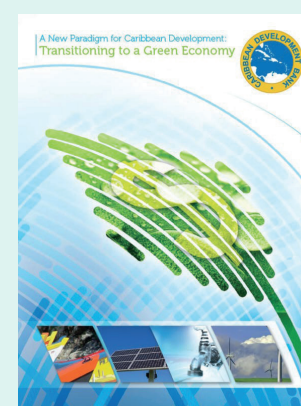
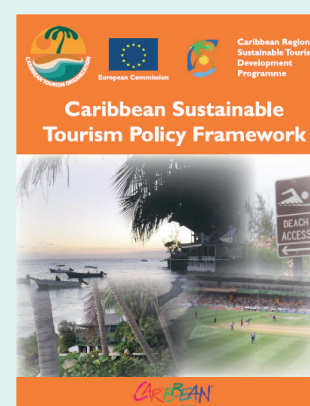


A Caribbean vision was developed through stakeholder dialogue

- The Caribbean Natural Resources Institute (CANARI) facilitated a regional dialogue in 2010 on what “green economy” meant to Caribbean stakeholders. Ideas generated were reflected in a vision and policy brief.
- “A Green Economy in the Caribbean context aims for long-term prosperity through equitable distribution of economic benefits and effective management of ecological resources; it is economically viable and resilient, self-directed, self-reliant, and pro-poor.” – CANARI Policy Brief 13
- Resilience is increasingly being seen as a central issue for Caribbean development since the monster hurricanes experienced in the region in 2017 and growing recognition that climate change and natural disasters are having severe socio-economic impacts.

Efforts to green sectors are ongoing, with a lot of focus being placed on shifting to renewable energy.

- TOURISM: There are many longstanding examples of efforts to green the Caribbean’s most important economic sector, including through certifications such as Green Globe, Earth Check and Blue Flag. There is strong recognition of the importance of healthy natural ecosystems as the primary attraction for the sector and this is reflected in policy frameworks.
- RENEWABLE ENERGY: Many Caribbean countries are actively exploring solar, geothermal and wind energy. The Caribbean Development Bank’s 2014 publication identified renewable energy as a pathway to a green economy.



What is “blue economy” and what does this mean for the Caribbean?

International actors such as the World Bank and Commonwealth Secretariat are promoting “blue economy” but it’s not fully clear to Caribbean governments and other stakeholders on what this means, including how it relates to “green economy”.

This word cloud was created from the 2018 report by the Caribbean Development Bank “Financing the Blue Economy: A Caribbean Development Opportunity”.

At the Sustainable Blue Economy Conference held in Nairobi, Kenya in November 2018, Caribbean delegates identified the need to develop a Caribbean strategy on blue economy to identify the region’s vision and priorities.

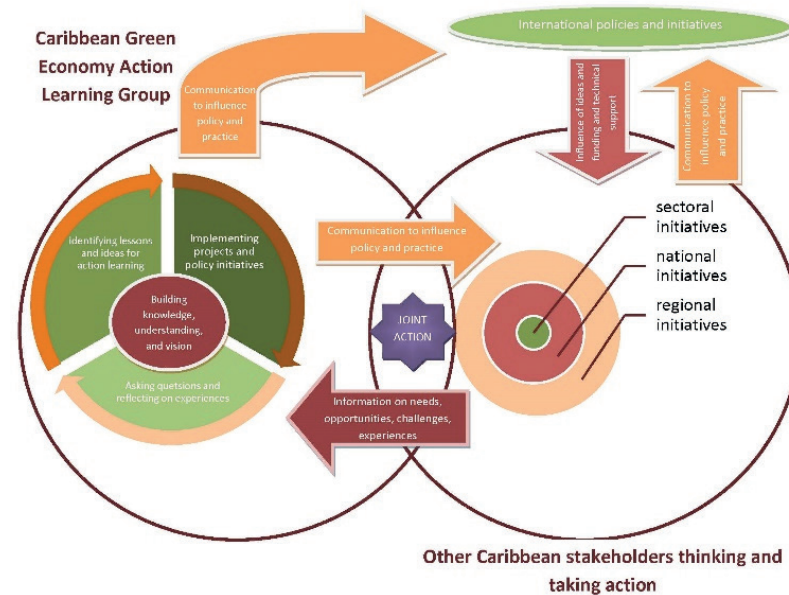


What is being done, and who's doing it?

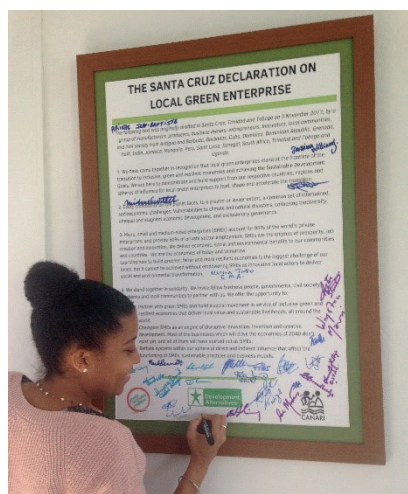


Multi-stakeholder civil society led initiatives

The **Caribbean Green Economy Action Learning Group** is a multi-stakeholder regional group working together since 2011 to identify and promote ways in which green economy can advance sustainable development in the Caribbean through shaping visions, perspectives, positions and actions. It is convened by the Caribbean Natural Resources Institute (CANARI) and members are persons appointed in their individual capacity from government agencies, civil society organisations (national, regional and international and including community-based organisations [CBOs], non-governmental organisations [NGOs], academic institutes, media and labour), technical assistance agencies and donors from or actively working in the Caribbean.



In November 2017, the Caribbean Green Economy Action Learning Group led members of the Green Economy Coalition in developing the **Santa Cruz Declaration on Local Green Enterprises** at their meeting held in Trinidad and Tobago. This calls for enhanced support for small and micro-enterprises as a pathway to an inclusive and environmentally sustainable economy. The Caribbean Natural Resources Institute (CANARI) has been collecting signatures to this Declaration in a Caribbean advocacy campaign.



Multi-stakeholder civil society-led initiatives (cont)

The **Trinidad and Tobago Small and Micro Enterprise Action Learning Group** has entrepreneurs as well as agencies supporting them. Together they developed and are piloting the Local Green-Blue Enterprise Radar as a self-assessment tool to help enterprises to identify how they are doing in delivering triple-bottom line benefits (environmental, economic and social) and how they can improve. This is helping small and micro enterprises to see how they can be part of transforming to an inclusive green economy.



Government Initiatives



In 2016 the Government of Grenada published its Blue Growth Coastal Master Plan, produced by the World Bank. The plan proposed establishment of the Global Blue Innovation Institute in Grenada. The Government also held an international conference called Blue Week 2016 to promote blue growth and investment.

Regional technical agency initiatives

In 2018, the Caribbean Development Bank published a report called "Financing the Blue Economy: A Caribbean Development Opportunity" and following up with the "Banking on the Blue Economy - A Caribbean Leadership Transformation Forum" in November 2018.

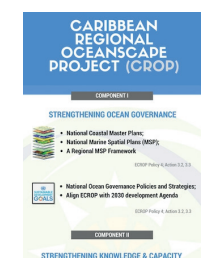


Intergovernmental initiatives

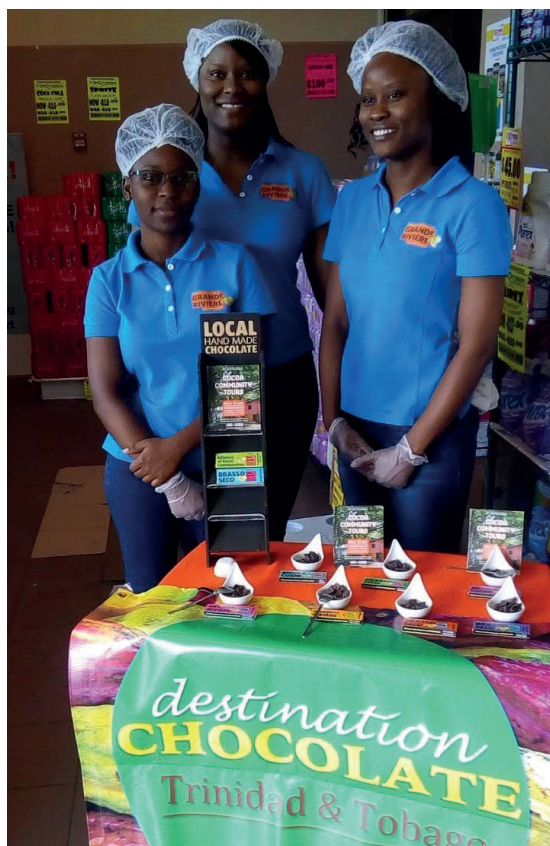
The **Organisation of Eastern Caribbean States (OECS)** is a ten-member grouping comprising the full Member States of Antigua and Barbuda, Commonwealth of Dominica, Grenada, Montserrat, St Kitts and Nevis, Saint Lucia and St Vincent and the Grenadines, with the British Virgin Islands, Anguilla and Martinique as associate members. In July 2018, the Council of Ministers of Environmental Sustainability reviewed a report prepared by the Caribbean Natural Resources Institute (CANARI) in collaboration with the OECS Commission entitled 'Exploring opportunities for transformation to inclusive, sustainable and resilient economies in the Eastern Caribbean' which was summarised in the **"Eastern Caribbean Green Economy Barometer"** produced by the Green Economy Coalition. The Council committed to develop and implement a strategic action plan towards an Inclusive Green Economy in the OECS sub-region. The OECS Commission is leading this work and exploring opportunities with partners to move forward.



The World Bank's 2016 report "Toward a Blue Economy: A Promise for Sustainable Growth in the Caribbean" led to several initiatives in the Caribbean. One is the Caribbean Regional Oceanscape Project (CROP) in the Organisation of Eastern Caribbean States (OECS) to develop national coastal blue growth master plans.



Local green enterprises are increasingly being recognised as a powerful pathway to transformation to inclusive, environmentally sustainable and resilient economies in the Caribbean.



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