

Caribbean Organizations for a Resilient Environment (CORE) Project

The Caribbean Organizations for a Resilient Environment (CORE) Project aims to increase resilience to climate change of vulnerable groups in 8 beneficiary countries across the Caribbean: Belize, Dominica, Grenada, Guyana, Jamaica, St. Lucia, St. Vincent and the Grenadines, and Suriname. More specifically, project beneficiaries include Caribbean organizations: Conservation Trust Funds, Women's Rights Organizations, Environmental Organizations and Youth Organizations.

In partnership with the Caribbean Biodiversity Fund, Global Affairs Canada will contribute a total of CAD 8 million to the CORE project. CAD 4 million of this will be used for small to medium grants to local environmental and women-rights organizations to implement inclusive and gender responsive nature-based solutions (NBS), including ecosystem-based adaptation (EBA). The contribution from Global Affairs Canada will be matched by CBF from the existing CBF Endowment Fund.

Why CORE?

Integrating a gender perspective in Climate Change and Disaster Risk Resilience frameworks can be a challenge for Caribbean countries because of the need for sustained technical assistance and increased institutional capacity for gender mainstreaming. The impact of extreme weather events can also be an obstacle as major damage to infrastructure brings countries to a standstill, slows economic growth and can threaten fragile gender mainstreaming gains. This highlights the necessity for gender-responsive expeditious recovery with the effective participation of women and girls from diverse backgrounds. This

Project aims to bridge some of these gaps, and provide the countries with necessary, gender disaggregated data to enable gender-responsive decision-making towards sustainable development for all.

Current Situation

Climate change impacts women and men differently and with climate change, the gender inequalities are exacerbated, especially in Small Island Developing States (SIDS). This means that climate change can have a more significant impact on women, affecting their ability to generate income, reducing their time availability for caring for their households. In the Caribbean, gender inequality continues to be of concern and closing gender gaps can lead to increased economic growth, as well as increased climate resilience.

Caribbean countries are up to seven times more likely to experience a natural disaster than other states. It has been estimated that the Caribbean experiences regular annual losses from disasters at around US\$3 billion¹, with the tourism and agriculture industries usually taking the hardest hits. Studies confirm that natural disasters, such as droughts, floods, and hurricanes can trigger increased violence against women and girls. Many women lack access to legal and social protection mechanisms, especially Indigenous women and other vulnerable groups living in rural areas. In these spaces, the promotion of positive masculinities and the safe engagement of most vulnerable women and men in all their diversity is needed to build climate resilience.

Expected Results And Impact

The CORE Project will work to support the mainstreaming of inclusive and gender responsive approaches in the Caribbean Sustainable Finance Architecture (CSFA) to expand their reach and results at the national, local and community level and increase the resilience of the Caribbean communities. The project timeframe is 4 years, from April 2023-December 2027.

What is gender mainstreaming?

Mainstreaming a gender equality perspective is regarded as “the process of assessing the implications

for women and men of any planned action, including legislation, policies or programmes, in any area and at all levels.”² It is a strategy for making women’s as well as men’s concerns and experiences an integral dimension of the design, implementation, monitoring and evaluation of policies and programmes in all political, economic, and societal spheres so that women and men benefit equally, and inequality is not perpetuated. It is important to note that gender mainstreaming is intended to empower both men and women, taking into consideration the special needs and the societal characteristics of both. Gender mainstreaming is essential to achieve all dimensions of sustainable development, and aims to leave no one behind.



What will CORE achieve?

Increased capacity of National Conservation Trust Funds to implement Inclusive Gender Responsive Nature based Climate Solution to protect biodiversity conservation and promote climate change resilience programming in the Caribbean, particularly for women



Increased knowledge and skills of environmental and women rights organizations receiving National Conservation Trust Funds funding to design and implement Inclusive Gender Responsive Nature based Climate Solution initiatives to protect biodiversity conservation and climate change resilience.



Improved knowledge and skills of CBF, National Conservation Trust Funds and regional Environmental Organizations to design sustainable, Inclusive Gender Responsive financial mechanisms (FMs) that increase access of women to biodiversity and climate funds.



Enhanced capacity of Conservation Trust Funds to coordinate agendas across the Caribbean for the sustainable, inclusive and equitable protection and gender responsive management of biodiversity conservation and climate resilience.



How will CORE contribute?

Facilitate for experts to perform gender analysis gap assessments and design a mentorship programme.

Gender-responsive training packages will be designed and realized, including design of GESI tools and resources, for each NCTF and members of the Boards of Directors to better understand key gender equality and social inclusion and human rights concepts.

Partnerships created between environmental and women rights organizations for the collection of gender disaggregated data to strengthen Monitoring, Evaluation, Accountability and Learning (MEAL) systems and risk mitigation programs for Integrated Gender Responsive Ecosystem Based Adaptation and Circular Economy initiatives.

Establishment of a Gender Smart Facility that will enable a total investment of USD 3 M in Integrated Gender Responsive Ecosystem Based Adaptation and Circular Economy that enhance biodiversity conservation and climate change resilience and enable women in all their diversity to access biodiversity and climate finance at the community and national level. This funding will be distributed through the 8 Conservation Trust Funds in the beneficiary countries. This regional CBF NbCS Gender Smart Facility (GSF) will have a regional or multi-country footprint via the CSFA.

Establishment of a Caribbean Network of Environmental Funds (CANOE) as an Integrated Gender Responsive biodiversity conservation and climate change resilience learning hub for CSFA-CTFs and other funds, environmental and women rights organizations, environmental youth organizations and other actors across the Caribbean.

¹ ECLAC (2017), “Mainstreaming disaster risk management strategies in development instruments: policy briefs for selected member countries of the Caribbean Development and Cooperation Committee”, Studies and Perspectives series, No. 58 (LC/TS.2017/80;LC/CAR/TS.2017/6), Santiago.

² [Mainstreaming Gender in Climate Change and Disaster Risk Reduction in the Caribbean](#). United Nations ECLAC.

