

Regional Collaboration Center
St George's
April 2020



Regional Collaboration Centre – St. George's
Promoting Climate Action in the Caribbean

Dear Stakeholders,

Greetings from RCC St. George's

We are delighted to bring to you our first newsletter for the year. Sadly, the current pandemic has created a truly unprecedented situation which affects us all. Our thoughts and prayers go out to anyone who's been impacted by the virus. As we move forward during these uncertain times, RCC St. George's wants to keep our readers up to date on the latest events, initiatives, and opportunities in our region.

*Be Safe!
RCC St. George's*

Conference of the Parties (SB52, COP26) and the Regional Climate Weeks

Dear Stakeholders,

We hope this message finds you all well in your respective locations.

*As you may be aware, the Bureau held a meeting on **1 April 2020** in which it was decided about the postponement of the Subsidiary Bodies (SB52) and consequently of COP26 due to COVID-19. The **SB sessions are postponed until 4-12 October 2020**, at the World Conference Centre in Bonn, Germany. Pre-session meetings will take place from **28 September to 3 October 2020**. In regards to **COP26**, dates for a rescheduled conference will be in 2021 at Glasgow by the UK in partnership with Italy and will be set out in due course following further discussion with parties.*

*This decision has a significant impact on the **Regional Climate Weeks (RCWs)**. Host Governments are in the process of confirming their commitment to host the events in 2021. The organizing partners will discuss a possible schedule for the RCWs for 2021 in the coming days, keeping in mind uncertainties around the precise timing of COP26 in 2021.*

*We will provide further information about the **Latin America and Caribbean Climate Week** and remaining RCWs as soon as possible. Among others, we are also exploring the possibility and applicability of virtual solutions, in partial replacement of in-person events. Virtual solutions are, however, not sought as a replacement for the RCW events, but as a series of complementary events that can keep the momentum going and advance discussions on some specific topics.*



RCC Contributes to the Barbados Million Trees Initiative

Barbados has launched the 'We Plantin' More Than A Million National Tree Planting Project' to contribute to climate change mitigation efforts while providing other services to the population of Barbados. The project proponents have expressed interest in being developed as a CDM programme of activities through submission of a notice of prior consideration and is in contact with RCC St. George's with a request for support.

The project will be implemented in several locations in the country. Trees with commercial, fruit bearing, medicinal and aesthetic value, such as Neem, Mahogany, Baobab, African Tulip, Ficus, Barbados Olive and Palms, will be planted under the project. Minister of Environment and National Beautification, Honorable Trevor Prescod, stated at the commencement of the project that "the Government of Barbados is committed to the preservation of all life here on the island" for present and future generations and encouraged the public to "stay the course" and assist however possible in helping the project to reach its target.

In picture, Barbados Minister of Environment and National Beautification, Hon. Trevor Prescod, Mr. Ron Goodridge, Officer at the Ministry of Environment and National Beautification, Mr. Willie Barbour, Senior Project Director, Caribbean Cooperative MRV Hub and Mr. Vintura Silva, RCC St. George's



Caribbean Cooperative MRV Hub Second Annual Meeting

With the support from the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) through the Global Support Programme (GSP), and the UN Climate Change, the Caribbean Cooperative Measurement Reporting and Verification (MRV) Hub, held its second annual meeting, on 11-12 March 2020 at Bridgetown, Barbados. According to Director, Education Programme, from the Greenhouse Gas Management Institute, Molly White, “the meeting provided the opportunity for Caribbean stakeholders to learn about the progress and plans of the MRV Hub while exchanging knowledge and fostering critical connections.”

In the two-day conference, participants engaged in presentations from regional stakeholders on topics such as the outcomes from COP25 negotiations and Biennial Update Reports (BURs) and related efforts in the region. Ms. White also expressed that the conference discussed “the MRV Hub’s activities over the last year and introduced participants to its three-pronged operational model and expected outputs in 2020.”

For more information on this, please click [here](#)

Ecosystem-based Adaptation Gender Equality & Social Inclusion UNFCCC perspective

OECS and Adapt' Action Environment and Resilience Webinar



Regional Collaboration Centre – St. George's
Promoting Action Against Climate Change



United Nations
Climate Change Secretariat

Vintura Silva, Regional Lead UNFCCC

Mainstreaming Ecosystem-Based Adaptation (EBA) and Gender Equality Social Inclusion into Climate Change Adaptation

A webinar was held on Mainstreaming Ecosystem-Based Adaptation (EbA) and

Gender Equality Social Inclusion into Climate Change Adaptation, part of the environment and resilience webinar series put on by the OECS and the Adapt'Action / AFD programme. Consideration of gender equity, social inclusiveness and ecosystems fall under guiding principles for adaptation action (2010 and 2011) under the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC).

Vintura Silva of RCC St. George's presented on the current status of EbA-GESI issues in the UNFCCC context highlighting gender inclusion in relation to National Adaptation Plans and Nationally Determined Contributions under the Paris Agreement.

The webinar, held on 8 April 2020, highlighted the importance of gender equality and social inclusion in the fight towards climate resilience in the region. A panel of professionals introduced a toolkit developed as part of the Adapt'Action funded project to support climate change practitioners and decision-makers to mainstream Ecosystem-based adaptation (EbA) and gender equality and social inclusion (GESI) considerations into the climate change adaptation-related policies, plans, and on-the-ground activities. The toolkit will provide detailed guidance on how GESI should be taken into account as part of the process of mainstreaming EbA and formulating concept notes for funding. The purpose of the toolkit is not to create new tools but to gather, select and/or adapt available methods and resources that are the most relevant for design and implementation of EbA-GESI responsive adaptation actions in the Caribbean context.

According to the Dr. Didacus Jules, Director-General of the Organisation of the Eastern Caribbean States (OECS), "This toolkit arrives at a time when the Islands of the Eastern Caribbean are placing increasing focus on the concept of resilience. The fact that it promotes the integration of ecosystem-based approaches, gender equality and social inclusion makes it highly relevant, not just for climate change, but also for resilience-building in the broader socio-economic context."

More on the Toolkit can be found [here](#)



The Paris Agreement on Climate Change as a Development Agenda

UN Climate Change and the United Nations System Staff College (UNSSC) will offer the second edition of [the Paris Agreement on Climate Change as a Development Agenda](#) online course in English, free-of-charge, on **15-24 June 2020**.

Please register [here](#), and for a copy of the course brochure click [here](#)



Caribbean Youth Mobilize on Climate Change and Health!

Initiated by a youth activist from Barbados, Ms. Ashley Lashley, a medical student and also Miss World Barbados 2018, the HEY (Healthy and Environment-friendly Youth) Campaign aims to sensitize and mobilize youth around the world with one key objective: rethink health, in particular child health, in the context of climate change, and recognize the right all of us have to live in a safe and healthy environment. Also, RCC St. George's, in collaboration with UNICEF is building on a course [climate and health](#) in supporting this initiative.

Join the campaign by posting a photo [@ecohealthyyouth](#) or send it to theashleylashleyfoundation@gmail.com.

Help your under-18 relatives/friends/students fill this brief survey [here](#). The HEY Campaign is supported by UNICEF Eastern Caribbean Office.



Greenpreneurs 2020

Global Green Growth Institute has just launched its annual green entrepreneurship competition. A total of 15 teams will be selected to take part in a 12-week virtual incubator and mentorship programme, culminating in a business plan competition to win funding for your business. Interested teams from around the world are welcome to participate, especially teams from the Caribbean.

To register your team, please click [here](#) and for more information click [here](#)

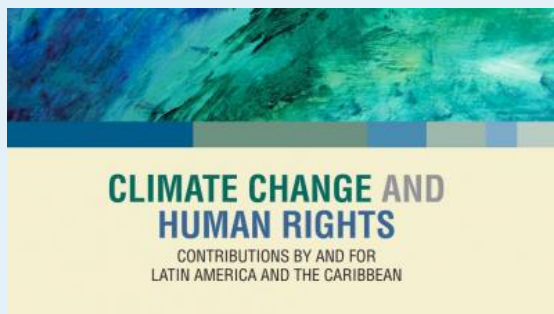
NAMA Facility Announces 7th Call for Submissions of NAMA Support Project Outlines

The United Kingdom and Germany expressed their support to the NAMA Facility's 7th Call for the submission of NAMA Support Project (NSP) Outlines. The was opened on 1 April 2020 and will close at 3 pm CEST on 1 September 2020.

The NAMA Facility is closely monitoring the effects of COVID-19 and its spread around the world. However, this event will proceed according to schedule until further notice by the NAMA Facility.

Please direct any questions to contact@nama-facility.org

Read more information go [here](#)



Climate Change and Human Rights: Contributions by and for Latin America and The Caribbean

The Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC) and the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) have published a document focused on the numerous contributions to the human rights perspective made by and for the region.

To download the document, please click [here](#)

The Regional NDC Dialogue for Latin America and the Caribbean (LAC) Report is Out!

The LAC was one of three in the UNDP/UN Climate Change LAC dialogue, one of three in a series, was held in the last quarter of 2019, part of the Regional Climate Weeks, with the goal of increasing momentum for more ambitious and accelerated climate action. In the sessions, countries covered a range of topics. Grenada, for example, discussed its challenges with data management. Peers suggested an information data sharing system that all ministries can use to input and share data.

A full copy of the report is available [here](#)





Action for Climate Empowerment

The Doha work programme on Action for Climate Empowerment (ACE) invites Parties to designate and provide support, including technical and financial support, and access to information and materials to a national focal point for ACE activities and assign specific responsibilities (15/CP.18, Annex, paragraph 22 (a)).

RCC St. George's is working with the ACE team at UN Climate Change to follow up with UNFCCC focal points in the region to nominate ACE focal points. To explore the current ACE focal points, upcoming events and understand how UNFCCC National Focal Points can nominate ACE Focal points click [here](#)

In addition, visit the website links below for further useful information on a variety of issues including:

- [Negotiations](#) on Action for Climate Empowerment
- [Dialogues](#) on Action for Climate Empowerment
- [Education and Training, Public Participation and Youth Engagement](#)

A **short guide** titled **How to integrate 'Action for Climate Empowerment (ACE)' into Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs)** is being finalized by UNESCO and UN Climate Change, in collaboration with the United Nations Alliance on Climate Change Education, Training and Public Awareness. This guide aims to provide countries with advice on how to enhance ambition and address the six elements of ACE - Education, Training, Public Awareness, Public Access to Information, Public Participation and International Cooperation in their respective NDCs.

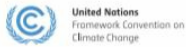
Look out for the guide coming soon on the [website!](#)

Regional and National Needs-Based Finance Project

UN Climate Change, through its Regional Collaboration Centres in Bangkok, Dubai, Kampala, Lomé, Panama and St. George's, and in collaboration with its partner institutions, is implementing the NBF project in 10 regions or sub-regions, covering a total of 92 countries. In 2020, the project will be launched in East Africa, West Africa, Least Developed Countries in Asia and in Polynesia, as well as in Belize and Uruguay.

Translating Needs into Action:

AN UPDATE OF THE NEEDS-BASED FINANCE PROJECT



In Belize, the project is being implemented in partnership with the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries, Forestry, the Environment, Sustainable Development of Belize and will have an expected one-year timeline starting in January 2020.

To download a copy of the document, please see [here](#)

UNDP's Climate Promise

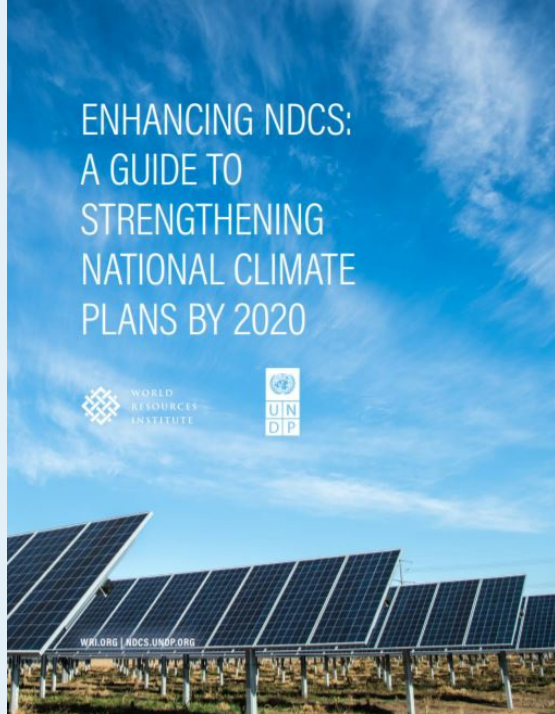
The UNDP's Climate Promise is a commitment to support at least 100 countries, such as small island developing states (SIDS), to enhance their NDCs by 2020. The Climate Promise is working in close coordination with the International Renewable Energy Agency (IRENA), the Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO), the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), and UNICEF. The Promise has committed USD 25 million of core resources and mobilizing support from key donors, such as Germany, EU, Spain, Italy, and Sweden. Currently, more than 60 governments have already signaled their interest in receiving assistance from the UNDP and their partners since the launch in New York in September 2019.

For a full report on this promise, click [here](#)



Enhancing NDCs: A Guide to Strengthening National Climate Plans

Working in close coordination with the UNDP, the World Resource Institute (WRI) published a guide that helps government officials identify options for enhancing Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) in line with the Paris Agreement. Enhancing NDCs: A Guide to Strengthening National Climate Plans was



designed to help practitioners think through how to structure their country's enhanced NDCs across three dimensions, which are mitigation, adaptation and transparent communication.

To download a copy of the guide click [here](#)

Common Ground Between the Paris Agreement and the Sendai Framework: Climate Change Adaptation and Disaster Risk Reduction

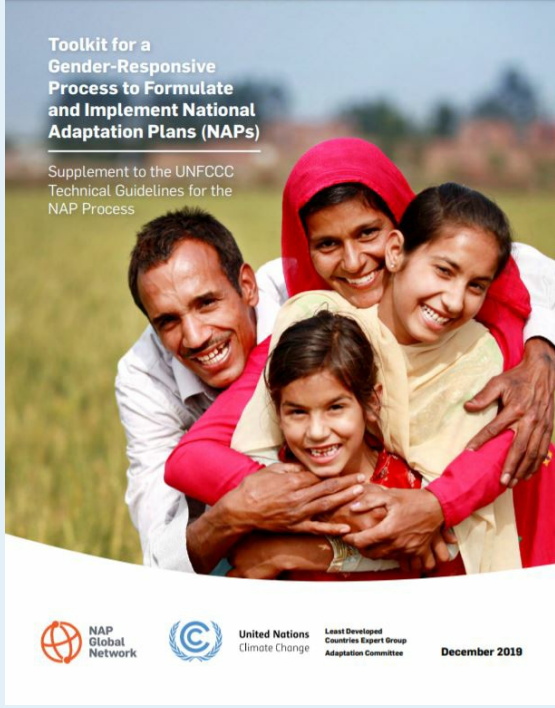
The Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) Secretariat has recently released a report on the Common Ground Between the Paris Agreement and the Sendai Framework: Climate Change Adaptation and Disaster Risk Reduction. The report was prepared with financial support from the German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development of Germany (BMZ), and it is a contribution to the G20 Adaptation Work Programme (2018-2019). In order to integrate Climate Change Adaptation and Disaster Risk Reduction in sustainable development, coherence is key. The process requires coordination and can be operationalized at different levels of government, with collaboration across stakeholder groups. The report describes three main types of coherence: Technical, Strategic and Operational.

To download a copy of the report click [here](#)

More information on OECD's work on climate can be found [here](#)



A gender-responsive process to formulate and implement National Adaptation Plans



The NAP Global Network, the Least Developed Countries Expert Group and the Adaptation Committee under the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change have jointly published a Toolkit for a Gender-Responsive Process to Formulate and Implement NAPs.

To download a full copy of the tool kit, please click [here](#)

Climate Neutral Now Initiative Looks to the Future - Join Us!

Climate Neutral Now welcomed over 40 partners and signatories from different economic sectors from across Europe, USA, and Asia in an event which took place in the Real Betis Balompié Stadium (Benito Villamarín) in Seville, Spain, on 10 February 2020.



Participants presented their work on emission reduction and discussed how to shape the vision towards a climate-neutral economy through this initiative. We hope that participants will inspire even more organizations to join the initiative and help the world to reach climate neutrality.

More [here](#)



The 37th Meeting of the Least Developed Countries Expert Group

The 37th meeting of the Least Developed Countries Expert Group was held in Antananarivo, Madagascar, from 6 to 8 February 2020. At the meeting, the Group developed its work programme for 2020. In this meeting, discussions with representatives of the Green Climate Fund, relevant organizations, regional centres and networks was held on ongoing collaboration to support the least developed countries on adaptation and the implementation of the least developed countries work programme.

For full copy of the report, click [here](#)

Stocktaking Meeting of the Least Developed Countries Expert Group

A Stocktaking meeting on the work of the Least Developed Countries Expert Group (LEG) held in Antananarivo from 10 to 12 February 2020. A report was written by the secretariat on the event. It contains a summary of achievements, good practices and lessons learned from the work of the LEG in 2016–2020 as identified at the meeting.

To get a full copy of the report, go [here](#)

HAPPY EARTH DAY FROM RCC ST. GEORGE'S



"When we contemplate the whole globe as one great dewdrop, striped and dotted with continents and islands, flying through space with other stars all singing and shining together as one, the whole universe appears as an infinite storm of beauty." John Muir

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