

Regional Collaboration Center St George's December 2020



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

RCC St. George's Season's Greetings



Dear RCC Stakeholders,

2020 has indeed been an extraordinary year and, at times, exhausting.

Together we have all overcome the challenges that we could not have imagined 8 or 9 months ago. The RCC St. George's Team would like to wish you a Merry Christmas, relaxing holidays and a healthy start to 2021!

2020 HIGHLIGHTS

INTERVIEW: H.E. Fiona Clouder, COP26 Regional Ambassador to Latin America and the Caribbean



“

COVID-19 is changing our world. Climate change is too and we need to work together to tackle these challenges. Let's make the most of COP26 to help shape a better net zero world

”

Fiona Clouder
COP26 Regional Ambassador
Latin America and the Caribbean



America and the Caribbean, sat down with UN Climate Change Regional Collaboration Center for the Caribbean (RCC St. George's) to discuss how the UK Government aims to make COP26 as inclusive as possible and what SIDS can do to fight the twin crisis of climate change and COVID-19.

What is your role as the COP26 Regional Ambassador?

I work with governments, business and wider society across Latin America and the Caribbean to help build relations, collaboration and understanding on all issues in relation to COP26.

We have heard the UK Government aims to make COP26 as inclusive as possible, what should we expect?

COP26 is not just about the formal negotiations, though they remain a core part of the process.

The Presidency is running several campaigns, engaging with a wide variety of stakeholders including businesses, individuals, indigenous groups and young people. These campaigns, which we are also running through virtual means, focus on 5 areas; adaptation and resilience; climate finance, nature-based solutions, energy transition, and clean transport and aim to reach as wider group of people as possible. We want all countries to come forward with ambitious 2030 climate plans (NDCs) and long-term strategies to reach zero carbon emissions as soon as possible. But also to step up and help societies and economies adapt to climate change, particularly the most vulnerable.

With the emergence of COVID-19 this year, what do you think SIDS can do to fight the twin crisis of climate change and COVID-19?

SIDS are particularly vulnerable with both climate change and COVID-19 happening at the same time. This is a major concern for Caribbean countries and others in the region as extreme weather events and climate change have increased the occurrence of natural disasters such as hurricanes, floods and droughts. The COP26 Presidency is keen to hear the unique voices of all countries no matter how small their territory and from cities and communities. Especially from SIDS, many of whom are already living the reality of dealing with climate change.

Their message to the world that climate change is happening is a powerful one from which we can all learn. Adapting and building resilience to climate change are important, as well as helping with some of the social and economic impacts of COVID-19. Practical measures can include, sustainable and resilient buildings and future infrastructure as well as encouraging investment and opening up business and new job opportunities, related to a green recovery.

Beyond COVID-19 and with a focus on green recovery, are there any finance opportunities for countries?

Alongside building adaptive capacity, ease and access to climate finance is a crucial issue for the Region. The UK COP26 Presidency wants to ensure countries follow through on their commitment to mobilize \$100bn in climate finance for mitigation and adaptation to developing countries per year by 2020. The UK has committed to double its support to £11.6bn support through international climate finance, over the period 2021 to 2025. We want to encourage all other donor countries to similarly increase their future provision of climate finance.

Achieving net zero requires a transition in the whole economy. We are working with governments, donors, multilateral development banks and business to make commitments to fight climate change. We all need to work together for a better world.

Thank you for your time and role in supporting the voice of SIDS and the Caribbean region in the run up to and during COP26.

Climate Dialogues Wrapped Up!

The Virtual Climate Dialogues wrapped up on 4 December, having brought together some 8000 attendees from around the world, including over 3100



delegates. This indicates continued momentum on climate change action despite the postponement of COP26 from December this year to the end of 2021 owing to the COVID-19 pandemic. Governments are now in a better position to advance work on international Climate Action in 2021.

[More information](#)

CDM Executive Board Agrees on Temporary Measures to Address COP26 Postponement



With the postponement of COP 26 this year, the CDM Executive Board concluded its 108th meeting on 14 December and agreed on temporary measures to be applied until the CMP can provide the needed guidance.

[More information about the measures](#)

2020 UN Global Climate Change Awards



Each year, UN Climate Change recognizes some of the world's best and brightest examples of global Climate Action.

Bucuti & Tara Beach

Resort in Aruba became the Caribbean's first – and still the only – hotel to achieve carbon neutral certification. Major leaps include installing the island's largest private sector solar panel system, decreasing waste stream-to-landfill by 62% while increasing occupancy to 98.5% in the first year of net zero auditing, installing double-paned, insulated air-filled or film-coated windows, and converting from an air-conditioning/chiller system to a Variable Refrigerant Flow (VRF) cooling system. For the past two decades, it banned single-use plastics and Styrofoam on the resort, a move Aruba implemented island-wide in 2020.

[More about the UN Global Climate Action awards](#)

Round Up of the Caribbean NDC Support Virtual Exchange Series

Launched in May 2020, the Caribbean Virtual Exchange Series, came to an end on 22 October 2020, having spanned a period of 6 months. The series was focused on processes under the Paris Agreement for the preparation and submission of new and updated



national climate plans, or Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs). The virtual events allowed participants to engage with panelists from implementation, funding and supporting organizations to discuss in-depth aspects of practical planning and implementation of NDCs. In addition to the live webinars, participants of the Caribbean Virtual Exchange Series were provided with pre-recorded

presentations to review at their convenience.

[More information](#)

Consultant Group of Experts Trains Latin America and Caribbean Country Experts in MRV Arrangements and the Enhance Transparency Framework



As part of its ongoing transparency-related technical support to developing countries, the Consultative Group of Experts (CGE), which assists developing country Parties fulfil their reporting requirements under the Convention and supports the implementation of the enhanced transparency framework (ETF) under Article 13 of the Paris Agreement, held three [virtual training workshops](#), for the Latin America

and Caribbean country experts. The first workshop was held in English from 27 to 29 October, the second was in French from 3 to 5 November and third was in Spanish from 10 to 12 November 2020.

Webinar on Advancing the Energy Transition in Latin America and the Caribbean Through Nationally Determined Contributions



The 2-day webinar, held by IRENA together with the UN Climate Change Regional Collaboration Centers (RCC St. George's and RCC Panama) and UK COP26 Presidency, hosted regional discussions on raising the ambition of national climate pledges in the lead up to COP26 and explored synergies between the energy transition in LAC countries and their economic recovery from COVID-19. Other key topics such as the challenges in the deployment of end-use sector solutions and the engagement of the private sector in the financing of NDC implementation were also the focus of discussions.

[See the webinar again](#)

Logo Launched!



Recognizing the interconnected and cross- sectoral nature of resilience, Grenada will apply an integrated approach to agro-ecosystems management, within the context of biodiversity conservation.

To emerge stronger from the COVID-19 pandemic, an accelerated implementation of technological initiatives that support

a climate resilient agriculture system will be a key aspect of the project, with participation from both the public and private sectors, as well as academia and civil society.

In attendance to reveal the GEF/ UNDP Climate Resilient Agriculture Project Logo were wider stakeholders including UN Climate Change Regional Collaboration Center (RCC St. George's), Government of Grenada officials, Private sector and CSOs. This Project is part of UNDP's long-standing support to governments to protect biodiversity, slow deforestation, increase sustainable farming, enhance resilience to future shocks, including climate change, and prevent future pandemics.

GET INVOLVED!

Contribute to building a Net Zero Climate-Resources & Research Aggregator

The University of Oxford is developing an Aggregator of Tools & Solutions for Achieving Net Zero. This global, independent, non-profit initiative is **developed in partnership with the UNFCCC secretariat**, global research institutions and environmental non-profits. [Net Zero Climate](#) will provide a free, interactive, online library of the latest available tools, interventions, and best practices for achieving net zero. Send your proposals for resources to be included [here](#). For any inquiries, please contact [Kaya Axelsson](#), or netzero@ouce.ox.ac.uk.

We are always trying to improve the content of our newsletter, and count on you to let us know if you have any feedback!

Please email us at: rcstgeorges@unfccc.int

Thank you!

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