

SPOTLIGHT ON CARIBBEAN CLIMATE

Capturing climate change related news and issues from a Caribbean perspective



Climate change broken promises

How rich countries continue to disappoint the Caribbean

➤ Is the OECS transition to a **Blue Economy** a risk?

➤ Regional and International High-Level Events and Visits



Caribbean Community
Climate Change Centre

Message from the Executive Director

“We are suffering from a problem that we did not cause. Where is the justice in this?”



Dr. Colin Young
Executive Director
Caribbean Community Climate
Change Centre

Since our last Newsletter, the Region continued to be battered by climate-related disasters that included two hurricanes, several other named storms, and multiple flooding events in Belize, Trinidad and Tobago, and Suriname that caused significant loss and damage with another five weeks to go in the 2022 Hurricane Season. While we have passed the historical peak for major hurricanes, we cannot yet breathe a sigh of relief from being spared the likes of Maria, Dorian and Irma. While we hope and pray that we will be spared, the odds are against us. Climate-related disasters will only increase with every incremental increase in global temperatures. Consequently, the region will continue to suffer significant loss and damage, inclusive of the loss of lives. We are suffering from a problem that we did not cause. Where is the justice in this?

Yet, the Caribbean Community (CARICOM) and Small Island Developing States, through the Alliance of Small Islands Developing States (AOSIS) are struggling to convince the developed countries, who are primarily responsible for global warming, to include a Loss and Damage Facility on the agenda of the 27 Conference of Parties (COP 27). The countries that are most responsible for causing climate change continue to slow walk, obfuscate, delay the delivery of the promised USD 100 billion and block the inclusion of meaningful actions on Loss and Damage. In the meantime, the most vulnerable people continue to suffer the consequences of global warming. Regretfully, our Leaders are getting prepared to attend COP27, where we expect that they would have to fight to get the developed countries to recognize the climate injustice being perpetrated on the most vulnerable countries. At this stage, however, we need more than recognition. We need urgent action commensurate with the science. We need financing aligned to the scale of the needs for climate-resilient development and for Loss and Damage.

Developed country parties insist that we need to implement the Glasgow Pact. They insist we should be satisfied with the decisions from COP26. The hard truth, however, is that Glasgow did not deliver on finance, ambition, or loss and damage – issues that are critical for SIDS and CARICOM. We cannot and will not be satisfied if our countries continue to be devastated by hurricanes and extreme rainfall and droughts. We can never be satisfied when we see coral bleaching and dying from warming oceans affecting the livelihoods of our fisherfolks; we can never be satisfied when we bear witness to our coastline and beaches disappearing due to sea level rise; we can never be satisfied when we see our countries losing 200% of their GDP in a few hours to category 4 and 5 hurricanes and we will NEVER be satisfied as long as our young people and children are losing faith in whether world leaders will act with the urgency to keep 1.5 within reach.



All is not lost! However, the window for urgent action is fast closing. COP27 cannot be another talk shop. We need to increase ambition to cut emissions in line with the science. We need faster access to climate finance to help our countries adapt to the increasing impacts of climate change - not in 2023 but now. We need progress on Loss and Damage - not just a dialogue but a facility that will be capitalized and that will channel resources to those countries that suffer significant loss and damage.

As you delve into this Issue, look out for Dr. Mark Bynoe's article where he laments the disappointment of the Caribbean with large fuel emitters and their lukewarm ambitions. While some say time is running out, Dr. Bynoe believes that time has run out for others, as their lives have been cut short by climate change-related events like Hurricanes Fiona and Ian which slammed some Caribbean islands in late September. Further, into our pages, you will see how countries of the Organisation of Eastern Caribbean States (OECS) are transitioning to a Blue Economy as a new pathway for the region, building on existing sectors, identifying the sustainable use of ocean resources for economic growth, improving livelihoods, and maintaining ocean ecosystem integrity.

If you are interested in matters related to climate change and health, look out for Lisa Bailey's article on how climate change is being mainstreamed into health policies, strategies and programs. In our section on News from the Centre, we feature some of our ongoing partnerships with agencies such as PAHO, GCF and the EU.

"My Climate Testimony" is by Jevanic Henry, a young climate change activist from Saint Lucia who is currently a special envoy on Climate Change for the Caribbean Youth Environment Network (CYEN). Jevanic unfolds how a bad trough system in 2010, stimulated his interest in climate change.

We look forward to hearing from you. Share your stories and how climate change is impacting you and your community. We are also eager to hear of solutions so that we can shine a spotlight on them. We trust that you will enjoy this edition.

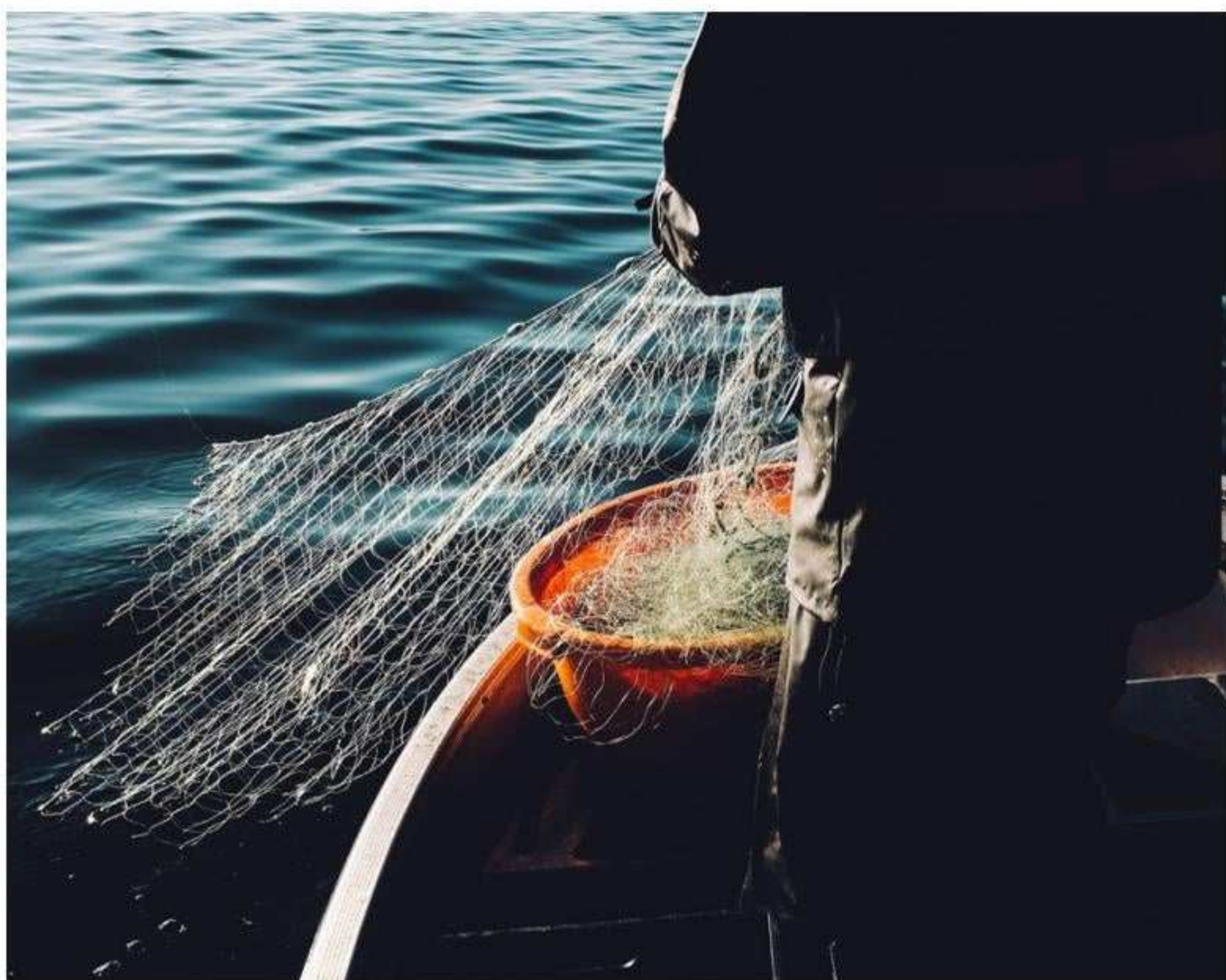
Contents

5 **Grenada's Simon Stiell is Head of the UNFCCC**

7 **Climate change broken promises**

How rich countries continue to disappoint the Caribbean

10 **Is the OECS transition to a Blue Economy a risk?**



12 **Nine Caribbean countries are integrating health into national adaptation plans through support from EU and PAHO**

14 **News from The Centre**

Profile of Keith E. Nichols

16 **Regional and International High-Level Events and Visits**

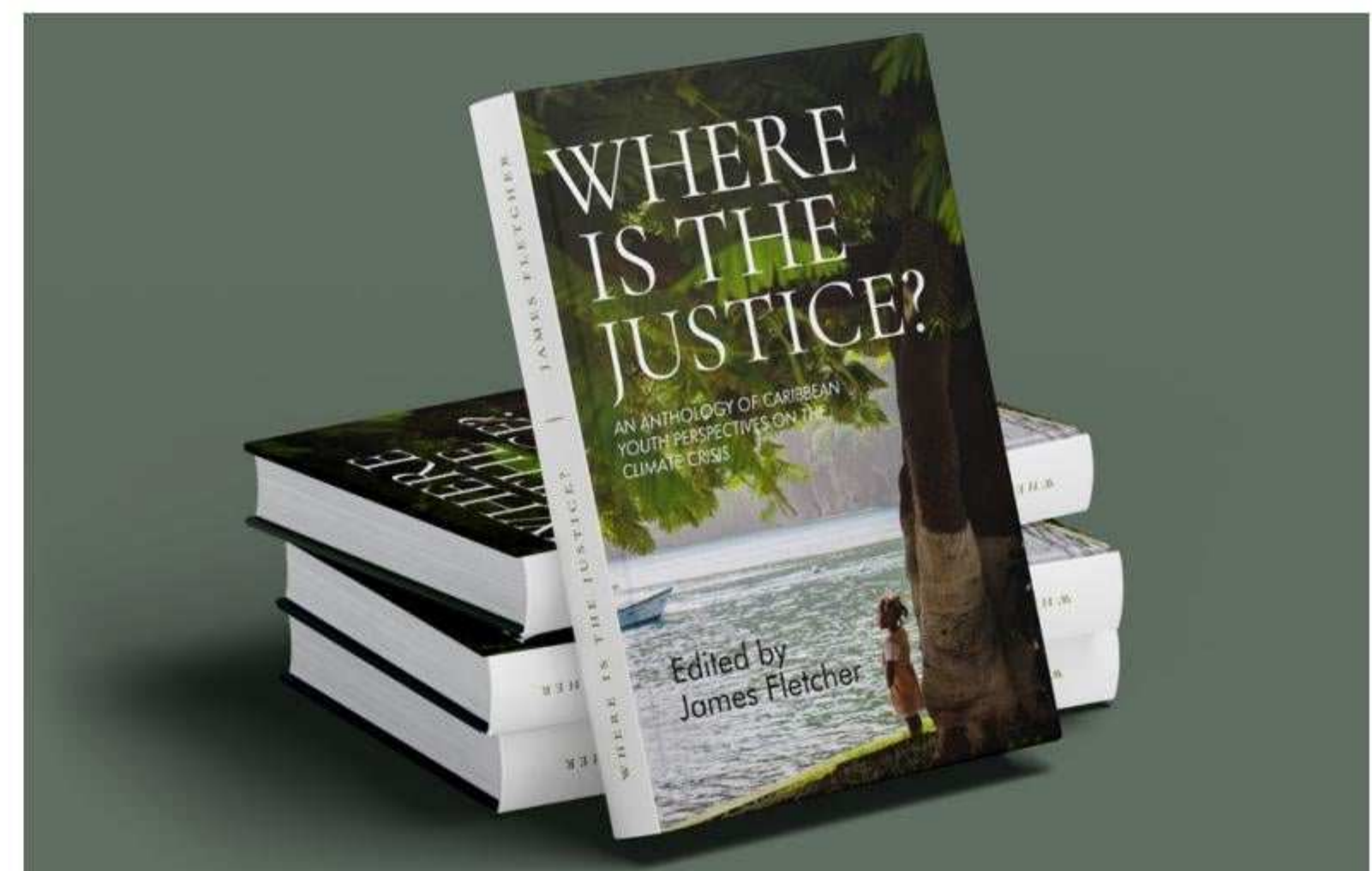
18 **CCCCC and GCF sign new Framework Agreement for continued access to climate financing**

19 **Suriname to receive solar farm upgrades for water pumping equipment for rice fields in Nickerie**

20



Project Highlight



21

WHERE IS THE JUSTICE?

An Anthology of Caribbean Youth Perspectives on the Climate Crisis, edited by Dr. James Fletcher

22

My Climate Testimony

A Passion Raised from the Experience of a Natural Disaster by Jevanic Henry

A photograph of Simon Stiell, a man with glasses wearing a dark suit, light blue shirt, and dark tie, speaking at a podium. The podium features the United Nations Climate Change logo and the text 'UN CLIMATE CHANGE CONFERENCE (UN 2021)'. In the background, the flag of Grenada is visible on the left and a blue backdrop on the right.

Grenada's Simon Stiell is Head of the UNFCCC

By Tecla Fontenard
Communications Specialist, CCCCC

Government officials around the Caribbean and the globe have welcomed the news that Mr Simon Stiell will become the next Executive Secretary of the UNFCCC, based in Bonn, Germany. Mr Stiell spent the last seven (7) years as a senior Minister in the Government of Grenada, where he not only served as Leader of Government Business in Grenada's senate but held several Ministerial positions during his tenure. Most formidably, he became a strong voice for climate change between 2017 and 2022, when he held the portfolios of Minister for Climate Resilience and the Environment.

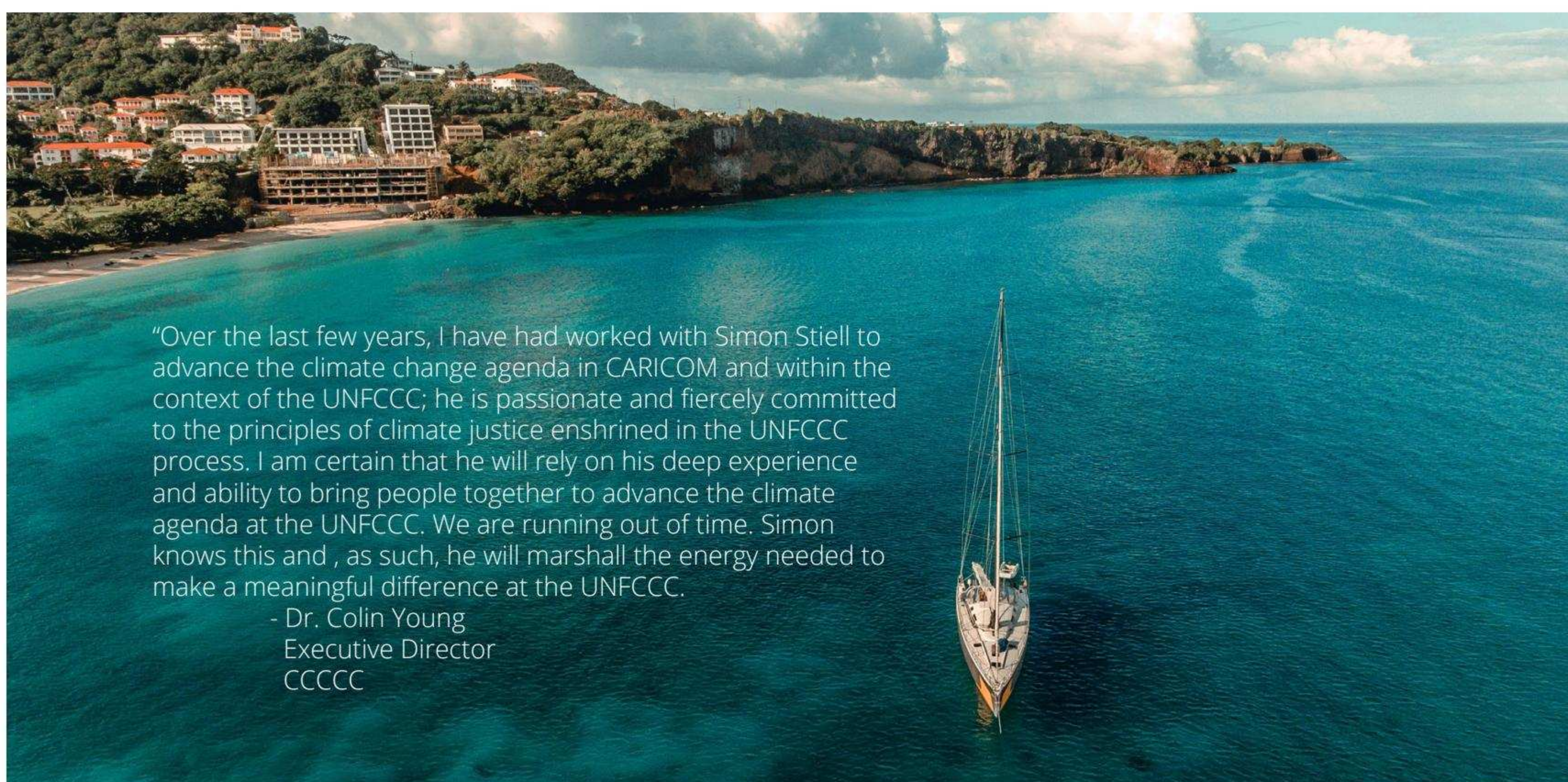
A trained engineer and a holder of an MBA from the University of Westminster in the United Kingdom, Stiell became known on the international climate change stage for his resounding call to large emitters of greenhouse gases to increase climate ambitions and deliver on their promises to help vulnerable small islands like those of the Caribbean adapt to climate change. As a Caribbean son of the soil, Stiell knows all too well the impacts of climate change on the Caribbean and other vulnerable states around the world.

Earlier this year, while still Minister in Grenada's government, he expressed his shock at information released by the IPCC

that the world was on a trajectory to surpass 1.5 °C within the next 5 years. "This report is terrifying" he tweeted. "There is no other way of saying it. Key findings for small islands: We are already reaching limits to adaptation at 1.1 ° C. We are already experiencing loss and damage. We cannot adapt to a world that warms beyond 1.5 ° C", he bemoaned.

Stiell is the first Caribbean native to assume the helm of the UNFCCC. According to a statement by the UN, he is a "true champion for formulating creative approaches for our collective global response to the climate crisis." Before and during COP26, Minister Stiell and Danish Environment Minister Dan Jorgensen were jointly responsible for leading consultations on how countries can lower their emissions faster this decade to keep 1.5° C within reach.

Weighing in on the appointment, Dr Mark Bynoe, Assistant Executive Director at the CCCCC observed that this epitomizes the role that CARICOM has played and continues to play in leading climate change conversations, advocating for increased climate finance and pioneering the call to keep global temperature to 1.5° C. "Senator Stiell brings to the position a passion, dedication, professionalism and a contextual understanding of the threats and challenges posed by climate change and slow



"Over the last few years, I have had worked with Simon Stiell to advance the climate change agenda in CARICOM and within the context of the UNFCCC; he is passionate and fiercely committed to the principles of climate justice enshrined in the UNFCCC process. I am certain that he will rely on his deep experience and ability to bring people together to advance the climate agenda at the UNFCCC. We are running out of time. Simon knows this and , as such, he will marshal the energy needed to make a meaningful difference at the UNFCCC.

- Dr. Colin Young
Executive Director
CCCCC

onset events on small island and low-lying coastal developing states (SIDS) and vulnerable countries having himself come from an island where a single hurricane (Hurricane Ivan) wiped out more than 100% of the Island's Gross Domestic Product (GDP) in 2004."

With the world quickly warming up, there are huge expectations that Stiell can help remedy growing world tensions and step up the urgency with which the climate crisis needs to be treated.

In an article by The UK Guardian Newspaper, Jamaica's Minister for Economic Growth and Job Creation, Hon Matthew Samuda was quoted as saying that Jamaica and the Caribbean look forward to working with Stiell. "He is an excellent choice, very qualified and very committed to the climate change agenda. Most importantly, he understands the challenges of developing nations."

Stiell will replace current Executive Secretary, Ms Patricia Espinosa, as the UNFCCC advances its preparation for the hosting of the 27th Conference of Parties on Climate Change in Sharm El- Sheikh, Egypt, this November.

The CARICOM region and all of SIDS are proud of this auspicious appointment and wish Senator Stiell every success as together we seek to address the scourge of human induced climate change.



1.5°C
TO STAY
ALIVE

Climate change broken promises

How rich countries continue to disappoint the Caribbean

By Mark Bynoe (PhD),
Assistant Executive Director, CCCCC



Since 1995, national delegations have been making the annual pilgrimage (interrupted only by COVID-19) to the Conference of Parties (CoP) in the hope of reaching a firm, enforceable commitment aimed at reducing the escalating greenhouse gas (GhG) emissions and hence tackling anthropogenic climate change. Each year, there are preparatory meetings under the Subsidiary Body for Scientific and Technological Advice (SBSTA) and substantive negotiations at the CoP that more often than not, go beyond their designated time, with diluted, discretionary outcomes hailed as “breakthroughs”. The negotiated outcomes, weak as they are, as epitomized by the Glasgow Pact, are further compounded by slothful, mediocre, and unresponsive implementation measures.

These episodic events have been, by any matrix, a failure, based on their own modest goals, inclusive of scaling-up commitments to keep temperature rise below 1.5°C by accelerating the phase out of coal among other actions, and delivering on the earlier commitment to mobilize much needed climate finance to address adaptation and mitigation initiatives. Many have said that time is running out, but it may not be far-fetched to say that time has ran out for those who have lost their lives due to extreme heatwaves of this past summer, the devastating floods in Pakistan this year, the continued drought in Somalia bringing loss of livelihoods and death, and the continued extreme weather events negatively impacting the Caribbean. The small islands of the Caribbean are likely to continue to face the brunt of the effects due to vacillation, paralysis, and political posturing.

What was promised and what was delivered?

EMISSIONS REDUCTION:

Article 2 of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) states unequivocally that “the ultimate objective of th[e] Convention and any related legal instruments that the Conference of the Parties may adopt is to achieve, in accordance with the relevant provisions of the Convention, stabilization of greenhouse gas concentrations in the atmosphere at a level that would prevent dangerous anthropogenic interference with the climate system. Such a level should be achieved within a time frame sufficient to allow ecosystems to adapt naturally to climate change, to ensure that food production is not threatened, and to enable economic development to proceed in a sustainable manner.”¹ Further, the Paris Agreement Article 2(a) seeks to “..limit global temperature rise to well below 2 °C above pre-industrial levels ... and to pursue efforts to limit the temperature increase to 1.5 °C above pre-industrial levels.”² The Inter-Governmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) found with very high confidence that there will be an increasing occurrence of some extreme events unprecedented in the observational record with additional global warming, even at 1.5°C of global warming. Thus, the situation for Caribbean Small Island Developing States (SIDS) and vulnerable countries remains dire. It is evident that the world is in crisis. The IPCC in the third part of its Sixth Assessment Report (AR6) confirms that maintaining global warming to below 1.5°C is in jeopardy in the near term.³ It further extrapolates that to avoid overshoot of the Paris Agreement’s long-term temperature goal of 1.5°C relative to pre-industrial levels it is

imperative that there is the adoption between 2020 and at the latest before 2025 of climate policies intended to limit global warming to the aspirational target of 1.5°C. For a region that has 8 out of the 32 most water-scarce islands in the world, this will drive up the cost to provide potable water, reduce water available for agriculture and food and nutritional security and increase the cost of living and doing business due to escalating energy costs to make living and working bearable.

CLIMATE FINANCE:

At CoP 15 in Copenhagen, Denmark, developed countries committed to mobilizing and facilitating the mobilization of a minimum of USD100 billion annually by 2020 for adaptation and mitigation efforts, with the promise of scaling this up after periodic reviews. Even with the most creative accounting methods being employed, the countries have not lived up to this promise. In fact, there is a marked emphasis on shifting this commitment into the realm of private capital that often requires a business case, investment at scale, and is notoriously unpredictable. Accessing predictable finances in a timely manner and at scale, remains elusive for most Caribbean SIDS. As such, we continue to build the proverbial half a bridge to nowhere rather than true resilience building. The mantra of building back better remains just that, i.e., rhetoric. In fact, after Hurricane Irma had decimated the Commonwealth of Dominica, significant pledges were made to assist that island to return to at least its former state, but less than half of those pledges were ever delivered.

¹ UN (1995) United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, FCC/INFORMAL/84/Rev.1, Article 2, pp. 3 New York.

² https://unfccc.int/sites/default/files/english_paris_agreement.pdf, pp 5

³ Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC). Climate Change 2022 Mitigation of Climate Change. (2022). https://report.ipcc.ch/ar6wg3/pdf/IPCC_AR6_WGIII_Final_FullReport.pdf

As such, this mantra sounds attractive, but for Caribbean SIDS it has little applicability, because of limited climate finance, high levels of indebtedness, and reduced fiscal space to achieve this lofty goal.

LOSS AND DAMAGE:

While Article 8 of the Paris Agreement recognizes the need to “avert, minimize, and address loss and damage associated with the adverse effects of climate change, including extreme weather events and slow onset events....”, it remains unclear how the mechanism will work to address the losses and damages being experienced by Caribbean SIDS and other developing countries. Loss and Damage continue to be contentious issue in the CoP. Negotiations have zeroed in on a proposed text that will create a “technical assistance facility” to channel financial support to affected communities.

The rhetoric around the need to help vulnerable communities remains, but the promises continue to be empty ones, not backed up by concrete actions. There is a proposal by Barbados to use 1% tax on sales revenues from fossil fuels, which could raise \$70 billion per year. Currently, there seems little appetite and political will to move in this direction.

Conclusion

Despite the many aspirational goals, commitments, and promises, many of the deliverables under the UNFCCC framework remain unfulfilled. These have profound implications for the Caribbean SIDS. It has become critical, therefore, to pursue stronger alliances and accountability, making climate change central in our deliberations if we are to truly address this existential threat.





Is the OECS transition to a Blue Economy at risk?

By Susanna de Beauville-Scott,

Project Manager, Ocean Governance and Fisheries Programme OECS Commission

The world's oceans offer great potential for economic growth and development, improved livelihoods and jobs, and closing the gap on poverty and unemployment rates. This is of particular importance for the Organisation of Eastern Caribbean States (OECS) given that the OECS sea space forms approximately 98% of its overall (land and sea) space.

“As large ocean states, we have much more ocean than land, and we need to recognise, and take up the tremendous opportunities that our ocean resources can deliver to all our citizens, if we plan, manage and care for them in a sustainable and responsible way.”

Dr Didacus Jules, Director General of the OECS Commission

The OECS has embraced a transition to a Blue Economy as represents a clear way forward for the region, building on existing sectors, identifying the sustainable use of ocean resources for economic growth, improved livelihoods and jobs, and maintaining ocean ecosystem integrity. However, in general, while small island developing states (SIDS) have great blue economy potential, they are also highly vulnerable to climate change impacts and other shocks and face significant structural challenges in managing associated risks.

Notwithstanding, the OECS has demonstrated its understanding of the importance of the sea and its commitment to managing it with care for a better quality of life for its populations. The OECS promotes an Island Systems Management approach, which fosters integrated management that extends from the island ridge to the outer limit of the EEZ.

Moreover, the OECS has developed and implemented regional policy instruments, such as the St. George's Declaration of Principles for Environmental Sustainability in the OECS, that enable a multi-faceted response to the challenges of climate change.

As one of the key blue economy frontrunners in the region, the OECS took a key foundational step to enabling a transition to a Blue Economy through the adoption of the Eastern Caribbean Regional Ocean Policy (ECROP) and its associated strategic action plan (ECROP SAP). Endorsed by the OECS Heads of Government in 2013, the ECROP guides the future use of the region's marine waters and provides a basis for enhanced coordination and management of ocean resources within the Eastern Caribbean. Notably, the ECROP is the first of its kind in the Caribbean region.

ISLAND SYSTEMS MANAGEMENT (ISM)

OECS fosters and ISM approach which seeks to attain sustainable management and use of all-natural resources; to reduce vulnerability and build resilience of the entire island and its inhabitants to natural and anthropogenic hazards; and to maintain essential ecological processes, life support systems and biological diversity in the area extending from the ridge to the outer limits of the Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ).

The ECROP offers a way for the OECS Heads of Government to recognise, capitalise and benefit from their shared ocean wealth while improving ocean health, food security, and economic development through smart planning and improved governance of ocean resources. The ECROP was revised in 2020 to align with the 2030 Sustainable Development Agenda and more recent international agreements, such as the Paris Agreement.

The ECROP consists of a vision, principles, policy outcomes and goals and is complemented by National Ocean Policies and Strategic Action Plans at a Member State level.

VISION:

“The coastal and marine resources of the Eastern Caribbean are sustainably managed to optimise the potential of our natural capital to support a blue economy, ensure resilience and adaptation to climate impacts, protect and restore the marine ecosystems of the region, and nurture our natural and cultural heritage for the benefit of current and future generations.”

To facilitate a coordinated approach to the implementation of the ECROP, the OECS has instituted a regional Ocean Governance Team (OGT), which is a team of ocean governance experts, with representation from each of the OECS Member States and the OECS Commission. In addition, National Ocean Governance Committees (NOGC) facilitate action in-country.

Outcome 7 of the ECROP (Resilience in the region is strengthened to mitigate the effects of climate related hazards and environmental change), specifically addresses climate change resilience, noting that the impacts of climate change for OECS Member States may include increases in sea level rise, raised sea surface temperatures and ocean acidification, changes in ocean circulation, and increased intensity and frequency of tropical storms and hurricanes.

The OECS' planning and management for continued and expanded use of ocean and coastal resources will consider any uncertainty, risks, and variability arising from climate change, toward implementing strategies that restore, adapt, and build ecological resilience in coastal and marine systems, while supporting growing blue economies.



Nine Caribbean countries are integrating health into national adaptation plans through support from EU and PAHO

By: Lisa Bayley, Specialist, Communications and Health promotions, PAHO /WHO Office of the Subregional Program Coordination (Caribbean)

Although understanding and managing risks are at the core of health systems, climate variability and change bring new dimensions requiring training and capacity building to mainstream climate change concerns into health policies, strategies, and programs. Adaptation has been a critical component of international negotiations under the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) from the beginning. Currently, Developing and Least Developed Countries (LDCs) create National Adaptation Plans (NAPs) to identify and address medium and long-term climate adaptation needs.

Initiated at the 2010 UNFCCC Conference of the Parties (COP) meeting in Mexico, countries acknowledged that national

adaptation planning is an important process by which developing countries can assess their vulnerabilities, risks, and adaptation options. Since then, the World Health Organization (WHO) created guidance to specifically protect health from climate change through the development of Health National Adaptation Plans (H-NAPs). These plans consider the impact of climate on people's mental and physical health, as well as the social effects.

The goal is to strengthen health systems and protect our well-being from climate variability and change. The European Union-funded CARIFORUM Project operates with this aim and supports 16 CARIFORUM countries in preparing health chapters in their National Adaptation Plans for climate change.

This initiative featured training for developing comprehensive health chapters in the NAPs (or equivalent documents) in December 2020. Since then, six countries, Belize, Saint Lucia, Bahamas, Grenada, Haiti, and Jamaica have become actively engaged. Barbados, Guyana and Saint Vincent and the Grenadines are expected to commence shortly. Further capacity building is also planned in the development of drafting concept notes for funding, facilitated by the Caribbean Community Climate Change Centre.

Based on the WHO guidance document, *Quality Criteria for Health National Adaptation Plans*, the HNAP process should consider unique country dynamics and focus on six key topic areas: leadership and enabling environment; cross-sectoral coordination and policy coherence; comprehensive coverage of climate-sensitive health risks; comprehensive coverage of adaptation options and actions, resourcing, and monitoring, evaluation and reporting.

The Caribbean has fewer articles published on climate and health than other regions of the world, and only a small percentage of these focus on national health mitigation and adaptation implementation. Therefore, despite the Caribbean's unique vulnerability to natural disasters, key areas relating to disaster preparedness in the Caribbean remain a nascent area in published research.

According to Dr Alison Gajadhar, lead consultant for the development of the HNAP in Saint Lucia, "For many Caribbean Islands, like Saint Lucia, the HNAP development process has been invaluable in raising the awareness of the need to formalise and strengthen structures that would facilitate and sustain deeper integration of health adaptation planning into national strategic planning processes, and importantly, to create stronger linkages with key non-health sectors that affect the impact of climate-sensitive health outcomes on the population."

Recently, Saint Lucia conducted a Vulnerability and Adaptation (V&A) assessment and reviewed the capacity of its health system. The Assessment covered climate-sensitive health outcomes such as vector-borne diseases (dengue, malaria, schistosomiasis, zika, chikungunya), water- and food-borne disease (gastroenteritis, E coli, salmonella), zoonotic diseases (leptospirosis) and respiratory diseases (pneumonia, tuberculosis, influenza). Data related to other indirect health outcomes such as mental health and cardiovascular diseases was also evaluated.

The analysis indicated a clear link between increased temperatures and number of dengue cases. In addition, projected declines in rainfall and increased drought months are expected to negatively affect water supply, escalating the risk of waterborne diseases such as gastroenteritis.

"The approach used was a consultative one, and the Ministry of Health was integrally involved in all stages of the process. This was particularly necessary, considering that fact that the activities were led by an external Project Team. Primary and secondary data was collected from various sources, including on-line surveys, focus group sessions, interviews, published reports and national and international databases," Dr Gajadhar noted.

Further, Dr Gajadhar outlined that equally important, are the expectations of increased cohesion among all departments within the Ministry of Health, and the commitment of increased co-ordination of all activities being undertaken to build resilience within the health sector.

For more information on the project and the progress with the HNAPs visit the project website.

<https://www.paho.org/en/caribbean-subregional-program-coordination>

NEWS FROM THE CENTRE

Profile of Keith E. Nichols

By Tecla Fontenard,
Communications Specialist, CCCCC

A national of the island of Saint Lucia, Mr Keith Nichols began working at the Caribbean Community Climate Change Centre (CCCCC) in 2012, and is currently, Head of the Programme Development and Management Unit (PDMU).

He attained a BSc in Natural Sciences from the University of the West Indies, a Post Graduate degree in Marine Affairs from Dalhousie University, Nova Scotia, Canada, and a Master's Degree in Marine Management from the University of Rhode Island, USA.

Before his tenure with the CCCCC, in the 80s and 90s, Keith worked extensively in managing both marine and terrestrial environments through his 17-year experience with the Department of Fisheries in Saint Lucia as a Marine/Fisheries Biologist and Deputy Chief Fisheries Office. In that role, he catapulted efforts to pioneer the aquaculture of sea moss in Saint Lucia and other Eastern Caribbean countries. Between 1997 and 2012, Keith blazed a trail at the OECS Secretariat (now Commission), when during his long tenure, he became a frontrunner in project development, helping teams leverage over US 50 million in combined funds from multiple donors for various environmental-related projects that were implemented across the OECS. As a result of his stewardship, while holding the position of Head of the former OECS Environment and Sustainable Development Unit (OECS-ESDU), Keith maintained the prominence of this Unit as one of the top two self-sufficient Units in the Secretariat. The level of donor funds attracted by this Unit during that period was unsurpassed. This made the Unit the only one of its kind until 2015 when the Unit was fully disbanded and was later re-purposed.

A prolific writer, environmental investigator, exponent, trainer, and mentor, Keith has either led or contributed to several development projects, across the Caribbean including Environmental Impact Assessments (EIAs), Environmental Policies, Action Plans, and many others. He has served on the Board of Saint Lucia's Development Control Authority; as a member of the Council of the Saint Lucia National Trust; and as Chairman of the Saint Lucia Naturalists Society. He is a Life Member of the latter two organizations. Currently, he is Chair of the Comprehensive Disaster Mechanism Coordination and Harmonisation Council (CDMCHC) of CDEMA.





Optimizing his credentials in Project Management and Project Cycle Management, Keith, a certified Project Management Professional (PMP), was among the first cohort of project development specialists at the Caribbean Community Climate Change Centre and served eight years in that position leveraging his previous experiences, knowledge, and networks to bring additional value to the Centre's growth.

He marshalled the development of several projects before he rose to senior management ranks at the CCCCC in 2018. This came as no surprise as Keith steadily demonstrated his value and leadership qualities by assuming roles such as liaison for the CCCCC to several regional agencies and global initiatives such as the Global Water Partnership-Caribbean (GWP-C), the CARICOM Regional Fisheries Mechanism (CRFM), and the Caribbean Disaster Emergency Response Agency (CDEMA) to name a few.

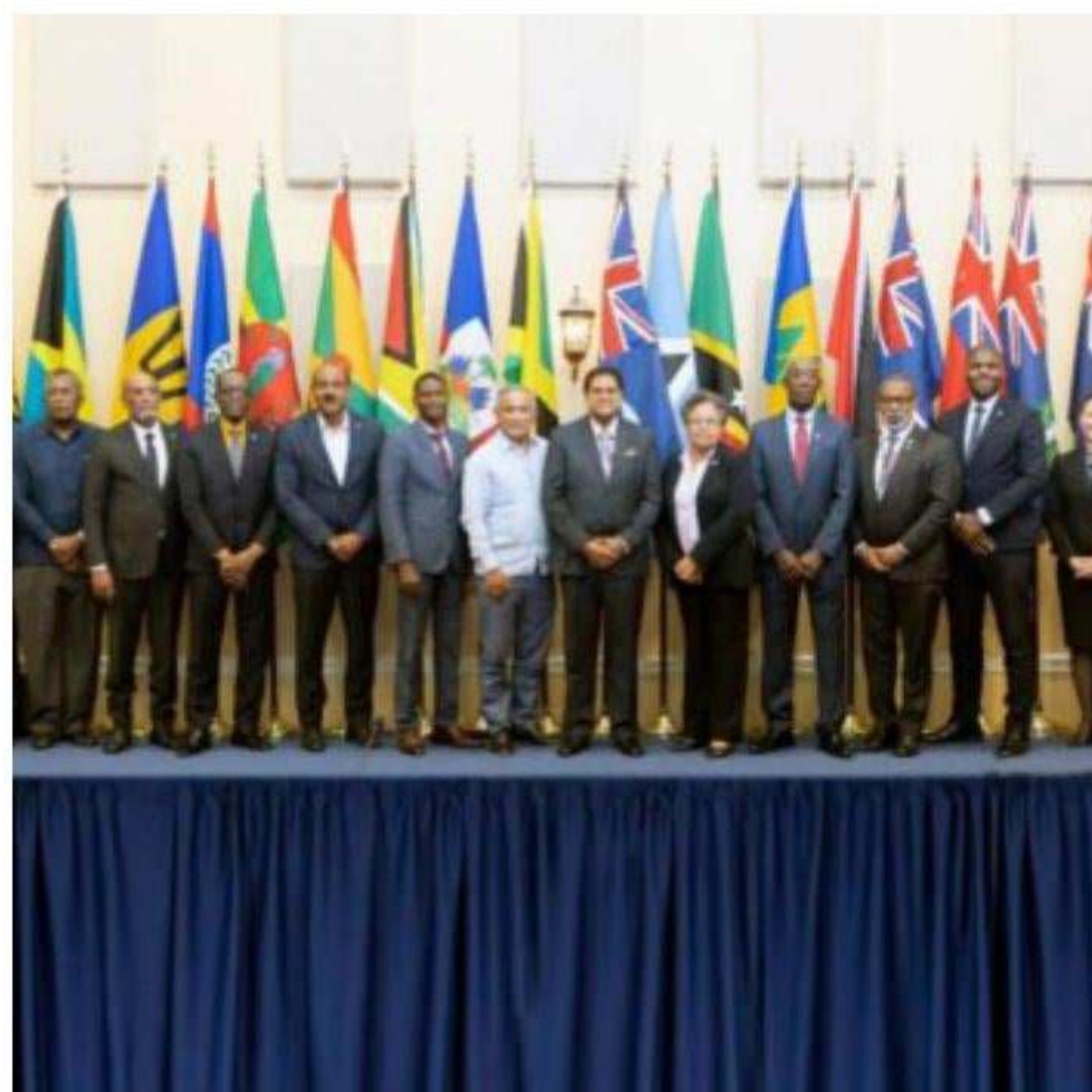
A true regionalist and environmental management specialist, Keith pioneered the concept of Island Systems Management (ISM) based on earlier work on Island Systems by Ed Towle. He has an extensive background in the Caribbean in Coastal Resources Management, Marine Use Management, Governance Frameworks for Sustainable Development, Environmental Management, Protected Areas Management, Climate Change, and Disaster Risk Reduction.

Keith has also led programs on artificial reefs, the mariculture of red seaweeds, aquaculture, coastal and marine protected areas, and ocean governance, among others.

Known for his typical extended loyalty to his employers, Keith is also a long-serving member of staff at the CCCCC.

NEWS FROM THE CENTRE

REGIONAL AND INTERNATIONAL HIGH-LEVEL EVENTS AND VISITS



CCCCC at the 43rd Regular Meeting of the Heads of Government of the CARICOM

Dr. Colin Young, Executive Director of the CCCCC attended the 43rd Regular Meeting of the Heads of Government of the CARICOM on July 3-5, 2022, in Paramaribo, Republic of Suriname. Dr. Young presented “The Problem: From Science to Action: what are the missing links”, briefing Heads on the current state of global progress to keep 1.5C with reach; he informed heads that based on the current trajectory and the ambition articulated in NDCs, the world is on track to reach and perhaps overshoot 1.5 this decade unless significant cuts, aligned to the science, is urgently implemented.

Dr. Young also highlighted the challenges and barriers in accessing climate finance for climate resilient development across the region while recognizing the structural and capacity barriers inherent within CARICOM Member States. He requested that Heads renew their political efforts to press for re-structuring of the international climate change architecture that will simplify the rules of access so as to increase the flow of urgently needed climate finance to the region.

United States Agency for International Development Delegation visits the CCCCC

The CCCCC welcomed a Delegation from the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) to Belmopan on July 12, 2022. During the visit, Dr. Colin Young, Executive Director of the CCCCC, and a small team from senior management discussed further strategic collaboration between the two institutions and the CARICOM Member States on initiatives that contribute to building the climate resilience of our region.



USAID
FROM THE AMERICAN PEOPLE



CCCCC participates in the Latin America and the Caribbean Climate Week

On July 20, Dr. Colin Young served as a panelist alongside Dr. Kenrick Williams, a Member of the CCCCC's Board of Directors, at the Blue Carbon Wetlands side event at the Latin America and the Caribbean Climate Week in Santo Domingo, Dominican Republic. Dr. Young spoke of the current efforts of the Centre, based on a mandate given to it by the Heads of CARICOM, to lead the development of a legislative and policy framework to guide the region's participation in the carbon markets, inclusive of blue carbon. As part of this initiative, the 5Cs will be working with partners to also conduct blue carbon assessments across CARICOM countries as well as building national capacity to conduct blue carbon assessments.



CCCCC joins Wadadli Platform in Antigua

On August 8, CCCCC's Executive Director, Dr. Colin Young joined as a panelist at the 'Wadadli Action Platform', in Antigua and Barbuda where he spoke on how to build a groundswell of support to address loss and damage. He provided ideas on how political support can be leveraged in the lead up to COP 27 to galvanise buy-in for a new Loss and Damage Finance Facility that is fit for purpose and when adequately capitalized can provide resources, at scale, that can help countries rebuild from the devastation caused by climate change. The Wadadli Action Platform was organized and hosted by the government of Antigua and Barbuda in its capacity as Chair of the Alliance of Small Island States (AOSIS).



CCCCC at the Caribbean Regional Heads of Government Meeting in preparation for COP27

Dr. Colin Young, Executive Director of the CCCCC attended the Caribbean Regional Heads of Government Meeting in preparation for COP27 on August 16-17, 2022, in The Bahamas. In his presentation Dr. Young discussed how to scale successful projects being implemented by the CCCCC on behalf of the region. He spoke on the "increasing loss and damage" being caused by climate change across the region; he highlighted the relationship between climate change and high debt within CARICOM Member States and he outlined how the CCCCC has been assisting Member States in mobilizing climate finance to build resilience in the water sector in Barbados.

NEWS FROM THE CENTRE

CCCCC and GCF sign Amended and Restated Agreement in Respect of the Framework Readiness and Preparatory Support Grant Agreement for continued access to climate financing

In a ceremony in South Korea on Wednesday, September 14, 2022, Dr. Colin Young, Executive Director of the Caribbean Community Climate Change Centre (CCCCC) and Ms. Carolina Fuentes, Director, Division of Country Programming of the Green Climate Fund (GCF), signed the Amended and Restated Framework Readiness and Preparatory Support Grant Agreement (FWA). The first Framework Agreement was signed between the CCCCC and the GCF on 5 June 2017.



The Framework Agreement enables the CCCCC to serve as a readiness and preparatory support delivery partner with the GCF to access grants to assist CARICOM Member States to strengthen their institutional capacities, improve governance mechanisms and planning frameworks to facilitate their pass to greater climate finance to improve their climate resilience.

According to Dr. Young, “the Revised and Amended Framework Agreement brings significant efficiency and effectiveness to the management of our Readiness Portfolio that will allow the CCCCC, as a Regional Direct Access Entity, to continue to work with CARICOM Member States to program and deliver GCF readiness support.” Importantly, stated Dr. Young, “the Revised Framework now reflects the extensive experience gained by the CCCCC from implementing 17 Readiness Grants in 11 CARICOM Member States over the last five years.”

Dr. Young was joined by two Members of the Board of Governors, Dr. Kenrick Williams (Belize) and Mrs. Diann Black-Layne (Antigua and Barbuda) and Head of Program and Development Management Unit at the CCCCC, Mr Keith Nichols.

The CCCCC takes this opportunity to acknowledge the willingness of the GCF to undertake this revision that ultimately resulted in a more “fit-for purpose” FWA to govern the Readiness Support Program.

Suriname to receive solar farm upgrades for water pumping equipment for rice fields in Nickerie



Located in the northern part of South America and a member of CARICOM, Suriname shares similar vulnerabilities as small island developing states because of its small population, limited resources, susceptibility to natural disasters, vulnerability to external shocks, and high dependence on international trade.

Rice farming is an important contributor to the country's economy and can be described as the single most important livelihood in Suriname's agricultural sector. If there is no rice, there is no food in Suriname. With climate change, this risk is looming.

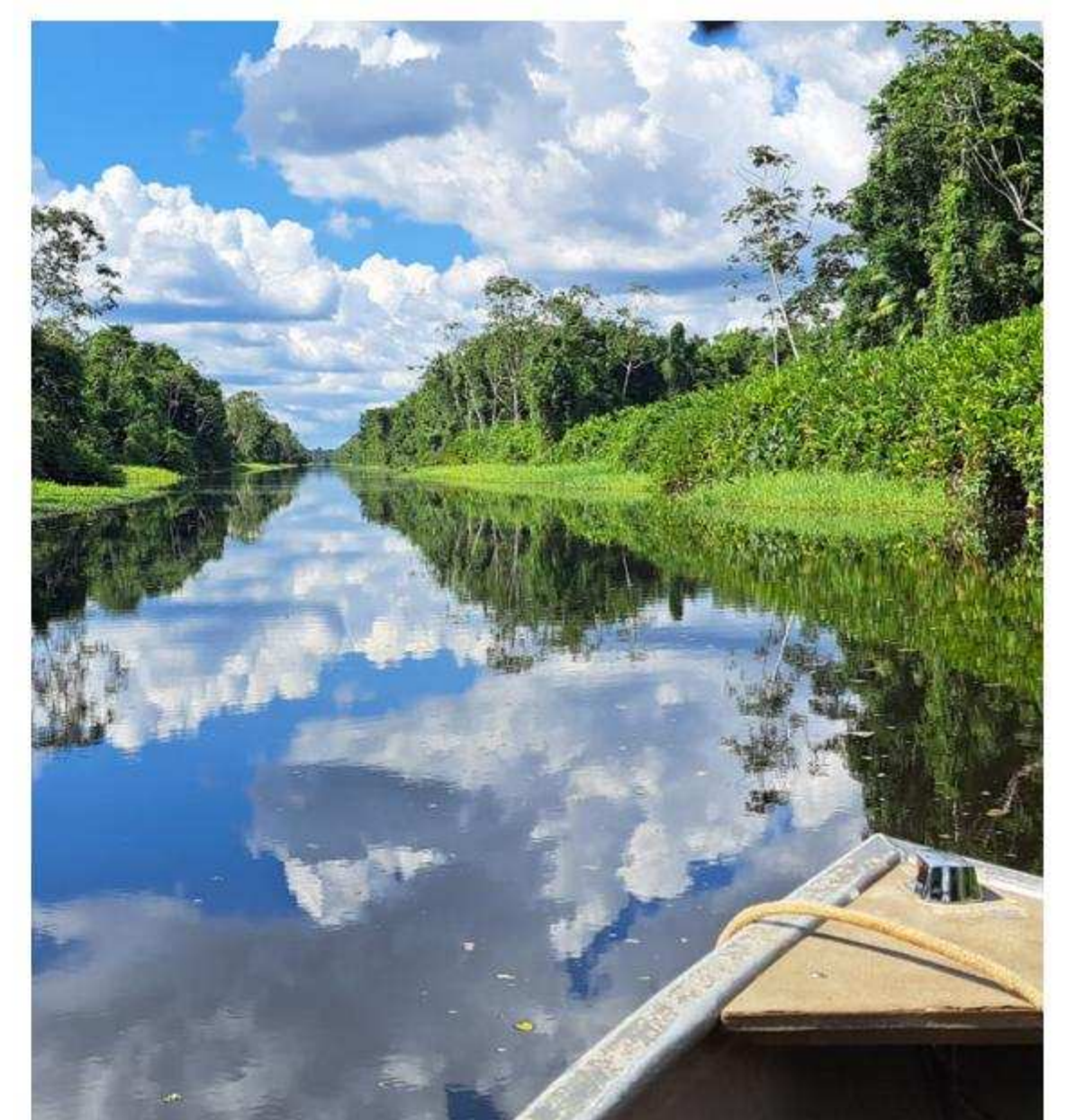
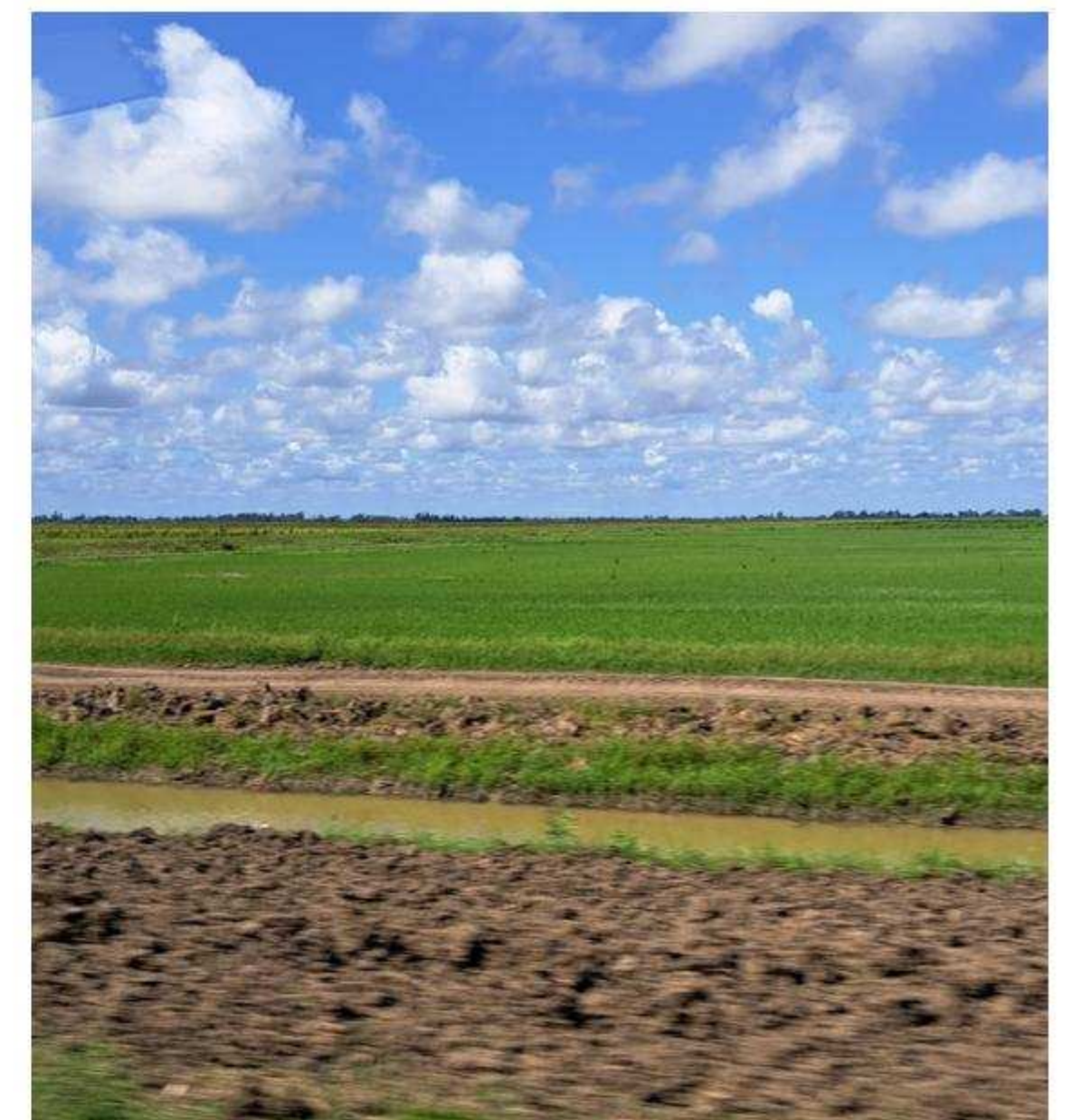
Partnerships with the European Union (EU) make it possible for the Caribbean Community Climate Change Centre to assist the government and people of Suriname to be ready for predicted weather patterns that will continue to worsen because of climate change. Together we are able to make climate change investments in the rice sector that will reduce the country's vulnerability to weather extremities and improve food security for its local population.

The Corantjin canal seen below helps keep its rice industry irrigated during dry seasons when its main source of water, the nearby Nanni swamp, dries up. Climate change exacerbates the dry season.

Through the Intra-ACP EU-GCCA+ Programme, the government and people of Suriname will benefit from solar farm upgrades and repairs to the pumping station at Nickerie, which will help bring back confidence in the rice sector as the economy depends on it.

A visit to the rice fields at Nickerie, and the pump station that services the area gives Mr. Ansel Dubon, Lead Project Manager at the CCCCC a bird's-eye view of the challenges and how the investments from the EU will contribute to its food security as we prepare for the ominous climate crisis that continues apace.

Suriname is one of sixteen States in CARIFORUM earmarked to benefit from climate investments under the Intra-ACP EU-GCCA+ Programme.





Project Highlight:

Building Capacity for a Regional Approach to Climate Action in the Caribbean: Caribbean Community Climate Change Centre.

VALUE: USD 1,802,657.00

FUNDING AGENCY:

Green Climate Fund (GCF)

DURATION: 4 years (extended from 3 to 4 years due to the COVID-19 pandemic).

BENEFICIARIES:

The NDAs of Belize, Commonwealth of Dominica, Jamaica, Republic of Haiti, Saint Lucia, and Saint Vincent and the Grenadines. .

OVERALL OBJECTIVE:

To enhance the capacity of the CCCCC to facilitate and increase the origination of high-quality funding proposals for GCF consideration. This Readiness support is also expected to enhance the Regional Framework and its accompanying Implementation Plan. This will be realised through four strategic areas:

1. Revision of the regional framework and Priority Investment Options for Climate Resilience
2. Improvement in data collection and dissemination
3. Strengthening the Programme Development and management Unit (PDMU)
4. Strengthening administrative capacity

OVERVIEW

As a regional direct access entity (AE), the CCCCC has a mechanism, which includes the Regional Framework and Implementation Plan, to coordinate climate action in the region. By utilizing a bottom-up approach, the aim is to develop bankable projects, both national and regional, consistent with national priorities, the Regional Framework, the GCF's strategic results area and investment criteria and the Sustainable Development Goals (with specific reference to Goal 13).

In the Caribbean, direct access entities (AEs) seek support to enhance their capacity to identify, develop and implement projects for the GCF. Therefore, in June 2017, during a GCF Structured Dialogue with the Caribbean in Belize, countries of the region emphasized the urgency to provide dedicated technical support to direct access AEs for developing high-quality funding proposals. The NDAs of Jamaica and Saint Lucia stepped forward with bold leadership and commitment to support this regional initiative, inviting other countries to join their regional DAEs. Since then, Belize, the Commonwealth of Dominica, Republic of Haiti and St. Vincent and the Grenadines have expressed their commitment to this effort.

This project, therefore, is specifically aimed at accessing readiness funding to enhance the capacity of the CCCCC, to facilitate and increase the origination of high-quality funding proposals for GCF consideration. It seeks to address key challenges and capacity building support needs for advancing GCF funding proposals for CARICOM Member States, and will also enhance the Regional Framework and its accompanying Implementation Plan both aimed at articulating clear actions to combat climate change in the Caribbean.

WHERE IS THE JUSTICE?

An Anthology of Caribbean Youth Perspectives on the Climate Crisis, edited by Dr. James Fletcher

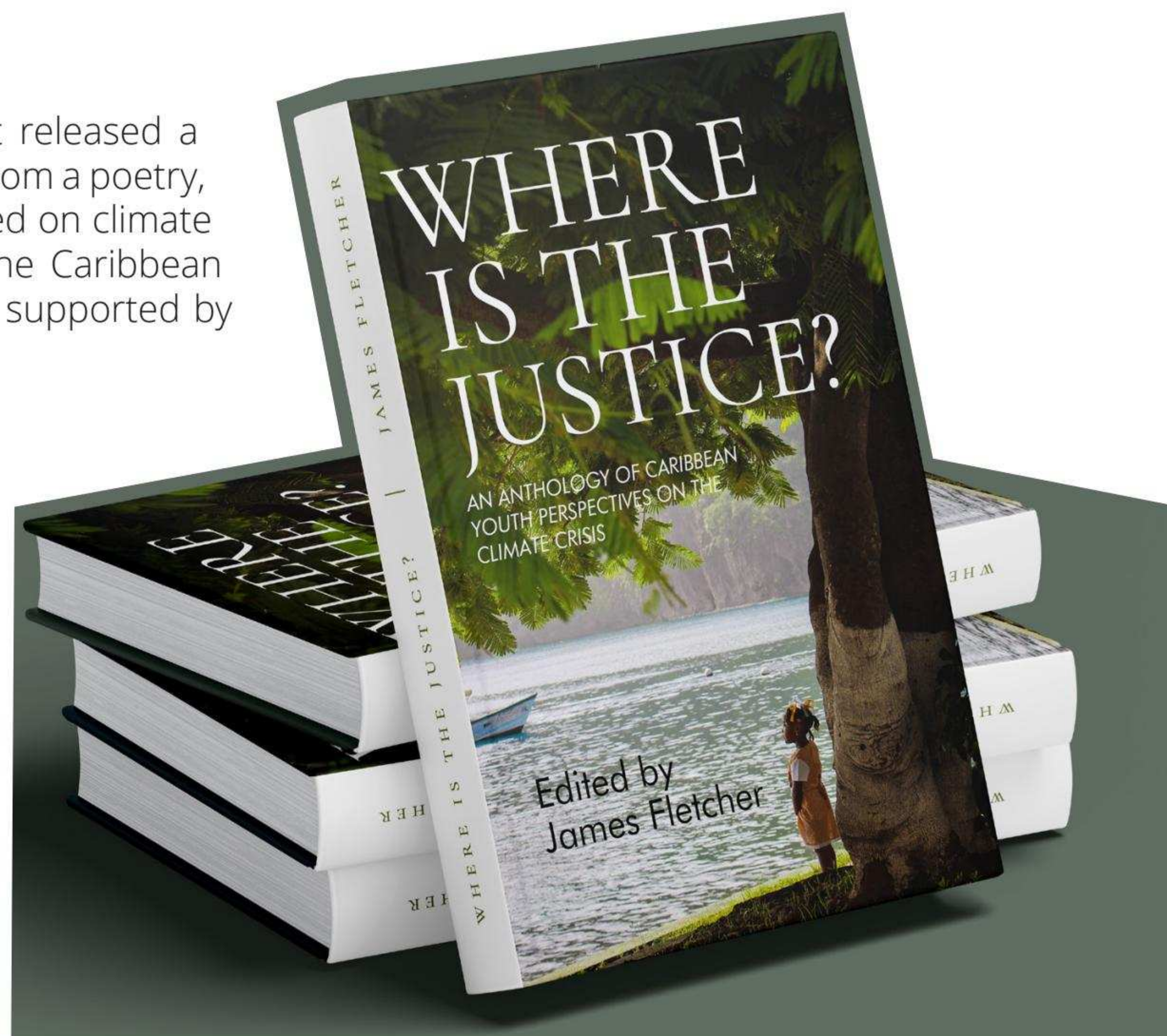
The Caribbean Climate Justice Project released a collection of the winning submissions from a poetry, prose and photography contest focused on climate change in which youth from across the Caribbean participated in 2021. The activity was supported by the CCCCC.

The writings represent a wide range of perspectives, and each one, in its own way, draws attention to the ways in which climate change is impacting the Caribbean and is already causing hardship and injustice, particularly to at-risk groups.

In this collection are reflections on what climate change means to our youth, how they perceive the Caribbean will look by the year 2035, and what they would say if speaking directly to a climate sceptic friend, the UN General Assembly, Caribbean heads of government, or if addressing their prime minister as a special advisor on climate change. The book also contains the ambitious resolution on climate justice that was debated and adopted in the inaugural Virtual Caribbean Youth Parliament on Climate Justice in September 2021.

This anthology is a persuasive and poignant call for action from the young citizens of the Caribbean on the most serious threat to their future. The unfolding climate catastrophe will compromise their ability to enjoy the quality of life that previous generations experienced. The anthology is a plea to the global community to respond with the alacrity that the climate emergency demands. Moreover, it is a powerful message to Caribbean leaders that they must engage with Caribbean youth so these young people can be given an opportunity to help formulate solutions and to be part of the national, regional and global response to this existential crisis.

Where is the Justice, was launched on August 17, 2022, and is available on Amazon in paperback, kindle and hardcover formats.



My Climate Testimony

A PASSION RAISED FROM THE EXPERIENCE OF A NATURAL DISASTER

by Jevanic Henry

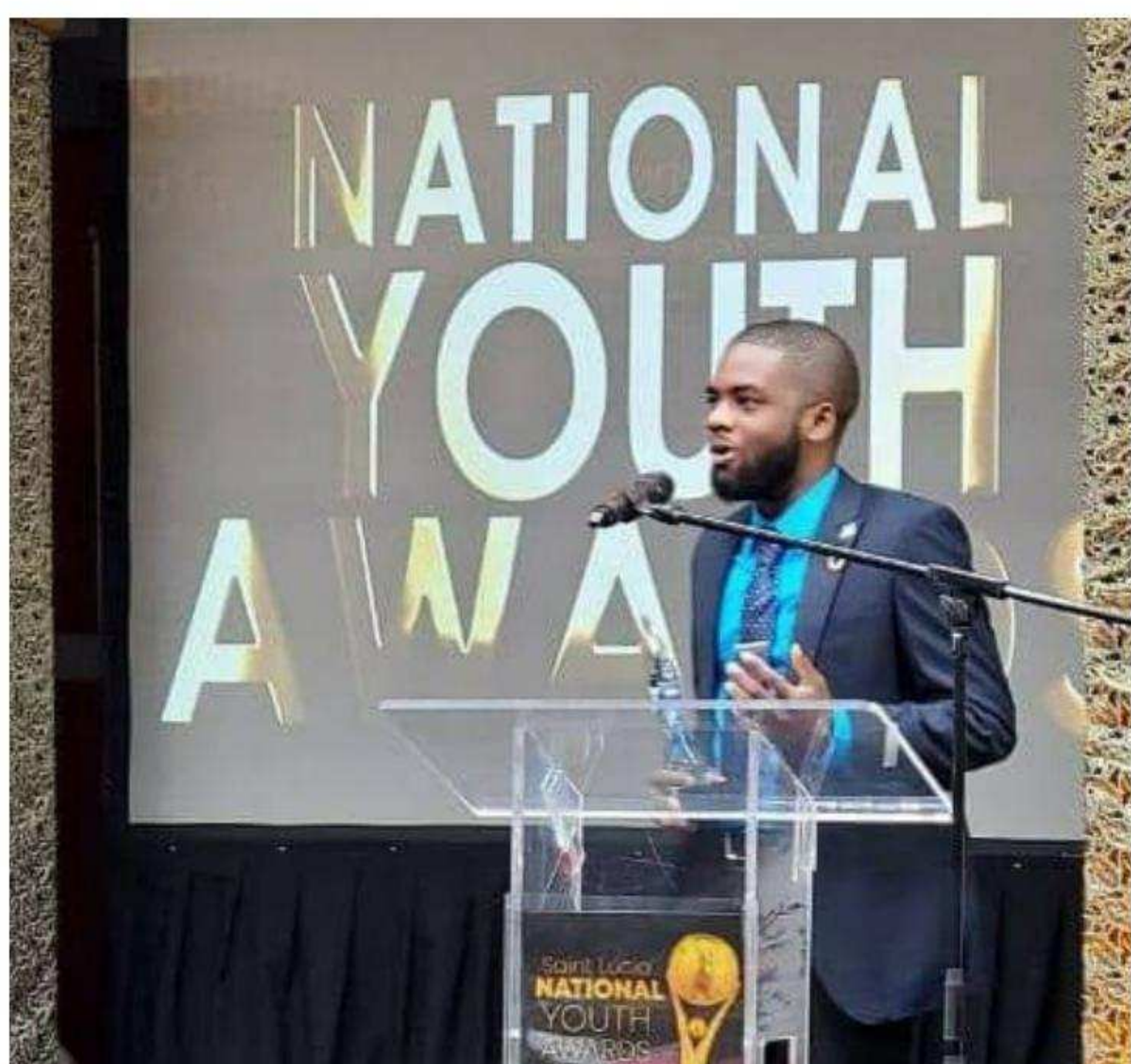
For many of us, prior to the past decade, climate change was merely a theoretical concept. Establishing the direct connection between this phenomenon and its impact on our daily lives particularly in vulnerable regions such as the Caribbean, was unfathomable.

For me, this all changed on the eve of Christmas in 2013, when an extraordinary package of torrential rain drenched Saint Lucia due to a low-level trough system. It took lives, and caused extensive damage to property and infrastructure, and left psychological damage on citizens.

It was an unexpected out of season event which fueled my curiosity at a tender age to find out the potential contributing factors to such a disaster. By 2015, with heightened attention around COP21 and the Paris Agreement, the broader view of elements around the climate crisis became clearer. The efforts of the Caribbean Youth Environment Network (CYEN) with the 1.5 to Stay Alive Campaign during this time was a catalyst in enhancing my understanding of not only the importance of this issue but also my role in advancing solutions. This is why I continue to acknowledge the CYEN as a model institution for enhancing the capacities of young people on matters of climate and the environment, whilst also providing avenues for active meaningful involvement in climate action at all levels.



Jevanic is a young climate change activist from Saint Lucia. Currently a special envoy on Climate Change for the Caribbean Youth Environment Network (CYEN), he has also served as a Global Youth Climate Network (GYCN) Climate Ambassador for Saint Lucia



This newly discovered passion and drive towards advancing the climate agenda, has led to my involvement in various campaigns, forums, and projects across the world at the grassroots, government and multilateral level. There has been no greater joy than being able to successfully support community youth organisations in Saint Lucia in accessing finance or technical support towards climate resilience building efforts, for instance, during the pandemic era, and seeing the positive transformation in the lives of those at extreme risk.

In addition to this on-the-ground experience, I have been fortunate to be an active contributor in many intergovernmental initiatives critical to shaping climate policy and action including serving at the Commonwealth Secretariat, and multiple UN agencies, notably as one of the lead youth fellows on the UN Secretary General's Common Agenda Initiative. As one who is keen on knowledge sharing, I have also been able to translate these experiences into knowledge products, for instance by co-authoring a practical toolkit on enhancing access to climate finance.

Whilst we have made significant progress in recent years on raising awareness as well getting a wider cross-section of individuals engaged in climate action, in my view there remains room for improvement

particularly with us as young people, whom I believe are yet to fully grasp our potential in contributing to the attainment of national climate targets. We need to first ensure we take the right steps towards ensuring youth are viewed as an essential ingredient to national and regional climate action and not merely added for flavour.

Recognising this, I now place a great emphasis on ensuring Saint Lucia, and by extension, the region's youth are better placed to fully capitalize on the opportunities for enhancing their contribution to advancing this agenda, utilising the strong partnerships I have developed, having served within the diplomatic arena and working within the international climate finance landscape.

Do you have a story?

Join us in putting the spotlight on Climate Change related news and issues, one Caribbean perspective at a time.



Caribbean Community
Climate Change Centre

**Caribbean Community
Climate Change Centre**
3rd Floor, David L. McKoy
Business Center
Bliss Parade, P.O. Box 563
Belmopan, Belize, Central America
Phone: +(501) 822-1094
pr@caribbeanclimate.bz