

Enhancing a Coordinated Approach on Financing for Climate Action on Land in the Caribbean

27 April 2021



The Commonwealth



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



United Nations
Convention to Combat
Desertification

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Contents

Background.....	1
Opening Remarks	2
Regional Collaboration on Accelerating Action on the 3 Rio Conventions	2
Achieving Land Degradation Neutrality Targets - A Caribbean Overview	3
Delivering Technical Support for Strengthening Climate Change Policies and Strategies 3	
Mobilising Climate Financing for NDC Implementation: A need for Maximising Synergies	4
Addressing Financing Gaps for Effective Implementation of the Post 2020 Biodiversity Framework in the Caribbean	4
Financing a Regional Recovery in the Post COVID-19 era	5
Key Points of Discussion.....	6
Closing Remarks and Way Forward.....	6
Main Outcomes	7
ANNEX I: Agenda	8
ANNEX II: Event Photo Collage	9
ANNEX III: List of Participants.....	11

Background

Biodiversity loss, climate change and land degradation are collectively and interrelated major factors which threaten to derail development gains and prospects of all countries. Developing countries are most vulnerable to these global threats. A coordinated approach in implementing the three Rio Conventions - the United Nations Convention on Biological Diversity (UNCBD), the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), and the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD) will enable the world to address these interrelated threats more effectively and efficiently.

Decreasing precipitation in arid and semi-arid areas due to climate change aggravates land degradation, and consequently, directly threatens livelihoods and increases the threats of hunger and famine. Ecosystem and biodiversity losses threaten natural goods and services critical for small and large-scale agricultural production. Biodiverse ecosystems also provide a vast reserve of species to draw from, allowing farmers to adapt to changing conditions, respond to crop diseases, insect infestation, and climate change. Similarly, desertification and poverty create a vicious cycle where deteriorating natural resources contribute to declining livelihoods, as people are forced to encroach further on fragile soils, sparse vegetation and limited water resources to meet basic needs.

Countries are missing substantial opportunities to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and reduce climate vulnerability in cost-effective ways by not maximising the potential of sustainable land management (SLM) practices. In light of this, it is critical that new pathways and partnerships are developed towards financing ambitious, coordinated and accelerated action, aimed at achieving all the benefits of SLM.

As countries update their climate targets and mitigation ambitions under Article 4 of the Paris Agreement, the Commonwealth Secretariat has called on member countries to consider the impact of agriculture, forestry, and land use changes on climate change in their Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs). The Commonwealth in a Call to Action on Living Lands is proposing a Living Lands Charter which seeks to catalyse the global political momentum for enhancing climate action, building resilience, reducing biodiversity loss, and arresting land degradation.

Through the Commonwealth Climate Finance Access Hub (CCFAH), the Secretariat is supporting member countries in designing climate finance strategies to revise and implement their NDCs as well as converting these into investment plans, deploying climate finance experts in government departments to help with project proposals, strengthen climate change policy and build capacity. The CCFAH has a significant presence in the Caribbean, supporting the mobilisation of approximately US\$37.2 million of climate finance in 4 member countries (Antigua and Barbuda, Barbados, Jamaica and Saint Lucia) as at March 2021. The total amount mobilised by CCFAH since becoming operational in 2016 is US\$43.8 million in 6 member countries across the Africa, Caribbean and Pacific regions, including the 4 Caribbean states, Mauritius and Tonga as at March 2021.

It is against this background that the Commonwealth Secretariat in partnership with the UNFCCC RCC-St George's and UNCCD hosted this webinar aimed at synchronising and catalysing action for nature-based solutions around biodiversity, land, and climate change financing in the Caribbean. The Regional Collaboration Centre (RCC) of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) for the Caribbean supports national climate action through capacity-building, technical assistance and strategic networking to better tailor such support, particularly in the development of clean development mechanism (CDM) projects in the region. The Regional Liaison Office for Latin America and the Caribbean (LAC RLO) and the Global Mechanism (GM) of the UNCCD also support countries to address the issues of land degradation, desertification and drought through the

development of relevant policies, targets, and measures and facilitating their implementation and integration into national agendas for sustainable development.

Opening Remarks

The webinar commenced with the moderator of the event, **Mr. Unnikrishnan Nair, Head of the Climate Change Section of the Commonwealth Secretariat**, welcoming all attendees and setting the meeting context. This was then followed by opening remarks from the Senior Director of the Economic Youth and Sustainable Development Directorate (EYSDD) of the Commonwealth Secretariat.

Dr. Ruth Kattumuri, Senior Director, EYSDD, Commonwealth Secretariat, in her welcoming remarks noted that the webinar builds on from the UNGA High-Level Side Event jointly organised by the Commonwealth Secretariat and UNCCD on Accelerating Action around Land for Enhanced Climate Action in September 2020. She indicated that Land Degradation exacerbates the existing vulnerabilities of Small Island Developing States (SIDS) to environmental challenges, such as climate change, which severely undermine the socio-economic resilience of these countries, and as a result, the Commonwealth Secretariat has recognised the need to leverage synergies between biodiversity, climate and land, thereby bringing together the three Rio Conventions to catalyse coordinated action on land.

Dr. Kattumuri emphasised that adequate and readily available financing mechanisms to reach these targets, particularly in vulnerable regions like the Caribbean, are becoming increasingly important within national and regional post COVID-19 pandemic green recovery plans. She highlighted The Commonwealth Climate Finance Access Hub (CCFAH) as one of the flagship initiatives of the Commonwealth Climate Change Programme, assisting climate vulnerable countries in building technical and institutional capacity towards strengthening their ability to access climate finance.

The Senior Director indicated that Nature-based Solutions (NbS) are increasingly emerging as a valuable, cost-effective cross-cutting pathway for mitigating climate change, restoring degraded land and biodiversity, further adding that innovative financing models, which will facilitate both private and public sector funding in nature, are therefore crucial in reducing emissions and building resilience.

Dr. Kattumuri concluded by affirming the Secretariat's intention to continue utilising its convening power, through partnerships in supporting those most at risk to the impacts of climate change, land degradation and biodiversity loss, and further added that the Commonwealth is placing emphasis on accelerating action around land for enhanced climate action with a proposed Call to Action on Living Lands (CALL) Charter which will seek to advance nature restoration efforts towards achieving related land, climate and biodiversity targets.

Regional Collaboration on Accelerating Action on the 3 Rio Conventions

Mr. Keith Nichols, Head, Programme Development and Management Unit, Caribbean Community Climate Change Centre (CCCCC), focused his presentation on how the Centre positions itself to coordinate regional action on the 3 Rio Conventions in the context of green recovery efforts. Recognising the diverse make up of member states, he highlighted that different approaches are required to be employed within the programming of the Centre in order to effectively meet the needs of members. Mr Nichols spoke of the various vulnerabilities surrounding land in the region and the economic implications these bring about in member states. For instance, increasingly drier conditions, decreasing precipitation rates and heavy rainfall events in the region, are exacerbating the depletion of land resources. He recommended for development agencies to shift focus away from

simply land use planning and land management and adopt a more futuristic, comprehensive Sustainable Land Management (SLM) approach, whereby sectors are allocated land according to use, importance and equity. He concluded his presentation by expressing the need and continued desire of the CCCCC to collaborate with regional and international partners to advance this adjustment of sectoral policies and shift to sustainable land management in the region.

Achieving Land Degradation Neutrality Targets - A Caribbean Overview

Mr. Pedro Lara Almuedo, Land Use and Climate Change Officer, Global Mechanism of the UNCCD began his intervention by providing a background on Land Degradation Neutrality (LDN) and how land is key to addressing the climate crisis. Reference was made to the co-beneficial impact for Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) which land restoration and rehabilitation have, with a focus on Target 15.3 of the SDGs, which aims to achieve Land Degradation Neutrality (LDN) worldwide by 2030, being a key accelerator of this process.

Reference was made to the LDN Target Setting Programme (TSP) coordinated by the Global Mechanism (GM) and UNCCD Secretariat which was established to enable countries to define national baselines, set voluntary LDN targets and identify measures to achieve them. It was noted that 15 Caribbean countries have committed to set LDN targets, with 11 having successfully set such targets¹. These LDN targets and measures focus primarily on forestry and agriculture, land restoration activities, and data and monitoring actions.

As part of efforts to support the movement of policy into concrete action the GM is supporting the development of Transformative Projects and Programmes (TPPs). For the Caribbean region, there is a target of US\$150 million to be mobilised under this initiative with 2 countries (Grenada and Dominican Republic) currently developing LDN TPP and 1 potential multi-country TPP for Caribbean SIDS to be developed together with the Partnership Initiative on Sustainable Land Management (PISLM). Key resources have been in development to complement this initiative including a checklist for LDN TPPs, Operational Guidance for country support and a manual for gender responsive LDN TPPs. He also made mention of emerging funding sources such as the UNEP/IUCN Global Fund for Ecosystem-based Adaptation which can support the region in looking beyond traditional funding sources like the Green Climate Fund.

He concluded his intervention reiterating the need for technical and financing resources to meet the increasing demand for support to prepare bankable TPPs in LDN implementation whilst also linking to implementation of drought related activities, as well as stronger partnerships to mobilise resources and support parties in preparing bankable projects and boost capacity building efforts.

Delivering Technical Support for Strengthening Climate Change Policies and Strategies

Mr. Vintura Silva, Regional Lead, UNFCCC Regional Collaboration Centre St. George's which covers 16 countries in the region, shared a brief overview of Caribbean NDC and National Adaptation Plan (NAP) targets particularly highlighting links to Agriculture, Forestry and Other Land Use (AFOLU) sector. In sharing feedback from member countries on support needs and challenges, he indicated that support for Monitoring, Reporting and Verification (MRV) and Monitoring and Evaluation (M&E) were the top request from member states, as well as the development of AFOLU inventory. A lack of capacity to prepare funding proposals was also highlighted as the main challenge in accessing climate funds for the region. In addition to larger budgets, countries are also calling for longer time frames

¹ List of countries available [here](#).

in the delivery of technical support. He concluded his presentation by highlighting the convening role of the UNFCCC Regional Centre in bringing implementing partners together and ensuring the needs of countries are identified and supported more effectively. The CCFAH in partnership with such entities was also mentioned as a key mechanism which can further drive progress on land in the region given the technical support the hub can provide. He added that the Commonwealth Living Lands Charter in bringing together expertise from the 3 Rio Conventions and building on the support provided by through the experts of the Commonwealth Climate Finance Access Hub, will be an added advantage to the Caribbean region.

Mobilising Climate Financing for NDC Implementation: A need for Maximising Synergies

Ms. Uzoamaka Nwamarah, Adviser Climate Change, Commonwealth Secretariat and Mr. Ranga Pallawala, Commonwealth National Climate Finance Adviser for Belize in their presentation provided an overview of the climate finance landscape, the Commonwealth Climate Finance Access Hub (CCFAH), interlinkages between climate, biodiversity and land as well as the importance of maximising synergies in financing NDCs. In her opening statements, Ms. Nwamarah reiterated that successfully achieving NDC targets will require incorporating all action on SLM. It was highlighted that based on the 2020 UNFCCC Caribbean NDC Survey Report - anticipated financial resources are the main hindrance to countries raising their NDC ambition levels. Creation of a transparent enabling environment that can reduce investor risk is a critical factor highlighted towards unlocking financial flows. Focusing on the various categories of country needs inclusive of developing bankable projects and pipelines as well as developing climate finance strategies and road maps, the work of the Commonwealth Secretariat through the CCFAH to meet these country needs were highlighted. It was noted that the Caribbean has been the largest beneficiary of the CCFAH having 23 of the 31 approved projects.

Mr. Pallawala highlighted various areas for maximising synergies including around various climate finance sources and channels, coordination and engagement platforms, as well as around data for enhanced climate action. The ongoing work of CCFAH in Belize under the NDC Partnership Climate Action Enhancement Package (CAEP) initiative, whereby support is being provided towards developing a Climate Finance Strategy, was an example highlighted which is looking to maximise synergies around financing channels, creating country capacities as well as enhancing institutional strengthening through multi-partner engagement and coordination on climate finance.

Addressing Financing Gaps for Effective Implementation of the Post 2020 Biodiversity Framework in the Caribbean

Dr. Joth Singh, Programme Manager, Ecosystem-based Adaptation Facility, Caribbean Biodiversity Fund (CBF) presented on the CBF financing instruments supporting people centred green-blue initiatives. Dr. Singh rebranded “small island states” in the Caribbean as “large ocean states”, highlighting the ratio of land to ocean as 1:85 and the importance of recognising the intermediate area between terrestrial and coastal spaces in order to avoid compartmentalising and following only a delineated approach to land and sea. He indicated that CBF places focus on coastal and marine environments as well as land issues, in which, a large percentage of the projects supported involve both land and sea.

Dr. Singh delved into the structure of the CBF as an umbrella environmental fund which was established in 2012 to support the financial aspects of the Caribbean Challenge Initiative aiming to protect and conserve 20 percent of the marine and coastal environment by 2020. The targets have

been achieved in terms of declared areas by an estimated 61 percent. He added that deliberations are ongoing to follow through with another initiative by 2030 and it is expected that there will be consistency with aspirations of the CBD's post 2020 biodiversity framework - a consideration to protect 20 percent of the planet by 2030.

Dr. Singh indicated that the CBF currently manages US\$125M through a Conservation Finance Programme and Climate Change Programme and expects an additional US\$50M within the year from the Circular Economy Fund. The CBF and a group of National Conservations Trust Funds [NCTFs] form the Caribbean Sustainable Finance Architecture in which the two main instruments are the Endowment Fund and Ecosystem-based Adaptation (EbA) Fund. He elaborated that funding for endowment flows through National Conservation Trust Funds which then provide grants for national and regional projects whilst funding from the EbA facility, a sinking fund, flows directly to organisations for national and regional projects. He added that the Conservation Finance Program, supported by the Endowment Fund, committed US\$69.5M with financing coming from KfW Group, The Nature Conservancy (TNC), and the Global Environment Facility (GEF) through the WorldBank and United Nations Development Program (UNDP) to support NCTFs in 9 Caribbean countries.

Dr. Singh identified that the current focus of the CBF Climate Change Programme is ecosystem-based adaptation (EbA) which is a people-centred approach that utilises natural systems to build resilience and reduces the vulnerability of local communities to climate change. The EbA facility, equipped with an initial funding from KfW of US\$50M, supports 9 Caribbean countries through open calls for proposals to sponsor a wide range of EbA actions.

Dr. Singh provided more examples of projects CBF supports, utilising the green-blue initiative, such as a Regional R2R Project implemented by IICA in four countries which utilises the approach of building climate resilience through upland and coastal EbA and coastal engagement as well as a Ridge to Reef stressor reduction project in St. Vincent and the Grenadines which engages community based organisations, and public and private sector actors to remove and reduce land-based sources of pollution to the marine ecosystems. Dr. Singh concluded by reiterating the importance of recognising the intermediate area where land and sea engage.

Financing a Regional Recovery in the Post Covid19 era

Mr. Nicholas Ross, Climate Finance Specialist, Environmental Sustainability Unit, Caribbean Development Bank (CDB) shed light on public debt which continues to increase exponentially, due to the increased vulnerabilities of Caribbean countries to the impact of climate-related hazards which affect livelihoods and infrastructure throughout the region thus leading to a significant need for funding for relief, recovery and redevelopment efforts. Mr. Ross noted that governments continue to incur debt to respond to these challenges and found that CDB borrowing member countries had public debt levels exceeding 75-100 percent of GDP at the end of 2020. He stated that countries continue to combat extreme weather events and the financial burden to respond to these challenges will fall on national governments which further limit already constrained fiscal space and public debt. High debt levels affect a country's ability to invest in resilience enhancing projects whereby the government is forced to either allocate the scarce fiscal space to more urgent needs or creditors are unwilling to lend at affordable rates.

Mr. Ross stressed that major delays in upscaling adaptation investments may lead to a vicious cycle of mounting climate-associated impacts which would further increase public debt and thus further undermine adaptive capacity going forward, collectively worsened by the current state of the COVID-19 pandemic situation. He indicated that CDB data shows the significant increase in public debt levels in borrowing member countries of 10-20 percent more in 2020 compared to previous years and as a

result these countries have entered 2021 with public debts of about 75-130 percent of their GDP with slim economic prospects.

Mr. Ross acknowledged that investment decisions shaped by the region's farmers and land users will shape the overall development sector. Furthermore, climate action among these stakeholders is critical to not only enhance the resilience in agricultural production but also to ensure that land is managed in a way that reduces vulnerability to other climate hazards. To address these challenges, CDB supports borrowing member countries by providing support to secure PPE supplies, offering debt servicing assistance and policy-based loans, and continuing to finance capital projects. CDB continues to scale up support for resilience enhancing investments.

Mr. Ross concluded by emphasising that coordinated action at the international level is key to addressing the debt issue. He highlighted the pronounced need for global concessional funds to flow through the global finance architecture and the need to account for climate change vulnerability when determining how to deliver international financial assistance and debt relief.

Key Points of Discussion

The two main areas of discussion were around sustainable land management and fast-tracking of investments:

- Ms. Uzoamaka Nwamarah requested further input from CCCCC on sustainable land management and criteria for land allocation to ensure equity across sectors in terms of priorities to which Mr. Nichols responded that land allocation needs to be country specific and is determined by the country's projection for growth. He added that there needs to be a balance between the needs of the country and society for economic and social growth.
- Mr. Pedro Lara reiterated Mr. Ross' statement on the urgency to act and posed a question on how investments may be fast-tracked. Mr. Lara stated that through the lens of the pipeline of the Global Mechanism, the need to streamline the process of access to finance right from concept note to implementation on the ground has been observed. He also echoed that there is a preference for grant-based financing and added the need to know how to measure success in long term investments.

Closing Remarks and Way Forward

Ms. Harriet Cross, British High Commissioner to Trinidad and Tobago started by thanking the Commonwealth Secretariat, the UNFCCC and the UNCCD for hosting the engaging and stimulating webinar. As chair of COP26, Ms. Cross emphasised the UK's priority to working on the issues of climate action on land. Cross reminded that this would be the first time since 1992 that the Conference of Parties (COPs) of the 3 Rio Conventions would fall within the same year which the UK will capitalise on to drive integrated action on climate change, land degradation and biodiversity loss to achieve four main goals: (i) cut emissions to keep global temperature increase within 1.5°C; (ii) facilitate greater action on adaptation; (iii) mobilise finance; and (iv) facilitate successful negotiations.

Ms. Cross stated that the UK recognises that financing for climate action is essential and encourages the convening of international partners around practical and innovative solutions. She added that the UK has committed £1.44 billion to the GCF for 2020-2023, and strongly encouraged developed countries to deliver on their commitments to mobilising a combined US\$100B in public climate finance and pushes for added funding from private finance.

Ms. Cross highlighted countries' concerns on the quality composition and effectiveness of climate finance and echoed the need for progress on issues concerning debts, fiscal space and mentioned the commitments from the WB and IMF to provide more concessional resources to vulnerable countries.

On 31 March 2021, the UK hosted a [climate and development ministerial meeting](#) where the issues of the webinar's theme were discussed and published in a pathway document detailing next steps. The UK commits to working with Fiji and other countries to initiate a task force on accessing climate finance to support national plans.

Ms. Cross concluded by reiterating the importance of synchronised action for Nature Based Solutions around land, biodiversity and climate change, and expressed that the main outcomes of the session will be relayed to the UK ministers to be incorporated into internal discussions.

Dr. Ruth Kattumuri, Senior Director, EYSDD, Commonwealth Secretariat, closed the session by commending the British High Commissioner for the leadership the UK has taken for COP26, and thanked participants and panel members for attending. Dr. Kattumuri underlined comments from CBF on the importance of involving people, particularly women and youth, in solutions. She emphasised the need of coordinated efforts among financial entities whether national, regional or international and introduced insurance and taxation ending notes to the discussion.

Main Outcomes

The main outcomes of the event included:

- A renewed commitment by the Commonwealth Secretariat, UNFCCC, UNCCD, and regional actors to work collectively in addressing land degradation, biodiversity loss, and climate change to achieve the targets of the 3 Rio Conventions under the Commonwealth CALL for action on Living Lands.
- A recognition of the need for coordinated action at the international level calling into play the public and private sector as well as civil society, particularly women and youth, as relevant stakeholders to drive sustainable nature-based solutions.
- A call for improved access as well as predictable and sustained climate finance for small and other vulnerable states, with increased support for implementing bankable projects around nature-based solutions.
- A recognition of the need for increased and fast-tracked provision of global concessional funds to developing countries through a global finance architecture that delivers international financial assistance and debt relief.
- In the run-up to COP 26, Commonwealth will support in building a call for stakeholders and member countries to ensure quantity, quality and composition of climate finance in line with the Climate and Development Pathway as brought out by the Climate and Development Ministerial.

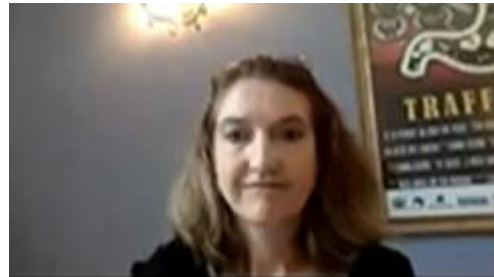
ANNEX I: Agenda

Time	Agenda
10:00 - 10:05 (5 mins)	Welcome and Introduction <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Dr. Ruth Kattumuri, Senior Director, Economic Youth and Sustainable Development Directorate, Commonwealth Secretariat
10:05 - 10:10 (5mins)	Context Setting on the Need for Enhanced Coordination: Ministerial High-Level Event Summary Video including Key Messages from: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Rt Hon Patricia Scotland QC, Secretary General of the Commonwealth Ms. Patricia Espinosa, Executive Secretary UNFCCC Mr. Ibrahim Thiaw, Executive Secretary, UNCCD Ms. Elizabeth Mrema, Executive Secretary, UNCBD
10:10 - 10:20 (10 mins)	Regional Collaboration on Accelerating Action on the 3 Rio Conventions <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Mr. Keith Nichols, Head, Programme Development and Management Unit, Caribbean Community Climate Change Centre (CCCCC)
10:20 - 10:30 (10 mins)	Achieving Land Degradation Neutrality Targets - A Caribbean Overview <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Mr. Pedro Lara Almuedo, Land Use and Climate Change Officer, Global Mechanism of the UNCCD
10:30 - 10:40 (10 mins)	Delivering Technical Support for Strengthening Climate Change Policies and Strategies <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Mr. Vintura Silva, Regional Lead, UNFCCC Regional Collaboration Centre St. George's
10:40 - 11:00 (20 mins)	Moderated Q & A and Discussion
11:00 - 11:05 (5 mins)	BREAK
11:05 - 11:15 (10 mins)	Mobilizing Climate Financing for NDC Implementation: A Need for Maximising Synergies <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ms. Uzoamaka Nwamarah, Adviser Climate Change, Commonwealth Secretariat Mr. Ranga Pallawala, Commonwealth National Climate Finance Adviser for Belize, Commonwealth Secretariat
11:15 - 11:25 (10 mins)	Addressing Financing Gaps for Effective Implementation of the Post 2020 Biodiversity Framework in the Caribbean CBF's Financing Instruments Supporting People-Centred Green-Blue Initiatives <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Dr. Joth Singh, Programme Manager, Ecosystem-based Adaptation Facility, Caribbean Biodiversity Fund
11:25 - 11:35 (10 mins)	Financing a Regional Green Recovery in the Post COVID-19 Era <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Mr. Nicholas Ross, Climate Finance Specialist, Environmental Sustainability Unit, Caribbean Development Bank (CDB)
11:35 - 11:55 (20 mins)	Moderated Q & A and Discussion
11:55 - 12:00 (5 mins)	Closing Remarks and Way Forward <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ms. Harriet Cross, British High Commissioner to Trinidad and Tobago
Moderator: Mr. Unnikrishnan Nair, Head of Climate Change, Commonwealth Secretariat	

ANNEX II: Event Photo Collage



Dr. Ruth Kattumuri, Senior Director,
Economic Youth and Sustainable Development
Directorate, Commonwealth Secretariat



Ms. Harriet Cross,
British High Commissioner to Trinidad and
Tobago



Panellists (L-R): Mr. Keith Nichols, Head, Programme Development and Management Unit, Caribbean Community Climate Change Centre (CCCCC); Mr. Pedro Lara Almuedo, Land Use and Climate Change Officer, Global Mechanism of the UNCCD; Mr. Vintura Silva, Regional Lead, UNFCCC Regional Collaboration Centre St. George's



Ms. Uzoamaka Nwamarah,
Adviser Climate Change, Commonwealth
Secretariat



Mr. Ranga Pallawala, Commonwealth National
Climate Finance Adviser for Belize,
Commonwealth Secretariat



Dr. Joth Singh, Programme Manager,
Ecosystem-based Adaptation Facility,
Caribbean Biodiversity Fund (CBF)



Mr. Nicholas Ross, Climate Finance Specialist,
Environmental Sustainability Unit, Caribbean
Development Bank (CDB)



Moderator: Mr. Unnikrishnan Nair,
Head of Climate Change,
Commonwealth Secretariat

ANNEX III: List of Participants

Panelists

- Dr. Ruth Kattumuri, Senior Director, Economic Youth and Sustainable Development Directorate, Commonwealth Secretariat
- Ms. Harriet Cross, British High Commissioner to Trinidad and Tobago
- Mr. Unnikrishnan Nair, Head of Climate Change, the Commonwealth Secretariat
- Mr. Keith Nichols, Head, Programme Development and Management Unit, Caribbean Community Climate Change Centre
- Mr. Pedro Lara Almuedo, Land Use and Climate Change Officer, Global Mechanism of the UNCCD
- Mr. Vintura Silva, Regional Lead, UNFCCC Regional Collaboration Centre St. George's
- Ms. Uzoamaka Nwamarah - Adviser, Climate Change
- Ranga Pallawala - CNCFA for Belize
- Dr. Joth Singh, Programme Manager, Ecosystem-based Adaptation Facility, Caribbean Biodiversity Fund
- Mr. Nicholas Ross, Climate Finance Specialist, Environmental Sustainability Unit, Caribbean Development Bank (CDB)

Other Guests

- Kai Kim - Commonwealth National Climate Finance Adviser for Seychelles
- Katherine Cooke - Commonwealth National Climate Finance Adviser for Fiji
- Ruth Phillips Itty - Commonwealth National Climate Finance Adviser for Saint Lucia
- Winston Bennett - Commonwealth National Climate Finance Adviser for Barbados
- Sasha Jattasingh - Commonwealth National Climate Finance Adviser for Antigua & Barbuda
- Andrew Schofield - Operations Officer, Commonwealth Secretariat
- Josephine Latu-Sanft - Senior Communications Officer
- Jevanic Henry - Assistant Research Officer, Commonwealth Secretariat
- Jamella Chesney - Assistant Research Officer, Commonwealth Secretariat
- David Smith - University of the West Indies
- Janeel Miller-Findlay - Government of Saint Vincent and the Grenadines
- Kirk Douglas - Director Centre for Biosecurity Studies, University of the West Indies
- Marcia Brandon - Caribbean Centre of Excellence for Sustainable Livelihoods (COESL) and Barbados Association of NGOs
- Rosanna Jaskaran - Partnership Initiative on Sustainable Land Management (PISLM)
- Calvin James - Partnership Initiative on Sustainable Land Management (PISLM)
- Sondra Cheong - Government of Guyana
- Ulrike Krauss - Technical Officer, EbA Facility Caribbean Biodiversity Fund (CBF)
- Yabanex Batista - CEO Caribbean Biodiversity Fund
- Ama Boateng - UNFCCC/RCC
- Ainka Granderson - Caribbean Natural Resources Institute (CANARI)
- Amy Smith - British High Commission
- Jose Miguel - UNCCD
- Derek Gibbs - CDB
- Charlotte Tom
- Chante Saunders
- Chaka Audain
- Avlon Charlery
- Andrew Bishop
- Adrian Bellamy
- Aaliyah Tuitt

- Schmoi McLean
- Cecilia Valeria Gasicboj
- Ronnie Griffith
- Nicole O'Reggio
- Le-Anne Roper
- Kim Downes Agard
- Kervelle Baird
- Kerricia Hobson
- Jason Williams
- Hannah Martinez
- Diane Marie Wade
- Phillpa Ricketts-Edmund
- Katherine Blackman
- Kerrian Jessamy
- Anna Maniam
- Andjela Vragovic
- Vondelle Ifill-Greenidge
- Michelle Alvarez
- Karen McDonald Gayle
- Marvin Boyce
- Nyasha Hamilton
- Rawleston Moore
- Tash Van Doimen
- Suzanne Elder
- Schmoi McLean
- Rohan Payne
- Orson Nixon
- Munazza Naqvi

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