



# Shaping a model for successful civil society participation in national governance & sustainable development processes

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## About CANARI

CANARI is an independent, technical, non-profit organisation, registered in 1989 (but born out of an initiative started in 1976).

Our mission is to promote and **facilitate equitable participation and effective collaboration in the management of natural resources** to ensure a better quality of life and conservation of natural resources critical to the development of Caribbean islands.







# CANARI's Civil Society & Governance Programme

Our goal is "to enhance the capacity of civil society stakeholders to participate equitably and effectively in the governance of natural resources and amplify their voices, through research and action learning, innovative capacity building programmes and communication and application of lessons learnt."



■ Capacity building (technical and organisational), including training and mentoring



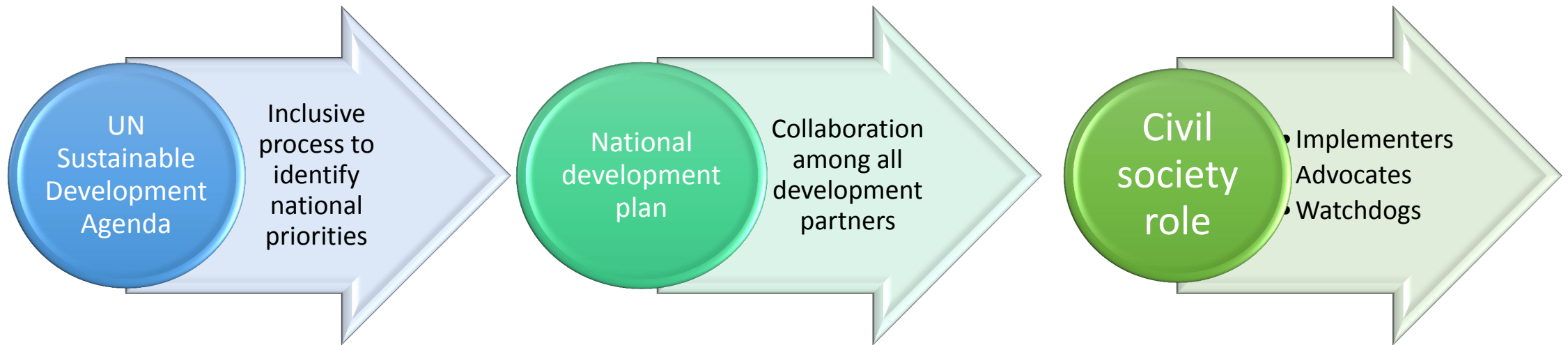
Advocacy and facilitating participatory processes to support civil society inclusion



■ Facilitating networking and knowledge sharing



# The Issue and Opportunity: Civil society participation in governance & development



There is the need for a more inclusive process to implement international commitments and national obligations for sustainable development

**Government cannot (and should not) do it alone!**





## CSOs For Good Governance:

Enhancing civil society's contribution to governance and development processes in Trinidad and Tobago

### The Initiative

Establishment and facilitation of an [SDGs Catalysts Network](#) – an informal network of 20-25 leading Civil Society Organisations (CSOs) working across sectors to address the range of Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) in Trinidad and Tobago.



## Objectives of the SDGs Catalyst Network:

### Advocacy

- **Develop** collective civil society positions and facilitate and promote joint advocacy to influence sectoral and national policy for implementation of the SDGs

### Action

- **Mobilise** and encourage civil society action for implementation the SDGs and support reporting on civil society contribution to delivery of SDGs

### Partnerships

- **Improve** capacities for more effective partnerships among CSOs and between civil society and government and other development partners

### Participation

- **Ensure** effective civil society engagement in the prescribed national coordination mechanism for the SDGs being led by the Government

# Environmental Cluster Group: (Environment focused CSOs)

- Caribbean Natural Resources Institute (CANARI) – Coordinator
- Environment Tobago
- IAMovement
- Caribbean Youth Environment Network (CYEN-TT)
- Trinidad & Tobago United Fisherfolk (TTUF)
- The Cropper Foundation
- Council of Presidents of the Environment (C.O.P.E.)

Role in mainstreaming climate change action across SDGs – promoting integrated, inter-sectoral approaches to working







What results so far?



# Civil society started mapping and re-aligning its work with the SDGs



CSO Catalysts identify how their work is aligned with the SDGs.



# Promoting SDGs and communicating more effectively on their work



CSO Catalysts report on how their work is delivering the SDGs.

# Building relationships – identifying synergies, gaps, opportunities & improvements for working together



SDGs Catalysts share a vision of working more effectively together for collective advocacy and action. Strong relationships will be key for this.



# Exploring roles for civil society as development partners



CSO Catalysts recognise that they are already working to help deliver the SDGs, including as advocates, implementers and watchdogs for sustainable development.

# Collectively identifying civil society priorities for sustainable development



CSO Catalysts identify priorities as a rights-based, locally-driven and environmentally sustainable approach to development.



# Civil society is collaborating for a stronger voice

"We believe the CSO sector can become a model for collaboration, engagement and innovative advocacy, with the SDGs as the foundation"





# Engaging in knowledge sharing and exchange

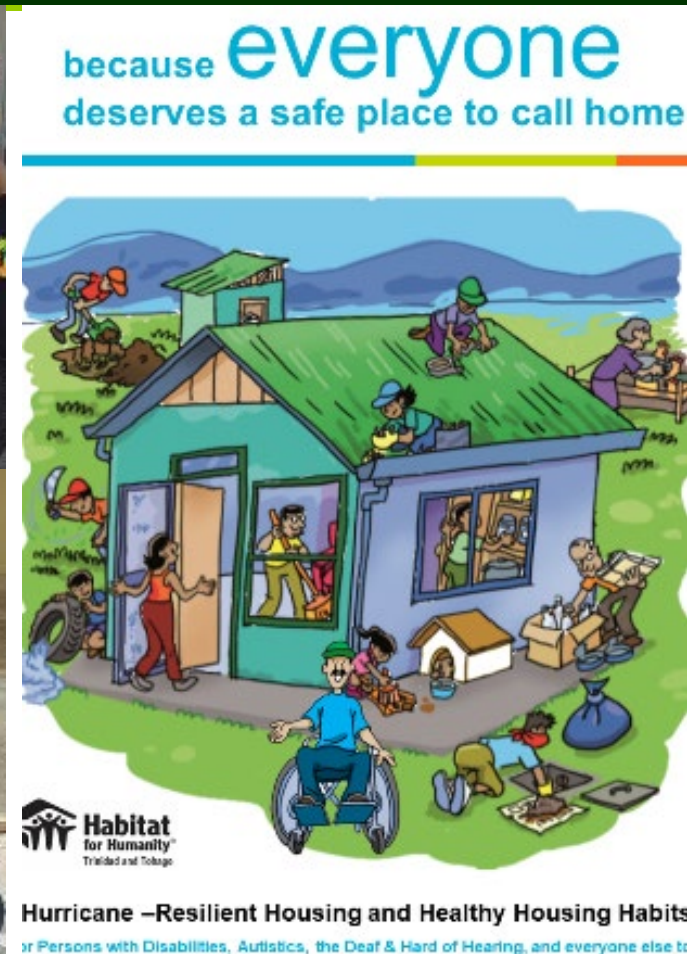
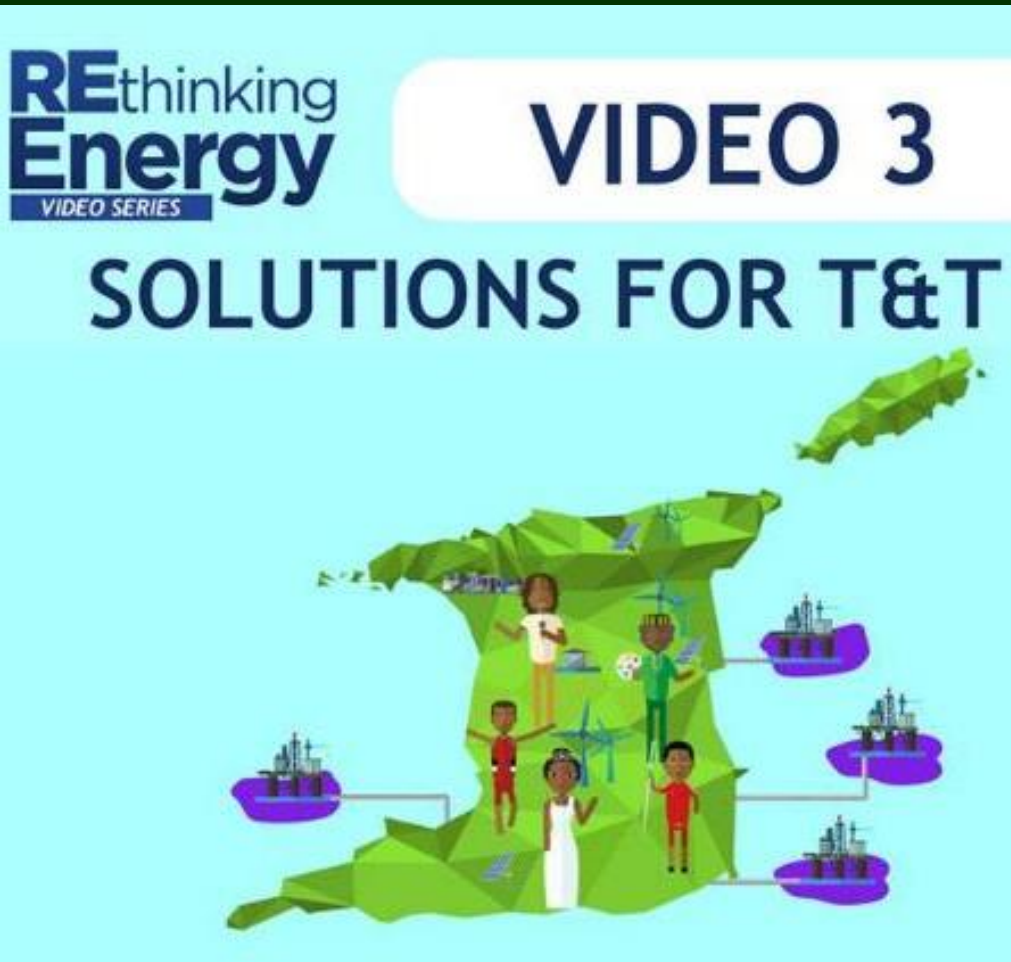


Welcome to the  
**Caribbean Civil  
Society SDGs  
Knowledge Platform**

**Launching  
soon!**

We believe that CSOs will be able to participate more effectively in SDG advocacy and implementation if they are well informed about the SDGs and inspired by what other Caribbean CSOs are doing

# Implementing practical advocacy action



CSO Catalysts are raising awareness and calling for policies and actions to support the SDGs.





## CSO Catalysts have called on the government and the international community:

To recognise the contribution being made by civil society to delivering the SDGs in Trinidad and Tobago

To practice more participatory approaches to implementation of the SDGs which involve partnering with civil society and local communities in Trinidad and Tobago

To ensure that civil society is guaranteed an active role in national decision-making on the SDGs, including a role in deciding on priorities and monitoring implementation

To offer the support civil society needs to serve as a critical partner in sustainable development in Trinidad and Tobago





## A continuum of participation

Reference:  
A continuum of participation in natural resource management.  
From Borrini-Feyerabend (1996)

Full control by agency with authority: Top-down decision making where some stakeholders may be informed of some decisions		Control and decision-making shared between stakeholders		Full control by natural resource users: All stakeholders fully involved in decision-making
CONSULTING	ACTIVELY SEEKING CONSENSUS	DEVELOPING AND DECIDING ON SPECIFIC AGREEMENTS	SHARING AUTHORITY AND RESPONSIBILITY FORMALLY	TRANSFERRING AUTHORITY AND RESPONSIBILITY COMPLETELY





# How can parliaments collaborate with civil society organisations to tackle this issue?

Encourage governments to support self-organisation and capacity building by national civil society networks for effective representation and voice

Create spaces for CSOs to be formally represented on decision-making bodies and structures (e.g. national committees) and include civil society representatives on national delegations to inter-governmental fora

Engage civil society in the formal process to monitor national implementation, while recognising the value of independent monitoring and review by civil society (shadow or spotlight reports).

Create credible spaces for knowledge exchange and sharing to help build capacity and visibility nationally and wider region





# Thank you!

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