

Civil Society & the SDGs

Annual Report

2017-2018



CSOs For Good Governance: Enhancing Civil Society's contribution to governance and development processes in Trinidad & Tobago (CSOs4GoodGov)



Funded by the European Union



Annual Report 2017-18

The [CSOs For Good Governance: Enhancing Civil Society's contribution to governance and development processes in Trinidad & Tobago \(CSOs4GoodGov\)](#) project is spearheaded by a consortium of seven* leading CSOs with the overarching ambition of enhancing civil society's contribution to governance and development processes in Trinidad and Tobago (T&T) and specifically, to support the effective involvement of CSOs in national implementation of the 2030 Sustainable Development Agenda.

This report was prepared by the Caribbean Natural Resources Institute (CANARI) as an output of the CSOs4GoodGov project. CANARI leads the component on establishing the SDGs Catalysts Network and functions as coordinator and convenor of the Network.

CSOs4GoodGov project information and products are available on CANARI's [project webpage](#).



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CSOs4GoodGov project consortium members:



* Caribbean Natural Resources Institute, Environment Tobago, Network of NGOs for the Advancement of Women, United Way Trinidad and Tobago, University of the West Indies Institute for Gender and Development Studies, Veni Apwann and Women's Institute for Alternative Development.

Partners & contributors

Acknowledgements

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Members of the [SDGs Catalysts Network](#):

1. Adult Literacy Tutors Association (ALTA)
2. Agricultural Society of Trinidad & Tobago
3. Association of Civil Society Organisations of Trinidad and Tobago (ACSOTT)
4. Caribbean Kids and Families Therapy Organisation (CKFTO)
5. Caribbean Natural Resources Institute
6. Caribbean Youth Environment Network- Trinidad & Tobago Chapter (CYEN-TT)
7. Energy Chamber of Trinidad & Tobago
8. Environment Tobago (ET)
9. Families in Action (FIA)
10. Family Planning Association (FPA)
11. Habitat for Humanity Trinidad and Tobago
12. IAMovement
13. National Centre for Persons with Disabilities (NCPD)
14. Network of NGOs of Trinidad and Tobago for the Advancement of Women (Network)
15. SERVOL Trinidad and Tobago
16. The Coalition Advocating for Inclusion of Sexual Orientation (CAISO)
17. Trinidad & Tobago Transparency Institute (TTTI)
18. Trinidad and Tobago United Fisherfolk (TTUF)
19. United Way Trinidad and Tobago
20. UWI Institute for Gender & Development Studies (UWI-IDGS)
21. Veni Apwann (VA)
22. Women's Institute for Alternative Development (WINAD)
23. Youth Business Trinidad & Tobago (YBTT)

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Introduction

The purpose of the Annual Report 2017-18 is to showcase contributions by civil society as a key development partner, to delivery of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) in Trinidad and Tobago.

The report is prepared as a deliverable under the EU-funded project [CSOs For Good Governance: Enhancing Civil Society's contribution to governance and development processes in Trinidad & Tobago \(CSOs4GoodGov\)](#) (2017-2020). Started in 2017, the project brought together leading civil society organisations (CSOs) in Trinidad and Tobago (T&T) as the *SDGs Catalysts Network*, to support their effective participation and engagement in local implementation of the SDGs, in partnership with Government and other stakeholders; to break down traditional sectoral silos; and to demonstrate how the sector can work together through integrated thinking and action.

The first of three reports, this online report primarily focuses on contributions by the SDGs Catalysts Network convened under the CSOs4GoodGov project, during 2017-2018. Subsequent reports will feature expanded contributions from wider civil society in Trinidad and Tobago.

The report gives readers an indication of activities of Catalysts over the last year including:

- **information and stories of how CSOs are making their mark as development partners in T&T, including as advocates, implementers and watchdogs for sustainable development;**
- **the breadth of work being done by civil society (Catalysts and extended members of their networks) across various sectors and;**
- **how the process of engagement and collaboration has been progressing, including early messages and emerging civil society priorities for sustainable development in T&T.**

SPOTLIGHT ON CATALYSTS

Civil society is already working to help deliver the SDGs in Trinidad and Tobago, including as advocates, implementers and watchdogs for sustainable development.

Here we feature a few snapshots contributed by Catalysts, on work done in their organisations and with their networks and partners in the last year, related to their role as SDGs Catalysts.



IAMovement

Spotlight on Catalysts

In 2017, **IAMovement** began a flagship campaign – the **Climate Talk** initiative, aimed raising awareness and taking the climate change conversation forward in T&T.

Working with the High Commission of Canada and the German Embassy, IAMovement conducted 40+ events across T&T including in schools, organisations and public spaces – the talks featured the 2016 short documentary film produced by IAMovement, **SMALL CHANGE**, along with open floor discussions on the realities of climate change being faced by Small Island Developing States (SIDS) and the Caribbean.

In 2018, the Climate Talk programme continued, in partnership with the National Gas Company of Trinidad & Tobago, under the theme of **REthinking Energy!** Here the aim was to look more closely at climate change and the energy sector including our natural gas shortage, and opportunities to balance the country’s socioeconomic development while also reducing our carbon footprint, and contributing to T&T’s Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) set out in the COP21 Paris Climate Agreement.

The group forums encouraged participants to “take personal choices seriously and connect the dots on their impacts and allowed them to openly voice opinions, fears and concerns and realize individual choices can add up for a collective good.”



Taking the climate conversation forward

To support the latest edition of Climate Talk, a 3-part infographic video series called “REthinking Energy” will be produced and featured at Climate Talk events.

Three (3) short animated videos will focus on:

1. T&T’s natural gas shortage and our opportunity cost
2. Our Electricity Subsidy
3. Solutions for T&T, guided by a Roadmap Study from the European Union and Ministry of Energy

10 REDUCED INEQUALITIES



16 PEACE, JUSTICE AND STRONG INSTITUTIONS



CAISO

Spotlight on Catalysts

PRIDE PARADE

CELEBRATION TIME: Participants

LGBTQI+ advocacy group, **Coalition Advocating for Inclusion of Sexual Orientation (CAISO)** has been working to broaden representation in governance, increase participatory planning, strengthen national machinery for human rights accountability (via a national human rights institution) and enable access to supranational human rights mechanisms (HRMs)

CAISO contributed to the Universal Periodic Review - a human rights accountability process, for Trinidad and Tobago in 2011 and 2015.

In early 2018, CAISO as part of the Alliance for Justice and Diversity – a coalition of Trinidad & Tobago's lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, queer and intersex (LGBTQI) community groups, mobilised support for the position of Trinidad-born gay rights activist Jason Jones in challenging sections 13 and 16 of the Sexual Offences Act of Trinidad & Tobago, which criminalised buggery and serious indecency even between consenting adults.

Jones claimed this “went against his constitutional rights to privacy and freedom of thought and expression, as well as being in direct contradiction to this country's international human rights obligations”.

In a lead up to the judgement, CAISO and its partners led an online campaign and organised demonstrations to support Jason Jones in the landmark case. The groups worked to produce advocacy & communications materials to provide clarity, raise public awareness and educate the media on the laws in question, and the case. These included educational awareness sessions for the media, newspaper ads and factsheets on social media.

In a landmark decision in April 2018, the High Court ruled the nation's buggery laws as unconstitutional.



Executive Director of CAISO Colin Robinson (left) with some of the supporters of the LGBTi+ community

Habitat for Humanity

Spotlight on Catalysts

Habitat for Humanity® Trinidad and Tobago helps people transform their lives and their communities by supporting access to affordable shelter.

During 2017-2018, Habitat T&T placed focus on **reducing discrimination and improving housing & land access for vulnerable groups - the disabled, those living with HIV & AIDS and the LGBTQIA communities in Trinidad and Tobago.**

Habitat T&T engaged in a collaborative project with the Caribbean Policy Development Centre (CPDC), the European Union, several disability organisations, NGOS supporting LGBTQI communities and HIV/AIDS civil society organisations, aimed at making affordable housing more easily accessible for everyone.

What actions so far?

As part of the process, Habitat T&T and partners designed and implemented

- an online survey to gather information on experiences of members of disability groups in accessing housing
- an online petition, advocating for the Minister of Housing to allow disabled landowners to apply for special assistance for housing, and provide emergency housing for those evicted because of their gender or HIV status

Some 200,000 people in our country live in sub-standard housing conditions, with dilapidated and structurally unsound houses, a lack of running water, no electricity and less than adequate washroom facilities. Many of these families have members who are disabled, living with HIV/AIDS or part of the gender communities ~ Habitat T&T

The work is still ongoing; further actions include conducting stakeholder consultations and focus groups and embarking on a high-profile construction activity – an ‘Advocacy Build’ which engages prominent and influential leaders from government, the diplomatic corps, business, academia, the arts and civil society in corporate social responsibility.

Collectively the activities will be used to lobby national and local government authorities and advocate for legislative reform and policy modification and harmonization in land management; and to build and strengthen relationships with allies to ensure that land and housing policies are implemented justly.



Families in Action

Spotlight on Catalysts

Families in Action (FIA) has been providing support to addicts and their families for approximately 30 years and is one of the few organisations in Trinidad and Tobago that provides non-resident treatment programmes for people addicted to drugs and alcohol.

Aimed at strengthening individuals and their families, programmes and services delivered free of charge or at an affordable cost include addiction support, youth education, confident parenting, as well as a 24-hour help line and counselling. On average, 150 people access FIA's programme annually.

As part of FIA's "30 for 30" activities – 30 activities undertaken to commemorate its 30th anniversary, the group launched an initiative known as Front Door Outreach, in March 2018. The initiative seeks to bring greater awareness about drugs, alcohol and addiction and available resources for help.

FIA representatives travel around the country to give people information about social issues, especially addiction - at each outreach, booths are set up where members interact with the public, and share critical information on services provided by the organisation.

Although a precise measurement is not available of how many people were impacted by Front Door Outreach, FIA said more people are now aware of the many forms of addiction and available treatment options.



Other activities to be implemented include a series of 30-minute youth education sessions at schools across the country, development and sharing of articles on general health and wellness and sessions to non-client companies by the Employee Assistance Programme (EAP) Division.



United Way TT

Spotlight on Catalysts



United Way Trinidad and Tobago (UWTT) is a non-profit organisation affiliated with United Way International. Its main thrust is mobilising resources to serve Non-Governmental Organisations (NGOs) and Community Based Organisations (CBOs) that deliver social services in Trinidad and Tobago.

UWTT is committed to working with its partners, both locally and internationally, to help build sound communities and improve the quality of life in Trinidad and Tobago. It's flagship initiative, the National Day of Caring (NDOC) – which was launched in 2013 and is held annually on the third Sunday in May - gives companies and individuals the opportunity to invest directly and volunteer in their community, at institutions that need help the most.

'Change the Conversation' was the theme of NDOC 2017. It was a call to the nation to change their messages, mindsets and topics of conversation from the negativity which pervaded the news and social media commentary at the time, to ones of hopefulness, encouragement and possibility in Trinidad and Tobago.

What did we do?

NDOC 2017 involved 326 companies with 3,403 volunteers who came out with their friends and families to execute 51 projects.

Activities included environmental clean-ups and rehabilitation, creation of outdoor play areas and green spaces, cleaning and repair of schools, mentorship activities, donation drives and recycling.

The volunteers were able to reach 1,115 beneficiaries, with \$3.4 million being generated in Cash and In-Kind.





CYEN-TT

Spotlight on Catalysts

The Caribbean Youth Environment Network in Trinidad and Tobago (CYEN-TT) is a non-profit organisation focused on empowering youth and facilitating their contributions to environmental sustainability and broader sustainable development. Activities commonly include environmental talks and awareness sessions, environmental sip and paint events, clean-up exercises, upcycling and community engagement initiatives.

During 2017-2018, CYEN-TT embarked on a project funded by the Global Environment Facility's Small Grants Programme – entitled "Learn and Flow: The Arima and Courland Water Story", the project is aimed at empowering stakeholders to:

- fully understanding the anthropogenic issues affecting the Arima and the Courland watershed; and
- increase awareness of the national community to the importance of conservation and protection of the resource

CYNETT has partnered with local government, resource agencies, schools and grassroots community groups to examine water management issues in the named watersheds, and identify ways to reduce human impact.

Work is still ongoing, however two highlights which focus on educational and community initiatives under the project include:

- implementation of the Water Warriors School Caravan series, involving interactive presentations, a puppet show and trivia games targeted at educating primary school children on water issues
- conduct of Water Testing Training and Water Quality Monitoring done collaboratively with key groups within the Arima watershed – Asa Wright Nature Centre and the First Peoples Community. Data collected from monitoring riverine conditions at the Arima river over a six-month period was collated and is utilised by the Water Resources Agency's Adopt a River Programme.





IAMovement

Spotlight on Catalysts

IAMovement has been promoting food security as a key issue linked to dealing with climate change impacts and addressing overall environmental sustainability – in 2017, IAMovement started implementing the Organic Garden School Project (OGSP), initiated to teach children about organic farming, the importance of growing their food, and entrepreneurship opportunities.

Two schools have been targeted thus far between 2017-2018 - the SERVOL Junior Life Center, Cascade and the Cotton Tree Foundation, St. Ann's.

Through weekly gardening sessions, assigned OGSP skilled local experts who are trained in practices such as permaculture, natural topsoil regeneration and composting, visit the schools to teach the students about organic gardening and introduce alternative and healthy options in growing and harvesting their own crops.

The students are given the opportunity to get hands-on experience by maintaining their own garden beds throughout the entire process – i.e. from planting to harvesting a variety of crops, mainly organic vegetables and herbs.

Promoting food security, health, and care for land and environment

The OGSP has successfully allowed us to teach, empower and inspire young children in their formative years on the joys and value of growing their own food. The OGSP has also encouraged the development of positive life skills such as patience, consistency, and understanding and respect for the natural environment, which transcend gardening.



Energy Chamber of Trinidad & Tobago Spotlight on Catalysts

The Energy Chamber of Trinidad and Tobago (Energy Chamber) has partnered with the **Arthur Lok Jack Global School of Business (ALJ GSB)** and the **Trinidad and Tobago Manufacturers' Association (TTMA)** to implement the project, [Capacity Building and Development of Civil Society Organisations for Business in Trinidad and Tobago \(TT CSOs for Business\)](#).

The project currently involves 20 CSOs that support business and economic development and aims to strengthen the capacity of national and local CSOs and improve their effectiveness in participating in decision making, as well as in implementing national and local policies related to business and the economy. In 2017-2018 the partners conducted 3 capacity building workshops for the CSOs' boards and management teams focused on

- Governance training – led by the Energy Chamber
- Leadership – led by ALJ GSB
- International trade and policy advocacy – led by TTMA

Workshops were held on May 29, July 4 and 5, and September 7, 2018.

What was covered?

- Under **governance**, the CSOs were equipped with the tools to build a stronger organisation, foster collaboration within the network and educate them on the principles of corporate governance that form the platform for internal decision-making.
- Under **leadership**, CSOs learned effective participation methods for the implementation of decision-making of national and local policies. This was done through improved leadership techniques, particularly for those in business.
- Under **international trade**, CSOs examined trade agreements and gained a better understanding of the world trading system, the CARICOM market and other relevant trade issues. Under **policy advocacy**, they focused on policy cycle, policy development, challenges in the current policy environment of Trinidad and Tobago and on strengthening the policy 'arm' of their organisations.

Workshop assessments suggest participants have been able to expand knowledge in key areas of strategic management, policy advocacy, international trade, internationalisation, leadership, mentoring and corporate governance.



CANARI

Spotlight on Catalysts



The **Caribbean Natural Resources Institute (CANARI)** is a partner in the [Green Economy Coalition](#) (GEC) – the world’s largest alliance inspiring a transition to green and fair economies. As part of a larger [global project](#) led by the GEC, CANARI is implementing the [#GE4U: Transformation towards an inclusive green economy in the Caribbean](#) (2016-2019) project, aimed at engaging local stakeholders, including civil society and resource users in communities, in movements to shape and create green economy policies that respond to local realities. This project is supported by funding and assistance from the European Union and is providing co-finance to the CSOs4GoodGov project.

As the GEC’s National Dialogue Partner in the Caribbean region, CANARI is leading an ongoing dialogue process on opportunities for a greener and fairer economic model – one that emerges from the existing local economies and innovation. CANARI re-convened a regional Green Economy Action Learning Group to analyse and influence green economy transitions at the regional and sub-regional (Eastern Caribbean) levels and established a national [Small and Micro Enterprise Action Learning Group](#) to influence green economy transitions in Trinidad and Tobago.

The Santa Cruz Declaration is a call to action from manufacturers, producers, business owners, entrepreneurs, innovators, local communities and civil society organisations in recognition of the vital importance of smaller businesses to addressing global challenges.

In November 2017, CANARI partnered with the GEC to host the 2017 Green Economy Coalition Global Meeting, in Port of Spain, Trinidad. At that meeting, the **Santa Cruz Declaration on Local Green Enterprises** was drafted and launched – see the following page.

Other exciting work under the project includes CANARI’s efforts to develop the [Local Green-Blue Enterprise Radar](#) as a tool to help community enterprises to assess how they are delivering ‘triple-bottom line’ economic, environmental and social benefits and opportunities for continued strengthening. The tool is being piloted and case studies developed, with plans to publish it in 2019.

Participants in the 2017 GEC Global Meeting and signatories to the Santa Cruz Declaration were from 16 countries across the globe: Antigua and Barbuda; Barbados; Cuba; Dominica; Dominican Republic; Grenada; Haiti; India; Jamaica; Mongolia; Peru; Saint Lucia; Senegal; South Africa; Trinidad and Tobago; and Uganda.

The declaration reads, in part, “Micro, small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) account for 95% of the world’s private enterprises and provide 60% of private sector employment. SMEs are the engines of prosperity, job creation and innovation. We deliver economic, social and environmental benefits to our communities and countries. We are the economies of today and tomorrow.”

“Learning how to build greener, fairer and more resilient economies is the biggest challenge of our times, but it cannot be achieved without empowering SMEs as innovative local actors to deliver social and environmental transformation.”

[Click here](#) to read – and sign – the Santa Cruz Declaration.

THE SANTA CRUZ DECLARATION ON LOCAL GREEN ENTERPRISE

ARIELLE JEAN-BAPTISTE

The following text was originally drafted in Santa Cruz, Trinidad and Tobago on 3 November 2017, by a group of manufacturers, producers, business owners, entrepreneurs, innovators, local communities, and civil society from Antigua and Barbuda, Barbados, Cuba, Dominica, Dominican Republic, Grenada, Haiti, India, Jamaica, Mongolia, Peru, Saint Lucia, Senegal, South Africa, Trinidad and Tobago and Uganda.

1. We have come together in recognition that local green enterprises stand at the frontline of the transition to inclusive, green and resilient economies and achieving the Sustainable Development Goals. We are here to demonstrate and build support from our respective countries, regions and spheres of influence for local green enterprises to lead, shape and accelerate the transition.

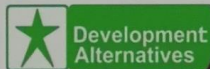
2. Every community on the planet faces, to a greater or lesser extent, a common set of intertwined socioeconomic challenges. Vulnerabilities to climate and natural disasters, collapsing biodiversity, unequal and stagnant economic development, and exclusionary governance.

3. Micro, small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) account for 95% of the world’s private enterprises, and provide 60% of private sector employment. SMEs are the engines of prosperity, job creation and innovation. We deliver economic, social and environmental benefits to our communities and countries. We are the economies of today and tomorrow.

Learning how to build greener, fairer and more resilient economies is the biggest challenge of our times, but it cannot be achieved without empowering SMEs as innovative local actors to deliver social and environmental transformation.

4. We stand together in solidarity. We invite fellow business people, governments, civil society, academia and local communities to partner with us. We offer the opportunity to:

- Partner with green SMEs and build a social movement in service of inclusive green and resilient economies that deliver local value and sustainable livelihoods, all around the world.
- Champion SMEs as an engine of disruptive innovation, invention and creative development. Most of the businesses which will drive the economies of 2040 don’t exist yet, and all of them will have started out as SMEs.
- Rethink systems within our sphere of direct and indirect influence that affect the functioning of SMEs, sustainable practices and business models.



Handwritten signatures and notes in various colors (blue, purple, green) are scattered across the bottom half of the page, including names like 'Michael Witter', 'Marcia Tinto E.M.A.', 'Nack Bennett', 'Digital', 'Skills FACT', 'Jan Marjorie', and 'CANARI'.

More on how CSOs in T&T are contributing to the SDGs...

What is civil society doing?

- Over the period, Catalysts and other CSO members of their extended networks were engaged in mapping their initiatives, against the 17 thematic areas represented by the SDGs
- See more on the breadth of work by civil society in T&T, contributing to national implementation of the SDGs.

What is civil society doing?

1

NO POVERTY



SDG 1 No Poverty

- The **2 Cents Movement** – teaching business skills to artists and creating new sources of employment in creative industries through Artist Development Program
- **CANARI** - working to strengthen rural community SMEs to reduce poverty
- **PAVI** – partnering with YTEPP to provide certified vocational training

2

ZERO HUNGER



SDG 2 Zero Hunger

- **TTUF** – promoting sustainable utilisation of fisheries and marine resources which contributes to reducing hunger and poverty
- **The Santa Cruz Green Market** – promoting sustainable agriculture and contributing to reducing poverty and hunger and providing decent work

3

GOOD HEALTH AND WELL-BEING



SDG 3 Good Health & Wellbeing

- **Autism Spirit** – advocates for autistics and their families and promotes empowerment of parents and autistics through awareness programmes and information sharing
- **PAVI** - working toward adjustment to blindness by providing rehab services and reducing vision loss through education, vision screening and referrals

4

QUALITY EDUCATION



SDG 4 Quality Education

- **ALTA** – working on increasing literacy rates to reduce inequality and contribute to poverty reduction
- **AMCHAM T&T** – working toward improving secondary level education and promoting women in technology
- **ALGSB** - providing cutting edge business education and training at various levels to prepare professionals for the world of work and develop exceptional leaders
- **CKFTO** – runs teacher and professional development workshops which educates on disabilities and provides strategies for working with persons with disabilities
- **ParentingTT** – providing parenting education and helping teachers to deal with ‘at risk’ students in schools
- The **Copper Foundation** – runs creative writing workshops for teens and adults and promotes environmental education
- The **2 Cents Movement** – promoting youth literacy including reading, writing and communication skills and runs Future Authors program

See full CSO names here:

<https://www.dropbox.com/s/0f2ot40dacrm824/Participants.pdf?dl=0>

What is civil society doing?



SDG 5 Gender Equality

- **CAISO** – promoting gender justice, mitigating gender based violence and enabling autonomy of gender identity
- **Families in Action** – engaged in youth programmes to educate, advocate and fight against gender based violence in schools and communities, domestic violence responder training and prevention



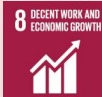
SDG 6 Clean Water & Sanitation

- **AMCHAM T&T** – promoting environmental charter which addresses dumping of trash and recycling



SDG 7 Affordable & Clean Energy

- **ALGSB** – delivering academic programmes to develop and support sustainable energy professionals to lead clean energy industry in T&T



SDG 8 Decent Work & Economic Growth

- **Families in Action** - supports companies and employees regionally to create healthy and productive work environment
- **ALGSB** – engages in capacity development initiatives with the public, private and CSO sectors with a view to enhancing economic growth and development
- **CAISO** – advocating to help increase employment discrimination protections for e.g. with respect to age, health conditions, sexual orientation and gender identity (SOGI)
- **Autism Spirit** – promoting access to work for autistics through networking
- **RED Initiatives** – promoting health and wellbeing in the workplace and work-life balance



SDG 9 Industry Innovation & Infrastructure

- **ALGSB** – delivering academic programmes on SME's innovation, Business Incubator, organisational development; works with institutions and organisations to enhance internal capacities, networks, productivity and competitiveness

See full CSO names here:

<https://www.dropbox.com/s/0f2ot40dacrm824/Participants.pdf?dl=0>

What is civil society doing?

10 REDUCED INEQUALITIES



SDG 10 Reducing Inequality

- **NCPD** – working toward and supports inclusion of persons with disabilities through sensitisation workshops, awareness raising and partnering with the corporate sector for employment opportunities
- **PAVI** – conducting and hosting educational radio shows, training, workshops and seminars
- **CKFTO** – educates children about disabilities through puppet program in order to dispel fears about disabled persons and in turn increase inclusion
- **RED Initiatives** – advocates for access to health and social services and human rights for all
- The **2 Cents Movement** - works on developing socially inclusive creative spaces e.g. national Poetry Slam and supports artists engaged in advocacy on LGBTQI issues

11 SUSTAINABLE CITIES AND COMMUNITIES



SDG 11 Sustainable Cities & Communities

- **Habitat for Humanity** – engaged in advocacy for housing and land access for vulnerable groups including people with disabilities, HIV-Aids, LGBTQI
- **The Cropper Foundation** – capacity building of CSOs and empowering communities to monitor impacts and environmental commitments made by extractive industries

12 RESPONSIBLE CONSUMPTION AND PRODUCTION



SDG 12 Responsible Consumption & Production

- The **2 Cents Movement** – partnering with the Trinidad & Tobago Extractive Industries Transparency Institute for school tour and student competition focused on engaging students on responsible consumption practices
- The **Cropper Foundation** – has been engaged in process advocating for local chemical free agricultural products and facilitating accessibility for benefit of producers and consumers

13 CLIMATE ACTION



SDG 13 Climate Action

- **Trinidad Youth Council** - advocating for the reduction of the use of plastic bags by store owners and consumers
- The **2 Cents Movement** - working on a schools awareness campaign in 2019 and with IAMovement and SustainTT for artists to develop and perform a body of work that addresses and raises awareness on climate issues
- **IAMovement** – involved in environmental awareness and advocacy through film, 'climate talks', climate marches, Climathon
- **CANARI** – provides capacity building for CSOs and rural communities on climate change adaptation

See full CSO names here:

<https://www.dropbox.com/s/Of2ot40dacrm824/Participants.pdf?dl=0>

What is civil society doing?



SDG 14 Life Below Water

- **TTUF** - working to promote sustainable management of fisheries by encouraging improvements in gear types used and fishing seasons
- The **Cropper Foundation** - supporting protection of marine life and reefs by facilitating a source of income for reef-focused foundations



SDG 15 Life on Land

- **Trinidad Youth Council** - engaging organisations to help clean beaches in their communities
- The **Cropper Foundation** – training agricultural officers and farmers in environmentally sustainable practices
- **CANARI** – promotes sustainable forest livelihoods and support rural community SMEs to sustainably use forest resources and so protect forest ecosystems.



SDG 16 Peace, Justice & Strong Institutions

- **CAISO** – working to broaden representation in governance, increase participatory planning, strengthen national machinery for human rights accountability (via national human rights institution) and enable access to supranational human rights mechanisms (HRMs)
- **HARTT** – promoting human rights and social justice through a Youth Peace and Security Think Tank aimed at peace and security especially for those from minority backgrounds.

- **Veni Apwann** – working to strengthen organisational backbones of CSOs and facilitating partnerships
- The **2 Cents Movement** – undertakes workshops with under-served youth in prison and stigmatized ‘hotspot’ communities, including through partnership with the US Embassy on the ‘Normal, Not Normal’ campaign which involves outreach via school tours, clubs and PSA ads targeting ‘at-risk youth’
- **Parenting TT** – empowering, informing and encouraging innovative parenting to promote peaceful and inclusive societies
- **SHIFT! Caribbean** – building capacity of CSOs through leadership development and training, addressing systems issues and root causes of problems



SDG 17 Partnership for the Goals

- **CAISO** – working to increase international support for civil society
- **ALJGSB** – a relationship broker for business, CSOs, academia, and public sector
- **RED Initiatives** – advocates for indigenous CSOs and promotes inclusion to prevent ‘elite grouping’
- **TTUF** – builds partnerships with other stakeholders that use the same environment
- **Autism Spirit** – promoting partnerships and collaboration for autism support in T&T
- **ACSOTT** – umbrella organisation actively promoting partnership of CSOs in T&T

See full CSO names here:

<https://www.dropbox.com/s/0f2ot40dacrm824/Participants.pdf?dl=0>

Key messages & priorities

IN THIS SECTION

- A number of key messages and priorities for achieving sustainable development in T&T emerging from over the year of engagement, discussion and dialogue with the members of the SDGs Catalysts Network are shared
- Catalysts share on the most significant change over the year in how civil society is working to deliver the SDGs



1. Civil society is taking action and accelerating efforts on SDG implementation

Civil society in Trinidad and Tobago is taking definitive action and accelerating its efforts to effectively contribute and deliver on implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)

Since launching in September 2017, the Catalysts have started the movement to engage CSOs in their respective sectors and other CSO networks, catalyse joint action and amplify civil society's voice on the SDGs. It is clear from early mapping of initiatives that civil society is already delivering results on the SDGs and has a number of lessons to share



2. Civil society is collaborating for a stronger voice

Civil society in T&T sees value in building and strengthening relationships to ensure healthy collaboration and ensuring that civil society voices are heard in national development processes. A key part of the vision for civil society is working more effectively for collective advocacy and action. Identifying common interests and opportunities and building strong relationships & coalitions among civil society actors is key.

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



3. Civil society is delivering development results on the ground

Civil society in Trinidad & Tobago is concerned about performance on delivering the SDGs in T&T and wants to be involved in delivering results. Our work on the ground enables us to provide our government with best practices and perspectives on local realities that need to be seen and heard at the policy level.

We are well suited to help translate the SDGs into the daily life of communities, through practical on-the-ground actions and boost sensitisation on the importance of an integrated approach to sustainable development.



4. Civil society is willing to work with others to promote positive change & deliver together for development

Civil society is willing to work with Government, the private sector and other development partners to promote positive change and deliver together for development.

Civil society is looking forward to participating in any national mechanisms and processes moving forward, and has positioned itself to do so with the coming together of leading CSOs in the SDGs Catalysts Network in Trinidad and Tobago. Civil society will be able to contribute more cohesively and efficiently as implementers, advocates and watchdogs for the SDGs.

Civil society priorities for sustainable development in T&T

Although the Government of T&T has not yet made a voluntary report to the United Nations, the SDGs Catalysts Network started reviewing what global assessments and report cards are showing as critical gaps in sustainable development in T&T. Over the year, the SDGs Catalysts Network working with wider civil society, identified some emerging priorities for achieving sustainable development in T&T:



More action is needed on goals to protect the planet:

Environmental pressures on our planet are increasing and the high vulnerability of small island developing states (SIDS) and T&T's own SIDS status requires we play our part to protect it. In the context of climate change and ongoing degradation of ecosystems critical to our survival, we call for more opportunities for engagement and greater involvement of civil society (including women, youth, indigenous peoples and local communities) in coordinated action on this front.



Local development is critical to sustainable development:

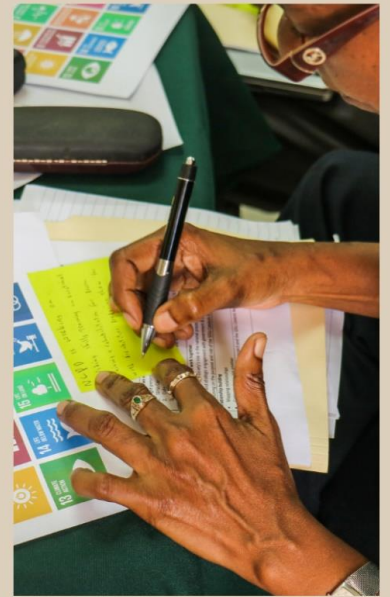
Localising the SDGs means asking 'do the means of implementation include civil society?' Civil society as a key local actor needs to be empowered to channel global goals into local actions and can contribute to ensuring others in government and private sector are aware and begin mainstreaming SDGs in local development priorities and in communities. This will make for a more holistic approach to development, as is envisioned under the 2030 Sustainable Development Agenda.



A rights-based approach to development is critical:

Civil society in T&T recognises that human rights is central to sustainable development. Civil society needs to work toward a cohesive position on the human rights agenda and collaborate and coordinate on advocacy for the different rights. SDGs already provide an integrated framework for advancing the human rights agenda and opportunity for mainstreaming human rights in development to ensure a more inclusive approach so that we 'leave no-one behind'.

CATALYSTS WORKING UNDER CSOS4GOODGOV WEIGH IN ON THE MOST SIGNIFICANT CHANGE OVER THE YEAR IN HOW CIVIL SOCIETY IS WORKING TO DELIVER THE SDGS IN T&T...



CATALYST VOICES



“WE ARE TALKING TO EACH OTHER, NOT AT EACH OTHER **MORE. WE ARE LISTENING TO OTHER’S CONCERNS, AND SEEING HOW OUR WORK AND ACTIONS IMPACT [POSITIVELY AND NEGATIVELY] THE WORK OF OTHERS.”**

“**COLLABORATION** FORUMS AND SUPPORTIVE **MECHANISMS** FOR FELLOW CSOS TO BE **GUIDED FROM** HAS BEEN ACHIEVED. A LARGE FORUM AND MARKETING APPROACHES **IS NECESSARY** TO TAKE SDG EDUCATION **FOR SPECIFIC ACTION TO ALL CSOS IN T&T.”**

“**COLLABORATION PATHS HAVE OPENED VIA NEUTRAL PARTY CATALYSTS.”**

“**WE ARE LOOKING BEYOND OUR OWN IMMEDIATE SECTORS TO FIND THE LINKS TO OTHER AREAS, AND FINDING WAYS TO USE THOSE LINKS TO ENHANCE OUR PROGRAMMES AND COMMUNICATIONS INITIATIVES.”**

CATALYST VOICES

“**CSOS ARE SEEING HOW WORK WITHIN THEIR SECTOR** IMPACTS OTHER AREAS, AND ARE MORE MINDFUL IN THE DESIGN AND IMPLEMENTATION OF **PROGRAMMES** – IN ESSENCE, THEY ARE DELIBERATELY TRYING NOT TO MUDDY SOMEONE ELSE’S WATER!”

SOME ACTIONS WERE BEING TAKEN BEFORE BUT THE PROJECT IS PROVIDING SPECIFIC AVENUES AND OPPORTUNITIES TO **ENGAGE IN THE DEVELOPMENT, IMPLEMENTATION, MONITORING AND REPORTING ON THE NATIONAL AGENDA FOR THE SDGS.”**

WE ARE APPLYING THE DISABILITY MOVEMENT MANTRA “NOTHING ABOUT US, WITHOUT US!” IT CAN BE SUCCESSFULLY LEVERAGED AND APPLIED TO OUR **PROGRAMMES,** TO OUR COMMUNICATIONS, TO OUR RELATIONSHIPS WITH OTHER CSOS & WITH DONORS/GOVERNMENT /CORPORATE SECTOR.

Connect with Us

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Stay tuned to these spaces for information and latest happenings with the SDGs Catalysts Network:

Visit CANARI's CSOs4GoodGov project webpage at:

<http://www.canari.org/csos4goodgov>

Social Media:

[CSOs4GoodGov Facebook](#)

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**CSOS4GOODGOVERNANCE:
ENHANCING CIVIL SOCIETY'S CONTRIBUTION TO GOVERNANCE
AND DEVELOPMENT PROCESSES IN TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO**

