



# Caribbean Climate Funders Commitment

*Mobilizing Philanthropy for a Resilient, Inclusive and  
Just Caribbean Future*



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## *Mobilizing Philanthropy for a Resilient, Inclusive and Just Caribbean Future*

Grounded in Caribbean voices and guided by rights-based approaches<sup>1</sup>, this commitment is anchored in the global Philanthropy for Climate call to action<sup>2</sup>. The Caribbean Climate Funders Commitment (CCFC) unites funders<sup>3</sup>, philanthropic partners<sup>4</sup> and multi-sector stakeholders<sup>5</sup>. Together, we aim to accelerate climate justice<sup>6</sup> and strengthen regional resilience by financing systems that safeguard our people, economies, and environment.

Shaped by the Climate Philanthropy and Strategic Partnerships (CLASP) initiative<sup>7</sup> and the International Philanthropy for Climate Commitment, this declaration integrates the Seven Pillars Framework<sup>8</sup>. It centres Caribbean culture through enriched multi-stakeholder engagement. Its necessity is further underscored by the International Court of Justice Advisory Opinion<sup>9</sup> of July 2025, which affirms that a healthy environment is essential to all human rights and that states bear responsibility for protecting the climate for future generations.

We recognize Climate-responsive Philanthropy<sup>10</sup> sits at the intersection of life-saving finance and long-term resilience. Although the Caribbean is responsible for less than one percent (1%) of global emissions<sup>11</sup>, its people face an existential threat. At present they endure accelerating sea-level rise<sup>12</sup>, rapidly intensifying hurricanes<sup>13</sup> and escalating climate-driven displacement<sup>14</sup>. These crises cause profound losses to human rights, along with ecological<sup>15</sup> and cultural heritage<sup>16</sup>. Compounded by colonial legacies, social inequities and fiscal constraints, the region's very systems of island and low-lying coastal life are being pushed beyond their bounds<sup>17</sup>.

Yet Caribbean vision and determination drive action across all sovereign nations and territories. Through adaptation led by women and youth, the honouring of Indigenous Peoples' rights and knowledge<sup>18</sup> and the power of diaspora capital<sup>19</sup>, knowledge systems and narrative sovereignty<sup>20</sup> are gradually being sustained. With direct climate-responsive investment actions like these will be the prerequisite fuel for sustainable regional development and innovation. Combined with mechanisms like the Fund for Responding to Loss and Damage (FRLD)<sup>21</sup>, the Barbados Implementation Modalities (BIM)<sup>22</sup>, and the Escazu Agreement<sup>23</sup> the Caribbean is emboldened by the tools for systemic justice.

Through this undertaking, Caribbean climate funding partners will work together to embed justice and safeguard the dignity of all Caribbean people. This commitment meets the current momentum to face a verified future<sup>24</sup> by promoting a shift toward equity, agility and the co-ownership of our shared responsibilities.

## ***Our Shared Pledge***

### **1. Knowledge, Education & Empowerment**

This pillar is the bedrock of our response to the climate emergency. We recognize that true resilience begins with reclaiming the narrative; therefore, we will resource Caribbean knowledge systems to empower communities through deep climate literacy. This includes use of Indigenous Peoples knowledge, fostering youth leadership, and preserving the oral traditions of storytelling. To ensure Caribbean voices lead the global dialogue, we will develop independent, community-based media platforms to amplify local perspectives. We will also finance the critical data systems needed to measure Loss and Damage<sup>25</sup> (both economic & non-economic)<sup>26</sup>. This data is essential for equity and radical accountability. By transforming regional academic and civil society institutions into innovation hubs—using art, culture, and technology—we turn education into a primary tool for survival and justice.

### **2. Bold & Equitable Resourcing**

Recognizing that the unbanked<sup>27</sup> and marginalized face systemic barriers, we will simplify eligibility to ensure funding reaches those often excluded from traditional finance. We will build trust by shifting power directly to the people through frictionless pathways and Community Access Windows<sup>28</sup>. Together with NGOs and CBOs, we will jointly finance innovative Loss and Damage solutions while leveraging the Caribbean diaspora and local intermediaries to channel resources where they are needed most. By affirming the rights and leadership of Afro-Caribbean, Indo-Caribbean, Asian-Caribbean and Indigenous Peoples, we protect narrative sovereignty, ensuring climate action is rooted in our authentic histories and cultural identities.

### **3. Integration & Intersectionality**

Addressing structural oppression and decision-making imbalances is at the heart of this work. Support is prioritized for intersectional inclusion—integrating gender, climate mobility, disability rights, and social justice within a rights-based framework. From rural realities to vulnerable coastal communities, the focus remains on empowering culturally grounded solutions. By addressing the interconnected needs of poverty reduction, health, including, mental health and food security, we will create funding models help sustain community resilience and long-term well-being

### **4. Endowments, Assets & Investments**

We will align assets with climate justice, scale Environmental & Social Governance (ESG)<sup>29</sup> and Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR)<sup>30</sup>. We champion multi-year<sup>31</sup>, agile<sup>32</sup> and unrestrictive funding, built on trust-based philanthropy. To meet the extent of needs, we will deploy innovative instruments like parametric insurance<sup>33</sup>, debt-for-climate swaps<sup>34</sup>, and anticipatory finance<sup>35</sup> instruments. Promoting fair distribution<sup>36</sup> across Caribbean states ensures that investment standards reflect the unique regional priorities and justice principles.

## 5. Best Practices & Operational Alignment

We will lead by example through sustainable institutional operations<sup>37</sup> and active carbon footprint management<sup>38</sup>. By integrating climate and organizational risk management<sup>39</sup>, we transform our internal cultures into models of resilience. We will protect local intellectual property and the custodianship of climate innovations<sup>40</sup>, ensuring ownership stays in the region. Through standardized assessments<sup>41</sup> and open-source knowledge sharing, we foster accountability. By nurturing gender-responsive<sup>42</sup> and intergenerational leadership<sup>43</sup>, we embed a climate-responsive<sup>44</sup> organizational culture that sustains future generations.

## 6. Advocacy, Policy & Systems Change

This pillar is our catalyst for global power. While other pillars build local capacity, this one seeks to shape narratives and demand systemic reforms on the world stage. We will fund and strengthen advocacy for climate reparations<sup>45</sup> and equitable access to climate finance<sup>46</sup>, ensuring Loss and Damage mechanisms are non-negotiable. We will engage with media and storytelling networks to shape narratives<sup>47</sup> that reflect Caribbean realities and inform global policy debates. By coordinating regional influence across multilateral forums such as the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA)<sup>48</sup>, the Conference of the Parties (CoP)<sup>49</sup> and regionally at CARICOM, we move from being "vulnerable" to being "formidable". Our actions will foster evidence-informed systems reform<sup>50</sup> built on trusted data, collaboration and integrity. By promoting climate policies serving the collective well-being and sustainable future of the entire Caribbean society, we will not just participate in the debate; we drive the reform.

## 7. Transparency, Trust & Shared Progress

We are shifting philanthropy from transactional to relational. We will prioritize participatory accountability and open data, co-monitoring global mechanisms like the Santiago Network<sup>51</sup> to ensure they deliver for the Caribbean region. By moving from rigid oversight to co-learning, we fill critical data gaps and foster deeper collaboration. We embrace our ethical obligation to centre trust and equity in every partnership. This shared progress is the heartbeat of systems change, ensuring we remain accountable to the Caribbean people by promoting trust, equity, accountability and our ethical obligations to foster deeper collaboration and long-term systems change.

*By endorsing this Commitment, we affirm our collective responsibility to uphold environmental human rights and accelerate justice. We believe every funder has the power to act. Together, we will position the Caribbean not as a casualty of the climate crisis, but as the global leader in justice-driven, community-led solutions.*

*Our islands are the blueprint for a resilient future!*

