



COP30 Presidency Roadmap for Transitioning Away from Fossil Fuels in a Just, Orderly and Equitable Manner

Submission on behalf of the Caribbean Climate Justice Alliance

The Caribbean Climate Justice Alliance welcomes the opportunity to contribute to the Roadmap for Transitioning Away from Fossil Fuels in a Just, Orderly and Equitable Manner, as invited by the COP30 Presidency. The Alliance currently brings together over 65 civil society organisations, activists, academics, creatives and other non-state actors and their networks working on different aspects of climate justice – economic, environmental and social justice – to transform policy and practice and catalyse action on the ground. It focuses on seven priority areas, including curbing emissions to limit global temperature increase to 1.5°C and a just transition for pro-poor, inclusive, sustainable and resilient development.

We appreciate the Presidency's commitment to an inclusive, participatory, and transparent process and are pleased to share the below perspectives grounded in the local realities and priorities identified by frontline communities and wider civil society across the Caribbean small island developing states (SIDS). Our submission focuses on questions (a), (c), and (d).

(a) What are the most critical barriers – whether physical, economic, financial, institutional, technological or social– preventing a transition away from fossil fuels?

The Caribbean's dependence on fossil fuels presents a critical energy security issue which widens economic vulnerability, exposes the region to global price fluctuations and increases the risk of energy supply disruptions. The supply is reliant on shipping routes, international trade conditions and global political stability. Countries like Guyana, Suriname and Trinidad and Tobago have energy-based economies dependent on oil and natural gas exports and frequently face fluctuations in international oil prices due to geo-political tensions that impact energy markets. This long-standing reliance, reinforced by decades of infrastructure investments, become an impediment to a swift and just energy transition. Without careful planning and analysis, efforts to shift away from fossil fuels risk resulting in stranded assets, thereby imposing additional costs on consumers, and ultimately undermining the purpose and value of a just energy transition.

Several countries do not have the requisite regulatory frameworks and policies at the national level that meaningfully align with the principles of a just energy transition. This gap is likely tied to the fact that existing investments and institutional arrangements remain centred around fossil-fuel-based systems. Truncated and outdated regulatory structures are not conducive to a regulatory environment that attracts new investment, let alone equipped to implement, monitor, and respond to a just energy transition. Globally, there is also lack of a binding framework to guide this transition.

In some Caribbean countries, outdated transmission and distribution systems contribute to high technical and non-technical losses, which in turn inflate the cost of delivering electricity to the consumers. Moreover, some Caribbean countries have resorted to issuing fossil fuel subsidies to ensure electricity access and affordability, which artificially lower the prices for conventional (fossil fuel-powered) energy and artificially distort the market. This in turn

reduces the competitiveness of renewable energy, despite its many long-term advantages.

Furthermore, the Caribbean faces a significant financing gap in its pursuit of an equitable and just energy transition. RE projects require substantial up-front capital, which is a problem for Caribbean countries with relatively small energy markets and constrained budgets. Many countries in the region are subject to financial constraints that hinder the progress towards a just energy transition. Because countries in the region tend to be smaller in size, it naturally follows that there is limited fiscal flexibility and market size to proffer the necessary finance instruments to fund a just energy transition. Utility-scale solar or wind projects require significant investments in land acquisition, while geothermal energy projects are risky and very expensive in the early stages of exploration and development, thus cost prohibitive. Furthermore, these challenges are compounded by the fact that most Caribbean countries are classified as middle- or lower-middle income economies, thus effectively limiting the region's access to concessional finance.

The geography in the region, characterized by small islands without interconnected energy grids, results in isolated power systems that are typically operated by a single utility responsible for generation, transmission, and distribution of energy. These monopolistic structures, while historically practical, often result in limited competition and scarce opportunities or appetite for innovation. As such, they create an environment where utilities feel less pressure to respond to evolving consumer needs or emerging market trends. Persistent technical capacity constraints across utilities, regulators, and local industries further slow progress towards a just energy transition. Together, these barriers reinforce existing systems and make it that much more difficult to pursue a just energy transition.

(c) What country, regional or sector roadmap experiences, best practices, and lessons learned can be shared?

Below we have outlined Caribbean SIDS-specific experiences, including best practices and lessons, that could be replicated or scaled up:

Caribbean Climate Justice Project: The Caribbean Climate Justice Project is a regional organisation that focuses on working with community-based organisations to highlight the existential threat posed by climate change to the region. They have several initiatives that centre justice in the conversations about the future of energy in the region, including:

- **Renewable Energy and Electric Vehicle Training Sessions:** A comprehensive course that covers topics on electric vehicles, vehicle to grid technology, renewable energy, solar design, 3D modelling, energy audits, efficiency, and investment analysis.
- **Climate & Tech Hackathon:** Regional event to mobilize youth to design inclusive, justice-oriented climate and energy solutions tailored to vulnerable communities.
- **Youth Artivism and Advocacy Programs:** Programs that strengthen public engagement and ensure that marginalized groups have a voice in shaping energy and climate policy.

Green Solutions International SKN Inc.: Green Solutions SKN describes itself as a leading non-governmental organization that is dedicated to advancing green energy solutions in the Caribbean. Its mission is to drive growth, adoption and investment in clean energy, and to empower countries to achieve full sustainability through innovation, education, and workforce development. Green Solutions SKN has worked with communities on several energy transition projects including conducting:

- EV training programmes;
- Solar skills training; and
- Solar PV Empowerment Programmes.

Existing Microgrid Solar Projects in the Caribbean region (not "branded" as just energy transition projects but are initiatives that align with the commonly recognized principles of a just energy transition):

- Haiti: EarthSpark International has developed community-scale microgrids in rural areas, combining solar power and battery storage to provide reliable electricity.
- Grenada: The Carriacou Solar-Powered Microgrid Project provides off-grid renewable energy to the island of Carriacou, enhancing energy resilience and reducing reliance on diesel generators.

(d) How can a just, orderly and equitable transition best reflect the diverse realities of countries at different stages of development and with different degrees of dependence on fossil fuels?

A just transition for Caribbean SIDS must be flexible and context specific, reflecting differences in economic structure, energy dependence, and institutional capacity. Countries with fossil fuel export economies face distinct challenges compared to import dependent states. Transition pathways must account for revenue dependence, employment impacts, and the need for economic diversification.

Core principles should guide all approaches. Affordability, access, and equity must be embedded across planning, implementation, and long term operation. Policies should reduce energy burdens, improve reliability, and expand access to modern energy services. The use of justice based frameworks and principles (restorative, recognitional, distributive and procedural justice) and the application of human rights (and resulting legal protection) are essential through all renewable energy policies. Impact can be achieved through adopting a justice framework to provide investor and stakeholder confidence, reduce risk and ultimately deliver sustainable economic growth to the Caribbean region.

The Caribbean Climate Justice Alliance's Caribbean Climate Justice and Resilience Agenda 2023-2030¹ emphasizes several key messages for the just and equitable transition from a civil society viewpoint. They include:

- The just transition must be participatory, cross-sectoral and collaborative - from decision-making to processes and policies.
- We must ensure fairness to all workers in both the formal and informal sectors.
- We must avoid un-managed transitions.
- Governments should develop sector specific policies - not only for the energy sector but also extractive, agriculture and fisheries, tourism and other important sectors.
- Contextually appropriate technologies and solutions are key, centring the needs of the most marginalised and promoting equity in the distribution of benefits.
- In the transition, the notion of co-ownership must exist where communities are not only being consulted but co-owning and co-implementing the programmes/policies.
- Financial restructuring must consider the just transition, adaptation and future needs.

¹ See <https://canari.org/wp-content/uploads/2025/03/Caribbean-Climate-Justice-and-Resilience-Agenda-10.2023.pdf>

- The G20, which account for approximately 75% of global greenhouse gas emissions², must contribute and unlock the necessary finance to support a just transition to clean, renewable energy in Caribbean SIDS and other developing countries.
- The just transition must be monitored and evaluated to track progress and further reported in National Determined Contributions (NDCs).

Ultimately, no single transition pathway applies across the Caribbean or other regions. Effective approaches require aligning financial instruments, regulatory systems, and social priorities within national contexts, while leveraging regional and global cooperation and shared learning to scale solutions. The Roadmap can support this process by identifying scalable solutions, addressing structural barriers, and reinforcing the role of inclusive, community informed approaches in advancing the transition away from fossil fuels.

Caribbean Climate Justice Alliance members:

CAISO: Sex & Gender Justice; Caribbean Natural Resources Institute (CANARI); Caribbean Climate Network – 350.org; CariJustice Alliance; Climate Analytics Caribbean; Climate Change Adaptation and Resilience Research Centre at University of The Bahamas; Climate Rights & Justice International Inc.; Climate Tracker; BirdsCaribbean; Environmental Awareness Group; Environmental Protection in the Caribbean (EPIC); Environment Tobago; Freedom Imaginaries; Gender In Fisheries Team (GIFT) – Centre for Resource Management and Environmental Studies, University of the West Indies, Cave Hill; GirlsCARE; Girl Up Caribbean; Global Yaadie Podcast; Green Heritage Fund Suriname; Habitat for Humanity – Trinidad and Tobago; International Development Empowerment and Representation Agency (iDERA); Island Innovation; Ideas I Foundation; Jamaica Environment Trust (JET); Jamaica Network of Rural Women Producers (JNRWP); Kairi Initiatives; Kopounoule Inc.; Network of Rural Women Producers – Trinidad and Tobago (NRWPTT); Panos Caribbean; SAEDI Consulting Barbados; Shridath Ramphal Centre for International Trade Law, Policy and Services at University of the West Indies, Cave Hill (SRC); SOLORICON for the Caribbean Climate Justice Project; Solidarity Yaad International; Stronger Together Caribbean; Sustainability Institute of Trinidad and Tobago; The Breadfruit Collective; The Climate Conscious Podcast; The Cropper Foundation; The Crystal Clear Initiative; Young People for Action on Climate Change – Jamaica; Carla Bridglal, Journalist and Communications Specialist; De-Jono Liburd, Lawyer and Activist; Vanessa Deane, Director of Urban Planning, New York University; Malcom Ferdinand, Researcher, University Paris Dauphine; Colin Bogle, Climate Activist; Suphane Dash-Alleyne; Mabi Francis; Jeffy Gomez; Sorayadebie Jhagroe; Emma Lewis, Blogger and Activist; Danielle Nembhard, Ph.D. Researcher, James Cook University; Alejandra Padin-Dujon, Ph.D. Researcher, Columbia University; Natassia Rambarran, Ph.D. Researcher, University of Glasgow; Keston Perry, Assistant Professor of African American Studies, University of California, Los Angeles; Deborah Villarroel-Lamb, Lecturer, University of the West Indies, St. Augustine; Sydney Williams, Source Farm Community Development Institute; Vanda Radzik, Gender and Environment Activist; Christianne Zakour, Climate Activist.

² United Nations Environment Programme. 2025. Emissions Gap Report 2025: Off Target. <https://www.unep.org/resources/emissions-gap-report-2025>